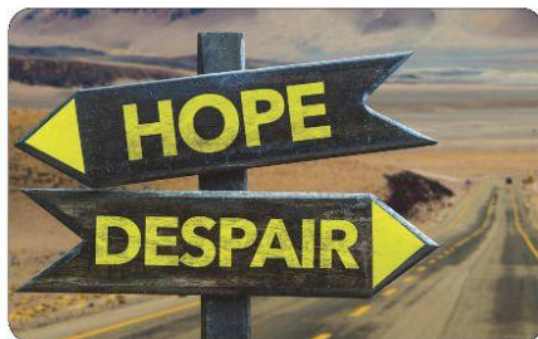


Dear Padre,

I look at what's going on in our world today, and I start to lose faith. How can I keep my faith strong in a time that seems faithless?

Evil isn't a new phenomenon. The Book of Judges, for example, presents a faithless time that may rival what's happening in our world today. Judges' twenty-one chapters are so full of vandalism and war, murder and assassination, fratricide and suicide, that it makes a grim statement on the worst of humanity. Judges reminds us of humanity's need for salvation. In *A Catholic Guide to the Bible*, author Oscar Lukefahr writes, "Left to itself, humanity degenerates into a frightful caricature of what we ought to be. We see such lessons repeated in recent history.... In the Book of Judges, we see our need for God." It's easy to lose faith when our focus is on how bad the world is rather than on how we can do our part to make it holy. Pope St. John Paul II wrote in *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, "Awareness of our own sinfulness, including that which is inherited, is the first condition for salvation; the next is the confession of this sin before God, who desires only to receive this confession so that he can save man. To save means to embrace and lift up with redemptive love, with love that is always greater than any sin." Don't lose Christian hope! While Christ already triumphed over sin and death, the reality of evil remains until God's kingdom is fully realized on earth as it is in heaven. (See 1 John 5:18-20.) ●



DUSTINO FRAZAO / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

July 13
Weekday
Is 1:10-17
Mt 10:34-11:1

Tuesday

July 14
St. Kateri Tekakwitha,
Virgin
Is 7:1-9
Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday

July 15
St. Bonaventure,
Bishop and Doctor of
the Church
Is 10:5-7, 13b-16
Mt 11:25-27

Thursday

July 16
Weekday
Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19
Mt 11:28-30

Friday

July 17
Weekday
Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8
Mt 12:1-8

Saturday

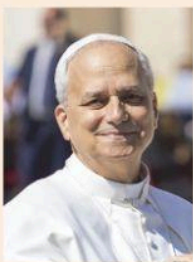
July 18
Weekday
Mi 2:1-5
Mt 12:14-21

Sunday

July 19
Sixteenth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Wis 12:13, 16-19
Rom 8:26-27
Mt 13:24-30 or
13:24-30

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Mission is not so much about "departing," but instead "remaining" in order to proclaim Christ through hospitality and welcome, compassion and solidarity. We are to remain...so as to look upon those who arrive from lands that are distant and violent; to remain and open our arms and hearts to them, welcoming them as brothers and sisters, and being for them a presence of consolation and hope.



HOMILY, ROME, OCTOBER 5, 2025

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 12, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 55:10-11 / Romans 8:18-23 / Matthew 13:1-23 or 13:1-9



Leaving Room for the Unexpected

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

The Father is the reckless Sower. He sows not only in the good soil, where a harvest might be anticipated, but also in the difficult soil, where nothing seems to take root. He sows with abandon, seemingly wasting good seed, for no other reason than to experience the joy of creation and the endless possibilities of expecting to be surprised.

There is nothing wrong with well-laid-out plans and careful, methodical use of the resources available. However, planning should not exclude the possibility of the creative manifestation of the power of God in an unanticipated manner. Our planning should not restrict and constrict but rather enable and encourage. We have all experienced the unexpected flower that somehow lives surrounded by pavement. Or the hardy tree that clings to the side of the mountain. They should not be there. It should not be possible. Nothing can grow there. Yet, there they are, doing the impossible and proclaiming the improbable.

Thankfully, we serve a God who sees more than we are ever able to see. Who imagines for us more than we have ever dreamed possible. Who not only sows but also tends and waters, enabling stupendous growth, until it is time for the abundant harvest. ●



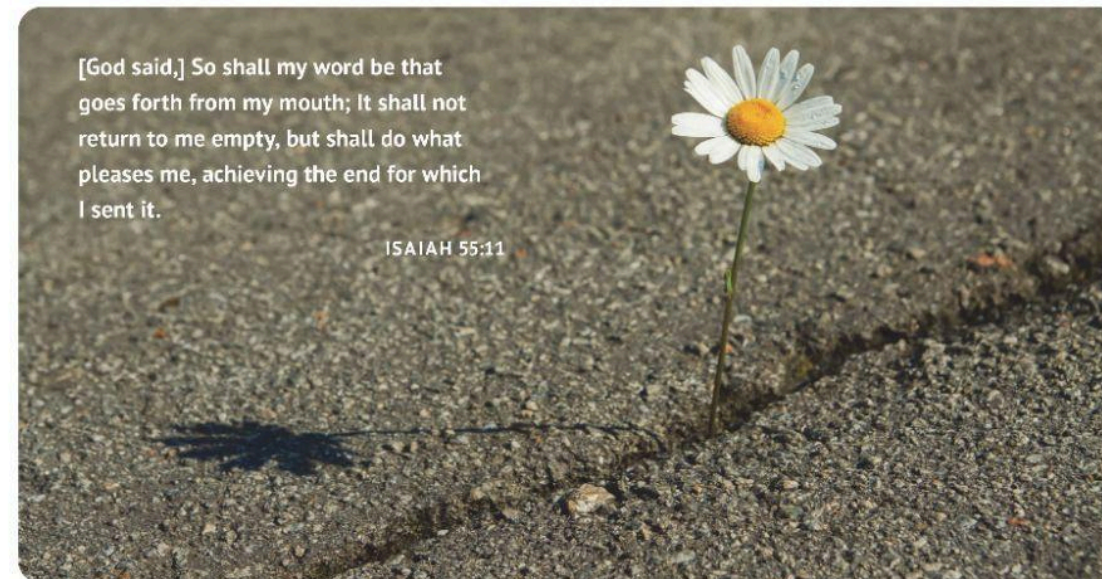
LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

Have you ever been surprised by grace? Could you have missed it?

[God said,] So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to me empty, but shall do what pleases me, achieving the end for which I sent it.

ISAIAH 55:11





St Rita 4 Cluster Parishes

July 11-12, 2026 — 15th 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.

SOLIDARITY FUND FOR THE CHURCH IN AFRICA - July 11th & 12th

This weekend we take up our collection to support the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa. The people of Africa are joyous and faith-filled—but as the Church in Africa grows, the pastoral needs of the people also increase. Clergy formation, communications programs to bring the Gospel to remote territories, youth ministries that engage the next generation of disciples—these and all the Church's needs are wide-ranging. The collection for the Solidarity Fund is an opportunity for our parish to stand with the people of Africa. Our contributions help them face these challenges and build lasting foundations of missionary discipleship. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this appeal today. To learn more, visit www.usccb.org/africa. iGiveCatholic also accepts funds for this appeal if you prefer to donate online.

OCIA, Order of Christian Initiation of Adults - September 15th

Interested in learning more about the Catholic faith? OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) is for adults interested in becoming Catholic, completing their sacraments, or simply learning more about the Church. Contact the **Parish Office** 254-647-3163 or Martha McCoy 469-964-1559 for information.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

MASS INTENTIONS

For the repose soul of **+John and +Margaret Torres**, 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

St. Boniface monthly mass will be Thursday, July 16th.

4:00 PM: Confession/Adoration 4:30 PM: 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

July 4 & 5, 2026

St. John \$ 878

St. Rita \$ 967

St. Francis \$ 453

Holy Rosary \$ 1,270

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***

IMAGO DEI REGISTRATION IS OPEN! - August 15th

The Advancement Foundation is pleased to open up registration for Imago Dei: In communion and stewardship with God and one another. *This is a series of five talks on stewardship, scheduled on various Saturdays from August through October at different parishes throughout the Diocese.* Registration is open for the **August 15th Hospitality talk at St. Vincent de Paul in Arlington**, located at 5819 W Pleasant Ridge Road, Arlington. The day will begin with Mass at 8:30am, followed by breakfast and then a talk given by Renée Bader, Director of Stewardship and Ministry at St. Vincent de Paul parish. The talk should conclude by 11:30am. Tickets are \$5.00. Register here: www.givecentral.org/ImagoDeiHospitality

Questions/comments: **Patricia Gonzalez at 817-886-6607 (office) 626-643-9803 (cell).**

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.

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