



nool.us | March 31, 2019

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

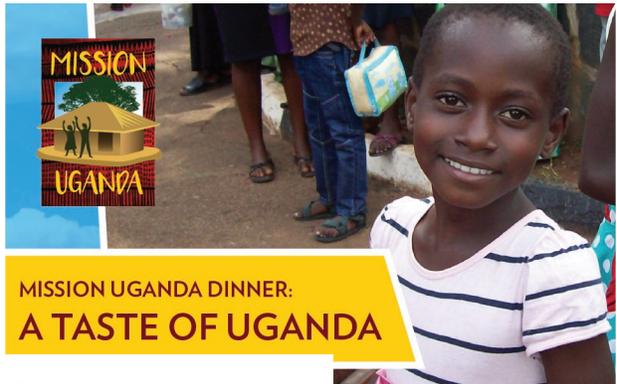
“Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind.””

- *John 9:39*



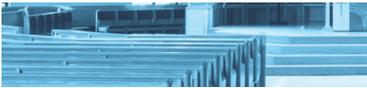
NATIVITY
NIGHTS
2019
LENT

APRIL 4
Hosted by
The Women's Guild



MISSION UGANDA DINNER:
A TASTE OF UGANDA

FOURTH SUNDAY
OF LENT



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRIESTS



FR. ACCURSIO CIACCIO

Dear Parishioners,

As you may have heard there is a movie that just came out in the theaters last Friday: *Unplanned*.

This is the true story of Abby Johnson, who used to be the youngest director of a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic and now is a very famous pro-life advocate.

What happened to her? About ten years ago, she had to help with an abortion in her clinic. At that point she had already been responsible for over twenty-two thousand of them. Normally an abortion is carried on without the use of an ultrasound machine for two reasons: first of all because it take a couple of extra minutes to perform the procedure, even though it would dramatically increase the safety of the mothers; but the most important reason is because of what happened to Mrs. Johnson. When she saw the little baby fighting for his life and being ripped apart little by little, she understood that what that mother was carrying was not just a bit of tissue, but a real person, in his early stages of development. This truly shook her and made her change her life completely around. Now, as I just mentioned, she fights against abortion.

Her story is a fascinating one, but hardly the only one. There have been many other eminent pro-choice activists who eventually converted. Their stories can be quite different at times, but they all have something in common. They all refer to their change of beliefs on the topic as someone who has finally seen something true and who couldn't unsee it anymore.

Probably the most famous is Dr. Bernard Nathanson. He used to be a convinced abortionist. He was also an atheist at the time. He too, like Abby Johnson, used an ultrasound machine during an abortion. This was all the way back in the 70s, when such technology was still at its beginnings, and he was the first doctor to ever do so. This led him to change his perspective on the subject. He tried very hard to convince the public scene of the evil of such practice. He did all of that from a merely scientific point of view, since then he didn't believe in God. Only later in life he became Catholic. One of his most famous works is a half-hour documentary, available on Youtube, called *The Silent Scream*, in which he shows what he saw that day, by using ultrasounds.

Another important conversion is Norma McCorvey. Her name may not be very familiar, but her pseudonym is: Jane Roe, as in Roe versus Wade. Mrs. McCorvey, after the



Supreme Court decision, spent many years working in an abortion clinic, until her conversion to the Episcopal Church in 1995. Eventually she also became Catholic, in 1998.

The list of eminent conversions is very long, and it would be impossible for me to talk about all of them. But what brings people to such conversions? There is only one word: truth. As we know, Christ is the Truth, but when they argue their

conviction there is no need to use the Bible. The evidence of the mere facts is enough. This is why the abortion industry needs to rely on lies all the time.

It comes to mind when Hilary Clinton affirmed that she wanted abortion to be safe, legal and rare. Why is that? Either it is morally acceptable, and therefore there is no need for it to be rare, or isn't, and it should not be legal.

Another episode that comes to mind is when Planned Parenthood was caught on cameras accepting minors without their parents consent or when they wanted to sell the body parts extracted in an abortion.

Why all these lies? Because they can't accept the truth.

Who is the father of lies, though? I remember a friend of mine who used to go and pray in front of an abortion clinic. He had befriended the guard and one day talking with him he asked why he would work in such a place. His answer was chilling. He said that he worshipped Satan and that to work in such a place would guarantee him a high-ranking in Hell. He also added that many other coworkers had the same desire.

Jesus told his disciples, *"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* (Jn 8:32)

We are Christians because this is the truth about the world. We are pro-life because this is the truth about pregnancies. Only truth will truly free us, from the slavery of sin and evil.

We need to seek Christ with all our hearts and strength. This is the only real hope for the world.

Have a great week,

Fr. Accu

Fr. Accursio



MUSIC NUMBERS

March 31

266 | 411 | 614 | 413 | 272
266 | 411 | 614 | 413 | 272

April 7

261 | 196 | 493 | 272 | ---
261 | 196 | 493 | 272 | ---

DAILY READINGS

CLICK HERE
FOR MORE

Saturday | 3/30

HOS 6:1-6
LK 18:9-14

Sunday | 3/31

1 SM 16:1B, 6-7,
10-13A
EPH 5:8-14
JN 9:1-41

Monday | 4/1

IS 65:17-21
JN 4:43-54

Tuesday | 4/2

EZ 47:1-9, 12
JN 5:1-16

Wednesday | 4/3

IS 49:8-15
JN 5:17-30

Thursday | 4/4

EX 32:7-14
JN 5:31-47

Friday | 4/5

WIS 2:1A, 12-22
JN 7:1-2, 10,
25-30

Saturday | 4/6

JER 11:18-20
JN 7:40-53

Sunday | 4/7

EZ 37:12-14
ROM 8:8-11
JN 11:1-45

BULLETIN INFO

For all bulletin submissions, please email us at:

BULLETIN@NOOL.US

The submission deadline is every Tuesday at noon. Be on the lookout for early holiday submission times.

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and Sr. Eleonora**

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PARISH TIMES

Mass Times

Monday - Friday

7:00am

Saturday

8:00am/4:30pm

Sunday

7:30am/9:30am
11:30am/5:00pm

Confession

Thursday

Saturday

8:30am/3:00pm

Sunday

30 minutes prior
to each mass

Adoration

Thursday

Noon - 6:00pm

PARISH OFFICE

Location:

900 W. Midway Blvd
Broomfield, CO 80020

Website: www.nool.us

Phone: 303-469-5171

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday,
8:00am-5:00pm

Fax: 303-469-5172

School: 303-466-4177

Sign up at nool.us or at
app.flocknote.com/nool



SAINT OF THE WEEK

CLICK HERE
FOR MORE



St. Isidore of Sevilla
April 4

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday | 3/30

8:00am | † Deceased Members of the Soenksen & Thielen Families
4:30pm | † Sue Gettings by Scott and Melinda Tewksbury

Sunday | 3/31

7:30am | Zita Rock by Katie Hayward
9:30am | People of the Parish
11:30am | † Andreina Pinero by Adriana Pinero
5:00pm | Al Bosn by Rosaline Gallagher

Monday | 4/1

7:00am | † Margareth Merrill by Hans and Wendy Fiedler

Tuesday | 4/2

7:00am | † Stella Lombardi by Sanrda Deedon

Wednesday | 4/3

7:00am | Mary Jane Collopy by Hans and Wendy Fiedler

Thursday | 4/4

7:00am | † Mary Giau by Tu and Nghi Nguyen

Friday | 4/5

7:00am | † Mary Miller by Carol Day

Saturday | 4/6

8:00am | † Gerald Coufal
4:30pm | † Sylvia Richards by Scott and Melinda Tewksbury

Sunday | 4/7

7:30am | † Karl Klemoff by Suzanne Klemoff
9:30am | People of the Parish
11:30am | † Karen Morrison by Anne Gray
5:00pm | † Greg Talley by Mom

Prayers for the sick and for the deceased:

We pray for all who are sick, and for our deceased relatives and friends that they may speedily attain the blessedness of heaven and rejoice in the eternal treasure of God's glory and love.

If you have any prayer requests, please contact Joanne Farver at 303-466-8859 for Nativity's prayerline.

If you're going to the hospital and need a visit from a priest or deacon, please call the front desk at: 303-469-5171

COLLECTION COUNTERS



March 31

Cyrene Brozovich
James Brozovich
Sheila Carranco
Donald Larson

April 7

Wilma Fuller
Annette Garcia
Colleen Yuskewich
Pat Fonio

SACRISTY LAUNDRY



Peggy Silvers

PARISH CALENDAR



Sunday | 3/31

6:00am | Choir Practice
7:05am | Morning Prayer
8:00am | CL
11:00am | Parishioner's Rosary
6:00pm | HS Youth Group

Monday | 4/1

6:30am | Extend. Care (*Before*)
7:30am | Morning Prayer
8:30am | Endow
9:30am | Endow
10:30am | SVdP
1:00pm | Rosary Prayer Grp.
3:00pm | Extended Care (*After*)
5:30pm | Hope Corner

Tuesday | 4/2

6:30am | Extend. Care (*Before*)
7:30am | Morning Prayer
9:00am | Endow
9:00am | TOFF
10:30am | SVdP
1:00pm | Tuesday Bible Study
3:00pm | Extended Care (*After*)
4:30pm | Extended Care (*A.C.*)
4:30pm | RE
6:00pm | Venturers
6:30pm | RE
6:30pm | RCIA
7:30pm | IN IPSO

Wednesday | 4/3

5:45am | St. Joe's Men's Grp.
6:30am | Extend. Care (*Before*)
7:30am | Morning Prayer
8:00am | Endow
10:30am | SVdP
1:00pm | Video Bible S. (*Acts*)
1:30pm | Choir Practice
3:00pm | Extended Care (*After*)
4:30pm | Extended Care (*A.C.*)

4:30pm | RE
5:30pm | Choir Practice
5:30pm | Grief Support
6:30pm | CL
6:30pm | Video Bible S. (*Acts*)

Thursday | 4/4

6:30am | Extend. Care (*Before*)
6:30am | Donuts with Dad
7:30am | Morning Prayer
9:00am | Endow
10:30am | SVdP
3:00pm | Extended Care (*After*)
3:30pm | Nativity Nights
6:30pm | Dante's Divine Com.
7:00pm | Sojourners
7:00pm | School of Community
7:00pm | Finance Council
7:00pm | NMCS

Friday | 4/5

6:00am | Muffins with Mom
6:30am | Extend. Care (*Before*)
7:30am | Morning Prayer
7:30am | Men of Emmaus
9:00am | Endow
10:30am | SVdP
3:00pm | Extended Care (*After*)
5:00pm | GS
6:00pm | Soup and Stations

Saturday | 4/6

6:00am | Choir Practice
7:00am | MASH
7:10am | Morning Prayer
7:30am | Pro-Life Rosary
9:00am | Marian Pray Cenacles
9:00am | Spanish Bible Study
9:30am | Italian Class
11:00am | Baptisms
2:30pm | Word of Life
3:00pm | Choir Practice
4:00pm | New Parishioner Welcome Reception


NATIVITY NIGHTS
2019
LENT

APRIL 4
 Hosted by
The Women's Guild

4:00-7:00pm
Confession
Adoration
Dinner
 4:00-5:00pm
 Rosary
 5:00-6:00pm
 Singing
 6:00-7:00pm
 Evening Prayer

**WELCOME TO OUR
 NEW PARISHIONERS!**


NATIVITY
 OF OUR LORD

We, here at Nativity, would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our parish family! Thank you for joining us and welcome to Nativity:

Maureen; Susan; Otto, Rosemary; Matthew, Laura, Emma; Donna; Amanda; David, Caitlin, Nicholas, and Tanner.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

FROM ELIZABETH BOITNOTT & FAMILY

In remembrance of my husband, Clarence Boitnott, I want to extend my warm thanks on behalf of my family to all of the wonderful people of our Nativity community. So many of you have extended your loving kindness to me and my family during this time in your words, prayers, and actions. I want to especially thank Fr. Accu, the deacons, and choir for the beautiful ceremony put on for the passing of my husband.

On the radio ...


[CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

Fr. Emanuele Fadini
Wednesday April 3, 2019
4:30 - 5:45 pm

1060 AM 1120 AM 970 AM


 CATHOLIC RADIO NETWORK

On the radio ...


[CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

Deacon Steve Vallero
Friday April 5, 2019
4:30 - 5:30 pm

1060 AM 1120 AM 970 AM


 CATHOLIC RADIO NETWORK

TITHING

CLICK HERE
FOR MORE

Online Giving

Nativity participates in an online giving program that serves as a consistent, reliable means of making your offering to our parish.

Questions? Suzie at: s.sloan@nool.us

To give online:

- 1) Go to nool.us
- 2) Click on 'Parish Life' tab
- 3) Scroll to Online Giving
- 4) Complete the registration



NATIVITY MEN'S LENTEN RETREAT

YMCA of the Rockies
March 22-24

A large group of children of various ages are gathered together, many with their arms raised in excitement. A circular logo in the top left corner features a dove and the text 'DENVER Totus Tuus'. The background is a blue gradient with white and yellow text.

CLICK HERE
FOR MORE

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

TOTUS TUUS 2019

June 22-28 **COST**
\$45 per student; \$100 total for a family with three or more students

GRADES 1-6
Monday-Friday | 9:00am-2:30pm **CONTACT**
Diane Irby | d.irby@nool.us
303-731-0425

GRADES 7-12
Sunday-Thursday | 7:30-9:30pm

A close-up shot of a hand pouring beer into a glass. The background is dark and out of focus.

Nativity of Our Lord
sojourners
Young Adult Group

Thursdays
7-9pm
Frassati House
580 West 3rd Ave. Dr.

CLICK HERE
FOR MORE

✉ Jacque at j.fankell@nool.us Nativity of Our Lord Young Adults

CHARITABLE GIVING

CLICK HERE
FOR MORE

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES | March 31

The Catholic Relief Services Collection serves Jesus in disguise in some of the most marginalized communities in our world. In rural communities in Afghanistan, for example, children have limited access to education because of distance and the danger of commuting to public schools. The closest school was too far and the road too dangerous for young children to attend. But your generosity made it possible for the children to attend school and has offered them a more hopeful and secure future. Your support of this collection makes a difference for so many around the globe.

To learn more about the collection and the people who benefit, please visit usccb.org/catholic-relief. As a tithing parish, Nativity of Our Lord is donating \$1,500 from the offertory collection.

A scenic view of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks and a lake in the foreground.

save the date

MIDDLE SCHOOL VACATION

June 10-14, 2019
Highlands Presbyterian Camp
Allenspark, CO

CLICK HERE
FOR MORE

A scenic view of a mountain range with snow-capped peaks and a lake in the foreground.

save the date

HIGH SCHOOL VACATION

June 23-28, 2019
YMCA of the Rockies
Winter Park, CO

CLICK HERE
FOR MORE



CLICK HERE FOR MORE

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

FALL 2019

NATIVITY PRESCHOOL



Nativity Preschool offers a high-quality early childhood experience in a caring, safe, fun and faith-filled environment, where children develop qualities such as:

- Conversation
- Persistence
- Creative Thinking
- Independence
- Motor Skills
- Empathy
- Focus
- Conflict Resolution

Nativity Preschool for 3-5 year olds.
Full Day and Half Day options available:

5 Full Days | M-F: 8:15am-3:15pm
3 Full Days | M/W/F: 8:15am-3:15pm
2 Full Days | Tu/Th: 8:15am-3:15pm

5 Half Days | M-F: 8:15am-11:15am
3 Half Days | M/W/F: 8:15am-11:15am
2 Half Days | Tu/Th: 8:15am-11:15am

For more information visit:
school.nool.us



Denver Broncos Raffle Tickets

Nativity: Faith & Reason is selling raffle tickets to support the athletic program. Grand prize is four season tickets to all 2019 Denver Broncos regular season home games; second prize is two season tickets to all 2019 Denver Broncos regular season home

games; third prize is \$250 cash; and fourth prize is \$100 cash. Tickets are \$10.00 a piece and may be purchased from Nativity athletes, their parents, or by contacting the athletic director at 303-466-4177 x128. The raffle drawing will be conducted on May 6. Winners do not need to be present to win. You must be at least 18 years old to enter.

WOMEN'S GUILD

LENTEN NATIVITY NIGHTS | April 4

The Women's Guild will be hosting the Lenten Nativity Night on Thursday, April 4. We encourage all women to attend this event. Questions – call Nicki Battista 303-469-0670.

RESPECT LIFE

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

PRAYER IN THE SQUARE BROOMFIELD | April 6

Join us next Saturday, April 6, at 10:00am and each First Saturday to pray a Rosary at North Midway Park. We pray for God's love, mercy, and peace - through the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of Guadalupe - for the sanctity of human life and for an end to the persecution of Christians worldwide.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE | March 6 - April 14

167 Babies have been saved since March 6, that we know of.

The spring campaign of 40 Days for Life will be March 6 - April 14. Dates to note:

Tuesdays, March 12 - April 9 | Please join us to stand and peacefully pray for an end to abortion, the change of hearts and minds of the mothers entering the clinic, the babies, and the conversion of all of the staffers and abortionists in the clinic. We will carpool from Nativity, leaving at 8:00am. Abortions UP TO BIRTH, are performed at this clinic. You may meet us there, if you wish. 1130 Alpine Avenue, Boulder. Consider this work of mercy as an opportunity for your Lent.

Thank you, Fr. Emanuele, for celebrating Mass for us at Planned Parenthood! Thank you, all who attended.

"Not even one abortion per week is acceptable. Not one per month. Not one per year. Not one in our lifetime...The dignity of the human person begins at the moment of conception, not at birth. The dignity, as recognized by the signers of the Declaration of Independence, is bestowed by the Creator, and no one has the right to destroy innocent unborn life."

~ Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila

If you have any questions please contact:

Eloise Georgen: 303-469-8156; eegptg@msn.com
Carrie Kudrna: 720-261-7622; ckudrna@ctpower.com
Janet Carpenter: 720-939-7192; janetacarpenter@comcast.net

For more information of the *40 Days for Life* campaign visit:

40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/denver
40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/boulder

For a list of many more *Resources for Life* please visit:

nool.us/ministries-1/respect-life

HOPE CORNER

FREE MENTAL HEALTH PRESENTATION | April 1

The Hope Corner is a free mental health ministry committed to instilling hope and reducing stigma. It provides stress management and wellness tips, screenings, information, support, encouragement, faith/community based resources.

The next Hope Corner is April 1 from 5:30pm-7:30pm in Dresen Hall. Everyone is welcome whether you have a question, would like a screening, or have a family member with a mental health concern. With questions, please contact Becky Kusick, MA, LPC, CPSII at 303-907-6499 or at hopecornerministry@gmail.com.

TIME OUT FOR FRIENDS

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

ELIZABETH KLEIN | April 2

Join TOFF (Women's Group) on Tuesday, April 2 at 9:30am in Weibel I/II. We will be joined by Elizabeth Klein, from the Augustine Institute, who will be speaking on angels. Childcare is available for a small fee and babies under one year old are welcome to stay with Mom.

For more information, contact Anne Gray at abcgray@hotmail.com or Ashley Suppes at Ashley.suppes@gmail.com or at 816-288-2068.

FROM THE COMMUNITY

[CLICK EACH FOR MORE](#)

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

COUPLES RETREATS | Dillon, CO

God always waits for us with open, loving arms. Let God be the strength of your marriage by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend on::

April 26-28 | Dillon, CO
September 13-15 | Dillon, CO
November 1-3 | Dillon, CO

Space is limited, so reserve your weekend early. For more information, please visit: wwme.org. With questions, feel free to contact Brenda and Gary Granger at 303-604-6202.

CFCS Grief Support Program

April 5 | Archdiocese of Denver Mortuary, Wheat Ridge

Join us for a free Grief Support Program presented by St. Raphael Counseling of Catholic Charities. The Grief Support Program is open to everyone. Presenters will give a Catholic perspective to The Five Stages of Grief, recommendations in the grieving process, and how children grieve a loss. There will be an opportunity to ask questions as well.

For more information, please contact John Miller at 303-715-2083 or john.miller@archden.org.

FROM THE COMMUNITY

CLICK EACH
FOR MORE

Denver Seminarians: Discernment Retreats

ADULT MEN | April 7 | Ages 18+

St. John Vianney Seminary, in Denver, is hosting an Adult Men's Discernment Retreat on April 7 from 9:30am - 5:00pm. Find more information and/or register at denverseminarians.org.

Diaconate Discernment Retreat

ADULT MEN | April 6 | Ages 35-60

Through the reception of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, the Deacon is the icon of Christ the Servant, in service to the Church through his Bishop.

If you feel you like the Holy Spirit is calling you to serving the Church and the People of God, please consider checking out this Diaconate Discernment Retreat on April 6. Feel free to talk to any deacon about a vocation to the diaconate. Or for more information call 303-715-3236 or visit:

sjvdenver.edu/deacons/application-process.

Catholic Women's Conference of Denver

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN | April 27 | Lone Tree

Registration is now open for the third annual Catholic Women's Conference of Denver, "*The Holiness of Women.*"

Visit DenverCatholicConference.com to learn more.

NMCS

SPIRITUALITY in a NON-SPIRITUAL WORLD | May 4

North Metro Catholic Singles is hosting a retreat, "*Our Spirituality in a Non-Spiritual World*", on May 4 from 8:30am-2:00pm at Nativity. Directed by Fr. Joe Danhorst, the cost is \$20 and includes continental breakfast and lunch. The deadline for reservations is April 27. For more information, contact Sue at 720-545-6073. Make checks payable to Sue Klemoff: 13418 Alcott St. Broomfield, CO 80020.



St. VINCENT de PAUL

CLICK HERE
FOR MORE

Founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Our society was founded by Frederic Ozanam (1813-1853), a man who was convinced that each human being had inestimable worth.

Frederic was born in Milan, Italy but lived much of his life in France. He was one of fourteen children, but only Frederic and two other siblings survived to reach adulthood. Perhaps this was one of the reasons that as a teenager he began to doubt his faith. Many long discussions with a parish priest got him through this tough period, and these gave him renewed confidence in the truth of his Catholic faith.

He was gifted with a keen intellect. As a young adult and contrary to his father's wishes, he decided he would pursue a legal career. He was admitted to the University of the Sorbonne, the pre-eminent university in France, in 1831 and began his legal studies.

Being a university student in mid-nineteenth century France was similar in some ways to being a student in some universities in early twenty first century America is like. There was a general skepticism about religion and a particular disdain for the Catholic Church among a number of professors. The Church and its teachings were frequently mocked during lectures.

We'll continue Frederic's story next week.

In the meantime, if you know of someone in need have them call the help line at 720-452-2520.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

CLICK EACH
FOR MORE

An Opportunity

"Each year, Lent offers us a providential opportunity to deepen the meaning and value of our Christian lives, and it stimulates us to rediscover the mercy of God so that we, in turn, become more merciful toward our brothers and sisters." - Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

As we seek to renew our relationship with God through penance and increased prayer this Lenten season, we might also see this as an opportunity to explore other ways we are called to live a life of Christian virtue. For some, this may involve stepping outside of themselves and working to see Christ in their neighbor; for others it might mean opening themselves up to receive the love and care Christ is offering them in their time of need.

Stephen Ministry, our parish's one-to-one caregiving ministry, is a powerful opportunity to embrace that new life in Christ, be it in sharing or receiving His love. For more information about Stephen Ministry, please call 303-469-5171 x113.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR POPE



POPE FRANCIS
GENERAL AUDIENCE
St Peter's Square
Wednesday, 27 February 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
It seems that winter is nearly over and thus we have returned to the Square. Welcome to the Square!



POPE FRANCIS

In our journey of rediscovering the “Our Father”, today we shall delve deeper into the first of his seven invocations, namely, “hallowed be thy name.”

There are seven requests in the “Our Father”, easily divisible into two subgroups. The first three have at the centre ‘Thou/You’ addressed to God the Father; the other four have at the centre ‘us’ and our human needs. In the first part Jesus lets us enter his wishes, everyone turning to the Father: “hallowed by thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done”; in the second it is He who enters us and becomes the interpreter of our needs: daily bread, forgiveness of sins, help in temptation and liberation from evil.

Herein lies the matrix of every Christian prayer - I would say of every human prayer - which is always done, on the one hand, as a contemplation of God, of his mystery, of his beauty and goodness, and on the other, as a sincere and courageous request for what we need for life, and to live properly. Thus, in its simplicity and in its essentiality, the “Our Father” teaches those who pray it not to multiply empty words, because - as Jesus himself says - “your Father knows what you need before you ask him” (Mt 6:8).

When we speak with God, we do not do so in order to reveal what we have in our heart: he knows it much better than we do! Although God is a mystery for us, we are not an enigma in his eyes (cf. Ps 139[138]: 1-4). God is like those mothers for whom one look suffices to thoroughly understand her children: whether they are happy or sad, whether they are sincere or are hiding something...

Thus, the first step in Christian prayer is consigning ourselves to God, to his providence. It is as if to say: ‘Lord, you know everything; I do not even have to tell you about my pain; I ask only that you be here beside me: You are my hope’. It is interesting to note that, in the Sermon on the Mount, immediately after teaching the words of the “Our Father”, Jesus exhorts us not to be worried or troubled about things. It seems like a contradiction: first he teaches us to ask for daily bread and then he tells us: “Do not be anxious, asking ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or

‘What shall we wear?’” (Mt 6:31). But the contradiction is only apparent: a Christian’s request expresses trust in the Father; and it is precisely this trust that enables us to ask for what we need without worry or agitation.

This is why we pray by saying: “Hallowed be thy name!”. In this request - the first one! “Hallowed be thy name! - one feels all Jesus’ admiration for the beauty and greatness of the Father, and the wish that everyone recognize and love him for what he truly is. And at the same time there is the supplication that his name be sanctified in us, in our family, in our community, in the entire world. It is God who sanctifies, who transforms us with his love, but at the same time we too, with our witness, manifest God’s holiness in the world, making his name present. God is holy, but if we, if our life is not holy, there is great inconsistency! God’s holiness must be reflected in our actions, in our life. ‘I am Christian; God is holy, but I do many bad things’: no, this is of no use. This also does harm; this scandalizes and does not help.

God’s holiness is an expanding force, and we ask that the barriers in our world be quickly broken down. When Jesus begins to preach, the first to pay the consequences is precisely the evil that afflicts the world. The evil spirits curse: “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God” (Mk 1:24). Such holiness had never been seen before: not concerned with itself but radiating outward. A holiness - that of Jesus - that expands in concentric circles, as when one throws a stone into a pond. The evil one’s days are numbered - evil is not eternal; evil can no longer harm us: the strong man has arrived to take possession of his house (cf. Mk 3:23-27). And this strong man is Jesus, who gives us, too, the strength to take possession of our inner house.

Prayer drives away all fears. The Father loves us; the Son lifts up his arms to support ours; the Spirit works secretly for the redemption of the world. And we? We do not waver in uncertainty; for we have one great certainty: God loves me; Jesus gave his life for me! The Spirit is within me. This is the great certainty. And the evil one? He is afraid. And this is good.



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