



# CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith. ~ USCCB



Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church

September 17, 2023



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**Pastor:**

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**Parochial Vicar:**

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**Pastoral Council:**

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**Parish Staff:**

Business Manager: Diane Wyrick

Director of Liturgy & Pastoral Care: Patricia Pollack

Director of Music: Richard 'Rick' McLaughlin

Coordinator of Religious Education: Ashley Salvador

Youth Ministry & Evangelization Coordinator: Open

Secretary: Hortencia 'Teni' Mehl

Secretary: Marie Eisenhoffer

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**Mass Schedule:**

Monday, Wednesday & Friday:

7:00 am

Tuesday & Thursday:

5:30 pm

Saturday\*:

5:30 pm

Sunday:

8:30 am, 10:30 am & 12:00 pm

\*1st Saturday of the month

8:00am

**Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation:**

Tuesday & Thursday:

4:45 pm - 5:15 pm

Saturday

4:45 pm - 5:15 pm

Sunday:

Please see weekly schedule.

**Sacrament of Baptism:**

Call the parish office at least six weeks in advance.

**Sacrament of Marriage:**

Call the parish office at least six months in advance.

# Catechetical Sunday

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

*"Come to me all you who labor  
and are burdened"*

This year's theme reminds us of the invitation we receive from the Lord Jesus to follow Him and the promise that He doesn't want to add to our burdens; he wants to lighten them.

Our catechists and teachers will be commissioned at the **10:30 AM Mass** this weekend. Every week our catechists and teachers are committed to the Religious Education of our children, youth, as well as the adults preparing for the Sacraments in the RCIA program.



### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

All are welcome to the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Exposition begins every Tuesday in the Adoration Chapel after the 5:30pm Mass and ends on Friday at 7 am. For more information please contact Becky Prieto at 210-725-2383.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Eugenio B., Neomi Balderas, Mary Blake, Rosa Becnel, Michael Castro, Juliana Cavazos, Maria Chavez de Hernandez, Maverick Condon, Esther Contreras, Ashley Cuellar, Emiliano Cuellar, David Davis, Kate DeWein Mary Jane Diaz, Angela Fitzner, Deacon Frank Gallardo, Vangie Gallardo, Sadie Garcia, Danny Gusme, Erlinda Hamilton, Eric Hawbecker, Marialice Hayes, Josephine Janczar, Markus Klink, Joe Mangione, Kathy McCoy, Sally McDuffee, Joseph McKinley, George Perez, Rina Pollack, Jeanie Sanders, Carlos Saucedo, Edward Jacob Sciantarelli, Jim Sciantarelli, Laurie Seligman, Jerry SESCO, Carolyn Smith, Henry Wolff, Stephen Wyrick, The Zetter Family.

### MASS, CONFESSION & INTENTION SCHEDULE

#### Monday, September 18

7:00 AM **Fr. Abe**  
Yvonne Soucie (d) - Parish

#### Tuesday, September 19

4:45 PM **Confessions - Fr. Jorge**  
5:30 PM **Mass - Fr. Jorge**  
Katherine Wilson - Georgia & John Hall

#### Wednesday, September 20

7:00AM **Fr. Abe**  
In Thanksgiving

#### Thursday, September 21

4:45 PM **Confessions - Fr. Jorge**  
5:30 PM **Mass - Fr. Jorge**  
Gloria Escobar (d) - Maria del Carmen Drury

#### Friday, September 22

7:00 AM **Fr. Abe**  
Dennis McCarty (d) - Pierrel Family

#### Saturday, September 23

4:45 PM **Confessions - Fr. Jorge**  
5:30 PM **Mass - Fr. Jorge**  
Ramon Vasquez y Sanchez (d) - Pedraza Family

#### Sunday, September 24

8:30 AM **Fr. Jorge**  
Children's Liturgists  
10:30 AM **Confessions - Fr. Frank Santucci, OMI**  
10:30 AM **Fr. Jorge**  
Pedro Urrutia (d) - Dora Urrutia  
12:00pm **Confessions - Fr. Jorge**  
12:00 PM **Fr. Frank Santucci, OMI**  
Our Lady of Grace Parishioners

### Please Join the Rosary Prayer Group



The group will meet  
**Tuesday, September 19th**  
**at 6:30 pm**  
**in the Madonna Room**  
for a brief Scripture, reflection and  
praying the  
Holy Rosary. For information, call Greg Clary  
at 903-714-0232.

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
to  
**Wade White & Jacob Taj Young**  
who received their  
**CONFIRMATION**  
on September 13, 2023.  
Special thanks to  
Deacon George Wunderlich & his wife, Irene,  
for faithfully preparing the students for this  
**SACRAMENT OF INITIATION**  
through the Adult Confirmation Classes.



Practices held  
**Wednesdays**  
**at 7:00pm**  
**in the choir loft.**  
No prior choir experience  
required, just a desire to  
lift your voice in praise  
of our Lord!



**REGISTER NOW!**  
**OLG Men's ACTS Retreat**  
 Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup> -  
 Noon Mass Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>

*ACTS is an acronym for **Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service.** These four themes are the focus of activities during the weekend. The ACTS weekend provides an opportunity for retreatants to develop a deeper relationship with the Lord and fellow parishioners.*

*More information contact the following team members or locate the registration flyers in the Church foyer:*

Director	Chris Claiborne	(210) 904-4709
Co-Director	Al Zgardowski	(210) 632-2337



## Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Liturgy of the Eucharist is the highpoint of the Mass. It's also the summit of our entire faith and worship. There is no more perfect way to worship God than to enter into the celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice, adore His divine presence and receive Him in Holy Communion.

### THE RITE OF HOLY COMMUNION:

The Rite of Holy Communion encompasses all the prayers and actions that immediately prepare us to receive this precious gift. These include: 1) The Our Father; 2) The Sign of Peace; 3) The Fractioning; 4) The "Beholding;" 5) Holy Communion; 6) The Communion antiphon; 7) The Closing Prayer; 8) The Blessing.

Let's look at each of these actions in more detail.

**2.) Sign of peace:** Communion not only establishes a deeper unity with God, it also establishes a deeper unity and intimacy with one another. Thus, the Sign of Peace is a symbolic way of expressing the communion we have with one another.

*Next Week: Part 3 The Fractioning*

Content Sources: mycatholiclife.com



Please join "Walking With Moms in Need" in supporting Allied Women's Center.

## ALLIED WOMEN'S CENTER

### 14TH ANNUAL GALA

HOLY TRINITY BANQUET HALL  
 FRIDAY OCTOBER 20, 2023

6-9 PM

Founder and President of Save the 1, Rebecca is a voice for babies conceived in rape. She has helped pregnant rape victims all around the world to choose life for their children.

#### Keynote Speaker



Rebecca Kiessler

#### Table Sponsorships

- Bronze: \$750
- Silver: \$1,250
- Gold: \$2,500
- Platinum: \$5,000

The donation you make at the Gala enables Allied to continue **SAVING BABIES-HELPING FAMILIES**

Scan to reserve seat!  
[alliedwomenscenter.com](http://alliedwomenscenter.com)





# **OLG PARISH MINISTRY FAIR**

**Sunday  
September 17th  
8:30am - 12pm**

**Religious Education (Catechists)      Bible Study (Formation)  
Youth Ministry (Evangelization)      Music & Choir (Liturgy)  
Children's Liturgy of the Word (Liturgy)  
Lectors (Liturgy)      Sacristans (Liturgy)      ACTS (Evangelization)  
Eucharistic Ministers of the Holy Communion (Liturgy)  
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults-RCIA (Evangelization)  
Eucharistic Adoration (Evangelization)  
Knights of Columbus (Evangelization)      Parish Guild (Hospitality)  
Ministry to the Sick & Homebound (Pastoral Care)  
Rosary Prayer Ministry (Evangelization)**



**Come explore  
where God  
might be  
calling you!**



## SUNDAY, 17TH

- *Ministry Fair*  
8:30am - 12pm

## TUESDAY, 19TH

- *TMIY-That Man Is You!* 6:15am
- *Rosary Prayer Group* 6:30pm

## WEDNESDAY, 20TH

- *Psalms Bible Study* (\$) 9:30am
- *RCIA - 2nd Inquiry Session* 7:00pm
- *Pastoral Council Meeting* 6:30pm

## SATURDAY, 23RD

- *Bishop Fulton Sheen Men's Bible Study*  
8:30am



### FORGIVENESS

Nearly ten years before, a son and father had parted ways when the business they shared went bankrupt. The son blamed the father. They did not speak to each other again.

Then the father became seriously ill. The mother called the son and told him he had better come soon. The son walked sheepishly into the hospital room. The father motioned his son to him and whispered: "Did you ever think you could do anything that would keep me from loving you?"

Resentment and anger are foul things, the first reading from Sirach tells us. Remember the last things. Stop hating. Live by the commandments. As Saint Paul writes to the Romans, we are to live for the Lord and die for the Lord.

Jesus' parable in today's Gospel reminds us of God's compassion. The immense sin of humanity has been forgiven and stricken from the record. We are to forgive others in the same way.

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#### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Remember the commandments and hate not your neighbor (Sirach 27:30 — 28:9).

**Psalms** — The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion (Psalm 103).


**Second Reading** — Whether we live, or whether we die, we do so for the Lord (Romans 14:7-9).

**Gospel** — Forgive one another from your heart (Matthew 18:21-35).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7-9; Lk 7:1-10  
 Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13; Ps 101:1b-3ab, 5-6; Lk 7:11-17  
 Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-6; Lk 7:31-35  
 Thursday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13  
 Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-10, 17-20; Lk 8:1-3  
 Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 8:4-15  
 Sunday: Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a



**“Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive?”**

Love, kindness, gentleness, mercy...these and many like qualities are easy to think about. They inspire us to be holy by growing in virtue. But sometimes we need more. Sometimes pondering the beauty of the virtues and fruits of the Spirit do not suffice to help us embrace a life of holiness. This is one of the reasons for our parable today. The Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola present us with a structure by which a spiritual director may lead a retreatant through a thirty day private retreat. Ignatius outlines thirty days worth of meditations. Interestingly, Ignatius does not begin by inviting a person to ponder the beautiful virtues to which they are called. Instead, for the first week, he has the retreatant ponder the horror of sin and the devastating effects that sin has upon a soul. By doing this, the person's eyes are more fully opened to their own sin so that, in the subsequent three weeks, they will be more properly disposed to reflect upon the inspiring life of Christ and His many virtues. In a sense, our Gospel today is an ideal Gospel to ponder during that first week of an Ignatian retreat. And for that reason, it is an ideal Gospel to ponder anytime we want to get our spiritual lives in order. It is very easy to become complacent in our Christian walk. It is easy to become lukewarm in our prayer and even in our moral life. If that is you to any degree, then this Gospel is worth your careful and thorough attention. The sin that Jesus addresses in this passage is the sin of unforgiveness. It clearly depicts the wrath of God that will be inflicted upon those who refuse to forgive others. The "wicked servant" to whom this is addressed was a man who was forgiven a "huge amount" by God. This is all of us. Every one of us has been forgiven by God an amount that cost Jesus His very life. The consequence of our sins was the death of the Son of God. Each of us deserves the penalty of death. But death has now been transformed into the very means of new life through the forgiveness of sins. And if we want to receive the forgiveness of sins and the new life that awaits us, we must fully share in God's forgiveness. Not only must we receive His forgiveness, we must also forgive those who have sinned against us. Completely. Totally. Without reserve. In this parable, the wicked servant failed to forgive his servant's small debt. In fact, every sin committed against us, no matter how grave in the eyes of God, is a small debt compared to the debt we owe God. For that reason, we must never hesitate to forgive. Never. If this is difficult, and if reflecting upon God's mercy, kindness, compassion and love do not compel you to completely forgive everyone to the fullest extent, then spend time with this parable. "You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?" These are words directed at us when we fail to forgive completely from the depths of our hearts. They are merciful words from Jesus to help us wake up to what we need to do. In a commentary on this passage from St. Thomas Aquinas, the "torturers" spoken of, to whom we will be handed over if we do not forgive, are the demons. They will torment us when we lack forgiveness toward others. The torture, for now, will come in the form of obsessing over our wounds, dwelling upon thoughts of revenge, holding grudges, and lacking interior peace. This is the work of the demons, and they will torment us this way until we forgive. Reflect, today, upon the absolute requirement of the Christian life to forgive. Mercy can seem unfair. From the perspective of strict justice, it is. But from the perspective of freedom and the virtues of Heaven, mercy makes perfect sense. Do not hesitate to forgive, for if you can do so from the bottom of your heart, God will lavish upon you the riches of the Kingdom of Heaven.

***Most merciful Lord, You have forgiven me a huge debt. The cost of my sin was Your death on the Cross. Please fill my heart with such gratitude for this gift that I, in turn, offer the same depth of mercy to others. May I never waver in this depth of mercy so that I am freed from the torments that come from unforgiveness. Jesus, I trust in You.***