

Church of St. Joseph – Mendham, NJ
Confirmation

Session 1 – September 14/15, 2025

Agenda

1. Opening prayer
2. Welcome
3. Confirmation formation highlights
 - a. See reverse for calendar
 - b. Middle school chinner: Wednesday, 9/24 6:00-7:30pm
4. Presentation on relationships
5. Closing prayer

Church of St. Joseph – Mendham, NJ
Grade 8 (Year 2): Confirmation Formation 2025-2026
Revised 08/2025

Session 1: Sunday – September 14, 2025 – 5:00-6:30pm OR
 Monday – September 15, 2025 – 7:00-8:30pm
 Confirmation candidate and one parent/guardian attend

Session 2: Sunday – October 26, 2025 – 5:00-6:30pm OR
 Tuesday – October 28, 2025 – 7:00-8:30pm
 (Note: second session is on a Tuesday for this class)
 Confirmation candidate and one parent/guardian attend

Service

Project: Thanksgiving food collection November 22-23 – More info to come.

Session 3: Sunday – February 1, 2026 – 5:00-6:30pm OR
 Monday – February 2, 2026 – 7:00-8:30pm
 Confirmation candidate and one parent/guardian attend

Retreat: Saturday – February 28, 2026 – 10:00am-6:00pm
 Mandatory retreat for Confirmation candidates only

Session 4: Sunday – April 12, 2026 – 5:00-6:30pm OR
 Monday – April 13, 2026 – 7:00-8:30pm
 Confirmation candidate and one parent/guardian attend

Confirmation Mass: Monday – May 11, 2026 – 7:00pm

FAMILY MASSES

Family Mass is held at 9:30 AM unless otherwise noted

- **September 28**
- **December 14** with Christmas Social
- **February 1**
- **March 15** with St. Joseph's Feast Social
- **May 3** at 11:30AM with Year-end Social

**FYI Optional Middle School Youth Ministry Teen Dinners for 7th & 8th Graders
6:00-7:30pm in the Christopher House on the church campus:**

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| • September 24 | • February 11 |
| • October 15 | • March 25 |
| • November 20 | • April 28 |
| • December 16 | |

1

REGISTER

- Go to formed.org/signup or scan QR code
- Click “Need an Account? Sign Up”
- Join Parish “St Joseph Church of Mendham”
- Enter your Email address and Full Name



2

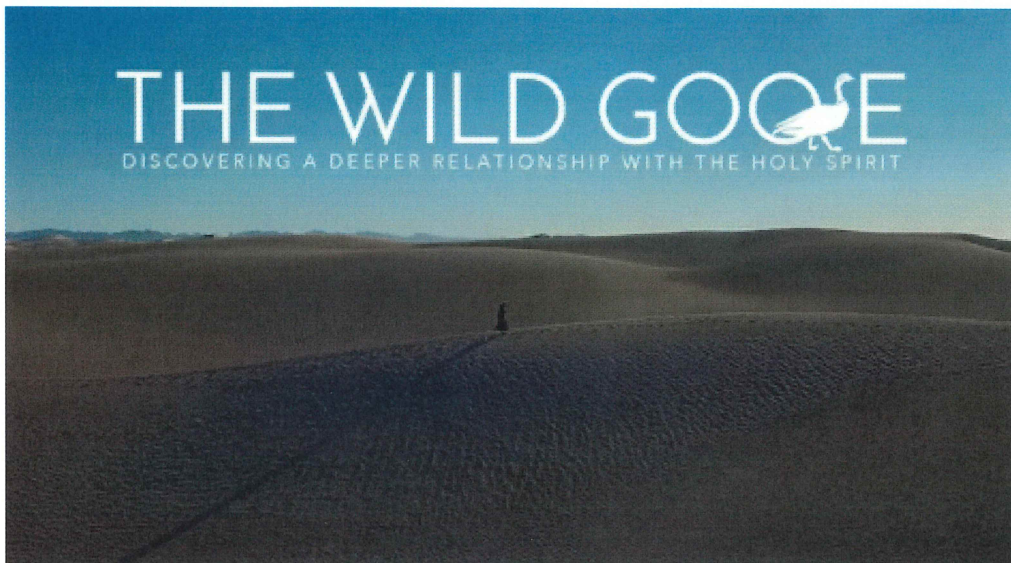
SIGN-IN

- Download the FORMED.org APP
(for desktop browser, go to FORMED.org)
- Click “Sign In”
- Enter your email and follow the prompts

3

WATCH

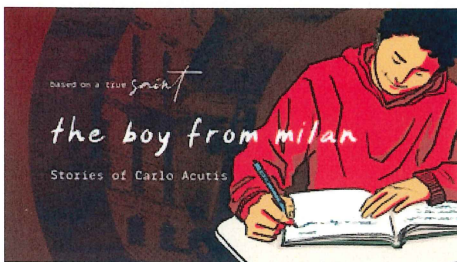
- Click the Search icon
- Type “The Wild Goose”
- Start watching the assigned episode



The Wild Goose with Fr. Dave Pivonka

- Episode 1: God's Love Poured Out
- Episode 2: The Breath of God
- Episode 4: The Spirit & Our Lady
- Episode 5: Gifts of the Holy Spirit

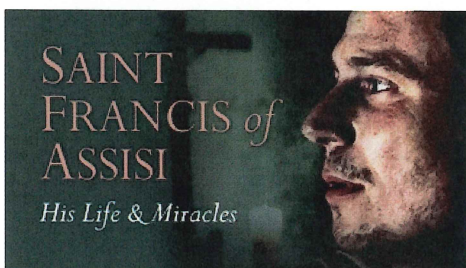
Watch some Saint Movies or videos



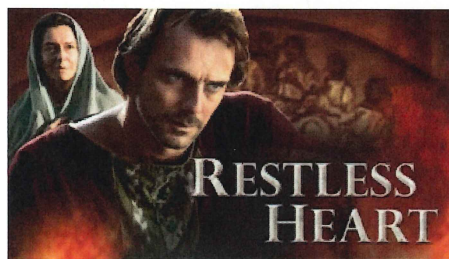
**The Boy from Milan:
Stories of Carlo Acutis**



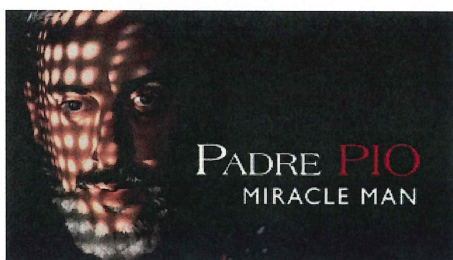
**Pier Giorgio Frassati: If I
Didn't Have Love**



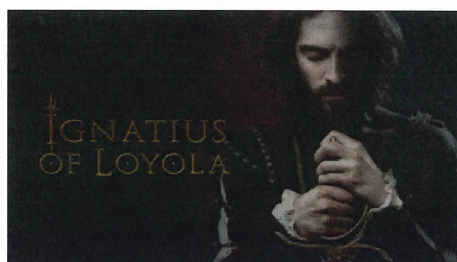
**Saint Francis of Assisi:
His Life and Miracles**



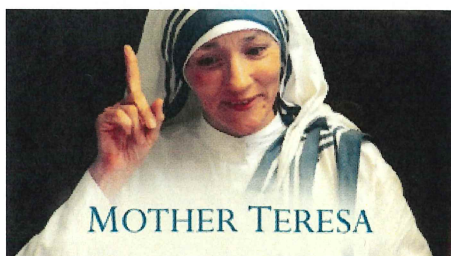
**Restless Heart
(St. Augustine)**



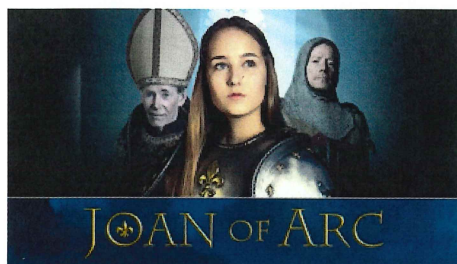
Padre Pio: Miracle Man



Ignatius of Loyola

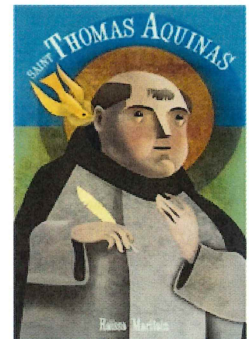


Mother Teresa

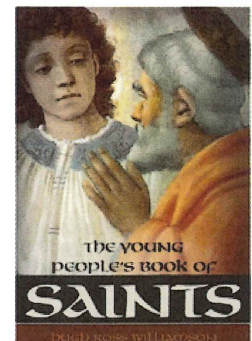


Joan of Arc

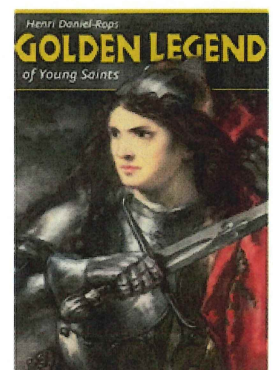
Read some EBooks



**Saint Thomas Aquinas
by Raissa Maritain**



**The Young People's
Book of Saints by
Hugh Ross Williamson**



**Golden Legend of
Young Saints by
Henri Daniel-Rops**

GOD'S LOVE POURED OUT

SEGMENT 1

SYNOPSIS

"God is love" - 1 John 4:8

This simple statement is the beginning and the ending of our pilgrimage of Faith. God is Love and the Lord's Love is perfect, passionate and unconditional. There is nothing that we can do that would cause God to love us more and nothing we can do that would cause him to love us less. We are able to come to experience the beauty and freedom of God's Love by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God reveals the Love of the Father that changes us. When we experience God's Love we come to understand in a powerful way that we are in fact "lovable." God's Love reveals our beauty and goodness before him.

1. Fr. Dave says that God's love for us is unconditional. We don't earn or lose God's love. **There is nothing you can do to make God love you less and there is nothing you can do to make God love you more.**

-Have you ever felt loved that way by a person? Where were you? How did you feel?
-Do you feel that God loves you that way?

2. Fr. Dave says we're all like pennies—we all have the same worth in God's eyes, but some of us have been through more, are beat up and dirty and we don't believe we're worthy of being loved.

-Have you ever felt like that?
-What does the penny analogy tell us about God's love for you?

3. All "love" is not the same. Think about the meaning that today's culture attaches to "love." Compare this to the Love of God.



Photo By Alfredo Barba, via Wikimedia Commons

"ONLY THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN PROMPT YOUR HEART TO SAY 'FATHER.' ONLY THE HOLY SPIRIT OPENS YOUR HEART TO LOVE."

-POPE FRANCIS-

KEY TEXTS

ROMANS 5:5 "The Love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

1 JOHN 4:8-11 "Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another."

JOHN 4:4-39 The story of the Woman at the Well.

THE BREATH OF GOD

SEGMENT 2

SYNOPSIS

The only way we are able to live a life of faith, a life full of love, peace, joy and power is by the Holy Spirit. We see this most clearly in the lives of the Apostles. They had every advantage in being with Jesus and hearing him preach and seeing the many miracles that he had done. And yet, even with that advantage they were frightened men living their faith life in a locked room before they received the Holy Spirit. What took place in the upper room changed the lives of these men and women and would change the course of human history. This experience of the Holy Spirit is an encounter available to everyone; it is not reserved for a select few. Pentecost and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit is the theme of this segment.



**"FOR THE SPIRIT OF GOD
HAS MADE ME, AND
THE BREATH OF THE
ALMIGHTY GIVES ME LIFE."**

-JOB 33:4-

DISCUSSION

1. What was your image of the Holy Spirit before watching this video? What is your image of the Holy Spirit now?
2. Fr. Dave tells us to directly address the Holy Spirit and invite the Spirit into our hearts and the concrete situations of our lives by sampling saying, "Come, Holy Spirit" What would you most like the Holy Spirit to transform in your life? What do you think about asking the Holy Spirit for help?
3. Take three minutes to do some deep breathing. Sit in silence or put on a calming, meditative track. Close your eyes and breathe deeply and slowly. Breathe in the Holy Spirit with each breath. When you're done, follow the steps for the REFLECTION to the right.

REFLECTION

Come Holy Spirit.

Prayerfully read over the scriptures cited here. Take some time and ask that God would send you his Holy Spirit and give you peace.

RECEIVE
THE HOLY
SPIRIT
JOHN 20:23

After a few minutes ask that God would breathe life into you and pray that God would send upon you the Holy Spirit just as he did the apostles centuries ago.

Expect to experience God's peace, presence and love.

Holy Spirit, breath life into these dry bones.

KEY TEXTS

ACTS 1:4-5 "John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

ACTS 2:1-7 "When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were..."

JOHN 20:19-23 "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"

THE SPIRIT AND OUR LADY

SEGMENT 4

SYNOPSIS

*"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will **overshadow** you." - Luke 1:35*

Our Lady, from the moment of her conception, was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit. As the Spouse of the Holy Spirit she models for us what our lives can look like when we say "yes" to God's will and fully give ourselves over to the actions of the Spirit of God. Mary's fiat led her to the cross, the empty tomb and ultimately the upper room where she was once again overshadowed by the Holy Spirit. If we have the courage, as Mary did, to say yes to God's Spirit, to surrender our will to his, we too will experience the power of the Most High overshadowing us.

DISCUSSION

1. In the video Sister Maris Stella talks about how she realized "I can't do this alone." She learned that Mary is our example and guide in how to live in the Spirit by saying YES to God's loving invitation in every small moment of the day. What are some examples of how you can say YES to the Spirit in the normal moments of everyday life?

2. Fr. Dave shares the story of the Annunciation when Mary asks "How can this be?" Have you ever asked that question in prayer in a time of joy or struggle/confusion?

3. How has God used you to bring about his plan in other people's lives?

**DO NOT
BE AFRAID**
LUKE 1:30

REFLECTION

Come Holy Spirit.

The same Holy Spirit that overshadowed our Lady desires to overshadow you. Take some time in prayer and consider the role our Lady and the Holy Spirit had in the plan of our salvation.

Pray for the grace to echo Mary's "yes" to the will of the Holy Spirit and pray that Mary would intercede for you.



"THUS SHE WHO IS PRESENT IN THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST AS MOTHER BECOMES- BY THE WILL OF THE SON AND THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PRESENT IN THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH."

-POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II-
REDEMPTORIS MATER #24

KEY TEXTS

LUKE 1:30-35 "Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus...'"

LUKE 1:45 "...Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

CCC 485 "The mission of the Holy Spirit is always conjoined & ordered to that of the Son. The Holy Spirit, 'the Lord, the giver of Life,' is sent to sanctify the womb of the Virgin Mary..."

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

SEGMENT I

SYNOPSIS

The greatest gift of the Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit. The living God gives the gift of himself to those who are baptized. From the Spirit flows other gifts, some of which are for our personal sanctification while others are for the building up and support of the body of Christ. Many of the gifts are very familiar to us (wisdom, counsel, love) while others are somewhat foreign (healing, prophecy, tongues). Whatever our experience, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are for all Christians, and no one should think that the gifts are not for them.

1. Do you know a family member or friend who is so joyful that it makes you wonder why? Can you sense the gifts of the Holy Spirit in them?

2. Reflect on experiences that you have had where you were aware of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. What did you experience? Wisdom? Fortitude? Love? Peace? Hope?

3. It is essential that our stance before God is one of being open. What does it look like for you to approach the Lord with an open spirit? Are you open to receiving whatever God wants to give you?

4. Discuss how you see the Holy Spirit being active in the world today.

REFLECTION

Come Holy Spirit.

Take fifteen minutes of personal prayer time. For the first couple of minutes do your best to quiet yourself; give to God whatever distractions you may have. Ask

God to bring to life the

gifts of the Holy Spirit that are present in you: the gifts received at baptism as well as new gifts with which God may want to bless you. Be open - let God

bless and anoint you. In

the following days and weeks pray for a sensitivity to the movement of the Holy Spirit. It may be in a nudge to call someone, to encourage someone. Someone may share with you that he or she is ill or has a loved one who is struggling; at that moment stop and pray for that person.

BE DOCILE
AND OPEN
TO THE SPIRIT.



Photo by Alfredo Borba, via Wikimedia Commons

"THE SPIRIT HIMSELF IS 'GOD'S GIFT' PAR EXCELLENCE. A GIFT FROM GOD, AND IN TURN COMMUNICATES DIFFERENT SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO THOSE WHO WELCOME HIM."

-POPE FRANCIS-

KEY TEXTS

CCC 1830 "These (gifts) are permanent dispositions which make man docile in following the promptings of the Holy Spirit."

Lumen Gentium 4 "He both equips and directs with hierarchical and charismatic gifts and adorns with his fruits."

Lumen Gentium 12 "These charismatic gifts, whether they be the most outstanding or the more simple... are to be received with thanksgiving and consolation."

Christifideles Laici 21 "The Church is directed and guided by the Holy Spirit, who lavishes diverse hierarchical and charismatic gifts on all the baptized..."

Scripture: Isaiah 11:2-3; 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 8:26,12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11.

THE WILD GOOSE

WWW.THEWILDGOOSEISLOOSE.COM

Name: _____

September 20-21

GOD

**SHOW ME
ONE WAY**

**IN THIS MASS
I CAN BECOME**

**A BETTER
VERSION OF**

**MYSELF
THIS WEEK!**

My family & I attended Mass at St. Joe's: _____

We attended Mass at another parish: _____

We did not attend Mass this weekend: _____

GOD

**SHOW ME
ONE WAY**

**IN THIS MASS
I CAN BECOME**

**A BETTER
VERSION OF**

**MYSELF
THIS WEEK!**

September 27-28

My family & I attended Mass at St. Joe's: _____

We attended Mass at another parish: _____

We did not attend Mass this weekend: _____

Name: _____

GOD
SHOW ME
ONE WAY
IN THIS MASS
I CAN BECOME
A BETTER
VERSION OF
MYSELF
THIS WEEK!

October 4-5

My family & I attended Mass at St. Joe's: _____

We attended Mass at another parish: _____

We did not attend Mass this weekend: _____

GOD
SHOW ME
ONE WAY
IN THIS MASS
I CAN BECOME
A BETTER
VERSION OF
MYSELF
THIS WEEK!

October 11-12

My family & I attended Mass at St. Joe's: _____

We attended Mass at another parish: _____

We did not attend Mass this weekend: _____

GOD
SHOW ME
ONE WAY
IN THIS MASS
I CAN BECOME
A BETTER
VERSION OF
MYSELF
THIS WEEK!

October 18-19

My family & I attended Mass at St. Joe's: _____

We attended Mass at another parish: _____

We did not attend Mass this weekend: _____

GOD
SHOW ME
ONE WAY
IN THIS MASS
I CAN BECOME
A BETTER
VERSION OF
MYSELF
THIS WEEK!

October 25-26

My family & I attended Mass at St. Joe's: _____

We attended Mass at another parish: _____

We did not attend Mass this weekend: _____