

**"ONE DOES NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE,
BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT COMES
FORTH FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD."
MT 4:4B**

Artwork: The Creation of Adam (1508–1512), detail,
Michelangelo Buonarroti, Sistine Chapel, Vatican,
Wiki Commons, PD



NATIVITY
OF OUR LORD

February 26, 2023
First Sunday of Lent
nool.us | (303) 469-5171



Pastoral Note | Lent 2023 + Samuel J. Aquila

As we begin this season of Lent, I want to remind each of us that mercy is at the heart of the Gospel message, of the essential importance that forgiveness plays in our lives, and how crucial it is for our country right now. Those of us who have received the mercy of God play a unique role in extending forgiveness to others and healing our land. In this Pastoral Note, I want to emphasize four points about forgiveness and mercy and why they are especially needed now.

Forgiveness is the Way of God

In the story of creation, human beings are the pinnacle of the visible created world. The reason for this humbling distinction is revealed in the book of Genesis: “Then God said: ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness’” (Gen 1:26). [...] Since we are made in the image and likeness of God, we can only understand ourselves if we understand who God is. In short, God is communion, a communion of three persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is not just loving, he is love itself, and our God who is love is also merciful. [...]

God Forgives You. Can You Forgive Others?

In quoting the prophet Hosea, Jesus points us to one of the most profound stories of God’s mercy in the Old Testament. Hosea lived in the mid-700s BC, and God commanded him to marry Gomer, a harlot. Gomer, because of her brokenness, was repeatedly unfaithful to Hosea yet God instructed Hosea to continually forgive her. God used the tragedy of marital infidelity that Hosea experienced as an image of God’s own relationship with his people. [...] Today, God asks us to do the same with those who sin against us. [...]

Lord, Help Me to Forgive

Anyone who has had to forgive someone knows that it is not easy. Even small children have a tough time accepting the apology of another child who has hurt them. As we grow and the transgressions against us become more complicated and even malicious, forgiveness can appear to be an impossible hurdle to overcome. Yet, Pope Francis urges us to ask the Lord for the strength to forgive. [...] It is said that not forgiving others is like drinking poison and hoping the other person gets hurt. Withholding forgiveness has no value and only builds anger, bitterness, vengeance, and resentment in the soul. These grow into a heavy burden that darkens our outlook on the rest of life, makes us question God’s goodness, and inhibits our ability to trust and receive love. On top of this, our suffering very rarely affects the people who have harmed us. In that sense, unforgiveness becomes a “double suffering” in that we suffer from the original transgression and then suffer further from harboring a grudge. **When we forgive, we are saying we will no longer allow the sin committed against us to have power over us. We will not hold resentment or wrath toward the person, and we desire and will their good.**

The Great Need for Forgiveness Today and Our Role

When I was in college, my family had a Hungarian Jewish friend who had lived through the Nazi occupation and survived a concentration camp. She had lost family members in the camps. I noticed she had no anger or bitterness towards the Germans. I asked her about it, and she shared with me that in the 1950s she

was bitter, angry, and resentful. She said she gradually realized there was nothing she could do to undo what had happened. She said she was moved to forgive them and let go and she received great freedom and peace from that time forward. She taught me an unbelievably valuable lesson that day [...]

In this upcoming Lenten Season, I invite you to pray about and offer forgiveness in three major areas.


First, I invite you to consider if there is anything you need to forgive God or the Church for. To be clear, God is perfect and is not guilty of any wrongdoing. However, it is common for us to experience great pain in not understanding actions and events which God has allowed to happen. [...] Take time in prayer to pray and think about your image of God, then write about it. If you are at a point where you are ready to move forward from pain you have experienced, ask the Lord if there is anything you blame him for and seek forgiveness for that. Ask the Lord to reveal his love for you as his beloved daughter or son. Go to the image of the Prodigal Son in the Gospel. Imagine the Father’s warm embrace and his total forgiveness of you. [...]

The second group I invite you to forgive is your enemies. [...] Our job is to love every single person we encounter no matter their political affiliation, ideological affiliation, or the crimes (civil or moral) they have committed. We speak the truth because charity demands it. Loving others who hold differing views from us does not include affirming or condoning immoral behavior, but it does include accepting them and treating them with dignity and civility. As an antidote to anger, hatred, and resentment toward your enemies, I invite you to go to a quiet place, in adoration, or before a crucifix in your room, and make a list of your enemies, whoever they may be. Ask the Lord to reveal to you who you see as an enemy, and ask him to help you to forgive as he forgives, to love as he loves.


Finally, I invite you to consider whether you need to forgive yourself. [...] Let us repent of holding on to any guilt, shame, or unforgiveness towards ourselves, for the Father only desires to console and forgive us at the cross with Jesus. [...]

LENTEN PASTORAL NOTE

AS WE FORGIVE



READ
FULL
LETTER
HERE



+ Samuel J. Aquila
Archbishop of Denver

DAILY READINGS

Saturday, February 25

1st Reading: Is 58:9b-14
Psalm: Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Gospel: Lk 5:27-32

Sunday, February 26

1st Reading: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Psalm: Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17
2nd reading: Rom 5:12-19
Gospel: Mt 4:1-11

Monday, February 27

1st Reading: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18
Psalm: Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15
Gospel: Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday, February 28

1st Reading: Is 55:10-11
Psalm: PS 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19
Gospel: Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday, March 1

1st Reading: Jon 3:1-10
Psalm: Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19
Gospel: Lk 11:29-32

Thursday, March 2

1st Reading: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25
Psalm: Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8
Gospel: Mt 7:7-12

Friday, March 3

1st Reading: Ez 18:21-28
Psalm: 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8
Gospel: Mt 5:20-26

We offer heartfelt prayers for recently deceased † OTTO KIRMAIER and his family.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

EVERY FRIDAY, 7:00 PM

MASS INTENSIONS

Saturday, February 25

9:30 † Eugene Texas by Waters Family
4:30 † Dolores Goble by Ondish Family

Sunday, February 26

7:30 Kevin & Amy Bowers
by Doris Solano
9:30 People of the Parish
11:30 † Alfredo Cannata
by Concetta and Cannata Families
5:00 † Sr. Rosa Lombardi
by Cynthia Lombardi

Monday, February 27

7:00 Kayla & John, and Family
by Alex and Katie
9:30 Lynne Gallagher
by Roberta Hebert

Tuesday, February 28

7:00 † Rocky & Joyce Martinez
by Gloria J. Maartinez
9:30 Roberta Hebert by Lynn Gallagher

Wednesday, March 1

7:00 Charlez Graham by Maria Graham
9:30 † Maureen Turner
by Jackie Schuster

Thursday, March 2

7:00 † Francis VanHoudt
by Paul VanHoudt
9:30 † Eugene Horak
by Bernie & Kathleen Vahling

Friday, March 3

7:00 † Raffaele Fattore
9:30 † Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, March 4

9:30 † Souls in Purgatory
4:30 † Robert Worsley by Bette Dean

Sunday, March 5

7:30 † Dave & Betty Malysa by Son
9:30 People of the Parish
11:30 † Thomas & Mary Frances Kott
by Kathleen
5:00 Thanksgiving to the Holy Family
by Coelho Family

LENTEN SUPPER

Every Friday at 5:30 pm | Cabrini Hall

March 3

Soup + Stations of the Cross

March 10

Fish Fry + Stations of the Cross

March 17

Soup + Stations of the Cross

March 24

Soup + Stations of the Cross

March 31

Soup + Stations of the Cross

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 26

8:00 am | CL
8:30 am | John Lay Book Presentation
8:45 am | HS Lenten Retreat/Walburga
11:00 am | RCIA
12:00 pm Initiation New Members
6:00 pm | High School Youth Group (GS)

Monday, February 27

10:00 am ENDOW
1:00 pm | CGS 1 Mon Level I and II
3:15 pm | Chess Club
4:00 pm | CGS 2 Mon Level II
6:30 pm | Biblical School
6:30 pm | New Springtime Prayer group
6:30 pm | Spanish Prayer Group
6:45 pm | St. Joseph Men's Prayer Group

Tuesday, February 28

10:00 am | CGS 3 Tues Level I Sess 1
1:00 pm | Adult Bible Study
4:00 pm | CGS 4 Tues Level I Sess 2
6:30 pm | Adult CCC
6:30 pm | RE
6:30 pm | Venturers of the Star
7:30 pm | CLU (CL University Students)

Wednesday, March 1

5:30 am | St. Joseph Men's Prayer Group
8:15 am | ENDOW
4:30 | RE
5:00 | RE

6:00 pm | Vertus Training/School
6:15 pm | Boy Scouts Tr. 766
6:15 pm | Divorce Support Group
6:15 pm | Knights of Columbus Meeting

Thursday, March 2

1:30 pm | 4th & 5th Notable Nights
3:15 pm | Destination Imagination
6:30 pm | Spring Marriage preparation
7:30 pm | CL

Friday, March 3

7:30 am | Men's Moean Bible Study
9:00 am | ENDOW
5:30 pm | Lenten Fish Fry
7:00 pm | Teen Star/Fr. Emanuele

Saturday, March 4

8:00 am | CL
8:00 am | Marian Cenacle
8:50 am | Pro-Life Rosary
10:00 am | Grief Ministry Workshop
6:00 pm | MSCB Celebration Dinner

SACRISTY LAUNDRY

Cecilia Bruchez

COLLECTION COUNTERS

Monday, 2/27 - 3:45 pm

Amy Skinner
Denise Fritz
Thomas Lambert
Bill McCauley
Veronica Mueller

BOULDER DEANERY OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONFESSION

DURING THE SEASON OF LENT

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

715 Cabrini Dr, Lafayette

Saturday | 9:00-10:30 am

Sunday | During the 10:00 am Mass, and during the 12:00 pm Mass when Fr. Shaun is the celebrant

Or call for an appointment

First Friday of the Month | 9:00-10:00 am

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

900 W Midway Blvd, Broomfield

Thursday | 5:00-6:00 pm

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

Sunday | During Mass, when possible

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

1318 Mapleton Ave, Boulder

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday | 11:30 am-noon

Friday | 11:30 am-noon and 5-7 pm (English and Spanish)

Saturday | 11:30 am-1 pm.(English and Spanish)

Sunday | Noon-1 pm (Spanish)

SACRED HEART OF MARY

6739 S Boulder Rd, Boulder

After every Mass

Saturday | from 3:30 pm until no one is waiting

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

3791 Pike Rd, Longmont

Monday | 8:30-9:30 am, Friday | 9:00-10:00 am

Saturday | 3:00-4:15 pm

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

323 Collyer St, Longmont

Thursday | 4:30 pm, Saturday | 3:30 pm

Also by appointment

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

898 14th St, Boulder

Tuesday | 8:00-8:50 pm, Saturday | 3:30-4:50 pm

Sunday | 4:30-5:50 pm | Available by appointment

ST. MARTIN DE PORRES

3300 Table Mesa Dr, Boulder

Monday-Friday after 8:30 am Mass

Wednesday | 5:00-6:00 pm during Holy Hour

Saturday | 3:30-4:30 pm

READING RECOMMENDED FOR LENT

Joseph Ratzinger

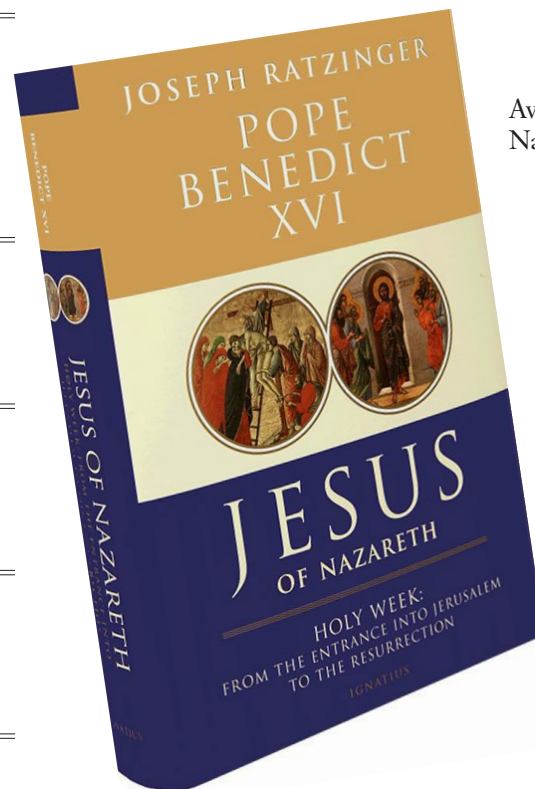
Pope Benedict XVI

Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week—From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection



“Only in this second volume do we encounter the decisive sayings and events of Jesus’ life.... I...hope that I have been granted an insight into the figure of our Lord that can be helpful to all readers who seek to encounter Jesus and to believe in him.”

Pope Benedict XVI



Available at the
Nativity Bookstore

Why was Jesus rejected by the religious leaders of his day? Who was responsible for his death? Did he establish a Church to carry on his work? How did Jesus view his suffering and death? How should we? And, most importantly, did Jesus really rise from the dead and what does his resurrection mean? The story of Jesus raises many crucial questions.

Benedict brings to his study the vast learning of a brilliant scholar, the passionate searching of a great mind, and the deep compassion of a pastor's heart. In the end, he dares readers to grapple with the meaning of Jesus' life, teaching, death, and resurrection.



ALTAR SERVER TRAINING OPPORTUNITY!

WHEN:

Trainings will be available on
Mondays at 10:15–11:00 am
January 30–May 22
(with the exception of holidays).

REQUIREMENTS:

Attend **TWO** trainings
(ideally back-to-back)—the first
will be a class and the second will
be a test.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Sr. Marilú at
sr.marilu@nool.us to give your
permission to Sr Marilú to call out
your child to attend both training
and test.

TRAINER:

Trainings will be conducted by
Luke Hellwig in the Church,
on behalf of Father Emanuele.

SPANISH TEACHER NEEDED

We are looking for a
part time 3rd–5th
grade Spanish teacher
(10 teaching hours a
week) for the last
quarter of the school
year at Nativity: Faith
& Reason.

Contact: **s.calvino@nool.us**

From Father Accu following the 6th Grade Retreat



What do you love? This was the first question I asked this past Wednesday to the 6th graders at the one-day retreat at Sacred Heart of Mary, in Boulder. Each wrote a list of many items on a piece of paper. They were happy to share everything they loved, from their dog to their sports, to God and family.

Then they had to flip the piece of paper and answer a more difficult question: what is the most important thing? Here some of them struggled. Can I really choose between God and my family? One of the kids, trying to keep things together, said, “My family and God is part of that!” What is our heart really made for? What really makes us happy? Is God really the answer to that? This was the theme of the day spent together.

We talked, we wrote, we sang, we watched a witness, we listened to classical music, we played, and we

prayed. Seven hours flew by in an instant. At the end of the day, I felt very happy. This is not my first rodeo, as they say, but I can honestly say that this was probably the best 6th-grade retreat I ever had. The kids were great in the way they stayed together, in the way they fooled around, and in the way they were serious. At the beginning of the day, I challenged them saying, “We only have a few hours together, make ‘em count!” And they did.

My hope is that this Jesus we always talk about at Nativity every single day may become at least a little more of a real presence in their lives and a little less just something they read about in the books.

Fr. Accu



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CHORAL SINGING DURING HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Do you enjoy praying through singing? The Nativity Music Ministry is looking for anyone who has participated in choirs to consider joining our music ministry this season, especially as we prepare for **Holy Week** and **Easter**. Choirs regularly rehearse 45 minutes before masses. **Rehearsals for Holy Week and Easter will begin Thursday, March 9, 7 pm.**

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact: **Elizabeth Leger, e.leger@bool.us**



FAMILIES OF ST. JOHN PAUL II

UPCOMING HALF-DAY TOGETHER!

Sunday, March 5, 2023

NOOL.US/FAMILIES-OF-JPII



ST. JOSEPH FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY MARCH 18 6-9 pm

DINNER, DANCING & GAMES FOR ALL NATIVITY COMMUNITY IN CABRINI HALL

REGISTER HERE



All Nativity Families, Friends, Young Adults and Seniors are invited to spend a fun evening together in Cabrini Hall to Celebrate St Joseph Feast Day!

COST

- 5 and under: FREE
- 6-12: \$10 per person
- 13-64: \$15 per person
- 65+: \$10 per person

Space is limited so be sure to register today at: nool.cbchurch.com/goto/forms/62/responses/new Registration for this event will close on Monday, March 6.

HEAD SACRISTAN JOB OPENING

Nativity is currently accepting applications for full-time Parish Sacristan. This position is responsible for managing the sacristy and requires working five mornings during weekdays and most weekends and Days of Obligation. If interested, please see the full job description at

NOOL.US/LATEST-NEWS/SACRISTAN

With questions, contact

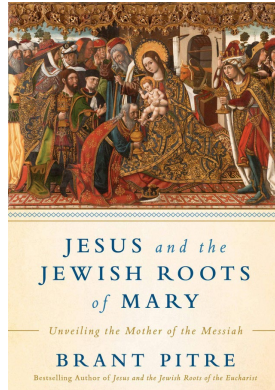
Fr. Emanuele, e.fadini@nool.us.





BIBLE STUDY ON MARY

Are Catholic beliefs about Mary (such as her perpetual virginity, sinlessness, immaculate conception, identity as the Mother of God, and bodily assumption into heaven) new or human inventions? Turns out, they are deeply rooted in ancient Christianity, and ancient Christians got their beliefs about Mary from the Old Testament, not just the New Testament.



Join us to discuss Brant Pitre's book, *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary*. You can choose either the Wednesday afternoon class from 1-2:30 p.m. or the Thursday evening class from 6:30-8 p.m. Classes start on March 22/23 and run through May 17/18. The parish gave us this book a few years ago, so you may not need to purchase it. If you do not already have the book, you may purchase it from the Nativity bookstore for \$10. The registration fee of \$5 will help offset the cost of the study guide.

Register here: nool.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/17/responses/new

Questions? Contact Theresa Cooley cooleyricktherese@msn.com, 720-635-8975 or Steve Moser svmoser55@gmail.com, 989-941-8280.



March, 4th
6 pm
in Cabrini Hall
at Nativity of Our Lord

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY FOR DINNER AND A JOYFUL EVENING TOGETHER!



The event is free but space is limited!

17th
anniversary
of the MSCB

Please pick up your ticket at Nativity from the front desk in the Parish or from the School Office.

MISSIONARY SISTERS OF
ST. CHARLES BORROMEO
denver@missionariesancarlo.org
720 277 2198

40 DAYS FOR LIFE SPRING CAMPAIGN
February 22-April 2, 2023

The 40 Days for Life spring campaign kick-off event will be Sunday, Feb 19 at 2:00 pm at the **Boulder Pregnancy Resource Center, 2334 N. Broadway, Ste. D, Boulder**. The center accepts the following donations of clothes and goods for their clients. At this time, the center is in need of: **new baby clothes, premies to 2T or 3T, especially boys, premie diapers, size 5 and 6 booties and socks, baby product and baby care products (nail kits, lotions, shampoos, etc.)**

A group from Nativity goes to the Boulder abortion clinic on **Tuesday mornings** to pray outside. **We carpool from Nativity at 8:00 am. and return around 10:15 am.** All are welcome to join us. If you have questions, please contact **Eloise and Phil Georgan, 303-469-8156** or eegptg@msn.com.

AVSI 50 years People for development

DONATE

DONATE TO HELP THOSE AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE IN SYRIA AND TURKEY

DONATE HERE

avsi-usa.org/turkeysyriaearthquake

Send funds through AVSI, a Catholic UN recognized NGO specialized in international relief.



WIDOWS LUNCHEON

MARCH 8, 2023 | 12:00 NOON

Please, bring something to drink. After lunch, we will talk about local handyman businesses that we can hire. If you have any questions, call **Mary Baylie** at **303-466-1125**.

MEN'S LENTEN OPPORTUNITY!

Saturday, March 4th, the Omni at Interlocken, Broomfield will be the site of the Catholic Men's Leadership Summit program, "Forming Intentional Disciples." The program will begin with Mass at 8:30 am celebrated by Bishop Jorge Rodriguez, followed by nationally recognized speakers, **Fr. Nathan Cromly**, St. John Institute, **Fr. Robert Spitzer**, President, Magis and Spitzer Centers, **Curtis Martin**, Founder of FOCUS, and **Jared Smyth**. Seating for this event will be by parish and seating is limited. If you've not already signed up, registration and program information can be found below. Many men from our St. Joseph's Men's Ministry, Men of Emmaus, and the Knights of Columbus have already registered for this program scheduled to conclude at 4:00 pm on the 4th. Come join us! Register at **mensleadership.org**.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are three main pillars of Lent. Can you take familiar devotions or practices and perhaps put a new twist or nuance into them? In *20 Out-of-the-Box Things to Do for Lent*, Colin Maclver, author at Ascension Press Media, has some great suggestions. Number 7 is **Do Your Own Stations of the Cross**. Colin explains there are many different ways to do this. Making a journal entry, perhaps you could imagine yourself as a part of the crowd following Christ. You might also identify yourself with a specific character such as Veronica, who wiped the face of Jesus with her veil, or perhaps Simon of Cyrene, who was compelled to help Jesus carry his cross. This Lent and throughout the year, support those in need by being a part of our Nativity St. Vincent de Paul chapter.

Check out: **nool.flocknote.com/svdp** for our meeting times and updates.

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF BROOMFIELD TEAM!

FRIENDS of Broomfield, an organization dedicated to creating opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) through an innovative and person-centered approach, is seeking Direct Support Professionals to join our Day Program team! Our DSP's provide individualized support to assist Day Program participants in building new skills and accessing varied social, recreation, leisure and volunteer opportunities within the community as well as activities in our state-of-the-art building. Check: **www.friendsofbroomfield.org/jobs**

WOMEN'S JOURNEY RETREAT

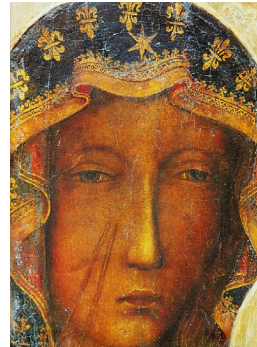
MARCH 10-12, 2023 | ESTES PARK

The 20th annual Women's Journey retreat will be held at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park. For details or to register, visit: **www.coloradocatholicretreats.org**.

For questions, please contact:

Patti Hayes at **phayes@spiritofchrist.org** or **720-608-1607**.

Carpooling is available upon request by March 5th; contact **Karen Smoody** at **ksmoothie56@gmail.com** or **303-588-0461**.



PILGRIMAGE

CONTEMPLATE THE SPIRITUAL TREASURES OF POLAND

SEP 17-OCT 1, 2023

WITH FR. PIOTR MOZDYNIEWICZ

Shrine of Divine Mercy, St. John Paul II, Czestochowa, St. Maximilian Kolbe..., and much more!

Price for full package: \$3,275

(Land only: \$2,005)

Based on double occupancy. Add \$420 for single.

Total package includes: Daily Mass and spiritual conferences, accommodations and meals, transportation and airfare, entrance fees and taxes, English speaking tour and local guides. Seats are Limited! Questions? Email: **Mary@Borda.us** for details.

Biuro turystyczne POLONIA, **biuro@polonia.travel.pl**, Szczecin, ul. Mazowiecka 14, Poland.

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JULIA GREELEY

Saturday, March 18, 2023, 10 am-3 pm

Please Join Us for a Lenten Pilgrimage: Walking in the Footsteps of Julia Greeley

This Pilgrimage honoring Denver's Secret Angel of the Poor will travel 22 miles by commercial tour bus to the candidate for canonization's tomb in Immaculate Conception Cathedral Basilica, by way of 17 sites known to have been frequented by her, with longer stops at her boarding house, Sacred Heart Church, and the Cathedral. At each site, and often in between, Fr. Blaine will give information on Julia's life and virtues. Seating is limited, tickets are **\$100/per pilgrim**. To reserve your seats please visit: **https://cpma.ejoinme.org/juliagreeley** or call **303-477-5436**.

To learn more about Julia Greeley, please visit the amazing EXHIBIT in the Nativity's Cabrini Hall.

MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2023

Lenten Penance and the Synodal Journey



Dear brothers and sisters!

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke all recount the episode of the Transfiguration of Jesus. There we see the Lord's response to the failure of his disciples to understand him. Shortly before, there had been a real clash between the Master and Simon Peter, who, after professing his faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, rejected his prediction of the passion and the cross. Jesus had firmly rebuked him: "Get behind me, Satan! You are a scandal to me, because you do not think according to God, but according to men!" (Mt 16:23). Following this, "six days later, Jesus took with him Peter, James and John his brother and led them away to a high mountain" (Mt 17:1).

The Gospel of the Transfiguration is proclaimed every year on the Second Sunday of Lent. During this liturgical season, the Lord takes us with him to a place apart. While our ordinary commitments compel us to remain in our usual places and our often repetitive and sometimes boring routines, during Lent we are invited to ascend "a high mountain" in the company of Jesus and to live a particular experience of spiritual discipline - *ascesis* - as God's holy people. [...] In his "retreat" on Mount Tabor, Jesus takes with him three disciples, chosen to be witnesses of a unique event. He wants that experience of grace to be shared, not solitary, just as our whole life of faith is an experience that is shared. For it is in togetherness that we follow Jesus. Together too, as a pilgrim Church in time, we experience the liturgical year and Lent within it, walking alongside those whom the Lord has placed among us as fellow travellers. Like the ascent of Jesus and the disciples to Mount Tabor, we can say that our Lenten journey is "synodal", since we make it together along the same path, as disciples of the one Master. For we know that Jesus is himself the Way, and therefore, both in the liturgical journey and in the journey of the Synod, the Church does nothing other than enter ever more deeply and fully into the mystery of Christ the Saviour.

And so we come to its culmination. The Gospel relates that Jesus "was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light" (Mt 17:2). This is the "summit", the goal of the journey. At the end of their ascent, as they stand on the mountain heights with Jesus, the three disciples are given the grace of seeing him in his glory, resplendent in supernatural light. That light did not come from without, but radiated from the Lord himself. The divine beauty of this vision was incomparably greater than all the efforts the disciples had made in the ascent of Tabor. [...]

The disciples' experience on Mount Tabor was further enriched when, alongside the transfigured Jesus, Moses and Elijah appeared, signifying respectively the Law and the Prophets (cf. Mt 17:3). The newness of Christ is at the same time the fulfilment of the ancient covenant and promises; it is inseparable from God's history with his people and discloses its deeper meaning. In a similar way, the synodal journey is rooted in the Church's tradition and at the same time open to newness. Tradition is a source of inspiration for seeking new paths and for avoiding the opposed temptations of immobility and improvised experimentation.

The Lenten journey of penance and the journey of the Synod alike have as their goal a transfiguration, both personal and ecclesial. A transformation that, in both cases, has its model

in the Transfiguration of Jesus and is achieved by the grace of his paschal mystery. So that this transfiguration may become a reality in us this year, I would like to propose two "paths" to follow in order to ascend the mountain together with Jesus and, with him, to attain the goal.

The first path has to do with the command that God the Father addresses to the disciples on Mount Tabor as they contemplate Jesus transfigured. The voice from the cloud says: "Listen to him" (Mt 17:5). The first proposal, then, is very clear: we need to listen to Jesus. Lent is a time of grace to the extent that we listen to him as he speaks to us. And how does he speak to us? First, in the word of God, which the Church offers us in the liturgy. May that word not fall on deaf ears; if we cannot always attend Mass, let us study its daily biblical readings, even with the help of the internet. In addition to the Scriptures, the Lord speaks to us through our brothers and sisters, especially in the faces and the stories of those who are in need. Let me say something else, which is quite important for the synodal process: listening to Christ often takes place in listening to our brothers and sisters in the Church. Such mutual listening in some phases is the primary goal, but it remains always indispensable in the method and style of a synodal Church.

On hearing the Father's voice, the disciples "fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Rise, and do not be afraid.' And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone" (Mt 17:6-8). Here is the second proposal for this Lent: do not take refuge in a religiosity made up of extraordinary events and dramatic experiences, out of fear of facing reality and its daily struggles, its hardships and contradictions. The light that Jesus shows the disciples is an anticipation of Easter glory, and that must be the goal of our own journey, as we follow "him alone". Lent leads to Easter: the "retreat" is not an end in itself, but a means of preparing us to experience the Lord's passion and cross with faith, hope and love, and thus to arrive at the resurrection. Also on the synodal journey, when God gives us the grace of certain powerful experiences of communion, we should not imagine that we have arrived - for there too, the Lord repeats to us: "Rise, and do not be afraid." Let us go down, then, to the plain, and may the grace we have experienced strengthen us to be "artisans of synodality" in the ordinary life of our communities.

Dear brothers and sisters, may the Holy Spirit inspire and sustain us this Lent in our ascent with Jesus, so that we may experience his divine splendour and thus, confirmed in faith, persevere in our journey together with him, glory of his people and light of the nations.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 January, Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul

Source: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/len/documents/20230125-messaggio-quaresima.html>



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Saturday

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Sunday

7:30 am

9:30 am

Vigil Mass

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11:30 am

5:00 pm

CONFESSION

Thursday

5:00–6:00 pm

Saturday

8:00–9:30 am

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Sunday

30 min before weekend Masses

PARISH OFFICE

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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**

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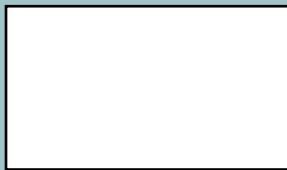


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