



## Never Big Enough

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**C**hildhood daydreams come peppered with visions of heroes and heroines, movie stars and rock stars, fame and notoriety. Eventually, however, we adjust our visions of what we can become as we are confronted by the reality of who we are. Seldom, however, are our daydreams and visions big enough. They tend to be only about ourselves, barely including others.

The same may be said about becoming people of faith. Too readily we think of faith simply as our personal decision to believe in God. Faith then becomes one-sided—the prayers we say, the Masses we attend, the Church's rules we obey. Like the people of the prophet Habakkuk's day, we may bemoan, "I cry for help and you do not listen.... [I] cry out to you, 'Violence!' and you do not intervene" (Habakkuk 1:2).

Then, too, our faith and its vision for life are not big enough, for we do not allow room for God to slip into our lives and do what God does. Then, faith is only about ourselves—our needs and struggles and pains. Faith needs to be a surrender to God's vision, not simply for ourselves, but for all of life. [The LORD said,] "The vision is a witness for the appointed time...it will not disappoint. If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late" (Habakkuk 2:3). The difficulty is that we want God to make life perfect for us the way we want it and when we want it. Then, it becomes our vision for life and not God's. ●

### Reflect

*Have I ever given up my vision or plan and found God's plan to be perfect for me?*

God did not give us a spirit of cowardice  
but rather of power and love and self-control.

2 TIMOTHY 1:7



# ST. BARBARA PARISH

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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**



### CCD Classes

Sunday, October 5th — Children's Mass /K-8th grade (10:15am-11:15am)

Sunday, October 12th — 6th-8th grade class

Make-up test for Confirmation students

## St. Barbara Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of October 6, 2025

|           |       |         |          |                         |
|-----------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------------|
| Monday    | 10/6  |         |          | † No Mass               |
| Tuesday   | 10/7  | 9:00 am | STM Site | † No Mass               |
| Wednesday | 10/8  | 5:30 pm | HT Site  | † No Mass               |
| Thursday  | 10/9  | 9:00 am | HT Site  | † Wayne Pinter          |
| Friday    | 10/10 | 9:00 am | STM Site | † Gene & Josie Weberski |

## St. Barbara Mass Intentions for the weekend of October 11-12, 2025

|          |       |         |                      |                           |
|----------|-------|---------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Saturday | 10/11 | 4:00 pm | ST. Thomas More Site | † Deceased Cattani Family |
| Sunday   | 10/12 | 9:00 am | Holy Trinity Site    | † For the Parishioners    |



## LIVE THE GOSPEL OF LIFE

# Respect Life

### October: Respect Life Month

On March 25th 1995, Pope St. John Paul II wrote that the Gospel of life is at the *heart* of Jesus' saving message to the world (*Evangelium vitae* 1). In taking on human flesh, dwelling among us, and sacrificing His very life for our redemption, Christ reveals the profound dignity of every human person. This God-given dignity does not change with our stage of life, abilities, level of independence, or any other varying circumstance.

Rather, it is rooted in the permanent fact that each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, created to share in the very life of God Himself. The human person is a "manifestation of God in the world, a sign of His presence, a trace of His glory" (EV 34). And we must reflect this truth in how we act and how we treat one another.

The truth of the Gospel of life is at the foundation of who we are as followers of Christ. In His earthly life, Jesus provided the perfect model for how we are to love our neighbor and live out the Gospel call: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt. 25:40).

Jesus calls each of us to "care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible" (EV 87). The Gospel of life is intrinsic to the whole Christian life and foundational to the decisions we make on a daily basis. For, "the Gospel of God's love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person and the Gospel of life are a *single and indivisible Gospel*" (EV 2, emphasis added).

In the aforementioned encyclical, Pope St. John Paul II recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. He places particular emphasis, however, on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers' wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the "least of these" in our world's estimation. Practices such as abortion and assisted suicide tragically reject the truth that human life is always to be cherished and defended with loving concern.

(Excerpted from: [www.respectlife.org](http://www.respectlife.org))

### CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parishioners: October 18-19 and October 25-26, respectively, will be the Annual Diocesan Mass Count weekends. Please make sure you attend Mass on these days.

From the Pastors Desk: Fr. Thaddeus Tran will be away for the annual priestly retreat. There will be no Mass on Tuesday October 7th and Wednesday, October 8th.

#### Upcoming/Ongoing Church Events

Fundraiser: STM Rav/Tort | call 815-252-2215 (leave name/ phone number/order) | \$9.00/bag

#### Latest Offering's

September 28th Weekend

St. Barbara Parish

Total Collections:  
\$1,777.00

#### Next Confessions

Confession will be

Sat. October 11th

10:30am-11:15am

STM site in the  
Confessional



# Dear Padre,

*Is envy a sin? I find myself becoming very envious of people who have more than I do. I find it difficult to be content with what my family and I have now.*

We live in a climate that encourages discontent with what we have. Advertising plays on our feelings of envy and our desire for possessions. In this almost universal rush to possess more and better material objects, Christians are called to a counter-witness. We are called to embrace a freedom and a poverty of spirit that actually rejoices in the blessings of others.

The Tenth Commandment alerts us to the danger of undisciplined envy: "You shall not covet...anything that belongs to your neighbor" (Exodus 20:17). In the New Testament, Jesus says that where our treasure is, there also will be our heart. (See Matthew 6:21.) The real antidote to envy, then, is prayers of thanks for all God has given to us and others. To feel envious, to desire or covet someone else's possessions, is not in itself a mortal sin. But to let that feeling invade your mind, to indulge it and rationalize it, is to let that feeling harden into an envious frame of mind. Then you are flirting with real sin. The grave sin is to allow these envious thoughts to drive you to any injustice or evil. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* sums it up well: "Would you like to see God glorified by you? Then rejoice in your brother's [and sister's] progress, and you will immediately give glory to God" (2540). ●

Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSsR / [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org)

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

| Monday          | Tuesday                | Wednesday  | Thursday     | Friday            | Saturday    | Sunday                                |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| October 6       | October 7              | October 8  | October 9    | October 10        | October 11  | October 12                            |
| Weekday         | Our Lady of the Rosary | Weekday    | Weekday      | Weekday           | Weekday     | Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| Jon 1:1-2:2, 11 | Jon 3:1-10             | Jon 4:1-11 | Mal 3:13-20b | Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2 | Jl 4:12-21  | 2 Kgs 5:14-17                         |
| Lk 10:25-37     | Lk 10:38-42            | Lk 11:1-4  | Lk 11:5-13   | Lk 11:15-26       | Lk 11:27-28 | 2 Tm 2:8-13                           |
|                 |                        |            |              |                   |             | Lk 17:11-19                           |



## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*There is so little dialogue around us; shouting often replaces it, not infrequently in the form of fake news and irrational arguments proposed by a few loud voices. Deeper reflection and study are essential, as well as a commitment to encounter and listen to the poor.*

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 17, 2025