

Dear Padre,

Why does OCIA take so long? I've been married to a Catholic for fifty years and would like to become Catholic. My parish's Order of Christian Initiation of Adults program runs from September through Easter. That's a long time for someone in her eighties. Is there any way to accelerate the process?

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults and the new name for RCIA) was designed to meet the needs of two main groups: those who have been baptized as Catholics or in a Protestant tradition but have received no additional instruction in the Catholic faith, and those who have not been baptized. Someone in the first group has a different starting point from someone who has little knowledge of Christ, or who has never participated in a church community. OCIA programs use an instruction process called catechumenate, in which people seeking to become Catholic (catechumens) experience a worshiping community, learn to pray, and reflect on God's word. The catechumenate is divided into steps that are marked by liturgical rites; some parts of the process are optional, depending on each catechumen's pastoral situation. Catechumens can be received into the Church at any time of year. Talk to your priest about your closeness to Catholicism since your marriage and how it has formed your faith. Together, you can determine the amount and type of preparation that's right for you. ●



Fr. John K. Schmidt, CSsR / DearPadre.org



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus asks his disciples: "Who do you say that I am?"Today too, the Lord looks at each of us personally and asks: "Who am I—in fact—for you?".... This question, addressed to each of us, calls for more than a quick answer straight out of the catechism; it requires a vital, personal response.

HOMILY, BUDAPEST, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Monday September 16 <i>Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs</i> 1 Cor 11:17–26, 33 Lk 7:1–10	Friday September 20 <i>Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul Chông Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs</i> 1 Cor 15:12–20 Lk 8:1–3
Tuesday September 17 <i>Weekday</i> 1 Cor 12:12–14, 27–31a Lk 7:11–17	Saturday September 21 <i>St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist</i> Eph 4:1–7, 11–13 Mt 9:9–13
Wednesday September 18 <i>Weekday</i> 1 Cor 12:31–13:13 Lk 7:31–35	Sunday September 22 <i>Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Wis 2:12, 17–20 Jas 3:16–4:3 Mk 9:30–37
Thursday September 19 <i>Weekday</i> 1 Cor 15:1–11 Lk 7:36–50	

Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 15, 2024
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
Isaiah 50:5–9a / James 2:14–18 / Mark 8:27–35



Who Do People Say You Are?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Pain is the body's alarm clock that something is broken or not working correctly. Suffering, on the other hand, is a marker of our identity and points to what we value. Suffering through the struggles of raising a family says, "I am a parent. That's what parents do." Mental suffering that accompanies committed love says to the world that "I am married. This is something to be valued." Suffering seems to accompany our commitments and consequently contributes to our identity. We don't suffer over what is unimportant in our lives. When Peter recognized that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah, Jesus then pointed out what sort of commitment accompanied being the Christ—that he would suffer greatly, be killed, and then rise on the third day. It was all much to Peter's dismay, especially when Jesus noted that those who follow him can expect similar suffering. The suffering that flows from our own commitments may not pin us to a physical cross, but it often reveals a faithfulness to live out the values of Jesus. For people of faith, those values become woven into our everyday living: of raising a difficult child, caring for aging parents, working at jobs that sap our energy, or tolerating those who are unkind. Many times, we may not display those values as a conscious expression of our faith, yet it does point to who we are—followers of Jesus. ●



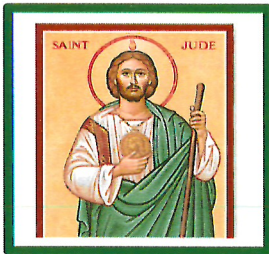
[Jesus asked the disciples],
"But who do you say that I am?"
Peter said to him in reply,
"You are the Messiah."

MARK 8:29

Reflect

Does your suffering reflect your values,
your commitment to follow Jesus?

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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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Choir Director:	Laura Woods	(269) 628-4886

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

Sunday	Sept. 15, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Fr. Creagan
Thurs.	Sept. 19, 2024	9:00 a.m./10:30 a.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Creagan
Sunday	Sept. 22, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Fr. Schmidt
Thurs.	Sept. 26, 2024	9:00 a.m./10:30 a.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Creagan

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday	Sept. 15, 2024	The People of St. Jude Parish	Missa pro populo
Thurs.	Sept. 19, 2024	Joseph & Ann Lukas	By: Leonard Lukas
Sunday	Sept. 22, 2024	Bob Lewis	By: Claire Miller
Thurs.	Sept. 26, 2024	Edward & Eleanor Kazak	By: Mr. & Mrs. John Kancauski

TODAY: SUNDAY, 09-15-24 **NEXT SUNDAY: SUNDAY, 09-22-24**

Reader	Pat Sage	Reader	Ellen Brown
EO Ministers	Dee H. & Karen B.	EO Ministers	Jennifer P. & Diane H.
Servers	Daisy, Rocky, Shane, Noah	Servers	Alexa, Carlina, Lydia, Alanah

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday	Sep. 08 2024	Target	\$2,000.00	Offered	\$ 1,706.00	\$ 294.00
Year to Date		Target	\$20,100.00	Offered	\$20,014.50	\$ 85.50
Attendance		108	Year To Date Attendance			1398

We are called to follow Jesus, the suffering Messiah.

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples what other people are saying about Him. Then He asks them, *Who do you say that I am?* When Peter answers that He is the Christ, Jesus warns His disciples not to tell anyone about Him. There are certainly practical reasons for this instruction. If the disciples had begun preaching that Jesus was the Messiah, it likely would have angered the Roman and Jewish officials.

After Peter's confession, Jesus immediately begins teaching the disciples about his coming suffering, death, and resurrection. This is the first such prediction in Mark's Gospel. Peter has just confessed that Jesus is the Christ. He has a hard time accepting that Jesus will suffer and die. Though he takes Jesus aside and privately begins to rebuke Him, Jesus responds to Peter in front of all the disciples. He tells him that he is thinking like a human being and not like God. He then addresses the entire crowd of potential believers, saying that if any of them want to follow Him, they must deny themselves and take up their own crosses.

Jesus is the Messiah. But He is also the suffering servant spoken of by the prophet Isaiah. To follow Jesus means that we, too, must suffer, not for suffering's sake, but for the sake of others. We must lay down our lives, setting aside our wants and desires, in order to fulfill the needs of our neighbors in service of God. As James writes in his letter, *faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.* **What good is it to say we love God if we see a person in need and do nothing to help them?**

We should ask ourselves who we say Jesus is and what it means for us to follow Him. How do our ideas about suffering fit into this picture? Today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah assures us that when we suffer with Christ, and especially when we endure suffering for Christ, God is with us. The Lord God is our help. If we persevere in following Christ's way, the way of the cross, we will not be put to shame. If we lose our life for Christ's sake and that of the Gospel, we will be saved.

FROM THE DRE:

CCD classes have begun. Please turn in all paperwork and fees ASAP.

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.

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.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER - Toothpaste, garlic powder, pepper, cold cereal and 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.

ROSARY COAST TO COAST - on Saturday, October 6, 2024. Location: K of C Red Arrow Hwy, Paw Paw, MI. Time: 4:00 P.M. EST (Prayed in unison all across the USA). Contact: Deborah Leath 574-210-1706 text or dmcnab51@hotmail.com

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - If we want to be happy at home we must commit (“lose ourselves”) to our family. If we try to be independent from others (“save ourselves”) we end up lonely and alone. Happiness is found in commitments. The gospel is true: We save our life by losing it!

THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER - September 14 was the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, when we venerate the Cross of Christ. Historic accounts place the start of this feast in the fourth century. September is also dedicated to our lady of sorrows, a time to reflect on the seven times Mary was faced with the earthly experiences of her son. **1** - The Prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:34-35); **2** - The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-21); **3** - The Loss of Jesus for Three Days (Luke 2:41-50); **4** - The Meeting of Jesus and Mary on the Road to Calvary (John 19:17); **5** - The Crucifixion of Jesus (John 19:18-30); **6** - Jesus Taken Down from the Cross (John 19:39-40); **7** - Jesus Laid in the Tomb (John 19:39-42). Meditating on these sorrows helps us to connect the reality of the incarnation and Christ on earth. There are so many other feasts in September, including St. Jerome, St. Teresa of Lisieux, and St. Peter Claver.

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.

FROM THE DIOCESE

40 DAYS FOR LIFE - From September 25 to November 3, you’re invited to join other Christians across the globe for 40 Days for Life. This involves 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You’re also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside of the Planned Parenthood building at 4201 W. Michigan in Kalamazoo. Our campaign is Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 8 pm. When you participate in 40 Days for Life, you are making an appointment with God in prayer. And you are also changing the hearts of people through the Holy Spirit. To sign up, do one of the following:

- Send an email to 40dayskalamazoo@gmail.com
- Sign up directly at <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/kalamazoo>
- Contact Joe Magalski at 989-992-6085

KDCCW DAY OF REFLECTION - Mark your calendars for a Day of Reflection on The Dignity of Life through Natural Death on Thursday, October 3, 2024, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at St. Mary of the Lake Parish in New Buffalo. The Day will include Mass, talks on a variety of topics around natural death like end-of-life decisions, Catholic funerals, and more. Registration is a \$20 donation (lunch will be included) and can be paid at the door. For more info. or to register, contact Becky Borglin, 269-325-1354.

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.