



faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 12 // DEC. 1, 2022

2nd
Sunday of
Advent

In the Beginning...

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

St. Jude has an active parishioner rate of about 4.5%. We have lots of activities to participate in throughout the week in order to help grow in our faith. For example, we have Bible Studies, a book club, various presentations and series, Men of Emmaus, an active youth ministry, religious ed classes for grades 1-8, seasonal events and more. We also have many active ministries. You only need to check the bulletin every Sunday to see the calendar of events and announcements. By the looks of it, we're a thriving parish.

If you go to these activities or help out one of the ministries, you'll see many of the same faces. Why? Because out of 2229 registered parishioners, only about 100 are actively involved in the parish life. While 2229 might be high (some may have moved away), that is the number of **registered** parishioners. There's a decent number of parishioners who have not registered with the parish (if you're one of them, please register!). My estimation of 100 active parishioners might be high as well. All the programs I mentioned above usually see attendance of 10 or fewer people (many of whom are the same people). If only 1 person shows up, it's worth it. But wouldn't it be great if 15 or 20 showed up?

If our parish is thriving with fewer than 10% of the parishioners involved in the parish life, imagine the impact and parish life we could have if 25% of our parishioners were to get involved.

Getting involved is difficult, especially in today's world and especially if you have children. We have to work, we have extra-curricular activities, school meetings, dinner. Before we know it, it's time for bed and time to repeat the cycle all over again.

Looking through a spiritual lens, that's exactly how Satan wants it. If we're distracted with all of these worldly tasks and routines, we'll never have enough time to focus on spiritual growth. Someday, our worldly tasks and routines will be over and we'll be facing eternity. At that point, it will be too late to prepare.

Advent is great time to shift our focus and develop some otherworldly tasks and spiritual routines. Let's make it a great one. Maybe we can get that number up to 10%!

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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 Matt Fradd is choosing to ignore warnings because he has free will.

Check it out:

[You Are Forgiven: Episode 5](#)

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



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!

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

Thursday April 27, 2023 6:30 PM

FIRST COMMUNION PRACTICE

Thursday May 4, 2023 6:30PM

First Holy Communion Mass

Sunday May 7, 2023 10:30AM



SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

By Scott Hahn

Readings:

[Isaiah 11:1-10](#)

[Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17](#)

[Romans 15:4-9](#)

[Matthew 3:1-12](#)

[LISTEN HERE](#)



“The kingdom of heaven is at hand,” John proclaims. And the Liturgy today paints us a vivid portrait of our new king and the shape of the kingdom He has come to bring.

The Lord whom John prepares the way for in today’s Gospel is the righteous king prophesied in today’s First Reading and Psalm. He is the king’s son, the son of David—a shoot from the root of Jesse, David’s father (see Ruth 4:17).

He will be the Messiah, anointed with the Holy Spirit (see 2 Samuel 23:1; 1 Kings 1:39; Psalm 2:2), endowed with the seven gifts of the Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.

He will rule with justice, saving the poor from the ruthless and wicked. His rule will be not only over Israel—but will extend from sea to sea, to the ends of the earth. He will be a light, a signal to all nations. And they will seek Him and pay Him homage.

In Him, all the tribes of the earth will find blessing. The covenant promise to Abraham (see Genesis 12:3), renewed in God’s oath to David (see Psalm 89:4,28), will be fulfilled in His dynasty. And His name will be blessed forever.

In Christ, God confirms His oath to Israel’s patriarchs, Paul tells us in today’s Epistle. But no longer are God’s promises reserved solely for the children of Abraham. The Gentiles, too, will glorify God for His mercy. Once strangers, in Christ they will be included in “the covenants of promise” (see Ephesians 2:12).

John delivers this same message in the Gospel. Once God’s chosen people were hewn from the rock of Abraham (see Isaiah 51:1-2). Now, God will raise up living stones (see 1 Peter 2:5)—children of Abraham born not of flesh and blood but of the Spirit.

This is the meaning of the fiery baptism He brings—making us royal heirs of the kingdom of heaven, the Church.

"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

MATTHEW 3:1-3

The Gospel at Home

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist appears in Judea preaching a message of repentance.

Background on the Gospel Reading

In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: ". . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

Family Connection

We do many things to get ourselves ready for our celebration of Christmas: purchase gifts, prepare Christmas cards, decorate our homes. John's call of repentance in preparation for Jesus reminds us that our repentance is another way in which we can prepare for the Lord's coming and our celebration of Christmas.

Read together today's Gospel. Talk about how John reminds the people that they prepare for the reign of God by reforming their lives. As a family, prepare a simple reconciliation service in preparation for Christmas such as the following: Gather in a prayerful space, perhaps around your family Advent wreath. Read again today's Gospel: Matthew 3:1-3. Invite each family member to pray silently, asking God to forgive their sins. Pray together an Act of Contrition. Then celebrate God's forgiveness by sharing a Sign of Peace with each other.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

MATTHEW 3:11-12

Did You Know?

The Immaculate Conception refers to Mary's conception.

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX released the *Ineffabilis Deus* Apostolic Constitution, which defines and details the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. “*Ineffabilis Deus*” is Latin for “Ineffable God.” This term refers to the mystery of God’s omnipotence, wisdom, and plan for us, a mystery we cannot fully comprehend; the Immaculate Conception of Mary is part of this mystery. *Ineffabilis Deus* states:

“We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful.”

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrates this dogma: Mary was born without original sin so that she could give birth to Christ.

“[Mary] received the benefits of salvation in Christ from the very moment of her conception,” Catholic News Agency explains.

This dogma can be challenging to understand, and perhaps that is why Pope Pius named the constitution “*Ineffabilis Deus*.” Its meaning is beyond words, indescribable – all part of the great and beautiful Mystery of faith.

The Mass readings for the Immaculate Conception come from Genesis, St. Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians, and the Gospel of Luke (Lectionary 689).

In the Gospel reading, the Angel Gabriel appears before Mary, first startling her and then encouraging her not to be afraid. He announces that she will bear the Son of God, and her cousin Elizabeth will also conceive a son. Mary, without hesitation, responds, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38).

These first three words – “Here am I” or “Here I am” might seem simple at first glance, but they actually represent immense depth in Mary’s faith. Consider how Mary must have felt when she discovered she was to become pregnant. Yet, she responded, “Here am I.” These three words represent Mary’s genuine fiat – her complete surrender to God.

On the Immaculate Conception and throughout Advent, we reflect on Mary’s response to these circumstances; we prepare for the Nativity with her. How might you say “Here I am” like Mary this Advent? Source: Hallow.com

While the Feast of the Immaculate Conception falls during Advent, this Catholic holy day and its teaching refer to Mary’s conception, not that of Christ. We celebrate this feast of Our Lady on December 8. It’s a Holy day of Obligation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Sunday, December 4:

11:30am - RCIA after the 10:30am Mass

5:30pm - Religious Ed class for grades 1-8

Monday, December 5:

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

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

Tuesday, December 6:

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

Wednesday, December 7:

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

7:00pm - "Keep Mass in Christmas: Eucharistic Foreshadowing and the Infancy Narratives" in the church.

Thursday, December 8: Holy Day of Obligation (Go to Mass!)

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



"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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