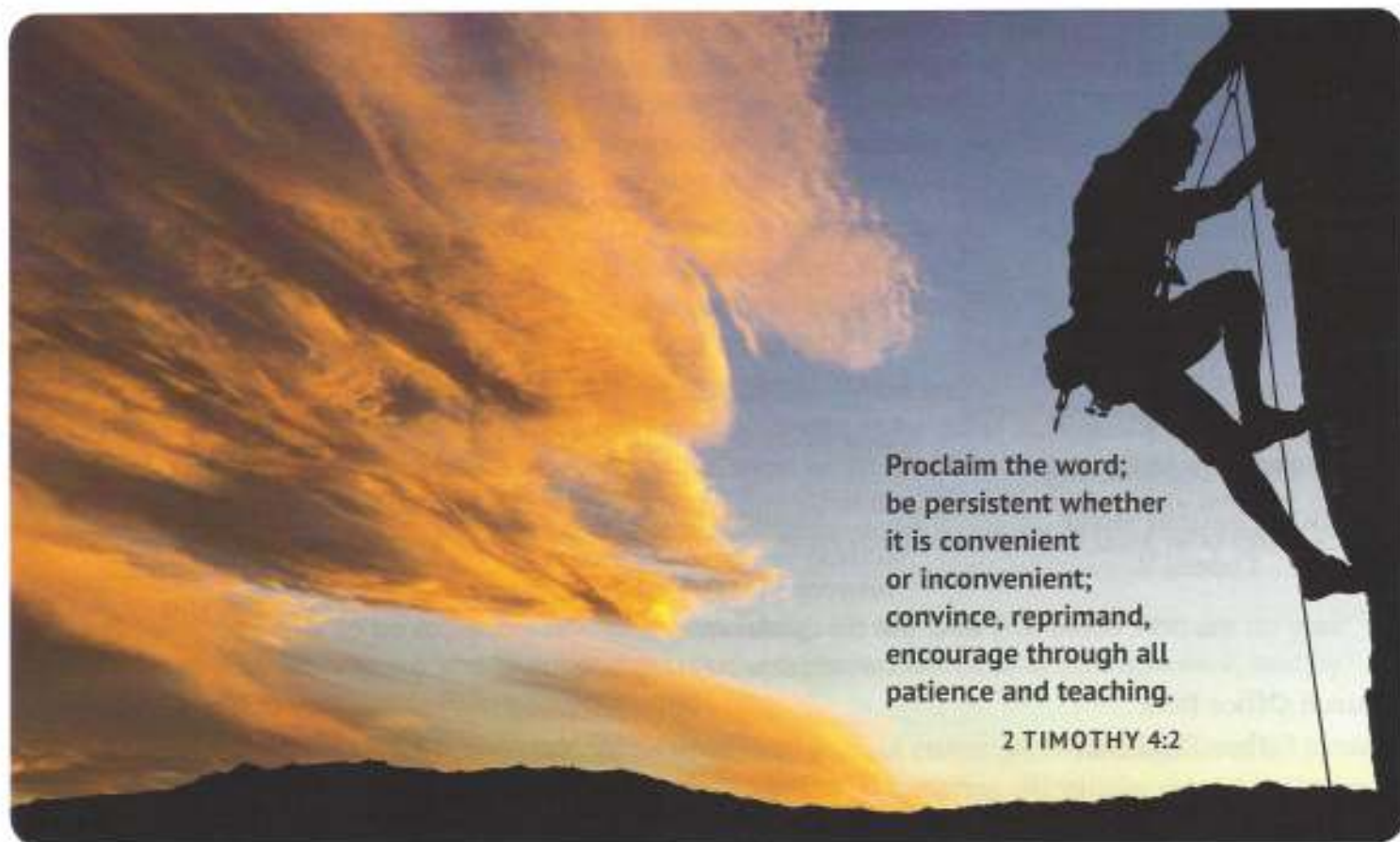




Proclaim the word;
be persistent whether
it is convenient
or inconvenient;
convince, reprimand,
encourage through all
patience and teaching.

2 TIMOTHY 4:2

The Widow God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

I have a friend who likes to say that God always answers prayers; it's just that sometimes God says "no." He'll say that not always getting what we pray for seems to fit the way life is. My difficulty with that piece of religious folk wisdom is that God then comes off as someone who sits around sorting out answers to prayers from the billions of daily requests sent God's way. When I object to my friend's saying, he's quick to remind me that God wants us to pray. Doesn't this week's parable about the widow who plagues the dishonest judge say just that? Don't give up praying. Yet God isn't like a dishonest judge who cares not for any human being. It also presumes that the sheer multiplication of words sent God's way increases the chances that we'll get a positive hearing,

and that God needs to be convinced to do good for us, or at least what we presume is good. But then that presumes that we know better than God.

So perhaps God is not like the judge but like the widow, continually pleading that we might give him a hearing. The purpose of our prayer, then, is not to get God to do what we want, but rather to open ourselves to what God wants for us. That does take some trust, but don't we believe that God knows us better than we know ourselves? That's why the parable ends with the question, "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" ●

Reflect

When I talk to God, do I also listen?

ST. BARBARA PARISH

302 Chestnut Street
Dalzell IL 61320

Phone 815-894-2006
Email: StBarbaraParish2@outlook.com
Website: www.bureaucatholic.org



St. Thomas More Site
302 Chestnut Street
Dalzell 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

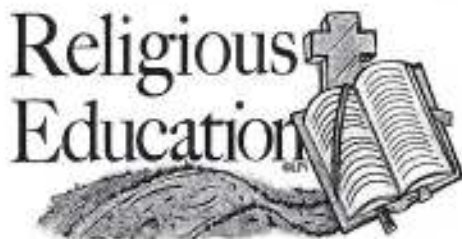


**Holy Trinity Site
Parish Office**
212 S Main Street
PO BOX 159
Cherry IL

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



CCD Classes

Sunday, October 19th —K-5th grade (10:00am-11:00am)

Sunday, October 26th – 6th-8th grade class(10:00am-11:30am)

St. Barbara Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of October 20, 2025

Monday	10/20		† No Mass
Tuesday	10/21	9:00 am STM Site	† No Mass—Assemb. Days
Wednesday	10/22	5:30 pm HT Site	† No Mass —Assemb. Days
Thursday	10/23	9:00 am HT Site	† No Mass— See Announcement
Friday	10/24	9:00 am STM Site	† No Mass—See Announcement

St. Barbara Mass Intentions for the weekend of October 25 -26, 2025

Saturday	10/25	4:00 pm ST. Thomas More Site	† Norma Templeton
Sunday	10/26	9:00 am Holy Trinity Site	† For the Parishioners

THE PERSISTENT WIDOW (LK 18:1-8)

Jesus uses this parable to teach His disciples never to give up. He shows them the importance of persistence and resilience. He knows that life involves disappointment, loss, injustice, and persecution—all very good reasons to give up and lose hope! But a life attuned to God's presence, justice, and goodness is a life that can endure.

According to Mosaic law, judges were to give special attention to widows, primarily because of their dependence upon men. When the husband died, a widow was left at the mercy of relatives and the eldest son to provide for her. It would be uncommon for a widow during this time to be able to advocate for herself. Men were the ones who would do that kind of work on behalf of their families. As a widow, she was one of the marginalized in her society. Most widows were targets of oppression and fraud. However, her marginalized status did not stop her in her pursuit of justice.

The widow in this parable functions as a model for discipleship with respect to persistent prayer. She goes before the unjust judge with her petition over and over, not taking no for an answer. She was resilient and she was faithful to what she believed in. She was persistent in her pursuit of justice.

Resilience manifests itself individually and collectively. When we talk about being resilient and having the strength of character not to give up, being resilient can be done individually by encouraging yourself. You can find it within yourself to keep going, even when it seems that all odds are stacked against you. This is why Jesus tells the story "to show them that they should always pray and not give up." Prayer cultivates perseverance. And, what is more, within you is the Spirit of God, who intercedes on your behalf.

Resilience can also be experienced in the community. It's the idea that those who are on your side and know your story can come to support you through prayer, words of encouragement, and by physically coming to your aid to help with your needs.

This widow's persistence illustrates our need to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Prayer changes us more than it changes the people around us. It deepens our faith and trust in God and empowers us to wait with hope for God to act. It's the reason why Jesus ends the parable to His disciples with the question of whether or not the Son of Man will find anyone faithful when He comes. This gospel passage thus challenges us not just to pray but to trust in God. Even when the justice that we seek does not come immediately, will we have enough faith to endure until change happens?

The persistent widow is an example of the oppressed and marginalized in our society. The judge is the earthly powers of privilege that stand in the way of those seeking justice and equity. Her persistence and resilience illustrates our need to go before God, who fights for justice on our behalf, and also to pursue justice in earthly channels. We may not see the full picture of a just society in our lifetimes, but we can continue praying, seeking, knocking, and asking God to vindicate in all areas of our lives. (excerpted from: www.faithward.org)

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remembrance Candles for All Souls Day: All Souls Day is just around the corner. As in previous years, we are going to have candles available for you to purchase in remembrance of loved ones. Candles will be \$5 each.

Mass Schedule Notice: Please note that, because Fr. Thaddeus will be out of town, there will be NO weekday Mass and NO confession.

2025 ADA Update

Latest Offering's
October 12th Weekend

St. Barbara Parish

Total Collections:
\$2,697.00

St. Barbara Parish ADA Goal is \$33,541.00

Pledged	\$5,385.00
Received	\$5,385.00

Next Confessions

Confession will be

Sat. October 25th

No Confessions

Dear Padre,

What is the Church's view on having crystal stones or sage in the home to bring in positive energy?

The Church does not have an official position on every possible human action or activity. The Church believes in the discerning principle of maturity and fully expects that the people of God will use the ability that has been entrusted to them by the Creator in a positive manner. The Church understands the power of mystery and the power of symbols but rightfully assigns any "energy" that mystery and symbols may generate to the power of the Holy Spirit. Inanimate objects, by the very definition of "inanimate," do not generate energy. They may be symbols of energy, but they do not have energy in and of themselves.

If you enjoy crystals because of their beauty or because of the way they diffuse light, then there is no harm in having them in your house. If you like the smell of sage, then use it and enjoy it. All symbols have different meanings, depending on how they are understood and used by the people who gathered, collect, and store them for use. These symbols have no power in and of themselves for good or for evil. However, if you live in a culture that has identified the meaning of a symbol, and that assigned meaning contradicts Christian belief and practice, it would be best to avoid that symbol. ●



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

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

Peace is first and foremost a gift. It is the first gift of Christ: "My peace I give to you" (John 14:27).... It engages and challenges each of us...demanding that first of all we work on ourselves. Peace is built in the heart and from the heart, by

*eliminating pride
and vindictiveness
and carefully
choosing our words.
For words, too, not
only weapons, can
wound and even kill.*

**AUDIENCE OF THE
HOLY FATHER, ROME,
MAY 16, 2025**



Monday

October 20

Weekday

Rom 4:20-25

Lk 12:13-21

Tuesday

October 21

Weekday

Rom 5:12, 15b,

17-19, 20b-21

Lk 12:35-38

Wednesday

October 22

Weekday

Rom 6:12-18

Lk 12:39-48

Thursday

October 23

Weekday

Rom 6:19-23

Lk 12:49-53

Friday

October 24

Weekday

Rom 7:18-25a

Lk 12:54-59

Saturday

October 24

Weekday

Rom 8:1-11

Lk 13:1-9

Sunday

October 25

Thirtieth Sunday

in Ordinary Time

Sir 35:12-14, 16-18

2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18

Lk 18:9-14