Dear Padre,


JESUS FERNANDEZ / SHUTTERSTOCK

I occasionally need to be reminded why I should remain Catholic. Can you help?

Whether our faith was inherited at birth or adopted later, it's healthy to periodically reexamine our beliefs and practices with the intent to grow closer to God. Saint Paul uses the metaphor of moving beyond milk to solid food to explain our maturing faith. (See Hebrews 5:12–14). Questions or doubts are not necessarily signs of crisis or disloyalty to God or the Church. Indeed, it's often when we challenge pat answers that God moves us to a deeper meaning and stronger relationship—that is, if we're steadfast on the path to holiness. People remain Catholic for numerous reasons, including:

- the Church's belief in God's goodness to us through the sacraments;
- a 2,000-year tradition of living the gospel in a universal, multicultural community of faith;
- a proven track record as an agent for personal and spiritual growth and social transformation.

When Church members' behavior is contrary to Christ's mission, and our confidence to remain is tested, it's good to recall that the Church is divinely fortified and humanly composed. People remain Catholic because the Church exists to bring us into full communion with God, through Christ, by working toward the fullness of the kingdom. "The Church 'is the visible plan of God's love for humanity,' because God desires 'that the whole human race may become one people of god, form one body of Christ, and be built into one temple of the Holy Spirit'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 776). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV


FABRIZIO MAFFEI / SHUTTERSTOCK

Health cannot be a luxury for the few.... Universal health coverage is not merely a technical goal to be achieved; it is primarily a moral imperative for societies that wish to call themselves just. Healthcare must be accessible to the most vulnerable, then, not only because their dignity requires it but also to prevent injustice from becoming a cause of conflict.

ADDRESS TO CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS, ROME, MARCH 19, 2026

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday
October 26
Weekday
Eph 4:32–5:8
Lk 13:10–17

Tuesday
October 27
Weekday
Eph 5:21–33
Lk 13:18–21

Wednesday
October 28
Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles
Eph 2:19–22
Lk 6:12–16

Thursday
October 29
Weekday
Eph 6:10–20
Lk 13:31–35

Friday
October 30
Weekday
Phil 1:1–11
Lk 14:1–6

Saturday
October 31
Weekday
Phil 1:18b–26
Lk 14:1, 7–11

Sunday
November 1
All Saints
Rv 7:2–4, 9–14
1 Jn 3:1–3
Mt 5:1–12a

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

October 25, 2026
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Exodus 22:20–26 / 1 Thessalonians 1:5c–10 / Matthew 22:34–40

Love Is a Verb

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

"Love makes the world go 'round." Or another saying: "Love is all you need." Love, so necessary, so welcome, and seemingly so elusive. How can something be so needed, so valued, and so treasured and at the same time be so rare and even, at times, so difficult? Philosophers, poets, and scribes all provide different insights, each capturing something of the truth yet remaining somehow incomplete.

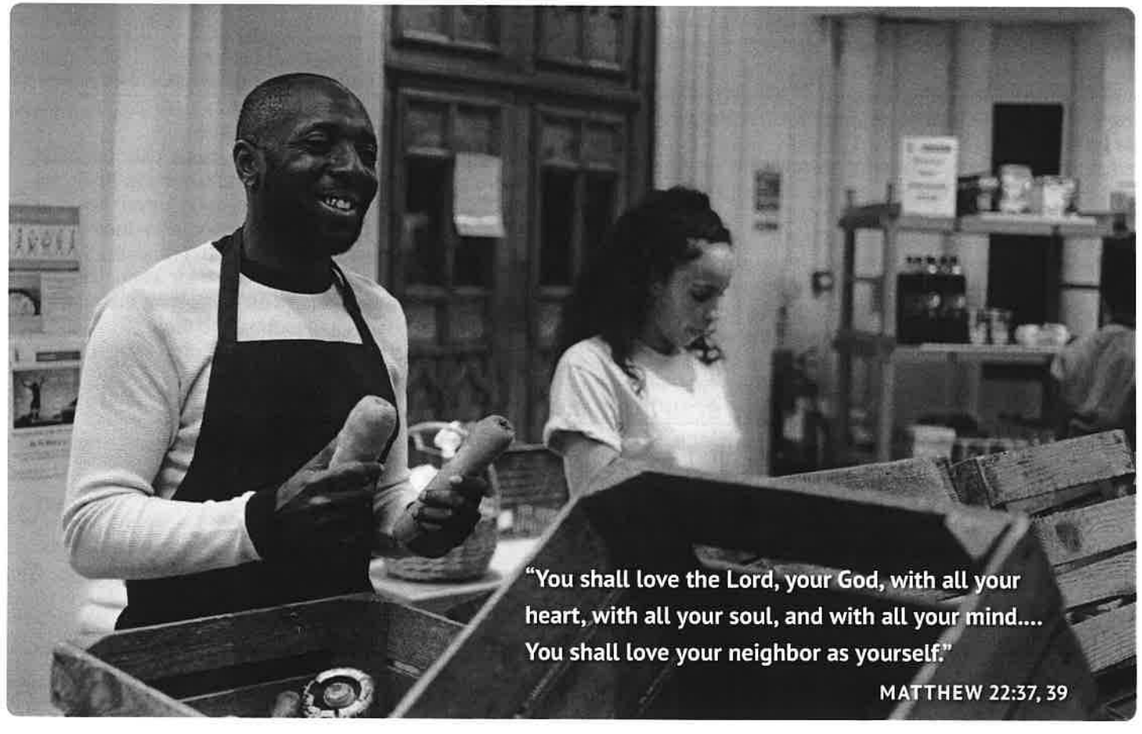
Jesus changes the context: love understood not as a feeling or as an emotion, but as a commandment. In God's kingdom, love is not something you pursue or something you hope to find. Living in God's kingdom, love is something you *do*. It is core; it is essential. It is how you live. It is how you form your judgments and perceptions. It is what energizes your choices and your decisions.

We come closer and closer each day to loving God fully when we understand the need to embrace the "unspoken" commandment: "[Jesus said,] 'For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it'" (Matthew 16:25). ●

Reflect

Do I think of love as a feeling or as an action—as a noun or a verb?

LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF *OUR PARISH COMMUNITY*



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Bridgeport, NE 69336
Rev. Tim Stoner

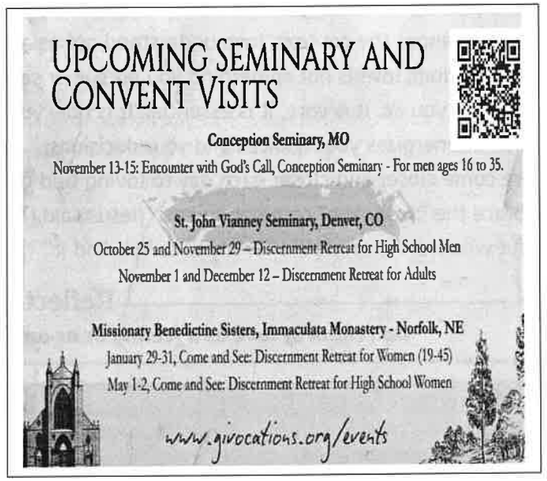


Sacred Heart Church
1003 Ave. B
Bayard, NE 69334

Mailing Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336
Parish Office: (308)262-0709. Rectory: (308)262-1332 Email: allsoulsbridgeport@gmail.com Website: www.smasshcatholics.org

All Souls Harvest Dinner with a Mexican Flavor
We will be serving beef and cheese enchiladas, rice, beans and pork chilie.
Adults: $15; Ages 6-12: $7.50; 5 & under: Free
Come join in our dinner. There will be a 50/50 raffle at the door. Carry outs are available.

Prayer for Pope Leo XIV
O great St. Peregrine, you have been called "The Mighty," "The Wonder-Worker," because of the numerous miracles which you have obtained from God for those who have had recourse to you.
For so many years you bore in your own flesh this cancerous disease that destroys the very fiber of our being, and who had recourse to the source of all grace when the power of man could do no more. You were favored with the vision of Jesus coming down from His Cross to heal your affliction.
Ask of God and Our Lady, the cure of the sick whom we entrust to you. O St Peregrine, pray for our Holy Father, Pope Leo.
Aided in this way by your powerful intercession, we shall sing to God, now and for all eternity, a song of gratitude for His great goodness and mercy.
Holy Mary, Health of the Sick, gather our Holy Father under your mantle. Stay close to him in his suffering and comfort him as you comforted your Son. Bring our prayers to the Lord, that He may grant him healing and give him strength to keep shepherding the Church and serving the world. Amen.
CatholicImprint.com



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
10/26	Monday	No Mass Today		
10/27	Tuesday	6:00 PM	Bridgeport	† Chris Wise
	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Bridgeport	"She Shall Be Called Woman"
10/28	Wednesday	No Mass Today		
10/29	Thursday	6:30 AM	Bridgeport	"That Man is You"
	Thursday	9:00 AM	Dalton	Chad Cruise
10/30	Friday	9:00 AM	Bayard	† Theresa Dukesherer
10/31	Saturday	5:30 PM	Dalton	Richard Van Anne Family
11/1	Sunday	8:00 AM	Bayard	† Alfred Alber
	Sunday	10:00 AM	Bridgeport	† John Seng
	Sunday	11:30-1:00	Bridgeport	Harvest Dinner

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

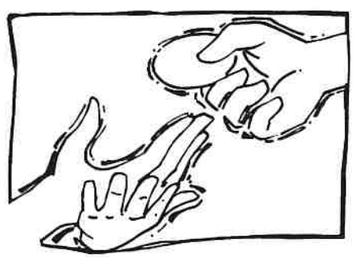
ADULTS	$830.00
CHILDREN	$55.00
PLATE	$815.00
SUBTOTAL	$1700.00
WEEKLY BUDGET	$1525.00
WORLD MISSION	$85.00
ALL SOULS DAY	$20.00
TOTAL	$1805.00
BUILDING FUND	

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.
- Upcoming Fall dinner on November 1. We will be having a Mexican dinner. Watch for more details.

Ministries for November 1

Greeter	Server	Lector	Eucharist
Deb W	Josef	Evan	Wayne
Dorothy		Sue	Julie H
			Deb A

Rosary



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

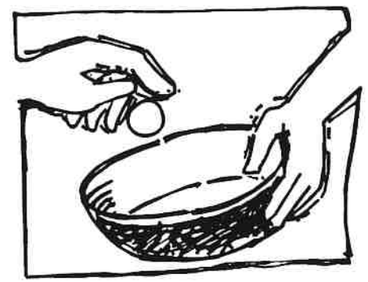
OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	$885.00
CHILDREN	$11.00
PLATE	$2.00
SUBTOTAL	$ 898.00
WEEKLY BUDGET	$885.00
MASS INTENTIONS	
WORLD MISSION	$15.00
TOTAL	$913.00
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 November 1

Greeter	Server	Lector	Eucharist
Anni	Declan	Mary T	James
Tanner		Donna	Dave D
			Lucy



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	$1374.00
CHILDREN	$3.00
PLATE	$65.00
SUBTOTAL	$1442.00
WEEKLY BUDGET	$1020.00
WORLD MISSION	$50.00
ALL SOULS DAY	$50.00
TOTAL	$1542.00
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 October 31

Greeter	Server	Lector	Eucharist
Pat	Bruce	Jim E	Kate
DeAnn		Cathy A	Carmen
			Todd

