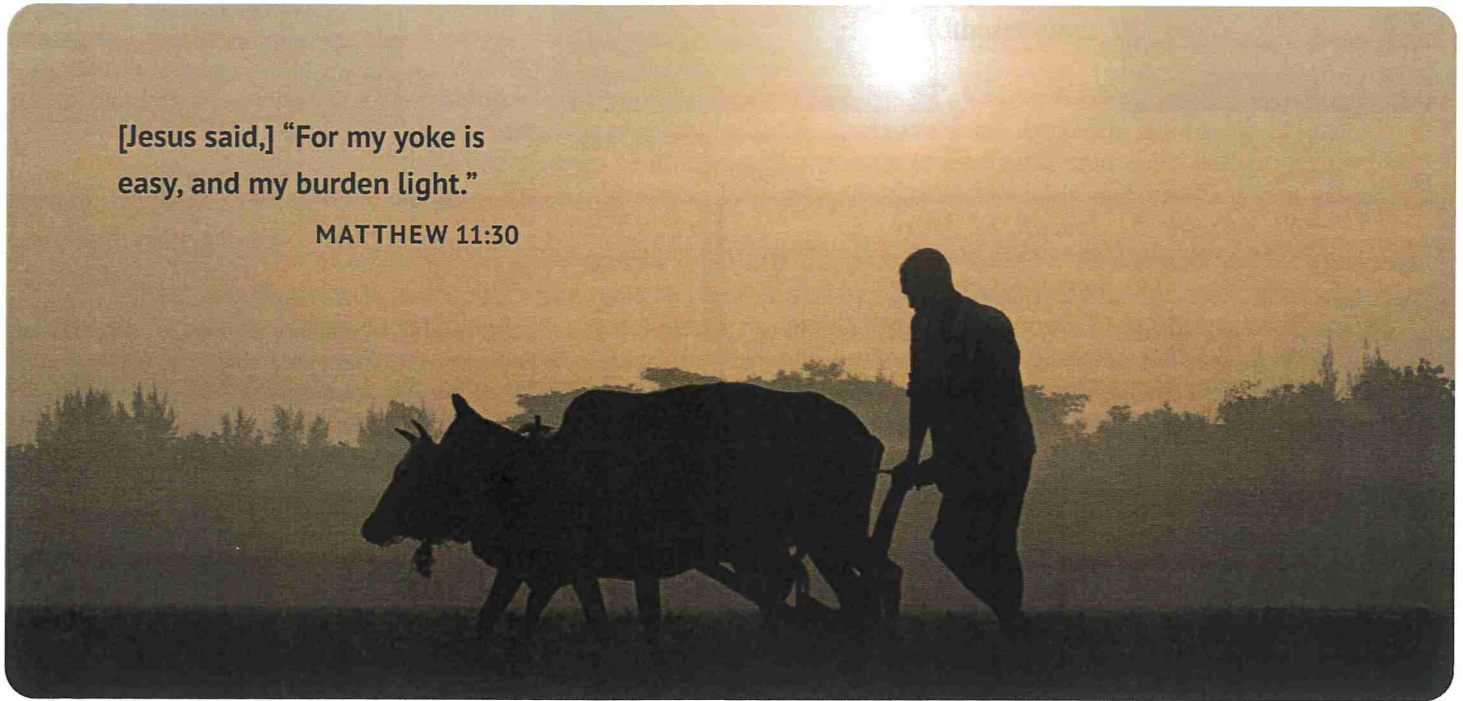




[Jesus said,] “For my yoke is
easy, and my burden light.”

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. Anselm's
Anselmo, NE



Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sargent, NE



St. Joseph's
Broken Bow, NE

St. Anselm, St. Joseph, St. Mary
1407 South E St, PO Box 405
Broken Bow, Nebraska 68822
Office Hours: 8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday
(308) 872-5809 **Office/Parish Center**
(308) 872-5716 **Rectory**
Website: www.stjoecatholic.org
Email: stjoescatholic@msn.com

Fr. Joseph Hannappel-Pastor
Keegan Clark, Parish Secretary / Office Manager
Rashelle Ryan, Parish Bookkeeper
Kate Morse, Parish Nurse
Directors of Religious Education:
Molly Ryan, St. Joseph, Broken Bow
Linly Schmidt & Jill Thompson, St. Anselm, Anselmo
Laura Kipp, St. Mary, Sargent

Mass Schedule: July 6th-July 12th

Mon.	No Mass	Fr. Joe will be on vacation during the week
Tues.	No Mass	
Wed.	No Mass	
Thur.	No Mass	
Fri.	No Mass	
Sat.	3:00-3:30 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation at Broken Bow or other times by appointment
	4:00 pm	Broken Bow People of the Parishes Servers: Deliah & Dexter Rohde
	6:00 pm	Sargent Justin Young†
Sun.	8:30 am	Anselmo Richard "Dick" Clark† Servers: Hazen & McKenna Clark
	10:30 am	Broken Bow Bob Homan Servers: Chyann Tibbs & Frederick Fiorelli

Stewardship

Last
Weekend's Collections
St. Joseph
Regular: \$2,044.70

St. Anselm
Regular: \$496.00

**Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary**
Regular: \$685.00

*Thank you very much for
your generosity!*

Events This Week

July 5th
Masses:
8:30am Anselmo
10:30am Broken Bow

July 6th
Masses:
1:30pm Divine Mercy
Cenacle Prayer Group

July 9th
6:30am Broken Bow Men's
Bible Study P. Ctr.

July 11th
Masses:
4:00pm Broken Bow
6:00pm Sargent
Refreshments After Mass

July 12th
Masses:
8:30am Anselmo
10:30am Broken Bow

"The New Colossus"

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

*by American poet Emma Lazarus (1849-87),
written in 1883. In 1903 the poem was engraved on
a bronze plaque and mounted inside the lower level
of the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty.*

25/26 Diocesan Appeal
St. Joseph-Broken Bow
Parish Goal: \$18,446.00
Total Raised: \$18,099.00
Assumption of BVM-
Sargent
Parish Goal: \$5,103.00
Total Raised: \$5,257.00
St. Anselm-Anselmo-
Merna
Parish Goal: \$6,799.00
Total Raised: \$6,900.00

**Make checks payable
to "Diocesan Appeal"**



WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is "Celebrating Catholic Contributions to the United States of America on the Semiquincentennial Anniversary". As the United States of America commemorates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, the USCCB joins this celebration by lifting up the contributions of Catholics and the impact of our faith on the history of this country." On June 11, 2026, the U.S. bishops consecrated the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. You can find more information on the bishop's website www.usccb.org/weholdthesetruths. A Litany to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is available in the church entrances.

BOOM, BANG, ZING, FIZZ, WIZZ, WHISTLE, SNAP, CRACKLE, and POP

These sounds will still echo in our ears this weekend after a whole week of observing the fourth of July. Flashes of fire, bright colorful light and plumes of smoke will continue to be visual memories that linger on long after we celebrate Independence Day. These are some of the myriad of sounds, sights and smells experienced in our country this past week as we celebrated our freedom.

In the letter to the Galatians 5:1 the apostle Paul speaks of freedom in this way, "**For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.**" For many people freedom means license to do as they please. In Paul's view, freedom is not about the individual's desires, but about living as a new creation within the community of faith. It is a freedom from slavery to sin and a freedom for service to others.

Galatians 5:13-14 teaches this: "**For you were called for freedom, brothers and sisters. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**" This kind of freedom is not something that is fought for, earned, or deserved because it comes to us a divine gift. It is not merely a command demanding obedience but a grace offered freely for us to receive. Freedom in Christ is true freedom, greater than other freedoms found in our culture today.

St. Paul's teachings about freedom and love lead to restoring a communal way of living rather than being independent individuals. Galatians 5:22-23 tells us, "the fruit of the Spirit is **LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GENEROSITY, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, and SELF-CONTROL.**"

It is my hope that these fruits and even more gifts of the Spirit are the plethora of sounds, sights and smells in our lives as we daily celebrate our freedom in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rise Well and Often, I AM your brother Joseph! (Genesis 45:4)

Contribution Envelope Changes for 2027
Starting in January 2027, we will begin a bi-monthly mailing for contribution envelopes. Please make sure the Church has your current, correct address before July 31.

We will send out mailers as reminders this summer. Envelopes themselves will not be different except for minor reformatting for mailing. Envelope numbers will not change unless requested.

Peter's Pence Collection this weekend July 4-5
The Peter's Pence collection is a gesture of solidarity through which every member of the faithful can participate in the activity of the Pope as Pastor of the universal Church.

The faithful's offerings to the Holy Father through the Peter's Pence Collection are destined to Church needs, to humanitarian initiatives and social promotion projects, as well as to the support of the Holy See.

Knights of Columbus Baby Bottle Campaign
Please turn in your baby bottle if you have not yet. You may bring them to your church or the Parish Office for the Knights to pickup.

Richard "Dick" Downey
August 2, 1939 — June 28, 2026
Vigil Service: 7/6/26 @ 6pm at St. Anselm's
Funeral Mass: 7/7/26 @ 10am at St. Anselm's
Burial at St. Andrew's Cemetery in Dale Valley

Theo Williams
July 31, 1993 — June 19, 2026
Son of Stacey Williams and stepson of Jason Young
Memorial Services were held on June 26, 2026

May the joy of the Resurrection bring comfort to those who mourn and hope to all who grieve.

**Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord:
And let perpetual light shine upon them.**

St. Anselm Sidewalk Replacement
Cost \$20,984; donations \$2,250; **needed \$17,634**
St. Anselm's Rectory Porch Brick and Roof repair
We are getting bids for this necessary repair.

St. Joseph Sidewalk / Parking Lot Replacement
Cost \$25,914; donations \$2,190; **needed \$23,724**
St. Joseph Playground
Cost \$30,338; donations \$26,043; **needed \$4,295**

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). ●



JOAQUIN OSSORIO CASTILLO / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / 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

The quotations from Pope Leo XIV are printed with permission, copyright © Dicastero per la Comunicazione—Libreria Editrice Vaticana. All rights reserved.



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 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