



faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 35 // MAY 11, 2023

6th
Sunday
of Easter

In the Beginning...

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Seventeen of our young brothers and sisters received their First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 7. It was a great day! Thank you to all of the parents, our catechist Ted and our elementary coordinator Janet for preparing the children for this momentous day.

May we be inspired by the children's enthusiasm and witness. Let's keep them and their families in our prayers that God's graces continue to be showered upon them and they may continue to receive Him in the most Holy Eucharist at least weekly.

God has given us such a gift in His Son. And His Son has given us such a gift in His Body and Blood. Let us all be open to recognizing that gift for what it really is: "For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink." (John 6:55). It's not a just a symbol.

Lord, Grant us eyes to see, ears to hear and turn our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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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

From Fr. Ayub:

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to you on receiving your first Holy Communion. This is a significant milestone in your spiritual journey and a momentous occasion that you will remember for the rest of your lives. You have taken an important step in your faith and have received the gift of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. It is a privilege to receive the Sacrament of communion, and I hope that you will continue to cherish this special moment throughout your lives.


I would also like to extend my congratulations to your teachers and parents who have played an integral roll in guiding you and nurturing your faith. They have undoubtedly shared their wisdom and knowledge of the faith with you, and their dedication and support have helped you reach this important moment in your spiritual journey.

We welcome the following young people to God's table and pray that each time they receive the Holy Eucharist they feel the presence of God with them, the presence of God with us.

Check out some of the photos from the [First Communion Mass here](#).
Check out some of the photos from the [First Reconciliation Service here](#).

During his homily, Fr. Ayub invited our First Communicants to become Altar Servers. We are in need of Altar Servers, so please consider this important ministry.

In fact, we are in such a need, that **sometimes our Altar Servers come from other parishes**. Please do discuss this ministry with your child. It would be great to see more St. Jude Altar Servers!



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).

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

[Episode 1](#)

[Episode 2](#)

[Episode 3](#)

[Episode 4](#)

[Episode 5](#)

[Episode 6](#)

[Episode 7](#)

[Presence for Children](#)

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](#)

Forgiven

[Session 1](#)

[Session 2](#)

[Session 3](#)

[Preparing Your Child for First Confession](#)

[Answering Common Questions about 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 LITURGY REFLECTION

By Scott Hahn

Readings:

[Acts 8:5–8, 14–17](#)

[Psalm 66:1–7, 16, 20](#)

[1 Peter 3:15–18](#)

[John 14:15–21](#)



Jesus will not leave us alone. He won't make us children of God in Baptism only to leave us "orphans," He assures us in today's Gospel (see [Romans 8:14–17](#)).

He asks the Father to give us His Spirit, to dwell with us and keep us united in the life He shares with the Father.

We see the promised gift of His Spirit being conferred in today's First Reading.

The scene from Acts apparently depicts a primitive Confirmation rite. Philip, one of the first deacons (see [Acts 6:5](#)), proclaims the Gospel in the non-Jewish city of Samaria. The Samaritans accept the Word of God (see [Acts 17:11](#); [1 Thessalonians 2:13](#)) and are baptized.

It remains for the Apostles to send their representatives, Peter and John, to pray and lay hands on the newly baptized—that they might receive the Holy Spirit. This is the origin of our Sacrament of Confirmation (see [Acts 19:5–6](#)), by which the grace of Baptism is completed and believers are sealed with the Spirit promised by the Lord.

We remain in this grace so long as we love Christ and keep His commandments. And, strengthened in the Spirit whom Jesus said would be our Advocate, we are called to bear witness to our salvation—to the tremendous deeds that God has done for us in the name of His Son.

In today's Psalm, we celebrate our liberation. As He changed the sea into dry land to free the captive Israelites, Christ suffered that He might lead us to God, as we hear in today's Epistle.

This is the reason for our hope—the hope that sustains us in the face of a world that cannot accept His truth, the hope that sustains us when we are maligned and defamed for His name's sake.

Put to death in the flesh, He was brought to life in the Spirit, Paul tells us today. And as He himself promises: "Because I live, . . . you will live."

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you for ever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you."

JOHN 14:15-17

The Gospel at Home

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Gospel Reading:

John 14:15-21

Jesus promises his disciples that he will send them another advocate, the Spirit of truth.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel is a continuation of last week's Gospel: Jesus is speaking to his disciples at the Last Supper. In today's reading Jesus offers encouragement to his disciples, who will soon see him crucified. He reassures them that even though he will leave them, he will not abandon them. Instead he will send them the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, through whom the disciples will continue to live in union with Jesus.

Jesus uses the term Advocate to describe the Holy Spirit, whom the disciples will receive. Another word used to describe the Holy Spirit is Paraclete, a legal term meaning "one who offers defense for another." Note that Jesus says that he will send "another Advocate." Jesus himself is the first advocate, interceding for his disciples with the Father.

In today's reading Jesus contrasts his impending departure with the permanence of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus will leave to return to the Father, but the Holy Spirit will remain with the disciples.

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the disciples will come to know and appreciate the unity of the Son and the Father. They will also understand that they too participate in the communion between the Father and the Son: "On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you" (John 14:20).

Today's reading is one example of the contrast that John's Gospel presents between the community of disciples, to whom God will reveal himself, and the unbelieving world, which will remain in darkness. The unbelieving world cannot accept the "Spirit of truth," whom the disciples will receive. Only through the Spirit will God's revelation and love be known.

Family Connection

The mystery of the Trinity can be difficult for us to grasp. Today's Gospel invites us to consider how the three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—work together so that God's salvation is made known to us. Jesus' mission is continued through the activity of the Holy Spirit in the lives of his disciples. We have received this same Spirit through our Baptisms. The Spirit, living and working within us, reveals the mystery of God's love for us. Just as the first disciples were not left orphaned, we are not orphaned; we remain in God's embrace through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Gather your family and invite each family member to say what he or she knows about the Holy Spirit. Read aloud today's Gospel, John 14:15-21. What does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will do for the disciples? Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we come to share in the love of God made known to us in Jesus. Pray together, thanking God for this gift of the Holy Spirit by praying the [Prayer to the Holy Spirit](#).

"I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. 19 Yet a little while, and the world will see me no more, but you will see me; because I live, you will live also. 20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

JOHN 14:18-21

Did You Know?

The Holy Spirit is our "Advocate"



Sometimes we don't connect the dots. Did you ever notice that the Holy Spirit is referred to as the "Advocate"? An "advocate," in law, is a person who is professionally qualified to plead the cause of another in a court of law. In Hebrew, "Satan" means accuser. At the end of our lives, we will stand in judgement before God. See it now? God is the judge. Satan is the Prosecutor. The Holy Spirit is our Defense Attorney. It would be worth our while to seek His advice! Check out this article from Aleteia to learn more. (Written by Nicholas Senz)

I had a professor who with lamentation used to call the Holy Spirit “the forgotten Person of the Trinity.” (In fact, he offered bonus points for anyone who mentioned the Spirit in class.)

There’s at least one way in which this is understandable: Whereas we have solid and strong (albeit woefully incomplete) mental images of God the Father (in the figure of the elderly man, the “Ancient of Days” from the Book of Daniel) and actual evidence of what God the Son really looked like as he roamed our earth, a “spirit” is by nature hard to visualize. Sure, Scripture gives us images such as a dove or tongues of fire, but those don’t have quite the same sticking power.

But Scripture gives us another image for the Spirit. It may seem odd at first, but it can be helpful: the Holy Spirit is our defense attorney.

Where does this notion come from? In John 14:16-17, Jesus says: “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you.”

That word advocate in Greek is *parakleton*, which, since Greek is a pliable language, means variously “counselor, comforter, helper, or advocate.” An advocate or counselor is one who speaks on our behalf or who offers us guidance. Though this description itself sounds vaguely like an attorney, the connection is much deeper.

The word Satan means “accuser,” “adversary,” or “one who opposes.” We see Satan playing this role very explicitly in the Book of Job, when Satan claims that Job only worships God because Job is so blessed. Here Satan is very much like a prosecutor, standing before God the just judge and claiming that all of humanity is guilty.

[CONTINUE READING....](#)

Source:
[Aleteia](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Saturday, May 13:

4:00pm - Mass

Sunday, May 14:

8:30am - Mass

10:30am - Mass

Monday, May 15:

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

Tuesday, May 16:

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

Wednesday, May 17:

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

St. Jude Vacation Bible School

JULY 24-28 9am – 12 noon

Middle/High School Students

Adults of all Ages

Parents / Grandparents

Contact Janet DeBoe at: jdeboe@stjudes.net



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.Catholicgrandparentsassociation.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.

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 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).

"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

Daily Mass

Tuesday: 8:30AM

Thursday: 8:30AM

Friday: 8:30AM

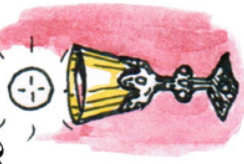
Weekend Mass

Saturday: 4:00PM

Sunday: 8:30AM, 10:30AM

Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit Through the Sacraments

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells the disciples that He is going away, but the Father will send the Holy Spirit to help them.



We can't see Jesus on earth any more, because His body went into Heaven at the Ascension. We can't see the Holy Spirit either, because He doesn't have a body. The Holy Spirit really is in the world,

though. He is working in the Church and in people who obey and love God.



The Holy Spirit comes to us mainly through the sacraments. We get grace, which is God's life in us, when we receive the sacraments.

Jesus gave us the sacraments to help us on our way to Heaven. Do you know the seven sacraments? Here is a list to help you to remember:



- Baptism**
- Confession**
- Confirmation**
- Holy Communion**
- Marriage**
- Holy Orders**
- Sacrament of the Sick**



The Kids' Bulletin

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 14th, 2023



How many of you
know the Holy Spirit?

How many of you

know the Holy Spirit?

How many of you

know the Holy Spirit?

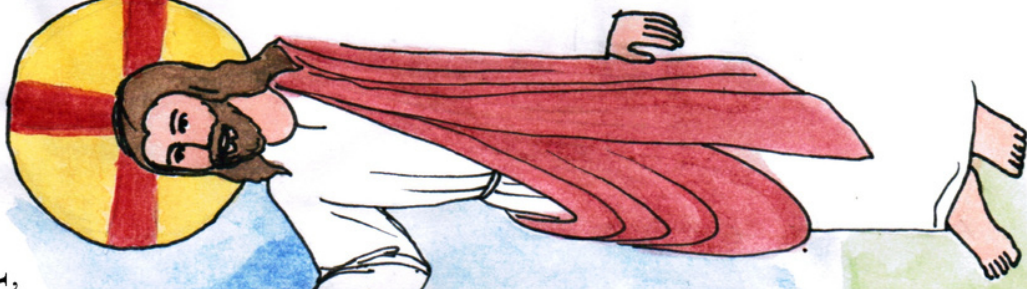
How many of you

know the Holy Spirit?

How many of you

know the Holy Spirit?

How many of you



What did Jesus say to the disciples to prepare them for His departure?

Look at this page in the mirror to find out!

Saint Bernardine of Siena

May 20



ONE POPE SAID THAT ST. BERNARDINE WAS LIKE ANOTHER ST. PAUL BECAUSE OF HOW HE PREACHED. WHEREVER HE WENT PEOPLE CAME BACK TO THE FAITH AND MADE PEACE WITH THEIR NEIGHBOURS. WE CAN LEARN FROM HIM TO USE OUR WORDS TO DO GOOD AND TO RESPECT THE NAMES OF JESUS AND MARY.

An Acts of the Apostles Word Find

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

Today's first reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. See if you can find all the words from the reading that are in CAPITALS in the puzzle. Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end!

PHILIP went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the

CHRIST to them. The people united in WELCOMING the MESSAGE Philip PREACHED, either because they had heard of the MIRACLES he worked or because they saw them for themselves. THERE was great REJOICING in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that SAMARIA had accepted the WORD of GOD, they sent PETER and JOHN to them, and they went DOWN there, and PRAYED for the Samaritans to receive the HOLY SPIRIT, for as yet he had not COME down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the NAME of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid HANDS on them, and they RECEIVED the