

Dear Padre,

Why can't a Protestant receive the Eucharist at a Catholic Mass?

United by baptism, fellow Christians are our brothers and sisters in the Lord. As such, they are always welcome at Catholic Mass, but they do not ordinarily participate in holy Communion. "Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to holy Communion" (Code of Canon Law, 844 §4).

When Catholics receive Holy Communion, they firmly believe the bread and wine are transformed into the Real Presence of Christ. In the Eucharist, we become part of the body of Christ and share in holiness and unity with one another. Our "Amen" to "The Body of Christ" and "The Blood of Christ" means, "Truly, so be it!" It indicates that we affirm our belief in this mystery, which is fundamental to our Catholic identity. If non-Catholics receive the Eucharist but do not embrace this identity and same belief, it may disrespect Catholics who do, as well as disrespect their own identity in the denomination to which they belong.

However, at Mass, fellow Christians can join their prayers with Catholics in praising God. Together, we also pray that the divisions which separate us will finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (John 17:21). ●



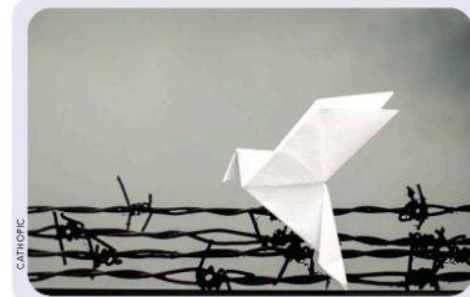
CARLOS DANIEL / CATHOPIC

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|---|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| January 26 | January 27 | January 28 | January 29 | January 30 | January 31 | February 1 |
| Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops | Weekday | St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church | Weekday | Weekday | St. John Bosco, Priest | Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5 | 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19 | 2 Sm 7:4-17 | 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29 | 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17 | 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17 | Zep 2:3; 3:12-13 |
| Mk 3:22-30 | Mk 3:31-35 | Mk 4:1-20 | Mk 4:21-25 | Mk 4:26-34 | Mk 4:35-41 | 1 Cor 1:26-31 |
| | | | | | | Mt 5:1-12a |

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



CATHOPIC

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Dear brothers and sisters, all too much violence exists in the world and our societies. Amid wars, terrorism, human trafficking, and widespread aggression, our children and young people need to be able to experience the culture of life, dialogue, and mutual respect. Above all, they need the witness of...those who have suffered injustice and violence [and] resist the temptation to seek revenge.

ADDRESS TO THE "ARENA OF PEACE," ROME, MAY 30, 2025

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 25, 2026

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 8:23-9:3 / 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17 / Matthew 4:12-23 or 4:12-17



Judged or Invited?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2) is the message preached by Jesus after the arrest of John the Baptist. It is important to place this message in context. Jesus is not repeating the preaching of the Baptist. His message is unique and compelling.

Look closely at what Jesus is saying. Do not automatically fill in the blanks with the memories of every sermon you have heard. Try to hear Jesus' words again, for the first time. Is the emphasis on "repent," or is the emphasis on the announcement, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand"? Does it make any difference?

Repeat these words and change the emphasis each time. Play with the words. Let the words play with you. Notice how you respond. Notice what makes a difference. Notice how you react, and, most of all, notice whether you feel invited or you feel judged.

The Baptist made no bones about it. You are being judged: "Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees" (Matthew 3:10). Jesus, on the other hand, seems not to judge but to invite: "for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17).

In the invitation, we are challenged to see in a different way. Use different skills. Refrain from automatic judgments. Seek to understand but, most of all, to accept and to love. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Reflect

**What does "repent" mean to me?
A threat or an invitation?**



"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

MATTHEW 3:2



Weekly Bulletin

January 24-25, 2026

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Office: 254 - 647 - 3163

Website: stritacatholicranger.org

MIDDLE SCHOOL RALLY - February 14th

Join us at the annual Middle School Rally - featuring **Joe Melendrez!** This full-day event is a wonderful opportunity for your middle school students to come together **across the Diocese**, to celebrate our Catholic faith and identity, to deepen community, and to be renewed in mission. **Event takes place at Nolan High School in Fort Worth on Saturday, February 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** If interested, tell **DRE Devony Norris** at Wednesday Classes or call **254-631-8079**, or call the office at 254-647-3163.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please pray for the sick: Karen Donoho, Al Haremza, Jax Jordan

MASS INTENTIONS

For the repose souls of **+Maria Graham**, requested by Holy Rosary Altar Society, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Cisco; **+Lisa Glazebrook**, requested by Danielle Harper, St. John, Strawn.

POPE LEO PRAYER INTENTION

January 2026 – For prayer with the Word of God
Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

STEWARDSHIP

January 17 & 18, 2026

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| St. John | \$ 1,110 |
| St. Rita | \$ 650 |
| St. Francis | \$ 534 |
| Holy Rosary | \$ 1,856 |

All Masses and activities for this weekend are cancelled due to the weather.



“He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed Him.”
MATTHEW 4:22

Just as Jesus called the first apostles, He calls each of us to follow Him, too. Not everyone is called to leave their business or family behind, but we are expected to put God first in everything. In gratitude to God, we should give our first and best of everything to Him: our time in daily prayer, our talent in participating in one of our parish ministries and our treasure to support the financial needs of our parish mission.

STRAWN - ST. JOHN

Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM: Mass
Wednesday
4:00 - 4:30 PM:
Confession/Adoration
4:30 PM: Mass
2nd Thursday - Monthly
St. Boniface, Dodson Prairie
4:00 PM: Confession/ Adoration
4:30 PM: Mass

CISCO - OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY

Sunday
8:00 AM: Mass
Wednesday
8:30 AM: Confession/Adoration
9:00 AM: Mass

RANGER - ST. RITA

Sunday
9:45 AM: Mass
Tuesday
5:30 - 6:00 PM:
Confession/Adoration
6:00 PM: Mass

EASTLAND - ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Sunday (Español)
11:15 AM: Mass
Thursday (Español)
6:30 - 7:00 PM: Adoration/Confession
7:00 PM: Mass
1st Friday - Monthly (Español)
7:00-8:00 PM: Adoration
3rd Saturday - Monthly (Español)
9:00 AM: Mass

PARISH OFFICE: 254 - 647 - 3163

Monday - Thursday, 9 AM - 3 PM
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stritaoffice2018@gmail.com
In case of pastoral emergency: 817 - 821 - 5821
Pastor: Fr. Joseph Pudota, SAC
Bookkeeper: Patsy Davis
Office Secretary: Danielle Harper
Safe Environment Coordinator: Katrina Briseno
Director of Religious Education: Devony Norris