

# 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.



# A Quiz ... The End Times

As the liturgical year comes to an end, the scripture readings of the day focus on *eschatology*. ‘Eschatology’ comes from a Greek word that means ‘last’. It refers to ‘end times’ and life after death.

The traditional “last things” are heaven, hell, death, and \_\_\_\_\_?

judgment

infinity



# The Quiz ... The Answer

## Judgment

At the moment of death, each of us will be judged according to the way we have lived our lives. Judgment also refers to the Second Coming of Christ.

In the Apostles' Creed we state: "He will come again to judge the living and the dead."



# The Quiz ... The End Times

Which human being is definitely in hell?

- a. Judas Iscariot
- b. Adolf Hitler
- c. We don't know

# The Quiz ... The Answer

**c. We don't know.**

God is the judge.  
God is both just and  
merciful.

*Christ the Judge*  
by Fra Angelico, 1447



Let in the light; all sin expose  
to Christ, whose life no darkness knows.  
Before the cross expectant kneel;  
That Christ may judge, and judging, heal.

From the hymn,  
*Awake, Awake,  
Fling Off the Night*



# Word of the Week



## *chapel, chaplain*

The word 'chapel' derives from the medieval Latin word, *cappella*, which means cape or cloak. In Old French, a cloak was known as a *chapele*.

# Word of the Week

## *chapel, chaplain*

You may remember the story of St. Martin of Tours, whose feast day is November 11. Upon meeting a scantily clad beggar, St. Martin was moved with compassion and cut his military cloak in half to share with the man.





# Word of the Week

## *chapel, chaplain*



St. Martin later dreamt of Jesus wearing the half-cloak he had given away. The sacred cloak became a relic that, during the Middle Ages, was carried into battle and even used when oaths were sworn. The cloak was preserved in a small church near Tours in France. The building was the first 'cappella' or *chapel*. The one who looks after a chapel is a *chaplain*.

## Did You Know ...?

In music, the term 'a cappella' is used for singing without instrumental accompaniment. It means 'in chapel style'. Gregorian Chant is often sung 'a cappella'.



"In the celebration of the Mass, there should be a careful selection of sacred music, both vocal and instrumental, that reflects the liturgical context and enhances the prayer of the assembly." (GIRM 39)

# Did You Know ...?

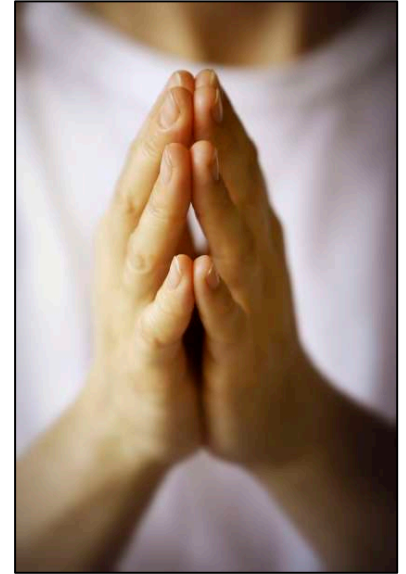
We can pray to the saints.

Just as we might ask someone – perhaps a friend, family member, or someone close to God – to pray for us when we are in need, we can ask the saints to pray for our particular concerns ... to echo our petitions and intercede on our behalf.

St. Vital ... pray for us.

St. André Bessette ... pray for us.

St. Marguerite d'Youville ... pray for us.





# Saint of the Week – St. Catherine Labouré

In 1806, on a farm in France, a saint was born. Catherine Labouré was the ninth of eleven children. Her mother died when Catherine was only eight years old. She was needed to help take care of the house. Therefore, Catherine never learned to read or write. However, she walked miles each day just to go to daily Mass. From an early age Catherine was interested in religious life. She loved the Lord so much that she became a Sister of the Daughters of Charity. She spent her days taking care of the sick and the poor.

# Saint of the Week – St. Catherine Labouré



From her early childhood, this saint could feel God's presence whenever she prayed. The Virgin Mary appeared to Catherine three times, telling her to have a medal made with the image of the Virgin Mary - the Immaculate Conception - stamped on it. Catherine obeyed. Since then, Catholics have worn this medal, which is known as the 'Miraculous Medal'.

# Saint of the Week – St. Catherine Labouré

On one side of the Miraculous Medal are the words: "*O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us.*"

On the other side are the Sacred Heart of Jesus crowned with thorns and the Immaculate Heart of Mary pierced by a sword.



# Saint of the Week – St. Catherine Labouré

In 1947, Catherine was canonized, that is, the Church recognized her as a saint in heaven.

Her feast day is November 28. She is the patron saint of the elderly, the infirm, and pigeon fanciers.

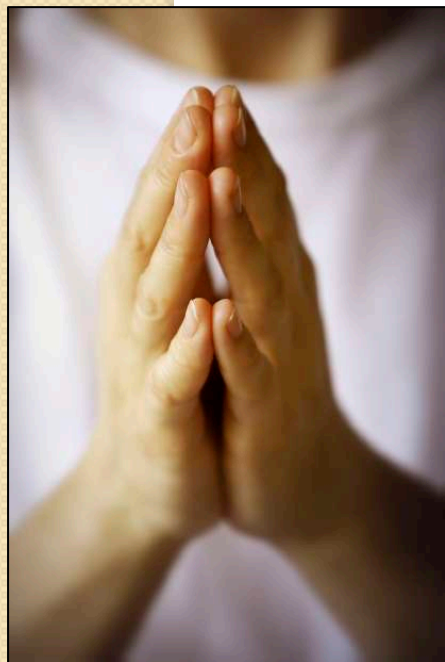
St. Catherine Labouré ...  
pray for us.



# Learning About Liturgy

***Why do we call the intercessions the ‘Prayer of the Faithful’ or the ‘General Intercessions’?***

The Prayer of the Faithful is one of the oldest parts of the Mass. Also known as the General Intercessions, we pray not only for ourselves, but for the needs and concerns of the whole of Church. The Prayer of the Faithful leads us – the faithful – to respond to the needs of others with appropriate action. For example, our prayer for the poor in our community prompts us to do whatever we can to help those in need, such as donating to the Food Bank and advocating for justice.





## Learning About Liturgy (cont.)

At Mass, the Prayer of the Faithful includes at least one intention for each of the following, in this order:

- The needs of the Church ... such as, unity
- Public authorities; political and spiritual leaders,
- Those who suffer ... the poor, the oppressed, etc.
- The needs of the local community ... those in our parish who are sick, those who are unemployed, and those who have died.

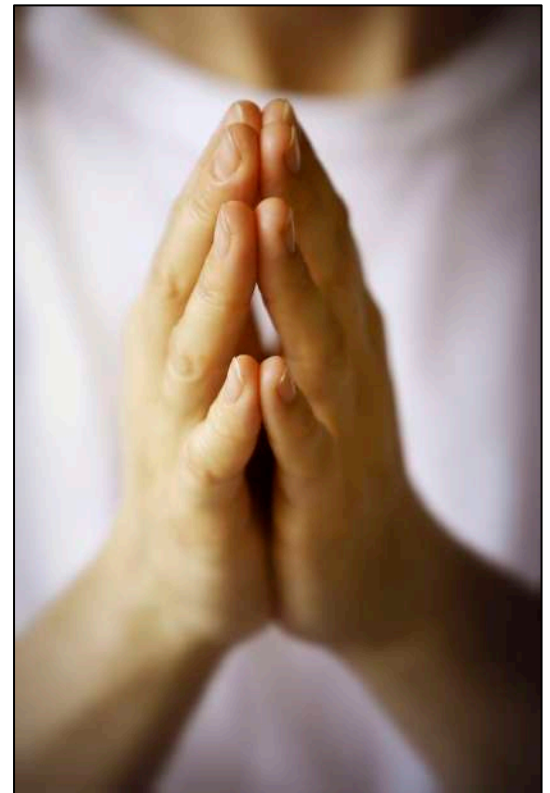
## Learning About Liturgy (cont.)

The last part of the General Intercessions is an invitation to all who are present to silently lift their own prayers to God.

Each prayer concludes with the words: *We pray to the Lord.*

Everyone then responds:

*Lord, hear our prayer.*



**YOU CANNOT ALWAYS DEPEND  
ON PRAYERS TO BE ANSWERED  
THE WAY YOU WANT THEM ANSWERED,  
BUT YOU CAN ALWAYS  
DEPEND ON GOD.**



**Bishop Fulton Sheen**

# Parish Envelopes

Each Sunday, a large amount of cash is placed in the collection baskets. Please note that all donations made to St. Vital Church are tax-deductible. By using a donation envelope, you will receive a charitable tax receipt each year, which you can claim on your income tax return.

If you wish to take advantage of this benefit, please call the parish office (780-929-8541) and an envelope number can be assigned. Automatic debit is also an option.



# You Were Wondering ...?

*Do heaven and hell actually exist?*

Yes! God created us for **heaven**. By God's grace, and by cooperating with God's plan for our



salvation, we shall find our way there. Heaven, traditionally, has been the dwelling place of God and the saints. It is not a physical place but a state of eternal life in union with God when we will see Him 'face to face'. There, we gather with Jesus and Mary, the angels and the saints.

# You Were Wondering ...? (cont.)

*Do heaven and hell actually exist?*

The celebration of the Mass is said to give us a taste of what heaven is like, and the Book of Revelation gives us a few more hints, but we must wait until our death to experience heaven completely and as it really is.



# You Were Wondering ...? (cont.)

*Do heaven and hell actually exist?*

**Hell**, on the other hand, is eternal separation from God. This is not something that God would ever choose for us. It is the result of a person's own decision or choice to turn away from God and reject His gift of salvation. The image of the 'fires of hell' symbolizes the intense spiritual pain that we will feel if we choose not to follow God and His ways.



## You Were Wondering ...? (cont.)

*Do heaven and hell actually exist?*

In heaven, there is only love and goodness. Those who die in God's friendship need to undergo a purification so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter heaven. In the Catholic Church, this is known as **purgatory**.

Purgatory, like heaven and hell, is not a place; it is a process. We know not the length of time this sanctification or cleansing requires because, upon our death, time is not as we now understand and measure it.



# You Were Wondering ...? (cont.)

*Do heaven and hell actually exist?*

There is a mystical connection between the faithful on earth, those who have entered heaven, and those in purgatory. Because of this 'communion of saints', we can assist the souls in purgatory by praying for them and offering acts of service and works of penance in their name.



This painting, entitled *Christ in Limbo*, is by 15<sup>th</sup> century Italian Renaissance artist, Fra Angelico.

St. John  
Chrysostom:

"Heaven  
is not a place,  
but a state of mind.  
It is not the place  
where the righteous go,  
but where the righteous are."



# 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.

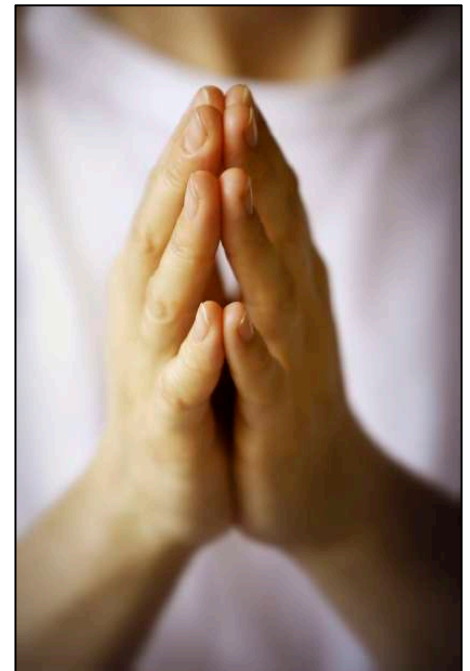
Cleanse me. Refresh me.

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.

