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**Saint of the Day:**  
**St. Ignatius of Loyola**



Ignatius of Loyola, born in Spain in 1491, became the founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). He originally had begun a career as a soldier but, after being wounded in battle, he began to reflect on his life and realized his calling to give his life completely to Jesus. The priests of his order took a special oath of loyalty to the pope and then traveled throughout the world to spread the gospel. He developed a set of Spiritual Exercises which were designed to immerse people in the life of Christ, making them fervent disciples. He died in 1556. His feast day is July 31.

**From the Catechism:**

God has revealed himself fully by sending his own Son, in whom he has established his covenant for ever. the Son is his Father's definitive Word; so there will be no further Revelation after him. (CCC 73)

# Who is God?

*Confirmation Prep, Session 3*

## Opening Discussion...

- Who is God?
- How many persons in the Holy Trinity?
- Is Jesus God?
- What is scripture?
- How do we know that scripture is God's word?
- Who wrote scripture, people or God?
- Is everything in the Bible true?

## Topic of the Day...

- God is eternal, creator, all good, all loving, all merciful, triune (Father, Son & Holy Spirit).
- We know this because God has revealed himself to the human heart.
- He reveals himself in the Old Testament as God, who created the world out of love and remains faithful to men even when they have fallen away from him into sin (CCC 54-64, 70-72)
- His revelation is completed in the New Testament in God the Son, Jesus Christ. He shows who He is and how He encounters us. We also learn about the workings of the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus is the Word made flesh and the "face" of the Father's mercy.
- We believe. . . The Creed.
- "The books of Scripture firmly, faithfully, and without error teach [the] truth.... Written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they have God as their author." (Second Vatican Council, Dei Verbum)

## Big Questions...

- Do I desire to know you more, Jesus? Help me with that.
- Do I believe that you are God the Son? Reveal yourself to me.
- Do I believe in your Unconditional, Perfect and Everlasting love for me?
- Do I hear the Lord speaking to me through scripture? Help me to listen.
- Are there parts of the Bible and Tradition that I have difficulty with?
- Are there parts of the Bible and Tradition that have inspired my heart? Why?

# ***Scripture Reflection***

## **John 14:6-15**

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; henceforth you know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me; or else believe me for the sake of the works themselves."

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; if you ask anything in my name, I will do it."

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

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## ***Catholic Teaching on the Gospels***

The bishops of the world met in Rome at the Second Vatican Council from 1962-1965 to help define the Catholic faith as it would be presented to the modern world. One document that came out of this meeting was a statement on Divine Revelation called *Dei Verbum*. This included a paragraph on the historical nature of the Gospels:

*Holy Mother Church has firmly and with absolute constancy held, and continues to hold, that the four Gospels just named, whose historical character the Church unhesitatingly asserts, faithfully hand on what Jesus Christ, while living among men, really did and taught for their eternal salvation until the day He was taken up into heaven (see Acts 1:1). Indeed, after the Ascension of the Lord the Apostles handed on to their hearers what He had said and done. This they did with that clearer understanding which they enjoyed after they had been instructed by the glorious events of Christ's life and taught by the light of the Spirit of truth. The sacred authors wrote the four Gospels, selecting some things from the many which had been handed on by word of mouth or in writing, reducing some of them to a synthesis, explaining some things in view of the situation of their churches and preserving the form of proclamation but always in such fashion that they told us the honest truth about Jesus. For their intention in writing was that either from their own memory and recollections, or from the witness of those who "themselves from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the Word" we might know "the truth" concerning those matters about which we have been instructed (see Luke 1:2-4). (Dei Verbum 19)*