



The Light of Wisdom

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The dark of night can unsettle and frighten children, but darkness can disturb adults, too. It's not so much the feeling when the lights go off that unsettles us grownups as it is the dark of uncertainty. We graduate from school and wonder what to do with our lives. Should we stay in a relationship? How do we find meaning again in the midst of grief and the loss of someone we love? And sometimes most of all, where is God when we need God? We may even wonder whether to believe. At such times, we bump and bruise our way through the obstacles that life's darknesses cause.

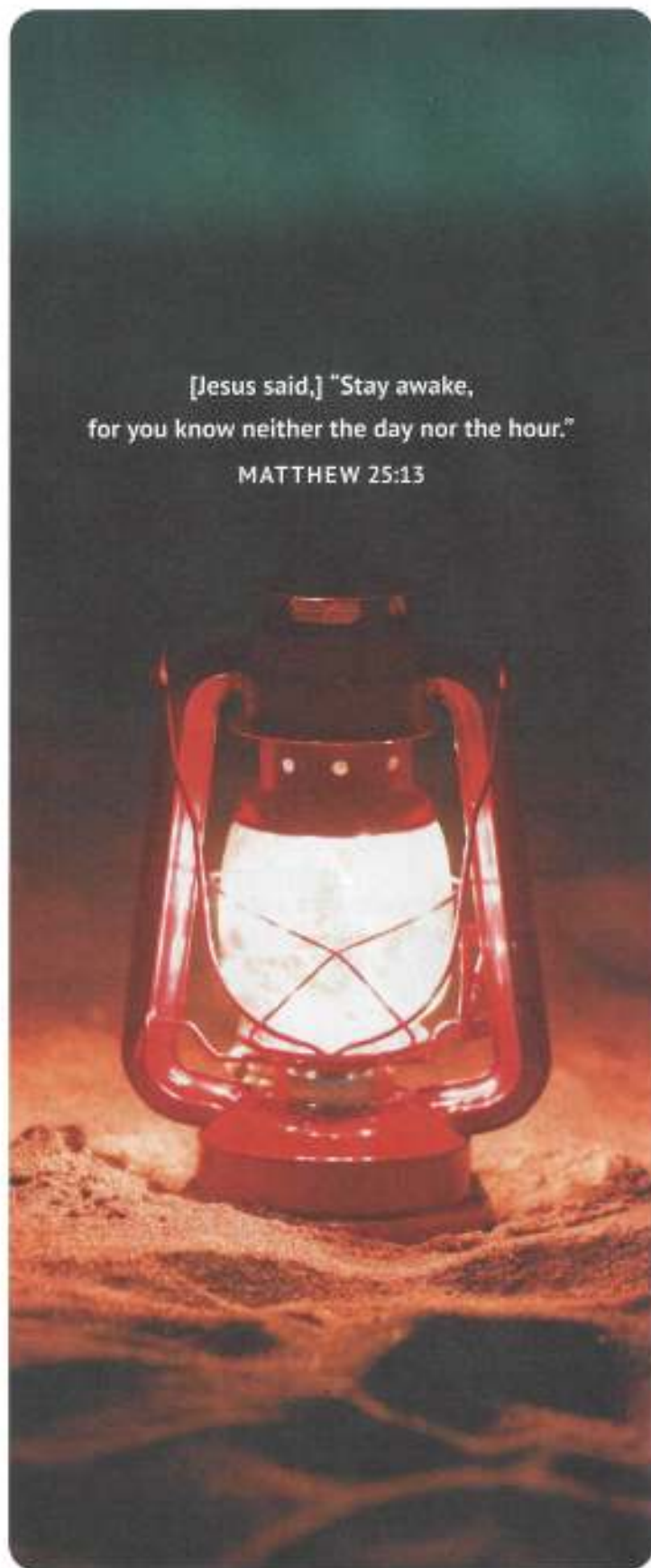
Leonard Cohen's song "Anthem" echoes a note of hope when we feel lost in the dark as he sings about how light always seems to find a way to seep in between the cracks of our everyday living. Like stars that are visible only at night, new opportunities are often most readily recognized when we find ourselves stumbling through the dark.

Long before Leonard Cohen, Jesus told the parable of ten virgins, some wise and some foolish. In the midst of that story, he tells of a bridegroom who comes to the waiting virgin attendants at midnight. In other words, it is the Lord God who comes into our lives in the darkest times, if only we are wise enough to recognize such a coming.

How then to negotiate the darkness? Stay the course. In time, wisdom reveals a path. Trust that light will come, all in God's time and not ours. Finally, wisdom always comes in the darkest of times, seldom when our lives are bright as day. ●

Reflect

***When and how has God entered into
your darkness?***



[Jesus said,] "Stay awake,
for you know neither the day nor the hour."

MATTHEW 25:13



Holy Trinity



St. Thomas More



St. Patrick

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Office Hours
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St Thomas More Catholic Church
302 Chestnut St.
Dalzell, IL 61320
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Adoration Room at STM
Open Monday - Sunday
Regular Hours
9 am - 6 pm

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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



9:45 am - 11:00 am at Cherry Church Hall
Sunday, November 12th - 5th thru 8th Grades
Sunday, November 19th - K thru 4th grade & Confirmation class

Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of November 13, 2023

| | | | | |
|-----------|-------|---------|-----|--------------------------------|
| Monday | 11/13 | | | † No Mass |
| Tuesday | 11/14 | 9:00 am | STM | † Bob Bellettini |
| Wednesday | 11/15 | 5:30 pm | HT | † Kathy Sondgeroth |
| Thursday | 11/16 | 9:00 am | HT | † Dec. Mem. Justin Legner Fam. |
| Friday | 11/17 | 9:00 am | STM | † Cecelia McCormick |

Mass Intentions for the weekend of November 18-19, 2023

| | | | | |
|----------|-------|----------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Saturday | 11/18 | 4:00 pm | St Thomas More | † Medie Luckey |
| Sunday | 11/19 | 8:30 am | Holy Trinity | † Joyce Gillan |
| | | 10:30 am | St Patrick | † Dec. Members Taylor Family |
| | | 5:00 pm | St Thomas More | † For The Parishioners |

The Dedication of the Basilicas of Saints Peter and Paul

Feast Day: November 18th

November 18 is the memorial of the dedication of two of the oldest and most important basilicas of the Church, the first St. Peter's Basilica and the first St. Paul's Basilica.

Peter was the Prince of the Apostles and Bishop of Rome. He is believed to have been crucified upside-down in the Circus of Nero near the ancient Egyptian obelisk that now stands in the center of Saint Peter's Square. He was buried in the nearby cemetery on Vatican Hill, and his grave became a place of pilgrimage for early Christians.

Saint Paul was the tireless evangelist and the Church's preeminent theologian, spreading the Gospel far and wide, and directly establishing and nourishing numerous Christian communities. He is also recognized as one of the earliest and most important converts to the faith. After an exceptional ministry of evangelization, Paul was arrested in Jerusalem. Because he was a Roman citizen, he appealed to the Roman emperor. He was subsequently imprisoned and two years later transported to Rome for his trial. When Nero's persecutions were enacted shortly afterwards, Paul was beheaded on or around the same day that Saint Peter was crucified. Paul's beheading is believed to have taken place just outside the walls of the city on the Ostian Way. He was buried near that spot.

As we honor these two great saints and revere their graves, ponder the fact that we are all called to become foundations on which the Church continues to be built. Our lives must become a source of unity for those who believe and a means by which God sends forth His Word to others. Renew today the dedication of your own life to the mission of Christ so that you more fully imitate the heroic and holy lives of these two men of God. *(Excerpted from mycatholiclife.com)*



St. Patrick Sausage Fundraiser

Saturday, December 2, 2023 ~ Orders due by Nov 26th ~ \$20 per 5# bag

Order forms are in the back of all 3 churches. Volunteers are welcome to help on Dec. 2nd. Thank you for your support!

Toy Drive Reminder

Just a friendly reminder that the annual toy drive for the 2023 Christmas is going on, now that the boxes are in place. Please think of the children who might not get any Christmas presents this year due to financial constraints. Help to brighten these poor children's Christmas by participating in this meaningful program.

Religious Education Highlights

- * Upcoming Christmas Program will be on December 20th at 6:00pm held at St. Thomas More
- * Confirmation date has been set for Sunday, April 7th at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Peoria

Mass Intention Scheduling

As the end of the 2023 year is around the corner, and since the weekend mass intentions are all filled up, the church office would like to know if your mass intention could be scheduled for a weekday mass. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

LATEST OFFERING'S

NOV 5TH WEEKEND

HT - \$1,306.00

RETIREMENT \$5

SP - \$ 576.00

WORLD MISSION \$54

STM - \$1,198.00



CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE

SAT. NOV 18TH

10:30 - 11:15 AM AT

ST PATRICK

IN THE CHAPEL

Dear Padre,

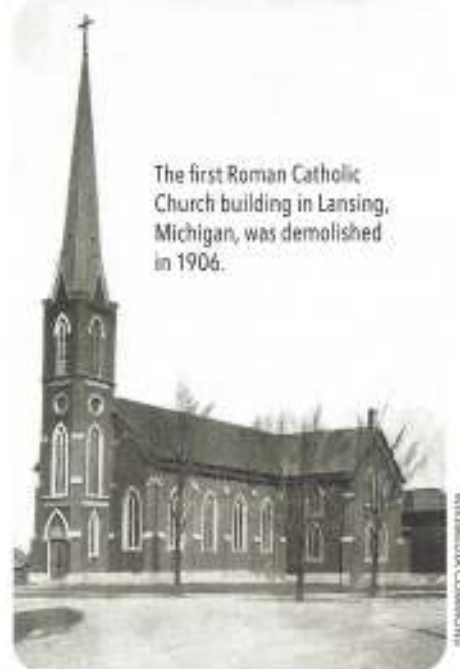
I was taught that Catholic churches are built on consecrated ground. How can a church be torn down and replaced by a shopping mall if it's sacred ground?

Church buildings are blessed and considered by the Church to be sacred places. But when they're damaged and can no longer be repaired or their repair is impractical or they no longer effectively serve their purpose for the faithful of God, the bishop can remove that blessing. By doing this, the bishop opens them for nonsacred use. Subsequently, they can be torn down or sold, as long as the new purpose is not scandalous to the people of God.

In the end, what is truly sacred is not the brick and mortar or even the soil, but the purpose for which they were built. Churches are blessed and declared sacred because we perform sacred rituals within them. When those rituals are no longer being performed in that location, there is no longer a need for them to be declared sacred.

When a church is closed, it is often a sad event. Many people carry deep emotional ties to their parish churches. But a diocese cannot always maintain all of its churches. Catholic populations shift, local needs change. Money is limited, and good stewardship demands that bishops sometimes make the difficult decision to close or merge parishes. Remember what is truly important and of ultimate and sacred value—our worship and service of God. ●

Fr. Rick Potts, CSSR / DearPadre.org



The first Roman Catholic Church building in Lansing, Michigan, was demolished in 1906.

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| November 13 <i>St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin</i> Wis 1:1-7 Lk 17:1-6 | November 14 <i>Weekday</i> Wis 2:23-3:9 Lk 17:7-10 | November 15 <i>Weekday</i> Wis 6:1-11 Lk 17:11-19 | November 16 <i>Weekday</i> Wis 7:22b-8:1 Lk 17:20-25 | November 17 <i>St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious</i> Wis 13:1-9 Lk 17:26-37 | November 18 <i>Weekday</i> Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9 Lk 18:1-8 | November 19 <i>Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 1 Thes 5:1-6 Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21 |

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus wants to tell us that we must be prepared for the encounter with him. Not only for the final encounter, but also for the everyday great and small encounters, with a view to that encounter for which the lamp of faith is not enough; we also need the oil of charity and good works.

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 8, 2020