

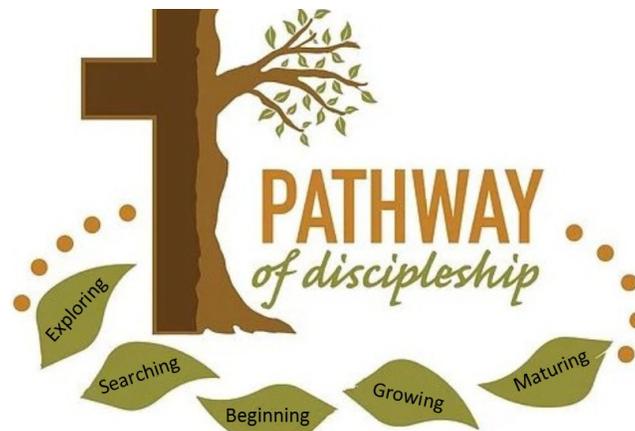


Upcoming Events

- Mass in the Park: Aug 13, 5pm Bishop Grob
- New Catechist Meeting: August 14, 1-2pm, Koenig Center
- Catechist Gathering at Mickey Finn's, August 18th, 5pm
- All Catechist Meeting, August 21, 1-2:30pm, Koenig center
- First Week of CFF: Sept 11/13

In This Issue...

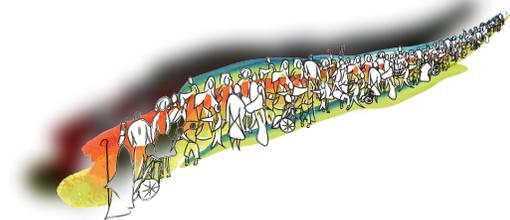
- Calendar of Dates is [here!](#)
- Compliance!
- 7th & 8th Grade groups will NOT host Sunday 5pm Masses
- New requirements for Confirmation



It was great seeing all of you who were able to attend last week's outing at Mickey Finn's! We will do another on Thursday, August 18th, again at 5pm at MFs!

- The CFF Calendar of class dates, meetings is [here!](#)
- Call your friends, call your neighbors, call ... random people on the street! We are still in need of 3 sets of Catechists for 7th Gr Confirmation! We also have opportunities for:
 - Sundays
 - PreK/K
 - Tuesdays
 - 1st
 - 2nd
- Changes to the CFF Calendar: for those of you involved in 7th & 8th grade, either as a Catechist &/or as a parent, there are a few changes. I met w/ our Youth Minister, Brigid Dutton, she felt that having the 7th & 8th grade Home Groups "host" one of the 5pm Sunday Masses was not as fruitful as had been hoped. It was to be a way to introduce the students to high school Youth Ministry. So she recommended & I agreed that we would not continue that. Fear Not! Janine Wilson & I (Janine has taught Confirmation for a long time & will be our new Grade Level Coordinator) have put on the calendar a few times where the groups will meet all together for 5pm Mass & we have some Service Projects for all the groups to do together as well!!! **Stay Tuned!**

New Saints for Catechists and Families



Newly canonized saints generate excitement among learners and give children examples of people who followed God's call in their lives in many different situations. Catechists, teachers, families, and children feel a connection to saints canonized in the last few years. Saints such as Alberto Hurtado, Jeanne Jugan, Damien de Veuster, Kateri Tekawitha, and Josephine Bakhita provide role models for living as disciples of Jesus in our modern world.

[Here](#) are easy-to-use resources that include sixty-six amazing new saints canonized since 2000, presented in alphabetical order. For each saint there is a brief life story, how that person is an example for us, catechist ideas, family activities, and a prayer. The example of these saints shows children ages five to twelve that there are many ways to follow Jesus in their lives.



Catechist Resource Center

- <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/> : Site has Saint of the Day, Daily meditations, blog & other resources. If you join their mailing list you are often offered to purchase ebooks for 0.99 or up to \$3. **Although they will email you at least 1x/day.**
- Pflaum: fill out the registration w/ all your info & where it asks for a customer number, it is: 1114474
- <https://www.pflaumweeklies.com/blog/> **Pflaum Blog- lots of goodies!**
- <https://childrensministry.com/> Oodles of activities, articles & ideas from Group- the Publishers we use for VBS!
- <http://www.usccb.org/>: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- <http://www.loyolapress.com/>: Activity Finder, Catholic Resources & more Loyola Press: once you get to their landing page, look to the top right for "Catholic Resources". There are oodles of goodies there all for free!
- <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year>
- <http://www.twentythirdpublications.com/freeeresources.html> : 23rd Publications has a good selection of printable & e-resources!
- <https://www.catechist.com/> lessons & activities, Catechist Formation & resources
- <http://www.bc.edu/sites/c21online/>: Boston College's Church for the 21st Century. Some courses are free and some have a small fee that RE will cover under Formation expenses.
- <http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>: resources for your own spiritual life
- <http://lifelongcatechesis.osv.com/> : Has resources for all ages and under "adolescents" has a "question of the week" based on the gospel and background on all 3 readings.
- <http://www.wordamongus.org>: Magazine for Catholics; has meditations, articles, things for families- a lot is free, but not everything is.
- <http://www.smp.org/resourcecenter/> St. Mary's Press Resource Center
- <http://www.handsonsuburbanchicago.org/> Looking for Service Project Ideas!?!? These are all in the NW Suburbs!
- <https://www.thereligionteacher.com/> The Religion Teacher: has over 700 activities, videos, worksheets & more! You may use the link here but only some things are free. I have a subscription to this & am happy to share with you! to login: email: mnelson@stjoseph-libertyville.org PW: The3R31iGion0921!

Context Connection

“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit” (12:35). These words are similar to the words the Hebrews receive from God as they are preparing for their Exodus from Egypt (see Exodus 12:11). The Hebrew people are instructed to be ready to move immediately when the Lord’s call comes. By using this well-known image, Luke reminds Jesus’s followers how important it is to be ready for Jesus’s return. They are to be ready to open the door for the Master when he returns. What does this kind of readiness require of followers? It requires faith. At the heart of faith for Christians is the challenge to be constantly ready for Jesus’s return. The Judeo-Christian heritage has a long history of people who are ready for God’s action in their lives. Abraham and Sarah stand at the front of the line. Three strangers visit them to share a message from God, a promise that their names will be famous and that they will have a land of their own and many descendants. Indeed, their names are famous thousands of years later; we still speak their names with love and reverence. Abraham and Sarah do not experience the fulfillment of these promises in their lifetime, but future generations have come to know that God has been faithful to his promises. Faith sometimes requires belief in God’s faithfulness to us, even when we do not see the fulfillment of God’s promises as we would hope.

In this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples they are called to be faith-filled like their ancestors. He demands a life of constant faithfulness to God in every activity. The reward for such readiness is the master’s service: “He [the master] will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them” (12:37). The exact hour the master will return is not known—it might be in the middle of the night. The Second Coming of Jesus also is unknown, for he is “coming at an unexpected hour” (12:40).

In the early Church, many believed that the Second Coming of Jesus would happen in their lifetime. The Gospel of Luke was written around AD 80, fifty years after Jesus’s death. Some of the original disciples had died without seeing the Second Coming of Jesus as they had expected. Luke uses that story to encourage the early Church to have faith that God always keeps his promises even though Jesus did not return as soon as they expected. The message to those early followers is that they should not lose faith because, in God’s time, Jesus will return. In the meantime, they need to remain faithful and ready.

Tradition Connection

Luke’s story of how faithful servants stand ready for the master’s return gives us a wonderful image of the importance of vigilance (also known as attention). In the Gospels, whenever Jesus refers to vigilance, he usually does so in relation to himself. In other Gospel passages, Jesus encourages his followers to be vigilant in their lives through prayer. Notice that vigilance and vigil come from the same root word. In our Catholic Tradition, prayer is at the center of our vigil-keeping rituals. On feast days and other occasions within the liturgy of the Church, we keep vigil through special prayer services. We celebrate a vigil service for someone who has died. The first commandment reminds us that the focus of our vigilance is God.

Wisdom Connection

For us, prayer is a way of being aware of Jesus's presence in our world and a way of preparing for Jesus's Second Coming. Prayer is that dimension of Christian life that helps us stay focused on God and that serves as a source of joyful hope. Essential to a healthy and fulfilling life for a follower of Jesus is a well-developed prayer life.

Luke asked his community long ago, and he asks us today, to be faithful and to persevere in prayer. Regular prayer is an important source of hope. Every week when we say the creed at Mass, we proclaim our belief that Jesus died, has risen, and will come again. The question for us as disciples of Jesus the Christ is this: Will he find us ready? Pray always in all ways.

Spiritual Practice of the Day

Do not want things to turn out as they seem best to you, but as God pleases. Then you will be free of confusion and thankful in your prayer.

— Abba Nilus in Desert Wisdom by Yushi Nomura

To Practice This Thought:

When you pray, forget what you want. Ask to know what God wants.