

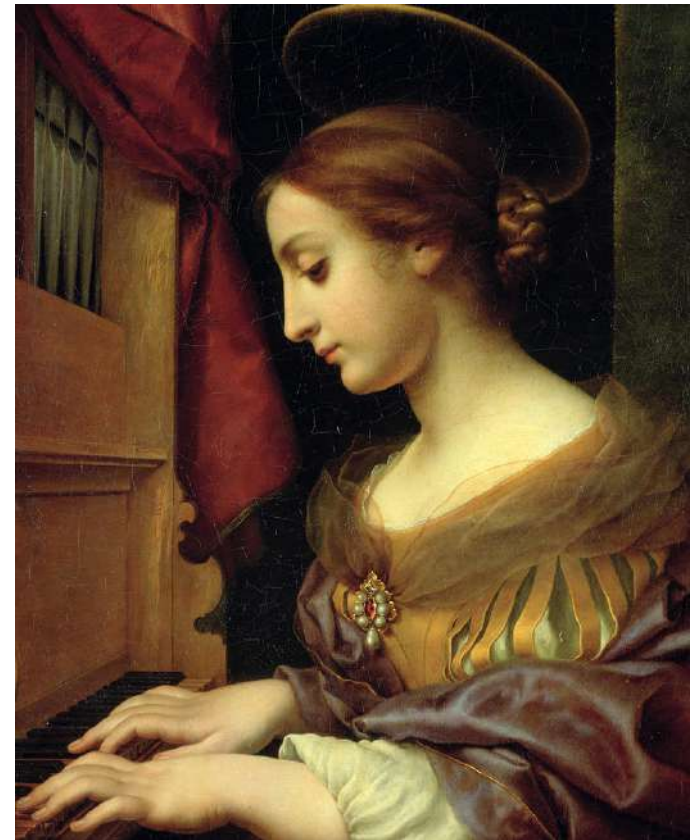
# Faith Loops



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.

## Saint of the Week: St. Cecilia

St. Cecilia, depicted in this painting by the 17<sup>th</sup> century Italian artist, Carlo Dolci, lived in Rome about a hundred years after Christ. Cecilia promised her virginity to God, but her parents betrothed her to a man named Valerian. She told her husband that she was accompanied by an angel, but in order to see it, he must be purified. Valerian agreed and was baptized.



# Saint of the Week: St. Cecilia



Returning from the ceremony, he found Cecilia praying with an angel. The angel placed a crown on each of their heads, as depicted in this image.

Cecilia openly spoke of God's love for all and of her faith in Jesus Christ. Through her preaching, four hundred people came to believe in Jesus.



## Saint of the Week: St. Cecilia

Cecilia lived – and died – during a time of great persecution in the Church. Christians would be arrested and forced to denounce their faith and worship the Roman gods instead. Valerian was martyred (and is also recognized as a saint). When arrested, Cecilia refused to sacrifice to the pagan gods and, as a result, the Romans ordered that she be smothered by steam. But God protected her, and she did not die. The Romans then ordered a soldier to kill her with a sword. The soldier struck her three times, but was unable to cut off her head. She was badly wounded and remained alive for three days. On the fourth day, after receiving Holy Communion, she died.



# Saint of the Week: St. Cecilia

When her body was exhumed in 1599, this martyr's body was found to be incorrupt. Today her remains can be found under the altar in a Roman church. Cecilia is honored as the patron saint of musicians because, at her own wedding feast, she ignored the pagan celebrations and sang to God in her heart. She reminds us of the importance of music in our liturgies and is often depicted carrying organ pipes, as in this icon. Her feast day is November 22.



**THE SOULS OF THE RIGHTEOUS  
ARE IN THE HAND OF GOD,  
AND NO TORMENT SHALL  
TOUCH THEM. IN THE TIME OF  
THEIR JUDGMENT, THEY SHALL  
SHINE AND DART ABOUT  
AS SPARKS THROUGH STUBBLE.**

**Wisdom 3:1–7**



# Learning About Liturgy

## ***What is the purpose of the homily at Mass?***

The homily is usually based on the readings of the day. The priest or deacon, that is, the homilist relates it to our own lives. The homilist spends hours reflecting upon the next Sunday's readings and preparing a meaningful reflection for the faith community. May the Holy Spirit inspire our priests and deacons, so that their preaching may help us grow in understanding God's Word in Scripture and learn more about our faith.



# Learning About Liturgy (cont.)

Catholic evangelist and author, Matthew Kelly, encourages us to bring a small notebook to Mass each week and to record one idea presented in the homily that we can apply in our lives during the next week. He suggests this would be a 'game-changer' for Catholics.





# Parable of the Long Spoons: An Image of Heaven and Hell

A holy man was having a conversation with God one day and said, "God, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like."

God led the holy man to two doors. He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in.



# Parable of the Long Spoons: An Image of Heaven and Hell

In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water. The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms, and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful. But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths.



# Parable of the Long Spoons: An Image of Heaven and Hell

The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering.

God said, “You have seen Hell.”

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew, which made the holy man’s mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking.



# Parable of the Long Spoons: An Image of Heaven and Hell

The holy man said,  
"I don't understand."

"It is simple," said  
God. "It requires  
but one skill. You  
see they have learned to feed each other,  
while the greedy think only of themselves."







# Introduction to the Bible

Some interesting facts about the Bible:

- Every religion has its sacred writings.
- The Moslems, who practice Islam, read the Koran (Qur'an). The Jewish people read the Torah (the first five books), the Prophets, the Psalms and other writings. Christians read the Bible, which includes the Hebrew (Jewish) Scriptures.
- The word 'bible' comes from the Greek word 'biblia', which means 'books'.

## Introduction to the Bible (cont.)

Many of the books of the Bible underwent generations of oral tradition before becoming written records.

The bible is a collection of books – a library of writings, written at different times by many different authors. The earliest books were written around 1400 B.C. and the most recent books were written around 100 A.D. That's a span of about 1500 years.

There are two parts to the bible: the Old Testament and the New Testament. 'Testament' means *agreement* or *covenant*.

# Introduction to the Bible (cont.)

The Old Testament consists of 27 books about our relationship with God before Jesus' birth. Here we read well-known, awesome stories, originally written in **Hebrew**, such as Noah's Ark, Abraham and Sarah, Daniel in the Lion's Den, Queen Esther saving her people, David and Goliath, and the Exodus from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land.



# Introduction to the Bible (cont.)

- The New Testament consists of 46 books about our relationship with God, based on the teachings and life of Jesus.
- Originally written in **Greek**, the New Testament begins with the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and includes the Acts of the Apostles, as well as the letters or epistles from Paul, James, John, Peter, and Jude.
- It concludes with the Book of Revelation.







# Introduction to the Bible

- All the books in the bible are about the covenant relationship that God established with His people. The Lord said to Abraham and Moses, ‘I will be your God, and you will be my people.’
- Quite simply, the bible is the story of God’s love for us. It describes God’s plan for our eternal salvation.
- The New Testament is the continuation and fulfilment of the Old Testament. What was promised and foretold in the Old Testament is fulfilled through Jesus in the New.

# A Quiz ... The End Times

In Jesus' parable about the Final Judgment, the sheep are at God's right. What are at God's left?

goats

rams



# The Quiz ... The End Times

## Goats

“All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats” (Matt. 25:32).



The Final Judgment is depicted in this mosaic from Ravenna, Italy.



# The Quiz ... The End Times

Is it true that each of our bodies will also rise from the dead and be reunited with our souls at the end of time, after the Final Judgment?

Yes

No way!





# The Quiz ... The Answer

**Yes**

In our creed, we state: “We believe in the resurrection of the body.”



At the Second Coming, Christ will raise all the dead – body and soul. It is one of the mysteries of our faith.

Christ Preaching to the Dead,  
Duccio (1308-11)

# Prayer Before Mass

Dear God,  
I ask that you would help me to be open to all that you  
want to give me at Mass today.

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.

