



September 17, 2026



# Announcements

- 1) Next Class - Sept 24
- 2) Get Certificates In ASAP
- 3) Marriage Requirements (See Binder Handout)
- 4) Using Your Resources Well



Blessed Sára Salkaházi

*Feast Day: September 17*

Loving and merciful God, we thank you for planting the gift of faith in our hearts. We lift up to you all those in the OCIA process. Strengthen their faith and open their hearts to the fullness of Your love. Help them to persevere through any difficulties and bless them with the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they learn to walk with You day by day. We ask this through Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.



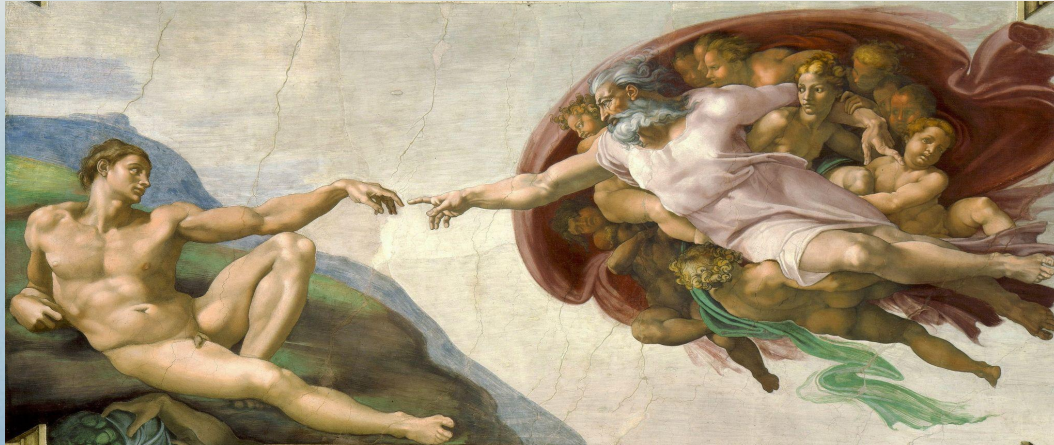
God's Desire for Us And Our  
Desire for God

The Beatific Vision by  
Gustave Dore

1. “God, infinitely perfect and blessed in Himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in His own blessed life. For this reason, at every time and in every place, God draws close to man. **He calls man to seek Him, to know Him, to love Him with all his strength.** He calls together all men, scattered and divided by sin, into the unity of His family, the Church. To accomplish this, when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son as Redeemer and Savior. In his Son and through Him, He invites men to become, in the Holy Spirit, His adopted children and thus heirs of His blessed life” - CCC 1

# To Seek, To Know, to Love

- God only wants three things from us
  - To Seek Him - To constantly pursue God as a lover pursues their beloved
  - To Know Him - To have and maintain a living and personal relationship with God
  - To Love Him - Submit our mind and will to His goodness, devoting our entirety to Him so to live a life in accord with His goodness





# What is the Ultimate Goal of Life?

Communion of  
Saints by Brie Schulze

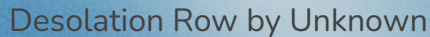
# To Seek God

- We are made in the image and likeness of God
- Humans are both corporal and spiritual - a physical body with a spiritual soul (Gen 2:7)
- Our spirit longs to be with the Creator
- We seek to be fulfilled

Jacopo  
Bassano's  
Paradise



- Natural Consequences
  - Religious Ignorance
  - Religious Indifference
  - Cynicism and Nihilism
  - Idolization of Temporary Worldly Idols
  - Scandal Among the Faithful
  - Religious Hostility
  - Overwhelming Sin



# To Seek God

*“Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Although man can forget God or reject him, He never ceases to call every man to seek him, so as to find life and happiness. But this search for God demands of man every effort of intellect, a sound will, an upright heart, as well as the witness of others who teach him to seek God.”*

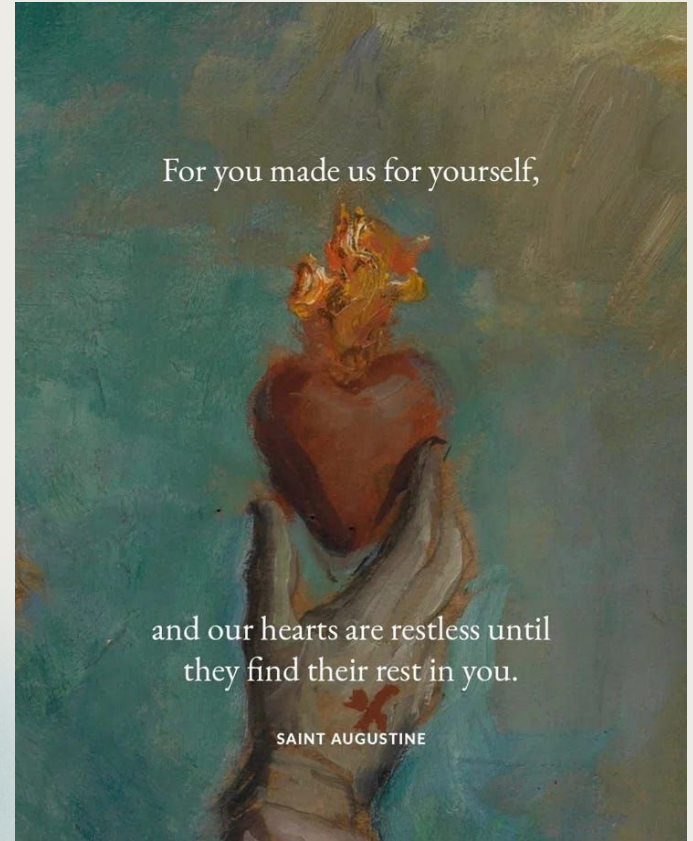
CCC 30



The Calling of Saint Matthew by  
Caravaggio

# To Seek God

*“You are great, O Lord, and greatly to be praised: great is your power and your wisdom is without measure. And man, so small a part of your creation, wants to praise you: this man, though clothed with mortality and bearing the evidence of sin and the proof that you withstand the proud. Despite everything, man, though but a small part of your creation, wants to praise you. You yourself encourage him to delight in your praise, for you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you” - St. Augustine*



For you made us for yourself,

and our hearts are restless until  
they find their rest in you.

SAINT AUGUSTINE

# To Know God

- To know God can predispose our faith in God
- Two mechanisms for knowing God
  - The Physical World
  - The Human Person



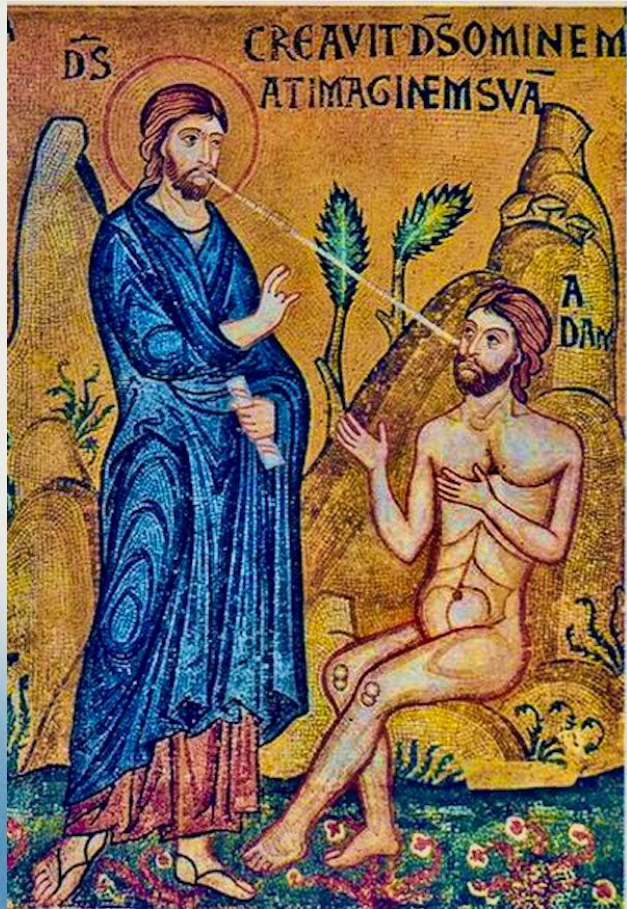
Icon of God's Glorious Creation



Icon of God the Geometer

# To Know God - The Physical World

- There is a grand design to the Universe
- That which is created must have a creator
- Romans 1:19-20
- Universal Truths (Math, Numbers, Physics)



# To Know God - The Human Person

*“The human person: With his openness to truth and beauty, his sense of moral goodness, his freedom and the voice of his conscience, with his longings for the infinite and for happiness, man questions himself about God’s existence. In all this he discerns signs of his spiritual soul. The soul, the “seed of eternity we bear in ourselves, irreducible to the merely material,” can have its origin only in God.” CCC 33*

# Revelation

- God's free and loving self-communication, exposing both who He is, and His ultimate plan for salvation
  - Natural Revelation - the knowledge of God is accessible through reason, conscience, and observations of creation
  - Supernatural Revelation - God's direct self-disclosure, that surpasses what human reason alone could discover



Icon of Holy Wisdom

# Revelation



Icon of Moses and the Unburnt Bush

*“It pleased God, in his goodness and wisdom, to reveal himself and to make known the mystery of his will. His will was that men should have access to the Father, through Christ, the Word made flesh, in the Holy Spirit, and thus become sharers in the divine nature...By revealing himself God wishes to make them capable of responding to him, and of knowing him, and of loving him far beyond their own natural capacity.” CCC 51-52*

# Transmitting Revelation

## Sacred Tradition & Sacred Scripture



Left: Icon of The 12 Apostles and the Holy Church

Right: Saint Jerome by Joos van Cleve



# Sacred Tradition

- Handed down through two modes
  - Orally - by the apostles who preached, exemplified, and institutionalized what they learned from Jesus or the Holy Spirit
  - In Writing - Under the Holy Spirit put the message of Salvation in writing
- Apostolic Succession - All bishops can root their lineage back to the apostles



Icon of Saint John Dictating The Scriptures

# Sacred Scripture

- “In Sacred Scripture, the Church constantly finds her nourishment and her strength, for she welcomes it not as a human word, but as what it really is, the word of God. In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them.” - CCC 104
- Catholic Church venerates Scripture as it does the Lord's Body



# Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture

- Sacred Scripture is to be read and interpreted in the same Spirit by Whom it was written
  - Be attentive to the content and unity of the whole Scripture
  - Read Scripture within the living tradition of the whole Church
  - Be attentive to the analogy of faith



## **Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture**

*“The apostles entrusted the “Sacred deposit” of the faith), contained in Sacred Scripture and Tradition, to the whole of the Church. “By adhering to [this heritage] the entire holy people, united to its pastors, remains always faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. So, in maintaining, practicing, and professing the faith that has been handed on, there should be a remarkable harmony between the bishops and the faithful. The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the living, teaching office of the Church alone. Its authority in this matter is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ.” This means that the task of interpretation has been entrusted to the bishops in communion with the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome.” – CCC 84-85*

# What Do Scripture and Tradition have to do with God's Desire for Us and Our Desire for God?

- Scripture is God's words to us, His active discussion with us, hence the emphasis on Scripture in the Catholic life
- Tradition is our active relationship with God at play - our participation in His revelation



Icon of Jesus and His Friend Abbot Mena



# Prayer Exercise

The Beatific Vision by  
Gustave Dore

*Pierce, O most sweet Lord Jesus, my inmost soul with the most joyous and healthful wound of Thy love, and with true, calm and most holy apostolic charity, that my soul may ever languish and melt with entire love and longing for Thee, may yearn for Thee and for thy courts, may long to be dissolved and to be with Thee.*

*Grant that my soul may hunger after Thee, the Bread of Angels, the refreshment of holy souls, our daily and substantial bread, having all sweetness and savor and every delightful taste. May my heart ever hunger after and feed upon Thee, Whom the angels desire to look upon, and may my inmost soul be filled with the sweetness of Thy savor; may it ever thirst for Thee, the fountain of life, the fountain of wisdom and knowledge, the fountain of eternal light, the torrent of pleasure, the fullness of the house of God; may it ever compass Thee, seek Thee, find Thee, run to Thee, come up to Thee, meditate on Thee, speak of Thee, and do all for the praise and glory of Thy name, with humility and discretion, with love and delight, with ease and affection, with perseverance to the end; and be Thou alone ever my hope, my entire confidence, my riches, my delight, my pleasure, my joy, my rest and tranquility, my peace, my sweetness, my food, my refreshment, my refuge, my help, my wisdom, my portion, my possession, my treasure; in Whom may my mind and my heart be ever fixed and firm and rooted immovably. Amen.*

# Reflection Questions

1. Do you feel like you have a desire for God, what does that desire look like in your life?
2. Do you feel like God desires you? What does that look like in your life?
3. How do you interpret the notion that human beings were created by God for God?
4. Where, if any, do you struggle with the notion that the Catholic Church's Magisterium is trusted with the interpretation and teaching of Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition?
5. How are we free, if we are still to be obedient to the teachings and requirements of the Catholic Church?
6. How can you use Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition in your everyday life to encounter God?
7. What signs throughout Salvation History, or in your own life, have compelled you the most to believe God is active in the world and in your own life?
8. When thinking about Faith, where are the areas of struggle intellectually or emotionally, in which you find it difficult to have faith?
9. How does the knowledge that God has been at work throughout all time and will continue to work throughout time influence your faith?
10. What questions do you have about the things we covered tonight?