

# Dear Padre,

After we die and go to heaven, will our guardian angel still be with us? Will we know the angel in a closer way?

“The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls ‘angels’ is a truth of faith” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 328). The notion that each person has his or her own guardian angel may be based on Jesus’ warning not to despise “little ones” because “their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father” (Matthew 18:10). Saint Basil wrote, “Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life.” How might we interact with these constant companions in heaven? In heaven, we’ll be consumed with the presence of the beatific vision—the immediate knowledge of God, which the angelic spirits and the souls of the just enjoy. In beholding God face to face, we find perfect happiness. “This perfect life with the Most Holy Trinity—this communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed—is called ‘heaven.’ Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness” (CCC 1024). Even though “this mystery of blessed communion with God and all who are in Christ is beyond all understanding and description” (CCC 1027), to imagine the pure joy of being close to our guardian angel is just a foretaste of what heaven will be! ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
September 30	October 1	October 2	October 3	October 4	October 5	October 6
St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church	St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church	The Holy Guardian Angels	Weekday	St. Francis of Assisi	Weekday	Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jb 1:6–22	Jb 3:1–3, 11–17, 20–23	Jb 9:1–12, 14–16	Jb 19:21–27	Jb 38:1, 12–21; 40:3–5	Jb 42:1–3, 5–6, 12–17	Gn 2:18–24
Lk 9:46–50	Lk 9:51–56	Mt 18:1–5, 10	Lk 10:1–12	Lk 10:13–16	Lk 10:17–24	Heb 2:9–11
						Mk 10:2–16 or 10:2–12



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We need to be vigilant about closure in the Church.... Because the devil, who is the divider—this is what the word “devil” means, the one who divides—always insinuates suspicions to divide and exclude people.... The Holy Spirit does not want closure; he wants openness, welcoming communities where there is a place for everyone.

ANGELUS, ROME, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021



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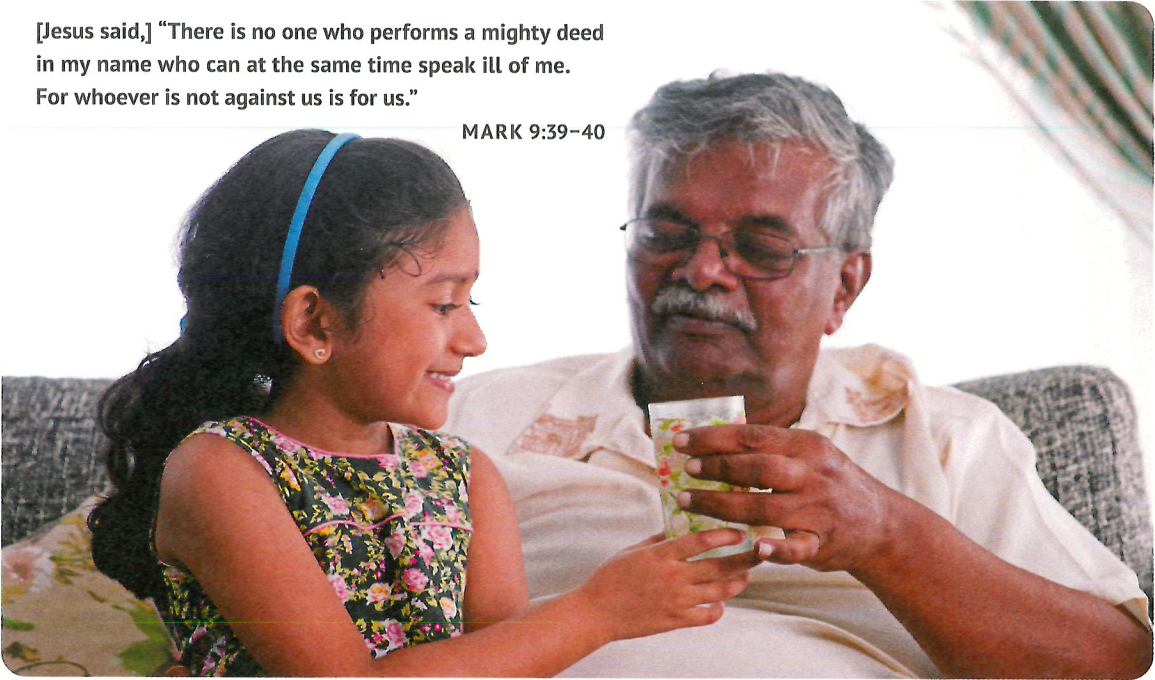
# Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 29, 2024  
Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)  
Numbers 11:25–29 / James 5:1–6 / Mark 9:38–43, 45, 47–48



[Jesus said,] “There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us.”

MARK 9:39–40



## Spirited Truth

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

It’s not always easy to figure out where God’s spirit of truth is revealed or by whom the truth is spoken. After “the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to Moses,” some of that same spirit given to Moses was also bestowed upon the seventy elders. Two other men also received the spirit, although they were not specially designated, much to the consternation of the elders (see Numbers 11:25–26). These two outsiders were somehow included among those who saw themselves as insiders. How is one to know who speaks with the authority of the spirit?

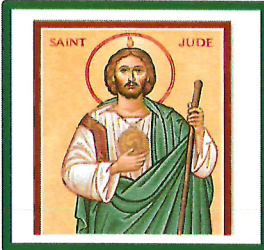
Perhaps we all need to pay attention to the possibility that “outsiders” may be speaking the truth to us. Faith communities are often considered outsiders in the larger society, not worthy of a platform to be heard from; yet, many faith communities raise their voices in

defense of the unborn, the immigrants at our doors, and the lost souls adrift among us. Throughout life, we’ve been surprised by children who speak truth that is unrecognized by adults. We’ve been surprised by the voice of women to a patriarchal society, the sexually abused to the larger Church, those who defend victims of violence. But not all outsiders speak with the authority of the spirit. How is one to know? Perhaps the Gospel gives us a clue—those who give others a cup of water to drink, which is to say, those who speak with compassion on behalf of others who are thirsty for justice and life. ●

### Reflect

How have you been surprised by someone unexpectedly speaking God’s truth and wisdom?

September 29, 2024 – Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



### ST. JUDE PARISH

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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.

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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	Sept. 29, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Fr. Fabio
Thurs.	Oct. 3, 2024	9:00 a.m./10:30 a.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Creagan
Sunday	Oct. 6, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Fr. Schmidt
Thurs.	Oct. 10, 2024	9:00 a.m./10:30 a.m.	Adoration/ Comm. Service	Convocation

### WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday	Sept. 29, 2024	Richard Frayder	By: Darlene Hollar
Thurs.	Oct. 03, 2024	Mary Laughlin	By: Sadie Payne
Sunday	Oct. 6, 2024	Alice Burza	By: Deacon & Mrs. Jim Bauer
Thurs.	Oct. 10, 2024	Linda Barrett	By: John Barrett

TODAY: **SUNDAY, 09-29-24** NEXT SUNDAY: **SUNDAY, 10-06-24**

Reader	Bruce Herschleb	Reader	CCD Students
EO Ministers	Tony & Jenny Karsen	EO Ministers	Karen B. Diane H.
Servers	Rocky, Bo, Hayzel, Bella	Servers	Daisy, Alanah, Sadie, Emma

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday	Sep. 22, 2024	Target	\$ 1,600	Offered	\$ 1915.00	\$ 315.00
Year to Date		Target	\$ 23,300	Offered	\$23,476.50	\$ 176.50
Attendance		118	Year To Date Attendance			471

### Whatever we put our trust in will draw us closer to Christ or will pull us away.

When a person says they are “spiritual but not religious,” what does that mean? It can be understood that what is generally meant is that the person is interested in spiritual realities but suspicious of the systems and structures that humans use to engage with them.

This suspicion should give those of us intimately bound up in these systems and structures pause, and our hearts should go out to those who might make such a claim. The claim to be “spiritual but not religious” is problematic because it demonstrates a profound misunderstanding of the human person. As embodied souls – spiritual and material beings – we encounter the spiritual through the tangible. This is what religion is – the tangible, audible, visible, touchable, and seeable ways in which we connect with the spiritual. The word religion comes from a Latin term that means “to bind.” Religion is how we are bound together with spiritual realities, most importantly, God.

To be “not religious” is to be unbound, untethered, and disconnected from the spiritual and, in other words, disconnected from God. There is a real danger here, for we are religious beings by nature! If we are not tethered to God by practices, teachings, rituals, and sacraments given to us by God, then we will, by nature, bind ourselves to ... other things. Lesser things.

In our second reading from the Letter of Saint James, we hear a litany of these lesser things. Oh, the temptation to bind ourselves to treasure and luxury and pleasure! Yet none of these things can last. None can carry us through misery in a satisfactory way. None can endure through the doorway of death. They are not enough.

So, if we are not bound by the obligations, structures, and teachings of religion, we may find ourselves afloat, lost in a sea of choices, none of which can satisfy the deepest of our human needs.

Our Gospel reading today starkly contrasts these choices. Whatever we trust in, whatever we seek out to meet our deepest human needs, will either draw us closer to Christ and so draw us to goodness and love, or it will pull us away. One choice leads to life and life in abundance. The other leads to corrosion and misery.

As we confront this stark choice, these readings remind us that we are not left to seek blindly. God prepares and equips leaders such as Moses and the disciples. God sends the Holy Spirit, even to unexpected places. God is working through people of all sorts to provide for our needs and give us a cup of water to drink. God bestows his gifts generously on his people through all the structures and practices of our Faith.

As we approach the greatest of these gifts, the Eucharist, let us ask God to show us the areas where we are placing our trust, which are outside of his goodness. Let us request the grace to open our hearts to his unexpected gifts. May we be drawn into his life and his love, bound to him in this Blessed Sacrament.

**FROM THE DRE:**

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

**Please remember to send a water bottle with your child.**

**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 Sunday, 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](mailto:dmcnab51@hotmail.com)

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE** – The words in today’s gospel, “Whoever gives a cup of water in the name of Christ will not lose their reward” hits us at home. As parents we gain our “reward” when we bring water to a frightened child in the middle of the night, or Kool Aid to parched five-year olds, or hold ice chips to the fevered lips of a spouse. It is that simple and that sacred. In our homes we give until it hurts “in the name of Christ.”

**THANKS TO YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT** we collected \$503.00 for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Our contributions will support those on the margins who live in poverty in the United States. If you missed the collection, you can still donate. Visit [www.usccb.org/nationalcollections](http://www.usccb.org/nationalcollections) and click “How to Give” under “Resources”.

**VAN BUREN COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE BENEFIT DINNER** – When: Mon., Oct. 14, 2024, at 6 p.m. Price: \$30. Location: Knights of Columbus Hall, 32373 Red Arrow Hwy., Paw Paw, MI 49079. For reservations, call Jamie at 269-547-4815 or email [jwallace@rtl.org](mailto:jwallace@rtl.org)

**SINGLES LATE 50’S AND ABOVE:** Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life changing RENEW weekend retreat at the St. Francis Retreat Center, in DeWitt, MI (10 miles north of Lansing), on Nov 8-10, 2024. Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it! Cost is \$235 for meals and a single room. Visit [www.RenewRetreats.org](http://www.RenewRetreats.org), e-mail [renewretreat.mi@gmail.com](mailto:renewretreat.mi@gmail.com), or call (570) 449-4858 for details.

**FROM THE DIOCESE**

**A CELEBRATION AND PRAYER FOR LIFE RALLY** will be held on October 20 at 5 p.m. at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Portage. This is an ecumenical event celebrating the sanctity of life. Keynote speakers include: Neonatologist Dr. Robin Pierucci and Radiant Church Kalamazoo Pastor Zach Dillon. Other speakers from around the diocese, including from Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo, will also be featured. For more information contact [Cindy Vennix](mailto:Cindy.Vennix@diokzoo.org), 269-377-7687 or [Joe Magalski](mailto:Joe.Magalski@diokzoo.org), 989-992-6085.

**JUBILEE OF YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME** - Are you between the ages of 18 and 30 and looking for a way to grow closer to Christ during the 2025 Jubilee? Consider joining the 2025 Youth Jubilee in Rome, July 27-August 7, 2025. Join young Catholics from all over the world to explore Rome and Assisi. For more information, contact Santiago Banda, [sbanda@diokzoo.org](mailto:sbanda@diokzoo.org).

**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.

**TRAUMA RECOVERY PROGRAM - FALL 2024** - The Trauma Recovery Program is inviting participants for three different groups this fall. Each group is led by mental health professionals to assist group members to understand and learn skills to help them recover from childhood abuse and neglect. The Program is free, and participants are expected to attend all ten sessions. You call or write to indicate your interest and there will be an interview to answer questions about the program and receive some information about personal history. Call or text 269-779-5322 or email [TRA@TraumaRecoveryAssociates.com](mailto:TRA@TraumaRecoveryAssociates.com) and give your name and phone number. Thursdays, 6:30-9:00 p.m. at St Catherine Parish, Portage. Starts October 3 and ends December 12 (no meeting on Thanksgiving)

**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.**