

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

October 2011

St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church

Fr. John Hall

One Minute Meditations

The "real presence" at Mass

Jesus is present in the Eucharist at Mass. He is present in the priest who offers the Mass. He is present in the readings, since he is the one who speaks to us through Scripture. And he is in the assembly, for *"where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them"* (Mt 18:20).

St. Paul counsels patience

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do" (Colossians 3:12-13).

Silence of the heart

"In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you. Souls of prayer are souls of great silence." Mother Teresa of Calcutta



Out with the bad and in with the good

Bad habits rob us of the peace and joy God intends us to have both here on Earth and later in Heaven. The best way to get rid of a bad habit is to replace it with a good one. For example:

Materialism. The more we have, the more we want. Substitute self-indulgence with generosity. Consider your money and possessions as belonging to God. Use his money sparingly. Buy what you need but donate generously to the poor.

Worry. Refuse to worry and substitute trust in God. When you feel worried, repeat the prayer, "Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you." He will reward your trust.

Desire for admiration. Try not to get

so close to other people that you fix your heart on their favor and approval. Human opinions aren't always based on truth, but God's always is. Study the Ten

Commandments and the Gospels to learn God's standards instead.

Missing Mass. Do you let life's busy pace sometimes interfere with attending Sunday Mass?

You may not immediately feel the resulting loss of grace but there are serious, long-term effects of deliberately neglecting our obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and other Holy Days of Obligation. Instead, cut back on other commitments so you never miss the chance to be with Jesus at Mass every weekend.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do we need godparents?

In the Catholic Church, the role of "godparent" is more than an honorary title. While parents have the primary responsibility for teaching children about faith and morals, godparents assist in that task. If something happens to one or

both parents, the godparents then assume the parents' role.

A godparent should be a Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation, and leads a life in harmony with the faith, serving as a spiritual role model for the new

Catholic.

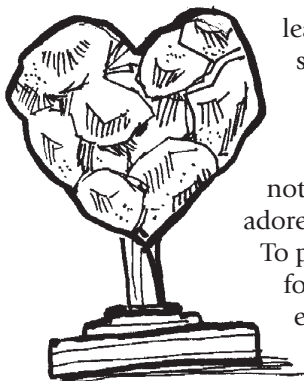


God's love never changes

It's only human to want to be loved. Unfortunately, even the best friend or lover will let us down once in a while. That can leave us lonely or searching for the wrong kind of love. Fortunately, God will never let us down. His love is the right kind of love to have.

His love never changes. Standards set by humans change over time. Something considered "in" today, can be "out" in no time. God's love is unchanging and unending.

Friends come and go. Sooner or later, you have to



leave your friends or they leave you. But Jesus said, "... behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). God never leaves.

He loves us for who we really are. There's nothing God doesn't know about us, and he adores us anyway. If God likes you, others will, too. To please God we have to fill ourselves with love for him and other people, and that makes us even nicer to be around. Pass it on.

from Scripture

Matthew 23:1-12, How do I practice what I preach?

In this passage, Jesus exposed the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders. He pointed out how they accurately taught what Moses handed down from God but they failed to live God's laws themselves. They acted as if their roles as scribes and Pharisees made them above God's laws.

Jesus' message encourages us to study the teachings of our leaders in our governments and other positions of leadership, and follow them if they are right and good. However, we should realize that our leaders are human and can err.

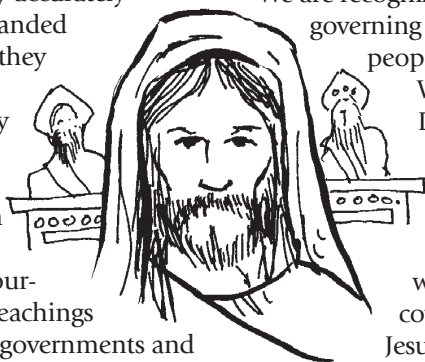
When we call our legislators,

"Senator," "Congressman," or "Governor," we are not elevating them. We are recognizing that they are governing in the name of the people who elected them.

What about ourselves? Do we exercise faithful leadership in our own lives? Do we live up to our own standards?

When we are dealing with our families, friends, coworkers, and neighbors, Jesus' message in this

Gospel shows us how we can practice what we preach. When we exalt ourselves, we move away from God. When we humble ourselves, God will exalt us in heaven.



Q & A

How can I develop more faith?

Faith is not a one-time event. It's a journey that develops and grows over time. As the father of a boy Jesus was about to cure cried out, "*I do believe, help my unbelief*"



(Mark 9:24). We have to ask God to help our faith develop and grow.

The best way to develop a strong faith is to pray. Remember that prayer is a conversation with God. Most of us use prayer to talk at God, but we have to listen, too.

One good way to listen to God is to read his Word in the Bible. Start by reading a passage from Scripture, particularly the Gospels. Then ask yourself what the message from the passage is for you, personally.

For example, ask yourself, "What is God saying to me through this reading?" Or "How can I put his message into practice in my life?" We need to meditate on the message and put it into action in our lives. Only then can the word be "*living and effective*." (Hebrews 4:12).

Feasts & Celebrations

October 7 - Our Lady of the Rosary (1571). Pope Pius V created this feast in thanksgiving to Our Lady of Victory who helped the Christians defeat the Ottoman Turks. Since it was believed that they won after praying the Rosary, the feast was renamed Our Lady of the Rosary by Pope Gregory XIII.

October 15 - St. Teresa of Avila (1583). A lively, outgoing girl seems an unlikely foundress of a strict order whose nuns wore rough brown habits and sandals instead of shoes. Yet St. Teresa overcame her natural fondness

for society and founded more than 17 convents of Discalced Carmelites and helped reform the Carmelite friars.

October 17 - St. Ignatius of Antioch (1st century). Successor to St. Peter as the second bishop of Antioch, St. Ignatius encouraged obedience to bishops all over the world saying, "Wherever the bishop is, there let the people be, for there is the Catholic Church." He reminded people that Jesus is present in the Church and in one another.



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