



# faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 2 // SEPT. 22, 2022

26th  
Sunday in  
Ordinary Time

## *In the Beginning...*

*Martin Smith, Director of Religious Education*

We had a great first night of classes this past Sunday. Children are eager and excited to learn. They bring with them an enthusiasm to explore the world and understand everything around them. Imagine experiencing and learning about everything for the first time again. It reminds me of something Carl Sagan once said in relation to science: "You go talk to kindergarteners or first grade kids, you find a class full of science enthusiasts. And they ask deep questions! They ask: 'What is a dream, why do we have toes, why is the moon round, what is the birthday of the world, why is the grass green?' These are profound, important questions! They just bubble right out of them."

In our faith formation classes we see children who are curious about God. They want to know Jesus. They wonder about the Holy Spirit. Their hearts are restless from the moment of creation. As St. Augustine said, "You have made us for yourself O Lord and our heart is restless until it rests in you." Children yearn to find Him and we're excited to help them on this journey.

Sagan's quote continues, however. "You go talk to 12th graders and there's none of that. They've become incurious. Something terrible has happened between kindergarten and 12th grade."

Unfortunately, we see this in matters of faith as well. As we grow into adulthood our curiosity seems to wane. There could be a myriad of reasons for this. Whatever they are, this week I challenge you to overcome them and rekindle that curiosity. Find some opportunity to grow in faith and understanding. Maybe join a [book club](#)?



Their faces are blurred because we don't have all of the media releases back yet. If you haven't signed and returned your release, please do so soon!

### IN THIS ISSUE

[In the Beginning...](#)

[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

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at Vets Home

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# SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

By Scott Hahn

Readings:

Amos 6:1, 4–7  
Psalm 146:7–10  
1 Timothy 6:11–16  
Luke 16:19–31

[Listen Here](#)



The rich and powerful are visited with woe and exile in today's Liturgy—not for their wealth but for their refusal to share it; not for their power but for their indifference to the suffering at their door.

The complacent leaders in today's First Reading feast on fine foods and wines, reveling while the house of Joseph, the kingdom of Israel (see Amos 5:6), collapses around them.

The rich man in today's Gospel also lives like a king—dressed in royal purple and fine linen (see 1 Maccabees 8:14).

The rich man symbolizes Israel's failure to keep the Old Covenant, to heed the commandments of Moses and the prophets. This is the sin of the rulers in today's First Reading. Born to the nation God favored first, they could claim Abraham as their father. But for their failure to give—their inheritance is taken away.

The rulers are exiled from their homeland. The rich man is punished with an exile far greater—eternity with a “great chasm” fixed between himself and God.

In this world, the rich and powerful make a name for themselves (see Genesis 11:4) and dine sumptuously, while the poor remain anonymous, refused an invitation to their feasts.

But notice that the Lord today knows Lazarus by name, and Joseph in his sufferings—while the leaders and the rich man have no name.

Today's Liturgy is a call to repentance—to heed the warning of One who was raised from the dead. To lay hold of the eternal life He promises, we must pursue righteousness, keep the commandment of love, as Paul exhorts in today's Epistle.

“The Lord loves the just,” we sing in today's Psalm.

And in this Eucharist we have a foretaste of the love that will be ours in the next life—when He will raise the lowly to the heavenly banquet with Abraham and the prophets (see Luke 13:28), where we too will rest our heads on the bosom of our Lord (see John 13:23).

"Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'"

LUKE 16:31

# The Gospel at Home

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

## Gospel Reading

Luke 16:19-31

Jesus tells the parable of the reversal of fortunes between the rich man and the poor man, Lazarus.

## Background on the Gospel Reading

A major theme in the Gospel of Luke is the importance of the care of the poor in the life of discipleship. In the parable found in today's Gospel, Jesus contrasts the life of a rich man and the poor man, Lazarus, who lives in the shadow of the rich man and his wealth. Both die. Lazarus finds himself in heaven; the rich man in the netherworld. The rich man asks for assistance from Lazarus in his torment. But Abraham reminds the rich man of the good things he had in his life and describes the current situation as a reversal of fortunes. The rich man then asks that Lazarus be sent to warn his family, but this is denied with the reminder that Moses and the prophets have warned of judgment for those who neglect the care of the poor.

In the context of Luke's Gospel, this parable, delivered in the presence of a crowd of listeners, is part of Jesus' response to some Pharisees. These Pharisees are described in Luke's Gospel as "loving money." (Note: The Pharisees were followers of a sect of Judaism active before, during, and after Jesus' lifetime. They taught an oral interpretation of the Law of Moses as the basis for popular Jewish piety. They put less emphasis on Temple worship and more on applying the law to everyday life. Though they are often portrayed negatively in the Gospels, they shared many of Jesus' and the early Church's concerns about the law.) Jesus observed that the actions of some Pharisees betrayed misplaced priorities: they spoke one way, but acted in another. The story of the rich man and Lazarus demonstrates the importance of the care of the poor and is a reminder to those who would follow Jesus of the unimportance of wealth in the eyes of God.

## Family Connection

Talk with your children about some of the things that they have that can be shared with others. Ask your children to describe a time when they had to share something that they had. Ask if this was easy or difficult and why. Talk about some of ways in which your family shares your possessions. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 16:19-31. Consider together some reasons why the rich man may not have shared his riches with the poor man, Lazarus. Identify some reasons why we might share our possessions with others. Make a commitment as a family to do something this week in which you will choose to share your possessions with someone in need.

*"Abraham replied, 'My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented.'"*

LUKE 16:25



# Did You Know?

## St. Jude has a Catholic Book Club!

The St. Jude Catholic Book Club has just formed and our initial meeting is on Tuesday, September 27 at 7:30pm in the Thaddeus Center. The first book we'll be reading is "Orthodoxy" by G.K. Chesterton. All are welcome to attend! Don't worry if you haven't started reading the book yet. The book is in the public domain and there are several ways to get a copy for free. Check it out from the local library. Or get a free ebook [here](#). Contact Anne Tawney for more info (annettawney@gmail.com).

From chesterton.org:

"Gilbert Keith Chesterton (1874-1936) is a writer like none other. As a journalist, he wrote thousands of essays for the London newspapers. But he also wrote a hundred books: novels, poetry, plays, literary criticism, history, economic theory, philosophy, and theology. And detective stories. He wrote on every conceivable subject, but his vast output is matched only by the consistency and clarity of his thought, his uncanny ability to tie everything together. In the heart of nearly every paragraph lies a jaw-dropping aphorism or sparkling paradox that leaves readers shaking their heads in wonder.

He was not only a creator of characters, he was a character in his own right. At six foot-four, and three hundred pounds, with cape and swordstick, crumpled hat and tiny glasses at the end of his nose, he was a cause for amusement wherever he appeared. But he was one of the most beloved men of his time. Even his opponents regarded him with great affection. His humility, his wonder at existence, his graciousness and joy set him apart not only from most "artists" or "celebrities" but from most anyone.

A massive mind in a massive body, Chesterton was a giant in all respects. But in our day he is a giant in hiding, a giant apparently too big to be seen. Even though Chesterton is still widely quoted, he is largely forgotten. And yet so many of the very things he warned against have come to pass: mindless faddism, rampant materialism, moral relativism, censorship by the press (as opposed to censorship of the press), the rise of the twin evils of big government and big business, the decline of the family, the loss of beauty in the arts, the loss of wonder at the world, the loss of liberty in life.

Chesterton's words ring truer today than when they were first written at the other end of the previous century. And while all that sounds quite serious, it is refreshing to find that Chesterton approached every subject with great wit and overflowing mirth. The world needs to be shaken with his laughter once again."

[Read Dale Ahlquist's introductory essay on G.K. Chesterton, "Who is This Guy and Why Haven't I Heard of Him?"](#)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Opportunities to Grow in Faith

### **Saturday, September 24:**

Diocesan Assembly - Catholics across the diocese are invited to participate in "Diocesan Assembly 2022: Witness" from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022 at Cathedral Square Center, 360 Division Ave. S. The final event of a three-year series, the conference will be offered in-person and online. [More info here.](#)

### **Sunday, September 25:**

RCIA classes at 11:30am (after the 10:30am Mass)

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

We are actively seeking catechists and aides for the Sunday evening Faith Formation classes for Grades 1-8. Many hands make light work. Please contact Marty Smith [msmith@stjudes.net](mailto:msmith@stjudes.net) or Janet DeBoe [jdeboe@stjudes.net](mailto:jdeboe@stjudes.net) for more information.

### **Monday, September 26:**

The Women's Bible Study will be meeting on Monday, September 19 at 7:00PM in the Thaddeus Center. This is week 2 in a nine week study from Formed entitled "A Case for Jesus" by Brant Pitre. The book for the study is \$10. If you are interested in joining us or have any questions please call Peg Manuszak at 616-361-5836.

### **Tuesday, September 27:**

Men of Emmaus - 7pm 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!

Book Club - 7:30pm in the Thaddeus Center. This will be the first meeting. We are going to start reading "Orthodoxy" by G.K. Chesterton.

### **Wednesday, September 28:**

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

### **Thursday, September 29:**

7:00pm - 8:30pm - Statewide Webinar on PROPOSAL 3: Equipping for LIFE. Proposal 3 is deadly and deceptive – if passed it would usher in death for generations. The Catholic Church in Michigan invites you to a Zoom webinar in defense of LIFE. Learn from legal, medical and apologetics experts on what the amendment really says. Learn what you can say to change minds and votes, perhaps even your own. Michigan needs YOU to help others VOTE NO on Proposal 3. Preregistration required: <https://www.dioceseoflansing.org/lay-equipping-webinar> More information about the Diocese of Grand Rapids' response to Proposal 3: <https://grdiocese.org/fight-like-heaven-to-defeat-proposal-3/>

*"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."*

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

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