

WORD OF THE WEEK

Joy ˈjɔɪ

A fruit or mark of the activity of the Holy Spirit in the life of the faithful. While pleasure comes through the senses and happiness from human interaction, Christian **joy** is experienced in loving God and neighbor.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-joy>

CONTEXT

Joy is a net of love by which we catch souls.
—*Saint Teresa of Calcutta*

Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter.
—*Saint Pio of Pietrelcina*

The gospel is a proclamation of **joy**. Ideologies don't make people smile, but the gospel is a smile. It makes you smile because it touches your soul with the Good News.
—*Pope Francis*

WHY IT MATTERS

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen once divided the world into those who have found God and those who are still hungering, thirsting, and seeking. Religious practices in themselves may or may not bring a person to genuine holiness. But the life that exhibits true **joy** proves to be radiant with the life of God.

From *Gaudium et spes*, the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World: "The Lord is the goal of human history, the focal point of the longings of history and of civilization, the center of the human race, the **joy** of every heart and the answer to all its yearnings."

RELATED WORDS

Rejoice | Alleluia | Fruits of the Spirit

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Will my faith make me happy?

The biblical idea of happiness is linked to *beatitude* (Latin for "bliss"). Jesus offers beatitudes in his Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's gospel. Often the primary word of each beatitude is translated as *blessed*. A more literal rendering might be the cry, "Happy you!" who are just, pure of heart, merciful, a peacemaker, and so on. God is the source of happiness, therefore doing as God does brings bliss.

So, the short answer to the question is, yes, living according to God's will makes you happy. It's the only thing, in fact, that does; or as Saint Thomas Aquinas declared, "God alone satisfies." Saint Paul lists **joy** as one of nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. Saint Francis de Sales went so far as to warn against giving in to excessive sadness as it's a counter-witness to the **joy** that comes in the life of faith.

—*Alice Camille, from Questions Catholics Ask: <http://tinyurl.com/QCA-happy>*

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, LAETARE SUNDAY (MARCH 10)

Rejoice and be glad

Most of us aren't crazy about being told to "cheer up." Yet today is called Laetare ("rejoice") Sunday because even though it's Lent, the church urges us to cheer up in the words of Isaiah 66:10: "Rejoice with Jerusalem all you who love her." We may feel affection for the memory of biblical Jerusalem or concern for the current sorrows of the city. But it's the heavenly city, where justice and peace reign, that gives us reason to rejoice.

Readings: 1 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21 (32: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/031024-YearB.cfm>). "Whoever lives the truth comes to the light."

FAITH IN ACTION

Remember our **joy** and hope lies in the land where Christ rules.



Registering for FORMED is easier than ever:

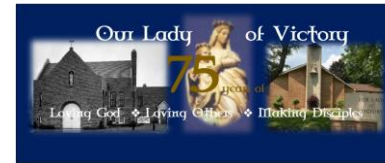
1. Go to formed.org/signup
2. Select your parish
3. Register with your name and email address
4. Check that email account for a link to begin using

FORMED

A reminder that all weekend Masses will be broadcast via FM 93.7. See Bulletin, "God is waiting for you in love, in the Eucharist. Will you come?"

Website www.ourladyofvictory.net, and Facebook Page for additional information/details.

A flyer for a mission event titled "Searching for more? UNCONDITIONALLY". The subtitle is "FINDING JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST" and it is a parish mission event by Greg Wasinski. The event is scheduled for 3 days: March 17-19, 2024. On Sunday, Mass is at 4:00 PM. On Monday and Tuesday, Mass is at 7:00 PM. The location is Our Lady of Victory, 73 North Ave Tallmadge, OH 44278. All members and guests of Our Lady of Victory are invited. The flyer includes a photo of Greg Wasinski, a Catholic speaker and author. It states that the event is for everyone, no matter where they are on their faith journey, and that they will explore the deeper meaning of the Eucharist and why they believe what they believe. At the bottom, it says "You will walk away changed and with a more profound love of the Eucharist!" and provides a website for more information: www.FaithandReason.com.



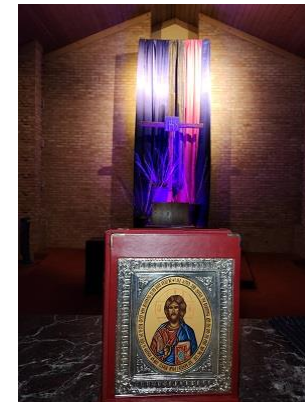
TAKE FIVE FOR FAITH

DAILY RENEWAL FOR BUSY CATHOLICS



THE

FOURTH WEEK OF LENT



For March 10 – March 16, 2024

Invest to expand your vocabulary and deepen your faith.

NOTE: THESE REFLECTIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE EVERY WEEK. YOU MAY PICK UP A PRINTED COPY FROM THESE PLASTIC FOLDERS, READ THEM ON-LINE ON THE OLV WEB PAGE (WWW.OURLADYOFVICTORY.NET), OR HAVE THEM E-MAILED TO YOU EACH WEEK BY SENDING AN A MESSAGE TO MMATUSZ@OURLADYOFVICTORY.NET AND SAYING "ADD ME TO THE TAKE FIVE LIST". LET US KNOW IF YOU'VE REGULARLY USED & ENJOYED THESE REFLECTIONS.

