



#### SHADES OF HOLINESS: THE MYSTERY OF ST. JOSEPH

In the coming days, we will celebrate the Solemnity of St. Ioseph, the spouse of the Virgin Mary. He is one of the greatest saints and a figure that enlightens the nature and mission of being a man. St. Joseph is portrayed as a very mysterious figure in the writings of the New Testament, only appearing in a handful of stories in the Gospels. His silence and virtue have been the study of many great writers throughout history. Today, more than ever our contemporary culture grapples with the difficult question of what it means to be man and what is the purpose and mission of men in the world. Why is there this confusion? In the past century, many significant changes have contributed to the forgetfulness and doubt of God's original plan for man and woman, created in His image and likeness. We are no longer confident in our call to live in a covenant of love and friendship in marriage, to work and to be guardians of creation. In St. Joseph we can discover anew the greatness of man through him who goes about serving God and his family in discreet and humble ways.

In this reflection I would like to meditate with you on the various shades of holiness that we can discern in the life of St. Joseph to help us understand the beauty of God's plan for being a man fully alive, in service to the world and to the Church.

MAN OF SILENCE. Throughout the entire New Testament, no words are spoken by St. Joseph. He is a man who speaks through his silence, who communicates through his contemplative gaze and hard-working carpentry hands, and decisive actions. It is not so much that he cannot speak or does not have anything to say, but he is a man completed rooted in the prayerful silence of his relationship with God.

**MAN OF PRAYER.** St. Joseph lived the entirety of his life in an intimate dialogue with the Father. On four occasions prior to making very significant decisions for his life and that of his family, we find him deep in prayer, receiving divine instruction through God's messengers the angels. He let his life be defined and led by God.

MAN OF DISCERNMENT. During his life St. Joseph had to make some very difficult decisions: to take Mary as his wife and trust that the child was of the Holy Spirit, to get up in the middle of the night and leave for a foreign country because King Herod wanted to kill all the newborn male children, and to return to Nazareth after years in Egypt. He teaches us that discernment begins with a complete and open heart that listens to God. St. Joseph does not seek explanations from God but lovingly accepts His will for his life and that of his family amidst all the difficulties and incomprehensions.

MAN OF PROTECTION. St. Joseph lived his life in service and protection of Mary and their son Jesus. He protected his family from Herod's terrible plan to kill the male children. He protected and fostered the fulfilment of their vocations, their relationships with God the Father. Today, St. Joseph is the universal patron and protector of the Church. We can invite him to protect our families, our personal vocations and the life of the Church.

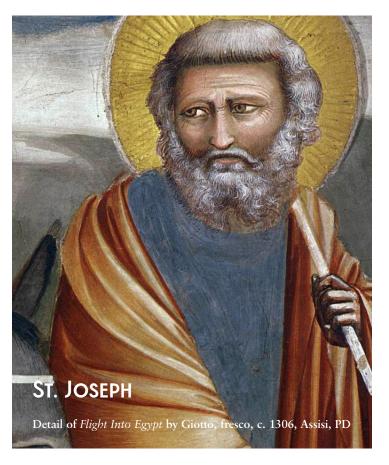
MAN OF ACTION. Flowing from his discernment and his personal relationship with God, St. Joseph was able to take action when it was needed. He never sat on the fence or twiddled his thumbs. He acted when Mary was about to give birth and found a humble place for her in the stable. He took action when his family was threatened. He always acted out of the best interest and in service to Mary and Jesus.

MAN OF JUSTICE. St. Joseph is commonly known as the just man for his ability to know the right thing to do and the courage to do it. He lived his whole life ready to carry out God's will as revealed to him in the Law and through his dreams.

**MAN OF LOVE.** St. Joseph lived his marital love for Mary with chastity. He is known as the "chaste spouse" which means living according to the truth and fullness of love. He respected God's plan for his relationship with Mary in truth. He gave himself and embraced God's call to live the sacrifice of virginity knowing that it was in order to realize God's plan of salvation. He loved her with true freedom.

MAN OF THE FAMILY. St. Joseph was a loving father who was always ready to sacrifice himself for the good of his family. St. Joseph never placed his own needs first but was completely dedicated to Mary and Jesus. He let himself be defined first and foremost by his relationship with God and the mission God gave him to be the guardian of the Holy Family. God and family always came first.

Each of these shades of holiness reveal an aspect of the beauty and mission of being a man and a disciple of Jesus Christ. As we celebrate the example of the holiness of St. Joseph, let us also invite him into our lives. He is a great beacon of light and hope for the obscurity and confusion of our contemporary times. I would like to invite everyone to pray to St. Joseph for a renewal of the Church, for marriages and families of our parish, and especially the vocation of men, that we may follow in his spirit and his example. Happy feast of St. Joseph!



#### DAILY READINGS

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 18

1st Reading: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Psalm: 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 Gospel: Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 19

1st Reading: Ex 17:3-7 Psalm: 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 2nd reading: Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 Gospel: Jn 4:5-42

## MONDAY, MARCH 20 SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

1st Reading: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Psalm: 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 2nd Reading: Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Gospel: Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 21

1st Reading: Ez 47:1-9, 12 Psalm: 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 Gospel: Jn 5:1-16

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

1st Reading: Is 49:8-15 Psalm: 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 Gospel: Jn 5:17-30

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 23

1st Reading: Ex 32:7-14 Psalm: 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 Gospel: Jn 5:31-47

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 24

1st Reading: Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Psalm: 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 Gospel: Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

# SATURDAY, MARCH 25 SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

1st Reading: Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Psalm: 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 2nd Reading: Heb 10:4-10 Gospel: Lk 1:26-38



# STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

EVERY FRIDAY, 7:00 PM

#### MASS INTENSIONS

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 18

9:30 David Anderson Birthday Blessings by Lindsay and Lori

4:30 † Walter Britton by Ondish Family

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 19

7:30 † Edward, Tilly, and Marlene Fitterer by Robert Fitterer

9:30 People of the Parish

11:30 † Robert G. Byrnes by Robert and Kathleen Byrnes

5:00 Alyson Ernster by Mom and Dad

#### MONDAY, MARCH 20

7: 00 Fraternity of St. Charles Borrmeo, Priests and Sisters

9:30 Paul Derda by Charlie & Ann McGinness

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 21

7:00 † Camilla Catherine LaCoCo by the Shileny family

9:30 † Rick Timko by Lori Zamora

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

7:00 † Rocky & Joyce Martinez by Gloria J. Martinez 9:30 † Paul Rask by Maria Rask

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 23

7:00 Catherine Heckel by Bob Serkowski 9:30 † Paul Rask by Maria Rask

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 24

7:00 Lindsay & Lauren Hudson by Dad 9:30 † Janice McVicar by Diane Sabo

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 25

9:30 MSCB

4:30 Elisabeth, Betty & James Doyle by Sally Fitterer

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 26

7:30 † Khuyen Hudson by Son 9:30 People of the Parish

11:30 † Maureen Turner by George & Patty Ketchel

5:00 † Ardis Boche by Terri McMichael

# THURSDAY, MARCH 23 NATIVITY NIGHTS



## **LENTEN SUPPER**

Cabrini Hall

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 5:30 PM

Clam Cakes & Chowder + Stations of the Cross

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 5:30 PM

Soup & Bread + Stations of the Cross

Please sign up for Friday meals at www.nool.us/upcoming-events

#### PARISH CALENDAR

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 19

8:00 am | CL

8:30 am | John Lay Book Presentation

11:00 am | RCIA

2:00 pm | CL Lenten Retreat

6:00 pm | High School Youth Group (GS)

#### MONDAY, MARCH 20

10:00 am | ENDOW

3:15 | Chess Club

6:30 pm | Biblical School

6:30 pm | New Springtime Prayer Group

6:30 pm | Spanish Prayer Group

6:45 pm | St. Joseph Men's Prayer Group

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 21

1:00 pm | Adult Bible Study

6:30 pm | Adult CCC

6:30 pm | RE

6:30 pm | Venturers of the Star

7:30 pm | CLU (CL University Students)

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

5:30 am | St. Joseph Men's Prayer Group

8:15 am | ENDOW

1:00 pm | Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary

4:30 | RE

6:15 pm | Boy Scouts Tr. 766

6:15 pm | Divorce Support Group

6:30 | Baptism Class

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 23

3:15 pm | Destination Imagination

4:00 pm | Nativity Nights

6:00 pm | Stephen Ministry

6:30 pm | Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary

6:30 pm | Spring Marriage Preparation

7:00 pm | TOFF

7:30 pm | CL

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 24

7:15 am | NJHS

7:30 am | Men of Emmaus

9:00 am | ENDOW

5:30 pm | Lenten Supper

7:00 pm | Stations of the Cross

7:00 pm | Teen Star/Fr. Emanuele

8:00 pm | Holy Land Group Visit

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 25

8:00 am | CL

8:00 am | Marian Cenacle

8:50 am | Pro-Life Rosary

#### SACRISTY LAUNDRY

Rachael Culhane

#### COLLECTION COUNTERS Monday, 3/20, 10 am

Bob Johnson Deborah Mittleman Victoria Villegas Ann McGinness

Community events registration link: www.nool.us/upcoming-events

#### **BOULDER DEANERY**

# LENT Updated Feb 28, 2023 CONFESSION OPPORTUNITIES

#### **NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

900 W Midway Blvd, Broomfield

Thu | 5-6 pm

Sat | 8-9:30 am & 3-4:30 pm

Sun | 30 min before Mass

Thu, March 23 | 4-7 pm (NATIVITY NIGHTS)

#### **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

715 Cabrini Dr. Lafavette

Sat | 9-10:30 am Sun | During the 10 am Mass, and during the 12 pm Mass when Fr. Shaun is the celebrant, or call for an appointment First Friday of the Month | 9-10 am Tue, March 28 | 6-8 pm

#### **SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

1318 Mapleton Ave, Boulder
Mon, Tue, Thu | 11:30 am-noon
Fri | 11:30 am-noon | 5-7 pm (English and Spanish)
Sat | 11:30 am-1 pm (English and Spanish)
Sun | 12-1 pm (Spanish)
Thu, March 30 | 6:30 pm

#### **SACRED HEART OF MARY**

6739 S Boulder Rd, Boulder After every Mass Sat | from 3:30 pm until no one is waiting

#### **GUARDIAN ANGELS**

109 3rd St, Mead Tue + Thu | 9-10 am, Wed | 4-5 pm Sat | 3-4:30 pm (except for Holy Saturday)

#### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

3791 Pike Rd, Longmont Mo | 8:30-9:30 am, Fri | 9-10 am, Sat | 3-4:15 pm Wed, March 29 | 6-7:30 pm

#### ST. MARTIN DE PORRES

3300 Table Mesa Dr, Boulder Mon-Fri after 8:30 am Mass Wed | 5-6 pm during Holy Hour Sat | 3:30-4:30 pm

#### ST. SCHOLASTICA

575 Wells St, Erie Tue + Thu | 5:15-5:45 pm Fri | 7-7:45 am | 11 am, Sat | 7 am | 3 pm Sun | 7:30 am | 10:30 am | 4:45 pm

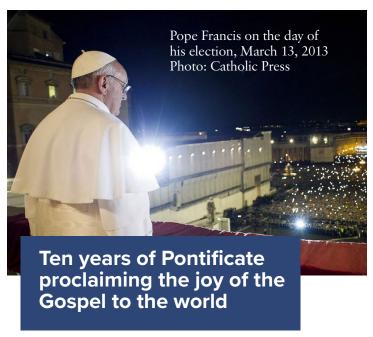
#### ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

898 14th St, Boulder
Tue | 8-8:50 pm
Sat | 3:30-4:50 pm, Sun | 4:30-5:50 pm
Available by appointment

#### ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

323 Collyer St, Longmont Thu | 4:30 pm, Sat | 3:30 pm Also by appointment

### "I am a sinner whom the Lord has looked upon."



[...] Antonio Spadaro in the summer of 2013 asked the new Pope, "Who is Jorge Mario Bergoglio?" Francis thought about it for a moment and then with great sincerity answered that perhaps he could say that he felt "a bit astute," someone who knows how to move ... but at the same time he also realized that he was "a little bit naive." Astute and naïve at the same time; humanly speaking, that can be the case. However, with equal sincerity the new Pope added an even truer definition of himself: "I am a sinner. This is the most accurate definition. It is not a figure of speech, a literary genre I am a sinner [...] But the best summary, the one that comes more from the inside and I feel most true is this: I am a sinner whom the Lord has looked upon. I am one who is looked upon by the Lord. I always felt my motto, Miserando atque Eligendo, was very true for me." And looking at him with mercy he called him: an episcopal motto inspired by the Gospel of the calling of Matthew the tax collector, the Gospel passage Francis loves most because the man was not a beautiful soul, he was a collaborator with the hated Romans, more attached to money than to his own mother. He seemed unsalvageable. Yet, Jesus mercied him and Matthew's whole life was revolutionized by that gaze. This is what happened to the young student Bergoglio on September 21, 1953, the first day of spring in the southern hemisphere, in the parish dedicated to St. Joseph in Buenos Aires: confession with a priest he did not know, the experience of mercy as he had never experienced it. "Because God is looking for you and waiting for you before you start looking for him, he comes first, primerea as says the popular expression from Buenos Aires." [...]

Source: english.clonline.org/news/church/2023/03/13/pope-francis-ten-year-pontificate





# SOI.NOOL.US

#### **FAITH**

Faith is knowing through another person. We learn from our human history in all subjects from math to art, so as to build on it in the present. Learning through faith is the primary method used in the early years.

#### **REASON**

Along with the methods of faith, students are invited to test and verify the truth of the content they are proposed. This process of verification, of reasoning, gives students the tools necessary to judge (as St. Paul instructs) all things in school and in life.

# OPEN ENROLLATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER

2023-2024

"At Nativity, our kids learn that God doesn't just exist on Sundays. Christ is at the center of what they do every day at school and the way that they learn, and He is an integral part of their lives because of Nativity." - Nativity parent

#### LEARNING ABOUT GRAVITY IN PRESCHOOL 3

"We learned that gravity pulls us back to the ground and that we have more gravity on earth than on the moon. We jumped outside and measured how far each preschoolers can jump. Then we made a graph of earth jumping distance then added how much further we can jump on the moon."



# 5 REASONS TO CHOOSE NATIVITY: FAITH & REASON



Academic Excellence

361

Students

**59** 

**New Students** 

39

Teachers, Aides & Specialists

35%

Higher math test scores than public schools \*at grade level

19:1

Student to Teacher Ratio



Faith in Practice

Integrated

Theology Curriculum

Weekly

Mass

Weekly **Adoration** 

of the Blessed Sacraments

Opportunity for **Altar Service** 

Daily **Rosary** 



Extra-Curriculars

10+

Clubs and Activities

7 Sports for

Numerous

grades 3-8

Leadership Opportunities



Exceptional Community

2,000+

Community Service Hours each year

6

Community Drives

3

Annual Middle School Retreats



**Prorated** 

Tuition for families with multiple students

>15%

of Education Costs covered by generous donors

20%

of students receive financial aid

Multiple

scholarships available



school.nool.us/enroll

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

# HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2023

April 2—9, 2023

# APRIL 2 PALM SUNDAY

4:30 pm (anticipatory) 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am, 5:00 pm

#### **APRIL 6 | HOLY THURSDAY**

8:00-9:30 am | Confession 9:30 am | Morning Prayer 7:00 pm

# THE MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

8:15 pm-7:00 am
SILENT ADORATION THROUGH THE NIGHT
10:00 pm | Compline

#### APRIL 7 | GOOD FRIDAY

8:00-9:30 am | Confession 9:30 am | Morning Prayer 12:00 pm | Way of the Cross (Outdoor) 12:00 pm | Stations of the Cross in Church 3:00 pm

# CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION

#### **APRIL 8 | HOLY SATURDAY**

8:00–9:30 am | Confession 9:30 am | Morning Prayer 3:00 pm–6:00 pm | Confession 8:00 pm

#### **EASTER VIGIL**

# APRIL 9 EASTER SUNDAY

Masses at 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am



#### FROM THE PARISH

#### SPECIAL COLLECTION

#### MARCH 18-19, 2O23 | FOR CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

This collection is your opportunity to improve the lives of migrants and refugees displaced by conflict, persecution, or political instability, people who need housing, and legal immigration assistance, people affected by natural disasters, and others whose work or cultural circumstances require special pastoral support and access to sacraments. We are giving this collection as part of our parish tithe, but if you would like to give an additional amount, please use the envelopes in the gathering area or on the parish website or at:

PPAY.CO/SEJUEX2CPWK

#### NATIVITY NIGHTS THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 4–7 PM

4:00 pm - Marian Hour (Rosary begins at 4:15 pm)

5:00 pm - Music Hour

6:00 pm - Liturgy of the Hours and Benediction



Nativity Nights are parish-wide celebrations centered on Eucharistic adoration, confession, and fellowship. Held six times a year—once during each liturgical season—Nativity nights include family-friendly adoration and confession in the church, kids' activities in the gathering area, and a free dinner. We invite parishioners to join us for any part of the night.

# REGISTRATION FOR LENT SUPPER, 3/24 CLAM CAKES & CHOWDER

Please make sure to register for the Lent Supper on March 24 at 5:30 pm. It is important for us to know how much food to prepare. Ways to register:

Online at

#### WWW.NOOL.US/UPCOMING-EVENTS

- Call the front desk at (303) 469-5171
- Stop by the front desk
- Ask a friend to help you register



INVITE YOUR NEIGHBOR!

REGISTER

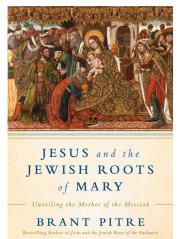
# CALL FOR ALTAR SERVERS!

Experience the beauty of Our Lord's Passion and Resurrection while serving during Holy Week and Easter! It is a great opportunity to see God in action through the greatest liturgies of the year! Please keep in mind that for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil, all the servers serving at each liturgy must attend specific and mandatory training. You will find the schedule of each training on the signup form available on the website. To register, go to

NOOL.FLOCKNOTE.COM/SIGNUP/116883







#### **BIBLE STUDY ON MARY**

#### The classes start THURSDAY, MARCH 22

Join us to discuss Brant Pitre's book, Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary. You can choose either the Wednesday afternoon class from 1:00 to 2:30 pm or the Thursday evening class from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Classes start on March 22/23 and run through May 17/18. If you

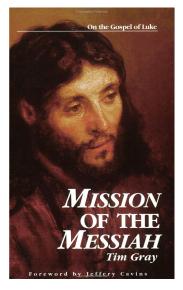
do not have the book, you may purchase it from the Nativity bookstore for \$10. The registration fee of \$5 will help offset the cost of the study guide. Register here:

#### NOOL.CCBCHURCH.COM/GOTO/FORMS/17/RESPONSES/NEW

Contact information: THERESA COOLEY cooleyricktherese@msn.com, 720-635-8975 STEVE MOSER svmoser55@gmail.com



REGISTER



989-941-8280

#### TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY NEXT SESSION

THE CLASS STARTS TUESDAY, APRIL 11

Time: 1:00-2:30 pm Location:

Newman Room at Nativity Topic: Mission of the Messiah by Tim Grav

The Mission of the Messiah is a compelling new study of the Gospel of Luke that presents the messianic mission of Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy. The review

questions at the end of each chapter provide fresh material for individual reflection or group discussion. This book is a must for anyone whose heart is burning to know and love Christ more profoundly. The book is available in the parish bookstore for approximately \$12.00.

Register here:

NOOL.CCBCHURCH.COM/GOTO/FORMS/68/RESPONSES/NEW

For more information, please contact CYNDI BECKINGHAM at dcbeckingham@msn.com



REGISTER



www.nool.us/high-school

#### OPEN TO ANY HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH **CURRENTLY IN 9TH-12TH GRADE**

Spend 5 days in beautiful Estes Park, CO with Fr. Emanuele, Sr. Teresa, and Sr. Marilu! Together we will experience a more personal relationship with Christ through hikes, games, talks, prayers, Mass, and fellowship. Limited to the first 28 students to register. A \$100 deposit is required to register (or pay in full at registration). Registration closes on April 24 or when full. Contact: Fr. Emanuele or Cathy Schaffer.



www.nool.us/totus-tuus

#### GRADES 1-6 | JUNE 26-30, 9 AM-2:30 PM GRADES 7-12 | JUNE 25-29, 7-9 PM

Totus Tuus (Latin for 'Totally Yours') is a summer youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through catechesis, Christian witness, and a ton of fun!

#### PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US! SUNDAYS, 11 AM

As we progress through the Lenten Season, we invite you to do something more during your journey to Easter. Please join us every Sunday in church at 11:00 am to pray the Rosary. The Rosary is a powerful weapon against evil and a beautiful platform for praises and thanks to God.

#### HEAD SACRISTAN JOB OPENING

Nativity is currently accepting applications for full-time Parish Sacristan. Please see the full job description at

#### NOOL.US/LATEST-NEWS/SACRISTAN

With questions, contact

Fr. Emanuele, e.fadini@nool.us.





# SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND

MARCH 18-19 AFTER SUNDAY MASSES



Bethlehem Handicrafts will showcase a collection of olive wood carvings & gifts from the Holy Land following each Sunday Mass on March 18 and 19. Our artisans pour their heart into carving these religious items. Their goal is to spread the faith through beautiful statues, crosses, rosaries, and other artistic displays of our faith. Their wood carving allows them to pass the faith on to generations of Christians, ensuring that the faith is alive and well in the Holy Land. Buying their art pieces, not only will you help give Holy Land Christian families a livelihood and dignity to endure these difficult times, but you will also have a treasured item from Bethlehem as a gift for friends, families, your home, and place of work.

> Store Location: 4114 S Parker Rd (Parker & Quincy) Aurora, Colorado 80014

# MASS OF HEALING AND RECONCILIATION

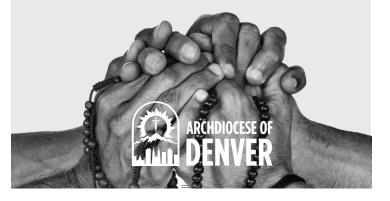
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023 AT 6:00 PM

Archbishop Samuel Aquila and Archdiocesan Committee for Racial Equality and Justice invite us to the 2nd Annual bilingual Mass of Healing and Reconciliation.

# ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC CHURCH, 19099 E. FLOYD AVENUE, AURORA

Join us as we pray for the healing and reconciliation of all that divides us, so that we may continue to strive toward unity and, in Christ, we may all truly be made one.

"For we are all one in Christ." Galatians 3:28



#### **HOME WANTED!**

#### FOR A PARISH MOM AND HER TWO TEENAGE CHILDREN

Looking for low-income housing or a house to share.

Need to move in July 2023.

Please contact: Melissa Massy (425) 223-1667

#### SAMARITAN HOUSE DONATIONS

There is an URGENT NEED of all hygiene items (preferred small or travel sizes of soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, lip balm, and body lotion), feminine hygiene products, bath and hand towels, new women's underwear (larger sizes), new women's bras (all sizes), warm clothing (sweatshirts, sweat pants, coats for men, women, and children all sizes), shoes (boots, shower). Please bring the *NEW* items to the parish office and they will be delivered by one of our SH weekly volunteers.

#### FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Ite ad Joseph - Go to Joseph

St. Joseph, much like Sir Thomas More, could also be described as "A Man for all Seasons." The church honors St. Joseph as a patron saint of fathers and families. We turn to him as we seek work as well as to use our talents wisely. We invoke St. Joseph's intercession when we are sick a well as when a loved one is dying. St. Joseph also very importantly serves as a spiritual father and protector of the universal church.

One St. Joseph story involves Francis Hammans. In 1960, Francis Hammans, a young husband and fatherwas diagnosed with tuberculosis. The next four years were a struggle. Friends, relatives, and organizations as Catholic Charities reached out to help Francis and his wife and children. After a long battle, Francis was near death. Doctors could not explain what happened, but on St. Joseph's feast day, March 19, 1964, Francis experienced a turn around and lived another 34 years. In thanks, Francis helped to start a food pantry at his local parish in Indianapolis.

Just as St. Joseph watched over Jesus and Mary, he will do the same for us. At the St. Vincent de Paul society (SVDP), we are called to be people of faith and reach out to our neighbors in need. Check out our Nativity chapter at nool.flocknote.com/svdp for meeting times and updates.

#### JOIN US!





Join Bishop Jorge Rodríguez in a Procession with the Blessed Sacrament around Planned Parenthood three times for an end to abortion.

Saturday, March 25

Meet us at 9:45 a.m. on Pontiac Street across from 7155 E. 38th Ave., Denver, CO 80207

RespectLifeDenver.org



#### HOMILY OF POPE JOHN PAUL II, THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

## MASS IN THE BASILICA OF THE ANNUNCIATION, ISRAEL, NAZARETH | SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2000

#### [...] Dear Brothers and Sisters,

- 1. 25th March in the year 2000, the Solemnity of the Annunciation in the Year of the Great Jubilee: on this day the eyes of the whole Church turn to Nazareth. I have longed to come back to the town of Jesus, to feel once again, in contact with this place, the presence of the woman of whom Saint Augustine wrote: "He chose the mother he had created; he created the mother he had chosen" (*Sermo* 69, 3, 4). Here it is especially easy to understand why all generations call Mary blessed (cf. *Lk* 2:48). [...]
- 2. We are gathered to celebrate the great mystery accomplished here two thousand years ago. The Evangelist Luke situates the event clearly in time and place: "In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. . . The virgin's name was Mary" (1:26-27). But in order to understand what took place in Nazareth two thousand years ago, we must return to the Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. That text enables us, as it were, to listen to a conversation between the Father and the Son concerning God's purpose from all eternity. "You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin. Then I said. . . ? God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will" (10:5-7). The Letter to the Hebrews is telling us that, in obedience to the Father's will, the Eternal Word comes among us to offer the sacrifice which surpasses all the sacrifices offered under the former Covenant. His is the eternal and perfect sacrifice which redeems the world.

The divine plan is gradually revealed in the Old Testament, particularly in the words of the Prophet Isaiah which we have just heard: "The Lord himself will give you a sign. It is this: the virgin is with child and will soon give birth to a child whom she will call Emmanuel" (7:14). Emmanuel - God with us. In these words, the unique event that was to take place in Nazareth in the fullness of time is foretold, and it is this event that we are celebrating here with intense joy and happiness.

3. Our Jubilee Pilgrimage has been a journey in spirit, which began in the footsteps of Abraham, "our father in faith" (*Roman Canon*; cf. *Rom* 4:11-12). That journey has brought us today to Nazareth, where we meet Mary, the truest daughter of Abraham. It is Mary above all others who can teach us what it means to live the faith of "our father". In many ways, Mary is clearly different from Abraham; but in deeper ways "the friend of God" (cf. *Is* 41:8) and the young woman of Nazareth are very alike.

Both receive a wonderful promise from God. Abraham was to be the father of a son, from whom there would come a great nation. Mary is to be the Mother of a Son who would be the Messiah, the Anointed One. "Listen!", Gabriel says, "You are to conceive and bear a son. . . The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. . . and his reign will have no end" (*Lk* 1:31-33).

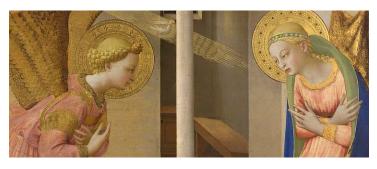
For both Abraham and Mary, the divine promise comes as something completely unexpected. God disrupts the daily course of their lives, overturning its settled rhythms and conventional expectations. For both Abraham and Mary, the promise seems impossible. Abraham's wife Sarah was barren, and Mary is not yet married: "How can this come about", she asks, "since I am a virgin?" (*Lk* 1:34).

- 4. Like Abraham, Mary is asked to say yes to something that has never happened before. [...] Like Abraham, Mary must walk through darkness, in which she must simply trust the One who called her. Yet even her question, "How can this come about?", suggests that Mary is ready to say yes, despite her fears and uncertainties. Mary asks not whether the promise is possible, but only how it will be fulfilled. It comes as no surprise, therefore, when finally she utters her fiat: "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let what you have said be done to me" (*Lk* 1:38). With these words, Mary shows herself the true daughter of Abraham, and she becomes the Mother of Christ and Mother of all believers.
- 5. In order to penetrate further into the mystery, let us look back to the moment of Abraham's journey when he received the promise. It was when he welcomed to his home three mysterious guests (cf. *Gen* 18:1-15), and offered them the adoration due to God: tres vidit et unum adoravit. That mysterious encounter foreshadows the Annunciation, when Mary is powerfully drawn into communion with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Through the fiat that Mary uttered in Nazareth, the Incarnation became the wondrous fulfilment of Abraham's encounter with God. So, following in the footsteps of Abraham, we have come to Nazareth to sing the praises of the woman "through whom the light rose over the earth" (Hymn *Ave Regina Caelorum*).
- 6. But we have also come to plead with her. [...] In Nazareth, where Jesus "grew in wisdom and age and grace before God and men" (Lk 2:52), I ask the Holy Family to inspire all Christians to defend the family against so many present-day threats to its nature, its stability and its mission. To the Holy Family I entrust the efforts of Christians and of all people of good will to defend life and to promote respect for the dignity of every human being.

To Mary, the Theotókos, the great Mother of God, I consecrate the families of the Holy Land, the families of the world.

In Nazareth where Jesus began his public ministry, I ask Mary to help the Church everywhere to preach the "good news" to the poor, as he did (cf. *Lk* 4:18). In this "year of the Lord's favour", I ask her to teach us the w ay of humble and joyful obedience to the Gospel in the service of our brothers and sisters, without preferences and without prejudices.

"O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen" (*Memorare*).



Source: https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/travels/2000/documents/hf jp-ii hom 20000325 nazareth.html



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#### MASS TIMES

#### Monday-Friday

7:00 am

9:30 am (livestreamed)

#### **Friday School Mass**

8:15 am

Saturday

Sunday

9:30 am

7:30 am 9:30 am

Vigil Mass 4:30 pm

11:30 am 5:00 pm

## PARISH OFFICE

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8:00 am-3:00 pm

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**School:** (303) 466-4177

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#### **Thursday**

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#### Saturday

8:00-9:30 am 3:00-4:30 pm

#### Sunday

30 min before weekend Masses

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

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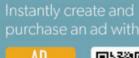
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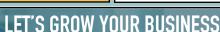
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