~Faith Formation Forum~

Vol. 3 Issue 3 Theme: The Creed October 17, 2021

Questions of the Month:

1. What does it mean to believe?

To believe means to accept as belief, to trust, to have faith. Faith is not a blind leap. Faith is a gift from God that we respond to by accepting it. There is only One in whom we should completely trust- God. God can never fail. He alone is completely trustworthy and faithful.

1. Who is God?

God is our creator. He is holy, almighty, omniscient (all-knowing), omnipotent (all-powerful), and omnipresent (ever present in all places, at all times). He is eternal and unchanging.

Most of us tend to think of God as either the old man in the sky or some impersonal. galactic cosmos floating in our minds. God is neither of these. There is no image that can contain God. He is defined by neither time nor space nor any finite descriptor.

1. How can we know Him?

We come to know God through reason. The world is far too perfect for its existence to be mere coincidence. From the splendor of the mountains, lakes, and forests to the beauty of a field of flowers or a smiling child, too much goodness abounds for the world to be here by chance. Our innate desire to know our Creator and to understand the “why” of our existence also speaks to the reality of there being something more than just a big bang or the evolution of amoeba.

We also come to know God through Divine Revelation. Throughout Salvation History God has gradually revealed Himself. It started with the patriarchs and prophets (Adam, Noah, Moses, Abraham, Isaac, David, Joseph, etc.) and came to its fullness in the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

Another way we continue to know God is through the Blessed Trinity. God the Father came at the beginning. God the Son came a few thousand years later. God the Holy Spirit was given 40 days after the Resurrection. While all consubstantial and begotten from the same God, we see different aspects of Him. Like a 3-legged stool that would not stand if a leg were removed, or an egg (shell, yolk, and white) that would not be an egg without any one of its parts, the Blessed Trinity is a communion of the persons of God, all who show love.

Verse of the Month:

Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen. ~Hebrews 11:1

Things to Do at Home:

If you or your child(ren) do not already know these basic prayers, please take time to learn them:

The Sign of the Cross

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be

Prayer Before a Meal

Prayer After a Meal

Don’t you just hate it when you have your mind set on something, but all the stars align for something else? When you’ve made plans for one way, yet obstacles upon obstacles occur preventing your expectations from being fulfilled and even more so, a clear path opens for these other plans to easily come to fruition?

That’s what has happened to me lately. I have allowed myself to become complacent, to leave my head stuck in the sand about an aspect of my life that I am comfortable with even though in my mind I know I could do better. God has made it abundantly clear what I am to do (in messages in the daily readings and meditations, in song lyrics, in a major theme at a Pastoral Ministers Gathering I attended this week.) I tried to be like Jonah and hide from what I was hearing. Luckily, I didn’t have to spend 3 days in the belly of a whale for me to finally accept it; neither does the survival of an entire metropolitan city depend upon my success of completing my mission, but in some small way maybe my willingness and effort to change will have an impact on others.

If you feel God prompting you in some way, I urge you to listen and obey. We are all called to be disciples, not church-goers only. We have a job to spread God’s message of love. You don’t have to don sackcloth nor stand on street corners declaring the end is near, however nobody should be surprised to find out you are a Christian. Your words and actions should be very telling of your true beliefs. And they are! The question is, is it a story worth sharing?

Join us for Faith Formation class on Sundays at noon/right after the 11 am Mass. We meet in Fellowship Hall. **I am still in need of just one or two adults who are willing to provide childcare or lead a kids group while the parents are attending their class. It only requires a one or possibly 2 Sunday/month commitment**. Please contact me ASAP if you can help with this. Depending on the age you want to work with, there may be the presentation of content. I can provide the lessons and activities; I just need YOU to present it.

As always, if there is anything I can do to help you grow your relationship with God, if you are looking for answers to your questions, or if you need a listening ear, please contact me. You can call 231-937-5757 or email me at faithformation@ctknsf.org.

Blessings,

www.formed.org or download the Formed app

Julie Gould

Director of Faith Formation

If you have not yet downloaded the Formed app, gone to formed.org on your computer, or found the Formed channel on your streaming device (Roku, Amazon Firestick, X-box, etc.) please take the time right now to access it. If you do not have the internet but would like to know more about Formed, please contact the parish office. We are working on trying to get this into the hands of all our parishioners. Formed is an invaluable platform of all Catholic content. It contains video series, movies, podcasts, audio books, and much, much more! There is content for the newbie as well as the cradle Catholic. There is so much to learn and appreciate in our Catholic faith. Don’t miss out!

**Suggested Content:**

**Adults: The Search, episode 3- Why A God? Teens: YDisciple: Is God Really Real?**

**Kids: Brother Francis: Let’s Pray A Lesson on Prayer**