



faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 41 // JUNE 22, 2023

12th
Sunday in
Ordinary Time

In the Beginning...

Martin Smith, Director of Religious Education
msmith@stjudes.net | 616-364-7488

Just a few brief words this week!

Our Vacation Bible School is still in need of several volunteers. Please consider donating your time and talents. Please contact Janet if you are interested!

ST. JUDE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 24-28; 9am – 12noon
Register your children ages 4-5th Grade
NOW
Sign up @ <https://stjudes.net/vbs/>



VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED

- Adult leaders: 3-4 adults to co-lead a small group of children.
- Student helpers: 8-10 Middle/High School students needed to help in each classroom or assist in the other areas. (If your child will be entering 5th grade next fall, they are old enough to volunteer)

Contact Janet DeBoe at 616-240-2720, the parish office or jdeboe@stjudes.net

IN THIS ISSUE

In the Beginning...

Sunday Liturgy
Reflection by Scott
Hahn

The Gospel at Home

Did You Know?

Upcoming Events

Kids' Bulletin

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

SUNDAY LITURGY REFLECTION

By Scott Hahn

Readings:

[Jeremiah 20:10-13](#)

[Psalm 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35](#)

[Romans 5:12-15](#)

[Matthew 10:26-33](#)

[LISTEN HERE](#)

Our commitment to Christ will be put to the test.

We will hear whispered warnings and denunciations, as Jeremiah does in today's First Reading. Even so-called friends will try to trap and trip us up.

For His sake we will bear insults and be made outcasts—even in our own homes, we hear in today's Psalm.

As Jeremiah tells us, we must expect that God will challenge our faith in Him, and probe our minds and hearts, to test the depths of our love.

“Do not be afraid,” Jesus assures us three times in today's Gospel.

Though He may permit us to suffer for our faith, our Father will never forget or abandon us. As Jesus assures us today, everything unfolds in His providence, under His watchful gaze—even the falling of the tiniest sparrow to the ground. Each one of us is precious to Him.

Steadfast in this faith, we must resist the tactics of Satan. He is the enemy who seeks the ruin of our soul in Gehenna, or hell.

We are to seek God, as the Psalmist says. Zeal for the Lord's house, for the heavenly kingdom of the Father, should consume us, as it consumed Jesus (see [John 2:17](#)). As Jesus bore the insults of those who blasphemed God, so should we (see [Romans 15:3](#)).

By the gracious gift of Himself, Jesus bore the transgressions of the world, Paul tells us in today's Epistle. In rising from the dead, He has shown us that God rescues the life of the poor, that He does not spurn His own when they are in distress. In His great mercy, He will turn toward us, as well. He will deliver us from the power of the wicked.

That is why we proclaim His name from the housetops, as Jesus tells us. That is why we sing praise and offer thanksgiving in every Eucharist. We are confident in Jesus' promise—that we who declare our faith in Him before others will be remembered before our heavenly Father.



“26 “So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. 27 What I tell you in the dark, utter in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim upon the housetops. 28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

MATTHEW 10:26-28

The Gospel at Home

TWELVTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 10:26-33

Jesus assures the Twelve that God cares about them.

Background on the Gospel Reading

We read today's Gospel in the context of last week's Gospel in which Jesus sent the twelve disciples to proclaim the kingdom of heaven. In between last week's reading and today's reading, Jesus has predicted that the disciples will face difficulties in their mission. Many people will not receive them well, even within the land of Israel. Even family members will turn away from the disciples because of the disciples' commitment to Jesus and the kingdom. Today's Gospel offers the disciples consolation against this difficult truth.

This section of Matthew's Gospel should be read in the context of Matthew's intended audience, a Jewish-Christian community. The Gospel alludes to the dangers and persecutions that this community has most likely already faced and will continue to face. To reassure this community, Matthew recalls for them the encouraging words of Jesus that we read today.

In this Gospel passage, Jesus might be understood as putting suffering in perspective. The disciples of Jesus are called upon to keep their focus on God. Those who can harm the body do not have ultimate power; God does. Still persecution and suffering can not be avoided or prevented. But Jesus reassures his disciples that God knows and cares about what happens to his children.

We might not face the same type of persecution, but we do experience difficulties as we endeavor to live a Christian life. Sometimes we let the opinions of others prevent us from doing what we know to be right. We need the reminder that what God thinks about us is more important. We are reassured by the promise that God cares for us and protects us.

Family Connection

It is not only individuals who need reassurance about God's love and protection. Communities need this reassurance as well, including the community of the family. Children rely on the confidence of their parents for this assurance. Parents can help the entire family's growth in trust and confidence in God by witnessing ways in which daily family needs are entrusted to God's care.

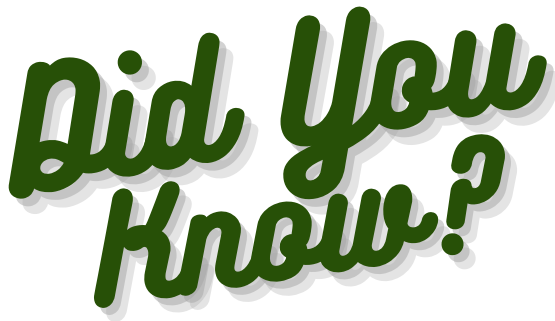
As the family gathers, distribute pieces of paper to each person. Tell them to write or draw ways in which they believe that God's help is needed for each person and for the family as a whole. Each slip of paper can then be collected in a basket.

Invite one member of the family to read aloud today's Gospel, Matthew 10:26-33. Recall together how well God knows your family and thank God for this wonderful grace. Conclude by praying together for each of the needs identified on the slips of paper. After each need is read, pray together, "God, we trust you because you know us so well." Conclude by praying the Glory Be to the Father.

This practice might become a regular part of your family's prayer. Set the basket in a place of prayer and encourage family members to add other needs throughout the week. Perhaps your family can pray for these things together during a family meal.

"29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's will. 30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. 32 So every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; 33 but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."

MATTHEW 10:29-33



Catholic Fun Facts!

All Catholics are expected to perform some act of penance every Friday and the US Bishops recommend abstaining from meat. Turns out that didn't go out with Vatican II.

You genuflect on your right knee in church, not your left. The left knee is for people, the right knee for God. So ladies, if your good Catholic boyfriend goes down on his right knee when he proposes, accuse him of idolatry and storm off. Or something like that.

Four of the 35 Doctors of the Church are women. If you're not impressed, think about this: zero of the United States' 43 presidents have been women. And once you consider that the most recent Doctor of the Church was a 19th-century nun—you know, back when most colleges wouldn't even admit women—it becomes harder to play that “the Catholic Church hates women” card.

All the liturgical vestments have a meaning. That's why the chasuble, which symbolizes love, goes over the stole, which symbolizes authority. “Over all these, put on love.”

All the Church requires of you is .65% of your life. Do the math: if you go to Mass every time you have to, that comes out to about 57 hours a year in the US. So all you give God is .65%? You can do better than that.

No modern scientist has been able to explain how the image on the Shroud of Turin was made. Say what you like about the dubious carbon dating. How are you going to tell me that's a 14th-century forgery when you can't replicate it with all your 21st-century technology?

Luther didn't reject the Deuterocanon until an opponent of his proved that purgatory is Biblical using a Deuterocanonical book. After that, he started throwing books out left, right, and center. He tried to toss Hebrews, James, Jude, and Revelation, too, but his followers weren't having it.

At least 3 popes have been heretics. Not one of them proclaimed heresy from the see of Peter. How's that for infallibility?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Saturday, June 24:

4:00pm - Mass

Sunday, June 25:

8:30am - Mass

10:30am - Mass

Tuesday, June 27:

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

Wednesday, June 28:


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

ST. JUDE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 24-28; 9am – 12noon
Register your children ages 4-5th Grade
NOW
Sign up @ <https://stjudes.net/vbs/>

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED

- Adult leaders: 3-4 adults to co-lead a small group of children.
- Student helpers: 8-10 Middle/High School students needed to help in each classroom or assist in the other areas. (If your child will be entering 5th grade next fall, they are old enough to volunteer)

Contact Janet DeBoe at 616-240-2720, the parish office or jdeboe@stjudes.net



JOIN US FOR A

SUMMER OF SAINTS

STARTING July 7!

HOW THE SAINTS SHAPED HISTORY



RANDALL PETRIDES

STARTING July 7 at 6:30pm in the Brophy Center...

Author Randy Petrides will give a presentation on his newly released book *How the Saints Shaped History*. It's a fascinating chronological look at how more than 180 saints, from Saint Mary Magdalene to Pope Saint John Paul II, led the Church through many crises and back to her spiritual roots. Books will be available for purchase.

AND THEN.... for the following four weeks we'll screen a movie based on the life of one of the Saints that Randy talks about in his book!

July 14, July 21, July 28, August 4 at 6:30pm in the Brophy Center

"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

Don't Worry! God Cares About You!

In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells us not to fear those who can kill us. He tells us that God pays attention to the sparrows, which are just little birds. How much more He cares about us, His people!



What Jesus says reminds us that we should always remember that God loves and cares for us. We don't need to live in fear, because God always wants what is best for us.

Sometimes bad things happen to us - we can become poor, we can lose friends, we can get hurt or sick. But God is still caring for us through those times. These things can help remind us of how much we need God. Just food and possessions and other people and even our health are not enough

Every time you see a picture of Jesus remember that God is caring about you right now! Thank Him for His love and try to share His love and care with those around you!



Answers to Fill-in-the-Blanks: LIGHT, PROCLAIM, BODY, CANNOT, FEAR, SPARROWS, PENNY, FATHERS, OF, NOT, MORE, EVERYONE, BEFORE, BUT, God cares for you!

The Kids' Bulletin

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 25th, 2023



*In today's Gospel reading Jesus says that
God sees even little things.
What little things did He mention?
Connect the dots to find out!*

Fill-in-the-Blanks

Fill in the blank spaces with the words from the list. Use the letters in boxes to fill in the blanks at the end!

JUNIPERO SERRA WAS BORN IN 1713 IN MAJORCA, SPAIN. HE WAS VERY INTELLIGENT AND BECAME A PRIEST AND PROFESSOR.



Should we be leaving foreign people in their ignorance?

Lord, let my preaching be effective tomorrow!

SAINT JUNIPERO WORKED FOR MANY YEARS TO BRING THE NATIVE AMERICANS TO CHRIST, IN SPITE OF HIS BAD LEG AND THE DANGER OF BEING KILLED BY THE ENEMIES OF THE FAITH. WE CAN LEARN FROM HIM THAT GOD CAN DO GREAT THINGS THROUGH US WHEN WE DON'T GIVE UP EVEN WHEN IT HURTS.

thekidsbulletin@gmail.com

What I tell you in the dark,
utter in the _____;
and what you hear whispered,
_____ upon the
housetops. And do not fear those
who kill the _____
but _____ kill the soul;
rather _____ him who can kill
both body and soul in Hell.

Are not two _____
sold for a _____?
And not one of them will fall to the ground
without your _____ will.
But even the hairs _____ your head
are numbered.

SPARROWS
EVERYONE
PROCLAIM
FATHER'S
CANNOT
BEFORE
PENNY
LIGHT
MORE
BODY
FEAR
NOT
BUT
OF

Fear , therefore;
you are of value than many sparrows.
So
who acknowledges me before men,
I also will acknowledge
 my Father who is in heaven;
 whoever denies me before men, I also
will deny before my Father who is in heaven.