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*St. Joseph The Worker Parish, Russell, MB      St. Theresa's Parish Rossburn, MB*

**Responsorial Psalm (Daniel 3):** Glory and praise forever.

**St. Joseph (Russell) & St. Theresa's (Rossburn) News:**

**Please remember in your prayers** those who are sick in hospitals, care homes, or in their homes & those who care for them. If you wish to receive the Sacraments of Anointing, Confession, or Holy Communion – please call the parish office & leave a message: 204-773-2924.

**Ordination of Deacon Oliver Omega to the Ministerial Priesthood will be on Friday June 9<sup>th</sup> at Saint Mary's Cathedral at 7:30 p.m.**

**Ordination of Christopher Pugh to Transitional Diaconate will be June 30<sup>th</sup> at Saint Augustine's Brandon at 7:30 p.m.**

**Mass Intentions For This Week:**

**Most Holy Trinity**

- Saturday Jun 3 10:45 a.m. Rossburn **Immaculate Heart Of Mary**  
 11:30 a.m. Mass Ryshytylo & McLaughlin families req by the McLaughlins  
 7:30 p.m. Russell **Liturgy of the Word with Communion**
- Sunday Jun 4 9:00 a.m. Russell **Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. & YouTube after 10:15 am**  
 For all parishioners by Father Paul  
 11:00 a.m. Rossburn + Suffering Souls in Purgatory Req by Rose & family
- Monday Jun 5 Health of family & friends req. by Jean Goba
- Tuesday Jun 6 Special Intentions req by Carol & Wade Schott
- Wed. Jun 7 11:00 a.m. **Tri-deanery Meeting Dauphin**  
 Health of family & friends req by Irene Deschamps
- Thurs. Jun 8 10:30 a.m. Rossburn Adoration  
 11:00 a.m. Mass + John Ryshytylo req by Nellie Nychuk & family
- Friday Jun 9 8:30 a.m. Russell Adoration  
 9:00 a.m. Mass  
 10:15 a.m. Music and Mass – Rossburn Personal Care Home  
 + John Ryshytylo & all the Souls in Purgatory req by Lynda & family

**Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**

- Saturday Jun 10 7:30 p.m. Russell + Jutta & Erich Leven req by Anne & Ubald Deschambault
- Sunday Jun 11 9:00 a.m. Russell **Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. & YouTube after 10:15 am**  
 For all parishioners by Father Paul  
 11:00 a.m. Rossburn + Nellie & Frank Kaskiw req by Kaskiw family

**Faith and Life Sciences Reference Group: Is Intelligence Enough? - May 31, 2023**

The Faith and Life Sciences Reference Group (FLSRG) of the Canadian Council of Churches is holding its first of a series of webinars reflecting on how artificial intelligence is changing human society and how people of faith in Canada might respond. Since the introduction of advanced language learning models (like ChatGPT) six months ago, discussion of artificial intelligence (AI) has reached a fever pitch, and it appears everyone is talking about the promises and perils of this new technology. Join FLSRG on **Wednesday, May 31 at 3:00 pm CDT** for the first of a series of webinars on this topic. Rev. Dr. Peter Kuhnert will give a plenary presentation followed by responses and discussion with other FLSRG members. This webinar event is free. [Click here to register.](#)

**5 Things Catholics Should Know About First Fridays** [Philip Kosloski](#) - published on 04/29/16

**What's so special about First Fridays?** Our parents grew up going to church every First Friday of the month and taking part in Sacred Heart devotions, but in recent decades the pious practice has fallen out of practice, and is dismissed by some as an “old-fashioned” anachronism.

A main reason for the decline in interest in this devotion is probably rooted in simple ignorance: **people don't know what First Fridays are all about**; families and parishes may not have adequately passed down their importance to the next generation. Here are five things to know.

**1. How did the First Friday Devotion begin?**

While some saints [referenced the Heart of Jesus](#) in their writings even centuries earlier, in 1673, a French Visitandine (Visitation) nun named Margaret Mary Alacoque had visions of Jesus, wherein he asked the Church to honor His Most Sacred Heart. In particular, Jesus asked the faithful to “receive Communion on the First Fridays, for nine consecutive months.” The request was connected to a specific promise made to all who venerated and promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart. After Margaret Mary's death, the First Friday practice steadily spread in the Church — [endorsed by popes and promoted by saints](#) — but it greatly increased in popularity when Margaret Mary was canonized a saint in 1920 by Pope Benedict XV.

**2. Why nine consecutive months?**

The number nine is traditionally associated with a novena and finds its origin in the nine days that the apostles spent in prayer before Pentecost. A novena provides an extended amount of time for preparation and interior renewal.

**3. What am I supposed to do on First Fridays?**

Go to Mass and receive Holy Communion with the intention of honoring Christ's Sacred Heart. If you are not in a state of grace, and thus unable to receive, you will also need to go to confession.

**4. What are the “promises” connected to this devotion?**

Jesus said to St. Margaret Mary, “In the excess of the mercy of my heart, I promise you that my all powerful love will grant to all those who will receive communion on the First Fridays, for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance: they will not die in my displeasure, nor without receiving the sacraments; and my heart will be their secure refuge in that last hour.” This means that if a person faithfully receives communion for nine consecutive months on First Fridays, Jesus will grant that person extra graces at the time of their death, making it possible to repent of their sins and receive the last rites (if needed).

This promise is the last of 12 promises connected to the Devotion to the Sacred Heart, particularly attached to the [Enthronement of the Sacred Heart](#) in one's home:

- (1) I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
- (2) I will establish peace in their homes.
- (3) I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
- (4) I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death.
- (5) I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
- (6) Sinners will find in my heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
- (7) Lukewarm souls shall become fervent.
- (8) Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
- (9) I will bless every place in which an image of my heart is exposed and honored.
- (10) I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
- (11) Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in my Heart.
- (12) I promise you in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in my disgrace, nor without receiving their sacraments. My divine heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

**5. Are the First Fridays a “ticket” to heaven?**

It is not as simple as going to Mass for nine months and then clocking out, never going to Mass again and leading a sinful life! The entire purpose of this devotion is to draw a person closer to the heart of Christ. If a person fulfills these obligations with sincere faith, it is natural for he or she to be closer to God and better prepared for death. The moment that this devotion is observed in a superstitious manner, neglecting the need to live a virtuous life, all bets are off and Jesus' promise is null and void.

Jesus wants us to rest on his heart, like St. John, and the First Friday devotion is an opportunity for us to encounter him more than just on Sundays and to deepen our love of him.

Coming to know, love and trust that we may take rest in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and place our anxieties within, is what the First Fridays are all about.

# Dear Padre,

**Two relatives of mine died from a disease for which they never sought treatment. Both said, “God will heal me if that is his will.” Wouldn’t God have wanted them to see a doctor?**

It is safe to say that God would have them see a doctor. Does doing so compromise our faith in God? No. Throughout all of salvation history, God has relied on human beings to be his instruments, his messengers. While we believe in God, who can and has acted miraculously throughout history, these moments are exceptions, not the rule. Ordinarily, God’s work is done by human hands. The spread of the gospel itself has come about through people who have responded to God in faith.

Part of this gospel story is the healing ministry of Jesus. Christianity has from the beginning taken up Jesus’ ministry of healing and attempted to restore health to the sick, not only through prayer and the sacraments but also through institutions that care for the sick and the dying. Even as we recognize that our primary relationship is with God, we must also see that caring for our lives and our health, gifts from that same God, is a responsible way to receive and be good stewards of these gifts.

Think of the training, knowledge, and experience that doctors, nurses, and all other health-care practitioners have spent years attaining. Is not their work a miracle of God’s love when it brings healing, restoration, and renewal? ●

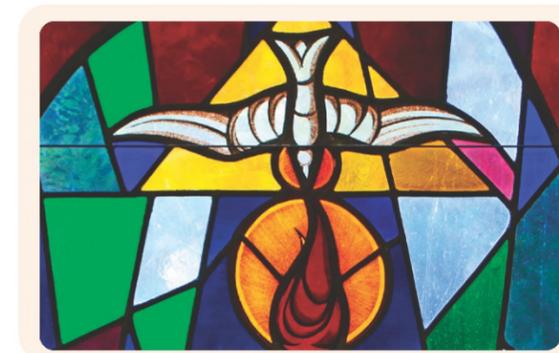
Excerpted from *Life, Death, and Catholic Medical Choices: 50 Questions from the Pews*; © 2011 Liguori Publications / DearPadre.org



HYPERION / SHUTTERSTOCK

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
June 5 <i>St. Boniface, Bishop and Martyr</i> Tb 1:3; 2:1b-8 Mk 12:1-12	June 6 <i>Weekday</i> Tb 2:9-14 Mk 12:13-17	June 7 <i>Weekday</i> Tb 3:1-11a, 16-17a Mk 12:18-27	June 8 <i>Weekday</i> Tb 6:10-11; 7:1bcde, 9-17; 8:4-9a Mk 12:28-34	June 9 <i>Weekday</i> Tb 11:5-17 Mk 12:35-37	June 10 <i>Weekday</i> Tb 12:1, 5-15, 20 Mk 12:38-44	June 11 <i>Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)</i> Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a 1 Cor 10:16-17 Jn 6:51-58

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**A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**  
*Today we can ask ourselves...do I, who profess faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, truly believe that I need others in order to live, that I need to give myself to others, that I need to serve others? Do I affirm this in words or do I affirm it with my life?*

ANGELUS, ST. PETER’S SQUARE, JUNE 12, 2022  
CNS PHOTO/DAVE HRBACEK, THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

June 4, 2023  
**The Most Holy Trinity (A)**  
Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9 / 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 / John 3:16-18



[Moses said,] “If I find favor with you, Lord, please, Lord, come along in our company.”  
EXODUS 34:9

## God Up There, God Down Here

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**W**hich of these images best describes your God: gardener, friend, policeman, Santa Claus, magician, doctor, lover, parent, judge, the Force?

Theologically, God is both transcendent and immanent, up there and down here. In other words, God is powerful, majestic, awesome, and all-knowing but always close, caring for us, forgiving, and comforting. Most of us lean toward one or the other in our spirituality. Whichever image you choose will tell you something about how you usually relate to God. None of the images are necessarily right or wrong unless it locks us into relating to God in only one way.

Our tendency to relate to God as either transcendent or immanent may influence our preference for liturgical style. If we view God primarily as transcendent, we will tend to appreciate the Mass as a sacrifice, celebrated formally with processions, incense, and majestic music.

If we tend to relate to God as more immanent, we will tend to appreciate the Mass as a eucharistic meal with the community gathered around the altar table singing simpler music. As God is both transcendent and immanent, we should not have to choose. The ideal liturgical style would incorporate something of both transcendence and immanence.

Today’s story of Moses, who climbs Mount Sinai and there bows down in worship before God, is a story of the transcendence of God—majestic, powerful, awesome to behold. Today’s gospel is of an immanent God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son, not to condemn it but to save it. ●

**Reflect**  
**Is your personal prayer to God “up there” or to God “walking with me”?**