



Will You Notice the Shoot?

ANN M. GARRIDO

Today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah offers a familiar Advent image: the shoot sprouting from the stump of Jesse. The verses immediately preceding speak of God walking through the forest with an ax: "The tall of stature shall be felled, and the lofty ones shall be brought low" (Isaiah 10:33). But now, amidst all the destruction, a tiny sign of new life emerges, and the Spirit of God descends upon it, bearing many gifts—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, delight.

So often, when we scroll through the news, our attention is captured by violence and war and the "mighty" who make great noise when they fall. "Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees," echoes John the Baptist in today's gospel. If we are looking

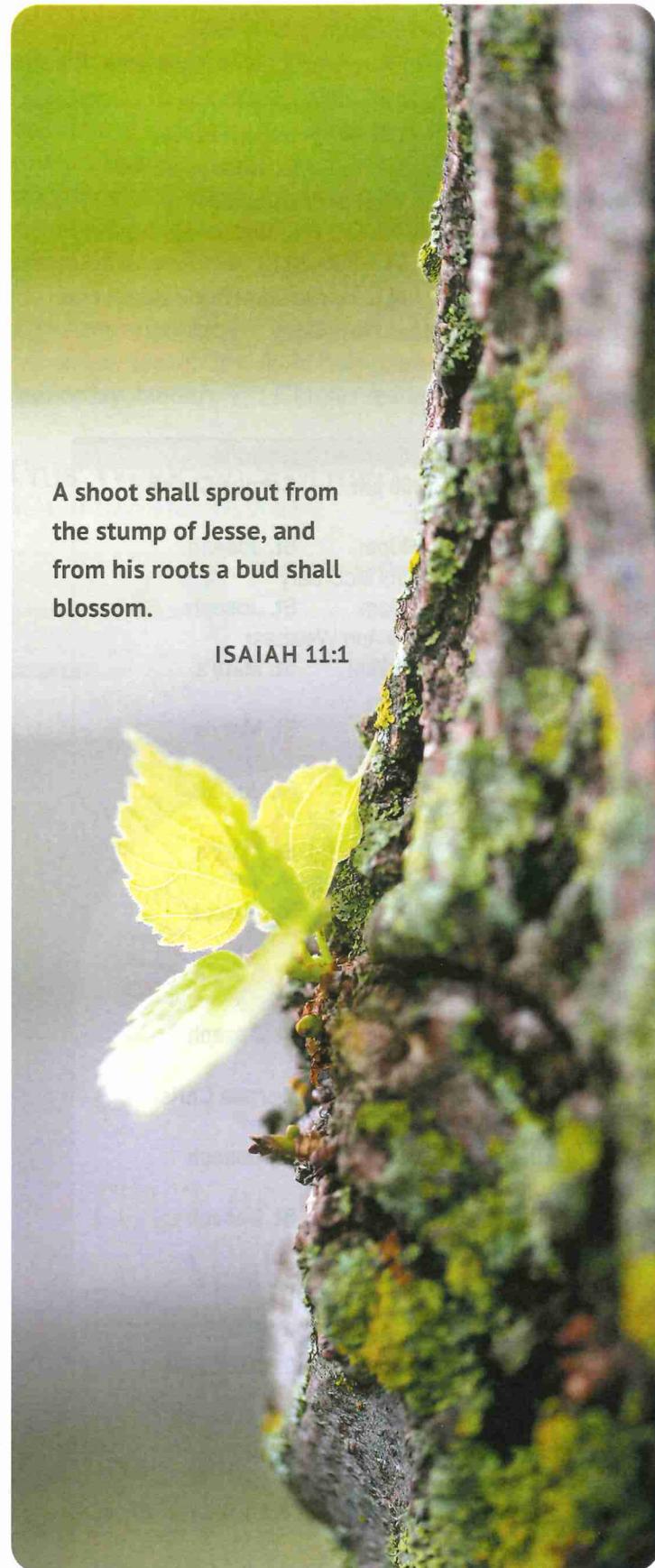

SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR ANN
M. GARRIDO

for where God's Spirit can be found, however, Isaiah reminds us we will need to look elsewhere. We will need to attend to the quiet, fragile resurrections taking place below the surface when it appears as if all has been lost. If we seek wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, and delight, we will need to look where the little ones of the earth are found. We must have our eyes open for the shoots.

The gospels emphasize that Jesus was one such little one. Although the glory days of his people seemed to have come to a crashing close, they have not. In him, we glimpse the truth that life is stronger than death. We see that the future has not been erased, no matter how terrible the past. In him, we find our hope. ●

Reflect

Are my eyes open to the small signs of God's work in the world, or am I too distracted to notice?



St. Joseph Catholic Church,
221 N Sycamore Street, Nortonville KS 66060 www.stjosephsnortonville.com

St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
905 Broadway, P.O. Box 176, Valley Falls KS 66088

Corpus Christi Catholic Church, 18760 Rogers Road, Atchison KS 66002

Dec. 2022

Parishes Office: 221 N Sycamore Street
Nortonville, Kansas 66060

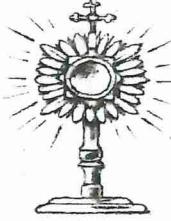
Secretary: Therese Maderak
Office hours: M, W, F 8:30a.m.-12:30p.m.
Phone: 913-886-2030
E-mail: sj.ic.cc.parishoffice@gmail.com

Pastor: Fr. William Dun-Dery
E-mail: wdun-dery@archkck.org

Sacraments
Reconciliation Saturday & Sunday 30 min before Mass, Wednesdays 6-7pm St. Joseph
Marriage Six-month notice required
18 months if annulments needed
Anointing Please let us know of any hospital admissions
Baptism For Baptismal dates call the office; one Baptismal Class required

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Sat.	Dec 6	5:00 pm	Corpus Christi
	† Tina Gaspard		
Sat.	Dec 6	7:00pm	St. Joseph
	† Patrick and Carol McCreary		
Sun.	Dec 7	8:00am	St. Joseph
	Kenny and Mary Ann Weishaar		
Sun.	Dec 7	10:00am	St. Mary's
	† Melvin Wagner		
Mon.	Dec 8	5:00pm	St. Mary's
	† Liv. and Dec. Members of Feuerborn Family		
Mon.	Dec 8	7:00pm	St. Joseph
	Mass for the People		
Tue.	Dec 9	8:00am	St. Mary's
	† Bill and Mary Lou Weishaar		
Wed.	Dec 10	8:00am	St. Joseph
	† Jeannie Pollard		
Thu.	Dec 11	8:00am	St. Mary's
	† "Jerry" Gerald Kramer		
Fri.	Dec 12	8:00am	St. Joseph
	† Vincent and Phyllis Bertels		
Sat.	Dec 13	5:00 pm	Corpus Christi
	† Bernard Noll		
Sat.	Dec 13	7:00 pm	St. Joseph
	† Jeannette Kingman		
Sun.	Dec 14	8:00 am	St. Joseph
	† Jon Larson		
Sun.	Dec 14	10:00 am	St. Mary's
	Mass for the People		



Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions

St. Joseph

Wednesdays, 6-7pm

Corpus Christi

3rd Saturday of month, 4-4:45pm

St. Mary's

3rd Sunday of month, 11am- 12pm

Bulletin Deadline: Noon Wednesday

The Parish Office will be closed Monday for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Office Hours this week: Tuesday, Wednesday 8:30am-12:30pm. Friday 11am-3pm.

2025 Advent Concert Tour: God Became Man

An Evening with John Marc Skoch

Come hear the good news of the gospel in a way you've never experienced before. Enjoy classic Christmas carols and heartwarming originals, snacks, drinks and joyful community as we prepare our hearts for the coming of The Savior!

Sunday, December 7, 5:30-7 PM

St. Michael Catholic Church

504 6th St, Axtell, KS

No RSVP, No Charge, All are Welcome!

www.archkck.org/rural

2025 Advent/Christmas Schedule

Penance Services

Saturday, Dec. 6- Corpus Christi, 3:30-4:50pm

Sunday, Dec. 7- St. Joseph, 4:30-5:45pm.

Sunday, Dec. 21- St. Mary, 11am-noon

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Monday, Dec. 8- St. Mary, 5 p.m.

St. Joseph, 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve- Wednesday, Dec. 24

St. Mary 4:30 p.m.

St. Joseph, 6:30 p.m.

Corpus Christi, 9 p.m.

Christmas Day- Thursday, Dec. 25

St. Mary, 8 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Wednesday, Dec. 31- Corpus Christi, 5 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 1- St. Joseph, 8 a.m.

St. Mary, 10 a.m.

Dear Padre,

Do non-Catholics go to heaven?

Yes, they do, because of the grace of God at work in his people. To suggest otherwise would seem to imply that Catholics somehow have a “golden ticket,” or some kind of right that simply does not exist.

The Incarnation of Jesus healed the division between heaven and earth, a division established by the “sin of Adam” and confirmed by our own lives of sin. Through his passion, death, and resurrection, all has been restored to the manner that the Father first envisioned through his Creation. The division was between humanity and divinity, not between religious practices and divinity. Catholics believe and celebrate that God accepts all people of a good heart and a good spirit. God is not blinded by the labels that sometimes blind his people to the bigger reality.

When Catholics, or people of any religion, proclaim exclusivity and specialness, particularly when it concerns eternal life, all people should be very cautious about what they assume. To assume a certain type of arrogance—to yourself and to your belief and life of faith—that excludes others or separates another as “not one of us” simply has no place in the kingdom of God. ●

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 8	December 9	December 10	December 11	December 12	December 13	December 14
<i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	<i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>
Gn 3:9-15, 20	Is 40:1-11	Is 40:25-31	Is 41:13-20	Zec 2:14-17	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11	Is 35:1-6a, 10
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12	Mt 18:12-14	Mt 11:28-30	Mt 11:11-15	or Rv 11:9a; 12:1-6a, 10ab	Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47	Jas 5:7-10
Lk 1:26-38					Mt 17:9a, 10-13	Mt 11:2-11

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

With the light and the strength of the Holy Spirit, let us build a Church founded on God's love, a sign of unity, a missionary Church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word, allows itself to be made "restless" by history, and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 18, 2025

