

Dear Padre,

I miss the use of incense. Is it forbidden or out of style?

Incense is not out of style, nor is it forbidden. It is still burned to signify that Christ’s sacrifice ascends to God as an odor of sweetness and as a sign of people’s prayers rising to the throne of God. In the Book of Revelation, we read: “Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a gold censer. He was given a great quantity of incense to offer, along with the prayers of all the holy ones, on the gold altar that was before the throne. The smoke of the incense along with the prayers of the holy ones went up before God from the hand of the angel” (Revelation 8:3–4).

Incense is a resinous substance obtained by cutting into the bark of a fir or pine tree. The original meaning of the Hebrew word for incense was “fragrant smoke.” Ancient Jews burned incense as an act of worship in the tabernacle and temple. Scripture mentions incense often (Ephesians 5:2 and Philippians 4:18, for instance).

Today, incense is often used at the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, at funerals, and during other special liturgical celebrations to highlight the festivity of a particular occasion. Celebrants may also use incense in any liturgy to bless the congregation, the altar, the book of the Gospels, and the gifts of bread and wine. ●



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 12	August 13	August 14	August 15	August 16	August 17	August 18
Weekday	Weekday	St. Maximilian	Assumption of	Weekday	Weekday	Twentieth Sunday
Ez 1:2–5, 24–28c	Ez 2:8–3:4	Kolbe, Priest	the Blessed	Ez 16:1–15, 60,	Ez 18:1–10, 13b,	in Ordinary Time
Mt 17:22–27	Mt 18:1–5, 10,	and Martyr	Virgin Mary	63 or 16:59–63	30–32	Prv 9:1–6
	12–14	Ez 9:1–7;	Rv 11:19a; 12:1–	Mt 19:3–12	Mt 19:13–15	Eph 5:15–20
		10:18–22	6a, 10ab			Jn 6:51–58
		Mt 18:15–20	1 Cor 15:20–27			
			Lk 1:39–56			



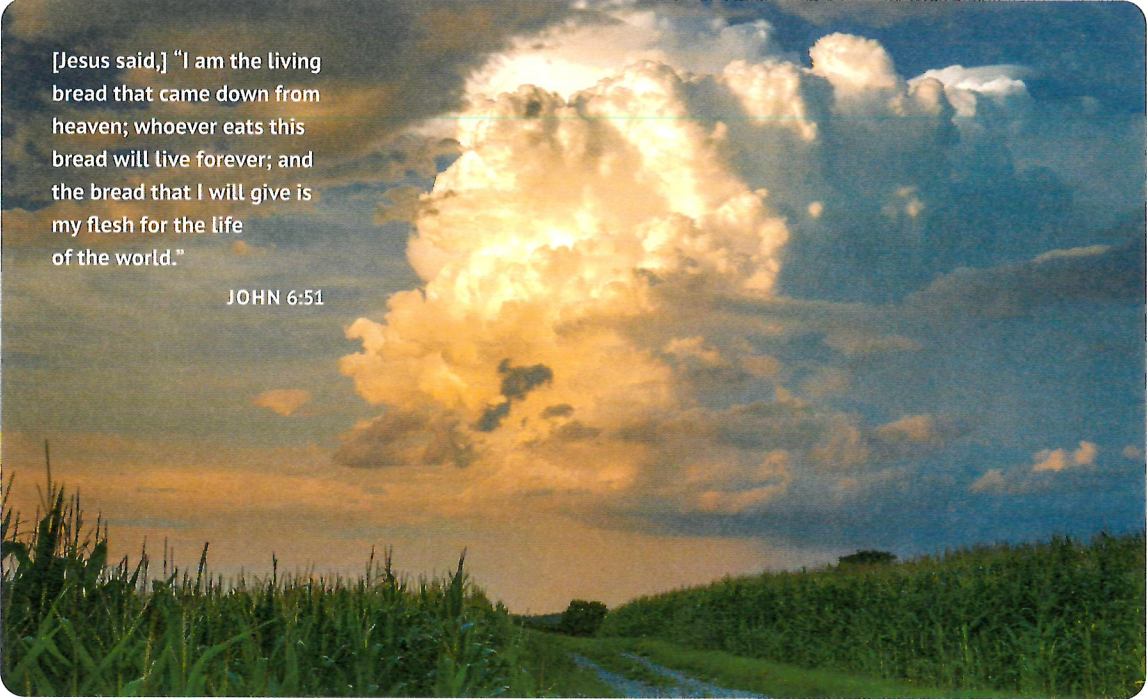
A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Without [Jesus], rather than living, we get by: because he alone nourishes the soul; he alone forgives us from that evil that we cannot overcome on our own; he alone makes us feel loved even if everyone else disappoints us; he alone gives us the strength to love and, he alone gives us the strength to forgive.

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 8, 2021

Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 11, 2024
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
1 Kings 19:4–8 / Ephesians 4:30–5:2 / John 6:41–51



[Jesus said,] “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”
JOHN 6:51

The Wisdom Journey

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

On the journey of life, how does one know when to keep struggling to make the dream come true, to continue pushing and refusing to surrender, or when to pull back, to recognize it was not meant to be and accept that? One thinks, perhaps one more effort will bring success. But our insistence may be our ego striving for something which, in the end, would be to our detriment. How does one know?

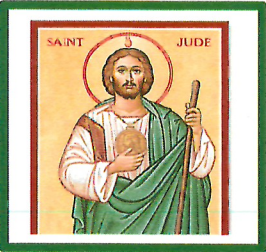
Though one can never be sure, there may be a moment when life calls us to surrender. When Elijah found himself rushing to escape the fearsome revenge of Queen Jezebel, whose 450 prophets of Baal he had bested and consigned to the netherworld, he fled into the desert, sat down beneath a broom tree, and prayed for death (1 Kings 18:22–19:4). Life as a

prophet of God had become too much to bear. He had surrendered, yet it was at this point that he was fed by God to continue the journey.

The Gospel’s message is that we shall all be taught by God. There comes a time to recognize that God’s wisdom is greater than our own and we must be open to a different path of life than what we had anticipated. It is one of God’s ways of teaching us, of feeding us with wisdom to seek another course. ●

Reflect

Do you find it difficult to change your mind, to accept that someone else may be correct, to believe and apply the challenging message of the Gospel?



ST. JUDE PARISH

Father Robert Creagan, Pastor, frcreagan@stakalamazoo.org
Deacon Jim Bauer, Administrator, cell: (269) 655-6510
P.O. Box 102, Gobles, Michigan 49055-0102
Office Phone (269) 628-2219
Webpage: www.st.judeparishgobles.com

For Pastoral Emergencies: Contact Deacon Jim on his cell phone
and/or St. Augustine Cathedral at 269-345-5147 and follow the prompts.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Weds. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Office Email: st.judeparishgobles@gmail.com

Sacristan:	Tammy Bauer	(269) 655-6672
Administrative Asst.-Bookkeeper:	Lauren Gilbert	(269) 286-4898
Religious Ed Coordinator:	Jennifer Price	(269) 377-6734
Safe Environment Coordinator:	Jennifer Rossell	(269) 744-2582
Choir Director:	Laura Woods	(269) 628-4886

WEEKLY MASS CALENDAR: Confession: Thursday Mornings after Mass CELEBRANT:

Sunday	Aug. 11, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Father Andrew
Thursday	Aug. 15, 2024	5:30 p.m. Adoration, 6:30 p.m. Mass	Adoration and Mass	Father Bob
Sunday	Aug. 18, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Father Bob
Thursday	Aug. 22, 2024	9:00 a.m./10:30 a.m.	Rosary/Mass	

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday	Aug. 11, 2024	Bill Loomis	By: Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Loomis
Thursday	Aug. 15, 2024	Deacon Mike Gallagher	By: St. Jude Parish
Sunday	Aug. 18, 2024	People of St. Jude	
Thursday	Aug. 22, 2024	Therese Mieu Thi Tran	By: Laura Woods

TODAY: SUNDAY, 08-11-24 NEXT SUNDAY: SUNDAY, 08-18-24

Reader	Carolyn Noack	Reader	Tony Karsen
EO Ministers	Tony & Jenny Karsen	EO Ministers	Karen Boyer, Jen Price
Servers	Rocky, Bo, Noah, Daisy	Servers	Bella, Alexa, Sadie, Emma

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday	Aug. 11, 2024	Target	\$2,000.00	Offered	\$1,723.25	\$276.25
Year to Date		Target	\$10,600.00	Offered	\$10,846.00	\$246.00
Attendance		132	Year To Date Attendance			783

Receiving Christ in the Eucharist calls us to sacrifice ourselves for others as He did for us.

Last Sunday began a series of weeks where we hear from John's Gospel, with passages from what is known as the Bread of Life Discourse. Complementing these readings are Scripture passages from the Old Testament, where God provides food and sustenance for the people in the stories.

Today's recipient of God's provision is Elijah. Elijah is dejected and exhausted. He has been prophesying to the people and, as is often the case with the prophets, has been vilified and threatened with death for his words. We meet him in the desert today, where he prays for death and falls asleep. **The Lord hears him, but rather than provide what Elijah asks for, he gives him what he needs: food, drink, sustenance, and strength.**

When Jesus speaks of himself as the bread that comes down from heaven in today's Gospel, the Jewish people to whom he spoke would have known intimately the stories of the manna during the exodus and God's provisions for Elijah. **So, one can understand why they would find Jesus' words puzzling and strange and murmur about them among themselves.** After all, Jesus was clearly not bread, but flesh and blood standing before them, and Jesus could not have come down from heaven because, as they point out, they know his parents, human parents, from their town. So, was Jesus lying? Confused?

Of course not. **He is the bread of life that comes down from heaven. And we, of course, know this, don't we? After all, this is what we are here to celebrate and receive. We are here because we believe that Jesus is the incarnate Word of God, the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity who took on human flesh. He (Jesus) did this to reveal to us the heart of God, to show us through His words and actions, and especially through His passion, death, and resurrection, the boundless love of God for us. He remains present in our midst in the Eucharist, the most Blessed Sacrament, sustaining us on our earthly journey, with the promise that our life here will continue in heaven, with Him, forever.**

What an awesome revelation, what an awesome gift. May God always give us the grace to appreciate it from the depth of our hearts and praise Him for his mercy, **because believing in Jesus, the Son of God, means He must live in our hearts. He must take up residence there and rule there, which means we must obey His commands.** The Lord gave hearth cake and water to Elijah and commanded him on a mission back to his people. So it is with us: The Lord feeds us in the Eucharist, and we are commanded to go out to the world on a mission to His people. **Taking the Good News to all we meet!**

Obedying God means following not just the commands we like **but all of them**—including sacrificing ourselves for others.

Every time we come forth to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us do so with hearts hungry for His forgiveness, hungry for His love, hungry for His strength to imitate Him, and be willing to love and sacrifice as He did for us.

*The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week in memory of
CHUCK & BERNIECE COZZOLINO By request of Nancy Cox*

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY IS ON THURSDAY, August 15th:
Here at St. Jude, we will have Adoration from 5:30-6:15 p.m. with Mass at 6:30 p.m.
This is a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be no morning Adoration or Mass that day.

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 – “Stop murmuring,” Jesus told the disciples in today’s gospel. Complaining is a dead-end, and constant complaining is nagging. We might feel better, but others feel bitter. Silence or grumbling will not resolve the problem. Address differences honestly and respectfully. Please don’t make them personal attacks.

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.

ST. STANISLAUS ANNUAL POLISH FESTIVAL - St. Stanislaus Parish and School’s 19th Annual “Back to Our Roots” Polish Festival is **August 17-18, 2024**, at 1865 136th Ave., Dorr, MI. On Saturday, we will have Polish food serving from 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m. and dancing with the “Bill Gruscinski Band” from 6 p.m.-10:00 p.m. We are starting Sunday with a Polka Mass at 10:30 a.m. followed by more homemade Polish food, including czarnina and dill pickle soups, and Polish pastries serving from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Polka Music with “Pan Franek and Zosia & the Polkatowners” from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Beer tent, kids’ games, basket raffles and huge raffle with over \$2000 in prizes. All proceeds will benefit St. Stanislaus Catholic Parish & School. Call the parish office at 269.793-7268 ext. 133 or email rectory@st-stans.net for raffle tickets or information.

THE CATHOLIC BIBLICAL SCHOOL OF MICHIGAN IS PARTNERING WITH ST. MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH TO START A NEW CLASS. The class will meet Thursday evenings from 7-9 p.m. **beginning September 19.** CBSM exists to grow disciples in and through God’s Word with an in-depth study of the entire Bible led by well-formed teachers so that our faith as Catholics is vibrant and more deeply rooted in Christ. Through donations, CBSM is accessible to all, and 100% of requests for financial aid are granted.

Info.: cbsmich.org/class, call 586-438-3085, or contact Dcn: Kurt Lucas, the instructor for the upcoming class, at deaconlucas@cbsmich.org. Registration closes September 6, 2024.

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