



# faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 14 // DEC. 15, 2022

4th  
Sunday of  
Advent

## *In the Beginning...*

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Have you ever noticed how easy it is to take things for granted? We humans are pretty susceptible to becoming complacent with all the good things we have when we're used to getting them all the time. Whether it's food on the table, a working furnace, a car that runs, loved ones who care for us or simply our health. Take any of those things away and suddenly there's a big hole in our lives and we find ourselves struggling. Easy access to something tends to make us value it less.

On Tuesday, December 13 parishes from around the Diocese, including St. Jude, had a night of Adoration. It was part of the Eucharistic Revival, which is an attempt by the Church to rekindle our understanding that the Eucharist is not a metaphor or symbol. It is Jesus, truly present body, blood, soul and divinity. Fortunately for us, the Eucharist is a **miracle** which takes place at every Mass. And maybe unfortunately for us, the Eucharist is a miracle that **takes place at every Mass**.

Adoration is amazing. Yet, on Tuesday there were maybe 30-50 people who went. It reinforces that there's a lot of work to do over the next three years of the Eucharistic Revival.

**On Thursday, December 22, we'll be having Adoration again. I hope to see you there!**

This is a photo from ASA's Christmas concert. It would be amazing to have this sort of turnout for Mass or Adoration!



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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 Chenele talks about what "communion" means.

Check it out:

[You Are Loved: Episode 6](#)

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](mailto:jdeboe@stjudes.net)

Marty Smith: [msmith@stjudes.net](mailto: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

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](#)

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 7:10–14](#)

[Psalm 24:1–6](#)

[Romans 1:1–7](#)

[Matthew 1:18–24](#)

[LISTEN HERE](#)



The mystery kept secret for long ages, promised through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, is today revealed (see Romans 16:25–26).

This is the “Gospel of God” that Paul celebrates in today’s Epistle—the good news that “God is with us” in Jesus Christ. The sign promised to the House of David in today’s First Reading is given in today’s Gospel. In the virgin found with child, God Himself has brought to Israel a savior from David’s royal line (see Acts 13:22–23).

Son of David according to the flesh, Jesus is the Son of God, born of the Spirit. He will be anointed with the Spirit (see Acts 10:38), and by the power of Spirit will be raised from the dead and established at God’s right hand in the heavens (see Acts 2:33–34; Ephesians 1:20–21).

He is the “King of Glory” we sing of in today’s Psalm. The earth in its fullness has been given to Him. And as God swore long ago to David, His Kingdom will have no end (see Psalm 89:4–5).

In Jesus Christ we have a new creation. Like the creation of the world, it is a work of the Spirit, a blessing from the Lord (see Genesis 1:2). In Him, we are saved from our sins, are called now “the beloved of God.”

All nations now are called to belong to Jesus Christ, to enter into the House of David and kingdom of God, the Church. Together, through the obedience of faith, we have been made a new race—a royal people that seeks for the face of the God of Jacob.

He has made our hearts clean; He has made us worthy to enter His holy place, to stand in His presence and serve Him.

In the Eucharist, the everlasting covenant is renewed, the Advent promise of virgin with child—God with us—continues until the end of the age (see Matthew 28:20; Ezekiel 37:24–28).

*"All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us)."*

MATTHEW 1:22-23



# The Gospel at Home

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Gospel Reading:

*Matthew 1:18-24*

An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: “Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about” (Matthew 1:18). The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means “Yahweh saves.” He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: “. . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us].”

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

### Family Connection

Joseph and Mary are our models for family life and for service of God. Even when the circumstances seemed unclear, Joseph trusted God. Healthy family life is built upon trust, trust in God and trust of one another. Spend some time talking as a family about the importance of trust in your family life, including the ways in which the children trust the adults in the family as well as the ways in which the adults trust the children. Then read today's Gospel. Talk about Joseph's trust of God and reflect together on how your family trusts in God. Pray together that your family life will be built on trust, as was the family life of Joseph and Mary. Pray and sing together an Advent song, such as “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

Source: [Loyola Press](#)

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

MATTHEW 1:18-21

# Mary Did You Know?

Yes.  
(and no).

It's a catchy song, I'll admit it. But, spoiler alert: she knew (much of it anyway). When the angel Gabriel announced God's plan to her, he gave her quite a bit of detail. As modern readers, we probably don't pick up on the full contextual significance of what Gabriel said in Luke 1 (see side bar). To be told that your Son will be called the Son of the Most High, He will rule from the throne of David and His Kingdom will have no end says a lot, especially to a Jewish girl in a time that was eagerly awaiting the Messiah.

Not only did she know what she heard from Gabriel at the Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38), but she also knew what the angel told Joseph in his dream, presumably (Matthew 1:18–25); she knew what Elizabeth told her by the Holy Spirit at the Visitation (Luke 1:39–56); she knew what Gabriel told Zechariah about his own son John, presumably (Luke 1:5–23); she knew what the shepherds told her at the Nativity that they heard from the heavenly host (Luke 2:8–20); and she knew what Simeon and Anna told Mary at the Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:22–38).

So, yes, Mary knew the earth-shattering truth about the identity of her Son.

But did she know every little detail? Did she know He would give sight to the blind, walk on water or calm a storm? She probably didn't have the foreknowledge of these specific events. But let's conclude by taking in her "Magnificat" (Luke 1:46–55).

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity for ever."

Suggested Reading: [What Did Mary Know and When Did She Know It?](#)

"And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Luke 1:28-33

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Opportunities to Grow in Faith

### Sunday, December 18:

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

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

5:30pm - Religious Ed classes for grades 1-8 Family Christmas gathering.

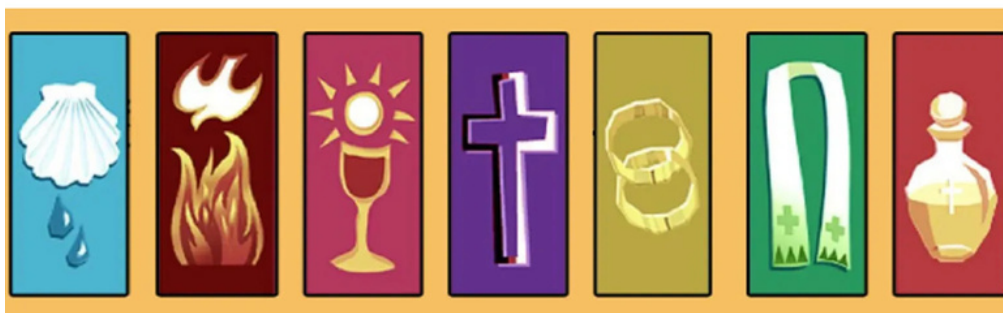
### Wednesday, December 21:

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

### Thursday, December 22:

7:00pm - Eucharistic Adoration in the church.

## Thursday Evenings | 7:00 PM Brophy Center



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 to discover why the sacraments are an essential part of the Catholic faith!

Oct 27: Introduction to the Sacraments

Nov 3: Baptism

Nov 10: Confirmation

Dec 1: Testimony

Dec 8: Eucharist Part 1

Dec 15: Eucharist Part 2

Dec 22: Eucharistic Adoration

Jan 5: Anointing of the Sick

Jan 12: Testimony

Jan 26: Marriage Part 1

Feb 2: Marriage Part 2

Feb 9: Testimony

Feb 16: Reconciliation Part 1

Feb 23: Reconciliation Part 2

Mar 2: Penance Service

Mar 9: Holy Orders

March 16: Testimony

\*Some dates are tentative and could change. We'll update you as soon as any changes are made.

For more information please contact Marie Cirenza at  
mariecirenza@yahoo.com

## BOOK CLUB NEWS

We're starting some new books in 2023! 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. Book Club is held Tuesdays from 7:30-9pm in the Thaddeus Center, beginning **January 10** with the first two chapters of "The Great Divorce".

"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

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