

Giotto, *Cycle of the Life of Christ; The Washing of Feet*, fresco, 1303, Scrovegni Chapel, Padua, Italy

"THE FATHER
WHO DWELLS
IN ME IS
DOING HIS
WORKS."

JN 14:10



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD | MAY 7, 2023
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
NOOL.US | (303) 469-5171

MASS TIMES

MONDAY-FRIDAY

7:00 am

9:30 am (livestreamed)

WEDNESDAY SCHOOL MASS

8:15 am

SATURDAY

9:30 am (livestreamed)

VIGIL MASS

4:30 pm

SUNDAY

7:30 am

9:30 am (livestreamed)

11:30 am

5:00 pm

CONFESSION

THURSDAY:

5:00-6:00 pm

SATURDAY

8:00-9:30 am

3:00-4:30 pm

SUNDAY

30 min before Masses

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MAY 6

9:30 am † Khuyen Hudson by Her Son

4:30 pm † Tillie Chavez by Family

SUNDAY, MAY 7

7:30 am Missionary Sisters of St. Charles
Borromeo by Carol Sullivan

9:30 am People of the Parish

11:30 am † Alyssa Calvino
by Nativity Faculty & Staff

5:00 pm † Thomas Fattor
by Joe & Carol Dankey

MONDAY, MAY 8

7:00 am † Francis Ries by Daughter

9:30 am † John McMichael
by Terri McMichael

TUESDAY, MAY 9

7:00 am † Patricia Ries by Daughter

9:30 am Kandice Matheson by Mom

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

7:00 am † Butch Cravens
by Paul VanHoudt

9:30 am † Karin Speck
by Nancy & Jurgen Ulrich

THURSDAY, MAY 11

7:00 am † Frances Blazon by Jerome

9:30 am † Dominic Petrocco
by Terri Brown

FRIDAY, MAY 12

7:00 am Benson Family by Mom

9:30 am Ami Abbott healing
by Patty Gutierrez

SATURDAY, MAY 13

9:30 am Nicolas Rask & Sarah
McDonough wedding by Mom

4:30 pm Savio Nguyen Birthday
Blessings by Thu Van

SUNDAY, MAY 14

7:30 am † Thomas Fattor

9:30 am People of the Parish

11:30 am † Gerald & Mary Coufal

5:00 pm † Marian Hire by Maria Rask

WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS FOR RECENTLY DECEASED:

† Sharon Rickords

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her!

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PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MAY 7

8:00 am | CL

11:00 am | Parishioners' Rosary

11:00 am | RCIA

3:00 pm | CL Assembly

6:00 pm | GS High School

MONDAY, MAY 8

10:00 am | ENDOW

10:30 am | Women's Guild Meeting

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, MAY 9

10:00 am | CGS 3 Tues Level I Sess 1

1:00 pm | Adult Tuesday Bible Study

4:00 pm | CGS 4 Tues Level I Sess 2

6:30 pm | Venturers

7:30 pm | CLU/CL University Students

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

5:30 am | St. Joseph Men's Prayer Group

8:15 am | ENDOW

1:00 pm | *Jesus & Jewish Roots of Mary*

6:15 pm | Boy Scouts Tr. 766

6:15 pm | Divorce Support Group

THURSDAY, MAY 11

7:30 am | Morning with Mom

6:00 pm | CGS Family BBQ

6:00 pm | Stephen Ministry

6:30 pm | *Jesus & Jewish Roots of Mary*

7:30 pm | CL

FRIDAY, MAY 12

7:30 am | Antony Pougnet Men's Group

7:30 am | Men of Emmaus

9:00 am | ENDOW

1:00 pm | Great Adventure Bible Study/CL

SATURDAY, MAY 13

8:00 am | CL

8:00 am | Marian Cenacle

8:50 am | Pro Life Rosary

SACRISTY LAUNDRY

Rita Eichner

COLLECTION COUNTERS

Mon, May 8 | 10:00 am

Don Larson

Pat Green

Steve Moser

Tom Green

Vickie Villegas

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8 am-5 pm

FRONT DESK:

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8 am-8 pm

SATURDAY: 8 am-3:30 pm

Phone: (303) 469-5171

Fax: (303) 469-5172

School: (303) 466-4177

900 W. Midway Blvd.
Broomfield, CO 80020



PRIEST/DEACON VISIT

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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



"HAIL, FULL OF GRACE!" (LK 1:28)



May is the month of Mary, also our Patron saint under the title of the Immaculate Conception. Not many people know that this dogma is strongly linked to our history as Americans and it

had quite some repercussions on the rest of the Church. In 1846, all the American bishops requested that the Pope make the Immaculate Conception the patron saint of the USA. This caused Pope Pius IX to issue an official document, called *Ineffabilis Deus*, in which he officially declared Mary as the Immaculate Conception in 1854. The dogma of the Immaculate Conception states that:

The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stains of original sin.

(Pius IX, *Ineffabilis Deus*, December 8, 1854)

This means that Mary never had original sin, thanks to a special grace from God. The word immaculate comes from the Latin word *macula*, which means stain. Immaculate, therefore, means without stain. In this case, the stain it refers to is the stain of original sin.

This conception shouldn't be confused with the virginal conception of Jesus, in which Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, without the intervention of a man, leaving Mary a virgin. The Immaculate Conception is about when Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb. Mary's parents are St. Joachim and St. Anne and their feast day is on July 26. This is the feast day of all grandparents. Therefore, the Immaculate Conception refers to the fact that Mary was conceived without original sin. This is a particular grace that Mary enjoyed at her conception.

This is also the meaning of the greeting of the Archangel Gabriel when he greeted Mary saying, "Hail, full of grace!" (Lk 1:28). The way the Pope declared this dogma was a bit surprising because he used his full authority in a way that was quite shocking since there had not been an ecumenical council or any other apparent reason for it. This started a debate that led to an ecumenical council trying to understand what the authority of the Pope was. This was the First Vatican Council, which began on December 8, the day of the Immaculate Conception, 1869.

The most important decision that was made there is that on certain matters, the Pope can speak with the special assistance of the Holy Spirit, and therefore anything he says is correct and without any mistakes. This special assistance the Pope has is called infallibility. The matters the Pope can speak about in this way are faith and morality, that is what we have to believe in and what we have to do so that we can go to heaven. When the Pope speaks with all his authority on faith and morality, he speaks *ex-cathedra*, which translates from the chair, meaning the chair of St. Peter.

Fr. Accursio Ciaccio



Fra Angelico, *The Annunciation*, tempera on panel, 1433-1434 (detail); Museo Diocesano in Cortona; US PD

Tota pulchra es Maria *You Are Completely Beautiful, Mary*

4th century prayer/hymn, based on text from the book of Judith, and from Song of Songs, specifically 4:7

Tota pulchra es, Maria
Et macula originalis non est in te.
Tu gloria Jerusalem
Tu laetitia Israel
Tu honorificentia populi nostri
Tu advocata peccatorum
O Maria, virgo prudentissima
Mater clementissima
Ora pro nobis, Intercede pro nobis
Ad Dominum Jesum Christum.

**You are all beautiful, Mary,
and the original stain [of sin] is not in you.
You are the glory of Jerusalem,
you are the joy of Israel,
you give honour to our people.
You are an advocate of sinners.
O Mary, Virgin most wise,
Mother most merciful.
Pray for us, Plead for us,
To the Lord Jesus Christ.**



Detail of illuminated manuscript from *Liber choralis S. Leonardi*, US PD

DAILY READINGS

SATURDAY, MAY 6

Reading 1: Acts 13:44-52
Psalm: 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4
Gospel: Jn 14:7-14

SUNDAY, MAY 7

Reading 1: Acts 6:1-7
Psalm: 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
Reading 2: 1 Pt 2:4-9
Gospel: Jn 14:1-12

MONDAY, MAY 8

Reading 1: Acts 14:5-18
Psalm: 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16
Gospel: Jn 14:21-26

TUESDAY, MAY 9

Reading 1: Acts 14:19-28
Psalm: 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21
Gospel: Jn 14:27-31a

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

Reading 1: Acts 15:1-6
Psalm: 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5
Gospel: Jn 15:1-8

THURSDAY, MAY 11

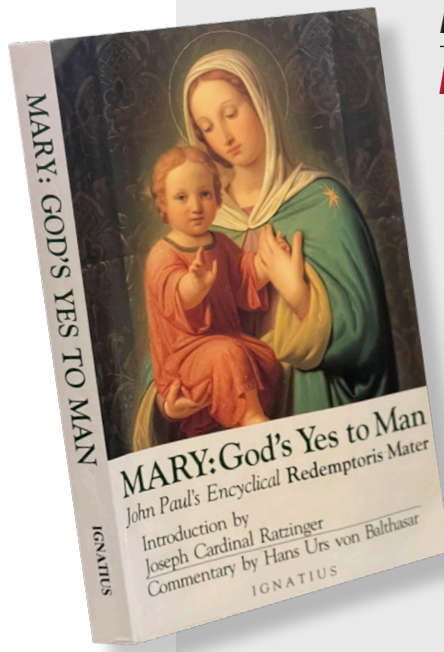
Reading 1: Acts 15:7-21
Psalm: 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10
Gospel: Jn 15:9-11

FRIDAY, MAY 12

Reading 1: Acts 15:22-31
Psalm: 57:8-9, 10 and 12
Gospel: Jn 15:12-17

SATURDAY, MAY 13

Reading 1: Acts 16:1-10
Psalm: 100:1b-2, 3, 5
Gospel: Jn 15:18-21



MAY READING

MARY: GOD'S YES TO MAN

Pope John Paul II's only encyclical on our Blessed Mother, with introduction by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, and commentary by one of the world's leading Catholic theologians, Hans Urs von Balthasar.

'In her Yes to the birth of God's Son from her own womb, through the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary makes her body, her very self, into the place of God's presence. In this Yes, therefore, Mary's will and the Son's will coincide. Through the one accord of "Yes", "A body you have prepared for me," the Incarnation becomes possible.' (from Ratzinger's *Introduction*)

Available at the Parish bookstore starting Saturday, May 14, 2023 or sooner.



Join, TODAY, the growing number of parishioners who abide in relationship with Christ and share His fruit with a monthly recurring gift to the Archbishop's Catholic Appeal by visiting www.archden.org/givetoday or call 303-867-0614.



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STEWARDSHIP
NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

I am struck by today's responsorial psalm:

"Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you."

It's beautiful. As we move forward on our stewardship journey, realizing all we have comes from God, we need to trust him. It's hard; especially when we decide to add to our prayer routine or fully tithe our treasure. Looking at our finances sometimes we wonder how we can make tithing work? Giving 10% of our income to God, upfront, not waiting to see what is left over can be scary. Here is where we need to trust.

But I find more in this psalm to be beautiful as it relates to stewardship. We make commitments whether it be of time or treasure, we fall behind or forget, this is when I am thankful for God's mercy. Don't fret or give up. Know God is with you. Start again and pray.

God, give me the strength to trust in you and help me to start again with the commitments I have made. Amen.

PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US IN MAY

MONDAY-FRIDAY
AFTER 7 AM & 9:30 MASS

SATURDAY, 8:50 AM

SUNDAY, 11 AM

May is traditionally dedicated in a special way to honoring and seeking the intercession of Mary as the Mother of God and Mother of the Church. Special times of prayer are being offered and all are encouraged to add the Rosary into their daily routine. Come, pray the Rosary with us!



MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE



On Memorial Day this year, Nativity and the Knights of Columbus will hold a ceremony in honor of all deceased military veterans who were immediate family members of our current parishioners. The service will take place following the 9:30 Mass on Monday, May 29, 2023.

If there are any family members you would like recognized, please complete the form found at the link below by Monday, May 22, 2023.

WWW.NOOL.US/MEMORIAL-DAY

Questions? Please contact Steven Peixoto at stevepex@gmail.com.



FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Pope Francis calls life a “journey of preparation” for heaven. On our way, it is comforting to know our Good Shepherd Jesus will guide us in good times as well as in the times when we struggle.

Consider the life of St. Camillus de Lellis (1550–1614). Franciscan media says Camillus was “not a likely candidate for sainthood.” He had a rough childhood and loved gambling. He had his father's temper and as a teenager joined his father in the Venetian military where he fought against the Turks. St. Camillus also incurred a leg wound that would not heal. The military unit of St. Camillus disbanded, and later St. Camillus hit rock bottom at 24. He gambled away everything he had. A Capuchin friar, however, saw something good in Camillus, who was serving as a laborer at his friary. The young man began to have a conversion. Later St. Camillus became a caregiver at a hospital in Rome. Eventually at 34, St. Camillus was ordained a priest, and he came to found his own order the Camillians, who helped to care for the sick. The Camillians notably also came to staff medical field units in battle. St. Camillus initiated medical reforms in the areas of cleanliness, diet, and infectious diseases. He is considered the patron saint of the sick, nurses, and hospitals, and also assists those who have problems with gambling. Empathy inspired St. Camillus to reach out and help others.

To check out how our Nativity chapter of St. Vincent de Paul also helps those in need, check out NOOL.FLOCKNOTE/SVDP for meeting times and updates.

RESPECT LIFE: NATIVITY OF OUR LORD "BABY SHOWER"

MOTHER'S DAY/MAY 14 THROUGH FATHER'S DAY/JUNE 18

To support children, new mothers, and families in need, we will be collecting donations for Marisol in Lafayette, Boulder Pregnancy Resource Center, and Marisol Family (Formerly Gabriel House) in Boulder, from Mother's Day through Father's Day. Please drop off donations in the crib in the gathering area. The following items are needed:

Diapers (Newborn – sz. 5, especially need NB and sz. 4 and 5; Wipes (unscented/sensitive skin); Baby lotions, shampoos, washes; Baby bath towels, wash cloths; Diaper rash products; Newborn nasal aspirators; Pacifiers; Bibs; Knit caps; Booties/shoes/socks (NB – age 2); Bottles; Enfamil formula; Baby clothes (boys & girls, NB-2T), specific request for summer; Burp cloths; Blankets; Swaddling/receiving blankets; Nursing pads; Nursing pillows (Boppy brand); Diaper bags; Maternity clothes, new or gently used.

All items must be new, except for maternity clothes, and with tags on (if applicable).

Questions? Please contact:
Janet Carpenter
janetacarpenter@comcast.net

June 5–9, 2023
MIDDLE SCHOOL
SUMMER VACATION

YMCA of the Rockies
Snow Mountain Ranch
Granby, CO
Cost: \$550
Open to anyone entering grades 6–9 in the fall of 2023
MORE INFORMATION: WWW.NOOL.US/MIDDLE-SCHOOL

REGISTER

Totus Tuus
SUMMER CATECHETICAL EXPERIENCE

[www.nool.us/totus-tuus](http://WWW.NOOL.US/TOTUS-TUUS)

REGISTER

GRADES 1–6 | JUNE 26–30, 9 AM–2:30 PM
GRADES 7–12 | JUNE 25–29, 7–9 PM
Totus Tuus (Latin for “Totally Yours”) is a summer youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through catechesis, Christian witness, and a ton of fun!

Register for FREE today at nool.formed.org. **FORMED**



Our Parish is blessed with 102 children who received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion on Saturday, April 29, 2023.

"Confirmation, like every Sacrament, is not the work of men but of God, who cares for our lives in such a manner as to mould us in the image of his Son, to make us capable of loving like him."

"When we welcome the Holy Spirit into our hearts and allow him to act, Christ makes himself present in us and takes shape in our lives; through us, it will be he – Christ himself – who prays, forgives, gives hope and consolation, serves the brethren, draws close to the needy and to the least, creates community and sows peace. Think how important this is: by means of the Holy Spirit, Christ himself comes to do all this among us and for us. That is why it is important that children and young people receive the Sacrament of Confirmation."
—Pope Francis

RESTORED ORDER 2023

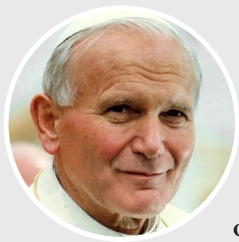


"REMEMBER, AS I SAID, THAT THIS IS THE SACRAMENT OF YOUR FIRST COMMUNION, NOT OF YOUR LAST."

"REMEMBER THAT JESUS IS ALWAYS WAITING FOR YOU."
—POPE FRANCIS



*"Beauty
will
save
the
world"*



'In today's liturgy, the first words of our hymn were "Tota pulchra es Maria": you are all beautiful, O Mary. In the presence of this beauty, perhaps we find ourselves thinking of the words of the great Fyodor Dostoevski, who wrote that beauty can save the world: your beauty, Mary, which is expressed in the Immaculate Conception. We entrust our city, the Church and the whole world to you. May you be the "Tota Pulchra" who guides us in all hope through the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 towards the future, because you, O Mary, are the Mother of hope.'

Pope John Paul II
December, 1998



**MAY CROWNING
MAY 1, 2023**



NEW MAY TRADITION AT NATIVITY

THE PILGRIM VIRGIN MARY

The Missionary Sisters have started a new May tradition at Nativity: praying the rosary together in your house to honor Our Lady. The Sisters bring an Icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe to your home at 7:30 pm, pray the rosary with you, your friends, and your neighbors, then they leave the icon at your house until the next day.





NATIVITY
FAITH & REASON

WWW.SCHOOL.NOOL.US



CALL TODAY
303-466-4177

With questions about admission or to schedule a tour, contact

Shannon Spinuzzi
s.spinuzzi@nool.us

COME & SEE!



school.nool.us/enroll

School Updates, April 28, 2023

Dear Nativity Families,

As we near the end of the school year, we would like to share updates on the staffing changes for the upcoming academic year. One of our central goals this year was to strengthen our community, and one of the most important parts of this was forming a healthy staff environment. We are thrilled to report that our efforts have been successful, as staff have reported high rates of satisfaction and growth in working at Nativity.

Over 90% of our staff will be returning next year, and their knowledge and expertise will be foundational to continue delivering an outstanding education to our students. We are grateful for the dedication and commitment of our staff, and we believe that their contributions will continue to make our school a great place for learning and growth.

We have some exciting news to share with you, as we welcome our new staff members to our Nativity community.

Elizabeth Devaney will be taking on the role of Director of Advancement and Communication. She brings with her a wealth of experience in marketing and communication, as well as being a mother of four students at our school. We look forward to seeing her use her skills to benefit our community.

Jane Proulx will be our new art teacher for grades 2-8. She has over 20 years of teaching experience in public and Catholic schools, and a Masters in Art Education. We are excited to see the creativity and passion she will bring to our students. We are still looking for a part time art teacher for the lower grades.

2023-2024 ENROLLMENT IS OPEN!

Tracie Lindoerfer, a familiar face in our school, will be taking on the role of Kindergarten Aide. She has worked in various roles in our school over the years and is the mother of two Nativity graduates. We are grateful for her dedication and commitment to our school.

Lauren Bergier, another parent in our community, will be our new school librarian next year. She has a love for reading, previously worked as the director of Religious Education at St. Louis, and has a PhD in literature. We can't wait to see the enthusiasm and knowledge she brings to our library.

Finally, we are sad to announce that our science teacher, **Krista Napierkowski**, will be leaving at the end of the year to pursue a medical degree. We are excited for her new journey, but will miss her dearly. We want to thank her for the outstanding job she has done in putting together an exceptional curriculum and for the love and energy she has shown our students.

As a result of Ms. Napierkowski's departure, we are looking for a Middle School Science teacher for next school year. Please help us advertise for this position and direct any quality candidates our way.

We are excited for these new changes and the positive impact they will have on our school community. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to another great academic year.

Sebastian Calvino, Principal





MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 2023 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS | APRIL 30, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters, dear young people!

This is now the sixtieth time that we are celebrating the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, established by Saint Paul VI in 1964, during the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council. [...] This year I would ask you, in your reflection and prayer, to take as your guide the theme “Vocation: Grace and Mission.” This Day is a precious opportunity for recalling with wonder that **the Lord’s call is grace, complete gift, and at the same time a commitment to bring the Gospel to others.** We are called to a faith that bears witness, one that closely connects the life of grace, as experienced in the sacraments and ecclesial communion, to our apostolate in the world. Led by the Spirit, Christians are challenged to respond to existential peripheries and human dramas, ever conscious that the mission is God’s work; it is not carried out by us alone, but always in ecclesial communion, together with our brothers and sisters, and under the guidance of the Church’s pastors. For this has always been God’s dream: that we should live with him in a communion of love.

“CHOSEN BEFORE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD”

The apostle Paul opens before us a remarkable horizon: in Christ, God the Father “**chose us before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will**” (Eph 1:4-5). These words allow us to glimpse life at its fullest: God has “conceived” us in his image and likeness and desires us to be his sons and daughters. We were created by love, for love and with love, and we are made for love.



In the course of our lives, this call, which is part of the fibre of our being and the secret of our happiness, comes to us by the work of the Holy Spirit in ever new ways. It enlightens our minds, strengthens our wills, fills us with amazement and sets our hearts afire. **At times, the Spirit comes to us in completely unexpected ways.** So it was for me when, on 21 September 1953, as I was on my way to an annual school celebration, I was led to stop by a church and go to confession. That day changed my life and left a mark that has endured to the present day. God’s call to the gift of self tends to make itself known gradually: in our encounter with situations of poverty, in moments of prayer, when we see a clear witness to the Gospel, or read something that opens our minds. [...]



The Lord’s initiative and his gracious gift call for a response on our part. Vocation is “**the interplay between divine choice and human freedom,**” a dynamic and exciting relationship between God and the human heart. The gift of vocation is like a divine seed that springs up in the soil of our existence, opens our hearts to God and to others, so that we can share with them the treasure we ourselves have found. **This is the fundamental structure of what we mean by vocation: God calls us in love and we, in gratitude, respond to him in love.** We realize that we are beloved sons and daughters of the one Father, and we come to see ourselves as brothers and sisters of one another. Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, when at last she “saw” this clearly, exclaimed, “At last I have found my calling: my call is love. Indeed, I have found my proper place in the Church... In the heart of the Church, my Mother, I will be love.”

“I AM A MISSION ON THIS EARTH”

God’s call, we said, includes a “sending.” There is no vocation without mission. There is no happiness and full self-realization unless we offer others the new life that we have found. God’s call to love is an experience that does not allow us to remain silent. Saint Paul says, “Woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!” (1 Cor 9:16). And the First Letter of John begins with the words, “What we have heard and seen, looked at and touched – the Word made flesh – we declare also to you, so that our joy may be complete” (cf. 1:1-4).

[...] This missionary activity does not arise simply from our own abilities, plans and projects, nor from our sheer willpower or our efforts to practice the virtues; it is the result of a profound experience in the company of Jesus. [...] The Gospel icon of this experience is that of the two disciples journeying to Emmaus. After their encounter with the risen Jesus, they said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the Scriptures to us?” (Lk 24:32). In those disciples, we can see what it means to have “hearts on fire, feet on the move”. This is also my fervent hope for the coming World Youth Day in Lisbon, to which I joyfully look forward, with its motto: “Mary arose and went with haste” (Lk 1:39). May every man and woman feel called to arise and go in haste, with hearts on fire.

CALLED TOGETHER AND CONVENED

The evangelist Mark relates the moment when Jesus called to himself twelve disciples, each by name. He appointed them to be with him and to be sent out to proclaim the message, to heal infirmities and to cast out demons (cf. Mk 3:13-15). The Lord thus laid the foundations of his new community. The Twelve were people from different social classes and trades; none of them was a person of influence. The Gospels speak too of other callings, like that of the 72 disciples whom Jesus sent out two by two (cf. Lk 10:1). The Church is an Ecclesia, the Greek word for an assembly of persons called and convened, in order to form the community of missionary disciples of Jesus Christ committed to sharing love among themselves (cf. Jn 13:34; 15:12) and spreading that love to all others, so that God’s kingdom may come.

Within the Church, all of us are servants, in accordance with the variety of our vocations, charisms and ministries. Our common vocation to give ourselves in love develops and finds concrete expression in the life of lay men and women, devoted to raising a family as a small domestic church and working as a leaven of the Gospel to renew the different sectors of society; in the testimony of consecrated women and men who are completely committed to God for the sake of their brothers and sisters as a prophetic sign of the kingdom of God; in ordained ministers—deacons, priests and bishops—placed at the service of preaching, prayer and fostering the communion of the holy People of God. **Only in relation with all the others, does any particular vocation in the Church fully disclose its true nature and richness. Viewed in this light, the Church is a vocational “symphony,” with every vocation united yet distinct, in harmony and joined together in “going forth” to radiate throughout the world the new life of the kingdom of God.**

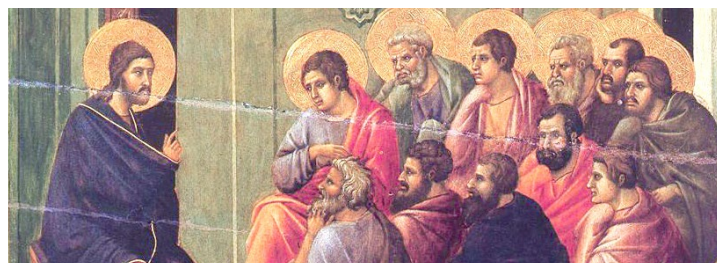
GRACE AND MISSION: A GIFT AND A TASK

Dear brothers and sisters, vocation is a gift and a task, a source of new life and true joy. [...] The Spirit of the risen Lord dispels our apathy and grants us the gifts of sympathy and empathy. In this way, he enables us to live each day born anew as children of the God who is love (cf. 1 Jn 4:16) and in turn to offer that love to others. To bring life everywhere, especially in places of exclusion and exploitation, poverty and death, in order to enlarge the spaces of love, so that God may reign ever more fully in this world. May the prayer that Saint Paul VI composed for the first World Day of Vocations, 11 April 1964, accompany us on our journey:

“O Jesus, divine Shepherd of souls, you called the apostles and made them fishers of men. Continue to draw to yourself ardent and generous souls from among the young, in order to make them your followers and your ministers. Give them a share in your thirst for the redemption of all... Open before them the horizons of the entire world... By responding to your call, may they prolong your mission here on earth, build up your Mystical Body which is the Church, and be ‘the salt of the earth’ and ‘the light of the world’ (Mt 5:13).”

May the Virgin Mary watch over you and protect you. With my blessing. Pope Francis

Source: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/vocations/documents/20230430-messaggio-60-gm-vocazioni.html>



IMAGES

Page 9: Fra Angelico, *The Annunciation*, tempera on panel, 1433–1434 (detail); Museo Diocesano in Cortona; US PD

Page 10: Duccio, *Christ Taking Leave of the Apostles*, tempera on wood, c. 1310 (detail); Museo dell'Opera del Duomo, Siena; US PD

PARISH STAFF | GENERAL PHONE: (303) 469-5171

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

Fr. Matteo Invernizzi, FSCB
m.invernizzi@nool.us | ext. 104

Associate Pastor

Fr. John Roderick, FSCB
j.roderick@nool.us

Deacons:

Dcn. Huan Nguyen
h.nguyen@nool.us

Dcn. David Arling

d.arling@nool.us

Sisters

**Srs. Teresa, Marilú,
Mariagrazia**
sisters@nool.us

Parish Sacristan

Marylou Sivigliano
m.sivigliano@nool.us | ext. 136

Assistant Sacristan

Ron Kaiser
r.kaiser@nool.us

Executive Assistant to the Pastor

Roberta Hebert
r.hebert@nool.us | ext. 142

School Principal

Sebastian Calvino
s.calvino@nool.us | ext. 141

Business Manager

Kyle Hubbart
k.hubbart@nool.us | ext. 108

Accounting and HR Manager

Carol Sullivan
c.sullivan@nool.us | ext. 109

Accounting Assistants:

Suzie Sloan
s.sloan@nool.us | ext. 140

Candy Gritz

c.gritz@nool.us | ext. 119

Faith Alive Direct Number

(303) 731-0425

Director of Faith Formation

Fr. Matteo Invernizzi, FSCB
m.invernizzi@nool.us | ext. 104

Director of Religious Education

Diane Irby
d.irby@nool.us | ext. 103

Assistant Director of Faith Formation

Beverly Ketchel
b.ketchel@nool.us | ext. 104

Parish Registrar

Merrilyn Sikora
m.sikora@nool.us | ext. 110

Director of Stewardship

Diane Denfeld
d.denfeld@nool.us | ext. 106

Director of Communications

Urszula Lukaszuk
u.lukaszuk@nool.us | ext. 135

Director of Development

Ilene DuBey
i.dubey@nool.us | ext. 116

IT Specialist

Jim DuBey
j.dubey@nool.us | ext. 115

Administrator of Front Desk

Bonnie Skelton
b.skelton@nool.us | ext. 100

Admin. Assistant, Front Desk

Lindsay Smith
l.smith@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

Children's Choir Director

Ryan Guerrieri
r.guerrieri@nool.us

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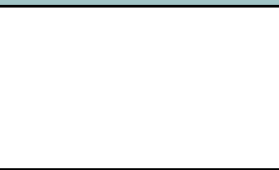
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