



Saint Rose of Lima

Roman Catholic Church

November/December 2017

Come One, Come All!

This has been my year! I hope that every day for the remainder of my life on this earth, I can relive coming into the Catholic faith at Easter this year. I could go into great detail about what sparked my interest, what drew me into this faith. My first yearning came like a little rat-a-tat-tat at the door of my heart. I knew I was seeking support for all the craziness that was going on in my life – to be a larger part of a community based in caring for others and one having strong morals. There is a painting by William Holman Hunt, “The Light of the World”. The figure of Jesus stands in the darkness with a lantern preparing to knock on an overgrown and long-unopened door. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hears My voice, and open the door, then I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with Me.” (Rev. 3:20). Rat-a-tat-tat!

But where to start? How does a lifelong Southern Baptist find the path to begin such a journey? RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) ushered me into falling in love with the Church. What a conglomeration of individuals in this class! So many thirsting for God! From the very young to the “elderly like me” – unbaptized, baptized in a non-Catholic Christian tradition, the curious, the lifelong

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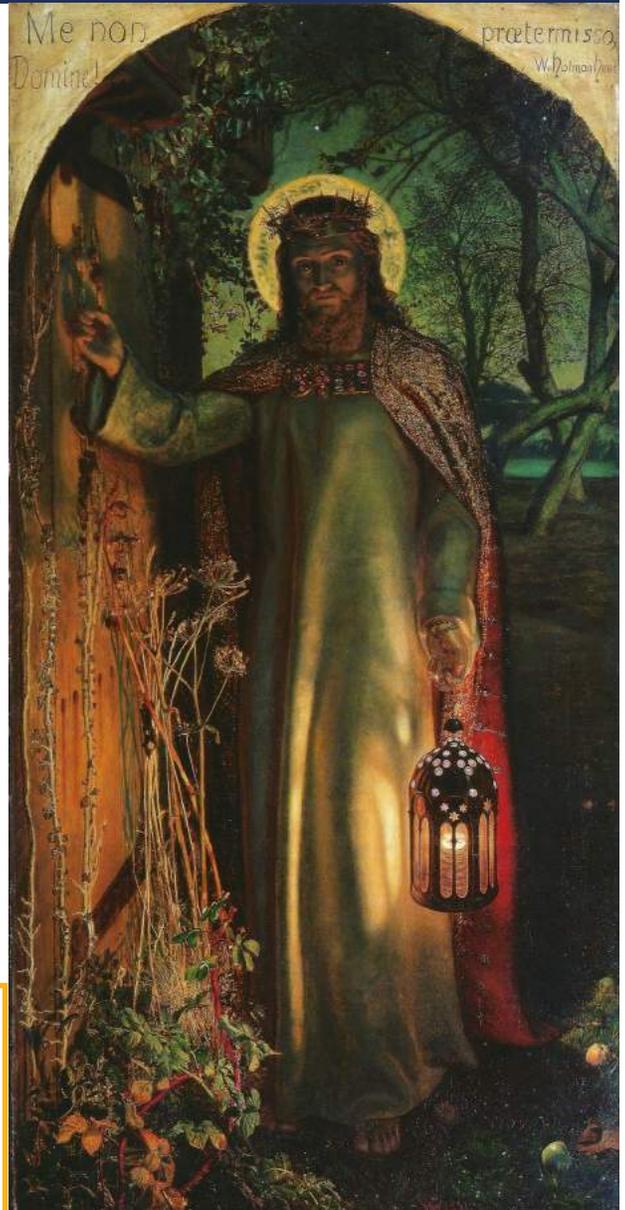
Do you or a friend want to learn more about the Catholic faith?

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

classes are held on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 in the meeting room wing behind our main sanctuary.

Come! Find a place! Seats are open! Tuesday evenings!

Fellowship (with yummy goodies) from 6:30-6:45 pm – liturgy of the word 6:45-7:00 pm – study 7:00-8:00 pm. You may begin at any time during the year and are not obligated to become Catholic. Join us on your faith journey.



The Light of the World
by William Holman Hunt

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Jesus answered, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you, You must be born from above."

John 3:5-7

learners, Catholics not yet confirmed. Now, I cannot help but envision John the Baptist standing in those waters long ago immersing, immersing, immersing! And I cannot help but hear someone shouting, "Come one, come all!"

If I've peaked your interest at all or if you know someone seeking and yearning, find answers in a journey of faith through RCIA. Since Jesus invited His first followers to, "Come, follow me", this image is used untiringly to describe Christian discipleship. For each of us, faith is a journey marked with paths of conversion. We move from unbelief to first faith, sin to repentance, pain, and

isolation to a loving community. Faith, conversion, repentance, celebration, and community – 5 roads you can travel guided by the Gospel and examples set by parish members. Come! Find a place! Seats are open! Tuesday evenings! Fellowship (with yummy goodies) from 6:30-6:45 pm – liturgy of the word 6:45-7:00 pm – study 7:00-8:00 pm.

Come, sip from the glass...at the bottom of the glass is God (paraphrased from Heisenberg, the German physicist).

Debbie Steagall



Christian Initiation

From the time of the apostles, becoming a Christian has been accomplished by a journey and initiation in several stages. This journey can be covered rapidly or slowly, but certain essential elements will always have to be present: proclamation of the Word, acceptance of the Gospel entailing conversion, profession of faith, Baptism itself, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and admission to Eucharistic communion

Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph 1229



Charity

“So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest is love” (1 Corinthians 13). St. Paul is stating that of the 3 theological virtues, love/charity is the greatest, but why? Faith is trusting in something unseen, hope is held out for a promise of the future, charity is the binding force. Eventually, faith will be realized. When we die, we will see God face to face and receive our final judgment. Once this happens, faith becomes knowledge. Hope is held out for God’s mercy, that He will forgive our failings and bring us into everlasting life. We have to work for this while we are alive, attempting to grow in holiness each and every day, knowing we are not there yet but hoping in God’s love. This hope is realized again, once we pass from this world to the next. Love is everlasting! We grow in charity while we are still in the life and that love continues and reaches its fulfillment in Heaven.

When we use the word love we must remember we are using it in the theological sense. The term ‘love’ is often overused in our world and sometimes loses its meaning. We say we love chocolate and we love God, the two loves are very different. In this article, when the word love is used, it is being used in the same sense as the theological virtue of charity. This kind of love, or charity, is what Christ showed on the cross! Love pours itself out, even when that means it must deny itself immediate gratification. It looks to the good of others and does not count the cost, in a word, it is selfless. This is the love God has shown for us and has called us to share with others. By ourselves, this is not possible, but through the grace of our Lord, we are allowed to participate in this charity.

Each of our relationships should be built on this charity since, without it, the relationship is bound to fail. True charity within a relationship bases itself on God, He is the foundation upon which any relationship should find itself. We are called to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind; and to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:36-40). To love neighbor means that we see Christ in them and serve Christ in them. We are called to love all of our brothers

and sisters in Christ and to love them as we love ourselves. To do any of this, God and His love must be our strength. The people God has placed in our lives are chances to encounter Christ. The friendships we have, platonic and romantic, are called to help, not just ourselves, but to help build up others and help them grow in holiness. They are called to witness to the goodness of our God and to show the beauty of our Lord.



Often when working with my students they mention that it is easy to be holy around some of their friends, but not all. My advice is always the same – if a person is not helping you to grow to be better, if you cannot hold each other accountable, if you cannot pray with them, then the relationship needs to be reconsidered. That may seem harsh, yet it is what God has called us to. We are called to be witnesses to others, but we have to make sure we are lifting them up, and not allowing them to drag us down.

Charity/love is eternal. It is the binding force that unites us to each other and

most importantly to God. It is the reason Christ died on the cross for us. Charity empties itself out for the good of others and helps us see God even in the darkness. It is the greatest of the theological virtues and enables us answer the call to holiness. Let us then build our lives on this gift of love, shared with us by our Creator and given to us to share. Mary, Queen of Love and Queen of Peace, pray for us.

In Christ,

Rev. Nicholas M. Allen, Pastor

Charity empties itself out for the good of others and helps us see God even in the darkness. It is the greatest of the theological virtues and enables us to answer the call to holiness.



The fountain pen ritual

How God can be seen in the most mundane of tasks



Since I was young, I have enjoyed fountain pens. I couldn't tell you why. Perhaps it is something of the eccentricity that using one in the modern age implies. Perhaps it's the old-fashionedness of them. At least, part of it is the fact that they don't fit into the modern disposable culture. Fountain pens last for years. Good ones last a lifetime - or multiple lifetimes.

Fountain pen ink is liquid instead of a gel, so it offers a richness and deep color that soaks into the paper. That richness comes at a price: the reservoir runs dry far more frequently than the disposable alternatives. That means they have to be filled more frequently so they can be of any use at all.

I firmly believe that we can find analogs to the spiritual life all over everyday life if we keep our eyes open and take the time to reflect on them. I was chatting with one of my fellow seminarians a few years ago about how much I enjoy the ritual of filling a fountain pen. Initially, I was just waxing poetic about how pleasant the ritual is, but we realized as we talked that there's an analog to the spiritual life to be found in that ritual of filling the pen.

Step the first: Empty the reservoir of the last little bit of ink

I always pull out my bottle and refill before the ink runs dry. This serves not only to make sure that my pen keeps up with my needs but also to avoid clogs if I let ink dry inside the pen. I have allowed the latter a few times (oops). To fill the pen, though, the first thing I have to do is empty what is in there already. We are often reminded by the spiritual masters that we must begin prayer by emptying ourselves. Unless we open ourselves entirely to God, he has room to work in our lives. It's not just a question of getting rid of the old to make new, it's a question of truly emptying ourselves to make room for God to fill us up.

When I fill my pen, I am squeezing out the last bit of ink that was already in there even though it is the same ink that I'm adding to the pen. When we immerse ourselves in prayer, in communion with the Lord, or in Scripture, we must always approach it entirely new. We cannot allow it to be stale or old. If we do that, we will just remain circling where we are, and we will always have a little bit where God isn't allowed to touch. He must be allowed to surprise us always.



Step the second: Dip the pen all the way.



When I first started using refillable fountain pens instead of replacing the tiny little ink cartridges, I was always afraid of getting the nib too deep when I filled the pen. I thought I was just supposed to put the tip into the ink. I did this for a long time, and I always wondered why I couldn't get the pen to fill right or write right. Then, I was told that I need to get the whole nib into the ink; I can't be afraid of getting the grip of the pen covered in ink. Once I learned that simple little fact, I could fill my pens with the best of 'em, and then write with them like I wanted.

When we start out in the spiritual life, we seem to have the same tendency. We want to tiptoe in. We want to just touch the edge until we prove to ourselves it's worth it. We are afraid to jump in with everything we are until we know it's safe. Many people get frustrated when they try to grow in the spiritual life because they do this, and the only time that the spiritual life **is** fulfilling and truly life-giving is when we truly jump in. We *have* to give it everything we are; we have to dip ourselves in entirely, or we will always come away half-filled and wondering why our spiritual life is so dry.



Step the third: Draw in the ink - several times.

Many fountain pens require you to fill and empty the reservoir a few times to get it topped up. One of mine, in particular, has a plunger that I have to push up and down three or four times before the reservoir is full. I just have to keep it submerged in the ink and pump until it's full. Many times, I think we try to go deeper into the spiritual life, but we only try once, and we expect to be full. We don't realize we have to keep building. Both the pen and the spiritual life are like priming an artesian well; the work at the beginning requires quite a bit of effort (and trusting God's plan) until we notice that we are full.

Step the fourth: Clean the excess ink.

Since I started filling my pens right, I had to face the fact that there is always ink all over the grip of the pen. It would be disastrous to just try using the pen like this. Imagine my beautiful blue ink all over a nice white dress shirt! So, we have to wipe the ink. This is another one of those areas I was just too gentle when I started. I tried to gently dab the ink clean with a tissue. I kept wondering why I still made a mess of my fingers when I wrote with the pen. We have to look for those extra bits that we have in our spiritual journey. Sometimes they are bits that just aren't ready for prime time, yet. Some of them may be fruitful later on; some may just need to be wiped away because they are our own attempts that don't fit God's plan. This is where a good spiritual director is an absolute necessity. The spiritual director's job is to help us find those areas that may not be ready for prime time or to find areas where we may misstep in our spiritual lives. Sometimes, our director will be gentle and dab at the extra areas. Other times, he will have to be more rough and direct to help us be filled the right way and be able to write God's lines on the paper of our lives and the world.



Step the fifth: Repeat.

Like I said at the beginning, fountain pens go dry. It comes with the territory. If I stop using a pen and let the ink just dry in the reservoir, it could destroy the pen. If I just keep writing and writing and writing but never return to the inkwell, eventually it'll stop writing; there will be no ink to put on the paper. All of us have to constantly return to the well to refill our spiritual reservoir. That's one of the reasons the Church tells us that we must attend Mass every Sunday. She's not just trying to control our lives and drag us in to waste an hour a week. This is especially true for those of us in ministry.

The lay Catholic in the pews is like the pen that gets pulled out for a signature now and again. All of their lives are spent living their faith in the public sphere, but they aren't pouring in the same way that those of us in active ministry do. Priests and those of us in full time lay ministry in the Church are like the pen that is used all day, day in and day out, to write everything. The ink will run dry far more quickly. That is why the more time we spend ministering to others, the more frequently and deeply we have to dive into prayer.

Rev. Joe Fessenden
Parochial Vicar



Saint Rose School Gabriel Award



“Morning prayers at Saint Rose School are like nothing I have ever seen at any of the schools I have been,” said Sr. Catherine Marie, principal. “The children come out of their classrooms and walk to the meeting place. They naturally form a cross in the intersecting hallways when they are assembled. You can feel the Spirit and it feels like the perfect place and time to recognize students that demonstrate Christ’s love.”

This year sister has instituted the Gabriel Award for the students. She noticed in other schools how students generally tend to be peer focused and are not always aware of teachers, staff or other adults. She felt that it was important to teach children personal interaction skills. “In this

age of cell phones and social media, it is important to engage children into interacting with others. We want them to be aware of those they meet, welcome them into the community, and engage them in conversation as well as building their own confidence.”

“I saw the goodness of the students here and I wanted to make it more tangible. As Christians we all bear the light of Christ in us. Let us do for one another as Gabriel did when he greeted Mary at the Annunciation.”

Teachers and staff nominate students when they are observed greeting visitors, teachers, staff or other students. Three students are awarded the honor each morning at prayers. These three students then help with prayers the following day.



Susan Akers, administrative assistant, is in a unique position at the front desk and has seen a change in the students. “The children are friendly and engaging. They look you in the eye when they talk to you, start conversations and are genuinely interested in others.” She told of an incident when a part-time IT staff member was walking down the hall with the assistant principal. A student that was passing said to him, “Welcome to St. Rose!” He, the staff member, then turned to Mrs. Hawkins and said, “That made me feel good.”



and Ambassadors

Kali, fourth grade and a recent award winner, put it this way, “The Gabriel Award is when the whole school is helping others.”

Emmy, first grade, added, “The Gabriel Award is when you do something very nice like saying ‘Hi’ to the cleaning lady.” Sister added that Emmy also told the custodian that she did a great job of keeping the school clean!

Hunter, first grade, told of his award, “I said Good Morning to Sister before school and asked her how she was.”

Diana and Daniel, in the second grade, shared ways to be considered for the award. “You can hold the door and be thoughtful and friendly.”



This is also the first year for Ambassadors, 7th and 8th grade students who help around the school in various capacities. During the recent open house, Ambassadors were used to welcome parents. Their main duties are before and after school. They wear orange safety vests and help younger children get out of their cars and into the school every morning. At dismissal they walk them to their cars and help load them. Zach, 8th grade, adds. “It is fun to help the little kids. It is a great way to help the school.” On Music Mondays the Ambassadors add music and dance to the morning routine. “It is a fun way to start a new week with a kick”, Sister explained.

The Gabriel Award and the Ambassador program have been a successful way for students to live out the school’s motto of Learning, Love and Service.

Our Mission

Saint Rose Catholic School unites with the family to provide a quality Catholic education in a Christ-centered environment, promoting learning, love and service, which prepares students for the future.





St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church and School

1601 N Tennessee Blvd.
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
615-893-1843
www.saintrose.org

Weekend Masses

Saturday, 5:30 pm Vigil

Sunday, 8:30 am, 11:00 am, 5:00 pm

Daily Mass (school in session)

Monday-Thursday, 7:00 am

Wednesday, 6:00 pm

Friday and Saturday, 8:15 am

Daily Mass (school not in session)

Monday-Saturday, 8:15 am

Wednesday, 6:00 pm

Spanish Mass

Tuesdays and Saturdays, 7:30 pm

Reconciliation

Wednesdays, 5:00-5:45 pm

Saturdays, 4:00-5:15 pm

or by appointment

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8-12 and 1-4 pm

Exceptions noted in the bulletin

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE TUESDAY, DEC. 12 AT 7:00PM

PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR THE COMING OF OUR LORD

WEIRD TIMES IN THE CHURCH WHEN CHRISTMAS FALLS ON A MONDAY

This year Christmas falls on a Monday. In order to meet our Sunday Obligation and the Christmas Holy Day Obligation we should attend a Sunday Mass and a Christmas Mass.

You should attend two Masses that extended weekend!

Choose one Mass for your Sunday Obligation from the purple set
and one Mass for your Christmas obligation from the red set.

You are allowed to receive Holy Communion twice in one day.

Sunday Mass Choices

Saturday, Dec. 23
5:30pm

Sunday, Dec. 24
8:30am
11:00am
4:00pm
8:00pm

Christmas Mass Choices

Sunday, Dec. 24
4:00pm
8:00pm
Midnight

Monday, Dec. 25
10:00am