



# faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 18 // JAN. 12, 2023

2nd  
Sunday in  
Ordinary Time

## *In the Beginning...*

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This coming Sunday is the first in our series of three parent meetings for parents of children who will be receiving their first Communion in May. 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 parents in forming saints. 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.

These three parent meetings will take place once a month in January, February and March during the Sunday night classes -from about 5:30pm to about 6:45pm. They 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. We are providing these opportunities for your benefit and the benefit of your children. They are not mandatory.

Our faith calls for continual conversion. It is a lifelong process, which is why you'll see priests, deacons and parish staff go on retreats, attend seminars and participate in workshops. Volunteer catechists also do this. Given that most catechesis is done at home, it's important that we parents also try to do this. Although it may seem like it at times, our faith is not about taking classes so we can get a certificate and move on to the next stage of being Catholic. Our faith is about forming a relationship with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, Creator of the universe, of time and space and all that is in it. Religious education classes help to form a foundation, but they are not the end of our conversion or journey.

Parents of students in other grades are welcome to join us during these three meetings as well. The Presence series is highly worth it. I've watched it twice and have learned something new each time. So please consider these meetings open to anyone who wants to attend.

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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

Jules talks Jesus: The Greatest Superhero and the story of salvation. Check it out:

[You Are Forgiven: Episode 3](#)

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.



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](#)

## 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

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 49:3, 5-6](#)

[Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-10](#)

[1 Corinthians 1:1-3](#)

[John 1:29-34](#)

[LISTEN HERE](#)



Jesus speaks through the prophet Isaiah in today's First Reading.

He tells us of the mission given to Him by the Father from the womb: "You are My servant," He said to Me."

Servant and Son, our Lord was sent to lead a new exodus—to raise up the exiled tribes of Israel, to gather and restore them to God. More than that, He was to be a light to the nations, that God's salvation may reach to the ends of the earth (see Acts 13:46-47).

Before the first exodus, a lamb was offered in sacrifice and its blood painted on the Israelites' door posts. The blood of the lamb identified their homes and the Lord "passed over" these in executing judgment on the Egyptians (see Exodus 12:1-23, 27).

In the new exodus, Jesus is the "Lamb of God," as John beholds Him in the Gospel today (see 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19). Our Lord sings of this in today's Psalm. He has come, He says, to offer His body to do the will of God (see Hebrews 10:3-13).

The sacrifices, oblations, holocausts, and sin-offerings given after the first exodus had no power to take away sins (see Hebrews 10:4). They were meant not to save but to teach (see Galatians 3:24). In offering these sacrifices, the people were to learn self-sacrifice—that they were made for worship, to offer themselves freely to God and to delight in His will.

Only Jesus could make that perfect offering of Himself. And through His sacrifice, He has given us ears open to obedience and made it possible for us to hear the Father's call to holiness, as Paul says in today's Epistle.

He has made us children of God, baptized in the blood of the Lamb (see Revelation 7:14). And we are to join our sacrifice to His, to offer our bodies—our lives—as living sacrifices in the spiritual worship of the Mass (see Romans 12:1).

*"The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."*

JOHN 1:29-31

Source: [St. Paul Center](#)



# The Gospel at Home

## 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Gospel Reading:

John 1:29-34

John testifies that Jesus is the Lamb of God, God's own Son.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday we break from our reading of Matthew's Gospel (the primary Gospel for our current liturgical cycle, Cycle A) to read from John's Gospel. We heard Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism last Sunday, on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Today, we hear John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus as found in John's Gospel. John's Gospel differs from the other Gospels because John does not describe Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist. Instead, John the Baptist announces that he knows that Jesus is the Son of God.

In today's reading, John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and cries out, giving witness about who Jesus is. In John's testimony he says that he saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus. By this sign, John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the one who is to come after him.

John the Baptist uses two titles for Jesus that are familiar to us. John calls Jesus the "Lamb of God" and the "Son of God." By using these titles, John the Baptist identifies Jesus' ultimate purpose: to redeem sinful humanity.

John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus clearly distinguishes John's baptism from the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John baptizes with water; Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John also puts his practice of baptism in the context of Jesus' ministry. The purpose of John's baptism was to make Jesus known to Israel.

John the Baptist's sense of purpose is clearly identified in this reading: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the ministry of the One who was to follow. John's witness is an excellent example of what it means to be a disciple. By our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the witness of our lives.

### Family Connection

The ministry of John the Baptist prepared for and pointed to the ministry of Jesus. In a similar way, our lives are to offer testimony to who we know Jesus to be for us and for the world. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. How does the witness of our lives give testimony to the reconciling presence of Christ?

As a family, identify as many titles for Jesus as possible, such as Lamb of God, Son of God, Prince of Peace, and so on. Talk together about what these different titles mean and what they tell you about Jesus. Then read together today's Gospel, John 1:29-34.

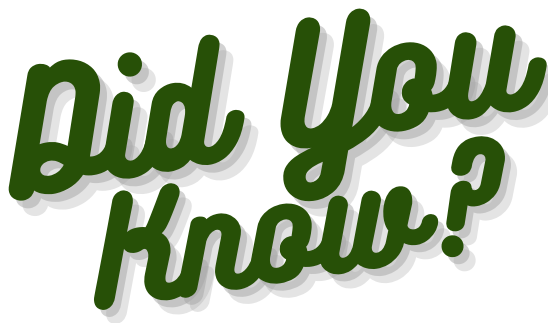
Consider how John the Baptist gives testimony to who Jesus is. Talk about what people might come to know about Jesus by observing your family life. Pray together that your family life will show others that Jesus is the Son of God, the lamb who takes away the sins of the world. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

*"And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him.*

*I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'*

*And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."*

JOHN 1:32-34



## The "Lamb of God" is Sacrificial language.

We don't call Jesus the "lamb of God" because he's cute, cuddly, gentle and meek. He is the Lamb of God because He is the new Passover sacrifice. It is the Eucharist that makes His death on the cross a sacrifice. Otherwise, His death on the cross would be just another Roman execution.

From Catholic Answers:

When the Jewish people were slaves in Egypt, they were liberated by God through Moses in the Exodus. Egypt did not want to free the slaves, so God sent a series of plagues to convince the Pharaoh to let the Jewish people go. The last of these plagues was the death of every firstborn male (Ex. 11:1–12:36). The Jewish people were spared from this plague by marking their doors with the blood of an unblemished lamb that God had commanded them to eat (Ex. 12:3-13). The blood of this lamb saved the Jewish people from the plague of death and resulted in their liberation from slavery.

Similarly, the death of Jesus saves us from eternal death and slavery to sin. This connection was foreseen by the prophet Isaiah who spoke of the Messiah as a sacrificial lamb (Is. 53:7) and John the Baptist who foretold the saving death of Jesus by calling him the Lamb of God (John 1:29). The author of the Gospel of John employs this imagery by stating that Jesus was sentenced to death at the same hour that the Passover lambs were being slaughtered (John 19:14) and by pointing out that none of his bones were broken (John 19:36), the same as the Passover lamb's bones were not to be broken (Ex. 12:46).

Every time the Eucharist is celebrated, we believe that Calvary is mysteriously made present in our midst. We recognize the mystery of our faith by proclaiming the Lamb of God (Jesus) made present under the appearances of bread and wine.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Opportunities to Grow in Faith

### Sunday, January 15:

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.

5:30pm - Meeting for parents of children who will be receiving First Holy Communion and Reconciliation. 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.

### Monday, January 16:

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 Brophy Center. 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 17:

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

7:30pm - Book Club. "The Great Divorce" by CS Lewis - Chapters 3 & 4. 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 18:

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.

"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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# John the Baptist:

## Was He the Messiah?

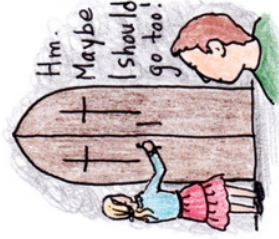


Everybody thought that John the Baptist was a great preacher and prophet. Some people thought that he might even be the Messiah who would save their people. But John knew that was not his job. When Jesus came to him at the river to be baptized, John pointed at Him and told the people, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" He told the people that he was not the great one; Jesus was.



Saint John the Baptist is an example to all of us. If we are really good then our lives will show other people the way to Jesus.

John the Baptist taught the people by telling them to repent of their sins and be baptized. God wants some people to teach about Him by teaching and preaching to the people. But for most of us, the best way to teach others about God is by living a good life and loving God.



If you really do your best to love God then your life will be like St. John the Baptist's and point the way to Jesus.

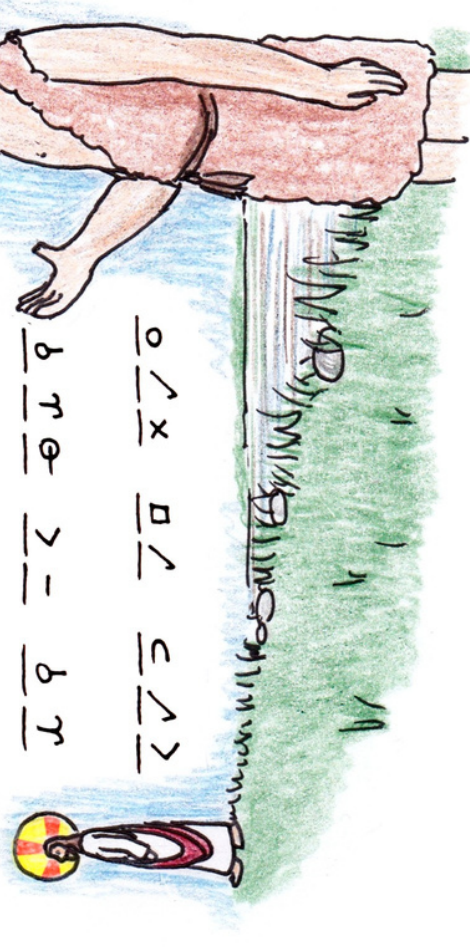
What is something that you can do today to lead someone to Jesus?

Answer to puzzle on front: I have seen and testified that He is the Son of God.  
Answer to Psalm 40 Word-Find: O Lord I come to do Your will.

# The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
January 15th, 2023

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What did Saint John the Baptist  
say about Jesus?

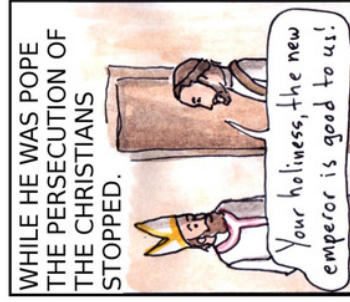
Use the code to figure it out!

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A D E F G H I N O S T V



# POPE SAINT FABIAN

JANUARY 20



WE CAN LEARN FROM THE STORY OF SAINT FABIAN THAT GOD CAN DO GREAT WORK WITH ORDINARY PEOPLE. SAINT FABIAN DID NOT EXPECT TO BECOME POPE, BUT WHEN HE DID HE WORKED HARD FOR THE CHURCH. IF YOU EVER GET CHOSEN TO DO A BIG JOB REMEMBER THAT GOD WILL HELP YOU DO IT.

# PSALM 40

## Word-Find

H O L O C A U S T O  
E W I T H I N O O F  
A L O W E A R S P F  
R H E A R T R A E E  
D E L I G H T C N R  
D I C T O W A R D I  
C O M E O M E I T N  
L O R D O D O F Y G  
O U R J U S T I C E  
O B E D I E N C E W  
I L W R I T T E N L



See if you can find all the words that are in CAPITALS. Use the left over letters to fill in the blanks at the end.

I have WAITED, waited for the LORD,  
and He stooped TOWARD me and HEARD my cry.  
And He put a new song in my mouth,  
a hymn to our God.

SACRIFICE or OFFERING You wished not,  
but EARS OPEN to OBEDIENCE You gave me.  
HOLOCAUST or sin-offerings You sought not;  
then I said, "Behold I COME."

"In the WRITTEN scroll it is prescribed for me,  
to do Your will, O my God, is my DELIGHT,  
and Your law is WITHIN my HEART!"

I announced Your JUSTICE in the vast assembly;  
I did not restrain my lips, as You, O Lord, know.

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