

Dear Padre,

A friend claims that various saints have appeared to her. Is this something that really happens?

Your friend might be experiencing what are called “private” revelations. Many recognized saints experienced visions in which Jesus, Mary, or the disciples spoke to them. These revelations were sometimes the sparks that caused future saints to leave whatever they were doing and follow Jesus in a dynamic way.

Saint Francis of Assisi was a rich young man who had a vision of Christ that radically changed his life. After this private revelation, Francis embraced poverty and devoted himself to the care of the sick. He founded the Franciscans to carry on his mission. An example of recent private revelations are the apparitions at Medjugorje. Even though the Church has not formally recognized these revelations, many have discovered a deeper faith because of them.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says this about private revelations: “Throughout the ages, there have been so-called “private” revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ’s definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history” (CCC 67).

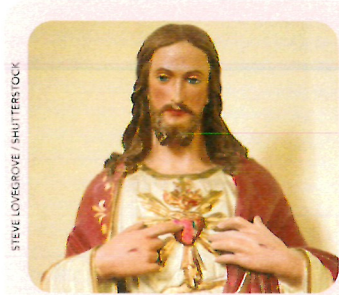
It is important to note whether the private revelation is contrary to the faith or the morals of the Church, and whether a particular revelation brings one closer to God. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



FRANCIS IN FRONT OF THE STATUE OF OUR LADY MARY, MEDJUGORJE, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, PHOTO FROM SHUTTERSTOCK

| Monday        | Tuesday        | Wednesday      | Thursday         | Friday        | Saturday      | Sunday           |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| August 26     | August 27      | August 28      | August 29        | August 30     | August 31     | September 1      |
| Weekday       | St. Monica     | St. Augustine, | Passion of St.   | Weekday       | Weekday       | Twenty-second    |
| 2 Thes 1:1–5, | 2 Thes 2:1–3a, | Bishop and     | John the Baptist | 1 Cor 1:17–25 | 1 Cor 1:26–31 | Sunday in        |
| 11–12         | 14–17          | Doctor of the  | 1 Cor 1:1–9      | Mt 25:1–13    | Mt 25:14–30   | Ordinary Time    |
| Mt 23:13–22   | Mt 23:23–26    | Church         | Mk 6:17–29       |               |               | Dt 4:1–2, 6–8    |
|               |                | 2 Thes 3:6–10, |                  |               |               | Jas 1:17–18,     |
|               |                | 16–18          |                  |               |               | 21b–22, 27       |
|               |                | Mt 23:27–32    |                  |               |               | Mk 7:1–8, 14–15, |
|               |                |                |                  |               |               | 21–23            |



STEVE LOVEGROVE / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The Lord asks the disciples the decisive question: “But who do you— you!—say that I am?” Who am I for you, now? Jesus does not want to be a key figure from the past; He wants to be an important person for you today, for me today.... Jesus wants to be the God who is close to us!

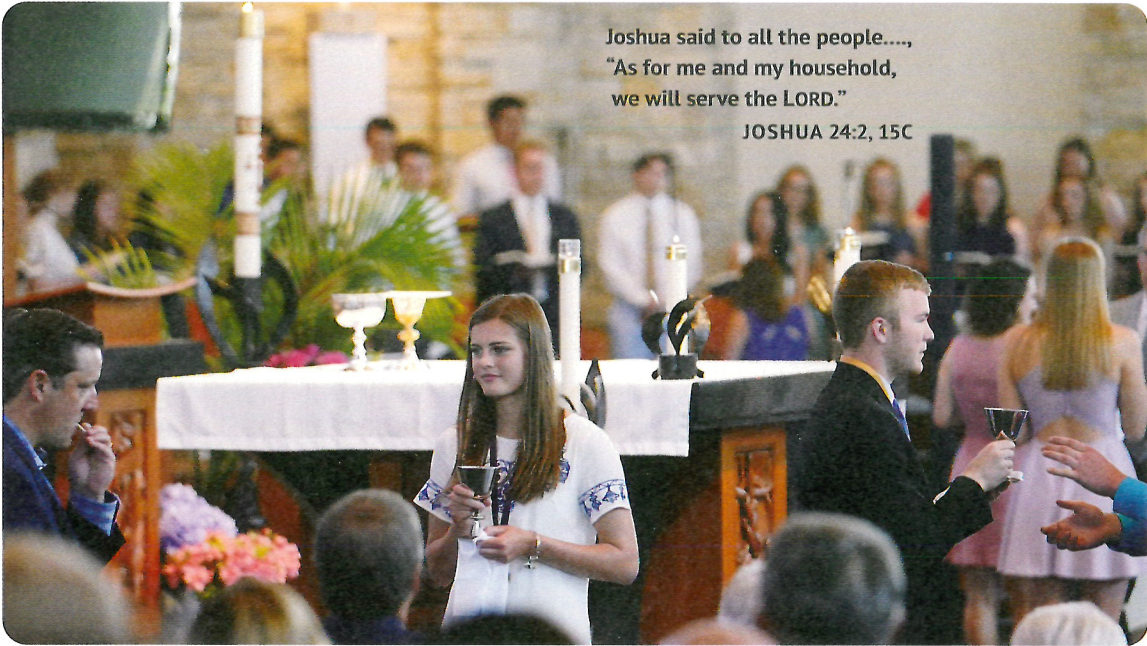
ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 27, 2023



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 25, 2024  
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)  
Joshua 24:1–2a, 15–17, 18b / Ephesians 5:21–32 or 5:2a, 25–32 / John 6:60–69



Joshua said to all the people...., “As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” JOSHUA 24:2, 15C

Taking a Stand Matters

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

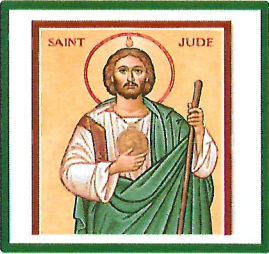
One day I happened to be sitting and chatting with some teenagers. When the discussion turned to parents, expectations, and how they respond, I asked them, “What’s really important to you? What do you value and try not to compromise on?” “Why do you want to know?” one asked. “Just wondering,” I said. Silence. Then one said that being honest was really important to her, that she always tried to tell the truth. Another said “family.” Another, respecting his body, said, “No drugs, no alcohol.” More silence, and then one spoke of her faith and how it really mattered and made a difference in her life. Their conversation then moved on to other things, friends, movies, and what to do later that day.

In reality, I had another reason for asking my question, one beyond a simple inquiry. There is something good about saying aloud what is truly important to us, what we won’t compromise on. Saying it out loud makes it more real, something we can stand for. Some of those teens didn’t say anything, maybe because they had never thought about what their values were. Perhaps hearing others speak up inspired them to think about it, maybe for the first time in their lives. Saying aloud where we stand in life makes a difference.

Jesus reminds us that it is the spirit that gives life, that the flesh is of no avail. Some of those teens have already begun to realize this truth. ●

Reflect

What are some values that you do not forsake easily? Why?



ST. JUDE PARISH

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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](mailto: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. 25, 2024 | 9:30 a.m.            | Mass           | Fr. Rob Johansen |
| Thurs. | Aug. 29, 2024 | 9:00 a.m./10:30 a.m. | Adoration/Mass | Fr. Creagan      |
| Sunday | Sept. 1, 2024 | 9:30 a.m.            | Mass           | Fr. Creagan      |
| Thurs. | Sept. 5, 2024 | 9:00 a.m./10:30 a.m. | Adoration/Mass | Fr. Creagan      |

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS:

|        |               |                             |                            |
|--------|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sunday | Aug. 25, 2024 | Maria Uramkin               | By: Lillian A. Wheeler     |
| Thurs. | Aug. 29, 2024 | Jim & Marilyn Cusack        | By: James & Deborah Cusack |
| Sunday | Sept. 1, 2024 | Chuck & Ann Miles           | By: Chuck McKenna          |
| Thurs. | Sept. 5, 2024 | Howard & Giannina Lounsbury | By: Mr. & Mrs. Jake VanDam |

TODAY: SUNDAY, 08-25-24 NEXT SUNDAY: SUNDAY, 09-01-24

|              |                                 |              |                         |
|--------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Reader       | Brianna Price                   | Reader       | Luke Sage               |
| EO Ministers | Diane Hanchak,<br>Dee Herschleb | EO Ministers | Tony & Jenny Karsen     |
| Servers      | Daisy, Alanah, Carlina, Bella   | Servers      | Rocky, Alexa, Bo, Hazel |

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

|              |               |        |                         |         |             |          |
|--------------|---------------|--------|-------------------------|---------|-------------|----------|
| Sunday       | Aug. 11, 2024 | Target | \$1,800.00              | Offered | \$ 1,676.00 | \$124    |
| Year to Date |               | Target | \$14,300.00             | Offered | \$14,417.00 | \$117.00 |
| Attendance   |               | 100    | Year To Date Attendance |         |             | 1015     |

Trust God to fill us with the grace we need to serve him and follow his Son.

To be people of faith can mean celebrating moments of great joy and enduring moments of great tribulation. This is our salvation history, and the Scriptures narrate the struggles of ancient Israel and of Jesus' disciples. It can also be a struggle for us today. It may be easier when things are going well. For example, in the first reading, after God handed his people victory in the Promised Land, they heartily committed with Joshua to serve the Lord above other gods. Still, they will be tempted as the memory of what God has done fades or as their fortunes turn. We all can relate to this at some point in our lives.

In the Gospel, the situation is entirely changed. God's people no longer enjoy control of the Promised Land; they are under Roman occupation. They have been waiting for a powerful messiah to restore their fortunes but wrestle with what to make of Jesus. Though they witness His miracles and healings, He is not what they expected. By breaking the sabbath and claiming God as His own Father, He is rejected by religious authorities.

Jesus starts teaching that he is the bread of life as if this were not scandalous enough. Whoever eats this bread – feeds on his flesh – will have life because of him; they will not die but live forever. This shocks people, and some cannot accept it. They find this teaching hard to understand, and many give up on following Him. It is easier to commit to a life of faith when there is a tangible reason, such as possession of a Promised Land under your feet.

The same may be true today; living as a disciple can mean undergoing particular trials that others do not, and it is tempting to give up when it becomes too difficult. It can be hard to accept that things are not always going to go our way and that we are not just going to be handed victories all the time by God. It is hard to understand that Jesus did not come to give us wealth and power but His body and blood as a sacrifice. He came out of love to give himself as the bread of life, to be broken and shared for us.

This is the mystery of our faith: Jesus was crucified, died, and rose to save us. We will never fully fathom this mystery until we are united with Jesus in heaven. Being a person of faith does not mean understanding every teaching or never struggling to accept it; faith is more about trust. When Jesus asked the Twelve if they, too, were going to leave, Peter replied that Jesus is the Holy One, so where else would they go? They trust Jesus enough to continue to follow. In time, they see and receive what the bread of life means, and this feeds their faith.

We must remember that faith is a gift. We receive it from God, and we MUST respond by committing to serve him and follow Jesus, even when it is difficult. To be people of faith means we trust God to fill us – especially through the mystery of the Eucharist – with the grace we need!

#### FROM THE DRE:

It is time to register for CCD. If you have a new student, please see Jennifer Price for registration information. If you have a returning student, you will receive papers to review and sign.

Our first class will be 9/15 with an ice cream social/parent meeting.

We will have a catechist meeting on 9/8 after Mass.

**I want to thank** Tammy Bauer, Sara Bauer, Jill Caudill, Diane Schmidt, Paul Mullin, Jennifer Price, and Andrew Rossell for volunteering to be on the building committee. **If you have a suggestion on what you believe we need for this project, please see one of them.**

**PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:** Lillian A. Wheeler, Julie Haley, Steve Klein, Pete & Barb Percival, 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.

**THE PARISH PICNIC COMMITTEE WILL HAVE A POST-PICNIC MEETING** on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, right after Mass.

#### CALLING ALL BAKERS FOR THE WOMEN'S GUILD LABOR DAY WEEKEND BAKE SALE!!

The date is Sunday, Sept. 1st. If you would like to bake, please call Laine Reisch at 269-628-4073. *Thank you for your participation in this sweet event!*

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>, AFTER MASS TO WELCOME BACK THE CCD STUDENTS.** All our parishioners are welcome to stay and meet our CCD students and teachers.

**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.

**PRAYER CHAIN** – If you would like to join our prayer chain, or if you have someone you would like them to pray for, please contact the office. Thanks.

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE** – Even though many found the teachings of Jesus “difficult”, He did not back down. In our families, it is important to say what is difficult to hear, to speak the truth with kindness, to correct with love, and to guide with understanding.

**THE KALAMAZOO DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN** will be hosting a day of reflection this fall on *The Dignity of Life through Natural Death*. Upholding the dignity of life applies to every person in every circumstance throughout life from conception to natural death. Please join us:

**When:** Thursday, October 3, 2024

**Where:** St. Mary of the Lake, 718 W. Buffalo Street, New Buffalo, MI

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Our day of reflection will include Holy Mass, a variety of speakers on important life issues, including end-of-life decisions, Catholic funerals, the dangers of assisted suicide, anointing of the sick, Hospice, grief counseling, personal testimonies, and more. The afternoon program will include 2024 election year guidelines for Catholics. Speakers from The Michigan Catholic Conference will join us for the day. The registration fee for this event is only a \$20 donation to help cover the day's costs, including lunch. To register, go to [KDCCW.reg@gmail.com](mailto:KDCCW.reg@gmail.com) and pay at the door. If you have questions or need more info., please contact [Becky.Borglin@gmail.com](mailto:Becky.Borglin@gmail.com) or call or text Becky at 269-325-1354. We hope you can join us and look forward to seeing you there. --KDCCW Board

#### FROM THE DIOCESE

**CEMETERY COORDINATOR – PART TIME** – The Diocese of Kalamazoo is seeking a part-time Cemetery Coordinator to oversee the operations of Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery and Catholic Riverside cemetery. Operations consist of communicating with and providing direction to third-party service providers for burials, foundations, and grounds; coordinating with monument providers for headstone placements; responding to inquiries; maintaining cemetery records; and ensuring overall flow of cemetery operations. This position reports to the Operations Manager.

**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.