

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

October 2012

St. Peter Damian Church
Rev. Walter Takuski, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Year of Faith

Pope Benedict XVI has appointed October 2012 to November 2013, the Year of Faith. The Year of

Faith is an opportunity to deepen our personal relationship with God by praying each day with more joy, studying Scripture to discern God's will, and celebrating Sunday Mass every week to strengthen our bond with Christ.

October's saint

St. Isaac Jogues, S.J., is the patron for the month of October this year. He was a young man passionate about spreading the Gospel despite great personal sacrifice. In 1636, the young Jesuit traveled from his native France to Quebec to work among the Huron Indians. Under regular attack by the Iroquois, St. Isaac and his companions were captured and brutally tortured for 13 months. He escaped to France but felt drawn back and returned to his mission in New York a few months later. Once again he was captured and tortured, but this time was martyred.



Our daily lives prove our love for Jesus

Negative behaviors often rob us of the peace God intends for us to have. Some can even lead us to sin. A good way to overcome bad habits is to replace them with good ones. Try these ideas:

Worry. Worry can be a sign that we don't trust God. When things don't go your way, ask for God's help to bear his will patiently. True peace only comes to those who don't waste time or effort on what they can't change.

Finding fault. The only acceptable reason to point out another's faults is to help the guilty party grow in holiness. Don't encourage back-biting by joining in or listening to it. Instead, excuse

yourself or change the subject as tactfully as possible.

Knowing-it-all. Some people have such a desire to impress others that they try to look like they have all the answers. It's more important to impress God. Know and do what is necessary to live a more useful and holier life.

Neediness. Depending too much on other people will lead to disappointment. Only God can answer all your needs. Make God your first stop when you need help, instead of

your last resort.

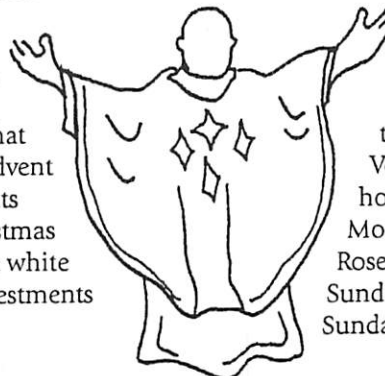
Our daily lives are witnesses of just how much we love Jesus. A constant, genuine effort toward holiness can prove our love for him.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do priests wear different color vestments?

Each season of the Church year has its own color and theme. The priest wears vestments that reflect the season. For Advent and Lent, violet vestments represent penance. Christmas and Easter vestments are white for joy. Ordinary Time vestments are green.

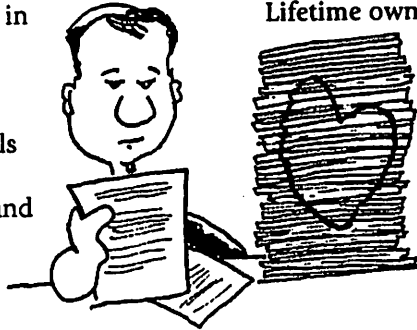


Red is worn on Good Friday, feasts for martyrs and Masses for the Holy Spirit. Vestments for Masses honoring the Blessed Mother are white or blue. Rose is worn on the third Sunday of Advent and fifth Sunday of Lent.

Read the world's longest love letter

Reading the Bible is not like reading a book, it's more like reading a library. There are 73 books in the Bible. This library contains everything we need to know to find peace in this life and happiness in the next.

The world's longest love letter. The Bible tells the story of God's relationship with people he chose for himself. Start anywhere in the Bible and you will read about how much God loves the people he created and how he waits for us to love him back. Those words of love remind us



that he loves us even when it feels like no one else does. Lifetime owner's manual. Frankly, God's ancient people and his people today aren't all that different. The Bible is addressed to all of us. All the books, Old Testament and New Testament, work together to teach us the truths that we need to know for the sake of our salvation. Living those truths on Earth will bring us to our loved one in Heaven.

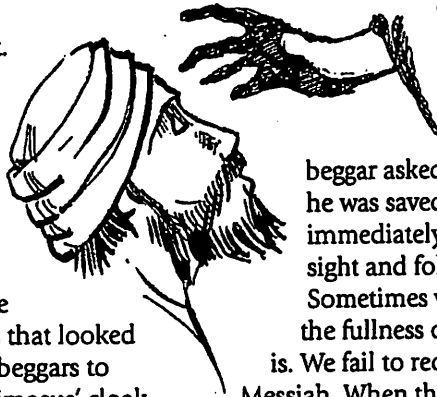
from Scripture

Mark 10:46-52; Bartimaeus, the blind beggar

When Jesus was leaving Jericho for his final journey to Jerusalem, he passed a blind beggar named Bartimaeus on the street. Bartimaeus yelled to Jesus, calling him, "Son of David," a messianic title. Even in his blindness, Bartimaeus recognized who Jesus was.

In the beggar trade, the idea was to wear clothes that looked more pitiful than other beggars to receive better alms. Bartimaeus' cloak was surely his most valuable possession - the key to his livelihood. When told to come to Jesus, Bartimaeus quickly threw

off his cloak. By doing so, he threw off his old life to gain a new life with Christ.



When Jesus asked why Bartimaeus called him, the

beggar asked to see. Jesus said he was saved by his faith and immediately Bartimaeus gained sight and followed Jesus.

Sometimes we become blind to the fullness of who Jesus really is. We fail to recognize him as our Messiah. When that happens, we can be like Bartimaeus. We can call upon Jesus to have pity on us, throw off our old sinful lives and follow him anew.

Q & A Just what is the Sacrament of Confirmation?

There are three Sacraments of Initiation into Christian life: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. The three work together to help us take our place in the Body of Christ.



In Confirmation the Baptized "are bound more perfectly to the Church; they are endowed with special strength of the Holy Spirit, are thus more strictly obliged, as true witnesses of Christ, to spread and defend the faith by word and deed" (*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*). In fact, to complete the Sacraments of Initiation, Confirmation must be received if the grace of Baptism is to have its full effect.

Upon our Confirmation we are given a new and deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit, we receive the indelible mark of Confirmation, and we are given greater strength to profess, defend and spread the faith - the job of every follower of Christ.

When the bishop, the ordinary minister of Confirmation, lays hands, anoints with chrism, and says, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit," we are completely filled with the Holy Spirit.

Feasts & Celebrations

In October we celebrate the Rosary especially on the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7th. The Rosary helps us to meditate on Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection.

October 6 - St. Bruno (1101). Bruno was born in Germany, studied in France and became a theology professor. With six other companions, Bruno founded the Carthusian Order in 1084 and helped reform the clergy in Rome.

October 14 - St. Callistus I (222). A Roman slave, Callistus obtained his freedom and was ordained a deacon

by Pope Zephyrinus, whom he later succeeded. Callistus's election caused an eighteen-year schism, spawning the first anti-pope. In a time of trial and confusion, he reopened the Church to all. He was martyred in Rome.

October 20 - St. Paul of the Cross (1775). Paul was inspired by a vision to start a religious order dedicated to the Passion of Christ. He founded the Passionists in

1720, lived a penitential life, worked miracles, and cared for the poor and sick.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)