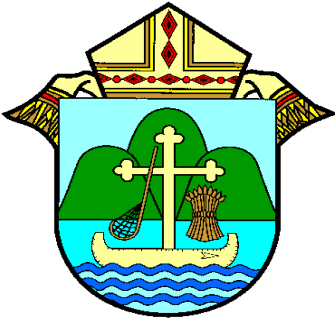


HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

Faith



Virtue of the Month:
Faith

Saintly Exemplar:
Saint Joseph



Statue: St. Joseph Community Care,
La Crosse, WI.

Sacred Scripture:
“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” *Hebrews 11:1*.

St. Paul said, “Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who inspires and perfects our faith.”
Hebrews 12:1-2.

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

“Faith is the *theological* virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that He has said and revealed to us, and that Holy Church proposes for our belief, because He is truth itself. By faith ‘man freely commits his entire self to God.’ For this reason the believer seeks to know and do God’s will. ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’ Living faith works through charity” CCC 1814).

Note: Theological means that this gift comes from God and leads us back to God. A virtue is an habitual and firm disposition to do the good. Faith is a supernatural virtue, meaning it is above our nature.

What is the supernatural virtue of faith?

Faith is a gift from God that enables us to believe the truths revealed by Him about Himself that are contained in Sacred Tradition (the teachings handed on from Christ) and Sacred Scripture. We could never know these truths about God on our own, since they transcend the power of human reason.

We receive the supernatural gift of faith from God in Baptism.

- Faith is a grace, a power which enables us to believe and accept the truth. Faith is a supernatural virtue infused by God into the soul.
- Faith involves our willingness to cooperate with what God asks; it is not a blind leap but does involve taking “risks”, stepping out in trust to follow God’s will while always keeping our eyes on Christ.
- Believing is possible only by God’s grace and it is a free human act.
- We believe in God because what He has revealed is the Truth.
- We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus is Himself God.
- We believe in the Holy Spirit because He is God.
- Faith is always in accordance with reason since it is God Who infuses faith into the soul and bestows the light of reason on the human mind.
- We cannot understand all that we are called to believe. However, “faith seeks understanding,” spurring us on to know and love God more deeply.

Why do we need the supernatural virtue of faith?

- Faith makes us capable of living as God’s children and of inheriting eternal life. “Without faith it is impossible to please God” (*Rom 11:6*).
- Faith disposes us to live in relationship with Jesus Christ. Christ is the only One Who can save us; we need to cling to Him by faith.
- Faith helps us to know the right moral behavior to be a disciple of Christ.
- Through faith, we recognize the promptings of the Holy Spirit.
- Faith allows us to be living members of the Catholic Church.
- Faith is a constant and firm support, even in the most difficult times.
- Faith helps us to know the existence of God’s mercy.
- Faith enables us to see Christ in those around us, above all, the poor.
- When we need the gift of faith, the most important thing we can do is ask for it: “The Lord hears the cry of the poor” (*Psalms 34:6*).

Suggestions for fostering the growth of the virtue of faith at home

- **Pray together as a family** in order to grow in the virtue of faith.
Morning: The Morning Offering Before Meal prayer Ask Jesus for the help you need
Evening: Act of Contrition Attend Sunday Mass Pray a decade of the Rosary
- **Read a Scripture passage about faith** and pick a word or phrase that stood out for you.
Ephesians 2:1-10 *Colossians 1:21-23* *1 Timothy 6:11-12* *James 2:14-26*
- **Teach children to avoid situations that may be harmful to their faith.** On the other hand, help them to grow strong in God's grace through frequent prayer and reception of the Sacraments.
- **Hold up positive role models** who exemplify the virtue of faith through prayer and action.
St. Joan of Arc, St. Gianna Beretta Molla, Blessed Miguel Pro, Pope Benedict XVI,
- **Name and read about saints** that model the virtue of faith: the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Maximillian Kolbe, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. www.newadvent.org
- **Discuss television programs that you watch.** What TV program do you watch where the virtue of faith is practiced? Discuss how specific programs present obstacles to believing and living our faith.
- **Pray briefly with a Scripture passage** using the "Praying with Scripture" prayer worksheet.
Luke 1:26-38 Mary said yes to God to be the Mother of the Savior
Matthew 1:18-25 An angel appears to Joseph telling him that Mary has conceived a Son.
Luke 8:22-25 Jesus asked the Apostles in calming the storm: "Where is your faith?"
- **Develop an awareness in young people that sacrifice is good** and helps to form a person's will and self-control. Personal sacrifice for others is faith in action. Examples: Contribute to food and clothing drives; give toys to the poor; visit people in a nursing home; take a meal to a sick neighbor.

Faithful Man of God Saint Joseph

FAST FACTS

Also Known As:

Patron Saint of Carpenters
Joseph the Worker
Husband of Mary
Foster-father of Jesus
Patron of the Universal Church
Patron of a Happy Death

Feast Day:

March 19
May 1 Joseph the Workman



Window: St. Philip Parish, Rolling Ground, WI.

Prayer to St. Joseph the Worker

O Glorious St. Joseph, model of all those who are devoted to labor, obtain for me the grace to work conscientiously, putting the call of duty above my selfish interests, to work with gratitude and joy, considering it an honor to employ and develop by means of labor the gifts received from God, to work with order, peace, moderation, and patience, without shrinking from weariness and difficulties, to work above all with purity of intention and detachment from self, as Jesus worked at Nazareth under the direction of your guidance and skill. All for Jesus, all through Mary, all after your example, O Patriarch, St. Joseph.