



Strengthen hands that are feeble, make firm knees that are weak, say to the fearful of heart: Be strong, do not fear!

ISAIAH 35:3-4

## Joy: A Sign of God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**O**nce, as I was teaching a theology course to college students in their twenties, I made an offhand comment that the purpose of life is not to be happy. They were shocked. "What's wrong with being happy?" they protested. "Nothing," I said, "it's simply not the purpose of life." "But God wants us to be happy," they insisted. Of course, God wants us to be happy, but that's simply not what life is about.

Happiness is something that comes in the back door while we wait at the front door. If we go looking for happiness, we never find it, but if we forget about ourselves and seek to bring joy into the lives of others, then happiness seems to find us. It comes in the back doors of life. Curiously, that seems to be the dynamic of these Advent/Christmas days. We send cards, give gifts, think of making others happy, and overlook faults. In the process, there is a sense of joy that overtakes us without our realizing it.

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed that it is God who would crown them with everlasting joy; that they would meet with joy and gladness and sorrow and mourning would flee away (Isaiah 35:10). Joy is God's doing, not ours.

Leon Bloy, a French novelist in the nineteenth century, observed, "Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God." God is love, and God is also joy. Joy is so much more than happiness. Rather it is an inner quality—peaceful, serene, and nurturing—even when life may be unsettled. ●

### Reflect

**What brings you joy?  
Do something to bring joy  
to someone this week.**





**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

**Events at St Thomas More**  
Rav Group taking orders now.  
Call 815-252-2215 to place an order

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  
and on Facebook at  
"Bureau Catholic Churches"

**Facebook for the Three Churches**  
Use Link on Home Page  
www.bureaucatholic.org

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



9:30 am - 10:30 am at Cherry Church Hall  
Sunday, December 11th - 5th thru 8th grades  
Sunday, December 18th - K thru 4th grades

CCD new email address is [holytrinitycherry@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinitycherry@gmail.com)  
Reminder: ALL parents/guardians need to be signed up for BCR Alerts!

**Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of December 12, 2022**

Monday	12/12			† No Mass
Tuesday	12/13	9:00 am	STM	† Olivero Families
Wednesday	12/14	5:30 pm	HT	† Mina DeAngelo
Thursday	12/15	9:00 am	HT	† John & Phyllis Hanck
Friday	12/16	9:00 am	STM	† Clifford Sondgeroth

**Mass Intentions for the weekend of December 17-18, 2022**

Saturday	12/17	4:00 pm	St. Thomas More	† Alan Hahn
Sunday	12/18	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	† Norma Templeton
		10:30 am	St. Patrick	† Virginia Lucas
		5:00 pm	St. Thomas More	† For the Parishioners

## 3rd Sunday of Advent ~ Gaudete Sunday

One of the Advent candles is rose or pink, which is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as "Gaudete Sunday". The word gaudete is derived from the Latin words "gaudium," joy, and "gaudio," to rejoice and be glad. Gaudete Sunday occurs eight to (this year) thirteen days before Christmas, and the nearness of the feast is reason to be joyful.

Advent is a time of joyful expectation and eager preparation for the solemnity of Christmas, the "most wonderful time of the year", as the song says. As we prepare ourselves for a "Merry Christmas" with shopping and decorating our homes, let's not forget to prepare our hearts and souls to welcome the King of kings.

THE THIRD CANDLE IS PINK & IS THE

*"Candle of Joy."*

IT RECALLS THE JOY WE HAVE IN  
KNOWING, LOVING, AND FOLLOWING  
CHRIST – NO MATERIAL POSSESSION OR  
GIFT CAN TAKE THE PLACE OF THE JOY  
WE HAVE IN FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS.



We are now taking Christmas flower donations.  
Envelopes are in the back of all 3 churches.

Please donate \$25 for each of the deceased family members that you would like to donate Christmas flowers in remembrance of. If you just want to donate money to the Christmas flower fund, any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Names will be listed in the bulletin. You may also have the names of family members attached to the poinsettia's if you'd like.

### CCD Parents:

Dear Parents, since we only have 12 days left before Christmas Eve, Fr Thad and CCD staff would like to ask your support for additional practices to ensure your children's success in the special Christmas play. Also, there will be a rehearsal before Christmas Eve mass. Specific dates will be given soon. Thank you for your cooperation.

### STM Rav Group

You are invited to a Christmas potluck dinner on Dec 19 at 12pm in STM church hall. Also, please bring a white elephant gift for the gift exchange. Hope to see you all there.



### LATEST OFFERING'S

WEEKEND DEC 4TH

HT – \$705.00

SP – \$807.00

STM – \$933.00



### CONFESSIONS

THE NEXT CONFESSIONS  
WILL BE SAT. DEC 17TH  
10:30 – 11:15 AM AT  
ST THOMAS MORE  
IN THE HALL



# Dear Padre,

***I struggle with depression, and sometimes it gets really bad during the holidays. When is it morally acceptable to use antidepressant medication?***

You are not alone. People who struggle with depression often find the holidays especially difficult. To answer your question, it is morally acceptable to use antidepressant medications when a medical professional judges them to be the best response to the condition of the patient. As we learn more about the causes of depression and other disorders that challenge the sense of equilibrium in people, we hope that the most reliable responses may be found and employed to restore a sense of peace to those suffering from these ailments.

Evaluation and treatment of depression must be done within the context of a person's whole life. Depression often involves a chemical imbalance in the brain, and some people respond quite well to antidepressants. For others, the best treatment might be counseling or psychotherapy. Or both medicine and therapy. As each experience of suffering is unique, so, too, must be the response.

Frequently people will be embarrassed to admit to suffering with depression or consider it a sign of weakness or inability to deal with matters in life. Such thinking is of little help in resolving the issue. People who experience depression need the love and support of family and friends to accompany them in the suffering and to assist in their healing. ●

*From Life, Death, and Catholic Medical Choices: 50 Questions from the Pews, © 2011 Liguori Publications*

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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> Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Mt 21:28-32	December 14 <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25 Lk 7:18b-23	December 15 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 54:1-10 Lk 7:24-30	December 16 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Is 56:1-3a, 6-8 Jn 5:33-36	December 17 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Gn 49:2, 8-10 Mt 1:1-17	December 18 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> Is 7:10-14 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24



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## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***Every yes to God gives rise to stories of salvation for us and for others. Like Mary with her own yes. In this Advent journey, God wishes to visit us and awaits our yes. Let's think: Today, what yes must I say to God?***

ANGELUS, DECEMBER 8, 2016