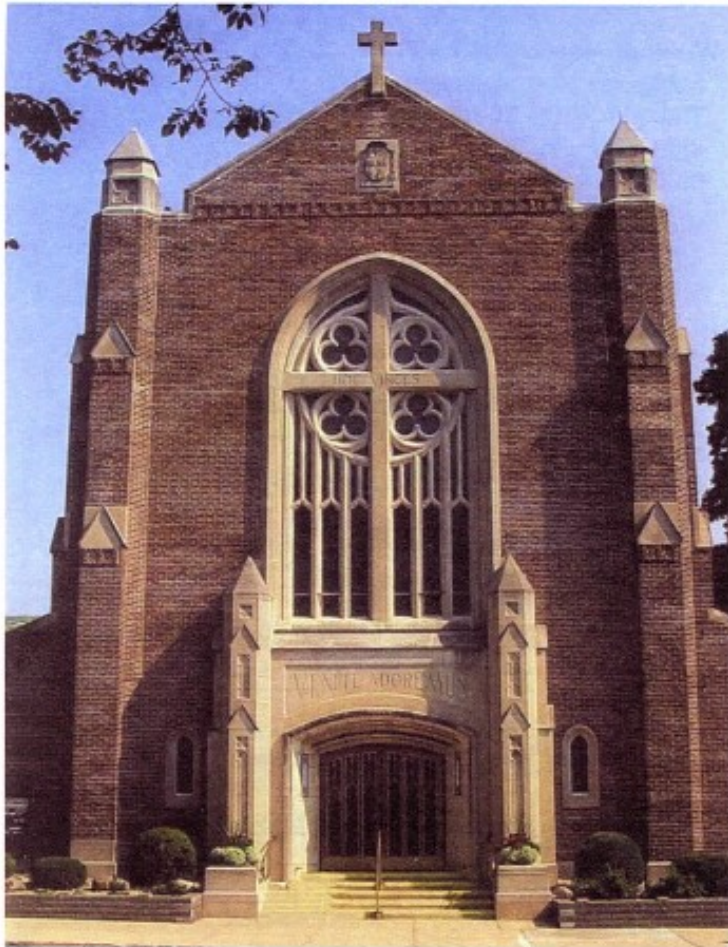


Holy Cross Church

Catholic Diocese of Peoria
1010 Jefferson Street • Mendota IL 61342
Phone 815-538-6151 • Fax 815-539-5014
www.holycrosscongregation.weebly.com



Mass Schedule

Please check inside cover for all Mass times.

Confessions

Saturday - 7:00 a.m. to 7:40 a.m. 3:00 to 3:45 p.m.

Sunday - 30 minutes prior to 6:30 a.m. Mass

Adoration Chapel

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

(Closed on funeral days and holidays)

Baptism

Pre-baptismal instruction is required. Call the office for information and scheduling a date.

Weddings

Before any other wedding arrangements are made, please contact the parish priest 6-8 months in advance.

Homebound and Hospital Visits

Please call the office during times of illness and visits will be arranged.

Cemetery Lots Purchase

Please call Steve Schmitt 815-538-5276

Pastor

Fr. Peter A. Pilon

Pastoral Work

Deacon Ray Fischer

Deacon Jose Lopez

Deacon Hector Diaz

Music Director

Roy VanOpdorp

Director of Religious Education

Brian R. Corrigan

Business Manager

Lorraine Walter

Administrative Assistant

Mary Lou Flahive

Ready, Set, Grow Extended Care

Julie Winner - 815-538-7604

Offers Day Care for 3 year old to 12 year old.

Learning Lambs Pre-School

815-539-7003

3 yr old and 4 yr old sessions

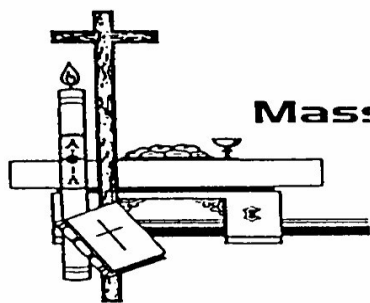


Holy Cross School

1008 Jefferson St. Mendota, IL 61342

815-539-7003

Principal - Anita Kobilsek



Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 4th

4:00 p.m. +Ben Bokus by George and Mary Kay Hodgson

Sunday, July 5th

9:00 a.m. +Captain Thomas J Heitmann
by Tom & Mary Heitmann

12:00 p.m. +Leopoldo, Perfecto, María de Jesús, Eligio
y Teresa Covarrubias su Familia

Monday, July 6th

8:00 a.m. +Wayne Wackerlin by Hector & Maria Arredondo

Tuesday, July 7th

7:00 a.m. +Rita Weber and Robert Kahl
by Norbert Weber and Jan Kahl

Wednesday, July 8th

8:00 a.m. +Todd Barrett by Hessenberger Family

Thursday, July 9th

7:00 a.m. +Paul & Maryann Klein by Rose Lewis Family

Friday, July 10th

8:00 a.m. +Rick Wujek by Tim & Lori McConville

Saturday, July 11th

4:00 p.m. +Mr. & Mrs. Fran Ege by Bob & Rose Ann Saylor

Sunday, June 12th

9:00 a.m. +Dave Pohl

12:00 p.m. +Enrique by Grace

MASS IN THE CHURCH



Thanks be to God, beginning with the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday afternoon, we will once again be able to participate in the holy sacrifice of the Mass *inside* the church.

Everyone should be aware that we are still restricted in the number of attendees we are allowed to have. Abuse of these restrictions, or stretching them in any way will surely be cause to lose our privilege of reopening the church building for worshipping together.

We will have ushers to direct people to the proper pews; greeters to check people in, offer hand sanitizer and other support. Please be sure to follow the direction of the greeters and ushers.

It should also be noted that the church will not be opened more than 30 minutes before the Mass's published start time.

There will still be some details to work out and work on as we begin this new time of worshipping together, while maintaining social distancing from our neighbors. Families living under the same roof will be allowed to occupy the same pew and not observe the otherwise required social distancing rules. Couples will be seated together, and single attendees will be seated accordingly.

We do expect the strong likelihood that we may have more people wanting to worship in the church than we actually have room for. Please know that we will still have the loudspeaker set up so that people who cannot come into the church may still attend Mass from the parking lot. *{At the conclusion of the Mass, Father or one of the Deacons will distribute communion to the people outside.}* Communion inside will be at the usual time during the Mass.

=====

The bulletin is purposefully set up to arrive in your inboxes early on Saturday morning. **There is one FINAL training session on Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. in the church.** If you are in good health, are under 60 years of age, and would like to volunteer to help the parish with reopening the church, please come to this session. **We are still in need of people willing to usher, greet, and clean the common areas of the church, and those church pews where someone has been seated.**

=====

Additionally, there are a few main points everyone should be aware of:

No one should leave their missalette (or any other worship aids) in the pew after Mass

Please leave the kneeler down to signify to the cleaning crew that the pew will need to be wiped down and re-sanitized

Continue to wear your face covering or mask until you leave the church

And, as we will not be passing the collection basket as usual during the Offertory, we will place the large collection basket in the vestibule for people to drop their weekly offering into; after Mass we may have an usher or two also collecting on the sides near the exits.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Our Lady of the Cenacle Chapel Extended Eucharistic Adoration

*"...In this world I cannot see the Most High Son of
God with my own eyes, except for
His Most Holy Body and Blood."*

~ Saint Augustine of Hippo

Pray that our Chapel may soon reopen
so that we may once again fall down in
Adoration of Our Blessed Lord exposed in
the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Chapel Coordinator, Karen Brandner
1-815-915-6635



\$\$\$ DAILY DOLLAR WINNERS \$\$\$

Sat. June 27	559	50.00	Lee & Pat Stocking
Sun. June 28	2540	50.00	Dennis Henkel
Mon. June 29	885	500.00	Kinsley Cassidy
Tue. June 30	1214	50.00	Ruth Weber
Wed. July 01	1884	50.00	Cindy Schiefelbein
Thur. July 02	2358	50.00	Carmon Conderman
Fri. July 03	670	50.00	Elaine Henkel

The 2020 Daily Dollars are here!
A chance to win money and help our school!

SUPPORT YOUR GENEROUS ADVERTISERS! ! !
They make our bulletin possible.



INSURANCE -- ALL LINES

713 Washington St. 815-539-5351 Fax: 815-538-2614

E-mail: fsi@mtco.com

THE SUNDAY COLLECTION

	For the Week of	
Sunday	06/28/2020	\$2,786.47
School		57.00
Food Pantry		145.00
Ascension		2.00
Seminarian		17.00
Peter's Pence		115.00
Youth Ministry		40.00
Total		\$3,162.47

Give God what is just, not what is left!

Support Your Parish

Even though we are not able
to attend Mass to worship
together in community, our
parish still needs our financial
support.



You can make donations to the parish online through
the diocesan website:

<https://cdop.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/parishes>

You can create recurring donations taken from your
credit card, or make a one time donation.

Please know that you may also drop your parish dona-
tion envelope with your donation through the mail slot
on the front door of the rectory. The money will still
be counted and accounted for. The Business Manager
is still going into the office briefly each day to take care
of the mail and make sure all the bills are being paid,
so any money supporting the parish will also be able
to be deposited into the parish's bank account.

**** We are once again able to include the weekly
offering tabulations in the bulletin. We will try to
keep our bulletin up to date with the parish con-
tributions going forward.**



Our Devotion for July is The Most Precious Blood of Jesus

By Brian Smith

Back in the Middle Ages, many Catholics began observing special devotions around a particular theme each month—the [Holy Name of Jesus in January, for instance](#). Today, many families are reviving this practice as part of the way they observe the liturgical calendar at home.



By practicing monthly devotions, the core values of the faith will become more alive within your family. The beauty of monthly devotions is that there is no set way to celebrate. So, be creative, make it fun, and adapt your celebration to your own family.

Here are some ways to celebrate the popular devotion for July, the Most Precious Blood of Jesus.

Talking with Kids about the Most Precious Blood of Jesus

Each of us has blood that flows through our body. Blood allows our body to work as God intended. Without blood we cannot run outside, play with our favorite toys, or even breathe! Blood, then, is what allows us to live each day to the fullest. Without blood, we could not live.

Jesus desperately wants us to spend eternity in heaven. When we sin, we turn our backs to God. This makes God sad. And so, to redeem us in the eyes of God, Jesus chose to shed his own blood as a sacrifice for our sins! Jesus wants us to go to heaven so much that he was willing to suffer a long and harsh death. Jesus shed his blood seven times during his life for us:

1. The Presentation of the Lord (Jesus was circumcised)
2. The Agony in the Garden (Jesus' sweat turned into blood)
3. The Scourging at the Pillar (Jesus was whipped)
4. The Crowning of Thorns (thorns were pressed into Jesus' head)
5. The Way of the Cross (onlookers punched and kicked Jesus)
6. The Crucifixion (Jesus is nailed to the cross)
7. The Piercing of His Heart (a soldier placed his sword through Jesus' side, causing all of Jesus' blood to spill out upon the ground)

As Catholics, we recognize all of Jesus' suffering and believe that he truly died for us in hope that we might go to heaven one day. Just because Jesus died for our sins does not mean that we can live and do whatever we want. Every day, we must try to be pleasing to God. This includes our thoughts, words, and actions. Sometimes we make mistakes. God invites us to the sacrament of reconciliation to amend our sins. When we recognize our sins, we are joined with the Precious Blood of Jesus as we promise to God that we will try to live a better life.

<https://teachingcatholickids.com/the-most-precious-blood-of-jesus-monthly-devotion-for-july/>

CHURCH SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE!

Zoom web address:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9138050856?
pwd=RzZtRi8xNjltNHg4dnhNb2MzNzBEUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9138050856?pwd=RzZtRi8xNjltNHg4dnhNb2MzNzBEUT09)

Zoom Meeting ID 913 805 0856

Password 811195

Sun: 9:00 a.m. Mass in the church, with communion overflow in parking lot with communion distributed to parking lot attendees after Mass.

12:00 noon Mass with all the same as above.

2:00 p.m. Adoration in the church and via Zoom

3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet in the church

3:15 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

Mon: 8:00 a.m. Mass in the church

9:00 a.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

6:00 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

Tues: 7:00 a.m. Mass in the church

9:00 a.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

6:00 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

Wed: 8:00 a.m. Mass in the church

9:00 a.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Confession by garage

6:00 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

Thur: 7:00 a.m. Mass in the church

9:00 a.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Confession by garage

6:00 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

CHURCH SCHEDULE CONTINUED..

- Fri: 8:00 a.m. Mass in the church
 9:00 a.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru
 6:00 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru
- Sat: 9:00 a.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru
 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Confession by garage
 4:00 p.m. Mass in the church, with communion overflow in parking lot with communion distributed to parking lot attendees after Mass.
 6:00 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

To recap, ALL Masses are moving back into the church, and if there is an overflow of the Saturday afternoon or Sunday Masses people may still participate from the parking lot and receive the Eucharist after. Daily Masses will also be moving back into the church, and social distancing must be practiced at all times. Masks or face coverings must be worn while in the church. If you occupy a pew, please leave the kneeler down to signify to the cleaning crew that the pew needs to be cleaned.

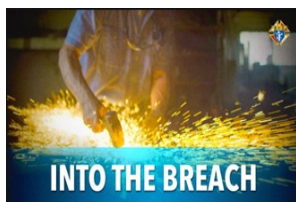


MENDOTA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 2090

Monthly Meeting for July 2020
 -Thursday, July 9 at 6:30 p.m.

We will meet near Father's garage. *Please bring a lawn chair.* We are planning for our big Pork Chop Dinner held at the Mendota Elks Club at the end of the month. We are also planning for other upcoming events such as corn sales and tootsie roll drive for persons with intellectual disabilities.

Into the Breach is a groundbreaking 12-episode video series from the Knights of Columbus that seeks to answer what it means to be a Catholic man in today's world. Inspired by Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted's apostolic exhortation to Catholic men, Into the Breach tells men they are made for greatness and challenges them to achieve it by founding their lives on God and pursuing heroic virtue. Each episode explores a different aspect of authentic Catholic masculinity and features well-known Catholic speakers, as well as the personal story of a man who has deeply experienced the episode's topic in his own life. Speakers include Dr. Scott Hahn, Fr. Mike Schmitz, Jason Evert and many others. The episodes can be used for individual personal enrichment and for group discussion. *"A must see series!"*



CONFESSION OFFERED

Confessions are held on Wednesdays from 12 p.m.—1 p.m. and on Thursday from 5 pm—6 pm in front of Father's garage.

****Beginning on Saturday, July 11th, Confession will be available from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. prior to the 4:00 Vigil Mass.**

Please follow the signs as they will direct you.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION OFFERED

While confessions will remain outside for the time being, Father will bring the Monstrance with exposed Blessed Sacrament back into the church for Eucharistic Adoration. People will once again be able to worship and adore our Lord from inside the church from a socially distanced pew. Father will continue to live-feed Adoration via the Zoom app. **The Adoration is scheduled from 2:00—3:00 p.m. every Sunday.**



...AND DIVINE MERCY



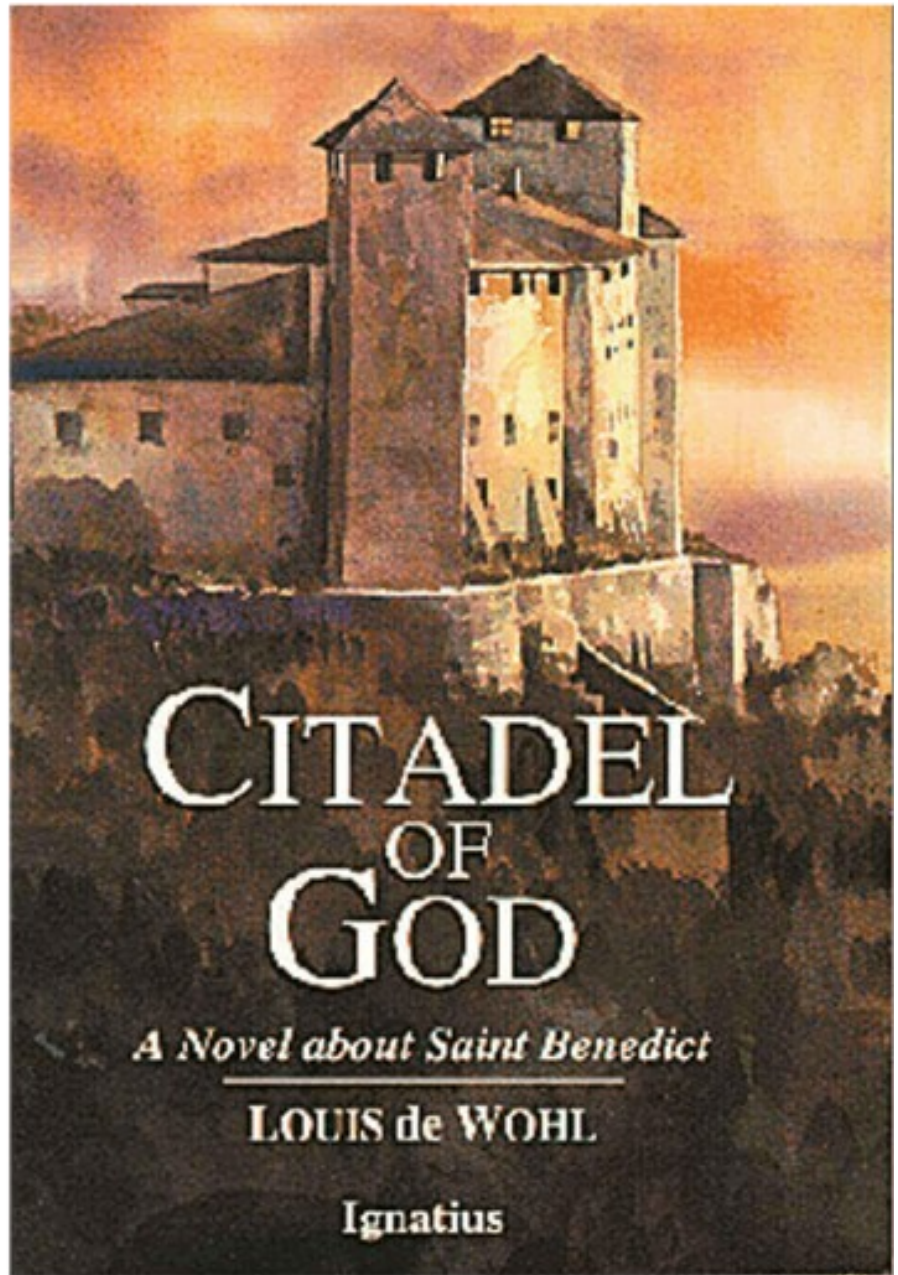
Father will lead the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, following the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

These additional devotions will be every Sunday for the foreseeable future.

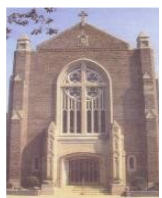
FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Another of the popular historical novels by the distinguished de Wohl, telling the dramatic story of St. Benedict, the father of Western monasticism, who played such a major role in the Christianization and civilization of post-Roman Europe in the sixth century. De Wohl weaves an intricate tapestry of love, violence and piety to recount with historical accuracy the story of St. Benedict and the tempestuous era in which he lived.

Since there are no contemporary biographies of this major saint of history and the Church, de Wohl's inspired account is of significant importance on the subject of saint's lives for today's spiritual seekers. Having lived in an era of great immorality and vice, not unlike our world today, Benedict's story has a strong message for modern Christians who seek, as he did, to turn away from the wickedness of the world to find Christ in prayer, study and solitude.



SIGN UP FOR FREE AT [FORMED.ORG/SIGNUP](https://formed.org/signup)



DIVINE REVELATION CONTINUED...



"No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to who the Son wishes to reveal him..."

Matthew 11:27

LAST WEEK WE WROTE ABOUT THE HEBREW PRAYER, "the Shema;" this week we will focus on the example of Jesus' public prayer, exhibited here today and sometimes called Jesus' thanksgiving prayer.

I realize I may be "preaching to the choir" with a lot of this information. The main point I would like the reader to come away with is that they might be better equipped to defend and explain their faith when questioned about it. The more we know and understand about our faith, the deeper it is able to take root within us.

With that being said, I will try to quickly recap what we talked about last week besides mentioning the Shema. We showed how the passages covered from Matthew's tenth chapter were about Jesus implicitly revealing himself as God, that is, coequal with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Today, he is, in part, showing us that he is also coeternal with the Father. At the beginning of the tenth chapter Jesus commissions the twelve Apostles to go out to the surrounding towns and proclaim the kingdom of heaven, cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and drive out demons. At the beginning of the eleventh chapter we read that after sending the twelve, he then went to "teach and preach in their towns."

What did he teach and preach? Ah, this is what brings us to the meat of today's readings. Jesus is tracked down by

a couple of John the Baptist's disciples and asked to verify whether or not he really is the one for whom they had been waiting, or if they should keep waiting for another? Jesus tells them to report what they have seen and heard—that the blind have been given sight, the lame walk and lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel proclaimed to them (thus fulfilling the prophecies).

Jesus then turns and begins to testify to the righteousness of John. He asks the gathered crowds what they were going out to see when they went out to John? He testifies that John is exactly who he was advertised to be, and was there to prepare the way for the Lord—Him!

He warns the towns around the area that they are unrepentant, and without repentance their fate will be worse than that of Tyre and Sidon, and even the notorious city of Sodom.

He then pivots in his delivery and begins to pray publicly to the Father (*his thanksgiving prayer*) and reveals that a great mystery has been hidden from the eyes of the learned and instead revealed to the childlike. He makes the claim that he is the envoy of the Father and that everything has been given to him by the Father.

This language of God as Father is not totally new to these first-century Jews. There are passages in their ancient scriptures depicting God as Father (see Isaiah 63, Sirach—or Ben Sira—23, and Deuteronomy 32).

When hearing Jesus speak of God as the Father and the context is one in which Jesus identifies himself as the Son of the Father, well that's a bit more startling. Who talks like this? C.S. Lewis, in his book *Mere Christianity* says that Jesus is either a Liar, a Lunatic, or the Lord. Given our 2020 hindsight—I never ever anticipated being able to use that one!—that Jesus is Lord, we can discard the notions of Jesus as liar or lunatic. Of course he is neither!

So when he says, **"No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him"** he is very explicitly revealing himself as the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity—The Son. He has given these people a great deal to think about and digest. Later on he will ask the Apostles who people say the Son of man is? They give him all sorts of replies—"Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." And then Peter speaks up and says **"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."** What does Jesus say to Peter in response to this great revelation?

"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father." Who do YOU say the Son of man is?

July 5, 2020

Holy Cross News of Note



**If you haven't taken
advantage of the parish
subscription to Formed,
you're missing out!**

If you have not checked out the *new* FORMED.org website, we strongly encourage you to do so. It is chock-full of great videos, movies, eBooks and audio books, Bible studies, talks, and so much more!

All you need to do now is go to: Formed.org and register an account by clicking on "Sign Up," then select "I belong to a Parish or Organization," find our parish by name, or zip, enter your email address and you're in. It's that easy!

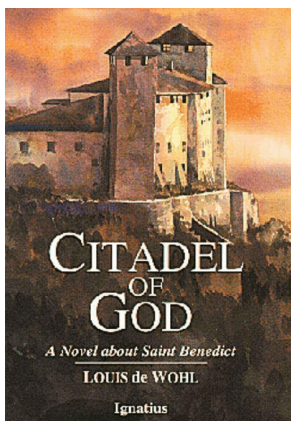
What can we recommend for this week?

Citadel of God

By Louis de Wohl

Another of the popular historical novels by the distinguished de Wohl, telling the dramatic story of St. Benedict, the father of Western monasticism, who played such a major role in the Christianization and civilization of post-Roman Europe in the sixth century. De Wohl weaves an intricate tapestry of love, violence and piety to recount with historical accuracy the story of St. Benedict and the tempestuous era in which he lived.

Since there are no contemporary biographies of this major saint of history and the Church, de Wohl's inspired account is of significant importance on the subject of saint's lives for today's spiritual seekers. Having lived in an era of great immorality and vice, not unlike our world today, Benedict's story has a strong message for modern Christians who seek, as he did, to turn away from the wickedness of the world to find Christ in prayer, study and solitude.



Catechism Corner

» What are sacramentals? «

THESE Q & A ITEMS ARE ADDRESSING QUESTIONS
USING THE BALTIMORE CATECHISM:

† What are sacramentals?

Sacramentals are holy things or actions of which the Church makes use to obtain from God, through her intercession, spiritual and temporal favors.

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that those who believe in him may not perish, but may have life everlasting. (John 3:14-15)

† How do the sacramentals obtain favors from God?

The sacramentals obtain favors from God through the prayers of the Church offered for those who make use of them, and through the devotion they inspire.

† What are the chief benefits obtained by the use of sacramentals?

The chief benefits obtained by the use of sacramentals are:

1. actual graces;
2. the forgiveness of venial sins;
3. the remission of temporal punishment;
4. health of body and material blessings;
5. protection from evil spirits.

Further reading CCC ¶ [1667– 1679]

GRANT, WE PRAY, O HEAVENLY FATHER,
A CLEAR AND UNITED VOICE TO ALL YOUR SONS
AND DAUGHTERS GATHERED IN YOUR CHURCH
IN THIS DECISIVE HOUR IN THE HISTORY OF
OUR NATION, SO THAT, WITH EVERY TRIAL
WITHSTOOD AND EVERY DANGER OVERCOME—
FOR THE SAKE OF OUR CHILDREN, OUR
GRANDCHILDREN, AND ALL WHO COME AFTER
US—THIS GREAT LAND WILL ALWAYS BE "ONE
NATION, UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH
LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL." WE ASK THIS
THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.



Religious Education

*Religious Education
is Changing!*

With the upheaval in routine that the Novel Coronavirus has caused, it has necessitated a change in how we approach the religious education of the children of our parish.

It is most unlikely that we will be using the school for our Wednesday night classes, and will most likely be changing our program to one that is focused on the family and utilizes remote, or an "eLearning" style of catechesis. All parish families will need to have access to the internet and a computer or tablet to participate in each lesson.

This will also necessarily bring about great change, but should also allow for much more flexibility as the lion's share of the catechesis will take place in the home rather than in the school classroom.

As this is a major change and will be a bigger expense up front, it will be critically important for families to register their children as soon as possible. There is a registration form included with this bulletin—please complete the form and turn it in to the parish office as soon as possible. It is vitally important that we know the number of families and students before the school year begins.

A final decision on the program we will use has not yet been made. We will be communicating more information as we continue to determine which program curriculum we will be using and what it will

mean for each family. We ask for your prayers and patience as we work through this difficult process.

I do anticipate that for this first year, we will continue using the same sacramental preparation curricula for First Reconciliation/Eucharist and Confirmation. It will just be of a more remote style of disseminating the lessons.

There will be more information to come in that regard as well.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Corrigan at:

briancorriganhcdre@gmail.com.

Jesus Christ, when you walked the earth, you travelled through the countryside through towns and villages: curing every disease and illness among the people." At your command, all who approached you in illness were made well, made whole.

Now Lord, we implore you to blanket out world with your love and your healing presence. Open the heart of all to turn back to you in their hearts and seek you in all things.

We pray that for all who have been infected and affected by the Coronavirus may find their strength in you. For those who have died, may they find their rest in you.

Guide the leaders of all nations to work together for the family of man, working to help all in need out of a love for all mankind. Give grace, courage and strength to all medical professionals who put their well-being in harms way for the sake of others.

We pray for your guidance through the waters of uncertainty and for a sense of your presence as we place our trust in you.

Gracious God and Father, may this crisis bring your healing presence to a wounded world, so that mentally, spiritually, and physically we may return to you in ALL things.

Amen.



The Parishes of
Holy Cross, Mendota
and **SS. Peter & Paul, Peterstown**
Confraternity of Christian Doctrine



Religious Education—Registration Form

This information is held in confidence and is not shared without your permission.

Today's Date: _____

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Grade School Level: _____ Name of School: _____

Baptism Date: _____ Church: _____

Has the child received First Communion? _____ Yes _____ No

Does your child have any food allergies? _____ Yes _____ No

Price Structure

1 Child	\$125
2 Children	\$200
3 or More Children	\$250

If a child was not baptized at either Holy Cross Parish, or SS. Peter & Paul Parish, please obtain a Baptismal Certificate from the parish in which they were baptized and provide to Holy Cross Parish Office.

Child resides with both parents? _____ Yes _____ Mother Only _____ Father Only

Father's Name: _____ Religion: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Religion: _____

Family Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

In Emergency Contact: _____

Emergency Contact Phone Number: _____ Relationship: _____

Would you be interested in helping in the religious education program?

_____ Y _____ N

If "Yes," I would be interested in helping as a Teacher: _____ Teacher's Assistant: _____

Parent Patrol: _____

If filling out form outside of parish office, please complete and mail or drop off to:

Holy Cross Catholic Church
Attn: Brian Corrigan, DRE
1010 Jefferson Street
Mendota, IL. 61342



**Las Parroquias de
Holy Cross, Mendota
y SS. Peter & Paul, Peterstown
Cofradía de la Doctrina Cristiana**



Educación Religiosa—Forma de Registro

Esta información es retenida en confidencia y no es compartida sin su permiso.

Fecha de Hoy: _____

Nombre de Hijo(a): _____ Fecha de nacimiento: _____

Grado escolar: _____ Nombre de escuela: _____

Fecha de Bautismo: _____ Iglesia: _____

¿Recibió el niño(a) su Primera Comunión? _____ Sí _____ No

¿Su niño tiene alergias a los alimentos? _____ Sí _____ No

Precio

1 Niño/a	\$125
2 Niños	\$200
3 o más Niños	\$250

Si su hijo(a) no fue bautizado en las parroquias de Holy Cross o SS. Peter & Paul, por favor obtenga el certificado de bautizo de la parroquia en la cual fue bautizado y tráigala a la oficina de Holy Cross.

¿El niño(a) vive con los dos papás? _____ Sí _____ Vive con Mamá _____ Vive con Papá _____

Nombre de Padre: _____ Religión: _____

Nombre de Madre: _____ Religión: _____

Domicilio de Familia _____

Ciudad: _____ Estado: _____ Cód. Postal: _____

Teléfono de día: _____ Teléfono de tarde: _____

Celular: _____ Correo electrónico: _____

Contacto de Emergencia: _____

Teléfono de contacto de emergencia: _____ Parentesco: _____

¿Le interesa ayudar al programa de educación religiosa?

_____ Sí _____ No

Si "Sí" me gustaría ayudar en forma de Maestro(a): _____ Asistente de Maestro(a): _____

Patrulla de los Padres: _____

Si llena esta forma fuera de la oficina parroquial, por favor envíe o deje en la oficina de: Holy Cross Catholic Church
Attn: Brian Corrigan, DRE
1010 Jefferson Street
Mendota, IL. 61342

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HOW THE CHURCH HAS CHANGED THE WORLD

Jewels for the Lord

Anthony Esolen



A MAN LIES BACK AGAINST A WOODEN CRADLE, high in the apse of the ancient church of Saint Clement in Rome. Before him stands the scooped-out round of a half-dome. Most of it is bare plaster. It's marked in rough strokes of black paint, a welter of shapes, hard to identify, except for the cross in the center, which is beginning to take form and color by his sure hand and keen eye.

"Master," says a boy, sitting upon the scaffolding, "why is heaven made of gold when the sky is blue?"

The master takes from him a small gold tile, less than an inch square. He smiles a little but does not take his eye from the cross.

"Not this one," he says. "A little brighter, more yellow and less red." The boy scans a floor of tiles spread out before him, one by one, according to color and brilliance—gold and red, rich green and blue, pale pink and white. They are marble, jasper, garnet, lapis, onyx, and glass, and some of the tiles are overlaid with gold leaf beaten as thin as air. He picks out one that seems to shine with its own light.

"Excellent," says the master, fixing it in the plaster, right up against the dark wood of the cross.

"In a hundred years, son, what will happen to the gold?"

"Nothing," says the boy. "Gold doesn't rust."

"In a thousand years?"

"Nothing."

"That's why we use gold for heaven. It's filled with light, and it will never pass away."

The boy falls silent. Patience is all. His master is kind

and won't forget to teach him the art. His own fingers will soon be pressing gold tiles into the skied that show forth the cross, while the master works the subtle colors for Jesus and Mary and John. And the master will let him work on one of the smaller figures, a branch, a leaf, perhaps one of the birds—a peacock, maybe!

LIVING STONES

Christians didn't invent mosaics. You can find them wherever you find colored stones. If you go to Pompeii, you can see somebody's mosaic for the pavement of his house. It's of a snarling black brute, and it reads *CAVE CANEM*—Beware of the Dog. Go to an old Roman bath, and you'll see pavements with dolphins, friendly to man, and fish, and sea-gods and goddesses.

But the Church raised the mosaic to a height never attained before or since. I'm not talking about technical skill. The *matter* of the art raised up the *material* to the divine. We ourselves, says Saint Peter, are like living stones raised up to be a spiritual house. That's not by our effort, but by the work of Christ. He is the stone which the builders rejected that has become the cornerstone. Can stones come to life?

Look at the great apse at Saint Clement. Nothing in art can compare to it. Your first impression is of a whole world of gold and green: everything ablaze with life. I can't describe it all; it would be like making a catalogue of the universe. A little will have to do.

Jesus is in the center, upon the cross, which is now the tree of life. Twelve doves, the Apostles, move along the beams. Mary and John stand below, one on each side. But the cross has taken root! Its base has blossomed into an acanthus bush, symbol of immortality. You can see the acanthus on the capital of any Corinthian column. Here the scheme of glory is reversed: the cross is the column, its base is the acanthus, and it brings life back to a world given over to sin and death.

And what happens to the bush? It bursts forth into glory, and is not consumed or even contained. "I am the vine, you are the branches," said Jesus, and sure enough the branches of the tree of life cover the dome with their lush and complicated triple curls. They bear fruit, too: the fruit of holiness, of saints, of the New Jerusalem.

Are we there too, ordinary people? Yes, we are. Here are a couple of men with sheep and goats, Here's a peasant woman feeding her chicks, with a delightfully gaudy rooster looking on. Peacocks, lilies, roses, baskets of fruit, even a naked cherub riding a happy dolphin.

LIVING WATER

Most of the time you'll see the blood of Christ flowing down the cross to bring life to the earth beneath, with a skull at the base, for Golgotha, but also

for death: it is Adam's skull, man's skull.

"Can these bones live?" said God to the Prophet Ezekiel in the valley of the dry bones. Yes, they can, in Christ. So the artist at Saint Clement shows a flood of water gushing from the base of the cross: the four rivers of paradise. The second Adam has flung open the gates of a new Eden.

"I will give you living water," said Jesus to the woman at the well. Living water is not stagnant but rushing: not brackish but fresh. It is new water—ever new. Who longs for such water? We all do. So the artist has portrayed deer drinking from the water, careless of the tail of the dead serpent nearby. "As the deer longs for flowing streams," says the Psalmist, "so longs my soul for you, O God."



Blue becomes the dominant color there, a rich blue and white. That is not only for the water we need for our lives here and now. The artist is always thinking of eternity. He is thinking of the vision of Saint John, and the river of the water of life, that flows from the side of the throne of God and the Lamb, with the tree of life on either side. We are made to thirst for that water.

We thirst for the sight of God, the living God. Only such a thirst can raise the mind and heart of man beyond himself. And only a vision of the whole of life, from its beginning when God commanded the light into being, to its end and beyond, in the new heaven and new earth, can have animated all of those artists whose names we do not know, to fashion works that otherwise man can never accomplish, because he never conceives them in the first place.

"Another gold, my boy," says the master.

NEVER LIKE THIS

"Master," says the boy, knitting his brows, "what do the words mean?" He can serve at the altar, so he knows some Latin, but he isn't sure of these. It's a big inscription, running along the base of the dome.

"Ah, the bishop himself composed those."

"Composed?"

"Verses, my boy. Poetry. I'm not very good at it, but let me give it a try." He reads it out, keeping the syllables distinct and putting the accents where they belong:

*EC-cle-si-AM CHRIS-TI VI-TI si-mi-LA-bi-mus IS-TI:
DE LIG-NO CRU-CIS, Ja-co-BI DENS, IG-na-ti-I-QUE
IN-SUP-RA SCRIP-TI re-qui-ES-CANT COR-po-re
CHRIS-TI,
QUAM LEX A-REN-TEM, SED CRUX fa-cit ES-se
vi-RENT-TEM.*

The boy's eyes grow wide. He guesses a little, but the rest is a mystery. "It means this," says the master. "We have likened the Church of Christ to this vine, which the Law made withered and dry, but the cross has caused to be green with life again. That's the first and last lines. The ones in the middle say that we've placed some wood of the cross under the body of Christ here, along with a tooth from Saint James and Saint Ignatius."

"Teeth!"

"Sure, right underneath these tiles, here and here."

"Like hidden treasure," says the boy. "But what kind of poetry is that?" he says, trying to count the syllables.

"Very old, very old. I can't tell you how old. Pagans made it."

"They didn't believe in Jesus."

"No, they didn't."

"But we use their poetry."

"We use their roads, don't we? And they did this, too," says the master, motioning toward the tiles.

The boy surveys the colors again. Light from the window strikes them and makes them glimmer as if alive.

"But not like this," says the boy.

"Never like this."

LIGHT EVERLASTING

If you look at the top of the dome of Saint Clement, you will see Christ the Ruler of the world, with symbols of the Evangelists to his left and right. His hand is raised in blessing, with two fingers extended, for he is true Man and true God, both. Below him is a medallion bearing the Chi-Rho symbol for his name, and the Alpha and the Omega, for he is the one who is and who was and who is to come, the first and last, the Almighty.

You can find mosaics all over the Christian world, from the Caucasus mountains in the east to Portugal in the west, and then on to the New World. They express, better than any other form of art, both the solid weightiness of the faith and its light-bearing power. It is as if light itself had heft: blocks of light, pillars of light, arches and domes of light.

If you say, "We can still have mosaics with the Church,"

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

you'd be right, but what would be the point of it? We have gold still, but without the Church, with faith in Christ, to what would we apply that gold?

Let us then strive to see as that master of Saint Clement did, long ago. For he saw not by his own light, but by Christ, the light of the world.

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"I THINK PEACE WILL BE
A LONG TIME COMING.
BUT OUR FAITH
TEACHES US THAT WE
MUST ALWAYS KEEP ON
HOPING WE SHALL
ENJOY IT ONE DAY."

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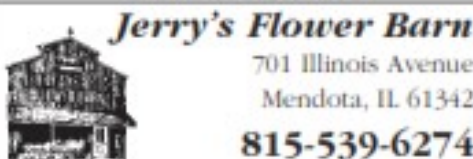
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