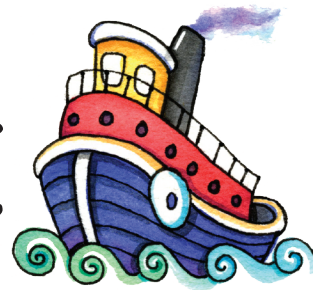


The Catholic Tugboat

A Children's Guide to God



September 6, 2020 Cycle A, 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Volume V, Issue 41

Buried Treasures



The Gospels in September reveal the Christian **ethic**. An **ethic** is a system of rules about what is morally right and morally wrong. Right actions help us grow closer to God; wrong actions bring us further away from God. God loved us so much that He gave us the Ten Commandments to know what was right and what was wrong.

Ezekiel 33:7-9
Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7b, 7c-9
Romans 13:8-10
Matthew 18:15-20

The readings today outline our duty to our fellow man. Ezekiel reminds us that we are responsible to and for each other. We are not to abandon each other to evil. Paul reminds us in the Second Reading



that we are to remain faithful to our spouse and not kill, steal, or covet. And finally, Matthew reminds us in the Gospel that, when we approach

one who has wronged us, we are to do so alone and with all gentleness, so that we do not embarrass or shame him. If this doesn't work, then we try again with others to help. If this fails, we get help solving the problem from Church members.

The Christian ethic is very demanding. However, this is only because the reward is so great.



Catholic I.D.

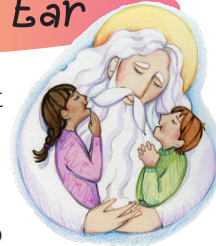
God gave us the Ten Commandments and a 'heart meant to hear Him,' so that we are able to know and do His will. Our job is to form a strong and healthy **conscience**, the part of us that hears and knows God's will. This is how we know when He walks with us and whispers to us: "Deep within his conscience man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey. Its voice, ever calling him to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil, sounds in his heart... There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths." (CCC 1776)



From Your Lips to God's Ear

Praying three times a day is an ancient practice. Some say that it began when Abraham prayed in the morning, Isaac prayed in the afternoon, and Jacob prayed in the evening. Over the centuries praying three times a day caught on. The villagers imitated the monks in the monasteries and rang bells to remind everyone that it was prayer time.

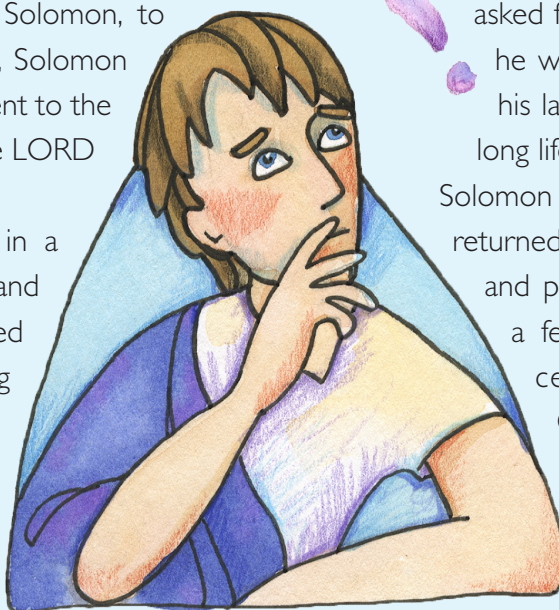
Praying three times each day is a good way to remember a special intention. This week, try praying three Hail Marys when you get up in the morning, with your noontime meal, and just before you go to bed. Does this change how your day goes?



Our Salvation History: Solomon's Choice

As King David grew older, many of his sons fought to take hold of his throne and his kingdom. So, before David died, he had to name a successor. He appointed his youngest son, Solomon, to succeed him as king. At the time, Solomon was only twelve years old so he went to the holy place to offer a sacrifice to the LORD and pray.

Here God spoke to Solomon in a dream. Solomon, feeling very weak and too young to rule a country, asked God to give him an understanding heart and wisdom to be able to judge between good and bad. God was very pleased that Solomon did not ask for riches or a long life. God was so pleased with



Solomon's prayer that He gave Solomon a wise mind and an understanding heart **and** the riches he had not asked for! God told Solomon that if he walked in his ways, obeying all his laws, he would also give him a long life.

Solomon awoke from his dream and returned to Jerusalem to give thanks and praise to the LORD. He held a feast so that everyone could celebrate the blessings of God. Solomon made good and wise decisions, and his influence grew. Soon, all the people throughout the kingdom supported him.

Tugboat Challenge

Put the word from the Word Box in the proper sentence:

Word Box:

CONSCIENCE

WISDOM

TEN COMMANDMENTS

ALONE

THREE TIMES A DAY

HEART

1. God was pleased that Solomon asked Him for _____.
2. The part within us that learns to hear and know God's will is called a _____.
3. God's gifts to help man reach eternity include the _____
and a _____ to hear Him.
4. A good way to keep our mind focused is to pray _____.
5. At first we are to go to a person who has wronged us _____.

Answers: 1. Wisdom 2. Conscience 3. Ten Commandments, heart 4. Three times a day 5. alone

Imprimatur: Most Reverend Richard F. Stika, Bishop, Diocese of Knoxville, July 14, 2020. The Imprimatur ("Permission to Publish") is a declaration that the work is considered to be free of doctrinal or moral error. It is not implied that those who have granted the Imprimatur agree with the contents, opinions or statements expressed.

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