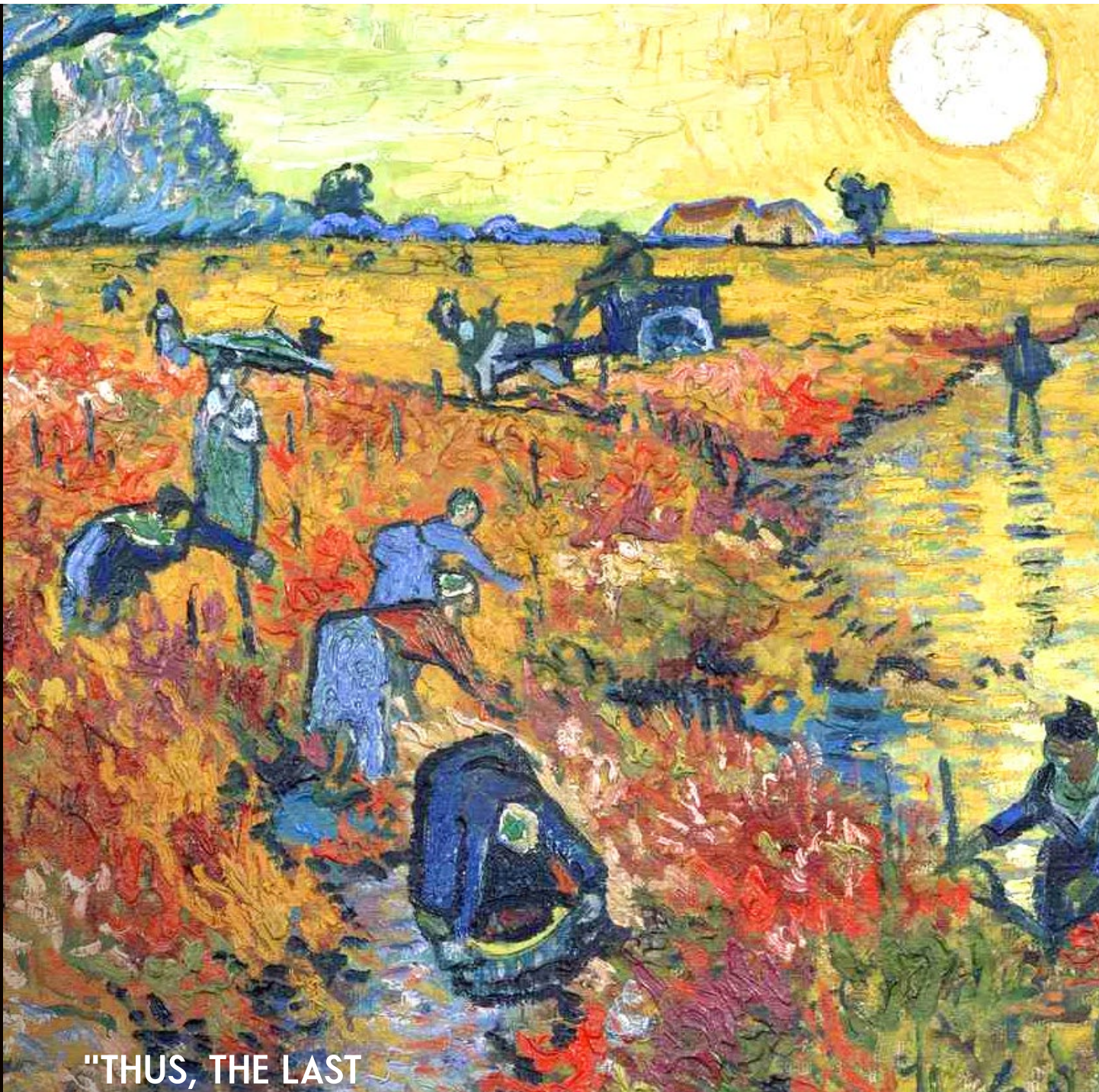


Vincent van Gogh, *The Red Vineyard*, oil on canvas, 1888, detail; Pushkin Museum of Fine Art, US PD



"THUS, THE LAST
WILL BE FIRST,
AND THE FIRST
WILL BE LAST."

MT 20:16A



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD | SEP 24, 2023

25TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

NOOL.US | (303) 469-5171

MASS TIMES

MONDAY-FRIDAY

7:00 am
9:30 am (livestreamed)
School Mass: Wednesday, 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

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



SACRISTY LAUNDRY
Myra Aksamit

COLLECTION COUNTERS
Mon, Sep 25 | 10 am

Steve Moser
Susan Martinez
Cathy Suppes
Ann McGinness

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL PRAYER INTENTION:

FOR FATHER EMANUELE FADINI, FSCB

AS HE PREPARES FOR HIS INSTALLATION AS NATIVITY'S PASTOR NEXT SUNDAY

Gracious God,

You have nourished and protected your Church by providing it with pastors who are stewards of your word and sacraments. Strengthen our brother, Fr. Emanuele Fadini, as he prepares to begin a new ministry among us, and help us all to follow your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

IN THE CHURCH:

THURSDAY

12:00-6:00 pm

SOLEMN HOLY HOUR:

5:00-6:00 pm with *Confession* and *Vespers*

Benediction: 5:55 pm

IN THE CHAPEL:

OPEN FOR WALK-INS

MONDAY-FRIDAY

8:00 am-5:00 pm

We are working toward our goal of perpetual adoration, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Please sign up at:

www.nool.us



VISITING THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Do you know or do you have someone in your family who is sick or homebound, cannot attend Sunday Mass regularly, and desires to receive sacraments of penance and Eucharist? Please do not hesitate to contact Nativity to schedule a visit of a priest or Eucharistic Minister at (303) 469-5171.

GOING TO THE HOSPITAL

If you are 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.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

8:00 am † Janina & Alojzy Węgrzyn
by Węgrzyn Family

9:30 AM MASS MOVED TO 8:00 AM

4:30 pm † Wes Miller
by Scott & Melinda Tewksbury

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

7:30 am Jim DuBey Speedy Recovery
by Mary & Denise

9:30 am People of the Parish

11:30 am † Gertrude Begler
by Jerald Begler

5:00 pm † Kathleen Jensen
by The Ketchels

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

7:00 am Merrilyn Sikora by Mary Baylie

9:30 am † Betty Doyle by Sally Fitterer

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

7:00 am Health of MichaelAnn Vaughn
by John Beutler

9:30 am Souls in Purgatory by Parishioner

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

7:00 am Souls in Purgatory by Thanh Le

9:30 am Souls of the Ancestors by La

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

7:00 am † Dr. Eugene Sermak
by Tom & Lysa Sermak

9:30 am † Betty Benson
by Loving Friends

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

7:00 am Brian Le by Thanh Le

9:30 am All Souls in Purgatory by La

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

9:30 am Steve Fischel

4:30 pm † Betty, James, and Elisabeth
Doyle by Sally Fitterer

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

7:30 am Special Intention

9:30 am People of the Parish

11:30 am † Deceased Widows of
Widow's Group by Mary Baylie

5:00 pm † Mike Hartney



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Last Sunday, in my homily, I invited all of you to renew or make a new commitment to prayer for the year as part of our initiative to grow in the Stewardship of Prayer and Faith, Time and Talent, and Treasure. In consideration of what prayer is, I read an excerpt from the catechesis of St. John Maria Vianney, which has been a source of inspiration for my personal experience of prayers in the past years. As described here, the countless miracles and the many conversions that God worked through this saint resulted from his silent prayer. I offer you the entire excerpt, hoping that it may be helpful for your life of prayer and a source of encouragement if you are going through a period of aridity in your prayer experience.

My little children, reflect on these words: the Christian's treasure is not on earth but in heaven. Our thoughts, then, ought to be directed to where our treasure is. This is the glorious duty of man: to pray and to love. If you pray and love, that is where a man's happiness lies.

Prayer is nothing else but union with God. When one has a heart that is pure and united with God, he is given a kind of serenity and sweetness that makes him ecstatic, a light that surrounds him with marvelous brightness. In this intimate union, God and the soul are fused together like two bits of wax that no one can ever pull apart. This union of God with a tiny creature is a lovely thing. It is a happiness beyond understanding. We had become unworthy to pray, but God in his goodness allowed us to speak with him. Our prayer is incense that gives him the greatest pleasure.

My little children, your hearts are small, but prayer stretches them and makes them capable of loving God. Through prayer we receive a foretaste of heaven and something of paradise comes down upon us. Prayer never leaves us without sweetness. It is honey that flows into the soul and makes all things sweet. When we pray properly, sorrows disappear like snow before the sun. Prayer also makes time pass very quickly and with such great delight that one does not notice its length. Listen: Once when I was a purveyor in Bresse and most of my companions were ill, I had to make a long journey. I prayed to the good God, and, believe me, the time did not seem long.

Some men immerse themselves as deeply in prayer as fish in water, because they give themselves totally to God. There is no division in their hearts. O, how I love these noble souls! Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Colette used to see our Lord and talk to him just as we talk to one another.

How unlike them we are! How often we come to church with no idea of what to do or what to ask for. And yet, whenever we go to any human being, we know well enough why we go. And still worse, there are some who seem to speak to God like this: "I will only say a couple of things to you, and then I will be rid of you." I often think that when we come to adore the Lord, we would receive everything we ask for, if we would ask with living faith and with a pure heart.

St John Maria Vianney, pray for us!

Fr. Emanuele Fadini



Albrecht Dürer, *Praying Hands*, 1508, US PD

Psalm 62:2-9

YEARNING FOR GOD

You have made our heart restless, until it rests in You. (St. Augustine)

O God, You are my God, for You I long,
for You my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for You, like a dry, weary land
without water.

So I gaze on You in the sanctuary to see Your
strength and Your glory.

For Your love is better than life, my lips will
speak Your praise.

So I will bless You all my life, in Your name I will
lift up my hands.

My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my
mouth shall praise You with joy.

On my bed I remember You. On You I muse
through the night

for You have been my help; in the shadow of
Your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings to You; Your right hand holds
me fast.

During this year of Eucharistic Revival, all are invited to make Eucharistic Adoration a part of their lives and also to recommit to the life of prayer and faith to strengthen our relationship with the Lord and dare to ask for EVERYTHING.

If you wish to make a prayer pledge, you can do so by scanning the QR code or at:

www.nool.us/stewardship



PARISH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

The morning Mass time has been moved to 8:00 am due to Broomfield Days parade.

7:20 am | Pro Life Rosary
8:00 am | Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle
8:15 am | Communion & Liberation (CL)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

8:30 am | Communion & Liberation (CL)
11:00 am | Parishioners' Rosary
11:00 am | RCIA
1:00 pm | JP2 Families Half-Day Gathering
6:00 pm | GS/High School Youth
6:15 pm | Catholic Young Adults Group

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

1:00 pm | CGS Level 1 & 2
4:00 pm | CGS Level 2
6:30 pm | Catechetical School Class
6:30 pm | New Springtime Charismatic Prayer Group
6:30 pm | Spanish Prayer Group
7:30 pm | St. Joseph Men's Group

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

10:00 am | CGS Level 1
4:00 pm | CGS Level 1, Session 2
4:00 pm | Children's Choir
6:00 pm | RE, 1st-5th Graders
6:30 pm | Adult Catechism Study
6:30 pm | Venturers of the Star

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

5:30 am | St. Joseph Men's Group
8:15 am | ENDOW
12:30 pm | Adult Bible Study:
Eucharist, Discovering Mass in the Bible
4:00 pm | RE, 1st-5th Graders
6:00 pm | Boy Scouts Troop 766
6:00 pm | Stephen Ministry Training
6:30 pm | Healing from Divorce
7:30 pm | Communion & Liberation University Students (CLU)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

12:00 pm | Eucharistic Adoration begins in the Church
12:30 pm | Nativity Staff
Communion & Liberation (CL)
4:30 pm | CGS Special Needs
6:00 pm | Stephen Ministry
6:15 pm | Adult Confirmation Class
6:30 pm | Adult Bible Study:
Eucharist, Discovering Mass in the Bible

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

7:30 am | Men of Emmaus
9:00 am | ENDOW
10:00 am | Communion & Liberation (CL)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

8:00 am | Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle
8:15 am | Communion & Liberation (CL)
8:50 am | Pro Life Rosary
10:00 am | Grieving with Great Hope Workshop
1:00 pm | Communion & Liberation University Students (CLU) Barbecue

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

8:30 am | Communion & Liberation (CL)
11:00 am | Parishioners' Rosary
11:00 am | RCIA
11:30 am | Mass of Father Emanuele's Installation as Nativity's Pastor by Archbishop Aquila followed by a gathering with light refreshments in Cabrini Hall
6:00 pm | GS/High School Youth
6:15 pm | Catholic Young Adults Group

DAILY READINGS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Memorial of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest (Padre Pio)
Reading 1: 1 Tm 6:13-16
Psalm: 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5
Gospel: Lk 8:4-15

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Reading 1: Is 55:6-9
Psalm: 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18
Reading 2: Phil 1:20c-24, 27a
Gospel: Mt 20:1-16a

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Reading 1: Ezr 1:1-6
Psalm: 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6
Gospel: Lk 8:16-18

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Reading 1: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20
Psalm: 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5
Gospel: Lk 8:19-21

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Memorial of Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest
Reading 1: Ezr 9:5-9
Psalm: Tobit 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8
Gospel: Lk 9:1-6

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Reading 1: Hg 1:1-8
Psalm: 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b
Gospel: Lk 9:7-9

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, archangels
Reading 1: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalm: 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5
Gospel: Jn 1:47-51

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Memorial of Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Reading 1: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a
Psalm: Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12ab, 13
Gospel: Lk 9:43b-45

For programs and events at Nativity, please visit:

www.nool.us

FATHER EMANUELE'S INSTALLATION AS NATIVITY'S PASTOR BY ARCHBISHOP AQUILA

SUNDAY, OCT 1, 2023
11:30 MASS

Followed by a gathering with light refreshments in Cabrini Hall.

All are invited!



Pasce Oves Meas (Feed My Sheep), mural in the church of St Mary Abbott in London

PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

In this process of being conformed to Christ in the Rosary, we entrust ourselves in a special way to the maternal care of the Blessed Virgin. She who is both the Mother of Christ and a member of the Church, indeed her "pre-eminent and altogether singular member," is at the same time the "Mother of the Church." As such, she continually brings to birth children for the mystical Body of her Son. She does so through her intercession, imploring upon them the inexhaustible outpouring of the Spirit. Mary is the perfect icon of the motherhood of the Church.

— St. John Paul II
Rosarium Virginis Mariae

WELCOME TO NATIVITY!

Michael B.
Sofia P., Milton P., Joaquin P.,
Guadalupe P.
Kassandra C., Aria D., Mercedes C.
Elizabeth N., Tuan N.
Kelly W., Heidi W., Dean W.
Jeffrey S.
Joshua K., Grace K., Benjamin K.

7 NEW FAMILIES IN AUGUST

If you wish to register as a parishioner, go to:

www.nool.us
or scan the QR code



"BEAUTIFUL EUCHARIST" NATIVITY WOMEN'S RETREAT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023
8 AM–LUNCH

Please join us for a half-day retreat, to be held at Nativity, open to women 16 years and older, with Fr. John Roderick as a speaker. Continental breakfast and lunch are provided. Cost: \$25.00. Due to limited space, no childcare will be available. Please register at and pay by October 2, 2023 at

www.nool.us/upcoming-events

If you have questions, please contact Merrilyn Sikora at merrilyn.sikora@gmail.com.

REGISTER



The retreat is organized by Nativity's Women's Guild that provides fellowship and service opportunities for women of the parish.



FROM SACRED MUSIC DIRECTOR: CALL FOR CHORAL SINGERS

In a speech from 2010, Pope Benedict XVI said, "music is capable of opening minds and hearts to the dimension of the spirit and leads people to lift their gaze to the Most High, to open themselves to the absolute Good and Beauty whose ultimate source is in God." (Speech 04.29.10)

At Nativity, we cover 900 years of sacred music, ranging from chant to praise and worship, traditional hymns to sacred classical music. Liturgical music points to the encounter with God present among us, inviting us to enter into prayer as we respond to the presence of Christ.

All of our choirs rehearse 45 minutes before the start of each weekend Mass. In addition, the 9:30 am and 11:30 am Sunday choirs each rehearse for an hour on Thursday evenings. If you are interested in learning more about our choirs, please reach out to me at f.proulx@nool.us.

We hope you will join our growing music community!

Frederick Proulx, music director

WOMEN'S GUILD CRAFT FAIR: NOVEMBER 11–12, 2023

Handcrafted items are needed. Please consider donating your wares. They can be dropped off at the front desk.

If you are interested in having a booth at the Craft Fair, please contact Merrilyn at merrilyn.sikora@gmail.com.



FIAT! connects women, especially mothers with younger children, in faith and friendship while deepening our Catholic beliefs and serving others.

JOIN US FOR UPCOMING EVENTS:

– Moms with littles get together
Friday, September 29, 10 am
Email Rachel Bradley for location at rbradley810@gmail.com

– Making welcome bags for Marisol Health moms
Friday, September 29, 7 pm
Email Anne Gray for location at abcgray@hotmail.com

– Mom after school play date
Friday, October 13, 3:30 pm.
Please join FIAT! Mom Flocknote for location:

nool.flocknote.com/flat

– Evening Sandwich making for the Holy Ghost sandwich line
Thursday November 2, 7–8:45 pm (after Nativity Nights).
Great volunteer opportunity for kids that need hours!



Pledge Online



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
STEWARDSHIP
PLEDGE CARD

PRAYER & FAITH

FROM KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Pictured with Fr. Julius and Deacon Huan are:
Front Left to Right: Deacon Huan Nguyen,
District Master Dave Davis, Fr. Julius Lule;
Rear Left to Right: Fellow Sir Knights Tom Farlow,
Leo Armenta, Robert Bruchez, Ron Reidl, Ed Donohoe

On Saturday, August 12th, the Colorado Knights of Columbus District Master, Dave Davis, conducted the Patriotic Exemplification for Fr. Julius Lule and Deacon Huan Nguyen at Nativity of Our Lord in Broomfield, Colorado.

These new Sir Knights are members of the Nativity of Our Lord's St. Charles Borromeo Assembly. They are the men who have chosen to embrace the Order's fourth principle of patriotism, the men who lead the efforts to reach out to veterans and active military and to embody the fact that one can be a faithful Catholic and also be a faithful citizen. When the Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882, three principles united its members: charity, unity and fraternity. At that time people feared that members of the Catholic faith owed their entire allegiance to the Church and could not be trusted as citizens of their country. Patriotism was added to the Order's principles in 1900, based on the idea that Knights are loyal to both God and country. Members who wish to live out patriotism together can join "the Fourth Degree." Members of this degree have the special honor of holding the title "Sir Knight," participating in color and honor guards and organizing programs that promote Catholic citizenship.

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS ICE CREAM SOCIAL FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 6-7 PM | MIDWAY PARK

American Heritage Girls is a Christ-centered character and leadership development program for girls in K-12. AHG is dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community, and country. Our scouting troop meets twice monthly here at Nativity. If you would like to find out more about AHG and our troop, come check us out for an Ice Cream Social at Midway Park, Friday, September 29, from 6 to 7 pm.

More information about AHG can be found at www.AmericanHeritageGirls.org

FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

"Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels." Hebrews 13:2

This week we celebrate the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul, apostle of the poor, on September 27. St. Vincent de Paul was born to a peasant family in the Gascony region of France. He was bright in his studies. Under the guidance of the Franciscans, he was ordained a priest in 1600. Vincent is recognized particularly for his founding of Confraternities of Charity that reached out to help the less fortunate. The embrace of this work was wide. He extended help to the poor, orphans, the sick, those physically as well as mentally ill, and prisoners. He provided vocational training for boys and girls. In helping the aged, Vincent was also praised as being "ahead of his time." In this great outreach, he was also assisted by a very special woman, St. Louise de Marillac, with whom he cofounded the Daughters of Charity in 1633. The Daughters of Charity particularly focused on "visiting, feeding, and nursing the needy." Vincent led a full life, and passed away in the fall of 1660.

Vincent said, "Charity is the cement which binds communities to God and persons to one another." Just as the archangel Raphael took on human form to help Tobit and Tobias in the Old Testament, we never know when a helping hand will provide encouragement and faith. For more information on our local Nativity of Our Lord St. Vincent de Paul chapter, see our Flocknote Service at FLOCKNOTE.COM/SVDP for meeting times and updates.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

SEPTEMBER 27–NOVEMBER 5, 2023

The kick-off event for the Boulder campaign will be Friday, October 6 at Sacred Heart of Mary church in Boulder at 5:00 pm. This will be held at the wall for the unborn memorial. Suzie LaVelle will speak about these babies she rescued. Also, speaking will be students from Colorado Christian University. All are welcome to attend!

A group from Nativity prays at the Boulder late term abortion clinic every Tuesday morning. We invite you to join us. We ask that you pray and ask God if He is calling you to be a witness to His mercy and love for the mothers going in to abort their babies. A man passing by our group stopped and said "thank you for doing this. You give me hope."

If you have any questions about this please call Phil and Eloise Georgen at 303-469-8156, eegptg@msn.com or Janet Carpenter, 720-939-7192, janetacarpenter@comcast.net.

For more information about the fall campaign or to sign up to commit to praying, go to 40daysforlife.com/boulder.



Join us!
September 30, 2023

Eucharistic
Procession & Benediction

Join Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila in a Procession with the Blessed Sacrament around Planned Parenthood three times for an end to abortion.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 | 10–11 AM
MEET US AT 9:45 AM
ON PONTIAC STREET
ACROSS FROM
7155 E. 38TH AVE. DENVER CO, 80207

QUESTIONS!

Contact:

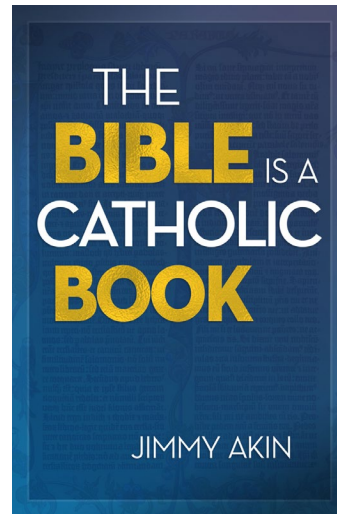
Maria Elisa Olivas, 40Days@ccdenver.org, 720.799.9265



TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

UPCOMING NEW SESSION STARTING OCTOBER 17, 2023

The Bible is a Catholic Book
by Jimmy Akin



In *The Bible Is a Catholic Book*, Jimmy Akin shows how the Bible cannot exist apart from the Church. In its origins and its formulation, in the truths it contains, in its careful preservation over the centuries and in the prayerful study and elucidation of its mysteries, Scripture is inseparable from Catholicism. *The Bible Is a Catholic Book* will help you better understand and take pride in this gift that God gave the world through the Church. We are the original Bible Christians!

The study group meets on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm at Nativity. To register or to receive more information, please contact Cyndi Beckingham at dcbeckingham@msn.com, 303-466-0519



Is seeking volunteers to pray the rosary with residents of new assisted living center, The Gallery. Volunteers work in teams of two. We are over 200 volunteers praying in more than 80 nursing facilities throughout the Denver Metro area. And we need more people like YOU! Please consider joining this ministry endorsed by Archbishop Aquila.

Visit our website at www.therosaryteam.org or email us at therosaryteam@gmail.com.

A non-profit 501(c)(3)



Register for FREE today
at nool.formed.org.

FORMED



NATIVITY

FAITH & REASON



NOVEMBER 11, 2023, 5 PM

OMNI INTERLOCKEN HOTEL
500 INTERLOCKEN BLVD. |
BROOMFIELD, CO 80021

YOU'RE INVITED!

We would love to see ALL of our community at the Gala, from grandparents, to uncles, to friends, to parishioners. As a school, we are honored to partner with you to live out our mission, raising saints and scholars.

ABOUT THE GALA

Nativity's Gala is our largest fundraiser. Even more than a fundraiser though, it is a night to join together as a community to remember *why* we invest in our children with Catholic education, and how Nativity is 60 years strong.

The cocktail-attire event includes:

- Online silent auction (more info to come on all the don't-miss items and how to bid!)
- Cocktail hour (a wonderful opportunity to catch up with and meet new friends!)
- Delicious plated dinner
- Exciting live auction and paddle raise

GALA FUNDS

Money raised at the Gala goes straight to the school. Tuition does not cover all of the school's operating expenses. Our fundraising goal from the Gala is \$200,000 this year.

Warmly,
Sebastian Calvino, school principal



TICKETS

Altar serving at Nativity is purely voluntary, and our students love being involved in the Mass! "The altar server occupies a privileged place in the liturgical celebration. He [or she] experiences firsthand that Jesus Christ is present and active in every liturgical act."
—Saint Pope John Paul II

"How does being a student lead you to the Truth of God?" This week's formation lesson continues on the virtue of studiousness: seeking knowledge to grow closer to God. In small groups, students discussed how to study, and how growing closer to God is to become more of oneself.



COME & SEE!

school.nool.us/enroll

CALL TODAY
303-466-4177



With questions about admission or to schedule a tour, contact
Shannon Spinuzzi
s.spinuzzi@nool.us

Our school is built on the pillars of Faith & Reason, following the guidance of St. John Paul II expressed in the Encyclical Letter, *FIDES ET RATIO*:

"Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth."



LORD, YOU KNOW ME



POPE FRANCIS
GENERAL AUDIENCE
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2020

CATECHESIS ON PRAYER – 6 THE PRAYER OF JACOB

We all have an appointment with God in the night, in the night of our life, in the many nights of our life: dark moments, moments of sin, moments of disorientation. There is an appointment there with God, always. He will surprise us at the moment we do not expect him, when we find ourselves truly alone. That same night, struggling against the unknown, we will realize that we are only poor men and women—“poor things,” I dare say—but right then, in that moment in which we feel we are “poor things,” we need not fear: because God will give us a new name, which contains the meaning of our entire life; he will change our heart and will offer us the blessing reserved to those who have allowed themselves to be changed by him. This is a beautiful invitation to allow ourselves to be changed by God. He knows how to do so, because he knows each one of us. Each of us can say, “Lord, you know me.” “Lord, you know me. Change me.”

Let us continue with our catechesis on the subject of prayer. Through the occurrences of men and women from a far-off time, the Book of Genesis tells us stories in which we can reflect our lives. [...] The biblical account tells us about the difficult relationship Jacob had with his brother Esau. [...] Jacob is the second-born son—they were twins—but through deceit he manages to obtain the blessing and birthright of their father Isaac (cf. *Gen 25:19-34*). [...]

Forced to flee far from his brother, he seems to succeed in every undertaking in his life. He is adept at business: he greatly enriches himself, becoming the owner of an enormous flock. With tenacity and patience he manages to marry Laban’s most beautiful daughter, with whom he is truly in love. Jacob – as we would say in modern terms – is a “self-made” man; with his ingenuity, his cunning, he manages to obtain everything he wants. But he lacks something. He lacks a living relationship with his own roots.

And one day he hears the call of home, of his ancient homeland, where his brother Esau, with whom he has always had a terrible relationship, still lives. Jacob sets out, undertaking a long journey with a caravan of many people and animals, until he reaches the final leg, the Jabbok stream. [...] And he ponders: What awaits him the following day? What attitude will his brother Esau, whose birthright he had stolen, assume? [...] And, as it is growing dark, a stranger suddenly grabs him and begins to wrestle with him. The Catechism explains: “From this account, the spiritual tradition of the Church has retained the symbol of prayer as a battle of faith and as the triumph of perseverance.” (ccc, 2573)

Jacob wrestles the entire night, never letting go of his adversary. In the end he is defeated, his sciatic nerve is struck by his opponent, and thereafter he will walk with a limp for

the rest of his life. That mysterious wrestler asks the patriarch for his name and tells him: “Your name shall no more be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.” (*Gen 32:28*) As if to say: you will never be the man who walks this way, but forthright. He changes his name, he changes his life, he changes his attitude. You will be called Israel. Then Jacob also asks the other: “Tell me, I pray, your name.” The other does not reveal it to him, but blesses him instead. Then Jacob understands he has encountered God “face to face.” (vv. 29-30)

Wrestling with God: a metaphor for prayer. [...] That night, through a lengthy struggle that nearly makes him succumb, the patriarch emerges changed. [...] For once he is no longer master of the situation [...]. God returns him to his truth as a mortal man [...]. For once Jacob has nothing but his frailty and powerlessness, and also his sins, to present to God. And it is this Jacob who receives God's blessing, with which he limps into the promised land: vulnerable and wounded, but with a new heart. Once I heard an elderly man – a good man, a good Christian, but a sinner who had great trust in God – who said: “God will help me; he will not leave me alone. I will enter Heaven; limping, but I will enter.” At first, Jacob was a self-assured man; he trusted in his own shrewdness. He was a man who was impervious to grace, resistant to mercy; he did not know what mercy was. [...] **But God saved what had been lost. He made him understand that he was limited, that he was a sinner who needed mercy, and He saved him.**

Source: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200610_udienza-generale.html

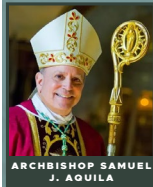


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September is National Suicide Prevention month. Suicide is a national health problem and currently ranks as the second leading cause of death for ages 10-44. Suicide is also one of the most preventable types of death in our nation. Rates of suicide in the United States have risen and suicide continues to be a leading cause of death worldwide. In 2021 alone, 48,183 lives were lost to suicide (CDC Suicide Data and Statistics, 2023). Please consider making a difference by obtaining information, participating in a suicide prevention walk, reading stories or videos of survivors, learning the facts and screening questions and advocating for suicide prevention. Visit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention at <https://afsp.org> for details. If you or someone you love has a mental health condition, the following resources are available:

National Mental Health Hotline: Call 24/7 to 988 or Text the word "TALK" to 38255. **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** Call 24/7 to 1-800-273-8255 or www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat. **Mental Health America:** Free prevention strategies. <https://www.mhanational.org>. **Safe2 Tell:** For students, parents and community members: 1-877-542-7233. **Interfaith Network on Mental Illness (INMI):** Offers education and consultation for ways to understand the importance of spirituality in recovery from mental health conditions: www.inmi.us. **Hope Coalition-Suicide Prevention:** [www.hopecoalitionboulder.org](http://hopecoalitionboulder.org). **PsychHub:** <https://psychhub.com>. The Hope Corner is a mental health ministry committed to instilling hope and reducing stigma.

Please contact The Hope Corner with any questions or comments by contacting **Becky Kusick, MA, LPC** at, hopecornerministry@gmail.com or 303-907-6499.



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