

# Dear Padre,

**Are the readings at the beginning of Mass equal to the celebration of the Eucharist?**

The Mass is celebrated in two major parts: the **Liturgy of the Word** and the **Liturgy of the Eucharist**. These parts complement each other in a balance of word and sacrament. In his 2004 apostolic letter *Mane Nobiscum Domine* (Stay With Us Lord), Pope St. John Paul II described these complementary elements. Using the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus on the night of Easter Sunday, the Pope likened the two parts of the revised liturgy to these disciples' journey. First, Christ breaks open the word for them, preparing their hearts with an interpretation of the Scriptures. Then, they recognize Christ as they break bread.



The Liturgy of the Word, proclaimed and preached well, allows time for silence and reflection on the wisdom offered. It becomes the necessary overture for the celebration of thanks and praise and the gift of the sign and sacrament to follow. Parishes are called to take the Liturgy of the Word most seriously and to bring it to a new level of proclamation. Pope St. John Paul II admonished all involved, but especially preachers, to cherish the word and preach it so the depths of the mysteries celebrated may be recognized and received into the burning hearts of Christians. In this context, the Scripture readings are given a prominence they didn't have in the older Roman rite. ●

From *The Eucharist: 50 Questions from the Pews* by Fr. Richard Fragomeni, PhD (816994), © 2009 Liguori Publications

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*In a divided and troubled world, the Holy Spirit teaches us to walk together in unity. The earth will rest, justice will prevail, the poor will rejoice, and peace will return once we no longer act as predators but as pilgrims. No longer each of us for ourselves but walking alongside one another. Not greedily exploiting this world but cultivating it and protecting it.*

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 7, 2025



MILAN ZINOVIC / SHUTTERSTOCK

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

<b>Monday</b> February 9 <i>Weekday</i> 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13 Mk 6:53-56	<b>Thursday</b> February 12 <i>Weekday</i> 1 Kgs 11:4-13 Mk 7:24-30	<b>Saturday</b> February 14 <i>Sts. Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop</i> 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34 Mk 8:1-10
<b>Tuesday</b> February 10 <i>St. Scholastica, Virgin</i> 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30 Mk 7:1-13	<b>Friday</b> February 13 <i>Weekday</i> 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19 Mk 7:31-37	<b>Sunday</b> February 15 <i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Sir 15:15-20 1 Cor 2:6-10 Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37
<b>Wednesday</b> February 11 <i>Weekday</i> 1 Kgs 10:1-10 Mk 7:14-23		

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 8, 2026

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

Isaiah 58:7-10 / 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 / Matthew 5:13-16



## That Our Wounds Might Be Quickly Healed

ANN M. GARRIDO

**S**ome years ago, I took a crash course in chaplaincy. Chaplains are often called on to accompany people through life's gloomier seasons—be it in a hospital, in a nursing home, in prison, or following a disaster. As you might imagine, our training involved sessions on how to best alleviate the isolation and despair many people experience in these places and situations. Pray with people? Invite them outside into nature? Make sure physical discomfort is mitigated? All of these are good practices, my chaplain supervisor emphasized, but research indicates that the quickest way to lift the heaviness many feel is to get them involved in alleviating the suffering of others.

I suspect neither Isaiah nor Jesus would have been surprised by this research. In today's first reading, Isaiah says that if we feed the hungry and give shelter to the homeless, if we clothe the naked and care for our family members in need, we will know what it means to have light in the midst of darkness, and our gloom will melt away as if under the noonday sun. Similarly, Jesus describes our good deeds as being like light, meant to be shared generously with others.

In recent years, we have seen an uptick in depression and anxiety, even among the young. We can be tempted to focus more inwardly on our own lives, our own griefs and shortcomings. Self-awareness is certainly a good trait to have! But, perhaps counterintuitively, today's readings remind us that our "wounds shall quickly be healed" more readily when we focus on the needs of others. ●



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

### Reflect

**Why does helping another lift our own spirits?**



*"Your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed."*

ISAIAH 58:8



# Weekly Bulletin

February 7-8, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Office: 254 - 647 - 3163

Website: [stritacatholicranger.org](http://stritacatholicranger.org)

## BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG - until March 8th

Help us support The Open Door by taking a bottle and filling it. Please return the bottles between March 1st - 8th. [theopendoorprc.com](http://theopendoorprc.com)

## ST. ANDREW BREAKFAST - February 21

The next St. Andrew Breakfast will be on Saturday morning February 21, 2026 at **St. Patrick Cathedral**, 1206 Throckmorton St, **Fort Worth**, TX 76102, at 8:00 AM. The day will begin with Mass followed by breakfast and fellowship. We encourage young men in high school and college in the Diocese of Fort Worth to attend. Please reserve your spot by February 19, 2026, through the **Vocations** Office or by calling **817-945-9321**.

## TEFA Application Help – In-Person Support Days

Need help applying for TEFA funds? The Diocese is able to help. Visit any of the in-person application days to receive guidance and support. Families may attend any location — no registration required. **TEFA Application Deadline: March 17**. Learn more at: [catholicschoolsfwdioc.org/tefa-school-choice](http://catholicschoolsfwdioc.org/tefa-school-choice). Need help call the office and ask for Danielle.

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please pray for the sick: Al Haremza, Jax Jordan

### 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

## POPE LEO PRAYER INTENTION

February 2026 - For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

## RICE BOWLS

By donating to Catholic Relief Services, CRS Rice Bowl, you help provide lifesaving support to people around the world. But did you know your generosity also helps your local diocese? 25% of every donation stays in your community to fight hunger and poverty, while 75% supports vital Catholic Relief Services programs around the world. Thank you for your compassion and for making a profound difference globally and locally. [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org)

## Lights, Catholic, Action!

Estate-planning attorney Jenna Lusk—raised Catholic and formed at Texas A&M's St. Mary community — explains how Memento Mori and good preparation (wills, powers of attorney, clear communication) spare families real heartache and reflect a life of faith. She also shares practical ways young adults can build Catholic community in Fort Worth (from personal invitations to post-Mass hangouts and monthly potlucks). Watch on YouTube or listen on your favorite podcast platform! [youtube.com/watch?v=8psB9QHg3sQ](https://youtube.com/watch?v=8psB9QHg3sQ)

## Retrouvaille - Marriage Program Weekend

Experiencing Stress in Your Marriage? Hope is only a weekend away. RETROUVAILLE is a program for married couples who feel disillusioned, frustrated, angry, or hurt in their marriage and don't know how to change the situation. Retrouvaille offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship by offering hope, support, and practical communication tools to help heal and rebuild your marriage. Visit [HelpOurMarriage.org](http://HelpOurMarriage.org) for more information or to register for the next **Weekend Feb. 27 to March 1, 2026**. For confidential inquiries call 469-319-1307.

## STEWARDSHIP

Jan. 31 & Feb. 1, 2026

St. John	\$ 1,497
St. Rita	\$ 729
St. Francis	\$ 504
Holy Rosary	\$ 1,394

<p><b>PARISH OFFICE: 254 - 647 - 3163</b> Monday - Thursday, 9 AM - 3 PM 1109 Blackwell Rd, Ranger, TX 76470 <a href="mailto:stritaoffice2018@gmail.com">stritaoffice2018@gmail.com</a> 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</p>
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