



“And then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory, and then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky.’ Mk 13:24-32



November 14, 2021
Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time
nool.us | (303) 469-5171



A LETTER FROM THE PRIESTS

Dear Parishioners,

The month of November is, in our Catholic tradition, known as the “month of the dead,” because it’s the month in which we pray for the penitent church, the souls in purgatory. Since we preached about the meaning of purgatory and about praying for the souls in purgatory, I’d like to reflect on the meaning of death. In our western world, the noble and yet powerless human attitude to defeat death has developed in an overwhelming fear of it. We Christians, too, can be bound to that fear if we don’t rediscover the truth of death in light of the Christian Revelation.

The first evidence about death is that it is real and none of us will be able to avoid it. Nonetheless, as much as this is true, it deeply and cynically contradicts our inner longing for life. The inevitability of death profoundly challenges the meaning of our lives and, therefore, the nature of the Creator who pulled us out of nothing and brought us into life. Why did God create each one of us if we have to die?

The two possible answers to this question end up contradicting the very nature of God. Perhaps He is not the One God, the only creator, the Almighty. Perhaps He did his best trying to hold back the power of death, generated by chaos or by another evil source, and He apparently succeeded for just the duration of each individual life. But this cannot possibly be, since if He is God, He must be the only creator, the ultimate cause, the ultimate reason, the ultimate meaning of everything that exists.

The other possible answer to explain the existence of death is that perhaps God is not as good as He presents himself to be. Perhaps He created everything for life, but He also put death, suffering and evil into his order of creation. But also this answer ends up in contradiction, because if God is such, He must be good. He must be goodness itself. Besides, the God who revealed Himself to us gave us plenty of signs of this goodness. Therefore, if death is undeniable, and God is not the cause of it, where does it come from?

The answer, we know, lies in the mystery of

Original sin, wherein the first human beings succumbed to the allurements of the angelic creature, the devil, Satan, who was created to share in God’s life and love for eternity but he botched it by rejecting his vocation out of envy. “For God created man for incorruption, and made him in the image of His own eternity, but through the devil’s envy death entered the world, and those who belong to his party experience it” (Wis 2:24). Because of Original sin, every human being who belongs to the human race has become inclined to commit evil and also liable to suffer and experience mortality. Every human being, every child of Adam and Eve, shares this condition, no matter how “holy” he or she is.

The fact is that the origin of death lies in the free rejection that God is a truth that we cannot forget. Otherwise, in order to explain the inevitable reality of death, we end up foolishly questioning God and his power and goodwill, contradicting also our own reason, as shown above. It’s foolish to do that because we end up blaming the only One who doesn’t have anything to do with it and actually has the solution for it. The solution is his Son. He, “born of a woman,” therefore true human being and a true child of Adam and Eve, was entitled to go through the consequences of that tragic act of rejection against God. He, born of the Immaculate, was also sinless, deprived in His flesh and in His soul of that stain of Original sin that every other human being inherited from Adam and Eve. He, “the Only begotten Son of God,” was also divine. Therefore, when He freely and willingly gave himself to be crucified, He freely underwent the consequences of the Original sin for the whole human race. But because He was also divine, finally, death could only truly swallow him for three days. Death had no permanent power of Life itself. The devil couldn’t sway his power over God. Therefore, Christ rose from the dead, defeating death from within. And He defeated it not only for Himself but for all the ones who are baptized in Him, who freely believe in Him, who love Him and act according to His will.

In Baptism, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are plunged into the waters of death, sharing in the true death of Christ in order to share in His resurrection. Why, then, after Baptism, do we still experience true suffering and true physical death? Because, through the frightening and arduous sacrifice of death, we will have the chance to trust in God as Christ did in His passion, and receive through our free merits what we have gratuitously in Baptism. Therefore, every baptized who embraced this gift of salvation can truly say with St Paul: “O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy

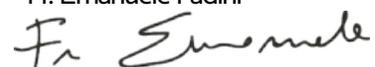
sting?(...) thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor 15: 55-57). In the end, as it is true that we will go through real death, even more real will be the resurrection of our entire person, body, and soul if we believe and embrace the news of Christ. The full reality of the resurrection of the believer in Christ is already fully experienced by the Mother of God, who has been granted to be assumed into Heaven without going through the mortal passage of any other child of Adam and Eve.

Because the resurrection has been obtained by Christ through his sacrifice and merits, it is not an automatic and impersonal process available to anyone. Each person must freely embrace this salvation if he or she wants to rise. Otherwise, physical death remains the passage to the eternal punishment in Hell, which is not a soothing and peaceful nothingness, but is eternal suffering. In light of this, we must prepare ourselves to face the moment of death in a Christian way, as shown by the saints. It means that, first of all, we can talk about it during our life; we can reflect upon it, we can share our fears about it because we have been ultimately freed from it. And more than that, we have the responsibility to prepare ourselves to go through it.

We have to prepare for it remotely and proximately. Remotely means to live everyday according to the will of God, rejecting sin and surrendering to his will, through prayers, sacraments and acts. Living in this way will also enhance the intensity with which we live our present days. Then, the proximate preparation means to make sure that once we are close to dying, if God grants us the grace to consciously and progressively approach it, we should request the assistance of a priest, who can impart the general sacramental confession, the viaticum (eucharist for the dying) and the Sacrament of the Anointing. In case we become unconscious before that, the priest can impart the Sacrament of Anointing and God can always provide what his disciples have not been able to. However, this cannot become for us an excuse to lightly neglect what is in our power to do in order to adequately prepare our freedom to go through death in adherence to the will of God. Too often, I assist dying who could have received the sacraments before becoming unconscious and have lost an opportunity to adequately prepare for this crucial moment.

May St. Joseph, patron of the dying, support us in this pilgrimage and grant us the grace to die filled with faith, hope and perfect love for Christ.

Fr. Emanuele Fadini



DAILY READINGS

DAY	1ST READING	2ND READING	GOSPEL
Sat 11/13	Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9		Lk 18:1-8
Sun 11/14	Dn 12:1-3	Heb 10:11-14, 18	Mk 13:24-32
Mon 11/15	1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63		Lk 18:35-43
Tues 11/16	2 Mc 6:18-31		Lk 19:1-10
Wed 11/17	2 Mc 7:1, 20-31		Lk 19:11-28
Thurs 11/18	1 Mc 2:15-29		Lk 19:41-44
Fri 11/19	1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59		Lk 19:45-48
Sat 11/20	1 Mc 6:1-13		Lk 20:27-40
Sun 11/21	Dn 7:13-14	Rv 1:5-8	Jn 18:33b-37

PARISH TIMES

Mass Times

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

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

Daily Livestream of Mass

9:30am

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



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



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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.

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PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, November 14

7:30am Mass
8:30am Nativity Craft Fair
8:30am CL
9:30am Livestream Mass
9:30am RCIA
11:30am Mass
5:00pm Mass
6:00pm GS

Monday, November 15

7:00am Mass
9:30am Livestream Mass
10:00am ENDOW
10:30am Women's Guild
1:00pm CGS- Lvl I and II
4:00pm CGS- Lvl II
6:30pm Biblical School
7:00pm St. Joseph's Men's Group

Tuesday, November 16

7:00am Mass
7:30am School PLC Meeting
9:30am Livestream Mass
10:00am CGS- Lvl I
1:00pm Bible Study
1:00pm St. Joseph Rosary Group
2:00pm Stewardship Meeting
4:30pm RE
6:30pm Venturers of the Stars

Wednesday, November 17

5:30am St. Joseph's Men Group
7:00am Mass
8:00am ENDOW
9:00am TOFF
9:30am Livestream Mass
11:00pm North Metro Catholic Singles
1:00pm Bible Study
2:00pm RCIA
4:30pm RE
5:00pm KoC Planning Meeting
6:30pm Boy Scouts- Troop 766

Thursday, November 18

4:00pm CGS- Lvl I
6:00pm Confirmation Rehearsal
6:30pm Bible Study
6:45pm Baptism Class
7:00pm Sojourners
7:00pm CL

Friday, November 19

7:00am Mass
7:30am Men of Emmaus
9:00am ENDOW

Saturday, November 20

6:30am KoC Burritos
7:30am Cenacle Prayer Group
9:00am CL
11:00am Confirmation
2:00pm RE Christmas Play Practice
4:30pm Mass
5:30pm CL
6:00pm Community Celebration

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 13

† Joan Atkin by the Ermisch Family
† Maxine Spruce by Patricia Consbruck

Sunday, November 14

7:30 † Betty Vallejos by the Skinner Family
9:30 People of the Parish
11:30 The Deceased Members of the Osborn Family
by Delphene Osborn
5:00 † Linda Maestas by Jean and Mauri

Monday, November 15

7:00 † John Wesley Cook by Alma Cordova
9:30 Maryann Kerber by George and Patty Ketchel

Tuesday, November 16

7:00 Allison Luca
9:30 † John Miccin by Pauline Vovan

Wednesday, November 17

7:00 Geriann Eberhard by Gwen Pomper
9:30 Intentions of Roberta Hebert

Thursday, November 18

7:00 † Amy Westbrook by Dennis and Peggy Severson
9:30 † Tom Spencer

Friday, November 19

7:00 All Souls in Purgatory by Thuclan Tran
9:30 For those who are grieving by Cecilia Burchez

Saturday, November 20

9:30 Birthday Blessings for Maryann Reyes
by Bette Dean and Linda Kent
4:30 † Edna Sermak by The Sermak family

Sunday, November 21

7:30 † Anthont Le Dinh by Thuclan Tran
9:30 People of the Parish
11:30 Ann Marie Sontag by The Beauregard Family
5:00 † Debbie Trench by Alma Cordova

SACRISTY LAUNDRY
Marge Lay

MONDAY COLLECTION
COUNTERS
11/15/2021 3:45pm

Victoria Villegas
Deb Cashion
Veronica Mueller
Denise Fritz
Thomas Lambert

*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.

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED



William Jordan
August Pasquin

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and
let perpetual light shine upon them. May
the souls of the faithful departed, through
the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

Feast of the Week



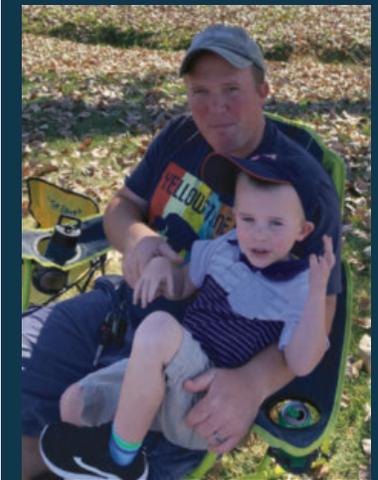
Saint Elizabeth of Hungary
November 17th

"How could I bear a crown of gold
when the Lord bears a crown of
thorns? And bears it for me!"

- St. Elizabeth

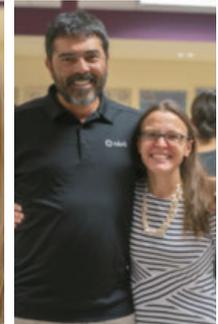
JPII FAMILIES

The Families of John Paul II spent the afternoon together last Sunday, November 7, to have lunch, play games, and enjoy a moment with the priests and sisters. All families are invited to join this ministry, which fosters friendship, encourages accountability among our community, and helps couples grow in faith and love. For more information, please see nool.us/families-of-jpii or contact Fr. Matteo at m.invernizzi@nool.us.



FEAST OF ST. CHARLES BORROMEO CELEBRATION

Thank you to all who came to celebrate and especially to those who made it happen!



Sign up for our newsletter!



FROM THE PARISH

USHER TRAINING

Tuesday, November 16th | 7:00pm | Main Church

All current ushers, as well as those who wish to be an usher at Nativity, are invited to attend an usher training meeting on Tuesday, November 16, from 7:00pm to 8:00pm in the Church. We will be discussing the preferred way to go about the usher's duties, confirming regular Sunday Mass coverage, how we will cover Christmas Masses, and answering any questions you may have. If you recently expressed interest in being an usher at our Ministry Fair, now is your chance to get involved! If you need further information, please contact Paul Fabian at 720-323-8456 or p.fabian3130@gmail.com.

NATIVITY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Would you like your child to be in a Christmas Program?

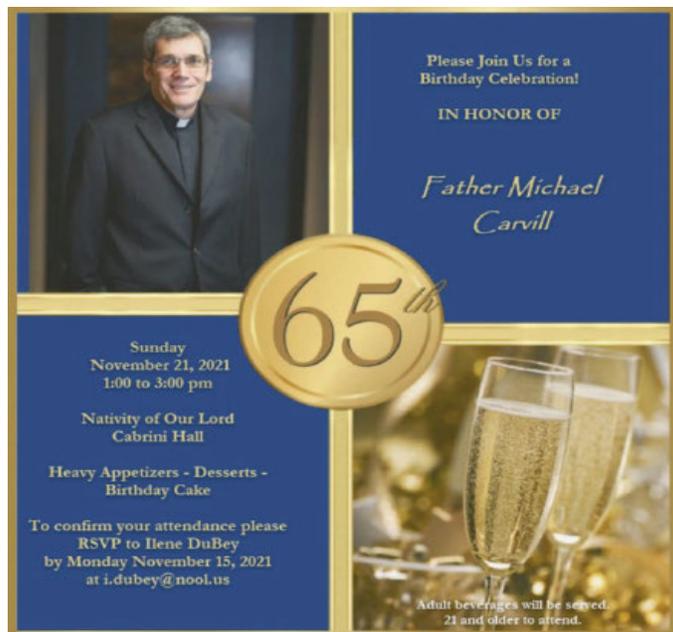
The Nativity Parish Youth Drama Program will be putting on a Nativity pageant to be performed on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 2, 2022, in Cabrini Hall.

All children in the parish, ages 4-11, are invited to participate. Parts will be assigned on November 20, from 2:00pm-4:00pm. Practices will be scheduled in December on Saturday afternoons and the during last week of December. Not all children are required to attend all practices.

For information, or to sign up for the play, please contact Marianne Arling at m.arling@nool.us or 719-250-2770.

FRONT DESK HELP NEEDED

Help is needed at the Nativity front desk on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons from 1:00pm-5:00pm. This person must be willing to work some nights and Saturdays as needed. A pleasant and cheerful disposition is desirable as well. If you are interested in the position or would like more information, please contact Stacy Logay at s.logay@nool.us.



Please Join Us for a Birthday Celebration!
IN HONOR OF
Father Michael Carvill

65th

Sunday
November 21, 2021
1:00 to 3:00 pm

Nativity of Our Lord
Cabrini Hall

Heavy Appetizers - Desserts -
Birthday Cake

To confirm your attendance please
RSVP to Ilene DuBey
by Monday November 15, 2021
at i.dubey@nool.us

Adult beverages will be served
21 and older to attend.



DAILY
READINGS



PARISH
INFO



PRAYER
RESOURCES



GIVING
MADE EASY



AND MUCH
MORE!

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Google Play



NATIVITY GIVING TREE

Please consider taking a tag off the Christmas tree in the church foyer and purchase the indicated gift for a person in our community who could use the extra help this year. Gifts or gift cards can be returned here any time between now and December 5, and they can even be mailed in via Amazon or your favorite website. For questions, email givingtree@nool.us. Thank you for participating in this beautiful charitable work.

ROSARY TEAM

The Rosary Team is looking for men and women to pray at Broomfield nursing facilities once per week. Volunteers pair up to say the rosary together for these residents who are asking for our spiritual support and companionship. There are also other locations available throughout our area. If you're interested, please contact the rosary team at therosaryteam@gmail.com. You can also call Teresa Rodriguez at 303-550-6962 or Leo Rodriguez at 303-550-6970 .

FISH FOOD DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus will be collecting food from the parish for the FISH Food Drive between November 1-24. You can leave your donations in one of the two designated bins found in the narthex upstairs or near the front desk at Nativity. FISH has specifically requested donations of the following: baking mixes, stew, juice, dry pasta, cooking oils, or personal care items.

PARISHIONERS' ROSARY

Sunday, November 14 | 11:00am | Conference Room

The Parishioner Rosary will be held in the Conference Room across from the reception desk this Sunday at 11:00am. Please join us there if you'd like to participate.

BOOK OF REVELATION BIBLE STUDY



Adventures in Revelation: the Kingdom Yet to Come is a 10-session course produced by Ascension Press, The Great Adventure. No book in the Bible fascinates us more than the book of Revelation. This book is full of references to the prophets, fantastical images, numbers, colors, and creatures unfamiliar to a 21st century reader.

The ancient title of Revelation is Apokalypsis, which literally means to "pull back the veil." It is bridal language. Once the rich symbolism is understood, the reader will be ushered into the sacred bridal chamber of the Lord and his Bride, the Church.

Classes will be held on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday evenings beginning the first week of December, 2021, with two weeks off for Christmas and New Years. You may attend either the Wednesday class from 1:00pm-2:30pm or the Thursday evening class from 6:30pm-8:00pm.

Please register by visiting www.nool.us/bible-study. Study materials cost \$32 and can be purchased the first day of class. For more information, contact Theresa Cooley at 720-635-8975 or CooleyRickTherese@msn.com.

STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINING

Nativity of Our Lord's Stephen Ministry is accepting applications for the next Stephen Minister Training Session which begins Wednesday, January 12, 2022. Classes are 2 1/2-hour sessions, held weekly from 6:00pm-8:30pm and cover 50+ hours of essential caring and relating skills. Do you have gifts for non-judgmental caring, compassion, and listening? If so, please prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister.

For more information, please contact call 303-469-5171 x113 or email stephenministry@nool.us. Application deadline is Wednesday, December 29, 2021. Spaces are limited.

Stephen Ministry is a confidential lay caring ministry that supports individuals in the parish and community who are experiencing life difficulties. Stephen Ministers are not counselors or therapists; rather, they are caring Christian friends specially trained to offer a listening ear, encouragement, and spiritual support via one-to-one weekly visits. When was the last time someone really listened to you?

If you or someone you know might benefit from the confidential care and encouragement of a Stephen Minister, please contact us via our Confidential Helpline, 303-469-5171 Ext.113 or our Confidential Email, stephenministry@nool.us.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
BREAKFAST BURRITO SALE**

**ON SALE
11/20-11/21
\$4 each**

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE MILITARY ARCHDIOCESE



THE HOPE CORNER: A MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

Mental Health America (MHA) announced the launch of “I Am Not Alone,” a new social networking website aimed at combating loneliness and isolation. In 2020, feelings of loneliness and isolation were reported by 71% as a top reason for mental health struggles according to data from MHA’s Online Screening Program. “I Am Not Alone” is a place where peers can post activities and events designed for people living with mental health conditions. The site aims to assist with beginning new connections for those struggling with loneliness and isolation brought on by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The site is free of cost and is live now at mhanational.org/iamnotalone.

There is always hope and you are not alone. If you or a loved one are in crisis or are experiencing difficult or suicidal thoughts, please call 911 or one of the following hotlines:

- Colorado Crisis Services: 844-493-8255 or text “TALK” to 38255
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 or suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/
- National Crisis Text line: text “home” to 741741
- Substance Abuse and Addiction hotline: 1-800-662-HELP
- NAMI Helpline: 800-950-NAMI (6264)

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



The Gospel predicts end times; our challenge, though, is to live faithfully now. When we live in conformity to the Word, hearing Jesus’ words and living them out, the future holds no fear for us.

As you give your gift to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, know that you are hearing the words of Jesus and living them out.

Please join our SVdP Flocknote group for up-to-date information and changes to our meeting times.

nool.flocknote.com/svdp

Upcoming Feasts

St. Albert the Great	November 15
St. Margaret of Scotland	November 16
St. Elizabeth of Hungary	November 17
St. Rose Philippine Duchesne	November 18
St. Cecilia	November 22
St. Clement I	November 23
St. Columban	November 23
Blessed Miguel Pro	November 23

MARY’S HOMES OF HOPE PRAY FOR DOBBS

Wednesday, December 1 | 10:00am-7:00pm | 7464 Queen Circle, Arvada

Mary’s Homes of Hope holds a strong belief in the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. On December 1, 2021, the Supreme court will hear a case (*Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*) that could overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal in all 50 states.

Mary’s Homes of Hope will be offering nine hours of prayer and adoration on Wednesday, December 1, for each of the Supreme Court Justices and asks you to join. MHOH is extending an open invitation to all those who wish to participate in this time of adoration and prayer from 10:00am-7:00pm, following a 9:00am Mass at Mary’s Homes of Hope in Arvada.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER



Take time every day to recall something to be thankful for in your marriage.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been teaching couples good communication skills for over 50 years!

Sign up today to attend one of the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences:

- Southern Colorado: Feb. 18-20
- Virtual: Apr. 2-3
- Dillon: Apr. 22-24

Early registration is highly recommended.

For more information visit our website at: www.wwme.org
Follow us on Instagram and Facebook! @wwmeColorado!

SAMARITAN HOUSE DONATIONS

Samaritan House Community in Denver focuses primarily on serving women, families, and veterans who are seeking safe shelter, nutritious food, and supportive life services. The following items are needed for Samaritan House: women’s deodorant, women’s bras (all sizes), women’s underwear (all sizes), women’s shampoo and conditioner (small bottle size), and body soap.

Please drop off any donations at the parish office. There are volunteers who pick up the donations and deliver them to Samaritan House weekly. If you have any questions about donations please contact Tammie Donohoe at tammie.donohoe@gmail.com.



NATIVITY: FAITH & REASON

SUBSTITUTES NEEDED

Nativity: Faith & Reason is looking for substitute teachers! We'd love to have you join our family of leaders and learners, helping us to carry out our mission of forming saints and scholars. We are also looking for a long-term sub for math that would begin this month!

Please contact our assistant principal, Lissette Gutierrez, for more information at l.gutierrez@nool.us.

RESTAURANT KNIGHT

November 18 | 4:00-8:00pm | 4530 W. 121st Ave

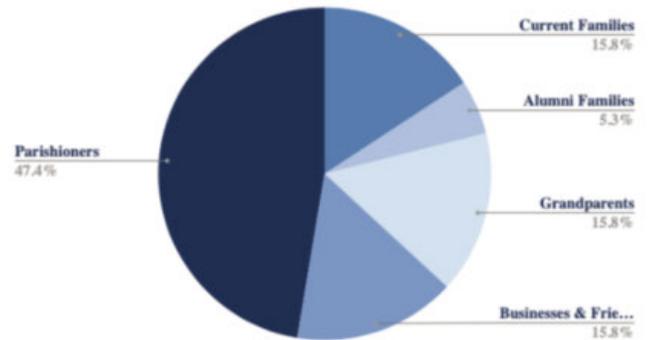
Our next Restaurant Knight will be held on November 18 from 4:00pm-8:00pm at Noodles. 25% of all qualifying online and in-restaurant sales will go directly back to Nativity: Faith & Reason school. Participants are also able to order online and pick up their food, applying the coupon code, "GIVING25" in the Coupon Code line at checkout.



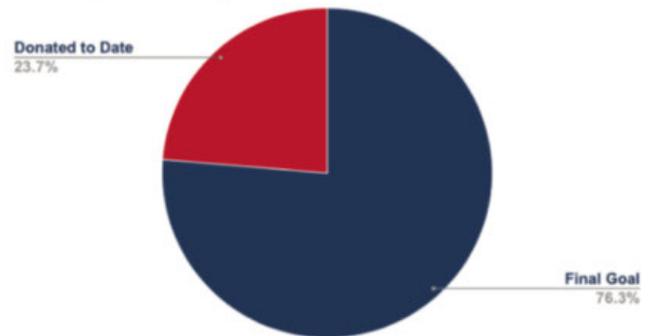
ANNUAL FUND

The annual appeal for the Nativity Fund is officially underway. The Annual Appeal builds our Nativity Fund, which helps bridge the gap between tuition paid and the cost to keep Nativity a flourishing Catholic institution in Northern Colorado. Won't you consider a contribution? To learn more or to donate online, please visit school.nool.us/ways-to-give.

Nativity Fund Donor Breakdown



Nativity Fund Progress



CHRISTMAS POSTER CONTEST

With Sr. Marilú as their mentor, 7th grade students have begun drafting their entries for the Knights of Columbus Christmas poster contest. Students were encouraged to think about the meaning of Christmas and why we should "keep Christ in Christmas."



Pope Francis will travel to the Italian town of Assisi on Friday, November 12, on the occasion of the World Day of the Poor.

The meeting in Assisi, St. Francis' hometown, will be a private one, during which Pope Francis will share moments of listening and prayer with about 500 people from all over Europe.

Pope Francis visited the Vatican Apostolic Library to inaugurate a new permanent exhibition area, and urges the Church to bear witness to the importance of beauty and culture.

The Apostolic Library is opening up to the public for the first time with a dedicated space for temporary exhibitions of contemporary art.

Pope Francis inaugurated the new space on Friday evening, which was financed by the heirs of the American entrepreneur and philanthropist Kirk Kerkorian.

"Beauty," he said, "is not a fleeting illusion of an appearance or of an ornament; rather, it is born from the root of goodness, truth, and justice, which are its synonyms."

He added that the human person needs both bread and culture, "which touches the soul, and which brings the human being to our most profound dignity."

Gathered in Lourdes for their Fall Plenary Assembly from 2-7 November, French bishops have decided to officially recognize the "institutional responsibility of the Church" in sexual abuse cases and their systemic nature.

This recognition implies "an obligation of justice and reparation. We are aware that this step is necessary to enter a path that allows us today to ask for forgiveness in truth."

Read more stories at <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

In the passage from the Letter to the Galatians, Saint Paul exhorts Christians to walk according to the Holy Spirit (cf. 5:16, 25). In effect, to believe in Jesus means to follow him, to go behind him along his way, just as the first disciples did. And at the same time, it means

very beautiful. It does the soul good.

This "walking according to the Spirit" is not only an individual task: it also concerns the community as a whole. The "desires of the flesh",



"This 'walking according to the Spirit' is not only an individual task: it also concerns the community as a whole." - Pope Francis

avoiding the opposite way, that of egoism, of seeking one's own interests, which the Apostle calls the "desire of the flesh". The Spirit is the guide for this journey along the way of Christ, a stupendous but difficult journey that begins in Baptism and lasts our entire lives. We can think of it as a long excursion on the mountain heights: it is breath-taking, the destination is attractive, but it requires a lot of effort and tenaciousness.

Treading along this way, the Christian acquires a positive vision of life. This does not mean that the evil present in the world disappears, or that the negative impulses of our egoism and pride diminish. Rather, it means that belief in God is always stronger than our resistance and greater than our sins. Saint Paul feels this exhortation is necessary for himself as well.

The Apostle does not place himself above his community. But places himself in the midst of the journey everyone is on in order to provide a concrete example of how much it is necessary to obey God, corresponding better and better to the Spirit's guidance. And how beautiful it is when we find pastors who journey with their people, who do not get tired - "No, I am more important, I am a pastor. You...", "I am a priest", "I am a bishop", with their noses in the air. No: pastors who journey with the people. This is

"the temptations", we can say, that all of us have - that is, our jealousies, prejudices, hypocrisies and resentments continue to make themselves felt - and having recourse to a rigid set of precepts can be an easy temptation. But doing this means straying from the path of freedom, and instead of climbing to the top, it means returning down below. In the first place, journeying along the way of the Spirit requires giving space to grace and charity. Paul invites the Galatians to bear each other's difficulties, and if someone should make a mistake, to use gentleness.

In effect, when we are tempted to judge others badly, as often happens, we must rather reflect on our own weakness. How many burdens there are in a person's life: illness, lack of work, loneliness, pain...! And how many other trials that require the proximity and love of our brothers and sisters! The supreme rule regarding fraternal correction is love: to want the good of our brothers and sisters. Gentleness. Patience. Prayer. Proximity.

Let us walk with joy and patience along this path, allowing ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit. Thank you.

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