



The Jesus Question

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Over the years I've asked many people what they believe about Jesus and who he is for them. I've always nudged them away from the expected answer simply because I was interested in who he was for them down deep in their spirits. It's been a whole wheelbarrow full of answers, yes it has, a full and varied garden.

Some said they thought he was a very good human being, though they hedged when I asked if they thought he was also of God. Others thought he was a prophet, though they also backed away from anything that hinted of the divine. For some, Jesus was God dressed in human skin, as if he were simply playing at being human. Some labeled him a reformer and others a teacher. None of them dismissed Jesus as irrelevant or a remnant of the past. And for many, Jesus is the truth professed by Peter, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." He is the Word made flesh, the wisdom of God among us, the one who lives.

In one way or another all of us must answer the question Jesus asks of his disciples in today's Gospel: "Who do you say that I am?" The question is just as relevant today as it was when Jesus asked it. For some, their yes is without doubt. For others, it is a questioning journey of coming to faith. All of us are faced with that question: Who is Jesus for us today in the way we live our life? ●

Reflect

**Who do you say
Jesus is and how
does your answer
make a difference
in your life?**



[Jesus] said to [his
disciples], "But who
do you say that I am?"

MATTHEW 16:15



Holy Trinity



St. Thomas More



St. Patrick

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Pastor of the Three Churches
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Main Office: Holy Trinity Rectory
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Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday 9 am - 1 pm

St Thomas More Catholic Church
302 Chestnut St.
Dalzell, IL 61320
Phone 815-663-6201
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Adoration Room at STM
Open Monday - Sunday
Regular Hours
9 am - 6 pm

Rav/Tort Group taking orders now
Orders will be filled starting in Sept.
To place your order, call 815-252-2215.
Leave name, phone number, & your order
Ravs/Tort are \$8.00/bag

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106 Church St.
Arlington, IL 61312
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Website for the Three Churches
www.bureaucatholic.org
and on Facebook at
"Bureau Catholic Churches"

Facebook for the Three Churches
Use Link on Home Page
www.bureaucatholic.org

Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164



Please be reminded Religious Education will begin on Sunday, September 10th for K-4th grade & the Confirmation class (7th & 8th). On Sunday, September 17th classes will be held for 5th - 8th grade. Please note, new this year, the Confirmation Class (7th & 8th) will meet every Sunday.

Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of August 28, 2023

Monday	8/28			+ No Mass
Tuesday	8/29	9:00 am	STM	+ Sandi Ruiz
Wednesday	8/30	5:30 pm	HT	+ Joanne Brown Oberheide
Thursday	8/31	9:00 am	HT	+ June & Alex Wiltse
Friday	9/1	9:00 am	STM	+ Geraldine Sondgeroth

Mass Intentions for the weekend of September 2-3, 2023

Saturday	9/2	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ Michael Bacidore
Sunday	9/3	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	+ Wayne Pinter
		10:30 am	St Patrick	+ Mary Jane Smith & Tom Hewitt
		5:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ For The Parishioners

A Reflection On The Passion of St. John the Baptist

Feast Day: Tuesday, August 29th

The gruesome death of St. John the Baptist reveals much to us. It reveals, above all, the mystery of evil in our world and God's permissive will in allowing evil, at times, to flourish. Sometimes we wonder why did God allow St. John to be beheaded? He was a great man. Jesus, Himself, said that there was no one born of woman greater than John the Baptist. And, yet, He allowed John to suffer this great injustice.

St. Teresa of Ávila once said to our Lord, "Dear Lord, if this is how You treat Your friends, it is no wonder You have so few!" Yes, God has clearly allowed those whom He loves to suffer greatly throughout history. What does this tell us?

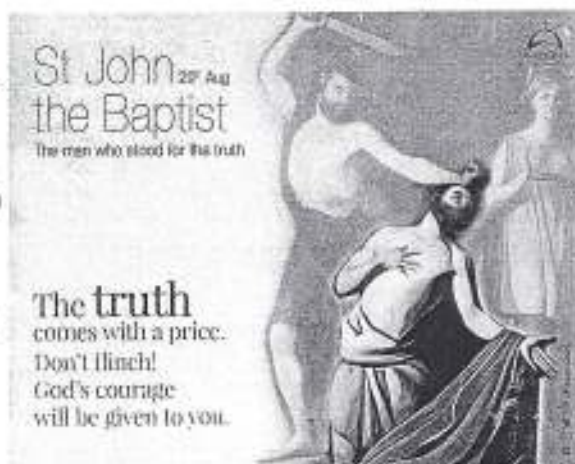
First of all, we should not forget the obvious fact that the Father allowed the Son to suffer greatly and to be murdered in a horrific way. Jesus' death was brutal and shocking. Does this mean the Father did not love the Son? Certainly not. So what does this mean?

The fact of the matter is that suffering is not a sign of the disfavor of God. If you suffer and are given no relief by God it is not because God has abandoned you. It is not that He does not love you. In fact, the opposite is most likely true.

John the Baptist's suffering is, in fact, the greatest sermon he could have preached. It's a witness to his unwavering love of God and his wholehearted commitment to the will of God. The "sermon" of John's passion is powerful because he chose to stay faithful to our Lord despite the persecution he endured. And, from God's perspective, John's fidelity is infinitely more valuable than his continued physical life or the physical sufferings he endured.

Reflect, today, upon your own life. At times we carry some heavy cross and beg our Lord to take it from us. Instead, God tells us that His grace is sufficient and that He wishes to use our sufferings as a testimony of our fidelity. So, the Father's response to Jesus, His response to John and His response to us is a call to enter into the mystery of our sufferings in this life with faith, hope, confidence and fidelity. Never let the hardships of life deter you from your fidelity toward the will of God.

(Excerpted from catholic-daily-reflections.com)



Have you ever thought about renewing your wedding vows?

We are blessed to have Fr. Ron Margherio, O.S.B. celebrating Mass and performing the renewal ceremony.

Sunday, September 24th at 2:00 pm at St. Patrick Church

There will be a reception dinner following the service.

If your spouse is deceased, we invite you to participate and honor them.

Forms will be in the back of all 3 churches. Please fill one out to RSVP by Sept. 17th.

We Still Do

LATEST OFFERING'S

AUG 20TH WEEKEND

HT - \$1,044.00

SP - \$335.00

STM - \$1,180.00



CONFESSIONS

THE NEXT CONFESSIONS
WILL BE SAT. SEPT 2ND

10:30 - 11:15 AM AT

ST PATRICK

IN THE CHAPEL

Dear Padre,

Why do Catholics believe they are the only true Church?

Roman Catholics believe our Church has historical continuity with St. Peter and the apostles who were present on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit gave birth to the Church. Catholics believe the work begun by Peter and the other apostles continued under men they appointed and on whom they laid hands—giving them apostolic authority to carry their work into the next generation. Apostolic authority, understood by Catholics to be historical and traceable, is a mark of authenticity and continuity of the Church. For Catholics, this essential mark of the Church is missing if a Christian community rejects apostolic authority and Peter's leadership of the other apostles—carried on by their successors in the persons of bishops and popes—over the last 2,000 years.

Nevertheless, "numerous elements of sanctification and truth" are present in separated Churches and ecclesial communities, and "the Spirit of Christ has not refrained from using them as instruments of salvation" (*Responses to Some Questions Regarding Certain Aspects of the Doctrine on the Church*, by the Vatican Offices of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 2007).

Dialogue with other Christians continues, and we hope the love and respect we have for one another can grow over time. While our Church leaders have the role of conserving the faith we have received, all Christians should remember that the Law of Love must prevail. If we violate that principle, we fail to comprehend an essential truth of our faith. ●



MARCO FERRITO/SHUTTERSTOCK

DearPadre.org

From *Catholic and Cornered: Answers to Common Questions About Your Faith* (Liguori Publications, 2011)



ONS PHOTO/ARTCAN MEDIA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Even today, so many people think Jesus may be a great prophet, knowledgeable teacher, a model of justice....And even today Jesus asks his disciples, that is, all of us: "Who do you say that I am?"...Let us pray that God grants us the grace to respond..., "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

ANGELUS, ROME,
AUGUST 24, 2014

MONDAY

August 28
St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10
Mt 23:13-22

TUESDAY

August 29
Passion of St. John the Baptist
1 Thes 2:1-8
Mk 6:17-29

WEDNESDAY

August 30
Weekday
1 Thes 2:9-13
Mt 23:27-32

THURSDAY

August 31
Weekday
1 Thes 3:7-13
Mt 24:42-51

FRIDAY

September 1
Weekday
1 Thes 4:1-8
Mt 25:1-13

SATURDAY

September 2
Weekday
1 Thes 4:9-11
Mt 25:14-30

SUNDAY

September 3
Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jer 20:7-9
Rom 12:1-2
Mt 16:21-27