

Dear Padre,

I went to confession, and then, months later, my priest was removed for alcoholism and theft. Is my confession still worthy?

Your confession is not dependent on the worthiness or the unworthiness of the priest. Your confession is made to Jesus; the priest is a witness who pronounces the words of absolution that Jesus intended in the sacrament. “From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the Church, the power of Christ and his Spirit acts in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1128).

The question of the efficacy of the sacrament and the unworthiness of the minister who performs the sacrament in the name of the Church is not new. During the time of persecution, in the early centuries of the Church, some people, including priests and bishops, avoided martyrdom by offering the required oblation to Caesar. Later, they repented and returned to the Christian community, a community that included the surviving family and friends of the men and women who were martyred. The question was asked, and with some animated energy, “How could these ministers who sinned to save their own lives now represent the Church?” The answer, arrived at with patience and discernment, is that the minister is only the representative of the sacrament, not the source of the sacrament. Jesus is faithful, even when his ministers have been unfaithful. ●



Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



I think it is important for all of us to learn how to listen more, to enter into dialogue. First and foremost, with the Lord: always listen to the word of God. Then also listen

to others, to know how to build bridges, to know how to listen without judging, not closing the doors [and] thinking that we have all the truth and no one else can tell us anything.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 11, 2025

Monday

December 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24–28
Lk 1:46–56

Tuesday

December 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24
Lk 1:57–66

Wednesday

December 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67–79

Thursday

December 25
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Is 52:7–10
Heb 1:1–6
Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14

Friday

December 26
St. Stephen, the First Martyr
Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59
Mt 10:17–22

Saturday

December 27
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1–4
Jn 20:1a, 2–8

Sunday

December 28
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

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*.

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 7:10–14 / Romans 1:1–7 / Matthew 1:18–24



Close Enough!

MIGUEL DULICK

It is the fourth Sunday of Advent. When Christmas is this close, one takes that final leap. Isaiah is centuries from Christmas, but he cannot wait! He sees the “sign” as clear as day: “the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son” (Isaiah 7:14). And how about that Son! None other than “Emmanuel” himself—God-With-Us! Paul, too, is bursting at the seams! Inspired by what he calls “the obedience of faith” (Romans 5), he is excited to see the gospel thriving even among the Gentiles. For him, the “Spirit of holiness” is a gift offered to all—Christmas every day, you might say.

Speaking of “obedience of faith,” Joseph is the perfect example. The word “obey” comes from the same root as “to hear,” and Joseph has almost supernatural ears! Matthew, the former tax collector, tells “how the birth of Jesus Christ came about” in today’s gospel reading like a bookkeeper—the Holy Spirit in Column A, Joseph in Column B, with Mary in the middle. But when an angel whispers to Joseph at night, his dream comes true: “he took his wife into his home.” Everything is set for Emmanuel!

So, the Bible is brimming with Christmas, that is, “God-With-Us,” from end to end. And when a virgin can conceive, are any of us exempt from “birthing” Jesus in our midst? Even when a “happy holiday” seems impossible in the midst of war or violence or poverty, when our ears hear only silence, let’s sing Christmas carols every day! ●



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
MIGUEL
DULICK

Reflect

How am I at listening? Can I find new insights in old stories that I think I know so well?



The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus.”

MATTHEW 1:20–21

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Carmen Merrill, Dennis Doyle, Tom Leuschen,
April Stephens, Alicia Brown
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Altar Servers: Caleb Knox, Zach Knox

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Julie Wehmeyer 425-830-0904
Parish Bulletin:
Abby Brousseau 206-920-3811
Gale Haley 509-765-0653
Nancy Kirner 253-370-0798
Bill Wehmeyer 425-941-9171


WELCOME! NO MATTER WHAT YOUR PRESENT OR PAST STATUS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, NO MATTER YOUR PERSONAL HISTORY, AGE, RACE OR BACKGROUND, YOU ARE INVITED, WELCOMED, ACCEPTED, AND LOVED AT ST. GENEVIEVE CATHOLIC PARISH.


RECONCILIATION: (Confession) available, following Mass, on Sunday and Wednesday – please contact Fr. Pedro, before mass, to confirm availability. Also, by appointment.
BAPTISM: Please contact the Deacon or Pastor, at least one month prior to desired date.
SACRAMENT of MARRIAGE: Please contact the Deacon or Pastor at least six months prior to desired date.

Please remember St. Genevieve Parish in your Will
THANK YOU for your donations!

Weekly Budget: \$1,255.00
12/07/25: \$1,459.00
12/14/25: \$984.00
Building Fund Donations: \$75.00

******* UPCOMING EVENTS *******
Wed, Dec 24, *Christmas Eve Vigil Mass*, 4:00 PM
Thurs, Dec 25, *Christmas Day Mass*, 11:00 AM
Wed, Dec 31, No Mass
Thurs, Jan 1, *Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God* 11:00 AM

 **BUILDING COMMITTEE**
People with ideas about the new parish hall, especially those with building skills, are welcome to Contact the Building Committee.
PARENTS: Please do not allow your children to play on/around the new block retaining wall. Thank you!

 **The Cove is, again, in need of toilet paper. Donations can be left in the basket at the side door.**
MANGER MALL THANKS YOU for your donations of presents!

Mass Schedule:

**Sunday, Dec 21 @ 11:00 am, *Fourth Sunday of Advent*,
Rosary @ 10:20 am**
**Wednesday, Dec 24 @ 4 pm – *Christmas Vigil Mass -
No Wednesday Morning Mass***
Thursday, Dec 25 @ 11:00 am *Christmas Day Mass*
**Sunday, Dec 28 @ 11:00 am, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary
and Joseph. Rosary @ 10:20 am**



Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 7:10-14 The virgin shall be with child.
Psalms 24 “Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.”
Romans 1:1-7 Jesus is the son of David and the Son of God.
Matthew 1:18-24 Joseph, son of David, have no fear about taking Mary as your wife.

Twice today we hear the words Isaiah proclaimed hundreds of years before Christ’s birth: “the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.” This Hebrew name means “God is with us,” and when Joseph, a devout and righteous man, is visited by an angel in his dream, he recalls Isaiah’s prophecy. We know that God is also with us as we gather here to listen to God’s word, and so at this time we allow ourselves to be immersed in God’s presence as we actively listen to today’s readings.

Question of the Week: What small act of mercy can I carry out this fourth week of Advent?



 **Please remember Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington Christmas Collection**
Scan the QR code or go to www.donateCCEW.org, or just write a check to Catholic Charities Eastern Washington, and put it into the collection basket.



HOPE | LOVE | JOY | PEACE



**Please Remember in
Your Prayers**

Wannita Knox
Malachi Knox
Jeff Springer
Hal Groat
John Spannuth
Joseph Carbajal
Mark Crum
Roland Cruz
Duncan Bronson
Jim Perra
Brooke Stendera
Lupe Garcia
Bill Wilburn
Sheila Kerr
Jonathan Kessler
Fr. Sean Thomson
Thomson Family
Evangeline Grace Knox
Melissa Larson
Howard Burcham
Terry & Barb Anderson
Bernice Morgan



**Repose of the
Soul of**