

Dear Padre,

The Bible talks about Jesus’ brothers and sisters. Is there scriptural proof that Jesus was Mary’s only child?

The Catholic Church’s position is that Mary had only one child; her son called Jesus. Yet there are at least ten scriptural references to “the brothers of Jesus” or to his “sisters” (see Matthew 13:55–56, Mark 6:3, and Luke 8:19–21).

The difficulty is that the meaning of the term “brothers” (translated from the Greek *adelphos*) isn’t restricted to the sharing of a parent. On the contrary, it may not only refer to other relatives, including cousins, but also to close relationships, such as disciples. This is not unlike how we might refer to “brothers in arms” as those who fought in a war together, or a religious order of brothers or sisters.

Recall, too, that Jesus and his disciples spoke Aramaic, and there is no equivalent for the meaning of “cousins” as we know it in that language. Instead, the word for brother or sister was used when referring to cousins. Thus, when St. Jerome (*circa* 340–420) translated the Bible from Hebrew into Church Latin, he considered “the brothers of Jesus” as cousins, not siblings. After all, it would have been the rightful responsibility of these male relatives of Jesus to take care of Mary when Jesus died. Yet Jesus entrusts his mother to the care of his beloved disciple John (John 19:26). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



VIRGIN AND CHILD, ASIA (ARTIST UNKNOWN)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 25 <i>Nativity of the Lord</i>	December 26 <i>St. Stephen, the First Martyr</i>	December 27 <i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>	December 28 <i>Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i>	December 29 <i>Christmas Weekday</i>	December 30 <i>Christmas Weekday</i>	December 31 <i>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</i>
Is 52:7–10 Heb 1:1–6 Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14	Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59 Mt 10:17–22	1 Jn 1:1–4 Jn 20:1a, 2–8	1 Jn 1:5–2:2 Mt 2:13–18	1 Jn 2:3–11 Lk 2:22–35	1 Jn 2:12–17 Lk 2:36–40	Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17 Lk 2:22–40 or 2:22, 39–40

Do you have a question for the Padre?
Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

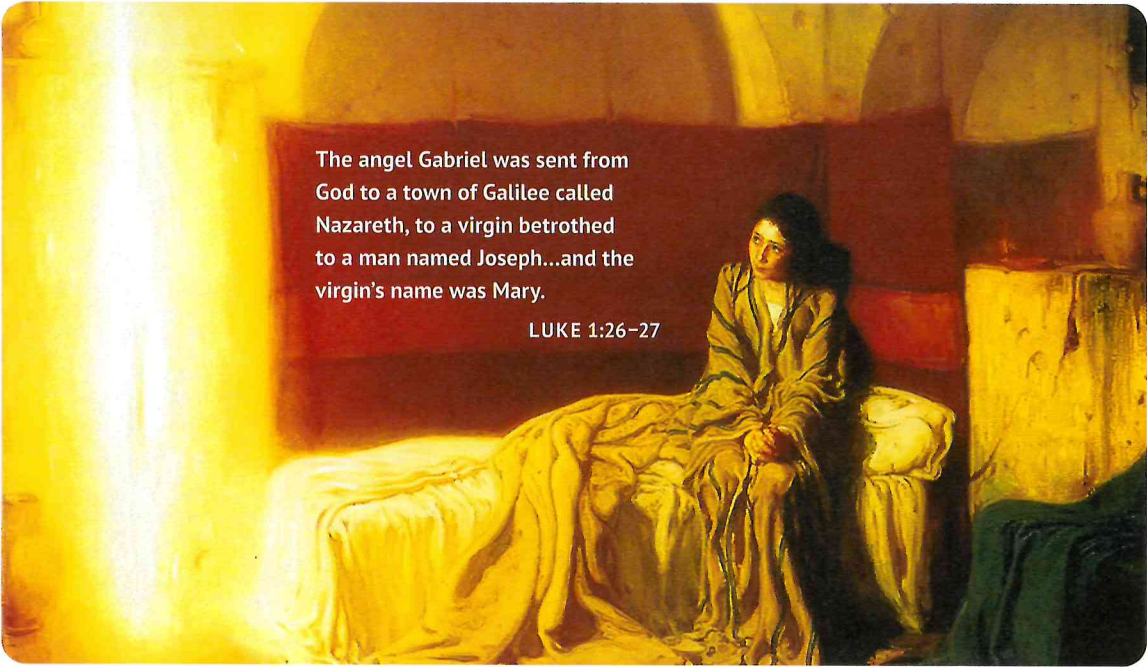
Let us ask our Lady for a grace...that she kindle our enthusiasm for the ideal of holiness which is not a matter of holy cards and images, but is about living what happens each day, humbly and joyfully...with our eyes fixed on God and the neighbor we meet.
ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 8, 2021



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)
2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16 / Romans 16:25–27 / Luke 1:26–38



THE ANNUNCIATION, HENRY OSSAWA TANNER, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Wondering Why

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The old axiom goes: if you want to make God laugh, tell God your plans. All too often the vision God has for us takes us in quite varying directions. The stories of King David and of Mary echo such realities. David, who wanted to build a temple for the Ark of the Covenant so God would not need to live in a tent, had his plans nixed, only to be reminded that it is *God* who does the building in life and not David. And Mary, who found herself confused over how she might conceive, was asked to simply trust and place her life in the hands of God. Both said “yes.”

There are always times when the unfolding path of God for us may unsettle us: the complexities of immigrants at our doorstep, the changing demographics of our cities, the need to close or merge parishes, the upheavals of our personal lives. We find ourselves asking why without receiving any answers. Each time there is no answer, consider it an invitation to trust in a power greater than ourselves.

Not all rhythms of life are necessarily caused by the hand of God, but then one can never be sure. Who is to say where and how and through whom God works? Christmas comes as a reminder that God’s love and presence still unfolds in varied and new ways, always giving birth again and again to the divine made flesh in our lives. The mystery of the Incarnation points to this truth: God is present in all of life. ●

Reflect

Have you ever had your plans unsettled in a way that turned out, in the end, to be a gift from God?

Sunday, December 24, 2023— Fourth 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. 24, 2023: Alice Burza by Deacon & Mrs. Jim Bauer

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

READER: Luke Sage

ALTAR SERVERS: Daisy, Alanah, Sadie, Lydia

Mass intention for Mon., Dec. 25, 2023: The People of St. Jude Parish

Mass intention for Thurs., Dec. 28, 2023: No Mass or Adoration

Mass intention for Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023: Lawrence Jorgensen by family friends

Weekly Collection Information

Collections:	Target	Received	Over-(under)	Attendance
Dec. 17, 2023:	\$ 1800.00	\$ 1620.00	\$180.00	97
Year to Date:	\$ 43,900.00	\$ 44165.81	\$265.81	2777

Merry Christmas to You All

I want to take this moment to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. We are so blessed to have so many of you as part of the Saint Jude Parish Family. Your total giving of yourself - your time, talents, and treasures is not unnoticed or unappreciated. Our parish would not be as vibrant and growing because of the pastor, the deacon, or the staff - it is because of how ALL of YOU make our visitors feel like family.

I want to thank everyone who donated to our annual giving tree. What a fantastic way to assist those in need and provide a little cheer for their families. May the gifts we have given them bring a sense of hope and belonging to the community we have here at Saint Jude Parish.

I want to take a moment to thank my wife, Tammy, who works unceasingly to ensure that I don't forget to do something, say something, or bring something I was or am supposed to do. Her behind-the-scenes presence, from working on our bulletin board to being here almost every Sunday to help get things set up for Mass, and everything else that gets done around here.

Thank you to the staff, Lauren Gilbert, our secretary, and bookkeeper, for ensuring bills are paid, the roster is updated, intercessions are done, and most of all, she is willing to do whatever is asked of her. Laura Woods, our Choir Director and choir members, thank you for ensuring our Sunday Masses are filled with song and joy. Jennifer Price, our DRE, and our teachers ensure that our youth are properly prepared in their faith. Neola and Dave Secondi, thank you for keeping our parish clean and sanitized. A huge thank you to Diane Hanchak, who comes in every Wednesday to work in the office and do whatever is asked of her. Last but not least, thank you Ed and Paula Jeschke for your willingness to keep up on our parish maintenance and ensuring the chairs are where they need to be.

I want to thank all those who serve on the Parish Finance Committee and our Parish Pastoral Council who are so willing to step up as leaders of our parish by giving of their time, talents, and treasures. You are very much appreciated!

Thank you to all the altar servers who have been so willing to serve all the masses throughout the year. You kids do a fantastic job! Your service makes Mass much easier to happen.

My last thank is to all of you who are so committed to our parish, by your generous donations, weekly contributions, and attendance here. For without you, we would have no church!

I want to wish each one of you and your families a very Merry Christmas. May this day be filled with all the joy, love, and happiness that this season brings as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Lord and King, Jesus Christ.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas Mass, Monday, December 25th

St. Jude at 9 a.m.

St. Mary's at 11 a.m.

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

Normal Mass times for the weekend of Dec 30-31, 2023

Sat 30 Dec 2023, Vigil Mass 4 p.m. @ St. Mary's

Sun 31 Dec 2023 Sunday Mass 8 a.m. @ St. Mary's

Sun 31 Dec 2023 Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m. @ St. Jude

Sun 31 Dec 2023 Sunday Mass 11 a.m. @ St. Mary's

******* THERE IS ADORATION & MASS ON January 4th, 2023 *******

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

FROM OUR DRE:

Congratulations Emma Klein, Shane Percival, Elise Peterson, and Hazel Secondi on your First Reconciliation.

A BIG THANK YOU TO Greg & Nancy Benefiel, Andrew & Jennifer Rossell, for the hard work in the remodel of our restrooms, ensuring they are handicapped accessible. Your hard work, your time, and your talents are greatly appreciated.

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

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - QUESTION: What do you call a family that began with an unmarried pregnant teen and had a 12-year-old son who ran away from home and was eventually executed as a criminal? **ANSWER:** HOLY! Two lessons in today's gospel: (1) No matter what is happening in your family, "The Lord is with you." (2) "Do not be afraid," for "nothing is impossible with God."

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

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.

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.

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES – Join us for Fellowship. January 21, 2024 and March 17, 2024 will be our next virtual gathering. Each session is at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom. We will catch up with each other, have a brief reflection on Sunday's scripture passage, and end with prayer. Registration is available for both dates on our website: www.ccdok.org/connections-registration/ or contact Lisa Irwin at Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo by phone (269) 381-9800 ext. 227 or by email: lisairwin@ccdokorg

CAREGIVER CONNECTIONS – Are you a caregiver for someone with disabilities? Do you sometimes feel alone or overwhelmed? We invite you to join us for our virtual gathering to build relationships, share experiences, and create a supportive community. We gather via ZOOM on the first Sunday of the month from 1-2 p.m. Sessions are usually about an hour in length. Register online: www.ccdok.org/connections-registrations or call Lisa Irwin at (269) 381-9800, ext. 227 or email: lisairwin@ccdok.org. Future dates: Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 3, April 7, May 5, and June 2, 2024.