

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY / ST. JOSEPH PARISH
Roman Catholic Church



September 16, 2018
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE PASTOR'S CORNER by Fr. Rees Doughty

For my flesh is real food, and my blood is true drink.

In the midst of the troubles facing the Church today, the only way we can decide whether to stay or go is to ask the question: What do I believe about the Eucharist? J.R.R. Tolkien, author of The Lord of the Rings (and translator of the Book of Job in the New Jerusalem Bible) loved Holy Communion and received it daily. The following excerpts from a letter addressed to his son, Michael, written on 1 November 1963, answer the question.

You speak of “sagging faith’... In the last resort faith is an act of will, inspired by love. Our love may be chilled and our will eroded by the spectacle of the shortcomings, folly and even sins of the Church and its ministers, but I do not think that one who has once had faith goes back over the line for these reasons.... ‘Scandal’ at most is an occasion of temptation – as indecency is to lust, which it does not make but arouses. It is convenient because it tends to turn our eyes away from ourselves and our own faults to find a scape-goat.... [But] the temptation to ‘unbelief’ (which really means rejection of Our Lord and His claims) is always there with us. The stronger the inner temptation the more readily and severely shall we be ‘scandalized’ by others. I think I am as sensitive as you (or any other Christian) to the ‘scandals’, both of clergy and laity. I have suffered grievously in my life from stupid, tired, dimmed, and even bad priests; but I now know enough about myself to be aware that I should not leave the Church (which for me would be leaving the allegiance of Our Lord) for any such reasons: I should leave because I did not believe, and should not believe any more, even if I had never met any one in orders who was not both wise and saintly. I should deny the Blessed Sacrament, that is: call Our Lord a fraud to His face.

If He is a fraud and the Gospels fraudulent – that is: garbled accounts of a demented megalomaniac (which is the only alternative), then of course the spectacle exhibited by the Church (in the sense of clergy) in history and today is simply evidence of a gigantic fraud. If not, however, then this spectacle (*he means “scandal”*) is alas! Only what was to be expected: it began before the first Easter, and it does not affect faith at all – except that we may and should be deeply grieved. But we should grieve on our Lord’s behalf and for Him, associating ourselves with the scandalizers not with the saints, not crying out that we cannot ‘take’ Judas Iscariot, or even the absurd and cowardly Simon Peter, or the silly women like James’ mother, trying to push her sons....

The only cure for sagging of fainting faith is Communion. Though always Itself, perfect and complete and inviolate, the

Blessed Sacrament does not operate completely and once for all in any of us. Like the act of Faith it must be continuous and grow by exercise. Frequency is of the highest effect. Seven times a week is more nourishing than seven times at intervals. Also I can recommend this as an exercise (alas! only too easy to find opportunity for): make your communion in circumstances that affront your taste. Choose a snuffling or gabbling priest or a proud and vulgar friar; and a church full of the usual bourgeois crowd, ill-behaved children - from those who yell to those products of Catholic schools who the moment the tabernacle is opened sit back and yawn - open necked and dirty youths, women in trousers and often with hair both unkempt and uncovered. Go to communion *with* them (and pray for them). It will be just the same (or better than that) as a mass said beautifully by a visibly holy man, and shared by a few devout and decorous people. (It could not be worse than the mess of the feeding of the Five Thousand - after which [our] Lord propounded the feeding that was to come.)

Of course, I live in anxiety concerning my children: who in this harder, crueler and more mocking world into which I have survived must suffer more assaults than I have. But I am one who came out of Egypt, and pray God none of my seed shall return thither. I witnessed (half-comprehending) the heroic sufferings and early death of my mother who brought me into the Church; and received the astonishing charity of (Father) Francis Morgan. But I fell in love with the Blessed Sacrament from the beginning – and by the mercy of God never have fallen out again.... Out of wickedness and sloth I [once] almost ceased to practice my religion.... Not for me the Hound of Heaven, but the never-ceasing silent appeal of Tabernacle, and the sense of starving hunger. I pray for you all that the Healer... that none of you shall ever cease to cry *Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini (Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.)*

*From The Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien,
Houghton Mifflin Co., 1981, Boston, pages 336-338.*

**Your Parish Office Is Open:
Monday-Friday: 9 am-3 pm
www.ststthomasjoseph.com**

Pastor: Rev. Rees Doughty
frdoughty@stt-stj.com

Parochial Vicar: Rev. John Kwaku Sah

Weekend Assistant: Rev. Robert Phelps

Deacons: Leonard Farmer, Anthony Ferraiuolo,
John Hanley, Joseph Lieby, John Pelella

Parish Office

845.534.2547 · office@stt-stj.com · FAX 845.534.1357

Faith Formation Office

845.534.9393 · reled@stt-stj.com

Faith Formation Coordinators:

Annmarie O’Connor and Mary Ellen Tiernan

RCIA/T

845.661.8586 · metiernan@comcast.net

Coordinator: Mary Ellen Tiernan

St. Thomas Church

340 Hudson St., Cornwall on Hudson, NY 12520

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am

Weekday: Monday-Saturday: 8:30 am

Confession

Saturday: 9-9:45 am (or by appointment)

Miraculous Medal Novena

Monday after 8:30 am Mass

Rosary: Monday-Saturday after 8:30 am Mass

St. Joseph Church

4 Saint Joseph’s Pl., New Windsor, NY 12553

Sunday Mass

Sunday: 12:30 pm

Weekday: Wednesday, 6:30 pm Mass

Confession: Wednesday, 6-6:30 pm

Adoration: Wednesday, 5:30 pm

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY / ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Au Revoir, Father Simon! Many thanks to Father Simon (and Bishop Matthew who gave him permission) for helping us this summer. Father Simon returns to the Diocese of Sunyani in Ghana on September 17.



A new Adult Bible Study, **The Bible and the Virgin Mary** (part of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology's Journey Through Scripture series) has begun! The study meets on Tuesdays, 7-9 pm in the old St. Thomas School

building. A Workbook can be ordered at stpaulcenter.com. Questions? Contact Theresa at 845.667.1772 or hummingbird828@gmail.com.

The Parish Picnic will be Saturday, September 22, 11:30 am-4 pm. (Rain date is Sunday, September 23). Mass follows at **4:30 pm** at St. Thomas. There will be music, games for children and adults, and lots of great food! Sign up sheets are available at church entrances. Come join in building and strengthening our Parish Community and have a great time!



Stay Involved By Staying Informed! Sign up for Flocknotes using your cell number or email at ststthomasjoseph.com. On the website, check out information on upcoming events, faith formation, and parish ministries!

OFFERTORY

Sept 8/9: \$8,929.36

Shrines: \$201.03; **Poor Box:** \$72.15

Online Giving (Sept 3-9): \$1,121.00

We thank you for your generosity and continued support of the parish! **Please Consider**

Donating To The Parish Through Online

Giving! Online Giving is safe and secure, and you set up when your gift is made, for how much, and for which collection. Visit ststthomasjoseph.com and under the "News/Events" tab, click on "My Own Church" for information on giving.



The **Schedule of Faith Formation Classes for 2018/19** is available on the parish website under the

"Ministries" tab and then "Faith Formation". Be sure to register for Flocknotes (text STC to 84576). It is our primary communication source for program notices. September at a Glance:

September 23, 10-11 am: Sunday Family Faith Formation meets in the gym. Be prompt!
September 26, 5:30-6:30 pm: Family Faith Formation Make-Up Class.

Why do Family Formation? "Parents are the primary educators in the faith" (*General Directory for Catechesis*). Family Formation provides a monthly family-based curriculum that includes adult catechesis along with the children to make living the Faith a way of life. Children learn with catechists. Parents receive training for weekly lessons to continue to teach the Faith to children at home during the month. Questions? Contact Annmarie O'Connor at 845.534.2547, ext. 3.

To learn more about the **RCIA** process, email Mary Ellen at metiernan@comcast.net.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon, Sept 17: St. Robert Bellarmine

8:30 am +Thomas and Anne Campbell by family

Tues, Sept 18

8:30 am +Deceased Members of Hogan family

Wed, Sept 19: St. Januarius

8:30 am +Maureen Terwilliger by Margaret & Ken Schmidt

6:30 pm Ints. of Mamawal family by Linda Siner

Thurs, Sept 20

8:30 am +Anne Sacco by Susan Zeman

Fri, Sept 21: St. Matthew

8:30 am +Carl & Catherine Lundgren by Eric & Jasmin Lundgren

Sat, Sept 22: BVM

8:30 am +Erick Nedwetzky by family

4:30 pm +Barney Marino by Frances family; +Bruno and Annette McKenna by Mary & Bill McKenna

Sun, Sept 23: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 am For St. Thomas/St. Joseph Parishioners

9:00 am +Carmen Ortiz by Josephine Thomas

11:00 am +Sam Scalise by family

12:30 pm +Gerit Claire Hillegas by Joan Hillegas

ALL Masses are celebrated at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church

except for the

Sunday, 12:30 pm Mass

and the Wednesday, 6:30 pm Mass

which are celebrated at St. Joseph Church.

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY / ST. JOSEPH PARISH



Saint Januarius Feast Day: September 19 Patron Saint of Blood Banks and Naples.

Our **Bulletin Cover Image** is
"Saint Januarius shows his own relics". Painter: Louis Finson.
Source: Wikimedia Commons.

St. Januarius (Italian: St. Gennaro) was born in Italy. St. Januarius is believed to have been martyred in the persecution of Emperor Diocletian, c. 305. After his death, his body was brought to Naples where his blood is kept in a sealed glass ampoule in Naples Cathedral and traditionally liquefies three times a year: on September 19, December 16, and the Saturday before the first Sunday of May.

Parish Trip to Switzerland, Bavaria, and Austria: March 21-30, 2019. Highlights include: Bern, Chateau de Chillon, Montreux, GoldenPass Panoramic Train, Gstaad, Lucerne, Innsbruck, Austrian Alps, Salzburg, Mirabell Gardens, St. Peter's Restaurant, Tyrolean Folklore Show, Bavaria, and Oberammergau. For information, contact Mary Ellen Tiernan at maryellentiernan@icloud.com or 845.661.8586.



Visit the Parish Website for information about joining: **STAR Youth Group; Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas; Knights of Columbus**, Council 7460; **Catholic Daughters of America**, Court Rita #264; and our **Mothers' Prayer Group**.

12 Months of Christmas Raffle:

Musts for your Wine & Cheese party!
6 crystal Robert Mondavi Cabernet Sauvignon wine glasses by Waterford, MSRP: \$99; and a Gordon Ramsey Bread Street cheese board with a ceramic plate, MSRP \$134.00.

Help us fill the shelves! Our **Food Pantry** is in need of shampoo, dishwasher detergent, and laundry detergent. Thank you for your support.



Music Ministry Notes: The St. Thomas-St. Joseph Music Ministry is looking for new members! This Ministry leads musical worship at weekend Masses and holy days of obligation. No experience is required, only a passion for worshipping the Lord through music. Rehearsals are at St. Thomas Church.

Choir meets Wednesdays, 6:30-8 pm; **Folk Group** meets Thursdays, 7-8 pm. The **St. Thomas-St. Joseph Young People's Choir** is looking for young musicians, Grades 3-12 to enrich our special parish celebrations. Singers and instrumentalists of all levels are welcome. First meeting is Wednesday, September 26, 5-6:15 pm. For information about these programs, contact Vincent Mateo at music@stt-stj.com.

St. Robert Bellarmine
1542 - 1621, Patron Saint of Catechists
Feast Day: September 17

"On the last day, when the general examination takes place, there will be no question at all on the text of Aristotle, the aphorisms of Hippocrates, or the paragraphs of Justinian. Charity will be the whole syllabus."



Source: ncregister.com