

JESUS TOOK
PETER, JAMES,
AND JOHN
AND LED THEM
UP A HIGH
MOUNTAIN APART
BY THEMSELVES.
AND HE WAS
TRANSFIGURED
BEFORE THEM.
MK: 9:2



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
FEB 25, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

900 W. MIDWAY BLVD, BROOMFIELD, CO
WWW.NOOL.US | (303) 469-5171

MASS TIMES

MONDAY-FRIDAY

7:00 am
9:30 am (livestreamed)
School Mass: Wednesdays, 8:15 am

SATURDAY

9:30 am (livestreamed)

VIGIL MASS

4:30 pm

SUNDAY

7:30 am
9:30 am (livestreamed)
11:30 am
5:00 pm

CONFESSION

THURSDAY

5:00-6:00 pm

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

30 min before Masses

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8 am-5 pm

FRONT DESK:

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8 am-8 pm

SATURDAY: 8 am-3:30 pm

SACRISTY LAUNDRY

Therese Herzog

COLLECTION COUNTERS

Mon, Feb 26 | 3:45 pm

Denise Fritz
Veronica Mueller
Thomas Lambert
Tricia Kreggeris

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

IN THE CHURCH:

THURSDAY

12:00-6:00 pm

SOLEMN HOLY HOUR:

5:00-6:00 pm with *Confession* and *Vespers*

Benediction: 5:55 pm

IN THE CHAPEL:

FOR SCHEDULED ADORERS,

SEE AVAILABLE HOURS AND SIGN UP AT

www.nool.us/adoration

OR SCAN QR CODE



OPEN FOR WALK-INS

MONDAY-FRIDAY

8:00 am-5:00 pm

VISITING THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Do you know or do you have someone in your family who is sick or homebound, cannot attend Sunday Mass regularly, and desires to receive sacraments of penance and Eucharist? Please do not hesitate to contact Nativity to schedule a visit with a priest or Eucharistic minister at (303) 469-5171 Ext 101.

GOING TO THE HOSPITAL

If you are going to the hospital and need a visit from a priest or deacon, please call the front desk at (303) 469-5171.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have any prayer requests, please contact Joanne Farver at (303) 466-8859 or at joannefarver@comcast.net.

PRAY THE

ROSARY WITH US

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024

8:30 am | Rosary for the Unborn

SUNDAY

11:00 am | Parishioners' Rosary



LENT

AT NATIVITY

40 HOURS

DEVOTION BEGINS WITH NATIVITY NIGHT

THURSDAY | FEB 29 | 4-7 PM

4:00 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Rosary followed by silence

5:00 pm

Reflection by Fr. Emanuele Fadini, FSCB: *"I Am The Living Bread Come Down From Heaven."*

6:00 pm | Vespers

4:00-7:00 pm | Confessions

Dinner will be served from 4:30 to 7:00 pm. Families with children are welcome. Nativity night will offer family-friendly adoration and confession in the church, with kids' activities in the gathering area.

Please go to page 5 to view the full program of the 40 Hours Devotion.

LENTEN SOUP & BREAD

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

5:30-6:15 PM

VESPERS

FRIDAY, MARCH 1 | 7:00 PM

(NO STATIONS OF THE CROSS)

With meditation by

Fr. Matteo Invernizzi, FSCB:

Foundation of Fraternal Love



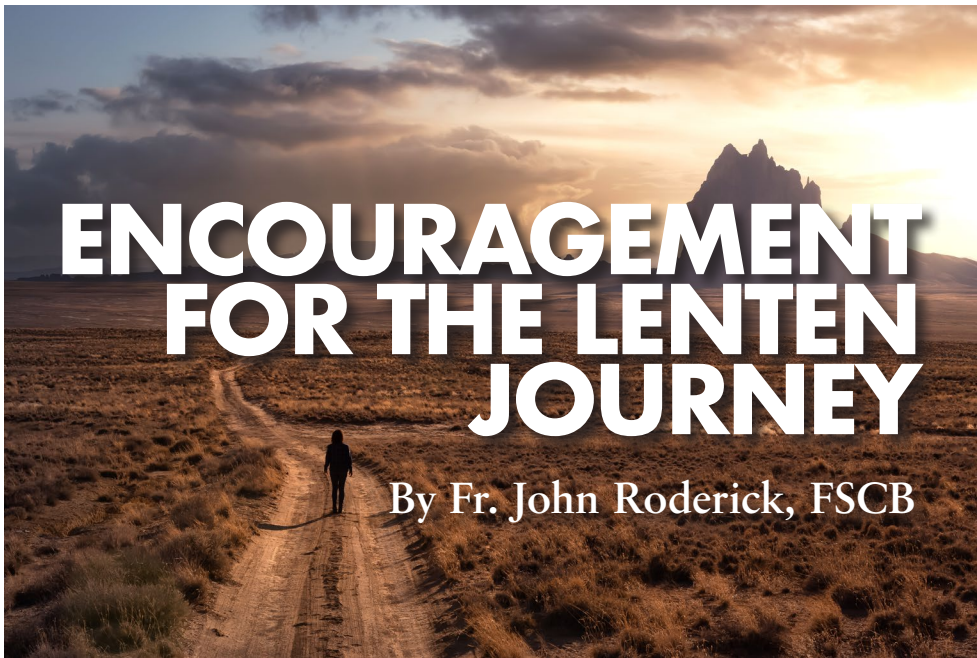
900 W. MIDWAY BLVD. 
BROOMFIELD, CO 80020

PH: (303) 469-5171

FAX: (303) 469-5172

SCHOOL: (303) 466-4177

WWW.NOOL.US



ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE LENTEN JOURNEY

By Fr. John Roderick, FSCB

The week prior to Lent this year was saturated with news of the greatly anticipated Superbowl between the Chiefs and the Forty-Niners. While listening to the Altitude Sports station on my way to the hospital, God inspired me to ask myself the following question, “Fr. John, do you desire the beginning of Lent with the same passion as the Superbowl?” Being honest before the Lord, I had to quietly say, “No.” I felt a little sad for forgetting what the center of my life is. Since then, I’ve seen God working on my heart and reminding me that the outcome of the Superbowl is not that important at all compared to the Lenten journey that will prepare me to celebrate and relive the most important events in Jesus’ life. The mystery of Easter is the single most important fact that defines my life and that of the whole world. For this reason, the Lenten season is an amazing gift that will lead us to the truth of the relationship between God and all of humanity.

In this reflection, I would like to share a few aspects of the Lenten journey that will hopefully act as a type of roadmap that can be a guide during this difficult but beautiful pilgrimage.

WHAT IS LENT? The word Lent comes from the Latin word *quadragesima*, which means forty. The period of forty days or years is very significant in the entirety of the Sacred Scriptures, where it represents a time of testing and maturing and the approximate length of a generation. For example, we can remember 1) The forty days and forty nights of Noah in the Ark (Gen. 7); 2) The forty days Moses remained on Mount Sinai before receiving the Ten Commandments (Ex. 24); 3) The forty years the Israelites wandered in the desert before entering the Promised Land (Deut. 8); and 4) in the New Testament, the forty days Jesus fasted and prayed in the desert while being tempted by the devil prior to the beginning of his public ministry (Mt. 4). For Christians, in imitation of Christ, it is a time of spiritual renewal and conversion in preparation for the celebration of Holy Week and Easter.

RETURN TO ME WITH YOUR WHOLE HEART. On Ash Wednesday, the liturgy gives us a beautiful reading from the prophet Joel that lays the foundation for the Lenten season. The prophet Joel, speaking for God, invites all of God’s people to “*Return to me with your whole heart*” (2:12). These words are also directed to each of us. **The purpose of Lent is to respond to God’s invitation to return to him.** God is passionately interested in each of us. He wants our hearts to return to Him. He does not want us to return for a little bit or for a short time. He is interested in our whole hearts and lives. For this reason, Lent is considered a privileged time of conversion, a time to change the direction of our life, to leave behind the ways of the world, and to try to follow the ways and example of Jesus. **God takes the initiative** towards each of us as we begin our Lenten journey.

TAKE UP THE CROSS. At the very beginning of Jesus’ teaching, he tells his disciples, “*If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me*” (Luke 9:23). Oftentimes, we forget this difficult verse. Jesus

desires for his friends to follow him completely. There is no discipleship or friendship with the Lord that does not pass directly through daily self-denial and the cross. The Lenten period is a special gift to all the followers of Christ and a reminder that we have to accept and follow the totality of his life, and not merely the parts we more readily like. The Christian life is a calling, a vocation, by the Lord to personalize our imitation and following of Him.

GO TO THE DESERT. The Lenten pilgrimage is an invitation to follow Jesus into the desert. On the First Sunday of Lent, we hear the story of Jesus going to the desert for forty days to pray and fast while being tempted by the devil. The desert is a very difficult place to live, characterized by great heat and scarce resources. It is also a place of silence and solitude. Our hearts and our lives are called to go to the desert with Christ and, just like our Lord, battle the temptations of the devil. While we may not go physically to a desert like Christ, we are invited into a spiritual desert. The spiritual desert is the place of the recognition of our complete dependence on God and that our freedom comes only from being in relationship with Him. The Church invites us spiritually to enter the desert every year through the three pillars of prayer, self-denial, and acts of mercy. Concretely, we could live this as an invitation to limit the noise and distraction in our lives by consciously being more intentional with our use of technology.

GOD’S INITIATIVE. The prophet Ezekiel will remind us during our Lenten pilgrimage of God’s desire to be the protagonist in our effort to change our lives and convert, “*I will sprinkle water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts*” (Ez 36:25-27). When, through the failure to love God and our neighbor, we distance ourselves from Him, our hearts lose their life and become hard like stones. However, our stony hearts are the privileged place where God wants to work by remolding them with His gentle and tender healing hands of mercy.

It is not easy to let ourselves be forgiven and made clean by Jesus. We often struggle like Peter who at the Last Supper refused to let Jesus wash his

feet. We are very often stuck in the pride and stubbornness of not wanting to let ourselves be cleansed by the Lord. John the Evangelist reminds us that if we want to have any part and inheritance of Jesus, we must accept His divine mercy and desire to wash and make us clean (John 13). Let us pray for the simplicity of heart to let ourselves be forgiven and made clean by Jesus.

“THIS IS MY BELOVED SON. LISTEN TO HIM.” On the second Sunday of Lent, we hear the story of the Transfiguration. Jesus is transfigured on the mountain in front of his disciples Peter, James, and John, and the Father speaks these words to them: *“This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.”* The Father’s message is an invitation for all of Jesus’ friends through all the ages: listen to my Son! These forty days are a privileged time to remember our need to be silent and make space to hear God’s word. He desires to speak to each and everyone of us personally. The Lenten liturgy will often recall the important verse from the Gospel, *“One does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God”* (Matt 4:4). These words are an invitation to recognize that we cannot truly live the Christian life without being nourished by God’s word that speaks to us personally in the sacraments, in the Christian community and our personal lives of prayer.

LOVE. The Lenten season, which prepares us for Easter, reveals to us, above all, God’s infinite and merciful love toward humanity. John the Evangelist recalls this important point when he writes, *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life”* (3:16). It is not merely a historical fact of two thousand years ago, but a fact which remains present in the life of the Church. After washing his friends’ feet, Jesus invites his closest friends to follow his example, *“I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do”* (13:15). Jesus desires to introduce them into his way of loving and serving the Father and his neighbor. He is essentially revealing to them that the meaning of life is a gradual entering into His love and service for all humanity. Jesus describes this newness: *“I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another”* (13:34). Let us ask

Jesus how we can more fully and freely participate in his Love this Lent.

PERSEVERANCE IN THE JOURNEY. As we continue our pilgrimage through Lent, let us not be discouraged if we have gotten off to a rocky start or a slow one! This season is paradigmatic for the whole Christian life. With God, we can always start again. We are invited every day during this season to renew our ‘yes’ for Christ, which is the truth of who we are as His redeemed children. Let us renew our efforts to follow Christ and His Church through prayer, fasting and acts of mercy so we can celebrate more deeply the greatest victory of all: His glorious resurrection from the dead. This is the greatest news there is!

Fr. John Roderick, FSCB

DAILY READINGS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Reading 1: Dt 26:16-19

Psalm: 119:1-2, 45, 7-8

Gospel: Mt 5:43-48

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Reading 1: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Psalm: 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19

Reading 2: Rom 8:31b-34

Gospel: Mk 9:2-10

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Reading 1: Dn 9:4b-10

Psalm: 79:8, 9, 11 and 13

Gospel: Lk 6:36-38

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Reading 1: Is 1:10, 16-20

Psalm: 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23

Gospel: Mt 23:1-12

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Reading 1: Jer 18:18-20

Psalm: 31:5-6, 14, 15-16

Gospel: Mt 20:17-28

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Reading 1: Jer 17:5-10

Psalm: 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6

Gospel: Lk 16:19-31

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

Reading 1: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a

Psalm: 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21

Gospel: Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

Reading 1: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20

Psalm: 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12

Gospel: Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

40 Hours Devotion begins this week. There is still time to sign up for an hour of the Eucharistic adoration. Please visit the sign-up website to view the adoration schedule and choose your hour(s). Please consider signing up for the hours that are in the greatest need of adorers.

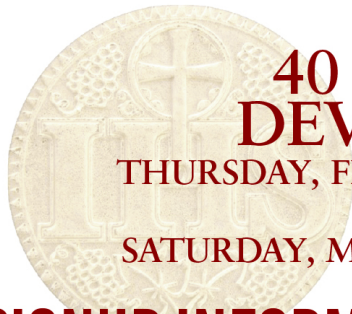
40 HOURS DEVOTION
ADORATION HOURS

FRI **SAT**
MAR 1 **MAR 2**

12 AM	12 AM
1 AM	1 AM
2 AM	2 AM
3 AM	3 AM
4 AM	4 AM
5 AM	5 AM
6 AM	6 AM
7 AM	7 AM
8 AM	8 AM
9 AM	
10 AM	
11 AM	
12 PM	
1 PM	
2 PM	
3 PM	
4 PM	4 PM
5 PM	5 PM
6 PM	6 PM
7 PM	7 PM
8 PM	8 PM
9 PM	9 PM
10 PM	10 PM
11 PM	11 PM

For programs, events, and faith formation at Nativity, visit:

www.nool.us



40 HOURS DEVOTION

THURSDAY, FEB 29, 4:00 PM
THROUGH
SATURDAY, MAR 2, 9:00 AM

SIGNUP INFORMATION

ONLINE

- Go to www.nool.us - parish website.
- Find a sign up link at the very top of each page.
- New adorers will be prompted to create an account with a username and password.
- To sign up for the 40 Hours Devotion, please skip all the calendar dates until February 29, selecting hours marked, "40 Hour Devotion-In Church." Hours in most need of adorers are indicated in yellow.

QR CODE

Using your phone, please scan the QR code below. You will be brought directly to the sign-up web page: nativity.weadorehim.com/?week=2024-02-25
Follow the instructions given above.

AT THE FRONT DESK | 303-469-5171

Stop by or call the front desk to choose your adoration time slot and have it reserved for you. You will be asked to provide your name and contact info.

SUBMIT YOUR SIGN-UP FORM

Find the signup form in the pews or the church gathering area. Fill it out and drop it in the box at the gathering area or the front desk.

ASK FOR HELP

If you have difficulties signing up, please ask your friend or someone at the parish to help you, or contact the following:

adoration@nool.us

Kristen Hamill, 303-960-9745

Joanne Farver, 303-818-4667

Kathleen Pougnet, 303-726-1565

▼ SCAN



www.nool.us

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Remain in me, as I remain in you

Jn 15:4



40 HOURS DEVOTION PROGRAM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

4:00-7:00 PM | NATIVITY NIGHT

4:00 pm | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Rosary followed by silence

5:00 pm | Reflection given by Fr. Emanuele:

"I Am The Living Bread Come Down From Heaven."

6:00 pm | Vespers

4:00-7:00 pm | Confessions

Dinner will be served from 4:30 to 7:00 pm

Families with children are welcome. Nativity night will offer family-friendly adoration and confession in the church, with kids' activities in the gathering area.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

10:30 am | Meditation by Fr. John:

"This Is My Body Which Will Be Given Up For You."

11:00 am-12:00 pm | Confessions

5:30-6:15 pm | Lenten Soup & Bread

6:30 pm | Music Chorale

7:00 pm | Vespers with Meditation by Fr. Matteo:

Foundation of Fraternal Love

(No Stations of the Cross)

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

8:00-9:30 am | Confessions

8:30 am | Rosary for the Unborn

9:00 am | Intercessions

9:10 am | Reposition

9:30 am | Mass

PARISH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

8:00 am | Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle
8:15 am | School of Community (CL)*
8:50 am | Pro Life Rosary
10:00 am | Grieving with Great Hope Workshop
10:15 am | Lector training

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

8:30 am | School of Community (CL)*
11:00 am | Parishioners' Rosary
11:00 am | RCIA
6:00 pm | GS/High School Youth Group
6:15 pm | Catholic Young Adults

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

11:00 am | ENDOW
1:00 pm | CGS Level 1 & 2
4:00 pm | CGS Level 2
6:00 pm | Healing the Whole Person Class
6:30 pm | Catechetical School Class
6:30 pm | Spanish Prayer Group
7:30 pm | St. Joseph Men's Group
7:45 pm | CL* Choir Rehearsal

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

10:00 am | CGS Level 1
1:00 pm | Adult Bible Study: *The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth*
4:00 pm | CGS Level 1 Session 2
4:00 pm | Children's Choir Rehearsal
6:00 pm | RE Grades 1-5
6:30 pm | Adult Catechism Study
6:30 pm | Venturers of the Star (Middle School Youth Group)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

5:30 am | St. Joseph Men's Group
8:15 am | ENDOW
12:30 pm | *Adult Bible Study—The Gospel of Mark: Faith Not Fear*
4:00 pm | RE Grades 1-5
6:00 pm | Stephen Ministry Training
6:00 pm | Boy Scouts Troop 766
6:30 pm | Healing from Divorce Workshop
6:30 pm | Knights of Columbus Exemplification
7:00 pm | Marriage Preparation Theological Class
7:30 pm | University Students (CLU)* School of Community

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

12:00 pm | Eucharistic Adoration begins in the church
12:30 pm | Nativity Staff School of Community (CL)*
4:00 pm | 40 Hours Devotion Begins
4:00 pm | Nativity Night (details on p. 5)
6:00 pm | Sacrament Preparation with Deacon Huan
6:30 pm | *Adult Bible Study—The Gospel of Mark: Faith Not Fear*
7:30 pm | School of Community (CL)*

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

7:30 am | Men of Emmaus
10:00 am | Friends in All Times (FIAT) Gathering
5:30-6:15 pm | Lenten Soup & Bread
6:00 pm | American Heritage Girls

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

8:00 am | Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle
8:15 am | School of Community (CL)*
8:30 am | Rosary for the Unborn
10:00 am | Grieving with Great Hope Workshop
10:15 am | Altar Server Training

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

8:30 am | School of Community (CL)*
11:00 am | Parishioners' Rosary
11:00 am | RCIA
6:00 pm | GS/High School Youth Group
6:15 pm | Catholic Young Adults

*(CL) Communion & Liberation

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

9:30 am † Elisandro & Ramona Garcia by Garcia Family
4:30 pm † Betty James & Elisabeth Doyle by Sally Fitterer

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

7:30 am † Deacon David by Tom & Lysa Sermak
9:30 am People of the Parish
11:30 am † Deacon Dave by the Georgens
5:00 pm Teresa Alderman by Alderman Family

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7:00 am Mary Roman by Susann Bergh
9:30 am † Deacon Dave by Al & Bette Dean

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

7:00 am Maura Martinez Sick Daughter by Catalina Aquino
9:30 am All Souls by La Family

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

7:00 am Charles Graham by Maria Graham
9:30 am All Priests & Souls for Jesus

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

7:00 am Dave and Cyndi Beckingham by Storeys
9:30 am Dave and Cyndi Beckingham by Lindsay Smith

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

7:00 am † Mary Baylie by Mary Ferrone
9:30 am Karen Moreira by Knight Family

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

9:30 am † Deacon Dave by Nativity's Front Desk
4:30 pm † Mary Baylie by St. Joseph Rosary Makers

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

7:30 am † Sue Ocken by Carol Day
9:30 am People of the Parish
11:30 am † David Strasburger by Helen Strasburger
5:00 pm † Celestino Gallardo by Children



LENTEN RETREAT SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024 ABBAY OF ST. WALBURGA

Please join Fr. Emanuele, Sister Teresa, and fellow high school friends for our annual Lenten Retreat at Abbey of St. Walburga. **New students are welcome!** Go to Nativity website for more information on the retreat and to sign up. **QUESTIONS?** Contact Cathy Schaffer, c.schaffer@nool.us

www.nool.us/high-school



REGISTER



SUMMER VACATION JUNE 16-20, 2024 YMCA OF THE ROCKIES AT SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH

Sign-up information is coming soon.





NATIVITY PRO-LIFE MASS ACROSS FROM PLANNED PARENTHOOD

**FRIDAY, MARCH 8
12:00 NOON**

**OFFERED FOR THE
UNBORN AND THEIR
MOTHERS**

Nativity will celebrate a Pro-life Mass across from one of the largest Planned Parenthoods in the United States in Park Hill in Denver, Pontiac Street, between 38th and 39th Avenue. A bus will leave Nativity at 11:00 am, and return by 1:30 pm. To reserve a spot on the bus, call the Parish Office at

303-469-5171.

The actual address for Planned Parenthood-Park Hill is 7155 E. 38th Ave. Denver 80207. If you can't be there, wherever you are, please pray with us for the unborn and their mothers.



NATIVITY MEN'S LENTEN RETREAT MARCH 15-17, 2024 FRIDAY-SUNDAY YMCA OF THE ROCKIES, ESTES PARK

Join with other men of the parish for an opportunity to get away from the "world" and listen to God's voice through structured talks, prayer, discussion, and rest. Retreat theme:

Defying The World: Holiness in an Age of Unbelieving

Retreat leader: Catholic Biblical School Instructor, Tomas Fuerte

Paper registration at front desk is available. To find out about further details and register online, please scan the QR code below



REGISTER

or go to

www.nool.us/upcoming-events

With questions, contact **Bob Patton** at 720-883-1893 or email catholicmensgroup@nool.us.

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE IS AT THE HEART OF JESUS' MESSAGE. LOVINGLY RECEIVED DAY AFTER DAY BY THE CHURCH, IT IS TO BE PREACHED WITH DAUNTLESS FIDELITY AS "GOOD NEWS" TO THE PEOPLE OF EVERY AGE AND CULTURE.

**—ST. JOHN PAUL II
EVANGELIUM VITAE**

FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

"O Saving Victim"/"O Salutaris Hostia"

*O Saving Victim, opening wide
The gate of Heaven to man below;
Our foes press on from every side;
Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.*

*To Thy great name be endless praise,
Immortal Godhead, one in Three;
Oh, grant us endless length of days,
In our true native land with Thee.
Amen"*

St. Thomas Aquinas

Nativity of Our Lord parish will be hosting the 40 Hours Devotion, February 29-March 2. When we think of devoting an hour of time to adoration, it is hard not to appreciate the beautiful prayers/hymns composed by St. Thomas Aquinas. Whether we pray or sing these praises out loud or lift them up silently in Latin or English, the words create a sacred space that inspires contemplation.

When we pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, our thoughts may turn to our family and friends, as well as our local community, our nation, and the world. On February 8, 2024 at the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC, the Eucharist and the upcoming National Eucharistic Congress, July 17-21 in Indianapolis, were main topics of discussion. The two significant speakers from Nigeria, Bishop Wilfred Anagbe of the Makurdi Diocese and Fr. Deji Dada Augustine, a priest of the Ondo Diocese, are asking all of us for prayers for their people. Catholics and Christians in Nigeria have been targeted by Islamic terrorists and Fulani militants. Thousands have been killed, priests have been kidnapped, and many farmers have lost their lands. Often these attacks occur on religious holidays, such as Christmas. The National Catholic Register as well as Nina Shea, who is with the Center for Religious Freedom at the Hudson Institute, have done reporting on these religious violations issues. Despite the persecutions and loss of life, Bishop Anagbe said the people remain strong in their faith.

For more information on our local Nativity of our Lord St. Vincent de Paul conference, see our Flocknote site at

nool.flocknote.com/svdpvol.



NATIVITY
FAITH & REASON

Ash Wednesday
School Mass

2024–2025
ENROLLMENT
OPENED ON
FEBRUARY 15!

PRESCHOOL THROUGH
8TH GRADE

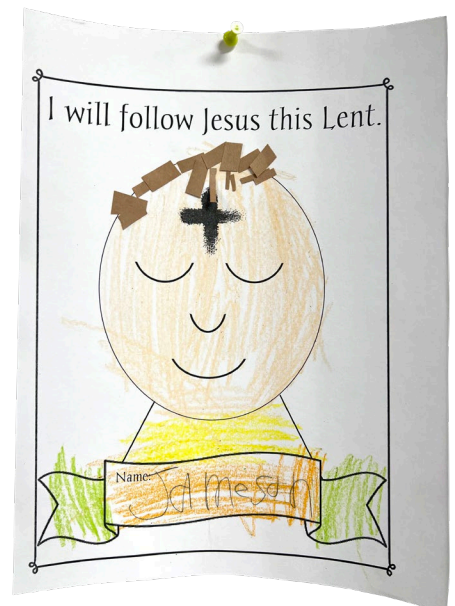
We are accepting new students for the 2024–2025 School Year. Please share this news with your friends, family, and neighbors who are looking for a high-quality education rooted in Catholic values. Nativity: Faith & Reason is the primary ministry of our parish. Serving students in preschool, elementary, and middle school, Nativity: Faith & Reason proposes the fullness of faith within an integrated curriculum, striving for academic, spiritual, artistic, and athletic excellence.

school.nool.us/enroll

CALL TODAY
303-466-4177



With questions about admission or to schedule a tour, contact
Shannon Spinuzzi
s.spinuzzi@nool.us



WWW.SCHOOL.NOOL.US



Dear Nativity Parents,

As we start Lent, I want to share with you some thoughts that help me to go through this season with a grateful heart.

The forty days of Lent recall the 40 years that the people of Israel spent in the desert. The first thing that comes to mind when we think of being in the desert is sacrifice; the heat and dryness are challenging, just like the big or little sacrifices that we can add to our lives during Lent.

But that's not all of it. During those 40 years, the Lord instructed the people of Israel with the desire to teach them how to love Him and be closer to Him. In those years, they received multiple signs of God's closeness: the Ten Commandments, the Manna, and Moses, the prophet who spoke face-to-face with God. During those years, the Lord was with them as a column of fire and cloud, guiding their steps day by day. Those years were a special moment in which the people of Israel lived solely from their relationship with God. He guided them and fed them. He also corrected them when they got far from Him.

Also, Jesus spent 40 days in the desert before starting his mission. During that time, he didn't have food or drink. Those days were for Him a long retreat to prepare, together with the Father, for what was going to happen afterward: the gift of Himself on behalf of all of humanity. At the end of those days, Satan tempted Jesus, but He didn't follow him and chose to stay closer to the Father because He knew that there was nothing better.

We, too, can live this time of Lent as a desert through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, choosing to put our relationship with Christ at the forefront. Let's get rid of all the distractions that keep us far from Him, who is waiting for us with open arms.

I hope that this season can take us to Easter with a lighter, more joyful heart, discovering the big love that Christ has for us so that we can say together with St. Paul, *"I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me."*

In Christ,
Sr. Marilú Arbesú



THE VALUE AND MEANING OF FORGIVENESS

EXCERPTS FROM POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL LETTER *FRATELLI TUTTI*

There are those who prefer not to talk of reconciliation, for they think that conflict, violence and breakdown are part of the normal functioning of a society. [...] Others think that promoting forgiveness means yielding ground and influence to others. For this reason, they feel it is better to keep things as they are, maintaining a balance of power between differing groups. Still others believe that reconciliation is a sign of weakness; incapable of truly serious dialogue, they choose to avoid problems by ignoring injustices. [...]

Jesus never promoted violence or intolerance. He openly condemned the use of force to gain power over others: "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you" (Mt 20:25-26). Instead, the Gospel tells us to forgive "seventy times seven" (Mt 18:22) and offers the example of the unmerciful servant who was himself forgiven, yet unable to forgive others in turn (cf. Mt 18:23-35). [...]

The important thing is not to fuel anger, which is unhealthy for our own soul and the soul of our people, or to become obsessed with taking revenge and destroying the other. No one achieves inner peace or returns to a normal life in that way. The truth is that "no family, no group of neighbors, no ethnic group, much less a nation, has a future if the force that unites them, brings them together and resolves their differences is vengeance and hatred. We cannot come to terms and unite for the sake of revenge, or treating others with the same violence with which they treated us, or plotting opportunities for retaliation under apparently legal auspices." Nothing is gained this way and, in the end, everything is lost.

To be sure, "it is no easy task to overcome the bitter legacy of injustices, hostility and mistrust left by conflict. It can only be done by overcoming evil with good (cf. Rom 12:21) and by cultivating those virtues which foster reconciliation, solidarity and peace." In this way, "persons who nourish goodness in their heart find that such goodness leads to a peaceful conscience and to profound joy, even in the midst of difficulties and misunderstandings. Even when affronted, goodness is never weak but rather, shows its strength by refusing to take revenge." Each of us should realize that "even the harsh judgment I hold in my heart against my brother or my sister, the open wound that was never cured, the offense that was never forgiven, the rancor that is only going to hurt me, are all instances of a struggle that I carry within me, a little flame deep in my heart that needs to be extinguished before it turns into a great blaze."

THE BEST WAY TO MOVE ON

When conflicts are not resolved but kept hidden or buried in the past, silence can lead to complicity in grave misdeeds and sins. Authentic reconciliation does not flee from conflict, but is achieved in conflict, resolving it through dialogue and open, honest and patient negotiation. Conflict between different groups "if it abstains from enmities and mutual hatred, gradually changes into an honest discussion of differences founded on a desire for justice." On numerous occasions, I have spoken of "a principle indispensable to the building of friendship in society: namely, that unity is greater than

conflict... This is not to opt for a kind of syncretism, or for the absorption of one into the other, but rather for a resolution which takes place on a higher plane and preserves what is valid and useful on both sides." All of us know that "when we, as individuals and communities, learn to look beyond ourselves and our particular interests, then understanding and mutual commitment bear fruit... in a setting where conflicts, tensions and even groups once considered inimical can attain a multifaceted unity that gives rise to new life."

Pope Francis, 2020
ON FRATERNITY AND SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP

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–Pope Francis

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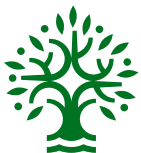
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