

308 Second Street • Irwin, PA 15642
 "A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust"

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg



Parish Office Hours: 8:00 am to 3:30 pm

Anointing of the Sick

The sacrament is available during Confession hour and after each Mass per request.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony must contact a priest of the parish one year in advance of the wedding. Diocesan regulations require that couples begin to work with the parish at least one year prior to a wedding.

Sacrament of Baptism

Families of our parish who wish to have their child baptized should call the parish office to register for Baptism Prep. Please call well in advance of birth of your child.

Confessions – Anytime by appointment

Tuesdays: 5:15 pm – 6:15 pm; Saturdays: 9:00 am – 10:00 am

January 10, 2021

The Feast of The Baptism of the Lord

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 10

- 7:00 am Dan Martin (Family)
- 8:30 am Stephen Noll (Javor)
- 10:00 am Dan & Anne Kapanak (Lorraine)
- 11:30 am Our Parish Family

Monday, January 11

- 7:45 am Robert Moineau (Bob & Jeanne)

Tuesday, January 12

- 7:45 am Betty Lou Sullivan (Irene)
- 6:30 pm Chris Alfer (Wife)

Wednesday, January 13

- 7:45 am Joe Stipanovic (Maria Lio)

Thursday, January 14

- 7:45 am Clarence Heidler (Lorraine)

Friday, January 15

- 8:30 am Leo & Pauline Balcerek (Barb & Family)

Saturday, January 16

- 8:00 am William Robert Wilson (Family)
- 4:30 pm Therese Goldrick (Ginny)
- 6:00 pm Our Parish Family

Sunday, January 17

- 7:00 am All People in Need of Prayers (Garbowsky)
- 8:30 am Kathy Montrose (Monday Counters)
- 10:00 am Ken & Flo Rottmund (Family)
- 11:30 am Donald Dwyer (Barb)





Parish Office
724-863-9550
www.icirwin.org



Parish Staff
Pastor

Fr. John Moineau
icfatherjohn@gmail.com

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Roniel Bantugan Duenas
rduenas@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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Susan Cheplic
skcheplic@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Director of Music Ministry

Tyler Randolph
trandolph@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Operation Safe Mode (OSM)

Sunday 8:00 am Mass
www.YouTube.com/operationsafemode

Queen of Angels Catholic School

Jennifer Filak, Principal
One Main Street
North Huntingdon PA
724-978-0144
jfilak@queenofangelssch.org
www.queenofangelssch.org

Diocese of Greensburg

www.dioceseofgreensburg.org

Catholic Charities

724-837-1840

St. Vincent DePaul

724-691-3711

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

“Better Than Perfect Vision for This New Year”



“Last year our Motto was with “20/20 Vision we will follow the Lord.”

What a great concept and play on words! We started 2020 by distributing plastic Glasses and using them as a reminder of how important it was to approach a new year with perfect vision as Disciples of Christ! For the first six weeks I wrote a series of articles on the disciplines of

prayer and morality as a challenge to mend the impaired vision of peer pressure, relativism, pride and sloth. To follow the Lord we needed focus, perspective and guiderails to stay on the road which was narrow leading to the gate of heaven. All was well with the lessons and we pushed towards the season of lent to apply such a focus along with prayer, fasting and almsgiving, as the sight adjusters! But then Covid-19 restrictions took all that away from us! No real celebration of Lent, Holy Week or Easter in 2020.

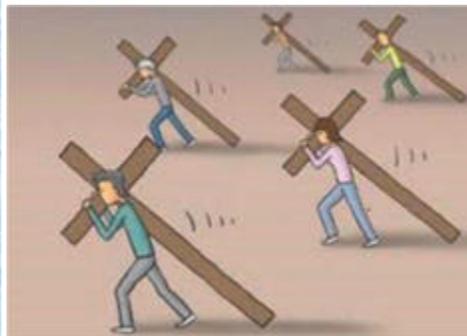
The focus (no pun intended) moved away from active discipleship to a time filled with fear, anxiety and illness! So keeping the motto of 20/20 vision we shifted our attention to “Staying Safe in the Lord” as we tried to follow and learn how to live during a pandemic and months of quarantine.

While the world and our country entered into lock down measures our parishes entered into “**Operation Safe Mode**” and a YouTube channel was invented to guide us through an unprecedented time in History where instruction, communication and Sacred Liturgy would be virtual leaving only a few to attend Mass in person! Staying Safe in the Lord was led by 100’s of produced episodes and Sacred Masses that provide a sense of connection with the parish, the priest and our Lord!



As the year came to an end and with Christmas also compromised we wait in great hopes for a Vaccination program that will bring “Herd Immunity” and an end to this nightmare!

VISION 2021: UNDER THE CROSS OF CHRIST



Don’t throw away the glasses just yet for this year will require better than perfect Vision!! I wish turning the calendar over to a new year would have been the solution to the pandemic, fear, anxiety and the loneliness but it has just heightened the reality that staying safe is not enough for **perseverance** and **self-sacrifice** will continue to weigh heavy on us and our relationships with each other and Christ!

As this year begins I am caught asking myself in prayer:

- How many more Sundays will we miss sharing as a parish family?
- How many more “Spiritual Communion” will be offered instead of tasting the bread of life?

- How many more parish activities will be set aside while taking away the wonderful meals and fellowship that we love to share throughout the year?
- How many more months will we be cooped up in our homes and children isolated from sports activities and maskless gatherings with their friends in the yard?
- How many more lonely nights will our elderly suffer because “Face to Face” visits are prohibited? Can we afford spiritually to be away from another Lenten Season?

Another Easter without singing alleluia? I would propose that each month it will become harder to bear and each month will make us long for the light of day and the resurrection!

This is why our Vision 2021 will be focused on what it means to carry the Cross of Christ and how do we persevere to the end without losing our sense of spiritual purpose and call to holiness. While the darkness and the sense of separation continues, how do we remember that we do not walk alone? We must find comfort where **Saint Simon of Cyrene** found Christ in the darkest moment of human history... Under the cross with Christ sharing the burden that leads to *perfection and eternal life*!! The months ahead cannot be a countdown to the end of a pandemic instead it must be a participation in the path to a greater victory! We may believe we want our lives back as they were but what we need is our new lives better than we had before because with a more precise vision from under the weight of the cross we will experience life again as new, beautiful and worth celebrating in a heightened reality that a day in the Sun is a Day in praise of God! A picnic in the park is a sign of the banquet of heaven. Yes what was great and fun will now be what is precious and God filled love!



20/21 Vision is a Call to Look at Our Feet!



What I have learned from my intense love of the devotion to the Stations of the Cross is that the Journey is difficult and seems to end in crucifixion and death but really prepares us to a life out of darkness into eternal light of our call to follow Christ now knowing the promise that follows! The end of the pandemic should bring hope of a new beginning of sensibilities, experiences of friendship and fervor to celebrate, pray and share at Sacred Mass!!! Yes these things cannot return to normal but they must look like the things first seen and experienced as a child takes its first step, taste and thrill of the human condition! The cross will lead us there and we will be better for it I am sure!!!

Game Plan: Learn of the journey so that the arrival at the end will be victory!

Some try to convince us so often that it is not winning but playing that makes the game fun! That is what the person who always loses says! But more realistically the cliché “No pain no Gain” reflects true spiritual growth and transformation! So what do we need to know about this training “under the cross?”

- Must learn to discern God’s will for us in relationship to the pandemic
- How to overcome fear and replace it with courage
- To trust that in times like these Saints are forged.... And you want to be a Saint
- Learn what each step of the “Way of the Cross” is to teach us about human suffering and eternal Salvation
- Let’s not let this experience of the pandemic be simply an exercise of human endurance but the way to perfection

Following articles will investigate this 2021 vision approach and stay more than “Safe in the Lord” But trust in Him as He transforms us anew!

Sanctuary Candle:

In Memory of Richard Hensler by Family

Easter Flame Candle:

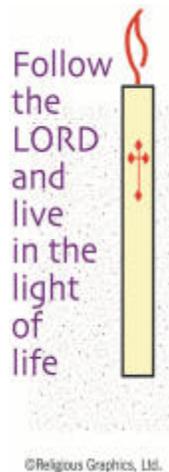
In Memory of Janet Janiro

Divine Mercy Candle:

In Memory of Louis Bodenlos

St. Peregrine Candle:

Intentions of Driscoll Family

Altar Candles for the Month of January:In memory of Langer & Raspotnik Families
by Sandy

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PARISH NEWS

IN OUR AREA

Knights of Columbus Donations for Vocations - St Jude 9019
Knights of Columbus will be collecting for Vocations on January 9-10 after all masses. All monies collected for vocations are in support of the Bishops Project for Vocations, as well as Seminarians in the Greensburg Diocese. Last year we collected \$3,300 from the Parishes of Immaculate Conception, St Agnes, St Elizabeth Ann Seton and St Edwards. From that total last year we gave \$2,300 to the Bishops Endowment for Vocations, and we donated \$1,000 directly to a Designated Seminarian studying for the Priesthood in our Diocese. Thanks for supporting this worthy cause.



Thanks to everyone who took some time from their holiday schedules to help us decorate our church for Christmas...it looks beautiful! Of course, all things must come to an end. On Sunday, January 10, after 11:30 Mass, we could use your help disassembling and packing away the decorations, trees and nativity to prepare for Ordinary Sunday. Hope to see you there!

**The Baptism of the Lord**

Isaiah	55:1-11
Isaiah	42:1-4; 6-7
Acts of the Apostles	10:34-38

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel	3:3b-10, 19
1 Corinthians	6:13c-15a, 17-20
John	1:35-42

Prayers and Sympathy

Please pray for Alan Kunkle on the loss of his sister Joan C. Klassen; Geraldine Furlin on the loss of her son Michael Furlin and the family of Frank Wolfe who recently passed. May they rest in peace.

Eucharistic Adoration is held every Tuesday starting after 7:45 am Mass and continuing all day until 6:15 pm; confessions (5:15-6:15 pm), and Mass (6:30 pm). There are special prayer booklets available containing Prayers for Vocations during adoration. If you need to leave and there is no one else in the church during Adoration, please call the church office at 724-863-9550 and someone will come over. Thank you

Join us for the Divine Mercy Chaplet every Tuesday at 12:00 noon.

Servants of Divine Mercy Outreach - The Servants of Divine Mercy pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for the sick & dying. To request this beautiful Chaplet to be prayed for a specific person call 724-600-5007 or email kstynchula@msn.com

Sunday Mass is aired @ 8:00 am on the "Operation Safe Mode with Father John" YouTube channel.

Reminder that the church is open for private prayer Daily. Come and spend some quiet time with the Lord.

If you have any suspicion about the sexual abuse (or any other type of abuse) of a minor child by anyone — please contact PA Childline immediately at 1-800-932-0313. If the alleged abuser is functioning in a parish, school or diocesan position as clergy, religious, paid staff or volunteer you are also requested to contact the Bishop's Delegate for Matters of Sexual Misconduct after you have called the Childline number and made the report. The Bishop's Delegate may be reached at 724-837-0901, Ext. 1221.

2020 Offertory Statements. If you wish to receive a 2020 Offertory Statement, please call the Parish Office. We will be happy to send you one. Thank you!

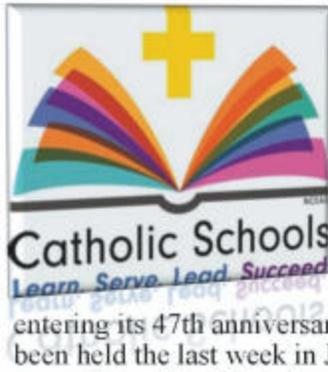


Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray, and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Power of God, cast into hell, Satan and all the evil spirits, who roam about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



Angel's Corner



With the New Year on the horizon, Queen of Angels Catholic School is preparing for a new celebration of Catholic Schools.

National Catholic Schools Week (CSW) is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. Now entering its 47th anniversary year, CSW has traditionally been held the last week in January. We want to help showcase what makes Catholic schools the best when families are looking to find the right school for them. This year we will celebrate January 31 to February 6, 2021. This year's theme is Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence.

ALSO ... A very special virtual open house will be planned... more information to come. Please contact the school office at 724 978-0144 x 2222 with any questions.

Around the Diocese

ST. AGNES Outdoor Mass - is continuing to offer our Parking Lot Outdoor Mass on Sundays at 4:30pm.

Monsignor and Deacon Bill are inside the Narthex for the Mass while you stay in your car and connect with audio through 87.9FM. Holy Communion will be distributed outside under the portico or brought to your car if needed.

St. Agnes - Monthly Grief Support Prayer Gathering held the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm.

Meetings occur either through zoom video conferencing or if permitted, in Resurrection Hall. Contact the main office at 724-863-2626 or Sandy Monier for a zoom conference link or further information, smonier@dioceseofgreensburg.org. Come and encounter the Lord through the scripture and find healing through the Word of God. **One-on-One Grief Support is available upon request.*

ST. AGNES - Respect for Life Day - This year, in 2021, we will not be participating in the Washington DC March for Life due to the uncertainty of COVID. Instead, St. Agnes (North Huntingdon) will be having a **Respect for Life Day** on Friday, **January 29, 2021**, which is the date of the March in DC. The schedule for the day at St. Agnes will be morning Mass at 7:30 a.m. as usual, followed by Adoration throughout the day and the recitation of the Rosary on an hourly basis from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. with different pro-life intentions being offered every hour, and then by ending with an evening Mass at 6:30 pm. All adorers are always welcome for Adoration.

Dementia Support Group - Loved one with Dementia? Feel like you are living 30-hour days? Come to an informal, faith-based gathering of individuals dealing with the care of their loved one with Dementia. Pray together, share mutual challenges, learn new ways to cope and know you are not alone! **Dementia Friendly Faith Community Support Group** meets the **first Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm**. Meetings occur either through zoom video conferencing or if permitted, in Resurrection Hall. Contact the main office at 724-863-2626 or Sandy Monier for a zoom conference link or further information, smonier@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Stretching with Scripture - During the winter months, **Stretching with Scripture**, a body and soul exercise class just for women is offered **every Wednesday at 10am** via Zoom Video Conferencing. It combines gentle exercise with scripture verses for a total body-mind workout. Our presenter is Mary Evers, A.C.E., Certified Group Exercise Instructor. This includes standing postures with some on a mat engaging all the major muscle groups as well as focusing on balance and flexibility. We end with prayer in motion and a meditation. Registration and a zoom link is available by contacting Sandy Monier (smonier@dioceseofgreensburg.org) or Mary Evers (forevermary@comcast.net). Cost for the class is \$5 and paid directly to Mary Evers.

Spiritual Direction - According to the Greensburg Diocese Code of Pastoral Conduct, "*Spiritual Direction is the help or guidance that a person (directee) seeks and another (director) gives over a period of time in the process of growing in a loving relationship with God. This process unfolds under the continual impulse, inspiration, and action of the Holy Spirit. Spiritual direction, therefore, involves three persons: the directee, the director, and the Holy Spirit.*"

Spiritual Direction is now available upon request through the Pastoral Ministry office. Sandy Monier has studied under the guidance of Fr. Tom Acklin OSB since 2008, obtained a MA in Spiritual Direction and is currently working on a Masters Certification in leading individuals through the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises. **Contact Sandy Monier for more information, smonier@dioceseofgreensburg.org or 724-600-6767.**

For more information regarding dates and times for the above Ministries; please contact Sandy Monier at smonier@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

You can also visit their website <https://stagneschurch.info/> for more information.

Thank you!

We are grateful to those who supported our increased stewardship appeal! Thank you to those who have decided to devote your talent to a ministry and others who increased their giving. Your support helps us continue God's work, especially during this difficult time!

Devoting Support ^{to our}
FAITH
Community





IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Irwin, Pennsylvania

Office of Liturgical Music Ministry

THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 10, 2021 - Order of the Mass

ORGAN PRELUDE

Prelude on "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Mary Beth Bennett

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



1. Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to
2. Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Proph - et, Priest, and



you we raise, Man - i - fest - ed by the star
King su - preme; And at Ca - na, wed - ding guest,



To the sag - es from a - far; Branch of roy - al
In your God - head man - i - fest; Man - i - fest in



Da - vid's stem In your birth at Beth - le - hem;
pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;



An - thems be to you ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to you ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.

I (Cantor or choir)

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and on earth peace to peo-ple of good will.

II (Assembly)

We praise you, we bless you, we a-dore you, we glo-ri-fy you,

II

we give you thanks for your great glo-ry, Lord God, heav'n-ly King,

I

O God, al-might-y Fa-ther. Lord Je-sus Christ,

On-ly Be-got-ten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa-ther,

II

you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us;

I

you take a-way the sins of the world, re-ceive our prayer;

II

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther,

I

have mer-cy on us. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One,

you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ,

II

with the Ho-ly Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men. *Slower*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-11

Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water!
You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat;
come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk!
Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy?
Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare.
Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life.
I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David.
As I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of nations,
so shall you summon a nation you knew not, and nations that knew you not shall run to you,
because of the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.
Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near.
Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts;
let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
As high as the heavens are above the earth so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.
For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down
and do not return there till they have watered the earth,
making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats,
so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth;
my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Isaiah 12
Michel Guimont



SECOND READING

1 John 5:1-9

Beloved: Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God,
and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him.
In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments.
For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments.
And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world.
And the victory that conquers the world is our faith.
Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ,
not by water alone, but by water and blood.
The Spirit is the one who testifies, and the Spirit is truth.
So there are three that testify, the Spirit, the water, and the blood, and the three are of one accord.
If we accept human testimony, the testimony of God is surely greater.
Now the testimony of God is this, that he has testified on behalf of his Son.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:7-11

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed:
“One mightier than I is coming after me.
I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.
I have baptized you with water;
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”
It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee
and was baptized in the Jordan by John.
On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open
and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him.
And a voice came from the heavens,
“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HOMILY

CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

EUCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS

Mass for the City

Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly
Lord God of hosts. Heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro-
claim your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

Text: ICEL, © 2010

Music: *Mass for the City*, Richard Proulx, © 1991, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

LAMB OF GOD

Holy Cross Mass

David Clark Isele

Cantor or Choir: Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world,
All: have mer - cy on us. *To repeat* grant us peace. *Last time*

Music: *Holy Cross Mass*, David Clark Isele, © 1979, GIA Publications, Inc.

COMMUNION HYMN

The Spirit of God

The Spir-it of God rests up-on me, The Spir-it of
 God con-se-crates me, The Spir-it of God
 bids me go forth to pro-claim his peace, his joy.

Text: Isaiah 61:1, 2; Luke 4:18-19; Lucien Dessi, C S Sp, b.1921
 Tune: Lucien Dessi, C S Sp, b.1921
 © 1970, 1973, World Library Publications, Inc.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

When John Baptized By Jordan's River

1. When John bap-tized by Jor-dan's riv-er
 2. There as the Lord, bap-tized and pray-ing,
 In faith and hope the peo-ple came, That John and
 Rose from the stream, the sin-less one, A voice was
 Jor-dan might de-liv-er Their trou-bled
 heard from heav-en say-ing, "This is my
 souls from sin and shame. They came to seek a
 own be-lov-ed Son." There as the Fa-ther's
 new be-gin-ning, The hu-man spir-it's age-less
 word was spo-ken, Not in the pow'r of wind and
 quest, Re-pen-tance, and an end of
 flame, But of his love and peace the
 sin-ning, Re-nounc-ing ev-'ry wrong con-fessed.
 to-ken, Seen as a dove, the Spir-it came.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b.1926, © 1984, Hope Publishing Company
 Tune: RENDEZ À DIEU, 9 8 9 8 D; Geneva Psalter, 1551; att. to Louis Bourgeois, c.1510-1561

POSTLUDE

Dance on "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen"

Rebecca Groom Te Velde

“What do you want from me, Lord?”

God gives to us freely, but what does he want in return? Simply put, God wants us to love Him back.

Know Him. God made each of us with a space in our heart just for Him. Until we discover it, we may try to fill it with earthly things, but nothing else fits. When we turn to Him, the reward is beyond our dreams.

Love Him. Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul,



and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37). He wants us to surrender to His infinite love. Show your love by praying frequently, seeking Communion with Him often, and praising Him continually.

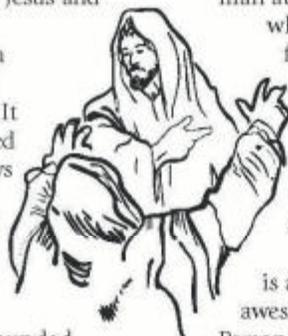
Serve Him. “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40). When we make sure everyone has enough to eat, warm clothes to wear, and a place to stay, Jesus takes it personally. It’s what he wants from us.

from Scripture™

Mark 1:21-28, God’s authority is not a formality

In this Gospel passage, Jesus and his apostles entered the synagogue at Capernaum where Jesus taught those gathered at the Sabbath. It was customary for learned teachers to say, “Thus says the Lord...” Instead Jesus said, “I say to you...” He taught as one who spoke with the authority of God.

His calm authority astounded Jesus’ listeners. Just as they began to wonder what it meant, he gave them a sign. He further demonstrated his authority by performing an exorcism. Spirits that bedeviled an unfortunate



man at the synagogue recognized who Jesus was. They were forced to obey Him when he commanded them to depart, despite their reluctance. In fact, God’s power and authority isn’t just a formality. What God says, happens.

Our kind and gentle Savior is also our powerful and awesome Lord. As the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus has supreme majesty and we will one day appear before Him to be judged. Yes, he is our divine savior and mediator. But if we say, “Jesus is Lord,” then we give Him our loyalty and obedience.

Q & A How can I choose Catholic references that are accurate and faithful?

One good way to determine whether or not a book or pamphlet accurately reflects Catholic doctrine is to look for an “imprimatur” printed in the first few pages of the book. The presence of an



imprimatur generally means that a bishop’s office has determined it to be free of doctrinal or moral

errors. It may be accompanied by a “nihil obstat” (Latin for “nothing stands in the way”) which means that someone well-versed in Catholic theology has reviewed the contents and found the same thing. Keep in mind that neither the imprimatur nor the nihil obstat imply agreement with the content or opinions.

It is particularly important for a book that purports to teach about the faith of the Church to carry the approval of the Catholic Church. There are many well-meaning people who intend to educate others about God’s infinite love, but may have a limited fact understanding of Catholic doctrine. When choosing materials to learn more about our religion, you will want to be sure that they are accurate.

Feasts & Celebrations

Jan. 1 – Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Today, we honor Mary, but also Jesus as God. In their honor, pray a Rosary. Reuse: This feast day is on a Monday. Mass attendance is optional (but encouraged) this year.

Jan. 25 – The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle (1st Century). Setting out for Damascus to carry on the persecution of the Christians, he encountered Christ: (Acts 9:1-9; 22:5-16; 26:12-18) while on the road to Damascus. He was struck blind from

the experience until he was baptized by Ananias three days later. He converted and began preaching the faith as he travelled around the Mediterranean.

Jan. 26 – Sts. Timothy and Titus (1st Century). Timothy was a convert of St. Paul’s and later became his trusted friend, joining him in apostolic work. He was with Paul at the founding of the Church in Corinth. Titus, also a friend of Paul’s, served the early Church as a peacemaker and administrator to a community on Crete.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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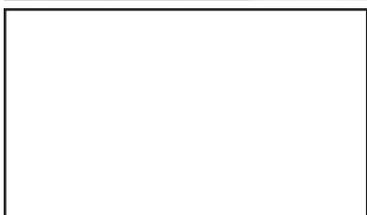
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