

Dear Padre,

My wife and I are in our mid-fifties; we have a comfortable life, go to church regularly, pray, and generally consider ourselves good Christians. So what's wrong? We feel empty, hollow, and strangely unfulfilled. What can we do?

Barring any other unnamed problem, you and your wife seem to be at a spiritual crossroads. You've come to the disturbing but provocative realization that St. Augustine voiced, saying, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee, O Lord." Feelings of emptiness are a gift, a message that God is calling you to something more. It's time for careful discernment.

At stake here is: What is life really about? Up to this point, like many people, it sounds like you have enjoyed a comfortable and productive life filled with many of the good things the world has to offer. But when these prove unable to give lasting happiness, you are finding that true meaning must be sought elsewhere: in a more profound relationship with God. It is no longer a matter of knowing about God but of connecting with God in a close, personal, intimate relationship.

Lent begins in less than two weeks. Perhaps you and your wife can decide how to spend this Lent seeking a deeper relationship with God and God's people. You could join a prayer group or work at a soup kitchen. You could learn about meditation practices or help your parish in projects for the poor. You could spend one hour a week before the Blessed Sacrament. Whatever you decide, welcome this new stage in life to which God is calling you. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY
February 13	February 15	February 18
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday
Gn 4:1–15, 25	Gn 8:6–13, 20–22	Heb 11:1–7
Mk 8:11–13	Mk 8:22–26	Mk 9:2–13
TUESDAY	THURSDAY	SUNDAY
February 14	February 16	February 19
St. Cyril, Monk and St. Methodius, Bishop	Weekday	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gn 6:5–8; 7:1–5, 10	Gn 9:1–13	Lv 19:1–2, 17–18
Mk 8:14–21	Mk 8:27–33	1 Cor 3:16–23
FRIDAY		Mt 5:38–48
February 17		
Weekday		
Gn 11:1–9		
Mk 8:34–9:1		

Daybreaks inspires during our Church's holiest seasons.

Leading Catholic voices inspire the faithful with daily reflections & prayers for Advent and Lent. Including: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Dr. Mary Katharine Deeley, Sr. Dianne Bergant, Fr. Paul Turner, and more at Liguori.org.



LIGHTFIELD STUDIOS / SHUTTERSTOCK



CNS PHOTO / PAUL HARING

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Time dedicated to being with God revives faith, which helps us in the practicalities of living, and faith, in turn, nurtures prayer, without interruption. In this circularity between faith, life, and prayer, one keeps alight that flame of Christian love that God expects of us.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, SAN DAMASO COURTYARD, JUNE 9, 2021

Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 12, 2023  
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)  
Sirach 15:15–20 / 1 Corinthians 2:6–10 / Matthew 5:17–37  
or Matthew 5:20–22, 27–28, 33–34, 37



What's in Your Heart?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

In the past fifty years, there seems to have been a quiet but noticeable shift in the lived faith of Catholics in the pews. None of it has been officially or formally decreed, though it might very well be the natural unfolding of what the Second Vatican Council was about. It seems to have simply happened, perhaps by the workings of the Holy Spirit. I would highlight four common shifts.

People's faith seems to have moved from a primary concern with doctrine or what we believe, to spirituality or how we live out what we believe as people of faith and where God is in our lives.

What's in our hearts has been a focus. It suggests that while actions are important, where the actions originate and what they say about who we are is also important in trying to understand why we do what we do.

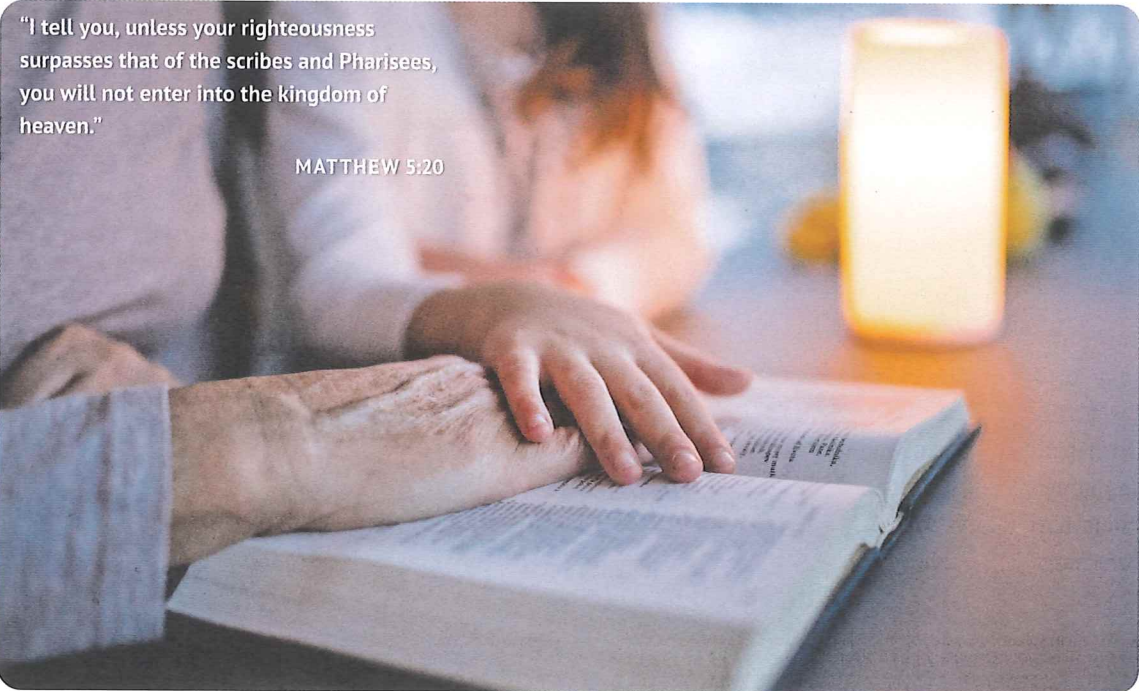
People pray differently. While the rosary and devotional prayer is nurturing to the faith of many, there has also been a discovery of other forms of meditation, quiet reflection, and praying with sacred scripture.

Confession no longer seems to be about only reporting kinds and numbers of sins but also about what is in one's heart and how people find themselves relating to others. People confess both attitudes and actions that are destructive rather than moral lists.

It would seem that all of this echoes this week's Gospel, which focuses on divisive anger, lustful lifestyles, and faking the truth, that is, what is in our hearts. ●

Reflect

How is your faith different today than it was ten or twenty years ago?



"I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

MATTHEW 5:20





Rectory & Parish Office  
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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	355-1696
& Nanette Rice	355-7676

**6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Green**

**02/11/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.**

**Servers:** Lucy Gannett, Jonathan Gannett, Nathan Gannett

**Reader:** Tom Bachman

**E.O.HC:** Tino Rosales Jr., Karen Burden

**02/12/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Servers:** Kingston Guerrero, Cade & Jace Berning

**Reader:** Kyle Berning

**E.O. HC:** Maria Enriquez, Rosa Cardenas

**7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Green**

**02/18/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.**

**Servers:** Volunteer, Jason Velasco, Ryann Bamberger

**Reader:** Debbie Frederick

**E.O.HC:** Rosemary & Tom Bachman

**02/19/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Servers:** Volunteers

**Reader:** Mike Broeckelman

**E.O. HC:** Alvin Bergkamp, Bob Woodrow

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Saturday, Feb. 11</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Thanksgiving for moisture</b>
<b>Sunday, Feb. 12</b>	<b>9:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Chuck Sullivan</b>
<b>Monday, Feb. 13</b>	<b>8:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Charles &amp; Eileen Hoff</b>
<b>Tuesday, Feb. 14</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Charles &amp; Eileen Hoff</b>
<b>Thursday, Feb. 16</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	<b>Vocation</b>
<b>Friday, Feb. 17</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>S.Int. Powers Family</b>
<b>Saturday, Feb. 18</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Berkamp Family Int. Sullen</b>
<b>Sunday, Feb. 19</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Kathi Sullivan</b>

**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.

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord! Psalm 119:1*

Friends, Many of us simply don't want any surprises, don't want new expectations to be thrown in at a later date. That just doesn't seem fair. Just tell me what I need to do or not do --- right from the beginning. Don't change the rules as we go along.

I wonder if the disciples felt that way as they heard Jesus elaborate on God's commandments in this Sunday's Gospel reading from Matthew 5:17-37. What was Jesus up to? Was Jesus changing the rules? He brings up not killing, and then starts talking about being angry at a brother. He brings up not committing adultery, and then starts talking about looking lustfully....

I imagine that many of us would like the same kind of clarity in faith. We want God to tell us exactly what is expected in every situation. That way, we can just make sure we check the right boxes. Not much to think about.

In our spiritual life being a person of faith involves our whole being. And so, let's try to not think of being faithful as just avoiding a few bad things or doing the occasional good thing. Rather, let's see it as embracing a whole new way of life --- the life God created us to live and died to make possible. And when we allow that to happen, there's a good chance that a lot of the decisions we have to make each and every day will become much easier, for they will flow from who we are and not simply from what the letter of the law is. Fr. Peter

**COLLECTION** for February 5, 2023: Envelopes: \$4,150; Loose: \$281; Online Giving: \$1297.57; Total 5.728.57  
Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under +3,967.40

**CHURCH PROJECT GOAL \$52000**—Building Fund To Date: \$22,569.63 *Thank you so much for your love for our parish church and your faithful stewards.*

**BUDGET SHOP** We will be working at the Budget Shop on Saturday, February 11 and Tuesday, February 14. Please keep these dates on your busy calendars and try to save a few hours to help us. We are open on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Any help will be greatly appreciated. And “Thank You” ahead of time.

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK** (adapted from St. Augustine) Almighty God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose. Let no selfish passion keep us from knowing your will, nor weakness from doing it. In your light we see light clearly, and in your service may we find our perfect freedom. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**HAPPY VALENTINE EVERYONE!**

A Valentine Prayer: “Dearest Heavenly Father,  
I want to thank you for the precious gift of love you have given to the world and to me. Thank you for blessing me every day with this love and the power and strength that I get from you every single day. Without your love for me I can't be....I can't function....I can't even breathe...because I NEED your love to sustain me. It's like food and medicine for my soul Lord. Please continue to let me feel your comforting love in my life and Lord I give myself over to you to perfect in me this gift of love...that I may be able to express it and share it with others. Lord...I have not always been good at this...forgive me. Lord...some people are harder to love than others...but I want to be like your Son Jesus...so please continue the work you are doing in my heart so my heart will be like yours. In Jesus name I pray.”(Catholic.org/prayers)

**UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (Matthew 5:17-37)**

**Jesus fulfills Mosaic law (vv.17-20)** Jesus revises the law given to Moses and the Israelites at Mount Sinai. This law was central to Jewish identity. Jewish teachers were critiqued on how well they knew and upheld it. Jesus knows that his fellow Jews will be shocked that he edits God’s law, so first he explains his relationship to it (v.17). Jesus wants his disciples to do an even better job of following God’s law than their religious leaders (v.20). (Notice that the scribes and Pharisees are here presented positively.) However, the law isn’t God’s final word. Rather, the law laid the groundwork for Jesus’ ministry. Jesus adapts the law in order to show people how to be part of God’s kingdom. Once all things have taken place, Mosaic law will no longer be central (v.18). When Jesus rises from the dead, a new age will begin in which salvation won’t be limited to law-abiding Jews but will include all who believe in Jesus. At that time, following Jesus will take precedence over obeying the law.

**Anger** Jesus presents anger as the motivation for murder. He broadens the commandment do not kill to include any behavior that springs from anger. Jesus wants his followers to have forgiving hearts.

**Lust** Jesus warns us not to treat others as objects for sexual pleasure. To those who think this is impossible Jesus offers vivid hyperboles that mean “better a little pain now than an eternity of it!”

**Gehenna** was a valley outside Jerusalem that was used as a garbage dump. Centuries earlier it had been the site of pagan sacrifice. By Jesus’ day it was a filthy, stinking region with a bad reputation. Better to enter God’s kingdom maimed than live out your days physically whole in that nasty place.

**Divorce** By prohibiting divorce Jesus restores the ideals of marriage. A husband and wife should strive for mutual respect, patience, forgiveness, etc. Jesus knows marriage takes work. He wants people to take marriage seriously, both before and after they marry. The exception to divorce in verse 32 might refer to marriages between people who were closely related (such as first cousins). Such marriages were forbidden in Judaism but permitted by Gentiles.

**Oath-taking** We shouldn’t use God to make our vows or promises seem more reliable. Instead of promising to do something, we should simply do it. People will soon see that we always do what we say we’ll do. There’s a bit of humor in this teaching. Back then people dyed their hair just as they do today. Someone who swears by the hairs on his head might be lying since his true hair color is hidden. Hair-dye doesn’t change the true color of people’s hair, just as what people say doesn’t change who they really are and how they’ll really act. (oursundayreadings.wordpress.com)

**UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING** (Sirach 15:15-20)

**A moral guide** The Book of Sirach was written in the early second century BC and was widely used by Jews and then Christians. Because the work contains teachings about how to live in a way that pleases God, the early church used it to teach converts how to be just, moral, and holy.

**Evil is not from God** In order to understand this passage it helps to start with verse 11. We can’t blame God for bad behavior because sin comes from human beings. God gave people free will, and sometimes people choose to do evil things (v.16). The author warns that those who choose evil are ultimately choosing death (v.17). Goodness leads to life with God, who is goodness itself. We can choose right or wrong, but God only helps those who try to be good. God never helps people act wrongly (v.20).

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION The Ten Reminders** Jesus shares four reminders in today’s Gospel: “You have heard that it was said...” The writer of Sirach also reminds us, “If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you.” All these reminders! Why do we forget so easily? Do we forget? Even the Psalmist pleads to God to have his eyes opened and to receive instruction on keeping His Commandments. Being a good steward starts with loving God. How can we authentically exhibit our love for our Creator—here is a reminder: obedience! We are asked to go further than to just obey, we are called to obey *and teach*. *Warning: as a result of being an authentic Catholic steward, it is necessary to do hard things, and remind others to do the same.* (catholicdioceseofwichita.org)

**Los Diez Recordatorios** Jesús comparte cuatro recordatorios en el Evangelio de hoy... “Han oído que se dijo...”. El escritor del libro de Sirácides también nos recuerda: “Si tú lo quieres, puedes guardar los mandamientos.” ¡Todos estos recordatorios! ¿Por qué olvidamos tan fácilmente? ¿Es cierto que olvidamos? Incluso el salmista suplica a Dios que le abra los ojos y le instruya para guardar sus mandamientos. Ser un buen steward empieza por amar a Dios. ¿Cómo podemos mostrar con autenticidad nuestro amor por nuestro Creador? He aquí un recordatorio: ¡obediencia! Debemos hacer algo más que obedecer, debemos obedecer *y enseñar*. *Advertencia: como resultado de ser un auténtico steward católico, es necesario hacer cosas difíciles, y recordar a los demás a hacer lo mismo.*

**Q:** To me, the Holy Spirit is an Enigma. Please teach me how better to understand the Holy Spirit – James

**A:** Scripture comes to mind, that when St Paul went to Ephesus, he inquired if they had received the Holy. They replied, “We have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” (Acts 19:2). You of course have heard, but like many, are not sure of His role in your life, and wonder how better to experience Him.

Within the Blessed Trinity the Father beholds the Son, and the Son beholds the Father. And there flows from them both, and between them, a divine love that is so perfect, and of such infinite ardor, as to be a living Love, and a divine person (for it is the very nature of God to exist), and we call this Love, the Holy Spirit.

To have the Holy Spirit living in us, received at Baptism, is to be caught up into the very love and life of God. The work of the Holy Spirit is, first, to sanctify us, to make us holy and pleasing to God. The Holy Spirit also bestows on us countless graces and charisms to transform us and make us a blessing to others.

It is no surprise that one image of the Holy Spirit is that of fire. For as tongues of fire came to rest upon the first disciples, so too for us does the Holy Spirit light the fire of God’s love in us, purifying and refining away impurities, and instilling in us, with increasing perfection, the life, love and glory of God.

Another image of the Holy Spirit is that of the rushing wind that came upon the disciples at Pentecost. The word “Spirit” means “breath.” Yes, God, the Holy Spirit breathes new life into us. And by his power we become more, and more alive, in the new life Christ purchased for us, a new mind, by the Spirit’s inspiration, and new heart by His love, a growing transformation and a share in every good and perfect gift by his grace.

What does the Holy Spirit do for you? Consider the transformation of the first disciples at Pentecost. Anxious individuals gathered in an upper room were suddenly transformed and, throwing open the door, went forth with love and confidence to boldly proclaim Christ. This, the Holy Spirit offers you as well.

**Q:** I am a convert from the Evangelical Church and my RCIA teacher told me that the seven days of creation in Genesis is a primitive mode of speaking and does not really mean seven days. Is this true? – Shelly

**A:** The catechism discourages the word “primitive” (eg CCC # 304) in reference to scripture. A better Catholic approach is to describe the creation account as a poetic account, rather than a modern, scientific account.

If we try to hold to a literalistic reading of all the details, we have difficulties. For, if a “day” is a 24 hour cycle of the sun, it is surprising to read that the sun and moon are not even created until the 4th “day”.

Further, if the account is purely a literalistic, scientific account, there is the problem that there are two accounts of creation in Genesis 1-2:3 & 2:4ff. They are both very different.

What is essential for us to hold from these accounts is that God made everything out of nothing, He did so in wisdom and love, guiding every step. And though transcendent, remains present and active in all he has made.

So, seven days is likely more poetic than scientific. (Msgr. Charles Pope– Our Sunday Visitor)

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Create a genuine love story**

No one ever said relationships were easy. Commitments, whether in marriage, religious life, or elsewhere, take spiritual insight to discern, patience to maintain, time to mature, and a whole lot of love to keep the engine moving on the tracks. Today's celebration of World Marriage Day is meant to support the development of a culture of life and love within our most fundamental relationships. As Pope Francis declared in *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love): "The welfare of the family is decisive for the future of the world and that of the church." Take the journey to joy and love. Work to make each relationship life-giving. (Preparetheword)

**SEXTO DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO**

**Crea una auténtica historia de amor**

Jamás se ha dicho que las relaciones sean fáciles. Los compromisos, ya sea en el matrimonio, en la vida religiosa o en cualquier otro ámbito, requieren percepción espiritual para discernir, paciencia para mantenerlos, tiempo para madurar y mucho amor para mantener el motor en marcha. La celebración hoy del Día Mundial del Matrimonio tiene como objetivo apoyar el desarrollo de una cultura de vida y amor en nuestras relaciones más trascendentes. Como declaró el Papa Francisco en *Amoris Laetitia* (La alegría del amor): "El bienestar de la familia es decisivo para el futuro del mundo y el de la Iglesia." Emprende el viaje hacia la alegría y el amor. Trabaja para que cada relación sea una fuente de vida.