



Like the Rings of a Tree

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

For some, going to confession can bring a sense of relief—as if the slate has now been wiped clean; as if we have gotten a do-over with life or the past has been left behind as though it never happened. Our past, however, is always with us—the good and the bad, the joys and the sadness, the grace and the sin. There are no do-overs. We carry with us the marks of our lives simply because every experience, every kindness and cruelty, every moment of generosity and selfishness, all have made us into who are. We are much like a tree that adds a ring to its trunk each year. The ring always bears the marks of that year, whether it has been a year of rain or drought, whether insects have attacked, or whether Mother Nature has been kind. The tree always remembers and carries with it forever the rings of what life has been.

Our lives are the same. The story of the Pharisee and the tax collector tells this tale. Like the Pharisee, we have much good in our lives. We too have prayed and have been generous. We have been kind and honest and cared for the poor. We have tried to be faithful. The Pharisee's downfall was that he forgot about his sinfulness; he forgot he needed God's mercy. The tax collector, on the other hand, remembered his failings. Both were in need of God's love. Only the tax collector seemed to realize it. ●

Reflect

*How has my life been a mixture
of sin and grace?*

[Jesus said,] "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

LUKE 18:14



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

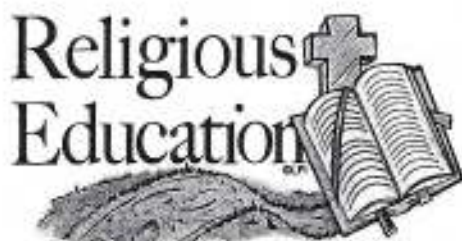
Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

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

Sunday, November 2nd — Children's Mass all students
K-5th grade (10:00am-11:00am)

St. Barbara Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of October 27, 2025

Monday	10/27		† No Mass
Tuesday	10/28	9:00 am STM Site	† No Mass—See Announcement
Wednesday	10/29	5:30 pm HT Site	† No Mass—See Announcement
Thursday	10/30	9:00 am HT Site	† Bob McCook
Friday	10/31	9:00 am STM Site	† Deceased Passini Family

St. Barbara Mass Intentions for the weekend of November 1-2, 2025

Saturday	11/1	4:00 pm	ST. Thomas More Site	† Deceased Parishioners
Sunday	11/2	9:00 am	Holy Trinity Site	† Joyce Gillan

November, A Month Dedicated to Praying for Souls

As the beautiful month of October is gradually moving away, the Church reminds us that the following month, November, is the month traditionally dedicated to praying for all the Souls in Purgatory. This presents us with the opportunity to reflect on a beautiful Catholic teaching, the teaching on Purgatory, which is really the mercy of God in action. If there was no such thing as Purgatory, there would be only two options for us after death: heaven and hell. And if you have to be perfect to enter the presence of God, we would all be in trouble! Thank God we have the possibility of Purgatory.

While it's true that the Souls in Purgatory are on their way to union with God, they depend on our prayers. There is suffering involved in their purification and this is why Catholics pray for the dead. We should assist the Holy Souls with our prayers. And we should all be interested in this because most likely we will be among those Holy Souls some day!

Below, please find some suggestions for specific things we can do in November to help speed up the souls' trip to heaven:

Offer Masses: By far the greatest sacrifice we can offer for the Souls in Purgatory would be to offer Masses. One Mass is worth more than the whole created universe. How pleasing this is to God and how happy the suffering Souls in Purgatory will be due to your offerings!

Our Lady & the Rosary: Saints have pointed out in visions and revelations the power that Our Lady has to help and assist the Souls in Purgatory. On Marian feasts and celebrations, the suffering of the souls is alleviated, and many arrive at their eternal destiny—Heaven. Pray the Rosary for the Souls in Purgatory.

Offer Up Your Sufferings for the Suffering Souls: So much suffering in the world, but so much suffering is actually wasted. How true the saying: *"Suffering either makes you better or bitter!"* Whatever suffering you may be undergoing, offer it up to God for the suffering Souls in Purgatory.

(The above article is a compilation of setonlakeridge.org; catholicexchange.com)

Church Announcements

Mass schedule for All Saints Day and All Souls Day

On Saturday, November 1, the Solemnity of All Saints this year is NOT a holy day of obligation. All Souls Day Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, November 1st - 4:00pm at STM site. Please note : All Souls Day candles are available to purchase for \$5 each in remembrance of loved ones.

From The Pastor's Desk

Fr. Thaddeus will return on October 30th. In the meantime please contact the office if you are in need of any assistance.

Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Spring Valley

Is seeking a qualified and dedicated individual to join the team as a Bookkeeper. Please contact the Parish office for more information at 815-663-3731.

Latest Offering's

October 19th Weekend

St. Barbara Parish

Total Collections:

\$2,044.00



Next Confessions

Confession will be
Sat. November 1st
10:30am-11:15am
STM site in the
Confessional

Dear Padre,

Is it wrong for children to dress up as zombies and devils and other evil creatures for Halloween?

No. It is perfectly acceptable to choose these kinds of costumes and to participate in the festivities of Halloween. Halloween is primarily a secular celebration. Although it is true that the original celebration is deeply rooted in the Christian tradition, that tradition is more properly celebrated during the great feast days of the Church that follow Halloween: All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

Mythological representations, and the costumes that remind us of these kind of characters, are to be understood with a sense of fun and mischief. There is no difference between a ghost, a goblin, a zombie, Captain America, Superman, or one of the Mario Brothers. They are all fictional characters in the very human stories we share with each other. The meaning we assign to them must be proportional to what they represent. On Halloween, they represent nothing more than a person in costume. It could be an entirely different story under different circumstances in which there might be the possibility of a misunderstanding about the meaning of such a costume. Halloween pretty much blurs that distinction and takes away the misunderstanding. It is meant to be entertaining and fun. That is all. ●

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

My own story is that of a citizen, the descendant of immigrants, who in turn chose to emigrate. All of us, in the course of our lives, can find ourselves healthy or sick, employed or unemployed, living in our native land or in a foreign country, yet our dignity always remains unchanged: it is the dignity of a creature willed and loved by God.

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



Monday

October 27

Weekday

Rom 8:12-17

Lk 13:10-17

Tuesday

October 28

Sts. Simon and Jude,

Apostles

Eph 2:19-22

Lk 6:12-16

Wednesday

October 29

Weekday

Rom 8:26-30

Lk 13:22-30

Thursday

October 30

Weekday

Rom 8:31b-39

Lk 13:31-35

Friday

October 31

Weekday

Rom 9:1-5

Lk 14:1-6

Saturday

November 1

All Saints

Rv 7:2-4, 9-14

1 Jn 3:1-3

Mt 5:1-12a

Sunday

November 2

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)

Wis 3:1-9

Rom 5:5-11 or Rom 6:3-9

Jn 6:37-40

(These readings or any from no. 668 or from the Masses for the Dead)