

Dear Padre,

I am having a difficult time receiving Communion from a eucharistic minister who has been behaving in a manner that I don't consider moral. When I receive Communion from her, I feel like I am condoning her actions. Would it be wrong of me to go to a different person to receive Communion?

It seems unlikely that someone would assume you are condoning her actions by receiving Communion from her. We do not sin by receiving a sacrament from an unworthy person. What matters is how worthy we are to receive it. It might be wise to receive Communion from a different person if you are more concerned with this minister's behavior than you are with Jesus when you approach the sacrament.

It is not our task to expose and punish the sinner. If you look at the life of Jesus, you will see that he did everything possible not to condemn sinners but to save them. We should take that as the model for our own lives. Try to find ways to encourage her to live a good life. Perhaps friendship would serve her better than a boycott of her Communion line.

When Jesus was presented with the woman caught in adultery, he did not pretend that it was right. Neither did he rush to condemn her. He looked for his opportunity to forgive and tell her to avoid sin. Use that as your example about how to treat the woman at church.

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
February 12	February 13	February 14	February 15	February 16	February 17	February 18
Weekday	Weekday	Ash Wednesday	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	Friday after Ash Wednesday	Saturday after Ash Wednesday	First Sunday of Lent
Jas 1:1-11	Jas 1:12-18	Jl 2:12-18	Dt 30:15-20	Is 58:1-9a	Is 58:9b-14	Gn 9:8-15
Mk 8:11-13	Mk 8:14-21	2 Cor 5:20-6:2	Lk 9:22-25	Mt 9:14-15	Lk 5:27-32	1 Pt 3:18-22
		Mt 6:1-6, 16-18				Mk 1:12-15



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Compassion means “to suffer-with-another.” Jesus’ heart manifests God’s paternal compassion for (the leper), moving close to him and touching him. And this detail is very important. Jesus “stretched out his hand and touched him.... And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean” (Mark 1:41-42). God’s mercy overcomes every barrier....

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 15, 2015

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SHUTTERSTOCK

Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 11, 2024
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 / 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 / Mark 1:40-45



Bringing Outsiders In

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

As a child, were you teased, bullied, chosen last for a team? Did you feel apart from the in-crowd? If so, in various ways this treatment may have kept you from being fully engaged with the larger community, possibly continuing to scar you in even your grown-up world.

In 2021, the news media reported that a Louisiana cemetery refused burial for Darrell Semien because he was black. Though he had served his community as a deputy sheriff for fifteen years and had helped raise seventy-two foster children, none of that was of any significance. After the news broke, the cemetery quickly lifted its whites-only stipulation, but the damage had been done. In so many ways, we continue to exclude others from the human community, even in death.

Our Sunday Gospel tells of Jesus curing a leper, enabling the man to again become part of the community. Even more startling, by touching him, Jesus himself became “impure,” and thus isolated himself from the community, thereby switching roles with the man. Bringing others into community even at a cost to ourselves is divine.

Such compassion is exemplified when people work to reform prisons, seek to integrate immigrants into national life, give voice to the voiceless, improve mental health care, strive to alleviate paralyzing poverty, and more. The world witnessed compassion at its finest during the COVID-19 pandemic when medical personnel worked to heal the sick, even at the cost of isolating themselves from their own families. Compassion toward those in need is holy. ●

Reflect

Who made you feel welcome when you felt locked out? Can you do the same for another?



A leper came to him [and kneeling down] begged him and said, “If you wish, you can make me clean.”

MARK 1:40

Sunday, February 11th, 2024 – 6th 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: Feb. 11, 2024: James & Jane Perry by Laine Reisch

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024

READER: Tony Karsen

ALTAR SERVERS: Daisy, Carlina, Lydia, Sadie

Mass intention for Thurs., Feb. 15, 2024: Agnes & Red VanBruggen by Sadie Payne

Mass intention for Sun., Feb. 18, 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>
Feb. 04, 2024:	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1593.00	\$ 307.00	102
Year to Date:	\$ 58,400.00	\$ 59,144.81	\$ 744.81	3505

Ash Wednesday: Returning to the Lord with Our Whole Heart

As we approach the season of Lent, it is time for us to start and prepare ourselves for the holiest time of the year: Holy Week, Palm Sunday, Chrism Mass, and the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil.)

“Even now,” we hear God say in the first reading, “return to me with your whole heart.” There is a reason that we celebrate Lent every year beyond the fact that it leads us to Holy Week and Easter. To put it bluntly, we celebrate Lent yearly because we need to. We need this summons to return to the Lord again and again because we turn away or drift away again and again. In our readings on Ash Wednesday, we “*Gather the people*,” Joel calls out in the first reading today, and indeed, the people are gathering here and in countless other churches and chapels around the world to begin this holy season of Lent. United in our faith and our need for repentance, we hear Jesus tell his disciples how we should go about performing the three traditional practices of Lent: giving alms, praying, and fasting. Listen to Joel’s call and Jesus’ instructions as we begin our Lenten journey. Lent’s annual reminder calls us to repent, live out the gospel, fast, pray, give alms, and realize that we are dust, and to dust we shall return. It is our opportunity to return to the Lord with our whole hearts. This Lent, let us commit to this invitation. Yes, even now. Yes, again now. Yes, especially now we celebrate the start of Lent with Ash Wednesday.

This year, as happens every once in a while, Ash Wednesday and Valentine’s Day coincide. We mark the beginning of this holy season of repentance even as we observe this secular holiday celebrating love. Joel would seem to put a damper on the latter when he calls on us to rend our hearts. Nobody wants to think about broken hearts on Valentine’s Day! But a broken heart is also a sign of love. First off, a broken heart shows the depth of our humanity. Secondly, Jesus told us that God blesses those who mourn those who suffer from the loss of someone they love. But mostly, it is a heart that is broken open, that allows God’s love to fill it. Broken open, the grief and the ache can flow out, and the fullness of God’s unconditional and unlimited love can flow in.

The disciplines of Lent can aid in opening our hearts. We open our hearts when we pray, calling to mind those we love and those in need. By fasting from the material things we consume without thinking, we open our hearts to our spiritual needs, which cannot be fulfilled with the things we buy. When we open our pantries, closets, and wallets to those in need, we open our hearts as well, for charity touches the hearts of the giver as well as the recipient.

As we begin this penitential season, Joel reminds us of the nature of our God: “gracious and merciful . . . slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment” (Joel 2:13). God is the ultimate source of the infinite love and mercy that led the Father to send the Son to guide us in the way of salvation. Our Lenten journey is ultimately our journey to heaven, as we know the way of the cross does not end in suffering and despair but in the promise of new life.

FROM OUR DRE:

Thank you to our CCD students who made Valentine's Cards for nursing homes or people who are home-bound.

Our next student Mass will be on 3/3. Our Kindergarten class will be helping.

First Communion Prep will begin March 6th at 4:00.

Ash Wednesday Schedule February 14th, 2024

9:00 a.m. Mass with Ash Distribution at St. Mary's
12:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Prayer Service at St. Mary's
6:00 p.m. Mass with Ash Distribution at St. Jude's

Stations of the Cross
Friday's 6:30 P.M.

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, Vicki Clark, Paul & Encarna DeRyke, and all those on our Prayer Chain.

LENT STARTS THIS WEEK! Join our faith community in a transformative Lenten journey through CRS Rice Bowl to meet people in Uganda, El Salvador and Indonesia who are working hard to overcome the challenges of hunger and the impact of climate change. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from the table in the hallway (Narthax). During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on our connectedness as one family in Christ and work together to ensure our sisters and brothers worldwide can thrive. Visit www.crsricebowl.org for resources for families and parishes.

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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FISH FRY – The Knights of Columbus would like to invite everyone to our annual Fish Dinners on Fridays during Lent. The dinners will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 32373 Red Arrow Highway from 5-7 pm starting Friday, February 16th. You can dine in or take out (269-657-2324), **Cash Only**. Look for a menu on Paw Paw Now. We hope to see you there.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - Family life is about decisions. The leper in today's gospel knew this when he said to Jesus. "If you will, you can make me clean." Jesus knew this when He said, "I do will it." Love is not an emotion. It is a decision to be with and for another person in "good times and bad," even when we don't feel like it.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY - peanut butter, 18 oz; dry cereal; canned fruit, 16 oz; and saltine crackers. 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.

DUE TO YOUR GENEROSITY – we collected \$325.00 for the churches in Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America (Three Churches). Thank you!

FROM THE DIOCESE

TODAY IS WORLD MARRIAGE DAY - The theme for this year's celebration of National Marriage Week (Feb. 7-14) is "Love Beyond Words," which recalls the self-sacrificing love in marriage that is rooted in the wedding promises that the couple makes in matrimony. Please visit: NationalMarriageWeekUSA.org for more information and events. *World Marriage Day was started in 1983 by Worldwide Marriage Encounter.*

THE KALAMAZOO DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN, in conjunction with Catholic Charities' Hispanic Ministry office, invites you to a Women's Lenten Day of Reflection: Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist, Saturday, March 2, 2024, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. St. Augustine Cathedral Parish, 542 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Register by emailing KDCCW.REG@GMAIL.COM or call Ann Vrablic at 517-812-3727.

THE HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2024. If you know someone in need of emergency heating assistance, please get in touch at 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!

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.