

STUDIO ROMANTIC / SHUTTERSTOCK REMER / SHUTTERSTOCK

Dear Padre,

I have always been an “every Sunday” Catholic. My problem is that holy Communion doesn’t feel that special. I believe that it’s the Body and Blood of Christ, but receiving feels “routine.” Sometimes I’m even distracted while receiving. Help?



Do you remember the story of the transfiguration of Jesus? (See Luke 9:28–36.) Jesus took his three special disciples, Peter, James, and John, up on the mountain, and while Jesus was praying, what did they do? They fell asleep! In the very presence of Jesus, their Lord and Master.

Human beings cannot maintain feelings of awe and ecstasy for long periods of time. We would be exhausted. Feelings don’t always reflect the specialness of the moment. That is why good habits are so important. Feelings may elude us, but we can fall back on the habit of Sunday Mass. Just as two contented, long-married people don’t feel like they did on their honeymoon, they still quietly enjoy the habit of each other’s company.

Lent is coming soon. You might consider shaking up your routine a little. Attend one weekday Mass. Prepare for Sunday Mass by reading the Scriptures for that Sunday and praying the entrance antiphon or the psalm. If you don’t already, consider volunteering as a choir member, lector, or extraordinary minister of holy Communion. Meanwhile, continue to receive holy Communion, giving thanks that it is readily available, and perhaps offer a prayer for communities where Communion every Sunday is not possible. ●

The Redemptorists / 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*.



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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus says [his people] are blessed because they are poor. In what sense? In the sense that Jesus’ disciples do not find their joy in money, power, or other material goods; but in the gifts they receive every day from God: life, creation, brothers and sisters, and so on. These are gifts of life.

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 13, 2022

Monday February 17 <i>Weekday</i> Gn 4:1–15, 25 Mk 8:11–13	Friday February 21 <i>Weekday</i> Gn 11:1–9 Mk 8:34–9:1
Tuesday February 18 <i>Weekday</i> Gn 6:5–8; 7:1–5, 10 Mk 8:14–21	Saturday February 22 <i>The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle</i> 1 Pt 5:1–4 Mt 16:13–19
Wednesday February 19 <i>Weekday</i> Gn 8:6–13, 20–22 Mk 8:22–26	Sunday February 23 <i>Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 1 Sm 26:2, 7–9, 12–13, 22–23 1 Cor 15:45–49 Lk 6:27–38
Thursday February 20 <i>Weekday</i> Gn 9:1–13 Mk 8:27–33	

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 16, 2025
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
Jeremiah 17:5–8 / 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16–20 / Luke 6:17, 20–26



And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.”

LUKE 6:20

It’s All about the Roots

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Where we put down our spiritual roots matters. For some, the old adage “Bloom where you are planted” may offer wisdom; however, the prophet Jeremiah reminds us that if we find ourselves planted in a lava bed or a salty and empty land, we won’t do much blooming. We’ll be no more than a shriveled, barren bush. So, where we plant our inner spiritual lives makes a difference.

This week’s gospel may seem to sap all the joy out of life. Woe if you have money to spend, a banquet to feast on, fun and laughter to dress up your days. Woe to you, it seems to caution, because when you die, the opposite will be your lot. What’s so wrong, we wonder, with having cash in our pockets, food on our tables, and a good time once in a while? Life can be downright dreary otherwise.

The answer, of course, is that there is nothing wrong with any of that—unless that’s where we put down our roots. In other words, if that’s what life is all about, sooner or later, we are likely to discover we have become a barren bush standing in lava waste. Jesus didn’t come to suck the joy out of life but to give us a heads up on how to live a life that is full. He hoped we might avoid the lure that can become a wasteland. He hoped we might become “like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream” (Jeremiah 17:8). ●

Reflect

Where are your roots? Are you growing and thriving?



ST. JUDE PARISH

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

Sunday	Feb. 16, 2025	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Fr. Creagan
Thursday	Feb. 20, 2025	9:00/10:30 a.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Creagan
Sunday	Feb. 23, 2025	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Fr. Schmidt
Thursday	Feb. 27, 2025	9:00/10:30 a.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Schmidt

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday	Feb. 16, 2025	Mary Laughlin	By: Bill & Vi Taylor
Thurs.	Feb. 20, 2025	Agnes & Red VanBruggen	By: Sadie Payne
Sunday	Feb. 23, 2025	Jack Killeen	By: Rick & Beth Beam
Thursday	Feb. 27, 2025	Paul & Sofie Leitner	By: Marie Keller

TODAY: **SUNDAY, 2-16-2025** **NEXT SUNDAY:** **SUNDAY, 2-23-2025**

Reader	Tony Karsen	Reader	Pat Sage
EO Ministers	D. & L. Wahmhoff	EO Ministers	J. Price & D. Hanchak
Servers	Daisy, Emma, Noah, Alanah	Servers	Bo, Lydia, Sadie, Ryan

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday	Feb. 9, 2025	Target	\$ 1,800	Offered	\$ 1,171.00	\$ 629.00
Year to Date		Target	\$ 63,000		\$ 63,588.20	\$ 588.20
Attendance		82	Year To Date Attendance			3921

God knows what we yearn for.

Every Sunday, we are invited to this holy celebration to observe the Lord's day and present our needs to Him. And He knows we do not come empty-handed. When we walk through the doors, we carry with us all the emotions we experience in our lives. We come with our fears, anxieties, joys, and thanksgivings, and God welcomes us.

Each week, we hear the word of God. Some passages are familiar, while others may not be as well-known. **But each time, we are invited to open our ears and hearts to understand what the passage is saying to us at that moment.** For instance, we heard Luke's account of the Sermon on the Plain today. **We heard Jesus preaching to a crowd that had gathered around Him. Today, in this place, we are that crowd.** We are gathered to listen to His Word. And Jesus speaks directly to us. We are the poor, the hungry, the grieving, the despised. We are yearning for something more. Jesus understands this. He is here with us, assuring us we will be lifted up and overcome our challenges.

Jesus knows the justice we seek. He recognizes that we will be satisfied, joyful, and fulfilled. He knows this because He understands how deeply God loves us. It reflects the true wisdom that the Lord shares in Jeremiah: **Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by the waters, stretching out its roots to the stream.** Our faith will sustain us regardless of the circumstances we encounter.

Trust can be incredibly challenging to maintain, and our hardships should not be taken lightly. However, God asks us to believe in His goodness and promises; He understands what we yearn for, and we will find fullness in Him.

Soon, we will celebrate the Eucharist. **This holy sacrifice offers us immense grace.** It invites us to partake in its fullness and strengthens our capacity to trust in the Lord. Whatever burdens we carried in with us, let us leave with the assurance that we are not alone. Our yearning for more does not have the final say, but we must keep our faith in the Lord. **May we be open to trust and deepen our understanding of God's immense love for us.**

FROM THE DRE:

Please pray for our Confirmation students, Daisy Karsen, Isabella Laughlin, and Alexa Rossell, as they attend their Confirmation retreat next weekend (2/21-2/23).

Our next Student Mass is on 3/2.

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

MID-LIFE SINGLES (mid-30s to 50s): Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at the St. Francis Retreat Center, in DeWitt, MI (10 miles north of Lansing), on February 21-23, 2025. Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it! Cost is \$230 for meals and a single room. Visit www.ReflectRetreat.com, e-mail reflect.michigan@gmail.com, or call (586) 770-1772 for details.

ROSARY – Just a reminder that we recite the Rosary on the first and third Sundays of the month at 9 a.m. All are welcome!

IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO PRACTICE THE SPIRIT OF THE BEATITUDES (as the “blessings” in today’s Gospel are called) in the moment. Suffering, distress, and confusion easily divert our attention from God as we attempt to “make the problem go away.”

Sometimes, we are even tempted to give up, to turn aside from God, and to seek consolation in other things. This is exactly the opposite of what he wants for us, and for good reason! God knows that it is best for us to always rely on him. This is why, as today’s first reading explains, the man who trusts in the Lord is secure – “like a tree planted beside the waters ... it fears not the heat when it comes” – and fruitful – “its leaves stay green.” For those who trust in the Lord, help comes from the all-powerful, infinitely loving Creator of the universe. When we entrust ourselves to him, we have nothing to fear.

IS THERE SOMEONE IN YOUR LIFE who is struggling with fear, loneliness, anxiety, or sadness? Take time to pray with that person and, together, try to discover God’s invitation to a deeper reliance on him in the midst of the distress. These moments of suffering are never occasions for us to get “preachy.” Instead, accompany your friend and be a reminder of the hope we have in God.

FROM MARCH 5 TO APRIL 13, 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 on Mondays through Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. 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: contact Dan Wahmhoff at (269) 303-9811. For more information, send an email to 40dayskalamazoo@gmail.com

FROM THE DIOCESE

THE KALAMAZOO DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN INVITES YOU TO “A DAY OF HOPE FOR CAPTIVES” – When: Saturday, March 1st, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Where: St. Augustine Cathedral, 542 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo. Price: \$30 for adults, \$15 for high school & college students. To register or have questions email: KDCCW.REG@gmail.com

This is a special event that will feed you spiritually and equip you to be hope for others. **Special Guest Speaker: Sister Pat McDonald, OP, Alliance to End Human Trafficking.** She will talk on education for the prevention, awareness and ending of human trafficking. Everyone attending the event will have the opportunity to receive the special indulgences tied to the Jubilee Year of Hope proclaimed by Pope Francis! St. Augustine Cathedral has been designated a pilgrimage site for the Jubilee Year and Bishop Lohse has designated the Mass at our event as an official Jubilee Year of Hope Mass!

The schedule for our pilgrimage day of prayer and reflection will include a blessing by His Excellency the Most Reverend Edward Lohse, Confession, Mass, and recitation of the prayers to fulfill the requirements for receiving the Jubilee Year of Hope indulgences.

We want everyone to have the opportunity to receive the indulgences and to learn about the horrific reality of Human Trafficking in our area and in the World - so we invite all women, men, and high school and college students to join us for this important event and to be a part of the human trafficking solution.

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.