



# faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 3 // SEPT. 29, 2022

27th  
Sunday in  
Ordinary Time

## *In the Beginning...*

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There's something about being a teacher. Children look up to teachers in a special way. There's some sort of authority or wisdom. From a child's perspective, teachers are all knowing. What they say is the truth. Even as we get older we still hold teachers in high esteem. Whether that teacher is one of our catechists, a school teacher, a college professor or a "teacher" who may come to us in different forms throughout our lives (parents, mentors, co-workers, friends, etc.), we still honor their wisdom.

The Church is also our teacher. The magisterium of the Church holds a special role in our lives as Catholics. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the living teaching office of the Church alone. Its authority in this matter is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ." (CCC 85) When it comes to matters of faith and morals, the Church is the final arbiter of truth.

This may be a difficult pill for us to swallow as Americans. We're raised to value freedom and self-determination. But we're *Catholic* Americans. When our political values and faith values collide, our Catholic faith should always win. So often it comes back to God and mammon and we don't even realize it. Remember that child-like respect we had for our teachers? Maybe that's part of the reason why Jesus told us we have to be like children to enter the kingdom of Heaven ([Matthew 18](#)).

In just about a month, we'll get to vote in mid-term elections. While the Church cannot tell us specifically which candidate to vote for, she can tell us very succinctly how we should vote on a proposal if that proposal is specifically related to a matter of faith and morals. That's the case with Proposal 3. **The Church is asking you to vote No.** For more details on this proposal and the Church's guidance [click here](#).

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Saturday: 2:00 - 3:30PM  
Also, by appointment

### Daily Mass

Tuesday: 8:30AM  
Thursday: 8:30AM  
Friday: 8:30AM

### Weekend Mass

Saturday: 4:00PM  
Sunday: 8:30AM, 10:30AM

# SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

By Scott Hahn

Readings:

Habakkuk 1:2–3; 2:2–4

Psalm 95:1–2, 6–9

2 Timothy 1:6–8, 13–14

Luke 17:5–10

[Listen Here](#)



Because of his faith, the just man shall live. We hear in today's First Reading the original prophetic line made so central by St. Paul (see Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38).

We are to live by faith in Christ who loved us and gave Himself on the Cross for us (see Galatians 2:20).

The world, though, can seem to us as seventh-century Judah seemed to Habakkuk—in the control of God's enemies. The strife and discord we face in our own lives can sometimes cause us to wonder, as the prophet does, why God doesn't seem to hear or intervene when we cry for help.

We can't let our hearts be hardened by the trials we undergo. As today's Psalm reminds us: Israel forgot His mighty works, lost faith in the sound words of His promise. They tested God in the desert, demanding a sign.

But God didn't redeem Israel from Egypt only to let them die in the desert. And He didn't ransom us from futility only to abandon us in our trials. He is our God and we are the people He shepherds always—though at times His mercy and justice seem long delayed.

If we call on the Lord, as the Apostles do in today's Gospel, He will increase our faith, will stir to a flame the Holy Spirit who has dwelt within us since Baptism.

As Paul tells us in today's Epistle, the Lord will always give us the love and self-control we need to bear our share of hardship for the Gospel—with a strength that can come from God alone.

Our task is to continue doing what He has commanded—to love and to build up His kingdom—trusting that His vision still presses on to its fulfillment.

For His vision still has its time. One day, though we are but "unprofitable servants," we will be invited to eat and drink at our Master's table. It is that day we anticipate with each celebration of the Eucharist.

"The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' And the Lord said, "If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this sycamine tree, 'Be rooted up, and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

LUKE 17:5-6

# The Gospel at Home

## TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

### Gospel Reading

Luke 17:5-10

Jesus teaches the apostles the importance of faith and service to God.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

In today's Gospel we hear Jesus teach about faith and service to God. The context is a continuing dialogue between Jesus and his followers about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Jesus has just finished an instruction on sin and forgiveness. There are two related teachings that Jesus offers to his disciples when they cry out for an increase in faith. The first is the familiar reminder that faith, even just a little, will enable the followers of Jesus to do wondrous things. But this uplifting and inspiring teaching is quickly followed by the second teaching, a caution about knowing one's place in God's plans. The disciples of Jesus are to understand themselves as servants to God and his plans. Even when God works wonders through us, with our mustard seed-sized faith, we must not seek praise. Our participation in God's plans is God's grace to us—nothing more, nothing less. When we are graced enough to cooperate with God, the work we do is nothing more than our obligation to God as faithful stewards. And yet, our faith enables us to believe that what we have offered in service to God, as his servants, can be made to produce a hundredfold.

### Family Connection

There is much in today's Gospel that resonates in family life. In our daily attempts as parents to live up to the confidence and trust that our children place in us, we come to know the wonders that God can do with just a little faith. In family life we also learn about obligations that are their own rewards. The daily tasks that family members do for one another and for the household are simply the manifestations of our responsibilities to one another.

Take a turn with each member of the family and identify some of the little things that each family member does that make a big difference in your family life.

Read today's Gospel, Luke 17:5-10. Talk about how each person is called upon by God to believe that God can work miracles in our lives, that God can use us to make a difference in our world.

Together as a family, pray Saint Ignatius of Loyola's Prayer of Generosity. Ask that God will work through your family to make a difference in the lives of those around you.

"So you also, when you have done all that is commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.' "

LUKE 17:10

# Did You Know?

The Sacraments are not merely symbolic. They are much more! They are visible signs of an invisible reality.



Marie Cirenza has Master's degree in Theology from the Franciscan University of Steubenville and a Bachelor's in Psychology from Aquinas College. She has taught the 8th grade Confirmation prep classes at St. Jude and is member of the RCIA team.



Have any of the sacraments had a profound impact on your life? We're looking for anyone who may be interested in sharing their experiences with the transformational power of God's Graces received through the Sacraments. Please contact Marie if you'd like to give your testimony at one of these classes!

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions."(CCC 1131)

"Sacraments are 'powers that comes forth' from the Body of Christ, which is ever-living and life-giving. They are actions of the Holy Spirit at work in his Body, the Church. They are 'the masterworks of God' in the new and everlasting covenant."(CCC 1116)

In short, the Sacraments are much more than you may have realized! They're not just symbols. They're an outpouring of God's Graces that help to strengthen us in our faith. We receive the transformative power of our Creator given as a gift. But like any present, those graces need to be received *and* "opened."

How well do you know the Sacraments? [Take this quiz](#) and find out!

If you'd like to dig deeper, Marie Cirenza will be leading a series of presentations in the Brophy Center on **Thursdays from 7:00-8:30pm, starting October 27.**

Presentations will be as follows:

- Baptism (1 class)
- Confirmation (1 class)
- Eucharist (2 classes)
- Reconciliation (2 classes)
- Anointing of the Sick (1 class)
- Marriage (2 classes)
- Holy Orders (1 class)



**For more information, contact Marie at [mariecirenza@yahoo.com](mailto:mariecirenza@yahoo.com).**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Opportunities to Grow in Faith

### **Sunday, October 2:**

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

5:15pm - Blessing of Pets at Millennium Entrance

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

### **Monday, October 3:**

7:00pm - Women's Bible Study in the Thaddeus Center

### **Tuesday, October 4:**

7:00pm - Men of Emmaus 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!

7:30pm - Book Club in the Thaddeus Center - Reading "Orthodoxy" by G.K. Chesterton. Contact Anne Tawney (annettawney@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Wednesday, October 5:**

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

7:00pm - AA Support Group in the Thaddeus Center

"Jesus replied,  
'The first is  
this: 'Hear, O  
Israel! The Lord  
our God is Lord  
alone! You shall  
love the Lord  
your God with  
all your heart,  
with all your  
soul, with all  
your mind, and  
with all your  
strength.'"

MARK 12:29-30

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