



[Jesus said to the crowd,]
"Strive to enter through
the narrow door, for many,
I tell you, will attempt
to enter but will not be
strong enough."

LUKE 13:24

The Narrow Gate

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Some people find love in their lives; others complain of loneliness. Some find peace, while others seem to be perpetually angry. Some live comfortably amid human diversity, yet others insist that the rest of the world be like them. There are those who are able to forgive and compromise and offer compassion and those who cannot. The difference seems to be the ability to forgo one's own desires for the sake of a greater good or the common good. Such may be the narrow gate through which some may not be strong enough to enter.

Phrases like *the kingdom of God* or *the kingdom of heaven* are not just references to places to which we go

but also ways of being or states of existence. They all refer to God's presence, to life with God. You've heard people say they were so happy that they felt it was like heaven on earth. It wasn't a place they went but an experience of being filled with joy and peace. It's pure gift. No one ever finds it by focusing on oneself. It is the narrow gate by which we find our way into such a life. It is the doorway of caring for others. ●

Reflect

What is the "narrow gate" before me now—the most difficult challenge as a follower of Jesus?

ST. BARBARA PARISH

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Dalzell IL 61320

Phone 815-894-2006

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St. Thomas More Site

302 Chestnut Street
Dalzell IL



Holy Trinity Site

Parish Office

212 S Main Street
PO BOX 159
Cherry IL

Adoration Room at STM Site

Open Daily from 9 am-6 pm

Confession Info

Saturday morning, alternating
between STM Site & HT Site
in the Confessional between
10:30 am-11:15am

Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

Pastoral Assistant: Julie Hollinger

Parish Secretary: Melissa Pasillas Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com

Office Hours at HT: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-1pm

Emergency Number: 779-248-2164

CMGConnect DIOCESE OF PEORIA



Reminder for all volunteers

Please complete your

Safe Environment Training that is required by the Diocese on the
website; <https://Peoria.CMGconnect.org>

St. Barbara Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of August 24, 2025

Monday	8/25			† No Mass
Tuesday	8/26	9:00 am	STM Site	† Catherine Hunter
Wednesday	8/27	5:30 pm	HT Site	† Leroy & Lucille Pinter
Thursday	8/28	9:00 am	HT Site	† Gladys & Ivan Hassler
Friday	8/29	9:00 am	STM Site	† Special Intention

St. Barbara Mass Intentions for the weekend of August 30-31, 2025

Saturday	8/30	4:00 pm	ST. Thomas More Site	† Kathy Riva
Sunday	8/31	9:00 am	Holy Trinity Site	† For the Parishioners

Do Not Risk Being Shut Out

What does the image of a door say to us about the kingdom of God? Jesus' story about the door being shut to those who come too late suggests they had offended their host and deserved to be excluded. It was customary for teachers in Jesus' time to close the door on tardy students and not allow them back for a whole week in order to teach them a lesson in discipline and faithfulness.

Jesus told this story in response to the question of who will make it to heaven. Many rabbis held that all Israel would be saved, except for a few blatant sinners who excluded themselves! After all, they were specially chosen by God when He established a covenant with them. Jesus doesn't directly answer the question, however; but His response is nonetheless unsettling on two counts. First, Jesus surprised His listeners by saying that one's membership as a covenanted people does not automatically mean entry into the kingdom of God. Second, Jesus asserts that many from the gentile nations would enter God's kingdom. God's invitation is open to Jew and Gentile alike.

But Jesus warns that we can be excluded if we do not *strive to enter by the narrow door*. What did Jesus mean by this expression? The door which Jesus had in mind was Himself. *"I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved"* (John 10:9). Through the cross Jesus opens the way for us to enter into His kingdom. But we must follow Jesus in the way of the cross. The word *strive* can also be translated *agony*. To enter the kingdom of God one must struggle against the forces of temptation and whatever would hinder us from doing the will of God (even apathy, indifference, and compromise). The good news is that we do not struggle alone. God is with us and His grace is sufficient! As we *"strive side by side for the faith of the gospel"* (Phil. 1:27) Jesus assures us of complete victory. Do you trust in God's grace and help, especially in times of testing and temptation?

As we reflect on today's gospel, let's keep the following prayer in mind: "Lord, help me to always trust in your saving grace, especially when I am tempted and put to the test. Help me to be faithful to you and give me the courage and strength to resist temptation, especially temptation to compromise or to be indifferent to your word." (excerpted from dailyscripture.servantsoftheword.org)

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCD Update:

As the new CCD year approaches, we like to remind parents and students know that we will have registration on Sunday, August 31st after 9:00am Mass. Registration forms are available on our website: www.bureaucatholic.org

Latest Offering's

August 17th Weekend
St. Barbara Parish
Total Collections:
\$2,165.00

Next Confessions

Confession will be
Sat. August 30th
10:30am-11:15am
STM site in the
Confessional

Harvest Mass & Dinner



Travel amidst the farmland of the Illinois River Valley and come and celebrate the beginning of harvest season at Sacré Coeur Retreat Center. An evening of giving thanks to God for a bountiful harvest with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass followed by the fellowship and meal.



MASS AT 5:00PM
DINNER AT 6:00PM

Meal Prices:
\$26/ person \$13/ Child (under 12yr.)
OS/ Child (Under 3yr.)

AUGUST 30, 2025
SACRÉ COEUR RETREAT CENTER
8508 COUNTRY ROAD 100 N
MAGNOLIA, IL 61336

To RSVP Scan QR Code



RSVP by August 25

*Please Note Dietary needs

Dear Padre,

My wife mentioned that neither the Book of Mormon nor the Catholic Bible mentions purgatory. Please comment.

A not-uncommon frustration is when a person searches the Bible for a particular word or phrasing. Frankly, it is expecting too much from the religious text to be able to faithfully record a particular word or phrase that originated hundreds of years after the ancient text was composed. Purgatory is one such example of this frustration. The concept of purgatory is referenced in the biblical text, particularly in 2 Corinthians 5:10 and 7:1, Hebrews 9:27 and 12:14, and 2 Maccabees 12:46, but the word is never used.

This should come as no real surprise because it was not until the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) that the concept was expanded and formed into a theological statement of belief that has become central to Roman Catholicism. And what is that belief? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is clear: “All who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned” (CCC, 1030, 1031a). The Book of Mormon never references purgatory, but it does speak about the afterlife and the experience of “waiting” in the spirit world for the completion of earthly time. ●

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



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The narrow door is an image that could scare us, as if salvation is destined for only a select few, or for perfect people. But...a little further ahead, [Jesus] confirms, “Men will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God.”

Therefore, this door is narrow, but is open to everyone!

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 21, 2022

Monday

August 25

Weekday

1 Thes 1:1–5, 8b–10

Mt 23:13–22

Tuesday

August 26

Weekday

1 Thes 2:1–8

Mt 23:23–26

Wednesday

August 27

St. Monica

1 Thes 2:9–13

Mt 23:27–32

Thursday

August 28

St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

1 Thes 3:7–13

Mt 24:42–51

Friday

August 29

The Passion of St. John the Baptist

1 Thes 4:1–8

Mk 6:17–29

Saturday

August 30

Weekday

1 Thes 4:9–11

Mt 25:14–30

Sunday

August 31

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 3:17–18, 20, 28–29

Heb 12:18–19, 22–24a

Lk 14:1, 7–14