

FOR THE GREATER GLORY

SEPTEMBER

A monthly resource for families to learn about our Catholic Faith

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you 1 Cor. 11:23

Reflection

This month we begin our reflection on the scripture “I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you” 1 Cor. 11:23. This letter was Paul’s first letter to the church of Corinth and gives us a good glimpse into the life of the early Christian community. It was written around the year 56 so approximately 23 years after Christ’s death. The community is struggling to remember the Lord’s words at the last supper. Paul is encouraging the community to remember what they have received from the Lord. The gift of faith, the commandment to love one another, the plea to remember are all those things that we have to help us understand our faith. But if we take time to truly ponder what have we received, I can’t help but feel overwhelmed. Even in the midst of a global pandemic, our Lord is with us. Miracles are happening every day. We are certainly seeing much suffering and consternation but our faith helps us remember that Jesus wept too. We have received a faith that holds us no matter what the circumstances of life are presenting. Let us take some time and give thanks for all that we have received. And let us not forget that we are called to pass on our faith as joyous disciples, catechists who echo Christ especially in our families.

Saint Robert Bellarmine



*“LOVE is a marvelous
and heavenly thing.
It never tires
and it never thinks
it has done enough!”*

[St Robert Bellarmine](#) is the patron saint of catechists and catechumens. He was a promising scholar in Italy and devoted his study to church history and the Scriptures. He focuses on a systematic organization of Church doctrine to counter the attacks from the protestant Reformers. He prepared two catechisms as a theologian for Pope Clement VIII. He was canonized in 1930 and declared a doctor of the Church.

This month as we celebrate Catechetical Sunday, let us call on Saint Robert Bellarmine to accompany us as we joyfully proclaim our faith. All of us are called to be witnesses to our faith—disciples for the Lord. We celebrate Catechetical Sunday and the publishing of the newest “Directory for Catechesis.” Jesus accompanies every person in order to reveal the love of Christ.

Once, St. Robert, took the drapes off his wall to give to a homeless person during the Winter. He said, “The walls won’t catch cold.” St. Robert gives us an excellent example of putting our faith into action. What can you do this month to show others your faith? What act of kindness can you do for another person, so that they may know of Christ?

Send pictures of your Saint in Action to jhopper@rcdb.org and be entered in to a drawing for some pizza!

Catechism Teaching

For the first four weeks of each month we will have a brief teaching from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC). You can find the CCC online <https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/INDEX.HTM>

The CCC is always referenced by paragraphs, not page numbers. When you see a citation-- CCC #--merely find the corresponding paragraph in the Catechism, in bold, to the left, starting with #1 (in the prologue) all the way to #2865- the last paragraph on prayer. The CCC presents the Deposit of Faith in four parts or pillars. While the Catechism of the Catholic Church can be intimidating, it is a valuable resource for us to understand our faith. Paul tells St. Timothy to "Guard what has been entrusted to you" (1 Tim 6:20). Let us be like Timothy and learn our faith, study it, pray it and live it so others may come to know our Lord.

Week One September 6, 2020

Profession of the Faith

The apostolic succession is a core teaching of our faith. We believe that Christ preserved the Church through a line of passing on the faith from Peter to every Pope until the end of time. The apostolic teaching was left from the apostles to the Bishops as their successors. They gave the Bishops their own position of teaching authority. Bishop Peter is the Chief Catechist of our Diocese. In our Domestic Church, we learn our faith through this living transmission of faith. This week take a look at this video and practice the Lectio Divina as Jared Dees shares.

<https://www.facebook.com/TheReligionTeacher/videos/apostolic-succession-lesson-plan/1628574493860099/>

Find a list of our Popes from Peter to Francis here. <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12272b.htm>

Week Two September 13, 2020

The Celebration of the Christian Mystery

Liturgy is an action of the whole Christ (Christus totus) CCC1136. In this celebration, the Church has carefully constructed an annual cycle of the mysteries of Christ and the unfolding of the Paschal Mystery. At the Council of Nicea in 325, the church declared that Easter will be celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon following the vernal equinox. So, each year, our Catholic calendar gives us seasons and specific feasts and memorials to celebrate. The liturgy is not only celebrated on Sundays, but in many parts of the world, every day. If one were to attend daily Mass and Sunday Mass every day for 3 years, one would hear almost the entire Bible. We are a Scripture people.

Not only do we have opportunities for daily Mass, but we also have Liturgy of the Hours. This prayer reveals even more deeply the meaning of the mystery we celebrate in our faith and an even more intense study of the Word of God. (CCC1168-1178)

[Go here](#) and make your own liturgical calendar as a family. Check out this website for a great instruction on the liturgical calendar. <https://shrineofstjude.org/learn/liturgical-seasons/about-the-liturgical-calendar/>

Week Three September 20, 2020

Life in Christ

“The precepts of the Church are set in the context of a moral life bound to and nourished by liturgical life. (CCC 2041) The Five precepts are

1. Attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
2. Confession of serious sin at least once a year
3. Reception of Holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter season
4. Observance of the days of fast and abstinence
5. Providing for the needs of the Church

These rules are the absolute minimum actions required of Catholics. These are to remind us that the Christian life requires a commitment to prayer, active participation in the liturgy (Covid-19 dispensations aside) and the sacraments. But we should always strive to go beyond the minimum. Out of love for Christ let us all have a desire to have a full and rigorous spiritual life.

Week Four September 27, 2020

Prayer

“Come, Holy Spirit”

No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit." Every time we begin to pray to Jesus it is the Holy Spirit who draws us on the way of prayer by his prevenient grace. Since he teaches us to pray by recalling Christ, how could we not pray to the Spirit too? That is why the Church invites us to call upon the Holy Spirit every day, especially at the beginning and the end of every important action.

If the Spirit should not be worshiped, how can he divinize me through Baptism? If he should be worshiped, should he not be the object of adoration?

The traditional form of petition to the Holy Spirit is to invoke the Father through Christ our Lord to give us the Consoler Spirit Jesus insists on this petition to be made in his name at the very moment when he promises the gift of the Spirit of Truth. But the simplest and most direct prayer is also traditional, "Come, Holy Spirit," and every liturgical tradition has developed it in antiphons and hymns.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Heavenly King, Consoler Spirit, Spirit of Truth, present everywhere and filling all things, treasure of all good and source of all life, come dwell in us, cleanse and save us, you who are All Good.

The Holy Spirit, whose anointing permeates our whole being, is the interior Master of Christian prayer. He is the artisan of the living tradition of prayer. To be sure, there are as many paths of prayer as there are persons who pray, but it is the same Spirit acting in all and with all. It is in the communion of the Holy Spirit that Christian prayer is prayer in the Church.” (CCC 2670-2672)

Take some time to reflect on the Holy Spirit and call upon those gifts that you need to live out your lives as Catholics.

Sunday Gospels

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 6, 2020

The Gospel of Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples:

“If your brother sins against you,
go and tell him his fault between you and him alone.
If he listens to you, you have won over your brother.

If he does not listen,

take one or two others along with you,
so that ‘every fact may be established
on the testimony of two or three witnesses.’

If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church.

If he refuses to listen even to the church,
then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.

Amen, I say to you,

whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Again, amen, I say to you,
if two of you agree on earth,

about anything for which they are to pray,
it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name,
there am I in the midst of them.”

Reflection Question

In today’s reading we hear how to deal with conflict. In any situation, community or family at some point we will encounter conflict. How can we practice being a more forgiving community of believers in this time of conflict? What lesson should we learn about forgiveness today?

Activity

The second reading for this Sunday tells us that love is the fulfillment of the law. Take time this week to tell those in your family why you love them. Call or write a letter to distant family members. Send friends a short note letting them know why they are important to you. Children can color pictures, pick up some postcards for grade schoolers to send. Make this a week of sharing the love with others.

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 13, 2020

The Gospel of Matthew 18:21-35

Peter approached Jesus and asked him,

“Lord, if my brother sins against me,

how often must I forgive?

As many as seven times?”

Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.

That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king

who decided to settle accounts with his servants.

When he began the accounting,

a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount.

Since he had no way of paying it back,

his master ordered him to be sold,

along with his wife, his children, and all his property,

in payment of the debt.

At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said,

‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.’

Moved with compassion the master of that servant

let him go and forgave him the loan.

When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants

who owed him a much smaller amount.

He seized him and started to choke him, demanding,

‘Pay back what you owe.’

Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him,

‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’

But he refused.

Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison

until he paid back the debt.

Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened,

they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master

and reported the whole affair.

His master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant!

I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to.

Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant,

as I had pity on you?’

Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers

until he should pay back the whole debt.

So will my heavenly Father do to you,

unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart.”

Reflection Question

We hear in today's Gospel message that we are to forgive others from the heart. What does that mean to you? How do you know you are forgiving to that degree?

Activity

Take a walk around the neighborhood and look for pictures that will represent each line of the Our Father. Put these together and use it as a prayerful meditation on the Our Father in your family. Here is a great video on the meaning of the prayer to help guide you in this activity. Also see the Catechism of the Catholic Church 2779-2796 <https://www.thereligionteacher.com/our-father-activity/>

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**September 20, 2020**

The Gospel of Matthew 20:1-16A

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard.

After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

Going out about nine o'clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.’

So they went off.

And he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise.

Going out about five o'clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’

They answered, ‘Because no one has hired us.’

He said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard.’

When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.’

When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage.

So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage.

And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat.’

He said to one of them in reply,
'My friend, I am not cheating you.
Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?
Take what is yours and go.
What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?
Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money?
Are you envious because I am generous?'
Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Reflection Question

Today's Gospel turns our understanding of fair on its head! How do you feel about God's justice as portrayed in the parable of the laborers? What is a parable? What is the message for us today regarding justice?

Activity

Do a random act of "Labor" kindness in your community. Look around and find a street that may need to be picked up or a neighbor's yard that could use weeded and mowed. Be creative. When you are done enjoy a treat and share how you are paid for these acts of generosity.

[Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

September 27, 2020

The Gospel of Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people:
"What is your opinion?
A man had two sons.
He came to the first and said,
'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.'
He said in reply, 'I will not, '
but afterwards changed his mind and went.
The man came to the other son and gave the same order.
He said in reply, 'Yes, sir, 'but did not go.
Which of the two did his father's will?"
They answered, "The first."
Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you,
tax collectors and prostitutes
are entering the kingdom of God before you.
When John came to you in the way of righteousness,
you did not believe him;
but tax collectors and prostitutes did.
Yet even when you saw that,
you did not later change your minds and believe him."

Reflection Question

What does it mean to give our word that we are going to do something? How can we help each other be more accountable to do what we say we will do?

Activity

The second reading encourages us to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Spend some time sharing where you see God, where is God revealed to you? Put these into prayers of Thanksgiving and make a plaque that can decorate your dinner table. Let us remember to keep our word and be more Christ like to each other.

Additional Opportunities for Your Family*Seasonal Focus*

September is the month that we celebrate Catechetical Sunday. "In 1935, the Vatican published *On the Better Care and Promotion of Catechetical Education*, a document that asks every country to acknowledge the importance of the Church's teaching ministry and to honor those who serve the Christian community as catechists. For the first few years after Catechetical Sunday was established, national catechetical congresses were held in conjunction with the celebration. Beginning in 1971, the USCCB's Department of Education began producing materials to help parishes celebrate the event at the local level. When the Committee on Catechesis, now named the Committee of Evangelization and Catechesis, was named by the Conference as a standing Committee, it continued to publish Catechetical Sunday materials each year. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has designated the third Sunday in September as Catechetical Sunday." (<https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/catechetical-sunday-about>) This year it will be celebrated on September 20th at most parishes in the United States. The theme for this year's celebration is "I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you." Here is a prayer to pray for this celebration

Loving Father, we pray today for our catechists. We thank you for their gift of ministry in your Church. Grant them your wisdom that they may grow in the understanding and teaching of your Word. Grant them also your love that they may be fruitful heralds of your Word and lead others to love you. Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon them to grant them wisdom about what is important; knowledge of the truths of faith; understanding of their meaning; right judgement about how to apply them in life; courage to persevere even in the face of adversity; reverence before all that is sacred and holy; and that loving zeal which leads others to a transforming encounter with your Son. We pray this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Parents are truly the primary catechists of their children. They prepare the soil and plant the first seeds of faith. On Catechetical Sunday, we not only highlight the work of catechists in parishes and schools, but we also commend parents and guardians and encourage them to take seriously their role of making their Catholic households a place where faith is passed on to the next generation.

Cinemadivina

Months that have 5 Sundays give us the opportunity to engage in a new prayer form. *The next month with five Sundays is November.* Stay tuned for our movie selection!

Here are some more ideas to build up you Domestic Church!

- Begin praying as a family and reading from Scripture daily, certainly before meals, but also first thing in the morning or before bed. Find a time that works for your family. Use the liturgy of the Church as a model for prayer, and try to include heartfelt unstructured prayer as well.
- Pray a Family Rosary (each member leads a decade, and everyone shares intentions).
- Have a crucifix in a prominent place in the home, and in every bedroom.
- Make the Sacraments a regular celebration – take the whole family to Confession and Mass!
- Begin family traditions based on the seasons celebrated in the liturgical calendar.
- Make your vacation a holy pilgrimage by visiting the shrines and saints of our land and the world.
- Make worshipping God a priority. Never miss Mass, even while traveling – go to: www.MassTimes.org to find a church near you!
- Teach stewardship and charity to your children, through word and example.
- Demonstrate love for your spouse, your children, your neighbors, and the world. Remind their children that they are loved by God and have been given gifts to serve others.
- Talk freely about the presence of God in the joys and sorrows of your life.
- Welcome into your home and support priests, brothers, sisters, deacons, and lay ministers in the Church.
- Participate in the lay ministries and activities of your parish community.
- Allow your children to witness you in private prayer. Encourage your children to pray daily on their own, to listen for God's call, and if heard, to respond.
- For more ideas on how to build your home as a Domestic Church, go to: www.domestic-church.com or visit [The Family Fully Alive](#), sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.