



faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 9 // NOV. 10, 2022

33rd
Sunday in
Ordinary Time

In the Beginning...

Martin Smith, Director of Religious Education
msmith@stjudes.net | 616-364-7488

The Diocese of Grand Rapids' Office of Communications issues the following statement from Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak, bishop of Grand Rapids, following the approval of Proposal 3 by voters in Michigan:

"The passage of Proposal 3 in no way diminishes our commitment to pray for and support human life at all stages of existence. It is disheartening to see that society continues to promote abortion as the only option for women experiencing unintended or unplanned pregnancies. I call on our elected representatives to enact legislation that prioritizes the well-being and stability of families in our society. The United States Bishops have made [recommendations at the federal level](#) to make this type of society possible.

The Catholic Church remains committed to helping women and couples who are facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies because we firmly believe God has a plan and purpose for every human life. We will continue to accompany and care for women in need of emotional, spiritual, or material support and their child(ren), born and unborn.

For every woman who has had an abortion, know that God loves you. Help and healing are available to you through our [Project Rachel](#) ministry.

We are grateful to all those around our state who worked tirelessly in opposition to Proposal 3 praying fervently, sharing resources and having important conversations with friends, family and neighbors to help change hearts and minds."

Please see the ["Did You Know?"](#) page for more information.

IN THIS ISSUE

[In the Beginning...](#)

[First Holy Communion
& Reconciliation Prep](#)

[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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & RECONCILIATION PREP

This week Chris Stefanick shares with us the importance of being friends with Jesus. Check it out:

[You Are Loved: Episode 2](#)

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



Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist

November 9 was the first night of this presentation and it was amazing! Tom Carpenter will be continuing the series on "Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist" on Wednesday nights. It 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 continues her series on the Sacraments on Thursday nights. 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!



The best Catholic content. All in one place.

It's EASY and FREE to register!

1. Visit formed.org/signup
2. Enter our parish zip or name
3. Enter your name and email
4. Enjoy and share with others in our local community!

After you sign up, download the free FORMED app from App Store or Google Play.

Learn more at formed.org

FORMED® THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

By Scott Hahn

Readings:

[Malachi 3:19-20](#)

[Psalm 98:5-9](#)

[2 Thessalonians 3:7-12](#)

[Luke 21:5-19](#)

[LISTEN HERE](#)



It is the age between our Lord's first coming and His last. We live in the new world begun by His life, death, Resurrection, and Ascension, by the sending of His Spirit upon the Church. But we await the day when He will come again in glory.

“Lo, the day is coming,” Malachi warns in today's First Reading. The prophets taught Israel to look for the Day of the Lord, when He would gather the nations for judgment (see Zephaniah 3:8; Isaiah 3:9; 2 Peter 3:7).

Jesus anticipates this day in today's Gospel. He cautions us not to be deceived by those claiming “the time has come.” Such deception is the background also for today's Epistle (see 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3).

The signs Jesus gives His Apostles seem to already have come to pass in the New Testament. In Acts, the Epistles, and Revelation, we read of famines, earthquakes, and the Temple's desolation. We read of persecutions—believers imprisoned and put to death, testifying to their faith with wisdom in the Spirit.

These “signs,” then, show us the pattern for the Church's life—both in the New Testament and today.

We too live in a world of nations and kingdoms at war. And we should take the Apostles as our “models,” as today's Epistle counsels. Like them we must persevere in the face of unbelieving relatives, friends, forces, and authorities hostile to God.

As we do in today's Psalm, we should sing His praises and joyfully proclaim His coming as Lord and King. The Day of the Lord is always a day that has already come and a day still yet to come. It is the “today” of our Liturgy.

The Apostles prayed *marana tha*—“O Lord come!” (see 1 Corinthians 16:22; Revelation 22:20). In the Eucharist He answers, coming again as the Lord of Hosts and the Sun of Justice with its healing rays. It is a mighty sign—and a pledge of that Day to come.

“Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. This will be a time for you to bear testimony.”

LUKE 21:10-13

The Gospel at Home

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:5-19

Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem and warns his followers that persecution will come before the end time.

Background on the Gospel Reading

In the context of Luke, today's Gospel appears near the end of Jesus' teaching in Jerusalem, just prior to the events that will lead to his crucifixion. His warnings and predictions are ominous but can be read in many ways.

To those who first heard Luke's Gospel, those may have been words of encouragement. The destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem by the Romans was history (70 A.D.); Luke's Gospel, Catholic scholars propose, was written between 80 and 90 A.D. His audience was probably Gentile Christians. Luke here tries to interpret the fall of Jerusalem for them and to locate it in God's plans for humankind (salvation history). At the same time, Luke is suggesting to his audience that there will be a considerable elapse of time before Jesus' final coming. Luke's listeners have likely seen much upheaval and are anxious to know if these are the signs of Jesus' coming. Luke is urging greater patience.

In the second part of today's Gospel, Jesus warns that his followers will face persecution for their beliefs. Luke presents persecution as an opportunity for the followers of Jesus for "It will lead to your giving testimony" (Luke 21:13). In persecution God's wisdom and power will be shown in the example of followers of Jesus. Perseverance in the face of persecution will lead to their salvation.

Here Jesus is assuring his followers that God is present to all believers, even in times of trouble. Ultimately, Jesus will witness to this with his own death. As disciples of Jesus, we try to follow his example, trusting in God's mercy and protection, even when we are facing difficulties.

Family Connection

Children, while innocently naïve about most world events, are also profoundly sensitive to the concerns felt by adults. We can help children interpret adult concerns by sharing information about current events in appropriate ways. We can also put these concerns in the light of God's kingdom and the assurance of God's care for us.

Discuss with your children one or more current events or a situation in your family which shows difficulties that may challenge our trust in a God who cares for us. Then read together today's Gospel, Luke 21:5-19. Notice how Jesus said that even when his disciples are persecuted, God would be with them.

Together with your children, talk about ways in which God might bring good out of the difficult events you discussed. Talk together about some actions you might take as a family to make better the situations you discussed. Conclude by praying for the needs of the people involved in the events you named. In prayer, place each of these difficult situations into God's hands.

"Settle it therefore in your minds, not to meditate beforehand how to answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and kinsmen and friends, and some of you they will put to death; you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives."

LUKE 21:14-19

Did You Know?

The Catholic Church believes life is sacred from conception to natural death.

The [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) teaches us extensively about the sacredness of human life. The Church opposes the death penalty, euthanasia, abortion and invitro fertilization. All of these actions purposely destroy human life, a violation of the fifth commandment. I encourage you to read the catechism, which is readily available [online](#). When we profess "Amen" at communion we are declaring our agreement with what the Church teaches, so it's important to know those teachings and understand them. From the catechism:

2270 Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception.

From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person - among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you." (Jer 1:5; cf. Job 10:8-12; Ps 22:10-11) "My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth." (Ps 139:15)

2271 Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law:

"You shall not kill the embryo by abortion and shall not cause the newborn to perish." (Didache 2, 2: SCh 248, 148). God, the Lord of life, has entrusted to men the noble mission of safeguarding life, and men must carry it out in a manner worthy of themselves. Life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception: abortion and infanticide are abominable crimes.

2272 Formal cooperation in an abortion constitutes a grave offense. The Church attaches the canonical penalty of excommunication to this crime against human life. "A person who procures a completed abortion incurs excommunication latae sententiae,"" by the very commission of the offense," and subject to the conditions provided by Canon Law. The Church does not thereby intend to restrict the scope of mercy. Rather, she makes clear the gravity of the crime committed, the irreparable harm done to the innocent who is put to death, as well as to the parents and the whole of society.

Resources

Healing after abortion:
[Project Rachel](#)

Catholic Charities West Michigan:
[Pregnancy Support Services](#)

[Resources and support for moms and families](#)

Pregnancy Support:
[HELP Pregnancy Aid](#)

[Pregnancy Resource Center – Grand Rapids](#)

[Alpha Grand Rapids](#)

Baby and Toddler Pantries:
[Catholic Charities West Michigan](#)

[The Baby Pantry of Lowell](#)

[Grandmother's Cupboard Baby Pantry \(Lake County\)](#)

St. Mary Parish, Spring Lake:
[Medical/dental-Pregnancy Support-Food and Clothing-Housing](#)

Infertility Support & Education:
[Franciscan Life Process Center](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Sunday, November 13:

11:30am - RCIA right after Mass.

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

Monday, November 14:

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

Tuesday, November 15:

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 16:

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 runs through 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.

Thursday, November 17:

6:00pm - 8:00pm - Family Free For All! All families are invited to come to our first family night event. A free meal will be provided. Adults can socialize and kids can play and have fun in the gym. Please [RSVP here](#) so we can plan for the food.

7:00pm - 9:00pm - Women's Advent Night. A night of music, guest speaker, prayer and community. Entry with canned food donation. You are invited to decorate your table and bring treats and drinks to pass with tablemates. To RSVP, contact Kathie Sommers at 616-260-2279 or the parish office.

"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