

December 14-15, 2024

Santa Catalina

14380 N DRAGLE RD, TUCSON 85739
WWW.SANTACATALINAPARISH.ORG

Catholic Church

A REDEMPTORIST COMMUNITY

Pastoral Team

Fr. Huy Vu, C.Ss.R
Pastor
frhuy@santacatalinaparish.org
Redemptorist Renewal Center

Deacon Flavio Sanchez
Deacon Alfonso De LaRiva
Deacon Steve Letourneaux

Parish Office

(520)-825-9611

Mon-Fri 9:00 am-3:30 pm

Mass Schedule

Daily Mass

Mon-Fri 8:00 am

Weekend Mass

Sat 4:00 pm (Vigil)

Sun 7:00 am

9:00 am

11:00 am (Bi-lingual)

5:00 pm

Reconciliation

Wed 8:45-10:00 am

Sat 2:30-3:30 pm

... or by appointment

Anointing

First Friday of the month

at 8:00 am Mass

... or by appointment

Adoration

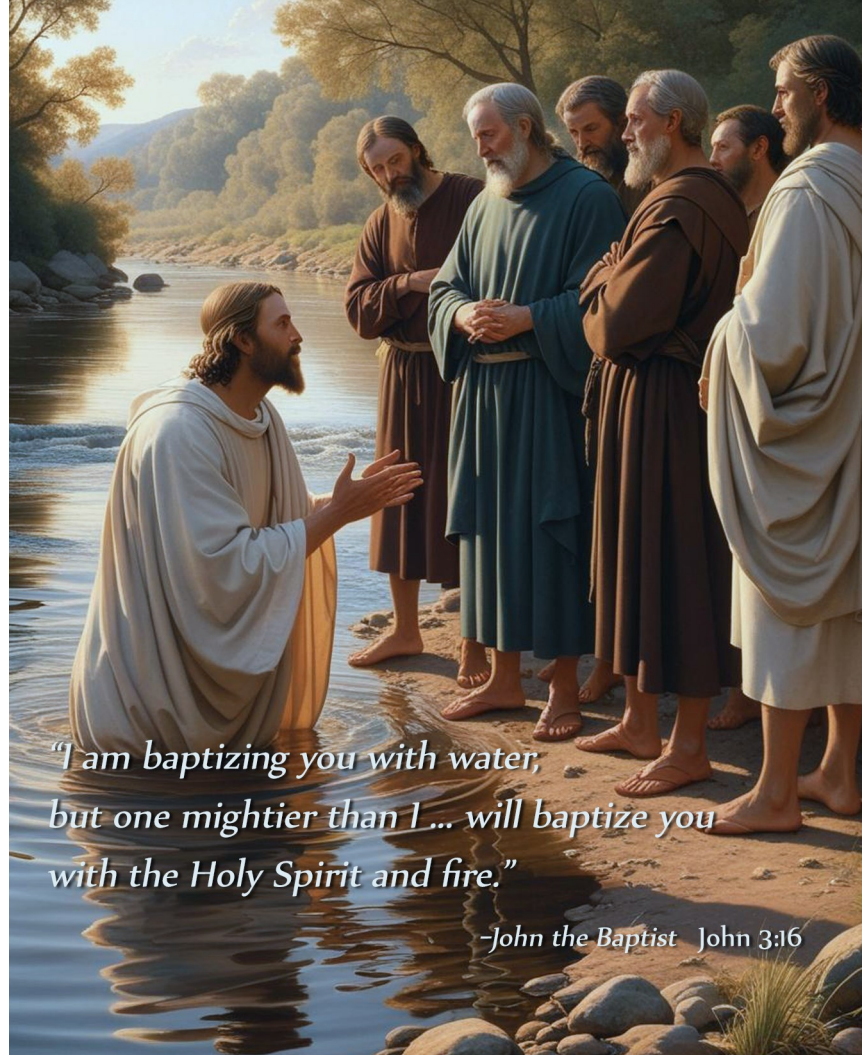
In Church, Wed 8:30 am -8:30 pm

Chapel hours, Mon-Fri

8:00 am-2:30 pm

Rosary in the Church

Mon-Fri 7:30 am



*"I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I ... will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit and fire."*

-John the Baptist John 3:16

Third Sunday of Advent-Gaudete Sunday

Parish Mission:

As members of God's Faith Community at Santa Catalina Catholic Parish, we commit our lives to being the voice, hands, and spirit of Christ, as our way of continuing God's call to love and peace.

Misión Parroquial:

Como miembros de la Comunidad de Fe de Dios en la Parroquia Católica Santa Catalina, comprometemos nuestras vidas a ser la voz, las manos y el espíritu de Cristo, como nuestra forma de continuar el llamado de Dios al amor y la paz.

THIS IS OUR PARISH—ENGAGE—BE PART OF THE VISION

Spiritual

Bible Study Eucharist Adoration Hispanic Ministry Religious Education

Vocations Ministry O.C.I.A. Daily Rosary

Men's Fellowship Women's Prayer

Personal

Mental Health Sassy Solos Yoga Faith

AA Al Anon Arts & Crafts Group

Game Night Outreach Ministry Book Bunch

Pastoral

Altar Servers Arts & Environment GriefShare Eucharist Liturgical Ministry Finance Council

Funeral Ministry Pastoral Council Communion Ministry Sick & Homebound Hospitality Liturgical Ministry

Lector Liturgical Ministry Music Ministry Martha's Kitchen Stephen Ministry

Outreach

Refugees Ministry Care for God's Creation Casa Alitas Casa Maria Prison Ministry

Christ Child Society Dress A Girl Parish Food Collection Prayer Shawl Sr. Jose

Project Linus Quilters Ministry Snack Pack Program Local Immersion Poor Box Troubled Youth

Dignity of Human Life Knights of Columbus St Vincent dePaul SAJM

Contacts

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Meetings and Events This Week

Day	Time	Meeting/Event	Location
Mon, Dec 16	10:00 AM	St Vincent de Paul	Marian Room
	4:00 PM	Music Ministry/choir rehearsal	Church
	5:30 PM	Music Ministry - Bilingual Choir	Church
Tue, Dec 17	4:00 PM	5 PM Mass Choir Rehearsal	Church
	6:00 PM	Men's Prayer Group	Marian Room
	6:00 PM	Women's Prayer Group	Saguaro Room
Wed, Dec 18	8:30 AM	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
	8:45 AM	Reconciliation	Church
	9:00 AM	Cultivando Mi Fe	Mesquite, Ocotillo Rooms
	10:00 AM	St Vincent de Paul	Marian Room
	1:00 PM	Understanding Sunday Scripture	Catalina Room
	4:30 PM	Faith Formation class K-8th	Parish Hall
	6:30 PM	O.C.I.A.	Mesquite Room
Thu, Dec 19	9:00 AM	Fingerprinting	Parish Hall
	4:00 PM	Al-Anon "High Hopes" Meeting	Marian Room
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting	Marian Room
Fri, Dec 20	9:00 AM	Faith Fellowship- The Chosen	Catalina Room
	10:00 AM	Grief Share	Mesquite Room
	3:30 PM	Lessons and Carols	Church
Sat, Dec 21	2:30 PM	Reconciliation	Church
Sun, Dec 22	8:00 AM	Faith Formation class K-8th	Mesquite, Ocotill, Cholla Rooms
	12:15 PM	O.C.I.A. & Confirmation class	Conference Room



Do you wear a hearing aid? We have installed a Hearing Aid loop in the church. Switch hearing aid to T-coil.

Please Silence Your Cell Phone ...at all times inside the Church. Thank you for understanding.



Report Abuse If you or someone you know is a victim of abuse Contact law enforcement (911), call the Victim Assistance Program of the Diocese of Tucson (520-623-0344) or visit <https://diocesetucson.org/reportabuse>.

Al-Anon & AA Meetings Thursdays in the Marian Room, Al-Anon is 4-5:00 PM, contact Judy at 520-639-8650. AA is 7-8:30 PM, contact Art at 520- 825-5218.



Stay Connected with Santa Catalina Parish, Join Flocknote

Join FlockNote today and receive important updates, news, and reminders from our parish.

Why join FlockNote?

- Stay informed about parish events and activities
- Receive updates from Fr. Huy and staff
- Get reminders about changes to Mass schedules, holy days, and more
- Connect with ministries and groups that

interest you

Sign up now:

Scan the QR code below or visit:

<https://>

santacatalinaparish.flocknote.com/

It's easy, free, and secure. Join our FlockNote community today and stay connected to Santa Catalina Parish. †



Ministry Retreat - A Morning of Prayer and Reflection

On November 15, 2024, Father Stephen Rehrauer conducted a morning of prayer and reflection for the ministries of Santa Catalina Parish, focusing on "Alphonsian Spirituality and the Mission of our Parish." The session emphasized key teachings of Saint Alphonsus Liguori, including God's universal desire for salvation, the centrality of Christ's redemption, and the transformative power of love and prayer. Alphonsus highlighted that love of God is expressed through care, prayer, and devotion to others, with the Eucharist as the cornerstone of Christian life and holiness.

The Redemptorist charism, rooted in the ministry of reconciliation, was discussed, urging ministers to foster personal and communal conversion through the liturgy, especially the Eucharist and the sacrament of reconciliation. Ministers were reminded to lead with grace and to maintain their spiritual reservoirs through prayer and reflection, ensuring their service is grounded in God's grace.

The reflection stressed the importance of community

Sunday Missals Still Available

We're offering copies of the Living Liturgy Sunday Missal to anyone who would like one. It contains the readings and responses for each Sunday, making it easier to engage with the liturgy. Take a copy from the gathering space (while supplies last) and bring it to Mass. Let's deepen our connection to the Mass and enhance our worship... †

over individualism and the power of prayer for personal and communal salvation. The parish's mission and vision were aligned with these principles, committing to embodying Christ's voice, hands, and spirit to serve the abandoned and spread the message of plentiful redemption. The session also introduced four key symbols of Alphonsian spirituality: the crib (incarnation), the cross (redemption), the Eucharist (presence), and Mary (discipleship), encouraging integration of these mysteries into daily life through prayer.

Father Stephen underscored the importance of prayer as a source of spiritual health, protection, and growth. Ministers were encouraged to embrace prayer not only for personal transformation but also to intercede for others, especially those trapped in sin. The reflection concluded with practical insights, such as staying rooted in God's friendship and using prayer to foster love and overcome anger, affirming its role as a critical means of salvation and ministry. †



Lessons and Carols:

Friday, December 20th

3:30pm in the church.

This is a beautiful service of nine Scripture readings, each followed by a carol or song reflecting its message. †

Saints Who Battled Mental Illness

Those who suffer aren't in any way less holy than those who don't

With the stigma surrounding mental illness, many Christians feel quite sure that their mental health struggles are a result of their own sin, calling depression a “failure to hope” and insisting that mental illness can be prayed away.

Mercifully, this is not the Catholic position. The Church understands that health struggles have many causes, that treatments like therapy and medication are often necessary, and that those who suffer aren't in any way less holy than those who don't. This is true of mental health as well as physical.

But those living with mental illness don't always realize that they're not alone in their struggle; though many of the saints lived before modern methods could diagnose their mental health issues, we have others who clearly suffered from mental illness. During this time when many are struggling with their mental health even more than usual, it

helps to know that there are saints walking alongside us.

Bl. Enrico Rebuschini lived with depression all his life. **St. Albert Chmielowski** was diagnosed with “hypochondria, melancholy, religious insanity, anxiety, and psychic oversensitivity.” **St. Louis Martin's** dementia late in life caused hallucinations and paranoia. **St. Jane Frances de Chantal** experienced lifelong doubt and depression. **St. Flora of Beaulieu** and **St. Mary Magdalen de' Pazzi** struggled with depression. **Venerable Matt Talbot** was an alcoholic, while **St. Mark Ji Tianxiang** was addicted to opium.

Not one of them was culpable for their mental conditions. And while some were freed during their lives, all of them now live eternally without anxiety or compulsion or trauma. †



Coping Tips - Take Care of Yourself

Here are some ways to take care of yourself one small way each day:

Take care of your body

- Get enough sleep
- Spend time outside
- Play sports
- Get exercise

Take care of your mind

- Write or draw your feelings
- Take a few deep breaths

- Take a break from news or social media
- Explore your interests and hobbies
- If you can, follow a regular schedule each day and build in time to take breaks
- Celebrate large and small successes

Connect with people for support

- When you feel ready, think about asking for help
- Join a support group or online community

- Talk to people who care about you and won't judge you-and be open to their advice
- If you're in a safe relationship, be open with your partner about what you're going through
- Get involved with a sports team, school activity, or a religious or spiritual organization
- Volunteer for a cause you care about †

SAMHSA

YogaFaith Resumes in January

We will resume classes on January 7th from 9:30-10:30 in the Catalina room at the Parish Center. Join us to

unwind from the holidays and prepare for a healthy, faith-filled 2025. Please arrive 10 minutes early and come with a mat and dressed in comfortable clothes. †



The Symbols of Advent

The Advent Wreath and the Colors of Advent are probably the most popular symbols of the season. The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches where four candles (and often a fifth, in the center) are arranged. During Advent one candle on the wreath is lit each week representing the coming of the Lord. The first, second and fourth weeks' candles are violet, the primary color of Advent, symbolizing royalty as we await the birth of Jesus Christ our King. The rose colored candle used during the third week represents joy as Christmas draws nearer. If used, white is the color of the center candle, representing the purity of Christ.



Another symbol, The Jesse Tree represents the family tree of Christ as a member of the royal family of King David, whose father was Jesse. Through this family

history (see Mt 1:6-16), the story of God's salvation plan is re-called in the royal line from Jesse to the coming of the Messiah. Each day of Advent a homemade ornament is added to the Jesse Tree, a small tree made of evergreen branches. These symbolic ornaments each represent a family member, event or prophecy that moves God's plan to fulfillment in Jesus.

Other symbols include a Nativity Scene (Crèche) representing the birth of Jesus, and often including figures of Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds, angels, and animals. Angels, which are significant in the Advent season as messengers of God's announcement of Jesus' birth to Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. Evergreens, plants like holly, ivy, and pine represent eternal life and God's everlasting love. †

Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

*"King of kings forever and ever, hallelujah hallelujah!
And Lord of lords forever and ever, hallelujah hallelujah!
And He shall reign forever and ever."*



Who cannot experience deep emotion when hearing the majestic Hallelujah Chorus from George Frideric Handel's *Messiah*, a celebration of Jesus Christ our Redeemer? When Handel got to the Hallelujah Chorus, his assistant found him in tears, saying, "I think I did see heaven open, and the very face of God."

Yet even the beauty of this masterpiece pales in comparison to the humble birth of the King of kings and Lord of lords, God's perfect gift of love to us. But are the circumstances in your life making it difficult to feel the true joy and peace of this Advent season? Maybe you are experiencing grief, divorce, strained relationships with family or friends, job loss, spiritual crisis, search for meaning in your life, chronic or terminal illness, rehabilitation, or relocation?

Everyone goes through difficult times. We need not walk alone. Stephen Ministers are members of Santa Catalina Parish, caring Christians who want to make a difference in the lives of those who are hurting. They are compassionate, trustworthy, skilled, and full of faith - someone who will exercise strict confidentiality, who will not judge, who will listen and walk faithfully with you in a distinctively Christian, one-to-one caring relationship on your journey of healing.

Bring back the true joy, hope, and peace of Advent throughout the year. If you or someone you know could benefit from Stephen Ministry, please contact the church office at 520-825-9611, or Judy Rossman at StephenMinistry@santacatalinaparish.org. All information is held in strict confidentiality. †

Saints Who Fostered Vocations to the Priesthood

MAGNIFICAT, July 2024; Vol. 26, No. 5, -used with permission

Saint John Paul II (died 2005)

“A young man, hearing the words ‘Follow me!,’ can give up everything for Christ, in the certainty that if he follows this path, he will find complete personal fulfillment” (*Gift and Mystery*). Karol Wojtyla became a priest in 1946, a bishop in 1958, and Pope John Paul II in 1978. During his years as a prelate, he was repeatedly faced with widespread confusion about the nature of the priesthood.

As he later observed, his pontificate began with a teaching on Christ the Redeemer. The Redemption is essentially tied to Christ’s priesthood. John Paul clarified the nature of the participation of the laity in Christ’s priesthood – by which they are called to offer themselves with Christ to the Father – while clearly distinguishing the ministerial priesthood, which exists in order to serve the people of God by offering the sacrifice of the Mass to God on their behalf.

“Christ needs holy priests!” Pope John Paul II’s

charismatic holiness inspired many men to become priests themselves, and he wrote eloquently about vocations.

“Have no fear of the fact that the response he requires is radical because Jesus, who first loved you, is ready to give what he asks of you. If he asks much it is because he knows that you can give much.”

John Paul began to show signs of Parkinson’s disease in the 1990’s, but persevered in his ministry for another decade, dying in 2005. His 1992 apostolic exhortation on priestly formation, *Pastores dabo vobis* (“I will give you shepherds”), and his annual Holy Thursday “Letters to Priests,” written throughout his whole pontificate, are still treasured by many priests and seminarians.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, may the life and prayers of Saint John Paul II inspire hope and heroism in those you have called to the priesthood. †



The “O Antiphons” The O Antiphons refer to the seven verses that are recited (or chanted) preceding the *Magnificat* during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, December 17-23. These antiphons form the basis of the Advent hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” put to music in 15th century France.

December 17—O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.

December 18—O Sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

December 19—O Flower of Jesse’s Stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship

before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

December 20—O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven: come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.

December 21—O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice, come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

December 22—O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart, O Keystone of the mighty arch of humanity, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

December 23—O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God. †

3rd Sunday of Advent Reflection

This Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, invites us to rejoice as we draw closer to the celebration of Christ's birth. The rose candle on the Advent wreath reminds us of the joy that comes from knowing God is near and the light of Christ that grows brighter as we approach Christmas.

I once heard a story about a woman who left small handwritten notes for her elderly neighbor. The notes were simple: "Thinking of you," or "Praying for your day." One day, the neighbor tearfully shared how those notes had brought light into a time of deep loneliness. It reminded me how small acts of kindness can spread God's joy in profound ways.

Zephaniah reassures us, "The Lord, your God, is in your midst... he will

¡Alegráense!

Este domingo, Gaudete Sunday, nos invita a regocijarnos a medida que nos acercamos a la celebración del nacimiento de Cristo. La vela rosa en la corona de Adviento nos recuerda la alegría que proviene de saber que Dios está cerca y la luz de Cristo que brilla cada vez más a medida que nos acercamos a la Navidad.

Una vez escuché una historia sobre una mujer que dejaba pequeñas notas escritas a mano para su vecino anciano. Las notas eran simples: "Pensando en ti" o "Rezando por tu día". Un día, el vecino compartió con lágrimas en los ojos cómo esas notas habían traído luz a un momento de profunda soledad. Me recordó cómo los pequeños actos de

rejoice over you with gladness." St. Paul echoes, "Rejoice in the Lord always." This joy is not fleeting or dependent on our circumstances—it is rooted in God's presence and promises.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist reminds us that preparing for Christ calls for generosity, integrity, and service—ways we can live out the joy of God's presence in our daily lives. His call challenges us to reflect on how we bring Christ's light to others, especially as we wait for His coming.

Challenge: This week, share Christ's joy through a simple act of kindness—a note, a call, or a kind word. Your love may be the reminder someone needs that God is near.

- Fr. Huy Vu



bondad pueden difundir la alegría de Dios de maneras profundas.

Sofonías nos asegura: "El Señor, tu Dios, está en medio de ti... se

regocijará por ti con alegría". San Pablo repite: "Regocíjense en el Señor siempre". Esta alegría no es fugaz ni depende de nuestras circunstancias; está arraigada en la presencia y las promesas de Dios.

En el Evangelio, Juan el Bautista nos recuerda que prepararse para Cristo requiere generosidad, integridad y servicio, formas en que podemos vivir el gozo de la presencia de Dios en nuestra vida diaria. Su llamado nos desafía a reflexionar sobre cómo llevamos la luz de Cristo a los demás, especialmente mientras esperamos su venida.

-Fr. Huy Vu

This Week's Liturgy Schedule

Date	Mass	Celebrant	Intention	By
Mon, Dec 16	8:00 AM	Fr. Charlie Wehrley	✠ Greg Nelson	the Mosman family
Tue, Dec 17	8:00 AM	Fr. Huy Vu	✠ Greg Nelson	Jan Atwood
Wed, Dec 18	8:00 AM	Fr. Steve Rehrauer	✠ John Hoey	Art & Laura Walsh
Thu, Dec 19	8:00 AM	Fr. Huy Vu	✠ the Palazzo family	Rita Quin
Fri, Dec 20	8:00 AM	Fr. Charlie Wehrley	✠ Peggy Mullaly	Gerry Dugan
			✠ Robert Stenech	Rose Stenech
Sat, Dec 21	4:00 PM	Fr. Steve Rehrauer	✠ Jim Ford	Maureen & Sandy Salz
			✠ Jim Ford	Nancy Mosman
			Budge & Cathy Givler wedding anniversary (by Budge Givler)	
Sun, Dec 22			✠ Greg Triplett	Andrew & Isabel Desautels
	7:00 AM	Fr. Brian Johnson	✠ Wanda Fudge	Ann Fraley
			✠ Leona & Howard Fraley	Ann Fraley
	9:00 AM	Fr. Steve Rehrauer	✠ Brian Tillyard	Barbara Tillyard
	11:00 AM	Fr. Huy Vu	✠ Raquel de Rodriguez	Esperanza Aquino
	5:00 PM	Fr. Huy Vu	For the Intentions of the Parish	

Readings for the week of December 15, 2024

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
 Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27
 Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
 Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
 Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
 Friday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
 Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45



Today's Readings (December 15)

First Reading:

The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness. (Zep 3:17)

Second Reading:

The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. (Phil 4:5-6)

Gospel:

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" (Lk 3:10)

Psalm: Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel. (Is 12:6)

Spiritual



- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Mimi Cuono | Margarita Pena | Ann Marie Arnold | Cheryl Woodward |
| Anita Garcia | Edward Pena | Sr. Jean Mariani | Gino Di Gennaro |
| Bob Baker | Bill Terrazas | Lawrence Breving | Frank Di Rosa |
| Susann Rein | Renee Terrazas | Ronald Fuhrmann | Nina Gravlin |
| Bob Stamer | Stacy Zieminski | David W. Maloney | |



The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Twelve Things the Apostles' Creed Teaches

The Apostles' Creed has been used by Christians around the world since the fourth century. Even though it was not written by the original twelve apostles, every single line in the creed was taught by the apostles and earliest disciples of Jesus. The twelve things the Apostles' Creed emphasizes are twelve

important things we learn about Christianity in the New Testament:

- 1) God is not only our powerful Creator but is also our caring Father.
- 2) Jesus Christ is our Lord.
- 3) Jesus was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit through Mary.
- 4) Jesus suffered, was crucified by the Romans in the first century, and died.
- 5) Jesus rose from the dead.
- 6) Jesus ascended into heaven and is exalted.
- 7) Jesus will return in judgment.
- 8) The Holy Spirit is a person of the Holy Trinity.
- 9) The church is universal.
- 10) There is a fellowship of Christians across all times and places.
- 11) Our sins are truly and really forgiven in Christ.
- 12) Our bodies will be resurrected. Heaven is real. †

The Traveling Vocations Cross

... is a weekly program to pray for Catholic vocations. Participating parishioners attend either the 4 PM Mass or the 5 PM Mass. The priest will call the week's participant to the Altar at the end of Mass to receive the Cross. Participants pray for vocations and return the Cross the following weekend before the appropriate Mass. Members of the Ministry will be outside after the designated Masses to sign up participants. Please pray to promote Catholic vocations. †



Stewardship

Weekend Nov 30-Dec 1	Totals	Attd.
Offertory	\$23,306	
Major Maintenance	\$794	1199
Total	\$24,100	
Last Year's Offertory	\$25,323	1224
Parish Rectory	\$5,258	

Asking the Question *By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorma*

I have found in my life that if I am certain of the answer to a big and complicated question — right away, no doubts or hesitations — there is a high likelihood that the answer is actually the wrong one.

Because most of the time the truth is buried beneath a thicket of pride, prejudice, and ignorance. To find our answers, we have to be ready to put the gardening gloves on and pick through the thorns. We have to pray. We have to reflect. We have to question ourselves and others. We have to examine our feelings. And then we have to pray some more.

See, I would be willing to bet that the tax collectors and soldiers knew. Deep in their hearts, they knew.

They knew when they approached John the Baptist and asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" that his reply was not going to be: "Keep doing exactly what you're doing."

They had heard this guy preach. They knew what he was about: repentance. They might not have known exactly what John the Baptist was going to tell them to do, but they knew whatever it was, it was going to be a challenge. It was going to turn their lives upside down.

I give them credit for asking the question. That's a hard thing to do, and I don't do it enough. Too often, I'm afraid to ask the question.

How do I love this person? How do I live out my baptismal call in this particular situation? How do I draw water from the fountain of salvation — and how do I do it with joy, as we are commanded by the Psalms?

Christmas is ten days away. Are we asking the question? ✚

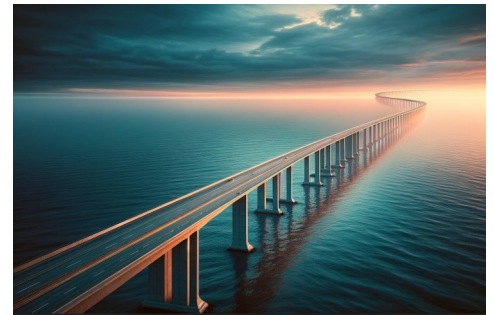
A Bridge Too Far (Humor)

One day, God was asked to assist at the Pearly Gates. It seemed a man had arrived a little too early. God, apologizing for the mix-up, told him he would need to be sent back to Earth. However, as a gesture of goodwill, He offered to grant the man any request. The man thought for a moment, then said, "Father, I've always wanted to visit Hawaii, but I'm terrified of flying. Would

you build a bridge from California to Hawaii so I could drive there?"

God looked at him gently and replied, "My son, grand, extravagant miracles are not my way. Would you consider asking for something more personal?"

The man nodded, understood, and after a pause, asked, "Well, Father, could you help me understand why women cry when they're happy, smile when they're sad, and laugh when they're angry?"



God thought for a moment, then replied, "...so...what are you thinking? Two lanes each way?"

Why Doesn't God Perform More Opulent Miracles to Prove He Exists?

God's decision not to perform big, opulent miracles may stem from His desire for us to live by faith rather than by awe-striking proof. If miracles were grand and constant, they might overshadow the need for our personal belief and trust in God.

In the Bible, God often works in subtle ways, emphasizing that His presence and power are not always found in extraordinary, visible acts but in quiet, transformative moments. This aligns with His approach

of nurturing a relationship with people, where faith is based on trust, not awe.

In the absence of constant miracles, individuals must seek God earnestly, reflect on His teachings, and recognize His presence in the ordinary. Ultimately, the absence of flashy miracles encourages a more genuine, heartfelt faith that seeks God's presence in all aspects of life, rather than waiting for spectacular, life-changing events as assurances of His existence. ✚

The Chosen - A Unique TV Series Depicting the Life of Christ

"The Chosen," directed by Dallas Jenkins, is a groundbreaking series that explores the life of Jesus Christ through a fresh and deeply human lens. This multi-season show is unique in its approach, offering not only a retelling of the Gospels but also delving into the personal lives and struggles of those who followed Jesus. The result is a series that feels intimate, authentic, and profoundly moving.

Storytelling

One of the standout features of *The Chosen* is its storytelling. Unlike many biblical adaptations, the series takes its time to build character arcs and explore backstories. This approach allows viewers to see familiar figures like Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, and Matthew in a new light. By focusing on their humanity—their doubts, fears, and hopes—the series brings depth to their faith journeys. This layered storytelling makes the miracles and teachings of Jesus feel even more impactful.

Character Development

The cast delivers stellar performances, making the characters relatable and compelling. Jonathan Roumie's portrayal of Jesus is a particular highlight. He balances the divine authority of Christ with an approachable warmth and humor, presenting a Messiah who feels both extraordinary and accessible. The supporting cast also shines, with each disciple given meaningful screen time to develop their personalities and struggles.

Cinematography and Production

Visually, *The Chosen* is stunning. The production values are impressive for a crowdfunded project, with beautifully crafted sets and costumes that transport viewers to first-century Judea. The cinematography is immersive, with scenes often bathed in natural light, giving the series a raw and organic feel. The music score complements the visuals perfectly, blending traditional and modern elements to evoke emotion.

Cultural and Spiritual Sensitivity

The series stands out for its cultural sensitivity,

depicting the Jewish context of Jesus' ministry with authenticity. This grounding in historical and cultural accuracy enriches the narrative, providing a deeper understanding of the societal and religious dynamics of the time. Moreover, the show handles spiritual themes with care, making them accessible to viewers from diverse faith backgrounds without compromising on the core message of the Gospel.

What Makes It Unique

The Chosen is more than just a series; it's a communal experience. Its funding model—relying on donations and a "pay-it-forward" system—has created a strong sense of connection among its global fan base. The series' success demonstrates the demand for quality faith-based content that resonates on a personal level.

Critique

While *The Chosen* has been widely praised, some viewers may find the pacing a bit slow, especially in the early episodes. The emphasis on character development means that the series sometimes prioritizes personal stories over advancing the central narrative. However, this slower pace ultimately allows for a richer, more immersive experience.

Conclusion

The Chosen is a triumph of faith-based storytelling. It's a series that invites viewers to see Jesus and His followers in a new light, emphasizing their humanity and the transformative power of His ministry. Whether you're deeply religious or simply curious about the life of Christ, *The Chosen* is an inspiring, thought-provoking journey worth taking. IMDB Rating: 9.2

How to Watch The Chosen:

All seasons are available for free on the official app, compatible with Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Google TV, iOS, and Android devices. Search for "The Chosen" in your device's app store to download.

Also available through streaming services: Amazon Prime, Peacock, Hulu and The CW. Get on board, season 5 is coming in April 2025.

Spiritual Adoption Program And Actual Baby Shower (2024)

A heartfelt thank you to the more than 80 parishioners, family members, and friends who committed in March to daily prayers for their spiritually adopted babies at risk of abortion.

Your dedication to this 2024 program culminated beautifully during the weekend of November 30/December 1 with the collection of baby items for REACHOUT Women's Center (RWC) and Family First Pregnancy Care Center in Oracle.

Thanks to your generosity, we gathered over 800 diapers, nearly 4,000 baby wipes, a variety of baby outfits, an infant car seat, and

many additional essential items too numerous to list.

These donations were lovingly displayed during the Masses that weekend, showcasing the incredible outpouring of love and support from Santa Catalina Parish.

On December 5, the Dignity of Human Life Ministry delivered the donations to RWC, followed by a delivery to Family First on December 9. Along with the items, both centers received over \$680 in total monetary contributions.

The Directors and staff at RWC and Family First expressed their

heartfelt gratitude for the generosity and support shown by our parish community.

These contributions will significantly aid their mission to assist families welcoming new life.

Your compassion and commitment to protecting the dignity of human life are deeply appreciated. Thank you for being a vital part of this life-affirming ministry. Together, we continue to stand as witnesses to the sanctity of life and the power of love in action.

Dignity of Human Life Ministry ✝



Would like to find out how you can help the homeless in Tucson?

Join the next Local Immersion Tour on December 20th, January 15th and 17th from 8:00 - 11:30 am.

The tours leave from the church parking lot and take a small group to Casa Maria Catholic Workers Community which provides meals and clothing for those in need, and Sister Jose Women's Center

which provides meals, clothing, shelter, and counseling for homeless women.

If you are interested in a tour, send an email to reserve your spot to sajm@santacatalinaparish.org.



Outreach

Save The Date For March For Life On Jan 25, 2025

The 52nd Annual Tucson March for Life will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2025. The day will begin with a Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral at 9:00 AM, celebrated by Bishop Weisenburger. This Mass will serve as a prayerful start to the event, setting the tone for a day of reflection and unity.

Following the Mass, a peaceful and non-confrontational march will begin at approximately 10:15 AM. Participants will march through Tucson, making their way to Holy Hope Cemetery for a special rose ceremony at the Shrine of the Innocents. This ceremony is a solemn moment to

honor the sanctity of life and remember those who have been lost to abortion.



The Tucson March for Life is an opportunity to come together as a community to stand in support of life.

Participants are invited to join any or all aspects of the event, whether for the Mass, the march, or the rose ceremony.

For those interested in carpooling, please email prolife12345@aol.com to arrange transportation.