

# 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.



# All Saints Day

November 1 is the feast of All Saints. On this day, we honor all the saints of the Church ... those known and those unknown. The saints include all martyrs – those who died for their faith.

In England, November 1 is called Allhallows. 'Hallowed' comes from an Old English word that means 'holy'. The saints ARE holy because of their strong faith in God. Therefore, Halloween is derived from 'Allhallows even', or the 'eve of All Saints', the night before All Saints Day.

# All Souls' Day

We celebrate All Souls' Day on November 2. We remember those who have died, particularly family members and friends. We may pray that the souls of these loved ones rest in peace in heaven with God our Father.

What's interesting is that we may pray for these souls, but we may also pray to them, asking them to pray for us, on our behalf.



## All Souls' Day (cont.)

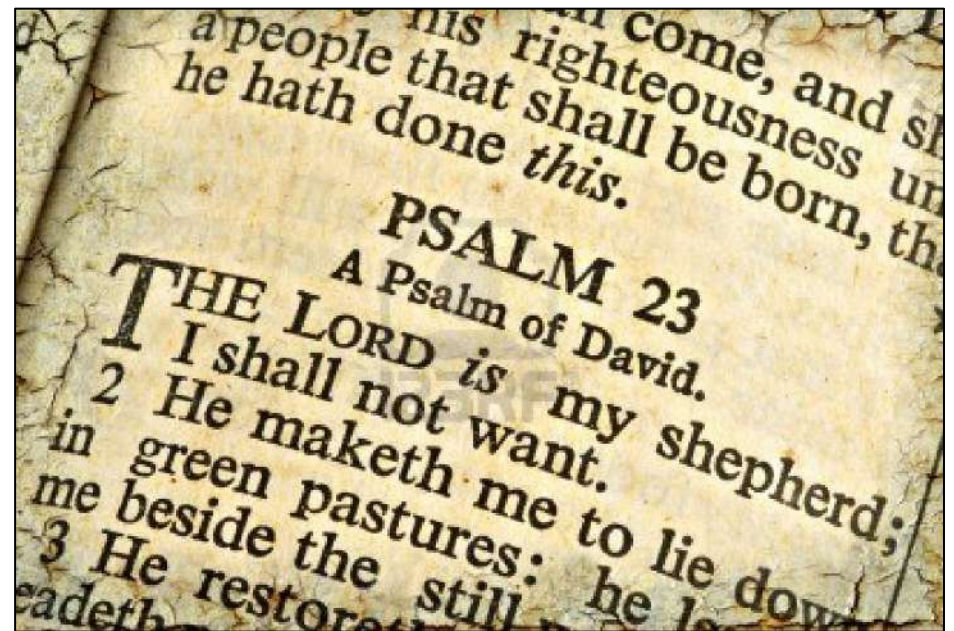


As Remembrance Day approaches, let us keep in mind all who have given their lives for the sake of justice and peace. We pray for the souls of the soldiers on both sides of the wars, past and present, as well as for the souls of the thousands of innocent civilians, many of them women and children, who are killed by war. On All Souls' Day, we commemorate all the faithful departed.

# Learning About Liturgy

## *What is a responsorial psalm?*

The psalm is our response to the First Reading. God speaks to us in the First Reading, and then we respond to God in the psalm. There are 150 psalms; all are found in the Book of Psalms, which is in the first part of the Bible known as the Old Testament.

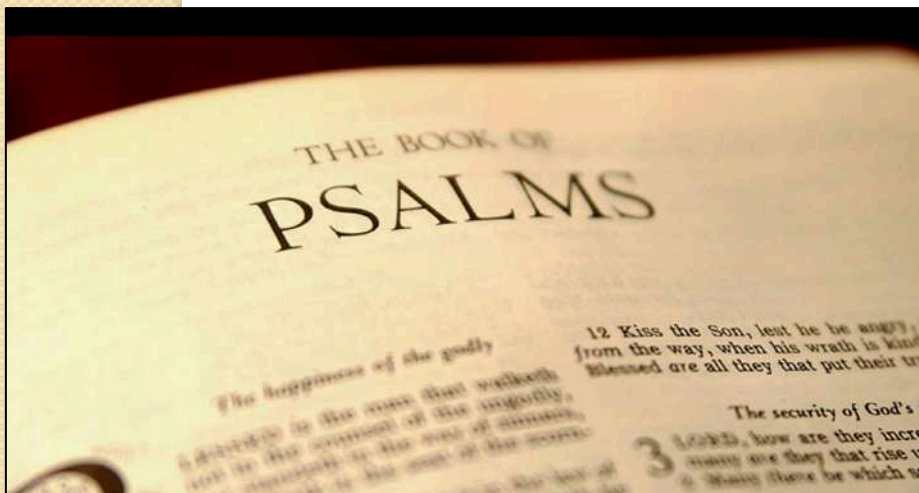


# Learning About Liturgy (cont.)

## ***What is a responsorial psalm?***

The psalms were written as poetry, and the majority of them were songs believed to have been written by King David. In fact the word *psalm* means 'song'. At Mass, therefore, the

psalm is usually sung and typically from the ambo because, like the other readings, it is the word of God.



## Learning About Liturgy (cont.)

The psalms were written with a great deal of emotion, and they vary in type. The largest number of psalms express **lament** or **complaint**. They describe the individual's suffering and his need for help (Psalm 22, for example).

Other psalms (e.g. Psalm 30) express **gratitude** for God's help, protection, and goodness.

The third type of song is a hymn of **praise** – praise for what God has done or for who God is. Psalm 113 is an example.

# Learning About Liturgy (cont.)

Perhaps the most well-known and most cherished of psalms is Psalm 23, which expresses our trust and confidence in God's guidance and protection.

“The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want. ...”





# Word of the Week

## **agnosticism**

Agnosticism is the view or philosophy that claims the existence or non-existence of God is unknown or unknowable. They cannot be proven nor disproved. An agnostic is someone who neither believes nor disbelieves in the existence of God.

(Atheists, on the other hand, dispute or deny the existence of God altogether.)





## Word of the Week (cont.)

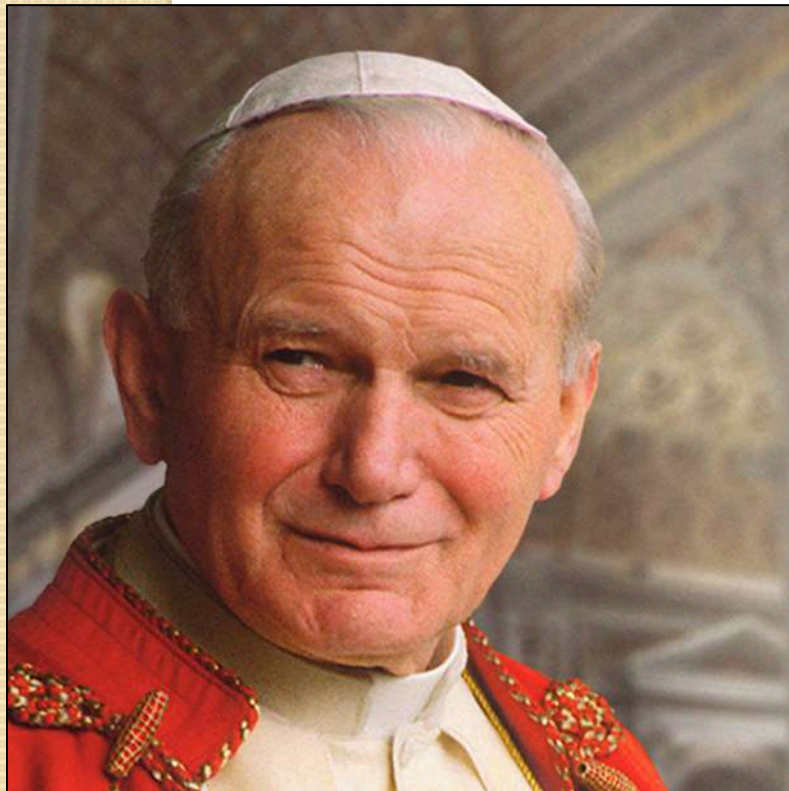
### **agnosticism**

The Catholic Church, however, declares that we can come to know God through both *Divine* (or supernatural) *Revelation* and *natural reason*. God reveals Himself through Sacred Scripture, which was divinely inspired, and Apostolic Tradition, which refers to the teachings and beliefs that were passed on orally, beginning with the Apostles.

The existence of God and some of His attributes can also be known with certainty by human reason, even without divine revelation.

# You Asked ...

*How does a person become a saint in the eyes of the Church?*



St. John Paul II declared that the universal call or vocation is to *holiness*. We are to be a holy, righteous people. Each of us, created in the image and likeness of God, has the potential for holiness. We are made for it. We are destined to be saints.

## You Asked ... (cont.)

*How does a person become a saint in the eyes of the Church?*

One requirement for sainthood is that you must die first. If one has lived an exceptionally good life, a group of people, often from a parish or diocese, will have noticed. After at least five years have passed since the individual's death, the canonization process may be initiated.

Firstly, witnesses are called forward to describe how the deceased individual demonstrated 'heroic virtues' in the way she or he lived his or her lives ... virtues like faith, hope, love, courage, and justice. Documentation is extensive.

## You Asked ... (cont.)

*How does a person become a saint in the eyes of the Church?*



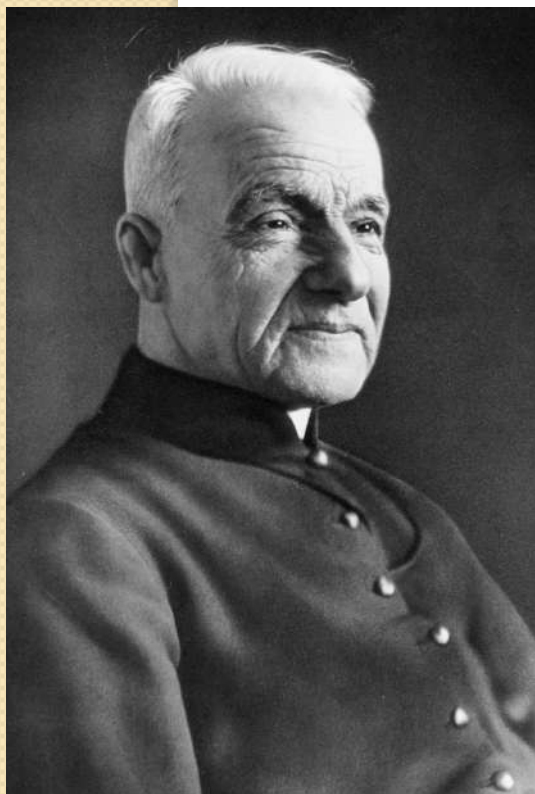
Once collected, it is presented to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, an office of the Vatican in Rome.

The documentation is then examined by a group of nine theologians and, with their approval, it is presented to the bishops and cardinals that are part of the Congregation. If the majority supports the nomination, a summary is passed on to the pope, who then makes a decree. At this point, the individual is known as a **'Servant of God'**.

## You Asked ... (cont.)

*How does a person become a saint in the eyes of the Church?*

If a miracle can be attributed to the intercession of the individual being studied, he or she is *beatified* and becomes known as 'Blessed'. If a second miracle is investigated and found to be true, the Blessed is canonized and acquires the title of 'Saint', like St. André Bessette portrayed in this image. The entire process can take several years.





# A Family Shrine to the Dead

Catholics have long created shrines to honor Mary, a particular saint, and even those who have died. We often see shrines on the roadside, where people have lost their lives in accidents.

It is quite appropriate at this time of year to create in our homes a shrine to honor our deceased loved ones. Typically these are dedicated to St. Joseph, who is the patron saint of a happy death. Since November is a month for remembering, this shrine could remain for the entire month, until the first Sunday of Advent.

# A Family Shrine to the Dead (cont.)

The shrine could be assembled on a small table or fireplace mantle in a visible area, perhaps where the family gathers. Along with photos and mementos of your deceased loved ones, the following items could be included in the shrine:

- an open bible
- a candle
- a plant or bouquet of flowers
- a standing cross
- a rosary





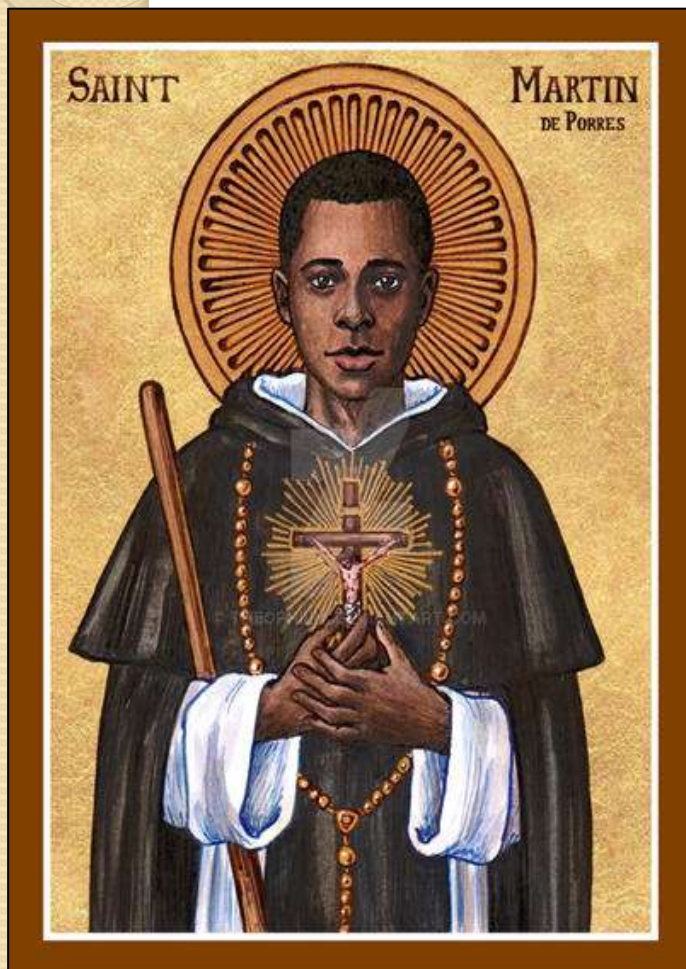
# A Family Shrine to the Dead (cont.)

The shrine serves as a reminder of deceased loved ones and our call to pray for them. It reminds us that this life is temporary and merely a journey to heaven.

The shrine helps us focus on the eternal life we will enjoy there.



# Saint of the Week – St. Martin de Porres



Saint Martin lived 400 years ago in Lima, the capital city of Peru in South America. His father was a Spanish knight, and his mother was Indigenous. Because he was half white and half black, he was treated poorly and did not have the same privileges as others. At the age of 15, he joined a Dominican Order of priests.



## Saint of the Week – St. Martin de Porres

Martin became known for his kindness and holiness. He often prayed with them when they were worried and would help them when they were sick. He learned to care for the sick in the poor sections of town, where he was welcomed as a black man. So many people came to Martin with their illnesses, that he turned homes into hospitals. He also opened orphanages for children who had no parents and were begging for money and food on the streets. He died in 1639.

# Saint of the Week –

## St. Martin de Porres

Today Saint Martin de Porres is the patron saint of the sick, the poor, and those suffering from injustice. He was the first black person to be canonized a saint in the Western Hemisphere. His feast day is November 3.

St. Martin de Porres ...  
pray for us.



# You Were Wondering ...

*Why do Catholics pray to saints and angels?  
Do Catholics worship saints?*

To understand why we pray to saints, we must first understand what Catholics call the 'communion of saints'. By virtue of our baptism, we are all saints (with a small 's'), as we have already been partially sanctified.

In our Church history, however, individuals have been recognized for their holiness. Saints like Saint Martin de Porres and Saint Cecilia, patron saint of musicians, are people we admire and respect. They are saints with a capital 'S'.



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

*Why do Catholics pray to saints and angels?*

*Do Catholics worship saints?*

All who believe in Jesus (saints *and* Saints) share a mystical bond, that is, we share a spiritual communion. Nothing, not even death, can separate us from our brothers and sisters in Christ.

To pray to the saints and angels in heaven does not mean that we worship them. Believing that the saints are face-to-face with God in heaven, we simply ask the saints to present our needs and concerns to God on our behalf. The saints *echo* our prayers before God. Our prayers are multiplied when we ask for their intercession.

# You Were Wondering ... (cont.)

This understanding is supported in Sacred Scripture. In the visions described in the Book of Revelation, angels are standing before the throne of God offering incense, which, “with the prayers of the saints, rose before God” (Rev. 8: 4).



The saints and angels in heaven hear our prayers and present them to God. They are said to *intercede* for us, in the same way that we pray for each other.

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

We recognize certain saints as being particularly helpful for specific causes. For example, we pray to St. Anthony for the recovery of lost articles, and to St. Anne, depicted in this icon, for the protection of pregnant women. Many of us have a favorite saint or two, and we ask them to relay or echo our prayers to God.





# A Quiz ... The End Times

As the liturgical year comes to an end, the scripture readings focus on *eschatology*.

‘Eschatology’ comes from a Greek word that means ‘last’. It refers to ‘end times’ and life after death.



According to Sacred Scripture, this person is definitely in heaven.

Joseph

Dismas



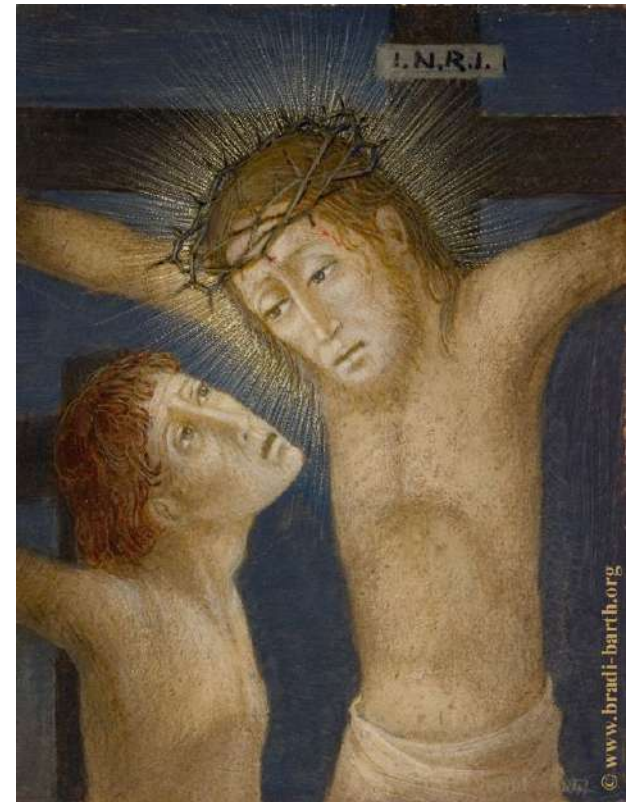
# The Quiz ... The Answer

## Dismas

Dismas, according to Church Tradition, is the name of the ‘good thief’ crucified next to Jesus. When the other thief berated Jesus, Dismas rebuked him and then said to Jesus ...

“Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

(See Luke 23:39-43.)





## The Quiz ... The Answer (cont.)

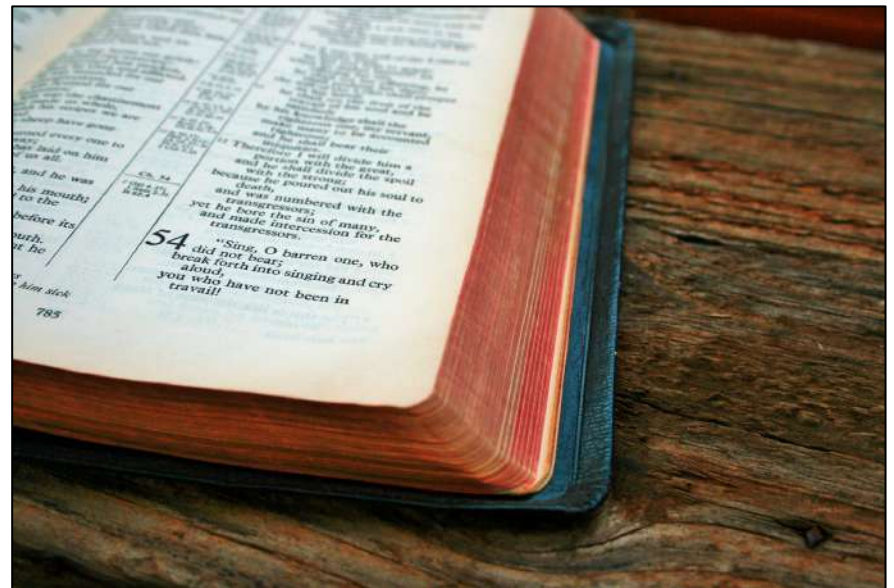
Hey! Just a minute! Isn't Joseph, who was the foster father of Jesus and the beloved spouse of Mary, a saint?!?

Yes, indeed, and many miracles are attributed to St. Joseph. Not one, but two feast days are dedicated to St. Joseph every year. However, the question began with the words, 'according to Scripture', and there is no mention of Joseph's sainthood in Sacred Scripture.

# Testing Your Bible Knowledge

Which is not one of the first five books in the Bible?

- a. Genesis
- b. Leviticus
- c. Chronicles
- d. Exodus
- e. Deuteronomy



# Testing Your Bible Knowledge

## c. **Chronicles**

The first five books in the bible are, in order:

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, **Numbers**, and Deuteronomy. They are known as the Pentateuch. which is a Greek word meaning 'five scrolls'. For the Jewish people, these five books are known as the Torah.

By tradition, Moses has been considered the author of these books, but today's scholars conclude that there were multiple authors.



# Prayer Before Mass

Dear God,  
I come to Mass today and ask that you would 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.

