



[Elizabeth said to Mary,] "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

LUKE 1:45

Feeling Our Way

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Most of the time we find ourselves backing our way into the will of God, or maybe even feeling our way into it. There are times when the will of God is quite clear: Should I lie or tell the truth? Should I steal or not? Most often, however, the will of God is not so clear. Too often it becomes a question of how to negotiate an aspect of life that's been handed to us, often a reality we cannot escape. It may be an unwanted divorce, or a son or daughter in a questionable relationship, or an illness that dismantles one's life plans. On the one hand, it is not as if God hands out scripts that we are expected to live by. On the other hand, God is part of all that unfolds. Somewhere in the midst of that is the will of God, which is another way of saying somehow you and I need to negotiate what we never chose, but is now served up by life. Or is it served up by God? Or by our own doing? Or all of that? That's what I mean when I say we feel our way into the will of God.

It is what Jesus sorted out in the desert when he was tempted, "I come to do your will, O God." It is Elizabeth's story of an unexpected pregnancy in her old age. It is Mary saying "Yes" to an uncharted path. Living God's will seems mostly to be a sorting process. ●

Reflect

Have you responded with a whole-hearted "Yes" to God's will for you?



Holy Trinity

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Office Hours at Holy Trinity
Tuesday - Friday 9 am - 1 pm



St. Thomas More

St Thomas More Catholic Church
302 Chestnut St.
Dalzell, IL 61320
Phone 815-663-6201
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Adoration Room at STM
Open Monday - Sunday
Regular Hours
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Phone 815-894-2006
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Website for the Three Churches
www.bureaucatholic.org
and on Facebook at
"Bureau Catholic Churches"

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Use Link on Home Page
www.bureaucatholic.org

Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164

CCD Classes

Sunday, December 22nd - No Classes

Sunday, December 29th - No Class



Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of December 23, 2024

Monday	12/23			† No Mass
Tuesday	12/24	4:00 pm	STM (Christmas Eve)	† Rita Sobkowiak
		8:00 pm	SP (Christmas Eve)	† Kathy Sondgeroth
Wednesday	12/25	9:30 am	HT (Christmas)	† For the Parishioners
Thursday	12/26	9:00 am	HT	† No Mass
Friday	12/27	9:00 am	STM	† No Mass

Mass Intentions for the weekend of December 28 - 29, 2024

Saturday	12/28	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	† Doug Samolinski
Sunday	12/29	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	† Michael Campbell
		10:30 am	St Patrick	† For the Parishioners

The Mystery of God's Embodied Love

For centuries, the Israelites had prayed for a Messiah. They prayed for the Savior, and every time there was a bad moment in their history, they believed it would be opportune for Him to come to rescue them from that hardship.

God in His love became human because He wanted to save us – a promise that was made when the first disobedience occurred. We recognized the selfishness of humanity from the very first moment of our sinning. God again showed His love for us, not only in creating us, but by promising that He would come to earth as man – something that is just unbelievable. He did not just come to be our companion – He came to save us. That redemption is what the Incarnation is all about.

So when we call Him "God With Us", Emmanuel, He is just not present as a little baby. He is with us in the Eucharist. He is with us in flesh and blood, not only for us to adore, but for us to partake.

Such a central part of the Nativity story is the embodied nature of Christ's love. In coming to earth, Christ made God's love visible in an entirely new way. That is why traditions like putting up a creche in your house can be such a wonderful reminder of Christ's Incarnation.

That is really what the miracle of the Incarnation is: "God becoming tangible to us as humans," feeling what we feel, experiencing human life in all its joys and sorrows, and we need to know that as a people to go on to express our faith. The beautiful mystery of the Incarnation may be difficult to explain, but we can make it known to others by loving them – by embodying the love of Christ, just as He embodied love in becoming incarnate for us.

(Excerpted from nationalshrine.org)

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Masses 4 pm at STM and 8 pm at SP
Christmas Day 9:30 am at HT



Christmas Flower Donations in Memory of ...

Holy Trinity

Alan Hahn
Gladys R Hassler
Joyce Gillan
Wes & Rita Hoscheid
Mary Ann & Jerilyn Dunteman
Michael Campbell
Laura Copoch
Wayne Pinter
Ricardo S. Romero
Deceased Members of the Herrmann Family

St. Patrick

Goryl & Bartoli Families
Jim Smith
Tony Bonnell
Louis Pierard Family
Tony Taylor
Tom & Brian Hewitt
The Joseph Klein Family
Hunter & Legner Families
Lilly & Lucy Galloway

St. Thomas More

Richard & Rita Sobkowiak
Frank & Mary Domkuski Sr.
Mike Bacidore
Phil Maggio



LATEST OFFERING'S

DEC 15TH WEEKEND

HT – \$856.00
SP – \$383.00
STM – \$999.00



CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE ON
SAT. DEC 28TH
10:30 AM-11:15 AM AT
ST. PATRICK
IN THE CHAPEL

Dear Padre,

Where does the Hail Mary prayer come from?

The Hail Mary owes its origin to the rosary. The traditional story of the rosary was that Mary herself appeared to St. Dominic in the twelfth century and gave him the rosary with the promise that if he spread devotion to the rosary, his religious order would flourish. In the twelfth century, religious orders recited together the 150 psalms as a way to mark the hours of the day and the days of the week. In order to pray the psalms, though, people had to know how to read. People who didn't know how to read wanted to share in the practice, so the rosary, or praying on beads, began as a parallel prayer practice. It was a way that illiterate people could remember the Lord and his Mother throughout the day.

The first rosaries consisted of a string of 150 beads, and, much as we do now, a person would pass over each bead after saying a prayer, usually the Our Father. Later, people added the Archangel Gabriel's greeting—"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee"—and later still, Elizabeth's prayer we hear in today's Gospel—"Blessed art thou among women." Finally this prayer was added in the sixteenth century: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death." ●



The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 23 <i>Advent Weekday</i> Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Lk 1:57-66	December 24 <i>Advent Weekday</i> 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Lk 1:67-79	December 25 <i>Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)</i> Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14	December 26 <i>St. Stephen, First Martyr</i> Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22	December 27 <i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i> 1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a, 2-8	December 28 <i>Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i> 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Mt 2:13-18	December 29 <i>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i> 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 Lk 2:41-52

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

Do I move forward with hope...? We can also ask for...the grace of a healthy sense of humor: it does so much good.... The first act of charity we can do for our neighbors is to offer them a serene and smiling face. It is bringing the joy of Jesus to them, as Mary did with Elizabeth.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 19, 2021