



Holy Cross

CATHOLIC CHURCH

A COMMUNITY CALLED TO BE A WITNESS TO THE GLORIOUS VICTORY OF THE CROSS

WELCOME

CONTACT US

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Very Rev. Fr. Emery Longanga, PhD, VF
Pastor

Rev. Fr. Jesus Martinez
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Mr. Rick Zeitler
Permanent Deacon

WELCOME MESSAGE

We the welcoming family of Holy Cross are delighted to have you join our parish family. Whether you are new to the area, seeking a new parish home, or returning to the practice of your Catholic faith, we hope you come and spend some time with us at Mass and in prayer and adoration. We seek to offer as many opportunities as possible for parishioners to come together as a family of faith. We pray that you may find warmth and spiritual growth here at Holy Cross!



19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die." - Jn 6:48-50

"Yo soy el pan de la vida. Sus padres comieron el maná en el desierto y sin embargo, murieron. Este es el pan que ha bajado del cielo para que, quien lo coma, no muera". - Jn 6, 48-50

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2021 | 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

DEAR FRIENDS,

This is the third week we are invited to journey with Christ as he continues to explain to us the true meaning of the Eucharist. Sacrament of unity, and food for our journey, the Eucharist is explained to us today through the prism of the real presence. And the most amazing thing is that WE ARE TAUGHT BY GOD HIMSELF! What an amazing blessing it is for us to be taught by God about His true presence in the Eucharist! Here we receive Christ Himself who said, "Behold I am always with you until the end of the ages."

Undoubtedly, the mystery of the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist constitutes an ongoing challenge even for very devout Catholics. Many among us still have difficulty to understand it and to grasp it when Christ says, "I am the bread of life." While the people of his time saw an insult in the statement, and even saw themselves treated as cannibals, the people of our times just see in the Eucharist, a "wafer" and a "drop of wine." We forget the eucharistic miracle that occurs at the consecration when bread and wine are transubstantiated to the true body and true blood of Christ. Christ does not declare that "this is like my body," or "this is like my blood." He says, "This IS my Body," and "This IS my Blood." While we see nothing change through and with our human eyes, it our faith that makes us see Him here the very same way the two disciples on the journey to Emmaus saw him at the breaking of bread.

What is for you today? What do you see and believe is happening here as we gather around Christ who is the Victim, the Altar and the Priest sacrificing Himself for your sake? What and who do you think you are receiving? And if this is just a "wafer," what is the meaning of this utterance and confession, "Lord, I am not worthy that you shall enter into my house. Say only a word and my soul shall be healed!" Sometimes, it tends to become just a repetition and we miss to deepen the true meaning of our own words and confession. Today, we are once more given the opportunity to dive into the mystery of God who makes himself available to us to journey with and to carry out our brokenness as He breaks himself into pieces for you and I.

This truth leads us to another consideration, mainly that the way we receive the Eucharistic Christ is revelatory of our belief and our faith in the true presence of Christ here. If we believe in the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist, this should impact and guide the respect and devotion we demonstrate at the reception of Christ. When we respond, "Amen" to the confession of the priest as he says, "The body of Christ," we declare nothing else but the acceptance of that truth: that we are truly receiving Christ, body and blood, soul and divinity; the Source of our life.

Friends, today, as we approach the table of the Lord, let us be mindful of Who we are receiving. As He feeds us, Christ transforms us to be like Him as we become living Eucharist. By and through the different and multiple sacrifices we accept today for the sake of brothers and sisters in need, we make Christ present to them, and we make the Eucharist present to them. Through us others experience the presence of Christ we celebrate here. Christ transmits us eternal life as He feeds us, so that we may do likewise. For as Saint Paul says, when we receive Him, we no longer live for ourselves but for His sake and the sake of our brothers and sisters in need and with whom Christ has Himself identified.

And let us continue to pray for one another and for our parish family.

QUERIDOS AMIGOS,

Esta es la tercera semana que se nos invita a caminar con Cristo mientras él continúa explicándonos el verdadero significado de la Eucaristía. Sacramento de la unidad y alimento de nuestro camino, la Eucaristía se nos explica hoy a través del prisma de la presencia real. ¡Y lo más asombroso es que DIOS MISMO NOS ENSEÑÓ! ¡Qué maravillosa bendición es para nosotros que Dios nos enseñe acerca de Su verdadera presencia en la Eucaristía! Aquí recibimos a Cristo mismo, quien dijo: "He aquí, yo estoy siempre contigo hasta el fin de los siglos".

Sin duda, el misterio de la verdadera presencia de Cristo en la Eucaristía constituye un desafío permanente incluso para los católicos más devotos. Muchos de nosotros todavía tenemos dificultades para entenderlo y comprenderlo cuando Cristo dice: "Yo soy el pan de vida". Mientras que la gente de su tiempo vio un insulto en la declaración, e incluso se vieron tratados como caníbales, la gente de nuestro tiempo solo ve en la Eucaristía, una "hostia" y una "gota de vino". Olvidamos el milagro eucarístico que ocurre en la consagración cuando el pan y el vino se transubstancia en el verdadero cuerpo y la verdadera sangre de Cristo. Cristo no declara que "esto es como mi cuerpo" o "esto es como mi sangre". Él dice: "Este ES mi Cuerpo" y "Esta ES mi Sangre". Si bien no vemos nada cambiar a través y con nuestros ojos humanos, es nuestra fe lo que nos hace verlo aquí de la misma manera que los dos discípulos en el camino a Emaús lo vieron en la fracción del pan.

¿Qué es para ti hoy? ¿Qué ves y crees que está sucediendo aquí cuando nos reunimos alrededor de Cristo, quien es la Víctima, el Altar y el Sacerdote sacrificándose por ti? ¿Qué y a quién crees que estás recibiendo? Y si esto es sólo una "hostia", ¿cuál es el significado de esta declaración y confesión, "Señor, no soy digno de que entres en mi casa. ¡Di sólo una palabra y mi alma será sanada!" A veces, tiende a convertirse en una simple repetición y perdemos para profundizar el verdadero significado de nuestras propias palabras y confesiones. Hoy, una vez más se nos da la oportunidad de sumergirnos en el misterio de Dios que se pone a nuestra disposición para caminar y llevar a cabo nuestro quebrantamiento mientras se rompe en pedazos por ti y por mí.

Esta verdad nos lleva a otra consideración, principalmente que la forma en que recibimos al Cristo Eucarístico es reveladora de nuestra creencia y nuestra fe en la verdadera presencia de Cristo aquí. Si creemos en la verdadera presencia de Cristo en la Eucaristía, esto debería impactar y guiar el respeto y la devoción que demostramos en la recepción de Cristo. Cuando respondemos, "Amén" a la confesión del sacerdote como dice, "El cuerpo de Cristo", no declaramos nada más que la aceptación de esa verdad: que realmente estamos recibiendo a Cristo, cuerpo y sangre, alma y divinidad; la Fuente de nuestra vida.

Amigos, hoy, al acercarnos a la mesa del Señor, seamos conscientes de a quién estamos recibiendo. A medida que nos alimenta, Cristo nos transforma para ser como Él a medida que nos convertimos en Eucaristía viviente. A través de los diferentes y múltiples sacrificios que aceptamos hoy por los hermanos y hermanas necesitados, les hacemos presente a Cristo y les hacemos presente la Eucaristía. A través de nosotros, otros experimentan la presencia de Cristo que celebramos aquí. Cristo nos transmite la vida eterna al alimentarnos, para que nosotros hagamos lo mismo. Porque, como dice San Pablo, cuando lo recibimos, ya no vivimos para nosotros, sino para Él y para nuestros hermanos y hermanas necesitados y con quienes Cristo mismo se ha identificado. Y sigamos orando unos por otros y por nuestra familia parroquial.

READINGS

FIRST READING

1 KGS 19:4-8

Elijah went a day's journey into the desert, until he came to a broom tree and sat beneath it. He prayed for death saying: "This is enough, O LORD! Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers." He lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree, but then an angel touched him and ordered him to get up and eat. Elijah looked and there at his head was a hearth cake and a jug of water. After he ate and drank, he lay down again, but the angel of the LORD came back a second time, touched him, and ordered, "Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!" He got up, ate, and drank; then strengthened by that food, he walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God, Horeb.

SECOND READING

EPH 4:30-5:2

Brothers and sisters: Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were sealed for the day of redemption. All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ. So be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma.

GOSPEL

JN 6:41-51

The Jews murmured about Jesus because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven," and they said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother? Then how can he say, 'I have come down from heaven?'" Jesus answered and said to them, "Stop murmuring among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: *They shall all be taught by God.* Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

MASS SCHEDULE

MON, TUE, THURS & FRI

8:00 pm & 12:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

8:00 am, 12:00 pm
& 7:00 pm (*Spanish*)

SATURDAY

8:00 am
4:00 pm (*Vigil*)

SUNDAY

8:00 & 10:00 am
12:30 pm (*Spanish*)

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday & First Friday 8:30 - 11:30 am

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

First Friday 12:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday 3:00-3:45 pm
Sunday 11:30 am-12:15 pm

MASS INTENTIONS

SAT, AUGUST 7

8:00 am
4:00 pm †

DN 6:4-13/MK 17:14-20

Our Country, USA
Therese Fluet

SUN, AUGUST 8

8:00 am
10:00 am
12:30 pm †

1 KGS 19:4-8//EPH 4:30-5:2/JN 6:41-51

Holy Cross Parishioners
Fr. Emery Longanga
Felicita Rodriguez de Espino

MON, AUGUST 9

8:00 am
12:00 pm †

DT 10:12-22/MT 17:22-27

Mike Zalewski & Family
Orlando Garcia

TUES, AUGUST 10

8:00 am †
12:00 pm †

2 COR 9:6-10/JN 12:24-26

Edward Hughes
Maria Chau

WED, AUGUST 11

8:00 am
12:00 pm †
7:00 pm †

DT 34:1-12/MT 18:15-20

Vocations
Sonia Delgado
Jose Banuelos Torres

THURS, AUGUST 12

8:00 am †
12:00 pm †

JOS 3:7-10A, 11, 13-17/MT 18:21-19:1

Edward Hughes
Edward Hughes

FRI, AUGUST 13

8:00 am †
12:00 pm †

JOS 24:1-13/MT 19:3-12

Edward Hughes
Michael Grant

SAT, AUGUST 14

8:00 am †
4:00 pm †

JOS 24:14-29/MT 19:13-15

Edward Hughes
Daniel Harkins

SUN, AUGUST 15

8:00 am
10:00 am
12:30 pm

RV 11:19; 12:1-6, 10/1 COR 15:20-27/LK 1:39-56

Holy Cross Parishioners
Servites of Mary
Adolfo Espino Gutierrez

PARISH NEWS

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION

Sunday School, Sacramental Preparation and RCIA registration is now open. Please note that all forms and payments are due by October 1. If you need assistance, please call the parish office. We are looking forward to an exciting new year!

A PRAYER FOR RETURNING STUDENTS

Dear Lord, as our students begin a new school year, I pray that You will keep them in Your care. Send Your Spirit to open their minds to all that is true and beautiful and good. Help them to see the gifts and talents You have given them and to use them well. Help them to grow in knowledge and wisdom. Help them to be kind to others and lead others to be kind to them. Give their teachers patience and understanding and help them teach what is just and true. Send Your angels to guide and guard our children and to keep them from all harm. Open their young hearts to Your presence and enfold them in Your peace and protection. Hold them in the palm of Your hand and bring them home safely at day's end. Amen.

FORMED WEEKLY WATCHLIST

This week's FORMED weekly watch list is *The Theological Virtues: Faith*, a presentation by Dr. Ben Akers on this virtue and how it impacts our lives as Catholics today. Visit us at <https://holycrossrcc.com> to see how you can watch this informative video for free on FORMED.org!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 8

Eucharistic Ministers: 8am—M Branesky, S Pacheco, 10am—A Branesky, J Ortez, Lectors: 8am—S Bellan, 10am—Y Kirby, 12:30—Teresita, Pedro, Eduardo, Andreina

Monday, August 9

Lectors: 8am—L Reale, 12pm—T Chaoui

Tuesday, August 10

Lectors: 8am—L Lapointe, 12pm—D Barber

Wednesday, August 11

Lectors: 8am—L Reale, 12pm—L Lapointe, 7pm—Teresita, 7pm—Belen

Thursday, August 12

Lectors: 8am—L LaPointe, 12pm—D Barber

Friday, August 13

Lectors: 8am—L LaPointe, 12pm—L Ferreira

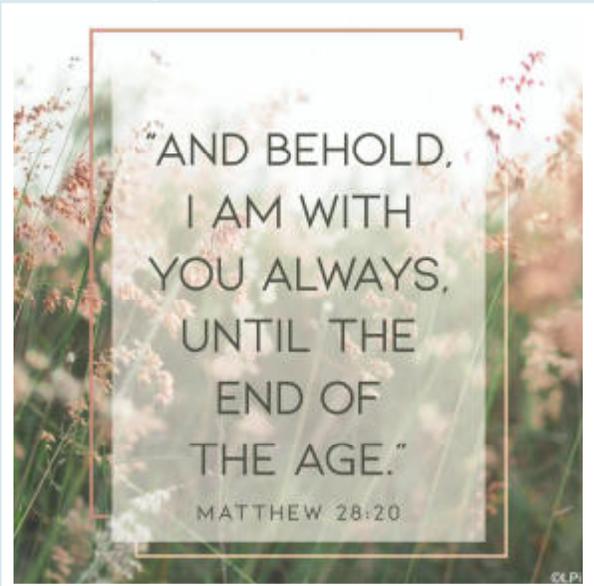
Saturday, August 14

Eucharistic Ministers: 4pm—T Charron, L Fitzpatrick, Lectors: 8am—L LaPointe, 4pm—L Ferreira

Sunday, August 15

Eucharistic Ministers: 8am—N Banks, C Banks, 10am—A D Carli, S Ferreira, Lectors: 8am—D Ashcroft, 10am—L Reale, 12:30—Alejandra, Romulo, Angelica, Pablo

PRAYER REQUESTS



Please note that names will be automatically removed from this list after three months. Please call the parish office to add a name to this list.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

José, Rose, Andrew, Sonny, Allison, Marty, Roia, Rose, Jim, John, Carol, Anna, Virgil, Gus, Dianne, Rebecca, Barbara Lilly, Elaine, Jacob, Donald, Mitchell, Faith, Mary, Meghan, Paul, Edith, Peggy Anne, Sylvia, Jean Ann, Felicitas, Adolfo, Jesus, Ileana, William, Jacob, Jeremy, Miranda, Lydia, Annette, Angela, Cecelia, Christine, Jill, Finnley, Jim, Lupita, Jeremiah, Jared, Phyllis, Natalie, Virginia, Jenn, Joe, Rick, Bud, Donna, Susan, Denise, George, Carmelita, Margaret H., Gianna, Tina, Laura, John, Edward, Gail, Karon, Beth Anne, Joe, Evelyn, Gerry, Ben, Mr. & Mrs. Verstappen, Victor, Karen, Rose Marie, John, Maureen, Colin, Paul, John, Joseph, Peggy, Kami, Katie, Anne-Marie, Simo, Josephine, Terry, Bill, Maria, Edward H., Holly, Doris, Zima, Craig, Sharon, Mike, Robert, Phyllis, Elaine, Jodi, Carly, Ann, Sharon, Beverly, Emily, Lynn, Mary Lou, Catherine, Roger, Maria, Alfredo, Eleanor, Dayana, Janet, Marilyn, Mary Ann, Bobby, Charlie, Christina, Peggy H., Mark, Renee, Glenn, Mary, Lynn, Sandra, Sally, Nick, Frank, Ed M., Paulette, Frank, Bozana, Mary Ellen, Sharon, Patty, Carlos, Maria Julia, Paula, Pam, Catherine, Amanda, Pat, Dennis, Lauren, Grace, Heidi, Scott, Lisa, Dawn Marie, Declan, Bodhi, Zora, Miguel, Nick, Sharon, Frankie, Kathy, Lisa, Pam, Frank, Sara, Nick, Lynn, Sarah Kristen, Joseph & Theresa, Pierotti Family, Sarah, Maggie, Dyllan, Elba, Artie & Halai, Annie, Marie, Jeanie, Anne, Lynn, Chuck, Carl, Bella, Bill, Montana, Eli, Susan, Karen, Fran, Diane & Troy & Family, Lori, Patricia & Anthony, Paul, Kathy, Maryann

STEWARDSHIP: WHAT'S YOUR HEARTH CAKE?

"Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you." I've been to a lot of meetings in my years of work in the Church, and you can take my word for it: the ones with snacks just seem to go better.

I don't know what it is exactly. Maybe it's just that people are in a more agreeable mood if you show up with donuts. Or maybe it's about the very real sense of community and camaraderie that is created at a table where people are engaging in that most human of tasks — eating — beside one another. I think a big part of it comes down to the simple fact that we're all just nicer people when we're fed.

This rings true spiritually, too. We simply must remain fed if we, in turn, are to feed others. Think of a time when you may have, regrettably, neglected your relationship with God — when you haven't fed yourself with whatever it is that you need to remain committed to the journey of a Christian life. Is it daily Mass attendance? Is it prayer or Scripture reading? Is it time with your small group, or conversation with a trusted friend who knows your soul? What sustains your ability to be a good disciple, a good steward? What inspires you to give more freely, to love more abundantly?

Whatever it is, that's your hearth cake. That's your jug

of water. Don't neglect it. The Angel of the Lord is nudging you in your sleep: "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you."

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi



PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Weekend of July 31—August 1, 2021

Envelopes: 140 (out of 725 families)
Online Giving: \$ 1,823.50 (from 34 donors)
Weekly Total: \$ 7,047.00
Annual Budget: \$ 291,200.00

2021 APA

As of August 2, 2021

Goal: \$ 69,248.00
Pledged: \$ 52,414.00
Paid: \$ 47,081.00
Pledges: 217 (out of 725 families)

APA Pledging

Many people feel that they can participate at a sacrificial gift level if they make payments over a period of time. We currently work with monthly and annual pledge cycles. Donors who pledge will receive reminders according to their designated payment schedule.

APA One-Time Gifts

If donors prefer, a one-time gift can be paid at the time of commitment or payment can be scheduled for later.

APA Electronic Giving

All major credit and debit cards (MasterCard, American Express, Visa and Discover) as well as direct debit payments are accepted. Donor managed online giving is available through the diocesan website at:

<https://s.dosp.org/give>

APA Checks

Please **do not** combine APA and Offertory in one check.

ALTAR FLOWERS

There are no altar flowers intentions this week.

SANCTUARY LAMP

The sanctuary lamp this week is a gift from Edith Martinez in memory of Jose Varon & Elvia Rodriguez.

ALTAR BREAD & WINE

The altar bread and wine this week is a gift from Mary Dahlstrom in honor of David E. Zalewski.

LEARN ABOUT THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

ENCOURAGING DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF HIS LIFE & VIRTUES

CATHOLIC VIRTUES: PIETY

Borrowed from several sites

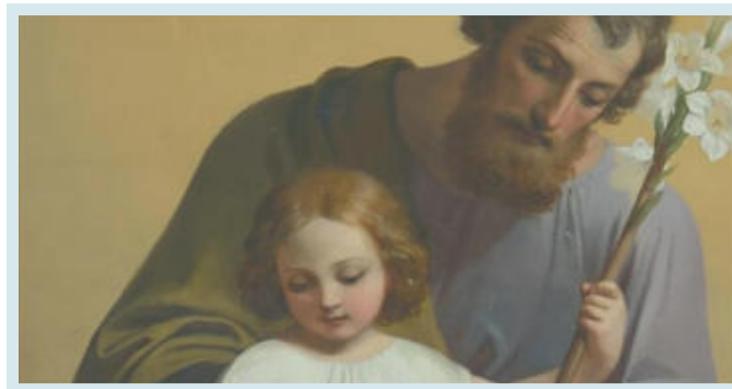
Piety is a gift of the Holy Spirit that we receive in the sacrament of confirmation and which begets in our hearts a filial affection for God as our most loving Father. It inspires us to love and respect for His sake, persons and things consecrated to Him, as well as those who are vested with His authority: His Blessed Mother and the Saints, The Church and its visible Head, our parents and superiors, our country and its rulers. He who is filled with the gift of Piety finds the practice of his religion, not a burdensome duty, but a delightful service. Where there is love, there is no labor.

"In explaining the first sign of the supernatural life, I said that one must be strong against sin, strong against oneself. The milk of **piety** is not enough; force is needed and it is what assures our victory. Prolonged rest enervates, while exercise strengthens and hardens for battle. **Piety** which will not employ force, which does not arrive at force, is false piety." *St. Peter Julian Eymard*

"Reading the lives of the saints is a great means to preserve **piety**." *St. Philip Neri*

"Dearly beloved, each word and deed of Our Savior Jesus Christ is for us a lesson in virtue and **piety**. For this end also did he assume our nature." *St. Basil the Great*

"Learning without **piety** produces a proud device; **piety** without learning produces a useless one." *St. John Baptiste de La Salle*



PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH FOR GRACE OF PIETY

Great Saint Joseph,
who are the director, the friend, and the protector
of those souls who desire to be perfect,
you who did learn from Jesus and Mary
how to conquer the powers of hell,
and to practice all virtues,
obtain for me the grace of **PIETY**.
Beloved Saint Joseph, my father, my guide, and my
model,
you who have so much zeal for the glory of Jesus Christ,
and for my sanctification,
please listen to my petition.
I have the sweet confidence that you will not reject it.
Your goodness will supply that which is lacking in my
fervor,
and according to the depth of your love for me,
and of your power with Him Who has deigned to be
called your Son,
you will favorably hear me. Amen.

ORACIÓN A SAN JOSÉ POR LA GRACIA DE LA PIEDAD

Gran San José,
quien es el director, el amigo y el protector
de aquellas almas que desean ser perfectas,
tú que aprendiste de Jesús y María
cómo conquistar los poderes del infierno,
y practicar todas las virtudes,
obtén para mí la gracia de la **PIEDAD**.
Amado San José, mi padre, mi guía y mi modelo,
tú que tienes tanto celo por la gloria de Jesucristo y por
mi santificación,
por favor escuche mi petición.
Tengo la dulce confianza de que no lo rechazará.
Tu bondad suplirá lo que falta en mi fervor,
y según la profundidad de tu amor por mí,
y de tu poder con Aquel que se ha dignado ser llamado
Hijo tuyo,
me escucharás favorablemente. Amén.

Rev. Fr. Emery Longanga, PhD
Pastor

Rev. Fr. Jesus Martinez
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Mr. Rick Zeitler
Permanent Deacon

Michele Williams
Parish Manager

Marie Meza
Parish Secretary

(position open)
Director of Faith Formation

Shirley Schuler
Housekeeper

Bunny Harmon
Evangelization & Worship

Angelica Bañuelos-Espino
Weddings & Quinceaneras

Millie Haylock
Baptisms

FAITH FORMATION

PARENTS: THE PRIMARY CATECHISTS

Borrowed from sjcatholicchurch.org

- Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. (CCC 2223)
- Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child's earliest years. (CCC 2226)

Being a parent can be a daunting task, even in the best of situations. In today's society, a parent has to deal with many challenges such as: consumerism, technology, the media, and many other issues. As parents, we are responsible for the moral and faith formation of our children. Some parents are unaware of their duties as teachers and models of faith within their homes. Some parents seem to think that their role in the faith formation of their children is to take their children to church for the sacraments of initiation—Baptism, Communion and Confirmation—and relinquish their responsibility to the priest, the religious sister, or the catechists who instruct their children on basic doctrine.

However, we know that nothing and no one ought to replace the influence of the example of a parent on the spiritual life of a child.

Many parents feel less than adequate to teach their children religion. Perhaps this is partly because of a misguided presupposition that *religion* is just a school subject. It is certainly worthy of study in school, of course, but it is so much more. It is true that what we call *catechesis* is a process of instructing people in the knowledge and practice of the faith. It includes the teaching of specific content involving the creed, the Our Father



(prayer), the Ten Commandments (morality), and the sacraments.

Religion, however, is much more than a school subject. It is a way of life. By taking the time to pray daily - both at home and in Church - families show their children the importance of having a God-centered life. Opportunities for prayer are as varied as the experiences of life: before and after sleeping, eating, traveling, playing, studying - even while shopping or acquiring things! Yes, it is not a bad idea to pray for the wise use of our material resources when there are so many temptations to waste them on non-essentials that do not bring lasting happiness. No prayer, however, surpasses the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, especially on Sundays.

The decision to bring the whole family to Mass every Sunday, in addition to being an occasion to be nourished by the Bread of Heaven, communicates to children that life is more than work or sports, important as both activities are. Sunday Mass communicates the message that we are worth more than what we do, that there we have a Savior who wants to come to us and give us something we can

get from nowhere else: total forgiving mercy and eternal life. The essence of our Catholic faith, however, is really a Person: Jesus Christ. It is all about our relationship with him and his Church, which is his mystical body.

The experience of being a member of a family which has Jesus as its center - and lives this conviction each day - is something every parent can provide who wishes to, regardless of their level of theological sophistication or book learning. Just "come and see," as Jesus invites us.



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