

EPIPHANY

CATHOLIC CHURCH

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 12, 2021



Vision Statement: "To offer every person in our community a life-changing encounter with Jesus."

FROM POPE FRANCIS

WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD!



Brothers and sisters, good morning!

In Saint Paul's Letter to the Galatians, the Apostle is insistent with those Christians so they would not forget the novelty of God's revelation that had been proclaimed to them. Completely in agreement with the evangelist John (cf. 1 Jn 3:1-2), Paul emphasizes that faith in Jesus Christ has allowed us to truly become children of God and also his heirs.

We Christians often take for granted this reality of being God's children. Instead, it is good to remember with gratitude the moment in which we became such, the moment of our baptism, so as to live the great gift we received with greater awareness. [The day of our Baptism] should be remembered each year: it is the day on which we became children of God.

In fact, once "faith has come" in Jesus Christ (v. 25), a radically new condition was created that leads to divine filiation. The filiation of which Paul speaks is no longer a general one involving all men and women insofar as they are sons and daughters of the same Creator. No, in the passage we have heard, he affirms that faith allows us to be children of God "in Christ" (v. 26). This is what is new. This "in Christ" is what makes the difference. Not just children of God, like everyone: all men and women are children of God, all of them, regardless of the religion we embrace. No. But "in Christ", this is what makes the difference for Christians, and this happens only by participating in Christ's redemption, and in us in the sacrament of baptism: this is how it begins. Jesus became our brother, and by his death and resurrection he has reconciled us with the Father. Anyone who accepts Christ in faith, has "put on" Christ and his filial dignity through baptism (cf. v. 27).

In his Letters, Saint Paul makes reference to baptism more than one time. For him, to be baptized was the same as taking part effectively and truly in the mystery of Jesus. For example, in the Letter to the Romans, he would even go so far as to say that in baptism we have died with Christ and have been buried

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with him so as to live with him (cf. 6:3-14). Dead with Christ, buried with him so as to live with him. This is the grace of baptism: to participate in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism, therefore, is not merely an external rite. Those who receive it are transformed deep within, in their inmost being, and possess new life, which is precisely what allows them to turn to God and call on him with the name of "Abba", that is, "daddy". "Father"? No: "daddy" (cf. Gal 4:6).

The Apostle audaciously confirms that the identity received with baptism is so completely new that it prevails over the differences that exist on the ethnic-religious level. That is, he explains it thus: "There is neither Jew nor Greek", even on the social plain, "there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female" (Gal 3:28). We often read these expressions way too quickly, without grasping the revolutionary value they possess. For Paul, to write to the Galatians that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek" was equivalent to an authentic subversion in the ethnic-religious sphere.

As we can see, Paul confirms the profound unity that exists between all the baptized, in whatever condition they are bound to, whether men or women – equal because every one of them is a new creature in Christ. Every distinction becomes secondary to the dignity of being children of God, who, through his love, creates a real and substantial equality. Everyone, through Christ's redemption and the baptism we have received, we are all equal: children of God. Equal.

Brothers and sisters, we are, therefore, called in a more positive way to live a new life that roots its foundational expression in being children of God. Equal because we are children of God; and children of God because Christ redeemed us and we attained this dignity through baptism. It is decisive even for all of us today to rediscover the beauty of being children of God, to be brothers and sisters among ourselves, because we have been united in Christ, who redeemed us. The differences and contrasts that separation creates should not exist among believers in Christ. ... No, we are equal! Rather, our vocation is that of making concrete and evident the call to unity of the entire human race.

Everything that exacerbates the differences between people, often causing discrimination – all of this, before God, no longer has any basis, thanks to the salvation effected in Christ. What is important is that faith that operates according to the path of unity indicated by the Holy Spirit. And our responsibility is that of journeying decisively on along this path of equality, but an equality that is sustained, that was created by the redemption of Jesus.

And do not forget when you go home, ask: "When was I baptized?" Inquire about it so as to always have the date in mind. And when the date comes, it can be celebrated. Thank you.

Thank you.

FROM FATHER ERIC

20th ANNIVERSARY 9/11



Dear Epiphany parishioners and friends,

*On 9/11/2001, I was heading west on a hunting trip in the Gila Wilderness, New Mexico. I saw nothing except what was reported in the newspapers that I picked up along the way. What follows is a report from **Msgr. Anthony Sherman of Brooklyn** who saw and experienced the trauma.*

It was a picture perfect day when I returned to my rectory after a number of communion calls. On my way to the last one, our parish deacon met me and said he had heard that a small plane had crashed into the World Trade Center.

At home, I could sense that things were much more serious. I went to the school and met with the principal who described the events that were developing. Our concern was to provide the children with as much normalcy as possible since the children had not heard the news nor seen anything yet. We had just hired a nurse psychologist for our school and this was to be her first day. With the help of the nurse, both the principal and I prepared for how to deal with the news of either deceased or missing parents. Fortunately, the windows of the school faced away from New York.

At lunch time, I returned to the rectory, and just then an American fighter plane zoomed low. Questions raced through my mind. Were we suddenly at war with some country actually attacking us? The news indicated that people were walking across the main bridges from New York. One person appeared in our rectory completely covered with white powder.

I went with our maintenance man to the roof and there before my eyes I could see the Towers engulfed in flames and

then, as if made of matchsticks, one of them completely imploded. The rush of emotions is beyond words, and it struck at the very depths of my being.

We were successful in keeping the children in school until dismissal that day. Only one parent insisted on taking a child home. We wished to avoid children being placed in front of TV and traumatized by seeing the events over and over again.

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CELEBRATING OUR FAITH SACRAMENTS SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule

Incense is used at 9:30am Sunday Mass. Ministers have Gluten-free Hosts. 7:30 am Sunday Mass is Broadcast on Facebook at Epiphanyparish.com, with drive up Communion till 8:30am (Canopy). Masks and social distancing required indoors.
**9:30 Mass now outside behind Church, weather permitting. Simultaneous Communion Service inside.*

Sunday, Sept. 12, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am Roni and Kenny Flener
9:30am* Mark Krause
11:30am People of the Parish

Monday, Sept. 13, St. John Chrysostom, Bishop

7:00am Sally Leahy

Lector: Deacon Cleary and Karen Overby
EME: Deb Willenborg

Tuesday, Sept. 14, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

7:00am Albert, Roma and Robert Humenick
8:15am John F. Matuszek

Lector: Kris Angles
EME: Dorothy Meier

Wednesday, Sept. 15, Our Lady of Sorrows

7:00am Diane Bussan
8:15am Ewa Martin

Lector: Chris Niebur
EMEs: Lynda Arnold, Ed and Newze Nnakwe

Thursday, Sept. 16, St. Cornelius, Pope

7:00am Gene and Patricia Kernes
8:15am Robert Pioli

Lector: Jennifer Kamradt and Mike Lootens
EME: Darly Menke

Friday, Sept. 17, St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop

7:00am George and Lorraine Sweeney

Lector: Mathew and Katrina Kinata
EME: Aggie Hatch

Saturday, Sept. 18, Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30am All Souls' Day Memorial Society
4:00pm Lucy Mancias

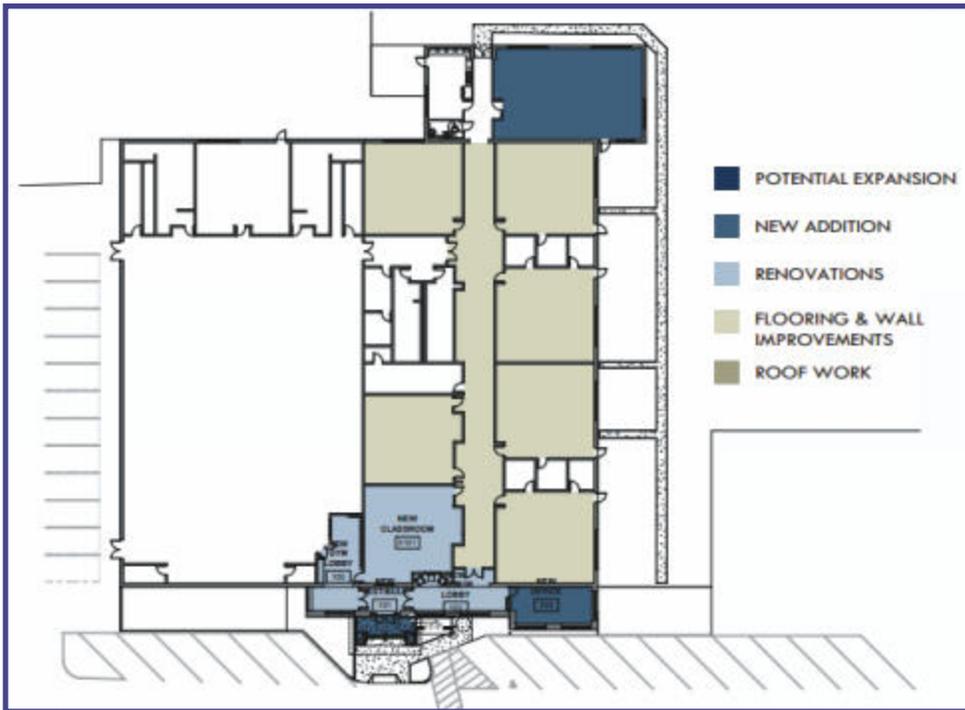
Lector: Steve Gruenwald
EME: Barb Burdett, Mary C. and Keith Walljasper

Sunday, Sept. 19, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am Chuck and Steve Penn
9:30am* Roni and Kenny Flener
11:30am People of the Parish

Confession Times

7:30am M-F 7am,3pm SAT 7am,9am,11am SUN



Since our major parish-focused capital campaign in 2008, which raised **\$4,200,000 (\$5,300,000 in today's dollars)** our Parish and School have been working diligently behind the scenes to renovate the Elementary School building summer by summer, classroom by classroom, with the help of a local contractor. These summer projects were funded from our parish/school capital improvement budgets. We have spent about \$3,500,000 on these projects (2010 to the present).

We are now at the final step in this overall renovation process—principally, the Junior High building. After considering possible scenarios for accomplishing this task, the Finance Council and I believe that this effort is better tackled as one major project using a major contractor that will guarantee the shortest possible disruption of students and staff of the Junior High.

In addition, we hope this approach will save both time and money by completing the balance of our projects all at once. Please don't be startled by the figures at play. It's amazing what inflation has done in the 13 years since our



last campaign. Equally startling is what is happening now with inflation (as reported in the news).

It behooves the parish and school communities to attend to these major projects at this time. Delay will see even worse inflationary pressure than we have seen in the past 13 years.

- Renovation will permit us to continue to offer our school and CCD families a safe (a paramount concern), clean and exceptional learning environment for education and Catholic formation.
- Completing the renovation of our school facilities is a form of stewardship owed to generations of parishioners and school families who first laid our cornerstones and then built up our facilities over successive generations.
- Part of the project is to attend to parish maintenance and other needs that have surfaced in the twelve years since our Church renovation. This too is a form of stewardship to you and other donors over generations.

The goal of our 2021 Campaign is \$3,500,000 (\$2,750,000 in 2008 dollars).

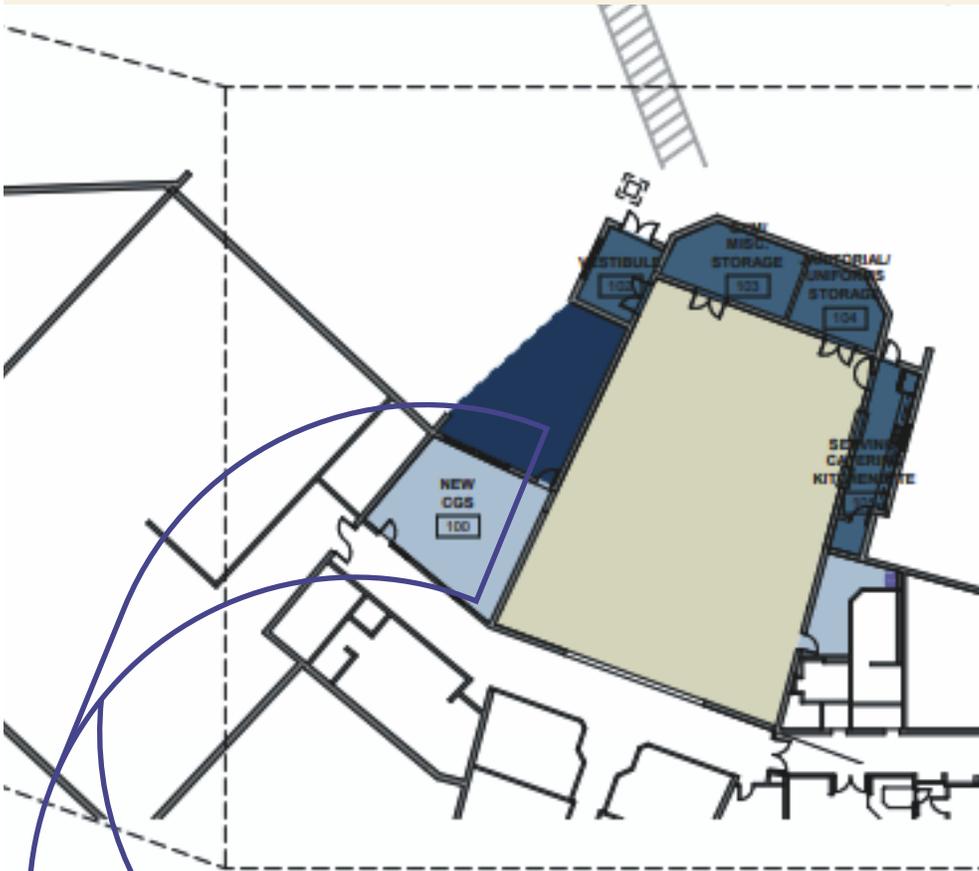
Upon completion of this campus renewal plan, no other parish/school campaigns are anticipated for the foreseeable future.

2021 Campaign Timeline:

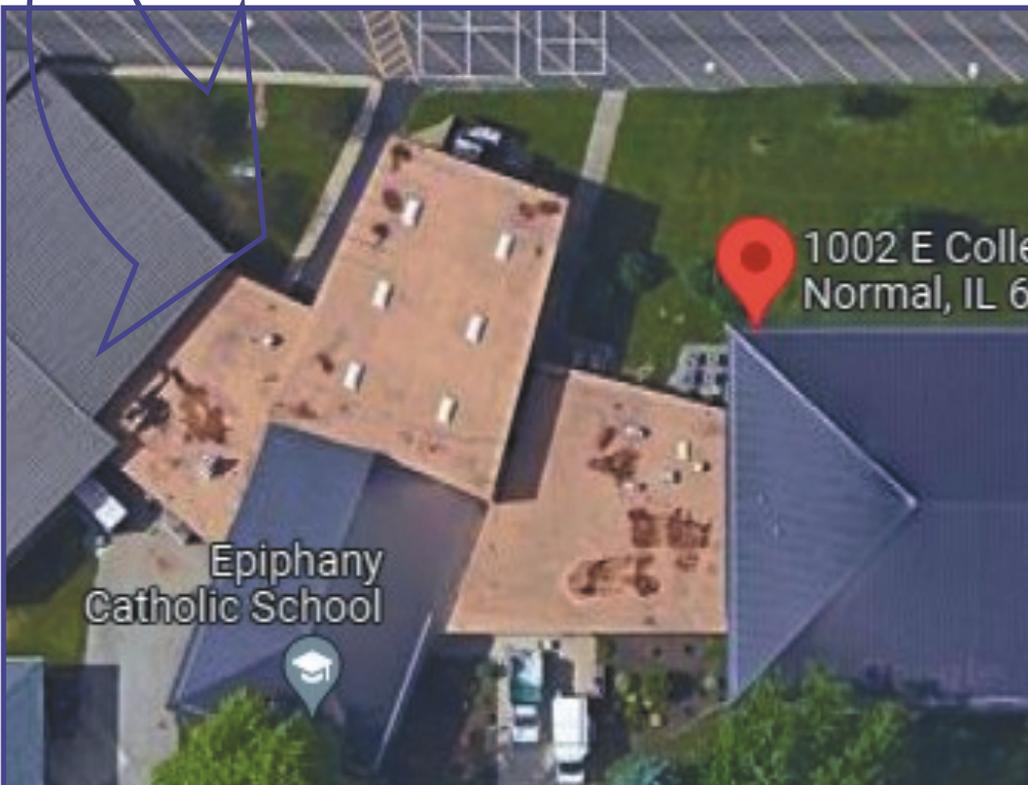
- Early-October: Letter to our Community.
- Mid-October: Flocknote Message to our Community.
- Early-November: Brochure with Pledge Information to our Community

2021 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

OUR GOAL IS TO WRAP UP BY THANKSGIVING 2021



Please Note: the 2021 Annual *Diocesan Appeal* and 2021 Annual *Parish Appeal* will be included in this Campaign.

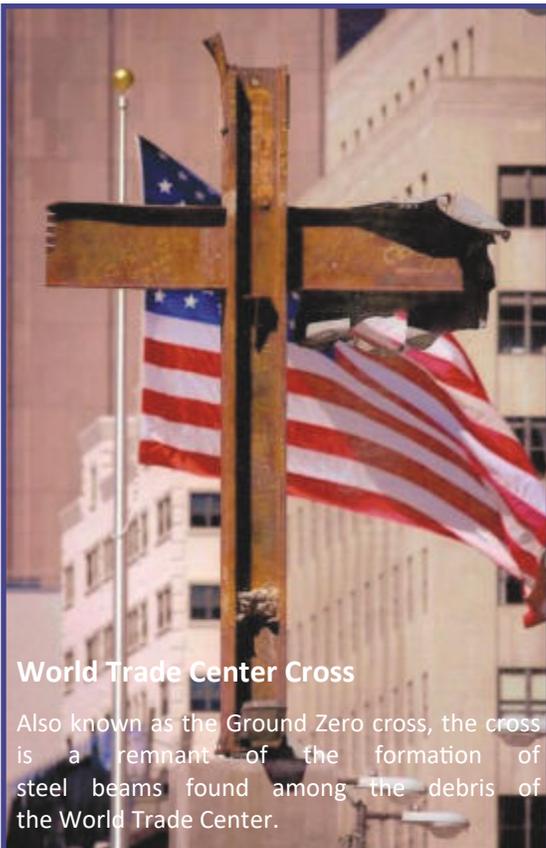


The principal goal of the project is a thorough renovation of the Junior High Building.

In addition, there are several projects related to the elementary building, in the small gym area, that are incorporated in this project.

We will round out our campaign efforts with several parish-side projects including replacing the front doors for church facing College, which have warped over the years due to exposure to the elements.

September 11, 2001 IN MEMORIAM

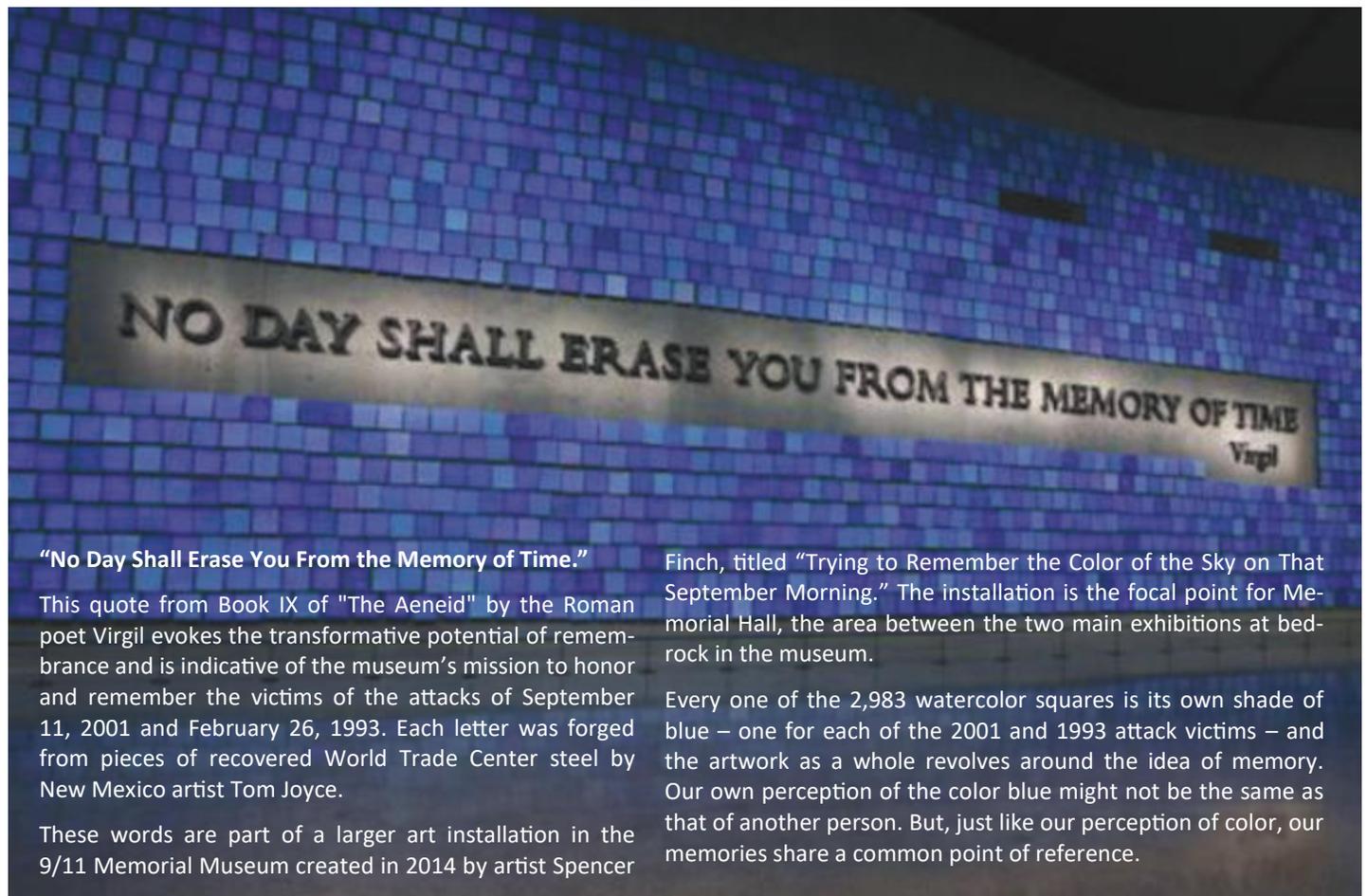


World Trade Center Cross

Also known as the Ground Zero cross, the cross is a remnant of the formation of steel beams found among the debris of the World Trade Center.



FDNY Ladder 3 Truck. The back of the vehicle and ladder are crushed, burned, and rusted. Other parts of the truck show scorch marks, melting, and deformation. 343 member of the FDNY died on 9/11. 60 NYPD officers died.



“No Day Shall Erase You From the Memory of Time.”

This quote from Book IX of "The Aeneid" by the Roman poet Virgil evokes the transformative potential of remembrance and is indicative of the museum's mission to honor and remember the victims of the attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993. Each letter was forged from pieces of recovered World Trade Center steel by New Mexico artist Tom Joyce.

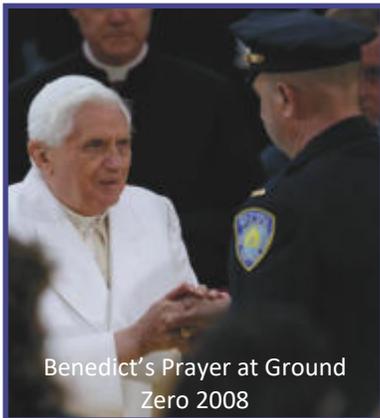
These words are part of a larger art installation in the 9/11 Memorial Museum created in 2014 by artist Spencer

Finch, titled "Trying to Remember the Color of the Sky on That September Morning." The installation is the focal point for Memorial Hall, the area between the two main exhibitions at bed-rock in the museum.

Every one of the 2,983 watercolor squares is its own shade of blue – one for each of the 2001 and 1993 attack victims – and the artwork as a whole revolves around the idea of memory. Our own perception of the color blue might not be the same as that of another person. But, just like our perception of color, our memories share a common point of reference.

September 11, 2001

IN MEMORIAM



Benedict's Prayer at Ground Zero 2008

O God of love, compassion, and healing, look on us, people of many different faiths and traditions, who gather today at this site, the scene of incredible violence and pain.

We ask you in your goodness to give eternal light and peace to all who died here—

the heroic first responders: our fire fighters, police officers, emergency service workers, and Port Authority personnel, along with all the innocent men and women who were victims of this tragedy simply because their work or service brought them here on September 11, 2001.

We ask you, in your compassion to bring healing to those who, because of their presence here that day, suffer from injuries and illness. Heal, too, the pain of still-grieving families and all who lost loved ones in this tragedy. Give them strength to continue their lives with courage and hope.

We are mindful as well of those who suffered death, injury, and loss on the same day at the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Our hearts are one with theirs as our prayer embraces their pain and suffering.

God of peace, bring your peace to our violent world: peace in the hearts of all men and women and peace among the nations of the earth. Turn to your way of love those whose hearts and minds are consumed with hatred.

God of understanding, overwhelmed by the magnitude of this tragedy, we seek your light and guidance as we confront such terrible events. Grant that those whose lives were spared may live so that the lives lost here may not have been lost in vain.

Comfort and console us, strengthen us in hope, and give us the wisdom and courage to work tirelessly for a world where true peace and love reign among nations and in the hearts of all.



Given the unique nature of the Ground Zero Prayer, we pay tribute to the eminent churchwoman who wrote the prayer used by Pope Benedict at the September 11 site: **Sister of Charity Janet Baxendale**, who died March 31, 2020.



PARISH UPDATES

CATCH UP HERE

Epiphany Youth Ministry

High School Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings to grow in our faith and have fun together. Join us this weekend, Sunday Sept 12th from 6:30-8 to check it out - outside behind the Parish Hall, or inside the hall if it's rainy! Next week is a normal youth group as well, but Sunday, September 26th we'll have a "just-for-fun" night! Come hang out, take a break, and play some games!

Junior High Youth Group is for 6-8th graders and meets once a month. Our next Junior High Youth Group is Friday, September 17th from 7-8:30pm.

Taking Prayer Quilt Requests

We all need prayer from time to time. Perhaps you know someone who has a special or particular need at this time. Prayer quilts are a gift of prayer for those needs. Anyone can request a prayer quilt. Request forms are available in the Parish Office and on the Parish website under Service.

Women's ACTS Retreat

WOMEN OF THE PARISH! The Epiphany Women's ACTS Retreat will be held Sept. 30 – Oct 3, 2021. We invite all women who have not attended an ACTS retreat to join us. If you have previously attended, please consider inviting a special woman in your life. The cost of the retreat is \$195 but financial hardships should not prevent you from attending – we can help! The registration form and information about the retreat, as well as contact information, can be found on the Parish website under Featured Events. We hope to see you there!

Married Couples Small Group

Kathy and Leroy Jenky are leading a small group study through Beloved, a marriage enrichment program. This will run for 6 weeks on Monday evenings in the Parish Rectory Room from 6:30-7:45 pm starting September 20th! We would love to see you there! RSVP to Kathy Janke at kathyjanke60@gmail.com.

Blood Drive Tomorrow

The Bloomington Knights of Columbus has scheduled a Blood Drive for Sept 13th, starts at 1:15 for Double Reds and 1:30 for Regular Donors.

Cover Art: Christ Blessing ('The Savior of the World'), El Greco, 1600, National Gallery of Scotland.

The half length figure of Christ looking directly out at us with his right hand raised in blessing is a traditional form of composition. Although a late work, this canvas recalls the Byzantine icon painting of El Greco's youth. The artist includes a crystal-like sphere or globe representing the world; more usually such pictures include a book of scripture. His fluid brushwork and extensive use of white admirably convey the idea of divine light. The way his face is lit by a divine light which surrounds his head references verses in the Bible in which Jesus is depicted as the light who will lead people out of darkness .

Our last appointment will be about 4:30 for Double Red Donors and 5:45 for Regular Donors. Please call the Red Cross and schedule your appointment. Blood is still in short supply, so you could be the one to save a life. and the Red Cross is giving a tee shirt to every DONOR. The K of C is located at 1706 R.T. Dunn Drive, Bloomington,IL 61701. Please bring your Mask.

Walking with Purpose Women's Bible Study

Women of Epiphany Parish it's time to reconnect! Epiphany will be offering The Walking with Purpose Bible Study, Reclaiming Friendship, God's Plan for Deep Connection. Starting October 5th - Nov 9th, 2021 We will meet on Tuesdays for 6 weeks in the Parish Hall, Mornings 8:30-10:00am or Evenings 6:30- 8:00pm. Whether this opportunity is new to you or you are returning for another season, this study couldn't have better timing. The Holy Spirit is calling you to journey in friendship and faith. See epiphanyparish.com for details & registration. Please contact Kathleen Phillips kmp1319@aol.com or Karen Kraft kukraft@yahoo with questions or concerns. Walking with Purpose's mission is to provide Bible studies that enable women to know Christ through Scripture and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

News from Central Catholic High School

Check Out Central Catholic September 29, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. **Showcase Central** is your chance to learn everything you need to know about Central Catholic. Parents of 7th and 8th grade students spend the evening with us and learn how students progress from freshman through senior years and meet our faculty, staff, and coaches. This is your best opportunity to learn about everything Central Catholic has to offer. **High School Placement Test October 1: BECOME A SAINTS SCHOLAR.** Eighth grade students interested in coming to Central Catholic are invited to take the High School Placement Test (HSPT) On Friday, October 1. New this year: The Top Ten scorers on our HSPT will be named "Saints Scholars" and receive \$2,500 annual scholarships for their four years at Central Catholic! Drop your student off in our circle drive by 7:30 a.m. Testing begins promptly at 8:00 and ends at approximately 11:30. Students should be picked up in the circle drive as well. Register



Young at Heart Kick-Off Dinner

Our Kick-Off Dinner will be held September 23, 2021, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1706 RT Dunn Drive, Bloomington. Covid restrictions will be followed. Doors open at 5:00 pm, serving begins at 5:30 pm. The catered plated dinner includes: chicken breast, pork filet, tossed salad, mashed potato/gravy, green beans, rolls, dessert, iced tea, lemonade, and coffee. Door prizes and games after dinner. Cost: \$16.00 per person. Questions: Call Mary-Margaret McHugh, 452-7976. Reservations and payment due by September 16, 2021. Make checks payable to YOUNG AT HEART and mail to Mary-Margaret McHugh, 406 Northridge C.C. Estate, Normal, IL. 61761.

Habitat for Humanity Build

We are looking for 10 volunteers to help work on a house for a parish family!! We are helping to insulate their home for winter! Date of build: Saturday, October 2nd. Time: 8:00-12:00. Location: 822 E Monroe St., Bloomington. Go to our website: Epiphanyparish.com to sign up and get more instructions. (Must be 16 years or older for this build.) This is the ACTS retreat weekend, if you are not on the ACTS retreat we would love your assistance!

OUR DEARLY DEPARTED GRANT ETERNAL REST, O LORD!



Terrance Hausler, 1950-2021, father of Barbara, James, Steven and Laura.

Katheryn Ekstam, 1943-2021, wife of Gene Ekstam, and mother of Theresa, Eric, Lisa and Laura.



PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Office

(309)452-2585
Epiphanyparish.com

School Office

(309)452-3268
Epiphanyschools.org

Parish Staff

Fr. Eric Powell (Pastor)
pastor@epiphanyparish.com
309-660-7860

Fr. Peter O. Okola, AJ (Parochial Vicar)
Fr.Peter@epiphanyparish.com
703-626-8819

Deacon Mark Cleary (Baptisms)
mcleary08@comcast.net
309-531-1062

Cindy Myers (Pastoral Team)
Pastoral.assistant@epiphanyparish.com

Kara Esker (Youth, CCD, Pastoral Team))
kara.esker@epiphanyparish.com

Domine King, Joyce Tellman (Office Staff)
office@epiphanyparish.com; Angie O'Connor (Parish/School Books) business.manager@epiphanyparish.com

Sean and Jennifer Stevens (Music)
music@epiphanyparish.com

Parish Outreach

If you find yourself in serious economic need, Epiphany Parish and St. Vincent de Paul want to help. Email Orlando Lopez our Outreach coordinator: outreach@epiphanyparish.com.

SHARING IN THE MISSION THANK YOU!

Gifts from Our Parish Family

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| September 5, 2021 | \$14,898 |
| E-giving..... | \$16,982 |
| Special..... | \$1,976 |
| Parish Endowment..... | \$695 |
| School Endowment..... | \$195 |
| Capital Improvement..... | \$1,086 |
| Weekly Budget | \$24,500 |
| YTD Budget (10 weeks) | \$245,000 |
| YTD Income..... | \$247,301 |
| YTD Balance..... | \$2,301 |

in our rectory completely covered with white powder. She was not a parishioner, but she needed to talk before going home.

We decided to have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. People flocked to the church. It was here that we had the initial contact with a newly married man at whose wedding I had presided. His wife would never be found. She had called her husband on her cell phone to announce the plane headed for her office. The evening before, she had announced she was with child. Another mother from the parish would never be found, and the body of a father who was a policeman would eventually be found. We held many funerals for police and fire persons who gave their lives.

The readings in the week following these events were filled with statements about the consolation and strength God wished to offer his people. These were comforting words at a time when absolutely everything seemed to have been thrown up in the air. Any tranquility or self-confidence individuals or the nation had as a whole was shaken to its roots.

Often at the funerals or memorials in our parish, I had to complete the reading of the words of remembrance and other tributes, which, thank God, we asked people to type out beforehand. Were it not for faith in God and in the power of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection, I could not have led the flock entrusted to me. Again and again, experiences of intense human suffering, death and resurrection came into dialogue with Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection.

One of the transforming experiences of these sad days was that everyone really had to ask themselves what was important in life. Certainly the normal things that we get so

excited by were all cast aside by the magnitude of what had happened. The preciousness and also the precarious and vulnerable nature of the fundamental gift of life burned its way into the depth of our souls.

I suppose for this reason, it took me quite some time before I could visit Ground Zero and look down at it from the street. Even more traumatic for me was when we made the pre-visit for Pope Benedict's projected visit. Cardinal Egan told me about his own experiences of 9/11, and we both realized how we had been transformed by that day. But it was with some trepidation that I stood at Ground Zero as Pope Benedict lit a candle and then knelt in quiet prayer for a few moments. He was surrounded by so many that had lost loved ones. His presence, however, gradually brought a sense of peace that was hard to describe. The wounds were still there but a true healing process had begun.

A lesson learned from the whole experience was the realization that we ought not to cling to too much, although that is a constant struggle. In a moment, everything in our lives can be thrown up in the air and without a clear sense of what can truly survive. The way forward can be almost impossible.

Finally, 9/11 led us all into the very depths of the mysteries of human suffering, death and resurrection. We discovered that we cannot obtain nor find all the answers to the atrocities we experienced. Yet with God's grace we also experienced the height of human sacrifice and the ability of our brothers and sisters to manifest heroic love. Ultimately we will have the answer to our questions and the reconciliation of all the forces of those days when we ourselves enter into the mysterious inner life of God's self. Only there will the mysteries of the 9/11 experience be revealed.





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