



# faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 4 // OCT. 6, 2022

28th  
Sunday in  
Ordinary Time

## *In the Beginning...*

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I was astonished to see some of the numbers in a recent EWTN News/RealClear Opinion Research poll. Particularly surprising was that only half of Catholics believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

This lack of understanding is indicative of a number of things: lack of formative catechesis, lack of continuing catechesis, lack of interest, lack of participation. I used the word "lack" a lot there. Where something good is "lacking" evil tries to fill the space. One of Satan's goals is to pull as many people away from God as possible. Convince people that the Eucharist is symbolic and it's much easier to convince them to stop going to Mass.

Let's all take some time to pray and study on this. Lord, increase our faith! Scripture abounds with Eucharistic foreshadowing in the Old Testament. In John 6, Jesus clearly spells out the literal nature of what would become the Eucharist. The New "Testament" is the New Covenant which Jesus explains at the Last Supper when He institutes the Eucharist. The language is not symbolic. Justin the Martyr's First Apology reaffirms the early Church's belief in the Eucharist. A purely symbolic view of the Eucharist did not take hold until after Protestantism became a thing in the 1500s.

We will begin a series on the [Sacraments on October 27](#). I highly encourage all of you to attend. What a gift we have received from God in the Eucharist!

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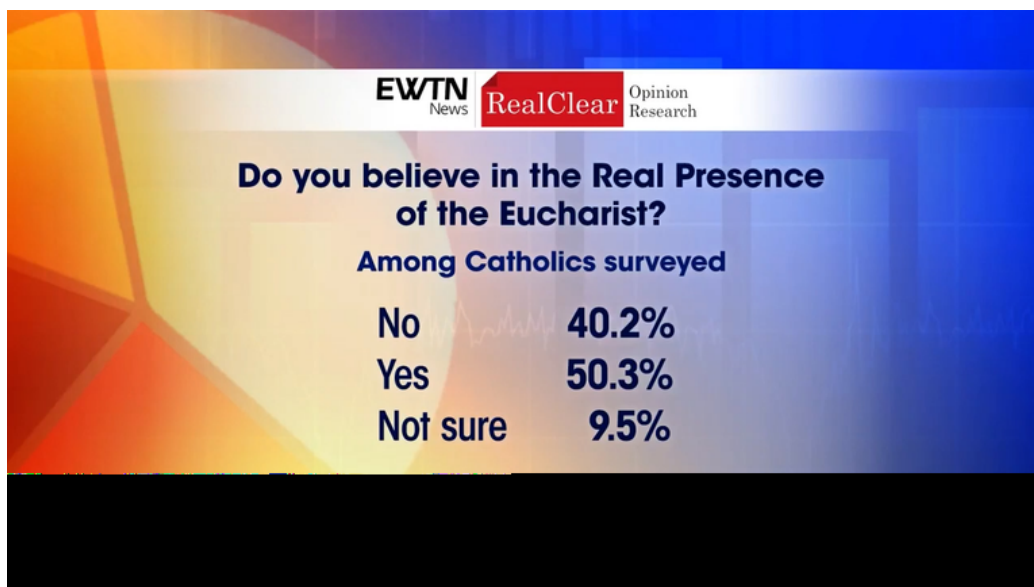
Saturday: 2:00 - 3:30PM  
Also, by appointment

### 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:

2 Kings 5:14–17  
Psalm 98:1–4  
2 Timothy 2:8–13  
Luke 17:11–19

[Listen Here](#)



A foreign leper is cleansed and in thanksgiving returns to offer homage to the God of Israel. We hear this same story in both the First Reading and Gospel today.

There were many lepers in Israel in Elisha's time, but only Naaman the Syrian trusted in God's Word and was cleansed (see Luke 5:12–14). Today's Gospel likewise implies that most of the ten lepers healed by Jesus were Israelites—but only a foreigner, the Samaritan, returned.

In a dramatic way, we're being shown today how faith has been made the way to salvation, the road by which all nations will join themselves to the Lord, becoming His servants, gathered with the Israelites into one chosen people of God, the Church (see Isaiah 56:3–8).

Today's Psalm also looks forward to the day when all peoples will see what Naaman sees—that there is no God in all the earth except the God of Israel.

We see this day arriving in today's Gospel. The Samaritan leper is the only person in the New Testament who personally thanks Jesus. The Greek word used to describe his “giving thanks” is the word we translate as “Eucharist.”

And these lepers today reveal to us the inner dimensions of the Eucharist and sacramental life.

We, too have been healed by our faith in Jesus. As Naaman's flesh is made again like that of a little child, our souls have been cleansed of sin in the waters of Baptism. We experience this cleansing again and again in the Sacrament of Penance—as we repent our sins, beg and receive mercy from our Master, Jesus.

We return to glorify God in each Mass, to offer ourselves in sacrifice—falling on our knees before our Lord, giving thanks for our salvation.

In this Eucharist, we remember “Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David,” Israel's covenant king. And we pray, as Paul does in today's Epistle, to persevere in this faith—that we too may live and reign with Him in eternal glory.

"Jesus said in reply, 'Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?' Then he said to him, 'Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.'"

LUKE 17:17-19

# The Gospel at Home

## TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

### Gospel Reading

Luke 17:11-19

Jesus heals 10 lepers, and one, the Samaritan, returns to give thanks.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

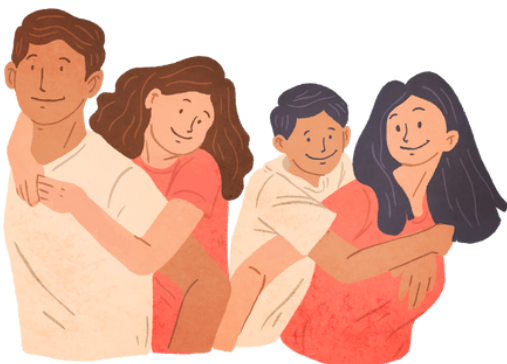
Today we hear about how Jesus, continuing on his journey to Jerusalem, heals 10 lepers. This story is a lesson about faith and reminds us that faith is sometimes found in unlikely places. Ten people afflicted with leprosy cry out to Jesus. Struck with pity, Jesus heals all 10. However, only one is described as glorifying God and returning to thank Jesus. The one who returns is a Samaritan, a foreigner. In the Jewish circles in which Jesus lived, Samaritans were looked down upon because of the differences between the two communities in their observance of Judaism. It is significant, therefore, that Jesus commends the Samaritan for his faith, which has been his salvation. Throughout Luke's Gospel, faith is found in surprising places.

Another lesson for us in this Gospel has to do with salvation. All 10 of the lepers were given the gift of healing, but in his gratitude to God for this gift, the Samaritan found salvation. Our salvation is found in recognizing the gifts we have been given and knowing to whom we must offer our thanks.

### Family Connection

Children fluctuate between moments of deep, heartfelt gratitude and an attitude of entitlement. These fluctuations are normal. Among our tasks as parents is to help foster the gift of gratitude, particularly gratitude to God for all God's goodness to us.

Read today's Gospel, Luke 17:11-19. Make a poster showing some of the gifts from God to your family. Display this poster in a prominent place and, as a family, write a prayer of thanksgiving for all of God's goodness to you.



"And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan."

LUKE 17:15-16

# Did You Know?

Attending Mass weekly is one of the "precepts of the Church."

## The five Precepts of the Church:

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

The Church has five "precepts" that outline the absolute minimum that is required for a Catholic to be considered in full communion with the Church. Through these actions, the Church is guiding us to participate more fully in the sanctifying graces that God gives through His Church.

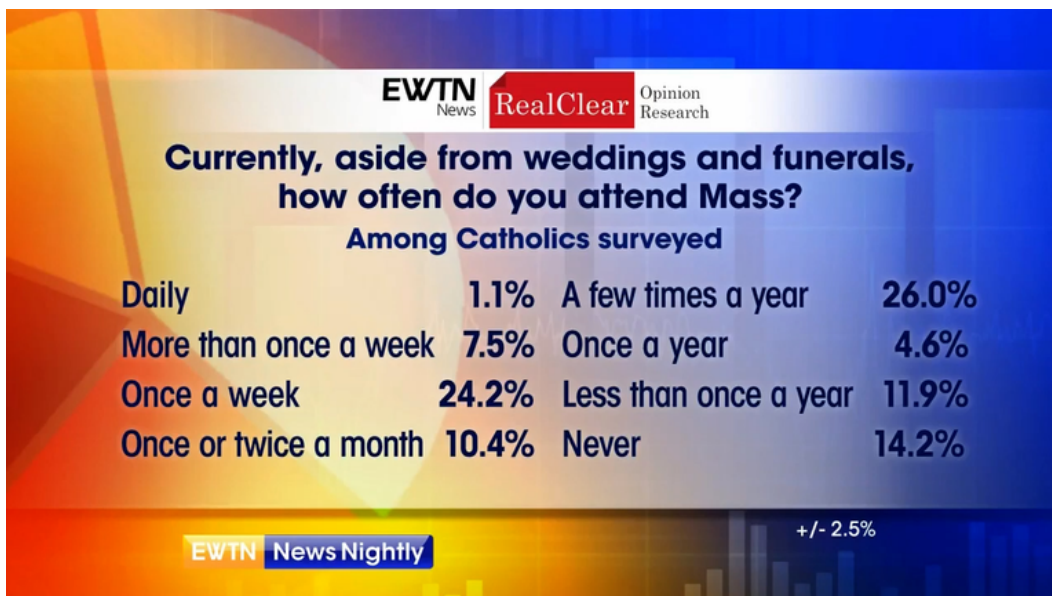
A recent EWTN News/RealClear Opinion Research poll shows that only about a third of Catholics are attending Mass at least weekly. It also shows that more than a quarter of Catholics are attending Mass less than once a year or never at all. These are astonishing numbers.

If we only knew and understood what was happening at Mass, nothing could keep us away. Throughout the week, our time is consumed by worldly things. Surely, we can make room for God for one hour on the weekend. There may be valid reasons for missing Mass (illness or a job that you need which does not give you time off). But more often, we miss Mass due to excuses, lack of motivation, ignorance, misaligned priorities or general laziness (been there!).

One of the great things about the Catholic Church is her universality. We have lots of churches to choose from! If you have a scheduling conflict at your home parish, you can attend Mass at another parish. You can attend Mass on Saturday night, Sunday morning or Sunday afternoon.

Check out [masstimes.org](http://masstimes.org) if you're ever in a pinch. It's also a great tool to use for finding a Mass when you're traveling (because traveling is not a valid excuse for missing Mass).

[MassTimes.org](http://MassTimes.org) will help you find a Mass wherever you are!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Opportunities to Grow in Faith

### **Sunday, October 9:**

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

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

### **Monday, October 10:**

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

### **Tuesday, October 11:**

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 12:**

8:30am - Senior Men's Group in the Thaddeus Center. Do you like to play cards? We are a group of senior men who play cards at St. Jude in the Thaddeus Center. We meet every Wednesday at 8:30am. If you are interested or have any questions, call Denny Biggins at 616-365-1371

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

**URGENT NEED:** The Funeral Lunch Committee is looking for a new leader(s) for this ministry. The people who have been doing it for years are unable to continue because of some medical issues. It would be a shame if St. Jude is unable to offer luncheons to the families who are grieving their loved ones. **Please prayerfully consider this ministry.** Contact Linda Parks for more information (616-363-6885 or lparks@stjudes.net).

"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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