

# Faith Loops



Faith Loops are PowerPoint presentations with images and information that will help us grow in the understanding of our Catholic faith. They will be projected on the screens during the twenty minutes prior to each weekend mass. During that time, the slides will loop, or repeat, themselves. Thus, the name: Faith Loops.

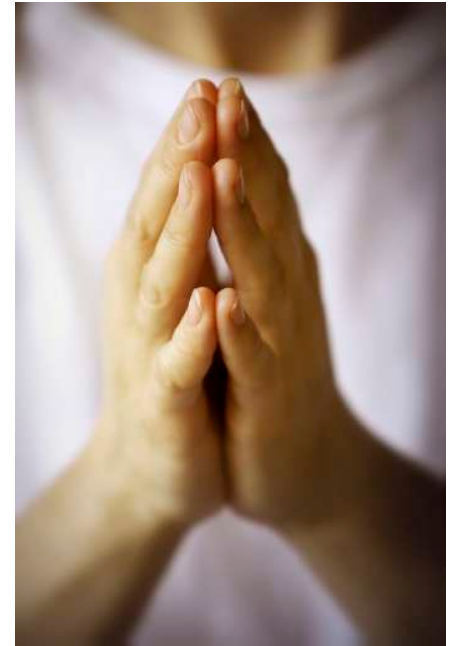
# Lest We Forget

We will soon celebrate Remembrance Day, and so we pray:

Lord, we honor our veterans, worthy men and women who gave their best when they were called upon to serve and protect their country.

We pray, heavenly Father, we take time, not just from tradition, but from a grateful heart, remembering all those who have served our nation. We pay tribute to all our veterans. We are thankful for the freedoms we have today because of their service. Bring eternal peace to their hearts and satisfaction in You.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.





# A Quiz ... The End Times

The Church teaches that there is a particular judgment for each of us at the moment of death: heaven, hell, and \_\_\_\_\_.

purgatory

limbo

# The Quiz ... The Answer

## Purgatory

The Catholic Church teaches that, upon our death, each person must be purified from the effects of sins so as to achieve holiness, before enjoying full union with God in the kingdom of heaven.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (#1022), “Each man receives his eternal retribution in his immortal soul at the very moment of his death, in a particular judgment that refers his life to Christ: either entrance into the blessedness of heaven – through a purification or immediately, or immediate and everlasting damnation.”

## You Were Wondering ...

The halo that is typically drawn around the head of a saint's image was borrowed from the Greeks and Romans, who used it to symbolize the divinity of their gods and goddesses. It was also found on Roman coins to distinguish the emperors. Only in the 4<sup>th</sup> century did Christians begin using the halo to depict the holiness of Jesus and the saints in sacred art such as this image of St. Cecilia, whose feast day is November 22.



# Learning About Liturgy

***In some churches, the altar servers stand with lighted candles on each side of the ambo (lectern) while the gospel is proclaimed. Why?***

The lighted candles signify the light of Christ. Like a candle that lights the way in the darkness, Jesus lights the way for us as we journey through life. Without Christ to show us the way, we can get 'lost' in the darkness; we can easily stumble and fall, hurting ourselves and others.





# Learning About Liturgy (cont.)

One of the ways that Jesus shows us the way is through His Word ... through the bible. God speaks to us through Sacred Scripture. Jesus speaks to us personally in the Gospels to enlighten us and show us the way.

The psalmist wrote:  
“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”  
(Ps. 119:105)



# A Quiz ... The End Times

Where did we get the idea that hell had fire?

Scripture

Hebrew word for 'hell'





# The Quiz ... The Answer

## Scripture

Hell – eternal separation from God – is referred to as ‘Gehenna’ in the Bible. In the gospel of Mark 9: 43, Jesus says to his disciples, “If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.”

Hell is not God’s choice for us but the consequence of turning our backs On Him.



**LET US REMEMBER ONE ANOTHER  
IN CONCORD AND UNANIMITY.  
LET US ON BOTH SIDES OF DEATH  
ALWAYS PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER.**



**~ ST. CYPRIAN**

3<sup>rd</sup> century North  
African theologian  
and Bishop of  
Carthage



## Saint of the Week – St. Martin of Tours

November 11 is the feast day of St. Martin of Tours. Born into a pagan family, Martin grew up in 4<sup>th</sup> century Europe. At the age of ten, he began learning about Jesus and Christianity, but his parents would not allow him to be baptized. At that time, sons had to follow in their father's line of work. Because Martin's dad was a soldier, Martin had to join the army too.

# Saint of the Week – St. Martin of Tours

There is a wonderful story about Saint Martin. One snowy evening, Martin met a beggar who was shivering from the cold. Martin cut his cloak into two and gave the beggar half. Later he had a dream of Jesus wrapped in the cloak. It was then that Martin decided to become a Christian.





# Saint of the Week –

## St. Martin of Tours



Later, when enemies invaded the country, he said to the emperor: “I am a soldier of Christ. It is not right for me to fight.” He then put his weapons down and spent the rest of his life as a soldier for Christ.

Martin of Tours, one of the patron saints of France, is remembered as a saint of peace.



# Let Us Pray ...



... the **tsp.** way.

- '**t**' is for **thanks**. Give thanks to God for His many blessings.
- '**s**' is for **sorry**. Express sadness for the ways you have hurt your relationship with God and with others.
- '**p**' is for **please**. Present your petitions and the needs of others to the Lord.
- '**.**' The period is for a **period of silence**. Take some time to listen to God.



# Word of the Week

## *relics*

The word *relic* is derived from a Latin word meaning ‘remains’ or ‘remnants’. Relics are left behind by saints and include material items such as bones, remnants of clothing, or an item touched by the saint.

Relics are reminders, and we ourselves collect them. For example, parents often save a lock of their baby’s hair, the first tooth a child has lost, samples of schoolwork, and homemade cards that our children have given them.



## Word of the Week (cont.)

### *relics*

In the early Church, the Eucharist was celebrated in catacombs, underground burial grounds on the tombs of the first martyrs. It became tradition that every altar would have a relic embedded in it.

In the mid 1500's the Council of Trent affirmed the significance of relics, declaring that they were to be revered and venerated by the faithful. Relics connect us with our ancestors in the faith. They remind us that the saints were human, just as we are.

# Word of the Week (cont.)

## *relics*

There are different classes of sacred relics.



- \* A *first class* relic is part of the saint's body, such as the skull and bones of St. Theodore shown in this photo.
- \* A possession or piece of clothing worn by the saint would constitute a *second-class* relic.
- \* A *third-class* relic is an object that has made contact with part of the saint's body.
- \*The container in which relics are stored and protected is known as a *reliquary*.

## Did You Know ...?

Black is a liturgical color, along with white, gold, red, rose, green, and violet.



Although it is rarely used today, black has been used in liturgy since the 13<sup>th</sup> century, primarily at funerals and Masses for the dead. Black is the universal color of mourning, signifying the sorrow of death and the darkness of the tomb.

Although it remains a valid liturgical color, black has been replaced by white, which represents the joy of the resurrection, triumph over sin and death, and the glory of heaven.



## Did You Know ...? (cont.)

Black vestments may be worn for Masses of Christian Burial as a sign of death and mourning. Black may also be used on the Feast of All Souls or for any Mass of the Dead, such as the anniversary of a loved one's death.



In all, the colors of the vestments awaken us to the sense of sacred time. They are another visible way to make present the sacred mysteries we celebrate.



## What is a Novena?

The word 'novena' comes from the Latin word for 'nine'. In the Roman Catholic tradition, a novena is a series of prayers that are said over the course of nine days. Often these prayers are offered to Mary, Jesus, or specific saints, such as St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

A novena – and there are hundreds of them in various Catholic prayer books – may be prayed privately or as an entire Church. One prays for God's grace and for a specific intention, such as the healing of an ailing individual or for a deceased loved one.



## Did You Know ...

A saint is one that is 'holy'. There are saints in heaven and on earth. Within the Catholic Church, anyone who is baptized is a saint (with a small 's'), as we have been partially sanctified by our baptism. Saints with a capital 'S' are individuals that have been recognized by the Church for their holiness. Saint Martin of Tours, Saint Vital, Saint Cyprian, and St. Marguerite d'Youville are people we admire and strive to emulate.

As Christians, we are all saints. Depending on what we do with our lives, we are also 'Saints in the making'.

# Prayer Before Mass

Dear God,  
Help me to be open to all that you want to give me.  
My heart is open.  
I come empty and unsure and troubled.  
I come in hope.  
I come in need to be loved by you,  
united with this faith community,  
strengthened by your word,  
and nourished by the Bread of Life.

Cleanse me. Refresh me.  
Strengthen me for the journey ahead.  
Lead me to heaven.  
Thank you, God, for this time together.  
Thank you, God, for everything. Amen.



# Questions???

Do you have a question about the Catholic faith or about the celebration of the Mass? If so, write it on a piece of paper and drop it into the marked shoebox on the table at the back of the church. We will try to answer it in a Faith Loop at a later date.

Thank you.

