



# faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 7 // OCT. 26, 2022

31st  
Sunday in  
Ordinary Time

## *In the Beginning...*

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The Church considers the Eucharist to be the “source and summit” of Christian life (CCC 1324–1327). Recent polling has shown that half of Catholics think the Eucharist is only a symbol, only about a third of Catholics understand the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and only about a quarter of Catholics attend Mass every Sunday. In response to these realities, the U.S. bishops have launched a Eucharistic Revival in hopes of shedding light on the Divine Truth of the Eucharist.

At first glance, this is a difficult teaching. And so it was for the disciples. See John 6, for example. Specifically, John 6:66 is an interesting verse. Just as the disciples left Jesus because of His teaching, so do many Catholics and non-Catholics reject the same teaching today. But why? We accept more difficult truths. We believe God created something (the universe) from nothing. That's harder to wrap your head around. We even accept some "truths" that aren't even true. That's a topic for another time.

The Bible shows God spoke the universe into being. In a similar way, Jesus speaks Himself into being present in the Eucharist. The priest, acting in persona Christi, repeats the same words Jesus spoke, with authority given by Jesus through the apostles, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, makes true what is said.

It's not just a symbol. It's Jesus: body, blood, soul and divinity. It's still difficult to believe isn't it? Let's commit ourselves to journey with our bishops on this three year sojourn known as the Eucharistic Revival. Let's see if we can increase our faith, deepen our understanding and accept our Lord's words as truth. Part of this commitment could be allowing ourselves to be open to learning more by attending presentations, Bible studies, seminars and faith based activities, some of which you can find in this newsletter.

Hopefully, in time, we'll be able to profess with confidence like Thomas, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28)

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### 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

# FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & RECONCILIATION PREP

We are looking forward to seeing parents of children who are preparing for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Reconciliation at our 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.

There will be several opportunities to rediscover the Sacraments. One thing I've learned by teaching RCIA for the last 8 years is that there's always something new to learn about our faith. It's so rich and deep, we can never know it all.

## The Sacraments

Marie Cirenza will be doing a series of presentations on the Sacraments. Here are some select dates we'd recommend. Please note that these dates may change a bit. We'll provide any updates as they occur.

Dec 8: Eucharist Part 1

Dec 15: Eucharist Part 2

Jan 5: Reconciliation Part 1

Jan 12: Reconciliation Part 2

## Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist

Tom Carpenter will be doing a 4 week series on "Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist." This series begins on November 9 and concludes on November 30. Please join us in the Brophy Center as we dig deeper into the reality of Jesus in the Eucharist, not as a symbol, but as a reality.

## Formed.org

Please sign up for Formed if you haven't already. Some very generous donors from our parish have paid for your subscription. So it's FREE for you. Formed has movies, audiobooks, Bible studies and more! It's a great resource for the domestic church.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute" (CCC 2221).

Although the parish helps to form our children in the faith, no one can take the place of the parents' role in forming holy individuals. As parents, we should be well equipped to answer questions and to act, not only as the first teachers, but as the first witnesses of faith. This page is intended to help you in the journey as we work together to prepare your children for this special moment in their lives!



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# SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

By Scott Hahn

Readings:

Wisdom 11:22–12:2

Psalm 145:1–2, 8–11, 13–14

2 Thessalonians 1:11–2:2

Luke 19:1–10

[LISTEN HERE](#)



Our Lord is a lover of souls, the Liturgy shows us today. As we sing in today's Psalm, He is slow to anger and compassionate toward all that He has made.

In His mercy, our First Reading tells us, He overlooks our sins and ignorance, giving us space that we might repent and not perish in our sinfulness (see Wisdom 12:10; 2 Peter 3:9).

In Jesus, He has become the Savior of His children, coming Himself to save the lost (see Isaiah 63:8–9; Ezekiel 34:16).

In the figure of Zacchaeus in today's Gospel, we have a portrait of a lost soul. He is a tax collector, by profession a “sinner” excluded from Israel's religious life. Not only that, he is a “chief tax collector.” Worse still, he is a rich man who has apparently gained his living by fraud.

But Zacchaeus' faith brings salvation to his house. He expresses his faith in his fervent desire to “see” Jesus, even humbling himself to climb a tree just to watch Him pass by. While those of loftier religious stature react to Jesus with grumbling, Zacchaeus receives Him with joy.

Zacchaeus is not like the other rich men Jesus meets or tells stories about (see Luke 12:16–21; 16:19–31; 18:18–25). He repents, vowing to pay restitution to those he has cheated and to give half of his money to the poor.

By his humility he is exalted, made worthy to welcome the Lord into his house. By his faith, he is justified, made a descendant of Abraham (see Romans 4:16–17).

As He did last week, Jesus is again using a tax collector to show us the faith and humility we need to obtain salvation.

We are also called to seek Jesus daily with repentant hearts. And we should make Paul's prayer in today's Epistle our own: that God might make us worthy of His calling, that by our lives we might give glory to the name of Jesus.

“And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today.”

LUKE 19:2-5

# The Gospel at Home

## THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

### Gospel Reading

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus stays at the house of Zacchaeus, the tax collector.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

In Jesus' day, tax collectors were not popular people. They were collaborators with the Romans and were despised by many Jewish people. The tax system allowed them to charge more than what was required so that they could make a profit for themselves. Thus, they were considered sinners by their countrymen. Observers in the crowd that day grumble because Jesus dines with a sinner. Throughout Scripture, Jesus' choice of dinner companions set him apart from other observant Jews of his time. In first century Jewish culture, to dine together was to show a bond of fellowship and peace among those at the table. Observant Jews did not generally dine with foreigners and sinners. Yet, Jesus chooses to honor the tax collector, Zacchaeus, by staying at his house.

Even before Jesus comes to his home, Zacchaeus shows himself to be someone in search of salvation. Zacchaeus, described as short in stature, climbs a tree in order to see Jesus. We know from Luke's description that Zacchaeus was no ordinary tax collector; he was, in fact, the chief tax collector and a person of some wealth. In his search for salvation, he humbled himself by making a spectacle of himself by climbing a tree.

Jesus recognizes the faith of this tax collector exhibited in his search for salvation and calls him down from the tree. In the hospitality he extends to Jesus and in his conversion of heart, Zacchaeus is raised up by Jesus as a model of salvation.

### Family Connection

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus as a guest in the house of Zacchaeus. Talk about the various ways in which your family prepares when guests are expected in your home. Then read today's Gospel, Luke 19:1-10. Observe that Zacchaeus had not prepared to be Jesus' host that day. And yet, he welcomed Jesus better than anyone else because of his change of heart.

Discuss how your family might receive Jesus in your home and how you receive Jesus in the guests that you make welcome in your home. Pray together that your family will welcome guests into your home as you would welcome Jesus.

"And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

LUKE 19:7-10



# Did You Know?

## Halloween has Catholic origins?

These three days are collectively known as the Triduum of Hallowtide:

October 31

All Hallows' Eve  
The origin of "Halloween"

November 1

All Saints' Day  
**Holy Day of Obligation**  
Please attend Mass!

November 2

All Souls' Day



### The Catholic roots of Halloween, the Vigil of All Saints' Day

*By Christopher Wells*

While some people have connected Halloween to earlier pagan celebrations of the new year, Halloween actually has significant Catholic roots. The name itself comes from All Hallows' Eve – that is, the Vigil of All Saints' Day, when Catholics remember those who have gone before us to enter our heavenly home. Immediately afterwards, on November 2, the Church commemorates all the faithful departed still detained in Purgatory, and prays in suffrage for them.

The memory of those who have gone before us naturally leads to thoughts of mortality, and the liturgical focus on the end times during this period of the Church year adds to the atmosphere of gloom.

In a “Memorandum on the Celebration of Halloween” issued last year for his Diocese, Bishop David Konderla of Tulsa, Oklahoma, stresses the importance of “maintaining the Catholic meaning and purpose of all holy days, especially those which have been adopted and adapted by the culture around us”. He explains the how customs such as dressing up for Halloween and appealing to frightful imagery can be done in a Catholic spirit, while warning that “we want to intentionally avoid those things that are contrary to our Catholic faith, but have become popularized through the secular adaptation of Halloween”.

Vatican News spoke with Dr Marcel Brown, of the Alcuin Institute for Catholic Culture in Tulsa, about the Catholic roots of Halloween. “The feast of Halloween is one of those feasts on the Catholic calendar that is celebrated on the eve of a great solemnity”, he said.

Dr Brown explained that the word Halloween refers to the Feast of All Saints. The word itself is taken an older English term, “hallows,” meaning “holy”; and “e’en”, a truncation of the word evening, in reference to the Vigil of the feast. “So really, Halloween is the feast of the celebration of the feast of All Hallows”, he said. “So it’s a day when Catholics celebrate the triumph of the Church in heaven, and the lives of the saints on earth”.

The modern focus on the eerie or mysterious also has a Catholic aspect. “When we think of Halloween, I think we often think of ghosts and goblins, and ghoulish faces”, Dr Brown said. “But even these, in the Catholic tradition, are supposed to be reminders of death and of the last things”.

[Read more at Vatican.va](http://Vatican.va)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Opportunities to Grow in Faith

### **Sunday, October 30:**

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

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

### **Monday, October 31:**

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

### **Tuesday, November 1 :**

**Holy Day of Obligation - Go to Mass!**

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, November 2:**

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

### **Thursday, November 3:**

6:30pm - Eucharistic Adoration & Music in the church. Join us for a night of Adoration and music in church! Everyone is invited to adore Jesus in the Eucharist along with music by the JMJ Band. Wiggly children and angsty teens encouraged! Find out more at [www.stjudes.net/allarewelcome](http://www.stjudes.net/allarewelcome).

### **Friday, November 4:**

Calling all 9th-12th graders! The HS Antioch Retreat is a great weekend of meeting new people, having a lot of fun (no, really), and most importantly growing in your faith. The #1 thing teens comment on at the end of the retreat is how incredibly welcoming it is! This year's date is November 4-6. Find out more info at [www.stjudes.net/antiochretreat](http://www.stjudes.net/antiochretreat).

"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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