



faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 1 // SEPT. 15, 2022

25th
Sunday in
Ordinary Time

In the Beginning...

Martin Smith, Director of Religious Education

How time flies! I've been the new DRE for about a month and a half now and whew! It's amazing how quickly these 40 days +/- have passed. Forty is an interesting number and it's worth pondering for the next 40 seconds or so.

The number 40 shows up often in the Bible. It's usually associated with trials, testing and hardships. The flood lasted 40 days and 40 nights (Genesis 7:12). Moses tended flocks in the desert for 40 years (Acts 7:30). Moses was on Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights (Exodus 24:18). Moses interceded on Israel's behalf for 40 days and 40 nights (Deuteronomy 9:18, 25). The Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years (Deuteronomy 8:2-5). When Elijah fled from Jezebel, he traveled 40 days and 40 nights to Mt. Horeb (1 Kings 19:8). Saul, David and Solomon each ruled for 40 years. Jesus was tempted for 40 days and 40 nights (Matthew 4:2). There were 40 days between the resurrection of Jesus and His ascension (Acts 1:3). Finally, our season of Lent is 40 days (not counting Sundays). This is not an exhaustive list. There are more examples. But perhaps these 40 seconds have been a small trial for you, so let's move on lest we get distracted.

The world is full of distractions, isn't it? Some of them have small screens. Others have larger screens. Some have no screens at all. Those might be sports, dance class, a job or just spending time with family or friends. All of these are good things in the right amount. But none of them should take precedence over God and our love for Him. If they do, they become idols. They become a form of "mammon." On the other hand, our rightly ordered love for God nurtures a desire to spend more time with Him, to learn more about Him. That time might look like going to daily Mass, spending time in adoration, joining a Bible study, a Catholic book club, attending classes or sending your children to attend classes just to name a few examples.

Speaking of which, our Sunday evening religious ed classes for grades 1-8 begin on September 18. This year, many things will be familiar. But some things will change. We'll have some more family events and more time to spend together as a community. It's not too late to register. Find out more info [here](#). I hope to see you there!

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SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

By Scott Hahn

Readings:

Amos 8:4–7

Psalm 113:1–2, 4–6, 7–8

1 Timothy 2:1–8

Luke 16:1–13

[Listen Here](#)



The steward in today's Gospel confronts the reality that he can't go on living the way he has been. He is under judgment. He must give account for what he has done.

The exploiters of the poor in today's First Reading are also about to be pulled down, to be thrust from their stations (see Isaiah 22:19). Servants of mammon, or money, they're so in love with wealth that they reduce the poor to objects; they despise the new moons and sabbaths—the observances and holy days of God (see Leviticus 23:24; Exodus 20:8).

Their only hope is to follow the steward's path. He is no model of repentance. But he makes a prudent calculation—to use his last hours in charge of his master's property to show mercy to others, to relieve their debts.

He is a child of this world, driven by a purely selfish motive—to make friends and be welcomed into the homes of his master's debtors. Yet his prudence is commended as an example to us, the children of light (see 1 Thessalonians 5:5; Ephesians 5:8). We too must realize, as the steward does, that what we have is not honestly ours, but in truth belongs to another, our Master.

All the mammon in the world could not have paid the debt we owe our Master. So He paid it for us. He gave His life as a ransom for all, as we hear in today's Epistle.

God wants everyone to be saved, even kings and princes, even the lovers of money (see Luke 16:14). But we cannot serve two Masters. By His grace, we should choose to be, as we sing in today's Psalm, “servants of the Lord.”

We serve Him by using what He has entrusted us with to give alms, to lift the lowly from the dust and dunghills of this world. By this we will gain what is ours and be welcomed into eternal dwellings, the many mansions of the Father's house (see John 14:2).

"The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones."

LUKE 16:10

The Gospel at Home

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Gospel Reading

Luke 16:1-13 (shorter form, Luke 16:10-13)

Jesus tells a parable about a dishonest steward who is commended for his prudence; one cannot serve both God and money.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel sounds puzzling to contemporary readers, but it can be made less so by considering the economic system which stands behind the parable. A steward is dismissed because he is squandering his master's property. He is called dishonest because he is not serving the interests of the rich man, his employer. In response the steward, in an attempt to ensure favor for himself among the rich man's debtors, brokers repayment of the rich man's loans by foregoing the interest and fees that had been levied to line the steward's pockets. It is this action, in which the steward puts aside his greed and takes the longer perspective in order to enhance his security, which is commended by the rich man.

The passage concludes with three morals for the listeners. The first exhorts the listener to be prudent about the use of wealth. Like the steward in the parable, those who would follow Jesus must put transitory affairs in proper perspective. Christians should handle the affairs of temporal life with an eye toward eternal life.

The second concerns trustworthiness. Those who can be trusted in small things can also be trusted in great things. If Christians handle money and other passing things responsibly, then they can also be trusted with the affairs of the Kingdom of God.

Finally, Jesus tells his listeners that no one can serve two masters simultaneously. God must be put ahead of money or other subjects of idolatry.

Family Connection

Talk with your children about some things that they have done to show that they can be trusted. Talk a bit about what it means to be responsible. Responsibility often means that we put aside something of passing value for something of greater value.

Read together the short form of today's Gospel, Luke 16:10-13. Talk about the importance of responsible use of money and our material possessions. As a family, commit to one action that you will take this week to show that your family serves God and not money or other idols.

"No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

LUKE 16:13

[Click here to watch on YouTube](#)



In last week's Gospel we heard the story of the prodigal son. In the latest "Bishop Barron Presents," Bishop Barron is joined by Shia LaBeouf, the actor famous for "Transformers," "Honey Boy," and "The Peanut Butter Falcon," among other films. His most recent role is as the young Padre Pio in a new biopic on the great saint. Learn of Shia LaBeouf's own story as a modern day prodigal son.

Did You Know?

St. Jude has a small but impressive library of DVDs (and soon books!) for you to borrow at no charge. It's located in the Kelly Conference Room, which is the small conference room that you've probably passed dozens of times on your way to the Brophy Center but never noticed. As you're heading to the Brophy Center from the church, look left and you'll see the Kelly Conference Room. Feel free to stop in after Mass and check out the DVDs. You'll see a sign out sheet on the bottom shelf. We work on the honor system. Just sign it out and return at your convenience! Check out the [St. Jude Faith Formation site](#) for a list of titles.

In addition to our onsite library, St. Jude has paid for your subscription to [formed.org](https://www.stjudes.formed.org). Simply go to [stjudes.formed.org](https://www.stjudes.formed.org) search by zip code 49525 and choose St. Jude. Then complete your free profile. You'll have access to countless movies, documentaries, educational series, audio presentations and more! It's like Netflix, but CATHOLIC.

VISIT [STJUDES.FORMED.ORG](https://www.stjudes.formed.org)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Sunday, September 18:

RCIA classes begin at 11:30am (after the 10:30am Mass)

Faith Formation classes for Grades 1-8 begin at 5:30pm

We are actively seeking catechists and aides for the Sunday evening

Faith Formation classes for Grades 1-8. Many hands make light work.

Please contact Marty Smith msmith@stjudes.net or Janet DeBoe

jdeboe@stjudes.net for more information.

Monday, September 19:

A Baptismal Class will be held on Monday, September 19 at 6:30pm in the Kelly Conference Room. Anyone who is planning to have a child baptized is required to attend a class, which you can attend before the birth of the child if it is more convenient. Please call the Parish Office (616-363-6885) to register.

The Women's Bible Study will be starting again on Monday, September 19 at 7:00PM in the Thaddeus Center. We will be doing a nine week study from Formed entitled "A Case for Jesus " by Brant Pitre. The book for the study is \$10. If you are interested in joining us or have any questions please call Peg Manuszak at 616-361-5836.

Tuesday, September 20:

Men of Emmaus - 7pm in the Millennium Conference Room: Men of any age are welcome to join together in fellowship as we journey in faith together. No need to register; Just show up and say hi!

Wednesday, September 21:

Senior Men's Group - 8:30am in the Thaddeus Center

Thursday, September 22:

The Senior Care Coalition is presenting:

Death & Dying - A Catholic Approach on Thursday, September 22nd from 6-8pm at St. Pius X Parish in Grandville. The presenters will be:

- Dr. Joel Phillips, Medical Director for Trinity Health, Palliative Care, Neurologist

- Dana Shelton-Clark, LMSW, APHSW-C, Emmanuel Hospice Social Worker

- Father Stephen Durkee, Pastor at St. Pius X Parish

For questions or to register go to gr-scc.org or call Tom Muszynski (616-822-7941).

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

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