

Dear Padre,

Why are the Gospels Matthew and Mark so alike? Why did the Church keep both Gospels when so much of Mark seems to be a mirror image of Matthew?

The Gospels were written over time and used by the faithful when they gathered for worship. They read the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus collected by Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

The Christian communities were often great distances from one another. A community may have had access to only one of these accounts. There is considerable similarity because the Gospel writers depended on one another. All three Gospels include some of the same incidents. Each also has incidents or details unique to that Gospel.

These were not the only accounts written about the life and ministry of Jesus. At some point, the Church had to decide which should be considered the inspired word of God. There were four accounts that were widely used: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. With their similarities and differences, the Church accepted these four accounts as Gospel—the Good News.

This first page of the Gospel of Mark is from a fourteenth-century Armenian illuminated manuscript painting by Sargis Pitsak.



The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

| MONDAY  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY   | SUNDAY  |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| December 4<br>Advent Weekday<br>Is 2:1–5<br>Mt 8:5–11 | December 5<br>Advent Weekday<br>Is 11:1–10<br>Lk 10:21–24 | December 6<br>Advent Weekday<br>Is 25:6–10a<br>Mt 15:29–37 | December 7<br>St. Ambrose,<br>Bishop and<br>Doctor of the<br>Church<br>Is 26:1–6<br>Mt 7:21, 24–27 | December 8<br>Immaculate<br>Conception of<br>the Blessed<br>Virgin Mary<br>Gn 3:9–15, 20<br>Eph 1:3–6,<br>11–12<br>Lk 1:26–38 | December 9<br>Advent Weekday<br>Is 30:19–21,<br>23–26<br>Mt 9:35–<br>10:1, 5a, 6–8 | December 10<br>Second Sunday<br>of Advent<br>Is 40:1–5, 9–11<br>2 Pt 3:8–14<br>Mk 1:1–8 |

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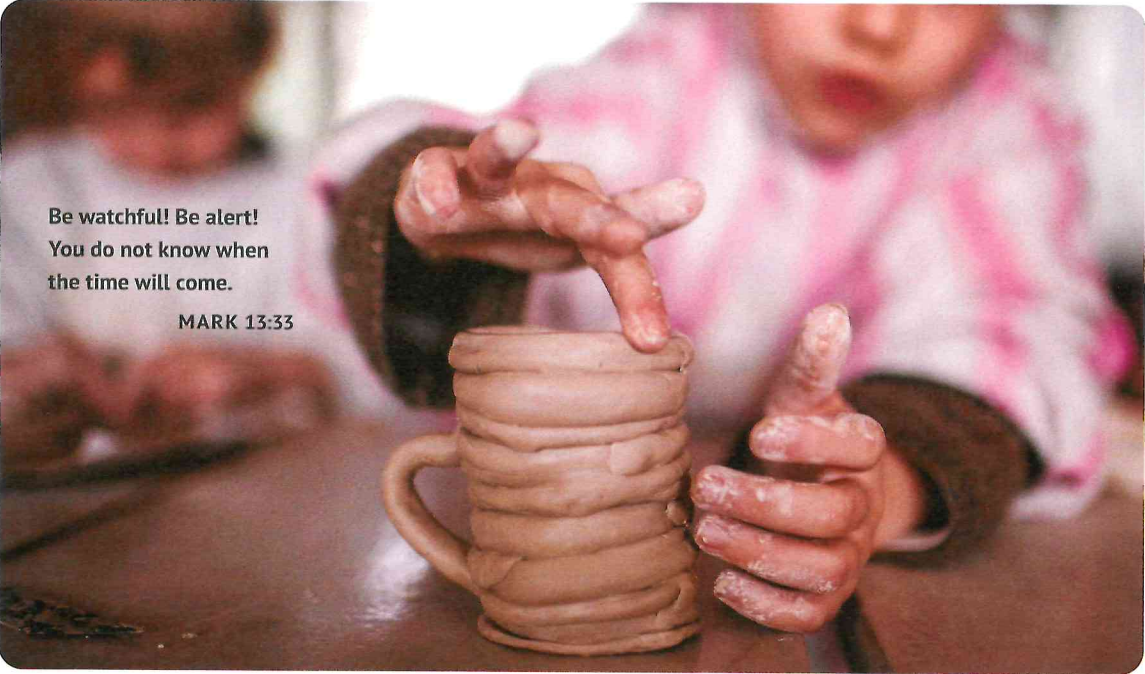
A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

[Jesus] ...is at the door to our heart. He knocks. Do you know how to listen to the Lord...who has come today to visit you...? He came to Bethlehem, he will come at the end of the world, but every day he comes to us. Be attentive, look at what you feel in your heart when the Lord knocks.

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 3, 2023  
First Sunday of Advent (B)  
Isaiah 63:16b–17, 19b; 64:2–7 / 1 Corinthians 1:3–9 / Mark 13:33–37



How Has God Shaped You?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Sometimes it seems as if life is a laboratory of designed experiments on how to become human, all of them allotted ten-year blocks. Have you noticed how nine- and ten-year-olds can be easy to be around? Then about the time we've gotten being a kid down to a science, life begins to move us into adolescence. We want to be independent and responsible, but we don't yet have all the skills. We have sexual feelings, but we're expected not to act on them. About the time we reach adulthood and move into our twenties, it seems we can finally do what we want, but then we might drink too much, spend too much, drive too fast, and party too long. Once we begin to settle down around year thirty, we have to learn how to live with another person. One likes it warm, the other cool. One seeks to save, the other spends. One is a homebody, the other enjoys going out on the town. By the time we've gotten to our sixties and seventies, we may have figured out life, but by then we've used up most of our energy. What's going on? Faith suggests it's the hand of God shaping us into the sort of persons we're meant to be. "Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you our potter: we are all the work of your hand" (Isaiah 64:7). Advent may be a time to figure out how God is acting in your life now and look back to see that God was shaping you all along.

Reflect

What did you learn in your last ten-year block of life?



Sunday, December 3, 2023—First 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](http://www.stjudeparishgobles.com) Office: (269) 628-2219

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

Parochial Vicar: Fr. John Tran  
Email: [tuyen4peace@gmail.com](mailto:tuyen4peace@gmail.com)

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](mailto:deaconjimbauer@gmail.com)

*For pastoral emergencies, contact Deacon Jim on his cell phone.*

**St. Jude Parish Office Hours:**

Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Office Email: [st.judeparishgobles@gmail.com](mailto:st.judeparishgobles@gmail.com)

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 Rossell (269) 744-2582

*Mass Intention for today: Dec. 3, 2023: Maudie & Harry Kalisiak*

**NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023**

READER: Pat Sage

ALTAR SERVERS: Rocky, Noah, Daisy, Lydia

Mass intention for Thurs., Nov. 7, 2023:

Mass intention for Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023: Judy McKenna by St. Jude Parish

**Weekly Collection Information**

| Collections:   | Target       | Received     | Over-(under) | Attendance |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Nov. 26, 2023: | \$ 1800.00   | \$ 1,666.00  | \$ -134.00   | 93         |
| Year to Date:  | \$ 38,500.00 | \$ 38,352.81 | \$ -147.19   | 2477       |

**Let Us Be on The Watch for Christ's Return**

As we begin this Advent season, we need to begin the season of preparation and anticipation. Yes, this is a time for us to prepare for Christmas - for family that may be visiting or ourselves going to visit family. Whatever it may be, we prepare ourselves and family members in anticipation of these events.

How much have we prepared ourselves in anticipation of Christ's return? Do we put as much energy and time preparing for the major events such as Thanksgiving and Christmas as we do in preparing ourselves for Christ's return? Jesus tells us in our Gospel reading, just as he told his disciples, that we need to be alert, to be ready, and to watch. In short, he tells them to be full of hope. Are we full of hope in anticipation of our Lord's return?

Advent is a season of hope, and the parable in our Gospel makes it clear that our hope cannot be passive. Hope is an activity for every Catholic, not simply a passive state of being.

Hope is one of the theological virtues, and like the other virtues, it requires action. To be virtuous first requires building up a sort of habit of doing the good – a state of being which is inclined to do the good. The courageous person is ready to face his or her fear and fight for the good. In this way, virtues such as hope are a sort of passive state of being. But virtues are also activities. They must be actualized – made real – by some specific action. The courageous person must not only be ready to face his or her fear but must actually feel some specific fear and actually pursue the good in spite of it.

Hope is a desire, a longing, for some future and difficult-to-obtain happiness. Ultimately, it is a longing for nothing less than the return of Christ and our eternal reunion with Him. This is the posture, the attitude, that Jesus describes in the servants of the traveling master. It is not enough for them to be good stewards of the house who passively wait for his coming. They and WE need to be on watch – actively looking for HIM.

All Catholic as well as our Protestant brothers and sisters, during this Advent season, must be fully alive and fully engaged. We must be active in our pursuit of the Lord, looking around every corner and eager for his return.

**WE MUST BE PEOPLE OF HOPE!!!!**



## CHRISTMAS & ADVENT SCHEDULE

### Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

St. Jude on Thurs., December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m. (no Adoration or Morning Mass)  
St. Mary's on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

### Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent

St. Jude at 9 a.m.  
St. Mary's at 11:00 a.m.  
Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at 4 p.m. at St. Mary's \*\*

### Christmas Mass During the Day, Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

St. Jude at 9 a.m.  
St. Mary's at 11 a.m.

*No Mass or Adoration on Thurs., 12/28/23*

**\*\*There is no Midnight Mass in our Collaborative this year\*\***

*Concerning the Obligation to attend Mass on both the 4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas. This year, Christmas falls on a Monday. That means that the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve will coincide on Sunday, December 24 2023. While the date may coincide, our obligation to attend Mass remains two-fold: one for the 4th Sunday of Advent, and another for Christmas.*

### **FROM OUR DRE:**

Our next First Reconciliation class will be Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00-5:00.  
Thank you to our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders for leading us at Mass today.  
No CCD December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

**PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:** Garry Adams, Joan Rumery, David Vana, Phil Boyer, Margie Burris, Lillian B. Wheeler, Frances Parsons, Sonny and Mary Laughlin, Donna Murphy, Jack Secondi, Mary Heinz, David Vana, Vicki Clark, Paul & Encarna DeRyke, and all those on our Prayer Chain

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** on Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will need and invite all of you to assist us in decorating our parish for the Christmas season. There will be light refreshments available.

**SENIORS TOGETHER LUNCHEON** – The next get-together will be on Thurs., December 14<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 p.m. at Big T in Lawton. Please RSVP via Flocknote or call the St. John Bosco Parish Office at 269-668-3312.

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR DECEMBER** – shampoo, sanitary pads, cleaning supplies, deodorant, toilet paper, cold/flu products.

**WE HAVE A WONDERFUL PARISH!** Because every one of you is so generous, we can accomplish great things here at St. Jude. This year, we recoated our parking lot, purchased a new AED machine, and added a handicap-accessible stall to our main restrooms. Thank you for helping our parish to thrive!

**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.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY** – St. Jude collected \$491.00 this year for the Home Heating Assistance Program. Anyone needing heating assistance should contact the parish for help. The program begins Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, and ends in March or until the funds last. Thank you for your warm hearts!

**THE DIOCESAN BILINGUAL MASS FOR THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE WITH BISHOP EDWARD M. LOHSE** will be held Monday, December 11, 2023, 6 p.m. at St. Basil Parish. 513 Monroe Blvd., South Haven, MI. Please bring flowers to offer to the Virgin Mary and to share with others who are not able to bring flowers. For more information contact the Office of Hispanic/Migrant Affairs at: (269) 381-9800, Ext. 213.

### FROM THE DIOCESE

**AQUINAS COLLEGES AND THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO** offer three opportunities for post-traditional learners to access a 50% tuition reduction in any course of study. Learn more at [diokzoo.org/bulletin-announcements](http://diokzoo.org/bulletin-announcements).

**THE CATHOLIC BISHOP ABUSE REPORTING SERVICE (CBAR)** has been established to receive reports of sexual abuse and related misconduct by bishops and to relay those reports to proper Church authorities for investigation. To make a report, visit [ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://ReportBishopAbuse.org) or phone (800) 276-1562. When a report includes a crime, such as the sexual abuse of a minor, it will also be reported to civil authorities. Otherwise, reports will be kept confidential.