



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.
SANTA, CSSR

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

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

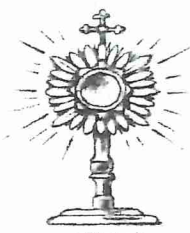
Pastor: Fr. William Dun-Dery
E-mail: wdun-dery@archkck.org

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 13	5:00 pm	Corpus Christi
†	Bernard Noll		
Sat.	Dec 13	7:00pm	St. Joseph
†	Jeannette Kingman		
Sun.	Dec 14	8:00am	St. Joseph
†	Jon Larson		
Sun.	Dec 14	10:00am	St. Mary's
	Mass for the People		
Mon.	Dec 15	No Mass	
Tue.	Dec 16	8:00am	St. Mary's
†	Bernard Noll		
Wed.	Dec 17	8:00am	St. Joseph
†	Mildred, Geraldine, and Marcelene Weishaar		
Thu.	Dec 18	8:00am	St. Mary's
†	Francis E. "Smitty" Schmidt		
Fri.	Dec 19	8:00am	St. Joseph
†	Robert and T.C. Schrick		
Sat.	Dec 20	5:00 pm	Corpus Christi
†	Allen Locklin		
Sat.	Dec 20	7:00 pm	St. Joseph
†	Tuffy Weishaar		
Sun.	Dec 21	8:00 am	St. Joseph
†	Lindell Nolting		
Sun.	Dec 21	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

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!

Bulletin Deadline: Noon Wednesday

2025 Advent/Christmas Schedule

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Kyle Perkis	Jeremy Heinen
Bob Heinen	Virginia Grollmes
Emma Dockweiler	Rosella Hollis
Janet Schmidt	Chris Heinen
Tim Hosler	Heidi Rutar
Phil Heuertz	Dolores Miller
Roxie Herring	Dorothy Herring
Jenna Amack	Tynen Darveaux Sr.

Also pray for those serving in the Military, those with health issues and those who have no one to pray for them.

December Appointments

Ushers: Mike Brose, Pat Sieve, Bill Heinen, Kevin Glassel

Lay Ministers: Marley Hamon, Larry Martin, Dianna Welsh, Lesa Brose

Rosary: Chad Mooradian

December 21st

Lector: Kevin Glassel

Musicians: Marley Hamon

Servers: Emma Welsh, Waylon Allen

Gifts: Bryce Miller Family

Finances: Jarett Wildeman, Chad Mooradian

Sacristan: Beth Brown

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th 4:30 pm

Lector: Chad Mooradian

Music: Patty Bendure, RaeAnn Allen

Servers: Waylon Allen, Tommy Welsh

Gifts: Matthew Hamon Family

Finance: Larry Martin, Kristy Burns

Sacristan: RaeAnn Allen

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25th 8:00 am

Lector: Dan Heinen

Music: Dawna Ross

Servers: Jarett Wildeman

Gifts: Ushers

Finance: Jarett Wildeman, Chad Mooradian

Sacristan: Julie Sieve

St Mary's Immaculate Conception Parish Mission Statement

- Study our **FAITH**
- Practice our **FAITH**
- Support our parish and community in **FAITH**
- Evangelize our **FAITH**

Bulletin additions or corrections: Contact Crystal Clark 785-806-0262 (text or call)
email calebcrysal@hotmail.com

Knights of Columbus Family of the Month December

Pat and Julie Sieve

CCD Announcements:

Wednesday January 7th: Classes resume

Christmas Eve Choir

If you would like to participate in the Christmas Eve Choir please meet in the balcony at 3:45pm on Christmas Eve. We will plan to start singing around 4:00pm. All are welcome!



POINSETTIA MEMORIALS

Honor a cherished loved one this Christmas by sponsoring a poinsettia for the Altar. To participate, please contact Beth Brown. Each plant is \$15. Don't forget to include the names you wish to remember along with your check. All memorials will be featured in the Christmas bulletin.

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
PENANCE SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 @ IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
11:00-12:00

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30PM @ IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
6:30PM @ ST. JOSEPHS
9PM @ CORPUS CHRISTI

CHRISTMAS DAY

8AM @ IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
DECEMBER 31ST 5PM @ CORPUS CHRISTI

JANUARY 1ST 8AM @ ST. JOSEPH
10AM @ IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Contributions

December 7, 2025

Insurance.....	180.00
Projects and Maintenance.....	190.00
Food Pantry.....	100.00
Plate.....	191.50
Support.....	1455.00
Total	\$2116.50

St Nicholas Day gift basket auction

Lift Project fund.....\$1321.00

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).

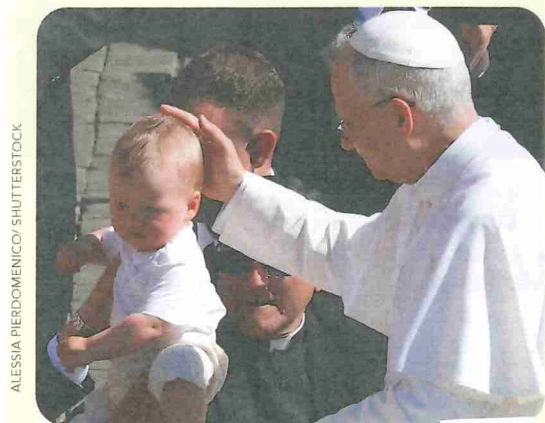
Regarding Mary's pregnancy, at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel tells her, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called 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
<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a	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