

# 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*



INWIMED



Annunciation  
Catholic Church  
CALIFORNIA, MO

**Fr. Anthony Viviano**  
(573) 796-4842  
aviviano@diojeffcity.org

**Parish Office:**  
(573) 796-4842  
310 S. Mill St.  
**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 204  
California, MO 65018

**Secretary & Emergency Contact:**  
Pauline Forck  
(573) 619-2597

**Deacon:**  
**Bob Reinkemeyer**  
(573) 539-9777

**Religious Educ:**  
**Gloria Heinen**  
(217) 257-1155

**Hispanic Contact:**  
**Emilio Juarez**  
(573) 680-9326

**MASS TIMES:**  
**SAT. 4:00 PM**  
**SUN. 9:45 AM**  
**Spanish Mass/ Communion Service:**  
**SUN. 11:15 AM**

**Our Mission:**  
We, the family of Annunciation Parish, desire to build a community of love and service to our community and those in need as we bear witness to the teaching of Jesus Christ.

**PARISH EMAIL:**  
annunciationcaliforniamo@gmail.com

**WEBSITE:** <http://annunciation.diojeffcity.org>

**RECONCILIATION:**  
Saturday 3:15 – 3:45 PM, and by appointment.

**BAPTISMS:**  
By appointment. Contact Father Viviano

**WEDDINGS:**  
Please contact at least 6 months in advance.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:**  
Please call any time, or by appointment.

## 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?**

### 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

<b>Monday</b> December 22 <i>Advent Weekday</i> 1 Sm 1:24–28 Lk 1:46–56	<b>Thursday</b> December 25 <i>The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)</i> Is 52:7–10 Heb 1:1–6 Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14	<b>Saturday</b> December 27 <i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i> 1 Jn 1:1–4 Jn 20:1a, 2–8
<b>Tuesday</b> December 23 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Mal 3:1–4, 23–24 Lk 1:57–66	<b>Friday</b> December 26 <i>St. Stephen, the First Martyr</i> Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59 Mt 10:17–22	<b>Sunday</b> December 28 <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</i> Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17 Mt 2:13–15, 19–23
<b>Wednesday</b> December 24 <i>Advent Weekday</i> 2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16 Lk 1:67–79		

### 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*.



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- 4) Enter your name and email address

*Our Church Motto is JOY*  
JESUS First  
OTHERS Second  
YOURSELF Third

## LITURGICAL ROLES

### Saturday, December 20th, 4:00 PM

Mass Coord: Tim & Pauline Forck  
 Lector: Pauline Forck  
 Server: Tim Forck  
 Song Leader: Larry Dahler  
 Greeters: Cindy & Terry Volkart  
 Rosary: John Higgins  
 Gift Bearers: John Higgins & Camelia Castro

### Sunday, December 21st, 9:45 AM

Mass Coord: Elise Arnold  
 Lector: Preslee Marriott  
 Server: Gabe McCumber  
 Song Leader: Alicia Taube  
 Greeters: Mary Jo Ballenger & Judy Garner  
 Rosary: David Bax  
 Gift Bearers: Justin & Jayna Marriott Family

### Saturday, December 27th, 4:00 PM

Mass Coord: Sandy & Dale Deraps  
 Lector: Russ Anderson  
 Server: Jerry Hoback  
 Song Leader: Alicia Taube  
 Greeters: Steve & Brenda Hickman  
 Rosary: Vickie Schroeder  
 Gift Bearers: Jeremiah & Nicole Bestgen Family

### Sunday, December 28th, 9:45 AM

Mass Coord: Joann Frank  
 Lector: Becki Collier  
 Server: Hezekiah Frank  
 Song Leader: JoAnn Bestgen  
 Greeters: Randy & Monica Cain  
 Rosary: Charlie Roll  
 Gift Bearers: Matt & Becki Collier Family

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## PRAYER LIST

Please pray for these and all who are in need of prayer.  
 To remove or add someone to the prayer list, please contact the parish office.

Maggie Lawson; Mary Ann Wasser; Tom Jones; Emma Heise; Bill Embry; Wyatt Schmidt; Alex McGill; Ashley Kaplan (daughter of Tricia Brauch); Marian Dorn; Wallace Maynard; Derrick Cleveland (Vickie Schroeder's nephew); David Wilde; Kaitlyn Schlup; Sharon Belt; Cory Bickel (Jim Hoback's nephew); Bill McConkey; Jacobo Garcia; Pam Block; Helen Heinen; Shawn Bax; Suzy Allee; Robert Garner; Glenda Williams; Lisa Anderson; Paula Volkmer; Tracy Davis; John Michael McCoy; J. Gattermeir; Sally Schepers; Janice Howard; Sharon (Imhoff) Dresel; Linda Reichel; Steve Gerlt; Mark Bardwell; Dylann Henley; Lanny Wingate; Barb Glenn; Peggy Borgmeyer; Carol Baker; Amanda Imhoff; Gary Fleischmann; Barbara Reichl (mother of Bill Reichl); Louis Forck (grandson of Tim & Pauline Forck); Terry Carlson; Rachel Frank; Andrea Tilbury; Carol Rackers; Keith Connell; Alfred Rhodus

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR THE

### \*Mass Intentions

<b>Saturday, December 20</b>	4:00 PM	*Leon Deraps
<b>Sunday, December 21</b>	9:45 AM	*Annunciation & St. Andrew's Parishioners
<b>Spanish Mass</b>	11:15 AM	*Holy Souls in Purgatory
<b>Tuesday, December 23</b>	<b>NO 8 AM MASS</b>	
<b>Wednesday, December 24th</b>	<b>4 PM MASS</b>	*Mark Imhoff
<b>Wednesday, December 24th</b>	<b>7 PM MASS</b>	*Weston McCumber
<b>Thursday, December 25th</b>	<b>9:30 AM MASS</b>	*Darrell, Alan & Gene Bolin
<b>Saturday, December 27</b>	4:00 PM	*Emil & Agnes Bax
<b>Sunday, December 28</b>	9:45 AM	*Jo Wolken
<b>Spanish Prayer Svc</b>	11:15 AM	

## RECONCILIATION TIMES

Prepare Your Hearts for Christmas through the Sacrament of Reconciliation:  
 after 8 AM Masses on Tuesday's & Thursday's  
 Saturday Evenings from 3:15 - 3:45 PM  
 Sunday Mornings from 10:45 - 11:00 AM  
 After the 11:15 Spanish Mass

## WEEKLY PARISH ACTIVITIES<sup>5</sup>

<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21</b>	<b>NO PSR CLASSES</b>
<b>MONDAY, DECEMBER 22</b>	5:45 PM Rosary 8:00 PM AA-ALNON
<b>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23</b>	<b>NO 8 AM Mass</b> <b>NO Ladies Sodality Mtg</b> Decorate Church at 8 AM
<b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24</b>	<b>NO Bible Study</b>
<b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25</b>	<b>NO Quilting after 8 AM Mass</b> <b>No Sp Holy Hour</b>
<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28</b>	<b>NO PSR CLASS</b>

## CHRISTMAS SPECIAL COLLECTION

Support our Seminarians & Infirm Priests  
 Through the Christmas Special Collection



Give now at [diojeffcity.org/Donate-Christmas](http://diojeffcity.org/Donate-Christmas)

Or, look for the envelope in the December 12 issue of *The Catholic Missourian* and bring it to Mass or the parish office



**DIOCESE OF Jefferson City**

## HELP NEEDED DECORATING CHURCH

We need your help! Please join us as we decorate the Church for Christmas on Tuesday, December 23rd, at 8 AM. All helping hands are welcome and appreciated as we prepare our parish home for the celebration of our Savior's birth.



## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS - December 2025

<b>1st Week:</b>	\$5,854.13	<b>3rd Week:</b>	
<b>2nd Week:</b>	\$9,430.60	<b>4th Week:</b>	
<b>5th Week:</b>		<b>Poinsettia's:</b>	\$75.00
<b>Candles:</b>	\$76.00	<b>Mustard Seed:</b>	\$300.00
<b>Christmas Special Collection:</b> \$20.00			

**First Saturday Mass at St. Andrew's**  
 Effective January 3, 2026, Mass on the 1st Saturday of each month for the entire year will be held at 9 AM. Confessions & Adoration will be held from 8 AM until Mass begins at 9 AM.

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

<b>ANNUNCIATION</b>	<b>ST. ANDREW'S</b>
<b>Christmas Eve Masses will be held at 4 PM &amp; 7 PM</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Masses will be held at 4 PM &amp; 10 PM</b>
<b>Christmas Day Mass Time: 9:30 AM</b>	<b>Christmas Day Mass Time: 8:00 AM</b>

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

If you are able to serve as a Mass Coordinator, Server, Greeter, Rosary Leader, Gift Bearer or Eucharistic Minister, please sign up in the vestibule of Church.

Breaking the Silence of Abuse - As a diocese, we are committed to breaking the silence of abuse. When someone is reporting abuse, we must acknowledge their pain and how difficult it is to talk about it. False allegations are very rare. Our initial response to someone who is disclosing abuse for the first time must be compassionate. For those who need to report abuse, encourage them to contact our Victims Assistance Coordinator, Jacqueline Baldwin, (573-694-3199) and to make use of the appropriate State of Missouri hotline (1-800-392-3738) or the [Attorney General's clergy abuse online form](#). All of this information is also on our website, under the 'report abuse' tab. For those who want information or want to convey a message to Bishop O'Donnell, please encourage them to write to us at [reportabuse@diojeffcity.org](mailto:reportabuse@diojeffcity.org)

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

January 4, 2026 - Knights of Columbus Breakfast