

Dear Padre,

I went to confession, and then, months later, my priest was removed for alcoholism and theft. Is my confession still worthy?

Your confession is not dependent on the worthiness or the unworthiness of the priest. Your confession is made to Jesus; the priest is a witness who pronounces the words of absolution that Jesus intended in the sacrament. “From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the Church, the power of Christ and his Spirit acts in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1128).

The question of the efficacy of the sacrament and the unworthiness of the minister who performs the sacrament in the name of the Church is not new. During the time of persecution, in the early centuries of the Church, some people, including priests and bishops, avoided martyrdom by offering the required oblation to Caesar. Later, they repented and returned to the Christian community, a community that included the surviving family and friends of the men and women who were martyred. The question was asked, and with some animated energy, “How could these ministers who sinned to save their own lives now represent the Church?” The answer, arrived at with patience and discernment, is that the minister is only the representative of the sacrament, not the source of the sacrament. Jesus is faithful, even when his ministers have been unfaithful. ●

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



GERANI



In case of Inclement Weather



PLEASE CALL DIVINE MERCY PASTORAL UNIT OFFICE AT 506-273-2913 FOR UPDATES ON CHURCH MASSES OR EVENTS TO SEE IF THEY HAVE BEEN CANCELLED OR NOT.

WELCOME TO DIVINE MERCY PASTORAL UNIT
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST, 2025

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF EDMUNDSTON Bishop Claude Champagne o.m.i.
Father Gilbert Doddatto i.v.Dei: Moderator, 506-273-0065 Father Curtis Sappier: Asst. Moderator
44 MARIAN DRIVE, PERTH-ANDOVER, N.B. E7H3A7 OFFICE: 506-273-2913
FAX: 506-273-4177 EMAIL: stmary@nb.sympatico.ca WEBSITE: divinemercy-nb.ca
OFFICE MANAGER: STILLMAN BAKER 506-273-0189. OFFICE OPEN TUESDAY AT ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS & WEDNESDAY AT ST. PATRICK’S. PLEASE CALL AHEAD OF TIME. FOR ALL SACRAMENTS: Please contact Father Gilbert at 506-273-0065.

If you wish to send an e-transfer to any of our parishes, please contact Office Manager for Divine Mercy Pastoral Unit: Stillman Baker at 506-273-0189.

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



I think it is important for all of us to learn how to listen more, to enter into dialogue. First and foremost, with the Lord: always listen to the word of God. Then also listen

to others, to know how to build bridges, to know how to listen without judging, not closing the doors [and] thinking that we have all the truth and no one else can tell us anything.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 11, 2025

Monday

December 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24–28
Lk 1:46–56

Tuesday

December 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24
Lk 1:57–66

Wednesday

December 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67–79

Thursday

December 25
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Is 52:7–10
Heb 1:1–6
Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14

Friday

December 26
St. Stephen, the First Martyr
Acts 6:8–10;
7:54–59
Mt 10:17–22

Saturday

December 27
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1–4
Jn 20:1a, 2–8

Sunday

December 28
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 7:10–14 / Romans 1:1–7 / Matthew 1:18–24



Close Enough!

MIGUEL DULICK

It is the fourth Sunday of Advent. When Christmas is this close, one takes that final leap. Isaiah is centuries from Christmas, but he cannot wait! He sees the “sign” as clear as day: “the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son” (Isaiah 7:14). And how about that Son! None other than “Emmanuel” himself—God-With-Us! Paul, too, is bursting at the seams! Inspired by what he calls “the obedience of faith” (Romans 5), he is excited to see the gospel thriving even among the Gentiles. For him, the “Spirit of holiness” is a gift offered to all—Christmas every day, you might say.

Speaking of “obedience of faith,” Joseph is the perfect example. The word “obey” comes from the same root as “to hear,” and Joseph has almost supernatural ears! Matthew, the former tax collector, tells “how the birth of Jesus Christ came about” in today’s gospel reading like a bookkeeper—the Holy Spirit in Column A, Joseph in Column B, with Mary in the middle. But when an angel whispers to Joseph at night, his dream comes true: “he took his wife into his home.” Everything is set for Emmanuel!

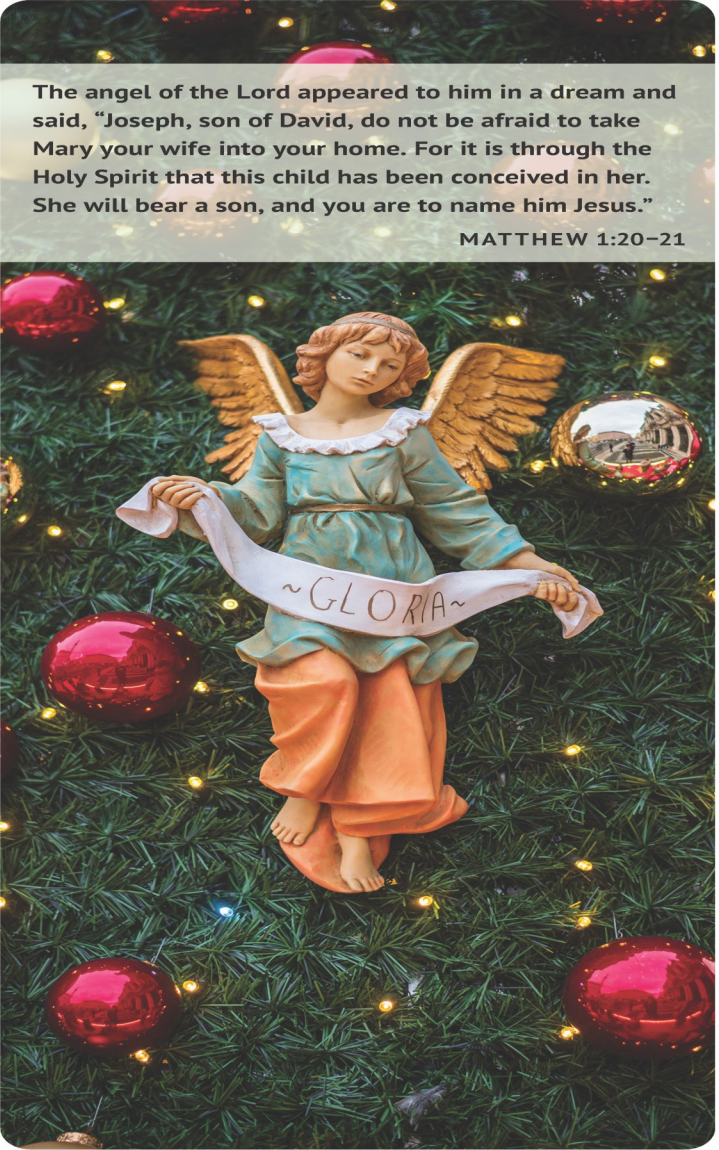
So, the Bible is brimming with Christmas, that is, “God-With-Us,” from end to end. And when a virgin can conceive, are any of us exempt from “birthing” Jesus in our midst? Even when a “happy holiday” seems impossible in the midst of war or violence or poverty, when our ears hear only silence, let’s sing Christmas carols every day! ●



SCAN TO LEARN ABOUT AUTHOR MIGUEL DULICK

Reflect

How am I at listening? Can I find new insights in old stories that I think I know so well?



CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES FOR DIVINE MERCY PASTORAL UNIT

VIGIL MASSES FOR THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD—WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 2025

St. Thomas Aquinas, Plaster Rock: Mass: 3:00 P.M. Father Curtis

Our Lady of Mercy (Aroostook) 3:15 P.M. Father Gilbert

St. Joseph (Tilley) 4:30 P.M. Father Gilbert

St. Patrick: (2154 Route 130 DSL of Grand Falls) 5:45 P.M. Father Gilbert

Our Lady of the Assumption (Blue Bell) 6:00 P.M. Father Curtis

St. Mary of the Angels (Perth-Andover) 7:00 P.M. Father Gilbert

St. Therasas of the Child Jesus (Anderson road) 8:00 P.M. Father Curtis

St. Anne’s (Tobique First Nation) 11:00 P.M. Father Curtis

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, 2025

St. Mary of the Angels (Perth-Andover) Mass: 10:30 a.m. Father Gilbert

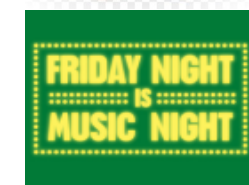
St. Anne’s (Tobique First Nation) Mass: 12:00 Noon Father Curtis

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026

SOLEMNITY OF MARY: MOTHER OF GOD: THURSDAY, JANUARY 1ST, 2026

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS MASS: 11:00 A.M. FATHER GILBERT

ST. ANNE’S (TOBIQUE FIRST NATION) MASS: 12 NOON FATHER CURTIS



MERRY CRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026

There is something so special about this time of year for all of us. People sharing their Christmas stories, recreating their Christmas traditions, and receiving a Christmas blessing when they open their mail. We should cherish these moments that God gives us at Christmas. Spend some time with family, enjoy their presence. Contact your friends, near and far away, remind them how special they are to you. Enjoy this time of celebrating the birth of Jesus ion our world and know that God embraces us in all the ups and downs of life. GOD IS WITH US—plain and simple. Jesus is there for us.

A very Holy and Happy Christmas and a Special New Year to all.

Father Curtis and Father Gilbert.

St. Anne's: Tobique First Nation:
Every Wednesday at 7:00 P.M.

St. Mary of the Angels:
Weekday Masses:
will be announced in church on Sundays.



Our Lady of Mercy:
Memorial wreath

Please contact:
Doreen Roach:
506-273-3020.

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the last purple candle is called the “Angels Candle.” It is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent and represents love. Let us Pray: All-powerful God, Your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of Your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to her the voice which announces His Glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for His coming. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. AMEN.

A HEALING PRAYER TO ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS (LITTLE FLOWER)

Dearest St. Therese: You are the Little Flower of Jesus. Pray this day that I may be made well in body, mind, and spirit. Help me to always, see, as you so clearly did, that my sufferings and trials are meant to cleanse and purify me that I may be more worthy to receive God's unending love. AMEN.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS (PLASTER ROCK) AUCTION 45 CARD GAMES
Cards will resume on Monday, January 5th, 2026.

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS (PERTH-ANDOVER) AUCTION 45 CARD GAMES
No Cards in December. Will resume on January 7th, 2026.

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS (PERTH-ANDOVER) 50/50 BINGO
NEXT BINGO: SUNDAY, JANUARY 25TH, 2026. MORE INFO TO FOLLOW.

ASSUMPTION BLUE BELL (3710, ROUTE 108) FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC
Friday evenings from 7:00 P.M. until 10:00 P.M. With Keith and country friends.
Cost: \$5.00. Canteen open. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
NO MUSIC ON DECEMBER 26 AND JANUARY 2ND, 2026
WILL RESUME ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 9TH, 2026

ST. PATRICK'S: (2154, ROUTE 130 DSL OF GRAND FALLS, N.B. E3Z1N3)
NEXT SALE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH. **NO SALE DECEMBER 27TH.**
WILL RESUME ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 3RD, 2026
SALES ARE FROM 9:00 A.M. UNTIL 3:00 P.M. CONTACT: 506-273-0419.

ASSUMPTION BLUE BELL: (3710, ROUTE 108, BLUE BELL, N.B. E7G2S4)
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT FATHER GILBERT: 506-273-2913.
WE ARE NOW NOT ACCEPTING ANY CLOTHES OR ITEMS.
NEXT RUMMAGE SALE WILL BE IN MARCH 2026

DECEMBER 20TH/21ST, 2025: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Our Lady of Mercy Mass-3:30 PM-Sat., Dec. 20th Father Gilbert
+For Clayton Theriault by Tim, Heather and Family.
St. Patrick Mass 9:00am-Sunday, December 21st Father Curtis
+For the deceased member of the O'Neil Family
by Kelly and Paul Morin and Family.

St. Theresa Mass 9:00 am—Sunday, December 21st Fr. Gilbert
+For all the faithful departed.

St. Thomas Aq. Mass 10:00am Sunday, Dec. 21st Father Gilbert
+For all the faithful departed.

St. Mary's Mass—10:30am—Sunday, December 21st Father Curtis
+For Leland Clark by Mom
+Leslie Clark by Lorraine and Family.

St. Joseph LOTW—10:30 am Sunday, December 21st P.A. Anita
No Intentions.

Assumption (BB) Mass—11:00am- Sun., Dec. 21st Father Gilbert
+For all the faithful departed.

St. Anne's Mass—12Noon—Sunday, December 21st Father Curtis
+For all the faithful departed.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27TH-SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH: HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Our Lady of Mercy Mass-3:30 PM-Sat., Dec. 27th Father Gilbert
+For all the faithful departed.

St. Patrick Mass 9:00am-Sunday, December 28th Father Gilbert
+For the deceased member of the Morin Family
by Kelly and Paul Morin and Family.

St. Theresa Mass 9:00 am—Sunday, December 28th Father Curtis
+For all the faithful departed.

St. Thomas Aq. LOTW 10:00am Sunday, Dec. 28th P. A. Anne
No Intentions.

St. Mary's Mass—10:30am—Sunday, December 28th Fr. Gilbert
+For Albert & Shirley Michaud by Susan Michaud
+For Alton MacDonald by Jeannine and Family.

St. Joseph Mass—10:30 am Sunday, December 28th Father Curtis
+For all the faithful departed.

Assumption (BB) LOTW —11:00am- Sunday, Dec. 28th P. A. Anne
No Intentions.

St. Anne's Mass—12Noon—Sunday, December 21st Father Curtis
+For all the faithful departed.

SAT. JAN. 3RD-SUN., JAN. 4TH: EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Our Lady of Mercy Mass-3:30 PM-Sat., Jan. 3rd Father Gilbert

St. Patrick Mass 9:00am-Sunday, January 4th Father Gilbert

St. Theresa Mass 9:00 am—Sunday, January 4th Father Curtis

St. Thomas Aq. Mass 10:00am Sunday, January 4th Father Curtis

St. Mary's Mass—10:30am—Sunday, January 4th Father Gilbert

St. Joseph —LOTW 10:30 am Sunday, January 4th P.A. Anita

Assumption (BB) Mass—11:00am- Sun., Jan. 4th Father Curtis

St. Anne's Mass—LOTW 12Noon—Sunday, Jan. 4th P.A. Anita

INTENTIONS WILL BE ADDED IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN

PRAYER LIST: MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP: PRAY FOR US.



We Pray for all those
who are in hospitals,
manors, villas and
special care homes.

We also pray for:
Rejeanne Fournier,
Francis McCarthy,
Erin-Beth Daneluk,
Corey St. Peter,
Bonnie Campbell,
John Paul Fournier,
Derick Winzar,
Marshall Fournier,
Clinton Robinson,
Jeffrey Nyman,
Anne Marie Levesque,
Erik Parent,
Robert Baker,
Martina McQuade— Searles,
Adena Robinson,
Mac Paris,
Douglas Canam,
Janet McIntosh,
Eileen McLaughlin,
Ella Deschenes,
Helen McLaughlin,
Rose Finnemore,
Agathe & Cecil Morrissey,
Judy Doucette,
Shirley Gamblin,
Jean Beaulieu,
Fern Dee, Eveleigh Watson,
Dave & Sharon Eagan,
Clovis “Sonny” Pelletier,
David Brown,
Margaret Wells,
Melodie Kinney
Lawrence Allen,
Braelyn Rossignol,
John L. Fournier,
Rose Jeppesen,
Marlene Dubee,
Hughette Morin,
Don Luxton
Kirk St. Peter
Sr. Almyre Doucet &
Sr. Evangeline Poirier, r.h.s.j.
MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP:
PRAY FOR US