Early Bulletin Deadlines
The deadline for the December 29 bulletin is NOON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18.

The deadline for the January 5 bulletin is NOON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24.

Our Mission:
We, the community of Holy Spirit Parish, centered in the Eucharist, and guided by the Holy Spirit, will use our shared wisdom to be a joyful, accepting and forgiving community. We encourage all to grow in the Catholic faith by teaching and proclaiming the Gospel, serving others and praising God.
MASS SCHEDULE
Monday thru Wednesday………………………….6:30am
Thursday and Friday…………………………………….8:00am
Holy Days Consult bulletin
Saturday: ........................................8:00am and 5:00pm (Vigil)
Sunday: .................................7:30am, 9:00am, and 11:00am

CONFESSIONS
Saturday 4:00 to 4:45pm or by appointment

EUCHARISTIC CHAPEL HOURS
Weekdays: 12am to 6am and 9am to 12 midnight.
Saturdays: 12am to 7am
Chapel will close at 7am Saturday until 9am Monday.
Holy Days: Please consult the bulletin.

EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION (BEGINNING OCTOBER 14)
Mondays, 1 to 7 p.m. (closing with Benediction at approximately 6:50 p.m.).

BAPTISMS
Baptism Class for parents/godparents is normally held on the first Monday of the month at 7 PM in the Church. To register for the meeting and/or to arrange for a baptism, call Karen Rychlewski.

MARRIAGE
Couples planning marriage contact the pastor at least six months in advance.

COMMUNION CALLS
Please call the Parish Office to request Communion if someone is unable to attend Church.

HOSPITAL VISITS
Please notify the Parish Office concerning hospitalization.

REGISTRATION
New parishioners may register at Parish Office or see one of the priests after Mass. New information e.g. address, phone numbers or moving from the parish, please call Parish Office.

BULLETIN INFORMATION
Please submit information for the bulletin by Noon TWO Fridays before publication. Include name, daytime phone number of person submitting information, Commission and group name. Items can be e-mailed to mwelsh@holyspiritstl.org.

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS
Stewardship for November 25-December 1, 2019
Sunday Envelopes, 248 utilized $ 14,132.00
Loose Collection $ 545.33
Online Donations, 20 families $ 3,170.00
Holy Days $ 148.00
Total $ 17,995.33
Weekly Budget $ 20,190.38
Weekly Surplus (shortfall) ($ 2,195.05)
HandS Parish Improvements $ 530.00 $ 3,536.00

WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 15—Third Sunday of Advent
8:00 am—Donuts & Coffee, Parish Hall, sponsored by Youth Ministry with the Saints Project Display
9:00 am—Liturgy of the Word for Children, Rm. 106
—RCIA, Rm. 111
1:00 pm—Basketball Tournament, Gym
7:00 pm—Al Anon, Community Rm.

Monday, December 16
1:00 pm—Exposition/Benediction, Church
6:00 pm—Quilting, Annex
6:30 pm—Basketball Tournament
7:00 pm—Advent Penance Service, Church
—Infant Baptism Parent Mtg., Gathering Area

Tuesday, December 17
9:00 am—Quilting, Annex
6:30 pm—Basketball Tournament, Gym
—NO PSR, Faculty In-service, Parish Hall
7:30 pm—Fire in the Spirit, Community Rm.

Wednesday, December 18
9:00 am—Senior Exercise, Rigali Rm.
6:00 pm—Children’s Choir Practice, Church
6:30 pm—Basketball Tournament, Gym
7:00 pm—Food Addicts Anonymous, Rigali Rm.
7:30 pm—Teen Choir Practice, Church

Thursday, December 19
9:00 am—Senior Exercise, Rigali Rm.
1:00 pm—Prayer Shawl, Rigali Rm.
6:00 pm—Bell Choir Practice, Church
6:30 pm—Basketball Tournament, Gym
7:00 pm—Al Anon, Rm. 2
—Choir Rehearsal, Church

Friday, December 20
6:30 pm—Basketball Tournament, Gym

Saturday, December 21
8:00 am—Basketball Tournament, Gym

Sunday, December 22
7:00 am—Salad Sunday, Parish Hall
9:00 am—Liturgy of the Word for Children, Rm. 106
—RCIA, Rm. 111
6:30 pm—Basketball Tournament, Gym
7:00 pm—Al Anon, Community Rm.

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS!
The church will be decorated for Christmas after the 11:00 Mass Sunday., December 22.
If you are interested, your help would be appreciated.
We are especially looking for folks who can climb a ladder, but everyone is welcome, including teens looking for service hours!
PRAYERS FOR THE SICK
In your prayers, please remember all the sick and home-bound parishioners and those who care for them.

Irene Biggs
Nancy Brand
Jim Brockmeyer
Connie Buenemann
Nicole Chapman
Ed Cody
Matthew Cody
Peggy Cody
Charles Dent
Dorothy Faerber
Till Fehrenbacher
Joe Greco
Diane Javaux
Kenneth Jordan

Al Katzler
Marie Knox
Charles Kraemer
Doris Kulage
Mike Lemp
Jerry McGuire
Mary McGuire
Karen Newcomb
Matt Niedringhaus
Jacob Null
Dave Peters
Bob & Donna
Pedrotti
Brian Ponder

John Rizello
John Roberson
Mike Sampson
Bill Schneider
Norma Schwaninger
Rudy & Brenda
Torricelli
Nanci Van Amburgh
Joe & Jean
Syl Wayer
Gene Weckherlin
Bill & Joan Weinzi
Wangler

MINISTRY SCHEDULE — DEC. 21-22

Dec 21-22 5:00 PM 7:30 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM $ Counters
We express our deep sympathy and assurance of our prayers to the families of John Collins, husband of Ruth, father of John, Evan & Rachel; and Alfred King, brother of Sharron (Harold) Willman. May their souls rest in the Peace of Christ.

Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2019 | 3
SCHOOL NEWS

Congratulations to our Dec. 9 Red & Blue winner of $25; Pete Kielhofner.
Thank you for supporting our school!

Friday is the last day of school for 2019 and the end of 2nd quarter. It is a half day and we will be DRESSING UP for our Christmas parties. There will NOT be Spirit Zone on Friday. Stay safe and enjoy your families over the Christmas break.

Fri. Dec. 20 All School Advent Mass
Prepared by grade 7

Wish List
* 8 ounce Solo Cups (MakerSpace)
* Paper Towel Rolls (MakerSpace)
* Craft Sticks Large Tongue Compressor Size (MakerSpace)
* Plastic Wrap (MakerSpace)
* Bags of Beans (MakerSpace)
* Plastic Spoons (MakerSpace)
* Cotton Balls (MakerSpace)
* Tin Foil (Art)
* Plastic Shopping Bags (Art)
* Pipe cleaners (Art)
* Pom poms (Art)
* Modge Podge (Art)
* Tacky Glue (Art)
* Black Sharpies (Art)

With God all things are possible!
Mrs. Hewitt

PSR NEWS

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS PSR ACTIVITIES AT HOME

There will be no PSR on Tuesday December 17th. Instead of coming to class, do at least one of the activities suggested in the handout that was sent home

PSR’S DECEMBER CALENDAR
• Dec. 17 – NO PSR, Faculty Dinner & In-service, in the Parish Hall
• Dec. 24 – NO PSR – Merry Christmas
• Dec. 31 – NO PSR – Happy New Year

NEW—PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN—FOR EVERYONE!
The Archdiocese of St. Louis has developed a new system for safe environment compliance called Prevent and Protect STL. Everyone ministering to minors and vulnerable adults (clergy, employees and volunteers) in the Archdiocese are REQUIRED and ASKED to register in the new system as soon as possible. This includes those new to service and those who are currently in service. For those who have already attended a Protecting God’s Children workshop, your previous training date will transfer to this new system. In addition to attending a live Protecting God’s Children workshop, all clergy, volunteers, and employees will register for an updated background screening, view two new online training modules on abuse reporting and the Code of Ethical Conduct, and agree to the updated Code of Ethical Conduct.

Please go to www.preventandprotectstl.org to register, use the passcode stiprotect. Holy Spirit Parish will host a live training session Thursday, March 5, in the Parish Hall. We’ll begin at 6 PM. Please plan to arrive between 5:30 and 5:45 to complete the paperwork. Contact Mary Welsh, Child Safety Coordinator, at the Parish Office (739-0230) with any questions or for further assistance.

Letters from Heaven

Start with the letter in the shaded square. Draw a path from letter to letter to complete the Biblical statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

Jesus spoke to the crowds about John the Baptist saying, “What did you go out ...”

E S O T
E D T T
E O E R
T H E S

Answer: Yes, to the crowd to see ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ?

ARE YOU THE ONE WHO IS TO COME?

**March for Life Youth Pilgrimage**

If you ordered Butterbraid from our fundraiser, orders will be available for pick up the evening of December 17 and the rest of that week. For information about where to pick up your order, contact Sharon Kaufman in the parish office.

**Confirmation**

**7th Grade:**

Session 1: Life is Choices will begin January 15. This session is for parents and their child.

**8th Grade:**

Session 12: Holiness is Possible is Sun., Mar. 8. Mark your calendars for this important session in “Stirring it Up.”

**Our Saints Are Showing**

Come learn about the patron saints our newly Confirmed chose as their role models. We’ll display them during Coffee & Doughnuts on Sun., Dec. 15 after all Masses.

**Middle School Madness**

All 6th-8th grade students are invited to attend a night just for you! We’ll pray & play from 7-9 in the Annex. Bring a friend & join the fun. Our next MSM will be in January on Friday, Jan. 31.

**High School Youth Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors – All are Welcome:**

Christmas slumber party at the Annex on Fri., Jan. 10. Wear your Christmas PJs or ugly Christmas sweater. We’ll have food decorating, reindeer games, movies and a time for reflection. You won’t want to miss the fun!

**Thursday Evenings:** Want to be a part of our retreat team? Plan to start coming to Thursday meetings in January. We will begin planning for our spring retreat starting with our Thursday meetings in January at the Resource Center from 7-9. Team meetings begin February 13 and go until April 16. If you want to be part of the team, plan to be at all the team meetings. You should not miss more than two meetings in order to honor your other team members and the teaming process.

**No Thursday Meetings in December:** Eat, Pray, Discuss will not meet on Thursdays in December due to holidays and exams. I will be praying for you all to study well and find peace. Have a blessed Advent.

**Adults We Need You!**

Looking for PGC adults for our fall, winter and spring events. We need your help to make all these things possible. Young adults, parents & empty nesters are all welcome. Our young people benefit from your life, your faith & YOU! They truly appreciate your help.

**Spring** will be here before we know it. We can always use overnight chaperones, drivers, & chaperones for our weekly & monthly meetings, March for Life, & C2B (Called to Be) spring retreat.

**Confirmation:** A new Confirmation cohort will begin in January. If you are interested in being a catechist, or helping with meetings, contact Donna E.

**Food! We Can Always use snack and/or soda donations for high school meetings (every week), and Middle School Madness (once a month). Contact Donna Eisenbath if you are interested in helping.**

**Pro-Life Generation Life Pilgrimage:** We have several high school & 8th grade teens attending the March for Life. Donations for meals, Metro Cards for getting around D.C. or to help us buy tee shirts are appreciated. We are doing fundraising to help with the cost. If you would like to donate to help families afford the trip, it would be much appreciated. We are grateful to have such a generous community.

Interested? Want to help our teens encounter Jesus through participation in our parish community? Contact Donna, 954-1326 or deisenbath@holyspiritstl.org

**Stephen Ministry**

Stephen Ministry has specially selected & trained men & women to listen with care to all they serve, & to keep all that is shared with them in strict confidentiality. Whether your struggle with emotions is what you consider small, or even if it is larger, Stephen Ministry awaits your call for help. 739-0230, ext.130, leave a confidential message. Compassionate & caring listening for you!

**Social Justice**

**Justice—Returning the Gift**

As citizens of this earth we can’t be apathetic, the theology of creation that our Holy Father Francis preaches shows us Agrarian reform is essential to the survival of nations.

**Salad Sunday—Next Weekend!**

Holy Spirit Parish provides dinner salads the fourth Sunday of the month to be served to the homeless at St. Patrick’s Center. Please leave your donation in the big green bin in the Parish Hall as you come in for Mass: 5 PM Sat., Dec. 21 until the start of 11 AM Mass Sun., Dec. 22.

We appreciate your help! For more information please contact, Ellen Staples, 422-2381.

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**Holy Spirit Youth Ministry on Facebook & Instagram**

www.facebook.com/hsyouth & HS_YOUTH_STL on Instagram

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**Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2019 | 5**
ACTS RETREAT FOR WOMEN
FEBRUARY 20-23, 2020
“WE ARE CALLED TO HOLINESS”
Contact: Jean Martin
(314) 210-7743
jeanfitzmartin@sbcglobal.net

CHRISTMAS TV & ONLINE MASS FOR THE HOMEBOUND
Will someone you love be unable to join us at church this Christmas? Heart of the Nation will celebrate Christmas Mass on TV and online.

**TV Mass on December 25**
KPLR Ch. 11 (CW) at 10:00 a.m.

**Online Christmas Mass**
Christmas Mass will also be online throughout the day at www.HeartoftheNation.org

For those who can attend at church, TV or online liturgy does not fulfill the Christmas Mass obligation.

THANK YOU!
Your generosity once again made our Giving Tree A HUGE success! Thank you so much!
The HandS Organization

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
Our prayer shawl ministry makes shawls available to anyone who would like one with no expectation of return. In addition to shawls, we have lapghans (lap-sized afghans), scarves & various items appropriate for all.

Our next meeting is in Rigali room of the Annex Dec. 19 at 1pm. If you already knit or crochet you are already ready to make prayer shawls. If you’re not sure where to start we have patterns, yarn needles & hooks that you can have to make a prayer shawl. There are no time limits or requirements of any sort.

If you don’t knit or crochet & would like to learn, we will teach you. We have needles & hooks as well as yarn to get you started.

We will not have an evening meeting this month due to the Christmas holiday. Our next evening meeting will be January 22.

Call Mary, 497-5048 to get a shawl or with any questions you might have.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS
I wish to thank everyone for their prayers and caring cards during my recent thirty day hospital stay. I especially want to thank Fr. Bob for his support and for his Blessings.

Susie Meyer

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER
“Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.” Strengthen, rekindle and renew your marriage sacrament by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend in the St. Louis area. The next weekends are Feb. 7-9 or Apr. 24-26, 2020, Courtyard Marriot, St. Peters. call or text 314.649.7317 or https://stl-wwme.org/schedule.php.

DYNAMIC CATHOLIC, Alive!

GAUDETE SUNDAY
Gaudete Sunday—Rejoice! But true joy comes by way of true repentance, so John the Baptist reminds us. The desire for holiness, the pursuit of genuine freedom from sin and death—these are the things that inspire us first to renounce evil and then to prepare a way for Christ to enter our hearts, minds, and souls to bring not only mercy, forgiveness, healing, consolation, and peace—but also the authentic Christian joy arising from redeeming grace. (CCC 523-524, 719-720)

Holy Spirit 7th Grade Class invites you to

MUSIC TRIVIA NIGHT

A FUNDRAISER for the graduating class of 2021
Saturday, January 25, 2020
Holy Spirit Gym
Doors Open at 6:30pm – Trivia begins at 7:00pm
$160 per table (max 8 adults)

Cash prizes, raffles, refreshments and more!

Send registration and payment (checks made to Holy Spirit Catholic School):

Holy Spirit Catholic School
Attn: John and Maria Weber
3120 Parkwood Lane
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Registration forms/payment due by January 18, 2019
Registration not confirmed without advance payment

Questions? Call John & Maria Weber (298-9798)

Table Contact Name: __________________________________________

Phone Number: ______________________________ Number attending: ______

Register online at https://goo.gl/aC29wm
PRO-LIFE
The Respect Life Apostolate through the Archdiocese of St. Louis is hosting a Naming and Commendation Rite on Sunday, December 15, at St. Monica Parish in Creve Coeur at 2pm. The prayer service is designed to meet the needs of families whose child died before birth, for any reason, whether due to miscarriage, accident, still birth, or abortion. All are welcome despite religious background or whether the loss was recent or long ago. There will be an opportunity to name the child, bring peaceful closure to great loss, and will allow each family to unite with our merciful God.

Spiritual Adoption Update: Month 8: Your baby is increasing in size and strength. The baby is receiving from his or her mother precious immunities to a number of diseases that will last for several months until the baby is able to build up his or her own immunities. Keep praying for your baby!

***Keep an eye on the bulletin for more details about an upcoming “baby shower” drive in January 2020 to benefit a local pregnancy resource center.

HE IS BORN: A CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH THE DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL
The Daughters of St. Paul are back in St. Louis for their annual Christmas Concert! Join us for “He is Born: A Christmas Concert with the Daughters of St. Paul” on Wed. Dec 18 & Thurs. Dec. 19, 6:30 pm at Chaminade High School, Skip Viragh Center for the Arts, 425 South Lindberg Blvd., 63131.

Be taken up into the spirit of Christmas with the Sisters’ unique renditions of Christmas favorites as well as contemporary inspirational songs celebrating Christ’s Birth. Come, & be filled with hope, joy, & peace with the sounds of the Daughters of St Paul Choir!

Info, Pauline.org/STLconcert or call 314-965-6935.

FIAT WOMEN’S GROUP
All women are invited to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary (5200 Glennon Dr, 63119) the third Thurs. of each month for prayer & a talk. The next meeting is Dec. 19. The speaker will be Fr. Jason Schumer, Vice-Rector for Cardinal Glennon College & Assistant Professor of Sacramental & Liturgical Theology at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. The Rosary will be prayed at 8 a.m., & Fr. Schumer will speak from 8:15 a.m. until 9 a.m. Coffee will be offered afterwards in the Fireside Lounge until 9:30 a.m. For more information or to watch videos from past Fiat talks, see: www.kenrick.edu/fiat.
AROUND TOWN

ST. PATRICK CENTER CHRISTMAS WISHES
Assists more than 500 individuals and families who have little or no money to purchase Christmas gifts for their children. Thanks to all who are sponsoring families this season! We currently need donations of $20 Target gift cards for single clients in our Shamrock Club Day Treatment Program. To donate gift cards, contact Katie Joseph, 802-1976 or kjoseph@stpatrickcenter.org

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
All men 18 & older who are practicing Catholics are invited to join the St. Ann Council 3977 of the Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Organization dedicated to family, fraternal & community service, which is based on the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity & Patriotism. If interested, please contact Don Benz, 428-7403 or any current member of Council 3977.

CANDLELIGHT RORATE CAELI MASS
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY/New Melle
6:45AM MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, ST. JOSEPH CHAPEL
The Rorate Caeli Mass is a traditional Advent devotion in which a Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary for Advent is offered just before dawn, with no lighting other than candles on the altar, windowsills, and handheld. Those who attend can expect to be rewarded with a uniquely beautiful Mass.
The Mass takes its title, Rorate Caeli (“Drop down dew, ye heavens”) from the initial Latin words of Isaiah 45:8. In the dimly lit setting, priest and faithful prepare to honor the Light of the world, Who is soon to be born, and offer praise to God for the gift of Our Lady. As the Mass proceeds and sunrise approaches, the church becomes progressively brighter, illumined by the sun as our Faith is illumined by Christ.
All are invited to join us on Dec. 16, 6:45 am as we watch and wait for the Light of the World. Immaculate Heart of Mary is located at the corner of Hwys. Z and D in western St. Charles County. Please call or email for more info: 636-398-5270 or secretary@ihm-newmelle.org.

INVITATION TO SURVIVING DIVORCE
The holidays can be difficult for divorced & separated families. Make your healing a priority in the new year by attending Surviving Divorce. The 12-week program follows lay men & women on the journey to true healing, along with Catholic experts who address denial, anger, grief, guilt, forgiveness, money, the kids, the ex-spouse, spirituality, annulment & much more. Immaculate Conception Parish – Dardenne is hosting the program beginning Jan. 8, 2020. There is a $25 fee which will cover all materials needed. (Scholarships are available for anyone). Contact Debi at debijo@att.net

OUR LADY’S INN TRIVIA NIGHT
Annual Trivia Night. Sat., Jan. 18, Chaminade College Prep School (425 S. Lindbergh). Doors open 6 p.m. & trivia begins 7 p.m. Cost $25 per person & $200 for a table of 8. More info or to register, Katrina, 736-1544 or www.ourladysinn.org. Guided by our Mission, Our Lady’s Inn provides pregnant women & their children shelter & hope for a new life through humble acts of love.

MARRIAGE ON TAP STL
Invites you to enjoy an evening of marriage enrichment: Finding Joy In Our Sacraments in Today’s World Featuring Father John Vogler
Father John Vogler was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of St. Louis in 1965. He has served at various parishes in the inner-city and is now retired. Together with others, Father John was instrumental in starting a jail and prison ministry for the Archdiocese of St. Louis in 1979. Before retirement, he served on the staff for that ministry and is now visiting the St. Louis County jail in Clayton and the prison in Pacific as a volunteer. He has also been deeply involved in the Cursillo Movement, Marriage Encounter Movement and the Charismatic Renewal. He has served on various commissions of the Archdiocese over the years, including the Evangelization Commission and the Human Rights Commission. Father John is now working on a unique use of the Blessed Trinity as a philosophy for understanding everything. He is deeply convinced that verbal intimacy is the key to all healthy relationships.
Tues., Jan. 21, 2020, 6:00 p.m., Pasta House Party Room, 8213 Delmar Blvd, University City, 63130 (just east of I-170)
$25.00 per person/$50.00 per couple includes buffet dinner, tax and tip. Cash bar available.
This evening is open to all married couples.
Visit us on Facebook: Marriage on Tap STL
RSVP required; please respond by 1-17-20 to marriageontapstl@gmail.com
Sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter

REMINDER
2020 MARCH FOR LIFE
IN WASHINGTON, DC
with Missouri Life Caravan - Ages 7-107
Discounted pricing ($205) through Dec. 20
After Dec. 20 the cost is: $220
Buses depart from several areas throughout St. Louis.
Registration deadline in Jan. 2. Register online or download the form: www.MissouriLifeCaravan.org
314-434-4900/mrl.eastern@yahoo.com

Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2019 | 9
Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
Ps 146:6-10 (Is 35:4)
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Joy is the theme of the Third Sunday of Advent. As it says in the first reading, "Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication to rescue you!" This is the reason for our joy. We have been ransomed from sin and its destruction. This is why Jesus came to earth to be born as one of us: to rescue us from the horrors of an eternal separation from God and his love.

Compared to eternity, our current problems are little, very little indeed.

Joy comes from realizing that, because of Jesus, no sins against us and no destructive forces can do us permanent harm. In fact, God will make good use of everything for our benefit! He defeats evil by making blessings come from it.

Even the worst of times become huge blessings if we let them unite us to Jesus. With Christ and in imitation of how he suffered for the sake of others, we offer to others what our hardships have taught us, and thus our sufferings become ministries. Our sorrows find valuable meaning, which produces a joy that gets multiplied beyond measure.

In Christ we are crowned with everlasting joy. We feel his joy and gladness because of the good that will come and is already starting. Sorrow and mourning will flee away as we rise above our pain to rejoice in the goodness of joining in the ministry of Christ. And we are lifted up by a faithful and compassionate God.

As the second reading points out, we must be patient while we wait for the Lord to convert our trials into triumphs. To maintain an attitude of joy, we must remain firm in our faith, not doubting that the Lord is concerned about us. And we must not complain, because complaints mean that we think we know better than God does about how our problems should be resolved and how long it should take.

Joy comes from rejoicing in the good news that God really does care and is of course working on our behalf to produce many wonderful blessings from our sufferings, just like Jesus says in the Gospel: "Blessed is the one who takes no offense in me."

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What are you unhappy about?
2. Can you find joy in the trials? — because God will make good come out of the suffering if you want to use it for the benefit of others. Talk to Jesus about that today. What is he telling you? What hug is he giving you?
3. Describe a time when you saw blessings come from your sufferings. If you could do it all over again, with the option of avoiding those particular troubles, would you? Why or why not?