



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

Once, 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.***

Our Lady of the Rosary ~ Our Lady Queen of Peace

Our Lady of the Rosary and Queen of Peace Catholic Churches

Office Phone (850)740-1003

Office email – office@olr.ptdiocese.org

OLR website - <https://olr.ptdiocese.org>

Pastor ~ Fr. Kurian Manikuttiyil

Rosary PCL ~ Kevin Hall-(850)276-2621

Rosary Lector Coordinator – Alice Haynes

Rosary Choir ~ Arlene Hall – (850)276-8739

Peace Contact ~ Larry Fern – (850)527-0813

Mass Schedule ~ Our Lady of the Rosary

Saturday Vigil 4:00pm

Sunday 8:30am

Monday – Wednesday 8:30am

Friday 5:00pm

Mass Schedule ~ Queen of Peace, Fountain

Sunday 10:30am

Wednesday 10:30am

Baptisms

Contact the PCL

Reconciliation

Upon Request

Sacraments for younger Children

Contact PCL

**The Sanctuary Lamp for the
week of December 10 – 16, 2023
is in loving memory of Mike
Page.**



Help aging religious. Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer, service, and works of mercy. Most ministered for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift to today's Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously. Visit **retiredreligious.org** to learn how your gift supports elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

Rachel's Vineyard Abortion Healing

Weekend Retreat - Have you been

Emotionally and Spiritually impacted by a past Abortion experience? Do you feel like you are the only person walking through the pain and grief of your past? Do you long for someone to take your hand and say they have been there too? The Rachel's Vineyard Abortion Healing Retreat team for Military, Veterans, and Families would like to invite you to a weekend healing retreat on Feb. 10-12, 2023 near Columbus, Georgia. The retreat is free thanks to generous donors. He is calling you to be whole. God wants to speak truth to those places in your heart that have been broken by abortion. For information or to register, contact Jody Duffy at military@pathatl.com or (404)247-9046



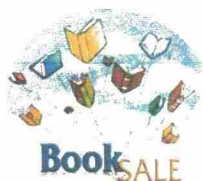
Christmas Piano Concert,

featuring two of our young parishioners will be held on December 18 at 2:00pm at Sts. Peter and Paul. The concert is

free, but any donations made will go to help victims of the Ukraine.



Please pray for Mary Kay Collins, Hai Van Heller, Mary Ann Hugg, Russ Blount, Julie Kim Rollence, Zoom Elliott, Jackie Ochampaugh, Carol Brust, Shari Letson, Bonnie Hunt, Robert Wade, Robert Nagel, Helen Hall, Fr. William Brown, Barbara Lourcey, Jessica Havel, Jim Elsner, Gloria Morrison, Harry Carmello, Ethan Findlay, Chris Weller, Mary Munzel, Dennis Nuber, Jordan Taylor, Trisha Roberto, parishioners of Rosary, parishioners of Queen of Peace, Mike Battcher, Don Culbreath; Joseph Lockard; Jan Garner



**St. Dominic Books & Gifts
Christmas Sale** ~ Starting
Sunday December 11th through
Saturday December 17th.

Everything in the store on sale.
10, 15, 20, & 25% off. Come in for savings for
everyone on your list.

2023 Offertory Envelopes now available.
See Arlene after Mass to get your envelopes.

**Parish Census for 2023 is now taking place
at all Masses.** Please take a moment to talk
to Arlene or Kevin Hall before or after all
Masses about updating your information for our
Data Base.



*Choir practices have changed to
Tuesdays at 4:00pm. Come
and join us while we prepare
for the Christmas Season.*

Living Faith Booklets for January are now
available in the foyer. Please feel free to pick
one up to enhance your daily prayer life.

**Parish Christmas
Party** is this Sunday,
December 11 @ 2pm.
There will be an Ugly
Sweater / T-shirt
contest, optional gift
exchange (minimum
\$15.00) for adults and
children and a visit by St. Nicholas. Don't
forget to bring the dish you signed up for.
If you would like to help, please contact
Kevin Hall @ (850) 276-2621.



**We are now collecting for
Christmas Poinsettias** ~ Thank
you to all who have donated so
far, your generosity is greatly
appreciated!



Last Week's Collection
Offertory \$2,639
Christmas Flowers 1,044

HELP WANTED! We are down to one counting
team for our weekly collection. Anyone able to join
a team and help on Sundays or Mondays, come
and talk to Arlene Hall after Mass. No experience
necessary, training will be included. **ALSO** – we
are now passing the basket at offertory, and we
NEED ushers. Anyone interested in training as an
usher, talk to Joe Williams at the Saturday evening
Mass or Arlene Hall on Sundays. **Please** consider
one of these ministries to help our Parish.

Decorating of the Church for Christmas will be
on Thursday, December 22 beginning at 9:00am.
“Many hands make light work!” For more
information, talk to Judy Riera after the Saturday
Vigil Mass or Arlene Hall after the Sunday morning
Mass. **No children under the age 16 because of
safety concerns.**

This Week's Calendar

Saturday, December 10

3:30pm ~ Pray the Rosary (CH)
4:00pm Vigil Mass, Rosary ~ +George Dupuis

Sunday, December 11

8:00am ~ Pray the Rosary (CH)
8:30am Mass, Rosary ~ +Barbara Brondum; +Sandi
Ann Morehouse; +George Dupuis
9:30am ~ CCD (RE)
10:30am Mass, Peace
2:00pm ~ Parish Christmas Party (PH)

Monday, December 12

8:00am ~ Pray the Rosary (CH)
8:30am Mass, Rosary ~ +George Dupuis

Tuesday, December 13

8:00am ~ Pray the Rosary (CH)
8:30am Mass, Rosary ~ +George Dupuis;
+/L Parishioners of Rosary
9:00am ~ Bible Study (PH)
4:00pm ~ Choir Practice (CH)

Wednesday, December 14

8:00am ~ Pray the Rosary (CH)
8:30am Mass, Rosary ~ +George Dupuis
10:30am Mass, Queen of Peace

Friday, December 16

4:30pm ~ Pray the Rosary (CH)
5:00pm Mass, Rosary ~ +Lawrence Hall

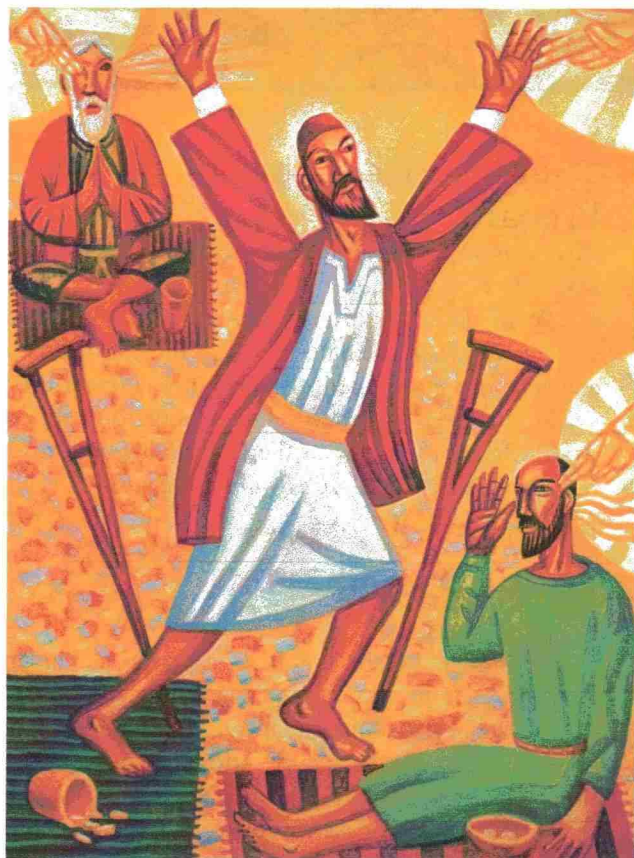
Saturday, December 17

3:30pm ~ Pray the Rosary (CH)
4:00pm Vigil Mass, Rosary ~ +/L Victims of the
Ukraine

Sunday, December 18

8:00am ~ Pray the Rosary (CH)
8:30am Mass, Rosary ~ +George Dupuis
10:30am Mass, Peace

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Rejoicing in the Lord

Gracious and loving God,
you are the source of all hope,
Embed your grace into our hard hearts,
and guide us to rejoice on this day.
Help us to do your will
as we repent of our willful ways.
May our deaf ears hear
the wisdom of Scripture
as we joyfully await the Lord's coming.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 11, 2022

Be Strong, Fear Not



Today's readings: Isaiah 35:1–6a; Psalm 146:6–7, 8–9, 9–10; James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11. From the rose vestment the priest may wear, to the depiction of joy in the prayers and readings, the Advent theme of rejoicing permeates the liturgy on the Third Sunday of Advent. The day is called *Gaudete Sunday*, “gaudete” coming from the Latin word *gaudere*, “to rejoice.” We hear the word *rejoice* in the entrance antiphon: “Rejoice in the Lord always,” and the word *joy* in the collect, or opening prayer. The reading from Isaiah portrays this joy, telling of the desert and the parched land rejoicing and a time when the eyes of the blind will be opened, the lame will leap, and the mute will sing.

Isaiah predicts salvation and God's victory over sickness and evil. Our “Thanks be to God” after the first reading should be emphatic, because wonderful things await us. Psalm 146 offers praise and hope as it tells how the Lord sets captives free, protects strangers, and thwarts the wicked. At this halfway point in Advent, the Letter of St. James tells us to be patient “until the coming of the Lord.”

For your Advent prayer this week, reflect on the reading from St. James, reading it in the morning or before a meal. St. James tells us not to judge another and to look to the prophets as an example of hardship and patience. The Scripture will help you center on the meaning of Advent.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 12

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Many people began celebrating la Virgen de Guadalupe nine days ago with a novena. The novena concludes with a vigil Mass at midnight, after an evening of dancing, feasting, and celebrating Mary's appearance and miracles at Tepeyac Hill, Mexico. Mary appeared to the poor to be close to us. Today and during the coming week, find one way to be close to the Blessed Mother. Pray the Magnificat and ask Mary to intercede for people seeking asylum in the United States. *Today's readings: Zechariah 2:14–17 or Revelation 11:19a, 12:1–6a, 10ab; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; and Luke 1:26–38 or Luke 1:39–47.*

Tuesday, December 13

St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

St. Lucy is the patron saint of those who struggle with eye disease, blindness, or impaired sight. Pray today for those who are blind to their neighbor and for others who cannot "see" with eyes of faith and turn away from God. *Today's readings: Zephaniah 3:1–2, 9–13; Psalm 34:2–3, 6–7, 17–18, 19, and 23; Matthew 21:28–32.*

Wednesday, December 14

St. John of the Cross

St. John of the Cross was a Carmelite priest from Spain, known to his followers as a mystic and a poet. In early life he was taught by the Jesuits and the Augustinians, was influenced by the Carthusians, and finally became a spiritual follower of Teresa of Avila. An admirer of Teresa's lifestyle and spirituality, he tried to reform his Carmelite order with her guidance and mentoring. His efforts were misunderstood, though, and he suffered in prison for trying to reform the Carmelites. His "cross" was being treated unjustly. *Today's readings: Isaiah 45:6c–8, 18, 21c–25; Psalm 85:9ab and 10, 11–12, 13–14; Luke 7:18b–23.*

Thursday, December 15

Prepare

Advent is full of joyful events to anticipate and encounter. Not only do we become closer to God through listening to his Word but also through the songs of anticipation, the sweets we eat with thanksgiving, and the nativity scenes enacted. If we are open, the festivities during this time of year can change us, renewing us in hope for a better life and world. Prepare the way of the Lord today, joyfully. *Today's readings: Isaiah 54:1–10; Psalm 30: 2 and 4, 5–6, 11–12a, 13b; Luke 7:24–30.*

Friday, December 16

Beginnings

Today, Simbang Gabi, Las Posadas, and Las Parrandas celebrations begin, anticipating the nativity of Jesus. During Advent support a religious cultural celebration that is different from your experience by attending one of the celebrations. Find the celebrations through your diocesan newspaper or the parish or diocesan website. *Today's readings: Isaiah 56:1–3a, 6–8; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 7–8; John 5:33–36.*

Saturday, December 17

"O" Wisdom

As Christmas nears, begin a family evening prayer consisting of the Hail Mary, Our Father, and the "O" antiphon of the day (or sing a different verse of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" daily). Today's antiphon is "O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, / you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care / Come and show your people the way to salvation." Invite your family to reflect on how they will look to God's wisdom during the coming week. *Today's readings: Genesis 49:2, 8–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 3–4ab, 7–8, 17; Matthew 1:1–17.*



Dear Padre,

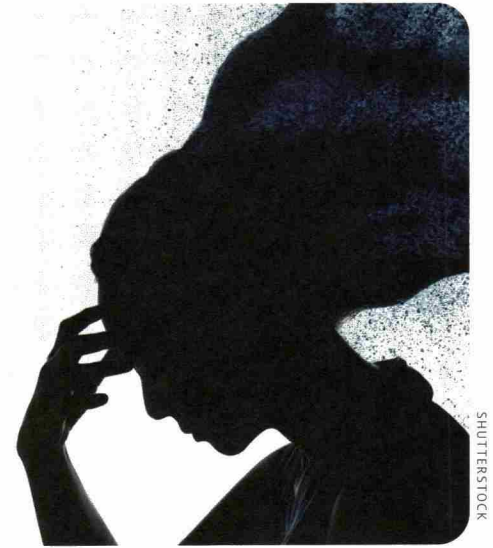
I struggle with depression, and sometimes it gets really bad during the holidays. When is it morally acceptable to use antidepressant medication?

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	December 13	December 14	December 15	December 16	December 17	December 18
<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	<i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i>	<i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13	Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25	Is 54:1-10	Is 56:1-3a, 6-8	Gn 49:2, 8-10	Is 7:10-14
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47	Mt 21:28-32	Lk 7:18b-23	Lk 7:24-30	Jn 5:33-36	Mt 1:1-17	Rom 1:1-7
						Mt 1:18-24



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