

Dear Padre,

How much should we support our adult children? We have a niece and a daughter who are both healthy, capable, and in their twenties. We have set boundaries and continue to give to them but they just can't seem to get their act together. Would it be unchristian to cut them off?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes in detail the duties of family members toward each other (CCC 2214–33). Parents are responsible to ensure that their children grow up in faith and to meet their basic needs. Children should show respect toward their parents and, as they grow older, assist them as needed. As children become adults, they should take on responsibility for themselves and parents are not to pressure them into choices of a profession or a spouse, while at the same time, “giving their children judicious advice....” (CCC 2230). At some point, children need to become responsible adults, which brings us to your point.

You seem to have done what is required as parents. At the same time, you would not want to abandon young adults if physical, mental, or emotional factors prevent them from assuming the responsibility of adulthood. If they are healthy, capable young people they should be able to progress in life without your financial assistance. To help them toward this goal, you may want to set very specific limits, perhaps with the help of a counselor, and then consistently follow those limits. ●

Fr. John K. Schmidt, CSSR / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
January 1 Mary, Holy Mother of God Nm 6:22–27 Gal 4:4–7 Lk 2:16–21	January 2 Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church 1 Jn 2:22–28 Jn 1:19–28	January 3 Christmas Weekday 1 Jn 2:29–3:6 Jn 1:29–34 Daybreaks inspires during our Church’s holiest seasons. Leading Catholic voices inspire the faithful with daily reflections & prayers for Advent and Lent. Including: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Dr. Mary Katharine Deeley, Sr. Dianne Bergant, Fr. Paul Turner, and more at Liguori.org.	January 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious 1 Jn 3:7–10 Jn 1:35–42	January 5 St. John Neumann, Bishop 1 Jn 3:11–21 Jn 1:43–51	January 6 Christmas Weekday 1 Jn 5:5–13 Mk 1:7–11 or Lk 3:23–38 or 3:23, 31–34, 36, 38	January 7 Epiphany of the Lord Is 60:1–6 Eph 3:2–3a, 5–6 Mt 2:1–12



HOLY FAMILY WITH SAINTS ANNE AND JOHN THE BAPTIST (DETAIL), ANDREA MANTEGNA / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

In imitation of the Holy Family, we are called to rediscover the educational value of the family unit: it requires being founded on the love that always regenerates relationships.... [I]f you quarrel within the family, do not end the day without making peace....And do you know why? Because a cold war, day after day, is extremely dangerous.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 27, 2020

Our Parish COMMUNITY



Family Gifts

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

I asked some folks what they carried with them as their most treasured gift from their parents. One spoke of the gift of freedom. As an adult he always felt loved and welcomed by his parents. Although he was not always able to visit them as frequently as his life would allow, he was never made to feel guilty about it. It was an atmosphere unpressured by any “have-tos” whether it concerned choices for marriage or profession or simply for occasional family visits.

Another spoke of being taught by example that love in a family always extends to welcoming the stranger, caring for the unfortunate, opening one’s home to those in pain. She learned to live that way because that was how her parents lived.

Yet another spoke of her father’s gentleness and faithfulness as treasured gifts. And in truth she herself had become gentle and faithful, both with life and with God. Yet another took note of his parents’ acceptance and openness to differing cultures and traditions and value systems. It was a way of living he now took to himself and his own family.

Not every family may seem as graced as these individuals remember their own families, and no doubt these families had flaws, too. Yet those qualities of a believer, enumerated by St. Paul in his Letter to the Colossians, make for good family life as well: “heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another. And over all these put on love” (Colossians 3:12–14). ●

Reflect

What gift from your family do you hope to pass to the next generation?



The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

LUKE 2:40

Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023, Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

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. 31, 2023: Lawrence Jorgensen by Family Friends

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024

READER: CCD Students

ALTAR SERVERS: Bella, Rocky, Carlina, Bo

Mass intention for Thurs., Jan 4., 2024: Marietta Bailey by Rick & Beth Beam

Mass intention for Sunday, Jan 7, 2024: LaVerne Childers by Claire Miller

Weekly Collection Information

<u>Collections:</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Over-(under)</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Dec. 24, 2024:	\$ 1800.00	\$ 2014.50	\$ 314.00	117
Dec 25, 2024:	\$ 1700.00	\$ 2408.00	\$ 608.00	76
Year to Date:	\$ 47,400.00	\$ 48,588.31	\$ 1188.31	2970

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

If you are ever looking for a phrase to sum up your feelings at the end of a significant period of your life—say, retirement or even at the approach of death—today’s gospel from Luke provides it. The phrase, in Latin, is *nunc dimittis*. It is the opening phrase of Simeon’s canticle, which we translate as, Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace” (Luke 2:29). Since it reflects the desired state of mind of every person approaching death, including the tiny death that we symbolized every time we close our eyes and fall asleep, it is recited during night prayer, Compline in the Liturgy of the Hours.

Simeon’s canticle is evocative of strong emotions because it captures the feeling of a holy and devoted person who has waited patiently for the arrival of a particular moment in time. It has the sentiment of a watchman who is joyful that his watch has ended, combined with the emotion of a dying person’s last words. Thus, there are twin themes of joy and peace. For the followers of Jesus, the canticle—spoken in the context of Jesus being presented in the temple—would have carried the reminder of Jesus’ own words: “For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it” (Luke 10:24). Simeon is one of the forward prophets who in the approaching shadows of death, has been a privilege to see “a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory to your people Israel” (Luke 2:32). For the early Christians of Luke’s community, who at the time were probably experiencing persecution and expulsion from the synagogues themselves, Simeon’s canticle must have been comforting.

The peace and joy associated with the *nunc dimittis* are not confined to the experience of an aging prophet or a persecuted band of Christians; it has been recited down through the centuries in our prayer life because it also says something to us. Every generation of Christians hears *nunc dimittis* spoken for the first time. The key to this understanding is the first Latin word, *nunc*, meaning “now.” The light to be revealed to the Gentiles, which Simeon delighted in, now comes to us during every moment of every day if we, like Simeon, know how to wait for it. We are especially attentive to this happening *now* during the Christmas season when we celebrate the coming of the Light of Christ into the world. If we are aware of this continual Simeon-event happening in our lives, then we should be continually responding, “*Nunc Dimittis*—Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace.” We have seen the light of Christ, have felt the joy and peace that it brings, and now there is nothing more in this moment to expect. *Nunc Dimittis*.

But the lectionary has not placed this rich Scripture passage in isolation. Rather, it is given to us as the centerpiece of the feast of the Holy Family. That being the case, it must have a relationship to other readings, all of which have to do with family life. Let us work at just one of the many possibilities given to us, the reading from Sirach. This reading describes the kind of life that would merit the blessing of *nunc dimittis* if lived faithfully. This means the one who honors their mother and father in the way described in the passage of Sirach would have seen the light of Christ through such actions, for Christ is revealed in the living out of the commandments.

Victor Frankel, a famous Jewish psychiatrist, at the beginning of WW II, had the chance to escape the impending disaster everyone knew the Nazis were bringing. Living in Austria with his parents, he obtained a precious visa to America; he faced a tough decision: whether to leave for America and leave his parents or stay with them in Austria. He decided to walk around his neighborhood looking for a sign on what he should do. When he returned home, his father was holding a tile, and he asked his father about it; he let him know it was from a synagogue destroyed by the Nazis. The tile contained a Hebrew Character that was from one of the commandments, which his father told him; it was the fourth commandment: Honor your father and mother, so that your days may be long in the land of the Lord your God is giving you (Exodus 20:12). Frankel had his sign, he would stay with his parents until they were taken to a concentration camp where they died, from an early age he learned the meaning of the fourth commandment.

The challenge for each of us on this feast of the Holy Family is to care for our families so that when the end of our day approaches, we may have the joy and peace that comes from knowing we lived the Commandments faithfully, especially honoring of father and mother. When we do so, we will be blessed with the light of Christ and be able to say. “*Nunc Dimittis*.”

***** THERE WILL BE ADORATION & MASS ON January 4th, 2023 *****

**The St. Jude Parish office will be closed:
Mon., Jan. 1st through Weds., Jan. 3rd, 2024.**

FROM OUR DRE:

Happy New Year!
Classes will resume next Sun., 1/7/23.

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

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

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - The gospel today shows Mary and Joseph weren't 'perfect' parents. If you have ever been 'amazed' and 'astonished' at what came out of your child's mouth, then you are in good company. If there were times you 'didn't understand' your children or felt 'anxious' about their behavior so did Mary and Joseph. Parenting is tough but it is also the stuff of holiness.

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 HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL BEGIN JANUARY 4, 2024. If you know someone in need of emergency heating assistance, please contact 269-381-9800 or homeheating@ccdok.org. We have many volunteers throughout the diocese to assist neighbors in need. If you are interested in donating to the assistance fund, please visit <https://ccdok.org/donate-today/>. Thank you!

FROM THE DIOCESE

EUCCHARISTIC MARRIAGE WORKSHOP COMING IN FEBRUARY. The diocesan Parish Life and Lay Leadership will offer a "Building Eucharistic Marriages" with Greg Schutte, Friday, February 9th, 2024, from 6 p.m. - 9:30pm through Saturday, February 10, 2024, from 8:30am - 4:30pm. The event will be held at the Crowley Center, 542 Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007. REGISTER online: <https://diokzoo.org/eucharisticmarriage> by January 31st, 2023. Early Registration price: \$50 per couple (includes materials and special meal on Saturday). Contact: Socorro Truchan at struchan@diokzoo.org or by phone at 269-349-8714 ext. 1112.

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.