

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. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



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*.

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 7:10–14 / Romans 1:1–7 / Matthew 1:18–24



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! ●

Reflect

How am I at listening? Can I find new insights in old stories that I think I know so well?



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



SCAN TO LEARN ABOUT AUTHOR MIGUEL DULICK

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Facebook: facebook.com/StPatricksTelluride

Please visit our website & Facebook page for the most up-to-date information on Holy Mass times and other important announcements.

Pastoral Information:

Pastor: Rev. Mariusz Wirkowski

Bookkeeper: Cindy Wyszynski

DRE: Katrina Aumiller

Holy Mass & Confession Schedule:

Saturday: 5:30 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM

Tuesday - 7:00 PM; Wednesday – Friday: 8:00 AM

Holy Day of Obligation - Vigil - 5:30 PM and 8:00 AM

Confessions: 30min. prior to each Holy Mass (or by appointment)

Holy Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Mission, Nucla.

Sunday: 12:00 Noon
Saturday 5:30 pm
Holy Days of Obligation - 6:00 PM

December 21st, 2025 - Forth Sunday of Advent

Holy Mass Intentions:

Saturday, December 20th

5:30 PM - Fr. Elijah Thompson

Sunday, December 21st

9:00 AM - Missa Pro Populo

Tuesday, December 23rd

7:00 PM - +Jerry Hidalgo

Wednesday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

5:00 PM - Missa Pro Populo

7:00 PM - +Mike & Sarah Wright

Thursday, December 25th - Christmas Day

9:00 AM - Shereen Yusuff and Family

Friday, December 26th

8:00 AM - +James, Marian and Peggy Seivert

Saturday, December 27th

5:30 PM - Missa Pro Populo

Sunday, December 28th

9:00 AM - Gabriel de Jesus Lopez Mireles

If you would like to have a Holy Mass intention for your loved ones, living or deceased, please contact the Parish Office by calling: 970-728-3387 or place your request in the collection basket near the entrance of the church.
- Suggested donation for each mass is \$10.

Healing Prayers - Rezos Por Tus Curaciones

Let us pray for those who have asked for our prayers...

Kevin Kiernan, Bob Kammer, Cody Couture, Dakota Couture, Eric Block, Judy Donnelly, Mike Napolitano, Mary E. Lynch, Liz Bradley, Care Bear, Carl Carson, Joshua Nault, Phil Couture, Jose Cuaron, Kim Lynch, Allison Myer, Marianne Edward, CarolAnn O'Dea, Juan Esparza, Martha Gagliano, Stanislaw Kowalczyk

Upcoming Events: *All Are Welcome!*

First Fridays of the month - Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus - Holy Mass and Adoration - 8:00 AM.

Tuesdays: 6:00 PM- Holy Adoration. 7:00 PM – Holy Mass

Second Tuesdays of month: 7:30 PM – Men's Group

Wednesdays: 7:30 AM

Women's Group Faith Fun Fellowship – Church

Thursdays: 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration & Holy Mass - Church

First Sunday of the month - Holy Adoration 30 minutes before each Holy Mass.

Each Sunday during Summer- Coffee and donuts after 9:00 AM Holy Mass.

Last Saturday of the month - Bilingual Holy Mass

“So also we, being many, are one body in Christ, and each one is a part, the one of the other.”
Romans 12:5

Parish Announcements:

We would like to welcome all Visitors who are with us celebrating the Holy Mass this weekend.

Please check our **Parish Website /Calendar** for updated schedule of events.

Please join us for praying the Holy Rosary on Sundays before 9:00 AM Holy Mass. It starts at 8:30 AM.

Candlelight Holy Adoration and Mass on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 PM.

Decorating Church for Christmas – Monday, December 22nd at 10:00 AM.

On December 24th, Wednesday, no morning Holy Mass. Christmas Eve Holy Masses at 5:00 and 7:00 PM. Christmas Day at 9:00 AM.

Last Week's Collection: \$ 449.00

Second Collection: \$593.00

Please visit: stpatrickstelluride.com/donate to offer your financial support.

“For where your treasure is, there also is your heart.”

Mathew 6:21

Pastor's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

Today we celebrate Forth and last Sunday of Advent. In few days we will celebrate Christmas. Are we ready? Are we truly prepared to celebrate Our Savior's Birthday? In her wisdom, our Holy Mather Church gave us four weeks of preparations for it. How do we use this time? Are we preparing only materially? Decorating our homes and front yards with different kinds of Christmas decorations? Spending too much time on buying different gifts for others? But maybe it is not too late to ask ourselves: what am I doing to prepare myself spiritually to celebrate Christmas? What have I done already in this area in the past three weeks of Advent? I love Advent. It begins the liturgical year where the previous one ended: waiting for God's arrival now, and at the end of time. It is a wake-up call. Something new approaches on the horizon, and all those long awaited hopes suddenly breathe with possibility. In deep midnight, a faint but dawning light begins to glow. For centuries, God has made and renewed a promise to be with us. And as life unfolds, we discover the fulfillment of that promise. It happened then. It happens now. And it will continue to happen until the end of time. The divine takes flesh. The light shines in the darkness. And the old creation rises from chaos into redemption. The stirring of this new creation awakens our imagination and calls us to wake up. To let the dreams become real and draw us into right relationship with God, one another, and all of creation. God's arrival, long promised and long hoped for, has happened, is happening, and will always keep happening. *My challenge for you this Christmas is to slow down and enjoy every minute of your day. Share with your family and friends that same love, that Mary and Joseph felt for Jesus. May your Christmas be full of love and grace.*

Viva Cristo Rey!

