

Dear Padre,

My former boyfriend died recently. He was very abusive and caused me a lot of pain. Should I pray for him even if I believe that no amount of prayer could help him?

Yes, you should pray for him and, despite your lingering hurt from the relationship, resist the urge to make a judgment about him. This decision is not only a healthy spiritual choice, but it will also help you heal the wounds that you still carry. Praying for him does not mean that you are denying any of the hurt that he inflicted on you but rather that you are capable of maturity and choices that were seemingly beyond his ability. Praying for him really says more about you than it says about him. It is also an act of grace-inspired honesty and faithfulness. It is a statement that you believe wholeheartedly in the merciful and forgiving God who is capable of healing the deepest hurts and is even capable of helping his faithful people ultimately forgive those who have inflicted harm upon them. ●



VASYCHENKO NIKITA / SHUTTERSTOCK

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

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

While unity attracts, divisions scatter....

Therefore, in order to be a truly missionary Church, one that is capable of witnessing to the attractive power of Christ's love, we must first of all put into practice his commandment, the only one he gave us after washing his disciples' feet: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."



EXTRAORDINARY CONSISTORY,
ROME, JANUARY 7, 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

July 20
Weekday
Mt 6:1-4, 6-8
Mt 12:38-42
Tuesday
July 21
Weekday
Mt 7:14-15, 18-20
Mt 12:46-50
Wednesday
July 22
St. Mary Magdalene
Lk 7:36-50
Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Thursday

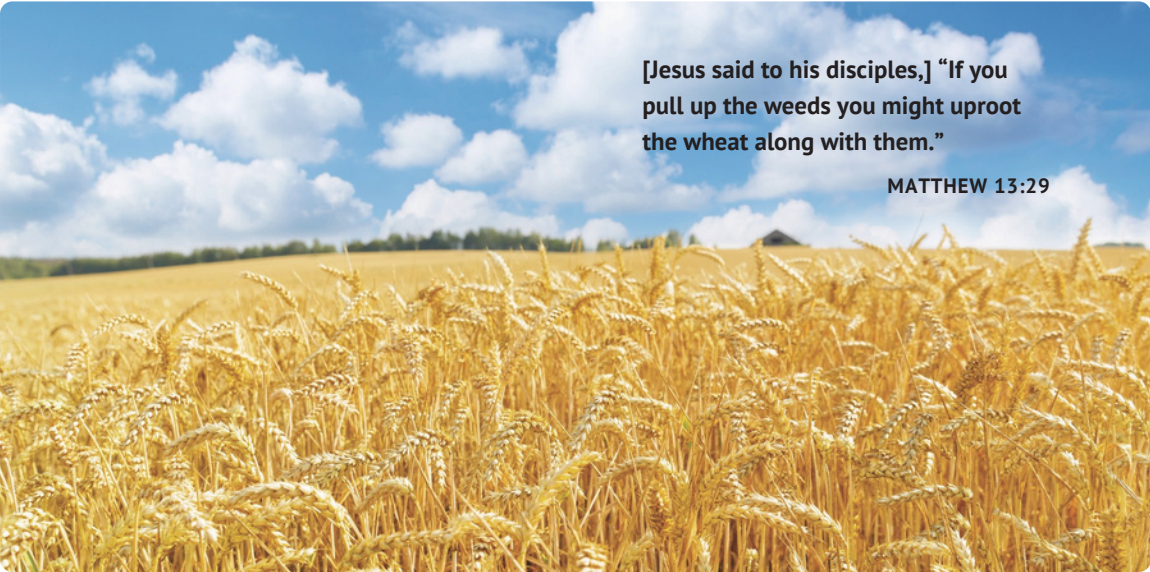
July 23
Weekday
Jer 2:1-3, 7-8,
12-13
Mt 13:10-17
Friday
July 24
Weekday
Jer 3:14-17
Mt 13:18-23

Saturday

July 25
St. James, Apostle
2 Cor 4:7-15
Mt 20:20-28
Sunday
July 26
Seventeenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12
Rom 8:28-30
Mt 13:44-52
or 13:44-46

Our Parish
COMMUNITY

July 19, 2026
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Wisdom 12:15, 16-19 / Romans 8:26-27 / Matthew 13:24-43 or 13:24-30



[Jesus said to his disciples,] "If you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them."

MATTHEW 13:29

Weeds in Wheat

Jesus loved parables. "He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet:

"I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation [of the world]"

(Matthew 13:34-35).

Indeed, parables spring from creation itself. Wheat and weeds grow, a natural process, just waiting for Jesus to read the kingdom of heaven hidden within. Jesus doesn't force an interpretation on these elements; he, more than anyone, follows his own advice: "Whoever has ears ought to hear" (Matthew 13:43).

Matthew is the only gospel writer who records this parable. Maybe he liked it because it's his own story. Among the beautiful wheat of the chosen people, he was an ugly weed, a tax collector for the Roman Empire. Once Jesus plucked him from obscurity to follow him, Matthew might have thought, *Why didn't God just strike me dead for all the poison I spread among my own brethren?*

Now, in the parable, the weeds never become wheat, and they indeed meet a terrible fate, but the point is to let the wheat and weeds grow together, lest we uproot the wheat when we pull up the weeds. Oftentimes, it's difficult to tell the difference. Those who are "wheat" should not find excuses to separate from those judged to be "weeds." The risk is too great for the damage we may do. Let God do the separating in God's own time. ●

Reflect

Are you tempted to give up on someone? Or yourself?



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

GOODING PHOTO / SHUTTERSTOCK



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Online Giving is here. Scan the QR Code in this bulletin or visit www.stpetercarthage.com to access the Online Giving tab. Questions can be directed to Ann Catalano 615-683-9587

St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church

208 Upper Ferry Rd. Carthage, TN

www.stpetercarthage.com

Instagram: @stpetercarthage

Facebook: St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church

Mass Schedule:

Saturdays at 5 p.m.

Sundays at 9 a.m.

Monday, July 20th at 5 p.m.

Wednesday, July 22nd at 8 a.m.

Friday, July 24th at 8 a.m.

Confessions: Please know that confessions are available anytime by appointment and Saturdays prior to Mass.

Hall Improvement: Thanks to your generosity, we are in the process of removing right outer wall and stairwell walls due to lack of insulation and water barrier. We will finish the insulation project which was started earlier, move electrical outlets and switch boxes, apply two coats of primer, paint AND much, much, much more. Bless You.

Help Needed: We need assistance in taking a turn to clean our church. If we get additional help, one's turn would not come up as often. If you can help us with this rewarding ministry, call Olga at 615-418-6607

Thank You: Bless you for your on-going generosity. Thanks to your stewardship efforts, we were able to pay Catholic Mutual \$6,737 for our annual premium which includes: special multi-peril, property and liability.

Last Week Collections: \$2,486 - Building - \$705 - We pledge to be the best of stewards of your generosity. Bless you for sharing the fruits of your labors.

Scripture Study: Every Wednesday at 6 p.m. the Scripture for the upcoming weekend will be studied and enhance your experience of Mass. Thank you Knights of Columbus for starting this for our community.

Finance Committee... is working on our annual report and budget. We will publish them when they become available.

Pastor's Desk: Thanks to all the folks who volunteer their labors of love by cleaning our church, mowing our huge lawn, and embracing many volunteer opportunities. Your sweat equity efforts demonstrate that you perceive "church" to be a privilege, and not a convenience. Well Done! /// Let's all remember to keep God in our summer plans and travels.

THANKS: Thanks to the Knights of Columbus for a delicious breakfast last weekend. The Knights use the funds from the breakfast to fund their service projects throughout the year.

Knights of Columbus. . . meets after the 9:00 Mass today. (Sunday)