

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. To learn more about your faith while waiting for Mass to begin, come a few minutes early.

The slides will loop, or repeat, themselves. Thus, the name: Faith Loops.

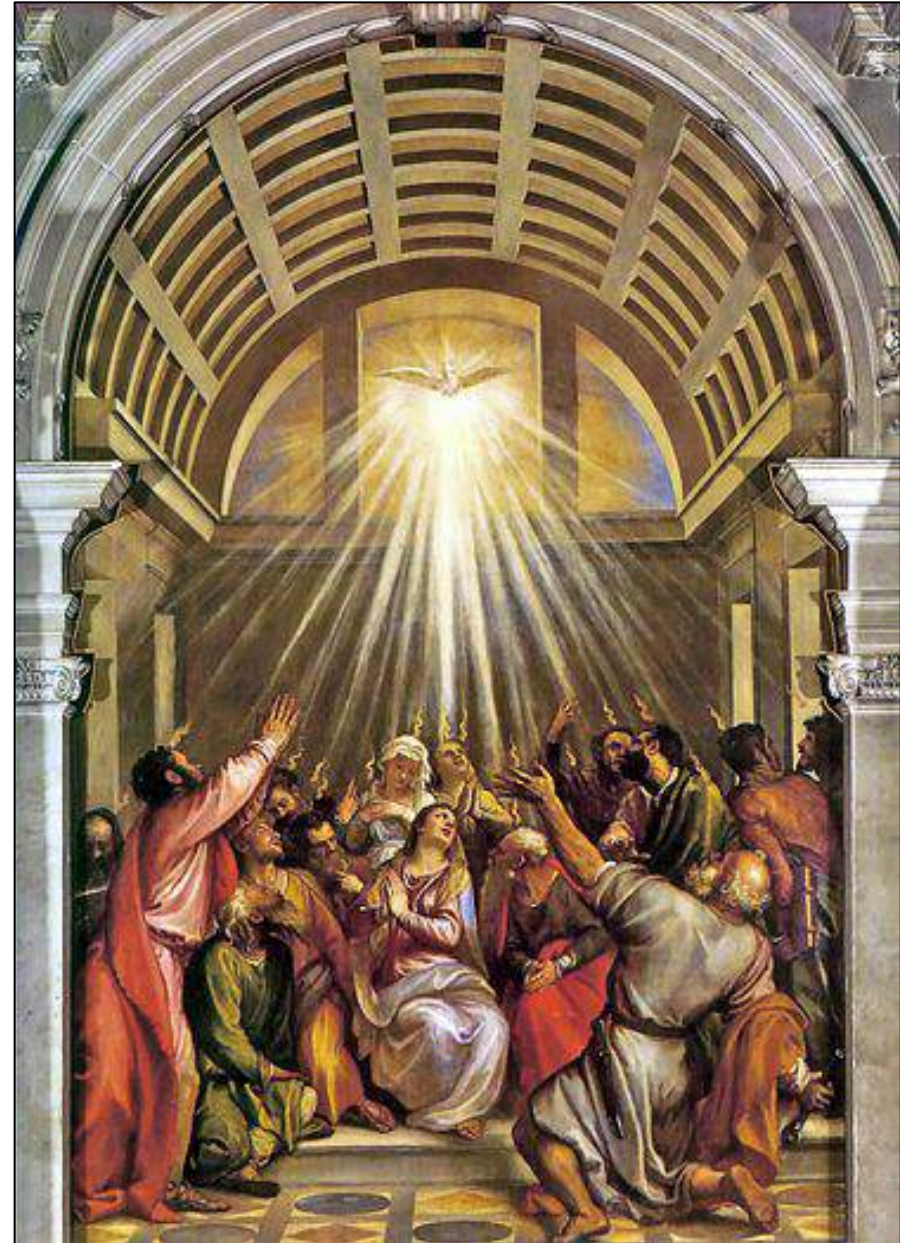


Test Your Knowledge:

The New Testament

The familiar story of Pentecost is told in ...

- a. Matthew
- b. Mark
- c. Acts
- d. John



Test Your Knowledge: **The New Testament**



The familiar story of Pentecost is told in ...

c. Acts

Fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit appeared “like the rush of a violent wind ... and divided tongues, as of fire” (Acts 2:2-3).

Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church.

Word of the Week: Priest

The word *priest* derives from the Greek word, presbyter, meaning ‘elder’, and refers to a man ordained to the priesthood. In the early Church, presbyters helped the bishops with their duties. Over time, their role became an established ministry in the Church.



As celebrants of the Eucharist, priests represent Christ, the High Priest. Everything they do in their ministry, particularly in the sacraments, is to be done in the name and the person of Jesus Christ.



You Were Wondering ...

Why do Catholic priests wear a white insert in their collar?

Worn by all those ordained into the Holy Orders – deacons, priests, and bishops, the Roman Collar identifies a man as a member of the clergy. By wearing the Roman collar, a priest is recognizable to others as a representative of the Church and is ‘on-duty’. Wearing the collar may open opportunities to minister to others, whether it be to answer a faith-related question, to hear an impromptu confession, or to bless someone who has fallen ill.

Traditionally, the white plastic collar inserted in a black clerical shirt symbolizes the light of the Resurrection.

What Do You Know About Sacraments?

“No one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and _____.”

(John 3:5)

a) Word

b) Spirit

c) wine

d) cup

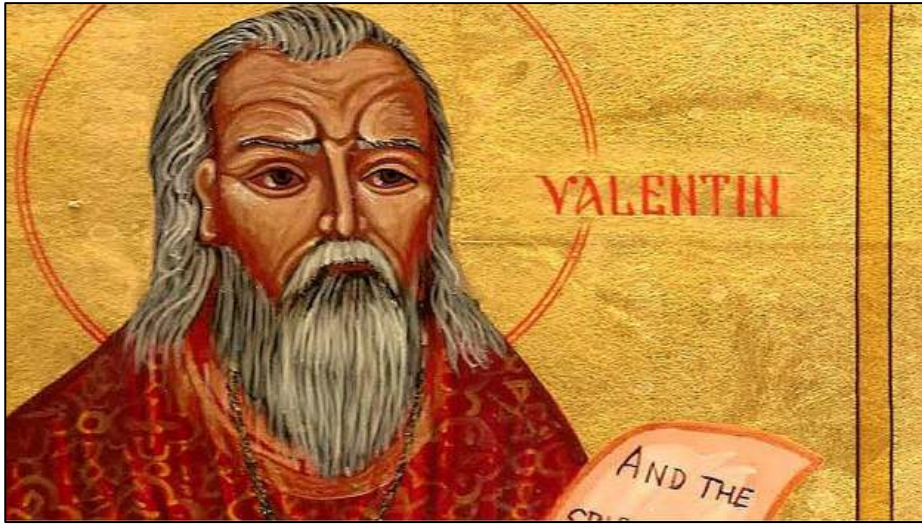


What Do You Know About Sacraments?

b) Spirit

Nicodemus was a wealthy and influential Pharisee who secretly met Jesus at night to learn from Him. Nicodemus asked Jesus about spiritual rebirth.

In this passage, to be born of water may mean normal human birth but is more likely a reference to baptism. Through Baptism, we become heirs to the kingdom; we are consecrated and made holy. At the same time we are gifted with and renewed by the Holy Spirit. We become a new creation in Christ.



Did You Know ...?

St. Valentine was a priest and a physician who lived in Rome during the third century. At that time Christians who practiced their faith openly were arrested or put to death. Valentine took many risks because of his desire to follow Jesus' second commandment: Love one another as I have loved you. Valentine freely gave people money for food and clothing. He visited those who were imprisoned and took them gifts, often anonymously. Eventually Valentine was arrested and beheaded in the year 269.

**LOVE IS THE ONLY FORCE
CAPABLE OF CHANGING THE HEART
OF THE HUMAN PERSON
AND OF ALL HUMANITY,
BY MAKING FRUITFUL THE RELATIONS
BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN,
BETWEEN RICH AND POOR,
BETWEEN CULTURES AND CIVILIZATIONS.**

Pope Benedict XVI



Learning About Liturgy

Why do the altar servers ring the bells during the Eucharistic Prayer?

The bells may be rung to signify the beginning of the Consecration, when the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. The Consecration is the most important part of the Mass and deserves our focused attention. The bells may also be rung when the priest elevates the Body of Christ for all to see and adore, and again when the Blood of Christ is raised. After each elevation, when the priest genuflects, it is appropriate for us to bow our heads.



Learning More About the Ringing of Bells

Parishioners ring bells during the Gloria at Christmas Eve Masses so as to signal the joyous arrival of the Feast of the Nativity. Bells commonly represent Christian joy and freedom from sin and death. The ringing of church bells is believed to drive out demons and other unclean spirits.

From the Gloria on Holy Thursday to the Gloria at the Easter Vigil, the altar bells are silent. In some churches, a wooden clapper or *crotalus* may replace the bells. The somber sound reminds the faithful that something is missing. It is customary for the assembly to ring bells during the Gloria at the Easter Vigil.

Saint of the Week: **St. Scholastica**



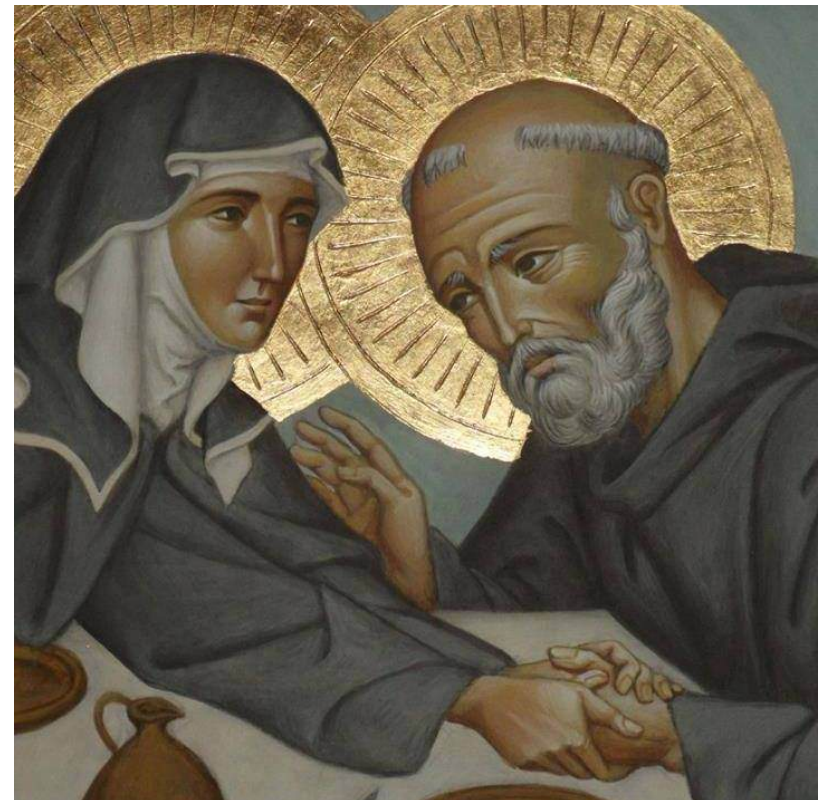
On February 10, we remember Saint Scholastica. She and her twin brother Benedict, who also became a saint, lived in Italy 1500 years ago, when the world was very troubled.

When they were born, their parents praised God. Scholastica and Benedict were cherished by their parents, who tried to raise them well. As a young girl, Scholastica promised herself to Jesus.

Saint of the Week: **St. Scholastica**

Upon the death of her parents, she went to visit her brother. The two always treated others with great respect and gentleness. Eventually, Benedict built an abbey, a holy place for men to come and live prayerful lives. Scholastica started a convent for young women to do the same.

Every year, the siblings would spend a day talking about God together. They'd meet in a house halfway between the abbey and the convent.



Saint of the Week: **St. Scholastica**

One time, Scholastica got the feeling that this would be their very last visit. When Benedict got up to leave, Scholastica prayed for rain. Sure enough, it rained so hard that Benedict had to stay, and the two talked all night long. Three days later, Scholastica died.



Saint of the Week: St. Scholastica

Saint Scholastica is the patron saint of children and nuns and those needing protection from storms.

She teaches us that, out of all of our possessions, the one most prized by those who love us is our time and presence. Through her, we learn to make ourselves available to those who need us, and to not worry about schedules or work.



You Were Wondering ...

Why do Catholics have crucifixes?

The crucifix is a traditional fixture in Catholic churches and homes. What distinguishes a crucifix from an ordinary cross is the corpus – the body of Christ – that is on the cross. Protestants tend towards a simple cross that doesn't depict the crucified Christ, perhaps feeling that the crucifix overemphasizes the suffering of Christ and overshadows the Resurrection.

Any cross, however, is a sign of Christ's victory over sin and death.

You Were Wondering ... about Crucifixes

Historically, early Christians found any realistic representation of Christ's crucifixion to be repugnant. Therefore, crucifixes were introduced only in the sixth century and initially portrayed a living, triumphant Christ, fully clothed.

In the 13th century, a transition occurred, and crucifixes began to show the agony and the death of Christ on the cross, and the figure was stripped of his garments.



You Were Wondering ... about Crucifixes

The crucifix reminds us of God's great love for us and the sacrifice that His Son, Jesus, made for our salvation. It inspires us to a deeper gratitude for this

gift. It can also be of comfort to those who are suffering. Gazing upon the cross helps us to recall the suffering of Christ, so as to unite ourselves with Christ in difficult times. The crucifix also reminds us to have hope in the Resurrection.



You Were Wondering ... about Crucifixes

Not all crucifixes have the *crucified* Christ on them. Some have a corpus of the resurrected Jesus, with his hands raised rather than nailed.

Other crucifixes depict Christ as a triumphant king, wearing a crown.

It is good to have a variety of crucifixes in our homes and schools, so as to introduce our children to diverse images and expressions of Christ on the cross.





**YOU WERE MADE
IN THE IMAGE OF GOD.
ACT ACCORDINGLY.**

Matthew Kelly

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 in hope.

I come empty and unsure and troubled.

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.

