

Dear Padre,

Is it appropriate to display the American flag in our church?

A diocesan bishop—who often delegates this matter to the discretion of the pastor—determines regulations on whether and how to display the American flag in a Catholic church. Displaying the flag, and a book of remembrance for those serving in the armed forces, seems to have originated in many US parishes during World War II. The practice has continued through subsequent wars and national tragedies.

While the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy advised that national symbols should not be *permanent* fixtures of a worship space, they may be appropriate at worship services on a civil holiday, etc. This same committee discouraged pastors from displaying the American flag within the sanctuary itself—a space reserved for the altar, ambo, presidential chair, and tabernacle—but instead to place the flag in the vestibule of the church together with a book of petitions for the living and deceased.

Fundamentally, a church building is where the liturgical assembly gathers as one body in Christ—the same Christ of the Eucharist who is beyond time and place, who came to unite our divisions. “The church building is a sign and reminder of the immanence and transcendence of God—who chose to dwell among us and whose presence cannot be contained or limited to any single place” (US Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Built of Living Stones*, 2000). ●



JOAQUIN OSSANO CASTILLO / SHUTTERSTOCK

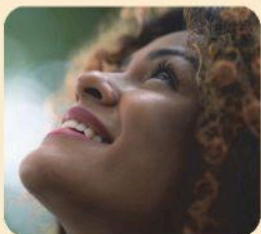
Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

There is a burning question in our hearts, a need for truth that we cannot ignore, which leads us to ask ourselves: what is true happiness? What is the true meaning of life? What can free us from being trapped in meaninglessness, boredom, and mediocrity?... We need to lift our eyes...to the “things that are above” (Colossians 3:2).

HOMILY, TOR VERGATA, AUGUST 3, 2025

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

July 6
Weekday
Hos 2:16, 17c–18, 21–22
Mt 9:18–26

Tuesday

July 7
Weekday
Hos 8:4–7, 11–13
Mt 9:32–38

Wednesday

July 8
Weekday
Hos 10:1–3, 7–8, 12
Mt 10:1–7

Thursday

July 9
Weekday
Hos 11:1–4, 8e–9
Mt 10:7–15

Friday

July 10
Weekday
Hos 14:2–10
Mt 10:16–23

Saturday

July 11
St. Benedict, Abbot
Is 6:1–8
Mt 10:24–33

Sunday

July 12
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 55:10–11
Rom 8:18–23
Mt 13:1–23 or 13:1–9

Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 5, 2026

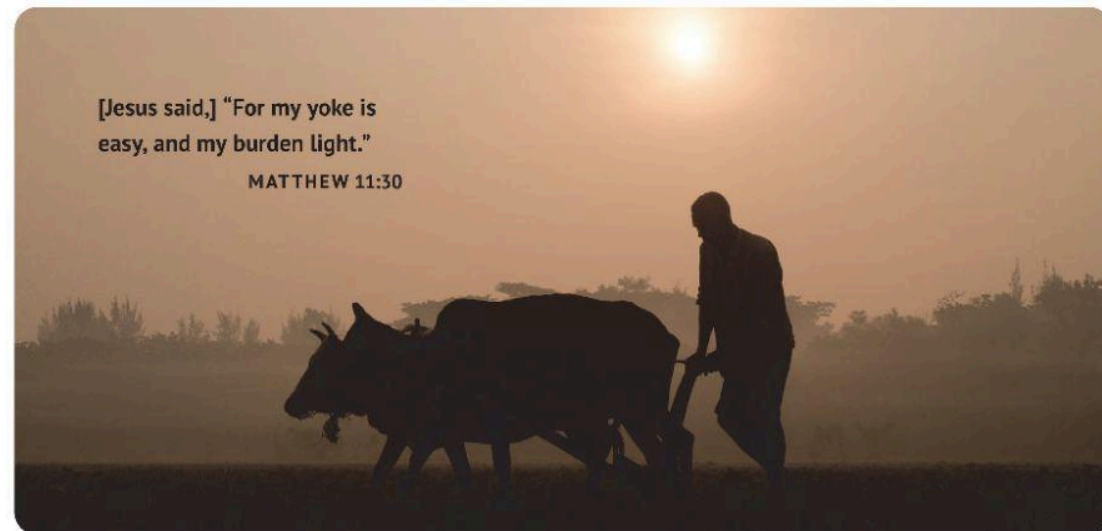
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Zechariah 9:9–10 / Romans 8:9, 11–13 / Matthew 11:25–30



[Jesus said,] “For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

MATTHEW 11:30



Take Up the Yoke

ANN M. GARRIDO

The invention of the yoke 6,000 years ago marked one of the great advances in human history. The yoke—a wooden beam fitted across the neck—harnessed the energy of two cattle pulling in the same direction, hastening the tilling of soil and transport of goods.

It is easy to see why, among many ancient peoples, the yoke became a symbol of subjugation. When the Roman army won a battle, they forced defeated soldiers to walk beneath a “yoke” of spears to indicate they were now in a state of servitude. The prophet Jeremiah once walked through Jerusalem wearing a yoke to warn the people they were about to be conquered by Babylon.

In Judaism, however, the Torah was also sometimes referred to as a yoke. It was a law to be submitted to, but it also was a way of life that offered an alternative to the cruel “yokes” imposed by kings. The Book of Sirach encourages youth to “Take [Torah’s] yoke upon your neck; that your mind may receive her teaching.... See for yourselves! I have labored only a little but have found much” (Sirach 51:26–27).

It is unclear exactly what Jesus meant when he invited us to accept *his* yoke, but it is likely that he was echoing the invitation of Sirach. He wanted us to know that following God’s law makes it possible for us to work together, accomplishing much that we could not do on our own. And that God’s law is a gentle law—one that enables rather than oppresses. Are you willing to receive Christ’s gentle teaching and make it your own? ●

Reflect

Is there a teaching of Jesus you find challenging?



St Rita 4 Cluster Parishes

July 4-5, 2026 — 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Parish Office](#)

1109 Blackwell Rd Ranger TX 76470 — office@srcctx.org

254-647-3163 — stritacatholicranger.org

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

No weekday Masses this week.

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION - Thank You!

Thank you for your generous support in last week's Peter's Pence Collection! Our contributions will join those from our brothers and sisters worldwide to help Pope Leo XIV in his ministry to the Universal Church, including relief to people in need and support for the Holy See. If you missed the collection, it is not too late to give. Visit <https://bit.ly/DioceseSpecialCollections> (case sensitive).

EASTLAND FRIENDSHIP MEAL - July 7th

The Eastland Friendship Meal is this Tuesday, July 7th, from 6 to 7 pm at the First Baptist church in Eastland; 405 S. Seaman, Eastland. All are welcome.

TORRES FAMILY CELEBRATES 5 GENERATIONS - July 11th

Many of our longtime parishioners know the family of Margaret Torres from Cisco. Her family is celebrating 5 generations with the baptism of Margaret's great great granddaughter McKenna at **Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Cisco on July 11th at 11:00 a.m.** Anyone who would like to attend the baptism is welcome to this joyous occasion.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please pray for the sick: Donna Boschart, Jane Dooly, Benjamin Flores & family, Jax Jordan, Larry Owings

MASS INTENTIONS

For the repose soul of **+David Geasland**, requested by Holy Rosary Altar Society, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Cisco.

STRAWN - ST. JOHN

Saturday Vigil

3:30 PM: Rosary

4:00 PM: Mass

Wednesday

4:00 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

7:30 AM: Rosary

8:00 AM: Mass

Wednesday

8:30 AM: Confession/Adoration

9:00 AM: Mass

RANGER - ST. RITA

Sunday

9:15 AM: Rosary

9:45 AM: Mass

Tuesday

5:30 PM: Confession/Adoration

6:00 PM: Mass

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

OCIA, Order of Christian Initiation for Adults : Martha McCoy

Quinceañera Coordinator: Kayla Rubio

Sacramental Preparation: Call the office, 254-647-3163

STEWARDSHIP

June 27 & 28, 2026

Peter's

Pence

St. John \$ 1,935 \$ 249

St. Rita \$ 757 \$ 156

St. Francis \$ 370 \$ 221

Holy Rosary \$ 984 \$ 297

SOUTH DEANERY HIGH SCHOOL MEN'S RETREAT - July 10th

St. Francis Cabrini in Granbury is hosting the first South Deanery High School men's Retreat on **Friday, July 10th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Join young men from parishes across the South Deanery for a day of faith, fellowship, and spiritual growth. Through inspiring talks, prayer, the Holy Mass, and time together, you'll strengthen your relationship with Christ while building authentic friendships with other Catholic men. Interested, call the church office or sign up using the **QR code of the flyer at the back of the church** or go to: form.jotform.com/261755159272160

ST. ANDREW BREAKFAST - July 18th

The next St. Andrew Breakfast will be on **Saturday morning July 18, 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 July 16, 2026, through the **Vocations Office** or by calling **817-945-9321**.

QUO VADIS 2026 - July 24th

This retreat is for young men in high school within the Diocese of Fort Worth. This years' retreat will cover more of what it means to grow into a Catholic Man in today's world. The retreat will involve talks from seminarians and priests, mass and adoration, as well as time for games and sports. Young men will have the opportunity to learn about and discuss the following topics:

- Learning to pray well.
- Learning the importance of sacrifice, suffering and fortitude.
- Growth in virtue and discipline.

Questions? Call 817-945-9321 or email Vocations Office.

Register at fwdioc.org/discernment-events

EASTLAND - ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Sunday (Spanish)

10:30 AM: Rosary

11:15 AM: Mass

Thursday (Spanish)

6:30 PM: Confession/Adoration

7:00 PM: Mass

1st Friday - Monthly (Spanish)

7:00-8:00 PM: Adoration

3rd Saturday - Monthly (Spanish)

9:00 AM: Mass

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION

July 2026

For respect for human life.

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.