

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

January 2017

Church of St. Elizabeth
Rev. James Weiner, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Genevieve

St. Genevieve was born in Nanterre near Paris in 422. She became a nun at the age of 15 and moved to Paris, where she became known for her piety. When Attila the Hun marched on Paris, Genevieve convinced the inhabitants to pray and fast. Attila retreated, leaving Paris untouched. Again, when King Childeric occupied Paris, she crossed enemy lines to bring food to prisoners and convinced the king to release them. She is the patroness of Paris.



Hope in God

Even the saints experienced times when their faith in God's goodness was tested, yet they never gave up hope; they knew that whatever happened, God's unchanging love would see them through. When you feel disheartened, pray for God's grace and hope in him.

"I have told you this that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world" (John 16:33).



Resolve to have perfect faith

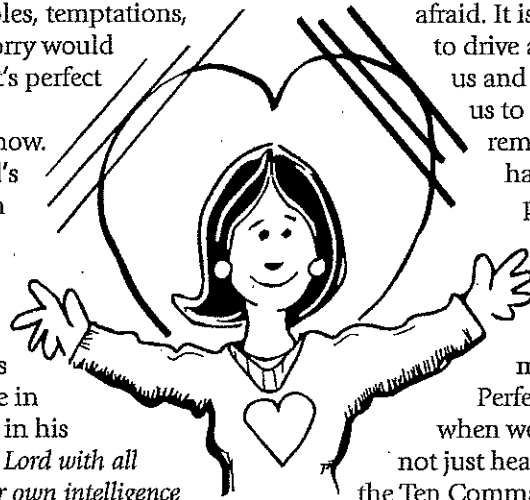
Imagine having complete confidence that God was with you in all things. Think how differently you would respond to troubles, temptations, or hardships. Worry would be obsolete. That's perfect faith and it is possible. Here's how.

Believe in God's love. Perfect faith comes from believing that God loves you without limit or condition. God is love, so to believe in God is to believe in his love. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence do not rely"* (Proverbs 3:5). The key is to remember that God loves you and only wills your good.

Banish fear. *"There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear*

has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love" (1 John 4:18). We were not created to be afraid. It is Satan who wishes to drive a wedge between us and God and tempts us to fear. When we remember that God has consistently proven himself to be faithful and dependable, only faith is left.

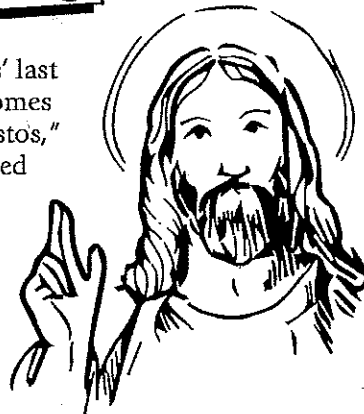
Practice makes perfect. Perfect faith results when we live God's word, not just hear it. Adhering to the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and the two Great Commandments (love God, love your neighbor), we notice God's hand in our lives and trust in him grows.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics call Jesus "Christ"?

"Christ" is not Jesus' last name, but a title. It comes from the Greek "Christos," which means "Anointed One." Ancient Jews enthroned their kings in a ceremony by anointing them with oil. This anointing distinguished the king as being the



one chosen by God to deliver Israel from its enemies. So in calling Jesus "Christ," Christians affirm not only his Lordship over all creation, but also his mission as Savior and the promised Messiah of the Jews.