

Dear Padre,

A friend of mine took his life. He was a very staunch Catholic. His wife wanted to know if he could be buried or have a Mass in the Catholic Church.

Yes, your friend should most certainly receive a Catholic funeral and burial. "We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives" (*The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2283).

A person who is suffering with a mental illness or disorder, certainly a prerequisite for suicide, may not have the necessary mental freedom to choose something that is understood as grave or mortal. In other words, he or she does not have the necessary requirements for full and free consent of the will.

Not that long ago, suicide was often misunderstood. Thankfully, today we understand the havoc and suffering of mental illness, and that a person can be a victim, even if it might look like he or she is not. The great suffering of those who take their own lives must not be dismissed or discarded. The family members and friends of a person who suffers suicide should also not be judged but should only receive compassion and understanding. They, too, are victims, in the fullest sense of the word and in the truest understanding of what it means to be a fragile human being. ●

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

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



ANTONELLA ULLAURI / CATOLICA

Young people of our time, like those of every age, are a volcano of life, energy, sentiments, and ideas. It can be seen from the wonderful things they are able to do, in so many fields. However, they also need help in order for this great wealth to grow in harmony and to overcome what...can still hinder their healthy development.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 15, 2025



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AMY STOUT / CATOLICA

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

December 29

Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:3-11

Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday

December 30

Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:12-17

Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday

December 31

Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:18-21

Jn 1:1-18

1 Jn 2:22-28

Jn 1:19-28

Thursday

January 1

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Nm 6:22-27

Gal 4:4-7

Lk 2:16-21

Friday

January 2

Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Mt 2:1-12

Saturday

January 3

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:29-3:6

Jn 1:29-34

Sunday

January 4

The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Mt 2:1-12

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 28, 2025

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (A)

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 / Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 / Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23



Embracing a Spirituality of Listening

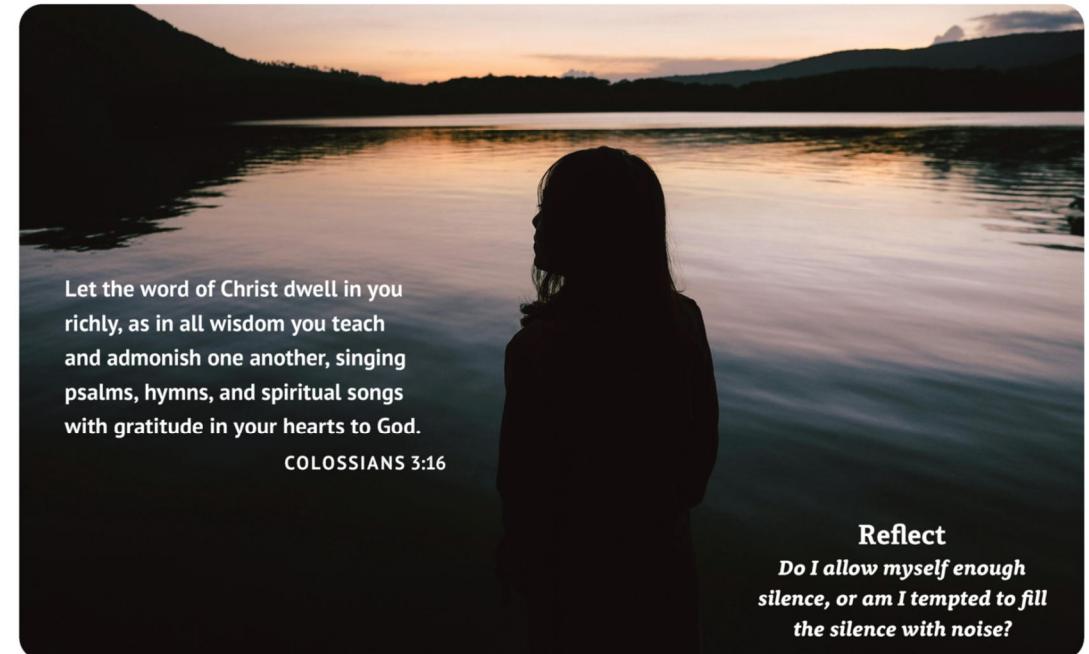
ANN M. GARRIDO

The most treasured prayer of Jesus' people has long been and remains the Shema: "Hear O Israel, the Lord is God. The Lord is One." Jewish spirituality is grounded not in seeing or touching or tasting, but in hearing. No one exemplifies fidelity to this way of being in the world more than Joseph, as evidenced in today's gospel. Joseph is one who listens to what God's messenger says to him and immediately acts on it. He responds to the call to flee with Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Then, he responds to the call to return home with his family to Israel. As many have noted, Joseph never speaks in Scripture, but he certainly listens, and he certainly acts on what he hears.

Christmas is perhaps the noisiest season of the year. At gatherings of family and friends with festive music in the background, it often feels as if we are shouting over one another to be heard. It is a season when it can be hard to have deep conversations, even with God. Indeed, it can be such a busy season that sometimes our regular prayer practices fall by the wayside. But, if we do not make space in our daily lives to listen, might we miss messages that are important, even urgent, for us to hear, as in the case of today's gospel? Messages that require immediate response? What would it look like to carve out a bit of silence in this holiday season, to be like Joseph and reground yourself in a spirituality of listening? ●



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
ANN M.
GARRIDO



Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

COLOSSIANS 3:16

Reflect

Do I allow myself enough silence, or am I tempted to fill the silence with noise?

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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
12/14/25: \$984.00
12/21/25: \$744.00

On-Line donations from November: \$1,240

On-line donations can be an easy and inexpensive way to routinely support St. Genevieve. Go to methowcatholic.org and look for the little blue stick man. Questions? Call Nancy at 253-370-0798.

****CALENDAR REMINDERS****

Wed, Dec 31, No Mass
Thurs, Jan 1, 11:00 AM Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God



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 always needs toilet paper. Pet food is especially needed in the winter. Donations can be left in the basket at the side door.

Mass Schedule:

Sunday, Dec 28 @ 11:00 am, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Rosary @ 10:20 am

Wednesday, Dec 31: NO MASS

Thursday, January 1, 2026 @11:00 am, Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God

Sunday, January 4, @ 11:00 am, The Epiphany of the Lord, Rosary @ 10:20 am



Liturgy of the Word

Sirach 3:2-6

Psalm 128

Colossians 3:12-21

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Revere your father, comfort your mother.

“Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.”

Clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy.

Out of Egypt I called my son.

Today's readings offer a number of lessons about family life. Ben Sira shares his wisdom about children's responsibilities to their parents, particularly as their parents age. Saint Paul's advice to the Colossians about how to treat each other teaches us well how to treat members of our own families. The Holy Family places their trust in the Lord as they fear for their safety in dangerous circumstances. May today's readings encourage us as we seek God's blessings upon families of every kind.

Question of the Week: As this tumultuous year comes to an end, what can I do for those who are strangers in a strange land?



ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.



da Fabriano Gentile (ca. 1370-1427)

<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=46678>



PRAY

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