

PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK / MORITZ PONS MORETA

Dear Padre,

Are naked statues, like Michelangelo's David, really appropriate for public viewing?

It is helpful to consider if the artwork depicts the body to heighten transcendence, or to objectify the body to satisfy basic instincts. Art is admittedly subjective, and the interpretation of nudity in true art is in the eye of the beholder. Nudity can evoke feelings of shame for some; for others, the nude body in art can be an aesthetic experience of illuminated grace in humanity, and ultimately in the glory of our Maker for all his gifts—including the gift of Christ's resurrection that restored us to the original image and likeness intended by our Creator.

Since ancient times, the nude human form was a common subject in art. The intention is to draw the viewer to a better appreciation of the human body's natural beauty. However, nudity is often associated with sexuality, and for some, sexuality is equated with sin.

In his series of addresses about the theology of the body, St. John Paul II expounded on original nakedness that was referred to in Scripture: "Man tries to cover the real origin of fear with the shame of his own nakedness" (Genesis 3:10). "In the state of original innocence nakedness did not express a lack. Rather, it represented full acceptance of the body..." (*Real Significance of Original Nakedness*, 1980).

So to answer the question, assuming the purpose of the artist is to inspire, and the atmosphere in which the statue is viewed is conducive to such inspiration, yes, such a public display is appropriate. ●

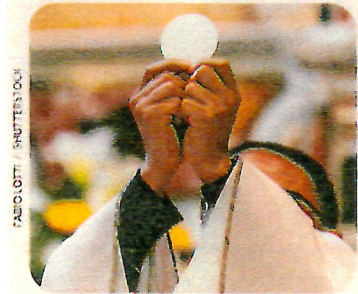
Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org



MORITZ PONS MORETA / SHUTTERSTOCK

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
August 19	August 20	August 21	August 22	August 23	August 24	August 25
Weekday	St. Bernard,	St. Pius X, Pope	Queenship of	Weekday	St. Bartholomew,	Twenty-first
Ez 24:15–23	Abbot and	Ez 34:1–11	the Blessed	Ez 37:1–14	Apostle	Sunday in
Mt 19:16–22	Doctor of the	Mt 20:1–16	Virgin Mary	Mt 22:34–40	Rv 21:9b–14	Ordinary Time
	Church		Ez 36:23–28		Jn 1:45–51	Jos 24:1–2a,
	Ez 28:1–10		Mt 22:1–14			15–17, 18b
	Mt 19:23–30					Eph 5:21–32
						or 5:2a, 25–32
						Jn 6:60–69

PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK / FABIO LOTTI



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Around the altar we find what spiritually feeds us and quenches our thirst today and for eternity.... The Eucharist shapes us so that we live not only for ourselves but for the Lord and for our brothers and sisters. Life's happiness and eternity depend on our ability to render fruitful the evangelical love we receive in the Eucharist.

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 19, 2018

Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 18, 2024
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
Proverbs 9:1–6 / Ephesians 5:15–20 / John 6:51–58



The Wisdom Meal

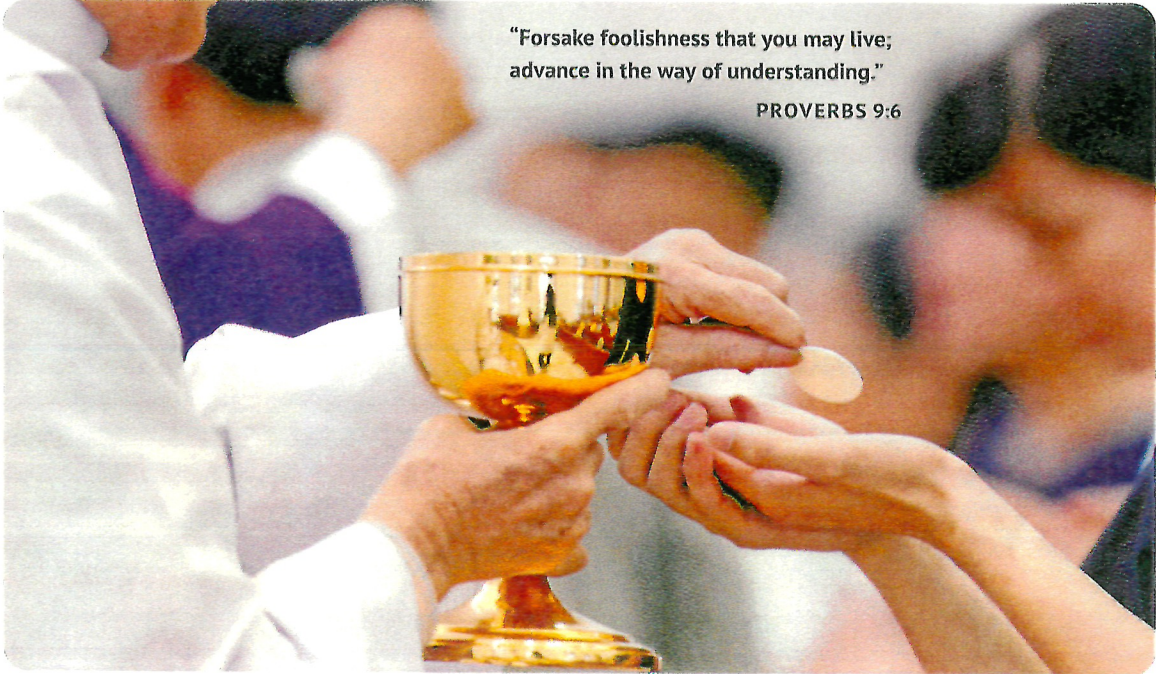
FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Common sense and wisdom are two different realities, similar but not the same. Common sense can be taught, and it tends to be black and white, rather obvious. For the most part, parents teach their children common sense. *Don't run with a knife in your hands. Look both ways before you cross the street. Wash your hands before you eat.* Wisdom, on the other hand, tends to be more nuanced. It has a depth to it that cannot be taught. Rather, it is learned by experience and is more obscure than obvious. Sometimes, wisdom may not even seem to make sense. *One finds life by losing it. We find meaning not by focusing on ourselves but rather upon others and their needs. Less is more. Might does not make right.* Wisdom is the home of God.

Throughout Scripture, the virtue of wisdom is often personified as Lady Wisdom. She is thought to have been present with God even before creation and with God at creation (Proverbs 8:22–31). Wisdom has spread her table before us and invites us: "Come, eat of my food, / and drink of the wine I have mixed!.... / advance in the way of understanding" (Proverbs 9:5–6). Jesus is the wisdom of God made flesh. To feast on Jesus' Body and Blood through the Eucharist is to feast on the wisdom of God. There, at his table, we begin to look at life the way God does. ●

Reflect

When faced with difficulties, do you stop and pray for wisdom—to see as God sees?



"Forsake foolishness that you may live; advance in the way of understanding."

PROVERBS 9:6



ST. JUDE PARISH

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Weds. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
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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. 18, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Father Bob
Thursday	Aug. 22, 2024	9:00 a.m./10:30 a.m.	Adoration and Mass	Father Bob
Sunday	Aug. 25, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Fr. Rob Johansen
Thursday	Aug. 29, 2024	9:00 a.m./10:30 a.m.	Adoration and Mass	Father Bob

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday	Aug. 18, 2024	People of St. Jude	By: Pro Populo Mass
Thursday	Aug. 22, 2024	Therese Mieu Thi Tran	By: Laura Woods
Sunday	Aug. 25, 2024	Maria Uramkin	By: Lillian A. Wheeler
Thursday	Aug. 29, 2024	Jim & Marilyn Cusack	By: James & Deborah Cusack

TODAY: **SUNDAY, 08-18-24** **NEXT SUNDAY:** **SUNDAY, 08-25-24**

Reader	Tony Karsen	Reader	Brianna Price
EO Ministers	Jennifer Price, Karen Boyer	EO Ministers	Diane Hanchak, Dee Herschleb
Servers	Bella, Alexa, Sadie, Emma	Servers	Daisy, Alanah, Carlina, Bella

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday	Aug. 11, 2024	Target	\$1,900.00	Offered	\$ 2,000.00	\$100.00
Year to Date		Target	\$12,500.00	Offered	\$12,741.00	\$246.00
Attendance		132	Year To Date Attendance			915

For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink

In today's Gospel reading we continue hearing from John's Bread of Life Discourse. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, John's Gospel does not contain an institution narrative (Jesus' words and the narrative surrounding them during the Last Supper when He gave us the Eucharist), so this discourse is the foundation for His Eucharistic theology. In today's reading, Jesus summarizes what He has said previously but also adds to it by identifying the living bread with His flesh, which He gives *for the life of the world*. In other words, He identifies this bread with the sacrifice He will make on the cross.

When the Jewish listeners wonder how He can give them His flesh to eat, Jesus Christ asserts that *unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within you*. It was against Jewish law to consume blood, so this requirement would have been offensive to Jews. The argument has been made that if Jesus meant His words metaphorically, He would have said so here.

We eat and drink Christ's body and blood when we consume the Eucharist. We take into our bodies the death and resurrection of Christ—our salvation. The Catechism says, "*The principal fruit of receiving the Eucharist ... is an intimate union with Christ Jesus.*" We take Christ's body into our bodies, becoming what we receive. The Eucharistic banquet is the foundation of life in Christ (CCC 1391). When we eat Christ's flesh and drink His blood, we are not simply reminded of His death on the cross; we partake of it.

In John's Gospel, Jesus is the Word made flesh. Jesus communicates the Father to us. The idea that Jesus is the Word of God has its roots in wisdom literature. We see in today's first reading that wisdom is depicted as something to be consumed. Those who consume the food and drink that Wisdom has prepared will grow in understanding, and this understanding leads to life: *Forsake foolishness that you may live*. Jesus receives His life from the Father. Those who eat His flesh and drink His blood receive His life – the life of the Father, life eternal.

When we are baptized, we receive new life in the Spirit as sons and daughters of God. But this life in the Spirit must be sustained. Just as we need food to preserve our bodily life, so do we need the Eucharist to preserve our spiritual life. Each time we receive the Eucharist, the life of grace we received at our baptism is preserved, increased, and renewed (CCC 1392). We are brought into union with Christ and His Church. Our venial sins are wiped away and preserved from mortal sins. Celebrating the Eucharist each Sunday is not something extra we do as Christians; it is the essence of who we are. We are God's people, called together to receive Him in His word and this sacrament.

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 speaks of eating His flesh and blood. Parents can identify with this, for they often feel devoured by all the demands of family life. This is unavoidable for children grow in the soil of sacrificial love. Parenting is not part time work. It is a consuming lifetime commitment.

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.

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.

An informational meeting for the Catholic Biblical School of Michigan will be held in the St. Monica Community Building on Thursday, August 22 at 7 pm. All are welcome.

FROM THE DIOCESE

ST. MARY PARISH IN MARSHALL HOSTED THE ANNUAL PRIEST PICNIC ON AUGUST 7.

The picnic brought together 50+ priests and seminarians from our diocese. Fr. Craig Lusk and the people of St. Mary appreciate the contributions of Knights of Columbus #5999, the St. Mary Women's Ministry Group and Coldstone Creamery of Portage to make this evening possible.

REVEREND ROBERT E. CONSANI, SENIOR PRIEST FOR THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO, DIED ON AUGUST 9, 2024. Father Consani had been in failing health over the past year. His last pastoral assignment before retiring in 1997 was as pastor of St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo. He remained in-residence at the parish until recently. Father Consani was born on May 15, 1931, in Franklin Mine, Mich. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Lansing on June 1, 1963, by Bishop Joseph Green. He became a priest of the Diocese of Kalamazoo upon the diocese's founding in 1971. In addition to his pastoral ministry at St. Monica's, Father Consani was an assistant pastor at St. Philip Parish, Battle Creek and pastor of St. John Bosco, Mattawan, St. Rose of Lima, Hastings, and Holy Angels, Sturgis. He was appointed Vicar General for the diocese from 1995-1998. Mass of Christian Burial took place on Weds., Aug. 14, with Bishop Lohse presiding.

A TESTIMONIAL FROM THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS – All of it was beautiful, powerful, and moving, but nothing was as moving as my time in Eucharistic Adoration. We adored Christ every evening at the Revival Sessions in the stadium. There may have been 50,000+ people in there, but Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is my personal time with Jesus. Just us. I am so thankful for these moments to remember my first love and to reconnect with He who loves me most. I perceived him telling me that he doesn't "tolerate" me – He delights in me! I had a image of watching beloved little girls playing in a field of flowers and how I delight in watching them. He delights in us like that. He sees past our weakness and brokenness, and just wants to love us. The 10th National Eucharistic Congress reminded me of all that. Jesus loves me, and he loves you, too. He wants to spend time with us and remember our first love. The Eucharist is His body, blood, soul, and divinity. His body and blood are true food and true drink. Now, I Have the honor of sharing this good news with a world STARVING for the only food that will satisfy, and so do you. *Amy Swater, St. Martin of Tours Parish, Vicksburg.*

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.