

Dear Padre,

My friend is deeply involved in her faith, but I struggle with our friendship because I don't like how she treats her pets. I don't understand how someone who values religion so highly can show so little care for animals. What should I do?



HLEB RAHOISHA / PEXELS

Franciscan Friar Kevin Mackin writes, “The bond between person and pet is like no other relationship, because the communication between fellow creatures is at its most basic. Eye to eye are two creatures of love” (“Why We Bless Animals,” *Catholic Update*). Because of this strong bond between humans and sentient creatures, it’s especially difficult to witness their mistreatment, either through neglect (such as failing to provide sufficient food, water, shelter, or veterinary care) or direct physical abuse (a violation of anti-cruelty laws and a criminal offense in all fifty states). Studies show that owning pets offers us companionship and emotional support; in turn, these qualities can foster in us greater empathy and compassion toward others. Yet, while pets may greatly benefit our health and well-being, owning them comes with a serious obligation and moral responsibility. Vulnerable pets depend on humans for adequate care and protection. At times, some pet owners can be overwhelmed by their responsibility to provide proper care; others may even be unaware that they are treating their pets inappropriately. Out of concern for both your friend and her pets, consider a non-critical, non-confrontational approach to discuss your observations and to offer assistance. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Today we lift up our prayer for peace in the world, asking that nations renounce weapons and choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy. Disarm our hearts of hatred, resentment, and indifference, so we may become instruments of reconciliation. Help us understand that true security does not come from control fueled by fear, but from trust, justice, and solidarity among peoples.

“PRAY WITH THE POPE” VIDEO MESSAGE, MARCH 2026

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

October 4, 2026
Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Isaiah 5:1-7 / Philippians 4:6-9 / Matthew 21:33-43



The Gradual Road to Ruin

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

A wise old sage once observed, “When it starts out stupid, it just gets more stupid.” The parable in today’s gospel illustrates this wisdom.

The son has been sent. The jig is up. The owner is not going to give up the vineyard. The tenants gambled and lost. It’s time for them to accept the inevitable and pay the rent. But common sense and wisdom do not prevail. *Kill the son, they think, and all that he would have inherited will be ours!*

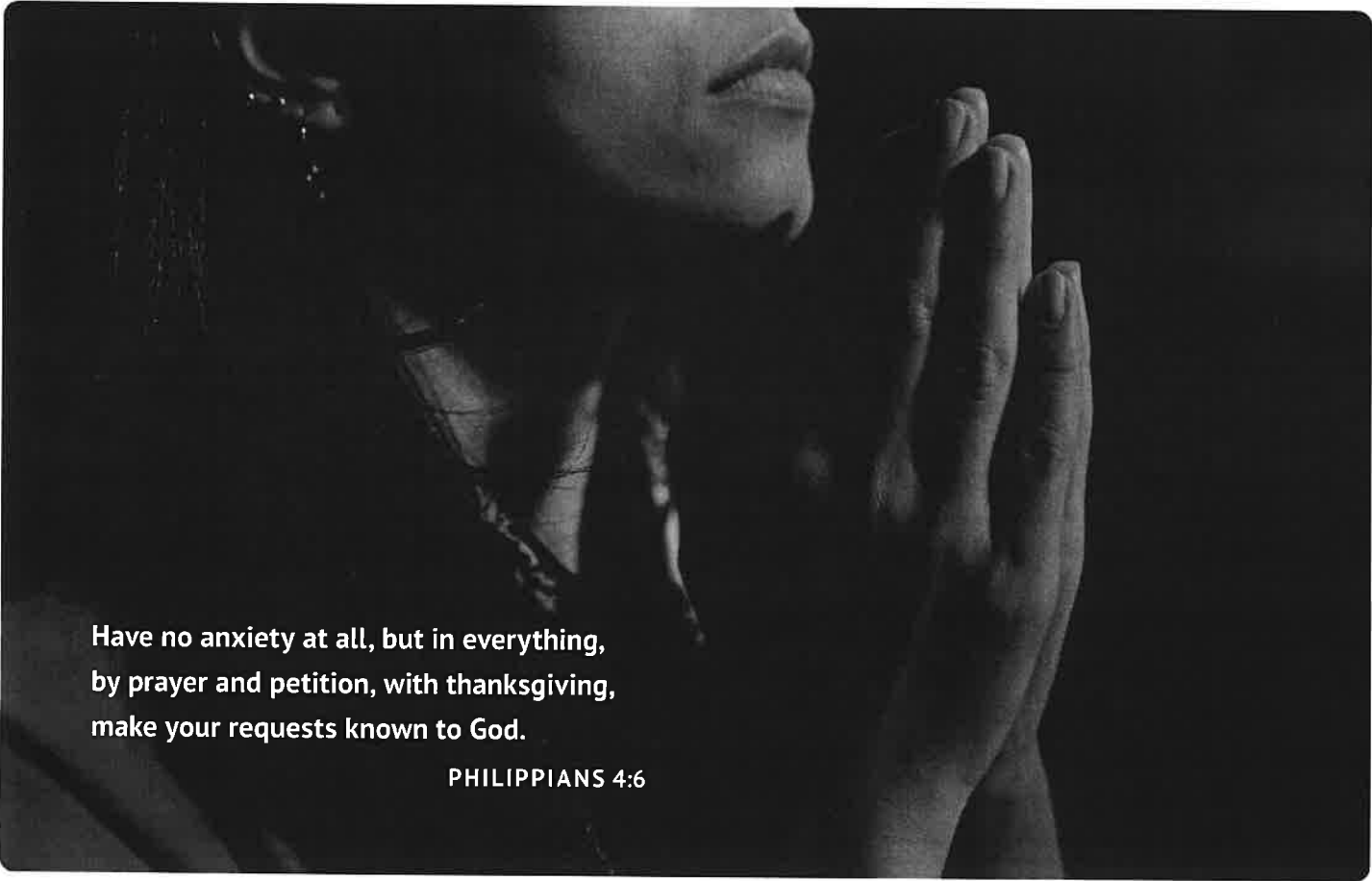
How do you get from “don’t pay the rent” to “kill the son”? It is not a straight or smooth path. There are a lot of twists and turns between point A and point B. But it happens. It sneaks in. It demands little compromises and small dishonesties along the way as it becomes easier and easier for you to choose what is destructive. Then, you find you have lost it all—your very self. And the corruption you’ve embraced convinces you that you’re making wise choices. You must be completely cleansed of the seduction that has enabled you to make these choices. You need to start again. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

Am I aware of a sin that has become easy to commit?



Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6



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.smassh Catholics.org

FROM THE DESK OF FR. TIM: This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of St. Francis. Our Holy Father, Pope Leo established that from now until January 10, 2027, is declared a special time of celebrating St. Francis to be proclaimed. This means that every faithful Christian, following the example of St. Francis of Assisi, shall become a model of holiness of life and constant witness of peace.

We will do a blessing of animals next Saturday morning the 10th: 8:00 am at St. Mary's, Dalton; 9:30 am at All Souls, Bridgeport; and 11:00 am at Sacred Heart, Bayard. Bring your pets or animals for the St. Francis blessings.

The Annual Fall Dinner will be Sunday the 11th in Dalton, St. Mary's Parish Center. Consult

Have a great week! *Fr. Tim*

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS OR ADVANCING YOUR DEGREE?

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.
(John 14:13)

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
10/5	Monday	No Mass Today		
10/6	Tuesday	6:00 PM	Bridgeport	† Joan Panas
	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Bridgeport	Knights of Columbus meeting
10/7	Wednesday	No Mass Today		
10/8	Thursday	9:00 AM	Dalton	† Ellie & Bob Ernest
10/9	Friday	9:00 AM	Bayard	† Gertrude Alber
10/10	Saturday	8:00 AM	Dalton	Blessing of Animals
	Saturday	9:30 AM	Bridgeport	Blessing of Animals
	Saturday	11:00 AM	Bayard	Blessing of Animals
10/10	Saturday	5:30 PM	Dalton	† Larry Schmitt
10/11	Sunday	8:00 AM	Bayard	Darold Spradlin birthday
	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bridgeport	† Ed Brandt

Sunday 1:30 PM

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	\$1020.00
CHILDREN	\$13.50
PLATE	\$341.00
SUBTOTAL	\$1374.50
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$1525.00
MASS INTENTIONS	
FOOD FOR THE POOR	\$675.00
TOTAL	\$1374.50
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.

Ministries for October 11

Greeter	Server	Lector	Eucharist
Reilly	Laurel	Evan	Don
Family		Wayne	Charlotte
			Dorothy
Rosary	Ken		



Bridgeport OCIA class

SACRED HEART
1003 AVE B
BAYARD NE 69334

MASS TIMES FOR OCTOBER

Friday – 9:00 AM
Sunday – 8:00 AM

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

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

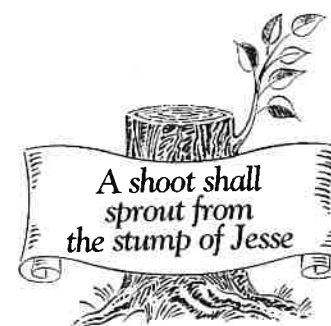
ADULTS	\$855.00
CHILDREN	\$0.00
PLATE	\$25.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 880.00
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$885.00
FOOD FOR THE POOR	\$286.00
WEST NE CATHOLIC	\$30.00
TOTAL	\$956.00
BUILDING FUND	

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.

Ministries for October 11

Greeter	Server	Lector	Eucharist
Cec	Ariel	Brandon	Erma
Zae		Mary T	James
			Jamie C



SAINT MARY'S
718 FRANCIS ST
DALTON NE 69131

MASS TIMES FOR OCTOBER

Thursday – 9:00 AM
Saturday – 5:30 PM

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

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$1295.00
CHILDREN	\$7.00
PLATE	\$74.00
SUBTOTAL	\$1376.00
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$1020.00
MASS INTENTIONS	
FOOD FOR THE POOR	\$433.00
TOTAL	\$1051.25
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 October 10

Greeter	Server	Lector	Eucharist
Ron	Jim S	Kathy W	Todd
Amelia		R J	Jenn
			Bruce

