

Dear Padre,

In Bible times why did people sacrifice animals, children, and other living beings for their own sins?

The practice of human and animal sacrifice is at least as old as written history, including in our own Scripture. Few stories are more chilling than when God asks Abraham to sacrifice his son, or when Jephthah sacrifices his daughter (Genesis 22; Judges 11). In scriptural theology, one's sins merited punishment and even death, but an animal or other person could be chosen to take one's place. God, in his mercy, instituted this animal sacrificial system as a symbol, foreshadowing Jesus' sacrifice for our sins (Genesis 8:20; Hebrews 10:1-18). In the New Testament, Jesus understood his mission as sacrificing his own life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28). His fidelity to that mission was at the cost of death. However, to say that Jesus' death was payment for



our sins is not to say that a vengeful God was appeased by the sacrifice of his own innocent Son. Rather, Christ was willing to liberate us when he "bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that... by his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

Thus, "it is love 'to the end (John 13:1)' that confers on Christ's sacrifice its value as redemption and reparation, as atonement and satisfaction" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 616). It is in this sense that Jesus' death was a payment—not one to be exacted—but a unique sacrifice that "completes and surpasses all other sacrifices" (CCC 614).

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Calendar

Monday
SEPTEMBER 20
Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gön, Priest, and Paul Chông Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs
Ezr 1:1-6
Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday
SEPTEMBER 21
St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
Eph 4:1-7, 11-13
Mt 9:9-13

Wednesday
SEPTEMBER 22
Weekday
Ezr 9:5-9
Lk 9:1-6

Thursday
SEPTEMBER 23
St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
Hg 1:1-8
Lk 9:7-9

Friday
SEPTEMBER 24
Weekday
Hg 2:1-9
Lk 9:18-22

Saturday
SEPTEMBER 25
Weekday
Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a
Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday
SEPTEMBER 26
Twenty-sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Nm 11:25-29
Jas 5:1-6
Mk 9:38-43,
45, 47-48

Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 19, 2021

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
Wis 2:12, 17-20
Jas 3:16-4:3
Mk 9:30-37

The Price of Goodness

We all know genuinely good people. Somehow they are able to live the virtues of their religious tradition. It might even appear that it is easy for them to do so. One would think that such good people would be valued. Well, yes and no. While we might truly value the goodness of others, that goodness can also shame us. And there is the rub. People are uncomfortable with the realization that they are not as good as they think—or not as good as others might view them. Today's readings underscore the price we might have to pay for such goodness.

The first reading describes a plot being devised to get rid of a righteous person whose goodness has become "annoying" (Wisdom 2:12). This is not someone who flaunts goodness; it is a genuinely good person, one who is referred to as "the righteous one" (2:18). (Here "son of God" simply means someone belonging to the people of God.) The plotters insist

that God will come to the rescue if the righteous one is truly good. The petitions in the psalm response are placed on the lips of that righteous one. Like many good Bible stories, this story is open-ended. We do not know what happens. The price paid for righteousness is found in the Gospel passage as well. Here the righteous one is Jesus. Though we know how his story ends, here the disciples did not.

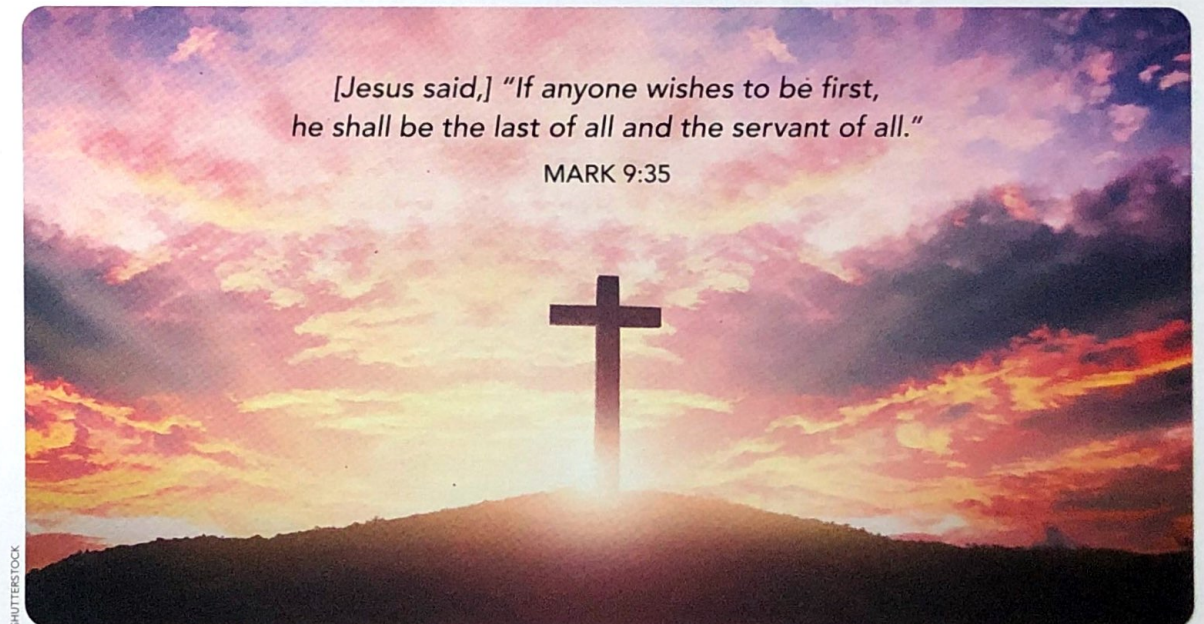
Today we are faced with the starkness of these stories. Are we willing to pay the price of goodness?
Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ✦ Where in your life do your religious values conflict with social norms?
- ✦ Do you ever resent the goodness of others? If so, what might you do about it?

[Jesus said,] "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."

MARK 9:35



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

The Catechism firmly states that human power has limits and that "it is contrary to human dignity to cause animals to suffer or die needlessly." All such use and experimentation "requires a religious respect for the integrity of creation."

ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME (LAUDATO SI'), MAY 24, 2015



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

Website: saintanthonylakin.org

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

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, Sept. 20	8:00 a.m.	Charles Eileen Hoff+
Tuesday, Sept. 21	8:00 a.m.	Special Intention (T.S.)
Thursday, Sept. 23	8:00 a.m.	Gary Sack
Friday, Sept. 24	12:15 p.m.	Special Intention
Saturday, Sept. 25	4:00p.m.	Thanksgiving for rain
Sunday, Sept. 26	9:00 a.m.	Rebecca Burden+

Sept. 18, 4:00 p.m.	Tom Bachman
Sept. 19, 9:00 a.m.	Mike Broeckelman
Sept. 25, 4:00 p.m.	Debbie Frederick
Sept. 26, 9:00 a.m.	Fred Jones
Oct. 2, 4:00 p.m.	Gwen Waechter
Oct. 3, 9:00 a.m.	Julie Kaps
Oct. 9, 4:00 p.m.	Karen Burden
Oct. 10, 9:00 a.m.	K of C
Oct. 16, 4: 00 p.m.	Tom Bachman
Oct. 17, 9:00 a.m.	Mike Broeckelman
Oct. 23, 4: 00 p.m.	Debbie Frederick
Oct. 24 9:00 a.m.	Alvin Bergkamp

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. every Friday from 4:15—4:50 p.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.

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME— SEPTEMBER 19, 2021



“If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.” (Mark 9:35)

Most of us want to be “great” at something --- or many things. Great with people. Great at work. Great at school. Great at sports. Great at fixing things. Great at music. Great at making money. Great looking. Great at knowing stuff. Great at parenting.... And there is nothing wrong with any of it, nothing wrong with trying to be the best we can be at whatever it is we are trying to achieve.

But if we could only be good at one thing, if we had to choose --- what would that one thing be? Jesus reminds us in this Sunday’s gospel, “If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.”

My friends, the spiritual life, the life of a disciple --- a life lived for, in, and with God --- is not easy. But it’s also not complicated. We really only have one duty, one responsibility, one “thing” we are called to be “great” in --- love. A “great” person in the eyes of God is one who loves a lot, loves often, loves deeply, loves without counting the cost.

There is no other measure of being --- no other endeavor which is more important. If we can only be great at one thing --- that one thing needs to be “love, but love in the truth.” Without it, no other accomplishments of ours matter --- no matter how “great” they may seem to be. Our achievements are always less than the achievements God so desperately wants to work through us.

It’s ok to be confident in our abilities. It’s ok to believe that each of us might be better than others at some particular thing or things. It’s ok even to take a certain kind of healthy “pride” in our accomplishments --- as long as our pride is accompanied by a deep sense of gratitude --- a sincere recognition that our accomplishments are always because of God’s goodness, not because we are somehow “better” than others.

Fr. Peter Tran

COLLECTION for September 12, 2021: Envelopes: \$925.00; Loose: \$198.00; Online Giving: \$1575.55
Total \$2698.55; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under +937.38.

Thank you so much to your faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.

SEPTEMBER CCD classes will start on 09/22. Confirmation class starts on 09/19.

BUDGET SHOP REMINDER our church is scheduled to work at the budget shop on 25th and 27th of this month. We always appreciate all your help.

CONGRATULATIONS We would like to extend our congratulations to our newly Baptized, Jaxson Paul Ramos son of Christopher Jordan Ramos and Alejandra Mariscal who was baptized on September 11th, 2021 Welcome to God's family in the Church! May our Loving God continue to pour down His abundant blessings upon Jaxson and his family.

2021-2022 OUR CCD TEACHERS We are very fortunate to have eight real great teachers to teach our children this school year. Ms. Ileen Enriquez—Kindergarten; Mrs. Jessica Lohman-Fuller—1st Grade; Mrs. Lupe Longoria & Ms. Sissy Davis—First Communion; Mrs. Sarah Owens—3rd Grade and 4th Grade; Mrs. Maria Ibarra—5th Grade and 6th Grade; Mr. Dale Gannett—7th Grade and 8th Grade; and Mr. Toby Lohman-Fuller—Confirmation-9th Grade thru 12th Grade. We truly appreciate their love and care for our parishes and our children. May the Loving God pour down many blessings upon them and their families.

COMMUNITY APPRECIATION DINNER Tuesday—21st this month, Garnand Funeral Home is hosting a community appreciation dinner at the funeral home from 11:30 to 1:00. The meal will be catered by John Ross Signature Catering and we will have music entertainment by the Charles Williams Experience. All are invited!

ADULT CONFIRMATION & RCIA 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 (355-6388) On behalf of the Catholic faith community of the St. Anthony, we look forward to welcoming you.

VOCATION VIEW For those who are called, Jesus promises only one thing: the Cross. If one seeks power and prestige in this world, there will be no reward in the Kingdom of Heaven. (Mark 9:30-37)

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT Today's second reading warns that a heart consumed with avarice and envy leads to jealousy, strife, conflicts and disputes. A giving heart, in contrast, can sing instead with the Psalmist, "Freely will I offer you sacrifice; I will praise your name, O Lord, for its goodness."

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (By Thomas Merton) My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (Mark 9:30-37)

Multiple failures Jesus pauses his public ministry to teach his disciples privately. Capernaum is Peter's hometown, and Jesus frequently stayed there. Jesus speaks once again about his forthcoming suffering. His disciples fail to understand him, are too scared to ask what he means, and then talk about something that contradicts him.

Criteria for greatness As Jesus instructs his followers on what true discipleship requires, he turns conventional wisdom on its head. People often make themselves feel important by trying to dominate others or look better than them in some way. People also admire and even envy those who have power or influence. Jesus defines "greatness" very differently than his disciples seem to have. Truly great people love and care for others instead of trying to dominate them or compete with them for power or prestige.

The model child Jesus wants his disciples to stop being concerned about their own status and instead concern themselves with the needs and well-being of others (v.35). In order to teach his disciples how to be in the world, he draws their attention to a child. Because children are utterly dependent on others, they represent the weakest and most vulnerable people in society. Such people are easily ignored because they have no power or influence and can neither harm nor enhance a person's social status.

Welcoming God Jesus unequivocally aligns himself with those who are marginalized and ignored. Anyone who claims to follow Jesus must, therefore, love and serve weaker and more vulnerable members of society. Because Jesus, as God's Son, represents the One who sent him, those who serve others ultimately serve God. God has modeled such selfless love by submitting to the human condition in the person of his Son, who then suffered and died for others. (www.oursundayreadings.com)

UNDERSTANDING THE SECOND READING (James 2: 14-18)

Two paths The Book of Wisdom is part of the biblical wisdom tradition, which includes the Books of Sirach, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job. Running through the wisdom tradition is the image of the two ways or paths: the way of justice (or righteousness) and the way of wickedness.

Taking offense The biblical wisdom tradition presents people as choosing either the path of justice or the path of wickedness. This passage from the Book of Wisdom is an example of how people act given the path they've chosen (it doesn't refer to a specific situation). Those who've chosen the way of wickedness plan to attack a person who's chosen the way of justice (v.12a). This just person has warned them of their bad behavior (v.12b). He is a living reminder of the goodness and justice they've rejected (v.14).

The suffering just one In the wisdom tradition the just are sometimes portrayed as having to endure the wrongdoing inflicted upon them by evildoers. The just persevere because they believe that God's justice will prevail. Such people are so close to God the author calls them sons of God (v.18). Jesus' followers were initially so shocked by his crucifixion that they struggled to keep believing in him. Their faith was strengthened as they reflected on passages like this one. (www.oursundayreadings.com)

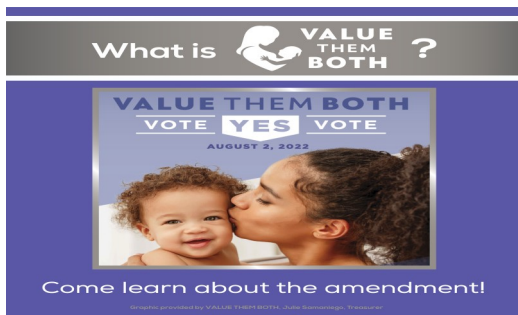
Q: My Saturday was busy and I ended up folding laundry on Sunday. Is this a violation of the Third Commandment? — Name withheld

Answer: As a general rule, there is a precept that we “refrain from engaging in work or activities that hinder the worship owed to God, the joy proper to the Lord’s Day, the performance of the works of mercy, and the appropriate relaxation of mind and body” (CCC 2185). That said, we also do well to avoid an excessive legalism against which Jesus himself taught when he said, “The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath” (Mk 2:27). While you might ordinarily seek to avoid folding laundry, etc., on a Sunday, such activity is not intrinsically wrong. Perhaps you find such an activity relaxing in the company of other family members. Perhaps, too, since the activity could not reasonably be accomplished on Saturday, it is an act of charity that helps the family to be prepared for the week ahead. We do well to seek a proper balance between maintaining the principles of joyful rest on Sunday and avoiding excessive legalism.

Q: If I miss Mass for no good reason, may I receive Communion when I do go, even if I didn’t get to confession? — Name withheld

Answer: The Catechism, in conformity with ancient teaching about the necessity of attending Mass, says, “Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin” (2181). Hence you ought to go to confession first. There are some reasons that one might miss Mass that are legitimate, such as serious illness, the care of the sick, or some lack of capacity due to weather or distance. Some also struggle with work schedules. But in this matter, they should consult with their pastor or confessor and also seek solutions. (Catholic Curious—Monsignor Charles Pope)

Come learn about the VALUE THEM BOTH Amendment on Sunday, September 19, 2021!



Event #1: 10:15 AM presentation at St. Anthony Parish Center (600 Soderberg Street) in Lakin, KS.

Event #2: 3:00 PM presentation at St. Dominic Parish Hall (615 JC Street) in Garden City, KS.

Kansans can help protect women and babies in our state by voting YES on the VALUE THEM BOTH Amendment on August 2, 2022, which will:

- Protect existing Kansas law that keeps babies from being aborted up to the moment of birth.
- Prevent taxpayer-funded abortion and extreme procedures such as partial-birth and live-dismemberment abortions.
- Preserve safeguards that require the abortion industry to protect women with important clinic safety standards

Make plans to attend one of these important meetings!

TWENTY –FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Let the Good News Resound

Religion is often reduced to its most visible aspect: Sunday worship. But the church's ministry includes service, evangelization, healing, and teaching. On Catechetical Sunday we celebrate our mutual call to educate and instruct. "Catechize" means to echo or resound. Saint Paul once modeled for the Corinthians this task of “re-sounding” the Good News when he wrote: "I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you." Does your Catholic faith steer you when making decisions and weighing values? Does it bring consolation? Does it challenge you to sacrifice? Echo these riches to those you love. (Prepare the Word)

VIGÉSIMO QUINTO DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

Que resuene la Buena Nueva

La religión se reduce a menudo a su aspecto más visible: El culto dominical. Pero el ministerio de la iglesia incluye el servicio, la evangelización, la sanación y la enseñanza. En el Domingo Catequético celebramos nuestra mutua llamada a educar e instruir. "Catequizar" significa hacer eco o resonar. San Pablo modeló en una ocasión para los Corintios esta tarea de "hacer resonar" la Buena Nueva cuando escribió: "Recibí del Señor lo que también les transmití a ustedes." ¿Te orienta tu fe Católica a la hora de tomar decisiones y ponderar valores? ¿Te da consuelo? ¿Te desafía a sacrificarte? Hazte eco de estas riquezas para tus seres queridos.