



# faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 19 // JAN. 19, 2023

3rd  
Sunday in  
Ordinary Time

## *In the Beginning...*

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My family and I have been watching season 3 of The Chosen. As described on their [website](#): "The Chosen is the first-ever multi-season series about the life of Christ. It's the free show that tens of millions of people won't stop talking about." The show is crowd-funded and independently produced by Angel Studios. It's entirely free to watch on their own app. Lest you think it sounds like another cheesy low-budget, Christian movie, it's not.

This is the most "realistic" portrayal of Jesus, the Apostles, Mary and all the others that I think I've seen. And it's powerful. Fair warning - if you watch it, there may be tears.

Really, I don't want to sound like an advertisement, but this series is so worth your time. Please check it out if you can. If you enjoy binge-watching TV shows, why not "binge Jesus" (I borrowed that from their advertising).

Another phrase that has become associated with the show is "look up." In the show, Jesus has said that to a couple of different characters. The scenes are profound and they have made me think. How many times do we "look up" to God?

When we're having a rough day, let's take the time to look up and ask for help. When we're having a great day, let's take the time to look up and give thanks.

When we feel shame or remorse, let's look up and ask for healing. When we feel joy or love, let's look up and give praise.

These are just some small ways that we can bring God into our lives on a more regular basis. Small moments to "look up."

Scripture tells us to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Looking up can help us on that journey.

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### Confession

Saturday: 3:00 - 3:45PM  
Also, by appointment

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# FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & RECONCILIATION PREP

Mary thinks back to when her kids received their First Reconciliation and she wants to tell you the same thing she told them. Check it out:

[You Are Forgiven: Episode 4](#)

We have our schedule for parent meetings and other events leading up to First Holy Communion. Please see below.

The parent meetings will include a screening of the series "Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist," discussion, tips for preparing your children at home, Q&A and community fellowship.



## 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

#### Previous Signs of Grace

Episodes of

"You Are Loved"

(about the Eucharist)

[Episode 1](#)

[Episode 2](#)

[Episode 3](#)

[Episode 4](#)

[Episode 5](#)

[Episode 6](#)

[Episode 7](#)

#### Previous Signs of Grace

Episodes of

"You Are Forgiven"

(about Reconciliation)

[Episode 1](#)

[Episode 2](#)

[Episode 3](#)

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 8:23–9:3](#)

[Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14](#)

[1 Corinthians 1:10–13, 17](#)

[Matthew 4:12–23](#)

[LISTEN HERE](#)



Today's Liturgy gives us a lesson in ancient Israelite geography and history.

Isaiah's prophecy in today's First Reading is quoted by Matthew in today's Gospel. Both intend to recall the apparent fall of the everlasting kingdom promised to David (see 2 Samuel 7:12–13; Psalm 89; Psalm 132:11–12).

Eight centuries before Christ, that part of the kingdom where the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali lived was attacked by the Assyrians, and the tribes were hauled off into captivity (see 2 Kings 15:29; 1 Chronicles 5:26).

It marked the beginning of the kingdom's end. The Davidic empire finally crumbled in the sixth century BC, when Jerusalem was seized by Babylon and the remaining tribes were driven into exile (see 2 Kings 24:14).

Isaiah prophesied that Zebulun and Naphtali, the lands first to be degraded, would be the first to see the light of God's salvation. Jesus today fulfills that prophecy—announcing the restoration of David's kingdom at precisely the spot where the kingdom began to fall.

His gospel of the Kingdom includes not only the twelve tribes of Israel but all the nations—symbolized by the “Galilee of the Nations.” Calling His first disciples, two fishermen on the Sea of Galilee, He appoints them to be “fishers of men,” gathering people from the ends of the earth.

They are to preach the gospel, Paul says in today's Epistle, to unite all peoples in the same mind and in the same purpose—in a worldwide kingdom of God.

By their preaching, Isaiah's promise has been delivered. A world in darkness has seen the light. The yoke of slavery and sin, borne by humanity since time began, has been smashed. And we are able now, as we sing in today's Psalm, to dwell in the house of the Lord, to worship Him in the land of the living.

*"Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Caperna-um by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."*

MATTHEW 4:12-16

Source: [St. Paul Center](#)



# The Gospel at Home

## 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Gospel Reading:

Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus begins to preach in Galilee and calls his first disciples.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel describes the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke (called the Synoptic Gospels), Jesus' public ministry begins after his baptism by John the Baptist and after his retreat to the desert where he was tempted by the devil. When Jesus returns from the desert, he hears that John has been arrested.

The first part of today's Gospel places Jesus' ministry in the context of the writings of the prophet, Isaiah. Matthew wants to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecies given to the people of Israel, and he refers to Isaiah to do so. Isaiah says that the Messiah will begin his ministry in Galilee, the land of the Gentiles. When Jesus begins to preach in Galilee, Matthew points to his ministry as a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, proof that Jesus is the Messiah. When Jesus called his first disciples, the Gospel tells us that the fishermen (Peter and Andrew, James and John) dropped everything to follow Jesus immediately. Yet this Gospel tells us little about the prior experience that the fishermen had of Jesus. Did they know him? Had they heard him preach? What kind of person must Jesus have been to invoke such a response? We can imagine that Jesus was a powerful presence to elicit a response as immediate and complete as these first disciples gave.

The Gospel concludes with a description of the ministry that Jesus begins in Galilee. Jesus inaugurates the Kingdom of God with his work. He teaches in the synagogue and preaches the kingdom. His ability to cure people's diseases and illness is a sign of the kingdom. In Jesus' ministry, we already begin to see the Kingdom of God among us.

### Family Connection

Today's Gospel tells us little about the background of these fishermen, their work, and their families. In today's Gospel, we are simply told that James and John left their father, Zebedee, in the boat and followed Jesus. Some details about the families of these first followers of Jesus are found later in Matthew's Gospel, however. In Matthew 8:14-15 for example, Jesus goes to the home of Peter and heals his mother-in-law of a fever. Matthew 20:20-28 relates how the mother of the sons of Zebedee (James and John) approaches Jesus with the request that her sons be given places of honor in Jesus' kingdom. These brief references suggest that the first disciples' separation from their families may not have been as complete as the verses in today's Gospel might lead us to believe. Matthew points out the separation because he wants to show that Christian discipleship can require a change in our lives and even our family relationships.

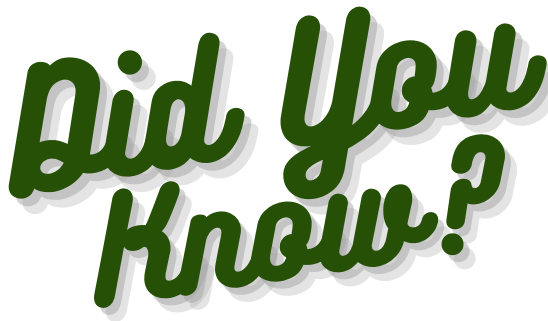
Perhaps the message for us today is to balance the radical call to be a follower of Jesus with the challenge to be "fishers of men" even within our own families. Creating this balance may require that we change some of the priorities of our own family life.

As a family, detail the activities of a typical day. Discuss together what priorities are reflected in this daily schedule. How does your family respond when your daily plans are interrupted or must be changed? Together read today's Gospel, Matthew 4:12-23. Reflect together on the example of the first disciples who dropped everything to follow Jesus. Ask: Does our family schedule give evidence that we put God first in our family life? What might we do to better reflect that God is our priority? Pray together that your family will always give evidence that God comes first in your family life. Pray today's Psalm or the Lord's Prayer.

*"As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

*Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.*

MATTHEW 4:18-22



## Name Changes Signify New Roles

In the understanding of the ancient Hebrews, a name expresses a nature that is fixed and eternal and even more, has genuine power in the world. Man and all the creatures to whom, on God's command, he names, including his own companion Eve, experiences a given name as a summary evoking all the power and meaning of a life.

In baptism our individual name is linked forever to the name of Christ. John is a member of Christ, Mary is a member of Christ, and so James and Elizabeth and Samuel and Salome! They are all Christians, literally named after Christ. Thus we call the baptismal name, traditionally, our "Christian name."

The sacred scriptures give a number of examples of God's giving or changing the name of a person in order to give that person a particular powerful role in his work of revelation and salvation. Abraham, John the Baptist, Jesus, Paul, and Peter are the chief examples. Abraham is the one whose offspring we are by faith; we are literally the fulfillment of God's promise to him that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars of heaven or the sands of the seashore. John is the one through whom the Gospel says that "all would believe," and of course Jesus, with "the name above every other name" is so identified with his name that the scriptures tell us that we should do everything in his name, and that in the end all creation, in heaven, on earth, and in hell will bend the knee before this name of power and healing and consolation. Paul is the universal "vessel of election" to bring the name of Jesus to the gentiles.

Obviously, then, Peter's renaming is very significant. He is the foundation stone of the Church. That is, his profession of faith, his own individual, imputable act of faith, is the beginning of the Church's profession of faith through the ages. Jesus has prayed for Peter that his "faith may not fail." He is, in his own words, along with us, the recipient of "great and precious promises."

And yet I am not Abraham, or John, or Peter, or Jesus, or Paul. What about my name? Revelation gives us some hints as to the deepest identity of a few of God's holy ones. But the fact is each and every one of us has a mysterious name, expressing our own meaning in the designs of God, even unknown to us here below, and to be revealed beyond this life.

Here what Jesus tells us in the second chapter of the Apocalypse: "To him who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone which no one knows except him who receives it."

Yes, you are not Peter, the rock, but your name is inscribed on a little rock that is yours alone. After all we are all "living stones" making up the Church of Christ, as Paul tells us.

In our age, which is so taken up with questions of identity, it is a great and surpassingly consoling fact that we all have a hidden, mysterious, real, and powerful identity in the eternal plans of God. This life can be very obscure, and our lives may seem insignificant and even disappointing, but in God's plan, as Jesus tells us, our names "are written in heaven." My own individual life has a unique and irreplaceable role in God's plan, a role which is meant to last forever in the glory of heaven.

Just profess your faith in Christ, tell him that he is the Son of the Living God, and then in the silence of your soul he will confirm your mysterious new name that you will only know in the world to come. Peter was only the first to receive a name carved in rock because he professed Christ the Son of the Living God, you and I and all the rest will follow. How great a destiny, something to look forward to!

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, some Catholics choose a new name. Historical examples of converts taking on new names can be found as early as the third century.

The practice, though a recent tradition only found in a handful of countries, is inspired by the many examples of name changes taking place in the Bible.

Confirmation names are often saints with whom the individual feels a certain connection. That saint then becomes their guide and role model throughout life.

"Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven."  
- Luke 10:20

Source: [Catholic Answers](#)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Opportunities to Grow in Faith

### **Sunday, January 22:**

10:30am - Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 10:30am Mass.

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

5:30pm - Religious Education classes.

### **Monday, January 23:**

7:00pm - Women's Bible Study in the Thaddeus Center. The Monday Night Ladies Bible Study will be starting up again on January 16 at 7:00pm in the Thaddeus Center. The topic for our winter session is a 10-part DVD series on Divine Mercy called "The Second Greatest Story Ever Told" by Fr. Michael Gaitley. It is an excellent series and will be finished right before we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on April 16th. We would love to have you join us. If interested, please call Peg Manuszak at 616-361-5836.

7:00pm - Rosary Scripture Study in the Kelly Conference Room. Join us in person for our Formed.org based study on the Joyful Mysteries with Dr. Ben Akers and professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School as they walk through the Biblical mysteries and seek to grow in understanding and love for Christ through them. We'll meet in person to watch the presentation, then discuss and pray afterwards. Contact Marty Smith for more details at msmith@stjudes.net.

### **Tuesday, January 24:**

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

7:30pm - Book Club. "The Great Divorce" by CS Lewis - Chapters 5 & 6. Join us for weekly discussions on some of C.S. Lewis's greatest works. We begin with "The Great Divorce", which examines the choice for Heaven over Hell in a narrative of one man's bus ride from Purgatory into Heaven. After this, we will read the short book "Abolition of Man", full of fascinating philosophical arguments for the importance of objective values, the necessity of natural law, and an objection against scientism in education. [More info here!](#)

### **Wednesday, January 25:**

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, January 26:**

7:00pm - The Sacraments with Marie Cirenza. This week's Sacrament is Holy Matrimony. Have you ever wondered what the sacraments are all about and why we have them? Do you know the basics about the sacraments and would like to know more? Come join us in the Kelly Conference Room to discover why the sacraments are an essential part of the Catholic faith!

"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: 3:00 - 3:45PM  
Also, by appointment

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Tuesday: 8:30AM  
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# Jesus Tells us to Repent

Today we hear about Jesus beginning His mission of preaching and healing the sick. The very first thing He tells the people is that they should repent from their sins.

Why do we need to repent of our sins? Why don't we just stop thinking about the bad things we did and start trying to be good?

Well, pretend your soul is like a garden. When you sin, it's like making a big hole in the ground. You can't grow flowers in a hole, and someone might trip on it and make the hole bigger. That's what can happen with sins too- little sins can cause bigger ones.

When you are sorry for your sins and go to confession it's like filling in the holes and planting flowers where they used to be. Keep your soul like a good garden and make sure you don't have any holes in it!

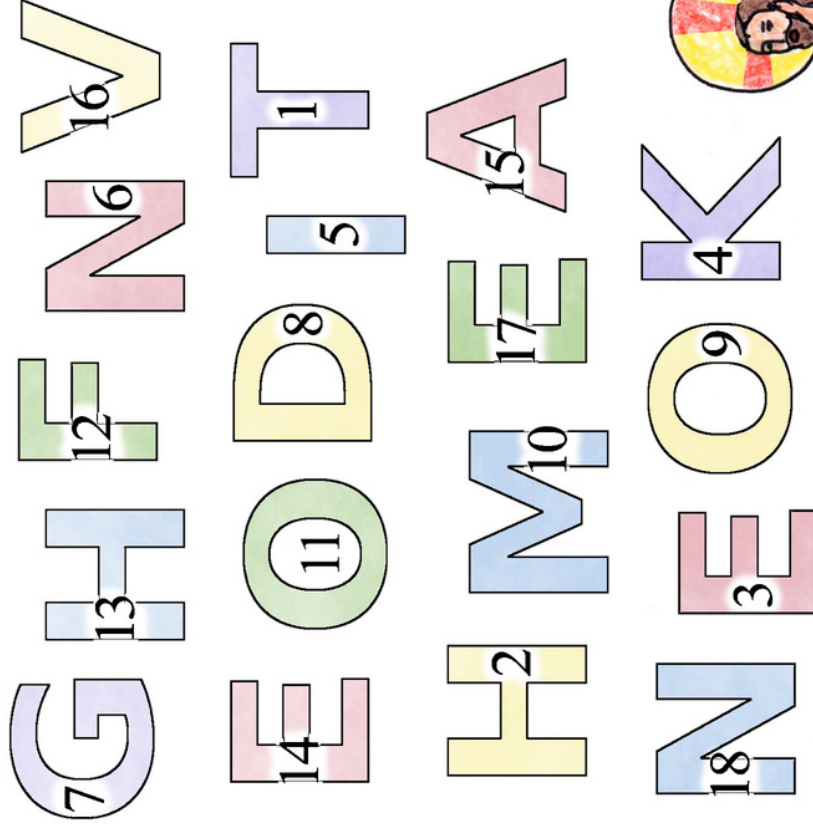


Answer to Unscramble puzzle: darkness, light, joy, harvest, yoke, smashed.  
Answer to puzzle on front: the Kingdom of Heaven

[www.thekidsbulletin.com](http://www.thekidsbulletin.com)

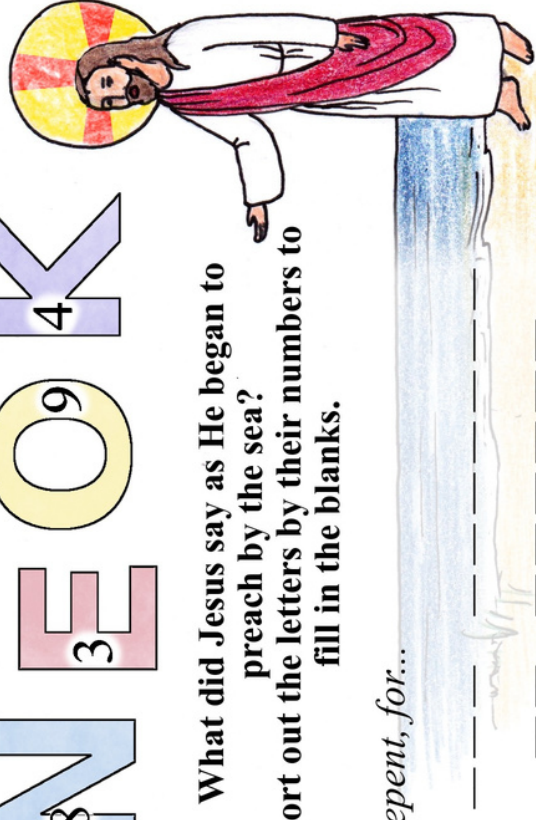
# The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
January 22nd, 2023



What did Jesus say as He began to preach by the sea?  
Sort out the letters by their numbers to fill in the blanks.

Repent, for...



... is at hand.



# Saint Thomas Aquinas

## January 28



SAINT THOMAS WROTE A GREAT WORK CALLED THE SUMMA THEOLOGICA, WHICH EXPLAINS MANY THINGS ABOUT GOD, MAN AND CREATION. HE NEVER FINISHED IT, THOUGH, BECAUSE HE REALIZED HE COULD NOT SHOW IN WRITING HOW AWESOME GOD REALLY IS. SAINT THOMAS DIED AT AGE 49.

# Unscramble and Fill in the Blanks:

## A Prophecy about Jesus...



he people who walked in \_\_\_\_\_  
have seen a great light;  
upon those who dwelt in a land of gloom  
a \_\_\_\_\_ has shone.

You have brought them abundant \_\_\_\_\_  
and great rejoicing  
as they rejoice before you as at the \_\_\_\_\_,  
as people make merry when dividing spoils.

For the \_\_\_\_\_ that burdened them,  
the pole on their shoulder,  
and the rod of their taskmaster  
you have \_\_\_\_\_,  
as on the day at Midian.

Unscramble the words below to fill in the blanks  
in the prophecy from today's first reading.

OJY KOEY SSNAKDRE  
GLTHI EHSMSAD ASEVHRT