



faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 8 // NOV. 3, 2022

32nd
Sunday in
Ordinary Time

In the Beginning...

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We have a lot of great events coming up at St. Jude. I thought it might be worth highlighting some of them here. As members of the body of Christ, we are a community. The body functions best when its components are active, involved and working together.

On Sunday, November 6, **Bishop David Walkowiak will install Fr. Ayub as the pastor of St. Jude Parish** at the 10:30am Mass. A reception will follow in the Brophy Center. All are welcome. We have been blessed by the appointment of Fr. Ayub to our parish. Let's have a great turnout for this. I hope to see you there!

Starting on November 9 at 7pm, Tom Carpenter will present "**Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist**" in the Brophy Center. I've previewed the first episode and it is outstanding. Please do what you can to attend. The series concludes on November 30.

Marie Cirenza continues her presentations on **The Sacraments** on Thursday evenings at 7pm. This coming Thursday, November 10, she will be talking about Confirmation. It's not a "graduation" or a "rite of passage". It's something much more!

Looking ahead for Advent, I will be hosting a Formed.org based Bible study on the **Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary**. It will be a 5 week program on Monday nights at 8pm beginning November 28. The series concludes on December 26.

Also for Advent, I will be giving a one night presentation entitled: "**Keep Mass in Christmas: Eucharistic Foreshadowing and the Infancy Narratives.**" It's common to hear the phrase "Keep Christ in Christmas" but how often have you heard "Keep Mass in Christmas"? I'll explore why the Mass is an essential part of Christmas. I highly recommend attending the "Presence" series above before this presentation. The date on this TBD.

Life gets busy, especially if you have children. But please do what you can to make time for your spiritual life. Our calendars are usually filled with temporal things, things that will pass away. At least mine is. Why not make some room for things that may have a lasting impact on our eternal lives?

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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

Now that you've signed up for your FREE Formed.org account, check out the first episode of "You Are Loved." It's a quick, child-friendly introduction to Holy Communion with Matt Fradd and his daughter Avila.

[You Are Loved: Episode 1](#)

(It's only 3 minutes long!)

If you haven't signed up for Formed.org yet, see below for instructions.



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.

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

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:

2 Maccabees 7:1–2, 9–14

Psalm 17:1, 5–6, 8, 15

2 Thessalonians 2:16–3:5

Luke 20:27–38

[LISTEN HERE](#)



With their riddle about seven brothers and a childless widow, the Sadducees in today's Gospel mock the faith for which seven brothers and their mother die in the First Reading.

The Maccabean martyrs chose death—tortured limb by limb, burned alive—rather than betray God's Law. Their story is given to us in these last weeks of the Church year to strengthen us for endurance—that our feet not falter but remain steadfast on His paths.

The Maccabeans died hoping that the “King of the World” would raise them to live again forever (see 2 Maccabees 14:46).

The Sadducees don't believe in the Resurrection because they can't find it literally taught in the Scriptures. To ridicule this belief, they fix on a law that requires a woman to marry her husband's brother if he should die without leaving an heir (see Genesis 38:8; Deuteronomy 25:5).

But God's Law wasn't given to ensure the raising up of descendants to earthly fathers. The Law was given, as Jesus explains, to make us worthy to be “children of God”—sons and daughters born of His Resurrection.

“God our Father,” today's Epistle tells us, has given us “everlasting encouragement” in the Resurrection of Christ. Through His grace, we can now direct our hearts to the love of God.

As the Maccabeans suffered for the Old Law, we will have to suffer for our faith in the New Covenant. Yet, He will guard us in the shadow of His wing, He will keep us as the apple of His eye, as we sing in today's Psalm. The Maccabeans' persecutors marveled at their courage. We too can glorify the Lord in our sufferings and in the daily sacrifices we make.

And we have even greater cause for hope than they did. One who has risen from the dead has given us His word—that He is the God of the living, that when we awake from the sleep of death we will behold His face and be content in His presence (see Psalm 76:6; Daniel 12:2).

"There came to him some Sadducees, those who say that there is no resurrection, and they asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, having a wife but no children, the man must take the wife and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and died without children; and the second and the third took her, and likewise all seven left no children and died. Afterward the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife."

LUKE 20:27-33

The Gospel at Home

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Gospel Reading

Luke 20:27-38

Jesus answers a question from some Sadducees about the resurrection of the dead. (short form Luke 20:27, 34-38)

Background on the Gospel Reading

In today's Gospel, we hear about an encounter between Jesus and some Sadducees. The Sadducees were a party of Judaism active in Jesus' time, descended from the priestly family of Zadok. They were literal interpreters of the written Law of Moses, which means that they were in disagreement with the position of the Pharisees, who offered an oral interpretation of the Law of Moses.

The Sadducees are described in this Gospel as opponents to the belief in resurrection. In the dialogue presented here, we see an example of the means of disputation that was common in first century Judaism. The Sadducees use the example of Levirate marriage, found in the Law of Moses, to disprove belief in the resurrection. According to Deuteronomy 25:5-10, if a man died without producing an heir, the man's brother should marry his wife and the offspring of this union would inherit the property and carry on the name of the man who had died. The Sadducees use this as an example to challenge belief in the resurrection.

Jesus argues from the same written Law of Moses to show that there is resurrection. Using the texts from the Book of Exodus (Chapter 3) that describe Moses' encounter with God in the burning bush, Jesus shows that God is the God of the living, not the dead. Here Jesus uses the same method and texts of the Sadducees to counter them. As the Gospel text suggests, he beat them at their own game!

More importantly, in this discourse Jesus shows the limits of our imaginations when it comes to eternal life. The Sadducees argued against resurrection because of the limits of earthly existence. They did not imagine another possibility for existence and relationship with God. Jesus proposes that the possibilities of resurrected life are beyond our imaginations. Jesus' conclusion suggests something else as well: To spend time worrying about resurrected life is to miss the point. The point is eternal relationship with God is possible, for God is the God of the living, "... for to him all are alive."

Family Connection

Children in our culture often know very little about death, dying, and eternal life. Take this opportunity to talk with your children about their thoughts, beliefs, maybe even their fears, about death and dying.

In the Gospel this week, Jesus tells us that after we die, we will not need the same things we did when we were alive, but we will continue to have a relationship with God. You could use the example of a tree to help your children understand what Jesus tells us. When a tree is alive it needs water, soil, and sunlight. When the tree is used to make a table, a toy, or something else it has a new purpose. The tree no longer needs water, soil, or sunlight. Read together the short form of the Gospel, Luke 20:27, 34-38. Tell your children about your hope and faith in the resurrection of the body and eternal life with God. Pray together for those in your family who have died and conclude by praying today's Psalm.

"And Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are accounted worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, for they cannot die any more, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living; for all live to him."

LUKE 20:34-38

Did You Know?

Eucharistic Miracles are still happening!

The Eucharistic Miracle Of Buenos Aires, Argentina

An interesting aspect of this miracle was that it involved then Auxiliary Bishop Jorge M. Bergoglio (now known as Pope Francis) of the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The miracle took place in 1996 in the following way:

“At seven o’clock in the evening on August 18, 1996, Fr. Alejandro Pezet was saying Holy Mass at a Catholic church in the commercial center of Buenos Aires. As he was finishing distributing Holy Communion, a woman came up to tell him that she had found a discarded host on a candleholder at the back of the church. On going to the spot indicated, Fr. Alejandro saw the defiled Host. Since he was unable to consume it, he placed it in a container of water and put it away in the tabernacle of the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament. On Monday, August 26, upon opening the tabernacle, he saw to his amazement that the Host had turned into a bloody substance. He informed Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio (Auxiliary Bishop at that time), who gave instructions that the Host be professionally photographed. The photos were taken on September 6. They clearly show that the Host, which had become a fragment of bloodied flesh, had grown significantly in size. For several years the Host remained in the tabernacle, the whole affair being kept a strict secret. Since the Host suffered no visible decomposition, Cardinal Bergoglio decided to have it scientifically analyzed.

On October 5, 1999, in the presence of the Cardinal’s representatives, Dr. Castanon took a sample of the bloody fragment and sent it to New York for analysis. Since he did not wish to prejudice the study, he purposely did not inform the team of scientists of its provenance. One of these scientists was Dr. Frederic Zugiba [of Columbia University], the well-known cardiologist and forensic pathologist. He determined that the analyzed substance was real flesh and blood containing human DNA. Zugiba testified that, “the analyzed material is a fragment of the heart muscle found in the wall of the left ventricle close to the valves...The heart muscle is in an inflammatory condition and contains a large number of white blood cells. This indicates that the heart was alive at the time the sample was taken...since white blood cells die outside a living organism. They require a living organism to sustain them. Thus, their presence indicates that the heart was alive when the sample was taken. What is more, these white blood cells had penetrated the tissue, which further indicates that the heart had been under severe stress, as if the owner had been beaten severely about the chest.” [It was at this point that Dr. Zugiba informed the research team that police authorities should be notified because a violent crime had likely occurred. It is also worth noting that the sample’s condition is consistent with the effects of death by crucifixion].

Two Australians, journalist Mike Willesee and lawyer Ron Tesoriero, witnessed these tests. Knowing where the sample had come from, they were dumbfounded by Dr. Zugiba’s testimony. Mike Willesee asked the scientist how long the white blood cells would have remained alive if they had come from a piece of human tissue, which had been kept in water. They would have ceased to exist in a matter of minutes, Dr. Zugiba replied. The journalist then told the doctor that the source of the sample had first been kept in ordinary water for a month and then for another three years in a container of distilled water; only then had the sample been taken for analysis. Dr. Zugiba was at a loss to account for this fact. There was no way of explaining it scientifically, he stated. Only then did Mike Willesee inform Dr. Zugiba that the analyzed sample came from a consecrated Host (white, unleavened bread) that had mysteriously turned into bloody human flesh. Amazed by this information, Dr. Zugiba replied, “How and why a consecrated Host would change its character and become living human flesh and blood will remain an inexplicable mystery to science...” [Continue reading...](#)

[More on this story...](#)

The Church takes claims of Eucharistic miracles very seriously. They are thoroughly investigated in order to eliminate any natural explanations or fraud. Learn more about how the Church investigates such claims [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Sunday, November 6:

10:30am - Most Rev. Bishop David Walkowiak will install Fr. Ayub Francis Nasar as the pastor of St. Jude Parish. A reception will follow in the Brophy Center. All are welcome.

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

Monday, November 7:

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

Tuesday, November 8:

Election Day - As Catholics, we stand for life from the moment of conception to natural death. On November 8, Michigan voters will be voting on a proposal that is in direct opposition to this sacred truth. Vote NO on Proposal 3! Please educate yourselves on this proposal vis-à-vis Church teaching by going to the [diocesan website](#).

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.

Wednesday, November 9:

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 - "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.

"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

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Weekend Mass

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