

Dear Padre,

If Jesus was a Jew, why are we Catholic and not Jewish?

Jesus was a first-century Jew, as were his first disciples. They continued their Jewish practices after Jesus' resurrection, but they believed and proclaimed that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah, the fulfillment of Judaism. Such claims inevitably led to clashes with Jewish authorities, as when St. Stephen, the first martyr, was charged with blasphemy and stoned to death in Jerusalem in the year 36 (Acts 6–7).

Nevertheless, Jesus' followers initially saw themselves as reformers of Judaism—not founders of a new religion. The Acts of the Apostles traces the first thirty years of this community of believers, from Jesus' ascension in Jerusalem to Paul's imprisonment in Rome. It details the beginnings of their separation from Judaism, as when the Jewish disciples wanted to impose certain practices of Mosaic Law on the Gentile disciples—circumcision, for example (Acts 15:11). Acts and the epistles also chronicle the expansion outside of Jerusalem to the Mediterranean region, where, for example, in Antioch, the disciples of Jesus were called Christians for the first time (Acts 11:26). The first written reference to "Catholic Church" is from St. Ignatius of Antioch around the year 107. Catholic means "universal." "The Church is catholic: she proclaims the fullness of the faith.... She is sent out to all peoples. She speaks to all men. She encompasses all times" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 868). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / 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
December 30	December 31	January 1	January 2	January 3	January 4	January 5
Octave of Christmas	Octave of Christmas	Mary, Holy Mother of God	Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church	Christmas Weekday	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious	Epiphany of the Lord
1 Jn 2:12–17	1 Jn 2:18–21	Nm 6:22–27	1 Jn 2:22–28	1 Jn 2:29–3:6	1 Jn 3:7–10	Is 60:1–6
Lk 2:36–40	Jn 1:1–18	Gal 4:4–7	Jn 1:19–28	Jn 1:29–34	1 Jn 1:35–42	Eph 3:2–3a, 5–6
		Gal 2:16–21				Mt 2:1–12



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Every day, families have to learn to listen and understand one another, to walk together, to face conflicts and difficulties.... And this too helps...talk within the family, talk at table, dialogue between parents and children, dialogue among siblings. It helps us experience our family roots that come from our grandparents. Dialogue with the grandparents!

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 26, 2021



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ST. PETER PREACHING, BY MASOLINO LORISIO / SHUTTERSTOCK

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 29, 2024

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (C)

Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or 1 Sm 1:20–22, 24–28 /

Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17 or 1 Jn 3:1–2, 21–24 / Luke 2:41–52



Belonging to Two Families

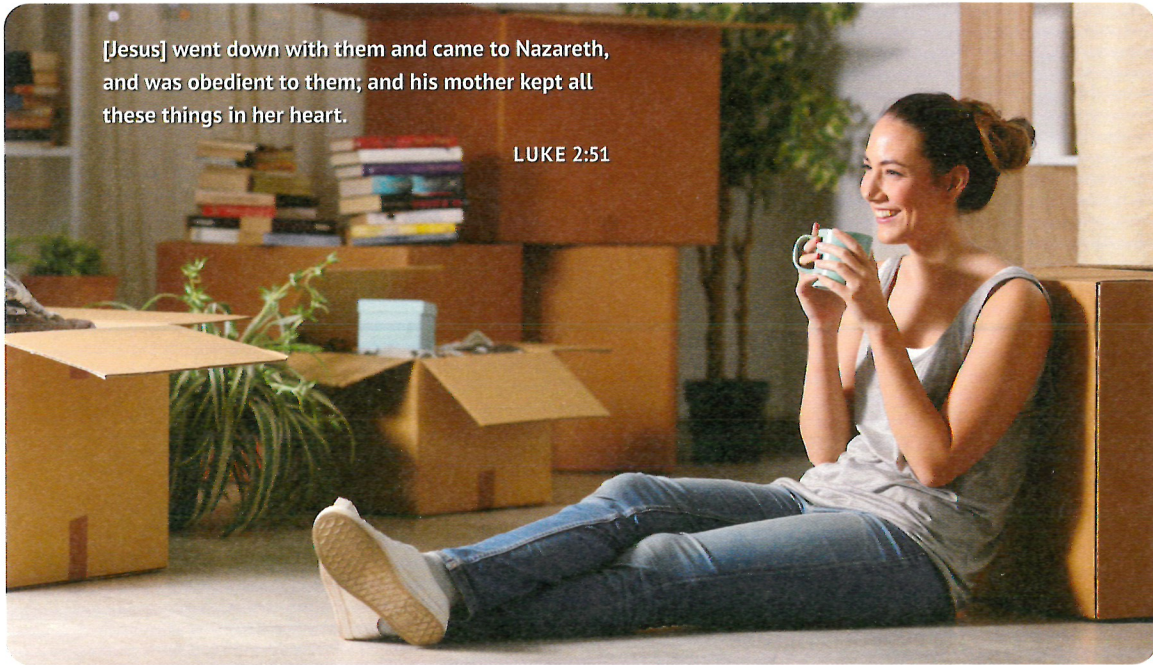
FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Adolescence can bring family life into an upheaval for both parents and adolescents alike. At its heart, adolescence is an urge for independence, a silent instinct to be part of the larger world. It is a calling sewn by God's Spirit into the very fabric of being human. At its best, family life can be the staging ground for that movement outward. Hannah recognized this when she believed that her young son Samuel was chosen for a specific role in life. It moved her to bring Samuel to the temple to be raised there in growing service to the community. Ultimately Samuel became a charismatic leader of the Hebrew people who would anoint both Saul and David as king. That same calling seemed to take time

to unfold in the awareness of Joseph and Mary who wondered why Jesus stayed behind in the temple. "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" asked Jesus of them (Luke 2:49). All of us are meant to live more than a life of satisfaction for ourselves or even the fulfillment of our parents' dreams. We may find ourselves asking a young person what they want to be when they grow up. A more valuable question might be what they think God wants them to be. While the Spirit of God does not usually ask us to be something contrary to our inclinations, the call of service to the needs of the human family is an added piece to the puzzle of what someone's life might look like. ●

Reflect

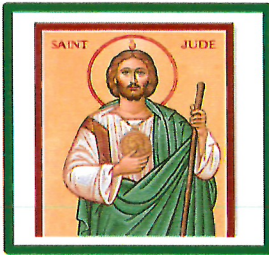
How has the call to serve God and God's people shown itself in your life?



[Jesus] went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

LUKE 2:51

December 29th, 2024 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



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

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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	Dec. 29, 2024	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Fr. Creagan
Weds.	Jan. 1, 2025	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Fr. Creagan
Thursday	Jan. 2, 2025	9:00 a.m./10:30 p.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Creagan
Sunday	Jan. 5, 2025	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Fr. Creagan
Thursday	Jan. 9, 2025	9:00 a.m./10:30 p.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Creagan

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday	Dec. 29, 2024	The People of St. Jude Parish	By: Pro populo
Weds.	Jan. 1, 2025	The People of St. Jude Parish	By: Pro populo
Thursday	Jan. 2, 2025	NO MASS OR	ADORATION
Sunday	Jan. 5, 2025	The People of St. Jude Parish	By: Pro populo
Thursday	Jan. 9, 2025	Mary Laughlin	By: St. Jude Choir

Sun., Dec. 29, 2024	Reader: Luke Sage	EM: D. & L. Wahmhoff	Altar Servers: Bo, Carlena, Elise, Lydia
Weds, Jan. 1, 2025	Reader: Carolyn Noack	EM: D. Hanchak & Karen Boyer	Altar Servers: Alexa, Lydia, Rocky, Noah
Sun., Jan. 5, 2025	Reader: CCD Students	EM: L. Wahmhoff & J. Price	Altar Servers: Bella, Sadie, Daily, Emma

Holiness within the home leads us to be about the Father's business and will in our lives.

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. Interestingly, the Gospel chosen for this feast day **does not include a story of togetherness and harmony in the household, but separation and anxiety.** Then again, it is in those moments when the opportunities for reliance on God and the striving for holiness are most visible and appreciated.

We know the story: Jesus remains in the temple when everyone else leaves Jerusalem to return home, and after three days of searching for Him, Mary and Joseph find Him sitting, listening to the teachers and asking questions. They have been anxious and concerned.

But Jesus says, ***Did you not know I must be in My father's house?*** Jesus' utterance of His divine mission shows obedience to the [heavenly] Father while not dismissing that which was due to Mary and Joseph. They do not fully understand, but they acknowledge and love. **In this very statement, Jesus points to God the Father as His Father.** It is here that Jesus puts forth His divinity. Jesus, fully God and fully human, lays forth who He is at the age of twelve. **Mary took all of this and pondered it in her heart,** just as she did the prophecy of Simeon. **While this statement of Jesus may not have been known to everyone, something in Mary stirred her to keep it close in her heart because her Son was slowly revealing Himself to the world.**

Even as He began to reveal His divinity to the world, Jesus went home with Mary and Joseph to learn from them. It was under Mary's tender compassion, wisdom, and purity and Joseph's chaste devotion and loyalty that Jesus advanced in wisdom, age, and favor before God and man.

Even in those early childhood years, Jesus was about the Father's business. **The Holy Family models for us that holiness in families is possible.** Holiness within the home leads each of us to be about the Father's business and will in our lives.

Jesus, though he was God, obeyed Mary and Joseph in the most perfect and pure sense. When reflecting on the evangelical counsels, obedience is one of the vows that religious profess. **Humble obedience allows us to see the Father's plan for our lives more clearly.** Jesus models obedience in the home of Mary and Joseph. He models what it looks like to honor father and mother, yet at the same time, He completes the Father's will.

Mary kept all these things in her heart and pondered them. May we, too, find our hearts constantly pondering the mystery of Christ and His great love for us.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION						
Sunday	Dec. 22, 2024	Target	\$ 1,900	Offered	\$ 2,257.50	\$ 357.50
Year to Date		Target	\$ 46,300		\$ 49152.50	\$ 2,135.00
Attendance		116	Year To Date Attendance			3092

FROM THE DRE:

Classes resume next week, January 5, 2025

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED STARTING DECEMBER 27, 2024

FOR THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

WE WILL BE BACK IN THE OFFICE ON JANUARY 6, 2025

If you have a pastoral emergency, contact Deacon Jim on his cell phone.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL: Brian Laughlin, Lillian A. Wheeler, Julie Haley, Steve Klein, Pete & Barb Percival, Joan Rumery, Margie Burris, Lillian B. Wheeler, Frances Parsons, David Vana, Sonny Laughlin, Donna Murphy, Jack Secondi, Mary Heinz, Vicki Clark, Brett Middleton, and those on our prayer chain.

WE WILL HAVE MASS AT ST. JUDE on Wednesday, January 1, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. *This is a Holy Day of Obligation.*

THE BAKE SALE WAS A SUCCESS!!! Thanks to your generosity and healthy appetites, we raised \$352.00 for the Women's Guild!!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who helped decorate the Church last Sunday. It looks beautiful! Also, a big thank you to Dan and Lorie Wahmhoff for providing the trees and beautiful wreaths.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - The gospel today shows Mary and Joseph weren't 'perfect' parents. If you have ever been 'amazed' and 'astonished' at what came out of your child's mouth, then you are in good company. If there were times you 'didn't understand' your children or felt 'anxious' about their behavior so did Mary and Joseph. Parenting is tough but it is also the stuff of holiness.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: As Deacon Jim stated, our building project is on hold until after the 1st of the year. We will still take any donations that anyone wants to give, as any project we want to do will take additional funds. Look for future meetings after January 1st in the bulletin and Flocknote messages.

*The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week in memory of **DAN GORDON**
By request of Bill & Vi Taylor*

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR DECEMBER – Shampoo, canned peas, soups, cereal. dish/laundry soap, toilet paper, paper towels. 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.

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS TO VOTE "NO" ON THESE BILLS - House: HB 6068. Senate: SB 1082 and HB 6077. Anyone who thought these bills were dead needs to think again! Planned Parenthood is holding a town hall about the "sex ed" bill. Planned Parenthood is working overtime to get these bills passed before the end of the 2024 Legislation Session! Please get the word out to everyone you know to call or email their state legislators and ask them to Vote NO on HB 6068, SB1082, and HB 6077.

***Details for House Bill 6068 and Senate Bills 1082 and 6077
are on the bulletin board in the hallway.***

FROM THE DIOCESE

JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE - Jubilee 2025 was pro claimed by Pope Francis in the Papal Bull Spes Non Confundit ("Hope does not disappoint"). "The coming Jubilee will thus be a Holy Year marked by **THE HOPE THAT DOES NOT FADE, OUR HOPE IN GOD.** May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of creation." (Pope Francis, Spes Non Confundit 25) The jubilee will begin in Rome on the vigil of the Lord's Nativity on Dec. 24, 2024, with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, and in local dioceses on Holy Family Sunday on Dec. 29. It will conclude in local dioceses the following Holy Family Sunday on Dec. 28, 2025, and in Rome on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, Jan. 6, 2026, with the closing of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica.

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.