

Growing in FAITH™

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

July 2014

St. Joseph Church

Rev. Pawel Kryszkiewicz, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Joachim and St. Anne

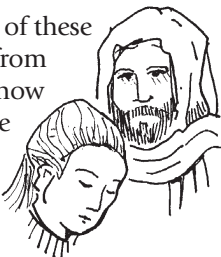
What we know of these two saints comes from tradition. We know that they were Jesus' grandparents and that they raised Mary, Jesus' mother. We also know that they were faithful Jews who raised their daughter in a devout Jewish home. Her unshakeable faith, her devotion to the laws of her religion, her comfort with being mother and wife, and her steadiness in moments of crisis indicate the values with which she was raised.

Remember ...

Jesus gave us a great gift when he created the Sacrament of Confession (John 20:23). He knew we would want to hear the words of absolution to know he forgives us. Remember that no matter what happens, you are just one Confession away from coming home.

Begin to change

"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin."
Blessed Teresa of Calcutta



Growing strong through spiritual training

The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (Confession) is a place where we can speak directly to God and get his invaluable help for renewing our lives. To truly benefit from this connection, it's best to approach this Sacrament with sincerity, openness to change, and to welcome the inevitable trials that help us resist temptation.

Sincerity is the key. Holiness, like healthiness, is an ongoing process. It starts with a sincere desire to live the way God wants not the way society suggests. Progress toward holiness means avoiding sin but also living with virtue.

Keep moving forward. Although we

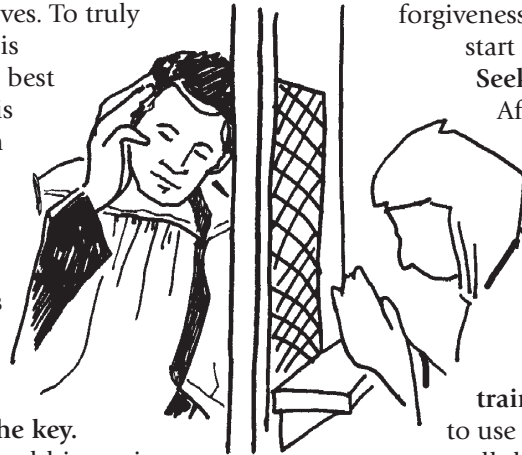
may want to be healed, if we continue to damage our souls by not avoiding temptation, we won't progress. We must change. Fortunately, we can seek forgiveness in Confession and start fresh.

Seek the priest's advice.

After all, it is Jesus speaking through him. This is our special time with the Lord who wants to help us overcome our weaknesses.

View trials as training. Jesus wants us to use Confession to learn

to overcome all that separates us from him. When we fail to resist temptation, we can thank God for the trial and start again. Jesus wants so much to help us to grow closer to him. He created this Sacrament as a way for him to lead and guide us.



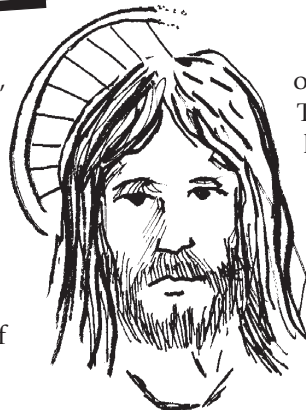
Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics say that Jesus is true God and true man?

Jesus, as the Son of God, assumed a human nature and became one with us in all things except sin (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #470). That made him true God and true man.

This is a great mystery of

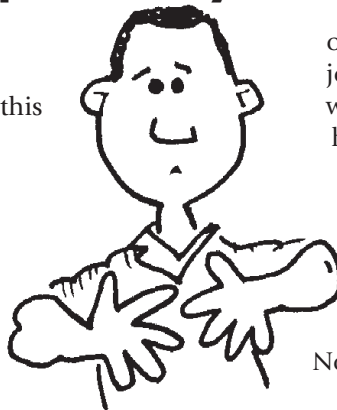
our faith: (John 1:14). The divine nature and human nature united in the person of Jesus "without confusion or division" (Council of Chalcedon, A.D. 541). Jesus is "Emmanuel," God with us.



How “poor” is your spirit?

To be “poor in spirit” conjures up images of people who are depressed or down-hearted with little or no spiritual life. In fact, people who live this beatitude are spiritual giants fully aware of their absolute need for God and live with complete dependence upon him. In that way, they grow stronger through their trials and personal crosses. When we live this beatitude we are most likely living the other seven, too.

Happy to live in union with God. Poor in spirit means that we depend upon God for all



our needs and we are happy to live our lives joined to him. Someone who lives in union with God knows that there is nothing the world has to offer that can compare.

Happy to be secure with God. Poor economy, bad health, loneliness, insecurity in an imperfect world can rob us of safety and happiness in the world. Yet, when we rely on God for what we need, nothing can steal the joy or happiness that he provides. Nothing.

from Scripture

Matthew 13:44-52, Hidden treasure.

In this Gospel reading, Jesus described several scenarios of extraordinary good fortune and compared that feeling to discovering the kingdom of God. When people from Judah were sent into exile in 587 BC, some buried their treasures in the hope of returning. People in Jesus’ audience would have known that coming upon such a treasure would have changed their lives. So, discovering the hidden treasure of the Kingdom now revealed through Jesus can give new meaning to our lives.

In a barter-based economy like that of ancient Israel, a merchant’s fortune

depended upon the quality and desirability of what he had to sell.



Discovering a valuable pearl would have been irresistible to him. Also irresistible would be the answers to someone searching for truth when he or she discovers the reign of God. When we possess Godly treasure, we are truly rich.

Then Jesus described the separation between the evil and righteous like the sifting that takes place when a catch is brought ashore. The message of the Kingdom now takes precedence over any old messages and gives them new meaning.

Q & A Is the Church always right?

At the Last Supper, Jesus promised his disciples he would send the Holy Spirit to guide them “to all truth” (Jn 16:13). “The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you” (John 14:26). The Apostles handed on their authority and mission to their successors, -- the pope and the bishops. Together, they are responsible for “giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God” (CCC #85; *Dei Verbum*, 10, § 2). The whole Church, because it is under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, cannot err in matters of faith and morals.

Also, “The whole body of the faithful...cannot err in matters of belief. This characteristic is shown in the supernatural appreciation of faith (*sensus fidei*) on the part of the whole people” (CCC 92). That means that individual members may make mistakes, sometimes publically. Then the Church must clarify “what has always and everywhere been believed by all” (St. Vincent of Lerins).

Our Mission

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)

Feasts & Celebrations

July 6 – St. Maria Goretti (1902). Twelve year-old Maria was attacked by a neighbor who tried to defile her. When she fought rather than submit, he stabbed her repeatedly. She forgave him before dying shortly after. Her attacker dreamed of Maria while in prison and his first act when released 30 years later was to beg Maria’s mother’s forgiveness. He wept tears of joy when he attended Maria’s canonization.

July 22 – St. Mary Magdalene (1st century). Jesus expelled seven demons

from Mary (Luke 8:2) and she supported his ministry with her own money. She stood by his Cross with his mother and was the one who informed the Apostles of his Resurrection.

July 25 - St. James (42). St. James and his brother left their father in a fishing boat to become Jesus’ Apostles. St. James was one of three apostles to witness Jesus’ transfiguration, the raising of Jairus’ daughter, and the agony in Gethsemani. St. James was the first Apostle to be martyred.

