



## Embracing a Spirituality of Listening

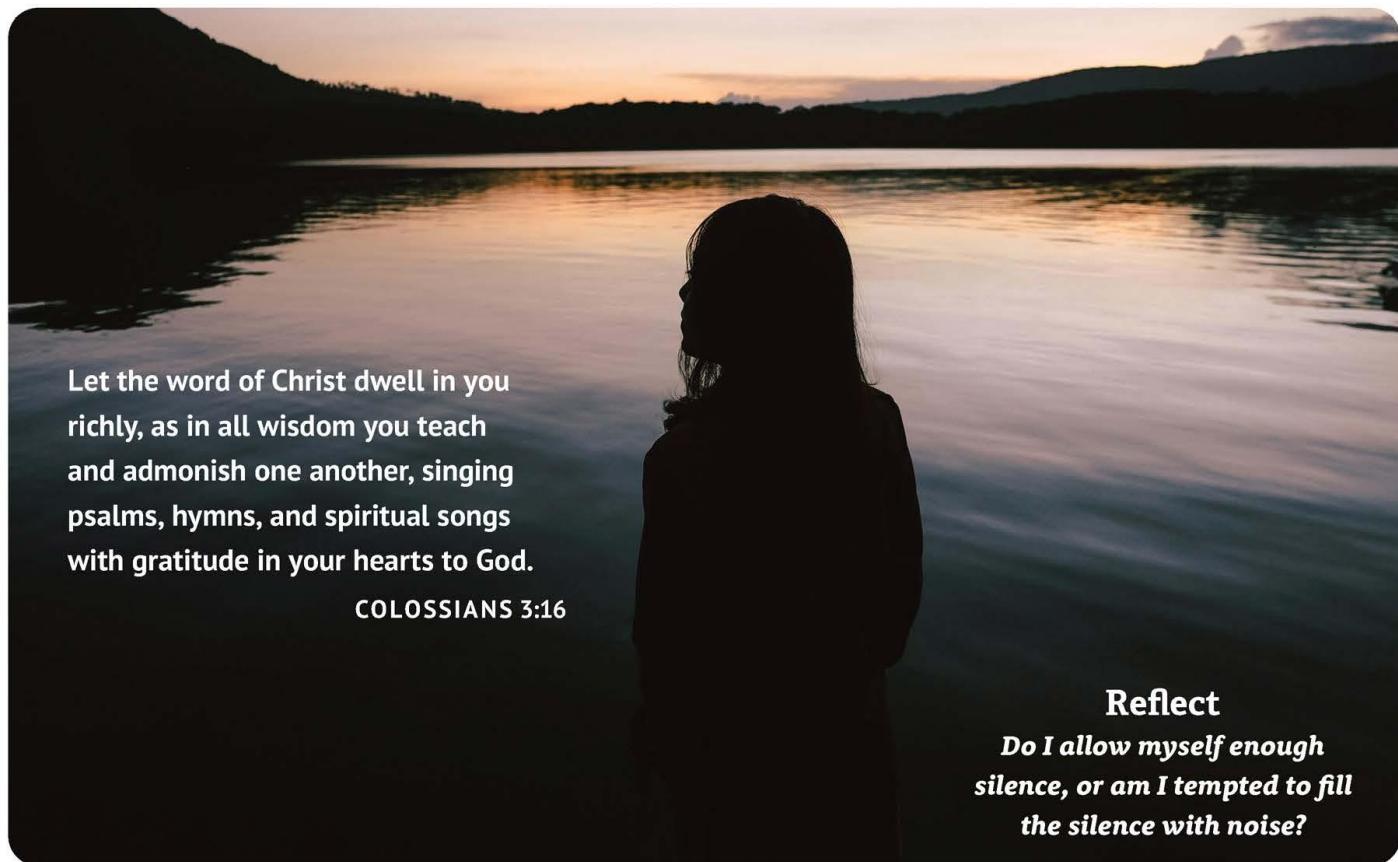
ANN M. GARRIDO

**T**he most treasured prayer of Jesus' people has long been and remains the Shema: "Hear O Israel, the Lord is God. The Lord is One." Jewish spirituality is grounded not in seeing or touching or tasting, but in hearing. No one exemplifies fidelity to this way of being in the world more than Joseph, as evidenced in today's gospel. Joseph is one who listens to what God's messenger says to him and immediately acts on it. He responds to the call to flee with Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Then, he responds to the call to return home with his family to Israel. As many have noted, Joseph never speaks in Scripture, but he certainly listens, and he certainly acts on what he hears.

Christmas is perhaps the noisiest season of the year. At gatherings of family and friends with festive music in the background, it often feels as if we are shouting over one another to be heard. It is a season when it can be hard to have deep conversations, even with God. Indeed, it can be such a busy season that sometimes our regular prayer practices fall by the wayside. But, if we do not make space in our daily lives to listen, might we miss messages that are important, even urgent, for us to hear, as in the case of today's gospel? Messages that require immediate response? What would it look like to carve out a bit of silence in this holiday season, to be like Joseph and reground yourself in a spirituality of listening? ●



SCAN TO  
LEARN ABOUT  
AUTHOR  
ANN M.  
GARRIDO



Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

COLOSSIANS 3:16

**Reflect**

***Do I allow myself enough silence, or am I tempted to fill the silence with noise?***

## Welcome to The Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit



**St. Bernard's, 43 Botsford St., Moncton, NB E1C 4W9**

**Phone: (506) 857-0425 Email: [sbhf@rogers.com](mailto:sbhf@rogers.com)**

**Parish Office hours:**

**Monday to Friday @ 9 AM – 12 PM & 1 PM – 4 PM**

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED: Dec. 24-28, 31, 2025 and Jan. 1, 2026.**

**Re-opens Friday, Jan. 2. Phone messages will be checked for emergencies.**



**St. Vincent's, 63 Charlotte St., Sackville, NB, E4L 2Y5**

**Phone: (506) 536-1460 Email: [stvince@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:stvince@nbnet.nb.ca)**

**Office hours: Monday & Thursday @ 10 AM - 2 PM**

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED: Dec. 25, 2025, through Jan. 1, 2026, inclusive**

**Re-opens Friday, Jan. 2. Phone messages will be checked on a regular basis.**



**St. Clement's, 14 Church St., Port Elgin, NB E4M 2C9**

**Phone: (506) 538-2262 Email: [stclement.stbartholomew@gmail.com](mailto:stclement.stbartholomew@gmail.com)**

**Office hours: call office to verify**

**The Good Shepherd Pastoral Website:**

[gsmoncton.ca](http://gsmoncton.ca)

**Facebook page:**

[facebook.com/gsmoncton](https://facebook.com/gsmoncton)

## The Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit

## St. Bernard's Parish Staff

<b>Priest Administrator</b>	Fr. Damian Nwachukwu	<a href="mailto:sbhf@rogers.com">sbhf@rogers.com</a>
<b>Assistant Priest</b>	Fr. Carlos Jacinto	<a href="mailto:sbhf@rogers.com">sbhf@rogers.com</a>
<b>Pastoral Associate / Liturgy</b>	Maricel Rubio	<a href="mailto:sbliturgy@gmail.com">sbliturgy@gmail.com</a>
<b>Office Administrator</b>	Genevieve Alo	<a href="mailto:sbhf@rogers.com">sbhf@rogers.com</a>
<b>Bookkeeper</b>	Linda Arsenault	<a href="mailto:bookkeepersbgsp@gmail.com">bookkeepersbgsp@gmail.com</a>
<b>Catechetical Coordinator</b>	Lorella Dunnett	<a href="mailto:Lorella_st.bernards@hotmail.com">Lorella_st.bernards@hotmail.com</a>

## St. Vincent's Parish Staff

<b>Parish Secretary</b>	Lorraine Horyl	<a href="mailto:stvince@nbnet.nb.ca">stvince@nbnet.nb.ca</a>
<b>Catechetical Coordinator</b>	Cathy Crinnion	<a href="mailto:ccrinnion@yahoo.ca">ccrinnion@yahoo.ca</a>

## St. Clement's Parish Staff

<b>Parish Secretary</b>	Pam Van Egmond	<a href="mailto:stclement.stbartholomew@gmail.com">stclement.stbartholomew@gmail.com</a>
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## St. Bernard's Sacrament of Reconciliation regular schedule

**Prior to Weekday Masses: Monday to Friday: 8:30 – 9:20 AM.**

**Saturdays: 10:00 AM; First Friday of the month: 8:00 – 9:00 AM.**

## St. Bernard's

## Mark Your Calendar

<b>Carmelites</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month: 9:30 AM
<b>Prayer Group</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of month & last Saturday of month after 25 <sup>th</sup> @ 7PM
<b>RCIA meeting</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month: 10 AM to 12 noon
<b>CWL meeting</b>	February 15, 2026

Session	Sunday: Year 1-2-3 @ 9:15 AM Year 4-5-6 @ 12:15 PM	Tuesday: Years 1-2-3 @ 6 PM	Wednesday: Years 4-5-6 @ 6 PM
#8	January 04, 2026	January 06, 2026	January 07, 2026
#9	January 18, 2026	January 20, 2026	January 21, 2026
#10	February 01, 2026	February 03, 2026	February 04, 2026

### St. Bernard's Faith Formation Schedule

#### Confirmation Preparation Schedule

Session	Sunday: 2 PM - 3:15 PM
January 04, 2026	Session #4 – Gathering in the hall
February 01, 2026	Session #5 – Gathering in the hall
<b>Holy Communion Preparation for Children Schedule</b>	
Session	Sunday: 2 PM
January 18, 2026	Hall/Church
February 08, 2026	Hall/Church

### St. Bernard's CWL

#### CWL 2026 Membership Dues.

Reminder to members that our 2026 membership dues are payable to National Office by **Dec. 31st**. If paying by cheque, please make your cheque payable to St. Bernard's CWL. **Please do not place dues in the church collection baskets.** If any member wishes to have her dues picked up, please call **Donna Shaw on 506-382-0503**. Thank you for helping us meet our **Dec. 31st** deadline.



#### The Good Shepherd Pastoral Unit Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

##### Wednesday, December 31, 2025 – New Year's Eve

St. Bernard's	4:00 PM (please note: no 9:30 AM Mass)
Thursday, January 1, 2026 – New Year's Day	
St. Bernard's	11:00 AM (please note: no 9:30 AM Mass)
St. Clement's	11:00 AM
St. Vincent's	9:00 AM

### St. Vincent's

**ST. VINCENT'S OFFICE HOURS** – Please be advised that St. Vincent's Parish Office will be closed from **December 25, 2025, to Thursday, January 1, 2026, inclusive**. Reopening on Friday, **January 2, 2026**. In case of an emergency, please leave a message on the office phone 506-536-1460. Voice mail messages will be checked periodically during the office closure. As well, email messages will be checked on a regular basis. May you enjoy a safe and happy Christmas with family and friends!

**2025-2026 SUNDAY MISSAL** – Due to high demand, the parish office has received a request for additional 2025-2026 Sunday Missals. Please contact **Lorraine at the parish office 506-536-1460 or stvince@nbnet.nb.ca** if you wish to receive a 2025-2026 Sunday Missal. Cost will be **\$5.25 per Missal**.

**PRE-AUTHORIZED DEBIT PROGRAM** – Thank you to the many parishioners who have financially supported St. Vincent's during the past year. An easy way to donate is through the **Pre-Authorized Debit system**. Enrollment

cards are available at the entrance to the church or by contacting **Lorraine at the Parish Office 506-536-1460 or [stvince@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:stvince@nbnet.nb.ca)**.

**JOIN OUR PARISH CHOIR – ALL ARE WELCOME!** – For info, please contact **Karen Olscamp, [kolscamp@live.com](mailto:kolscamp@live.com), or 506-536-3050.**

**ROSARY** – You are invited to join a group of faithful parishioners who gather to pray the Rosary in St. Vincent's chapel **every Thursday at 10:00 a.m.**

**PARISH CALENDAR** – Please consult the calendar at the entrance to the church for upcoming events.

**SACKVILLE FOOD BANK** - If you are able, please contribute non-perishable food and/or toiletry items to our local Food Bank. The donation basket is located on the right-hand side of the entrance to the church. In addition, please note that a **new thrift store** has opened at **18 Lorne Street** and is accepting donations of household items, clothing, etc. All proceeds are forwarded to the Sackville Food Bank.

### **FAITH FORMATION at St. Vincent's**

The Rite of Enrollment was celebrated with the Confirmation candidates at Mass on November 30th, which starts a special journey to deepen their faith and relationship with Jesus! Let us pray for and with these youth, their sponsors, their parents, and their catechists.

#### **The Faith Formation schedule is as follows (location is St. Vincent's Hall):**

Jan 4th, 2026, at 10am	Primary group session (gr. 1-3)
Jan 11th, 2026, at 10am	Primary group sessions (gr. 1-3)

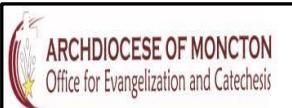
#### **Sacramental preparations:**

Confirmation gatherings (service to others: January to April and beyond)	January 11th, February 1st, February 22nd, March 15th, March 29th, April 5th (gatherings start at 6:30pm) <a href="#">Confirmation at Mass on April 12, 2026</a>
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For questions and inquiries, please contact Cathy Crinnion at [ccrinnion@yahoo.ca](mailto:ccrinnion@yahoo.ca)

### **St. Clement's**

Thank you to all the bakers and ladies who helped organize the sweet plate fundraiser. 120 plates were prepared and we raised **\$2185**. Special thanks go to Jan Legere who organized the fundraiser.



**Office for Evangelization & Catechesis**  
**Trevor Drolesbeck - 857- 4879 or [adultfaith@diocesemoncton.ca](mailto:adultfaith@diocesemoncton.ca)**  
**Karen LeBlanc – 387- 4198 or [youth@diocesemoncton.ca](mailto:youth@diocesemoncton.ca)**

**COFFEE FOR CAREGIVERS**, is an opportunity for fellowship with others providing care for an adult spouse, family, or friend with needs. Please join us as we gather on the following dates: **January 8th and 22nd at Holy Family Church Hall at 2:00 pm**. Contact **Mike Jeffries 506-851-1271 or Karen at 506-387-4198**. Everyone is welcome.

**Senior's Connect**. Welcome to Senior's Connect. Our next gathering will take place on **January 15th at 10:30am, at Holy Family Parish Hall at 52 Falkland Street Moncton**. This month we will learn about Funeral planning both at funeral homes and in churches. Questions? Contact Karen LeBlanc at 387-4198 or email [youth@diocesemoncton.ca](mailto:youth@diocesemoncton.ca).

## St. Bernard's Marriage Apostolate — Marriage Enrichment Activities

This winter we're offering two opportunities for couples to reconnect and be renewed.

### 1) Love & Respect — 10-Week Zoom Video Study

Thursdays, 7:00 PM (AST) • Jan 8 – Mar 12, 2026, • Online

Facilitators: Joe & Deb D'Ettore

Based on Dr. Emerson Eggerichs' bestselling program, Love & Respect unpacks the biblical insight of Ephesians 5:33, that she most deeply desires love and he most deeply needs respect, and gives practical tools to improve communication, break the "crazy cycle," and build an "energizing cycle" of grace at home.

- Registration: **\$10/couple** (includes electronic workbook + Zoom invite)
- Miss a night? Sessions are recorded so you can catch up later.
- Register: Email [atvnonno@gmail.com](mailto:atvnonno@gmail.com)

### 2) Marriage Enrichment Retreat @ Villa Madonna (Rothesay, NB) "Love that Reflects Heaven:

Encountering God in Our Marriage"

Feb 13–15, 206 (Check-in Fri 5:30 PM; Check-out Sun after lunch)

Speakers include Joe & Deb D'Ettore, Fr. Carlos Jacinto, and guests.

Retreat highlights: inspiring talks, couple reflection & prayer, Mass, Confession, Spiritual Direction, Renewal of Marriage Vows, Valentine's celebration, and fellowship with other couples.

- Early Registration (by Dec 15): **\$200/couple**
- Standard (Dec 16 onward): **\$250/couple**
- Includes: Two nights' accommodation, all meals, and retreat materials
- Limited spots, register now: [atvnonno@gmail.com](mailto:atvnonno@gmail.com)

Thanks to our generous donors for helping keep costs low. Questions?

Email: [atvnonno@gmail.com](mailto:atvnonno@gmail.com).

Come be refreshed, because your marriage matters!



*A time to mourn...  
sincere sympathies to all who mourn the loss of a loved one.*

Oscar Jacinto, Gregory Murphy, Len & Perry Wickham,  
Yolanda Tristan, Emilio Famatid, Peter Leger & Paul LeBlanc



*Ecclesiastes 3  
Under every season there is a time...A time to heal...*

#### St. Bernard's

Peter Quach	Conrad Coughlan	Paul & Alma Melanson	Rosemarie Villariasa	Romualdo Mesias
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#### St. Clement's

McGraw Family	Sharon Wall	Lorraine Doiron	Ron Drisdelle
Erika Doiron	Margaret Schriver	Cullen Flood	Elaine Black

#### St. Vincent's

Alvin Bernard	Vince Wood	Leone Campbell	Kathy Mattatall
Art Chase		Barb DeWitt	Leonard Burke

#### And those who have died:

#### Mass times / Intentions:

#### St. Bernard's

Mon.	Dec 29	9:30 AM	Anniv. Late Norma Chamberland	Family
Tues.	Dec 30	9:30 AM	Late Edith Murphy	Roberta Brine

Wed.	Dec 31	4:00 PM	Late Roger Thibodeah	Clarence and Maria Richard
Thurs.	Jan 01	11:00 AM	Late Ronald LeBlanc	Phyllis Christie
Fri.	Jan 02	9:30 AM	Anniv. Late Shirley Clement	Susan Clement
Sat.	Jan 03	4:00 PM	Patrick Lawlor	Linda and Jason
Sun.	Jan 04	11:00 AM	Anniv. Late George O'Dell	Richard and Donna Shaw

**St. Clement's**

Sun.	Dec 28	11:00 AM	Special Intentions	Joanne Carroll
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**St. Vincent's**

Sun.	Dec 28	9:00 AM	For the People	
Thu.	Jan 1	9:00 AM	Vince Reinsborough	Conrad Coughlan
Sun.	Jan 4	9:00 AM	Late Irene LeClair	Florence Gaudet

**OFFERINGS**

St. Bernard's Offerings: December 21, 2025, to be reported later.

St. Clement's offerings: December 21, 2025, to be reported later.

St. Vincent's offerings: December 21, 2025, to be reported later.

*Thank you for your generous and continued support!!!*



<i>In Memory</i>	<i>Donated By</i>
Ralph, Florence and Peter Fahey	Family
Frank-Rose & Jeanette Arsenault, Harmon & Gladys, Bob Fogarty	Bill & Bernice Fogarty
Louise & Florence McKinley, Ann Breault, Ben & Olezine Arsenault	Robert & Helen McKinley
Jim Beek	Marie Beek
Minnie Burnett, George & Verna Perry	Ross & Sharon Burnett
Deceased members of the Hanson Family	Sherry Hanson
Charles (Chuck) Kinney, Carroll Family: Alice, James, Walter, Mabel & Kathleen	Jessie & Peter Kinney
Toma Mae Clark and Arsenault Family members	Linda & Moe Arsenault

<i>Late Maureen Coyle</i>	<i>Madge Lund &amp; Family</i>
<i>Kay &amp; Louis Boudreau, Sam &amp; Erma Ermen, Jeff Ermen</i>	<i>Sam &amp; Donna Ermen</i>
<i>Deceased members of the Carter &amp; Flanagan Families</i>	<i>Roy &amp; Dee Dee Carter</i>
<i>Ruby &amp; James Furlong</i>	<i>Phyllis Allain</i>
<i>The Stephen Family: Peter, Lanne, Gail Sid Wright</i>	<i>Dianne Stephen</i>
<i>Janice Cormier</i>	<i>Mellie Wright</i>
<i>Cornelia de Winter, Terry &amp; Gerry Gulliver Sebastian Michaud</i>	<i>Norma Cormier</i>
<i>Late Heather Beleski</i>	<i>Peter &amp; Monique Gulliver</i>
<i>John Hay and his wife Emily &amp; Family</i>	<i>Jeannine Michaud</i>
<i>Mom &amp; Dad: Edna &amp; Charles LeBlanc, Dorothy &amp; Joseph Goosney</i>	<i>Roger Bastarache</i>
<i>George &amp; Zella O'Dell</i>	<i>Brenda Hay</i>
<i>Laura &amp; Arthur Eveleigh, Mary &amp; Nelson Green Sr., Donna Green</i>	<i>Paul &amp; Vivian LeBlanc and Family</i>
<i>Deceased Family Members</i>	<i>Richard &amp; Donna Shaw</i>
<i>Gillis &amp; Trites Family Members</i>	<i>Mary &amp; Nelson Green</i>
<i>Eleanor Beck</i>	<i>Jim &amp; Dorine White</i>
<i>Pasquine Lobo, Eliza Dsouza</i>	<i>Patricia Trites</i>
<i>Lester Rossiter</i>	<i>David &amp; Lise Watts</i>
<i>James &amp; Mary Fahey, Ernest &amp; Margaret Fahey, Harry &amp; Greta Fahey</i>	<i>Dsouza Family</i>
<i>Thomas &amp; Elizabeth Clements &amp; Family</i>	<i>James &amp; Sharon Fahey</i>
<i>Roy C. Hopper</i>	<i>Melda &amp; Family</i>
<i>The Deceased Members of the O'Brien &amp; Scott Families</i>	<i>Doug &amp; Noreen Martin</i>
<i>The Pitre, Keenan &amp; Loubert Families</i>	<i>Juanita Hopper</i>
<i>Donald Wood</i>	<i>Michael &amp; Joanne Scott</i>
<i>Roger Berube</i>	<i>Edward &amp; Sherran Pitre</i>
	<i>Jeanne Wood</i>
	<i>Esther, Noreen &amp; Lynn</i>

# 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**

## 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](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.