

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.

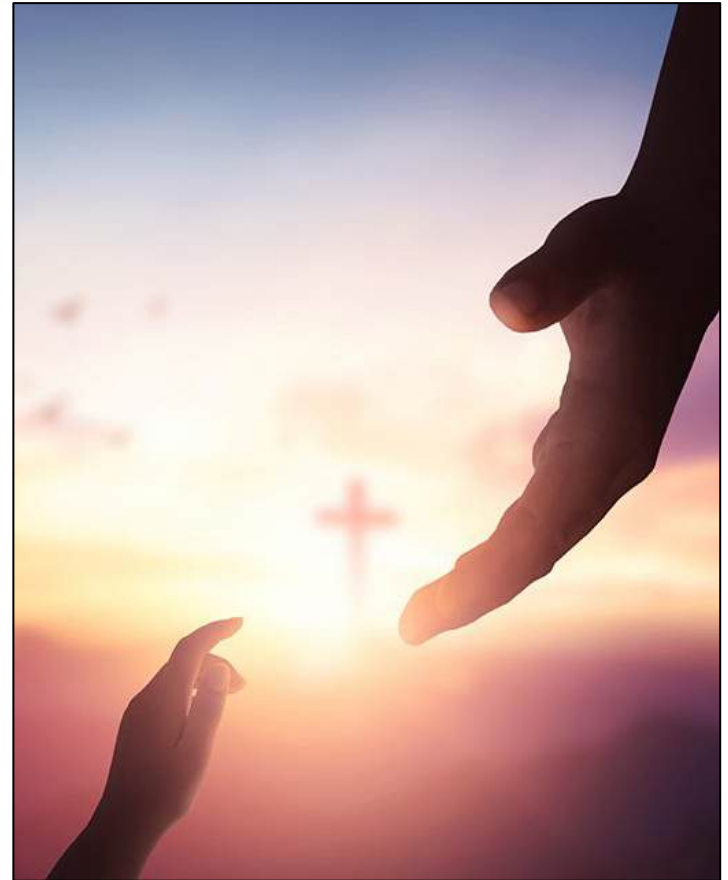


Word of the Week

Salvation

This word has its roots in the Greek word *soterio*, from which the Latin word *salvatio* was derived. In the Christian sense, it means ‘the saving of the soul’.

Salvation liberates us from sin and its effects, reconciles us with God, and promises us eternal life with God in the glory of heaven. It is available to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus, whose name means “Yahweh saves.”



Word of the Week (cont.)

Salvation

The Catholic Church teaches that God wills the salvation of all people. In the story of Zacchaeus, after the tax collector had repented and promised to make amends with all those he had cheated, Jesus said, “Today salvation has come to this house” (Luke 19:9). Salvation is God’s loving kindness and God’s ultimate gift to us.

At Christmas we rejoice over the words delivered to the shepherds by an angel: “To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord” (Luke 2:11). Yes, our salvation began with “a baby wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:12).

Learning About Liturgy

Why does the priest drop a piece of bread into the chalice of wine during the Preparation of the Gifts?



After he breaks the bread, the priest puts a piece, known as the *fermentum*, into the chalice. As the priest drops the *fermentum* into the chalice, he says quietly, “*May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.*” This action is referred to as the ‘commingling’. This signifies the unity of the Body and Blood of the Lord in the work of salvation.

Learning About Liturgy (cont.)

Originally, this action symbolized Christian unity and the communion we share with all Christians.

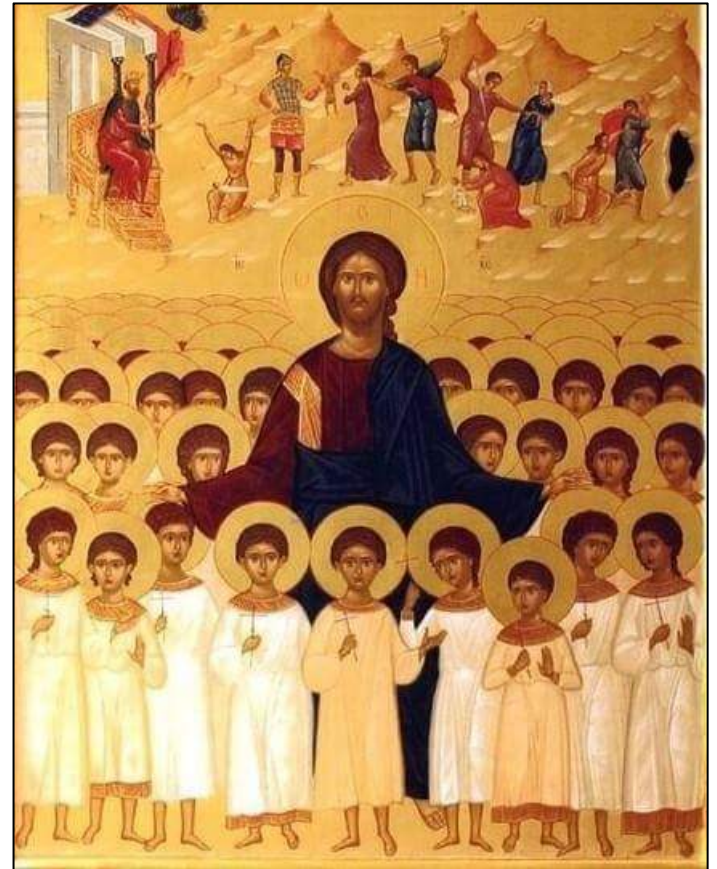
In the early days of the Church, the Pope would celebrate the Mass and break the consecrated bread at the Mass he was celebrating into fragments that would be sent to the various churches in Rome, where the priests would place a piece into their chalices. This was a sign of the Pope's communion with all the priests in the area.

You Asked Us ...

What is the Feast of the Holy Innocents?

Every year, on December 28, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Innocents. Who were they?

The answer is found in Matthew's gospel, where we read about the Magi from the east who were in search of the newborn king of the Jews. They had been guided by a star. King Herod felt threatened by the birth of a king greater than him.



You Asked Us ... (cont.)

King Herod directed the Magi to Bethlehem saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage” (Matt. 2: 8).

After finding and worshipping Jesus, the Magi were warned in a dream not to inform King Herod of Jesus' whereabouts. Joseph as well was warned of the danger in a dream and was instructed to flee with Mary and Jesus to Egypt.

You Asked Us ... (cont.)

Herod soon realized he had been tricked and, in his anger, ordered the killing of “all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under” (Matt. 2:16). The event is depicted in this



image, entitled *Slaughter of the Innocents*, by 13th century Italian painter, Duccio di Buoninsegna.

It is these innocent children, who are considered martyrs, that we remember on December 28.

Coventry Carol

This 16th-century English carol, originating in Coventry, was traditionally performed during Coventry Mystery Plays, which were Medieval plays telling New Testament Stories, including that of the Nativity. The refrain of this haunting carol is a lullaby to the Holy Innocents:

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child;

Bye bye lully lullay.

Thou poor youngling for whom we do sing:

Bye bye lully lullay.

Coventry Carol

The verses of the song tell the story:

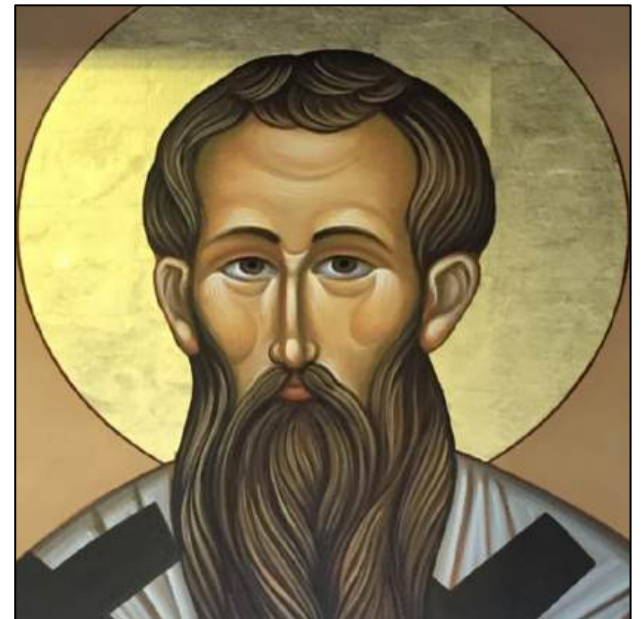
O sisters too, how may we do, for to preserve this day
This poor youngling for whom we do sing
"Bye bye, lully, lullay?"

Herod the king, in his raging, chargèd he hath this day
His men of might in his own sight,
all young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor child,
for thee and ever mourn and may, for thy parting
neither say nor sing, "Bye bye, lully, lullay."

Saint of the Week: St. Basil the Great

St. Basil the Great was born in Cappadocia, located in what is now central Turkey, in 330 A.D. Both of his parents and some of his nine brothers and sisters are recognized as saints in the Church. Basil was well-educated and strong in character. Initially, he practiced law. Later, after visiting various monasteries, he decided to become a monk and founded a number of monasteries himself. Eventually he was ordained a priest and later a bishop.



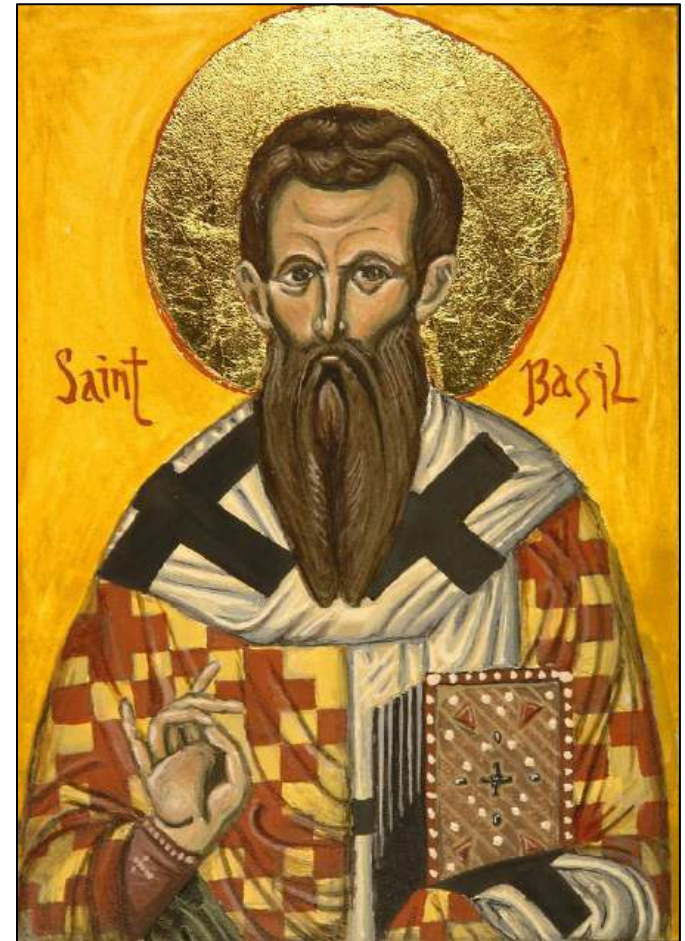
Saint of the Week: St. Basil the Great

Basil was known for his holiness, charity, and eloquence in communicating God's word to others, both orally and in writing. He bravely challenged the evils of the time, including those within the clergy. Charitable by nature, Basil helped those who suffered from drought and famine. For these reasons, he was given the title 'St. Basil the Great' and became known as a Doctor in the Church.



St. Basil died on January 1, 379, at the age of 49. We remember him on his feast day: January 2.

**THERE IS STILL TIME
FOR ENDURANCE,
TIME FOR PATIENCE,
TIME FOR HEALING,
TIME FOR CHANGE.
HAVE YOU SLIPPED?
RISE UP.
HAVE YOU SINNED?
CEASE.
DO NOT STAND AMONG SINNERS,
BUT LEAP ASIDE.**



St. Basil the Great (Feast day: January 2)

The Twelve Days of Christmas

The Twelve Days of Christmas begin with the Nativity of Jesus on Christmas Day and end, on the Feast of Epiphany (January 6). Christmas is not one day but,



rather, a season. It begins with the Octave of Christmas, eight solemn or holy days of rejoicing, but it continues until Epiphany.

This time of celebration was the basis for the popular song, The Twelve Days of Christmas, which was written in the 19th century.

Test Your Knowledge: The Twelve Days of Christmas

The song *The Twelve Days of Christmas* can be used as a catechism song to help young or new Catholics learn the tenets of their faith.

Name the following:



- The 'partridge in a pear tree'



- The two testaments or the two natures in Christ.

Test Your Knowledge: The Twelve Days of Christmas

- The 'partridge in a pear tree' in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who died on the cross – the Tree of Life.
- The two testaments are the Old and New Testaments.
- There are two natures in Christ: Divine and Human. He is true God and true man.



Test Your Knowledge: The Twelve Days of Christmas

The song *The Twelve Days of Christmas* can be used as a catechism song to help young or new Catholics learn the tenets of their faith.

Name the following:



- The three theological virtues



- The four evangelists (gospel writers)

Test Your Knowledge: The Twelve Days of Christmas

- The three theological virtues are faith, hope, and love (charity).
- The four evangelists or gospel writers are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.



Test Your Knowledge: The Twelve Days of Christmas

The song *The Twelve Days of Christmas* can be used as a catechism song to help young or new Catholics learn the tenets of their faith.

Name the following:

- The first five books of the bible



Test Your Knowledge: The Twelve Days of Christmas

- The first five books of the bible, also known as the Pentateuch or the Torah, are:

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy



Test Your Knowledge: The Twelve Days of Christmas

The song *The Twelve Days of Christmas* can be used as a catechism song to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith.

Name the following:

- What was created on each of the six days of creation?



Test Your Knowledge: The Twelve Days of Christmas

God created the following over the six days of creation, as described in the Book of Genesis:

- 1st – day and night;
- 2nd – sky;
- 3rd – the earth and the seas;
- 4th – sun and moon;
- 5th – living creatures (fish and birds);
- 6th – land animals and humans



Test Your Knowledge: The Twelve Days of Christmas

The song *The Twelve Days of Christmas* can be used as a catechism song to help young or new Catholics learn the tenets of their faith.

Name the following:

- The seven sacraments
(Hint: Think of the acronym,
CHAMBER)



Test Your Knowledge: The Twelve Days of Christmas

The seven sacraments of the Catholic Church are:

- **C**onfirmation
- **H**oly Orders
- **A**nointing of the Sick
- **M**arriage (Matrimony)
- **B**aptism
- **E**ucharist
- **R**econciliation



Test Your Knowledge: The Twelve Days of Christmas

The song *The Twelve Days of Christmas* can be used as a catechism song to help young or new Catholics learn the tenets of their faith.

Name the following:

- The eight beatitudes



Test Your Knowledge: The Twelve Days of Christmas

Blessed are ...

- the poor in spirit,
- those who mourn,
- the meek,
- those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
- the merciful,
- the pure in heart,
- the peacemakers, and
- those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake.



Test Your Knowledge: The Twelve Days of Christmas

The song *The Twelve Days of Christmas* can be used as a catechism song to help young or new Catholics learn the tenets of their faith.

Name the following:

- The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit



Test Your Knowledge: The Twelve Days of Christmas

- The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22):
 - love,
 - joy,
 - peace,
 - patience,
 - kindness,
 - goodness (generosity),
 - faithfulness,
 - gentleness, and
 - self-control



Test Your Knowledge: The Twelve Days of Christmas

The song *The Twelve Days of Christmas* can be used as a catechism song to help young or new Catholics learn the tenets of their faith.

Name the following:

- The Ten Commandments



Test Your Knowledge: The Twelve Days of Christmas

You shall...

- 1st – not worship false gods;
- 2nd – not use God's name in vain;
- 3rd – keep the Sabbath day holy;
- 4th – honor your father and mother;
- 5th – not kill;
- 6th – not commit adultery;
- 7th – not steal;
- 8th – not bear false witness;
- 9th – not covet your neighbour's house;
- 10th – not covet your neighbour's spouse.



Test Your Knowledge: The Twelve Days of Christmas

The song, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, can be used as a catechism song to help young or new Catholics learn the tenets of their faith.

Name the following:

- The Twelve Apostles



Test Your Knowledge: The Twelve Days of Christmas

- The Twelve Apostles were:
Peter and Andrew,
Bartholomew (Nathanael),
Matthew (Levi), John,
James the Greater,
James the Lesser,
Judas Iscariot,
Jude (Thaddeus),
Simon the Zealot,
Philip, and Thomas



Prayer Before Mass

Dear God, 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.

