



[Jesus said,] “For my yoke is  
easy, and my burden light.”

MATTHEW 11:30

## Take Up the Yoke

ANN M. GARRIDO

The invention of the yoke 6,000 years ago marked one of the great advances in human history. The yoke—a wooden beam fitted across the neck—harnessed the energy of two cattle pulling in the same direction, hastening the tilling of soil and transport of goods.

It is easy to see why, among many ancient peoples, the yoke became a symbol of subjugation. When the Roman army won a battle, they forced defeated soldiers to walk beneath a “yoke” of spears to indicate they were now in a state of servitude. The prophet Jeremiah once walked through Jerusalem wearing a yoke to warn the people they were about to be conquered by Babylon.

In Judaism, however, the Torah was also sometimes referred to as a yoke. It was a law to be submitted to, but it also was a way of life that offered an alternative to the cruel “yokes” imposed by kings. The Book of Sirach encourages youth to “Take [Torah’s] yoke upon your neck; that your mind may receive her teaching.... See for yourselves! I have labored only a little but have found much” (Sirach 51:26–27).

It is unclear exactly what Jesus meant when he invited us to accept *his* yoke, but it is likely that he was echoing the invitation of Sirach. He wanted us to know that following God’s law makes it possible for us to work together, accomplishing much that we could not do on our own. And that God’s law is a gentle law—one that enables rather than oppresses. Are you willing to receive Christ’s gentle teaching and make it your own? ●

### Reflect

***Is there a teaching of Jesus you find challenging?***

# St. Andrew Catholic Church

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**To reserve the Parish Center:**

Call or text Barbara Durler

(620) 255-1868

## Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – July 5, 2026

| <u>Day</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Feast</u>                      | <u>Intention</u>          |
|------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Monday     |             |                                   |                           |
| Tuesday    | 8:00 am     | Weekday Mass                      | Dennis George             |
| Wednesday  | 8:00 am     | Weekday Mass                      | Rita Harper               |
| Thursday   | 8:00 am     | Weekday Mass                      | Joan Mages                |
| Friday     | 9:00 am     | Weekday Mass (at Fort Dodge)      | Rawlin Smith              |
| Saturday   | 8:00 am     | St. Benedict                      | Sam Mages                 |
| Sunday     | 9:00 am     | Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Saint Andrew Parishioners |

**Confessions:** Sunday 8:00 – 8:45 am or by appointment any time

### Ministers for next Sunday, July 12, 2026

**Greeters:** Brian & Kaylee Chilton

**Collection:** Matt Durler & Nick King

**Cantor:** Choir

**Servers:** Sadie Davis & Maggie Cornitius

**Lectors:** Mary Beth Helfrich & Robert Askew

**E.M.C.'s:** Maurice Bleumer, Regina Lix, Diane Lix

**Gifts:** Jason Sanko

**Rosary:** Greg Lix

### Giving Report: 6-21-26

Envelopes: \$3,475.00

Loose: \$180.00

Electronic: \$414.91

Alms for Renovation Project: \$67,345.69



The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fr. Bob Schremmer's ordination to the priesthood is June 19th. Fr Bob will be concelebrating Mass on Sunday, July 12th and a breakfast will follow Mass in his honor.

# Pastoral Ministry Formation courses, schedule

## THEO 4023 Theology and Methods of Ministry (3 hour college course)

This course offers a foundational theology of ministry rooted in Baptism. Focus will be given to the role of the laity in ministry with diverse types of ministry explored. This course provides experience and formation to enable the student to learn a variety of ministerial skills.

**Instructor:** Father Robert Schremmer is a Diocesan priest in retirement. From 2001-2019, Father Bob served as Vicar Moderator of the Curia. He holds an MA Degree and MTH Degree from St. Thomas Seminary, Denver, CO.

**Saturday mornings:** 8:15 to 12:00 noon

**Class Dates:** Sept. 19, 26, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14

**Location:** This course is offered over Zoom. To join a Zoom class, one will need a computer with a microphone and camera.

**Cost:** 3 hr. college course for credit - \$150.00\* 3 hr. college course for enrichment - \$75.00\*

Please add \$5.00 for each course for postage and handling.

\*Does not include textbook.



## THEO 4881 Women in Scripture (1 hour college course)

This course introduces students to the roles and theological significance of women in Sacred Scripture from a Catholic perspective. Students will explore both Old Testament and New Testament texts, meet the women depicted in these Scriptures, and consider how the women of Scripture can guide Catholics today.

**Instructor:** Trish Keller is a staff member of Newman University's Western Kansas Outreach Center; she shares NU's mission, Catholic identity, and core values with faculty, staff, students, and the community. She's also an adjunct instructor for NU, with master's degrees in theological studies and English.

**Tuesday evenings:** 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**Class Dates:** Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29

**Location:** This course is offered over Zoom. To join a Zoom class, one will need a computer with a microphone and camera.

**Cost:** 1-hour college course for credit - \$50.00\* 1-hour college course for enrichment - \$25.00\* Please add \$5.00 for each course for postage and handling.

\*Does not include textbook.



**CONTACT:** Coleen Stein, [cstein@dcdiocese.org](mailto:cstein@dcdiocese.org) 620-227-1538 or visit [www.dcdiocese.org/pastoral-ministry-formation](http://www.dcdiocese.org/pastoral-ministry-formation)



**Hospitality + Prayer + Service + Formation + Evangelization**

# Dear Padre,

## Is it appropriate to display the American flag in our church?

A diocesan bishop—who often delegates this matter to the discretion of the pastor—determines regulations on whether and how to display the American flag in a Catholic church. Displaying the flag, and a book of remembrance for those serving in the armed forces, seems to have originated in many US parishes during World War II. The practice has continued through subsequent wars and national tragedies.

While the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy advised that national symbols should not be *permanent* fixtures of a worship space, they may be appropriate at worship services on a civil holiday, etc. This same committee discouraged pastors from displaying the American flag within the sanctuary itself—a space reserved for the altar, ambo, presidential chair, and tabernacle—but instead to place the flag in the vestibule of the church together with a book of petitions for the living and deceased.

Fundamentally, a church building is where the liturgical assembly gathers as one body in Christ—the same Christ of the Eucharist who is beyond time and place, who came to unite our divisions. “The church building is a sign and reminder of the immanence and transcendence of God—who chose to dwell among us and whose presence cannot be contained or limited to any single place” (US Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Built of Living Stones*, 2000). ●



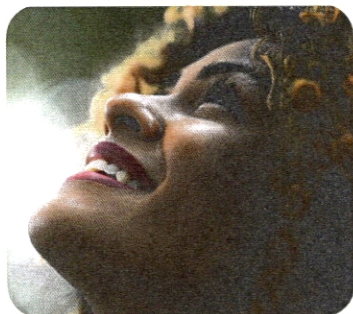
Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org)

### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

There is a burning question in our hearts, a need for truth that we cannot ignore, which leads us to ask ourselves: what is true happiness? What is the true meaning of life? What can free us from being trapped in meaninglessness, boredom, and mediocrity?... We need to lift our eyes...to the “things that are above” (Colossians 3:2).

HOMILY, TOR VERGATA, AUGUST 3, 2025

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### 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*.

#### Monday

July 6  
Weekday  
Hos 2:16, 17c-18, 21-22  
Mt 9:18-26

#### Tuesday

July 7  
Weekday  
Hos 8:4-7, 11-13  
Mt 9:32-38

#### Wednesday

July 8  
Weekday  
Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12  
Mt 10:1-7

#### Thursday

July 9  
Weekday  
Hos 11:1-4, 8e-9  
Mt 10:7-15

#### Friday

July 10  
Weekday  
Hos 14:2-10  
Mt 10:16-23

#### Saturday

July 11  
St. Benedict, Abbot  
Is 6:1-8  
Mt 10:24-33

#### Sunday

July 12  
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Is 55:10-11  
Rom 8:18-23  
Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9