



Judged or Invited?

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2) is the message preached by Jesus after the arrest of John the Baptist. It is important to place this message in context. Jesus is not repeating the preaching of the Baptist. His message is unique and compelling.

Look closely at what Jesus is saying. Do not automatically fill in the blanks with the memories of every sermon you have heard. Try to hear Jesus’ words again, for the first time. Is the emphasis on “repent,” or is the emphasis on the announcement, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand”? Does it make any difference?

Repeat these words and change the emphasis each time. Play with the words. Let the words play with you. Notice how you respond. Notice what makes a difference. Notice how you react, and, most of all, notice whether you feel invited or you feel judged.

The Baptist made no bones about it. You are being judged: “Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees” (Matthew 3:10). Jesus, on the other hand, seems not to judge but to invite: “for the

kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17).

In the invitation, we are challenged to see in

a different way. Use different skills. Refrain from automatic judgments. Seek to understand but, most of all, to accept and to love. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

**What does “repent” mean to me?
A threat or an invitation?**



**“Repent, for the kingdom
of heaven is at hand!”**

MATTHEW 3:2

ST. BARBARA PARISH

302 Chestnut Street
Dalzell IL 61320

Phone 815-894-2006

Email: StBarbaraParish2@outlook.com

Website: www.bureauatholic.org



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

Emergency Number: 779-248-2164

Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com

Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

Pastoral Assistant: Melissa Pasillas

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

Ongoing Parish Fundraising: STM Rav/Tort. Sale | call 815-252-2215 (leave name/phone #/order) \$9.00/bag



CCD Classes

Sunday, January 25th— K- 5th Grade CCD Class

**Sunday, February 1st —6th-8th Grade CCD Class
Children's Mass 9am at HT for K-8th Grade**

St. Barbara Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of January 26, 2026

Monday	01/26			† No Mass
Tuesday	01/27	9:00 am	STM Site	† Kathy Sondgeroth
Wednesday	01/28	5:30 pm	HT Site	† Ron & Joyce Hoscheid
Thursday	01/29	9:00 am	HT Site	† Bob & Betty Ruskusky
Friday	01/30	9:00 am	STM Site	† For the Purgatory Souls

St. Barbara Mass Intentions for the weekend of January 31-February 1, 2026

Saturday	01/31	4:00 pm	St. Thomas More Site	† For the Parishioners
Sunday	02/01	9:00 am	Holy Trinity Site	† Wayne Pinter



CATHOLIC SCHOOL: A "FAITH– BASED FOUNDATION FOR YOUTH"

(Catholic School Week– Jan. 25th-31st)

Catholic Schools

United in Faith and Community

When focused on educating and exercising the minds, bodies and souls of today's youth, Catholic schools shine as beacons of light in a dark and confusing world. When they rise up to the challenges of society and culture, they bring hope and joy to countless Christian families and others who are trying to do their best to serve the Lord in trying times. It is no small feat that Catholic schools have stood strong through the tests of time in America, but there is no reason to think that things are going to get any easier in the near future. While we live in a world where medical and technological advances have, generally, made life more convenient and easier, having a sacramental vision has become way more difficult. As mankind seems to wander further and further away from God, there is no doubt that keeping the faith while growing up is getting harder.

It is only right to take a moment each year and celebrate Catholic Schools Week (CSW). Catholic schools have a specific purpose to form students in love of God and love of neighbor; to be good citizens of the world and to enrich society with the leaven of the Gospel and by example of faith. They are a benefit to our cities and towns — believers and non-believers alike — but that is not what makes them so special.

Faith is the common foundation and pillar upon which all Catholic schools are solidly built. Hence, faith is a beacon which directs people's attention away from earthly distractions and up to the heavens. It is that solid foundation that makes Catholic schools so special.

What does it mean to have faith? It means that you believe in more than what this world has to offer. It means that you have come to know and trust the Lord more than you trust your own eyes. It is an understanding that the realities we meet with our senses are simply passing us by and that eternity, which is beyond, is even more real. As communities of faith, Catholic schools instill in students their destiny to become future saints.

In a day and age when many seem to have lost their way, it is important to remember that the Catholic Church is not just a building or an institution, but the people of God working together to bring about the Kingdom of God today. The role of Catholic schools, an apostolate of the Church, is to raise up the next generation to continue this mission begun by Christ. Yes, these are hard times; yes, it is often a dark and confusing world, but at the center of the storm the light of Christ shines the brightest. Like everything else Catholic schools are in the midst of the fray, but Christ is the center of the school. Christ is that solid foundation upon which they are built, and that makes all the difference.

(Excerpted from catholic.org "David Cooley")

Church Announcements

Holy Hour with Bishop Lou Tylka;
Thursday, February 12th 6pm

There will be an evening of Prayer and Music to celebrate our Diocese on the anniversary of its founding. A reflection will be given in English and Spanish by Fr. Chase Hilgenbrinck, in person and live-streamed from the Cathedral of St. Mary , 607 NE Madison Ave, Peoria, IL

Scholarship Opportunity:

The John Lancaster Spalding scholarship is offering a \$700,000 in scholarship funds which were allocated to students across the Diocese of Peoria for the 2025-2026 school year. For more information, Please visit <https://www.cdop.org/john-lancaster-spalding-scholarship>.

15th
Diocese of Peoria

Latest Offering's

January 18th Weekend

St. Barbara Parish

Total Collections:

\$1,560.00

Next Confessions

Confessions on

Sat. January 31st

10:30am-11:15am

HT in the Confessional

Dear Padre,

Why can't a Protestant receive the Eucharist at a Catholic Mass?

United by baptism, fellow Christians are our brothers and sisters in the Lord. As such, they are always welcome at Catholic Mass, but they do not ordinarily participate in holy Communion. "Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to holy Communion" (Code of Canon Law, 844 §4).

When Catholics receive Holy Communion, they firmly believe the bread and wine are transformed into the Real Presence of Christ. In the Eucharist, we become part of the body of Christ and share in holiness and unity with one another. Our "Amen" to "The Body of Christ" and "The Blood of Christ" means, "Truly, so be it!" It indicates that we affirm our belief in this mystery, which is fundamental to our Catholic identity. If non-Catholics receive the Eucharist but do not embrace this identity and same belief, it may disrespect Catholics who do, as well as disrespect their own identity in the denomination to which they belong.

However, at Mass, fellow Christians can join their prayers with Catholics in praising God. Together, we also pray that the divisions which separate us will finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (John 17:21). ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 26	January 27	January 28	January 29	January 30	January 31	February 1
<i>Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. John Bosco, Priest</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5 Mk 3:22-30	2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19 Mk 3:31-35	Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church 2 Sm 7:4-17 Mk 4:1-20	2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29 Mk 4:21-25	2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17 Mk 4:26-34	2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17 Mk 4:35-41	Zep 2:3; 3:12-13 1 Cor 1:26-31 Mt 5:1-12a

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Dear brothers and sisters, all too much violence exists in the world and our societies. Amid wars, terrorism, human trafficking, and widespread aggression, our children and young people need to be able to experience the culture of life, dialogue, and mutual respect. Above all, they need the witness of...those who have suffered injustice and violence [and] resist the temptation to seek revenge.

ADDRESS TO THE "ARENA OF PEACE," ROME, MAY 30, 2025