



# faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 6 // OCT. 20, 2022

30th  
Sunday in  
Ordinary Time

## *In the Beginning...*

*Martin Smith, Director of Religious Education*  
[msmith@stjudes.net](mailto:msmith@stjudes.net) | 616-364-7488

St. Jude's feast day is October 28. I spent some time with him this morning mainly so I could get some photos of our shrine for this newsletter. But he made me realize something. I tend to ignore him and all the other Saints. I tried to explain to him all of the baggage I had, how I was brought up thinking that talking to Saints was idolatrous. Intellectually and Scripturally it makes sense to me now. But old habits are hard to break. And conversion is a lifelong process.

One thing I've learned about conversion is that we can't will it to happen on our own accord. We must be open to it and willing to accept God's call. And sometimes God uses messengers to deliver his call: Angels, Mary, the other Saints and even other people in our daily lives.

What we can will on our own accord is prayer and education. Both of these help us on our conversion journey. Here at St. Jude we'll be having plenty of opportunities to learn about the faith. Starting October 27, Marie Cirenza will be leading a series of presentations about the Sacraments. Please attend as many of these as you can. You'll be amazed at what you learn as an adult vs what you thought you learned as a child.

Pray. Last week I talked about praying ceaselessly. I want to reiterate that, if only as a reminder to myself. Try spending some time with a Saint or two, especially if you never do. Even a few short minutes might reveal something to you.

As I stood behind the statue of St. Jude for a moment to grab a photo, I thought I might have just seen things like he does. There's the light of God shining upon him, granting him the graces and power to help us out. But where are we? The room was dark and the hallway was empty. He's there waiting to help. Why don't we ask more often?



### IN THIS ISSUE

[In the Beginning...](#)

[Special  
Announcement](#)

[Sunday Gospel  
Reflection by Scott  
Hahn](#)

[The Gospel at Home](#)

[Did You Know?](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

### Confession

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

# SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Attention parents of children who are preparing to receive **first communion and first reconciliation** in the spring:

We would like to have a brief meeting on **Thursday, October 27 at 6:45pm** in the Brophy Center. We also invite you to stay for the presentation on the Sacraments that begins at 7:00pm.

Additionally, please plan to attend the following presentations at 7:00pm in the Brophy Center. You are welcome to attend all of the presentations, but we ask that you attend these four specifically in preparation for your child's special day.

Dec 8: Eucharist Part 1

Dec 15: Eucharist Part 2

Jan 5: Reconciliation Part 1

Jan 12: Reconciliation Part 2

*We understand this is short notice for the initial meeting. If you are NOT able to attend the October 27 meeting, please let us know:*

Martin Smith [msmith@stjudes.net](mailto:msmith@stjudes.net)

Janet DeBoe [jdeboe@stjudes.net](mailto:jdeboe@stjudes.net)



## The Sacraments

*With Marie Cirenza*

Thursday Evenings | 7:00 PM Brophy Center



Have you ever wondered what the sacraments are about and why we have them? Do you know the basics about the sacraments and would like to know more? Come join us starting October 27, to discover why the sacraments are an essential part of the Catholic faith!

Oct 27: Introduction to the Sacraments

Nov 3: Baptism

Nov 10: Confirmation

Dec 1: Testimony

Dec 8: Eucharist Part 1

Dec 15: Eucharist Part 2

Dec 22: Eucharistic Adoration

Jan 5: Reconciliation Part 1

Jan 12: Reconciliation Part 2

Jan 19: Penance Service

Jan 26: Anointing of the Sick

Feb 2: Testimony

Feb 9: Marriage Part 1

Feb 16: Marriage Part 2

Feb 23: Testimony

Mar 2: Holy Orders

Mar 9: Testimony

### SAINT JUDE SACRAMENT NEWS ATTENTION

Children preparing to receive  
**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION  
& FIRST RECONCILIATION**  
in Spring 2023



There will be a  
Parent meeting  
Thursday  
October 27, 2022  
6:45 pm

please let us know if you will not be able to attend

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

# SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

By Scott Hahn

Readings:

Sirach 35:12–14, 16–18  
Psalm 34:2–3, 17–19, 23  
2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18  
Luke 18:9–14

[LISTEN HERE](#)



Jesus draws a blunt picture in today's Gospel.

The Pharisee's prayer is almost a parody of the thanksgiving psalms (see for example Psalms 30, 118). Instead of praising God for His mighty works, the Pharisee congratulates himself for his own deeds, which he presents to God in some detail.

The tax collector stands at a distance, too ashamed even to raise his eyes to God (see Ezra 9:6). He prays with a humble and contrite heart (see Psalm 51:19). He knows that before God no one is righteous, no one has cause to boast (see Roman 3:10; 4:2).

We see in the Liturgy today one of Scripture's abiding themes: that God "knows no favorites," as today's First Reading tells us (see 2 Chronicles 19:7; Acts 10:34–35; Romans 2:11).

God cannot be bribed (see Deuteronomy 10:17). We cannot curry favor with Him or impress Him—even with our good deeds or our faithful observance of religious duties such as tithing and fasting.

If we try to exalt ourselves before the Lord, as the Pharisee does, we will be brought low (see Luke 1:52).

This should be a warning to us—not to take pride in our piety, not to slip into the self-righteousness of thinking that we're better than others, that we're "not like the rest of sinful humanity."

If we clothe ourselves with humility (see 1 Peter 5:5–6), if we recognize that all of us are sinners in need of His mercy, we will be exalted (see Proverbs 29:33).

The prayer of the lowly, the humble, pierces the clouds. Paul testifies to this in today's Epistle as He thanks the Lord for giving him strength during his imprisonment.

Paul tells us what the Psalmist sings today—that the Lord redeems the lives of His humble servants.

We too must serve Him willingly. And He will hear us in our distress, deliver us from evil, and bring us safely to His heavenly kingdom.

"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.'

LUKE 18:10-12

# The Gospel at Home

## THIRTIETH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

### Gospel Reading

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus tells the parable of the proud Pharisee who prayed from his self-importance and the tax collector who prayed humbly.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

The second parable that Jesus tells in Luke 18 addresses attitude in prayer. In contrasting the prayer of the Pharisee with the prayer of the tax collector, Jesus teaches his disciples to pray in humility before God. Jesus again surprises his listeners by showing the tax collector as the example of faith, rather than the Pharisee. Remember that Pharisees were members of a sect of Judaism active in Jesus' time. They taught an oral interpretation of the Law of Moses as the basis for Jewish piety. If anyone would be a model for prayer, a Pharisee was a likely candidate. In contrast, Jesus offers the tax collector as a model for prayer. Tax collectors were collaborators with the Roman authorities in a system that allowed the tax collectors to line their own pockets by charging in excess of the defined taxes. Yet, in this parable, Jesus offers the humility of the tax collector as a model for the prayer of a disciple. The parable reminds us that when we pray, we must remember our need for God in our lives. If we are too full of ourselves, there is too little room for God's grace to work in us.

### Family Connection

In the family, one sometimes observes a level of competition between children for parent attention, for acknowledgement of their abilities. Somehow, children seem to internalize that the attention given to one member of the family diminishes the attention given to another. In this way, children can often sound like the Pharisee in Jesus' parable. Parents who provide continual reminders to their children that they are loved for who they are, not for what they do, help children develop a healthy spirituality.

As a family, talk about what it means to compare oneself to another. Discuss whether it is helpful to compare oneself to another. In what ways might this be positive? (when it motivates one to use one's talents) In what circumstances might this be unhelpful? (when it proves discouraging, when it prevents one from valuing the abilities of another)

As a family, read today's Gospel, Luke 18:9-14. Discuss: What was wrong about the prayer of the Pharisee? How can we emulate the prayer of the tax collector?

Pray together as a family in thanksgiving for the blessing that is each member of your family. Pray that your family will be free from unhealthy competition. Pray in thanksgiving that God's love for us is unconditional.

"But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

LUKE 18:13-14

# Did You Know?

October 28  
is St. Jude's  
Feast Day!



St. Jude is the Patron Saint of Hope and impossible causes and one of Jesus' original twelve Apostles. The Gospel tells us that St. Jude was a brother of St. James the Less, also one of the Apostles. They are described in the Gospel of Matthew as the "brethren" of Jesus, probably cousins.

St. Jude is traditionally depicted carrying the image of Jesus in his hand. This recalls one of his miracles during his work spreading the Word of God. King Abagar of Edessa asked Jesus to cure him of leprosy and sent an artist to bring him a drawing of Jesus. Impressed with Abagar's great faith, Jesus pressed His face on a cloth, leaving the image of His face on it. He gave the cloth to St. Jude, who took the image to Abagar and cured him.

After the death and resurrection of Jesus, St. Jude traveled throughout Mesopotamia, Libya, and Persia with St. Simon preaching and building up the foundations of the early Church. St. Jude died a martyr's death for his unwavering faith. His body was later brought to Rome and placed in a crypt under St. Peter's Basilica.

.....

Did you know there's a St. Jude Chaplet? It is prayed on a nine bead chaplet. Here's how:

**Introductory prayer on the Medal:**

St. Jude, glorious apostle, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the true Church invokes you universally as the patron of things despaired of; pray for me, that finally I may receive the consolations and the succor of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings, particularly (mention your request), and that I may bless God with the elect throughout eternity. Amen.

**On each bead pray one Hail Mary and the following:**

St. Jude, apostle, martyr and relative of Our Lord Jesus Christ, of Mary and Joseph, intercede for us.

**Concluding prayer on the Crucifix:**

O Holy St. Jude, apostle and martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsmen of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to who God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. St. Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid.

Amen.

Source: [MarianGraces.com](http://MarianGraces.com)



The St. Jude Chaplet

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Opportunities to Grow in Faith

### **Sunday, October 23:**

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

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

### **Monday, October 24:**

6:30pm - Living Your Strengths in the Brophy Center

6:30pm - Fr. Danny Orris Theology Series **at Our Lady of Consolation - Rockford**. A Walk Through the Mass as a Eucharistic Sacrifice. Part 4: The Liturgy of the Eucharist and the Offertory to the End of the Eucharistic Prayer.

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

### **Tuesday, October 25:**

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 for more information at [annettawney@gmail.com](mailto:annettawney@gmail.com).

### **Wednesday, October 26:**

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

### **Thursday, October 27:**

6:45pm - First meeting for parents of children who are preparing to receive first communion and first reconciliation in the spring. We'd like to meet in the Brophy Center and then stay for the Sacraments presentation. See the [Special Announcement](#) page in case you skipped over it!

7:00pm - The Sacraments with Marie Cirenza. Join us in the Brophy Center to re-discover the Sacraments. They're not just symbols; they're something much more!

"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

### **Confession**

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