

Dear Padre,

Do Catholics have to marry in the Church? If a couple decides to marry outside of the Church, are they still allowed to receive Communion and other sacraments?

Catholics are obligated to follow the laws of the Church, including those laws regarding marriage. If a Catholic marries outside the Church, meaning that they did not follow Church law, then they may not receive the other sacraments until their marriage has been witnessed by the Church.

A wedding is a sacred ceremony for the couple, but it is also a ceremony for the Church. The Christian community is called upon to witness the ceremony, with the bishop, priest, or deacon called upon to bless the union in the name of the Church. The Church can dispense from the form, that is, the place of the wedding, for good cause, and does so when necessary. When a dispensation from the law is granted, then the person has followed the marriage laws of the Church and is free to receive the sacraments.

A wedding is a sacred ceremony in which a sacrament is conferred. While the park may be pretty or the church down the street may be bigger, neither is a sufficient reason to ignore marriage law and marry outside the Church. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



NEW EDWARDS / SHUTTERSTOCK

Know Someone Overly Anxious About Sin?

Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit ScrupulousAnonymous.org.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 11 Advent Weekday Is 35:1-10 Lk 5:17-26	December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47	December 13 St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30	December 14 St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15	December 15 Advent Weekday Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19	December 16 Advent Weekday Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13	December 17 Third Sunday of Advent Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARRING

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

In the Bible [conversion] means, first and foremost, to change direction and orientation; and thus also to change one's way of thinking. In the moral and spiritual life, to convert means to turn oneself from evil to good, from sin to love of God. And this is what the Baptist was teaching.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 6, 2020



When Will We Be Satisfied?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

In 1992, *Forbes* magazine published an issue titled "Why Do We Feel So Bad When We Have It So Good?" It featured articles by such luminaries as newsman Dan Rather, President George H. W. Bush, and author John Updike. Many of the writers reflected upon our passion for more and our hunger to live in affluence and how that fails to satisfy. In so many ways, we as a nation find ourselves seeking distractions from living with ourselves lest we be confronted by our ultimate loneliness. As a nation we are addicted to entertainment and smartphones, to drugs and pornography, to finding something new. We are confronted by rising suicide rates and a pervasive, deep-seated anger. Why are we not satisfied?

John the Baptist called the people of his day to repent, which is another way of asking them—and us—to look at life differently. Advent is really about getting in touch with our deep longing for more, a part of our human condition that ultimately is only satisfied by God. We have been created to long for more, a longing that feels like loneliness, a longing that seeks to be satisfied. In the end, we can only find a sense of peace in the midst of such longing by accepting that it can never be fully satisfied in this life. Like the spirituality of Alcoholics Anonymous, accepting rather than fleeing from our human reality becomes a path to new life. ●

Reflect

How do you deal with loneliness and a longing for more out of life?

John [the] Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

MARK 1:4

Sunday, December 10, 2023—Second 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
Email: 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

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

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. 10, 2023: Judy McKenna

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

READER: Brianna Price

ALTAR SERVERS: Alexa, Bo, Sadie, Carlina

Mass intention for Thurs., Dec. 14, 2023: Kalisiak & Hohs Families
by Mr. & Mrs. Don Kalisiak

Mass intention for Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023: Ken Rogan by Claire Miller

Weekly Collection Information

Collections:	Target	Received	Over-(under)	Attendance
Dec. 3, 2023:	\$ 1800.00	\$ 1678.00	\$-122.00	106
Year to Date:	\$ 40,300.00	\$ 40,080.81	\$-219.19	2583

Let Us Repent Our Sins and Be open to the heart of Jesus!

As we continue our journey through the season of Advent and light the second candle of our wreath today, our Gospel focuses on John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus, the last of the prophets. In our readings, we frequently hear the words “the way of the Lord,” which refers to the route by which the Lord will lead his people home.

It was a passage through mountains and deserts for the Israelis during the exodus (modern day, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon). For the people that John the Baptist called to repent, it was through a desert. The common thing in both of these was that each led to the Jordan River, where the other side would lead them to freedom for the Israelites, and now is a place where it separates sin and penance on one side and rewards and blessing on the other. John the Baptist was carrying out his message regarding the necessity of repentance in a place that spoke to his audience of both the consequences of sin and the mercy of God.

Another interesting feature of John the Baptist is his choice of clothing. Let’s say he was not given to following the latest fashion, even for the first century! His attire and diet would have reminded his audience of Elijah. One of the best-known stories about Elijah was the contest with the prophets of Baal, the conclusion of which was God's triumph, showing that he is truly the Lord God, the only God. Sadly, however, the Israelites turned away from the truth over time, embracing the lifestyle of their neighbors, turning away from the covenant with God, which, as we know, is why they ended up in exile.

Today, Advent calls us to prepare for Christmas and the day when Christ will call us to leave this world and be part of his eternal kingdom. But like the Israelites and today, we feel that we don’t need to be reminded that sin can have terrible consequences in our lives.

If we truly want to prepare and make room in our hearts for Christ, we would do well to heed God’s word and examine our consciences, asking ourselves whether we have become too cozy with secular life and all the things that it has to offer, and its cost of taking us away from a life of holiness and our devotion to God.

We need to make this examination, confident that the Lord is patient and merciful toward his children; HE desires our salvation and goes to incredible lengths to extend this gift to all of us. All we need to do is turn from what takes us away from HIM and open our hearts to hear him.

CHRISTMAS & ADVENT SCHEDULE

4th Sunday of Advent

St. Jude and St. Mary's normal Mass times on Sunday Morning, December 24th.

Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass: 4 p.m. at St. Mary's **

Christmas Mass During the Day, Monday, December 25th

St. Jude at 9 a.m.

St. Mary's at 11 a.m.

Penance Services in Our Area

St. Margaret, Otsego, Sun., 12/10, 3 p.m.

St. Thomas More, Kalamazoo, Mon., 12/11, 6:30 p.m.

Therese of Lisieux, Wayland, Tues., 12/12, 6 p.m.

St. Monica, Kalamazoo, Thurs., 12/14, 6 p.m.

St. Basil, South Haven, Sun., 12/17, 5 p.m.

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

The St. Jude Parish office will be closed Friday., 12/22/2023 through Weds., 1/3/2024

FROM OUR DRE:

Our next First Reconciliation class will be on

Wednesday, December 13th, from 4:00-5:00

No CCD December 24th and 31st.

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 23rd, 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.

*The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week in memory of **RENNIER VanBRUGGEN**
By request of Sadie Payne*

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - Why is it so hard to forgive, yet so easy to get even? Listen to John the Baptist in today's gospel and repent of the anger and ugly feelings which block your ability to forgive. This Christmas, give a gift that makes a difference. Give forgiveness.

SENIORS TOGETHER LUNCHEON – The next get-together will be on Thurs., December 14th, 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.

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.

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.

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 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.