

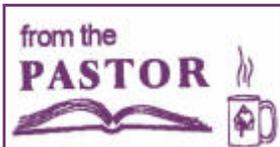
# St. William Parish Community



Walled Lake, Michigan 48390

December 12, 2021

[www.stwilliam.com](http://www.stwilliam.com)

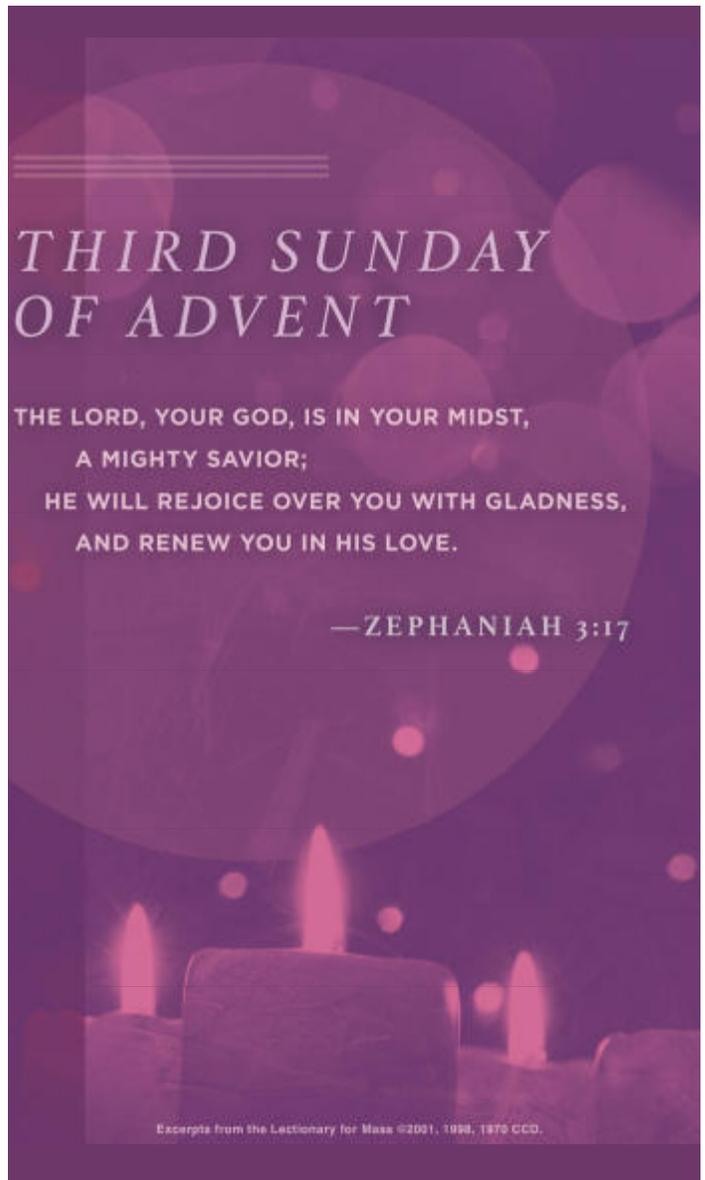


To say that these last few years, with all the COVID issues, have caused an unusual amount of stress, probably borders on gross understatement. As we approach the holidays, I'm guessing that those stress levels can even increase, since they usually do even in a normal year.. Still, whatever pressures you might find yourself under, don't let such things distract you from what's really important during this Advent season: getting ready to welcome the King, and doing HIS work as we await his return, whenever that might be.

I suspect that whenever we find ourselves frustrated (and subsequently, angry) it's because we have lost sight of ourselves as doing the Lord's work, of being His agents. But if we keep focused on doing the Lord's work, we can actually afford to let the frustration go, because (here's the beauty part) *God is going to get his work done*—but only when He is ready, not necessarily according to our timeline or with our visible successes. (I've heard it said, and it's true: "God doesn't need our successes; but He does ask for our surrender.") All we have to do is go along for the ride, doing only what He asks of us and no more. If you run ahead of the Lord, you're on your own, and you will probably get good and frustrated—and probably angry, too!

In short, we must see ourselves as only doing

*(Continued on page 3)*



Parish Goal: *"To become an Amazing Parish that fosters discipleship and equips disciples to share the good news."*

Parish Mission: *"To live the Good News so joyfully, that we can't help but proclaim it!"*

## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:30 pm, .  
Sunday \*10:00 am (\*also Live-streamed)  
and Sunday 12:30 pm  
Tues., Wed. & Thur., 8:00 am



Follow us on Facebook,  
@stwilliamparishwalledlake

### Office Hours

Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Many issues can be taken care of with a phone call, 248-624-1421.

### Registration

For many reasons it is important to be formally registered as a parishioner. Contact the rectory for friendly help. Ext. 341

### Baptism

To begin the preparation process for Baptism please call 624-1421. Baptisms are normally scheduled the first and third Sundays of the month.

### Marriage

To celebrate a valid marriage Catholics must have the help of a priest or deacon. Call at least six months in advance.

### Funeral

Please contact the parish office to make arrangements.

### Ministry To The Sick

We are happy to visit the sick and provide anointing. Please contact the Parish Office at 624-1421.

### RECTORY

Email: [Rectory1@stwilliam.com](mailto:Rectory1@stwilliam.com)  
531 Common Street (248) 624-1421

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Michael G. Savickas	Ext. 346
<b>Deacons</b>	Rev. Mr. Bob Dreyer Rev. Mr. John Liddle	Ext. 345
<b>Pastoral Assoc.</b>	Mrs. Kim Kaye	Ext. 306
<b>Business Office</b>		Ext. 341
<b>Business Manager</b>	Mrs. Deborah Diviny	Ext. 349
<b>Administrative Asst.</b>	Mrs. Lisa Geoffrey	Ext. 342
<b>Pastoral Assistant</b>	Mrs. Karen Sommers 248-624-8870	Ext. 344
<b>Maintenance:</b> Supervisor	(248) 669-5522 Mr. Dave Colby	Ext. 312

### EDUCATION CENTER

135 O'Flaherty Street

<b>Office of Faith Formation</b>		(248) 624-1371
Pastoral Assoc.	Mrs. Kim Kaye	(248) 956-8236
Youth Ministry	Mrs. Karen Trojniak	Ext. 308
Music Ministry Dir.	Mr. Bill Richard	Ext. 310
Administrative Asst.	Mrs. Lisa Geoffrey	Ext. 342
<b>School Office</b>		(248) 669-4440
Principal	Mrs. Betsy Gabrish	Ext. 303
Secretary	Samantha Wren or Tammy Hobbs	Ext. 302

**CYO Sports**  
Athletic Director

[ad@saintwilliam.net](mailto:ad@saintwilliam.net)



## Legion of Mary

If you would like to enrich your spiritual life & would like to help others, we need you in Legion of Mary.

Meetings are in the St. Paul room every Tuesday evening after 6:30 PM rosary. Come join us and say the Rosary and see what we're all about.

Contact Sherri Szepletowski, 248-957-8244, if you have any questions.

### Contribution levels are still below average due to lower Mass attendance due to COVID concerns.

If you are in a position to help, automatic giving can be easily arranged online. Go to [Faithdirect.net](http://Faithdirect.net), or follow the link from our website, [www.stwilliam.com](http://www.stwilliam.com).



### Offertory Report

(The fiscal year begins July 1)

	Collected	Budgeted*	Over/(Under)
As of Oct., 2021	<b>*\$301,157</b>	\$341,664	<b>(\$40,507)</b>

\*This does NOT represent *needed* income, but only the amount we expected would actually come in.

Note: For clarity and accuracy, this report now shows reconciled month-end balances.

## The "One-Hour Challenge!"

To have a *happy, peaceful life*, it is important that we have our lives in order, with our grateful response to God for his gifts being our top priority. That is how a disciple responds in the areas of *prayer, family, finance, and service*.

If you need help to put balance in your life, take the "one-hour challenge": Each week, spend at least...

- One hour in prayer and worship.
- One hour, special, focused on your family or other important relationship.
- One hour's wage (if you have a job) for the Lord. No job? Then give what seems right for you.
- One hour in service. (Helping another, or working for some cause.)

It's important to be *specific* in what steps to take in order to ensure that each "hour" actually happens!

May God bless you!

(Continued from page 1)

what the Lord wants, truly being his servants. We are *disciples*, and every detail of our lives must be colored by that central truth.

If that proper self-image has gotten blurry for you, take the steps necessary to get yourself back into focus (in addition to repentance for any sinful patterns in our lives).

There are **four main areas of focus** for discipleship, proper responses to God for his gifts: **Prayer, Family, Finance, and Service**. If you need a quick refresher, check out the “one-hour challenge” that’s always printed in our bulletin (see page 2). Keep in mind though, that the “one hour” isn’t the goal; it’s just a place to begin. And by the way, if you don’t really take the third one (finance) seriously, chances are—at least according to a book I’ve recently read—you probably aren’t succeeding in the other ones, either.

And if you are still finding yourself somewhat frazzled, try fine-tuning your focus by reminding yourself *frequently* during the day (use POST-IT notes?) that *God is with you*, and that you are only doing *His* work. Then, take time to be nice to someone else. Or try singing. Or maybe you need to take a few minutes to *rest*. Balance! Do *His* will.

Whatever you do, **ONLY** do what the **Lord** asks you to do—not what you are being pressured to do by others, or even by yourself! If you still are actually planning on shopping at a brick-and-mortar store, whether a grocery store, the mall, or a big retailer, make sure you pray on the way—you are the Lord’s messenger in the midst of parking-lot mayhem or when encountering harried salespeople or frazzled impatient shoppers.

I guess what I’m really inviting you to do is keep focused on our mission! We’re all about bringing others to Christ.

This is true not only in the public square, but equally applies to the church environs as many of us gather to worship for the Holy Days and for the following weekends. For Christmas, especially, we need to be sensitive to those people who may show up for Mass but are not regular parishioners. We don’t believe it will be necessary to arrange for reserved seating this year, since COVID

## Eucharistic Adoration

Next Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>  
12 to 3 PM

More are needed to commit just a little time.

Please come and spend some time with Jesus during our Saturday Adoration. The church is open 12 pm to 3pm with Jesus present to listen to your prayers or concerns. If you can spare a few minutes even if it is 15 minutes he will not let you down.

restrictions are somewhat relaxed, but the goal is still the same: to make our “visitors” feel welcomed, in the hopes that they may be drawn to want to share Eucharist with us more frequently. That’s why we’re all about “radical hospitality”. I encourage you to go out of your way at Mass (or in the parking lot) to be accommodating to others.

If we want to attract new disciples for the Lord, we have to make visitors, *including those Catholics who only come twice a year*, feel like we’re really glad to see them! (Whoa. Maybe even *especially* those Catholics!) Smile a lot when you are in church, and graciously be willing to give in your favorite seat to make room for someone else, and say a prayer for a visitor for whom you made room. Maybe your sacrifice will be just the thing that opens a path back for a lost brother or sister.

In Jesus,  
Fr. Michael



**Bake Sale**  
**THIS WEEKEND!**

The Rosary Altar Society Bake Sale is this weekend, December 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> after all Masses!

Stop by and get your treats!



**St. William Parishioners**  
**For a very successful**  
**Christmas card sale!**



**Right to Life -**  
**LIFESPAN**



**K of C Breakfast –**  
**Will be OPEN Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>!**



The Knights of Columbus appreciate everyone who has supported our Breakfast since we brought them back in September, your donations have really helped St. Vincent de Paul in their work. Our next Breakfast will be on December 5th once again after the 10:00 Mass! Our usual fare will be offered PLUS a NEW ITEM – HASHBROWNS!!!

We're going to keep the 'Free Will' donation again for this Breakfast with net proceeds going to St. Vincent de Paul! We hope you'll join us for Breakfast!

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 by Ministry Brands™

**Donor Match Program**

**ANOTHER GOOD REASON TO ENROLL IN ELECTRONIC GIVING!**

Announcing the Faith Direct Donor Match Program for #GivingTuesday

#GivingTuesday is fast approaching, and we have a gift for your parish!

For every *new recurring offertory* gift processed in November or December 2021, we will match that first gift, up to \$50, with a maximum match of \$1,000 per church. To be eligible for the matching gift, more than one installment must be set-up and the *first recurring gift* must be processed through Faith Direct by Dec. 31, 2021.



**St. Vincent de Paul Society**

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise..."

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving... please share your abundance by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.

**A Family Perspective**

by Bud Ozar

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Today's gospel tells us to SHARE! This Christmas resist the pressure to give token gifts. Instead, use those funds to give NECESSITIES to the poor. If our impoverished brothers and sisters are not on our gift list, we've missed the point of Christmas.

Monday Dec. 13 <sup>th</sup>
8:00am Morning Prayer w/Communion
6:15pm Rel. Ed. Class
Tuesday Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup>
8:00am Mass
6:30pm Rosary
7:00pm Legion of Mary, St. Paul Room
7:00pm Baptism Prep. Class
7:00pm Scout Mtg., Upper & Lower Zepf
Wednesday Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup>
8:00am Mass
7:00pm Dad's Club Mtg., Lower Zepf
Thursday Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup>
8:00am Mass
7:30pm AA Mtg., Lower Zepf
Friday Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup>
8:00am Morning Prayer w/Communion
Saturday Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup>
12:00pm Adoration
4:30pm Mass
Sunday Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup>
10:00am Mass (also livestreamed)
12:30pm Mass

## Grow Your Faith + Friendships with Small Faith Groups

*"They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers."*

- Acts 2:42

Interested in:

- Supporting Discipleship of others?
- Learning and Growing in your Faith?
- Accompanying others in the journey?
- Creating a small community?
- Charitably challenging each other to be the best version of ourselves?

Join a small faith group (SFG) at St. William! SFGs are forming around common interests and experiences to help members bridge their spiritual and everyday lives. The SFG Leadership team will support groups by providing content suggestions and assistance with facilitation and technology needs. Meeting schedules and locations (even virtual!) are flexible based on your group's needs. If you're interested in participating in growing as a Disciple, online sign is available through SignUpGenius. Scan the QR code to the right with your phone's camera to go right to the link.



### College Scholarship

The Knights of Columbus are pleased to announce the "The Knights of Columbus/Ushers Memorial Scholarship raffle tickets are on sale now. They can be purchased from any knight or usher. Tickets cost \$20. Drawings will be held once a month during the year. January—November the prizes will be \$100, \$75 and \$50. The grand price drawing will be held in December and the prizes will be \$1,000, \$500 and \$250. Tickets that are drawn are placed back in the bucket for next month's drawing so one ticket gives you a chance to win three times each month—that's 36 chances!!! Proceeds from the ticket sales will fund college scholarships for St. William high school seniors. Your past and future support of this program is truly appreciated. Thank you and God bless you.

## Youth Ministry Christmas Games Night

St. William Youth Ministry invites all Middle and High Schoolers to a Christmas Games Night on Wednesday, December 22, from 7 – 8:30pm in Upper Zepf Hall. Wear your ugly sweater . . . if you have one, bring a snack to share, and plan to join in the fun! Bring some friends, because as the saying goes, "The more, the merrier!"

## "Party in a Box" at Children's Village

Unfortunately, due to a rise in COVID cases, Children's Village (Oakland County Youth Detention Campus) is not allowing visitors at this time. But that is not going to squelch our Christmas spirit! We are delivering a "party in a box" to the boys building, complete with a gift card for pizza, desserts, all the materials and instructions for playing holiday games, and gifts that our parishioners have so generously donated for the boys. Most importantly, we will be sending cards to share the joyous message of Christmas.

## Coming up in Youth Ministry

Dec. 12, 2021 – Children's Village Christmas Party, 6-8pm, HS youth and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

Dec. 22, 2021 – Christmas Games Night, 7pm to 8:30pm, MS and HS youth

Jan. 8, 2022 – Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Workshop

Jan. 14, 2022 – Friday Night at the Z, 7pm, MS and HS youth and families

Jan. 22, 2022 - PBJ Ministry to the Homeless, 5:30-10am, MS and HS youth and families

## Celebration of Winter Solstice

### ADRIAN DOMINICAN SISTERS

All are invited to welcome the season of winter with a ritual, *Winter Solstice: A Sacred Time*. The virtual celebration, facilitated by Sister Esther Kennedy, OP, is from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. EST Sunday, December 19, 2021.

The celebration includes reflections on our turning from darkness to light as the days begin to grow longer, and from the past to this new moment. We will cultivate our own capacity as beings of light to shine our light and love as fully as possible upon one another and our world.

A Dominican Sister of Adrian, Michigan, Sister Esther is a retreat leader and spiritual director who conducts a monthly Day of Mindfulness at Weber Center.

The celebration is free and open to all. Registration is not required. To participate, join the live stream at <https://webercenter.org/seasons>.

For information, call the Weber Center at 517-266-4000.

### 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT





### OUR MISSION

“We exist to provide a school environment in which Christ is encountered and Discipleship is fostered through the teaching and practice of Catholic Tradition, values and doctrine, while challenging each student to academic excellence.”

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Shout for joy! When was the last time you ever felt like doing that? Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of joy. We can never predict what life will bring. As unsettling as that can often seem, life's unpredictability is also the very thing that allows it to be exciting and adventuresome! We know that life can be difficult, and it is unrealistic to expect it to be otherwise. God never promised an easy road. But, when a person truly falls in love with God and discovers the peacefulness and assurance of God's presence, then a depth of understanding will be brought to everything they do and experience. Nothing will be able to rob them of joy! When we realize that God, the King of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We celebrate the beauty and wonder of God's gift of joy today as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. There is a power and presence within us, our God, who has made us, who loves us and who will keep us. What more do we need? Rejoice!



### Right to Life — Lifespan

#### We Will All Pay

According to the National Review, both the Hyde and the Helms amendments were excluded from the recently passed reconciliation bill. When asked about Hyde Amendment during a press conference, the Speaker of the House replied, "It's not in the bill. It's not in the bill." Passed in 1976 and included in every budget since then, both Hyde and Helms prohibited taxpayer funding for abortions in the United States. For more information, please call the LIFESPAN office, 248-816-1546.

### United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

#### Word of Life

*“O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery;  
Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity.  
Those whom man enslaves,  
let God set free.”*



USCCB, “Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita”

## Mass Intentions:

**Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 am**

**Ray & Marie Hibbeln (D) family; Carl Kaye (D) and Kim Kaye (SI) RCIA Team; Andrew Hailo (SI)**

**Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 am**

**Tina Minas (SI) family; Dennis Beagen (SI) Peg Stasser**

**Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 am**

**Diane Cartter (SI, B. Day) family; Bruce Everett (SI)**

**Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

**4:30 pm**

**Dave Kozora (D) wife; Edwin Minas (D) family; Charles Camilleri (D) family; Steven Warras (D) Sommers family; Vita Harter (D) family**

**Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 am**

**Members of St. William Parish (L&D)**

**12:30 pm**

**Mary Lukasik (D) family; Nancy Christiansen (D) St. William Parish; Thomas Sitko (D) family; Clara Boscaglia (D) family; Bailey Broderick (D) RCIA Team**

## Readings for the week

**Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

**Sunday:** Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23

**Thursday:** Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b [2a]/Lk 7:24-30

**Friday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

**Saturday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

**Next Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

## Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

All-powerful and ever-lasting God, your Son accepted our sufferings to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness. Hear the prayers we offer for our sick brothers and sisters. May all who suffer pain, illness, or disease realize that they have been chosen to be saints and know that they are joined to Christ in his suffering for the salvation of the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| ♦ Andrew Hailo    | ♦ Riley Bowen         |
| ♦ Anthony Cadili  | ♦ Terry Sivick        |
| ♦ Bonetta Barhite | ♦ Theresa Sivick      |
| ♦ Bonnie LaClair  | ♦ Walter Bieda        |
| ♦ Carol Bielman   |                       |
| ♦ Chuck Tessier   | Residents of:         |
| ♦ Diane Davio     | ♦ Bloomfield Villa    |
| ♦ Diane Smith     | ♦ Brookdale           |
| ♦ Faith Richart   | ♦ First & Main        |
| ♦ Glen Flanigan   | ♦ Henry Ford          |
| ♦ Jaxon Putz      | ♦ Maple Manor         |
| ♦ Lilian Ishaq    | ♦ Novi Lakes          |
| ♦ Marie Frisch    | ♦ Serenity            |
| ♦ Marlene Elwell  | ♦ Sunrise Senior Ctr. |
| ♦ Mary Thompson   | ♦ Waltonwood          |



*Happy are those who have died in the Lord;  
let them rest from their labors for their good  
deeds go with them—Rev. 14:13*

Richard Steward  
Robert Strasser



## Confession Schedule

**Monday, December 20,**  
7:00 pm, private confessions

**Wednesday, December 22,**  
12:00 pm, private confessions  
7:00 pm Communal Penance followed by  
private confessions

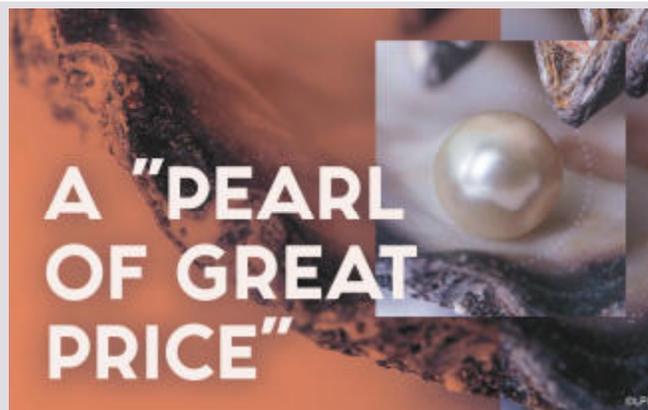
## Gospel Meditation

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

*"From silly devotions and sour-faced saints,  
good Lord, deliver us!" St. Teresa of Avila*

We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and



have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina)

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## The Well That Never Dries Up

Depending on how your mood is today, the words of Paul will hit you differently. "Rejoice always," he tells us. Well, if your football team is poised to win this weekend or next, maybe you're really feeling this vibe. But if you've got a long slog at work ahead of you this week and a to-do list that only seems to grow and never shrink, it may make you grumble. "Rejoice always? Always? When I'm tired? Cranky? When I'm sick of doing and giving? Thanks, Paul. I'll be sure to scribble that phrase on a Post-It and stick it to my dashboard for when some entitled punk inevitably cuts me off on tomorrow's morning commute."

When we feel this way, we know it's time to head back to the well. Think of all the places in Scripture where God compares His love, His mercy, His salvation to water. And not just any water — living water, water that moves. God's strength is not a stagnant puddle sure to evaporate and disappear. It's water you can keep coming back to. It's water that never dries up.

Which is good news for us, because we never stop failing to do what we should, never stop failing to feel the joy and the compassion and the selflessness we are called to. We need a source of living water if we are going to 'rejoice always.' To be everyday stewards, we need a well that never empties.

The fountain of salvation never dries up. There is always more there for us to draw from. It's a sign of His commitment — so let us, in turn, be committed to Him.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS — ©LPI

### Sharing the Gospel

How can you show you love God? Instead of keeping all of your clothes and food, share some with people who don't have any. Be happy and thankful for all God has given you. When you love God more than money, you'll be happy to share.

#### Prayer

Dear God, help me to share happily with others.

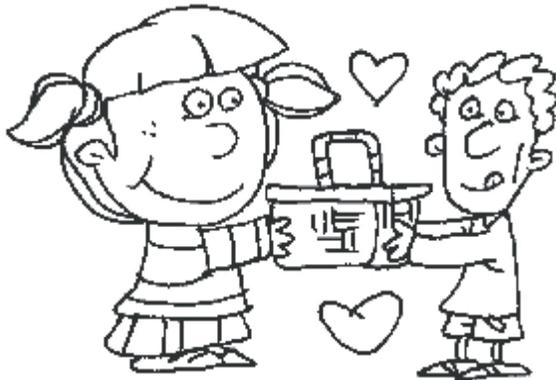
#### Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself sharing a snack with a classmate who has none.

#### Mission for the Week

The next time you go grocery shopping with your parents, ask if you can pick out some foods to share with the poor. As a family, talk about how thankful you are for the many ways God takes care of you.

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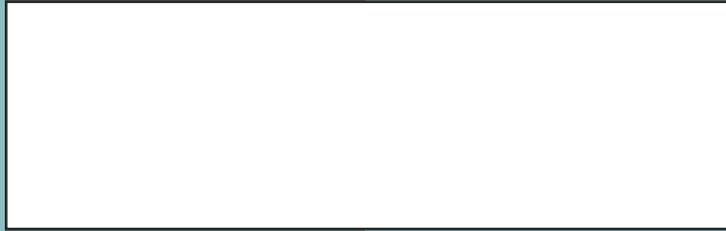
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