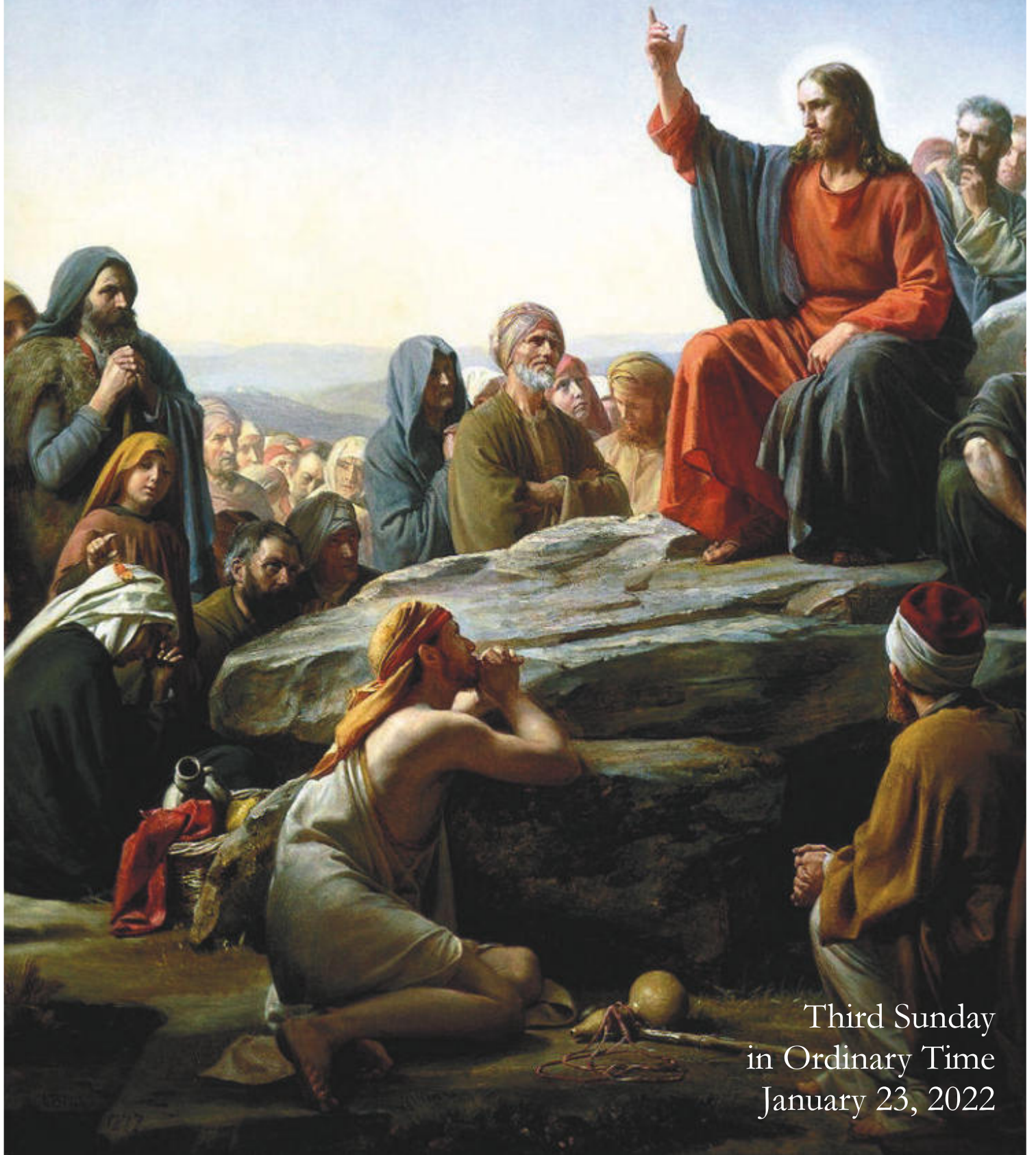


# St. Julie Billiart Parish



Third Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
January 23, 2022

## St. Julie Billiart, Dartmouth – Diocese of Fall River

### Sunday and Daily Mass Schedule

#### January 22<sup>nd</sup> – January 30<sup>th</sup>

<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Jan 22</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)</b> John & Eugenia Gomes
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Jan 23</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr)</b> Florian Pimentel Arthur Senna <i>Pro Populo</i>
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Jan 24</b>	<b>St. Francis de Sales; Bishop (Wh)</b> Lucilia de Melo & Joseph and Lauren Martin
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Jan 25</b>	<b>The Conversion of St. Paul (Wh)</b> Mai Evans & Le Vanxay
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Jan 26</b>	<b>Ss. Timothy &amp; Titus, Bishops (Wh)</b> Robert Tracey
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Jan 27</b>	<b>St. Angela Merici; Religious (Wh)</b> Maria Rosa Pessoa
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Jan 28</b>	<b>St. Thomas Aquinas; Priest (Wh)</b> Doris Medeiros
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Jan 29</b>	<b>Blessed Virgin Mary (Wh)</b> Jeanne Fain
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Jan 29</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Vigil) (Gr)</b> <i>Pro Populo</i>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Jan 30</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gr)</b> Harry & Mary Booth James & Gertrude Pittman Richard Brown

**Note:** *Feria* designates a weekday which does not celebrate a feast or memorial for a saint or other dedication.

*Pro Populo* means a Holy Mass “for the people”. It indicates the obligation for priests to celebrate one Sunday or Holy Day Mass for their parishioners.

### Please Pray For:

All the Souls in Purgatory and for parishioners who are ill at home or in nursing home or hospital and especially also for: *Lilly Harris, Jenna D., Connie Bernado, Dan D., John Costa, Jaime Pimentel, Joaquina Robinson, Helen W., Delmar C., Fran, Donald Baxter, Spencer, Kathy & Marianna M., Eric, Kateri, Steve Fonseca, Brian D., Louise R., Dan D., Margaret K., Bob, Frank C., Janice Sharp, Melissa M., Maria S., Bill H., Lucille Dussault, Tom & Matthew, Grace Gonsalves, Margaret K., Joe Barbero, and Benjamin Enoksen, Mia, Reanna M., Kristen B., Laura Bala & Betty King*

### UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

<b>January</b>	- Maintenance Collection (all month)
<b>February 7</b>	- Home Missions

### THE PASTOR'S COLUMN

#### The Power of Prayer

Last Sunday, I preached about the power of prayer in my homily on the wedding at Cana, when Mary intervened asking Jesus for a miracle. The power of prayer is something that every faithful Catholic should be convinced of and also understand properly.

We know that Jesus urged us to pray with constancy and great trust (cf. Lk 18:1-8; Mt 7:7). He made it clear that our prayers make a difference, as they can help to make things happen in the world. And yet, we can all begin to doubt that our prayers make a difference. We can start to think that whatever will happen in the world has already been determined, either by God's eternal will or by man's free will, and that neither God's will nor man's will can be influenced or changed by our prayers. And so, some people might just give up and cease to pray.

On the other hand, those who *are* convinced of the power of prayer might begin to think that the purpose of prayer is to change God's mind and to convince Him to do something different from what He had planned. But the purpose and power of prayer is not about changing God's mind. God exists outside of time, in eternity, and His will is immutable, not subject to change by our persuasion.

So, then, why do we pray? Well, first, prayer opens a channel between God and the soul and keeps the soul connected to God. “Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God” (*Catechism*, 2559). It's in our prayer that the great divide between Heaven and earth falls away and we are connected to eternity from which God's immutable will governs us here in time. Often, we pray to understand and accept God's will for the world and our lives.

But the other reason we pray is to cooperate with God in His plan for the world. By divine Providence, God governs creation and intervenes in the world to guide it and steer it. And God often does this as a result of our prayers. “God is the sovereign master of his plan. But to carry it out he also makes use of his creatures' co-operation” (*Catechism*, 306). It's through prayer that God invites us to cooperate with Him – not because we ask God to change His mind, but because God has decreed in eternity that some things will happen here in time as a result of our prayers.

Here's how one theologian explains this deep mystery: “One who prays properly, with humility, confidence, and perseverance, asking for the things necessary for salvation does undoubtedly cooperate in the divine governance. Instead of one, there are now two who desire these things. It is God of course who converted the sinner for whom we have so long been praying; nevertheless we have been God's partners in the conversion. It is God who gave to the soul in tribulation that light and strength for which we have so long besought Him; yet from all eternity He decided to produce this salutary effect only with our co-operation and as the result of our intercession” (R. Garrgiou-Lagrange, *Providence*, 210). So, our prayers do make a difference, and we should all be convinced of the power of prayer.

## ON THE COVER - BY STEVEN N. GUILLOTTE

*Ezra... brought the law before the assembly... he read out of the book ... in the presence of the men, the women, and those children old enough to understand...all the people listened attentively to the book of the law. (Neh 8:2-3)*

We know that Sacred Scripture asks us to be *alert, watchful, and vigilant*. These three words call us to be ready for the coming of Christ, not only at the end of time but in our daily lives. Today in Sacred Scripture, especially in both our first and gospel readings at Holy Mass, we are called to be attentive to the word of God, both to scripture itself and to the revelation of Jesus Christ.

How many have stopped being attentive? How many have stopped listening to the word of God which comes to us through Christ and His Church? The attentiveness referred to in today's first reading from the Book of Nehemiah is specifically one of *hearing and listening*. Yet, how many have shut their ears, only to later open their mouths and complain about the virtues they have not tried to understand.

When the Church speaks of the evil of fornication or sexual activity outside of marriage, are the people attentive? When the Church observes that marriage is a natural union between one man and one woman, do the people listen or proceed to reject even nature itself? When the Church counsels the people to welcome the stranger among them (Lev 19: 33-34), do the people reflect on this rationally and lovingly, or are they already clenching their fists against this teaching?

All of these noted teachings could have been read out to the people of Israel by Ezra the priest, because all these teachings are of the unchanging law of God. So, what was the people's reaction in Ezra's case? We hear that *all* the people, young and old, listened attentively. This was not always the case for Israel. Plenty of times the people frustrated the Lord, who judged them to be stony-hearted (Ez 32:26). Yet, God came to correct them by offering them gentle hearts. This is how God accomplishes this: "*I will put my spirit within you so that you will walk in my statutes*" (Ez 32:27). Hence, the way you know that you have God's spirit within, is that you listen attentively and walk in the laws of God.

We place on our bulletin cover for this **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time** a work by the 19<sup>th</sup> century Danish painter **Carl Bloch**, entitled *The Sermon on the Mount* (courtesy Wikiart). Bloch's Academician style of realism is not so much suited for painting sacred images used as aids in prayer, but for creating didactic works used as aids in instruction. We use this image today to emphasize the importance of attentiveness to Christ. Many listeners seen in this work fold their hands in prayer. Some are smiling. Some seem angry at what they hear, but still are compelled interiorly to listen. The one child in the painting has lost his attention to a butterfly that has landed on a lady's veil. The attention of children is ever apt to wander, which is why it is the duty of the adult to guide it back. One man has turned his face down and away. Perhaps this is not because he is inattentive, but because what he has heard has moved his stony heart to repentance.

There are few things more dangerous to the soul than an inattentiveness to God urged on by a stubbornness of heart; and there are basically only three other places that the soul can turn its attention to: the world, the flesh, and the devil. These are only too ready to consume the soul's complete attention; for they crush and feed upon all stoniness of heart.

## PARISH INFORMATION

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

In Person: Mon - Fri 9:45am - 4:00pm  
Otherwise staff are in the office and available by telephone or email between these same hours  
Monday through Friday to assist you.

### HANDY CONTACTS

Religious Education: 508-990-0287  
Facilities Management: 508-441-1145  
St. Vincent de Paul Society: SVdP@saintjulies.org  
Bulletin Editor: sng@saintjulies.org

## St. Julie Billiart Parish 494 Slocum Road Dartmouth, MA 02747

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website: www.saintjulies.org

**Fr. David Pignato, Pastor**

[FrPignato@saintjulies.org]

**Fr. Steven Booth**

[FrBooth@saintjulies.org]

**Mr. Joe Martino, Rel. Education: Grades 6-9**

[Joe@saintjulies.org]

**Kathy & Gene Kosinski, Rel. Education: Grades 1-5**

[Kathy@saintjulies.org]

**Mrs. Rhonda Senra, Parish Office Assistant**

[Rhonda@saintjulies.org]

**Mr. Joe Martino, Parish Maintenance**

[Joe@saintjulies.org]

**Mr. Steven Guillotte, Business Manager & Pastoral Assistant** [sng@saintjulies.org]

### HOLY MASS

Sunday 7:30am, 9:00am & 11:00am

Saturday Vigil 4:30pm

Monday-Saturday 9:00am

*Holy Days* 9:00am & 6:00pm

### CONFESSIONS

Wednesday 5:00-6:00pm

Saturday 8:00-9:00am

Saturday 3:30-4:30pm

Any Time by Appointment

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesday 10:00am-6:00pm

Saturday 10:00am-3:00pm

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 23, 2022

### Parish Finances December 2021

#### Income

	Parish Operations	Diocesan Assessment	Total
Income	\$64,971.06	\$2,365.00	<b>\$67,336.06</b>
Expenses	\$43,660.93	\$4,756.73	<b>\$48,417.66</b>
Difference	\$21,310.13	-\$2,391.73	<b>\$18,918.40</b>

**2020 OFFERINGS REPORTS:** We are now taking requests from parishioners who would like an annual report of their parish offerings for their 2021 tax filings. If you would like us to process and send you an annual report please call the parish office or email Rhonda at [Rhonda@saintjulies.org](mailto:Rhonda@saintjulies.org).

**MASS INTENTIONS:** We have opened the Mass Book for the period of July through December 2022. Parishioners are now able to schedule 3 Mass intentions (i.e. 1 weekend and 2 weekday). Once a few weeks have passed we will evaluate the total Mass intentions scheduled and make you aware of the availability of any more Masses.

**HAND KNIT SCARVES:** We continue to collect hand knit/crocheted scarves, hats, and mittens for the local homeless in a collection basket in the church entrance only through the end of this week, January 30, 2022. Thank you to all who have shared their excellent craftsmanship with the local poor.

**THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS AND GOSPEL:** in the *Credo hymnal* are on **page 976 through page 977** (for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time).

#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 23, 2022

Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21  
 Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30  
 Tuesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117: 1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18  
 Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20  
 Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25  
 Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34  
 Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41  
 Next Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17 [cf. 15ab/]

**SOUL FIRE CONFIRMATION RETREAT:** Our second-year preparatory candidates (Grade 8) will be attending a Confirmation retreat on **Sunday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 5:30pm**. We ask for your prayers leading up to and on the day of this retreat. The theme is based on *Love God Love People* (Danny Gokey) - Jesus' two greatest commandments. The retreat will include Mass (11am), witness talks, fellowship, Confession, Eucharistic Adoration and a special closing presentation of praise and worship for the candidates, parents, and sponsors. Special thanks to our former students and adult core members who have helped shape and will lead our retreat - Taylor Alves, Simone Payette, Emma Bernier, Fran Vincent, Justin and their friends who have all contributed to the success of our retreat.

**TO ALL OUR EUCHARISTIC ADORERS:** Thank you for your weekly commitment to pray before the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays and Saturdays in our parish church. We cannot leave Our Lord unattended on the main altar and so your dedication to your Holy Hours allows us to keep the Real Presence of Jesus exposed for other parishioners and all visitors. Many people come to pray and adore Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, sometimes only for a few minutes during their lunch break or when they are passing by the church. This adoration is the highlight of the day for all those who stop in. If you have yet to stop in yourself on Wednesdays between 10 am and 6 pm or on Saturdays between 10 am and 3 pm, please consider doing so. Quiet prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament can be life changing!

### Parish Ladies Guild

**PLAN AHEAD!** Place your orders for **D&D Meat Pies**, now thru Feb. 6, just in time for Super Bowl Sunday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup>. *Curbside pickup is Sat., Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> from 3 - 6 pm*. Price is \$11. To order call Elaine (508-863-6009).

**THE SUNSHINE VOLUNTEER:** through January 29<sup>th</sup> is Vickie Harrison whom you can contact at 508-997-7374, if you would like us to send a note or card of encouragement to someone who has lost a loved one.

**RUMMAGE SALE:** We are using Facebook's Marketplace to sell items online. We are in need of higher value items (no clothes) in new or like-new condition. If you have any items to donate please first contact Robin at 508-994-8908 to see if it is something we could use.

### SVDP Food Collection

**THE FOOD DONATION BIN:** is being kept outside for winter near the north side entrance to the parish hall. Your food donations are appreciated by the *Solanus Casey Food Pantry* which is operated by Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Fall River.



## Of Continuity by Steven N. Guillotte

While recently catching up on some English poets I came across an old college book, *The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces* (5<sup>th</sup> Edition Volume II), which describes the poetry of William Wordsworth as attempting “to establish and sustain a secular religion to substitute for the Christian faith”.

As in much Romantic poetry, Wordsworth’s work has a flavor of the personal. His artistic temper roused his childhood memory to evoke past encounters with the beauty of nature so as to awaken within him a heightened emotion to combat against a disappointing, adult familiarity with the world. It seems that Wordsworth believed that a greater knowledge of the world, and of worldly affairs, caused a gradual forgetfulness of the solemn beauty and simplicity once known in youth which needed recapturing through poetic reflection. In a sense, this memory of the past is what all the Romantic arts seek to distinguish. Yet, the Romantic artist need never overlook religion to recall his way; for it is the overlooking of religion which made him lose his way.

We may rightly envy the natural beauty known to Wordsworth’s childhood, as he grew up in the wondrous Lake District of Northwest England. Wordsworth was raised an Anglican and so raised in religion (he even had a brother who joined the church). Yet, it would have benefited him greatly both as a person and as a poet if only he had remembered from his childhood the enduring words of Christ: “Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 18:3).

Only adults need to be *turned* to become “like children”. They need turning because they missed out on *transitioning*, which would have kept them spiritually like children. The transition I speak of is that of *nature to grace*, a movement which is seen in no one better than in St. Therese of Lisieux. This is because as adolescence proceeded into adulthood in Therese she was not confounded by the allurements and stresses of the world, but interiorly maintained the continuity of spiritual childhood by humbly allowing herself to transition from natural, youthful attraction to God to supernatural, mature attraction to God. Only grace can accomplish this; only grace can continue the “child-likeness” of the heart, as Therese herself would acknowledge. Such *child-likeness* cannot remain in the soul or be revived without grace.

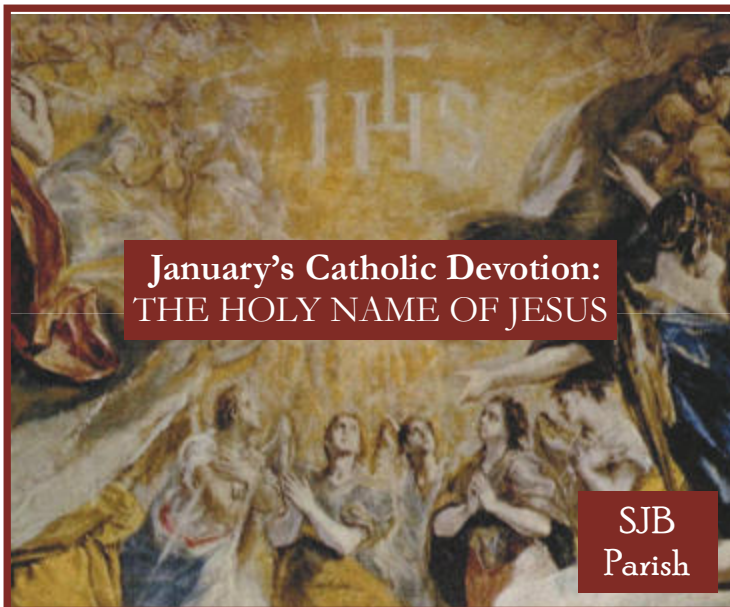
Only in God can an adult become like a child. Nature will not permit it. No speech, no clothing, no game, no thought, no emotion, no poem can accomplish it. The only fountain of youth is a *supernatural* fountain which flows not from rhyme and verse, but from the open side of Christ. The only adult who will become *like a child* is the one renewed in the supernatural beauty, truth and goodness of God. A romantic sensibility may assist one to regain a sublime glimpse of nature, but it will never attain the youthful vision needed to gaze upon God.



*Jesus Unrolls the Book in the Synagogue*  
by James Tissot (19<sup>th</sup> Century)

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor... and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.” (Lk 4:18a, 19)*

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK:** St. Julie Billiard Church does not operate a parish school, yet we can still appreciate the need for authentic Catholic education. As our diocese participates in the nationally celebrated *Catholic Schools Week 2022* from **January 30<sup>th</sup> - February 5<sup>th</sup>**, please keep our Catholic schools, Catholic teachers & Catholic students in your daily prayers.



**January’s Catholic Devotion:**  
**THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS**

SJB  
Parish



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