

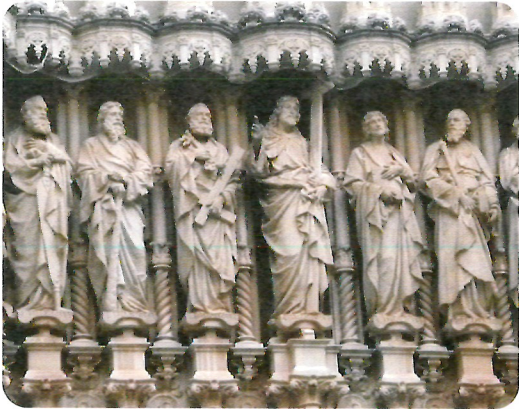
Dear Padre,

Are Catholic statues the same as “graven images”?

God forbade the making of idols, images of false gods (Exodus 20:4–5). But God did not forbid the making of all images. Images of cherubim were placed on the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 37:7–9), and the Book of Numbers tells how God commanded Moses to make a bronze serpent and put it on a pole as a sign of healing (Numbers 21:7–9).

Not only is the making of images or representations of people not forbidden by God, it is so common that we take it for granted. People keep photographs of those they love. In the same way, we Catholics love the saints as family members who have gone before us, and we keep images of them in our homes and churches.

Catholics do not worship the saints; we worship and adore God alone. But we do honor the saints, remembering their holy lives as we try to imitate them. There is nothing unusual about keeping statues and paintings in prominent places. Many cities display statues of leaders and important citizens. If we are given only secular models to imitate, we will be denied models who can guide us to Jesus and to eternal life. Images of the saints are reminders of God’s grace and goodness fleshed out in the lives of people very much like us. ●



The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
August 5	August 6	August 7	August 8	August 9	August 10	August 11
Weekday	Transfiguration of the Lord	Weekday	St. Dominic, Priest	Weekday	St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr	Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jer 28:1–17	Dn 7:9–10, 13–14	Jer 31:1–7	Jer 31:31–34	Na 2:1, 3; 3:1–3, 6–7	2 Cor 9:6–10	1 Kgs 19:4–8
Mt 14:13–21	2 Pt 1:16–19	Mt 15:21–28	Mt 16:13–23	Mt 16:24–28	Jn 12:24–26	Eph 4:30–5:2
	Mk 9:2–10					Jn 6:41–51



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

When we seek first and foremost the satisfaction of our needs, we risk using people and exploiting situations for our own ends.... Let us welcome Jesus as the bread of life and... learn to love each other.... Love given freely and without calculation, without using people, freely, with generosity, with magnanimity.

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 1, 2021

Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 4, 2024
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
Exodus 16:2–4, 12–15 / Ephesians 4:17, 20–24 / John 6:24–35



“I’m Hungry!”

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Besides the meals we eat, we also feed various other hungers throughout the day.

Try “fasting” from your smartphone or computer for a day—no texting, no emails, no surfing the internet. If you are a news junkie, try going a day without your fix of the latest word from Washington or a sports update. At a creativity workshop, I was once given an assignment of not reading for an entire week, not even a cereal box at breakfast or the day’s TV schedule. The goal was to discover what I would do with all my extra time. Think about what feeds our daily hungers and interests.

What, then, does it mean to say that Jesus is our bread, that he is the one who feeds us and quenches our thirst? To come to him, to have faith in him, to follow him, is to live as he lived. When we do so, we find that our lives take on new meaning. Living as people who forgive feeds our hunger for peace with one another. Generosity breeds generosity; as we meet the needs of others, we find that others also meet our needs, and slowly the world begins to care and heal. Surrendering to God’s ways opens us to a wellspring of strength previously unknown. With Jesus as our bread, we find ourselves fed beyond our trivial hungers. ●

Reflect

Are you finding healthy ways to feed your hungers?



August 4, 2024: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ST. JUDE PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday Mass at 9:30 a.m.

Confessions by appointment or after Mass on Thursday

Adoration at 9:00 a.m. before weekly Thursday Mass at 10:30 a.m.

Rosary on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 9:00 a.m. before Mass.

Website: www.stjudeparishgobles.com

Office: (269) 628-2219

Pastor: Very Rev. Fr. Robert Creagan email: frcreagan@stakalamazoo.org

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: Margaret Woods by: Laura Woods

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2024

READER: Carolyn Noack

ALTAR SERVERS: Rocky, Bo, Noah, Daisy

Extra-Ordinary Ministers: Tony & Jenny Karsen

Mass intention for Thurs., Aug. 8, 2024: William James Perry by Laine Reisch

Mass intention for Sun., Aug. 11, 2024: Bill Loomis by Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Loomis

Weekly Collection Information

<u>Collections:</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Over-(under)</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
July 28 2024:	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,684.75	\$ 584.75	200
Year to Date:	\$ 8,600.00	\$ 9,122.25	\$ 522.25	651

There is no matter that we cannot entrust to God, who provides us with our daily and eternal bread.

As we heard this past weekend when Bishop Lohse talked, we will hear from the Gospel of John throughout August, leading up to the bread of life discourse. Last week we heard how Jesus fed over 5000 with loaves and fish and had abundant leftovers that filled 12 wicker baskets. People came to Jesus because of the material food he gave them, which is a precursor to the ultimate bread and wine that Jesus gives to all who want to receive HIM. For us to receive Him, we must have a relationship with Him, which, like all relationships, starts with trust and ends in love, that perfect love that only Jesus can give to each of us. This trust in Him reassures us and gives us hope.

It takes time to build trust in relationships. We learn to have faith in one another based on our encounters with each other and how well our expectations are communicated and met. Consider children who learn to trust based on the attention and care they receive before they even begin to realize there is a world outside of themselves. If their needs are unmet at this stage, they will have difficulty trusting others when they are older. We should also consider our relationships with advisors and mentors; if they prove trustworthy in small matters, we will consider them so in more significant matters.

The same is true of our relationship with God. Abraham had doubts and some incredulity when God first called him and promised him a family and a future. Generations later, God called Abraham's descendants, the Israelites, out of Egypt. They relied on a blessed assurance from Him on their journey through the desert to the Promised Land, a journey we meet them on today. Hungry and groaning, they are worried as to whether God will sustain them in the desert. God does, of course, giving them bread from heaven to meet their needs. This act of providing their daily bread was a significant moment for God's chosen people and solidified a foundation of trust as the basis for the covenant between them. It was a foundation that grew to undergird the new covenant, when God would send from heaven and feed His people the bread of life. We are blessed with an abundance of God's provisions, a testament to His care and love for us, **for which we should be deeply grateful.**

We see this in today's Gospel: **The time had come for God to feed them, not only perishable daily bread, but bread that will endure them for eternal life. Jesus tells them about this bread from God that gives life to the world.** They ask to have this bread always, **and Jesus tells them, I am the bread of life.** They have trusted God in small, daily matters; now they can trust God in this greater, eternal matter. **They can receive His Son and never hunger, never thirst, again.**

Generations later, God continues to feed us our daily bread and the bread of life, given to us in the Eucharist. **These are so freely given and so readily available to us** that we may forget how we came to rely on God to always provides for us and what this means. From the time of Abraham and Moses, God has been providing us with what we need. From Him, we have what we need to sustain us for daily and eternal life. **There is no hunger or need GOD cannot fill; there is no matter – small or great – we cannot entrust to Him.**

Let us entrust these small and great matters to God and focus on thanksgiving and praise for the sustenance of daily and eternal life that we are so graciously given. We can do this now as we celebrate the Eucharist, and we can remind ourselves daily at every meal. As we do, Let Us Place All Our Trust In Him And Never Hunger Or Thirst Again.

Deacon Jim is Seeking 5-7 Volunteers to participate in and be part of the Building Committee. The idea is to explore the process of adding on or building a new parish community hall. **If you are interested, please call the office or email Deacon Jim.**

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL: Lillian A. Wheeler, Julie Haley, Steve Klein, Pete & Barb Percival, Rose Mary Wood, Joan Rumery, Margie Burris, Lillian B. Wheeler, Frances Parsons, Sonny Laughlin, Donna Murphy, Jack Secondi, Mary Heinz, Vicki Clark, Brett Middleton, and all those on our Prayer Chain.

WE STILL HAVE ST. JUDE T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE – There are a variety of sizes, and the cost is \$20.00 per shirt. If you're interested, see Lauren or Tammy or contact the office. Thanks!

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE – In today's gospel Jesus tells us: "Do not work for what perishes." Give your life to what endures such as the family history you are creating, the love and mutual respect which bonds you together, the memories you share, and the forgiveness generously given. These are the true treasures that are worth working and dying for.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR AUGUST - salt, pepper, baking soda, baking powder, muffin mix. 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.

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.

KALAMAZOO RIGHT TO LIFE LUNCHEON -The Kalamazoo Right to Life group will host a local Pro-Life event on Wednesday, August 14 at the Travelers Craft BBQ, 5225 Portage Rd, Portage MI, 49002; from Noon to 2 p.m. It will include a free lunch. The Keynote speaker will be Monica Migliorino Miller who will discuss the "culture of death" and how it relates to legislation. **Keynote Speaker: Dr. Monica Migliorino Miller. When: (Wed) August 14th; Noon - 2:00PM. Where: Traveler's Craft BBQ, 5225 Portage Rd. (Portage)** (In front of Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport). Seating is limited. To register, click the button below or text [269-548-7132](tel:269-548-7132) with number of tickets, names of attendees, and contact information. For more information, call [269-548-7132](tel:269-548-7132) or email talandaj@aol.com.

FROM THE DIOCESE

REFLECTION ON THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AUGUST 15, 2024 (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION) - The Solemnity of the Assumption celebrates the Blessed Mother's entrance into heavenly glory. The Catechism explains that Mary "was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven, where she already shares in the glory of her Son's Resurrection, anticipating the resurrection of all members of his Body" (CCC, 974).

Mary's Assumption into heaven reminds us that life on earth is a pilgrimage to our ultimate destination. We prepare in hope for our own passage into eternal life by the choices we make today. When we choose to love and follow God in our daily lives, we strengthen our relationship with Him, and this relationship is the true meaning of heaven: "To live in heaven is 'to be with Christ'" (CCC, 1025).

We can see how, throughout her life, the Blessed Mother continually chose to go deeper into her relationship with God. She modeled how to value and respect His precious gift of human life, from the moment of conception to its natural end. In the Annunciation, through her "yes," Mary witnessed to the undeniable humanity of pre-born children as she conceived and carried the Christ child in her womb. After the Annunciation, having learned that her cousin Elizabeth was with child, she went in haste to her aid.

Our Blessed Mother shows us how the way we live today can prepare us, in hope, to also enter into heavenly glory at the end of our lives. Are we open to God's precious gift of new life? How do we support pregnant mothers and parents? Do we prioritize showing our love to those who are ill or aging? Do we care for them in a way that respects God's gift of life?

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Anyone aware of child sexual abuse should report the matter to the appropriate law enforcement agency and make a report to the Michigan Department of Attorney General at 844-324-3374.

Bishop Lohse has pledged to provide professional counseling or therapy to victims of clergy sex abuse in the Diocese. Victims can receive 24-hour care via the crisis hotline set with Catholic Charities at 800-873-8336