

Dear Padre,

In the Church's eyes, what constitutes pornography? Art museums have statues of nude men and women, some of which are quite explicit. Is the only difference the respectability of the venue?

The "respectability" of the location or publisher doesn't matter. A product is pornographic if it was created to sexually arouse users of the product regardless of the venue. Michelangelo's intention in carving his famous statue of David was not to arouse the people who look at it, so the Church does not call it pornography.

Pornography has existed for centuries, but it didn't arrive in our homes uninvited until recently. People with internet access are regularly confronted by pornographic images and literature, and many find it a very powerful temptation. In response, the US bishops issued a helpful document, which is available online at usccb.org: *Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography*.

From this document: "Using and/or producing pornography is a sin against chastity and against human dignity....The sin of pornography needs the Lord's forgiveness and should be confessed in the sacrament of penance. Pornography objectifies people and brings hurt and pain. It is an illusory substitute for real relationships and intimacy, which in the end bring true joy. Many good people struggle with the sin of pornography and [strive] to cultivate chastity. You are not alone. Jesus is with you, the Church offers you love and support. Trust in the Lord's mercy and his power to free and heal you."

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



MICHELANGELO'S DAVID / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

If God is the God of life... then it is wrong for us to kill our brothers and sisters in his Name.
If God is the God of peace... then it is wrong for us to wage war in his Name.
If God is the God of love... then it is wrong for us to hate our brothers and sisters.

PRAYER FOR THE VICTIMS OF WAR, IRAQ, MARCH 7, 2021



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Lent (B)
2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 / Ephesians 2:4-10 / John 3:14-21



And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil.

JOHN 3:19

The Saving Game

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

A long time ago, I came across a piece that I still remember because it's pretty much a commentary on how life is for most of us. It goes something like this: At the age of ten, we think we can live forever. When we're twenty, we think we can save the world. When the big thirty rolls around, we think we can save the company. When the fortieth birthday arrives, we think we can save our children. Then, when we're fifty, we think we can at least save our marriage. And by the time we're sixty, we think we should just save aluminum cans. A bit flippant perhaps, but it reminds me that even given my own best efforts, I really do not save much of anything. It is always God who does the saving, not me.

It's a conversation replayed in our heads again and

again. We find ourselves unwittingly thinking that if we do all the right things, when we die and go to heaven, then God will have to take us in. If we say the right prayers and follow all the rules, then we will have earned salvation. Yet then we will have saved ourselves and there will have been no need for God's gracious goodness. Then we will have lifted ourselves up by our own bootstraps and not by the Lord Jesus. Then we will proclaim ourselves as the light to overcome darkness, and it will not be the death and resurrection of the Lord which does so.

Reflect
How have you been saved and how do you need saving now?

Sunday, March 10, 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

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.

Rosary first Sunday of the month at 9:00 a.m. before Mass.

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:

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: March 10, 2024: Frank & Betty Bilkovic by Chuck McKenna

NEXT SUNDAY, March 17, 2024

READER: Carolyn Noack

ALTAR SERVERS: Daisy, Lydia, Alanah, Sadie

Mass intention for Thurs., March 14, 2024: Robert Barkman Sr. & Jr. by Sadie Payne

Mass intention for Sun., March 17, 2024: The People of St. Jude Parish

Weekly Collection Information

Collections:	Target	Received	Over-(under)	Attendance
March 3, 2024:	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1519.00	\$ 381.00	124
Year to Date:	\$ 66,0000.00	\$ 65,236.81	\$ 763.19	3980

For God so Loved the World that He gave His only Son

Many of us are committed to certain Lenten practices this holy season. Perhaps we are working to add more or certain types of prayer to our faith life. Perhaps we have given something up. Whatever they are, each could be categorized as a certain type of gift. We are giving God our time or giving something up out of love for Him. Any good Lenten practice is, in some way, a giving of ourselves, our desires, and our efforts to God.

It is but a small gesture of love in return for the love we have been given. For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life. Let us be clear. God does not “need” anything from us, but He wants us. He created us; He loves us, and He desires to be in a relationship with us. So, our Church asks us to offer these gifts of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to Him. Why? Three reasons!

The first reason these gifts are acts of love is that they are acts of relationship. Just as kids give parents a thousand gifts—wilted dandelions, scraps of paper, or bits of nature found outdoors—it's not the gifts that matter but the love with which they were given. The parent does not need that half of the shell, but oh, the love that it contains! These gifts are beautiful and good, not for any utilitarian value, but because of the way they bind us together in the relationship.

The second reason we are asked to offer these gifts is that anything we give to God rebounds back to us, transformed by his perfect goodness. Anything we give to God is poured out back on earth, filled with his glory. Therefore, our small spiritual sacrifices can be poured out back on us and others for the sanctification of the world.

One final reason we offer our humble gifts to God is simply gratitude. As the Letter from the Ephesians reminds us, God has poured out His immeasurable riches of his grace. It is not from you; it is the gift of God. And so, in gratitude, we offer back what was given to us. We recognize the source of all these good things, the source of strength who helps us reject any bad things we are giving up, and we joyfully draw near to the giver of all good these good gifts in the spiritual practices we take up in this season.

As we approach the most precious of all these gifts in the Eucharist, may we be strengthened for our Lenten journey. May we be filled with the gratitude and love which strengthen us in our Lenten practices. May we be drawn closer to God who loved us so much that He gave us his only Son.

FROM OUR DRE:

No CCD 3/24 and 3/31

No First Communion Prep 4/3

Student led Stations of the Cross will be on March 22nd at 6:30.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during Lent at 6:30 p.m..

Soup Supper will begin at 5:30 p.m. on March 22, 2024

Lexi Fath has volunteered to coordinate this. If you are interested in coming for the soup supper or willing to bring in a crockpot of soup and/or bread. Please get in touch with Lexi at: LShoemaker@diokzoo.org.

JOB OPENING

We are looking for someone to take over janitorial duties here at the church. It is a paid position. Applicants must be self-starters, be able to work independently on their own, **must be able to pass a background check, be able to lift up to 50 lbs.**

Job description and applications can be picked at the office. All applications must be in by March 16, 2024. Contact the office for more information.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday Mass at 7 p.m. with Adoration until midnight. (March 28)

Good Friday Mass at 3 p.m. Church will open at noon for Adoration. (March 29)

Holy Saturday (March 30)

Decorate church starting at 10 a.m.

Blessing of the Baskets at 11:00 a.m.

Easter Vigil for the Collaborative at St. Mary's in Paw Paw at 9 p.m.

Easter (March 31)

St. Jude Parish, Gobles Mass at **9:00 a.m.**

St. Mary's, Paw Paw Mass at **11:00 a.m.**

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL: Pete Percival, 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, Vivian Polomcak, and all those on our Prayer Chain.

FOURTH WEEK OF LENT - INCREASING DISASTERS, INCREASING RESILIENCE - Located in Southeast Asia between the Pacific and Indian Oceans, Indonesia has beautiful beaches, diverse cultures, and the world's fourth largest population. Many of the country's more than 17,000 islands are in the Ring of Fire, where volcanic eruptions and earthquakes are common. Climate-related disasters such as cyclones are also becoming more frequent and destructive. Find out how—with the support of Catholic Relief Services and generous communities like yours—Evita and her disaster preparedness group are working to keep their community safe. Visit www.crsricebowl.org to read this week's Story of Hope.

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 p.m. You can dine in or take out (269-657-2324), Cash Only. Look for a menu on Paw Paw Now.

FROM THE DIOCESE

CHRISM MASS SET FOR MARCH 26TH AT 2 P.M. AT CATHEDRAL -The annual Diocesan Chrism Mass with Bishop Edward M. Lohse will be held on Tuesday, March 26, at 2 p.m., St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo. All are invited to attend.

ORDINATIONS - Please pray for all the men who will be ordained in the coming weeks:

April 13th – Please pray for the 12 men preparing to be ordained by Bishop Lohse as permanent deacons. The Ordination Mass will take place at St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo.

May 18 – Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate, 10 a.m., St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo.

THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO has and will continue to cooperate with the Michigan Attorney General's investigation and encourages anyone with information related to misconduct to call the reporting number set up by the Michigan Attorney General's office at: (844) 324-3374.

THE DIOCESE IS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS to assist with various office tasks at its Diocesan Pastoral Center located in downtown Kalamazoo. Volunteers should be available during diocesan office hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., various shifts are available. Additionally, volunteers should be knowledgeable about the Catholic Church and proficient in standard office procedures (mailing, answering phones, etc.). Interested? Contact: Tammi Wachterhauser, Director of Human Resources, twachterhauser@diokzoo.org; or complete this form at diokzoo.org/volunteer