



CHATHAM CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

BLESSED SACRAMENT
145 Victoria Ave
Chatham, ON N7L 3A7
bsacramentparish@dol.ca

OUR LADY OF VICTORY
490 St. Clair St
Chatham, ON N7L 3K8
ourladyv@dol.ca

ST. AGNES
52 Croydon St
Chatham, ON N7L 1L3
stagnes@dol.ca

ST. JOSEPH
180 Wellington St W
Chatham, ON
stjoseph@dol.ca

ST. URSULA
205 Tweedsmuir Ave W
Chatham, ON N7M 5N8
stursula@dol.ca

Website: www.ccfp.dol.ca

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/bssaususj>

Our parish office is located at St. Agnes Church
52 Croydon Street
519-352-9483 or 519-352-8530

Our parish office is closed.
Please call and leave a message and we will return your call.

The Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes has a Youtube channel. You can either go to our Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes website (www.ccfp.dol.ca) and click on the link provided or you can go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes.

Please remember to click Subscribe to become one of our followers. Spread the word and let others know about our Youtube channel!



Next live streamed Masses:
Thursday, February 25 at 9 am
Sunday, February 28 at 9 am



PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor - Fr. Jim Higgins
519-352-8530 ext 222 - jhiggins@dol.ca
Associate Pastor - Fr. Jude Ogbenna, C. S. Sp.
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Associate Pastor - Fr. Olivet Okoro
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Pastoral Minister - Karen Robert
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Deacon Jerry Lozon - jlozon@dol.ca
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Deacon Morgan Treacy - mtreacy@dol.ca

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Data Recorder - Cathy Zimmer
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czimmer@dol.ca

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Blessed Sacrament Plant Supervisor
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St. Joseph Custodian
Patrick O'Malley
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St. Ursula Custodian
Dat Phan
dphan@dol.ca

Readings for February 28

Genesis 22: 1-9, 9-13, 15-18. Romans 8: 31b-35, 37.
Mark 9: 2-10.

**FEBRUARY 21, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**



UPDATE FROM BISHOP FABBRO

Please note that as of January 29, Bishop Fabbro extended the dispensation from the Sunday obligation until the end of the Easter Season; that is, up to and including Pentecost Sunday (May 23).



DEACON'S PEN

Jesus was in the wilderness forty days. If nothing else a pandemic sets the stage for us to be alone in our wilderness - and it has been longer than forty days. While socially difficult, Jesus purposefully went out to pray, reflect and prepare for his ministry. The devil tempted Jesus to commit the sins of pride, arrogance and selfishness. He refused sin. Can we follow him?

If nothing else Lent this year will find us alone to ponder our preparation for discipleship. You should have received by now a mail out that was well prepared by our Pastoral Minister Team to help you organize your spirituality for lent. Week one is about self-examination - how am I contributing to God's kingdom? I think of Lent as a time of taking on more things, doing more for others. That is not penance, that is our calling, that is our discipleship - like increasing my awareness of God in my life; am I constantly being with Jesus, who came to earth to be with us and is still with us in spirit; can I increase my prayer life or change it in some way to develop a more specific spirituality; can I find a way to give more to the community; can I give up one thing that distracts me from my full concentration on Jesus.

I am fortunate at this time; I am old, I am retired, and our family lives thousands of miles away - so I have a large amount of time to spend alone with Jesus whether it is during walks in nature, while reading passages from the bible, while participating in constructive hobbies. But that isn't enough - we must pray to learn how to contribute more completely as disciples in our community. The quiet time of Lent can give us the time to help us plan new ways to fulfill our calling. Jesus is our way and our life.

Deacon Chris

CHURCH CHUCKLE

"Are you sharing your sled with your brother?" My friend ask her daughter.

"Yes," she affirmed. "I take it down the hill and he brings it back up."



REGISTRATION FOR SUNDAY MASSES

We will reopen for in person Sunday Masses on the weekend of February 27 and 28.

Saturday ~ 5 pm at Blessed Sacrament Church
Sunday ~ 8 am at St. Joseph Church
Sunday ~ 9 am at Blessed Sacrament Church
(This Mass will continue to be Live Streamed.)
Sunday ~ 10 am at St. Ursula Church
Sunday ~ 11 am at St. Agnes Church
Sunday ~ 11 am at Our Lady of Victory Church
(This Mass will be celebrated in Polish.)

To reserve for Saturday or Sunday Mass, registration will be on Wednesday, February 24 and Thursday, February 25 from 9 am to 5 pm both days. You can register easily online (www.ccfp.dol.ca) or if you don't have access to the internet, you can call the parish office.

DAILY MASS

We will reopen for in person Daily Mass beginning on March 2. You do not need to register for daily Mass.

Tuesday ~ 9 am at St. Ursula Church
Wednesday ~ 7 pm at Our Lady of Victory Church
(This Mass will be celebrated in Polish.)
Thursday ~ 9 am at Blessed Sacrament Church
(This Mass will continue to be Live Streamed.)

CONFESSION

In person Confession will resume at Blessed Sacrament Church from 10 - 11 am on Saturday, February 27.

General Absolution will offered following all the Masses on the weekends of March 6/7 and March 20/21

We will not be offering Confession on April 3 (Holy Saturday).

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

This will be delayed until further notice. Watch our bulletins and webpage for the most current updates and changes.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPE UPDATE

A huge and heartfelt thank you to all the Knights of Columbus and Caring Kitchen volunteers who worked diligently to deliver the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes offertory envelopes to most of our families. Your diligence is most appreciated!

Currently, the parish office remains closed and most of our Pastoral Team and Staff are working remotely. If you have not yet received your offertory envelopes for 2021, and would like to receive them, please call the parish office and leave a message. We will contact you to make arrangements for you to pick up your offertory envelopes.

Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes
Weekday Mass Intentions
for the week of February 22 - 27

Please note these Mass Intentions will be celebrated privately on the specified date by our priests.

Monday, Feb 22 - Our Lady of Victory intentions
~ Cathy Gleason

Tuesday, Feb 23 - St. Agnes intentions
~ People of the parish

Tuesday, Feb 23 - St. Ursula intentions
~ Delores Taylor
~ Kay Labadie

Wednesday, Feb 24 - Blessed Sacrament intentions
~ Evelyn Reaume

Wednesday, Feb 24- St. Joseph intentions
~ Benedetto Amato (Ann)
~ In honour of St. Anthony

Wednesday, Feb 24 - Our Lady of Victory intentions
~ People of the parish

Thursday, Feb 25 - St. Agnes intentions
~ Intentions of Betty Carruthers
~ Karl Smith

Thursday, Feb 25 - St. Ursula intentions
~ Nick & Anne Lucyk
~ Robert Jubenville
~ Ruth Nagle

Friday, Feb 26 - Blessed Sacrament intentions
~ People of the parish

Friday, Feb 26 - St. Joseph intentions
~ People of the parish

Saturday, Feb 27 - Our Lady of Victory intentions
~ People of the parish

*To Everything there is a season...
"a time to be healed..."*

Please pray for those who are currently sick in our parish family, especially Eva Beausejour and Brian McMath.

"a time to die...."

Please remember in your prayers all deceased relatives and parishioners especially Gerarda Sullo.

Eternal rest grant unto thee.

DIOCESAN MINISTERS PRAYER CALENDAR

Please remember to pray for these Diocesan ministers: Rev. Mark Maloney; Deacon Larry Lamphier; Mrs. Chrisandra Skipper, Campus Minister; Rev. Ronaldo (Ronnie) Tagnines; Mrs. Kim Bornais, Coordinator of Youth Ministry; Mrs. Maria Mollica, Coordinator of Youth Ministry; Rev. Pio D'Oria.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Feb 22 1 Peter 5: 1-4. Matthew 16: 13-19

Feb 23 Isaiah 55: 10-11. Matthew 6: 7-15

Feb 24 Jonah 3: 1-10. Luke 11: 29-32

Feb 25 Esther 14: 1, 3-5, 12-14. Matthew 7: 7-12

Feb 26 Ezekiel 18: 21-28. Matthew 5: 20-26

Feb 27 Deuteronomy 26: 16-19. Matthew 5: 43-48

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

A change of heart

Reading I Genesis 9: 8-15
(covenant with Noah)

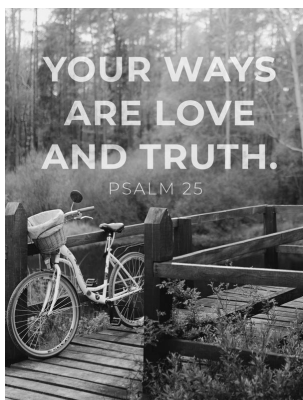
Reading II 1 Peter 3: 18-22
(the purpose of Christ's suffering)

Gospel Mark 1: 12-15
(Jesus' temptation;
the call to conversion)

Key Passage: For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. (1 Peter 3: 18)

Adult: When or how could you step away from your daily responsibilities to renew yourself, so that you can do a better job of following in the footsteps of Jesus?

Child: What good habit could you work on during Lent so you could grow closer to God?



Please check our parish website (ccfp.dol.ca) to pray the Stations of the Cross with our Pastor, Fr. Jim. There is also a Stations of the Cross for children and families.



OUR FAMILY LENTEN JOURNEY: WEEK ONE

LET US JOURNEY WITH JESUS ON THE PATH TO CALVARY AND BEYOND



As we begin the Holy Season of Lent, Jesus reaches out His hand and says,

“Come closer to Me!”

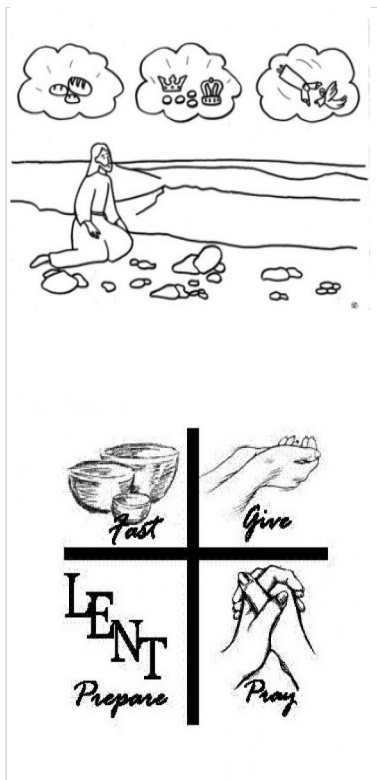
Are you ready to take his hand?

Whether we are a little child, a teenager, a mom or dad, a grandpa or grandma, Jesus invites us to take his hand and journey with Him for 40 days on a path we will never forget. We will meet many people who Jesus taught and healed. On our Lenten path, we will remember Jesus’ great act of love on the Cross.

We will celebrate the promise of His resurrection at Easter.

And like his disciples on the road to Emmaus, we will be challenged to believe and go out to be disciples too!

LET’S LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD



You can watch ‘Jesus In the Desert’ with your family at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K01s7VxuDqo> or you can read it in the Holy Bible in the Gospel of Mark 1:12-15

Lent is a special time in our Church year when we have a chance to change things in our lives so that we can grow closer to God. Jesus taught us how to do this. After He was baptized by John the Baptist, Jesus spent 40 days in the desert. He fasted and prayed the whole time, even though he was hungry and tired and tempted by the evil one. But Jesus stayed faithful and didn’t turn His back on God. During Lent, Jesus is asking us to spend time in our own desert-away from the noise of TV, video games, texting and other distractions. He invites us to do three things to help us become closer to God. We are asked to:

PRAY GIVE FAST

LET'S LOOK WITHIN



**Lord, look into my heart!
Shine your light on me!**



**BE STRONG and
COURAGEOUS!**
DO NOT *be* AFRAID
OR DISCOURAGED.
FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD
IS WITH YOU
WHEREVER YOU GO.
===== Joshua 1:9

Before we begin any journey, we prepare what we need to take along. It is the same in our Lenten journey. One way we can do this is to spend time at the end of each day thinking about what kind of person we were that day and what we would like to improve. A special tool developed by St. Ignatius Loyola, which we can use to do this during Lent, is called an **examen**. This time of prayer helps us check in with God each day to look at how well we are living the way God would like us to live. We open our hearts to God and tell him the good and the bad. It has five steps, which most people take more or less in order, and it usually takes about 15 to 20 minutes at the end of the day, just before you go to sleep.

Step 1: Be Still: Find a quiet place and welcome God into your prayer time. Make the Sign of the Cross and say this prayer, "God, you have been a light to guide me this whole day long, from the time I woke up until this moment. Help me remember what happened during my day so I can bring it to you."

Step 2: Remember Your Day: Ask yourself:

What happened when I woke up? When I went to school or work?
What did I do today? What did I say to others? What did I see or watch?
What did I do or say at home? What made me happy? Sad? Angry? Afraid?
Thankful? Joyful? Worried? Surprised? Did I help anyone? Did I hurt anyone? Did anyone hurt me? What was beautiful? What was amazing?
What was a surprise?

Step 3: Think About Where You Saw God Today: When you remember your day, how did you show love to others? How did others show love to you? Did you ask God for help today or try to do it all yourself? Did you pray to God today? Were you kind in the way you acted and in the words you used?

Step 4: Pray and Ask Jesus: What do you think Jesus is saying about your day? What do you want to tell Jesus about your day? Do you want to praise God for creation? Do you want to thank God for a blessing you received? Do you want to ask God to forgive you for something you did wrong during the day? Do you want to ask God to help someone else?

Step 5: Next Steps: Thank God for helping you do the right things today. Ask God to help you see where you need to do better tomorrow. Say to God, **"Please God, give me the grace to be the best I can be tomorrow."** Maybe you would like to write some thoughts down in a prayer journal.

Now say the 'Our Father' and make the Sign of the Cross.

Catechism in a Year

Looking to learn something new?

Want it in 'bite size' pieces?

- Go to <https://flocknote.com/catechism>
- Subscribe to a daily email
- Read the entire catechism in one year
- An explanation of each articles is included

Here is a sample email:

48. How does the Church express her trinitarian faith?

The Church expresses her trinitarian faith by professing a belief in the oneness of God in whom there are three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The three divine Persons are only one God because each of them equally possesses the fullness of the one and indivisible divine nature. They are really distinct from each other by reason of the relations which place them in correspondence to each other. The Father generates the Son; the Son is generated by the Father, the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son. *Further reading: CCC 249-256, 266*

49. How do the three divine persons work?

Inseparable in their one substance, the three divine Persons are also inseparable in their activity. The Trinity is one operation, sole and the same. In this one divine action, however, each Person is present according to the mode which is proper to Him in the Trinity.

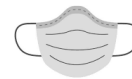
"O my God, my Trinity whom I adore . . . Grant my soul peace; make it your heaven, your beloved dwelling, and the place of your rest. May I never abandon you there, but may I be there, whole and entire, completely vigilant in my faith, entirely adoring, and wholly given over to your creative action." (Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity) *Further reading: CCC 257-260, 267*

Note: (CCC 48 is, Catechism of the Catholic Church; 48 is the article number, not the page number)

Should you need to borrow a catechism we have some that we can lend you. Contact Colleen Keane at ckeane@dol.ca.



We taking every reasonable precaution to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our churches and protect parishioners. Those who attend Mass or other services without a mask and without a valid exemption are violating municipal and provincial COVID-19 restrictions and putting fellow parishioners at risk.



Per Bishop Fabbro, starting January 1, 2021, if you have a medical exemption for wearing a mask, you will be required to bring to the pastor evidence from your physician, nurse practitioner, social worker, psychologist or occupational, respiratory or physical therapist attesting to your condition. Once you do so, you will be provided a document to bring to Mass each time. When you register for Mass, please let them know you have been granted an exemption, so that you can be seated in a designated area.

We will still ask that you wear a mask briefly to enter and exit and to receive Communion, unless your disability prevents you from doing so. Those who refuse to comply with this diocesan regulation will be asked to leave and will not be permitted to attend Mass until they agree to wear a mask.

We are aware that this new protocol does go beyond the requirements in most health unit orders and local by-laws, but they are required to protect the safety of our parishioners, parish teams and volunteers while on church property. Infections continue to increase in our communities and small sacrifices like wearing a mask can slow the transmission of the virus, and are a sign of our love for our neighbours and help prevent people from taking advantage of the exemptions for personal reasons.

Footnotes: Above information was taken from December 1, 2020 COVID-19 Update from Bishop Fabbro (Update #13) - found at www.dol.ca.

Please note that face shields and/or plastic masks are not an appropriate replacement for a face mask. From the Ontario.ca website regarding face shields:

Face shields do not replace masks or face coverings.

A face shield is used to protect the eyes of the person wearing it. Using a face shield without a mask won't protect:

- You from potentially inhaling infectious respiratory droplets exhaled by others
- Others from your infectious respiratory droplets, as they can escape around the face shield

HOW TO DONATE TO THE CHATHAM CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

As we are all forced to slow down in our current world, unfortunately some things continue along, such as our household bills and expenses. The same goes for our parishes as well, that operate mainly on donations received at Mass. If you normally donate with your offertory envelope when you attend Mass, there are some other options—including a new, easy, online option.

E-TRANSFER

Using your online banking website or app, add the parish you wish to donate to using the parish email address:

Blessed Sacrament - bsacramentparish@dol.ca

Our Lady of Victory - ourladyv@dol.ca

St. Agnes - stagnes@dol.ca

St. Joseph - stjoseph@dol.ca

St. Ursula - stursula@dol.ca

Create the e-transfer and in the comment/note area, please indicate your envelope number or your address and which fund you are donating to, such as Sunday Offertory, Easter, Building, Share Lent etc.

No password is needed as the parishes are set up for autodeposit.

CHEQUE

If you do not use online banking, you can mail a cheque to the office. Please make your cheque payable to the particular parish and on the memo line, indicate which fund you are donating to. Please mail it to:

St. Agnes Parish

52 Croydon St.

Chatham ON N7L 1L3

Attention: "Name of parish you are donating to"

PAD (Pre-Authorized Debit)

If you wish to set up PAD, you won't have to worry about remembering to bring your envelope to Mass or be concerned that you can't donate because you can't attend Mass, such as our current situation.

There is a form available on the website (www.ccfp.dol.ca/how-to-donate or click Giving/How to Donate on the top menu). You can print off the form and fill it out and either scan the form and a void cheque and email it (using the email addresses above), or mail the form and void cheque to the office (using the address indicated above). Please note for this method, the form must be received before the 15th of the month in order to take effect the next month.



PLENTY - DONATING ONLINE

Parishioners and visitors can make donations online using a computer, laptop, tablet or any mobile device, using your Visa and Mastercard (credit card, as well as Visa and Mastercard debit cards) for any type of donation. This includes both one-time donations and recurring donations. We have been working with a team of experts from Plently Inc. to develop this capability.

Getting Started Is Easy

•Using your **mobile device's camera**, scan the QR code (see codes below with the particular parish name you wish to donate to), and simply follow the instructions on the screen to make your donation. If you have an older Android smartphone, you may have to install a scanning app – newer androids and all iPhones will scan without the scanning app. You will quickly be directed to the web application.

OR

•On your **computer or electronic device**, go to Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes website: www.ccfp.dol.ca, then choose the **How to Donate** button on the home screen, or on the top menu, click **Giving/How to Donate**, and follow the instructions for the particular parish you wish to donate to.

You will have the option to choose where your donation will go, such as Regular Sunday Offertory, Christmas, Building etc. You can also add a comment. Any funds donated through Plently will be part of your annual tax receipt from the parish.

There is no fee to make your donation using this service. Plently Inc. runs on Amazon Web services and meets strict Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards (PCI DDS) for service providers.

This option is currently not available for Our Lady of Victory Parish.



BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH



ST. AGNES PARISH



ST. JOSEPH PARISH



ST. URSULA PARISH

Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes is excited to let you know that we have just purchased a Parish Family membership to FORMED!



Diving into the beauty of the Faith has never been easier: at home, on the go, or from any internet connected device.

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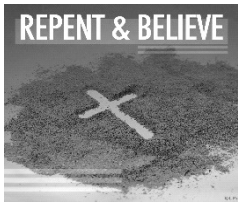
To sign up for our Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes FORMED membership:

- 1. Visit FORMED.org/signup**
- 2. Enter *Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes* when asked for your parish name**
- 3. Enter your name and email.**

Enjoy exploring all that FORMED has to offer! Watch our bulletin and website www.ccfo.dol.ca for more information and helpers in the coming weeks!



Journey with Dr. Tim Gray by signing up for FORMED Daily Lenten Reflections at formed.org/lent. Each day you will receive in your inbox a short video which features Dr. Gray commenting on the daily Mass readings, explaining the Scriptures, and providing you with concrete ideas on how to apply them to your Christian life.



Lent - Week One: Self Examination

Mark1:13 – He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan.

My wife is a big Dave Ramsey fan. She loves when he tells people that in order to pay down their debt, they need to sell so many of their possessions that the kids think that even they can be sold for the right price. He definitely sees earthly possessions as simply tools to be used and not "possessed." This is a tough, countercultural message for sure in the eyes of the average American. Too often, our self-worth is derived from our wealth and the items we own. The size of our house, the brand of our car, and the quantity of our belongings are all gauges of success in our world. For Ramsey, not only can you not truly own anything if you owe money to others, it belongs to God anyway and is only given to us as stewards.

Could you sell all you have right now? Could you walk away from all that you have amassed and be truly free? When Jesus speaks of the merchant who sells all he has to obtain a pearl of great price, he calls us to see the pearl as the kingdom of heaven. Nothing on earth can rival the value of the kingdom. If that is true, why is it so hard to surrender everything to God to obtain it? It can be fear that keeps us from stepping out in faith. It can be selfishness that prevents us from letting go. Whatever it is, we must face the fact that we are "possessed" by it. The good news is that God does not expect us to conquer this obstacle on our own. But with God, all things are possible.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPi

- What must I let go of to make more time to be silent and pray?
- What do I carry in my heart, and have on my mind that distracts me from you and the Kingdom I seek?
- What, in this world have I made more important than who you created me to be?

We are not going into the desert for these forty days alone. Just as Jesus did, we have God always with us. As we journey through lent, lets focus on our life with open hearts and minds and seek God in every moment of our day.

RECOGNIZE GOD IN MY ORDINARY MOMENTS

One day my son came downstairs in our house and went into the kitchen to get himself a bowl of cereal. He had no idea I was in the front room quietly reading something on my smartphone. He poured his milk and reached to grab a spoon. At that moment, I simply said, "Hello." Startled, he jumped back from the silverware drawer and let out a scream. He

would tell this story differently, but it certainly was a scream. He clutched his chest as if he had just seen a ghost. All I wanted to do was say hello.

We have all been startled by someone when we thought we were all alone. Sometimes that person in our midst was simply quiet and hidden from our view. Other times, we simply have our head and mind in the clouds to the point we are ignoring the fact we are not alone.

At times that person we don't see is Jesus. He might seem quieter some days, but he should never be hidden from our view. He is always there with us, in others, and sharing our everyday moments. When we fail to see him in our midst, it is easy to act in ways we wouldn't if we saw him directly in front of us. We become less giving and more self-centered. No one wants to be surprised one day when suddenly they realize they were not alone, especially if the one who startles us is our God. *Tracy Earl Welliver, ©LPi*

God in Daily Life

Whatever your daily work, you have an opportunity to encounter God and to follow His commandments in love. In the New Testament, we see that most of the Apostles didn't have a previous religious position. They were fishermen, tax collectors, and political activists. St. Paul was a tentmaker. Among the saints, we have doctors, lawyers, farmers, and stay-at-home moms. No matter your daily tasks, God can be present there!

One way concerns behavior. Start with an examination of conscience. Look at areas where you tend to struggle to imitate Christ at work. Do you gossip? Does brimming frustration become impatience at home? Pick one sin you struggle with, then choose a virtue to strengthen that area. If you tend to speak poorly of your co-workers, resolve to stop and to say one kind thing a day instead.

Another way relates to perspective, particularly your perspective of others. Jesus' incarnation reminds us of the value of every human being. Jesus is God, and each of us is created in God's image. When you encounter another person, you have an opportunity to see God in a new place and a new way — in that person in front of you. Genuinely listen to them and be present to their concerns. Loving your neighbor is loving God! Our relationship with God and the love He inspires in our hearts shouldn't remain only at church on Sunday. We can — and should — let our faith animate our lives! *©LPi*



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