



# Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Community

Catholic Church serving in Eastern Kentucky since 1913

December 11th | Third Sunday of Advent

329 Poplar Street, Hazard, KY 41701

Phone : (606)436.2533 | 606.233.3012 for emergency or after hours

Fax: (606) 436.0171 | [www.mgccc.org](http://www.mgccc.org)

## **Eucharistic Services:**

7:00 pm Wednesday - Word & Communion Service

5:00 pm Saturday - Holy Cross in Jackson, Vigil Mass

11:30 am Sunday - Mass

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Sunday after Mass; other times by appointment.

**Office Hours: Wed - Friday 10 am to 5 pm**

**Ministers for next Sunday, December 11, 2022**

Sacramental Minister : Rev.Livinus Uba

Lector : Molly O'Rourke

## **Ministers at MGC**

Lori Helfrich, Parish Life Director

email: [lhelfrich@cdlex.org](mailto:lhelfrich@cdlex.org)

## **Mother of Good Counsel Prayer by B.J. Ewen**

Holy Mary, our heavenly mother,  
keep us in your care.

Give us your good counsel

as we strive to be disciples of your son Jesus  
and help us to grow in faith and in our love for God.

Bless our parish which is named in your honor.

Help us in our lives as we humbly pray and help  
us be attentive to the needs of our families and our  
community.

Amen

Roman Catholic Diocese of Lexington, KY  
Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv.

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CATHOLIC DIOCESE  
OF LEXINGTON

## **Parish Mission Statement**

Inspired and sustained in our Catholic faith through life-giving worship, we Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Community, have as our mission to bring Christ and the teachings of the Catholic faith to one another and the larger community in a ways that draw us together as a supportive family, yet reaches out with a genuine concern for all people, so that we can be authentic witnesses in an area where Catholics are few in number.

Third Sunday of Advent (A)

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 / James 5:7-10 / Matthew 11:2-11



### Diocesan Laudato Si Commission

As we move into Advent and prepare for the birth of God's son, we ask that all our parishes encourage their families to make time to watch the movie *The Letter*. A newly-released feature documentary film on humanity's power to stop the ecological crisis, *The Letter* tells the story of some of the world's frontline leaders journeying to Rome to discuss the encyclical *Laudato Si* with its author, Pope Francis. The film can be found on YouTube and other streaming services. Just enter Pope Francis or *The Letter* into the search field. For more information please visit <https://theletterfilm.org>.

### Diocesan Annual Appeal

The Diocesan Annual Appeal 2022 - Providing for Our Presence. Congratulations to our parish on reaching and exceeding our goal for 2022. The total of gifts pledged in 2022 is \$8272 and the current paid gifts is \$6742.

### Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious -

The national collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be taken up in our Diocese on December 10-11, 2022. Aging religious need your help. In the United States today, there are more than 33,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. These religious worked tirelessly in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies, usually for little to no pay. As a result, many religious communities lack adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

### Reconciliation Service, Confession & Mass

This Wednesday December 14 Mother of Good Counsel will have a communal reconciliation service at 6 pm with the option for individual confession.



### Religious Education

Students will meet in their regular religious education classes next Sunday December 18, 2022 and classes will resume on January 8th 2023. Additionally during the spring semester the parish will be offering a first communion class for students who are baptized and older than 7 years old on Saturday mornings. If you are interested in this class for your child, please contact Lori and fill out registration forms for this special class.

### Third Week of Advent - We Can Choose a Better Way

Rejoice and be glad. This may be the most counter-cultural message in existence in 2022. And I am going to be a little grinchy by insisting the invitation on this Sunday is meant to perplex us a bit.

God invites joy to overflow in us. Some would say it is naive to rejoice when we look at the state of our world. How can we be glad when we look at the nitty gritty of our death-oriented culture: gun violence, polarization, covid, ignorance, racism, climate change, wars, poverty, divided families, addiction, abuses, mass incarceration and the list goes on. Do not misunderstand this invitation as an excuse to place our heads in the sand, pretending there is nothing we can do to aid our world's healing. For our action and inaction either despoil or energize our connections to each other.

The Magnificat exults: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly."

"Mary's song is good news for the poor and bad news for the powerful," preacher and writer Ashley Wilcox declares in *The Women's Lectionary*. "The God who Mary knows turns the expectations of the world upside down. This is not something that will happen at some future date. Mary says that God has already done this...These are not nice and gentle words. Mary prophetically announces social, political, and economic upheaval and a complete reversal of the power structure. ( Reflection for the 3rd Sunday of Advent from U.S. Catholic)



#### 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

### Upcoming Events

- 12/13 - Becoming Catholic 7-9 pm
- 12/14 - Reconciliation Service ( 6 pm)
- Rosary, Communion Service ( 7 pm)
- 12/15 - Perry County Christmas Market 4 pm to 7 pm)
- 12/18 - Rite of Welcome for Our Candidates at 11:30 am
- Mass Teen Disciples 5 - 6:30 pm
- 12/23 - Decorating for Christmas
- 12/24 - Christmas Eve Vigil at 5:30 pm
- 12/25 - Midnight Mass (12:00am)
- 12/25 - Christmas Day Mass ( 9:30 am)



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.**

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Readings for the Week

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



# 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*



## Our Weekly Offering

for 12/4/223

Loose: \$26

Envelopes : \$445

Monthly: \$10

Immaculate Conception: \$10

CCHD: \$10

Christmas Flowers : \$115

Online: \$725

Total Weekly Offering: \$1341

### Birthdays

12/12: Stephanie Turk

12/14: Marie Maggard

**Prayer Family**  
**The Turk Family**



### Prayer List

Joey Napier, John Meehan, Roy Varghese, Brian Campbell, Matt Tuttle, Willie Gomez, Joe Fehribach, Louise Ayres, Charles McDaniel, Jon Latunik, Deb Night, Harvey Richardson, Delois McIntosh, Karen Davis, Zachary Hollan, Bob Rogers, Deedee Wells, Sherrian Noble, Stephanie Welch, David Napier, Martha Huggins, Willie Wagers, Christina Askew, Charles Brotherton, Willow Brockman, Tina Dawhare Fields, Valarie Maggard Dye, Marleen Combs, Robert Caldwell, Monica Spare, Don Davis, The Rice Family, Renee Messer, Maria Hall, Neal Boggs, Jackson Varela, Cecilia & Lucia Cory, Julie And Jonah Spencer, Jace Combs Mandi Dishner, Brandon Robinson, Michael Whitaker, Thomas Stidham and Abby Turk.

If you know of someone who needs a pastoral visit or is in the hospital and would appreciate a visit contact the parish and let Lori know about the request.

### Pope Francis Prayer Intention

Intentions for December  
Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations  
We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out newpaths to international cooperation.

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Social Media



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