

Dear Padre,

If St. Matthew was an apostle, why do we have Gospels from other writers who were not apostles of Jesus? Since he knew Jesus personally, wouldn't his Gospel be the definitive one?

There are two assumptions that need to be addressed. One is that the Apostle Matthew is the same as the evangelist Matthew. The book's title, the Gospel According to Matthew, was added to the text in the second century. Whether it was written by the same Matthew or someone else, it still traces back to the experience of the apostles. The Scriptures are the inspired word of God, and Christians can rely on the truth of the Gospel message through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The other assumption is that one Gospel is somehow more "definitive." All four Gospels are the inspired word of God. A Gospel is not a history of the life of Christ. It is a collection of stories that each evangelist arranged in a specific way so that they would make sense to a particular audience. For the Gospel of Matthew, the audience was predominantly Jewish, but these Jewish Christians were being excluded from mainstream Judaism and perhaps were wondering among themselves if Jesus was really the Messiah for whom they had waited so long. Matthew's Gospel asserts repeatedly that Jesus is a true Israelite who fulfills Old Testament prophecies, while also reinterpreting the Law of Moses in a new direction that includes all nations. ●



FRESCO OF APOSTLE ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST BY PIETRO GASPARINI / RENATA SEMANOVA

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS



May the Virgin Mary help us make of our lives a hymn of praise to God in response to his call and in the humble and joyful fulfillment of his will. But let us remember this: there was a moment in each of our lives in which God made himself present more strongly, with a call.

ANGELUS, ROME, JANUARY 17, 2021

DAYbreaks Leading Catholic voices inspire the faithful with daily reflections and prayers for Advent and Lent. Including: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Dr. Mary Katharine Deeley, Sr. Dianne Bergant, Fr. Paul Turner, and more. Available from Liguori Publications.



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 14, 2024
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19 / 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 / John 1:35-42



A Haunting Question

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

"What are you looking for?" asks Jesus of the two disciples who come to see who he is and what he is about. They are Jesus' first words in John's Gospel, and that's what the entire Gospel of John is about, an answer to that piercing question.

I spent the week living with that question, never really finding an answer that seemed to fit, or perhaps I got too many answers, all of them somehow falling short. Why do I spend an hour early each morning sitting in the silence? I read some Scripture, but then mostly I sit with the silence. Many are the times when my mind drifts to other times and places and daydreams. Sometimes the silence is scattered with boredom; at other times it stumbles with prayerful words; and sometimes in the silence I look for answers to the plaguing whys of life. Mostly, though, I sit in the silence. I'd like to call it prayer, but then I wonder if I'm simply floundering in wishful thinking. So I return to that haunting question—"What are you looking for?"

I think perhaps the answer is similar to what I look for when I gather with friends. Sometimes the get-together is engaging, but not always. Sometimes it is memorable, but not always. Sometimes we just hang out, and that can be enough. Ultimately relationships keep me grounded. That also is why I spend time in the silence. It's what I'm looking for when I pray—to be in relationship with God, to be grounded lest I drift away and grow lost. ●

[Eli] said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'"

1 SAMUEL 3:9

Reflect
When you pray,
what are you looking for?



Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024 – 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

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: Jan.14, 2024: William Schmidt

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024

READER: Jennifer Price

ALTAR SERVERS: Rocky, Noah, Alexa, Bo

Mass intention for Thurs., Jan. 18, 2024: **Open Mass**

Mass intention for Sun., Jan. 21, 2024: The People of St. Jude Parish

Weekly Collection Information

<u>Collections:</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Over-(under)</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Jan. 7, 2024:	\$ 2000.00	\$ 1326.00	\$ 674.00	102
Year to Date:	\$ 51,000.00	\$ 52,831.81	\$ 1832.81	3072

Here I am, Lord, I Come to Do Your Will

In this week's readings, we learn of the prophet Samuel's first encounter with the Lord God. As we have heard or read it, Samuel slept in the temple of the Lord where the ark of God was. You'd think that spending time in the place where the Lord abided among His people would mean that Samuel might be somewhat familiar with God. But that was not the case because the Lord had not revealed anything to him as yet.

Everything is in God's time, right? Some of us might have this in common with Samuel: either we do not quite understand what God is saying to us, or the Lord has not yet revealed to us what He intends to reveal. Like Samuel, the Lord is calling us, but we struggle to discern what, if anything, God is saying to us. We are just regular people with jobs and families, just trying to live a good life. What could the Lord possibly call ordinary people like us to do?

In our Gospel reading, the story reveals at least one thing God is inviting all of us to do, something that is within the reach of any of us: to point the way to Christ and to invite others to join us on the journey. The Gospel also points out that John, the Baptist, points his disciples to Jesus. They seek Him and, after spending time with Him, have been convinced that He is not just a teacher as they initially thought, but rather, something more significant, the Messiah. Having arrived at this significant realization, how did Andrew respond? He went and brought his brother to Jesus.

How many of us have someone who has walked away from the Church or maybe does not know Jesus? Someone who has forgotten or does not know the joy of knowing Him, of trusting in Him, of receiving His mercy, but most of all does not see the Love that He has for each of them and us. We all probably do, and this is our encouragement not to shy away from inviting our friends and loved ones to return to Christ.

In our second reading from Corinthians, Paul reminds us that we are temples of the Holy Spirit. The next time we find ourselves in conversation with a friend or a family member and feel the stirring sense that we should invite them to give Jesus a chance, let us turn to the Holy Spirit for help. The Holy Spirit can fill us with the courage to speak and give us the words to lovingly extend an invitation to an encounter with Christ, the Lord.

Maybe it is true that God is not calling us to be another Samuel. But perhaps God is calling all of us to be one of the means through which He extends His offer of salvation to others. Let us ask for the grace to respond as Samuel did:

"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening," and trust that God will take it from there!

FROM OUR DRE:

Thank you to our 8th grade class for doing the readings, intentions, and bringing up the gifts last week. You ladies did a fantastic job.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL: Steve Klein, 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

SENIORS TOGETHER LUNCHEON – Thurs., Jan. 18, 12:30 p.m. at Casa Tequila in Mattawan. Please RSVP via Flocknote or call the St. John Bosco Parish Office at 269-668-3312.

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!

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - Jesus' question in today's gospel is still valid today: "What are you looking for?" What do you want from your spouse, children, or parents? Families are populated with imperfect people. To expect perfection is unreal. To expect and accept imperfection is wisdom.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW COMPETITION ON JANUARY 28 AT THE PAW PAW HIGH SCHOOL GYM FROM 1-3 P.M. WITH REGISTRATION AT 12:30 - the Paw Paw Knights of Columbus are putting on a 3-point shootout/free throw tournament for all high school students in the area. It's a chance for the kids to get out, compete and demonstrate sportsmanship. It may be a competition, but we always encourage the kids at every stage. Top male and female shooter get trophies. Now, while the kids are participating in the event, we need a couple volunteers to help run the event. Some areas we need help with include set up, retrieving balls while kids attempt free throws, registration table, and tear down. All of this will help make the event run more smoothly. If you would like to volunteer to help, please arrive at 11:30 a.m. to start the set up. Questions: call Bill at 269-330-1409.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JANUARY - shampoo, sanitary pads, cleaning supplies (Menards has on sale), deodorant, toilet paper, and cold/flu products. If someone is 60 years of age and over, and their monthly income is \$1580 a month for one person, they can apply to receive CSFP/Senior Commodities each month. If you have any questions, feel free to call 269-501-0224.

FROM THE DIOCESE

NOVENA - You're invited to join thousands of Catholics nationwide in prayer for the protection of human life during a special novena called 9 Days for Life. Visit 9daysforlife.com to sign up to receive daily prayers from January 16th through the 24th.

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. - 9:30 pm through Saturday, February 10, 2024, from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. 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.

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.