

Faith Tidbits..

*a little food for thought
and some knowledge
about your
Catholic faith*

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This monthly series will answer questions you always wondered about or questions you never even thought to ask... all about our Catholic Faith.

If you have a question you want answered, call Diane Hardick at 633-3672.

Which came first, Scripture or Tradition?

Although some people like to think that the Bible is the final word on all matters, the Bible, as we know it today is a product of Tradition. In other words, an oral preaching of the Gospel existed many years before it was written down and was collated and known as the New Testament. Throughout the ages, the bishops, as successors of the apostles, have passed on the Word of God with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Word of God is both the written word, Scripture, and the living Tradition. Both have as their source, Jesus Christ. So what different does it make that Catholics believe that the sources of God's revelation are Scripture and Tradition? It means that we don't walk around pretending to have all of the answers in a book. It means that we recognize the movement of the Holy Spirit guiding us as a Church to find the truth through the Word of God that comes to us in a living Tradition.

What is the "Last Judgment?" Aren't we all judged when we die?

There is a particular judgment of the individual by Christ at death. The Last Judgment refers to the general judgment at the end of time. Matthew 25:31-46 contains the foundation for this belief, when the king will separate the sheep from the goats. All our sins will be made public to everyone, but we will not be concerned about what others think because we will be standing in the presence of the love and mercy of God. Those judged good will go to heaven body and soul. At the Last judgment at the end of time God "will pronounce the final word on all history.....The Last judgment will reveal that God's justice triumphs over all the injustices committed by his creatures" (CCC 1028-41).

What is the Liturgy of the Hours?

The Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office or Daily Office, is the daily public prayer of the Church through which we praise God and make the entire day holy. It consists of readings in the morning and evening, as well as daytime prayer and night prayer. The Psalms form the heart of the Liturgy of the Hours, with all 150 prayed over a three week period. The book used for recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours is the Breviary. Priests, deacons and many religious communities are committed to praying the liturgy of the Hours each day, and its celebration is highly recommended and encourage in the community of the faithful. You can join others from our Parish at Our Lady of Victory on Thursday mornings at 8:30 AM to share with them in the Liturgy of the Hours.

What is the difference between the Lectionary and the Sacramentary?

The Sacramentary is the celebrant's book. It contains the mass prayers and the rubrics of the movement of the mass for the celebrant. The Lectionary, on the other hand, is the collection of readings (Scripture) assigned by the Church for the Sundays of the three-year cycle, as well as the weekday readings which have a two year cycle. The Lectionary also contains readings for various occasions, such as funerals and Confirmation. Both these books are central to the celebration of the Mass.