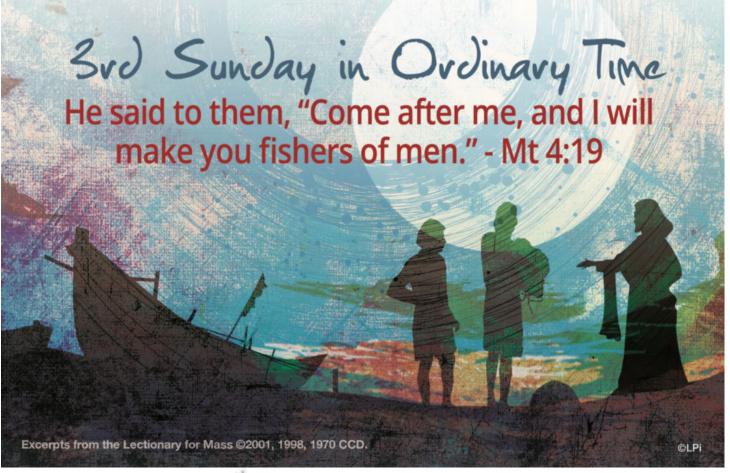
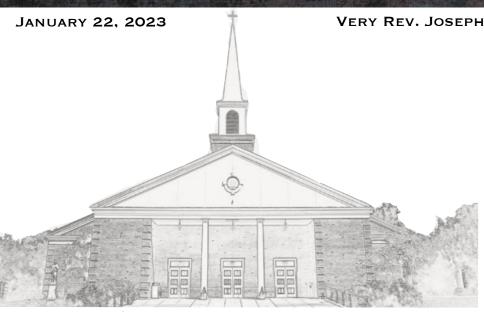
# St. John The Beloved Parish





Our Mission: "Growing a welcoming community of disciples through participation in the sacraments, service, prayer and ongoing formation."

#### VERY REV. JOSEPH PIEKARSKI V.F., PASTOR

Lituray Schedule

Liturgy Scriedule	
Saturday	5:00 p.m
Sunday	7:30 a.m.
	9:30 a.m.
	11:30 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

#### **Weekday Masses**

Monday - Saturday 8:00 a.m.

#### Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

#### Parish Address:

907 Milltown Road, Sherwood Park Wilmington, DE 19808 (302) 999-0211

Please consider online giving at SJBDE.org/Give or scan this QR code



#### Welcome to St. John the Beloved Parish.

Please visit <u>SJBDE.org</u> and click the "Join Our Parish" button to register and become a member of our faith community.

Registered **Parishioners**, if it's been a while, please take a minute to update your information at <u>wilmington.parishsoftfamilysuite.com</u>.

We appreciate your assistance. Thank you!

#### **CHURCH STAFF**

Very Rev. Joseph Piekarski, V.F., Pastor Rev. Michael Preston, Associate Pastor Deacon Thomas A. Bailey Deacon Mark Fontana Deacon Stephen Oldiges Mr. Frank Julian, Parish Administrator Mrs. Sue O'Hanlon, Bookkeeper Dr. Lisa Papili Carlsen, D.M.A., Director of Liturgy and Music Mr. Kevin Duffy, Facilities Manager Mrs. Jennifer DiBella, Communications Mrs. Marie Malatesta, Safe Environments Coordinator

#### PARISH OFFICE

(302) 999-0211

Mrs. Trish Tucker Ms. Kim Beideman

#### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

(302) 994-7757

reled@sjbde.org

Mrs. Susan Murray, Director

# ST. JOHN THE BELOVED SCHOOL (302) 998-5525 sitbschooloffice@sibdel.org

Mr. Richard Hart, Principal

Mr. Matthew Haney, Assistant Principal Mrs. Sharon Breznitsky, Admissions

#### PARISH OUTREACH (302) 994-7867 Community of Christ Church 1205 Milltown Rd.

Mr. Jamie Moulthrop, Coordinator

#### **CATHOLIC CEMETERIES:**

All Saints: 737-2524 Cathedral: 656-3323

Gate of Heaven: 732-3690

Unable to attend Mass in person this week? Our 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturdays is streamed live and posted at <u>SJBDE.org/livestream</u>. To be notified whenever we go LIVE, subscribe to our parish You tube Channel at Youtube.com/c/StJohnTheBelovedParish.

#### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Confession)

Is available every Saturday from 4 - 4:45 p.m. A confession guide is online at <u>SJBDE.org/Reconciliation</u>.

#### SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Complete the form online at SJBDE.org/Wedding.

#### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

To schedule a Baptismal Preparation Class call the Parish Office.

#### SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Anyone seriously ill, or facing surgery, please call a priest to make arrangements.

**HOLY DAY MASSES** as announced.

**Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** is every Friday after 8:00 a.m. Mass, through 10:00 a.m.

**Adult Choir** rehearses Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the church and sings at the 11:30 Sunday Mass. New members welcome. Contact Joe Ambrosino via the parish office.

**SJB Holy Spirit Intercessory Prayer Group** meets Wednesdays at 10:15 am at the Table of Plenty Outreach Center, 1205 Milltown Rd. Bring your bible and prayer hymns. For more information, call the Parish Office.

**First Saturday Devotions with the Blue Army** are held every first Saturday of the month starting at 8 a.m.

**Legion of Mary** meets Monday evenings, 6-8 p.m. in the Fr. Gerres Bldg. Please call the parish office.

**Lazarus Ministry** helps those who have lost a loved one. More at SJBDE.org/lazarus-ministry.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Interested in becoming a member of the Catholic faith, or in learning more about the Church? Please call the Parish Office.

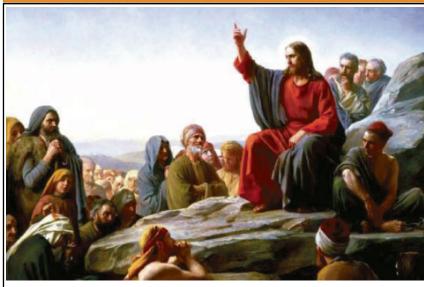
**The Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality** meets the first Sunday of the month at 7:30 a.m. Mass to honor our Blessed Mother, (September - June). Please join us after mass to pray the rosary.

**St. Vincent DePaul Society** provides help through works of service, spirituality and friendship. For information call (302) 999-0211.

**Parish Hospitality** to join this new Ministry, please call the Parish Office.

**Parents with Young Children Ministry** Contact Ruthie at 484-554-5618 for more information.

# A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



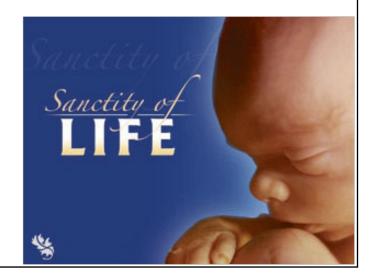
In our first reading this weekend, the prophet Isaiah explains that the Galilean area of Israel is a place of darkness but will eventually see a great light. Eighthundred years later, Matthew explains that what had been prophesied by Isaiah had been fulfilled through the preaching and healing ministry of Jesus. By His ministry of inviting people to the Kingdom of God through repentance, Jesus brought Light to peoples living in darkness, thus fulfilling God's original promise.

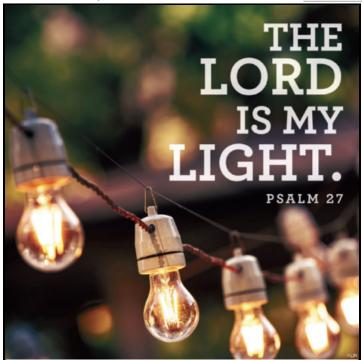
The Gospel describes the call of the first disciples, inviting people to repent of their sins and accept the Good News of the Kingdom of God. Ordinary fishermen with no formal training in Mosaic Law were chosen to preach the Good News. Peter and Andrew, James and John heard the call of the Lord, dropped everything and followed Him. They were to be very effective instruments in the mission of Jesus.

The Call continues in our own day and age. This Sunday's readings lead us to reflect, in particular, on the vocation to the priesthood and religious life. The Lord knows the need we have today for certain men and woman to serve specifically in the Church. And the Lord initiates the call to "Come and follow Him." The need is becoming greater and can only be satisfied when we honestly recognize the summons and answer affirmatively.

Monday, January 23rd, all dioceses of the United States will observe a Day of Prayer for the Legal

Protection of Unborn Children. It marks the 50th anniversary of the historic Supreme Court's decision making abortion legal in the United States. As Catholics we are asked to make that day a solemn occasion for prayer, penance and sacrifice as atonement for the taking of human life. To unite ourselves in prayer for this anniversary, along with those who will travel to Washington DC for the March for Life, St. John the Beloved Parish will celebrate the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in church on Monday, January 23, 2023 after the 8 a.m. Mass to 10 a.m. All are welcome.





Readings for the week of January 22, 2023

Sunday: Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1,4, 13-14 (1a)/1 Cor

1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

Monday: Heb 9:15, 24-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4,

5-6/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10/Ps 40:2 and 4ab, 708a, 10,

11/Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps

117:1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18

Thursday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Tit 1:1-5/12/Ps 132:1-2,

3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25

Friday: Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24,

39-40/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72,

73-75/Mk 4:35-41

Next Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9,

9-10 (Matthew 5:3)/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

Your gifts make a meaningful difference to St. John The Beloved Parish's ministries and programs. We wish to extend a sincere **THANK YOU** to everyone who financially supports our parish through weekly giving, special collections, one-time gifts, and all of the other avenues of giving (e.g. volunteering your time and talent). Everyone's income and needs are different, and each gift is understood to be a sacrifice given for the greater good. May God Bless your efforts. We appreciate you.

#### Saints and Special Observance

#### Sunday: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. Anthony & Sophie Kowal

9:30 a.m. Our Parish Family

11:30 a.m. Victoria & Joseph Piekarski

5:00 p.m. Melody Minkoff

### Monday: Day of Prayer For The Legal Protection of the

Unborn Children

8:00 a.m. Joan Moorehead

Diane Naylor

## Tuesday: Saint Francis De Sales Bishop & Doctor of the

Church

8:00 a.m. Deceased Members of the

> Gillease Family Albert Lewandowski

#### Wednesday: The Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle

8:00 a.m. Colin L Lord

Michael J. Cutrona, Jr.

#### Thursday: Saint Timothy & Saint Titus

Marie & Leo Fritz 8:00 a.m.

Nino DeFlaviis

Friday: 8:00 a.m. Deceased Members of the

Kwiatkowski Family

Rose Ann Hickey

#### Saturday: Saint Thomas Aguinas, Priest & Doctor Of the Church

8:00 a.m. Elisa M. Quattrociocchi

> Fred Eschey Lt. Kelsey Sadler Steven Voitus Frank Bentz

Guido De Ascani. Jr.

5:00 p.m. Deceased Members of the

Coakley Family

#### Sunday Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. Our Family Parish 9:30 a.m. John Iwasyk Dorothy P. Saypack 11:30 a.m. Tevesa Fetter 5:00 p.m.

Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

#### January 8, 2023

Offertory	\$ 14, 169.01
Building/ Maintenance/ Energy/ Landscaping	218.00
Christmas	1, 427.75
Holy Days	154.00
Outreach	146.10
Votives	351.90
Total Parish Collections	\$ 16, 466.76
St. Vincent DePaul	75.00
Diocesian Collections	105.00
Total Collections	\$ 16, 646.76

## **PARISH NEWS**

Please remember in your prayers all those who have gone before us, and the recently deceased members of St. John the Beloved Parish Community:

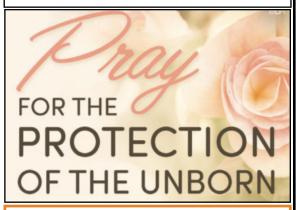
- + Msgr. Thomas Cini
- + Thomas J. Moran
- + Margaret M. Parker

- + Alfred J. Nai
- + William A. Hendricks
- + Edward Heredia

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

View our weekly bulletin and worship aid for Sunday Mass online at <u>SJBDE.org/bulletins</u>. Our 5 PM Mass on Saturday is Livestreamed. To be notified anytime we go LIVE subscribe at <u>Youtube.com/c/StJohnTheBelovedParish</u>.

Support SJB when you shop. Your purchases can make a difference. **AmazonSmile** donates to St. John the Beloved Roman Catholic Church when you shop online at <a href="mailto:smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0096097">smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0096097</a>.



St. John the Beloved Council Knights of Columbus





February 11 and 12 – All Masses

All donations go to SJB Parish Outreach. Personal care items (toothpaste, deodorant, body wash, baby wipes, etc.) are especially needed. Thank you!

#### **THANK YOU!**

From St. John the Beloved Outreach Ministry, Table of Plenty

#### **January is Poverty Awareness Month**

Thank you for all of your generosity this past year. Your gifts either financial or of food or clothing have truly blessed those who are most in need. The Center had a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas distribution, thank you for all your gifts!

Jesus says to us in Matthew's gospel "when I was hungry you gave me something to eat, when I was thirsty you have me drink, when I was naked you clothed me.....just as you did it for one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it for me."

The Catholic Church's Catechism states:

2444 "The Church's love for the poor . . . is a part of her constant tradition." This love is inspired by the Gospel of the Beatitudes, of the poverty of Jesus, and of his concern for the poor. Love for the poor is even one of the motives for the duty of working so as to "be able to give to those in need." It extends not only to material poverty but also to the many forms of cultural and religious poverty.

Also, Pope Francis tells us in Evangelii Gaudium:

177. ... at the very heart of the Gospel is life in community and engagement with others. The content of the first proclamation has an immediate moral implication centered on charity.

187. Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society. This demands that we be docile and attentive to the cry of the poor and to come to their aid.

Therefore let us continue through our actions and in the words of the church and Holy Father Pope Francis to keep in mind those who are most in need. The Outreach Center is in need of volunteers to assist in keeping track of incoming food and clothes, to help put bags of food together, stock shelves, sort clothing and to assist our clients as they walk through the Center to pick up different items. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the Outreach Center at 302-994-7867 and leave a message for Jamie Moulthrop, Coordinator of St. John the Beloved Outreach Center.

God's Peace and Blessings!

# **SOCIAL MINISTRIES of SJB PARISH**

Our mission is "Growing a welcoming community of disciples through participation in the sacraments, service, prayer and ongoing formation." Every ministry, every committee is important. We sure can use your help in building the Kingdom of God. The Lord calls each of us to serve. Please prayerfully take the opportunity to truly discover within yourself what God may be calling you to do within in the various dynamics of our Catholic Parish. Call the Parish Office for more information. Visit SJBDE.org/Ministries to review the many ministries and organizations St. John the Beloved Parish offers.

Gifts of Church Greeting and Hospitality: If you enjoy meeting new people and attend weekend masses consider joining the Parish Ushers and or Hospitality Ministry. Ushers assist all congregants in finding a seat and take up the offertory at the directed time of the liturgy. The Hospitality Ministry greets and open doors congregants and hands out bulletins in addition to setting up and being present at the monthly after mass refreshments. Please call the Parish office at (302) 999-0211 for more information.

The Lazarus Ministry at St. John the Beloved Church is a Ministry of caring people. We reach out to those who have lost a loved one buried from our Church in the past year by sending cards, Care Notes, and the occasional phone call. We are not a support group, but rather, a group of people who understand grief and wish to lend an ear and supply helpful reading material to the grieving of our parish. Your help is done in the comfort of your home and all supplies and stamps are provided. Contact Karen Kohler at 593-0443.

Saint John the Beloved Council of the Knights of Columbus invites all men age 18 and older to join us in our ongoing support of our Church, Diocese &

**Community.** Each year our Council of nearly 200 parish men, donates over 10,000 hours of our time and \$14,000 in direct financial assistance through our various programs. Join us so that we can continue our good works. We need you and we welcome you.

Pope Francis' message to the Knights of Columbus is our mission statement: "The Church is called to be a community of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another and serve as a leaven of reconciliation and unity for the whole human family. This vocation found particular expression in the principles of faith, fraternity and service, which guided the establishment of the Knights of Columbus. The fidelity of the Knights to these high ideals has not only ensured the continued vitality of the Order, but has also contributed, and continues to contribute, to the mission of the Church at every level." For more information please contact our Membership Director Kevin Duffy, or our Grand Knight, David W.J. Gilefski. Visit our council website at <a href="https://sjbkofcde.org">https://sjbkofcde.org</a>.

The SJB Athletic Association is seeking new members. It's a great opportunity for parents to get involved with the parish and their children's sports activities. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 8

PM in the Gerres Building. Please contact Vice President, Ken Conner. Visit <a href="https://sjbde.org/">https://sjbde.org/</a> athletic-association for more information.

Thank you for your support. To donate to
Outreach, food donations can be left in the bins in the back of the Church or brought to The
Table of Plenty Outreach Center Ministry of SJB office which is located at: Community of Christ Church on Milltown Rd.

Clip this list to shop & donate:

- \_\_\_ breakfast cereal
  - \_ pasta and sauce
- peanut butter and jelly
  - black beans
- soup
- mac and cheese
- rice
- canned fruit
- canned vegetables
- tuna, canned meats
- \_\_\_ shampoo, deodorant
- body wash, soap
- \_\_\_ toothpaste & toothbrushes
- laundry and dish soap

Donate a gift at <a href="https://SJBDE.org/Give">https://SJBDE.org/Give</a>. We appreciate you generosity and support.

Please

visit <u>www.tableofplentyde.org</u> for more.



Thank you.

### THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# ENTRANCE HYMN: AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE #315 (NETTLETON. Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr. © 1989, Hope Publishing Co. Used and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-621383. All rights reserved.)

- 1. As we gather at your Table, As we listen to your Word, Help us know, O God, your presence: Let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nour *ish* us with sacred *sto* ry Till *we*\_ claim it as our own; Teach us through this holy banquet How to make Love's vict'ry known.
- 2. Turn our worship into witness In the sacrament of life; Send us forth to love and serve you, Bringing peace where there is strife. Give *us*, Christ, your great com *pas* sion To *for* give as you forgave; May we still behold your image In the world you died to save.
- 3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon Other guests to share that feast Where triumphant Love will welcome Those who had been last and least. There *no* more will envy *blind* us Nor *will*\_ pride our peace destroy, As we join with saints and angels To repeat the sounding joy.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Psalm 96:1, 6 O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendor, strength and honor in his holy place.

# PENITENTIAL ACT GLORIA (inside cover of missal)

First the Lord degraded the land of Zebulun

and the land of Naphtali; but in the end he has

#### Liturgy of the Word

#### FIRST READING

Isaiah 8:23-9:3

glorified the seaward road, the land west of the Jordan, the District of the Gentiles. Anguish has taken wing, dispelled is darkness: for there is no gloom where but now there was distress. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.

# **RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps. 27:1, 4, 13-14 **R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17 I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose. For it has been reported to me about you, my brothers and sisters, by Chloe's people, that there are rivalries among you. I mean that each of you is saying, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with the wisdom of human eloquence, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning.

# **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** cf. Matthew 4:23 **R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom and cured every disease among the people. (R)

#### **GOSPEL** Matthew 4:12-23

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled: Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen.

From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him. He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people.

#### **HOMILY**

#### PROFESSION OF FAITH (THE NICENE 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 the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

**R:** Lord, hear our prayer.

#### Liturgy of the Eucharist

#### **Presentation and Preparation of Gifts**

HYMN: UBI CARITAS #328 (Refrain and Verses 1,2,5 text based on Ubi Caritas, 9th cent.; Verses 3,4 text, Bob Hurd; Text and music © 1996, 2004, Bob Hurd. Published by OCP. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-621383. All rights reserved.)

#### Refrain

#### Ubi caritas est vera, est vera: Deus ibi est, Deus ibi est.\*

(\*translation: Where there is true charity, God is present.)

- 1. The love of Christ joins us together. Let us rejoice in him, and in our love and care for all now love God in return. (R)
- 2. In true communion let us gather. May all divisions cease, and in their place be Christ the Lord, our risen Prince of Peace. (R)
- 3. May we who gather at this table to share the bread of life become a sacrament of love, your healing touch, O Christ. (R)

- 4. For those in need make us your mercy, for those oppressed, your might.

  Make us, your Church, a holy sign of justice and new life. (R)
- 5. May we one day behold your glory and see you face to face, rejoicing with the saints of God to sing eternal praise. (R)

# PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER HOLY HOLY

MYSTERY OF FAITH and AMEN COMMUNION RITE

THE LORD'S PRAYER
RITE OF PEACE / LAMB OF GOD

#### **COMMUNION**

#### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

John 8:12

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

#### COMMUNION HYMN CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT #601

(Text and music, Bernadette Farrell © 1993, 2011. Published by OCP. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-621383. All rights reserved.)

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

#### Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

- 2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. (R)
- 3. Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. **(R)**
- 4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. (R)

5. Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. **(R)** 

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

# THE CONCLUDING RITES Final Blessing and Dismissal

#### RECESSIONAL HYMN: THE SUMMONS

#387 (verses 2&3) (KELVINGROVE (Trad. Scottish melody) Text: John L. Bell, © 1987, The Iona Community. Used and reprinted with permission of GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent, under ONE LICENSE #A-621383. All rights reserved.)

2. Will you leave yourself behind If I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind And never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare Should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see If I but call your name? Will you set the pris'ners free And never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, And do such as this unseen, And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?



#### The Art of Retreat —

Social media has made it far too easy for me to share my opinion.

These virtual spaces tend to strip our words of all empathy. Someone will post something that I think is nonsense, and I just have to tell them why — and quickly! Hurry! Before they delete it!

Nine times out of ten, when the dust is settled, I find that I've said too much and listened too little.

As I've gotten older, the motto I try (not always successfully) to live by is this: You do not have to be on the attack all of the time, even if it's for what you think is the truth.

I can't help but notice that the first thing Jesus does when he hears of the arrest of John the Baptist is to retreat. He doesn't punch a hole in a wall or take to the streets in protest. He withdraws.

And what does he do after withdrawing? A lot of praying, I would imagine. A lot of thinking, a lot of reflecting. A lot of listening to the voice of his Father.

Sometimes we mistake stillness with vulnerability. But Christ shows us that to withdraw, to contemplate, can actually be a tremendous show of strength. Even the fiercest dogs wait for the command of their master before they act.

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with the wisdom of human eloquence. — 1 Corinthians 1:17 ©LPi

# **AROUND THE DIOCESE**

#### RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR

**MARRIAGE** Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of February 10 - 12, 2023 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit <a href="https://www.HelpOurMarriage.org">www.HelpOurMarriage.org</a> or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

**Pray for Ukraine** "Lord, O Lord, look down from heaven! See and visit this vineyard and bring it to perfection, for your right hand has planted it. May your hand be upon your sons and daughters of Ukraine whom You affirmed for yourself. Amen."

https://www.cdow.org/pray-and-fast-for-ukraine/

**CYM Pilgrimage** – Saturday, April 1 - Save that date for CYM's biggest event of the year. The Annual CYM Pilgrimage returns this April, and we hope to see you there! More information coming soon!

Bishop William E. Koenig invites all couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th wedding anniversary, or any anniversary beyond 50th, to the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass being held on World Marriage Sunday, February 12, 2023, at 1 p.m. at Saint Margaret of Scotland Church in Newark, Delaware. The Mass coincides with National Marriage Week, February 7 through 12. The Bishop will be available for photos with interested couples beginning at 12:00 noon and again after the Mass. If you would like to have a photo taken with Bishop Koenig, please arrive at 12:00 pm or plan to stay after Mass. There is no cost to you, however reservations are required. Please make your reservations by January 30th.

This year, you can register by clicking on <a href="https://cdow.coursestorm.com/category/family-life-events">https://cdow.coursestorm.com/category/family-life-events</a> or by calling the office at 302-295-0657. For more information, please contact the Office for Marriage and Family Life 302-295-0657 or <a href="https://omfloor.org">OMFL@cdow.org</a>

#### DATING AND ENGAGED:

If you're looking for reliable advice on preparing for your Catholic Marriage visit foryourmarriage.org.
Other websites hosted by the USCCB dedicated to promoting marriage include
PorTuMatrimonio.org
and MarriageUniqueForAReason.org.

How can Catholics' experience of the Eucharist deepen their friendship with Jesus Christ and then inspire them to share that friendship with others? That question lies at the heart of the National Eucharistic Revival's upcoming Year of Parish Revival which begins June 11, 2023. Learn more about the National Eucharistic Revival at www.eucharisticrevival.org.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou,

O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.. O glorious prince St. Michael, chief and commander of the heavenly hosts, quardian of souls, vanquisher of rebel spirits, servant in the house of the Divine King and our admirable conductor, you who shine with excellence and superhuman virtue deliver us from all evil, who turn to you with confidence and enable us by your gracious protection to serve God more and more faithfully every day.



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