



Joseph Ratzinger: A Man Seized by the Love of Christ

A Reflection from Fr. John Roderick

On December 31st, 2022, at 9:34am, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI passed away in the Mater Ecclesia monastery, at the age of 95. He had been living a life of silence and prayer in service to the Church since his renunciation of the papacy on March 13, 2013. He served as Pope for eight years following the death of his predecessor and good friend, Pope Saint John Paul II.

During the first year of his papacy, Benedict XVI gifted to the Church the first of his three encyclicals: *Deus caritas est* (God is Love) published on December 25, 2005. In its opening words, we can find an important key that unlocks the mystery of his multi-faceted papacy, as well as the person and mission of the late pontiff: "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him" (1 Jn 4:16). These words from the First Letter of John express with remarkable clarity the heart of the Christian faith: the Christian image of God and the resulting image of mankind and its destiny. In the same verse, Saint John also offers a kind of summary of the Christian life: "We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us."

We have come to believe in God's love. In these words, the Christian can express the fundamental decision of his life. Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction. Saint John's Gospel describes that event in these words: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should ... have eternal life" (3:16). In acknowledging the centrality of love, Christian faith has retained the core of Israel's faith, while at the same time giving it new depth and breadth.

The heart of Christian life is the experience and encounter with love. Without this experience of love, it is incomprehensible to understand either God or ourselves. For Pope Benedict, love was not a mere sentiment or

DAILY READINGS

Saturday, January 07

1st reading: 1 Jn 5:14-21 Psalm: 149:1-2, 3-4, 5, 6a, 9b Gospel: Jn 2:1-11

Sunday, January 08

1st reading: Is 60:1-6 Psalm: 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 2nd reading: Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Gospel: Mt 2:1-12

Monday, January 09

1st reading: ls 42:1-4, 6-7 Psalm: 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 Gospel: Mt 3:13-17

Tuesday, January 10 1st reading: Heb 2:5-12 Psalm: 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 Gospel: Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday, January 11

1st reading: Heb 2:14-18 Psalm: 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 Gospel: Mk 1:29-39

Thursday, January 12

1st reading: Heb 3:7-14 Psalm: 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11 Gospel: Mk 1:40-45

Friday, January 13

1st reading: Heb 4:1-13 Psalm: 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8 Gospel: Mk 2:1-12

SACRISTY LAUNDRY

Nicki Battista

COLLECTION COUNTERS

Tuesday, 01/09 - 10:00am

Don Larson Patty Kondratko Steve Moser Pat & Tom Green

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 07

9:30 Fr. John Roderick Birthday Blessings4:30 † Maureen Mooney by Terri and Jeff Brown

Sunday, January 08

- 7:30 Veronica and Steven Drew
- 9:30 People of the Parish
- 11:30 Catherine and Andrew by Leo and Carmen Albiniak
- 5:00 † Tim Chamberlain by Mary Roman

Monday, January 09

7:00 † Everall Holman by Paul VanHoudt

9:30 † Jim Copley by Cathy Hogan

Tuesday, January 10

7:00 † William Mielke by the Beck Family9:30 † Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, January 11

7:00 Megan Lunstrum by Family9:30 Karen Moreira by Family

Thursday, January 12

7:00 † Souls in Purgatory9:30 † Yolanda Cisneros by Lindsey Smith

Friday, January 13

7:00 Milly Janczura by Friends 9:30 Cardinal Zen

Saturday, January 14

9:30 Cardinal Zen4:30 † Linda Bajadaby Melinda and Scott Tewksbury

Sunday, January 15

- 7:30 † John Sisto
- by Otto and Rosemary Kirkmaier9:30 People of the Parish
- 11:30 † Maria Fabre by Family
- 5:00 † Leroy, Florence, Jim, and Tom Smith by Elizabeth Boitnott

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, January 08

8:30am	CL
11:00am	RCIA
11:00am	Parishioner's Rosary
3:00pm	Nativity Play
6:00pm	HS Youth Group

Monday, January 09

10:00pm	ENDOW
1:00pm	CGS, Lvl I and II
4:00pm	CGS LvI II
6:30pm	Biblical School
6:30pm	New Springtime Prayer Grp.
7:30pm	St. Joseph's Men's Grp.

Tuesday, January 10

10:00amCGS Lvl I1:00pmBible Study-Beckingham4:00pmCGS Lvl I6:30pmCCC Class- Chuck Graham6:30pmVenturers of the Star6:30pmRE

Wednesday, January 11

5:30am	St. Joseph Mens Group
8:15am	ENDOW
12:00pm	Nativity Widows
1:00pm	Gospel of Matthew Study Grp.
4:30pm	RE
6:00pm	Boy Scouts 766

Thursday, January 12

6:00pm | Gospel of Matthew Study Grp. 6:00pm | Stephen Ministry 7:00pm | Parish Council 7:30pm | CL

Friday, January 13

7:30am	Men's Bible Study
9:00am	ENDOW
5:00pm	Teen Star
6:30pm	Spanish Prayer Group

Saturday, January 14

8:00am		Marian Cenacle
8:50am		Pro-Life Rosary

FEAST OF THE WEEK

"Let us become like Christ, since Christ became like us. He assumed the worse that He might give us the better; He became poor that we through His poverty might be rich."

Feast of St.Gregory Nazianzen Feast Day: January 14













Over Christmas break, high schoolers of our parish enjoyed a "staycation" led by Fr. Emanuele and the sisters. The week's activities included morning prayer and Mass each morning, a cold winter hike, and a charitable work serving burritos to those in need. The week was a great success!





ONGOING NEEDS

Help is still needed in the following areas:

K-5 Recess Monitors Help keep playtime fun during recess! Sign up here or call the school front office with questions.



NATIVITY SCHOOL GALA



YOU'RE INVITED February 4, 2023 | 5:00-11:00pm | The Establishment, 11885 Bradburn Blvd.

You are cordially invited to an evening of dinner, dancing, live and silent auctions, and more, benefitting Nativity: Faith & Reason. Tickets are on sale now! Stay tuned for additional event details, auction items, entertainment previews, and more.

DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIPS

There are many options to donate items to or sponsor this year's Knight of Joy. For more information, please contact Erica at e.bardeau@nool.us.

More information: school.nool.us/gala

FROM THE PARISH

REQUIEM MASS FOR POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI

Archbishop Aquila and Bishop Rodriguez will both offer a Mass for the Dead for Pope Emeritus Benedict at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday, January 12, at 5:30pm. Please join us at Mass and in praying for the repose of his soul.

NATIVITY PAGEANT REMINDER

Sunday, January 8 | 3:00pm | Cabrini Hall

The Nativity Parish Youth Drama Program will be putting on a Nativity pageant, "Follow the Star," to be performed on the Feast of the Epiphany, Sunday, January 8, at 3:00pm in Cabrini Hall. All are welcome!

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: THE EARLY CHURCH

Tuesdays beginning January 8 | 1:00-2:30pm

Epic: The Early Church will lead you on a powerful, fast-paced journey through the first 500 years of Church history. Join us for this 10-Part study program starting January 8. The cost is \$32 for materials. Please sign up nool.us/bible-study-2. With questions, please contact Cyndi Beckingham at dcbeckingham@msn.com.

NATIVITY WIDOWS

Nativity Widows will meet Wednesday, January 11, for lunch at 12:00pm. Check in at the front desk, and bring a sack lunch and a drink. We'll eat together and play a game. It is not necessary to bring an ornament. Call Mary C. Baylie at 303-466-1125 if needed.

LIVING DYNAMICALLY IN CHRIST

When you entered the church through the gathering area you probably saw the Parish Life board filled with cards for every ministry we have at Nativity. We are blessed to have more than eighty. There is a lot going on at Nativity: prayer groups, Bible studies, education opportunities, ways to assist with the liturgy, and groups for those young and old.

At the root of all these ministries is a desire to be a community. Our hope is that through involvement with your parish you find joy in belonging - in being on a journey with like minded people that leads to the fullness of life in God's Kingdom forever. If you want to know more about our ministries and join a group, please look at our website www.nool.us/ministries. All our ministries are listed with a brief description and contact information.



Saturday, January 21 | 5:30pm | Cabrini Hall

Mark your calendars! The CL community at Nativity would like to invite every parishioner to a fundraiser event for the New York Encounter on Saturday, January 21st at 5:30pm in Cabrini hall.

The New York Encounter is an annual three-day public cultural event in the heart of New York City offering events, exhibits, and opportunities for friendship, education, and dialogue on various topics from experts in fields such as science, art, politics, economics, religion, etc.

The 2023 Program details all of the events at this year's Encounter can be found at the followink link: www.newyorkencounter.org/2023-program/.

During the evening, an exhibit on Fr. Giussani, the founder of Communion and Liberation, will be presented, and delicious appetizers will be served! Please, take a flier at the front desk for more info.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Enrollment currently open!

Do you want your kids to learn and live their faith within a vibrant and loving community? Register them for Religious Education (RE) at Nativity! Our weekly sessions, which are led by Fr. Matteo, Sr. Mariagrazia, and our RE team, feature games, skits, talks, and other fun-filled ways to grow in faith and friendship. For more information and to register, visit nool.us/re-registration.

T.O.F.F. PRESENTATION

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, January 18, at 9:30am. TOFF will join Camille Ibsen from Nativity's Stephen Ministry for a presentation on the options available for support for all mothers and women of the parish.

IN THE PARISH + IN THE COMMUNITY

WELCOME TO NATIVITY

- > Danielle, Lennon, William, and Zachary B.
- > Craig and Kathy B.
- > Bradley B.
- > MacKenszie and Zachary B.
- > Hannah D.
- > Humberto M.
- > Katie
- > James and Laure K.
- > Bailey, Benjamin, Cristina, Nolan and Siena K.
- > Andrew and Jennifer M.
- > Cindy N.
- > Sarah R.
- > Enuma U.

13 NEW FAMILIES IN DECEMBER



STEPHEN MINISTRIES

Do you struggle during the holidays? ... you are not alone.

Many people experience hardships involving grief, health issues, divorce or other personal or financial issues during the holiday season. If you are one of these people, or you know someone who is, we want to help. Nativity Parish has Stephen Ministers immediately available to walk with you through this time.

Stephen Ministers are specially trained lay ministers who provide free, confidential, one on one Christian care to people who are experiencing a life challenge or crisis. We are "The After People" and are ready to come alongside you or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives and provide comfort and support for as long after as is needed.

"My Stephen Minister listens—really listens. He doesn't judge me or tell me what to do but walks side by side with me. I never realized how helpful and healing that can be. With his care and support, I'm making it through." - Brian

If you or someone you know would benefit from a Stephen Minister, please reach out to us at 303-469-5171 x 113 or stephenministry@nool.us.



Visit nool.us for our interactive bulletin, latest news, and more.



Get up-to-date information, sign up at app.flocknote.com/nool



HOSTED BY THE PARISH + IN THE COMMUNITY

ROE V. WADE MEMORIAL MASS

A Memorial Mass on the 50th anniversary of Roe V. Wade to remember the many millions of lives lost and damaged by abortion will be celebrated by the Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila, Archbishop of Denver on Sunday, January 22, at 12:30pm at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Denver. Please join us at the at the Cathedral if you would like to attend.

A group from Nativity prays outside the Boulder Abortion Clinic every Tuesday, leaving Nativity at 7:55am. All are welcome to join us. Please call Eloise and Phil Georgen at 303-469-8156 for more information.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Husbands and wives, offer each other the treasures of your love by participating in an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on:

Dillon: April 28-30 Colorado Springs: June 2-4 Durango: September 15-17 Dillon: November 3-5

For questions, or to find out more about a Virtual Encounter Weekend, feel free to contact Brenda & Gary Granger at 720-213-8833

Space is limited, so reserve your weekend early.

For more information about Worldwide Marriage Encounter, please visit www.wwme.org. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook! @wwmeColorado

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



"Do what we can and God will do the rest. What seems so impossible to nature is quite easy to grace." - Elizabeth Bayley Seton

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821) led a life which had its share of hardships as well as inspiring accomplishments. Born in New York City, Elizabeth was canonized the first American-born saint. At 19, Elizabeth Ann Bayley married successful businessman William Magee Seton and had five children.

Attacks on American shipping, however, led to the plummeting of William's import trade business. William also struggled with tuberculosis despite a trip to Italy for a more favorable climate. Through William's Italian business partners, Elizabeth, part of a prominent Episcopal family, became acquainted with the Catholic faith. After William's death in Italy, she returned to New York and joined the Catholic Church.

After converting to the Catholic faith, Elizabeth struggled to provide for her children. She remained strong, however, and an opportunity for her to teach girls in Baltimore, Maryland, presented itself with the endorsement of Bishop John Carroll. A wealthy convert then provided land near the countryside of Emmitsburg, Maryland. Here in Emmitsburg, Elizabeth began the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph in 1809. In the same year, she founded St. Joseph's School which also began to house boarding students in 1810. The tuition from the boarding students allowed Elizabeth and her Sisters of Charity to establish a free Catholic school for girls in 1810.

Elizabeth formed her sisters in the the Vincentian spirit of St. Louise de Marillac and St. Vincent de Paul, and made vows to serve the poor. Elizabeth Seton's legacy marked the beginning steps of Catholic education in America.

For more information on how our Nativity of the Lord St. Vincent de Paul chapter helps others in need, see our Flocknote service at nool.flocknote.com/svdp for meeting times and updates. passing feeling: it was the deepest meaning of all things.

As we have heard proclaimed this Christmas season, the Word became flesh (John 1,14). *Verbum caro factum est*. The Latin word *Verbum* in Greek is translated *Logos*, which means reason, meaning, life, truth and also love. Pope Benedict tirelessly proclaimed that the meaning of life was Love, the order of all things, of all people, was Love. This Love was ultimately revealed in the Christ child, born a helpless child in a stable in Bethlehem on the night of Christmas. On this day the divine Light and Life of God came into the darkness, confusion and messiness of the world in order to illumine the truth of God and of man. Each of us, man and woman, created in his image and likeness, have been created with the unique ability to listen to and welcome this divine Word in our lives.

In our contemporary world, these truths about our humanity, of being created man and woman, about the family, and about the meaning of life and death are being eclipsed by the dictatorship of relativism and secularism, and by what is popularly known as "woke" culture. One could describe the papacy of Benedict XVI as a rigorous and joyful proclamation of the truth that all things can be only fully understood in the light of love: God is love, man and woman are made from, in and for God's love, and this love can be experienced in our daily lives.

How can we experience this love in our daily lives? Pope Benedict often used the category of *experience* to speak about Christianity. He emphasized this dynamic and interpersonal nature of Christianity in the opening of the encyclical cited above: *Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event*. Christianity is neither a series of abstract theological affirmations, nor the morality of the Ten Commandments, nor about just being good. Certainly, these are important! However, the heart of Christianity is the lived and personal encounter with the event of Jesus Christ present in the life of the Church, the sacraments and the Christian community. Following Christ implies the most important and life changing decision of one's very life. It is the decision to let oneself be defined completely by God's mercy, as his beloved son or daughter, as well as faith in His continual initiative to come and speak to one's heart with words of tenderness and light. Only this personal encounter makes the belief in God's infinite love credible and gives life a completely new direction.

The entire life and mission of Joseph Ratzinger/ Benedict XVI was the communication and transmission of his personal experience of the beauty of divine and human love. His final words before he died were: Lord, I love you! His life is an amazing witness to us of what is also our own vocation: to be completely seized by the love and person of Jesus Christ and his Church.

I would like to invite everyone to pray to Benedict XVI for the renewal of the Catholic Church in our time. Consider picking up a copy of one of his books or teachings. The best introduction that I have found to enter into the mind and heart of Pope Benedict is *Co-workers of the Truth* (Ignatius Press). It is a compilation of daily reflections from his various writings that accompany you throughout the entire year. This book was recommended to me when I first started graduate studies in theology in 2005, and it continues to nourish me even now. Pope Benedict XVI, pray for us!

In the Bokeni

"God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." - (1 Jn 4:16)



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PARISH TIMES

Regular Mass Times

Monday - Friday 7:00am | 9:30am Daily Livestream of Mass 9:30am

Friday - School Mass 8:15am

Saturday Vigil Mass 9:30am | 4:30pm

Sunday 7:30am | 11:30am 9:30am | 5:00pm

Confession

Thursday 5:00-6:00pm

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

Sunday 30 min. before weekend masses

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Saturday 8:00am-3:00pm

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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

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

BULLETIN INFO

For all bulletin submissions, please email us at:

BULLETIN@NOOL.US

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

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