



faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 11 // NOV. 23, 2022

1st
Sunday of
Advent

In the Beginning...

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Sunday, November 27 marks the beginning of Advent. It's a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. It's also a time for spiritual growth. Please check out some of the opportunities we're having during Advent and try to get involved in at least one new thing this Advent season.

Over the next week or two, there are three opportunities I'd like to specifically call out:

November 28: I'll be hosting a Formed.org based presentation on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. It will be a great introduction for anyone who does not regularly pray the rosary. Join us at 8:00pm in the Brophy Center.

December 1: Marie Cirenza's series on the Sacraments continues on December 1. It's "testimony night" and I'll be sharing my life's journey and my experience with Confirmation. Join us at 7:00pm in the Brophy Center.

December 7: I will be giving a talk called "Keep Mass in Christmas: Eucharistic Foreshadowing and the Infancy Narratives." We'll be exploring the origins of the word "Christmas," Eucharistic foreshadowing in both the Old and New Testaments and why "keeping Christ in Christmas" is only half of the story. Join us at 7:00pm in the church. I'll be using our brand new projector system, so please pray for me!

Make this an Advent to remember!

I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving. Wherever you may go, stay safe and healthy and give thanks to God for the blessings, known and unknown, that we have received this year.

St. Jude will be having Mass at 10:00am on Thanksgiving Day.

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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

This week Jules talks about the most important meal we have - the Eucharist!

Check it out:

[You Are Loved: Episode 4](#)

If you haven't signed up for [Formed.org](#) yet, what are you waiting for??? Click the link, Search "49525" and click on St. Jude then follow the sign up instructions. It's FREE!

We have our schedule for parent meetings and other events leading up to First Holy Communion. Please see below. You can reach out to Janet and Marty with any questions:

Janet DeBoe: jdeboe@stjudes.net

Marty Smith: msmith@stjudes.net

SAINT JUDE

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION / RECONCILIATION

DATES TO REMEMBER

PARENT MEETINGS

Sunday, January 15, 2023 5:30- 7 PM

Sunday, February 19, 2023 5:30 - 7PM

Sunday, March 19, 2023 5:30 - 7 PM

FAMILY MASS & BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 16, 10:30AM Mass

Breakfast after Mass

Student decorate Communion Plates

RECONCILIATION

REVIEW & CHURCH TOUR

Students only

Sunday April 23, 2023 5:30 - 6:30 PM

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

April 27, 2023 6:30 PM

RECONCILIATION PRACTICE

6:30PM

First Holy Communion Mass

10:30AM

RECONCILIATION

Thursday April 27, 2023 6:30 PM

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREP

Thursday May 4, 2023 6:30 PM

First Holy Communion

Sunday May 7, 2023 10:30 AM

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!

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

By Scott Hahn

Readings:

[Isaiah 21-5](#)

[Psalm 122:1-9](#)

[Romans 13:11-14](#)

[Matthew 24:37-44](#)

[LISTEN HERE](#)



Jesus exaggerates in today's Gospel when He claims not to know the day or the hour when He will come again. Christ occasionally makes such overstatements to drive home a point we might otherwise miss (see Matthew 5:34; 23:9; Luke 14:26).

His point here is that the exact "hour" is not important. What is crucial is that we not postpone our repentance, that we be ready for Him—spiritually and morally—when He comes. For He will surely come, He tells us—like a thief in the night, like the flood in the time of Noah.

In today's Epistle, Paul too compares the present age to a time of advancing darkness and night.

Though we sit in the darkness, overshadowed by death, we have seen arise the great light of our Lord who has come into our midst (see Matthew 4:16; John 1:9; 8:12). He is the true light, the life of the world. And His light continues to shine in His Church, the new Jerusalem promised by Isaiah in today's First Reading.

In the Church, all nations stream to the God of Jacob, to worship and seek wisdom in the House of David. From the Church goes forth His word of instruction, the light of the Lord—that all might walk in His paths toward that eternal day when night will be no more (see Revelation 22:5).

By our Baptism we have been made children of the light and day (see Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5-7). It is time we start living like it: throwing off the fruitless works of darkness, rejecting the desires of the flesh, and walking by the light of His grace.

The hour is late as we begin a new Advent. Let us begin again in this Eucharist.

As we sing in today's Psalm, "let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." Let us give thanks to His name, keeping watch for His coming, knowing that our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

"Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the householder had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

MATTHEW 24:42-44

The Gospel at Home

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gospel Reading

Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus tells his disciples that the coming of the Son of Man will catch many people unprepared. Jesus tells his disciples that they are to always be ready for the day of the Lord.

Background on the Gospel Reading

In this season of Advent, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice. In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Matthew will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle A). In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the need for wakefulness, for watchful waiting, for the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew's Gospel is dated by most scholars after 70 A.D. Most believe that Matthew wrote for a primarily Jewish community, but one that was no longer centered on the Temple in Jerusalem. These were Jewish Christians trying to come to terms with their relationship to Judaism in a new situation: Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. There may have been Christians who believed that the events of the world around them gave evidence of the imminent return of the Lord in glory.

The passage from Matthew we read today is rather straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord in glory, so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs; there will be none. As a thief sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord's coming in glory be.

The question for us as members of the Christian community, then, is how do we prepare for this? Today's passage speaks more about the manner of waiting, rather than the details of the preparation. Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one knows that the thief's action is imminent, one remains watchful. As Christians, we know that our Lord is coming even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. If we become lax in our Christian living, we may be caught unprepared.

Family Connection

Many of us feel the pressure early in the holiday season to be ready for Christmas. But today's Gospel challenges us to be ready for something other than the gift-giving of Christmas.

Read together today's Gospel reading. As a family, talk about what it means to be ready for the day of the Lord. One of the roles of the family, the domestic church, is to be a school of faith leading one another to salvation. Reflect together as a family on how your family helps one another to be better Christians. Commit to one thing that your family will do this Advent season to help one another be better Christians. You might choose to write this commitment down and post it in a prominent place in your home, perhaps near your family's Advent wreath. Pray together that God will help you in this Advent commitment. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or today's Psalm.

"As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they did not know until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of man. Then two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one is taken and one is left."

MATTHEW 24:37-41

Did You Know?

Squanto was Catholic!

*Happy
Thanksgiving*

Most people know the basic story of the first Thanksgiving: the Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock, the Native Americans helped them grow food, and they all gathered together in a feast of thanksgiving. But what most versions leave out is the crucial role played by Squanto... a Catholic, Native American hero.

In the early 17th century, Squanto's tribe came in contact with some of the earliest English colonists in the Americas. He was captured and taught English so he could serve as an interpreter. But in 1614, as he was being transported by John Smith (of Pocahontas fame), one of Smith's lieutenants, Thomas Hunt, kidnapped him.

Hunt took Squanto to Spain to sell him as a slave. But some Catholic Franciscan friars saw what was happening and saved Squanto. The Franciscans taught Squanto the Catholic faith and he was baptized. A free man, Squanto wanted to return home, so he went to London to try to get a place aboard a ship going back to the Massachusetts colony. In the mean time, he worked as a shipbuilder and greatly improved his English.

In 1619, Squanto was finally able to return home on a ship led by John Smith. Tragically, upon arrival he discovered that most of his tribe had died of a plague the year before. It was almost as though God had prepared him perfectly for what happened next.

Just a year later in 1620, the Pilgrims arrived. They were English Calvinists who were seeking to build a new religious community apart from the Church of England. Little did they know that they would end up being saved by a Catholic!

The Pilgrims had little food and were unprepared for survival in the Americas. Squanto, who spoke great English and had a lot of experience with English culture, reached out to help, teaching them how to grow food in the new landscape. It must have seemed like a miracle to the Pilgrims! He befriended the Pilgrims and became an important part of their community. At one point, Squanto was kidnapped by another tribe and a team of Pilgrims saved him.

Unfortunately, less than two years after the landing of the Pilgrims, Squanto became sick and died suddenly. Governor William Bradford, one of the pilgrims' leaders, wrote this about him:

"Here (at Monomoyick Bay) Squanto fell ill of Indian fever, bleeding much at the nose, which the Indians take as a symptom of death, and within a few days he died. He begged the Governor to pray for him, that he might go to the Englishman's God in heaven, and bequeathed several of his things to his English friends, as remembrances. His death was a great loss."

This Thanksgiving, say a prayer for the great Catholic hero, Squanto!
(Source: [Missionaries of the Holy Family](#))

"Eucharist" comes from the Greek εὐχαριστία or eucharistía, which means "thanksgiving"

Extra credit if you know why the color of the newsletter has changed!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Sunday, November 27:

NO CLASSES for RCIA or Religious Ed. Enjoy your weekend!

Monday, November 28:

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

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

8:00pm - Formed.org presentation on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary in the Brophy Center. Week 1: The Annunciation.

Tuesday, November 29:

7:00pm - Men of Emmaus in the Millennium Conference Room

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 30:

8:30am - Senior Men's Group in the Thaddeus Center.

7:00pm - "Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist" in the Brophy Center

Thursday, December 1:

7:00pm - "The Sacraments" with Marie Cirenza in the Brophy Center; Marty Smith with share his testimony as it relates to Confirmation.

"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

BIBLE STUDY

The Joyful
Mysteries of the Rosary

faith
FORMATION
ST. JUDE PARISH

FORMEDNOW

A 5-week study:	December 12
November 28	December 19
December 5	December 26

All are welcome to join us Monday nights
8:00pm - 9:00pm in the Brophy Center

Contact Mary Smith for more information:
msmith@stjudes.net

