



### **SUNDAY MASSES**

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 8:30 AM

### **WEEKDAY MASSES**

Mondays As Scheduled

Tuesday & Wednesday – 5:30 PM

Thursday, Friday & Saturday – 8:30 AM

### **HOLY DAY MASSES**

As Announced

### **CONFESSIONS**

One-Half Hour Before All Masses

Or By Appointment w/Father Jim at 870-741-5234

### **PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Mary Mother of God Catholic Church is to carry on the ministry of Jesus Christ, as members of His living body, the Church, to bring the Kingdom of God into the world through evangelization, worship, Religious education, and service in our families, in our parish, and in our community.

### **CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**

We welcome new members to our Church through the process and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Please contact the church office.

### **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Parents and Godparents are required to participate in a preparation process before the Baptism of children. Registration is required. Please contact the church office.

### **SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**

Arrangements for wedding must be made at least six months in advance. Please contact the church office.

### **COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND**

Extraordinary Ministers are available to bring Holy Communion to parishioners who are not able to attend Mass. Call the church office about anyone who would like to receive the Eucharist at home.

### **SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

Please contact Father Jim.

## **MARY MOTHER OF GOD CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Mailing Address: PO Box 2150**

**Physical Address (No Mail): 1614 Maplewood Rd.**

**Harrison, Arkansas 72602**

**Church Office & Rectory – 870-741-5234**

**Church Fax – 870-741-4234**

Emails & Prayer-Line Connection: [mmgchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:mmgchurch@yahoo.com)  
[www.harrisoncatholic.org](http://www.harrisoncatholic.org)

**Pastor:**

**Rev. James M. Fanrak**

**Deacon:**

**Dc. Mark Scouten**

Parish Manager:

Robin Markham

Adult Scripture Study:

Tom Hoberock

Buildings, Maintenance:

Craig Bailey

Catholic Christian Women:

Darlene Coffman

Catholic Youth Ministries (CYM):

Terra Atkinson

Cemetery Committee:

Marlene Rowe

Custodian:

Doherty Family

Eucharistic Adoration:

Carmen Andrade

Finance Council:

Joe Koenig

Flocknote:

Robin Markham

Knights of Columbus:

Craig Bailey

Knights of Columbus, 4<sup>th</sup> Degree:

Val Stechly

Legion of Mary:

Ruth Haley

Libraries:

Jennifer Johnson

Liturgy, Sacraments, Devotions:

Dc. Mark Scouten

Music Ministry:

Julie Jasper

Pro-Life:

Sandra Guidry

Religious Ed, Formation (PREP):

Holly Coffman

Sacristans:

Jones, Stephens, Sandri

Alternate Sacristans:

Scouten, Bailey

Safe Environment:

Holly Coffman

Social Justice/Charitable Outreach

Robin Markham

Trail Life USA:

Wes Bradford

Tribunal:

Dc. Mark Scouten

Wedding Coordinator:

Bonnie Tauer

Welcome New Catholics (RCIA):

Wayne & Judy Keith

### **NEW IN PARISH**

To register in the parish, please fill out the form below.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parish Moved From:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parish City:** \_\_\_\_\_

( ) New In Parish ( ) Change of Address/Phone/Email

*We welcome all visitors to Mary Mother of God Catholic Church. We hope you enjoy your stay in this area and may God be with you on your trip home.*

## 2021 WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>February 13</b>
8:00 AM	Rosary & Confessions
8:30 AM	MASS: SI – Yahaira Lopez, Health
4:30 PM	Rosary & Confessions
5:00 PM	MASS: +Agnes Davis
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>February 14 – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
8:00 AM	Rosary & Confessions
8:30 AM	MASS: +Bernard Bax, 9 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>February 15 – NO MASS</b>
<b>Tuesday,</b>	<b>February 16</b>
5:00 PM	Rosary & Confessions
5:30 PM	MASS: SI – Corey Breeding
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>February 17 – Ash Wednesday</b>
8:00 AM	Rosary
8:30 AM	MASS: +Norm Rowe
5:00 PM	Rosary
5:30 PM	MASS: SI – Levi & Helen Haley, 17 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.
<b>Thursday,</b>	<b>February 18</b>
8:00 AM	Rosary & Confessions
8:30 AM	MASS: SI – The Caster Family
<b>Friday,</b>	<b>February 19</b>
8:00 AM	Rosary & Confessions
8:30 AM	MASS: +Brian Dirst, 8 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.
9:00 AM	Holy Hour w/Stations of the Cross
<b>Saturday,</b>	<b>February 20</b>
8:00 AM	Rosary & Confessions
8:30 AM	MASS: +Thomas Bodden
4:30 PM	Rosary & Confessions
5:00 PM	MASS: SI – All Parishioners
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>February 21 – First Sunday of Lent</b>
8:00 AM	Rosary & Confessions
8:30 AM	MASS: +Mel Pollock, 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniv. (2-24)



**VIGIL CANDLES** - If you wish to light a 6-day vigil candle, a suggested \$3 donation is requested.

**ONLINE BULLETINS** for Mary Mother of God Church and St. Andrew's Church may be found at [harrisoncatholic.org](http://harrisoncatholic.org).

**CONFESSIONS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE** one-half hour before all Daily and Saturday/Sunday Masses or by appointment.



**IF YOU HAVEN'T SIGNED UP FOR FLOCKNOTE YET, PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. UPDATES FROM OUR BISHOP AND FATHER JIM WILL CONTINUE FOR WEEKS TO COME.** Parish communications, such as prayer requests, updates, Mass cancellations, etc., arrives as a Flocknote message. Individuals and/or families are subscribed so they will either receive messages as emails or texts per their preference. If you do not receive prayer request emails and would like to, sign up now! Registration is easy. There are two ways to connect (pick one): Visit our parish at: [www.flocknote.com/marymotherofgodchurch](http://www.flocknote.com/marymotherofgodchurch) or text flockmmg to 84576 from your phone to subscribe to updates. Need help to set up your flocknote? Contact the church office.

## EVERYONE MUST WEAR A MASK TO CHURCH!

++

**FAITH AT HOME** – Effective October 1, the dispensation of attending Mass has been lifted for persons who are in good health, not especially vulnerable, and not caring for someone who is especially vulnerable. Persons who are vulnerable with certain medical conditions identified by the CDC, including asthma and diabetes, are still dispensed from attending Sunday Mass. The Diocese of Little Rock continues to compile a list of online resources to help you stay connected and continue to practice your faith at home, including online Masses, readings, and prayers. This list at [dolr.org/covid](http://dolr.org/covid) is updated frequently as new information becomes available.

**Mary Mother of God Church is now livestreaming our Saturday 5 PM & Sunday 8:30 AM Masses. You may go online to the Mary Mother of God Catholic Church Facebook account or visit our church website at [harrisoncatholic.org](http://harrisoncatholic.org). Click Resources; then click livestream.**

**For daily Masses, check out the MMG Facebook account.**

**The church doors will be unlocked from 9 AM to 6 PM daily. For private prayer and reflection, you are most welcome to pray in the chapel or the church.**

**Until further notice, all committees, organizations, services, and meetings are suspended until further notice. If you have any questions, contact the individuals listed on the bulletin.**

**RECEPTION OF ASHES** – Anyone who recognizes the spiritual value of the blessed ashes is welcome to receive them. The distribution of ashes will take place as you leave the church. Please remember to adhere to social distancing and keep your mask up over your nose and mouth while you are in line.

**ASH WEDNESDAY & GOOD FRIDAY** are days of fasting and abstinence in the United States. The law of fasting allows one full meal and two smaller ones. The law of abstinence prohibits the eating of meat. **FRIDAYS OF LENT** are days of abstinence in the United States. The obligation of abstinence begins at age 14. The law of fasting obliges all between the ages of 18-59. Pastors and parents are to see to it that minors, though not bound by the law of fast and abstinence, are educated in the authentic sense of penance and encouraged to do acts of penance suitable to their age. The Christian faithful are encouraged to do acts of penance and charity during the Lenten season beyond what is prescribed by law.

**LENTEN SERVICES** – Throughout Lent, the Stations of the Cross are said on Fridays at 9 AM. Rosary is prayed before daily, Saturday and Sunday Masses. Please choose one or more of these Lenten practices for your sacrifice of prayer.

**ASH WEDNESDAY COLLECTION** directly funds priests, nuns, and others in ministry in our diocese to serve parishioners and communities that by themselves would be unable to cover their costs. One hundred percent of every dollar given to the Ash Wednesday collection is used to support missionary work that reaches out and serves Catholics in Arkansas. Please be generous so that the great gift of our faith can be nourished among our Catholic brothers and sisters in all parts of our state.

**INDULGENCES** – A *Plenary indulgence* is granted to the faithful who make the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross (*Stations*). Those who are “impeded” can gain the same indulgence, if they spend at least one half an hour in pious reading and meditation on the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

– Enchiridion Indulgentiarum – No. 63

**CONFIRMATION WITH BISHOP ANTHONY TAYLOR** – On **Sunday, March 21**, at 2 PM, Bishop Taylor will be coming to our parish to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Any parishioner who has not been confirmed and would like to be, will need to bring their baptism certificate to the church office **no later than Sunday, February 28** to begin the process.



**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY** will be for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This Collection supports the Church in more than 25 countries that still struggle to recover from former communist rule. Funds from this Collection support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the Collection next week. More information can be found at [www.usccb.org/ccee](http://www.usccb.org/ccee).

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** – Military & Emergency Personnel, Victims of Natural Disasters, COVID-19 & Terrorism, Vocations, Carl Bear, Donnie Billups, Joyceline Boudreaux, Ron Branaman, Gynola Bratton, Shari Broscovak, Ray Brysch, Betty Burge, Jenny Carder Family, Loretta Clements, Brian/Chad Coffman, Larry/Rita Coffman, David/Joelene Conner, Jim/Karen Conner, Barbara Crothers, Kathy Cuevas, Decker Family, Gia Dowell, Espinoza Family, Glen Feldman, Greg/Newt Foster, Kendall Fowler, Robert Friedl, Casey Gibbs, Edmund Griggs, Natasha Grinder, Bill Haley, Lorita Henry, Dianne Hoberock, Tommy Hudson, Chris Jasper, Anthony Joel Jones, Mary Koenig, Dennis Kyler, Sylvia LaFrancis, Eleanor Lipsmeyer, Sandra Luckenbill, Jim Luyet, Melanie Martin, Leanne McAtee, Ramon/Maria Teresa Mendez, Barbara Meyer, Paula Millet, Monte Family of STL, Al Moore, Isaiah Neil, Dave/Lou Ann Neuroth, Mollie Norman, Deb O'Connor, Nikki Patten, Harlan/Martha Pollock, Michael Reding, Dc. Mark Scouten, Ed/Yvonne Servis, Phil Sides, Bob Stephens, Steve/Loretta Tarochione, Bishop Anthony Taylor, Ed Terhune, Pennie Veach Family. *Our Nursing Home Residents:* David Allen, Terry Bodson, Steve Crawford, Alan Lasecki, Bonnie Lundblud, Mary Ralston, Billie Signer, Liz Smalley, Patricia Smith. **Please contact the office to add/delete names.**

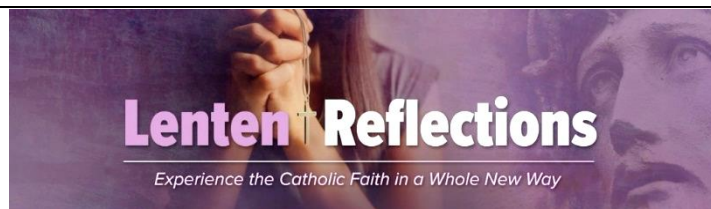
#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Feb 14: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46 / 1 Cor 10:31-11:1 / Mk 1:40-45  
 Feb 15: Gn 4:1-15, 25 / Mk 8:11-13  
 Feb 16: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10 / Mk 8:14-21  
 Feb 17: Jl 2:12-18 / 2 Cor 5:20-6:2 / Mt 6:1-6, 16-18  
 Feb 18: Dt 30:15-20 / Lk 9:22-25  
 Feb 19: Is 58:1-9a / Mt 9:14-15  
 Feb 20: Is 58:9b-14 / Lk 5:27-32  
 Feb 21: Gn 9:8-15 / 1 Pt 3:18-22 / Mk 1:12-15

**The 2021 Catholic Arkansas Sharing Appeal (CASA) has begun.** We ask that you prayerfully welcome this opportunity to give in support of overall needs of the Church in our Diocese. Our parish goal remains the same as last year of \$21,000.

**The "New Pentecost" Prayer Group** continues to meet in the church after the Sunday 8:30 AM Mass. Everyone is welcome. Come Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of your faithful! Any questions, please call Carmen at 305-815-1795.

**LOST** – Gold hoop earring lost in the parking lot last Sunday. If found, please return it to the church office or the lost and found box located in the vestibule.



**Grow in faith this Lent!**

**Sign up for daily reflections on FORMED!**

Journey through Lent with Dr. Tim Gray - Set yourself up for a transformative 40 days with FORMED Lenten Reflections. Get daily videos from Dr. Tim Gray delivered right to your inbox so you don't miss a day of growing closer to our Lord. Visit [lent.formed.org](http://lent.formed.org) to sign up! Haven't signed up for your free FORMED account? Visit [harrisoncatholic.formed.org](http://harrisoncatholic.formed.org)

+++

**PHONE & TV FAST** – Once again, the Diocese of Little Rock is inviting people to "fast" by turning off their cell phones and televisions on **Ash Wednesday, February 17 and Good Friday, April 2**. Silencing our phones and televisions for all or part of these holy days will give God a chance to call our hearts, especially if we couple this with at least an hour spent in silent prayer while disconnected from digital media. Please consider including this practice in addition to almsgiving, prayer and fasting from food, which are traditional disciplines the Church observes during Lent. Because these practices involve sacrifice of one sort or another, it would be especially beneficial to offer the spiritual fruits of that sacrifice for some specific cause -- thus giving meaning to the suffering involved and producing greater spiritual benefit. The diocese is recommending parishioners offer up the sacrifices of Ash Wednesday for those who have left or been hurt by the Church. The sacrifices of Good Friday should be offered up for those who are marginalized and neglected -- basing our reflection on Jesus' parable of the Last Judgment in Matthew 25:31-46.

+++

This year, you can have the BEST LENT EVER. Each day of Lent, you'll receive a short inspirational video that will help you find areas for growth, build better habits, and spark lasting change in your life. All you do is sign up at [BestLentEver.com](http://BestLentEver.com). This is a service of Dynamic Catholic and it's FREE.

+++

Ascension Press offers many free podcasts for your use. The most popular one offered this year is *The Bible in a Year* podcast where Fr. Mike Schmitz walks you through the entire Bible in 365 episodes, providing commentary, reflection, and prayer. With this podcast, you won't just read the Bible in a year ... you'll finally understand how all the pieces of the Bible fit together to tell an amazing story that continues in your life today! Each episode is 20-25 minutes. For more information, visit [ascensionpress.com](http://ascensionpress.com)



**Catholic Cemetery Gravesites** are available to purchase from a Cemetery Committee representative. Gravesites are \$500 each. **A monthly payment plan is available.** If four or more gravesites are purchased at the same time, a 10% discount is applied, and the cost is \$450 per gravesite. Any questions, call Marlene Rowe at 365-0236.

## TEN WAYS TO DEEPEN EXPERIENCE OF LENT

*In addition to the traditional disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving during Lent, many perform acts of penance by "giving up" something, such as chocolate, soda, or social media. As an alternative, we invite you to take up a practice that you wouldn't otherwise do. It may help you experience Lent in a whole new way this year.*

**1. Try a new prayer or devotion** - If you have gotten in a rut with your Lenten prayer, why not try something new? One of the most common Lenten prayers is the Stations of the Cross. This practice goes back centuries; but reflecting on the event that made our salvation possible never goes out of style. Most parishes offer the stations each Friday of Lent. To experience this devotion online, check out "Way of the Cross: Meditations and Stations from Arkansas". Other suggestions include eucharistic adoration, Liturgy of the Hours, Lectio Divina or centering prayer.

**2. Fast to draw closer to God** - Fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the standard. To learn the basics, visit the Fasting and Abstinence Guidelines. Why not go beyond the basics? Find out what many already know: Fasting awakens your awareness of God and pulls you closer to him. You might find fasting for those in need more fulfilling by taking part in programs like CRS Food Fast. What about fasting from something other than food? Try the I Phone Fast challenge.

**3. Do some spiritual reading** - If you like to read, why not put aside that best seller and read something that will deepen your relationship with God and his Church. Check out Pope Francis' 2017 Lenten Message, Bishop Anthony B. Taylor's Homily Library or Arkansas Catholic. Other suggestions include Bishop Taylor's pastoral letter, "I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me: A Pastoral Letter on the Human Rights of Immigrants," the writings of Pope Francis, Bishop Robert Barron's Daily Lenten Reflections or select from the readings lists from National Catholic Register and Our Sunday Visitor.

**4. Give alms for those in need** - During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on almsgiving, which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. Challenge yourself to give more this year. It might mean passing on that new iPhone or putting off that car purchase, but your sacrifice for those in need is a "work of justice pleasing to God." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2462) Suggestions include giving to CASA, the Catholic Schools of Arkansas Scholarship Appeal, the special collections during Lent and CRS Rice Bowl, which helps people in developing countries around the world.

**5. Take a Bible Study** - Join a study at your parish or start a new one to reflect on a Lenten series from Little Rock Scripture Study. This internationally recognized program also offers free, monthly articles that come with questions for group study. Its newest release, "Blessed Are You: The Beatitudes," explores the blessings proclaimed by Jesus at the start of the revolutionary Sermon on the Mount. You may also want to consider this helpful Q&A about reading the Bible and guide for reading it in chronological order.

**6. Learn about Catholic faith** - Do you have questions about what the Church teaches and why? Have you been told or read something about a teaching that bothers you? Has this caused you to take a step back? Are you sure what you were told is correct? You owe it to yourself to learn the truth. Ask a priest. Take part in a faith formation program at a parish or the diocese. Or visit trusted resources online. We also recommend reading Bishop Taylor's statements on current events or read his homilies that are posted each week.

**7. Attend Lenten activities – MAYBE NOT THIS YEAR!** - Check out what your local parish has to offer during Lent. It's likely you'll find a parish mission, retreat, fish fry, holy hour, or soup supper to get involved with. If you haven't taken part in the past, we invite you to see how experiencing Lent in community can broaden your perspective, enrich your faith and form new and lasting relationships with fellow believers.

**8. Make a good confession** - If you haven't received the sacrament of reconciliation in a long time, Lent is the ideal time to go. "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart ..." (Joel 2:12). Many parishes provide additional opportunities to receive this sacrament during Lent through Communal Reconciliation Services. These typically include a short service with prayers, readings, and songs, followed by private, individual confessions with priests stationed throughout the church.

**9. Try a new meatless recipe** - I don't know about you, but fast food fish sandwiches get really old during Lent. Just because you are abstaining from meat on Fridays doesn't mean your meals have to be boring. Sample a recipe from Arkansas Catholic readers who shared their favorite meatless meals, which are divided into main dishes, casseroles, soups, and side dishes. Are you hungry yet?

**10. Discover Christ in service** - Service is a great way to see Christ in the faces of those in need. There are many ways to help others. Based on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, we came up with 25 ideas to perform these works in Arkansas. These include volunteering at your parish, school, or local social service organization, visiting the sick or elderly or adopting a child who needs a forever family.



**The Diocesan Tribunal** - It is the mission of the Diocesan Tribunal to hear the cases of those who are divorced and who are petitioning the Church to make judgment on the possible invalidity of their marriage, due to some impediment, inadequate consent, or the inability to fulfill the duties of the married state. The Tribunal makes every effort to carry out its pastoral ministry in this process.

Petitions for decrees of nullity may be obtained from recognized Diocesan Tribunal advocates. These persons are specially trained in this work. Please contact our local advocates, **Deacon Mark Scouten at 870-741-1579 or Lucia McArthur at 407-288-3103**, for more info and the paperwork to present a petition.

"If anyone is living in a marriage that has not been recognized by the Catholic Church, it would be wise to consult with a priest to see whether that situation might be rectified. It could be as simple as repeating your marriage vows quietly in front of a priest and receiving the Church's blessing. In that way, one would become eligible to receive the sacraments of the Church, especially the Eucharist." — *Arkansas Catholic*, Nov. 14, 2015, Father Ken Doyle  
**Contact Father Jim for more information.**

#### **BAPTISM GODPARENT / CONFIRMATION SPONSOR**

Being a baptism godparent/confirmation sponsor means actively being a good Catholic witness and example, a role model, and ready to give help and advice to the one baptized/confirmed.

When choosing a baptism godparent/confirmation sponsor, do consider the church requirements for a valid choice:

- Not a parent of the one being baptized/confirmed.
- Must be at least 16 years old.
- A practicing Catholic who is leading a good Christian life and is not invalidly married.
- Must have already made First Communion and been confirmed.

A baptized non-Catholic Christian may be a witness to the baptism, but only together with a Catholic godparent.

#### **→ Check out FORMED.org ←**

**It's EASY and FREE to Register!** Visit FORMED.org with your favorite web browser. Click Sign Up. Select "I Belong to a Parish or Organization". Find your parish by name. Enter your email and that's all there is to it! There are movies about saints (both adult and children), numerous Bible studies, Catholic Answers, audio books, apologetics and much more! **Now you can deepen your faith life even more!** Sign up for FORMED Daily to receive a short clip by email from the platform's best content each day. Visit <https://FORMED.org/promo/daily-reflections-signup>



**The Eighth Annual Catholic Schools Scholarship Appeal** kicked off Nov. 15, 2020 through October 31, 2021, to benefit students whose families do not have the financial resources to provide a Catholic education without financial assistance. Marguerite

Olberts, associate superintendent of schools, is asking everyone to pray for the success of this year's appeal. "Sadly, there are Catholic schools throughout the country closing due to the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. We don't want that to happen in Arkansas. Catholic schools are facing a combination of financial challenges: decrease subsidy from parishes, canceled fundraising events and a greater need for financial assistance for families negatively affected by the pandemic. So, this year's appeal is needed more than ever." This program is sponsored by the Office of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Little Rock. For more info, contact Marguerite Olberts at 501-664-0340, ext. 394.

**The Unfailing Goodness of God** - I have always wondered why Jesus told the cleansed leper not to publicize how he had been healed by the Son of God. It's not that I can't understand why Jesus would want to keep the matter quiet — after all, he knew that as soon as people heard, he would be mobbed with requests for healings, and his movements restricted.

What gets me is the fact that Jesus simply must have realized the leper would not listen to him. Why give someone a command you know they will ignore? It's a complicated question, and when I reflect on it, I can't help but connect it to another equally complicated question: why does God, all-good and all-knowing, allow bad things to happen?

Yes, God is all-good and all-knowing. So when He gives us free will, He knows what we will do with it. However, He is also all-powerful. He can and will bring good from any situation, any tragedy, or even any instance where someone ignores Him.

Was it a sin for this leper to do other than what Jesus had said? That's a heavy question for a Sunday morning! But it's plain to see that, even though this man ignored Jesus' command, God still used his actions. How many were brought to Christ because of the news spread by this leper!

As someone trying to live out a stewardship way of life, what is God requesting of you right now? — *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

**PROJECT RACHEL** - There are many men and women silently suffering from a past abortion. Lent is a time for reconciliation and forgiveness. This Lent, make peace with your past. Come back to God, who is Love and Mercy. There is forgiveness and hope after abortion. Call or text 501-663-0996 or email [rpuello@dolr.org](mailto:rpuello@dolr.org). All inquiries are strictly confidential.

**Arkansas Catholic's Annual Photo Contest** is open to choose a photo for the cover of the 2022 diocesan directory. Any Arkansas photographer 18 or older, professional, or amateur, can enter their photo of a Catholic church or institution in the diocese. The **entry deadline is March 18**. Complete rules and an official entry form are available on the Arkansas Catholic website, [arkansas-catholic.org](http://arkansas-catholic.org). For more info, call Emily Roberts at 501-664-0125.

The diocesan initiative One Church invests each year in a small mission church in our diocese that needs a leg up to become a thriving community. **The 2020-2021 partner is St. Bartholomew Church in Little Rock**. All funds donated to One Church for the next 12 months will help the parish build a new Parish Life Center, which they currently don't have. Please pray for this project and give today. To give or for more information visit: [dolr.org/one-church](http://dolr.org/one-church).

#### **ADORE THE EUCHARIST!! – IT'S A DIVINE INVENTION!!**

"May Christ's faithful have the occasion to worship the sacred mysteries of the Body and Blood of the Son of God in a worthy manner, and continually experience within themselves the fruits of the redemption." *Redemptionis Sacramentum*

**Contact Carmen at 305-815-1795 or the church office to sign up for a Holy Hour.**

**Sunday @ 7 AM, 9 AM, 10 AM, 1 PM & 2 PM**

**Monday @ 6 PM**

**Tuesday @ 11 AM, 2 PM & 6 PM**

**Wednesday @ 10 AM & 5 PM**

**Thursday @ Noon, 4 PM & 6 PM**

**Saturday @ 11 AM, 2 PM, 3 PM & 4 PM**

**PLEASE NOTE: If the Harrison schools are closed due to inclement weather, then Adoration is closed for your safety.**





Office of the Bishop

## DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

2500 North Tyler Street • P.O. Box 7565 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72217 • (501) 664-0340 Fax (501) 664-6304

February 9, 2021

To Catholics participating in 40 Days for Life and other prayer events outside abortion facilities,

40 Days for Life has a long tradition of conducting peaceful campaigns of education, public witness, fasting and prayer outside abortion facilities. I will be joining the spring campaign in Little Rock to pray the Stations of the Cross outside Planned Parenthood on at 11:00 a.m. on Friday March 12, 2021 and I invite you to join me. Prayer is at the heart of our efforts to end abortion.

When you pray, perhaps you'll see a young woman entering Planned Parenthood. Try to image the fear or hopelessness she might feel. Try to see her as a beloved daughter of God and reach out to her as Jesus himself might- with love, not condemnation. All life issues are connected. She might be struggling with poverty, racism, domestic violence, or other issues we can't even guess, but make it difficult for us to truly understand how she came to seek abortion. Let us have as much concern for her life and for her dignity as we have for the life of the child in her womb.

Recently in Little Rock, several abortion protesters were arrested at the surgical abortion facility. I ask all Catholics not to engage in any activity that is unlawful, including trespassing. Our peaceful, prayerful presence may influence other protesters. However, if during your prayer time there are others present who are disruptive or disrespectful, I ask you to separate yourselves from them. Words or actions that do not uphold the God-given human dignity of *any* person are contrary to our mission to respect and protect every human life, at every stage and in every circumstance.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Anthony B. Taylor  
Bishop of Little Rock

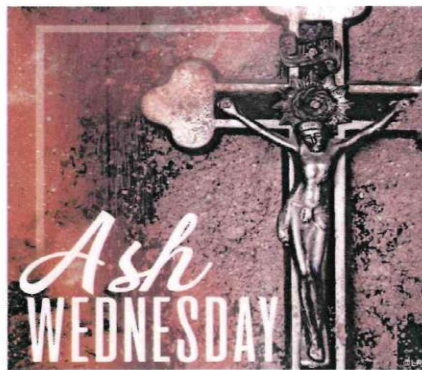


## Joseph F. Koenig, C.P.A.

801 SOUTH PINE OFFICE (870) 365-3611  
PINE PLAZA, SUITE 7 PINE PLAZA, SUITE 7 FAX (870) 365-3623  
HARRISON, AR 72601 jfkcpa@windstream.net

## CATHOLICS VOTE PRO-LIFE

Courtesy of Newt Foster



• Friday Lunch •  
11 AM—1:30 PM  
• Sunday Lunch •  
11:30 AM—2 PM



• DINNER •  
Monday thru  
Saturday  
5—9 PM  
870-741-8832

† **TROUT—STEAKS—ITALIAN**  
Located 4 miles North of Harrison  
500 yards East of Junction 412-62-65 Hwys. North



1904 CAPPS ROAD  
HARRISON, AR 72601  
870-741-3481

Glenna Ragan † Justin Applegate

**Skorich Lawn Care Company L.L.C.**  
Debris/Leaf Removal, Power Wash  
Robert Skorich  
skorichlawncompany@gmail.com  
† 870-421-6752  
870-449-4488



THANK  
A VETERAN  
TODAY!

Courtesy of Newt Foster

## Selling 726

REALTY  
**Ryan Thompson, Realtor**  
ryan@selling726.com • 870.416.5123  
selling726.com  
128 N Willow St, Harrison, AR 72601

**BUTLER CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC**  
811 RANCH HOUSE PLAZA  
P.O. BOX 1614  
HARRISON, ARKANSAS 72602  
PHONE: 870-741-4408 FAX: 870-741-4409

† DR. TOM BUTLER  
CHIROPRACTIC ORTHOPEDIST CERTIFIED IN ACUPUNCTURE  
SPORTS PHYSICIAN



Custom T-Shirts & Apparel  
Photo Quality Graphics  
No Minimum Orders  
No Setup Fees  
870-715-2483  
870-715-2928  
www.impacttees.com

Owners: Todd & Lori Curry †



## PATRICIA H. VIRNIG

Attorney At Law

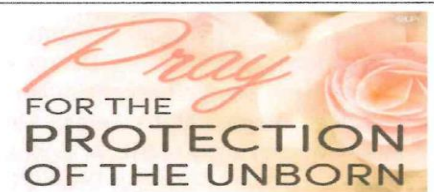
132 N. Willow  
Harrison, AR 72601 † 870-741-0002  
Hours: 9 AM to 5 PM Fax: 870-741-0003

## MUNZNER PUMP COMPANY

Pump & Water Work of All Kinds  
24/7 Service  
Licensed, Bonded, Insured  
Pumps, Pressure Tanks,  
Water Conditioning & More  
Serving Harrison & ALL  
Surrounding Areas  
robinmmunzner@yahoo.com



ROBIN MUNZNER  
870-743-0710  
870-715-9873



**6th Sunday in Ordinary Time—February 14, 2021** — The Church, as a voice of the Gospel, pro-claims the sacredness of all human life. Everyone created by God is fashioned in God's image and has Divine DNA at the center of their soul. God never leaves what God creates but always remains intimately bound to what he has given form. Everyone has a place and because they have received the gift of Divine Blessing, nobody deserves to feel inferior, unworthy, unwanted, unclear or marginalized. Even the most broken of souls has a place. We, the Body of Christ, have the privilege and responsibility to give voice to the voiceless. The cries of the little one in his or her mother's womb are just as sacred as the cries of one who is homeless and hungry. The migrant deserves our attention as much as the forgotten elderly and even the prisoner, with a heart hardened by anger and resentment, deserves respect and dignity.

The Gospel of Life is often hard to swallow, and we would rather keep those we consider unclear, different or unfixable in a place by themselves. It is hard to see them with us, but they deserve to be. There is far too much violence in this world and the result of that violence is the assault on human life. Many are forced to leave the place they call home in search of safer ground, finding few if any along the way who will help them. How different today's Gospel story would be if Jesus gave in to what was politically correct at that time. The leper would have been turned away and a soul, already beaten down by disease and fear, would have experienced an even deeper wound. Jesus wouldn't have captured much attention from anyone, nor would he have mirrored the Father's compassion and love.

Where do we stand with all of this? Do we at least understand that God's vision is often in conflict with the vision put forth in our world and even the one we advance ourselves? There is no doubt that it is incredibly challenging to find a place for everyone at the table. This challenge is compounded when the systems of operation and structure that are so ingrained in us affirm power and privilege rather than inclusivity and justice. Everything really goes askew when the powerful begin to control who is entitled to wholeness and inclusion, and greed becomes a driving force. Prejudice and entitlement raise their ugly heads and we find ourselves with quite a mess. It's time to admit that things have been a mess for a very long time. The mess needs to be healed, not by erasing it but by allowing God to touch it and make it whole. We need to bring God back to the center of life where God belongs. There are no easy solutions to the world's dilemmas. But, knowing that wholeness, healing, and dignity are worthy pursuits, we can more confidently labor to achieve God's vision.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
We are PRO-LIFE. Be a part of an organization that supports the protection of an unborn child.  
**JOIN TODAY!** Established 1882  
Contact Craig Bailey — 870-416-1112

**Mary Mother of God Catholic Church**  
**Catholic Christian Women (CCW)**  
107 Years of Serving Our Parish  
See Bulletin For Meeting  
Dates & Times



**VIKKI HUDSON**

"Hometown Service" †

# God Heal America!

Courtesy of Newt Foster

**MARY MOTHER OF GOD CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**HARRISON, ARKANSAS**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>January 31</b> <i>4th Sunday in Ordinary</i>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ Second Collection: Black & Indian Missions	<b>February 1, 2021</b>  <b>NO MASS</b> ++ Knights of Columbus 6:30 PM Meeting	<b>February 2</b> <i>Presentation of the Lord</i> <b>Blessing of Candles</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass	<b>February 3</b> <i>Feast of St. Blaise</i> <b>Blessing of Throats</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass ++ K-8 Online Classes 6-8 PM Confirmation 6:30-7:30 PM HS Class	<b>February 4</b>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass	<b>February 5</b> <i>First Friday</i>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass	<b>February 6</b> <i>First Saturday</i>  8:10 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ 4:30 PM Rosary 5 PM Mass <b>Blessing of Throats</b> <b>Following Mass</b> ++ <b>CASA BEGINS</b>
<b>February 7</b> <i>5th Sunday in Ordinary</i>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass <b>Blessing of Throats</b> <b>Following Mass</b> ++ Second Collection: Maintenance Fund ++ <b>CASA BEGINS</b>	<b>February 8</b>  <b>NO MASS</b>	<b>February 9</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass	<b>February 10</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass ++ K-8 Online Classes <b>NO Confirmation Class</b> <b>NO HS Class</b>	<b>February 11</b>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass	<b>February 12</b>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass	<b>February 13</b>  8:10 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ 4:30 PM Rosary 5 PM Mass
<b>February 14</b> <i>6th Sunday in Ordinary</i>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass	<b>February 15</b>  <b>NO MASS</b>	<b>February 16</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass	<b>February 17</b> ✝ <i>Ash Wednesday</i>  <b>8:30 AM Mass w/</b> <b>Distribution of Ashes</b> <b>5:30 PM Mass w/</b> <b>Distribution of Ashes</b> ++ <b>NO PREP CLASSES</b>  <b>FAST &amp; ABSTINENCE</b>	<b>February 18</b>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass	<b>February 19</b>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass <b>9 AM Holy Hour</b> <b>w/Stations</b>  <b>ABSTINENCE =</b> <b>NO MEAT</b>	<b>February 20</b>  8:10 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ 4:30 PM Rosary 5 PM Mass
<b>February 21</b> <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ Second Collection: Aid to Church in Central & Eastern Europe	<b>February 22</b>  <b>NO MASS</b>	<b>February 23</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass	<b>February 24</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass ++ K-8 Online Classes 6:30-7:30 PM HS Class	<b>February 25</b>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass	<b>February 26</b>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass <b>9 AM Holy Hour</b> <b>w/Stations</b>  <b>ABSTINENCE =</b> <b>NO MEAT</b>	<b>February 27</b>  8:10 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ 4:30 PM Rosary 5 PM Mass
<b>February 28</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>  8 AM Rosary 8:30 AM Mass ++ Arkansas Catholic Subscription Drive	<b>March 1, 2021</b>  <b>NO MASS</b> ++ Knights of Columbus 6:30 PM Meeting	<b>March 2</b>  5 PM Rosary 5:30 PM Mass	<b>As the season of Lent approaches, it is helpful to recall the discipline of the Church with regard to fast, abstinence, and other forms of penance.</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> and <b>Good Friday</b> are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting allows one full meal and two smaller ones. The law of abstinence prohibits the eating of meat. The Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence in the United States. The obligation of abstinence begins at age 14. The law of fasting obliges all between the ages of 18-59. Pastors and parents are to see to it that minors, though not bound by the law of fast and abstinence, are educated in the authentic sense of penance and encouraged to do acts of penance suitable to their age. All members of the Christian faithful are encouraged to do acts of penance and charity during the Lenten season beyond what is prescribed by Law.			

PLEASE CHECK YOUR WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THIS CALENDAR.



## FEBRUARY 2021 MINISTERS OF THE ALTAR

### 5 PM Saturday Mass

Rosary:

Lector:

E/M:

Servers:

Ushers:

### 8:30 AM Sunday Mass

Rosary:

Lector:

E/M:

Servers:

Ushers:

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Feb 1	Shirley Feldman	Feb 10	Noah Applegate	Feb 21	Jonathan Porras
Feb 1	Marisa Keylon	Feb 10	Lorraine Dix	Feb 21	Evan Webb
Feb 1	Alina Perez	Feb 10	Uriel Ramirez	Feb 23	Carmen Andrade
Feb 3	Rachel Hodges	Feb 11	Benny Hancock	Feb 23	Colton Hocut
Feb 4	Mary Griggs	Feb 13	Chad Coffman	Feb 24	Mary Dryden-Koenig
Feb 4	Ben Krone	Feb 13	Mike Stephen	Feb 24	Ed Karlovic
Feb 4	Kheilab McBride	Feb 18	Paul DiCarlo	Feb 26	Jennifer Billups
Feb 4	Gabby Paradiso	Feb 18	Gabriel Lavoie	Feb 26	Janet Wilcox
Feb 5	Norma Renshaw	Feb 20	Gabriel Sandoval	Feb 27	Rick Milburn
Feb 6	Tina Pietrabella	Feb 21	Sheila O'Laughlin	Feb 28	Frank Taheny
Feb 6	Rita Wells	Feb 21	Richard Paul	Feb 29	Holly Coffman
Feb 8	Lucia McArthur			Feb 29	Andy Perez

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Feb 9	Bob & Mary Stephens	Feb 20	Ronnie & Shirlene Lackey
Feb 10	Harvey & Emily Myers	Feb 21	Bob & Donna Terrell
Feb 11	Bill & Ann May	Feb 22	Tom & Helen Heffran
Feb 11	Joseph & Audrey McFadden	Feb 23	Bob & Patsy Astorino
Feb 13	Johann & Sally Chua	Feb 27	Jim & Karen Conner
Feb 13	Levi & Helen Haley		



## DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

2500 North Tyler Street • P.O. Box 7565 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72217 • (501) 664-0340 Fax (501) 664-6304

November 19, 2020

To all doctors, nurses, administrators, support staff and other co-workers in Catholic health care:

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday during a time of pandemic, I thank God for many things—for God's loving presence, for the gift of faith, for family and friends (even though we can't be physically together now). I also thank God right now for the gift of life and health. Especially as COVID-19 continues to increase in our country and in much of the world, we have a reminder of how important our physical health is.

This pandemic has been a challenging time for all of society. Whether someone has been infected, cared for someone who has been infected, or simply experienced changes of life because of the measures needed to combat it, no one has been exempt.

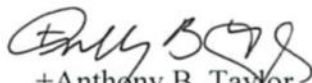
Above all, though, I know that COVID-19 has affected you as healthcare workers. You stand on the front lines, often putting yourselves at risk in order to serve your patients. Your generosity of heart and zeal for your ministry give life to many, especially right now.

As the Bishop of Little Rock, I thank God for the great work undertaken by Catholic healthcare ministries in Arkansas, ministries that can only exist because of people like you. Your daily work is an extension of the healing ministry of Jesus. Like the ministry of Jesus, your work is loving, sacrificial, and life-giving. Just as the ministry of Jesus did, your work gives hope and strength to all it touches—and to society as a whole!

I know these are trying times for you. You want to help and heal, even as you know there is still much to be done in combating COVID-19. I encourage you to persevere, and I pray for your resilience and strength as you confront the challenges that lie ahead. We may celebrate Thanksgiving differently this year than in other years, but our need to be grateful is even stronger than ever.

So, thank you! And be assured of my prayers for you now and throughout these challenging times.

Sincerely in Christ,

  
+Anthony B. Taylor  
Bishop of Little Rock





Office of the Bishop

## DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

2500 North Tyler Street • P.O. Box 7565 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72217 • (501) 664-0340 Fax (501) 664-6304

### Statement on the “REPORT ON THE HOLY SEE’S INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND DECISION-MAKING RELATED TO FORMER CARDINAL THEODORE EDGAR MCCARRICK (1930 TO 2017)” issued November 10, 2020

I am grateful to Pope Francis for his commitment to bringing healing to the victims of clergy sexual abuse and to preventing such cases from being mishandled in the future, regardless of the prominence of the accused perpetrator. Yesterday we received concrete proof of his commitment to transparency and to bringing the light of truth to bear on this darkest of evils that has, in the case of ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, reached even the highest echelons of the hierarchy in the Church. This 449 page report chronicles not only the horror of McCarrick’s abuse of minors and young adults, but also the mishandling of allegations by even by such saintly persons as Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI and those that advised them, albeit due in part to having received faulty information from several now deceased New Jersey bishops and the failure of Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò to investigate when told to do so while working in the Secretariat of State in the Vatican and later mishandling the case when he was papal nuncio to the United States.

When in 2017 Pope Francis first became aware of a concrete allegation against then Cardinal McCarrick, he ordered a canonical trial of McCarrick which in February 2019 resulted in the penalty of dismissal from the clerical state. Pope Francis also ordered the investigation, the results of which were released yesterday, of how such a person as Mr. McCarrick could have risen to the highest ranks within the Church, including who had a hand in covering up misdeeds of which they had knowledge and why allegations received previously were not taken seriously. In May of 2019 Pope Francis also promulgated “*Vos Estis Lux Mundi*”, a papal decree which introduced sweeping changes in order to hold bishops accountable for sexual abuse or covering up, making reporting obligatory for clerics and allowing anyone to complain directly to the Vatican if needed. To report an incident of sexual abuse and related misconduct by a Catholic bishop, contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at [ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://ReportBishopAbuse.org) or call 800/276-1562.

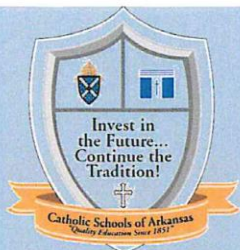
The Diocese of Little Rock continues its commitment to keeping children safe. Anyone who has been abused sexually by a priest or representative of the Church is encouraged to contact first the Arkansas Child Abuse Hotline at 800/482-5964; and to contact Deacon Matthew Glover at 501/664-0340 ext. 361, or Laura Gottspomer, our Victims Assistance coordinator at 501/664-0340 ext. 425.

We remain united in our pain and our support for all victims of sexual abuse and pray for healing and reconciliation within our Church.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Anthony B. Taylor  
Bishop of Little Rock  
November 11, 2020





## Office of the Bishop

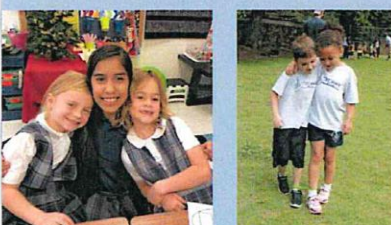
Diocese of Little Rock  
P.O. Box 7239  
Little Rock, AR 72217

*Bishop*

Most Reverend Anthony B. Taylor

*Superintendent*

Mrs. Theresa Hall



Faith Academics Service



## ARKANSAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIP APPEAL

November 14, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Sadly, there are Catholic schools throughout the country closing due to the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. You can help prevent this from happening in Arkansas through your gift to the Arkansas Catholic Schools Scholarship Appeal. Our Catholic schools are facing a combination of financial challenges: decreased subsidy from parishes, cancelled fundraising events, decreased enrollment, and a greater need for financial assistance for families negatively affected by the pandemic.

The Arkansas Catholic Schools Scholarship Appeal is held annually to give tuition assistance to families with a demonstrated need. Catholic schools throughout the state submit applications on behalf of these families. Last year funds from the appeal provided tuition support to 54 students attending Arkansas Catholic schools with awards ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 per family.

Families who qualify are granted assistance through Parish subsidies, school fundraising, foundations, and individual donors. However, even with this financial support, a need still exists for more tuition aid. This year our calculated need is \$465,000. Please help us by donating to the Arkansas Catholic Schools Scholarship Appeal. Every dollar received from donations will be used to aid those in need of financial assistance.

Catholic schools are an integral part of the teaching mission of the Church because they assist parents in the important obligation of educating and forming their children through faith development. This year our schools have responded beautifully finding creative and practical solutions to challenges related to safety and virtual learning. They continue to provide a rigorous education, rooted in the Gospel, and rich in the cherished traditions and liturgical practices of our faith. Even in the midst of a pandemic, our schools are ensuring that students will have the foundation to live a moral and upright life to face the challenges brought by changes in the world today.

Thank you for your support of the Arkansas Catholic Schools Scholarship fund. Please keep our schools in your prayers.

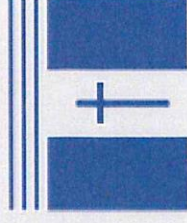
Sincerely In Christ,

Most Reverend Anthony B. Taylor  
Bishop of Little Rock





# Arkansas Catholic Schools Scholarship Appeal



A Catholic education is a gift that serves the child, their family, and the community throughout their lifetime and beyond. The cost of tuition is a challenge to hundreds of our families who desire a Catholic education for their child. Parish subsidies, school fundraising, and foundations provide funds for financial assistance, but not enough.

All funds raised through this appeal go directly to an Arkansas Catholic school to provide tuition assistance to a family with a demonstrated financial need. Your gift will help keep these children in our Catholic schools. Please be generous, and remember our Catholic schools in your prayers.

“Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life.”

Pope Francis

## DONOR INFORMATION / Información del Donante

Name /Nombre \_\_\_\_\_

Address /Dirección \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code /Ciudad, Estado, Código Postal \_\_\_\_\_

Email /Correo Electrónico \_\_\_\_\_

Phone /Teléfono ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Parish /Parroquia \_\_\_\_\_

Please remember the Diocese/Catholic Schools of Arkansas in your will.

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Credit Card Number/Número de Tarjeta de Crédito \_\_\_\_\_

Three Digit Verification Code/Código de Verificación de Tres Dígitos \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date/Fecha de Vencimiento \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Monthly/Mensualmente \_\_\_\_\_

☐ One-Time Payment/Un solo pago \_\_\_\_\_

Total Pledge/Donativo Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed/Cantidad Adjunta \$ \_\_\_\_\_

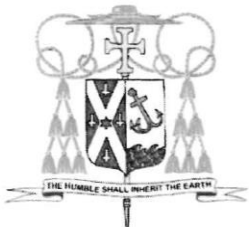
Balance Due/Saldo adeudado \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Print Cardholder Name/ Escriba Nombre del Titular de la Tarjeta \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Signature/ Firma del Titular \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check made payable to: AR Catholic Schools Scholarship Appeal, Diocese of Little Rock, 2500 N Tyler St., Little Rock, AR 72207 or set up an online monthly pledge or one-time gift at [www.givecentral.org/arkansas/](http://www.givecentral.org/arkansas/).

Thank you so much for your gift. You are changing lives and impacting the future.



Office of the Bishop

## DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

2500 North Tyler Street • P.O. Box 7565 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72217 • (501) 664-0340 Fax (501) 664-6304

October 22, 2020

### Clarification regarding Pope Francis' statement about Civil Unions

The major theme of Pope Francis' apostolic ministry has been to call the Church to reach out with mercy to those on the margins. This is the mercy of coming close to Jesus. Mercy is the lens through which Pope Francis calls us to view and respond to situations of poverty, migration, racial and income inequality, the environment and people affected by unjust discrimination—among whom are homosexuals, who have been marginalized throughout history. We can debate points of theology but debates seldom change hearts and usually lead to both parties clinging all the more tenaciously to the truth as they understand it. Mercy as a concept separate from Jesus can end up being simply license, but when we truly try listen to the other with a heart conformed to that of Jesus, we begin to look for ways to remedy situations that disadvantage those on the margin.

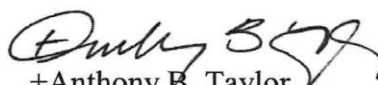
I believe that is why, without changing any of the teaching of the Church about the immorality of homosexual acts, Pope Francis has tried to find ways to reassure homosexuals that God loves them, that they have a place in the life of the Church and that we have an obligation to remove all the disadvantages that they suffer unjustly. One of these injustices is the fact that in most societies the legal union of civil marriage conveys tangential benefits to incentivize marriage that are not intrinsically connected to marriage itself, and are denied to those who are not in a legal union. That is the background for Pope Francis' statement about civil unions in the documentary "Francesco" which premiered in the Rome Film Festival on October 21, 2020. I note that comments in an interview like this can be insightful but are not meant to articulate doctrine. Here is what he said:

*"Homosexual people have the right to be in a family. They are children of God. You can't kick someone out of a family nor make their life miserable for this. What we have to have is a civil union law; that way people are legally covered."*

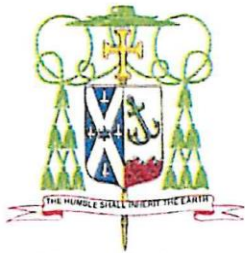
That's his concern. Civil unions of homosexuals would grant most of the tangential benefits of marriage without being a true marriage, which is of course impossible for a homosexual union, and thus a misnomer, even though U.S. law describes it as marriage. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that marriage by its very nature is "ordered to the good of the couple, as well as to the generation and education of children." (CCC 1660) One look at our bodies reveals that both the procreation of children and the complete unitive act of intercourse requires physical complementarity, which are not present in a same-sex union. However, a stable bond between persons of the same sex has the possibility of offering some good for those persons, especially when that bond is chaste in nature. Notice that this union is civil, solely for the purpose of ensuring civil benefits. It has no status in Church law. Some of the tangential civil benefits of marriage that could be made available to homosexuals in a civil union are: health insurance benefits, surviving partner inheritance benefits, joint tax return benefits, medical decision-making, hospital visitation rights, funeral decision-making and tax free transfer of property.

This statement regarding civil unions is one small expression of a much broader vision of inclusion that Pope Francis has proclaimed throughout his papacy.

Sincerely in Christ,

  
+Anthony B. Taylor  
Bishop of Little Rock





Office of the Bishop

## DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

2500 North Tyler Street • P.O. Box 7565 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72217 • (501) 664-0340 Fax (501) 664-6304

September 25, 2020

### **On Lifting the Suspension of the Sunday Mass Obligation, effective October 1, 2020**

To the people of the Diocese of Little Rock,

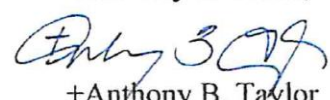
The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life, and our Sunday communal celebration of the Eucharist is a central and non-negotiable part of who we are as Catholics. However, in view of the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, effective March 12, 2020 I dispensed everyone in the Diocese of Little Rock temporarily from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass in person, with the stipulation that everyone keep holy the Lord's Day in other ways, for instance through participation in Mass transmitted over the internet, through Eucharistic Adoration or other time spent in prayer, for instance a family rosary. And then effective the weekend of March 21-22, in view of the increasing danger and following the advice of our governor, the public celebration of Mass was suspended for the entire state of Arkansas, with the exception of small, self-contained groups at the discretion of the priest. This was consistent with the steps taken in dioceses throughout the world and lasted for 6 weeks.

On May 4, 2020—once we had a clearer idea of the steps to be taken to prevent the spread of the coronavirus at Mass—I authorized the resumption of the public celebration of Mass on a limited basis with the stipulation that all participants be required to wear masks the entire time they are in the Church, that the space occupied not exceed 25% occupancy, that 6' of physical separation be maintained between family groups and individuals, plus other steps be taken to ensure the safety of the participants, including the sanitizing of hands and surfaces, the temporary removal of hymn books and the temporary suspension of the ministry of choirs and altar servers. The progressive re-opening of our Churches continued throughout the summer and as of June 15, 2020 we were able to authorize up to 66% occupancy in Churches where that was possible while still maintaining the required use of masks and 6' physical distancing. During this time the dispensation from the obligation of Sunday Mass attendance continued.

Today I am happy to announce that our anti-COVID protocols have been effective in preventing the spread of the disease at Mass. We are not aware of even a single case of transmission linked to participation in worship in any Catholic Church in Arkansas—or for that matter, not any other Catholic Church in the United States where these protocols were in place. **Therefore, we are now in a position to lift the dispensation from the obligation of in-person Sunday Mass attendance for everyone who is in good health and not especially vulnerable or caring for someone who is especially vulnerable—effective October 1, 2020. The celebration of the Eucharist is at the center of our relationship with Jesus, whose true body and blood, soul and divinity we receive in this sacrament—the greatest treasure in our lives. Of course if a person feels ill, or has been exposed to COVID-19 and is in quarantine, or is otherwise especially vulnerable, for instance due to chronic illness or the frailty of old age, they remain dispensed—but still have the obligation to otherwise keep the Lord's Day holy.**

In the event that due to the ongoing requirement of physical distancing, the number of people seeking to attend Mass exceeds the capacity of the Church building and any overflow areas provided, any who are turned away have fulfilled their obligation before the Lord by the mere fact of having attempted to come to Mass, so long as they then participate in Mass via the internet, or observe some other way of keeping holy the Lord's Day, for instance through a family rosary or time spent in Eucharistic Adoration.

Sincerely in Christ,

  
+Anthony B. Taylor  
Bishop of Little Rock





## DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

2500 North Tyler Street • P.O. Box 7565 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72217 • (501) 664-0340 Fax (501) 664-6304

Clarification and Reminder 9/29/20  
Feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

To the people of the Diocese of Little Rock,

As we prepare to lift the suspension of the obligation of Sunday Mass attendance for those who are in good health, not especially vulnerable and not caring for someone who is especially vulnerable, the following clarification and reminder is in order.

Clarification: if you are in a risk group identified by the CDC or—after serious prayer and deliberation—remain very fearful otherwise, you can consider yourself still dispensed. Older adults and persons with certain medical conditions, including asthma and diabetes, have been identified by the CDC as being at greater risk. When dealing with fear or otherwise in doubt, feel free to consult with your pastor regarding your specific situation.

Protocols: all of the measures we have taken for protecting our people at Mass not only remain in place, they should be more strictly observed due to the larger number of people who will be attending Mass. In addition to mask wearing the entire time you are inside the Church, 6' physical distancing and hand sanitizing upon entry into the Church, the following (about which questions have been asked) should also continue to be observed:

Communion on the hand. You receive on the hand with the mask still on, step aside, lower the mask, place the host in your mouth, raise the mask and return to your place. There is no Communion on the tongue except during the Latin Mass. Those desiring to receive on the tongue should wait until the congregation has left, and then receive communion from the tabernacle, the priest or deacon sanitizing his hands before and after.

Dismissal: People should be dismissed row by row from the back of the Church to the front and instructed to go directly to their cars. People should not be allowed to congregate in the vestibule or immediately outside the Church following Mass.

The Eucharist is the greatest treasure the Lord has left us and it is my hope that increased participation will draw us closer to the Lord at this difficult time and provide us the spiritual nourishment we need amid the challenges we face. May the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael protect us as we move forward in our journey of faith.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Anthony B. Taylor  
Bishop of Little Rock



## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Informed Choices ministry exists to evangelize, encourage and empower men/women in making life affirming choices.

### **Informed Choices provides:**

- Pregnancy Testing
- Pregnancy options education
- Healthy pregnancy education
- Limited ultrasounds
- Post abortion recovery
- Referrals for
  - Pre-natal care
  - Social services
  - Adoption
- Parenting Skills
  - Support mothers & fathers beyond pregnancy
  - "Earn While You Learn" program where clients earn items and resources to provide a healthy environment for their child

## WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY

- PRAYER PARTNER
- FINANCIAL SUPPORTER
  - One Time Gifts
  - Monthly Gift
- DONATE ITEMS
- VOLUNTEER
  - Men/Women Volunteers
  - Youth Group Service Projects: yard work, sort baby items
- PROMOTE & PARTICIPATE
  - Baby Bottle Campaign
  - Annual Banquet(s)
  - 100-Hole Golf Marathon
  - Community Events

## CURRENT NEEDS

- Diapers sizes 1&2
- New baby items
- New (unused) car seats



312 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Mountain Home 870-424-4673  
 Monday – Thursday 10:00a – 6:00p  
 Closed Fridays

715 W Sherman, Harrison 870-280-3169  
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
 Closed Wednesdays

[Informedchoiceswomenscenter.org](http://Informedchoiceswomenscenter.org)





**Do you love to sing?**  
**Do you love to make music for the Lord?**  
**IS GOD CALLING YOU TO MUSIC MINISTRY?**

**Adult Choir**—The Adult Choir meets every Thursday at 6:30pm and sings at the Sunday 8:30am Mass and other Holy Days of Obligation.

**Youth Choir**—The Youth Choir consists of students in grades K-12. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm immediately following PREP class. They sing at the scheduled Youth Masses throughout the academic year. Hand chimes and other instruments are used, as well.

**Hand Bell Choir**—The Hand Bell Choir meets on Tuesday evenings at 6PM and plays at approximately 7 Masses throughout the year.

**Silver Bells**—Silver Bells is a group, specifically for the senior members of our parish. Opportunities for food, fellowship, and fun are guaranteed!

*What does Music Ministry mean to me?*

"Singing in church has been an important part of my life for as long as I can remember. It was such a natural routine for me that I would feel as if I had not participated in Mass if no singing was involved. Music ministry continues to be a meaningful part of my life even as a senior member of the parish. It is only through God's blessings that I continue in this ministry and gain a greater connection to my fellow choir members and our church congregation. I would strongly encourage others who appreciate music during church services to seriously consider giving music ministry a try."—Kevin Cheri (Adult Choir member)

"I like singing in the church choir because it lets me glorify God in a way that I enjoy. I also like the choir because it makes me feel peaceful especially when I am singing about God."—Eliana & Charlize Adamos (Youth Choir members)

"I have been a part of this amazing handbell group since it started three years ago. Even though I do have a music background, I find playing handbells challenging. Instead of playing all the notes in a song, each bell is a part of the whole that makes the music. I am thankful that I have been able to use my talents to bring more to our Mass celebration. Being a part of our music ministry has been a blessing to me."—Bonnie Tauer (Hand Bell Choir member)

"These bells make our old souls sing!"—Silver Bells members

**If you are interested in sharing your musical talents, contact**  
**Julie Jasper, Director of Music Ministry at (870)688-9369 or [julesjasper93@gmail.com](mailto:julesjasper93@gmail.com)**



## Catholic Arkansas Sharing Appeal

### What your Donation Can Do!

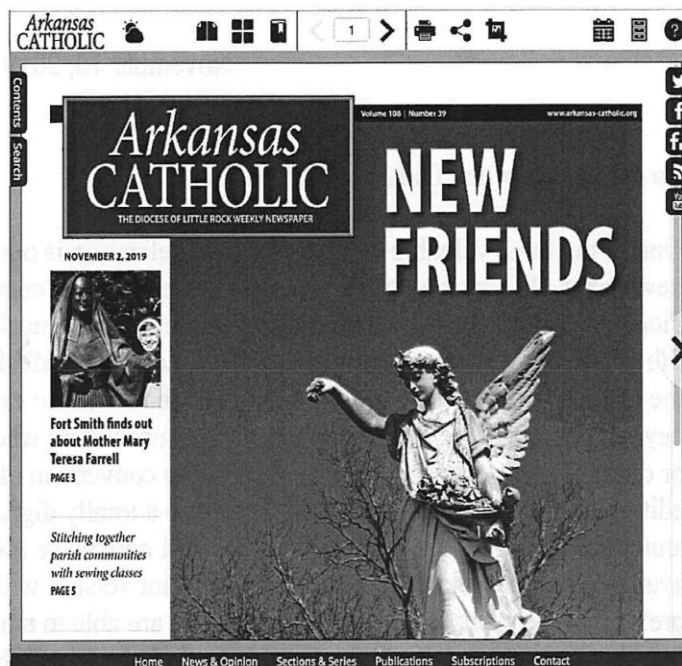
\$25	Provides religious education book for two people.
\$50	Provides a partial scholarship for a student to attend a Campus Ministry retreat.
\$135	Provides a scholarship for one youth to attend a Search weekend.
\$150	Provides utility bill assistance for a family through our Family Assistance Program.
\$250	Provides dental care for a patient of the Westside Free Medical Clinic.
\$500	Covers the cost of an application for a work permit for an eligible immigrant.
\$700	Provides assistance in updating equipment for religious education.
\$1,000	Provides a Project Rachel experience for a woman experiencing the pain of a past abortion.
\$1,500	Provides Bibles and rosaries for people incarcerated in the criminal justice system for six months.
\$2,000	Covers the legal fees for the adoption of a baby through Catholic Adoption Services.
\$4,000	Provides a scholarship for one student to receive a Catholic education for a year in a parish school.
\$36,000	Covers the expenses of educating one seminarian for one year.

# FREE FOR ALL

## Sign up for your free subscription to Arkansas Catholic's Digital Edition


- It's the page-for-page replica of the print edition of *Arkansas Catholic*, to read anywhere you have Internet access. Every page, every story!
- No waiting for the mail
- Searchable access to every issue since 2002
- Easy to read on your desktop computer and almost every tablet and smartphone
- Brilliant color and live web links

**Now it's FREE, courtesy of  
Bishop Anthony B. Taylor**



### AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

#### A tip for iPhone & iPad

- Open Safari and log in to your account at [digital.arkansas-catholic.org](http://digital.arkansas-catholic.org).
- Click the Share  icon on your screen.
- Click "Save to Home Screen."
- Click "Add."

The link is now added to your home screen for fast access.



**[arkansas-catholic.org](http://arkansas-catholic.org)  
(501) 664-0125**

### Sign-up Quick Guide

Claiming your free subscription to Arkansas Catholic Digital is quick and easy.

1. Visit [digital.arkansas-catholic.org](http://digital.arkansas-catholic.org) and click "Sign up."
2. Register for your free account by entering your contact information and setting up a password. This gives you immediate access.
3. On the Welcome page, click the red link to log in to your account.
4. Enter your e-mail and password to read the paper.
  - On Tuesday evenings you will get an email to notify you that the current issue is ready, with a direct link to click.
  - Your new subscription is good for three years. Then, we'll ask you to update your information and tell us you want to continue your free subscription.
  - We never share or sell your personal information.



# MORE than you expect

Stories in *Arkansas Catholic* bring you the faces of faithful Catholics and communities right here at home. You get practical knowledge to support your understanding and lead you toward mature faith. The only way to get it all is to subscribe today, in print or digital format.

## Print edition:

Delivered to your mailbox each week.

## Digital edition:

Read the complete newspaper over the Internet using your computer or most smart devices.

## REGULAR RATE

- ☐ \$11.95 ... Try it! 6-month Special for New Subscribers. .... ☐ \$9.95  
☐ \$28 ..... 1 year (12 months) ..... ☐ \$26  
☐ \$54 ..... 2 years (Save!) ..... ☐ \$50  
☐ \$73 ..... 3 years (Best value) ..... ☐ \$67

## CHECK ONE:

## PRINT EDITION

## SENIOR DISCOUNT (65 and older)

## PRINT+ DIGITAL COMBINATION E-mail address required \*

- ☐ \$33 ..... 1 year (SAVE \$7.95) ..... ☐ \$31

- ☐ DIGITAL EDITION ONLY: \$12.95 a year (all ages) E-mail address needed \*

- ☐ Please bill me

- ☐ Check enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ Check no. \_\_\_\_\_ (Payable to "Arkansas Catholic")

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Day phone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\* E-mail address is necessary for digital edition

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box 7869  
 Little Rock AR 72217-7869  
 (501) 664-0125  
[www.arkansas-catholic.org](http://www.arkansas-catholic.org)

**Arkansas  
CATHOLIC**  
THE VOICES OF LITTLE ROCK AND WEST ARKANSAS

NEWC19

# MAJOR CHANGES TO SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM!!!



**In the Diocese of Little Rock,  
Beginning July 1, 2017:**

**WHO** must do safe environment training and background checks:

**1) Employees**

**2) Volunteers with Routine Contact w/ Minors**

- a. This includes only volunteers who have routine contact with minors as an essential part of their volunteer duties.
- b. Volunteers who do not have routine contact with minors as an essential part of their duties do not have to do safe environment training or background checks.

**WHAT** training programs:

**“CMG Connect”** → online training for **adults**  
(<http://www.dolr.org/safe-environment>)  
(or directly at: <https://littlerock.CMGconnect.org>)

**“Circle of Grace”** → in-classroom training for **children/youth**

We will no longer use VIRTUS’s “Protecting God’s Children” or “Touching Safety.”  
Instead, we will use products supported by **Catholic Mutual Group (CMG)**.

All data from VIRTUS will be moved over to CMG Connect. No one who has already done safe environment training and a background check will have to re-do anything at this time. Users who are due for a 5-year recertification will be notified how to do that by their parish/school safe environment coordinator, who will also have info on both new programs.