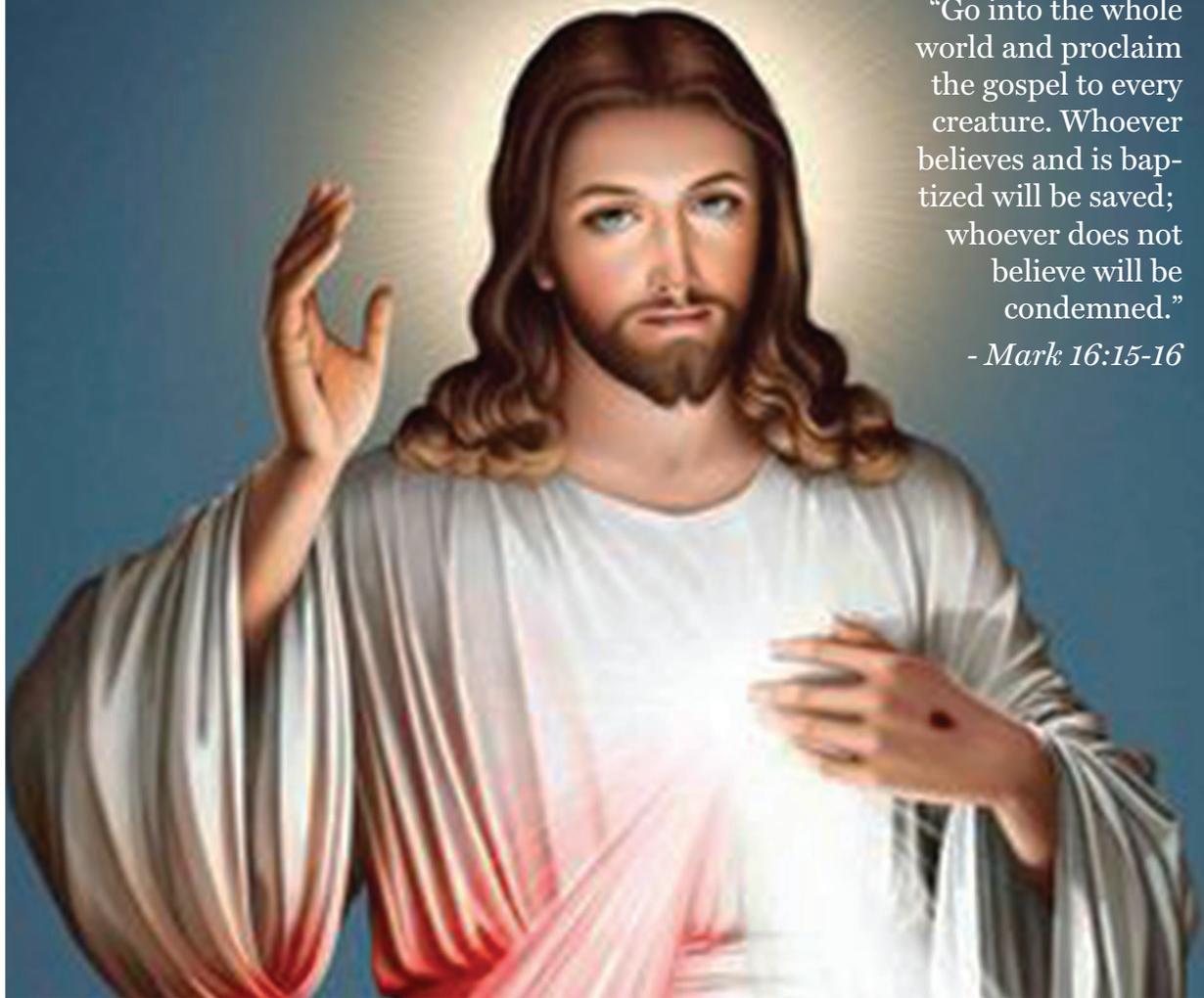




Nativity of Our Lord

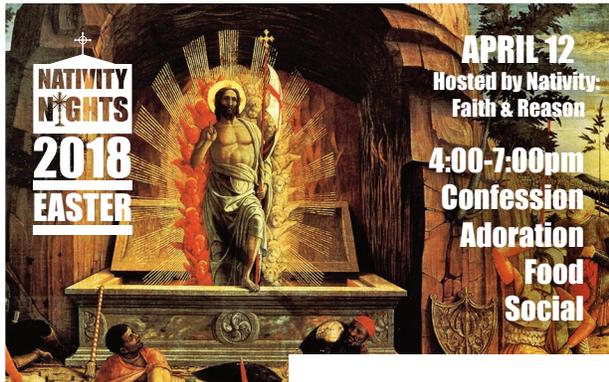
CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

nool.us | April 8, 2018



“Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

- *Mark 16:15-16*



NATIVITY NIGHTS
2018
EASTER

APRIL 12
Hosted by Nativity:
Faith & Reason

4:00-7:00pm
Confession
Adoration
Food
Social



MISSION
UGANDA

MISSION UGANDA
DINNER & FUNDRAISER

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRIESTS



**FR. MICHAEL
CARVILL**

which are not written in this book” (Jn 20:30). The Gospel is the book of God’s mercy, to be read and reread, because everything that Jesus said and did is an expression of the Father’s mercy. Not everything, however, was written down; the Gospel of mercy remains an open book, in which the signs of Christ’s disciples – concrete acts of love and the best witness to mercy – continue to be written. We are all called to become living writers of the Gospel, heralds of the Good News to all men and women of today. We do this by practicing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, which are the hallmarks of the Christian life. By means of these simple yet powerful gestures, even when unseen, we can accompany the needy, bringing God’s tenderness and consolation. Thus continues the great work of Jesus on Easter day, when he poured into the hearts of his fearful disciples the Father’s mercy, bringing them the Holy Spirit who forgives sins and bestows joy.

At the same time, the story we have just heard presents an evident contrast: there is the fear of the disciples, who gathered behind closed doors; and then there is the mission of Jesus, who sends them into the world to proclaim the message of forgiveness. This contrast may also be present in us, experienced as an interior struggle between a closed heart and the call of love to open doors closed by sin. It is a call that frees us to go out of ourselves. Christ, who for love entered through doors barred by sin, death and the powers of hell, wants to enter into each one of us to break open the locked doors of our hearts. Jesus, who by his resurrection has overcome the fear and dread which imprison us, wishes to throw open our closed doors and send us out. The path that the Risen Master shows us is a one way street, it goes in only one direction: this means that we must move beyond ourselves to witness to the healing power of love that has conquered us. We see before us a humanity that is often wounded and fearful, a humanity that bears the scars of pain and uncertainty. Before the anguished cry for mercy and peace, we hear Jesus’ inspiring invitation: “As the Father has sent me, even so I send you” (Jn 20:21).

From the Church:

HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS
POPE FRANCIS

Saint Peter’s Square
Sunday, 3 April 2016

JUBILEE OF DIVINE
MERCY

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“Jesus did many other signs in
the presence of the disciples,

In God’s mercy, all of our infirmities find healing. His mercy, in fact, does not keep a distance: it seeks to encounter all forms of poverty and to free this world of so many types of slavery. Mercy desires to reach the wounds of all, to heal them. Being apostles of mercy means touching and soothing the wounds that today afflict the bodies and souls of many of our brothers and sisters. Curing these wounds, we profess Jesus, we make him present and alive; we allow others, who touch his mercy with their own hands, to recognize him as “Lord and God” (Jn 20:28), as did the Apostle Thomas. This is the mission that he entrusts to us. So many people ask to be listened to and to be understood. The Gospel of mercy, to be proclaimed and written in our daily lives, seeks people with patient and open hearts, “good Samaritans” who understand compassion and silence before the mystery of each brother and sister. The Gospel of mercy requires generous and joyful servants, people who love freely without expecting anything in return.

“Peace be with you!” (Jn 20:21) is the greeting of Jesus to his disciples; this same peace awaits men and women of our own day. It is not a negotiated peace, it is not the absence of conflict: it is his peace, the peace that comes from the heart of the Risen Lord, the peace that has defeated sin, fear and death. It is a peace that does not divide but unites; it is a peace that does not abandon us but makes us feel listened to and loved; it is a peace that persists even in pain and enables hope to blossom. This peace, as on the day of Easter, is born ever anew by the forgiveness of God which calms our anxious hearts. To be bearers of his peace: this is the mission entrusted to the Church on Easter day. In Christ, we are born to be instruments of reconciliation, to bring the Father’s forgiveness to everyone, to reveal his loving face through concrete gestures of mercy.

In the responsorial Psalm we heard these words: “His love endures forever” (Ps 117/118:2). Truly, God’s mercy is forever; it never ends, it never runs out, it never gives up when faced with closed doors, and it never tires. In this forever we find strength in moments of trial and weakness because we are sure that God does not abandon us. He remains with us forever. Let us give thanks for so great a love, which we find impossible to grasp; it is immense! Let us pray for the grace to never grow tired of drawing from the well of the Father’s mercy and bringing it to the world. Let us ask that we too may be merciful, to spread the power of the Gospel everywhere, and to write those pages of the Gospel which John the Apostle did not write.

MUSIC NUMBERS

Supplement | 312 | 318 | 754 | 774

DAILY READINGS

<i>Saturday</i> 4/7 ACTS 4:13-21 MK 16:9-15 <i>Divine Mercy Sun.</i> ACTS 4:32-35 1 JN 5:1-6 JN 20:19-31 <i>The Annunciation</i> IS 7:10-14; 8:10 HEB 10:4-10 LK 1:26-38	<i>Tuesday</i> 4/10 ACTS 4:32-37 JN 3:7B-15 <i>Wednesday</i> 4/11 ACTS 5:17-26 JN 3:16-21 <i>Thursday</i> 4/12 ACTS 5:27-33 JN 3:31-36	<i>Friday</i> 4/13 ACTS 5:34-42 JN 6:1-15 <i>Saturday</i> 4/14 ACTS 6:1-7 JN 6:16-21 <i>Sunday</i> 4/15 ACTS 3:13-15, 17-19 1 JN 2:1-5A LK 24:35-48
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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.

PARISH TIMES

Mass Times	Confession	Adoration
<i>Monday - Friday</i> 7:30am <i>Saturday</i> 8:00am/4:30pm <i>Sunday</i> 7:30am/9:30am 11:30am/5:00pm	<i>Thursday</i> 5:00pm <i>Saturday</i> 8:30am/3:00pm <i>Sunday</i> 30 minutes prior to each mass	<i>Thursday</i> 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

PARISH STAFF

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Fr. Michael Carvill, FSCB
m.carvill@nool.us, ext. 114

Associate Pastor

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a.ciaccio@nool.us

Associate Pastor

Fr. Gabriele Azzalin, FSCB
g.azzalin@nool.us

Transitional Deacon

Emanuele Fadini, FSCB
e.fadini@nool.us

Deacons

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Steve Vallero
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David Arling
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**Sr. Eleonora, Sr. Patrizia,
Sr. Maria, and Sr. Teresa**

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Principal Designate

Holly Peterson
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Kyle Hubbard
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Business Office Accountant

Carol Sullivan
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Accounting Assistant

Maria Moore
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Parish Registrar

Merrilyn Sikora
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Parish Sacristan

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Director of Faith Alive

Mark Thomason
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Director of Religious Education

Diane Irby
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Faith Alive Assistant

Tricia Fankell
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Development Director

Ilene DuBey
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IT Specialist

Jim DuBey
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Administrator of Parish Reception & Office Operations

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Suzie Sloan
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Lindsay Smith
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Pastoral Associate, Charity & Outreach

Lynne Gallagher
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Director of Communications

Jacque Fankell
j.fankell@nool.us, ext. 135

Communications Associate

Drake Fontana
d.fontana@nool.us, ext. 135

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St. Stanislaus
April 11

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday | 4/7

8:00am | † Greg Talley by Mom
4:30pm | † Lorraine Rowan by Tom and Terry Rowan

Divine Mercy Sun.

7:30am | † Ted Phillips by The Fabian Family
9:30am | People of the Parish
11:30am | Richard and Patricia Sachoff by Susan Vallero
5:00pm | Taylor Buderus by Mom

The Annunciation

7:30am | MSCB

Tuesday | 4/10

7:30am | Anthony and Kay Bridges by Mom and Dad

Wednesday | 4/11

7:30am | † Gerald Coufal

Thursday | 4/12

7:30am | † Cathy Riedl by Ron Riedl

Friday | 4/13

7:30am | Morgan TenEyck by The TenEyck

Saturday | 4/14

7:10am | † Anna Raissa Reyes by MaryAnne and Ron Reyes
4:30pm | † Robert Reed by Gary and Sally Thomas

Sunday | 4/15

7:30am | † David and Betty Malysa by David Malysa
9:30am | People of the Parish
11:30am | † Maryanne Ceselski by Sandy Deedon
5:00pm | Pearse Family by The Hill Family

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

April 8

Dan Buchtel
Debbie Cashion
Bill McCauley
Joanna Anderson

April 15

Cyrene Brozovich
James Brozovich
Patricia Kegerreis
Maryann Reyes

SACRISTY LAUNDRY

Rita Eichner

PARISH CALENDAR

Divine Mercy Sun.

All Day | KoC Tootsie Roll Sign-up
7:05am | Morning Prayer
8:00am | School of Commun.
8:30am | Coffee & Donuts
9:30am | RCIC
10:30am | Coffee & Donuts
11:00am | Parishioner's Rosary
2:00pm | Divine Mercy Sunday Service
3:00pm | Choir practice
6:00pm | HS Youth Group

The Annunciation

7:10am | Morning Prayer
10:30am | ENDOW (*Brown*)
5:30pm | CL Monday S.O.C.
6:00pm | SVdP
6:00pm | Sacrament Prep
6:30pm | Pre-Baptism Registr.
7:00pm | Adult Confirmation
7:00pm | Baptism Class

Tuesday | 4/10

7:10am | Morning Prayer
9:00am | ENDOW (*Giltner*)
1:00pm | Tuesday Bible Study
1:00pm | GCS Level I
4:30pm | R.E.
6:00pm | Venturers
6:30pm | Stephen Ministry
6:30pm | RCIA
6:30pm | R.E.

Wednesday | 4/11

5:30am | St. Joe's Mens Group
7:10am | Morning Prayer
8:15am | ENDOW (*LaV./Sch.*)
4:00pm | GCS Level I
4:30pm | R.E.
5:30pm | Children's Choir
6:00pm | Youth Orchestra

6:30pm | Youth Choir
7:00pm | Choir Practice
8:30pm | Special Mass Choir

Thursday | 4/12

7:10am | Morning Prayer
8:15am | Mary Jane's Bible Study
9:00am | ENDOW (*Patton*)
1:30pm | Piano Lessons
4:00pm | Nativity Nights
5:00pm | Stephen Ministry Training
6:30pm | Centering Prayer
7:00pm | Sojourners
7:00pm | School of Commun.
7:00pm | Catechetical School
7:00pm | NFP

Friday | 4/13

7:10am | Morning Prayer
8:00am | Men of Emmaus
9:00am | ENDOW
4:00pm | GS (*Fr. Accu*)
6:30pm | CL
7:00pm | ENDOW (*Bridges*)

Saturday | 4/14

7:10am | Morning Prayer
9:00am | Italian Class
9:00am | Spanish Bible Study
9:30am | CL
11:00am | Baptisms
3:00pm | Choir practice
5:30pm | KoC Tootsie Roll Sign-up
6:00pm | Father-Daughter Dance

SAVE THE DATE

**RCIA REUNION
PARTY**

**TUESDAY
MAY 15**

SAVE THE DATE

RE HAPPY HOUR

**WEDNESDAY
MAY 2**

**New Scholarships Available to
Nativity: Faith & Reason**

We are excited to announce that ACE program and the Schmitz Family Foundation have allocated us additional awards to welcome new families to Nativity: Faith & Reason. These scholarships, first offered to incoming Kindergarten students who meet the financial criteria determined by ACE and The Schmitz Family Foundation, may be available also for families with first through third graders.

Each scholarship, a maximum of \$2,000 for the school year, will be renewed annually as long as your child is in Catholic schooling (as long as the criteria are met). Know that through these scholarships, and assistance grants provided by Nativity of Our Lord Parish, we are committed to making Catholic education affordable for all families. To discuss the scholarship and your eligibility, please contact Carol Sullivan in the Nativity of Our Lord Parish Business Office at 303-469-5171 x109.

If you have not seen our school, we would be thrilled to give you a tour - just give us a call at the number above. And, please share this news with any families you may know of, interested in Catholic education.

May God bless you and your family in this Easter Season!



NATIVITY
FAITH & REASON



TITHING



Online Giving

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

Questions? Kyle at: k.hubbart@nool.us

To give online:

- 1) Go to nool.us
- 2) Click on Online Giving button
- 3) Complete the registration

MUSIC AT NATIVITY



Nativity Instrument Drive

We are looking for your gently used, well-maintained instruments to start an instrument bank for the youth music program. We are mainly looking for string instruments, but will also consider other working instruments. If you have an instrument sitting at home unused, please consider donating it to our program.



Looking for Good Baby Grand Piano

We are looking for a well-maintained baby grand piano. If you know of anyone who is downsizing and needs to find a loving new home for their good quality instrument, please contact the music director at m.marchesi@nool.us or at 303-469-5171 x123.



Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo

With great joy we announce that on Monday, April 9, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, Sister Maria de Lourdes (Marilù) Arbesu Barahona, Sister Anne Patricia Devlin, Sister Maria Anna Sangiorgio and Sister Teresa Zampogna will profess their definitive vows in the hands of Sister Rachele Pausco, in the presence of the Most Reverend Gino Reali and the Most Reverend Massimo Camisasca.

The ceremony will be held in Rome, at 3:30 pm, in the parish of Santa Maria del Rosario ai Martiri Portuensi.



NATIVITY NIGHTS
2018
EASTER

APRIL 12
Hosted by Nativity-
Faith & Reason

4:00-7:00pm
Confession
Adoration
Food
Social

FAITH ALIVE

Man cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible for himself—his life is senseless—if love is not revealed to him, if he does not encounter love, if he does not experience it and make it his own, if he does not participate intimately in it.

— Pope Saint John Paul II, *Redemptor Hominis*, 10



NATIVITY
FAITH & REASON



Save the Date for a Retirement Reception!

Please plan to join in the celebration of Mrs. Shadel's (aka Miss Spear) and Mrs. O'Connell's (aka Miss Sievers) 83 combined years of service to Nativity of Our Lord School. Give them your well wishes on Sunday, May 6 in Ryan Hall from 1:00-4:00pm.



Gabriel House and Nativity: Faith & Reason

The Nativity Third graders would like to thank everyone for helping make their baby blanket project a success. Because of the generosity of our families, we were able to give 100 blankets to the Boulder Gabriel House!

Thank you very much for all your donations!

Wish List for Nativity Preschool:

New or Gently Used:



- Wagons
 - Tricycles
 - Bike Helmets (size 3-5)
 - Child size cleaning tools (brooms, dustpans, etc.)
 - Baby Dolls
 - Doll Accessories
 - Cars and Trucks
 - Learning Materials
 - Play dress-ups (No Disney, please)
 - Large Clear Storage Bins with Lids
 - Clear Shoe Bins with Lids
- Drop donations at the front desk, or contact Carla Rigli at c.rigli@nool.us

Wish List for Nativity Extended Care:

New or Gently Used School-Age Appropriate:



- Games
 - Legos
 - Puzzles
 - Cards
 - Art Supplies
 - Plastic Tablecloths
 - Sporting Balls
 - Markers, Crayons, Colored Pencils
 - Elmer's Glue
 - Craft Materials
 - Large Clear Storage Bins with Lids
 - Clear Shoe Bins with Lids
- Drop donations at the front desk, or contact Carla Rigli at c.rigli@nool.us



WOMEN'S GUILD

The next Women's Guild meeting is scheduled for April 9 in Weibel II Hall. Please bring scissors so we can help the Baptismal Bib Chairperson cut out the necks of bibs. Also, on the agenda is a review of our calendar for the 2018-2019 work year and the room reservation list for 2018-2019 and update of the guild pamphlet.

Thank you! Questions, call Nicki Battista 303-469-0670.

Did You Know... Under supervision of the Sacristan, the live flowers and plants in the church are watered and cared for by several people of the parish. During the week, these flowers and plants are inspected for thirst and wilted pieces are trimmed and/or removed. The watering more than three times a week of the many plants at Christmas and Easter is accomplished by these dedicated people. If you would like to help in some aspect of the Altar Flowers Committee of the Women's Guild, please call Nicki Battista at 303-469-0670, president of the Guild. Thank you for your interest.

HOPE CORNER

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 and community based resources. The next HOPE CORNER will be on Monday, April 9, from 5:30-7:30pm. Everyone is welcome whether you have a question, would like a screening or have a family member with a mental health concern. For information, please contact Becky Kusick, MA, LPC, CPSII at 303-907-6499 or at hopecornerministry@gmail.com.

Suicide Awareness AND Prevention

The Office of Child and Youth Protection together with the Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Depression Center at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, will be providing FREE suicide awareness and prevention training FOR ADULTS at

Nativity of Our Lord Ryan Hall

Tuesday May 1, 2018
at 6:30-8:30pm

Email or call today
to learn more:

303-724-8768
alexandra.yannacone@ucdenver.edu

Additional sessions available at www.archden.org/child-protection

TIME OUT FOR FRIENDS

Join TOFF (Women's Group) Tuesday, April 3 from 9:30-11:30am for fellowship and fun with other moms. This week we are excited and blessed to have the Sisters of our Parish join us to discuss some fantastic topics! It will be a very special gathering and opportunity. We meet in Weibel I & II. Child care is available for a small fee (first meeting is free) and babies under 1 year are welcome in Mom's room.

For more information contact Erika Oakes at oakeser@gmail.com or at 484-464-3170 or Ashley Suppes at Ashley.suppes@gmail.com or at 816-288-2068.

RESPECT LIFE

This spring campaign for 40 Days for Life is complete, with reported 490 lives saved. There are many reports that just the sight of people peacefully, quietly praying outside the abortion center was all it took to make women stop, turn around and leave without having an abortion.

40DFL may be ending...but the need continues. Why not make plans to pray at the Boulder abortion clinic regularly? Many do so once a month, or once a week.

FROM THE COMMUNITY

Holy Family HS Seventh Grade Info Night

Holy Family High School will hold its annual Seventh Grade Information Night on Wednesday, April 25 at 6:00pm in our school theater. This is a great time to learn about our Catholic Faith curriculum, College Preparatory academics, excellent athletics, and many Extra-Curricular offerings. Members of the administration as well as current students and parents will be available to answer questions.

To register, please visit our website at www.holyfamilyhs.com and click on Inquire Now. Please call the Admissions Office at 303-410-1411 if you have questions.

Thank you for all you do to support Holy Family High School and Catholic Education!

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Are we like Thomas and doubt the power of God in our marriage? Learn the tools to put God in your Sacrament of Marriage. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are:

April 20-22, 2018 – Dillon
July 6-8, 2018 – Northern Colorado
November 2-4, 2018 – Dillon

For more information, please visit www.wwme.org. Questions? Feel free to contact Brenda & Gary Granger: 303-604-6202

St. VINCENT de PAUL



Discerning and Acting

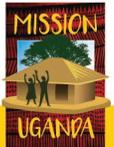
The St. Vincent de Paul Society is not just about helping the poor and the disadvantaged in our community. One of the primary purposes is to grow spiritually. While the spirituality of St. Vincent de Paul is multifaceted, a defining question for him, and for today's Vincentians, is "What needs to be done?"

A commentator on Vincentian spirituality noted that this is properly considered a will of God question. It requires first that we try to discern God's will and second that we take action. Action without discernment is prideful and probably misdirected. Discerning without action is not following through on God's will.

If you need to contact us or know of someone who is in need, please call the SVdP client call-in line at 720-452-2520. Please do not call the parish office.

Episode 4 (Lifting Up People in Need) of the EWTN TV series on the Society of SVdP will be shown at 4:30am Sunday, April 8 and will be repeated at 4:00pm Saturday, April 14.





MISSION UGANDA DINNER & FUNDRAISER

April 28, 2018 from 6:00 - 8:00pm in Ryan Hall

\$25 per person
\$200 per table of eight
tickets available at the front desk - seating is limited

\$20 HEADS OR TAILS | GIVEAWAYS | GREAT FOOD & FUN

- Dinner featuring menus provided by: 3 Margaritas, GQue Barbecue, Delvickio's, and Modern Edge Catering
- Witness talks by seminarian Julian Lule and Nativity School teacher Marla Zubrinic
- Games, giveaways, and fundraising for a great cause!

*business attire
adults only*

CONTACT: Mary at m.braygorham@gmail.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Thank You to all of our parish community families that participated in our 1st Annual Easter Egg hunt. We had a tremendous turnout of families and over 2,500 Easter Eggs were harvested. A special thank you to the Girl Scouts who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt by stuffing 2,500 Easter Eggs!

Tootsie Roll Drive at local Grocery Stores - 4/21 & 4/22

All parishioners and families, please consider helping with the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive April 21-22. Various sign-up times available. Contact Frank Schaffer 720-883-3478 for more information.

Weekend of April 7 & April 14: Sign-up after all masses

Sat April 21 / Sun April 22: Tootsie Roll Drive at local grocery stores

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the Knights of Columbus or becoming a Knight, please contact Mike Best at 303-888-6587 or visit nativitykofc.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Membership Drive - 4/22
- Crawfish Boil - 5/12
- Parish Garage Sale - 6/9



GET EXCITED



for

TOTUS TUUS

June 24-29, 2018 | Grades 1-12

REGISTER AT WWW.NOOL.US



A MESSAGE FROM OUR POPE



POPE FRANCIS

We felt an oppressive silence at the death of the Lord, a silence with which each of us can identify, a silence that penetrates to the depths of the heart of every disciple, who stands wordless before the cross.

These are the hours when the disciple stands speechless in pain at the death of Jesus. What words can be spoken at such a moment? The disciple keeps silent in the awareness of his or her own reactions during those crucial hours in the Lord's life. Before the injustice that condemned the Master, his disciples were silent. Before the calumnies and the false testimony that the Master endured, his disciples said nothing. During the trying, painful hours of the Passion, his disciples dramatically experienced their inability to put their lives on the line to speak out on behalf of the Master. What is more, not only did they not acknowledge him: they hid, they escaped, they kept silent (cf. Jn 18:25-27).

It is the silent night of the disciples who remained numb, paralyzed and uncertain of what to do amid so many painful and disheartening situations. It is also that of today's disciples, speechless in the face of situations we cannot control, that make us feel and, even worse, believe that nothing can be done to reverse all the injustices that our brothers and sisters are experiencing in their flesh.

It is the silent night of those disciples who are disoriented because they are plunged in a crushing routine that robs memory, silences hope and leads to thinking that "this is the way things have always been done". Those disciples who, overwhelmed, have nothing to say and end up considering "normal" and unexceptional the words of Caiaphas: "Can you not see that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed?" (Jn 11:50).

Amid our silence, our overpowering silence, the stones begin to cry out (cf. Lk 19:40)[1] and to clear the way for the greatest message that history has ever heard: "He is not here, for he has been raised" (Mt 28:6). The stone before the tomb cried out and proclaimed the opening of a new way for all. Creation itself was the first to echo the triumph of life over

HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS
POPE FRANCIS

Vatican Basilica
Holy Saturday, March 31, 2018

EASTER VIGIL IN THE
HOLY NIGHT OF EASTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We began this celebration outside, plunged in the darkness of the night and the cold.

all that had attempted to silence and stifle the joy of the Gospel. The stone before the tomb was the first to leap up and in its own way intone a song of praise and wonder, of joy and hope, in which all of us are invited to join.

Yesterday, we joined the women in contemplating "the one who was pierced" (cf. Jn 19:36; cf. Zech 12:10). Today, with them, we are invited to contemplate the empty tomb and to hear the words of the angel: "Do not be afraid... for he has been raised" (Mt 28:5-6). Those words should affect our deepest convictions and certainties, the ways we judge and deal with the events of our daily lives, especially the ways we relate to others. The empty tomb should challenge us and rally our spirits. It should make us think, but above all it should encourage us to trust and believe that God "happens" in every situation and every person, and that his light can shine in the least expected and most hidden corners of our lives. He rose from the dead, from that place where nobody waits for anything, and now he waits for us – as he did the women – to enable us to share in his saving work. On this basis and with this strength, we Christians place our lives and our energy, our intelligence, our affections and our will, at the service of discovering, and above all creating, paths of dignity.

He is not here... he is risen! This is the message that sustains our hope and turns it into concrete gestures of charity. How greatly we need to let our frailty be anointed by this experience! How greatly we need to let our faith be revived! How greatly we need our myopic horizons to be challenged and renewed by this message! Christ is risen, and with him he makes our hope and creativity rise, so that we can face our present problems in the knowledge that we are not alone.

To celebrate Easter is to believe once more that God constantly breaks into our personal histories, challenging our "conventions", those fixed ways of thinking and acting that end up paralyzing us. To celebrate Easter is to allow Jesus to triumph over the craven fear that so often assails us and tries to bury every kind of hope.

The stone before the tomb shared in this, the women of the Gospel shared in this, and now the invitation is addressed once more to you and to me. An invitation to break out of our routines and to renew our lives, our decisions and our existence. An invitation that must be directed to where we stand, what we are doing and what we are, with the "power ratio" that is ours. Do we want to share in this message of life or do we prefer simply to continue standing speechless before events as they happen?

He is not here... he is raised! And he awaits you in Gaiilee. He invites you to go back to the time and place of your first love and he says to you: Do not be afraid, follow me.



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