"Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. MK 6:7-13
July 11, 2021
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
nool.us | (303) 469-5171
NATIVITY
OF OUR LORD

A LETTER FROM OUR PRIESTS

St. Ambrose

One of Ambrose's biographers observed that at the Last Judgment, people would still be divided between those who admired Ambrose and those who heartily disliked him. He emerges as the man of action who cut a furrow through the lives of his contemporaries.

There is yet another side of Ambrose—one which influenced Augustine of Hippo, whom Ambrose converted. Ambrose was a passionate little man with a high forehead, a long melancholy face, and great eyes. We can picture him as a frail figure clasping the codex of sacred Scripture. This was the Ambrose of aristocratic heritage and learning.

His sermons, his writings, and his personal life reveal him as an otherworldly man involved in the great issues of his day. Humanity for Ambrose was, above all, spirit. In order to think rightly of God and the human soul, the closest thing to God, no material reality at all was to be dwelt upon. He was an enthusiastic champion of consecrated virginity.

Ambrose exemplifies for us the truly catholic character of Christianity. He is a man steeped in the learning, law, and culture of the ancients and of his contemporaries.

Read the ful bio at https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-ambrose

From a Sermon by St. Ambrose

Catechesis on the Rites Preceding Baptism

We gave a daily instruction on right conduct when the readings were taken from the history of the patriarchs or the maxims of Proverbs. These readings were intended to instruct and train you, so that you might grow accustomed to the ways of our forefathers, entering into their paths and walking in their footsteps, in obedience to God's commands.

Now the season reminds us that we must speak of the mysteries, setting forth the meaning of the sacraments. If we had thought fit to teach these things to those not yet initiated through baptism, we should be considered traitors rather than teachers. Then, too, the light of the mysteries is of itself more effective where people do not know what to expect than where some instruction has been given beforehand.

Open then your ears. Enjoy the fragrance of eternal life, breathed on you by means of the sacraments. We explained this to you as we celebrated the mystery of "the opening" when we said: Effetha, that is, be opened. Everyone who was to come for the grace of baptism had to understand what he was to be asked, and must remember what he was to answer. This mystery was celebrated by Christ when he healed the man who was deaf and dumb, in the Gospel which we proclaimed to you.

After this, the holy of holies was opened up for you; you entered into the sacred place of regeneration. Recall what you were asked; remember what you answered. You renounced the devil and his works, the world and its dissipation and sensuality. Your words are recorded, not on a monument to the dead but in the book of the living.

There you saw the levite, you saw the priest, you saw the high priest. Do not consider their outward form but the grace given by their ministries. You spoke in the presence of angels, as it is written: The lips of a priest guard knowledge, and men seek the law from his mouth, for he is the angel of the Lord almighty. There is no room for deception, no room for denial. He is an angel whose message is the kingdom of Christ and eternal life. You must judge him, not by his appearance but by his office. Remember what he handed on to you, weigh up his value, and so acknowledge his standing.

You entered to confront your enemy, for you intended to renounce him to his face. You turned towards the east, for one who renounces the devil turns towards Christ and fixes his gaze directly on him.

DAILY READINGS

DAY	1ST READING	2ND READING	GOSPEL
Sat 7/10	**GN** 49:29-32; 50:15-26a		**MT** 10:24-33
Sun 7/11	**AM** 7:12-15	**EPH** 1:3-14 or 1:3-10	**MK** 6:7-13
Mon 7/12	**Ex** 1:8-14, 22		**Mt** 10:34-11:1
Tues 7/13	**Ex** 2:1-15a		**Mt** 11:20-24
Wed 7/14	**Ex** 3:1-6, 9-12		**Mt** 11:25-27
Thurs 7/15	**Ex** 3:13-20		**Mt** 11:28-30
Fri 7/16	**Ex** 11:10-12:14		**Mt** 12:1-8
Sat 7/17	**Ex** 12:37-42		**Mt** 12:14-21
Sun 7/18	**Jer** 23:1-6	**Eph** 2:13-18	**Mk** 6:30-34

PARISH TIMES

SUMMER MASS TIMES

Mass Times

Monday - Friday
7:00am | 9:30am

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

Sunday
8:00am* | 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

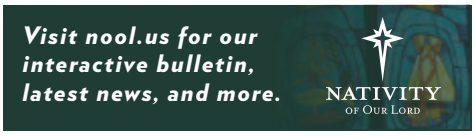
*Outdoor Mass

Sundays 8:00am weather permitting

Daily Livestream of Mass

9:30am

There is no longer drive-up communion. If you are in need of a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion, please contact Lynne Gallagher, ext. 101 or l.gallagher@nool.us.



PARISH OFFICE

Location
900 W. Midway Blvd
Broomfield, CO 80020

Website: www.nool.us

Phone: (303) 469-5171

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00am-9:00pm

Saturday
8:00am-5:00pm

Fax: (303) 469-5172
School: (303) 466-4177

BULLETIN INFO

For all bulletin submissions, please email us at:

BULLETIN@NOOL.US

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

PARISH STAFF

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

Associate Pastor
Fr. Accursio Ciaccio, FSCB
a.ciaccio@nool.us

Associate Pastor
Fr. Emanuele Fadini, FSCB
e.fadini@nool.us | ext. 166

Associate Pastor
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m.invernizzi@nool.us

Deacons
Huan Nguyen
h.nguyen@nool.us
Steve Vallero
s.vallero@nool.us
David Arling
d.arling@nool.us

Sisters
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sisters@nool.us

Parish Sacristan
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m.sivigliano@nool.us | ext. 136

Assistant Sacristan
Ron Kaiser

Executive Assistant to the Pastor
Roberta Hebert
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Accounting and HR Manager
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Accounting Assistants
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Candy Gritz
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Director of Music
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Faith Alive Direct Number
(303) 731-0425

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Director of Religious Education
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Faith Alive Assistant
Tricia Fankell
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Parish Registrar
Merrilyn Sikora
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Director of Stewardship
Diane Denfeld
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Director of Development
Ilene DuBey
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IT Specialist
Jim DuBey
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Stacy Logay
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Admin. Assistants - Front Desk
Lindsay Smith
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Rose Pearson
r.pearson@nool.us | ext. 112

Facilities Manager
Mike Hebert
m.hebert@nool.us | ext. 122

Past. Associate, Charity & Outreach
Lynne Gallagher
l.gallagher@nool.us | ext. 101

Director of Communications
Jacquie Colby
j.colby@nool.us | ext. 135

Communications Associate
Rose Pearson
r.pearson@nool.us | ext. 135

SAINT OF THE WEEK

ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA
Wednesday, July 14

"I am not my own; I have given myself to Jesus.
He must be my only love."
-St. Kateri Tekakwitha

SACRISTY LAUNDRY

CATHERINE WELLER

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, July 10
9:30 Terri Brown
by Jeff Brown
4:30 † Jeri Gerry
by Bette Dean

Sunday, July 11
8:00 † Elizabeth Novak
by Marianne &
Dcn. Dave Arling
9:30 People of the Parish
11:30 Silvia & John Buchanic
by Hilda & Martin Fejka
5:00 † Macario Acosta
by Natalia Acosta

Monday, July 12
7:00 † Dorothy Tansey by
Merrilyn and Josh Sikora
9:30 Ron Kaiser

Tuesday, July 13
7:00 † Ruby and Moses Aesoph
by the Grau Family
9:30 Hawk Waldman-Brown
by Terri and Jeff Brown

Wednesday, July 14
7:00 Diane Irby
by the Parish Staff
9:30 Joseph Strazan
by Hilda Fejka

Thursday, July 15
7:00 Ordination Anniversary
for Fr. Matteo
by Merrilyn Sikora
9:30 Annette Ernster

Friday, July 16
7:00 †Jim Reichert
by Marilyn Reichert
9:30 Ivetta Andrasova
by Hilda Fejka

Saturday, July 17
9:30 Protection of Our Priests
by Dora Solano
4:30 Peace of Christ
in our Families

Sunday, July 18
8:00 Jurgen Ulrich
by Dora Solano
9:30 People of the Parish
11:30 † Alice Hammerle
by Hammerle Family
5:00 Norbert Kmoch
by Joe and Jan Sindelar

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, July 11

800am	Outdoor Mass Weather Permitting*
9:30am	Mass
11:00am	Parishioner's Rosary
11:30am	Mass
5:00pm	Mass

Monday, July 12

7:00am	Mass
9:30am	Livestream Mass
10:00am	SVdP
6:00pm	SVdP Volunteer Mtg

Tuesday, July 13

7:00am	Mass
9:30am	Livestream Mass
10:00am	SVdP
1:00pm	Bible Study

Wednesday, July 14

7:00am	Mass
9:30am	Livestream Mass
10:00am	SVdP
12:00pm	Nativity Widows
2:00pm	St. Joseph Book Club
6:30pm	Boy Scouts

Thursday, July 15

7:00am	Mass
9:30am	Livestream Mass
10:00am	SVdP
5:00pm	Confession

Friday, July 16

7:00am	Mass
7:30am	Men of Emmaus
9:30am	Livestream Mass
10:00am	SVdP

Saturday, July 17

7:45am	Cenacle Prayer Group
8:00am	Confessions
8:50am	Pro-Life Rosary
9:00am	CL
9:30am	Livestream Mass
3:00pm	JPII Families
3:00pm	Confessions
4:30pm	Mass

Please see the website, www.nool.us, for the most up-to-date parish schedule as we transition to 'level clear' of Broomfield's COVID-19 procedures.

*Sign up on Flocknote for up-to-date information delivered directly into your inbox at: app.flocknote.com/nool

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.

Prayers for the sick and for the deceased:
We pray for all who are sick, and for our deceased relatives and friends that they may speedily attain the blessedness of heaven and rejoice in the eternal treasure of God's glory and love.

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

- Leo and Rachel
- Dora, Amy, and Kevin
- Stanley and Janice
- Karen
- Michelle and Ryan

Five New Families in June

sojourners

Nativity of Our Lord

Young Adult Group

CAMPING TRIP

FRIDAY, JULY 16 - SUNDAY, JULY 18

If you are interested in coming, please contact Jacquie at j.colby@nool.us.

nool.flocknote.com/sojo

Catechism Corner

"God, who "dwells in unapproachable light", wants to communicate His own divine life to those He freely created, in order to adopt them as his children in His only-begotten Son.

By revealing Himself, God wishes to make them capable of responding to Him, and of knowing Him and of loving Him far beyond their own natural capacity."

Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 52-53

NATIVITY DAYS

AUGUST 19-22, 2021

THURSDAY

Nativity Night | 4-7PM

FRIDAY

An Introduction to Julia Greeley | 6-8PM

SATURDAY

Holy Rollers Car Show | 9AM-2PM

Cornhole Tournament | 11AM

Streaming of Dcn. Julius' Ordination | 2PM

Outdoor Movie | Dusk (approx. 8PM)

SUNDAY

Picnic | 12:30PM

nool.us/nativity-days

Upcoming Feasts

St. Benedict	Sunday, July 11
St. Kateri Tekakwitha	Wednesday, July 14
St. Bonventure	Thursday, July 15
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	Friday, July 16
St. Camillus de Lellis	Sunday, July 18
St. Lawrence of Brindisi	Wednesday, July 21
St, Mary Magdalene	Thursday, July 22
St. Bridget of Sweden	Friday, July 23

BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION COLLCTION

Special Collection | July 10-11

2ND

Recognizing a need to call the faithful to support missionary work among African American and Native American Catholics, the U.S. Catholic bishops established this Catholic Church charity for the Catholic Missions in 1884 to administer a national collection—the first of its kind in the United States—to support missionary work. The generosity of the good People of God allows the Commission to give helpful grants to dioceses across the country to operate schools, parishes, and other missionary services that build the Body of Christ in Native American, Alaska Native, and Black Catholic communities.

In 2021, everyone is asked to make a sacrificial gift to the National Black and Indian Mission Collection and to support the evangelization efforts for African American, Native American, and Alaskan Native communities in the United States. By doing so, you help to spread the Good News and build up the Church and God's Kingdom.

USHERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to serve as ushers at Nativity of Our Lord. Ushers are needed for every Mass time. We are looking for regular ushers (committed to serving each Sunday) as well as substitute ushers. Experience is not necessary since we will be conducting training for all ushers in the coming weeks. If you are interested in serving the parish in this capacity, please send your name, contact info, and your preferred Mass time to Paul Fabian at 720-323-8456 or p.fabian3130@gmail.com. If you are currently serving as an usher, please send Paul your contact information as well.

ROOM RESERVATION RENEWAL

The ministry event calendar is starting over for the upcoming fiscal year. All past and upcoming ministry leaders need to reserve (or re-reserve) rooms for their events. If you have not already done so, please contact Stacy Logay with your event information and request via email at **s.logay@nool.us.**

COLLECTION COUNTERS NEEDED

Mondays | Morning Shift or Afternoon Shift

Our accounting department is in need of men and women to volunteer a few hours a week on Mondays to count the weekend collections. We meet Mondays to count during two shifts in the morning or afternoon. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out by email or phone to Suzie Sloan, s.sloan@nool.us or 303-469-5171 ext. 140.

RESPECT LIFE

Saturday Morning Rosary
Join us every Saturday before the 9:30am Mass as we pray a Rosary for life.

PRAYERS NEEDED: In the fall the Supreme Court will hear a case regarding a Mississippi law that bans abortions after 15 weeks of gestation. If the Court upholds that law, it could be the first step in overturning Roe v. Wade, which through the Supreme Court, made abortions legal at all stages across the country in 1973.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Eloise Georgen	303-469-8156 eegptg@msn.com
Janet Carpenter	720-939-7192 janetacarpenter@comcast.net

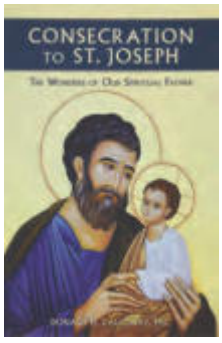
"Given the breakdown in family life, the wholesale attack on innocent and defenseless human live s, and the violation of the integrity of the union of marriage in our society, the call to the martyrdom of witness is ever more urgent."
—Cardinal Burke

FR. STEFANO ORDINATION GIFTS

Please send any donations for Fr. Stefano Zamagni's ordination to the following:

Nativity of Our Lord Parish
Attn. Julie Grady
900 W Midway Blvd.
Broomfield, CO 80020

ST. JOSEPH SIX-WEEK BOOK STUDY



Consecration to St. Joseph
by Donald H. Calloway

Wednesdays for Six Weeks
Begins July 14 | St. Thomas More Room
2:00-3:30pm

Join Deacon David Arling each Wednesday for six weeks as we read through Fr. Calloway's book study and prepare to entrust ourselves to the spiritual fatherhood and care of St. Joseph.

This book responds directly to the heart of our times, answering the longing of the human heart to find in the Church the stability, hope, and strength we need to respond to the challenges we face today. Calloway shows us that it is through St. Joseph that God desires to grant us these graces in our times. Copies of Fr. Calloway's book are available for purchase.

Email or call Deacon David at d.arling@nool.us or (719)250-2775 if you are interested in joining us for this amazing six-week study!

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Are you, or someone you know, going through a difficult time? Our Stephen Ministers have been trained to follow Jesus' model as a listener, spending a great deal of time learning and practicing these skills because of their importance as a caregiving tool. These, along with other essential caregiver skills, are why Nativity's Stephen Ministry is able to offer you a very confidential relationship with someone who will listen with compassion and provide nonjudgmental care and encouragement during your time of need. Your Stephen Ministers are equipped, ready, and waiting to provide the comfort and care God very much desires you to have!

Please contact Stephen Ministry via our confidential email, stephenministry@nool.us or leave a message on our confidential helpline, 303-469-5171 ext. 113.

NATIVITY FAITH & REASON: JOB OPENINGS

Nativity: Faith & Reason School has two part-time staff openings for this fall for a lower-grade Spanish teacher and a school receptionist.

The mission at Nativity states that: We are a family of learners in the Catholic tradition, partnering with parents to build a community of faith and academic excellence. Our mission is to form saints and scholars who impact our world with gospel values.

If you feel that the Lord is calling you to our mission, and are interested in discussing the details of either position, we would be happy to speak to you.

Please contact the school principal, Holly Peterson, at h.peterson@nool.us.

NATIVITY WIDOWS

The next Nativity Widows Luncheon will be served at 12:00pm, Wednesday, July 14. The group will meet in St. Thomas More Room at Nativity Parish. If you have questions about the luncheon, please contact Mary Baylie at 303-466-1125.

THE HOPE CORNER: A MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

Crisis Lines:

If you or anyone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, please call Colorado Crisis Services at 844-493-8255 or text "TALK" to 38255 or call any of the following crisis lines:

Metro Crisis Service 888-885-1222
Emergency Psychiatric Service 303-447-1665
Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-TALK (8255), Text HELLO to 7417, www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/
Veterans Helpline 1-800-273-TALK
National Crisis Text Line, text "home" to 741741
Substance Abuse and Addiction Hotline 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

The Hope Corner is a free mental health ministry committed to instilling hope and reducing stigma. Please contact The Hope Corner with any questions or comments. If you or a family member are in need of a referral, information or community-based resources, contact: Becky Kusick, MA, LPC at, hopecornerministry@gmail.com or 303-907-6499. If you are having a mental health crisis, please call Colorado Crisis Services at 844-493-8255 or text "TALK" to 38255.

MARY'S HOMES OF HOPE

Mary's Home of Hope has openings for women with children, pregnant women, and single women in need. This is a Christ-centered community that provides opportunities for stable success in the world. Residents are able to participate in workshops offered by professionals, engage in Bible studies and faith classes, and learn to budget their income while paying a small rent based on earnings and bills. For inquiries, please contact Lynn Reid, O.F.S. at 303-424-9007.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Kindness is All Around Us

"And He answered them, 'Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.'" - Luke 3:11

Today, I walked into the grocery store and was greeted by an excited young girl asking me to help her cause. I was in a rush and told her I would have to talk to her later. I could see the disappointment as I went on my way. I went back to the young girl after my shopping was finished and the young girl very enthusiastically asked me that, while I was shopping, would I pick up some food so her Girl Scout troop could help feed the poor? At that point, the adult in charge told the young girl that I had already done my shopping and a look of sadness came over her face. On the table, I noticed a jar with money in it and asked what she was collecting that money for. Once again, her eyes lit up and the passion came back. She replied that, later, she would go through the store and buy more food to help those in need. She gave me a big smile and thanked me when I put cash in her jar. As I walked out of the store, it occurred to me that those girls were, in spirit, helping the SVdP Society and living their faith.

This act of kindness by the Girl Scouts and other organizations that provide food to those in need is very helpful. This allows the SVdP Society to use the donations that you so generously give for things like rental assistance and utilities. We can never say thank you enough; your donations allow us to continue to assist those in our community.

If you are interested in finding out more of what the SVdP Society at Nativity does, please join us at our next meeting. Also, please join our Flocknote for up-to-date information and changes to our meeting times!

https://nool.flocknote.com/svdp

flocknote

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Jesus is asking us to go out two by two and proclaim His good news. Learn how to make your Sacrament of Marriage shine on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on:

Virtual Midweek Marriage Encounter: July 20-21
Durango or Dillon: September 17-19, 2021
Colorado Springs: November 5-7, 2021
Space is limited, so reserve your weekend early.

For questions, contact Brenda or Gary Granger: 720-213-8833

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

NATIVITY
FAITH & REASON

SUMMER EDITION

2021
Faith
Formation

SUMMER ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGISTER YOUR STUDENTS

There is still room for more Knights to join our Nativity: Faith & Reason family! Registration is still open for the fourth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades. To learn more about registration or to schedule a school tour, please visit **https://school.nool.us/enroll** or call the school at 303-466-4177. Please contact Maddie Ernzen, Marketing & Development Director, with any questions!

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Nativity looks forward to the possibility of having volunteers in our building again next school year! Want to get involved? We are looking for a variety of volunteers—from helping out in the lunchroom, covering recess duty, reading with students in the classroom and more! If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about these opportunities, please contact Shannon Spinuzzi in the school office at s.spinuzzi@nool.us.

CALL FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Are you or someone you know looking for a substitute teaching gig next school year? Nativity: Faith & Reason is looking for subs! We'd love to have you join our family of learners and leaders, helping us to carry out our mission of forming saints and scholars. Please contact our assistant principal, Lissette Gutierrez, for more information at l.gutierrez@nool.us.

DONATE TO PRESCHOOL

We're proud to announce that Nativity is opening up its second full-size preschool classroom this fall! As our preschool program has only been around for three years, we are ecstatic about the growth!

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to our preschool wishlist, noted below, which will help the teachers coordinate each of the classrooms with adequate equipment.

Wishlist:

Play kitchen
Tricycles
Helmets
Craft supplies
Wooden blocks
Shape sorters
Plastic animals
Multicultural toys—babies, play food, books, puzzles, etc.

Please contact the school office with any questions!

A LETTER FROM OUR POPES

Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis

Last Sunday
04 July 2021

POPE FRANCIS

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good Afternoon!

This Sunday's Gospel (Mk 6:1-6) tells us about the disbelief of Jesus's fellow villagers. After preaching in other villages in Galilee, Jesus returned to Nazareth where he had grown up with Mary and Joseph; and, one sabbath, he began to teach in the synagogue. Many who were listening asked themselves: "Where does he get all this wisdom? But, isn't he the son of the carpenter and Mary, that is, of our neighbours that we know so well?" (cf. vv. 1-3). Confronted with this reaction, Jesus confirms the truth that had even become a part of popular wisdom: "A prophet is not without honour, except in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house" (v. 4). We say this many times…

Let us reflect on the attitude of Jesus's fellow villagers. We could say they knew Jesus, but they did not recognise him. There is a difference between knowing and recognizing. In essence, this difference makes us understand that we can know various things about a person, form an idea, rely on what others say about that person, we might perhaps meet that person every now and then in the neighbourhood; but all that is not enough. This is a knowledge, I would say ordinary, superficial, that does not recognise the uniqueness of the person. We all run this risk: we think we know so much about a person, even worse, we use labels and close the person within our own prejudices. Jesus's fellow villagers knew him for thirty years in the same way and they thought they knew everything! "But isn't this the boy we saw growing up, the son of the carpenter and Mary? Where do these things come from?". The distrust…in reality, they never realised who Jesus truly was. They remained at the exterior level and refused what was new about Jesus.

And here, we enter into the true crux of the problem: when we allow the convenience of habit and the dictatorship of prejudice to have the upper hand, it is difficult to open ourselves to what is new and allow ourselves to be amazed. We control: through attitudes, through prejudices… It often happens in life that we seek from our experiences and even from people only what conforms to our own ideas and ways of thinking so as never to have to make an effort to change. And this can even happen with God, and even to us believers, to us who think we know Jesus, that we already know so much about Him and that it is enough to repeat the same things as always. And this is not enough with God. But without openness to what is new and, above all – listen well – openness to God's surprises, without amazement, faith becomes a tiring litany that slowly dies out and becomes a habit, a social habit.

I said a word: amazement. What is amazement? Amazement happens when we meet God: "I met the Lord". But we read in the Gospel: many times the people who encountered Jesus and recognised him felt amazed. And we, by encountering God, must follow this path: to feel amazement. It is like the guarantee certificate that the encounter is true and not habitual.

In the end, why didn't Jesus's fellow villagers recognise and believe in Him? But why? What is the reason? In a few words, we can say that they did not accept the scandal of the Incarnation. They did not recognise this mystery of the Incarnation, but they did not accept the mystery: they did not recognise it. They did not know the reason and they thought it was scandalous that the immensity of God should be revealed in the smallness of our flesh, that the Son of God should be the son of a carpenter, that the divine should be hidden in the human, that God should inhabit a face, the words, the gestures of a simple man. This is the scandal: the incarnation of God, his concreteness, his 'daily life'. And God became concrete in a man, Jesus of Nazareth, he became a companion on the way, he made himself one of us. "You are one of us", we can say to Jesus. What a beautiful prayer! It is because one of us understands us, accompanies us, forgives us, loves us so much. In reality, an abstract, distant god is more comfortable, one that doesn't get himself involved in situations and who accepts a faith that is far from life, from problems, from society. Or we would even like to believe in a 'special effects' god who does only exceptional things and always provokes strong emotions. Instead, brothers and sisters, God incarnated Himself: God is humble, God is tender, God is hidden, he draws near to us, living the normality of our daily life.

And then, the same thing happens to us like Jesus's fellow villagers, we risk that when he passes by, we will not recognize him. I repeat that beautiful phrase from Saint Augustine: "I am afraid of God, of the Lord, when he passes by". But, Augustine, why are you afraid? "I am afraid of not recognising him. I am afraid that when the Lord passes by: Timeo Dominum transeuntem. We do not recognize him, we are scandalised by Him, let us think with our hearts about this reality.

Now, in prayer, let us ask the Madonna, who welcomed the mystery of God in her daily life in Nazareth, for eyes and hearts free of prejudices and to have eyes open to be amazed: "Lord that we might meet you!", and when we encounter the Lord there is this amazement. Let us meet him in normality: eyes open to God's surprises, to His humble and hidden presence in daily life.

News is arriving from the dear nation of Eswatini, in southern Africa, news of tension and violence. I invite those who hold responsibility, and those who are manifesting their aspirations for the future of the country, to a make a common effort toward dialogue, reconciliation and the peaceful settlement of different positions.

I am happy to announce that from 12 to 15 this September, God willing, I will travel to Slovakia to make a pastoral visit. First, I will celebrate the concluding Mass of the International Eucharistic Congress in Budapest. I heartfully thank those who are preparing this journey and I am praying for them. Let us all pray for this journey and for the people who are working to organize it.

I hope all of you have a good Sunday. And please do not forget to pray for me. Thank you! Ciao!

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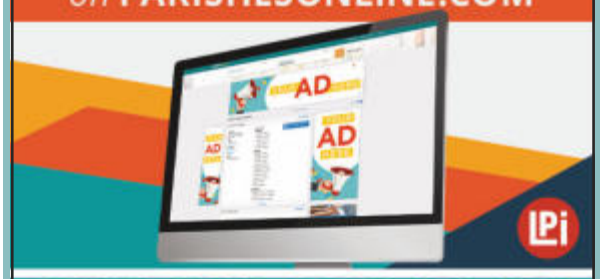

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