



faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 23 // FEB. 16, 2023

7th
Sunday in
Ordinary Time

In the Beginning...

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Lent begins next week. It seems like we just finished celebrating Christmas! Lent is a great time to grow in faith. The best way to make the most of Lent is to prepare for it now.

My daughter is preparing and, by extension, so are we. She wants to attend daily Mass during Lent. We'll find a way to make it happen. She wanted to do the same thing last year and it was great. Because of different schedules and commitments we ended up visiting a number of different parishes in order to make our daily commitment.

Many of you have a copy of Matthew Kelly's "Holy Moments" book which was gifted to our parish community by a generous donor. One of the ways you can make this Lent the Best Lent Ever is to sign up for Matthew's Kelly's daily emails based upon the Holy Moments. We placed all of the copies of the book we have on the table in the vestibule. When these are gone, you will need to order your own copy from DynamicCatholic.com. if you want to receive the Lenten Reflections, you need to sign up now at this link: Join Dynamic Catholic for the [BEST LENT EVER Email Program](#).

Recently, I've talked about God's name being Holy. It keeps coming up! Scott Hahn is launching a study for Lent called ["Holy is His Name."](#) This is a limited-time, on-demand video study that can be accessed by registering at <https://stpaulcenter.com/holystudy>. This twelve-part series will stream for FREE this Lent from Ash Wednesday, February 22 until Divine Mercy Sunday, April 16. Two lessons will be released every week and will stream for two weeks and then come down. The videos are scheduled to come down on Sunday, April 16 at 11:59pm.

Finally, although Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation, it is a day of fasting and abstinence. Check out the [USCCB](#) for a refresher on the regulations. Make this the best Lent ever!

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Confession

Saturday: 3:00 - 3:45PM
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

At our parent meetings we're going through the series Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist. This week at home, let's walk our children through the Eucharistic liturgy at Mass using [Presence: For Children: The Miracle at Every Mass presented by Fr. John Riley](#).

We understand that many schools are having a short break this coming week and some families may be out of town for the long weekend. If you are unable to attend the parent meeting, please watch [Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist: Episode 2](#). You can access a study guide [here](#).

God is the Master Storyteller. He authors His great love story not only with words, but with deeds. All of God's mighty deeds throughout history make up one beautiful narrative of salvation, which culminates in the Paschal Mystery. Jesus's teachings and actions throughout his ministry prepare for the moment he offers himself for, and to, each of us, fulfilling his promise that "My flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed" (John 6:55).

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

"You Are Loved"

(about the Eucharist)

[Episode 1](#)

[Episode 2](#)

[Episode 3](#)

[Episode 4](#)

[Episode 5](#)

[Episode 6](#)

[Episode 7](#)

Previous Signs of Grace

"You Are Forgiven"

(about Reconciliation)

[Episode 1](#)

[Episode 2](#)

[Episode 3](#)

[Episode 4](#)

[Episode 5](#)

[Episode 6](#)

[How to Make a Great Confession](#)

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:

[Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18](#)

[Psalm 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13](#)

[1 Corinthians 3:16-23](#)

[Matthew 5:38-48](#)

[LISTEN HERE](#)



We are called to the holiness of God. That is the extraordinary claim made in both the First Reading and the Gospel this Sunday.

Yet how is it possible that we can be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect? Jesus explains that we must be imitators of God as His beloved children (Ephesians 5:1-2).

As God does, we must love without limit—with a love that does not distinguish between friend and foe, overcoming evil with good (see Romans 12:21). Jesus Himself, in His Passion and death, gave us the perfect example of the love that we are called to.

He offered no resistance to the evil—even though He could have commanded twelve legions of angels to fight alongside Him. He offered His face to be struck and spit upon. He allowed His garments to be stripped from Him. He marched as His enemies compelled Him to the Place of the Skull. On the Cross, He prayed for those who persecuted Him (see Matthew 26:53-54, 67; 27:28, 32; Luke 23:34).

In all this, He showed Himself to be the perfect Son of God. By His grace, and through our imitation of Him, He promises that we too can become children of our heavenly Father.

God does not deal with us as we deserve, as we sing in this week's Psalm. He loves us with a Father's love. He saves us from ruin. He forgives our transgressions.

He loved us even when we had made ourselves His enemies through our sinfulness. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (see Romans 5:8).

We have been bought with the price of the blood of God's only Son (see 1 Corinthians 6:20). We belong to Christ now, as St. Paul says in this week's Epistle. By our baptism, we have been made temples of His Holy Spirit.

And we have been saved to share in His holiness and perfection. So let us glorify Him by our lives lived in His service, loving as He loves.

Source: [St. Paul Center](#)

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

MATTHEW 5:43-45

The Gospel at Home

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 5:38-48

My command to you is: love your enemies, pray for your persecutors.

Background on the Gospel

The last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies. We should not look at “an eye for an eye” as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God’s kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil. In contrast, Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbor are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God’s love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?

The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word *telos*, which is probably better translated here as “complete.” We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.

Family Connection

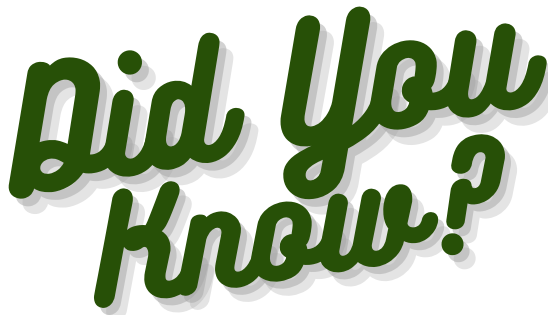
Family life teaches us many things. It is often at home that we learn practical skills such as cooking, riding a bike, and making repairs. Talk about some of the things that the members of your family have learned to do at home. We also learn about caring at home. Talk about times when you have learned a lesson about sharing, forgiving, or loving through an experience that happened at home.

Talk about how love is the most important thing a family can share with one another. Explain that it is the same in God’s family. Read aloud this Sunday’s Gospel, Matthew 5:38-48. Talk about how Jesus tried to teach his disciples how to love others beyond those who are closest to them. Jesus tells them to love even their enemies. As members of God’s family, we are called to do the same thing. Talk about some concrete ways you can “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”

Remind your children that Jesus does not expect us to be perfect. Jesus knows that we are human and will not always do everything correctly. Explain that what Jesus wants us to do is to love others as if they were Jesus himself. If we reach out in love to others, we are doing exactly what Jesus did. That is what perfection looks like. End this time together by praying the [Act of Love](#).

"For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

MATTHEW 5:46-48



Ash Wednesday Ashes are made from last year's Palms

Nine Things You Need to Know About Ash Wednesday

1. What is Ash Wednesday? Ash Wednesday is the day that Lent begins (see: 9 things you need to know about Lent). The name comes from the fact that a particular rite is always celebrated on this Wednesday in which the faithful have ashes put on their foreheads. According to the Roman Missal: In the course of today's Mass, ashes are blessed and distributed. These are made from the olive branches or branches of other trees that were blessed the previous year [on Palm/Passion Sunday].

2. What does the putting on of ashes symbolize? According to the Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy: In the Roman Rite, the beginning of the forty days of penance is marked with the austere symbol of ashes which are used in the Liturgy of Ash Wednesday. The use of ashes is a survival from an ancient rite according to which converted sinners submitted themselves to canonical penance. The act of putting on ashes symbolizes fragility and mortality, and the need to be redeemed by the mercy of God. Far from being a merely external act, the Church has retained the use of ashes to symbolize that attitude of internal penance to which all the baptized are called during Lent. The faithful who come to receive ashes should be assisted in perceiving the implicit internal significance of this act, which disposes them towards conversion and renewed Easter commitment.

3. How does the distribution of ashes take place? The Roman Missal states that after the homily, the priest blesses the ashes and sprinkles them with holy water. Then the priest places ashes on the head of all those present who come to him, and says to each one: Repent, and believe the Gospel. Or: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Meanwhile an antiphon or another appropriate chant is sung.

4. Is there a particular way the ashes should be put on people's heads? Fr. Edward McNamara, professor of liturgy at Regina Apostolorum University comments: There are no set rules regarding this, and it largely depends on local custom. In most English-speaking countries the prevailing custom seems to be that the priest places enough holy water into the ashes to form a kind of paste. The ashes are then daubed in the form of a cross on the forehead. Many Catholics see this practice as a means of publicly showing their faith and leave the smudge on their forehead throughout Ash Wednesday.

[Continue reading for the other five!](#)

Source:
[National Catholic Register](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Sunday, February 19:

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 class for grades 1-8.

5:30pm - Parent meeting for parents of children making their first communion and reconciliation.

Monday, February 20:

7:00pm - Women's Bible Study in the Thaddeus Center.

Tuesday, February 21:

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

7:30pm - Book Club. This week we're discussing chapters 11 & 12 of "The Great Divorce" by C.S. Lewis. [More info here!](#)

Wednesday, February 22:

Ash Wednesday

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

8:30am - Mass with Ashes.

12:00pm - Communion Service with Ashes.

7:00pm - Mass with Ashes.

Thursday, February 23:

7:00pm - The Sacraments with Marie Cirenza. 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

Daily Mass

Tuesday: 8:30AM

Thursday: 8:30AM

Friday: 8:30AM

Weekend Mass

Saturday: 4:00PM

Sunday: 8:30AM, 10:30AM

Save the Date
Vacation Bible School
SAINT JUDE PARISH
July 24-28

All Children age 4 - 5th Grade
join us
in
Babylon
Daniel's Courage in Captivity

For more information
or to volunteer
contact Janet DeBoe at
jdeboe@stjudes.net

Ash Wednesday

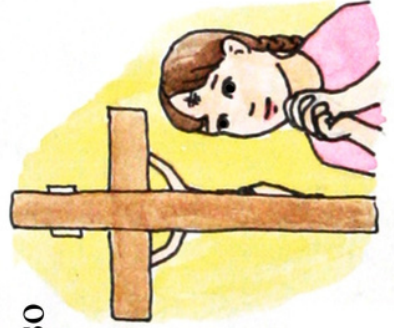


This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent. Lent is a special time in which we prepare to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.



Lent is a time of repentance. We make sacrifices and try to improve our lives to become more like Jesus. Jesus never sinned but He gave up His life to pay for our sins. That is why we make sacrifices—out of love for God and to make up for our sins. We offer our sacrifices to God the Father, just as Jesus on the cross offered up His life to God the Father.

On Ash Wednesday if you go to Mass you can receive ashes on your forehead. The ashes are a sign of repentance. They remind us that without God we are nothing and that someday we will die and be buried. But they can also remind us that if we do have God living in us, after we die we will rise from the dead, just as Jesus did on Easter, after He died on the cross.



Answer to puzzle on front: Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect.
Answers to True or False: 1. false 2. true 3. true 4. false 5. false 6. true 7. true

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 19th, 2023

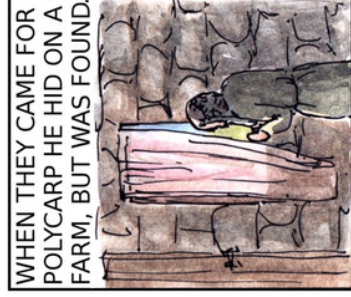


A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

*What did Jesus tell the people in today's Gospel reading?
Use the code to find out!*

Saint Polycarp

February 23



SAINT POLYCARP HELD ONTO HIS FAITH EVEN WHEN HE WAS VERY OLD. HE WOULDN'T EVEN GIVE UP ON JESUS WHEN HE WAS FACED WITH TORTURE. MOST OF US WON'T HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN KEEPING OUR FAITH AND GETTING KILLED, BUT WE STILL HAVE TO BE BRAVE TO STAY TRUE TO JESUS IN THE WORLD.

True or False: What did Jesus say?

How does Jesus tell us we should act toward others?
Which of these are true and which are false?

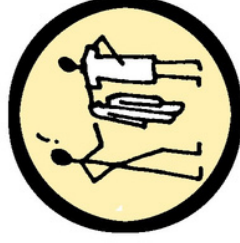


1. When someone hits you on one cheek, you should hit them back.
True or False?

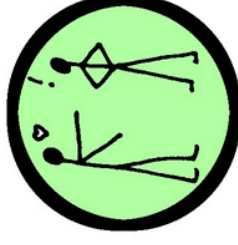


2. If someone tries to take your coat, you should give them your tunic as well.
True or False?

3. If someone makes you walk a mile with them, you should walk two miles.
True or False?



4. If someone asks for something, you shouldn't lend it to them, since they might not give it back.
True or False?



5. You should love your friends and hate your enemies. True or False?

6. You should love your enemies and do good to the people who hate you.
True or False?



7. You should be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect.
True or False?