



# faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 34 // MAY 04, 2023

5th  
Sunday  
of Easter

## *In the Beginning...*

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Happy Easter! Yep. It's still Easter. The readings for the fifth Sunday of Easter are reassuring on the one hand. God has prepared many rooms for us. On the other hand, they can be a bit convicting as Jesus says "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do..."

It can be difficult sometimes to look at our lives through eyes of faith rather than eyes of the world. When Jesus speaks of doing the works that He does, I don't think he is referring to the daily routine we might be accustomed to. He is referring to works of the Kingdom. Maybe we all won't be conduits for miracles. But we can be conduits for service.

Besides the Gospel this week, some other passages to reflect on are Matthew 7:21-23: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?' Then I will declare to them solemnly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.'"

And Matthew 25:34-36: "Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.'"

This week, let's ponder on what Kingdom works we can start doing or those that we can do better. Then, let's stop pondering and go out and do them!

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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

## THURSDAY MAY 4, 6:30pm

We will be meeting in the church for first communion practice on Thursday, May 4 at 6:30pm. Parents please plan on staying for this practice.

## SUNDAY MAY 7, 10:30am

Children will receive their First Holy Communion at the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, May 7. Please note: we will be photographing the children as they receive their First Communion. Images will be loaded to Flickr for you to download at your convenience.

## FIRST RECONCILIATION

We had a wonderful First Reconciliation Service. The children were well prepared and are now ready for First Communion this coming Sunday!

Check out some of the photos from the [First Communion Service](#) on Flickr.



Signs of Grace  
"You Are Loved"  
(about the Eucharist)

[Episode 1](#)

[Episode 2](#)

[Episode 3](#)

[Episode 4](#)

[Episode 5](#)

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Signs of Grace  
"You Are Forgiven"  
(about Reconciliation)

[Episode 1](#)

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[How to Make a Great  
Confession](#)

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[Session 1](#)

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[Preparing Your Child  
for First Confession](#)

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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 LITURGY REFLECTION

By Scott Hahn

Readings:

[Acts 6:1-7](#)

[Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19](#)

[1 Peter 2:4-9](#)

[John 14:1-12](#)

[LISTEN HERE](#)



By His death, Resurrection, and Ascension, Jesus has gone ahead to prepare a place for us in His Father's house.

His Father's house is no longer a temple made by human hands. It is the spiritual house of the Church, built on the living stone of Christ's body. As Peter interprets the Scriptures in today's Epistle, Jesus is the "stone" destined to be rejected by men but made the precious cornerstone of God's dwelling on earth (see [Psalm 118:22](#); [Isaiah 8:14](#); [28:16](#)).

Each of us is called to be a living stone in God's building (see [1 Corinthians 3:9, 16](#)). In this edifice of the Spirit, we are to be "holy priests" offering up "spiritual sacrifices"—all our prayer, work and intentions—to God.

This is our lofty calling as Christians. This is why Christ led us out of the darkness of sin and death as Moses led the Israelites from bondage in Egypt.

God's covenant with Israel made them a royal and priestly people who were to announce His praises (see Exodus 19:6). By our faith in Christ's new covenant, we have been made heirs of this chosen race, called to glorify the Father in the temple of our bodies (see [1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#); [Romans 12:1](#)).

In today's First Reading, we see the spiritual house of the Church being built up as the Apostles consecrate seven deacons so they can devote themselves more fully to the "ministry of the Word."

The Lord's Word is upright and all His works trustworthy, we sing in today's Psalm. So we can trust Jesus when He tells us never to be troubled but to believe that His Word and works come from the Father. His Word continues its work in the world through the Church. We see its beginnings today in Jerusalem. It is destined to spread with influence and power (see [Acts 19:20](#)) and to become the imperishable seed by which every heart is born anew (see [1 Peter 1:23](#)).

*"Let not your hearts be troubled; believe\* in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4 And you know the way where I am going."f 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; henceforth you know him and have seen him."*

JOHN 14:1-7

# The Gospel at Home

## 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Gospel Reading:

John 14:1–12

Jesus tells his disciples, “I am the way and the truth and the life.”

### Background on the Gospel Reading

The readings for the last few Sundays have been about the Resurrection, but today’s Gospel takes us back in time to an event in Jesus’ life before his Passion. Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to prepare a place for them in his Father’s house. He promises that where he is going, his disciples will be able to follow. Thomas, who will later doubt the disciples’ reports that they have seen the Risen Lord, contradicts Jesus by saying that the disciples don’t know where Jesus is going or how to get there. Jesus explains that he himself is the way, the truth, and the life. In knowing and loving Jesus, the disciples now love God the Father.

Philip then makes a request that challenges Jesus’ words. Philip wants Jesus to show the Father to the disciples. Recall that Jesus has just told his disciples, “If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” As a good teacher, Jesus responds to Philip by repeating and elaborating on what he has just told the disciples: they have seen and known Jesus, so they have seen and known the Father. Then Jesus offers another reassurance about his departure: because of faith in God and in Jesus, the disciples will do the work that Jesus has done and more.

The connection between Jesus and his Father, between Jesus’ work and the work of the Father, is made clear in today’s Gospel. Jesus is in the Father, and God the Father is in Jesus. As God spoke his name to Moses, “I am,” so too Jesus speaks his name to his disciples: “I am the way and the truth and the life.”

The revelation of the Trinity is completed in the passage that follows today’s reading, and it is the Gospel for next Sunday. Because Jesus goes away, the Father will send in Jesus’ name the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will continue the work of the Father and of Jesus.

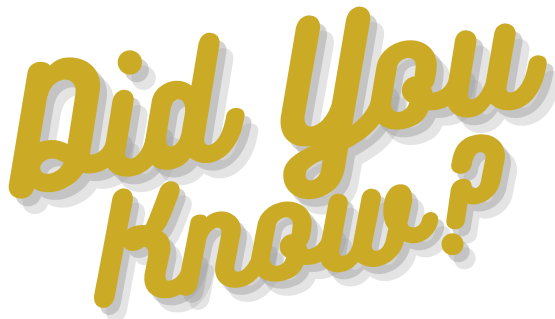
### Family Connection

Members of the same family often bear close resemblances to one another. Sometimes physical resemblances are shared within a family, but often the similarities are behavioral characteristics and mannerisms. We hear this observation affirmed through a number of common phrases: “He’s a chip off the old block” or “She’s her mother’s daughter.” Today’s Gospel points to a mystery of faith that might be examined in light of these familial relationships. In Jesus we see and know the Father. Likewise, the Father is known through the life and work of the Son, Jesus.

Talk together as a family about whether people outside of your family recognize common traits of your family. Are there physical resemblances that people recognize and so know each individual as a member of your family? Are there mannerisms that are shared by members of your family? What are some common interests and work that people might associate with your family? As you read today’s Gospel, John 14:1-12, keep in mind that members of the same family share many characteristics, even though each person in the family is an individual. What does Jesus tell his disciples about his relationship with the Father? The relationship between the Father and Jesus is so close that Jesus says that those who have seen and known Jesus have also seen and known the Father. Jesus promises his disciples that because of their faith in him and in the Father, they too will be able to do the work of the Father as Jesus did. End your discussion by praying together that others will recognize in your family the work of the Father. Pray together the Lord’s Prayer.

*Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me; or else believe me for the sake of the works themselves. “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father.*

JOHN 14:8-12



# Faith Without Works is Dead.

By KARLO BROUSSARD

I recently gave talk on salvation in which I cited James 2:24 (“You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone”) to substantiate the Catholic claim that works are necessary for the ongoing and future dimensions of salvation.

During the question-and-answer session, a young man asked me about a common Protestant objection that attempts to undermine that verse. It asserts that James was not speaking of being justified in the sight of God, but rather in the eyes of men. In other words, our works prove to men that our claim to faith is genuine. James 2:18 is often used as a supporting text: “Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith.”

Since the justification that James speaks of is in the sight of men and not of God, Protestants say, James 2:24 is no evidence that works are necessary for eternal salvation.

What are we to make of this challenge? Let’s take a look.

The first problem with this objection is that it fails to consider the context in which James places his teaching about works. James 2:14 sets it up: “What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith *save* him?” (emphasis added).

The context doesn’t suggest that James is speaking of salvation in a temporal sense. He doesn’t mention being saved from physical enemies, or of our salvation being confirmed in the sight of men. He is speaking of the actual gift of salvation that God grants us. And there are a few reasons to believe this.

First, James tells us that “faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead” (v.17). Notice that James doesn’t say “dead in the sight of men.” He says faith itself is dead. In fact, he makes the point vividly by comparing it to a corpse: “For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so faith apart from works is dead” (v.26).

If James meant that our works merely justify us in the sight of men, then our lack of works would have no negative effect on our faith itself. Our faith would only seem dead in the sight of men. But that would run contrary to what James actually tells us. Moreover, it would make the parallel to a body without the spirit unintelligible. In what sense can the absence of the spirit have no negative effect on the body?

[CONTINUE READING...](#)

St. Jude currently has need for volunteers in several areas:

[3rd Grade Catechist](#)

[Altar Servers](#)

[Sacristans](#)

[Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion](#)

[Lectors](#)

[Men's Bible Study Leader](#)

Do you feel called to any of these?

Send an email to [msmith@stjudes.net](mailto:msmith@stjudes.net) and I'll connect you to the right person!

Source:

[Catholic Answers](#)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Opportunities to Grow in Faith

### Sunday, May 7:

8:30am - Mass

10:30am - Mass (First Communion Mass)

### Monday, May 8:

7:30pm - Bible Study on the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary in the Kelly Conference Room.

### Tuesday, May 9:

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

### Wednesday, May 10:

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

#### WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN A GRANDPARENTS MINISTRY?

The Catholic Grandparents Association is a global organization of the faithful, with a mission to help pass on the faith and keep prayer in the heart of family life. We would like to get a chapter going right here at St. Jude!

For more information, please go to the website:

[www.Catholigrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.Catholigrandparentsassociation.org).

If you are interested in helping organize or joining this ministry, please contact Diane Brewster at 616-648-0515 or email at [dianembrewster@gmail.com](mailto:dianembrewster@gmail.com).

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND LECTORS NEEDED:** St. Jude is in need of Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors at the weekend Masses. You would be assigned on a rotating basis at your preferred Mass time. Please prayerfully consider these ministries. For more information, please contact Linda Parks in the Parish Office ([lparks@stjudes.net](mailto:lparks@stjudes.net) or 616-363-6885).

**SACRISTANS** prepare the altar before the priest celebrates Mass.

We are looking for a few people who would be able to assist for Masses on weekends and other liturgies (Holy days, funerals, weddings, etc.). For more information, please contact Linda Parks (616-363-6885 or [lparks@stjudes.net](mailto:lparks@stjudes.net)).



#### ATTENTION ALTAR SERVERS:

St. Jude Parish is seeking Altar Servers for the weekend Masses. Any child who has received their First Communion is eligible. If you have a child who would be interested, please contact Mary Ellen in the Parish Office (616-363-6885 or [mboruta@stjudes.net](mailto:mboruta@stjudes.net)).

"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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Also, by appointment

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Sunday: 8:30AM, 10:30AM



# Jesus is the Way to Heaven

In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells the disciples that He is the way to the Father in Heaven.

Jesus is the way for us to go to Heaven. But how can a person be a way to get somewhere? Jesus is always with the Father in Heaven, so the closer we are to Jesus the closer we are to Heaven!

How can we be close to Jesus? Here are some ways:

## Pray to Jesus.

Prayer is talking with God. When we want to be friends with someone we talk with them a lot.



## Try to be like Jesus.

Always do the right thing. When you need to decide what to do, think: "What would Jesus do in this situation?" Stay close to Mary, His mother. She will keep you close to Jesus.



**Receive Jesus in Holy Communion.** The Eucharist is an amazing gift. It is Jesus coming to us so that we can receive Him into our bodies and souls. Communion is the closest we can be to Jesus until we get to Heaven.

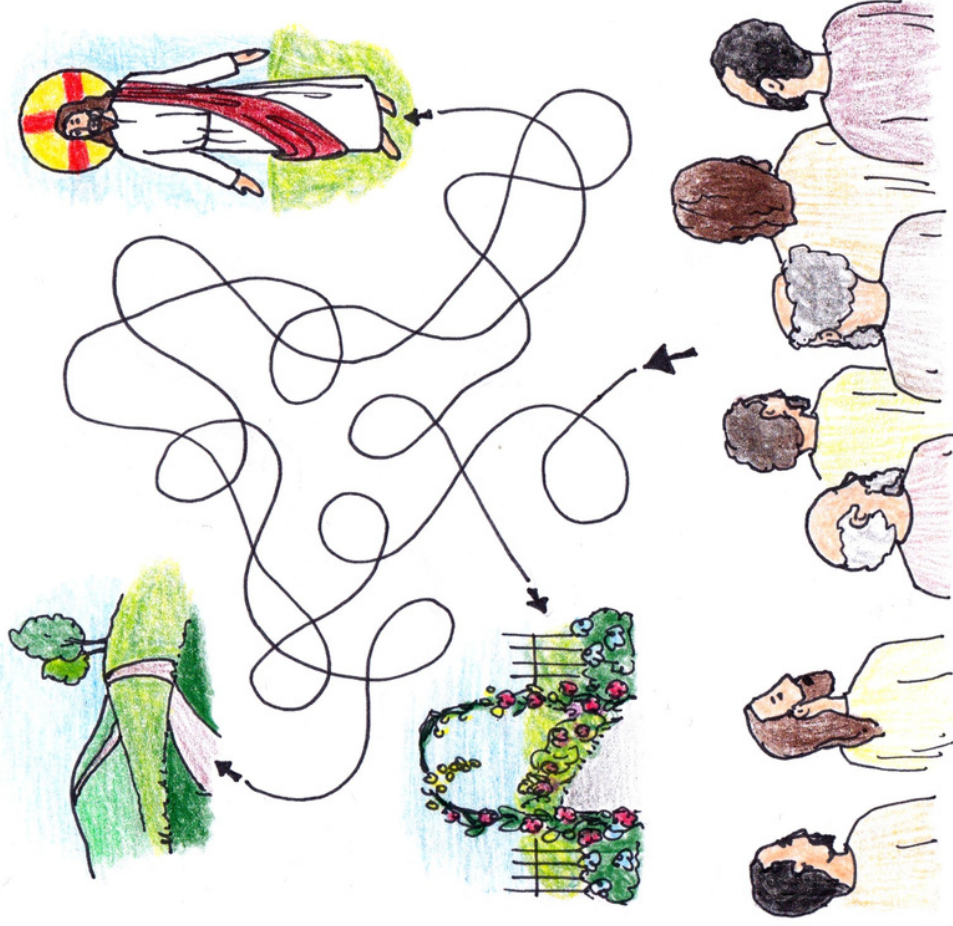


Answers to Cross-Word: Across: 3. Father 5. is 9. time 10. because 11. on 13. will 15. and 17. whoever 18. who 20. than 22. speak Down: 1. of 2. Jesus 4. amen 6. still 7. seen 8. believe 11. own 12. know 14. you 16. doing 17. works 19. show 21. me

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# The Kids' Bulletin

Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 7th, 2023



**In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells the disciples the way to the Father in Heaven. Do you know which is the way? Follow the squiggly line to find out!**



# Blessed Jane of Portugal

## May 12

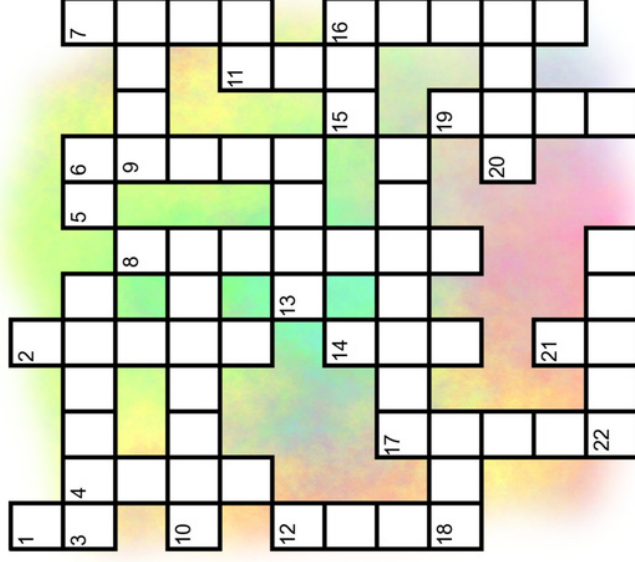


BLESSED JANE COULD HAVE HAD A RICH EASY LIFE AND MARRIED AN IMPORTANT MAN, BUT INSTEAD SHE CHOSE TO FOLLOW HER HEART AND LIVE FOR GOD ONLY. SHE DIED BECAUSE THE WOMAN SHE HAD CORRECTED DID NOT LIKE TO HEAR THAT SHE HAD DONE WRONG. LIKE JANE, WE MUST BE READY TO SUFFER FOR THE TRUTH.

thekidsbulletin@gmail.com

## "Show us the Father" Cross-Word

Use the words from the list to fill in the blanks and complete the puzzle.



IS WHOEVER  
OF BECAUSE  
ON BELIEVE  
ME FATHER  
YOU WORKS  
AND DOING  
WHO SPEAK  
WILL AMEN  
OWN JESUS  
TIME THAN  
SHOW STILL  
KNOW SEEN

\_\_\_\_ (2d) said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a \_\_\_\_ (9a) and you \_\_\_\_ (6d) do not \_\_\_\_ (12d) me, Philip? \_\_\_\_ (17a) has seen me has \_\_\_\_ (7d) the Father. How can you say, ' \_\_\_\_ (19d) us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in \_\_\_\_? (21d) The words that I \_\_\_\_ (22a) to you I do not speak \_\_\_\_ (11a) my \_\_\_\_ (11d). The Father \_\_\_\_ (18a) dwells in me is \_\_\_\_ (16d) his works. \_\_\_\_ (8d) me that I am in the \_\_\_\_ (3a) and the Father \_\_\_\_ (5a) in me, or else, believe \_\_\_\_ (10a) \_\_\_\_ (1d) the works themselves. \_\_\_\_, (4d) amen, I say to \_\_\_\_ (14d), whoever believes in me \_\_\_\_ (13a) do the \_\_\_\_ (17d) that I do, \_\_\_\_ (15a) will do greater ones \_\_\_\_ (20a) these, because I am going to the Father."