



The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus."

MATTHEW 1:20-21



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?

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
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 20	5:00 pm	Corpus Christi
	† Allen Locklin		
Sat.	Dec 20	7:00pm	St. Joseph
	† Tuffy Weishaar		
Sun.	Dec 21	8:00am	St. Joseph
	† Lindell Nolting		
Sun.	Dec 21	10:00am	St. Mary's
	Mass for the People		
Mon.	Dec 22	No Mass	
Tue.	Dec 23	8:00am	St. Mary's
	Genevieve French		
Wed.	Dec 24	4:30pm	St. Mary's
	Mass for the People		
Wed.	Dec 24	6:30pm	St. Joseph
	† Patrick and Carol McCreary		
Wed.	Dec 24	9:00pm	Corpus Christi
	† Charlie Noll		
Thu.	Dec 25	8:00am	St. Mary's
	† Deceased members of Knights of Columbus		
Fri.	Dec 26	8:00am	St. Joseph
	† Bob Sanger		
Sat.	Dec 27	5:00pm	Corpus Christi
	† Vince Aspinwall		
Sat.	Dec 27	7:00pm	St. Joseph
	† Harold and Gelene Weishaar		
Sun.	Dec 28	8:00am	St. Joseph
	† Jon Larson		
Sun.	Dec 28	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 Monday

Parish Office Hours: The parish office will be open on Monday and Tuesday this week from 8:30am-2:30pm and will be closed the rest of the week for Christmas.



2025 Advent/Christmas Schedule
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.



Unbound Giving Tree

There are tags on the Christmas Giving Trees at St. Mary's and St. Joseph for Unbound, an organization that helps people in poverty around the world.

Please consider taking one home and donating to this worthy cause. You can also donate online at unbound.org/donate

Retrouvaille Healing Marriage Weekend

Retrouvaille helps couples heal and renew their hurting marriages. 95% of couples recommend the program after completing the initial weekend and follow-up phases of the program.

January 23-25, 2026 - Registration closes Jan 21, 2026
Questions? Call 816-679-4356 or email

Retrokc@gmail.com

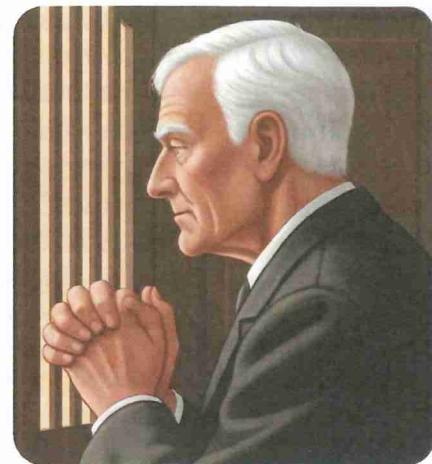
Registration: www.retrokc.com

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. ●



GEMINI

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

Monday

December 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24-28
Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday

December 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24
Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday

December 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67-79

Thursday

December 25
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Is 52:7-10
Heb 1:1-6
Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday

December 26
St. Stephen, the First Martyr
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
Mt 10:17-22

Saturday

December 27
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1-4
Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Sunday

December 28
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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