

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



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

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

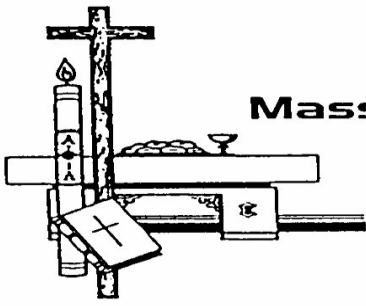


Holy Cross School

1008 Jefferson St. Mendota, IL 61342

815-539-7003

Principal - Anita Kobilsek



Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 18th

4:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Members:
John & Ella Soltis Family by Family

Sunday, July 19th

9:00 a.m. +Tío Joe Arteaga by Héctor & María Arredondo
12:00 p.m. +Alex y Marcela Cortez 25th Wedding Anniversary
by Family

Monday, July 20th

8:00 a.m. +Fr. Thomas Kelly by Fr. Pilon

Tuesday, July 21st

7:00 a.m. +Jean Joerger by Herb and Kelly Daw

Wednesday, July 22nd

8:00 a.m. +Fr. Thomas Kelly by Fr. Pilon

Thursday, July 23rd

7:00 a.m. +Dave Pohl by Mike & Barb Bokus

Friday, July 24th

8:00 a.m. +Sue Barrett by Tim & Lori McConville

Saturday, July 25th

4:00 p.m. Rita Weber by Norbert Weber

Sunday, July 26th

9:00 a.m. +Vicky Engels by Bernie Engels
12:00 p.m. +Perfecto Espinoza by Sara Escatel

LECTOR'S SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 25:	Brian Corrigan
Sunday, July 26:	Nancy Goble
Saturday, August 1:	Clare Fischer
Sunday, August 2:	Gwen Krenz
Saturday, August 8:	Brian Corrigan
Sunday, August 9:	Andy Wujek
Saturday, August 15:	Nancy Goble
Sunday, August 16:	Rudy Arteaga
Saturday, August 22:	Clare Fischer
Sunday, August 23:	Brian Corrigan
Saturday, August 29:	Nancy Goble
Sunday, August 30:	Gwen Krenz

If you are interested in getting on the list of Lector's for the weekend Mass schedule, please contact the parish office, or briancorriganhcdre@gmail.com

MASS IN THE CHURCH

Thanks be to God, 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. Communion inside will be at the usual time during the Mass.

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

=====

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.



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Our Lady of the Cenacle Chapel
Extended Eucharistic Adoration

“I have no taste for corruptible food nor for the pleasure of life. I desire the Bread of God, which is the flesh of Jesus Christ, who was the seed of David; and for drink I desire His blood, which is love incorruptible.

~Saint Ignatius of Antioch

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. July 11	3330	50.00	Denny Roling
Sun. July 12	1558	50.00	David Lilja
Mon. July 13	2492	100.00	Maddux McPheeters
Tue. July 14	3494	50.00	Adam Trillett
Wed. July 15	1293	50.00	Thomas Sondgeroth
Thur. July 16	2447	50.00	Paul Jones
Fri. July 17	1024	50.00	Fr. Peter Pilon

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

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

IH Lawn Care
Isaac Hebert
Like Us On 

815-910-0505

THE SUNDAY COLLECTION

	For the Week of	
Sunday	07/12/2020	\$4,239.00
School		147.00
Food Pantry		132.00
Peter's Pence		12.00
Youth Ministry		30.00
Total		\$4,560.00

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.

Note to All Parishioners:

Bishop Jenky has asked two things of us regarding Mass.

1. Everyone, including the priest, must wear a mask when not speaking.
2. We only receive communion in the hand.

We've been doing our best to follow these directives, but now they are mandates so we must do them.

 **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**
COUNCIL 2090

SWEET CORN SALES!

SATURDAY, JULY 25TH
AND SATURDAY AUGUST 1ST.

C'MON OUT AND BUY SOME FRESH-PICKED SWEET CORN AND HELP A VERY WORTHY ORGANIZATION—AND CAUSE!



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=RzZtRi8xNjJtNHg4dnhNb2MzNzBEUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9138050856?pwd=RzZtRi8xNjJtNHg4dnhNb2MzNzBEUT09)

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 ANNUAL GRILLED PORK CHOP & SWEET CORN DINNER

Saturday, August 1st at the Mendota Elks Club

Serving begins at 4:00 p.m. and concludes at 7:30 p.m.

Dinner includes 2 pork chops, fresh picked corn-on-the-cob, apple sauce, cole slaw and baked beans.

Due to the coronavirus, there is only a limited amount of seating available (indoors and outdoors), and all dinners will be prepared in to-go containers.

Price is \$15.⁰⁰ per person and all proceeds will be used for a bus to transport faithful pilgrims to the March for Life-Chicago 2021 event in January.



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.

****Confession will also be available on Saturdays beginning July 11, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in front of the garage.**

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

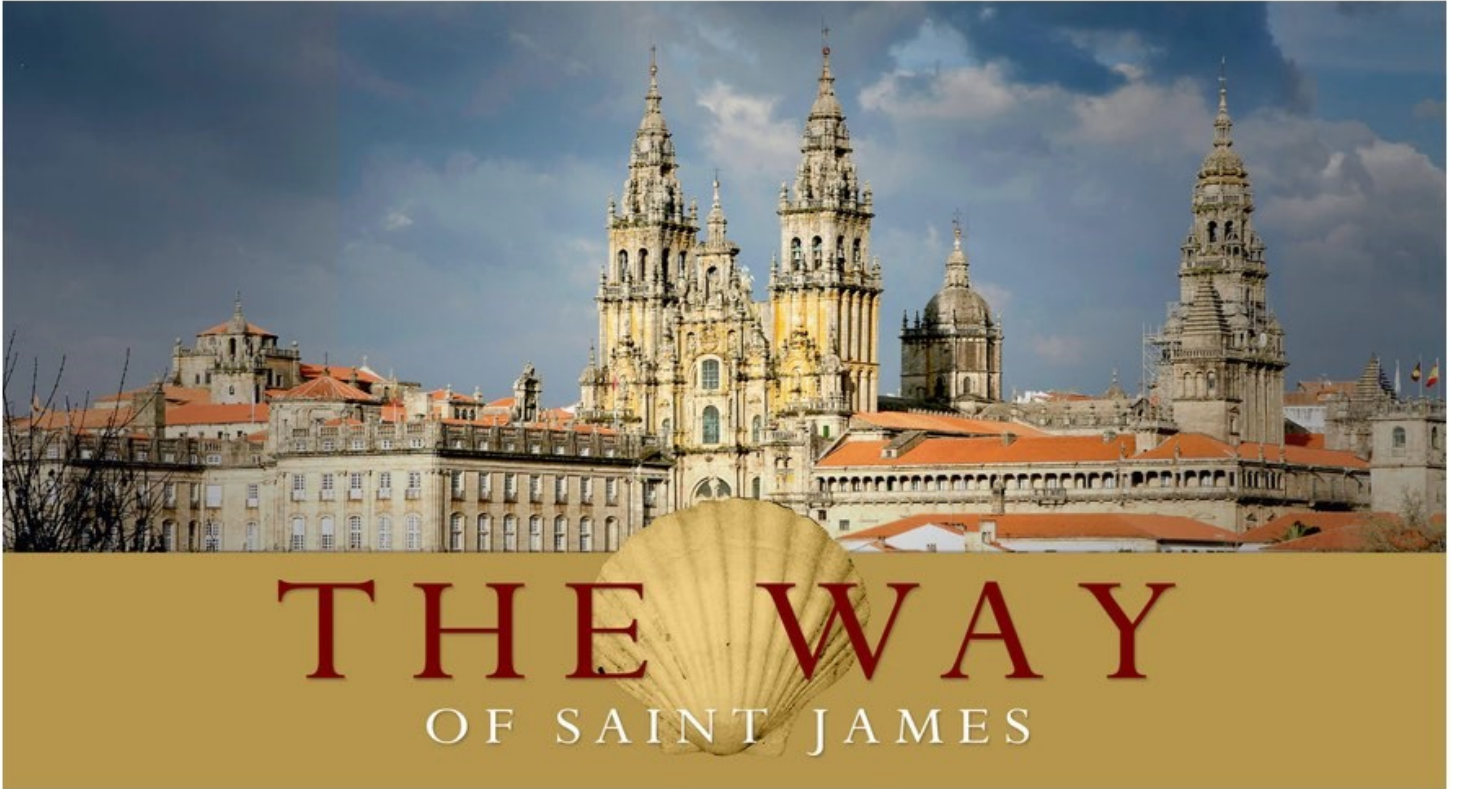


Father will lead the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, following the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

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

FORMED

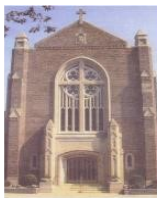
PICK OF THE WEEK



The Way of Saint James

This documentary follows the journey of several pilgrims who differ in culture and religious faith, united only by a mysterious attraction towards the same spiritual destination.

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



BE IN THE SPIRIT

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you.

John 14:16-17

“...for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.”

Romans 8:26

HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED TROUBLE IN FORMING a habit of regular prayer? I have, and I still do. These words of Saint Paul to the Christians of Rome give me great comfort. To know that I desire to pray, but sometimes feel like I'm not praying as I should, and having the knowledge that the Holy Spirit of God will take up my prayer *for me* is a consolation and grace that is almost beyond comprehension. Almost. I have also seen God's grace at work in my life, so I *can* comprehend the workings of the Holy Spirit in this sense.

In the Gospel today, Jesus continues teaching through the use of parables. He continues what we heard last week by saying a sower planted good seed, and still in the middle of the night his enemy came and planted weeds among the good seeds the sower had planted. Of course, this means the good crop and the weeds would have to grow together. This is us in the world today.

The parable teaches that Jesus is the sower and the good seed is the children of God's kingdom. Hopefully that is how we will all ultimately be judged, as well. How many people do you know who do not make time to have God be a part of their life? This is not about judging anyone,

either. Those people in our lives may be from our own families, or friends that we've made along the road of life, or coworkers whom we have met because of our profession or occupation.

There has been a lot of focus in this space lately about evangelization. It is with good reason, too! Those people we encounter in our lives who do not know Jesus Christ must be made aware of his saving power. The next comparison Jesus makes in the parable today is that of the mustard seed. Consider the divine mustard seed that has been implanted in each one of us at our baptism. We received the Holy Spirit and already have what is needed to evangelize and bring more souls to Christ. We only need to sharpen the tools we've been given.

The yeast that Jesus talked about next? Well, that is what we are called to be as we endeavor to evangelize those people within our spheres of influence.

If you're thinking all this talk of evangelization is a bit much, then you're missing the point. My point today is that we are surrounded by a seeming vacuum where God's grace should abound in the world today. Don't believe me? Just watch the news for a week—or even an evening—to see how the world is most certainly not cooperating with God's will. He wills that all will be saved—BUT, he won't force himself upon us.

When we reject God's help in any way, we are rejecting God himself. And to reject God is to also say NO to an eternity in heaven. Do you think that everyone gets a pass and goes to heaven? If so, consider the meaning of Jesus when he said **“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few”** (Mt 7:13-14).

Christ is very clearly telling us not all will make it to heaven. As the first reading from the Book of Wisdom tells us, there is no God except our God who has the care of all in mind when he judges. God does indeed desire that all of his children would be saved. He also created us with a free will so that we can free choose to love God and serve Him in return for the many blessings he has bestowed on us. And choosing something or someone other than God is clearly choosing against his heavenly promise.

The promise is only for those people who keep God's commandments, and most importantly, spend their lives on this earth learning to love as Jesus loves. We need to learn to be bold, trust in God, and begin to talk to people about the goodness of a relationship with God, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit, and how that relationship can make us winners.

July 19, 2020

Holy Cross News of Note



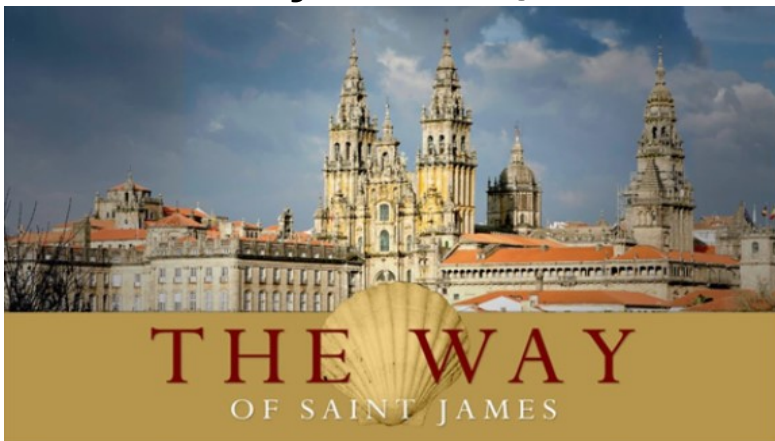
If you haven't taken advantage of the parish subscription to Formed, you're missing out!

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?

The Way of Saint James



This documentary follows the journey of several pilgrims who differ in culture and religious faith, united only by a mysterious attraction towards the same spiritual destination.

**SIGN UP FOR FREE AT
FORMED.ORG/SIGNUP**

☞ Catechism Corner ☜

» How is it possible to know God with only the light of human reason? «

THESE EXCERPTS ARE FROM THE COMPENDIUM OF THE CCC.

† *How is it possible to know God with only the light of human reason?*

Starting from creation, that is from the world and from the human person, through reason alone one can know God with certainty as the origin and end of the universe, as the highest good and as infinite truth and beauty.

Further reading CCC ¶ [31-36, 46-47]

† *Is the light of reason alone sufficient to know the mystery of God?*

In coming to the knowledge of God by the light of reason alone man experiences many difficulties. Indeed, on his own he is unable to enter into the intimacy of the divine mystery. This is why he stands in need of being enlightened by God's revelation, not only about those things that exceed his understanding, but also about those religious and moral truths which of themselves are not beyond the grasp of human reason, so that even in the present condition of the human race, they can be known by all with ease, with firm certainty and with no admixture of error.

Further reading CCC ¶ [37-38]

† *How can we speak about God?*

By taking as our starting point the perfections of man and of the other creatures which are a reflection, albeit a limited one, of the infinite perfection of God, we are able to speak about God with all people. We must, however, continually purify our language insofar as it is image-bound and imperfect, realizing that we can never fully express the infinite mystery of God.

Further reading CCC ¶ [39-43, 48-49]

Come now, you who say, ☐ Today or tomorrow we shall go into such and such a town, spend a year there doing business, and make a profit ☐☐ you have no idea what your life will be like tomorrow. You are a puff of smoke that appears briefly and then disappears. Instead you should say, ☐ If the Lord wills it, we shall live to do this or that. ☐

James 4:13-15



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 bautizó 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: _____

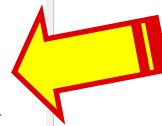
Si llena esta forma fuera de la oficina parroquial, por favor envíe o deje en la oficina de: Holy Cross Catholic Church
Attn: Brian Corrigan, DRE
1010 Jefferson Street
Mendota, IL. 61342

WARNING ABOUT RISK ASSUMED BY PARISHIONERS:

While our parish staffs will attempt to take appropriate precautions consistent with the advice of public health authorities, parishioners and guests should understand that they assume the risk of contracting COVID-19 anytime they enter a public space since such precautions do not eliminate the risk of infection.

For Daily Mass Seating and Cleaning

To MINIMIZE the daily cleaning of pews that will be reused by the same household during the week (Monday thru Friday). Fold this paper marker and place on the top outer edge of the pew indicating it has been used and that you may return before Saturday. Please REMOVE the marker on Friday and take it with you to be reused the following week. Leave the marker even if you unexpectedly do not return, the pew will be cleaned every Friday. Cleaning volunteers will sanitize pews for the weekend Mass scheduled. Announcements for funeral Mass or special liturgies will require removing the marker for pre event cleaning as needed. Unclaimed markers on Friday will be collected and placed in a box for reuse the following week, or take a new marker for your pew. Continue to leave the kneeler down while your family marker is in place as a sign that it is in use and has not been cleaned.



FOR DAILY MASS SEATING AND CLEANING

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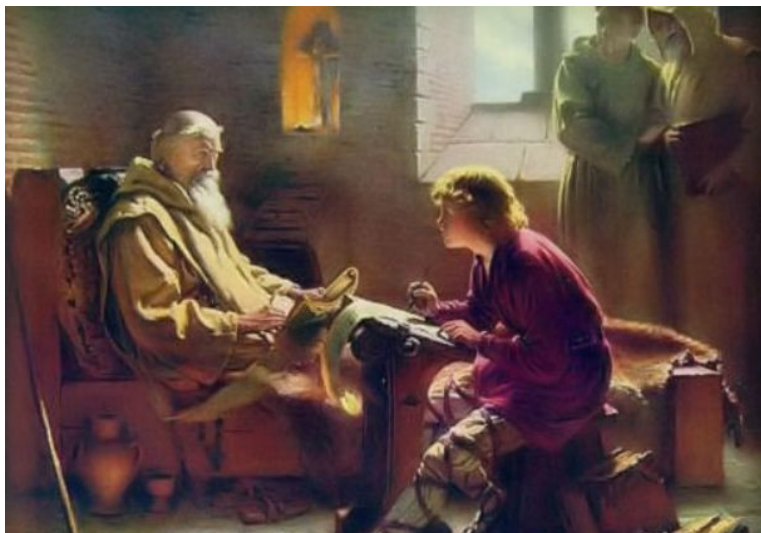
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HOW THE CHURCH HAS CHANGED THE WORLD

King of the Northmen

Anthony Esolen

“WHAT IS YOUR NAME, young man?” said the archbishop.



“Sir, I am Olaf, son of Harald,” said the boy. “Harald the king.”

“Olaf the son of Trygve was a great friend of the Christian faith. Will you be like the man whose name you bear?”

“I wish to learn,” said the boy.

“Do you see this heap of burnt beams and stone?” They were walking near a church, newly built, but ruins lay nearby. “It once was a great cathedral. Our people destroyed it.”

“I don’t understand,” said the boy. “Why would they destroy their own church?”

“I mean *our people*,” said Robert, Archbishop of Rouen. “Men of the north. Have you been on many raids, Olaf Haraldsson?”

The boy furrowed his brow. “Of course,” he cried. “I love to fight!”

“Do you wish to put on the full armor of God?” The archbishop stopped and gestured toward the great port city. “What kind of life is it, your raiding, your putting seacoast towns to the torch, when you go back to Norway and spend your time with goats and pigs and

endless feuds with other raiders and sons of raiders? What is it for?”

“I don’t know,” said the boy.

“Look at me,” said Robert. “We Normans are of your blood. It is time you joined us in the Christian faith, the true faith. It is time for more than raids and feuds. You are the son of a king. What is it to be a king?”

Olaf would try to solve that riddle for the rest of his life. But in 1010, at the age of fifteen, he was baptized in Normandy. So began his remarkable career of fighting for a unified and free nation, Norway, and for the faith he accepted in Rouen.

■ SORTING OUT THE NATIONS ■

“Sire,” said the young man, “I can take down those armies, if you wish.”

The English king shook his head. His name was Ethelred, and he would be called “the Unready,” not because he wasn’t prepared, but because he was sometimes given bad advice. So he hesitated.

“Young man, the Danes hold the bridge. You can’t get near them. They drop great stones from that height. They have crushed several of our ships. We must storm them from the land.” A disastrous proposition, but Ethelred could think of nothing else. That, or surrender.

The River Thames flowed on its power past the city of London.

“Let the responsibility be mine, and the loss be ours,” said the lad, turning to his fair-haired countrymen. He bore a grudge against the Danes for having murdered his father. He craved action, too, and had been on many a Viking raid along the coasts of the North Sea and the Baltic Sea.

“Go then, and God be with you.”

“Which god?” asked the lad. The men he fought beside did not all agree.

Ethelred shook his head. “There is only one.”

“I know it,” said the boy. So the lad Olaf instructed his fellows from Norway what to do. They would not hurl spears or shoot arrows at the Danes. That would be suicide. Instead they rowed in their several ships up toward the bridge. Each ship was covered by a “roof” of planks bound up with hazel branches and supported by pillars underneath, so that the boulders would rebound from them without harm.

When they were under the bridge, Olaf had them loop iron cables around each of the great piers.

That done, he cried, "Row, my men! Row!" And the river's current and the men's strong arms wrenched the piles from their beds, and what with all the soldiers and their boulders atop, the bridge gave way—London Bridge, falling down, as it is remembered in the nursery rhyme. The Danes drowned in the Thames or fled, and the English rebels gave way and acknowledged Ethelred as their king. So continued the historical movement that would leave Danes in charge of Denmark, and the Normans and English in charge of England.

One of the Norse poets sang out, "Odin makes our Olaf win!" But Olaf did not believe in Odin.

■ **THE LAWGIVER** ■

"It was the king's custom," says the author of the saga of Olaf, "to rise betimes in the morning, put on his clothes, wash his hands, and then go to the church and hear the matins and morning Mass. Thereafter he went to the Thing-meeting, to bring people to agreement with each other, or to talk of one or the other matter that appeared to him necessary." The *Thing* was what the people of the north called assemblies for the common good, the redress of grievances, and the settling of disputes. Olaf, crowned king in 1015 at the age of twenty, sought out all the "things" up and down the coast of Norway, to bring together the petty princes and landholders, and to see that one law would prevail in a united nation. Says another poet:

*The king, who at the helm guides
His warlike ship through clashing tides,
Now gives one law for all the land—
A heavenly law, which long will stand.*

It was light, breaking into darkness. Let's not be too romantic about the Viking culture. The great novelist of Norway, Sigrid Undset, tells what might have happened during a time of plague, when some of the Norse in desperation slid back into their pagan practices: the ritual sacrifice of a small boy, to placate the dark gods beneath the earth. The Vikings were skilled sailors, brave and ferocious in battle, more admirable in defeat than in victory, for they believed that a man should rather die on the field after his chief had fallen than flee and save his life. They had much going for them, but they did not have the truth.

And we must not confine these Northmen to Scandinavia. They swarmed over all the seas, raiding ports from Sicily and Russia to Ireland and Iceland. They traveled overland and sailed down the great Russian rivers to Constantinople. Waves of German pagans and heretics had once toppled Roman rule in the west, to



usher in several centuries of cultural decline. The last wave of German pagans acted as a brake against a Europe ready to burst out into one of the greatest cultural flowerings in the history of the world. The last pier of the old bridge would fall and a new bridge would be built up in its place: the Vikings would accept the Christian faith. King Olaf was a central figure at the change.

Let one story suffice as an example. The farther north you went in Norway and the farther up the mountains, the more likely were the people to cling to their old gods. So Olaf went with his bishop to a place called Gudbrandsdal, governed by a man named Gudbrand, who had many warriors loyal to him. In a skirmish along the way, Olaf captured Gudbrand's son, but spared him and sent him home to his father, telling him that he would be coming soon to bring the law and the true faith. Gudbrand scoffed, but that night he dreamed of a man surrounded with light, who warned him that if he rose against King Olaf, he would get no glory of it, and his flesh would be meat for the ravens.

When Olaf arrived at Gudbrandsdal, the people looked askance. They were set in their ways. Said Gudbrand to Olaf, "We don't know anything about this God of yours whom we cannot see. But we can see our god, and you will see him too, mighty and terrible. But if your God is so great, let him make it a cloudy day tomorrow, without rain, so that we may meet again."

Olaf kept watch all night in prayer. The next day the weather was cloudy, without rain. Then one of Gudbrand's men challenged Olaf to ask God to make it clear and sunny the next day, so that they might fight, or be converted. Again Olaf kept watch and prayed.

The next day the people brought out their god, the hammer-throwing Thor, a huge hollow statue inlaid with silver and gold. "Where is *your* God, Olaf?" they taunted.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Olaf turned toward Kolbein, one of his men, armed with a big war-club. "When they look away from their idol, strike," he said. Then Olaf said to the people, "Your god is blind and deaf, and cannot even move unless somebody carries him. But our God is advancing in great light. Do you not see him?" He motioned toward the rising sun. The people turned to the east.

Then Kolbein struck. The idol was shattered, and from its hollow innards came forth mice and snakes. Gudbrand's people fled in terror. But Gudbrand, he was a practical man. "This idol cannot help us," he said. "We will accept your God." So did the rest of the people of that valley. Olaf left them some teachers of the faith, and Gudbrand himself built their church.

■ EXILE AND DEATH ■

Olaf's measures were often severe, and powerful rivals, joining with his perennial enemy Canute of Denmark, drove him into exile in Russia. Olaf returned,

and was slain at the battle of Siklestad in 1031. He was only thirty-six years old.

In a relatively short time, though, he had accomplished much, and the Norse people revered him as a patriot and a Christian king. Soon pilgrims came to visit his tomb in Trondheim, where many miracles were attributed to his intercession. He was canonized Saint Olaf in 1164.

Anthony Esolen is professor and writer-in-residence at Magdalen College in N. H., translator and editor of Dante's Divine Comedy (Random House), and author of How the Church Has Changed the World (MAGNIFICAT).

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Prayer Chain

- † Please continue to pray for a Parishioner who has Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer, which has metastasized to Liver and Lungs.
- † Pray for strength and healing for Norbert.



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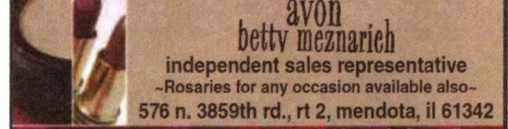
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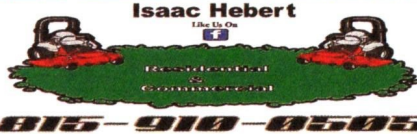
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