

# Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church

6596 Smiley Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63139

## STAFF

### Pastor

Rev. Thomas M. Pastorius  
fathertompastorius@gmail.com

### Deacon

James Tetreault  
jtetreaultepiphany@gmail.com

### Pastoral Associate

Michael Rennier  
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### Music Director

Elizabeth Svancarek

### Plant Manager

John Ellison  
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### Parish Secretary

Trish Nerviani  
trishnerviani@aol.com

## MASS & SACRAMENTS

Sunday Masses: 8:00 & 10:30 am

Weekday Masses Monday, Wednesday  
Thursday, Friday & Saturdays: 8:00 am

Tuesday Morning Prayer: 8:00 am

Tuesday Mass: 5:30 pm

Saturday Masses 8:00 am and 5:00 pm

Sacrament of Penance: Saturday,  
7:00-7:50 am or by appointment.

Tuesdays, 5-5:20 pm

Baptisms: Meeting first Thursday of the  
month. Preregistration required.

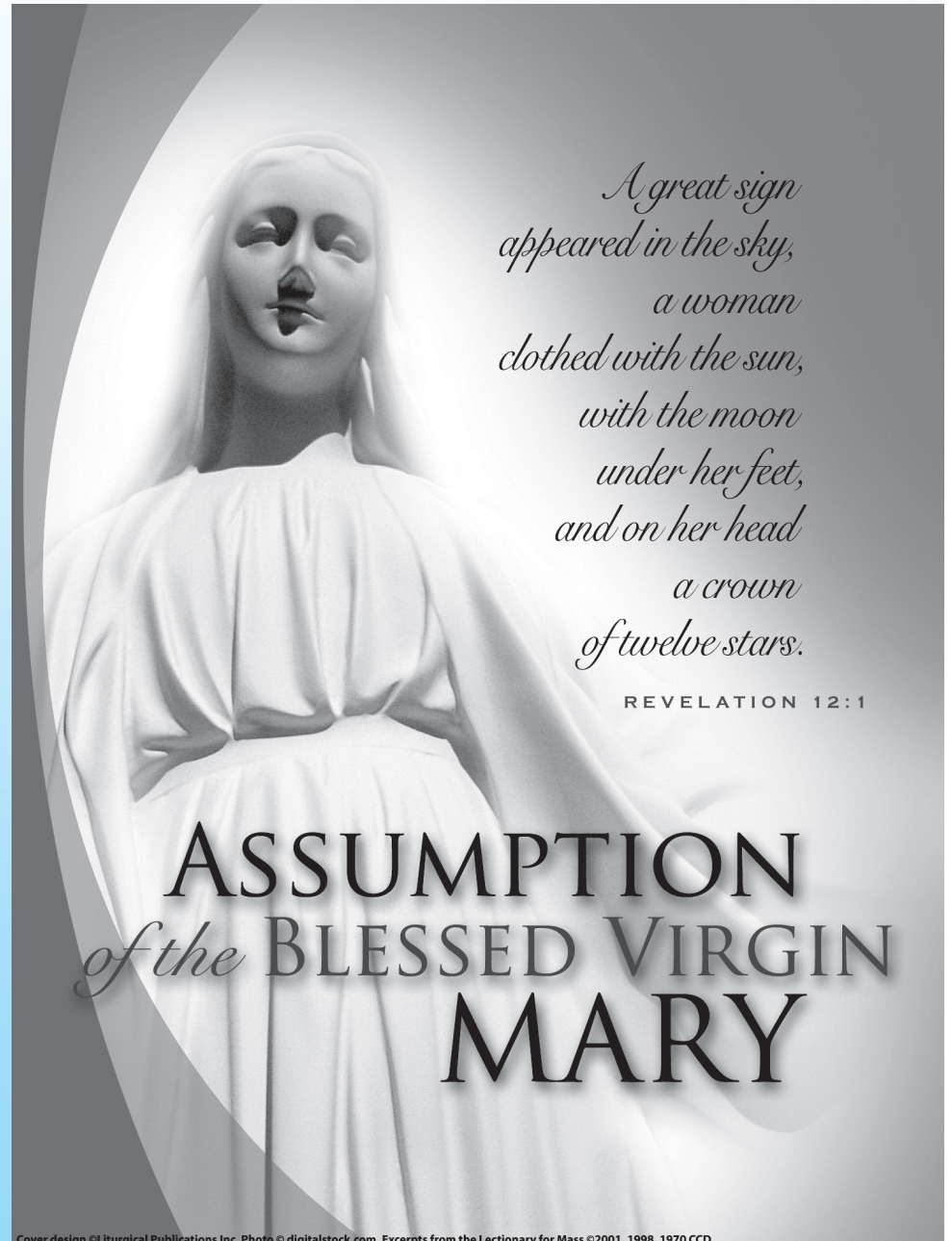
Marriages: Contact the priest at least 9  
months prior to the wedding date.

Funerals: To be arranged by contacting  
the Parish Office.

Change of Address or Telephone

Number: Please call the Parish Office.

Bulletin Deadline: 4:00 pm Monday.



*A great sign  
appeared in the sky,  
a woman  
clothed with the sun,  
with the moon  
under her feet,  
and on her head  
a crown  
of twelve stars.*

REVELATION 12:1

ASSUMPTION  
*of the* BLESSED VIRGIN  
MARY

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Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
August 16, 2015

Phone: 314-781-1199

Fax: 314-645-8760

Sacramental Emergency After Hours Line: 314-260-6261

[www.epiphanystl.org](http://www.epiphanystl.org)

*From the Desk of Fr. Pastorius,*

## 1. Investing in Our Youth

I would like to invite you all to consider investing in our parish youth group by purchasing “stock” in our multi-parish youth group for the following reasons. First, this program provides an excellent program for teens where they can come support each other in their faith development. Second, this program is a program that helps parishes see that working together we can accomplish more than trying to do everything ourselves. Please see the flyer in today’s bulletin to order your stock today.

## 2. Faith & Family Programming

With the beginning of the school year comes the beginning of our Faith and Family Programming. We have something literally for everyone to help them grow in their faith. Please feel free to encourage people from other parishes to join us. Each program will be having an open house on Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup> starting at 6:30 pm. Come and learn about all these great programs.

## 3. Questions about Marriage Continued...

**Q: What’s the difference between an infertile heterosexual couple and a same sex couple? Since neither can have children, isn’t it unjust to treat them differently?**

A: Think of the bodies involved. The union of an infertile heterosexual couple is still the kind of union from which children come, even if no children actually come from it. The union of a same sex couple is not the kind of union from which children come - it is a different kind of thing. In order for a law to be unjust (or to constitute discrimination) it has to treat things differently when they are, in fact, the same. But man/woman unions and same sex unions are not, in fact, the same kind of thing.

## 4. Beyond Sunday Capital Campaign

Once again, I would like to extend another word of gratitude to everyone who has taken the time when called upon to come and meet with me about this Archdiocesan effort. I have personally found it beneficial because it has given me an opportunity to get to some of you better as we have time to share our faith stories with one another.

## 5. Thinking about Becoming Catholic, Need to Receive First Communion or Confirmation as an Adult

If you have been thinking about becoming Catholic now is the time to join our upcoming R. C. I. A (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*). program. Meetings will be held Sunday Mornings from 9:15-10:15 in the Rectory. This is also the program that Catholic adults who have not received First Communion, First Reconciliation, or Confirmation. Please contact Michael Rennie in the parish office for more information.

## 6. Homecoming Raffle Ticket

Last Sunday, as I finished 8 AM Mass I immediately took off my chasuble (the big outer vestment) because I was really hot and the first person to greet me after Mass complained to me that the Church was too cold for her. All I could do was really laugh to myself and thank God that we have this problem. At least our air conditioner is working and so we can argue about the temperature. This also reminded me that one of the air conditioning units in the Church is living on borrowed time and so I would like to invite you all to purchase and sell your homecoming raffle tickets so that we can be ready when it does go out.

## 7. Social

Thank you to all who helped organize and who came to the social two Friday’s ago. It was a great time for our community to celebrate summer.

God bless,  
Fr. Tom

**ARE YOU SOMEONE WHO...**Has interest in becoming Catholic? Was baptized Catholic as a child, but not yet celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist? Beginning at 9:15 am on Sun, Sep 6th, we offer an opportunity to learn more about the faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and devotions of the Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. There are separate sessions for children or youth. You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights, and your faith story. For information about RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) please contact Michael at 314.781.1199 x104 or [michaelrennier@gmail.com](mailto:michaelrennier@gmail.com)

## Faith and Family is Back!

*All children are welcome from any school!*

### **Little Lambs 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Class**

WHEN: Sunday mornings 9:15-10:15, First Class and Parent meeting on Sep 13th.

WHERE: Rectory

WHO: all children entering 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

### **Chosen Confirmation Class**

WHEN: 6:30-8 Tue Nights, Open House and Parent meeting Sep 1st

WHERE: Gym  
WHO: students entering 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (Confirmation candidates need to attend a minimum of 2 years, so don’t wait!)

### **Little Flowers Girls Club**

WHEN: 6:30-8 Tue Nights, Open House and Parent meeting Sep 1st

WHERE: Gym

WHO: All girls K-5th

### **Blue Knights Boys Club**

WHEN: 6:30-8 Tue Nights, Open House and Parent meeting Sep 1st

WHERE: Gym

WHO: All boys K-5<sup>th</sup>

*For more information, including opportunities for adult groups, see:* [www.epiphanystl.org/faith-and-family](http://www.epiphanystl.org/faith-and-family)

Email: [Michaelrennier@gmail.com](mailto:Michaelrennier@gmail.com) with any questions.

### Spiritual Ponderings

### Helping Fallen Away Catholics

Sr. Theresa Aletheia Nobel FSP book: *The Prodigal You Love: Inviting Love Ones Back to the Church*. Quotes from her book will be in bold and my commentary will be in regular font.

Too often when interacting with our loved ones, we simply adopt ways we are comfortable with rather than ways that are actually most helpful. Two common approaches can be found among friends and family of fallen away Catholics. On the one hand, some people say very little. Although they hope their loved one will return to the Church they never say anything to indicate they are even aware the person no longer attends Mass. On the other hand, however, some people say too much, too often, and too harshly. Their aggressive style of communication can cause rifts in relationships or, at best, lead to tension-filled encounters with those they love.

Our friends and family members are not likely to come back to the Church if we never express our desire for them to return, but if we express our desire in a way that turns them off, chances are they will not return either. As mentioned in a previous Spiritual Ponderings, it is important to remember that the virtue is in the middle of two vices. We are sometimes called to stretch ourselves and make ourselves uncomfortable in order to provide an open and welcoming environment that will foster the other person's openness. Sometimes it is also important to realize that not everything has to be done at once. Sometimes you are called to just plant the seeds of a return to the Church, or you may be called to nurture the seed. Once again trust in God is all important here.

As you may know, tax collectors in the time of Jesus were social pariahs. They were in collaboration with Gentile Roman occupiers and were known to exact more than was required. Their very work was considered sinful, making tax collectors immoral and unclean in the eyes of the people. For this reason, they were often ostracized from the Jewish community. Yet, Jesus ate at the home the tax collector Matthew. And Scripture tells us that "many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples" (Mt9:10). Note that Jesus did not go and sit with sinners, but they "came and sat" with him. That they would dare to sit at the table of a virtuous Jew demonstrated the radical acceptance that Jesus must have shown them. They could sense that Jesus accepted and affirmed who they were and who they could be, unlike the self-righteous people who disdained them and avoided their company.

Jesus is of course our role model. His mission was to bring back the lost children of Israel. When trying to invite someone back to the Church you can begin by asking this simple question "What would Jesus do?" Another way of looking at it may be to see that the person who has fallen away from the faith has a lot of growing up to do. They have to learn that God does not want us to go to Mass on Sunday so that He can entertain us, they have to learn that true happiness comes from serving others, and much more. The best environment for them to grow is an environment in which family and friends support them instead of spending their time condemning them.

What did these sinners experience at the Lord's table? It is unlikely that Jesus spent mealtimes focusing on his companions' sin. Rather, sinners, most likely wanted to be in his company because they could recognize someone who loved them. Jesus did not judge them, yet at the same time he effectively urged people to change their behaviors through genuine love and respect for their human dignity.

Would you stay at a house where people were pointing out your faults all the time? I know that I would not. Yes, it is important for a person to face one's sins and to ask God for forgiveness but that is stage two. People are like turtles in the sense that they will only come out of their hard protective shell when they feel safe. Overtime Jesus' love and respect elicited change in those who followed him: Mathew, Zacchaeus, and Mary Magdalene to name but three examples from Scripture.

God's love has no limits or conditions. The First Letter of John tells us that "we love because he first loved us" (1 Jn4:19). In other words, God's love precedes our love. We do not have to love God in order for him to love us. He loves us before we even have the chance to reject his love. He loves and then invites us to experience his love. For a person away from the Church, God's unconditional love is a very important reality to understand. By modeling this love, we can help others to understand the nature of God. God doesn't love us on the condition that we love him or that we stop sinning. His love has no contingencies, qualifications, or contracts. God loves us now, as we are. We do not have to change before God loves us, and it is precisely this kind of love that does change us.

**LIFETEEN** Change our hearts this time - Attention all highschoolers! Join us this Wednesday from 7-9pm at Bishop DuBourg High School as we hear from people whose lives and hearts have been changed by the truth of Jesus and His Gospel. We will also have whiffleball & a surprise snack. Questions? Contact Lauren at 314.288.8873 or [lauren@saintlouislifeteen.org](mailto:lauren@saintlouislifeteen.org).

**Thank you from St. Patrick Center!** As Catholics, we are called to embrace the attitude of Jesus as "servant to the poor." St. Patrick Center extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in Backpack Giveaway program for the 2015-2016 school year. With your help, we provided more than 1,800 new backpacks and school supplies for our clients' and their children. May the Lord continue to bless our faith community.

# LITURGIES & SCHEDULES

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

### Sunday, August 16

- 8:00 am Deceased Members of the Thien Family
- 10:30 am Parishioners

### Monday, August 17

- 8:00 am Fracis Muller

### Tuesday, August 18

- 8:00 am Morning Prayer
- 5:30 pm Tracy Thomas (*Good Health*)

### Wednesday, August 19

- 8:00 am Margaret Toney

### Thursday, August 20

- 8:00 am Maureen Merlo

### Friday, August 21

- 8:00 am Pastor's Intentions

### Saturday, August 22

- 8:00 am John Jankowski
- 5:00 pm James Cox

### Sunday, August 23

- 8:00 am Parishioners
- 10:30 am John E. Woehrl



## OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

### Monday - Saturday, August 17-21

- 7:30 am - Rosary, Church

### Sunday, August 16

- 10:00 am - Bible Study, CMR
- 11:00 am - Liturgy with Children, RBB

### Monday, August 17

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Msgr. Sullivan Field
- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Gym
- 5:30 pm - Fit Factor, UH
- 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts, Upper Hall
- 10:00 am - Ladies Guild Card Social, AR

### Tuesday, August 18

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Msgr. Sullivan Field
- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Gym
- 7:00 pm - Finance Committee Mtg., CMR

### Wednesday, August 19

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Msgr. Sullivan Field
- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Gym
- 5:30 pm - Fit Factor, UH
- 6:30 pm - Bells Practice, Church
- 7:30 pm - Choir Practice, Church

### Thursday, August 20

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Msgr. Sullivan Field
- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Gym
- 7:00 pm - Youth Group, UH
- 7:30 pm - Prayer Group, Church

### Friday, August 21

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Msgr. Sullivan Field
- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Gym
- 3:30-6:30 pm - Dance, UH

### Saturday, August 22

### Sunday, August 23

- 10:00 am - Bible Study, CMR
- 11:00 am - Liturgy with Children, RBB

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 16, 2015

- Sunday: Prv 9:1-6/Eph 5:15-20/Jn 6:51-58
- Monday: Jgs 2:11-19/Mt 19:16-22
- Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a/Mt 19:23-30
- Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15/Mt 20:1-16
- Thursday: Jgs 11:29-39a/Mt 22:1-14
- Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Mt 22:34-40
- Saturday: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Mt 23:1-12
- Next Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE HOMEBOUND & SICK OF OUR PARISH

|                 |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| John Lutz       | Dominic Caputa  | Kathy Kennebeck |
| Mary Hipskind   | Kathy Hatfield  | Matthew Joganik |
| Gloria Murabito | Edward Joganik  | Ethan Sonderman |
| Dave Hanneken   | Christine Weber | Michael Wesby   |
| Braden Weaks    | Daniel Barr     | Anita Gillam    |
|                 | Dick Suntrup    | Ken Wisniewski  |

## OUR OFFERING FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 8-9, 2015

### Online Donations

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Debt Reduction .....      | \$70.00    |
| General Fund .....        | \$1,286.50 |
| Maintenance and Repair .. | \$80.00    |
| SVDP .....                | \$25.00    |
| Tuition Assistance .....  | \$50.00    |

### Sunday Collection

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Envelope .....     | \$3,897.00        |
| Loose .....        | \$180.00          |
| <b>Total .....</b> | <b>\$4,077.00</b> |

|                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Votive .....             | \$32.00       |
| Assumption .....         | \$5.00        |
| Latin American .....     | \$100.00      |
| Maintenance & Repair ..  | \$105.00      |
| Debt .....               | \$140.00      |
| Tuition Assistance ..... | \$5.00        |
| Endowment Fund .....     | \$            |
|                          | \$622.00(YTD) |
|                          | \$327.00(YTD) |
|                          | \$(YTD)       |

### Let's Honor The Lord With Our Giving

"Remember this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. And whoever sows generously will also reap generously."  
2 Corinthians 9:6

**Papa-Palooza** Join us September 19, at 2 pm, for Papa-Palooza, our local family celebration of the Philadelphia World Meeting of Families and Papal Visit. It will be an afternoon of family fun and games, an outdoor Mass celebrated by Bishop Rice (4:30 p.m.) dinner by P'sghetti's, and a rollicking concert of praise and worship by St. Louis' own Adam Bitter Band beginning at 6:30 pm. To be held on the campus of Kenrick Glennon Seminary (near the soccer field). \$15 per family or \$5 per individual. Visit [www.archstl.org/palooza](http://www.archstl.org/palooza) for more information and to register.

# PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS, NOTES & EVENTS



**Ladies Guild Card Social** Our monthly card social will be held on Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in the Assumption Room.

**Congratulations to Betty Eschelbach!** Betty received the *Comforter/Nurturer Award* at the 2015 Catholic Women's Recognition Ceremony on Sunday, August 2, 2015 at St. Joseph Parish in Manchester. Betty was honored among this year's group of inspiring women who give their time and energy to the nurturing of others, women who are a companion to the lonely, a comfort to the sorrowful and a relief to the burdened. These women work relentlessly for those who cannot do for themselves. The model for the Comforter/Nurturer Award is Mary Magdalen. **We are so very proud of you Betty! Congrats.**

## Dance Dance Dance - Princess Dance Classes

Dance Classes are held in Epiphany Upper hall on Fridays, **Beginning SEPT 11th** - 5-6 pm. Offering: Tap, Ballet, Jazz, Pom, Musical Theater, & Hip Hop to ages 3 through 18. Dance Director Tina Stemmler is Dance Master Certified with a BA in Dance from Webster University. Tuition cost is \$30 per month. Please Contact Miss Tina for more Information at (314) 680-2613.

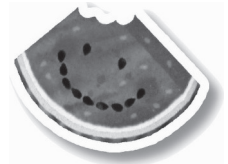


## Update Membership Information

Does Epiphany database have YOUR family membership record correct? Here is your chance to update YOUR record for our annual Guide Book & Directory (if you haven't already done so). It is time for us to update our database with any changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in YOUR family over the past year. Have you changed your phone number? Have you moved? Are you preparing to move soon? Are all of your children still at home and are they all included in your membership record? Do you want your record published? If you have not already informed the Church Office about changes to your record, please let us know now so that the information in the Guide Book & Directory is correct. The parish office number is: 314-781-1199. Thank you for your help!

## LASM 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Watermelon Social

Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm at Southwest Baptist Church - Memorial Hall (6401 Scanlan Ave.) Join Lindenwood Area Senior Ministry for a refreshing slice of watermelon and an afternoon of cooling off with your friends. Fellowship, games, attendance prizes and lots of fun to be had! Please RSVP to Claire at 645-6411 and be sure to let her know if you need a ride.



**LASM Trivia Night** Save the date for Lindenwood Area Senior Ministry's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Trivia Night on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Timothy Lutheran Church. Begin recruiting your trivia team now! \$20/person, tables of 8 at \$160. Support our ministry by becoming a \$60 round sponsor or by donating a silent auction item! For details contact the LASM office at 647-4591.

**NEW HYMNALS** We are excited to be purchasing beautiful new hymnals! The Saint Augustine Hymnal has all of your favorite hymns and contemporary songs. It is a high quality, hardcover hymnal and includes the Sunday lectionary. It will not only create less waste but it will save us thousands of dollars each year over our current hymnals.

The purchase price for this year, however, is more expensive. Will you consider donating to help purchase a hymnal? For \$20, we will dedicate a memorial inscription into a hymnal in honor of anyone you choose. Years from now, if the time comes to replace these hymnals, you may take yours home to keep. *To donate, simply complete the information and return to the parish office along with a \$20 check. Hymnal Donation in honor/memory (please circle one) of:*

Inscription Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

## 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary:

**Spiritual Reflection:** During my theological training, I took three major courses on the Eucharist and, afterwards, decided that I didn't understand the Eucharist. But the fault was not in the courses, which were excellent. The fault, which is not a fault, at all, lies in the richness of the Eucharist itself. In the end, it defies not just the theology professors, but metaphysics, phenomenology, and language itself. There is no adequate explanation of the Eucharist for the same reason that, in the end, there is no adequate explanations for love, for embrace, and for reception of life and spirit through touch. Certain realities take us beyond language because that is their very purpose. They do what words cannot do. They also are beyond what we can neatly nail down in our understanding. - Fr. Ronald Rolheiser

### Spiritual Questions

1. If God is greater and smarter than we are should there not be things in our life that we have to take on faith?
2. What does the Eucharist teach us about God?
3. I don't have to understand how electricity gets to a light bulb in order to enjoy the light. How can I enjoy the Eucharist despite only having a limited knowledge of how it works?
4. How does the Eucharist enrich the Catholic faith?
5. How would the Church be different if we did not believe in the Eucharist?

## 119 Gospel Jn 6:51-58