



## When Will We Be Satisfied?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**I**n 1992, *Forbes* magazine published an issue titled "Why Do We Feel So Bad When We Have It So Good?" It featured articles by such luminaries as newsman Dan Rather, President George H. W. Bush, and author John Updike. Many of the writers reflected upon our passion for more and our hunger to live in affluence and how that fails to satisfy. In so many ways, we as a nation find ourselves seeking distractions from living with ourselves lest we be confronted by our ultimate loneliness. As a nation we are addicted to entertainment and smartphones, to drugs and pornography, to finding something new. We are confronted by rising suicide rates and a pervasive, deep-seated anger. Why are we not satisfied?

John the Baptist called the people of his day to repent, which is another way of asking them—and us—to look at life differently. Advent is really about getting in touch with our deep longing for more, a part of our human condition that ultimately is only satisfied by God. We have been created to long for more, a longing that feels like loneliness, a longing that seeks to be satisfied. In the end, we can only find a sense of peace in the midst of such longing by accepting that it can never be fully satisfied in this life. Like the spirituality of Alcoholics Anonymous, accepting rather than fleeing from our human reality becomes a path to new life. ●

### Reflect

***How do you deal with loneliness and a longing for more out of life?***

John [the] Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

MARK 1:4



**Holy Trinity**



**St. Thomas More**



**St. Patrick**

Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
212 S. Main St. PO Box 159  
Cherry, IL 61317-0159  
Phone 815-894-2006  
Office Email  
HolyTSP@gmail.com

**Pastor of the Three Churches**  
Fr. Thaddeus Tran

**Main Office: Holy Trinity Rectory**  
Pastoral Assistant: Julie Hollinger  
Email: JulieHTC@outlook.com

**Office Hours**  
Tuesday - Friday 9 am - 1 pm

St Thomas More Catholic Church  
302 Chestnut St.  
Dalzell, IL 61320  
Phone 815-663-6201  
Email  
thomasmore32@gmail.com

**Adoration Room at STM**  
Open Monday - Sunday  
Regular Hours  
9 am - 6 pm

**Rav/Tort Group** taking orders now  
To place your order, call 815-252-2215.  
Leave name, phone number, & your order  
Ravs/Tort are \$8.00/bag

St. Patrick Catholic Church  
106 Church St.  
Arlington, IL 61312  
Phone 815-894-2006  
Mail: PO Box 159 Cherry IL 61317

**Website for the Three Churches**  
[www.bureaucatholic.org](http://www.bureaucatholic.org)  
and on Facebook at  
"Bureau Catholic Churches"

**Facebook for the Three Churches**  
Use Link on Home Page  
[www.bureaucatholic.org](http://www.bureaucatholic.org)

**Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164**



9:45 am - 11:00 am at Cherry Church Hall  
Sunday, December 10th - K thru 4th grade & Confirmation class  
Sunday, December 17th - 5th thru 8th Grade

**Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of December 11, 2023**

Monday	12/11			+ No Mass
Tuesday	12/12	9:00 am	STM	+ Darlene Krueger
Wednesday	12/13	5:30 pm	HT	+ Jack & Theresa McCallum
Thursday	12/14	9:00 am	HT	+ Jerry Joiner
Friday	12/15	9:00 am	STM	+ Elizabeth Kastello

**Mass Intentions for the weekend of December 16-17, 2023**

Saturday	12/16	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ Clydia Marena
Sunday	12/17	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	+ Robert Dzierzynski
		10:30 am	St Patrick	+ Christopher & Rosaria Taylor
		5:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ For The Parishioners



# A Reflection on Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 12<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mary is revered in many countries throughout the world, but she is especially honored in Mexico. Is it any wonder? Her appearance in Mexico caused the conversion of thousands of people almost instantly, and within a short period of time, six million people converted to Christianity because of her.

Mary's appearance in Mexico is kind of like the first reading for Mass today, when it talks about God coming to dwell among the people, and that many nations would join themselves to the Lord on that day. Our Lady did the same thing. She came down from heaven and personally appeared to Juan Diego. The ripple effect was that Our Lady of Guadalupe is honored now in many nations throughout the world. She is the patron saint of the Americas.

The second reading for Mass today talks about Our Lady in the book of Revelation. The devil wanted to kill her child as soon as it was born, but God saved him, and the woman fled to the desert where she had a place prepared by God. This is exactly what happened after Christ's birth too. Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus fled to Egypt.

The Gospel is about the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary, announcing that she would be the mother of Jesus. God's plans sometimes are not initially understood, but the beauty of His wisdom is later revealed. When we are in the thick of things in our own life, it is hard to see the big picture but that's ok. God sees the big picture and we are often cooperating with His will, without even realizing it at the time.

Mary had complete confidence and trust in God in every situation in her life, even when she did not understand it or know the outcome. Mary is the greatest saint in the Catholic Church because of this reason. We should remember her example when we struggle with uncertainty and doubts of our own. *(Excerpted from acatholic.org)*

## Church Announcements

### Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Our 2023 CCD special Christmas program will take place at STM church on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. All CCD parents are encouraged to bring their children to this program. If your child is not interested in participating, they can come to enjoy the Christmas beautiful spirit, to cheer their peers on and to partake in the Christmas party afterwards. Refreshments will be served. Parents who bring their children to this program show their support and dedication to their children's religious education.

### SP Christmas Eve Choir Practice

There will be choir practice on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at St. Patrick Church

### 2024 Envelopes

Envelopes are now available in back of all 3 churches. Don't forget to pick yours up. If you do not see your name, contact the church office. Also, if you know of homebound parishioners that would like their envelopes brought to them, please do so. Thank you.

### Year End Contribution Letter

Parishioners who would like a 2023 tax year contribution letter may contact the church office.

### Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Masses  
4 pm at STM and 10 pm at SP

Christmas Day  
9:30 am at HT

### LATEST OFFERING'S

#### DEC 3RD WEEKEND

HT – \$1,486.00

FLOWERS \$55

SP – \$ 810.00

STM – \$1,176.00

FLOWERS \$72



### CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE  
SAT. DEC 16TH  
10:30 - 11:15 AM AT  
ST PATRICK  
IN THE CHAPEL



# Dear Padre,

***Do Catholics have to marry in the Church? If a couple decides to marry outside of the Church, are they still allowed to receive Communion and other sacraments?***

Catholics are obligated to follow the laws of the Church, including those laws regarding marriage. If a Catholic marries outside the Church, meaning that they did not follow Church law, then they may not receive the other sacraments until their marriage has been witnessed by the Church.

A wedding is a sacred ceremony for the couple, but it is also a ceremony for the Church. The Christian community is called upon to witness the ceremony, with the bishop, priest, or deacon called upon to bless the union in the name of the Church. The Church can dispense from the form, that is, the place of the wedding, for good cause, and does so when necessary. When a dispensation from the law is granted, then the person has followed the marriage laws of the Church and is free to receive the sacraments.

A wedding is a sacred ceremony in which a sacrament is conferred. While the park may be pretty or the church down the street may be bigger, neither is a sufficient reason to ignore marriage law and marry outside the Church. ●

**The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org**



MOV EDWARDS / SHUTTERSTOCK

## Know Someone Overly Anxious About Sin?

Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit [ScrupulousAnonymous.org](http://ScrupulousAnonymous.org).

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 11 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 35:1-10 Lk 5:17-26	December 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47	December 13 <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i> Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30	December 14 <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15	December 15 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19	December 16 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13	December 17 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***In the Bible [conversion] means, first and foremost, to change direction and orientation; and thus also to change one's way of thinking. In the moral and spiritual life, to convert means to turn oneself from evil to good, from sin to love of God. And this is what the Baptist was teaching.***

**ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 6, 2020**