

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

June 2022

St. Christopher Parish

One Minute Meditations

Take your rightful place

As a baptized Catholic, your parish is your home by right.

As such, you have the right to a seat at your parish table.

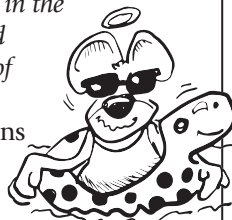


You take it when you attend weekend Mass, and seek peace from sacraments such as the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Holy Matrimony.

Times change; God doesn't

The Bible tells of countless times when God gave his people victory in otherwise hopeless circumstances, provided for them when they had no resources, and guided them in their decisions. God is ready to work as powerfully for you.

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:1-4).



God waits for our "Yes"

God loves us and wants us to be happy with Him in Heaven forever, but He won't force Himself on us. Out of respect for our free will, God asks that we cooperate with His grace to save us, but leaves it up to us to say, "Yes!"

Cultivate your faith. The better we know our Catholic Faith the easier it is to know how to live it. The Catechism of the Catholic Church summarizes all major teachings of the Catholic Church. Read an article in it each day and learn a new term from the glossary weekly. Then, there will be no guessing about what Catholics believe.

Keep your conscience in shape.

A well-formed conscience signals us when a choice is virtuous (good) or sinful (bad). Review what the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes require. Meditate on the examples of Jesus and Mary in the Gospels and how your behavior compares.

Stay close to the Sacraments. Through the Sacraments we directly encounter Christ. Attend Confession monthly and

Mass at least weekly. This is the best way to stay close to God and His Heart.

Perform Works of Mercy. God uses these opportunities to conform us more fully to Christ. Find ways to serve your parish in time, resources, or gifts. It is Jesus who ultimately receives our gift (Matthew 25:40).



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics use the different titles when we address the clergy?

After Jesus ascended, the Church grew so quickly that the spiritual needs of the Christian community demanded a global hierarchy of clergy to minister to them while maintaining the unity of the Faith. In response, the Apostles ordained deacons to assist so they could



focus on liturgy (Acts 6:2-4).

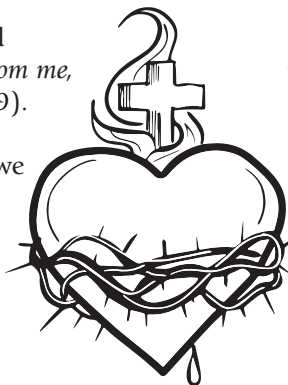
Today, there are different titles for different roles and levels of authority. For example, we are most likely to encounter

priests ("Father"), deacons, and bishops ("Your Excellency," or "Your Grace").

Three invaluable lessons from the Sacred Heart devotion

Attaining holiness can seem overwhelming and complicated, but Jesus makes it simple: *“Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart”* (Matthew 11:29). Follow the lessons of His Sacred Heart.

Focus on Jesus. We often get in trouble when we lose sight of who Jesus is (God) and how much He loves us. Actually, God is always close and loves us with an infinite, intense, burning love. Keep an image of the Sacred Heart nearby for when you feel discouraged or disconnected from Him.



Give Him your “Yes.” Instead of relying on your own strength and strategy, consecrate yourself to Jesus’ Sacred Heart and let Him form and direct you. He is patient, gentle, and knows what we can handle. Say “Yes” to whatever He asks.

“Love is not loved!” Jesus wants our love but is often rejected by our sins. Love Jesus for those who won’t. Spend time with Him and thank Him for what He’s done for you. Offer Him your sufferings for a soul in need.

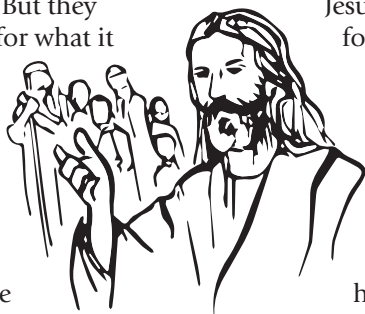
from Scripture

Luke 9:51-62, the cost of discipleship

Jesus’ listeners often got swept up by his charismatic manner and professed eagerness to follow him. But they weren’t always prepared for what it took to be a true disciple.

In this Gospel passage, a young man asked to follow Jesus but was deflated when Jesus pointed out that He had no home and none of the things considered necessary for a happy life. Jesus warned that it wouldn’t always be comfortable to follow Him.

The timing wasn’t right for the second man. He promised to follow Jesus but



said he needed to fulfill his duty to his dying father first. In truth, Jesus sets the priorities we follow. Our duty is to obey.

Finally, Jesus used the example of plowing a field to make His point. If you look back while plowing it can ruin the job. He used that example to help the third man understand that we need to have a singleness of purpose to be His disciple. We will have to make sacrifices to follow Jesus. But He promises us that the rewards will be worth much more.

Q & A Why are there different lists of Apostles?

Ever wonder why there seem to be different Apostles in different Gospels? For instance, there’s a “Judas, not the Iscariot” at the Last Supper (John 14:22) who isn’t mentioned anywhere else.

Likewise, Nathanael, who asked *“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”* (John 1:46), is absent in the other Gospels.

Usually, the difference is because some of the Apostles had two names. For example, St. Matthew the tax collector, before joining Jesus, is “Levi” (Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27). The “other” Judas is called Thaddaeus. Nathanael is in the other Gospels, too, but under his Jewish surname, Bartholomew (Bar-Tolomai, “son of Tolomai”).

Considering that half of the Twelve Apostles would have shared a name with another Apostle, some may have changed names to avoid confusion, e.g. Judas-not-the-Iscariot changing his name to Thaddaeus. All these differences show that the Apostles, who came from diverse backgrounds, were called for one mission of building up the Kingdom. Likewise, God calls us to build up the Kingdom, and gives each an important role in it.

Feasts & Celebrations

June 4 – St. Francis Caracciolo (1608). St. Francis was born in the Abruzzo region in Italy. He went on to found the Minor Clerks Regular with St. John Adorno. The Order was approved in 1588, and St. Francis became its superior for life.

June 6 – Mary, Mother of the Church (2018). On the Cross, Jesus gave us His mother to be our mother (John 19:27). Even in Heaven, she prays and cares for us as our spiritual mother.

June 19 – Corpus Christi Sunday.

On this solemnity, we celebrate the transformation of the bread and wine into Jesus’ Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist. This solemnity was established by Pope Urban IV in 1264 in response to the need for a Eucharistic feast day.

June 23 – The Nativity of St. John the Baptist (1st century). Before St. John was born, his father, Zechariah received a message from the angel Gabriel foretelling his birth. His doubt was punished by his being struck speechless until John’s birth.



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To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)