



faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 21 // FEB. 2, 2023

5th
Sunday in
Ordinary Time

In the Beginning...

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A man recently approached a friend because his marriage was in trouble. From his perspective it wasn't. Everything, he thought, was fine. But his wife wasn't too happy with him and was threatening divorce.

He was always spending time with the guys - hunting, fishing, video games, just going out and having fun without her. And work. He travels a lot for work and often brings it home with him. They hardly ever eat dinner together any more. Years ago, he did commit to having at least one meal together per week. Most of the time, it happens. But sometimes it doesn't, especially if there's a big game.

He's happy. She isn't. He thinks she should develop some more hobbies or get more friends. She says they're in a relationship and should spend more time together. The man's friend suggested getting the divorce. If she's demanding more of his time, she's not worth it, he said. She should respect that he's busy and stop nagging at him. Besides, he dines with her once a week. That should be enough to show his commitment.

The man's friend isn't married. Probably not the best person to seek advice from. But it reveals an important truth. The man and his friend are both still living as bachelors. The man may be married, but his priorities are not centered on his wife. They're still centered on himself.

It's difficult to re-align priorities, especially if it means changing a whole lifestyle. But relationships are worth it. To save his marriage, the man will have to make some sacrifices. He'll need to give up a hobby or two, spend less time with friends and leave work at the office. He may even have to miss a big game every once in a while.

How is your relationship with Jesus?

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](#)

[Kids' Bulletin](#)

Confession

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

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Sunday: 8:30AM, 10:30AM

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & RECONCILIATION PREP

This week Chenele talks about God's Awesome Gift! Check it out:

[You Are Forgiven: Episode 6](#)

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](#)

[Episode 4](#)

[Episode 5](#)

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 58:7-10](#)

[Psalm 112:4-9](#)

[1 Corinthians 2:1-5](#)

[Matthew 5:13-16](#)

[LISTEN HERE](#)



Jesus came among us as light to scatter the darkness of a fallen world.

As His disciples, we too are called to be “the light of the world,” He tells us in the Gospel this Sunday (see John 1:4-4, 9; 8:12; 9:5).

All three images that Jesus uses to describe the Church are associated with the identity and vocation of Israel.

God forever aligned His kingdom with the kingdom of David and his sons by a “covenant of salt,” salt being a sign of permanence and purity (see 2 Chronicles 13:5, 8; Leviticus 2:13; Ezekiel 43:24).

Jerusalem was to be a city set on a hill, high above all others, drawing all nations toward the glorious light streaming from her Temple (see Isaiah 2:2; 60:1-3).

And Israel was given the mission of being a light to the nations, that God’s salvation would reach to the ends of the earth (see Isaiah 42:6; 49:6).

The liturgy shows us this week that the Church, and every Christian, is called to fulfill Israel’s mission. By our faith and good works we are to make the light of God’s life break forth in the darkness, as we sing in this week’s Psalm.

This week’s readings remind us that our faith can never be a private affair, something we can hide as if under a basket. We are to pour ourselves out for the afflicted, as Isaiah tells us in the First Reading. Our light must shine as a ray of God’s mercy for all who are poor, hungry, naked, and enslaved.

There must be a transparent quality to our lives. Our friends and family, our neighbors and fellow citizens, should see reflected in us the light of Christ and through us be attracted to the saving truths of the Gospel.

So let us pray that we, like St. Paul in the Epistle, might proclaim with our whole lives “Christ, and him crucified.”

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men.”

MATTHEW 5:13

The Gospel at Home

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus teaches that his disciples are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Following upon the teaching of the Beatitudes, Jesus uses the now familiar metaphors of salt and light to describe the life of discipleship. We take salt and light for granted in our society, but these commodities were more precious in ancient cultures. Just as now, salt was used in Jesus' time for flavoring, as a preservative, and as a healing agent. Similarly, the widespread use of electricity in the modern world makes us less aware of the value and importance of light in our lives.

Still, our familiarity with this passage from Matthew's Gospel speaks well to the abiding power of the imagery that Jesus presented. Jesus' call to be salt for the earth and light for the world powerfully states our mission as Church and as Christians. Our commitment to social justice flows from the exhortation that Jesus gives us in today's Gospel. Some of the activities that this commitment leads us to are given more concrete expression as the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. When we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, console those who mourn, and so on, we show ourselves to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. When we do these things with the community of faith, the Church, we are indeed acting as "a city set on a mountain" that cannot be hidden!

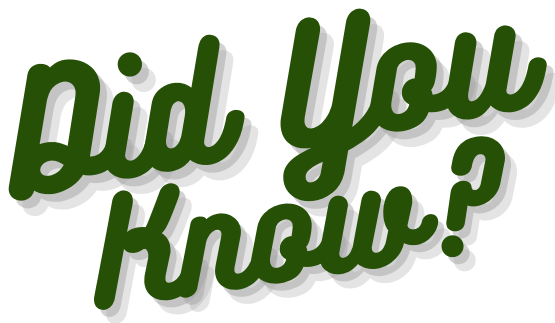
Family Connection

The widespread use of electricity in our society may make us less aware of the value and importance of light. To re-engage with the power of the metaphor that Jesus offers, gather your family in a darkened room. Bring only one flashlight.

Sit together for a minute and consider what you are able to do and see in so little light. You might try opening the Bible to see whether you can read today's Gospel. Turn on the flashlight and experiment to see how one might use it to achieve the greatest amount of light. Then read today's Gospel by the light of the flashlight. Ask everyone to consider what it means to say that Christians are to be the light of the world. How might your family act in a way that is a light for others, a light that is worthy to put on a lamp stand? Choose one thing that your family will do this week to show that you are the light of the world. You might choose to participate in an activity that your parish sponsors, such as help with a food pantry. Pray together by singing "This Little Light of Mine."

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

MATTHEW 5:14-16



The Holy Spirit is a Person.

It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking of the Holy Spirit as a "force" or something else that isn't quite a "person." He's the oft-neglected third Person of the Trinity and the One who is present in a special way with us today. Yet, how often do we pray to Him? Most of us probably pray either to God the Father or Jesus. We may ask for the Holy Spirit's presence or power, but do we speak to Him?

From Catholic Answers:

Scripture indicates that the Holy Spirit is a person, not an impersonal force. Impersonal forces don't know things or make choices, but the Holy Spirit does both. He knows the thoughts of God (1 Cor. 2:11), and he chooses how spiritual gifts will be distributed (1 Cor. 12:11). The Holy Spirit thus has the personal attributes of intellect and will.

Scripture refers to the Holy Spirit as a Paraclete (Greek *parakletos*; see John 14:26; cf. 15:26, 16:7–8). This term, often translated as "Comforter," "Counselor," or "Advocate," refers to a person who is called to aid one, especially in legal settings. Scripture also speaks of Jesus, who is unmistakably a person, as a Paraclete (1 John 2:1).

Impersonal forces cannot communicate, but Scripture refers to the Holy Spirit communicating (Acts 5:32, 20:23, 21:11, 1 Tim. 4:1). Sometimes the Holy Spirit is directly quoted (Acts 8:29, 10:19, 21:11; Rev. 14:13). The Holy Spirit is even quoted using the personal pronoun I: "While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them'" (Acts 13:2).

This is particularly significant because the Holy Spirit is directly quoted in the historical narrative of Acts. He is quoted just like other persons, and the quotation cannot be dismissed as symbolic. This is straightforward historical narrative.

Scripture thus depicts the Holy Spirit with intellect and will, as a person who—like Jesus—assists Christians, and as a person who communicates and does so using the personal pronoun I. The claim the Holy Spirit is an impersonal force is not supported by the text.

Breathe into me, Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Move in me, Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Attract my heart, Holy Spirit, that I may love only what is holy. Strengthen me, Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy. Protect me, Holy Spirit, that I may always be holy.

Prayer of St. Augustine

UPCOMING EVENTS

Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Sunday, February 5:

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, February 6:

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, February 7:

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

7:30pm - Book Club. "The Great Divorce" by CS Lewis - Chapters 7 & 8. 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, February 8:

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, February 9:

7:00pm - The Sacraments with Marie Cirenza. This week's Sacrament is Holy Matrimony (with a testimony). 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

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You are the Salt and Light!

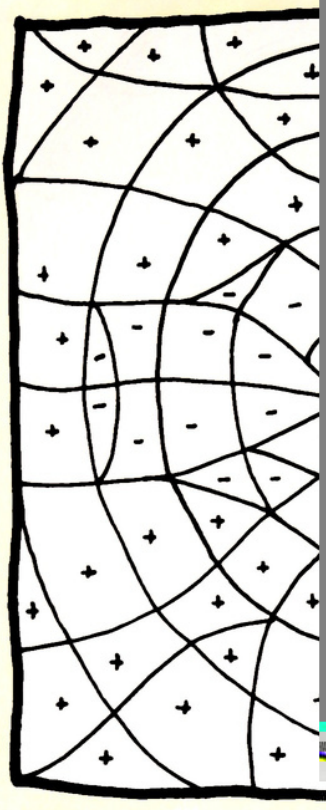


Jesus says we are the salt of the earth. Have you ever tasted food that wasn't salty enough? It can taste pretty bland. But do you notice when food has the right amount of salt? Usually we don't think about it. It's kind of hiding in the food and making it taste good. Jesus wants us to be like the "salt" in the world, with the goodness and truth that He gives us.

Jesus also says that we are the light of the world. Can you imagine a completely dark world: no sun or

The Kids' Bulletin

Sunday February 5th, 2023
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



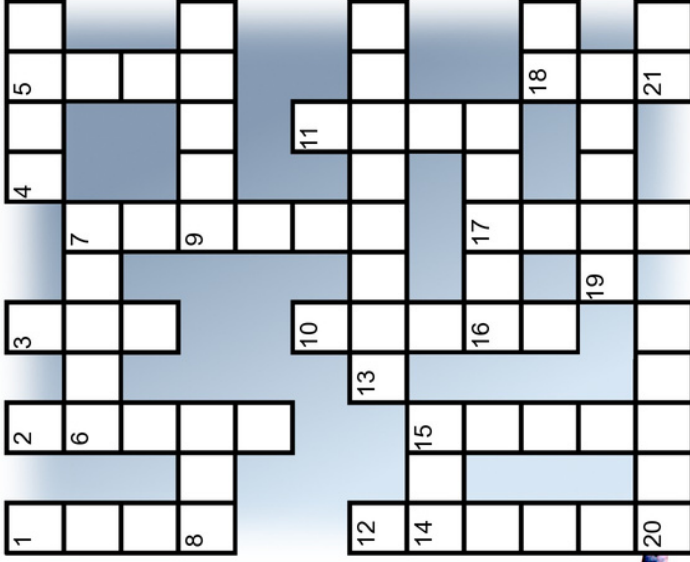
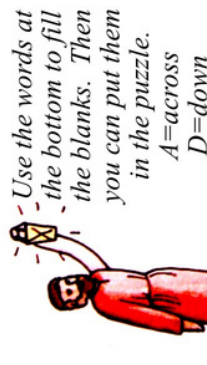
Saint Scholastica

February 10



SAINT SCHOLASTICA AND HER BROTHER SAINT BENEDICT ARE A GREAT EXAMPLE TO US OF HOW BROTHERS AND SISTERS CAN HELP EACH OTHER TO BECOME HOLY. DO YOU EVER PRAY WITH YOUR BROTHERS OR SISTERS OR FRIENDS? YOU CAN HELP EACH OTHER BECOME SAINTS!

Salt and Light Crossword Puzzle



2D 5D to his disciples: "You are the 11D of the 6A But if salt 15D its 20A with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer 17D for anything but 21A be thrown out and trampled underfoot. 8A 3D the light of the 10D A 1D set on a 13A cannot be 7D Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel 12D; it is 18D on a lampstand, where it gives 16A to 14A in the 19A Just 18A your light 4A shine before others, that they may see your good 9A and glorify your heavenly Father."

MUST JESUS MOUNTAIN CITY LIGHT
SAID DEEDS BASKET EARTH WORLD
GOOD HOUSE HIDDEN YOU SET ALL
SALT TASTE LOSES ARE SO TO