

Abiding Press

Abiding Presence Faith Community

*A PARISH OF THE REFORMED CATHOLIC CHURCH
AN INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
MAKING GOD'S LOVE KNOWN IN CENTRAL FLORIDA*

AUGUST 2024 VOLUME 3 #9
5330 Poinsetta Ave, Winter Park, FL 32792
321-594-4922
Office info@apfcwp.com

Sunday Mass is Celebrated at 12:30 pm
The Sanctuary Building of the First United Church of Christ
4605 Curry Ford Rd., Orlando, Florida 32812

Social Media

Web Site www.apfcwp.com

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1386619738179316/?ref=bookmarks>

YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP9i133esG31IRPfgk-Jn4w>

Clergy Serving the People of God

Pastor: Most Rev. William R. Cavins pastor@apfcwp.onmicrosoft.com

Palm Coast FL Ministry: Rev. Mr. Christopher M. Larsen

Volunteer Staff Serving the Parish

Gene L. Thompson II – Technology TechSupport@apfcwp.onmicrosoft.com

Dennis Last – JMB Crock Pot Ministry

Klaus Stodtmann – Bread Baking kstodtmann@apfcwp.onmicrosoft.com

Mass Intentions & Prayer Requests

If you would like to have someone remembered during Mass or added to our Prayer Lists, please email the bishop with your request. Your donation to support our community is greatly appreciated and can be made according to your discretion.

Additionally, we offer Mass Cards that you can send to recipients to let them know they are in our prayers.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Upcoming Dates

- August 4 Divine Worship – 18th Sunday of the Christian Year 12:30 PM
 Communal Celebration Anointing of the Sick within Mass
 Intention: RIP Gene L Thompson
- August 6 Divine Worship – Solemnity of the Transfiguration 6:30 PM
 Intention: People of the Parish
 Bishop’s Residence
- August 11 Divine Worship – 19th Sunday of the Christian Year 12:30 PM
 Intention: Members of the Franciscan Order in honor of St. Clare
- August 18 Divine Worship – 20th Sunday of the Christian Year 12:30 PM
 Intention: Teachers and Students Returning to School
- August 25 Divine Worship – 21st Sunday of the Christian Year 12:30 PM
 Intention: Available
- *SCAP = Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest



Financial Update as of July 31, 2024

- Total Income (Year to Date): \$9,723.57
- Total Expenditures (Year to Date): \$10,467.81
- Net Difference: -\$744.24
- Ledger Balance On Hand: \$1,813.49
- Available Balance On Hand: \$1,683.71

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or need further details, please feel free to contact us.

Make a Difference with Your Donation

You can now easily make donations online through our website! For the most efficient processing of your donation, we recommend using Zelle. If you choose a different payment method, please ensure that your donation is sent as if to an individual.

Our email address for all donation platforms is: bkpg@apfcwp.com

Thank you for your generosity and support!

From the Bishop's Desk

"It's hotter than hell today!" is a comment we have all heard repeatedly this summer as temperatures soar and humidity levels increase the heat index to well over the 100-degree mark. It often gets me thinking about hell since we have no direct evidence to prove hell's existence beyond Scripture references. In the movie "Scrooge," hell is depicted as hot with demons sweating as they forged Ebenezer's chains but ice cold in his office. So in this last full month of summer let's explore the concept of hell.



The Oxford Dictionary defines hell as, "a place regarded in various religions as a spiritual realm of evil and suffering, often traditionally depicted as a place of perpetual fire beneath the earth where the wicked are punished after death."

The first term here is spiritual realm. A place of existence beyond the temporal or corporal body. As we look at our spiritual lives, we are reminded that we are created in the image of God. We acknowledge our Creator as Father/Mother and a being of pure love. We therefore are creatures formed in love to be loved and to love all in return. I would suggest that hell therefore is the absence of love in our lives, both now and eternity.

We certainly see those who lack love in their lives turn to wicked actions. Perhaps they even perceive themselves as unlovable or unloved. The manner we are nurtured or lack of proper nurturing appears to skew our perception of self-worth. Some turn to lives of crime, others to physical or sexual assault, others ultimately to murder. Still others sink into the abyss of alcohol and drug abuse. They might describe their condition as “a living hell” or even “hell on earth.” Some of these folks might even describe themselves as Christians.

God doesn't call us to live a hellish existence. Rather the Blessed Trinity reaches out to us in love. All we need to is accept that love and call upon God's name. So simple, yet so hard, especially for those raised in the Western world. We want facts and hard proof. A life of faith and belief in the mysteries of the divine is often difficult. Accepting love often requires us to love ourselves first. To believe ourselves capable of being loved and loving in return. As the summer heat continues, take some time to cool off from the heat of the daily routine to get in touch with your inner being and take the time to reach out and build your relationship with God.

In Christ's Love

+*William*

Pastor

JMB Crockpot Ministry

Crockpot Donations and Volunteer Opportunities

We are currently low on crockpots and would greatly appreciate your support. If you can donate a crockpot or are interested in volunteering to lead a class, please reach out to Dennis Last at 321-388-1572.

Upcoming Crock Pot Classes:

- **Date:** August 20, 2024
- **Time:** 11:00 AM
- **Location:** Dedicated Senior Medical Center, 4270 Aloma Ave, Winter Park

To register for the classes, please email us at Info@apfcwp.com.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our community!

Are you looking to become more involved in our parish?

We have a variety of opportunities for you to contribute and make a difference throughout the week. Here's how you can get involved:

- **Sundays:** Join us in a range of roles including readers, technical support, musicians, singers, altar servers, and Eucharistic Ministers. Your participation enriches our worship experience.
- **Mondays and Tuesdays:** Help us with our Crock Pot Classes. If you're interested in presenting, please reach out to Dennis Last for more information.
- **Tuesdays:** Volunteer at Rebecca's Pantry in the morning. Your assistance can make a significant impact on those in need.
- **Wednesdays:** Contribute to our Thrift Shop. We need enthusiastic helpers to support this valuable outreach.
- **Ongoing:** We are also establishing a new ministry for Special Ministers to the Sick. This role is a wonderful opportunity to provide comfort and support to those who are ill.

So much to choose from! Reflect on how you might be called to serve and make a difference. What is God inviting you to do?

If you are interested in any of these opportunities or have questions, please contact [appropriate contact person/office] for more details. We look forward to your involvement and contributions to our parish community!

Reading the Bible

Ever been asked if Catholics read the Bible? It is a long-held assumption among our Protestant sisters and brothers that Catholics don't read Scripture. For many centuries that was true. Few of us, Protestant or Catholic, could read. We all relied on the priests or nuns to read the scriptures to us. As learning increased and translations of the Bible became available more and more people took up the practice.

Catholics in particular can point to an exact moment in time in which we were encouraged to read and study the Sacred Scriptures. It occurred on the 30 September 1943, on the feast of St. Jerome, the greatest Doctor of the Church in the exposition of the Sacred Scriptures, during the fifth year of the pontificate the Western Patriarch Eugenio Pacelli (Pius XII). On that date he issued his encyclical “Divino Afflante Spiritu” (Inspired by the Holy Spirit).



In his letter, Eugenio wrote, *“With this spiritual food the mind of the interpreter is fed and nourished ”to the commemoration of faith, the consolation of hope, the exhortation of charity. To live amidst these things, to meditate these things, to know nothing else, to seek nothing else, does it not seem to you already here below a foretaste of the heavenly kingdom? ”* **Let also the minds of the faithful be nourished with this same food, that they may draw from thence the knowledge and love of God and the progress in perfection and the happiness of their own individual souls.** *Let, then, the interpreters of the Divine Oracles devote themselves to this holy practice with all their heart. “Let them pray, that they may understand”; let them labor to penetrate ever more deeply into the secrets of the Sacred Pages; let them teach and preach, in order to open to others also the treasures of the word of God.”*

While the bulk of his letter is addressed to the scripture scholars, bishops, priests, and seminarians, it is clear from this excerpt that the Bible is intended for us all. The question then becomes how to read it.

Catholics today should not approach reading the Bible as if they were reading a piece of fiction or even nonfiction. Rather they should approach it intelligently and spiritually. To begin one should select a Catholic Bible. Some examples include the **New Jerusalem Bible** (NJB), Darton, Longman and Todd, **New Oxford Annotated Bible** (NOAB), Oxford University Press, **New American Bible**, Revised Edition (NABRE), **New Revised Standard Version**, Catholic Edition, National Council of Churches, and a translation for early youth, **A Translation of the New Testament for Children**, Contemporary English Version, American Bible Society.

Be aware that the Bible is not “a book”. It is a library of 73 books containing royal history, prophecy, poetry, challenging letters to struggling new faith communities, and believers' accounts of the preaching and passion of Jesus. Knowing the genre of the book you are reading will help you understand the literary tools the author is using and the meaning the author is trying to convey. It is the story of God’s relationship with us. It teaches us the truths that we need for the sake of our salvation.

One should begin with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds to the Word of God. Scripture reading should also end with a prayer that the Word will bear fruit in our lives, helping us to become a more faithful person.

When reading the Sacred Scripture one should consider the readings in context. One should look at what occurs before and after a particular passage. Sometimes reading the Books before and after a book. This helps us grasp the meaning more fully.

Reading the text is not enough. One must realize that the text is speaking to us in our own unique situation. We should seek to understand what is being said and how the Church doctors and scholars interpret it. We can then ask ourselves, "What is God saying to me?" In order for the Word be "living and effective."(Hebrews 4:12) we must then meditate upon it and put it into action in our daily lives.

So should anyone ask you if Catholics read the Bible you can answer with a resounding YES!

Prayer for Vocations

Gracious God, we give thanks for your call to both women and men to serve in Christ's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons. We ask that you send your Holy Spirit to inspire and guide others to respond with generosity and courage to your call. May our community of faith nurture and support vocations rooted in sacrificial love, especially among our youth and young adults. Through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Family Faith Activities

Courtesy of LTP's At Home with the Word 2024.

August 4, 2024 - Eighteenth Sunday of the Christian Year

Questions

1. Like the ancient Israelites, we can sometimes forget God's blessings and start to take them for granted, grumbling for more. How has God taught you to appreciate what you have and to trust in His providence for the future?
2. In what ways does Jesus nourish your soul? How does your faith enrich your daily life and bring you fulfillment?

3. Have you ever asked God for one thing, only to receive something different that turned out to be exactly what you needed? What was it like to have your true needs met in this way?

Activities

1. Explain the Eucharist and Bread to Your Child:

- **Discuss the Significance of the Eucharist:** Share with your child that during the Last Supper, Jesus chose the bread from the Passover meal to transform into His Body. Compare this to your recent experience of baking bread. Explain how the bread for Passover was made quickly without rising time because the Israelites left Egypt in haste, resulting in flat bread. Point out the similarity between this flat bread and the Eucharistic host. Invite your child to pay close attention to the readings today and listen for mentions of bread, deepening their understanding of its significance in our faith.

2. Explore the Song of Gratitude:

- **Introduce the "Dayenu" Song:** Jewish people have a traditional song sung during Passover called "Dayenu," which means "it would have been enough." The song expresses gratitude for God's many gifts, from the Sabbath to the Torah. Share this link to the song with your child: [Dayenu Song](#). After listening, encourage your child to create their own version of the song, listing personal blessings and reflecting on how God has given more than enough in their lives.

3. Make Unleavened Bread Together:

- **Baking Activity:** Prepare unleavened bread with your child, using a simple recipe that includes flour, water, and salt. Discuss the cultural significance of flat bread and how different cultures use various grains and ingredients. Explore online recipes that incorporate spices, onions, or peppers for added flavor. This hands-on activity will help your child understand the concept of unleavened bread and its role in the Passover tradition.

August 11, 2024 - Nineteenth Sunday of the Christian Year

Questions

1. Reflecting on God's Nourishment:

- **Personal Renewal:** When you are feeling weary and discouraged, similar to Elijah, how does God provide nourishment, refreshment, and encouragement in your life? Share specific examples of times when you've felt God's support during challenging moments. How do these experiences reinforce and deepen your faith?

2. Seeking Jesus as Spiritual Nourishment:

- **Gathering Spiritual Manna:** Jesus referred to Himself as the "bread of life," paralleling the manna that nourished the Israelites in the desert. In what ways do you actively seek out Jesus and His teachings in your everyday life? What practices

or habits do you use to gather spiritual nourishment from Him, and how do they contribute to your overall well-being?

3. Faith as a Sustaining Gift:

- **Faith During Difficult Times:** Reflect on how your faith has been a source of strength during difficult times. Can you identify moments when your belief has particularly supported you? How frequently do you recognize your faith as a precious gift? Jesus mentioned that no one can come to Him unless drawn by the Father. How have you sensed this divine calling or influence in your journey towards Jesus?

Activities

1. Deepening Understanding of the Eucharist:

- **Discussing the Eucharistic Connection:** Continue engaging your child in conversations about the Eucharist. Emphasize that during the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass, we are reminded that the bread and wine are not just physical elements but also symbols of our collaborative work with God. Explain that just as we bring the bread and wine to the altar as a result of our efforts and God's grace, we also offer our good deeds and acts of kindness as offerings to God. Encourage your child to view their own good actions in this light, understanding that they are part of a divine cooperation.

2. Teaching Grace Before Meals:

- **Introducing Traditional Grace:** If you haven't yet introduced the traditional Catholic Grace before Meals, ("Bless us, O Lord..."), start teaching it to your child. Focus on how this prayer acknowledges our nourishment as gifts from God. Discuss how many people contribute, in partnership with God, to provide the food we eat—farmers, cooks, and others. Encourage your child to reflect on these contributions and to ask for God's blessing on all those involved in bringing the meal to the table.

3. Growing in Faith Together:

- **Engaging in Faith Development:** Recognize that growing in faith is a lifelong journey. Explore opportunities to deepen your understanding together, such as attending a faith class, listening to guest speakers at your parish or a neighboring one, exploring your parish library if available, or subscribing to a Catholic periodical. Your commitment to ongoing faith development will serve as a powerful example for your child and strengthen your shared spiritual journey.

August 18, 2024 - Twentieth Sunday of the Christian Year

Questions

1. Responding to Wisdom's Invitation:

- **Embracing Divine Wisdom:** Wisdom is more than just knowing facts; it's recognizing that truth reflects the divine language of God. It calls us to live

virtuously, not merely smartly. Reflect on how you have responded or could respond to the call of Lady Wisdom. What are some specific ways you can metaphorically “eat and drink at her table,” engaging in practices that reflect God's wisdom and virtue in your daily life?

2. Navigating Ethical Challenges with Divine Wisdom:

- **Avoiding Biblical Foolishness:** In the Bible, foolishness is not about trivial actions but represents unethical or immoral conduct. Consider how you draw upon God's wisdom to navigate modern ethical dilemmas. How do you ensure that your decisions and actions align with divine guidance, helping you to remain on the right path despite complex moral challenges?

3. The Eucharist as Source of Wisdom:

- **Understanding Eucharistic Nourishment:** The Eucharist is described as true food and true drink, nourishing both body and soul. Reflect on how participating in the Eucharist impacts you personally. How does receiving the Eucharist contribute to your spiritual growth and wisdom? In what ways does this sacrament guide you towards deeper understanding and virtue?

Activities

1. Exploring the Meaning of the Eucharist:

- **Personalizing Communion:** Continue your conversation about the Eucharist by sharing what receiving Holy Communion personally means to you. Demonstrate how you hold your hands to form a throne for Jesus during Communion, and teach your child this gesture if they haven't learned it yet. If your child hasn't received Communion yet, express how eagerly you anticipate sharing this sacred moment with them in the future. Share photographs or mementos from your own First Communion to make the experience more tangible and meaningful for them.

2. Celebrating Every Meal:

- **Creating a Special Meal Experience:** Recognize that every shared meal is an opportunity to celebrate and connect. Choose an evening this week to make a simple meal special. Let your child help set the table with your finest china and flatware. Involve them in arranging flowers or lighting a candle to create a warm atmosphere. Dim the lights, play gentle music, and recount stories about Jesus' meals with His disciples, highlighting the significance of shared meals in building community and expressing love.

3. Supporting Local Food Pantries:

- **Community Involvement:** Food pantries often face increased demand during the summer months. As a family, seek ways to contribute to our monthly food drive in support of Rebecca's Pantry. Consider enlisting the help of friends, neighbors, or a scout troop to maximize your impact. This activity not only supports those in need but also demonstrates the importance of generosity and community service to your child.

August 25, 2024 - Twenty-First Sunday of the Christian Year

Questions

Here's a refined version of the questions, aimed at deepening reflection and engagement:

1. Trust and Presence in the Eucharist:

- **Understanding Disciples' Trust:** Many of Jesus' disciples struggled with the teaching that they must eat His Body and drink His Blood, leading some to turn away. Reflect on what might have inspired the remaining disciples to stay with Jesus. What aspects of their faith or understanding helped them accept this profound teaching? For yourself, consider what helps you experience and embrace the full presence of Jesus—His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity—in the Eucharist. How does this understanding impact your participation in the sacrament?

2. Choosing Faith Amidst Modern Challenges:

- **Instilling Faith and Courage:** In today's world, where activities like children's sports or media content often compete with Sunday Mass and traditional values, families face tough choices. Reflect on how you can nurture in your child a strong desire to choose faith over secular pressures, much like Joshua's declaration, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." What strategies or practices can you implement to encourage your child to prioritize their spiritual growth and commitment to God?

3. Fostering a Relationship with Christ:

- **Supporting Your Child's Spiritual Journey:** Consider how you can support and nurture your child's relationship with Christ. What practices or experiences can help deepen their understanding of Christ's teachings and strengthen their desire to follow Him? Explore ways to integrate faith into daily life, encouraging them to walk in Christ's ways with enthusiasm and sincerity. How can you model and guide their journey in a way that makes their faith experience authentic and fulfilling?

Activities

1. Understanding the Corporal and the Eucharist:

- **Exploring the Corporal's Significance:** As you continue discussing the Eucharist with your child, take a moment to focus on the small cloth placed on the altar, known as the corporal. Explain that the term "corporal" comes from the Latin word "corpus," meaning "body." Its purpose is to catch any crumbs of the Eucharist, the Body of Christ, that may fall during the breaking of the bread. These crumbs are gathered and placed in the chalice with a bit of water after Mass and consumed by the priest. Emphasize to your child that every crumb is precious because it represents Jesus Himself, underscoring the sacredness of the Eucharist.

2. Integrating Psalm 34 into Mealtime Prayer:

- **Incorporating Psalm 34 into Family Prayers:** Enrich your mealtime prayers by adding a refrain from today's Psalm 34. Before saying grace, invite a family member to lead with the words: "Taste and see the goodness of the Lord" (Psalm 34:9a). This practice not only connects your meals to the spiritual nourishment provided by God but also helps everyone appreciate the divine goodness in their daily lives.

3. Discussing Ephesians 5:25 and Mutual Love in Marriage:

- **Exploring Radical Love and Mutual Respect:** Modern readers often focus on St. Paul's instruction for wives to be subordinate to their husbands, missing the groundbreaking command Paul gave to husbands: "Husbands, love your wives" (Ephesians 5:25). At the time, women were often treated as property, yet Paul called husbands to love their wives as Christ loves the Church. Discuss with your family how this command would have been revolutionary in its historical context and how it redefines marital relationships. Explore practical ways both spouses can demonstrate love and respect toward each other, creating a model of mutual support and devotion that can enhance all family relationships.

Awesome August Saints

- **August 1:** We begin the month by honoring **Saint Alphonsus Liguori**, a revered theologian and founder of the Redemptorists.
- **August 2:** The memorials of **Saint Eusebius of Vercelli**, a courageous bishop, and **Saint Peter Julian Eymard**, founder of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers, are celebrated.
- **August 7:** We remember **Saint Sixtus III** and his companions, along with **Saint Cajetan**, founder of the Theatines.
- **August 8:** The feast day of **Saint Dominic**, founder of the Dominican Order, is observed.
- **August 9:** **Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)**, a philosopher and martyr, is honored.
- **August 10:** We celebrate the feast of **Saint Lawrence**, the deacon and martyr known for his service to the poor.
- **August 12:** The memorial of **Saint Jane Frances de Chantal**, a founder of the Visitation Order, is marked.
- **August 13:** We remember **Saints Pontian** and **Hippolytus**, early martyrs of the Church.
- **August 14:** **Saint Maximilian Kolbe**, a martyr of charity during World War II, is honored.
- **August 15:** The feast of the **Dormition of Mary** (Assumption), celebrating Mary's departure from earthly life, is observed.

- **August 16: Saint Stephen of Hungary**, a king and patron of Hungary, is remembered.
- **August 19:** We celebrate **Saint John Eudes**, known for his devotion to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.
- **August 20:** The memorial of **Saint Bernard of Clairvaux**, a prominent reformer and theologian, is observed.
- **August 21: Saint Pius X**, known for his liturgical reforms, is commemorated.
- **August 23: Saint Rose of Lima**, the first canonized saint of the Americas, is celebrated.
- **August 24:** We honor **Saint Bartholomew**, one of the Twelve Apostles.
- **August 27:** The feast of **Saint Monica**, the mother of Saint Augustine, is observed.
- **August 28:** We celebrate **Saint Augustine of Hippo**, a major figure in Christian theology and philosophy.
- **August 29:** The beheading of **Saint John the Baptist**, the forerunner of Christ, is remembered.

Which saint inspires you the most? Share your thoughts on our Facebook page!

August Recipes

Pesto

Ingredients:

- 2 cups chopped fresh basil leaves
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 2 teaspoons finely chopped garlic
- 3 tablespoons pine nuts
- 1-1 1/2 cups olive oil
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan or Romano cheese (*one may omit the cheese out of a portion since some have dairy intolerances.*)

Directions:

1. Combine the basil, salt, pepper, garlic, pine nuts, and 1 cup of oil in the blender. Blend until the mixture is smooth; stop the blender every few seconds to stir the mixture slightly, and to press the leaves down. (If you happen to have a Vita-Mix, this won't be necessary and use the lowest speed.)
2. The mixture when pureed should be slightly runny; if it is still too thick, add more olive oil. Pour the sauce into a bowl and stir in the grated cheese.

3. Serve hot on pasta.

Tomato Basil Mozzarella Salad

Ingredients:

- Tomatoes, sliced
- Fresh Basil, carefully chop leaves to prevent bruising
- Fresh Mozzarella Cheese, sliced
- Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- Balsamic vinegar
- Salt and pepper

Directions:

1. Assemble the salad with slices of tomatoes, basil leaves, and mozzarella slices. Drizzle extra virgin olive oil over the salad. Then add a dash of vinegar and salt and pepper to taste. Enjoy!

Sundried Tomato Pasta Salad

Dressing:

- 8 oz extra moist sundried tomatoes (or 1 jar of sundried tomatoes, drained)
- 4 cloves garlic
- 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- salt
- pepper

Salad:

- 2 - 16 ounces bags of pasta
- 1 jar Kalamata or assorted olives
- 1-2 pints ripe cherry tomatoes, halved (I used 1)
- 15-20 basil leaves, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Directions:

1. Prepare dressing by blending sundried tomatoes, garlic, salt, pepper, and vinegar until tomatoes are chopped. Blend while drizzling in olive oil; continue blending until mixed together.

2.

Cook pasta according to package directions, drain, and rinse with cold water until no longer hot. Pour dressing over the pasta, add olives, and toss together. Add remaining ingredients, toss together and adding more dressing until the salad is coated to your liking. Serve on a big platter with an extra sprinkling of Parmesan cheese.

Note: To make a smaller salad, use just one bag of pasta and pour the extra dressing over a block of cream cheese. Serve with crackers.