

A Letter from Our Pastor

Hello Friends,

A parishioner emailed me a few questions about our Catholic faith and I invite you to do the same!

Will everyone who goes to heaven get to meet Jesus?

Yes! In fact, Pope Benedict famously said that heaven is not a place but rather a person - Jesus himself. He is the fulfillment of all our hopes, wants and desires. Our existence in heaven, if we make it there, will be something we cannot understand or even imagine here on earth: "What eye has not seen, what ear has not heard and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him" (1Cor 2:9)

Will we see the saints in heaven?

Not only will we see them, we will be the best of friends. There is nothing that will separate those in heaven because we will exist in the fullness of love. Any love we experience on earth will be infinitely outdone by the love we experience in heaven. Think about that - the love you have for mom or dad or spouse or children is nothing compared to the love which awaits us in heaven. Wow.

If a baby dies in its Mothers womb, will they get to heaven? Interestingly enough, there is no official teaching on this in the Church, but we do believe that the love of God and His infinite mercy will bring those to Him who never had the opportunity to receive the gift of Baptism. In other words, God is not held bound by the sacraments. They are a gift to help us along the way to salvation, but God can do all things. In years past there was talk about something called limbo, but we do not believe this as Christians. We need to have infinite hope in His infinite mercy.

Why don't our Episcopalian friends believe that the Eucharist is actually Jesus?

The Episcopal church teaches that bread and wine undergo Consubstantiation, first defined by Martin Luther as the coexistence of bread and wine along with the body and blood of Jesus Christ. This teaching was rejected by the Council of Trent when it defined the Catholic doctrine of Transubstantiation, meaning the bread and wine ceases to exist and becomes the actual Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Back in the day, I attended a friend's wedding in an Episcopal church. After the ceremony, I saw the minister pouring the sacramental wine into the ground. Shocked, I asked why, to which she said, "We believe that only during the liturgy that Jesus is present. After, he no longer is." As Catholics, we believe that the wine is no longer wine. The bread is no longer bread. It has substantially changed into Jesus - Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. This is why I correct people when they ask about "the wine" at Mass. It is not wine after consecration, it is the Blood of Christ.

What is the difference between bad luck and God's Will?

For Catholics, there is no chance, no good luck or bad luck. All things happen for a reason. God does not cause evil, but allows evil to happen because we have Free Will and can choose for or against God. "But where sin abounds, Grace abounds all the more." Rom 5:20. In other words, God makes straight our crooked ways. God's grace is always at work to right our wrongs, in His time and way. That is why we must always walk by faith.

OUR TEAM/ NUESTRO EQUIPO



PASTOR/PÁRROCO: FR. ROB WALSH
FRROB@OLOLRCC.ORG
301-654-1287 (EXT 312)



PAROCHIAL VICAR/VICARIO PARROQUIAL:
FR. JAMES MORRISON, FRJAMES@OLOLRCC.ORG
301-654-1287 (EXT 313)



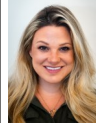
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS ED/ASISTENTE PASTORAL:
SR. CLAUDIA RUVALCABA, SRCLAUDIA@OLOLRCC.ORG
301-654-1287 (EXT 315)



DEACON/DIÁCONO: DYLAN PRENTICE
DCNDYLAN@OLOLRCC.ORG
301-654-1287



PARISH MANAGER/ADMINISTRADORA DE LA OFICINA:
AMPARO ACEVEDO, AACEVEDO@OLOLRCC.ORG
301-654-187 (EXT 311)



PARISH ASSISTANT/ASISTENTE DE LA OFICINA:
CLAIRE TOMS, CTOMS@OLOLRCC.ORG
301-654-1287 (EXT 330)

RECTORY HOURS/HORAS DE LA RECTORÍA
MONDAY - FRIDAY/LUNES - VIERNES 8AM - 4PM
PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL UPCOMING EVENTS:
WWW.LOURDESBETHESDA.ORG

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20
7:00AM: +Dcn. Robert Whitaker
12:00 PM: Holy Souls

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24
10:00AM: HOLY SOULS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21
7:00AM: Holy Souls
12:00 PM: +Veronica Leon

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25
12:00PM: Int. John & Joyce
Considine
5:00PM: HOLY SOULS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22
7:00AM: +Clement
Abeyagoonewardene
12:00 PM: Holy Souls

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26
7:30AM: Int. Fr. Paul Scalia
9:30AM: Holy Souls
11:30AM: Int. Claudine
Rodrigues
1:30PM: People of the Parish

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23
10:00AM: HOLY SOULS

How was God made?

God always has been and always will be. He is uncreated. God is pure being. He doesn't simply exist, rather, He is existence itself. When Moses asks God his name is in the Book of Exodus, he answers, "I am who am." In other words, pure being. This is obviously a mystery that we cannot understand, but that is the greatness of God! Hope this was a help! Send some more questions.

In Him,
Fr. Rob

Carta de nuestro Pastor

Hola Amigos,

Un feligrés me envió algunas preguntas por correo electrónico y les invito a hacer lo mismo.

¿Todos los que vayan al cielo podrán encontrarse con Jesús? Si. De hecho, el Papa Benedicto XVI dijo que el cielo no es un lugar, sino una persona: Jesús mismo. Él es el cumplimiento de todas nuestras esperanzas, deseos y anhelos. Nuestra existencia en el cielo, si llegamos allí, será algo que no podemos entender ni imaginar aquí en la tierra: "Ni el ojo vio, ni el oído oyó, ni por mente humana han pasado las cosas que Dios ha preparado para los que lo aman." (1 Cor 2,9).

¿Veremos a los santos en el cielo? No solo los veremos sino que seremos los mejores amigos. No habrá nada que separe a todos los que estén en el Cielo porque existiremos en la plenitud del amor. Cualquier amor que experimentemos en la tierra será infinitamente superado por el amor que experimentemos en el cielo. Piensa en eso - el amor que tienes por mamá o papá o esposa o esposo o hijos no es nada comparado con el amor que nos espera en el cielo.

¿Si un bebé muere en el vientre de su madre, ¿llegará al cielo?

Curiosamente, no existe una enseñanza oficial al respecto en la Iglesia, pero sí creemos que el amor de Dios y su infinita misericordia llevarán hacia Él a todos aquellos que nunca tuvieron la oportunidad de recibir el don del Bautismo. En otras palabras, Dios no está atado por los sacramentos. Son un don para ayudarnos en el camino de la salvación, pero Dios todo lo puede. En años pasados se hablaba de algo llamado limbo, pero nosotros como cristianos no creemos en eso. Necesitamos tener una esperanza infinita en Su infinita misericordia.

¿Por qué nuestros amigos de la Iglesia Episcopal no creen que la Eucaristía es realmente Jesús? La Iglesia Episcopal enseña que el pan y el vino sufren la Consustanciación, definida por primera vez por Martín Lutero como la coexistencia del pan y el vino junto con el cuerpo y la sangre de Jesucristo. Esta enseñanza fue rechazada por el Concilio de Trento cuando definió la doctrina católica de la Transubstanciación, que significa que el pan y el vino dejan de existir y se convierten en el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Jesucristo. Un día, asistí a la boda de un amigo en una iglesia episcopal. Después de la ceremonia, vi a la ministra verter el vino sacramental en el suelo. Asombrado, le pregunté por qué lo hacía, a lo que me respondió: "Creemos que Jesús sólo está presente durante la liturgia. Después, ya no lo está". Como católicos, creemos que el vino ya no es vino. El pan ya no es pan. Se ha transformado sustancialmente en Jesús - Cuerpo, Sangre, Alma y Divinidad. Por eso corrijo a la gente cuando preguntan por "el vino" en misa. Después de la consagración, ya no es vino, es la Sangre de Cristo.

¿Cómo distinguir entre la mala suerte y la Voluntad de Dios? Para los católicos, no existe el azar, ni la buena o la mala suerte. Todas las cosas suceden por una razón. Dios no causa el mal, sino que permite que el mal suceda porque tenemos Libre Albedrío y podemos elegir en favor o en contra de Dios. "Pero donde abundó el pecado, sobreabundó la Gracia". Rom 5:20. En otras palabras, Dios endereza nuestros caminos torcidos. La gracia de Dios siempre está obrando para corregir nuestros errores, a Su tiempo y a Su manera. Por eso debemos caminar siempre por la fe.

¿Cómo fue creado Dios? Dios siempre ha sido y siempre será. Es increado. Dios es puro ser. Él no existe simplemente, sino que es la existencia misma. Cuando Moisés le pregunta a Dios cuál es su nombre en el Libro del Éxodo, Él responde: "Yo soy el que soy". En otras palabras, soy el ser puro. Evidentemente, se trata de un misterio que no podemos comprender, ¡pero ésa es la grandeza de Dios!

Espero que te haya servido de ayuda. Envía más preguntas.

En Él,
Padre Rob

On Thanksgiving Day, Thursday November 23, and on Friday, November 24 there will be one daily Mass only at 10am and no confessions. The rectory office will also be closed.



Please pray for all of the sick and recently deceased members of our parish

As we pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory especially this month, envelopes are available in the church vestibule to write the names of your deceased loved ones.

Please place them in the collection basket or drop them off at the rectory office.

Our Lady of Lourdes



Gabriel Project
Christmas Donation Drive

Nov. 26 - Dec. 15

Donate new toys and clothing for children age newborn to 14

Place donations in the crib in the back of the church

Visit gpmoco.org
Contact Jill.Gadwood@gmail.com

www.usasoa.org/donate

Starting 12/3/2023 and return by 12/10/2023
Helping our Nation's National Treasures



OLOL Christmas Bag Food Drive

Low Income Active Duty Military Families, Elderly
and Homeless Veterans

The Rock Creek Knights of Columbus, Patrick Corkery - Painting Contractor, and Alex Lieb (USAF) Coastal Lending Group, LLC are collecting food items to help feed our elderly and homeless veterans and low income active duty military families in the DMV on behalf of United Soldiers and Sailors of America, An All Volunteer Veteran Service Organization

Non perishable food items only like canned vegetables, dry goods, soups, rice, pasta, pasta sauce (no glass), ready to eat meals, canned fruit, juice boxes, cereals, oatmeal packages, protein bars, Ensure nutrition drinks, gift cards, diapers



Cardinal Gregory Welcomes
All to St. Ann's Open House
Sunday, December 3, 1-3pm:

His Eminence with CEO, Sister Mary Bader welcome you to experience the true meaning of giving at the annual St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families' Christmas Open House.

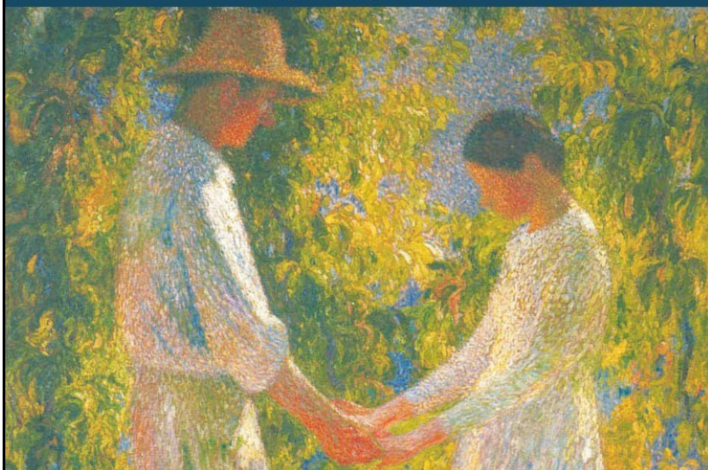
St. Ann's offers single mothers the opportunity to pursue educational, professional and personal goals while living with their children in a nurturing environment. Join us at our Hyattsville home for an inspiring afternoon with our wonderful staff and, of course, Christmas cheer!

Details and RSVP:

[www.stanns.org/
events/2023/12/st-anns-
centers-christmas-open-house
-december-3-2023](http://www.stanns.org/events/2023/12/st-anns-centers-christmas-open-house-december-3-2023)



Called to Love: Theology of the body



The Pontifical John Paul II Institute is offering a course on Theology of the Body next spring as part of the Continuing Education Program:

Wednesday evenings from January 17 to April 24, 2024,
online or in person.

The course fee is \$150. If you have questions, please email information@johnpaulii.edu or call 202-526-3799.

More information is available at: www.johnpaulii.edu.



If you would like to donate the altar flowers for a special intention, a special occasion, or in memory of a loved one, please call the parish office or email: ctoms@ololrcc.org. The donation is \$150.

Catholic Charities is seeking teachers and teacher assistants for the Joseph P. Kennedy School and Child Development Center.

If you have experience in special education and/or early childhood education and would like to join our team, please visit: CatholicCharitiesDC.org/careers.

Our November Poor Box will be going to the Religious Sisters of Mercy. The Religious Sisters of Mercy seek to incarnate the Mercy of God the Father to the poor, sick, and the ignorant. Their primary focuses are healthcare and education. They have multiple communities across the US and in Europe. Recently, they opened a convent in Clinton, Maryland to serve the needs of the surrounding faithful. Thank you for your generosity.



The Washington Archdiocese Post Cana for Widows and Widowers group is hosting a Day of Reflection Retreat: Tuesday, December 5 at Our Lady of Grace in Leisure World, Silver Spring from 8:30AM-3:00PM

Including guided discussions, Mass, lunch, silent prayer time, witness speakers and a concluding festivity with Christmas carols and a raffle

Please send a \$25 check made out to Post Cana to: Herb Biegel, 13509 Maidstone Lane, Potomac, MD 20854. The deadline is November 27. Hope to see you there!



Prayer & Pints

Join the young adult group for a holy hour of prayer followed by a social happy hour in Bethesda.

Our Lady of Lourdes
Tuesdays 7 PM

Please help us keep our records up-to-date by filling out this form and dropping it in the collection basket or rectory mail slot. You may also register at our parish website or by emailing ctoms@ololrcc.org.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

- ☐ I/we am/are new to the parish
- ☐ Change of address within the parish
- ☐ I/we am/are have new family information
- ☐ I/we am/are moving out of the parish