



Say to the fearful of heart:
Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
With divine recompense
he comes to save you.

ISAIAH 35:4



The Gift of Questions

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

We sometimes imagine that a sign of a strong faith is firm conviction and freedom from doubt. However, despite our imaginings, the authentic experiences of saints and ordinary people alike seem to point in another direction. The question of John the Baptist today—“Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” (Matthew 11:3)—suggests that John is filled with questions, and these are important questions because they are asked from the depths of King Herod’s prison, which is not exactly the place of idle musings or concerns.

If John, who is a great saint and a man who encountered Jesus and witnessed the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit at his baptism, can have a question, doesn’t it suggest that questions are acceptable—perhaps even needed? Perhaps questioning is an indication of faithfulness, not a lack of faith. Questions do not suggest that something is missing; rather, they confirm that something is growing and developing. The Baptist could just have easily said, “Jesus, you are doing and saying more than I ever imagined possible. Please help me to understand,” or, to quote an unnamed saint, “I do believe, help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24).

God will not shatter, and faith will not collapse, because you have questions or doubts.

Experience suggests that questions and doubts strengthen our belief and our commitment to a life of faith. ●



SCAN TO
LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
FR. THOMAS M.
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Reflect

Do I welcome questions, mine and others, as a way to grow in faith?

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

Parishes Office: 221 N Sycamore Street
Nortonville, Kansas 66060

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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

Penance Services



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

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.

Joyful Hearts With Helping Hands

306 Lafayette St., Nortonville, KS

Clothing Bank/ for everyone

This service is offered free of charge

Open Thurs. 2pm-6pm and Sat. 9am-noon

Contact: Pam (816)863-9604 and Debbie (913)674-7064
Children and Adult clothing all sizes, shoes of all sizes
Seasonal items, summer fun, coats, jackets, hats, gloves and hygiene products.

A ministry of Pantry of Hope

Supported by United Way and Thrivent Action Team

Retirement Fund for Religious collection this weekend

helps more than 20,500 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have spent their lives in service—many receiving little to no pay. Now, their communities struggle to meet their basic care, medication, and daily living needs. Your generosity ensures they can age with dignity. Please give in gratitude for their lifelong commitment. Thank you for your generosity!



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

2025 Advent/Christmas Schedule

Dear Padre,

Does the Bible say that Mary was in her sixth month of pregnancy at the Annunciation?

The announcement of Jesus' birth in Luke begins, "In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph...and the virgin's name was Mary" (Luke 1:26–27). This Scripture passage taken out of context could possibly give the impression that "in the sixth month" refers to Mary. However, it refers to Mary's cousin Elizabeth, who was in the sixth month of her pregnancy with John the Baptist. The proper context is a few verses before this one that reads, "Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months" (Luke 1:24).

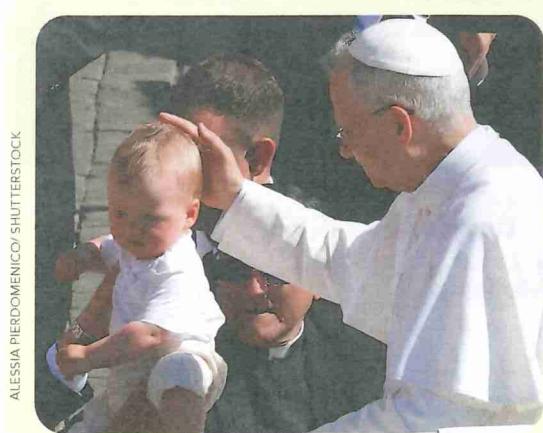


Regarding Mary's pregnancy, at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel tells her, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (Luke 1:31, 35). Gabriel also informs Mary, "And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren" (Luke 1:36).

In general, women already in their sixth month of pregnancy would likely be aware of their condition, and it would not be easy to conceal from others. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 15	December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21
Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Advent Weekday	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a Mt 21:23-27	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Mt 21:28-32	Gn 49:2, 8-10 Mt 1:1-17	Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Lk 1:5-25	Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38	Is 7:10-14 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

There are many settings in which the Christian faith is considered absurd.... Yet, precisely for this reason, they are the places where our missionary outreach is desperately needed. A lack of faith is often tragically accompanied by the loss of meaning in life, the neglect of mercy, appalling violations of human dignity, the crisis of the family, and so many other wounds that afflict our society.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 9, 2025