

Dear Padre,

Recently our new pastor relocated the rectory away from the church and parish office. Why is this becoming more common?

“The laborer deserves his payment” from Luke 10:7 has been traditionally interpreted to suggest that ministers for the Lord engaged in pastoral service are provided with certain basic necessities, such as a place to call home. Some priests are now choosing a distinct location in which to live that is apart from where their ministry is primarily conducted. A reason for this move is often attributed to rectories that have no clear boundaries between the private living space and the parish office.

While clergy in apostolic ministry are not necessarily seeking a cloistered existence, they do deserve the fundamental privacies enjoyed by everyone else. Sometimes this courtesy is not respected by those who have an unhealthy curiosity about the lives of their parish priests or by those who are preoccupied with being “in the know” (and sharing what they know with the rest of the congregation).

Dedicated priests can be accessible and available at various hours during the day or night without having to live in a fishbowl. Sometimes this may warrant a new rectory location or facility, especially if the pastor in stocking feet on his day off can't pour his morning coffee without stumbling into a DRE staff meeting! ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

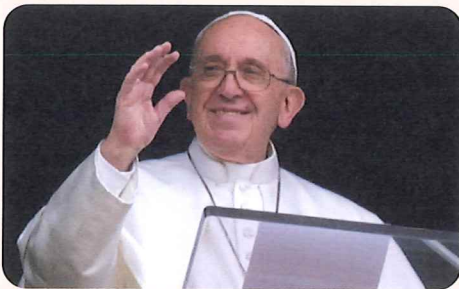


HALINSKI MAX/SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The great gossip is the devil, who always goes about saying bad things about others, because he is the liar who seeks to separate the Church to distance brothers and sisters and not create community. Please, brothers and sisters, let us make an effort not to gossip. Gossip is a plague more awful than Covid!

ANGELUS, ROME, SEPTEMBER 6, 2020



SHUTTERSTOCK

MONDAY

September 11
Weekday
Col 1:24–2:3
Lk 6:6–11

TUESDAY

September 12
Weekday
Col 2:6–15
Lk 6:12–19

WEDNESDAY

September 13
St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Col 3:1–11
Lk 6:20–26

THURSDAY

September 14
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Nm 21:4b–9
Phil 2:6–11
Jn 3:13–17

FRIDAY

September 15
Our Lady of Sorrows
1 Tm 1:1–2, 12–14
Jn 19:25–27
or Lk 2:33–35

SATURDAY

September 16
Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
1 Tm 1:15–17
Lk 6:43–49

SUNDAY

September 17
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sir 27:30–28:7
Rom 14:7–9
Mt 18:21–35

Timely Topics Viewed with a Catholic Perspective

Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions.

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 10, 2023

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Ezekiel 33:7–9 / Romans 13:8–10 / Matthew 18:15–20



Tweaked by God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

While the Scripture readings this week remind us we are responsible for one another, do any of us really want someone serving as our conscience, telling us what to do? A national insurance company once aired a TV ad in which “Cynthia” takes it upon herself to make sure everyone was abiding by the established regulations of the subdivision. She checks to make sure everyone is breaking down cardboard, cuts down hanging flower baskets that are contrary to regulations, and takes a chainsaw to mailboxes that are even two inches too high.

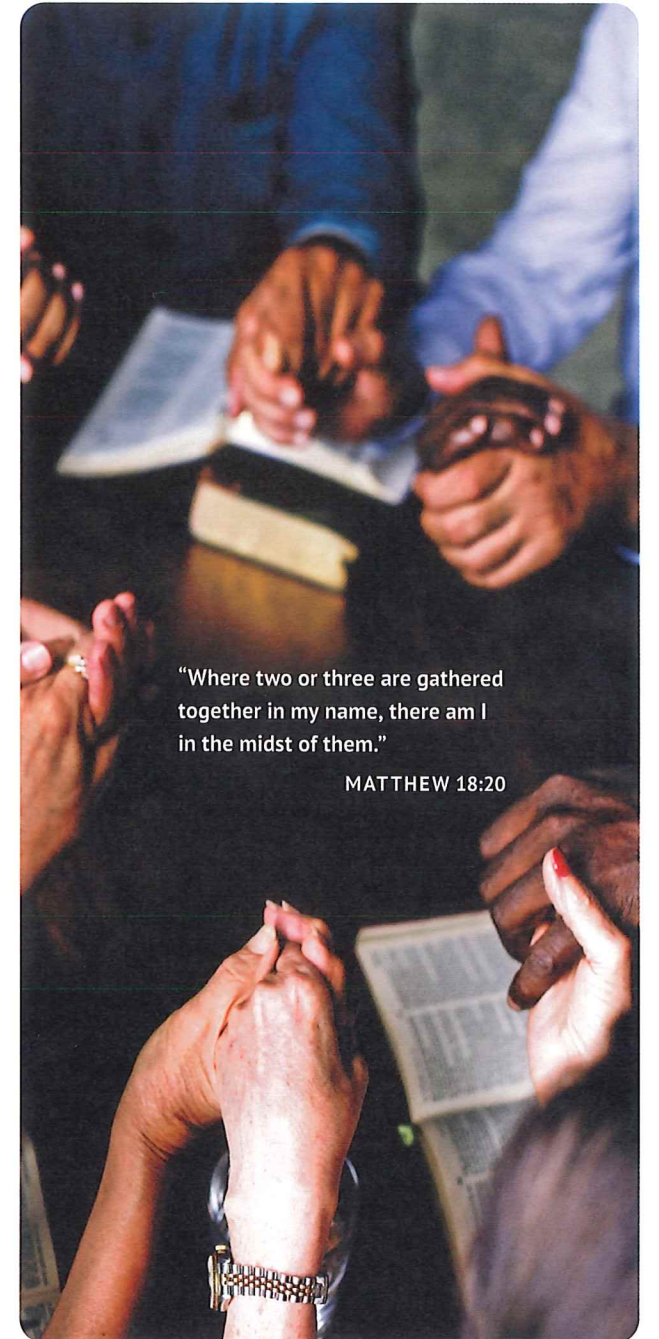
None of us want a “Cynthia” for a neighbor. It may be that it takes a community to raise a child, but once we have become adults—well, thanks but no thanks. So what do we do with these readings?

The Gospel adds the ingredient of community to the “cake batter.” Praying with a faith community can help correct our personal opinion, remind us what we might be blind to, and broaden our vision by affirming that we are a part of a larger world, all from the perspective of faith.

A faith community that reflects “Cynthia” thinking is a church that seeks to control. It motivates by fear, discourages prayerful reflection, and expects everyone to march in unison. A healthy faith community is a church that respects everyone as serious individuals of faith, encourages study and dialogue to seek out truth, and recognizes that growth in faith occurs in different ways. Prayerful, respectful communities of faith are how God tweaks our lives. ●

Reflect

What role does the faith community play in your religious practice and your spirituality?



“Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

MATTHEW 18:20



Rectory & Parish Office
 600 Soderberg St. Lakin, KS 67860
 Mailing Address: PO Box 983
 Fr. Peter Tran, Pastor—355-6405
 Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
 Email: saintanthonylakin@gmail.com

Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee	355-6388
Lisa Gannett, DRE	355-6611
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek & Nanette Rice	355-1696 355-7676

23 rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9/9/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Lucy, Jonathan, & Nathan Gannett

Reader: Gwen Waechter

E.O.HC: Rosemary & Tom Bachman

9/10/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Cade & Jace Berning, Luke Woodrow

Reader: Hannah Schauf

E.O. HC: Mike & Cindy Broeckelman

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9/16/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Volunteer, Jason Velasco, Ryann Bamberger

Reader: Karen Burden

E.O.HC: Debbie Frederick, Gwen Waechter

9/17/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Kirbe & Kipton Koons, Joleigh Lohman-Fuller

Reader: Alvin Bergkamp

E.O. HC: Robert Longoria, Kyle Berning

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, Sept. 9	4:00 p.m.	Rosie Perez
Sunday, Sept. 10	9:00 a.m.	For the people
Monday, Sept. 11	8:30 a.m.	David Hoang
Tuesday, Sept. 12	8:30 a.m.	Gary Sack
Thursday, Sept. 14	8:30 a.m.	Special Int. Powers Family
Friday, Sept. 15	8:30 a.m.	David Hoang
Saturday, Sept. 16	4:00 p.m.	For the people
Sunday, Sept. 17	9:00 a.m.	D. Jenes Family

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.
Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.
Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.
Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

September 10, 2023

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." (Psalm 95:1)

This Sunday’s readings focus on one important theme, correction. Jesus shows us how to correct those who sin against us, “If your brother sins against you . . .” (Matthew 18:15-20) My friends, why do we need to tell those who did wicked or sinful things? The prophet Ezekiel and St. Paul provide us the answer, “But if you warn the wicked . . . you shall save yourself.” (Ezekiel 33:7-9) and “Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another . . .” (Romans 13:8-10). That’s it! That must be the sole motivation for any critical or confrontational thing we say to someone else. It must be done out of love. It must be done with love. It must be done to show the other person we love them. Any other reason is simply not good enough.

That formula doesn’t seem so complicated. But it does mean that sometimes we will need to keep our mouths shut if one of these criteria are missing: 1) Significantly important matter. 2) Something we would be ok with another person saying to us. 3) Doing it out of love and for no other reason. Then and only then might we help someone get back on the path, help someone make a change they need to make. And don’t forget, there will be times when we need to do the same when someone comes to us and says, “We need to talk.” Let’s be open to just such a conversation.

Fr. Peter

COLLECTION for September 3, 2023: Envelopes: \$475; Loose: \$229; Online Giving: \$1342.57; Total \$2046.62; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under +285.45

CHURCH PROJECT GOAL \$52000—Building Fund To Date: \$35889.77 *Thank you so much for your love for our parish church and your faithful stewards.*

SAINT ANTHONY’S & CHRIST THE KING CCD (PSR) 2023-2023

CCD enrollments: September 6 - Come to the Parish Hall between 6pm-7:30pm. For anyone that wants to enroll in person and online will work as well. Enrollment fees are \$10/student or \$25/ for 3 or more students. This year a change for confirmation is 8th grade through 12th grade. Any student needing to make confirmation will need to make sure to have proof of baptism and first communion! All classes this year will be on Wednesday night at 6:30pm sharp. Parents and students meeting will be September 13 at 6:30pm followed by a teachers meeting at 7:30pm. If you don’t make it to the hall on the 6th for enrollment don’t worry you have until the 13th to get enrolled so we are ready for class September 20 beginning at 6:30pm.

O.C.I.A (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) Are you interested in joining the Catholic Church or finding out more about the teachings of the faith? Consider joining the St. Anthony’s OCIA program. The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) is a process for adults who desire to join the Catholic faith. The process invites participants into discernment, prayer, and spiritual formation. If you’d like to join us, please call please call Fr. Peter (620-355-6405) or Mrs. Karen Burden (620- 355-6388)

ADULT CONFIRMATION If any adult Catholic who hasn’t been confirmed and would like to be confirmed this coming Easter Please call Fr. Peter (620-355-6405) or Mrs. Karen Burden (620- 355-6388) On behalf of the Catholic faith community of the St. Anthony, we look forward to welcoming you.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK With whom do I need to reconcile? How can I go about it fruitfully?

PRAYER OF THE WEEK Lord Jesus, today let us hear your voice; open our hearts to your love. When we sin, help us to admit it. When we persist in sin, give us the strength and wisdom to ask for help. When someone points out our sin, humble us to receive correction. When we must point out someone else’s sin, help us to speak with gentleness and love. Today let us hear your voice; open our hearts to your love. We ask this in your holy name. Amen.

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (Matthew 18:15-20)

Clear guidelines In the fourth book or section of Matthew’s Gospel Jesus tackles the problem of sin within the Christian community. In this passage he outlines a procedure for dealing with individual Christians who are committing a serious sin. He adapts the procedure from Judaism. Step 1: Talk with the person privately. Step 2: Talk with the person in the presence of 1-2 other people who can both confirm the points you’re making and hear the other person’s response. Step 3: Bring the matter to the attention of the whole community. If the person still refuses to repent, exclude him/her from the community. Serious sin makes the whole community look bad and can lead others to sin. This three-step procedure protects the community and gives the serious sinner every possible chance to change.

Avoiding hypocrisy Those who talk with the sinner must do so prayerfully and with love. Jesus takes a harsh stance against hypocrisy (Mt 23). He also warns us to vigorously root out sin from our own lives (18:6-9).

Like a Gentile or tax collector Jews tried to keep apart from Gentiles (non-Jews) and tax collectors, who raised money for Rome, their foreign conqueror. Because Jesus reached out to people who felt unloved and excluded, he probably isn’t instructing his followers to treat sinners unkindly or simply to forget about them.

Authority In Jewish tradition it was said that when two devout Jews gathered to reflect on God’s law, God was with them. Jesus adapts this familiar saying to assure his church that when they follow the proper procedures humbly and prayerfully, he will uphold their decision.

Excommunication Excommunication is the penalty in canon law (the Catholic Church’s legal system) for sins like renouncing one’s faith or causing schism. Someone who’s excommunicated isn’t allowed to participate in aspects of Church life like the Eucharist. The penalty of excommunication can be lifted through the Sacrament of Penance and, in more public cases, through a formal statement.

(oursundayreadings.wordpress.com)

UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING OF THE WEEK - (Ezekiel 33:7-9)

Enemies without Ancient cities had watchmen on the city walls who would blow a trumpet if they saw an enemy approaching. If people ignored the warning, the city might be conquered, but this wasn’t the watchman’s fault. If a watchman failed to warn people of danger, however, the blame was his.

Enemies within As watchman, Ezekiel isn’t to look for enemies coming from outside Israel but from within it. When Israel hears the prophet’s warning, the nation should prepare to battle not its enemies but its own sin. The penalty Ezekiel faces if he fails to warn God’s people is as severe as the penalty the people face: death. The penalty might reinforce the idea of a harsh Old Testament God, but God calls Ezekiel to be a watchman so that people will turn away from sin and be saved (see v.11).

Son of man God calls Ezekiel son of man, a human being who mediates his word. In this case, God’s word is a warning of his coming judgment. A later prophet uses a similar term for one who receives God’s power over the earth (Daniel 7:13-14). Jesus drew on the meaning of son of man, the only term he readily applied to himself. As God’s incarnate word, he both proclaimed and ushered in God’s kingdom. At his trial he assured his opponents that he would yet triumph and return to exercise God’s judgment (Matthew 26:63-64).

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION SEPTEMBER 10,2023

“You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel...”-Ezekiel 33:7

Many of us are generous with our gifts. However, many of us are not generous in proportion to the gifts we have been given. How often do we give at the minimum level required? Remember, the Lord calls us to nurture and develop our gifts and to give back with increase. He calls us to be generous with all the gifts, especially the one that means the most to us.

“Pues a ti, hijo del hombre, yo te he puesto como centinela del pueblo de Israel. Tú deberás recibir mis mensajes y comunicarles mis advertencias...” - Ezequiel 33:7

Muchos de nosotros somos generosos con nuestros dones. Sin embargo, muchos de nosotros no somos generosos en proporción a los dones que hemos recibido. ¿Qué tan a menudo damos el mínimo nivel requerido? Recuerda, el Señor nos llama a cuidar y desarrollar nuestros dones y a devolverlos con ganancia. Él nos llama a ser generosos con todos los dones que hemos recibido, especialmente con el que es más importante para nosotros.

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

Kerygma/Missionaries

REFLECTION:

Some pieces of news result in big changes—an acceptance letter for school, a job, or a home. But have you ever received news that changed the course of your life? The announcement of a pregnancy or the death of a loved one carries a different weight. Life and death: the two greatest gifts and mysteries of human life. We all share them. We don't choose entrance into this world, and we cannot escape death.

So, we spend our lives trying to find purpose in our birth and avoiding death. We speak about the end in hushed tones, if we speak about it at all. We enter into endless cycles of meaning-making, seeking to understand our existence.

Can you imagine if there was news that helped us understand it all and that could teach us how to truly live? This is the message of Jesus Christ, the Gospel. Those who encounter his life can never be the same.

How can we preserve this message to make sure it stays alive in our hearts? Jesus is the one who teaches us how to live. He is Life itself who takes on flesh and walks among us, showing us what holiness looks like, and through his death and resurrection offers us the forgiveness of sins. Jesus came so that we might partake in the divine life of God. Not only does Jesus forgive our sins, but Jesus offers us everything we need to “sin no more” (John 8:11).

It can be a struggle to choose what is good, just, and right, and we may at times feel that we are constantly pulled toward sin. While sin always remains a choice, not a given, we find that we choose it more often than we should. The problem with sin is that it not only breaks our relationship with others but also with God. Even the most private sin binds us in chains and disregards the freedom God gave us. There are consequences for this separation that we brought on ourselves, but God's mercy is bigger.

This is life-changing news—but I wonder if we really live it. Do we live like people transformed by the power of Jesus Christ, or are we chasing meaning and purpose, trying to avoid death like everyone else?

Today is your wake-up call. Let the power of the Gospel take hold of your heart again. Let it convict you in your sin and call you to repentance. The Gospel message isn't life-enhancing; it is life-changing. It is the starting and ending point for every life. It is the message that speaks to the heart of life and death and changes who we are forever.

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus Christ, your life, Death, and Resurrection is the Good News. Pour grace into my heart and mind to receive this message in a new way, today. By your grace, solidify this message in my heart so that I never forget my purpose and my destiny. I ask this in your Name, amen.

CHALLENGE:

The four Gospels contain the Good News of Jesus. Choose one of the four today and read the final chapters which recount the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus. Depending on the Gospel you choose, this may take 15-30 minutes. You can find those narratives here:

Matthew 26-28; Mark 14-16; Luke 22-24; John 18-20

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The long loneliness

"Church" means assembly: It is not good for us to be alone. Today's Suicide Prevention Day reminds us that loneliness is an unhealthy condition. More than 700,000 people die by suicide each year: about 132 a day in the United States. For every suicide, there are more than 20 attempts. Mental illness and substance abuse contribute to the crisis, but marginalized groups are at highest risk: migrants, indigenous people, those who identify as LGBTQ+, and prisoners. The feeling of alienation is real but also preventable. Call or text the crisis hotline at 988 to seek help for yourself or someone you love. (Preparetheword)

VIGÉSIMO TERCER DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

La larga soledad

"Iglesia" significa asamblea: No es bueno que estemos solos. El Día de la Prevención del Suicidio que se celebra hoy nos recuerda que la soledad es una condición poco saludable. Más de 700.000 personas mueren cada año por suicidio: unas 132 por día en Estados Unidos. Por cada suicidio, hay más de 20 intentos. Las enfermedades mentales y el abuso de sustancias contribuyen a la crisis, pero los grupos marginados son los de mayor riesgo: migrantes, indígenas, quienes se identifican como LGBTQ+ y reclusos. El sentimiento de alienación es real, pero también prevenible. Llama o envía un mensaje de texto al teléfono de crisis 988 para buscar ayuda para ti o para un ser querido.