

Dear Padre,

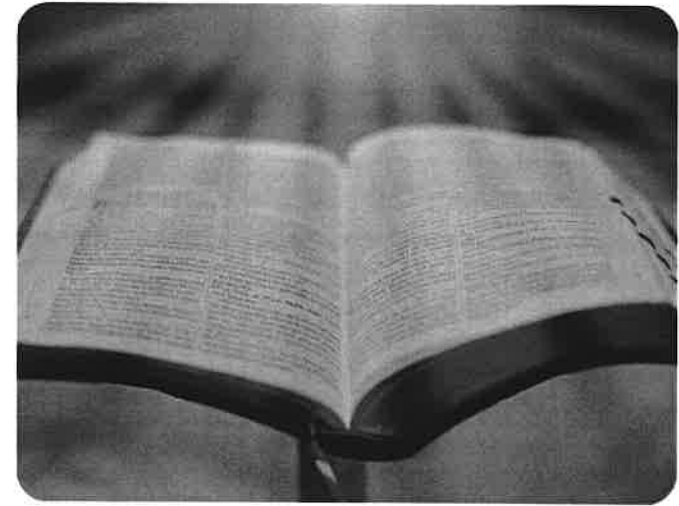
Adam and Eve had two sons and maybe others not mentioned in the Bible. How were others born without having committed incest?

This is a perfectly valid question, and one that I think many people have probably asked themselves at one time or another. Unfortunately, it is the wrong question, because it does not reflect the true meaning of the story.

The story about Adam and Eve is not a literal story or, in other words, a story that would be reported by CNN or FOX News. It is a teaching story, intended to encourage belief in the creative power of God at work in his creation. It is not, nor has it ever been, a literal step-by-step tutorial of the early days of the human race.

The bible includes different literary forms: narrative or history, poetry and songs, parables, letters, genealogies, and more. Knowing what form is being used, the purpose of the passage, who is writing or talking, and the intended audience is the work of Scripture scholars. The story of creation is not intended to be literal; it is inspirational. ●

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



OSCAR IVAN ESQUIVEL / UNSPLASH

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

September 21
St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
Eph 4:1–7, 11–13
Mt 9:9–13

Tuesday

September 22
Weekday
Prv 21:1–6, 10–13
Lk 8:19–21

Wednesday

September 23
St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
Prv 30:5–9
Lk 9:1–6

Thursday

September 24
Weekday
Eccl 1:2–11
Lk 9:7–9

Friday

September 25
Weekday
Eccl 3:1–11
Lk 9:18–22

Saturday

September 26
Weekday
Eccl 11:9–12:8
Lk 9:43b–45

Sunday

September 27
Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ez 18:25–28
Phil 2:1–11 or 2:1–5
Mt 21:28–32

Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 20, 2026
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Isaiah 55:6–9 / Philippians 1:20c–24, 27a / Matthew 20:1–16a



Next Up!

MIGUEL DULICK

I keep hearing preachers say this is their least favorite gospel, because it makes people so mad! All the workers in a vineyard get a full day's pay—which folks interpret as heaven—even the ones who came at the last hour of the afternoon. “You mean, I work hard my whole life, and some nobody from nowhere just waltzes into heaven ahead of me?” But wait a minute! You think you *deserve* your “pay”? None of us is anywhere or anything, even breathing, without God's grace. It's not a competition; it's our only hope! We should be dancing in the street to celebrate God's generosity. Matthew himself must have chuckled at this parable, since he was also a latecomer, having spent his life grinding his own brothers and sisters into poverty to feed the tax maw of the Roman Empire. Then, Jesus called him! I love the twist in the parable: the owner not only pays the last ones equally, but he pays them *first*!



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

If you don't like standing in line, you could be like Paul, who wants to just skip to the end: “I long to depart this life and be with Christ” (Philippians 1:23). As he says, “To me life is Christ, and death is gain” (Philippians 1:21). We should all be so eager. Just concentrate on the “fruitful labor” of service to others. Put everyone else ahead of you, and don't be afraid of some hard work. Any vineyard is a challenge, even when that vineyard is the Church. ●

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, [says] the Lord.

ISAIAH 55:8



Reflect

Do I feel more deserving than others or struggle with envy?



FADHIL ABHIMANTRA / UNSPLASH

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

It is a great sign of hope—especially in our times, traversed by so many conflicts and wars—to know that the Church is a people in which women and men of different nationalities, languages, and cultures live together in faith: it is...a reminder and prophecy of that unity and peace to which God the Father calls all his children.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, MARCH 11, 2026

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St. Mary's Church
718 Francis St.
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church
617 P St.
Bridgeport, NE 69336
Rev. Tim Stoner



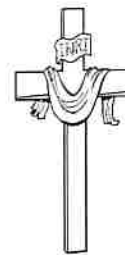
Sacred Heart Church
1003 Ave. B
Bayard, NE 69334

Mailing Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336

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

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS?

All men interested in becoming a Knight of Columbus or upgrading their membership from 1st or 2nd to 3rd degree are invited to an exemplification on October 24 after the 5:00 PM mass at St. Agnes in Scottsbluff. Please contact David Backer at 279-0973 or Fr. Tim to start the application process or more information.



PRAYER FOR RAIN

Good and generous Father, thank you for your bountiful gifts for us. With grateful hearts and a humble Spirit, we ask now for timely and generous rains for our fields. We ask that You watch over those who earn their living from the earth, especially farmers and ranchers who depend on rain. Keep them safe in their work. Watch too over our homes and families, protecting them from any damaging storms and fires. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Jesus calls us to reconciliation, guiding us to bring peace and healing into the lives of others. Every vocation is an invitation to embody His love and forgiveness. How might God be calling you to share His peace in your life? If you feel God is stirring a holy desire for the priesthood or consecrated life, be open and vigilant in prayer and if you have questions, talk to Fr. Neal Hock at the Vocation Office 308-234-1539 or email: vocations@gidiocese.org

THE STEWARDSHIP PARISH PRAYER

My parish is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. It will be holy, if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work. It will be prayerful, if I pray. It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver. It will bring others into its worship if I invite and bring them. It will be a parish of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity and mercy, if I who make it what it is, am filled with these same things. Therefore, with the help of God, I now dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my parish to be. AMEN

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
9/21	Monday	No Mass Today		
9/22	Tuesday	6:00 PM	Bridgeport	† Delores Dailey
	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Bridgeport	"She Shall Be Called Woman"
9/23	Wednesday	No Mass Today		
9/24	Thursday	6:30 AM	Bridgeport	"That Man is You"
	Thursday	9:00 AM	Dalton	Brennen Cruise Birthday
9/25	Friday	9:00 AM	Bayard	Doug & Nancy Brandt Anniversary
9/26	Saturday	5:30 PM	Bayard	† Fr. Richard Piontkowski
	Saturday	6:30 PM	Bayard	Parish Council Meeting
9/27	Sunday	8:00 AM	Dalton	† Mike Devier
	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bridgeport	† Chris Wise
	Sunday	11:00 AM	Bridgeport	Parish Council Meeting
	Sunday	1:30 PM	Bridgeport	OCIA class

ALL SOULS
617 P STREET
BRIDGEPORT NE 69336

MASS TIMES

Tuesday – 6:00 PM
Sunday – 10:00 AM

CONFESSIONS ARE
AVAILABLE FROM
9:30 AM – 9:45 AM

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

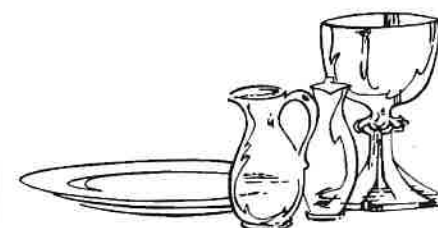
ADULTS	\$1310.00
CHILDREN	\$21.00
PLATE	\$1275.00
SUBTOTAL	\$2606.00
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$1525.00
MASS INTENTIONS	\$20.00
ASSUMPTION OF MARY	\$10.00
PETER'S PENCE	\$10.00
WEST NE CATHOLIC	\$93.00
TOTAL	\$2739.00
BUILDING FUND	

Thank you for your support.

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-279-2997
- Consider signing up for a ministry to help your church family.
- Parish Council meeting 9/27 after Mass

Ministries for September 27

Greeter	Server	Lector	Eucharist
Caitlyn W	Josef	Ken	Julie H
Family		Terry	Wayne
Mary			Patti
Rosary	Doug H		



SACRED HEART
1003 AVE B
BAYARD NE 69334

MASS TIMES FOR SEPTEMBER

Friday – 9:00 AM
Saturday – 5:30 PM

SEPTEMBER MASS
SCHEDULE
SATURDAY AT 5:30 PM
CONFESSIONS: 5:00-5:15

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

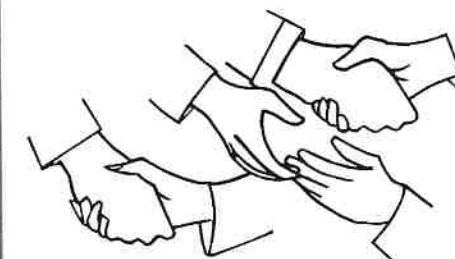
ADULTS	\$690.00
CHILDREN	\$5.00
PLATE	\$34.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 729.00
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$885.00
MASS INTENTIONS	
WEST NE CATHOLIC	\$230.00
TOTAL	\$959.00
BUILDING FUND	

Thank you for your support.

- Prayer line requests may be made to Ann 308-225-1609.
- There will be coffee on the Second Sunday.
- Consider signing up for a ministry to help your church family.
- Parish Council meeting 9/26 after Mass.

Ministries for September 26

Greeter	Server	Lector	Eucharist
Tanner	Chris	Dave T	James
Anni		John AR	Dave T
			Dave D



SAINT MARY'S
718 FRANCIS ST
DALTON NE 69131

MASS TIMES FOR SEPTEMBER

Thursday – 9:00 AM
Sunday – 8:00 AM

SEPTEMBER MASS
SCHEDULE:
SUNDAY AT 8:00 AM
CONFESSIONS: 7:30-7:45

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$2275.00
CHILDREN	\$4.00
PLATE	\$60.00
SUBTOTAL	\$2339.00
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$1020.00
MASS INTENTIONS	
WEST NEB CATHOLIC	\$70.00
TOTAL	\$2409.00
BUILDING FUND	

Thank you for your support.

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.
- Consider signing up for a ministry to help your church family.

Ministries for September 27

Greeter	Server	Lector	Eucharist
Susie Y	Bruce	Jim E	Earl
Linda		Linda	Jim S
			Kathy W

