

Dear Padre,

Does the Church promote adoption as a response to infertility? If so, why?

The Church indeed promotes adoption, but not solely as a response to infertility. Church teaching presents adoption as an alternative way that a couple might direct their generosity and desire to be life-giving through children. While recognizing the suffering of infertility, the Church also sees the great need of children throughout the world who, for one reason or another, haven't been able to live with their biological parents.

The call to adopt and care for children in need, however, is addressed to all believers who are able to help. The theological foundation for reaching out to adopt children is linked to our being brothers and sisters in Christ, and that we are called to be stewards of the lives of one another. In some instances, people feel called to care for needy children of the world by adopting them and bringing them into a new family to develop and grow.

In other situations, perhaps Christians could show extraordinary love by "adopting" a child or a family of children by supporting them in their own country through assistance to relatives who could not otherwise look after the child. This is obviously not like raising a child in your own home, but think of what it might do for a child in his own home country. A key principle that should underlie the care of orphans is "what is best for the child."

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Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

The goal we must set ourselves...is that no mother be in a position to leave her child. But we must also ensure that in the face of any event, even tragic, that may detach a child from his or her parents, there are structures and processes...in which childhood is always protected and cared for.

ADDRESS TO HOSPITAL OF THE INNOCENTS INSTITUTE,
MAY 24, 2019



Calendar

Monday
FEBRUARY 8
Weekday
Gn 1:1-19
Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday
FEBRUARY 9
Weekday
Gn 1:20-2:4a
Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday
FEBRUARY 10
St. Scholastica, Virgin
Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17
Mk 7:14-23

Thursday
FEBRUARY 11
Weekday
Gn 2:18-25
Mk 7:24-30

Friday
FEBRUARY 12
Weekday
Gn 3:1-8
Mk 7:31-37

Saturday
FEBRUARY 13
Weekday
Gn 3:9-24
Mk 8:1-10

Sunday
FEBRUARY 14
Sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Lv 13:1-2, 44-46
1 Cor 10:31-11:1
Mk 1:40-45

Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 7, 2021
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
Jb 7:1-4, 6-7
1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23
Mk 1:29-39

Grin and Bear It

This harsh bit of advice is more military than religious. However, it does carry some truth. There are times when there is no way to avoid hardship, so all we can do is find some way of dealing with it. This is the situation in today's reading from Job. He experiences life as burdensome. To make matters worse, life is too short to be able to get beyond the difficulty. So what does he do? What might most of us do in similar situations? Complain.

There is really nothing wrong with complaining. The problem is to whom and for how long. A large number of the psalms are complaints or, to use the theological term, *laments*. To complain to God can be a profound prayer, for it admits our human inability to fix everything. And, it presumes that God can and just might fix the problem. The psalm response continues this train of thought with a prayer of confidence that God will fix it. The Gospel reading then provides examples of how Jesus did just that.

These are not merely stories of past events. Rather, they trace a profound yet difficult-to-accept religious belief: when we are overwhelmed by hardship, we should turn to God and place our need in God's care, believing that God wants what is best for us. Perhaps the rest is out of our hands, but we must believe that we are in God's hands and, therefore, safe.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA



After sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door.
MARK 1:32-33

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *Hardship can test our trust in God. Might this be the case with you?*
- ★ *As a disciple of Jesus, pray for the gift of trust.*



St. Mary's Church
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church
Bridgeport, NE 69336



Sacred Heart Church
Bayard, NE 69334

Pastor: Rev. Dr. C.P. Varghese

Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336

Parish Office & Fax: (308)262-0709. Rectory: (308)262-1332 Email: allsoulsbridgeport@gmail.com Website: www.smassh Catholics.org

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Children in Jesus Christ,

While the Gospel of today presents Jesus enthusiastically living out his Sabbath day of preaching and healing ministry, the first reading details Job's frustrations in striking contrast: Job complains of the tedium and futility of life and the miseries of human existence. But eventually, his eyes opened by God, Job surrenders himself, his suffering, his work and everything he had had and lost to God's greater wisdom (Job 42:1-6). Job's miseries also marked the condition of the people who came to Jesus for healing. Jesus overturns the human condition, bringing hope and healing — then and now. The second reading reveals Paul to us as a true, dynamic follower of Jesus, moved as Jesus was by concern for the lost which led him to preach the Gospel without cost to the people, and to serve them as their slave with Jesus' love and fidelity. Pointing out the spontaneous response of Peter's mother-in-law after she had been healed by Jesus, today's Gospel teaches us that true discipleship means giving selfless, loving service to others. Mark shows us a typical Sabbath day in Jesus' ministry: taking part in the synagogue worship, teaching with authority, exorcising a demon, healing Simon's mother-in-law and, after sundown, curing "many who were sick with various diseases, and [driving] out many demons" — a full day and evening of selfless ministry. Yet, Jesus rises early the next morning and goes off "to a deserted place" to pray, in order to assess his work before God his Father and to recharge his spiritual batteries.

We need to be instruments for Jesus' healing work. Bringing *healing and wholeness* is Jesus' ministry even today. We all need healing for our minds, our memories, and our broken relationships, and now Jesus is also using counselors, doctors, friends, or even strangers in his healing ministry. Let us ask for the ordinary healing we need in our own lives. When we are healed, let us not forget to thank Jesus for his goodness, mercy, and compassion by turning to serve others. Our own healing process is completed only when we are ready to help others in their needs and to focus on things outside ourselves. Let us also be instruments for Jesus' healing by visiting the sick and praying for their healing. But let us remember that we need the Lord's strength not only to make ourselves and others well, but to make us and others whole.

We need to live for others as Jesus did: Jesus was a man for others, sharing what he had with others. In his life there was time for prayer, time for healing, and time for reconciliation. Let us take up this challenge by sharing love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness with others. Instead of considering life as dull and pointless, let us live our lives as Jesus did, full of dynamism and zeal for the glory of God.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Fr. C. P. Varghese
Pastor

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

| Date | Day | Time | Place | Intention |
|-------|-----------|-------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| 02/08 | Monday | No Mass Today | | |
| 02/09 | Tuesday | 6.00 PM | Bridgeport | Oneva Lummel |
| 02/10 | Wednesday | In - person CCD Classes | | |
| 02/11 | Thursday | 6.00 PM | Dalton | Dan McNurlin |
| 02/12 | Friday | 12.00 PM | Bayard | Bernard Rodriguez |
| 02/13 | Saturday | 5.30 PM | Dalton | Intention - Anna Faye Van Anne |
| 02/14 | Sunday | 8.00 AM | Bayard | For all who have miscarried babies |
| 02/14 | Sunday | 10.30 AM | Bridgeport | Oneva Lummel |

ALL SOULS
617 P STREET
BRIDGEPORT NE 69336

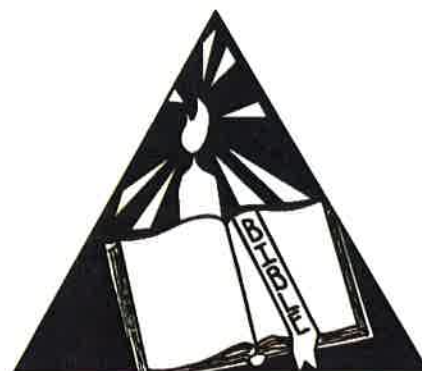
MASS TIME
Tuesday — 6:00 PM
Sunday — 10.30 AM

Online Evening Prayer:
February 09, Tuesday
at 8.00 PM

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| ADULTS | \$230.00 |
| CHILDREN | |
| PLATE | \$101.00 |
| SUBTOTAL | \$ 331.00 |
| MASS STIPEND | \$50.00 |
| UTILITIES | \$100.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 481.00 |
| BUILDING FUND | |
| HEAT/AC | |
| DONATIONS | \$3,615.00 |
| APPEAL GOAL | \$6,046.00 |
| BALANCE | (\$2,431.00) |

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-262-0453 or Teresa-262-0439.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SACRED HEART
1003 AVE B
BAYARD NE 69334

MASS TIME
Friday — 12:00 PM
Sunday — 8:00 AM

Online Evening Prayer:
February 09, Tuesday
at 8.00 PM

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| ADULTS | \$335.00 |
| CHILDREN | |
| PLATE | \$32.00 |
| SUBTOTAL | \$ 367.00 |
| MASS STIPEND | |
| TOTAL | \$ 367.00 |
| BUILDING FUND | |
| DONATIONS | \$2,915.00 |
| APPEAL GOAL | \$4,907.00 |
| BALANCE | (\$1,992.00) |

- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SAINT MARY'S
718 FRANCIS ST
DALTON NE 69131

MASS TIME
Thursday — 6:00 PM
Saturday — 5:30 PM

Online Evening Prayer:
February 09, Tuesday
at 8.00 PM

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| ADULTS | \$520.00 |
| CHILDREN | |
| PLATE | |
| SUBTOTAL | \$ 520.00 |
| SOLEMNITY | \$20.00 |
| LATIN AMERICA | \$10.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 550.00 |
| BUILDING FUND | |
| DONATIONS | \$3,511.00 |
| APPEAL GOAL | \$6,136.00 |
| BALANCE | (\$2,625.00) |

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.

