



# The Word

**“Let the little children come to Me.”**

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**Special points of interest:**

- \* NO PSR on the following dates:
- \* November 23
- \* December 28
- \* February 22—Ash Wednesday
- \* April 4—Holy Week

**Don't forget that we don't have classes on November 23rd due to the Thanksgiving holidays.** But that's not the only reason to be thankful this Thanksgiving. This is a time to remember that no matter how bad things seem right now, there is always someone who has it worse. I am reminded of the Jewish proverb "I felt sorry for myself because I had no shoes, and then I met a man who had no feet."

To help keep things in perspective, I like to pray the following prayer that I got from [www.turnbacktoGod.com](http://www.turnbacktoGod.com):

**Thank You Prayer**

Lord, thank you for this sink of dirty dishes; we have plenty of food to eat.  
 Thank you for this pile of dirty, stinky laundry; we have plenty of nice clothes to wear.

And I would like to thank you, Lord, for those unmade beds; they were so warm and comfortable last night. I know that many have no bed.  
 My thanks to you, Lord, for this bathroom, complete with all the splattered mirrors, soggy, grimy towels and dirty

lavatory; they are so convenient.  
 Thank you for this finger-smudged refrigerator that needs defrosting so badly; It has served us so faithfully for many years. It is full of cold drinks and enough leftovers for two or three meals.

Thank you, Lord, for this oven that absolutely must be cleaned today. It has baked so many things over the years.

The whole family is grateful for that tall grass that needs mowing, the lawn that needs raking; we all enjoy the yard.

Thank you, Lord, even for the slamming screen door. My kids are healthy and able to run and play.

Lord, the presence of all these chores awaiting me says You have richly blessed my family. I shall do them cheerfully and I shall do them gratefully. Amen.



**Lessons on Gratitude**

- ☺ **Make it a practice to ask children on a daily basis to name something for which they are thankful.**
- ☺ **Ask children to write a prayer of thanks to God.**



**THANKS, GOD!**

- ☺ **Help children to see that God has given them blessings to share. Discuss the poor and needy. Talk about how God has trusted us to use our gifts to help those who have less.**
- ☺ **Encourage children to think about and pray for those in need.**
- ☺ **Encourage children to begin every day by praying this simple prayer, "Thank you, God, for another day. Help me to make it pleasing to you. Amen."**

## Confirmation

There is a Confirmation Parent Meeting at 6:15 pm in the church on Wednesday, November 16th, during PSR. At least one parent and/or the sponsor should attend with their Confirmation candidate.

Mark your calendars for the following important dates. All Confirmation candidates are required to attend a retreat. We will be having a Luke 18 Retreat on Friday, March 2nd until Sunday, March 4th, at Camp Rockyvine in Dutzow, MO.

Confirmation practice is Thursday, April 19th, at 7:00 pm in the church. Confirmation is Friday, April 20th, 2012 at 7:30 pm at Sacred Heart Church. Candidates and their sponsors must be lined up in the cafeteria at 7:00 pm to meet with the Bishop.



## First Reconciliation

First Reconciliation for the second grade PSR students and those Sacramental students who are in their second year of studying to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance, Confession) is set for Wednesday, January 25th, at 6:15 pm in the church (during PSR). Parents, please park on the side lot by the church. Students should wear their church clothes for this important event.

Parents will be receiving pamphlets to work on together with their children to help prepare them for the sacrament. Please practice their Act of Contrition with them at home.

## Why Should I Go to Confession?

[www.catholicscomehome.org](http://www.catholicscomehome.org)

Sin is a fact of life. Whether we're guilty of the sins of the flesh, sins of pride, or some other kind of moral failing, we all fall prey to sin. All sins separate us from God.

As the Bible reminds us, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:8-9).

The problem is that many people become comfortable with living in the state of sin and never really make any effort to turn their hearts back toward the Lord with repentance and a firm desire to avoid sin and grow in holiness. There are even those who live an outward life of apparent goodness, but inwardly, they are practicing sins that keep them from the relationship with the Lord that He desires for them. "He who says, 'I know him' but disobeys his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:4).

The good news is that Jesus Christ wants to free you from the chains of sin, give you new life in grace and lead you to the heights of holiness. But he won't do that against your will. You must be willing to say "yes" to His gifts of grace and forgiveness. And the very first step along that path is to make a good, sincere, heartfelt confession of your sins.

Even if it's been many years since you last went to Confession, there's no reason to be afraid or to delay. You can change your life today, simply by discovering Christ and His mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation!



## Family Advent Penance Service

There is an Advent Penance Service for the parish on Tuesday, December 13th, at 7:00 pm in the church. As we clean our homes in preparation for Christmas celebrations, let us not forget to teach our children the importance of cleaning their souls in preparation for the coming of the Christ child. Children learn the best from the example of their parents.

## Prayer During Difficult Economic Times

www.usccb.org

Gracious God,

We know that your love is infinite and that you care about all areas of our life.

In this time of economic insecurity, help us to trust that all of our security is in you.

Keep us mindful that you always will provide for our needs. Apart from you we can do nothing.

Merciful God,

We ask that you give our leaders the wisdom to guide our nation and the world out of the current economic crisis.

Help us to protect the poor and all those who are struggling during this difficult time.

Provide for their needs and give them hope.

Open new opportunities for them and furnish the resources they need to live with dignity. Encourage those who have enough to

share essential resources with those who lack the necessities of life, and do so with humble, grateful and loving hearts.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord, Amen.



## Why Should We Go To Mass?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.

But I do know this... They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church

for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

In our busy society, it is difficult to **find** time for Mass. We must **make** that time. We don't necessarily go to Mass for our own personal enjoyment or fulfillment. We go to praise and thank our God who has given us many wonderful blessings. God has given each of us 168 hours each week. Can't we give Him one hour each week to say "Thanks" and be nourished in the Eucharist?



## Catholics Come Home

Have you left the Catholic church? Are you of another faith and have questions about the Catholic church? Were you raised Catholic and would like to know more about the Church? Boy, do I have a website for you... [www.catholicscomehome.org](http://www.catholicscomehome.org)!

I recommend this site to anyone who would like to grow in their faith. Check it out to see the beautiful commercials that should be airing this Advent in the St. Louis area. They make me proud of my Catholic faith.

If you have left the Catholic Church, I personally would like to invite you back. I would be happy to discuss any concerns you may have. My contact information is on the back of this page.

Dottie Hibbeler, CRE

"Let the little  
children come to Me."

Sacred Heart Parish School of Religion  
100 Thompson Dr.  
Troy, MO 63379  
Phone: 636-528-8219  
Fax: 636-528-3983  
Email: [dhibbeler@sacredhearttroy.org](mailto:dhibbeler@sacredhearttroy.org)



## In case of bad weather...

Remember to tune your radios in to KWRE AM 73 & televisions to KMOV Channel 4 for our cancellation announcements for PSR. The rule is, if school is called off on a Wednesday due to inclement weather, then our classes on Wednesday night also are cancelled. I will also try to post it on our website: <http://www.sacredhearttroy.org/psr.html>.

If the weather is bad at dismissal time, we will keep the students quiet in the church while the teachers relay the names of the students to be dismissed to Mrs. Hibbeler, who will announce the names over the intercom.

Thank you for your patience as you wait in line.

## Shadow a Sacred Heart Student

Sacred Heart PSR students in grades 5-8 are invited to come "shadow" a Sacred Heart student on days when your regular school does not have class but Sacred Heart does. This would be a good time to check out what it would be like to go to a Catholic school full time if you think you might be interested. Call Sr. Jeannette at 528-6684 to make an appointment to shadow a student. For those who are interested in attending Sacred Heart School full time next year, registrations will begin the end of January or beginning of February.

Mark your calendars:

- Confirmation Parent Meeting—Nov. 16 @ 6:15 pm
- First Reconciliation — Jan. 25 @ 6:15 pm
- First Communion Parent Meeting —Feb. 15 @ 6:15 pm
- Luke 18 Confirmation Retreat—March 2-4, 2012 @ Camp Rockyvine
- Confirmation Practice — April 19 @ 7 pm
- Confirmation — April 20 @ 7:30 pm
- First Communion Practice—May 11 @ 7 pm
- First Communion—May 12 @ 2:00 pm

## Steubenville Youth Conference: 2012

This upcoming summer, on July 6th, 7th, and 8th, the high school teens of our parish will be attending the premiere event of the youth ministry program at Sacred Heart, as they head out to Springfield, MO to attend a youth conference with 3,000 teens from across the country. This experience takes place at Missouri State University, and the teens stay in the college dorm rooms while they are there, and eat at the campus dining halls. The main arena at the campus is used as the setting for the most engaging Catholic speakers across the country, along with dynamic music that is on par with any concert setting.

Last year we had two chartered buses take over 100 young people from our parish to this event, and we expect to cap this event to 112 people this year. Once online registration opens to this event, it literally sells out in 30 seconds, so make sure you place a \$50 deposit with our youth minister (total cost is \$130), Sarah Eberhard, by January 31st if you think you would like to attend. This event is open to graduating 8th graders and all students in high school, so if you are able, please consider having your child participate in what so many of our teens say is truly a "life changing" event!

*"But for us a new day has  
dawned: the day of  
Christ's Resurrection.*

*The seventh day  
completes the first  
creation.*

*The eighth day begins the  
new creation."*

CCC 349



Steubenville Theme  
2012