

## Litany of Joy

From: <https://drinkofthespirit.wordpress.com/2017/12/20/litany-of-joy/>

From my need to be in control... **deliver me, Jesus.**  
From the distorted view of what will make me happy...  
From disappointment and discouragement in the weakness of others...  
From disappointment and discouragement in my own weakness...  
From letting the evil one control my reactions throughout my day...  
From the lie that You are far from me...  
From the moments when I place my identity in someone or something else...  
From my fear of discomfort and suffering...  
From the lie that I am not enough...  
From the lie that You are not enough and cannot fulfill the longings of my heart...

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In the times I am feeling the weight of the Cross... **Jesus, come be my joy.**

In times of confusion...  
When I am afraid...  
In the times I feel overwhelmed...  
In the times when I feel Your peace...  
In times of friendship and community...  
In times of misunderstanding and hurt...  
When I am jealous...  
When I am angry...  
When I want to give up...  
When I am fighting temptation...  
In times of planning and work...  
In times when I am tired...  
In times of doubt...  
When I cannot see the future ahead of me...  
At all times, seasons, and moments in my life...  
Amen.

Joy is not an emotion. It is a choice. Joy is a disposition from which I can love. When I encounter those around me I must do it joyfully, because they must know they are worthy of love. When I work I must do it joyfully because all my work must be united to the work of Jesus. Joy leads us back to the Father because joy reminds us of who we are – His little children.

- Collen Colette



## FR. JOHN'S DIGITAL QUILL FOR SPIRITUAL MUSINGS AND PARISH NEWS

### *Seminarian Speakers*

We welcome our two seminarians Shajir and Jacob who will be speaking to us about the upcoming Seminary Christmas Collection. This traditional collection helps to pay for the day-to-day needs of the seminary. Please consider generously giving to our great seminary this year through this collection.

### *Vocations*

This week, we received some startling statistics on the numbers of active priests we can expect in parish ministry in the next 20 years.

By 2026, the Archdiocese will have enough active priests to cover each parish in the Archdiocese with one priest (approximately 170). The Archdiocese will not be able to really cover all of the parishes with one priest, though, as our larger parishes require multiple priests to cover the sacramental life in those parishes. In about four years from today, then, we will need to have alternatives for staffing some parishes due to not having priests for those parishes. Unfortunately, the situation with the numbers of priests will continue to get bleaker. By 2030, we will have 150 active priests and by 2040, 130 active priests.

We have heard of such priest shortages in other dioceses for years. Since I was a kid, it has been said the day is coming for our Archdiocese. Unfortunately, that day is now around the corner.

Fewer priests means fewer Masses, fewer times for confessions, potential longer waits for funerals, trouble finding a priest to celebrate a wedding on a desired wedding date, and ultimately, alternative models for how our parishes will run on a day-to-day basis.

There are certainly some large issues here we cannot solve. What we can do is to pray for vocations to the priesthood and to the religious life and do more to create a culture where vocations can be explored.

To that end, we will be bringing back the vocational chalice at Sunday Masses. This is an effort to promote and pray for vocations that we started before the pandemic and had to halt with the lockdowns in 2020.

In January, we will begin having a Signup Genius where families can signup to take the vocational chalice home after a Sunday Mass for a week of family prayer focused on vocations. The chalice can then be brought back either to the parish office on Friday before noon or on Satur-

day morning to the church.

As we begin to focus on vocations more, let us all individually pray for our priests, seminarians, and that the Lord open the hearts of young people to follow Him by being a priest or a religious .

### *Advent Healing Services*

Thank you to all of those who participated in our second Advent Healing Service this past Monday night.

Our last healing service will be on Monday at 7:00pm. It will be live in church or you can watch via our YouTube channel live or on demand.

### *Eucharistic Adoration*

We will have Eucharistic Adoration in our chapel from 3:00-9:00pm this Wednesday. Please signup for a slot to adore the Lord by contacting the parish office or using the Signup Genius link available through Flocknotes.

### *Advent/Christmas Home Visits*

I have been remiss in my columns as of late to not publish a reminder about home visits for Advent or Christmas. I apologize for this oversight and thank my guardian angel for reminding me!

As we approach the celebration of Christmas, I am happy to visit any parishioner who is homebound who would like the opportunity to visit with a priest before Christmas. This is a great time to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Communion.

If you would like me to visit, please give me a call or send me an e-mail and I would be happy to schedule a time to come by your home for a visit and to provide these sacraments.

### *A Special Request*

The school is collecting supplies during December. If you are feeling generous and would like to help the less fortunate, please drop your donation into the St. Vincent DePaul barrel (located in the Jamieson-entrance vestibule) by December 19.

The following items are urgently needed:

- Disposable Razors
- Trash Bags
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Laundry Detergent
- Disposable Diapers

Thank you,  
The Students of SRA