

Dear Padre,

I struggle with depression, and sometimes it gets really bad during the holidays. When is it morally acceptable to use antidepressant medication?

You are not alone. People who struggle with depression often find the holidays especially difficult. To answer your question, it is morally acceptable to use antidepressant medications when a medical professional judges them to be the best response to the condition of the patient. As we learn more about the causes of depression and other disorders that challenge the sense of equilibrium in people, we hope that the most reliable responses may be found and employed to restore a sense of peace to those suffering from these ailments.

Evaluation and treatment of depression must be done within the context of a person's whole life. Depression often involves a chemical imbalance in the brain, and some people respond quite well to antidepressants. For others, the best treatment might be counseling or psychotherapy. Or both medicine and therapy. As each experience of suffering is unique, so, too, must be the response.

Frequently people will be embarrassed to admit to suffering with depression or consider it a sign of weakness or inability to deal with matters in life. Such thinking is of little help in resolving the issue. People who experience depression need the love and support of family and friends to accompany them in the suffering and to assist in their healing. ●



SHUTTERSTOCK

From *Life, Death, and Catholic Medical Choices: 50 Questions from the Pews*, © 2011 Liguori Publications

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> Zec 2:14–17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab Lk 1:26–38 or Lk 1:39–47	December 13 <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i> Zep 3:1–2, 9–13 Mt 21:28–32	December 14 <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> Is 45:6c–8, 18, 21c–25 Lk 7:18b–23	December 15 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 54:1–10 Lk 7:24–30	December 16 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 56:1–3a, 6–8 Jn 5:33–36	December 17 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Gn 49:2, 8–10 Mt 1:1–17	December 18 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> Is 7:10–14 Rom 1:1–7 Mt 1:18–24



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Every yes to God gives rise to stories of salvation for us and for others. Like Mary with her own yes. In this Advent journey, God wishes to visit us and awaits our yes. Let's think: Today, what yes must I say to God?

ANGELUS, DECEMBER 8, 2016



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 11, 2022
Third Sunday of Advent (A)
Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10 / James 5:7–10 / Matthew 11:2–11



Strengthen hands that are feeble, make firm knees that are weak, say to the fearful of heart: Be strong, do not fear!
ISAIAH 35:3–4

Joy: A Sign of God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Once, as I was teaching a theology course to college students in their twenties, I made an offhand comment that the purpose of life is not to be happy. They were shocked. "What's wrong with being happy?" they protested. "Nothing," I said, "it's simply not the purpose of life." "But God wants us to be happy," they insisted. Of course, God wants us to be happy, but that's simply not what life is about.

Happiness is something that comes in the back door while we wait at the front door. If we go looking for happiness, we never find it, but if we forget about ourselves and seek to bring joy into the lives of others, then happiness seems to find us. It comes in the back doors of life. Curiously, that seems to be the dynamic of these Advent/Christmas days. We send cards, give gifts, think of making others happy, and overlook faults. In the process, there is a sense of joy that overtakes us without our realizing it.

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed that it is God who would crown them with everlasting joy; that they would meet with joy and gladness and sorrow and mourning would flee away (Isaiah 35:10). Joy is God's doing, not ours.

Leon Bloy, a French novelist in the nineteenth century, observed, "Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God." God is love, and God is also joy. Joy is so much more than happiness. Rather it is an inner quality—peaceful, serene, and nurturing—even when life may be unsettled. ●

Reflect

What brings you joy?
Do something to bring joy to someone this week.

December 11th, 2022 – Third Sunday of Advent

ST. JUDE PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday Mass at 9:30 a.m.

Confessions by appointment or after Mass on Thursday

Weekly Thursday Mass – 10:30 a.m., Adoration at 9:00 a.m.

Website: www.stjudeparishgobles.com Office: (269) 628-2219

Pastor: Fr. Alan Jorgensen Office: (269) 657-4459

Parochial Vicar: Fr. John Tran Cell: (269) 921-6841

Pastoral Administrator: Deacon Jim Bauer Office: (269) 628-2219
P.O. Box 102, 13809 M-40 Cell: (269) 655-6510
Gobles, MI 49055
Email: deaconjimbauer@gmail.com
For pastoral emergencies contact Deacon Jim on his cell phone

St. Jude Parish Office Hours:

Mon. & Tues., 8:30-12:30; Weds., 9:00-11:00; Thurs., 8:30-1:00

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Administrative Assistant-Bookkeeper: Lauren Gilbert (269) 628-2219
Choir Director: Laura Woods (269) 628-4866
Religious Ed Coordinator: Jennifer Price (269) 377-6734
Safe Environment Coordinator: Jennifer Price (269) 377-6734

Mass Intention for today: Ed & Eleanor Kazak by John & Gail Kancauski

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18th, 2022

READER: Carolyn Noack

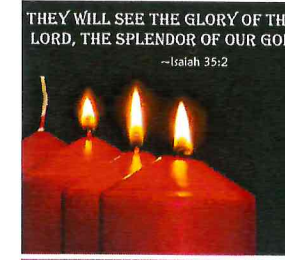
ALTAR SERVERS: Bo, Lydia, Isabella

Mass Intention for Thurs., 12/15/2022: Marian Dunn by Diane Hanchak

Mass Intention Sun., 12/18/2022: The People of St. Jude Parish

Weekly Collection Information

Collections:	Target	Received	Over-(under)	Attendance
Dec. 4, 2022:	\$ 2275.00	\$ 1280.00	\$ (995.00)	93
Year to Date:	\$ 38,302.50	\$ 42,275.50	\$ (3972.50)	2528



Rejoice! Today, on the third Sunday of Advent, we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, Latin for "Rejoice". It is an earnest call from the Church to truly rejoice. Rejoice that the time is near when God will become incarnate, and our salvation will begin to unfold!

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter 14:3-12. In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

FROM THE DRE:

On December 18th we will be having a soup luncheon after Mass. Our Middle and High School students will be arranging and serving this event. Please plan on staying and partaking with us. We will also be decorating the Church for Christmas. You are welcome to help or just socialize during this time.

Our next Student Mass will be 2/5. No Class 12/25 and 1/1.

*The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week in memory of **MARIAN DUNN**
By request of Diane Hanchak*

THE GIVING TREE IS UP! – We’re doing things a little differently this year. There are two tags, one to go home with you and be returned with your gift, and the blue tag to be filled out and placed in the container on the table. We have listed a specific need and something fun for each child. Please return your wrapped gifts no later than Thursday, Dec. 15th. Thank you in advance for your generosity in helping these families have a Merry and Blessed Christmas!

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL: Especially all our clergy and homebound: Fr. Bill Jacobs, Fr. Tom McNally, Margie Burris, Joan Rumery, Lillian B. Wheeler, Frances Parsons, Sonny and Mary Laughlin, Donna Murphy, Jack Secondi and Mary Heinz.

A NEW WAY TO REMEMBER A LOVED ONE – Here at St. Jude, you can sign up to have a loved one remembered by having the Sanctuary Candle lit for one week in their name (which will be announced in the bulletin). Donations are \$10.00. If you are interested, please call the office at 269-628-2219.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR DECEMBER – elbow macaroni, stuffing mix, Jell-O and pudding mix, dish soap, shampoo (we have lots of conditioner).

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - The question put to Jesus in today’s gospel is also put to us today: “Are you the one?” Are you the one who will give guidance to the children in your life or must they look to TV sitcoms, films, videos and music lyrics for direction? Are you the one? Will you be the one?

FROM THE DIOCESE:

THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS will culminate with the 10th National Eucharistic Congress on July 17-21, 2024 in Indianapolis. Early bird tickets are available now at a significantly discounted rate of \$200 per ticket (reg. \$350). Please prayerfully consider taking advantage of the great opportunity to save on the cost of tickets (note: lodging and transportation for the event will be additional). If interested, please call the St. Jude office (269-628-2219) or email (st.judeparishgobles@gmail.com) no later than December 14th.

BISHOP BRADLEY has asked for the entire diocese to enter into a period of listening and consulting as we look to the future of the Church in Southwest Michigan in the modern era. He has convened a Synod to give direction and vision for the Diocese of Kalamazoo. The specific topic of the Synod is Priestly Life and Ministry. All of the faithful are impacted by the priesthood and the bishop desires to hear your needs, expectations, wants, and assumptions about the priesthood. This gives all the opportunity to assist in knowing how priests can continue to be effective teachers, spiritual leaders, and administrators as we continue to live in a post Christian worldview, with fewer priests per parish. If you would like to participate, please visit www.diokzoo.org/diocesan-synod

THE DIOCESE IS HOSTING A DIOCESAN SYNOD ON PRIESTLY LIFE AND MINISTRY - In order to vision for the future of the Church in Southwest Michigan, Bishop Bradley needs to hear your voice. Please go to www.diokzoo.org/diocesan-synod and fill out a survey. There are two options, a 5-10 minute checkbox/short answer or a 20-30 minute essay version to choose from. You may do either or both.

PERMANENT DIACONATE INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS - The Permanent Diaconate Program for the Diocese of Kalamazoo is currently recruiting for men who are discerning a vocation to the diaconate. Married or single men (older than 33 and less than 60 years of age) who are discerning a vocation to the permanent diaconate are eligible to apply to the program. Men interested in the program should speak with their pastors about their vocation and their interest in the permanent diaconate. Potential candidates and their wives can get additional information by attending a bilingual (English/Spanish) informational session. Sessions are scheduled: Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the St. Augustine Crowley Center in Kalamazoo. Fr. German Perez, Director of Deacon Formation, can be contacted at frgermanperez@gmail.com

THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO has and will continue to cooperate with the Michigan Attorney General’s investigation and encourages anyone with information related to misconduct to call the reporting number set- up by the Michigan Attorney General’s office at: (844) 324-3374.