



Impact

Look in order to see

How do you see God?

We do not “see” God with our physical eyes, and that is a challenge for most of us occasionally. It is what leads some to disregard faith as nothing more than wishful thinking. Yet, we do have signs of God’s presence. The more attuned we become to it, the more we may see God, and are assured of his presence in moments of difficulty and able to witness to the love of God when family and friends struggle in their lives.

In the Eucharist

Christ is present in a special and particular way in the Eucharist. Christ is present in the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of the Lord, the word proclaimed, and the presence of the priest who stands for and with us as Christ. What we sometimes miss is that we also experience Christ’s presence with and in the people. All of us together, as members of Christ’s body, share God’s presence with one another. But what if we lose sight of this great mystery, or have moments in which we just can’t see God at Mass? Where do we look?

Through love

God is love. We can say this so often that we become *blind* to its meaning. Think about it this way: when we experience love in a close relationships or an unexpected moment of love among a group of friends, we are *seeing* God.

In those who need to know God’s love

Jesus tells us that we see God in the poor and weak, and especially through experiences of compassion and care for them.

In the community

Those who are involved in the parish see God in each other as we serve together side-by-side, and

in our relationships with one another as we grow strong bonds as a community of faith.

In creation and all things beautiful

Who among us has not been struck by the beauty of creation or uplifting art and the sound of beautiful music? We gaze at the stars on a clear night, pause to take in the sound of a gentle rain or a garden brimming with color, and we see the magnificence of God.

In times of peace and when we are unsettled

We see God in moments of deep peace and consolation that can otherwise not be explained. We also see God when our conscience leads us to be unsettled as we face temptation to sin.

Beyond sight and touch

Sometimes, we rely on physical sight and touch to tell us what is real. In order to see God, we must open our minds and hearts to the mystery of God’s love and look beyond the stuff that detracts from faith and faithful living.

Through the eyes of faith

Ultimately, we see God through the eyes of faith. We *look* for the blessings, even in the midst of trial; for the good and the beautiful, even on the busiest of days; for love, in times of joy, grief, pain, and pleasure; for Christ with and among us every time we gather at the table of the Lord. When our vision of God grows dim, we call upon others who help us to see him clearly again. And when they waver, we help them to see God in their midst.

We have to look in order to see.

How do you see God?

Share how you see God, hear the stories of others, and explore the ways faith impacts life on our Everyday Impact Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/faithimpactslife>.

Impact this month

Pray with Psalm 139 this month, and take its deep meaning to heart.

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
(PS 139:1-3, 14-15)

“Who are my mother and my brothers? And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.’” (MK 3:33-35)

Solely focused on God in Christ Jesus - by Leisa Anslinger

I am not happy to admit this, but I often find myself singing the Great Amen at the end of the Eucharistic prayer, and realize my mind had wandered. Through the whole of the consecration. At this key moment in the celebration of the Eucharist, through which the bread and wine, and we ourselves, are consecrated, my head was somewhere far away. Sometimes, I began in prayer, and then my mind went to the things I was praying for or about, the people for whom I have promised to pray, the situations in my life that most need God's love. At times, the wandering was a result and sign of stress or fatigue.

I used to get frustrated with myself at times like this, wishing I could be more focused in prayer. And surely, there is a call to do what we can to be attentive at Mass and in all of our times of prayer – we are called to discipline in discipleship. Yet, God knows our hearts and minds, and understands that our very presence at Mass is a sign of our commitment to Christ. In those very moments in which our mind is wandering, God is calling us back, toward him, toward holiness. God seeks us out.

Truth be told, it isn't only our minds that wander. Sometimes we wander through life, living less with a sense of purpose and more just getting through it all. As is the case when we drift during Mass, God is with us and calls us back, to walk by faith in word and in deed. The gospel passage we hear on June 10 speaks to the call to be focused on Jesus' way and to do God's will in our lives. In doing so, we will know ourselves as Jesus' family.