



# Bringing Home the Word

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)  
August 18, 2024

## Accepting God's Truths

Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The pursuit of wisdom and knowledge has long been a supreme striving of the human heart. Especially as we age, we hunger to truly understand reality, the human heart, modern culture, its problems and solutions.

The Old Testament offers amazing tips on the pursuit of wisdom. Using the analogy of a woman who prepares a meal and invites others to dine at her table, wisdom is a gift prepared by God and set before humanity to receive. We don't produce the truth. We discover and embrace it. We chew on it, take it in like food, and gain strength from it.

The Jews had a hard time swallowing Jesus' truth about the Eucharist. They argued among themselves, trying to figure out this truth instead of simply accepting this revelation as coming from one they could trust—then once accepted, strive to understand the mystery. Once we accept the world, situations, and revelations offered to us, and strive to understand these gifts, then wisdom can become ours.

Some fundamental attitudes accompany this changed perspective. First, it is right to humbly accept the world, people, and situations as gifts to appreciate rather than problems to be solved. Second, believe God has wisdom to share. Third, build upon truths already known and revealed, accepting that we can't "know it all." God's hand fashions creation, holds it in his palm, and then offers it to us. We accept it as a gift, embrace it, and discover the wisdom of the hand of God hidden therein. †

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### A Word from Pope Francis

Each time we participate in the Holy Mass, in a certain sense, we anticipate heaven on earth.... The Eucharist shapes us so that we live not only for ourselves but for the Lord and for our brothers and sisters. Life's happiness and eternity depend on our ability to render fruitful the evangelical love we receive in the Eucharist.

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## Sunday Readings

### Proverbs 9:1–6

[Wisdom says,] "Forsake foolishness that you may live; advance in the way of understanding."

### Ephesians 5:15–20

Watch carefully then how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise.

### John 6:51–58

[Jesus said,] "Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me."

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Would the author of Proverbs consider me foolish in the way I live?
- Is there a truth I need to accept so that I may move from foolishness to wisdom?

# Making Mass Matter to Kids

Sarah Reinhard

When that certain kid of mine starts to protest going to Mass, I can't help but feel like a failure. How does this kid not "get" it? That's Jesus up there on the altar! We have to take the long view. Just as farmers plant seeds and rely on God to do the watering, so we, as their first catechists, plant seeds of faith in our children. Here are a few ideas on how you can instill an understanding and love of Mass in your children.

**Learn Mass Together.** There are a number of great books, apps, and online resources to aid you in your endeavors. You also might consider slipping into a daily Mass, which is half as long and



usually a much smaller crowd. Try going to Eucharistic Adoration or explore the church area together at a non-Mass time. Let the children become familiar with

what's going on. Help them appreciate the beauty around them. Invest yourself.

**Discover Mass Together.** Listen for key words or phrases. How many times does the priest raise the chalice? Which prayer does he use for the consecration? What are the servers doing? Why/when do we stand, sit, or kneel? Follow each part of Mass using the missal. Set the parameters before attending so your discovery doesn't become a distraction.

**Pray About It Together.** This always feels awkward to me. Sometimes, only God can help me. A prayer as simple as: "Lord, help us see you today at Mass" can open minds and hearts. †

## Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

*From "Dorothy Day, Servant of God: Challenged by the Gospel, She Challenges Us"*

The early Christians started with the works of mercy, and it was this technique which converted the world. They run in this wise: the corporal works are to feed the hungry; to give drink to the thirsty; to clothe the naked; to harbor the harborless; to ransom the captive; to visit the sick; to bury the dead. The spiritual works are to instruct the ignorant; to counsel the doubtful; to admonish sinners; to bear wrongs patiently; to forgive offense willingly; to comfort the afflicted; to pray for the living and the dead. Not all of these works are within the reach of all—that is understood. But that we should take part in some of them is a matter of obligation, a "strict precept imposed both by the natural and Divine law." †

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*God of wisdom, instill in me  
a desire to know you—  
not to be right, but to be wise;  
not to win arguments,  
but to love others. Amen.*

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

August 19–24

**Monday, Weekday:**  
Ez 24:15–23 / Mt 19:16–22


**Tuesday, St. Bernard:**  
Ez 28:1–10 / Mt 19:23–30

**Wednesday, St. Pius X:**  
Ez 34:1–11 / Mt 20:1–16

**Thursday, Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary:**  
Ez 36:23–28 / Mt 22:1–14

**Friday, Weekday:**  
Ez 37:1–14 / Mt 22:34–40

**Saturday, St. Bartholomew:**  
Rv 21:9b–14 / Jn 1:45–51

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