



4609 Martin Street South, Cropwell, AL 35054
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www.ollpellcity.com parish@ollpellcity.com

Rev. William P. Lucas, Pastor

Deacon Terrence Rumore

Deacon Serge Brazzolotto

Deacon E. Lee Robinson

Director of Religious Education
Music Director
Parish Secretary

Kelly Cardenas
Charmaine Welch
Shelly Hamman

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday : 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.
Weekdays: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Thursday 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 4:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m. or
by appointment.

MARRIAGES:

Must be scheduled with the Priest
at least 6 months in advance.

MORNING ROSARY:

8:30 a.m. before Mass.

MONDAYS:

Miraculous Medal Novena following Mass.

EVERY FIRST FRIDAY:

Novena To The Sacred Heart
of Jesus - before 9 a.m. Mass.
Eucharistic Adoration 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

HOLY HOUR OF ADORATION:

Third Sunday of every month at 7:00 p.m.
Second Wednesday of every month— 7:30 p.m.
Exposición del Santísimo el segundo Miércoles
de cada mes @ 7:30 p.m.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

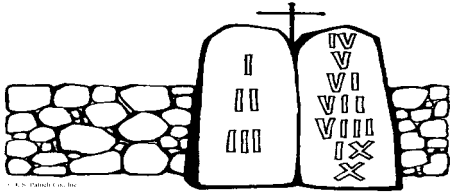
August through May. Ages 3 yrs. through
High School.

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church

Saturday, March 6, 2021
Mass 5:00 pm

Sunday, March 7, 2021
Masses 8:30 am & 11:15 am

Third Sunday of Lent
March 7, 2021



*I, the LORD, am your God... You shall not have other gods besides me.
—Exodus 20:2a, 3*



March 8 - March 14

- Monday:** Judy Hale by Ken & Edie Otto †
Tuesday: Margaret Blake by Fr. William Lucas †
Wednesday: Fred Adams by Lee & Cheryl Robinson †
Thursday: Annette Caterinichia by Fr. William Lucas †
Friday: Tom Lucas by Johnson & Ledlow families †
Saturday: Frances Hand by Bob & Karen Hand †
Sunday: Jackie Thoma by the Brazzolottos
For the People

Please pray for the ill and shut-ins:

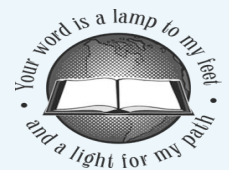
Paul Boyle, Jacky Johnson, Peggy Gessler, Gail Layton, Diana Markevich, Dorothy DiMattia, Walton Smith, Juanita Crowson, Kelly Dale, Toni James, Bob Walsh, Sarah Svetlay, Charles & Libby Lafleur, Fred Brown, Jan Bowman, Silvia Moten, Wayne Adams, Herb Kuntz, Bill Frost, Audrey Springer, Patsy de Victoria, Christine Jaks, Jeanie Reid, Ruth Stanley, Nancy Ross, Jackie Thoma, Robert Paulitzky, Cathy Funderburg Parker, Bob & LouElla Menefee, Tommy Dickerson, Fr. Gray Bean, Dan Moynihan

Please pray for all our loved ones who are ill and our shut-ins. To add a name, call the church office; or to add to the Prayer Hot Line please email Sharon Stice at sharonstice46@gmail.com or call 205-613-1053.

Weekly Readings ~ March 8—March 14

- Monday:** 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30
- Tuesday:** Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
- Wednesday:** Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
- Thursday:** Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23
- Friday:** Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17, Mk 12:28-34
- Saturday:** Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
- Sunday:** 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

Today's Readings



First Reading — The law was given through Moses (Exodus 20:1-17).

Psalm — Lord, you have the words of everlasting life (Psalm 19).

Second Reading — We proclaim Christ crucified; the foolishness of God is greater than human wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:22-25).

Gospel — Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up (John 2:13-25).

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

For the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, there is a choice of readings to use for Mass. The readings for Lectionary "Year A" may always be used. There are also readings for years "B" and "C" of the Lectionary. (We are currently in "Year B.")

Whatever the readings used for the Third Sunday of Lent the message is the same: Jesus Christ replaces the Temple as the place of worship. Wherever Jesus is, that is the place to worship God.

Because we are created by God with bodies, we need a location to worship God. We need a place to gather as people because we can only be in one place at a time. We also need a central location so we can worship God together. The buildings early Christians worshipped in were called, "Domo Ecclesia", that is, "the House of the Church." The people who worshipped were called "the Church", that is, "Those Who Belong to the Lord."

For first-century Jews, the place to worship was the Temple in Jerusalem. It was God's house. It was the place where priests functioned. People went to the Temple to offer their sacrifices to God. People made pilgrimage to Jerusalem during the major feasts of the Jewish liturgical calendar. They travelled to the Temple to be with God. The Temple was "a house of prayer."

Jesus Christ rose from the dead and sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in each of us and in the Church as a whole. Rather than our travelling to find God, God travels with us during the journey through life. We are a "pilgrim people" on a journey to Heaven. The Ark of the Covenant, the very presence of God, accompanied the People of God on the journey to the Promised Land. Jesus Christ accompanies us on our pilgrimage to the "Promised Land" of Heaven.

Jesus Christ is God. Wherever Jesus is, that is a place of worship. Jesus is Immanuel: God with us.

HELP
Jesus
IN DISGUISE

Next weekend, March 13 and 14th, our parish will take up **The Catholic Relief Services Collection**. Funds from this Collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and **help Jesus in disguise**. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Offertory Collection

July 2020 — June 2021

	Actual	Needed
Feb 28 Offertory	\$6,097	\$5,558
Year to Date	\$210,691	\$194,530



Chair: Jennifer Rosato:

jrosato1972@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Bernie Funderburg

boxacarbern1@aol.com

Secretary: Gloria Raynor:

groddgers2010@gmail.com

Matthew Allor: mjallor.1969@gmail.com

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Britton Falkner: brittonfalkner@gmail.com

Debbie Gossett: debbiegossett@msn.com

Bart Perry: brpgep07@yahoo.com

Allen Ross: allentross5555@gmail.com

**Council meetings are open to all
parishioners, and are typically on the
third Wed. of the month after Mass.**

ALL ARE INVITED

Knights of Columbus Prayer Service
Council #12270

Saturday, March 20th

10:00 am at the

Virgin Mary Grotto



Donuts and coffee will be served

Contact Bernie Funderburg if questions
205-405-6382

**Be a Religious Leader
in your family**

BELL TOWER FUND DRIVE

The parish has received architectural renderings for a tower to house a bell. The bell has been purchased and fitted for automatic ringing. The total cost of the project is approximately \$100,000.00. We have a pledge of \$25,000.00.

The rest of the cost will need to be raised **before** a contract can be signed by Bishop Raica and construction can begin.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, make the check out to Our Lady of the Lake and write "Bell Tower" on the check.

Updates on the progress of the fund-raising will be included in future bulletins.

Computer-generated renderings of the bell tower can be found in either foyer of the church.

Opportunities for Confession During Lent

Mondays- 9:30-10:00 a.m. (Following Mass)
Wednesdays- 6:00-6:45 p.m. (Before Mass)
Fridays- 9:30-10:00 a.m. (Following Mass)
Saturdays- 4:00-4:45 p.m. (Before Mass)
Wednesday, March 10- During Adoration
(7:30-8:30 pm)
Sunday, March 21- During Adoration (7:00-8:00 pm)
Wednesday, March 24-Communal Penance Service
Sunday, March 28th - Between Morning Masses

NEW DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our current Director of Religious Education, Kelly Cardenas, will be leaving that position after May 16th. We thank Kelly for guiding the religious education of our parish during this most difficult year.

The parish will be hiring a new Director of Religious Education. If you are interested in finding out more information about this paid, part time position, contact Father Bill at the office. The number is 205-525-5161.

PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTION

The Parish Pastoral Council is a consultative body. The Pastor consults the members to get feedback on pastoral initiatives and to find out the needs of the parish.

The Council is made up of nine members serving staggered three-year terms. The year begins in July and ends the following June. Elections for new members are held in May.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else as a candidate, contact the parish office. **If you nominate someone else, be sure to get their permission before nominating them.**

Assignments—March 10~ March 14

WEDNESDAY MASS 3/10/2021 7:00 PM

Lector: Teri Gagliano
Ministers: Deacon

SATURDAY MASS 3/13/2021 5:00 PM

Greeters: Charles Gibson, Paige Everett
Lector: Sara Reese
Ministers: Deacon
Ushers: Bob Nicholas, Jim Gorman

SUNDAY MASS 3/14/2021 8:30 AM

Greeters: Patsy Lopez deVictoria,
Patrick Cowart
Lector: Joe Hoffert
Ministers: Deacon
Ushers: Michael Gagliano, Dennis Veigl,
Phillip & Bit Thomaston

3/14/2021 11:15 AM

Greeters: Bob & LouElla Menefee
F&S Poteracki
Lector: Robert Lewis
Ministers: Deacon
Ushers: Chris Gallegly, Jarrold Bluhm,
John Bluhm, Gregg Becknell

CRS RICE
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES



BOWL
FOR LENT, FOR LIFE

What You Give Up For Lent Changes Lives

Please return rice bowls and/or donate by March 28th!

For faith formation this LENT visit
FORMED.ORG!

Formed.org is "Catholic Faith On Demand".

Similar to Netflix, Formed.org gives you access to Catholic movies, audio books, radio talks, podcasts, studies and much more!

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For free access, use our parish code: JRQNH8

Congratulations to Daniel Vasquez and Nate Cardenas on receiving the sacrament of First Reconciliation!



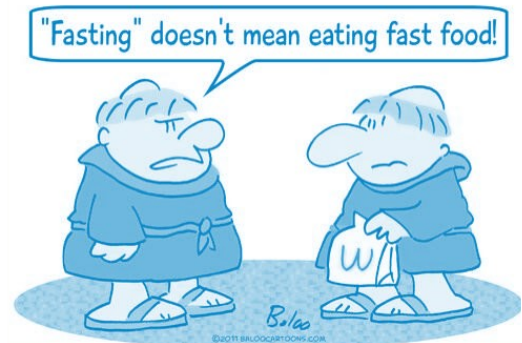
Looking Ahead...

March 7—RE: 9:45 am—11 am
(Class reconciliation for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade)/Youth Mass at 11:15 am

March 9—RCIA at 7 pm

March 13— **Confirmation Retreat**
(9th grade) 2:30 pm– 6pm

March 14—RE: 9:45 am—11 am
(Class reconciliation for high school students, 9th-12 grade)



Youth Group

Our meeting time has changed!

(Grades 5th –12th)

Next Meeting: March 21st,
after the 11:15 mass!!!
Come for Mass stay for
FOOD, FUN, &
FELLOWSHIP!

For More information contact our Youth Ministers, Carly Sadler (205)837-8888 & Jordan Rawson (205)863-5787

(Follow Us on Facebook and Instagram!)

VISITS TO THOSE STUCK AT HOME

If you or someone you know would like a phone call or a visit from Father Bill or one of the deacons, please let us know. We would like to encourage anyone who feels discouraged at this time. We can visit in person or over the phone. We can bring communion if desired. The phone numbers are:

- Father Bill Lucas, 205-383-8134
 - Deacon Terry Rumore, 205-253-9223
 - Deacon Lee Robinson, 205-936-9330;
 - Deacon Serge Brazzolotto, 205-753-3230.
- You may also call the office at 205-525-5161.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

MARRIED COUPLES: *“Come drink the Water of Renewed Love”:* Give your marriage the best tune-up it has ever received. Plan to go on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and come back with a marriage that is refreshed and full of energy!

The next weekend is VIRTUAL and is scheduled for **March 19-21, 2021**. You can get more information or register online at www.ALFL-wwme.org or by calling Sean and Angie Murray at 205-530-3607.



Calendar for March 7 - March 14, 2021

Sunday- March 7

Mass 8:30 am
 Youth Mass-11:15 am
 RE 9:45-11:00 am
 6th, 7th, & 8th grade Reconciliation during RE


Monday- March 8

Mass 9:00 am
 Confessions 9:30-10:00 am

Tuesday- March 9

Mass 9:00 am
 RCIA- 7:00 pm

Wednesday- March 10

Mass 7:00 pm
 Holy Hour 7:30-8:30 pm 
 Confessions 7:30-8:30 pm

Thursday- March 11

Mass 9:00 am

Friday- March 12

Mass 9:00 am
 Confessions 9:30-10:00 am
 Stations of the Cross- 7:00 pm

Saturday- March 13

Reconciliation 4:00-4:45 pm
 Mass 5:00 pm

Sunday- March 14

Daylight Savings Begins
 Mass 8:30 am & 11:15 am
 RE 9:45-11:00 am
 High School Reconciliation during RE

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UPDATE

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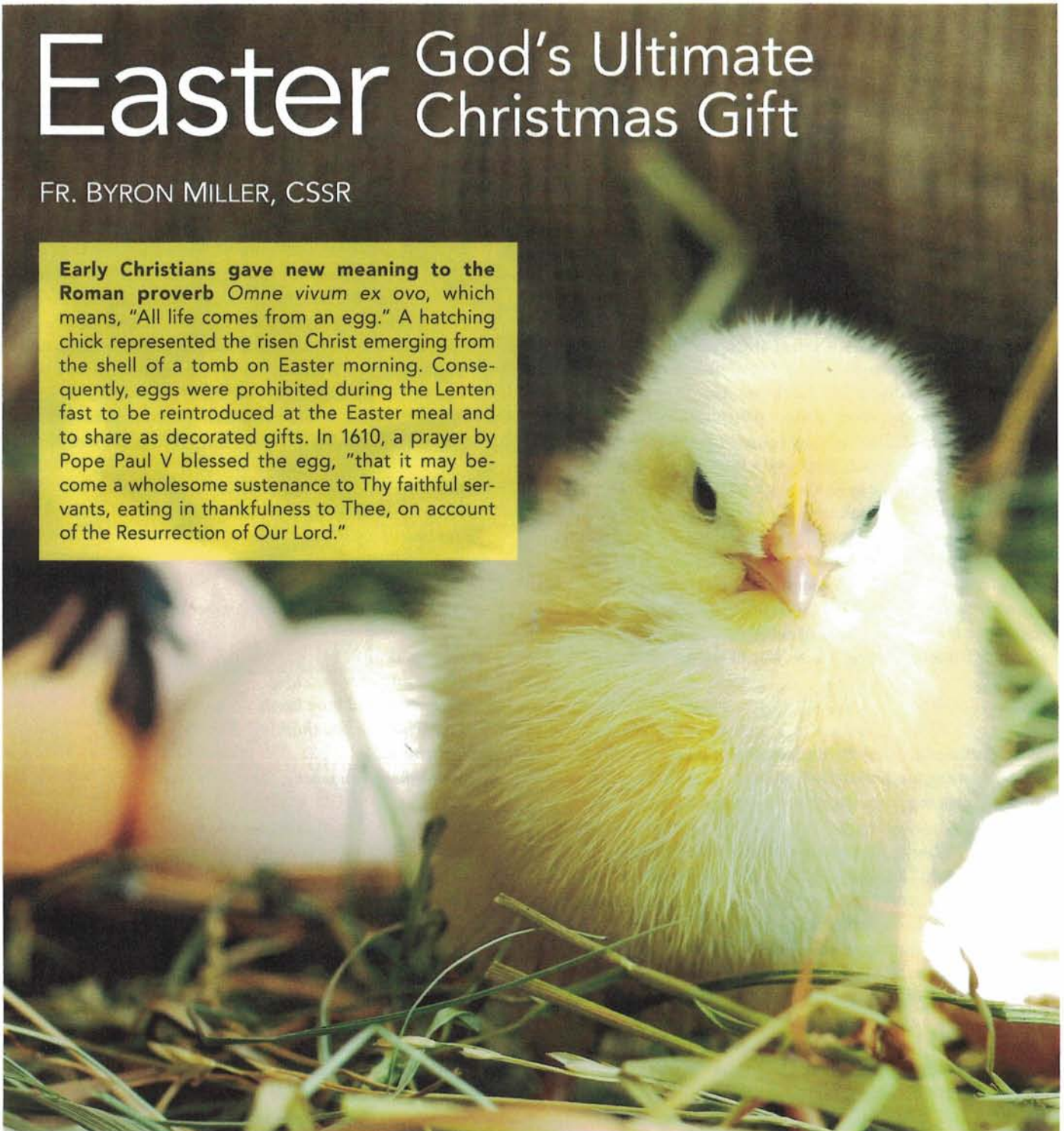
MARCH 2021

Easter

God's Ultimate Christmas Gift

FR. BYRON MILLER, CSSR

Early Christians gave new meaning to the Roman proverb *Omne vivum ex ovo*, which means, "All life comes from an egg." A hatching chick represented the risen Christ emerging from the shell of a tomb on Easter morning. Consequently, eggs were prohibited during the Lenten fast to be reintroduced at the Easter meal and to share as decorated gifts. In 1610, a prayer by Pope Paul V blessed the egg, "that it may become a wholesome sustenance to Thy faithful servants, eating in thankfulness to Thee, on account of the Resurrection of Our Lord."



In short order, the Easter resurrection is Christmas, sunny side up! When one is celebrated, so is the other. The body of our crucified Lord wrapped in cloth and laid in a borrowed tomb is the flip side of the Infant Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a borrowed manger. The wood of the cross and the wood of the manger are from the same Tree of Life to form the quintessential “womb-to-tomb” theology.

*The Virgin today brings into the world the Eternal
And the earth offers a cave to the Inaccessible.
The angels and shepherds praise him
And the magi advance with the star,
For you are born for us, Little Child, God eternal!*

KONTAKION OF ROMANOS THE MELODIST, CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 525



Before the Virgin brought Jesus into the world, the Son was one with the Father. In the Nicene Creed, the word *consubstantial* indicates that Jesus isn't simply united with the Father but that they share the same substance—the Son is not a different God, but he's the same God with the Father, since our God is one. They're co-equal and co-eternal: “He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be” (John 1:2–3). Likewise, St. Paul writes about the primacy of Jesus. “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation....He is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:15, 17). In other words, this isn't a matter of what came first—the figurative chick or the egg—as it is a fulfillment of God's promise from the beginning of time to the end of eternity!

“It's a God!”

When youngsters were invited to write their own contemporary version of the Nativity, one child had the doctor emerging from the delivery room exclaiming, “Congratulations, Joseph, it's a God!” In a first-grade play about the Nativity, the “innkeeper” informed the boy playing Joseph, “You're lucky. We just had a cancellation.” In another, the innkeeper said to Joseph, “Are you kidding? We're booked through Easter!”

Out of the “mouths of babes” (Psalm 8:3)! Priceless stories such as these are like gifts of gold, frankincense, and mirth. Saint Anthony of Padua said it best in a thirteenth-century Christmas sermon: “Today God made the glorious Virgin laugh, because from her is born our mirth. Laughter is born, Christ is born! Therefore, let us laugh and rejoice with the Blessed Virgin because God has given us in her a cause for laughing and rejoicing.”

We rejoice with the Virgin Mary that God deemed us worthy to give his Son to us at Christmas as the fulfillment of his masterful plan from the beginning of time! God “chose us in [Christ], before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ....In all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will...a plan for the fullness of time, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth” (Ephesians 1:4–5, 8–10).

This ultimate gift—the consummation of God's divine plan for the fullness of time—was revealed in a cave on the first Christmas, and it gathered all of humanity into Jesus Christ after he emerged triumphantly from the cave on Easter! In the Incarnation, Jesus was born “in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:7–8). This humbling, or emptying out,

is what theologians call *kenosis*. In love, Jesus emptied himself and dwelled among us in the flesh, and he lovingly emptied himself again on the cross.

Saint Alphonsus Liguori (1696–1787) combined the theology of the crib and the cross in his popular Christmas hymn *Tu scendi dale stelle* (*From Starry Throne Descending*):

*You left the joy of the Father's heart,
to come to suffer so, on this pile of hay!
Sweet love of my heart,
where has love transported you?
O, my dear Jesus,
why so much suffering for love of me!...*

*You sleep, dear baby, yet your heart
is awake and ever watchful:
my beautiful and pure lamb,
tell me what are you thinking?
O love divine!
I think, I hear you saying, “to die for you.”*

*If you are thinking of dying for me, my God,
then who else could I love, but you alone?
O Mary, my hope,
if I don't love your Jesus enough,
be not offended,
love him for me, if I can't love him as he deserves.*

In 1890, Giuseppe Verdi, the Italian composer, said, “Without this pastoral hymn of St. Alphonsus, Christmas would not be Christmas.” His tender paeon provides definitive proof of Alphonsus' firm conviction that “God is madly in love with us” (*Dio e pazzo d'amore*). It also transports us to the manger two millennia ago. Breathe in



*When a man is wrapped up in himself,
he makes a pretty small package.*

JOHN RUSKIN (1819–1900), SOCIAL CRITIC

the pungent smell of “this pile of hay.” Mix in the stench of animal smells. Throw in a few human odors, too, since poor shepherds who tended flocks for months weren’t known for their personal hygiene. Anticipate the forthcoming piney, spicy scents of frankincense and myrrh to perfume the air.

Moreover, what did Baby Jesus smell like? Our God took on an earthy smell! That’s precisely the miracle of Christmas: God became fully human and fully divine—an exhilarating formula crafted to eliminate our odor of sin.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

JOHN 3:17

Nevertheless, the infancy narrative is only part of “the greatest story ever told.” Such a story’s seemingly modest beginning is best viewed by the magnitude of its end! And that’s how the evangelists wrote the infancy narratives—in hindsight after the resurrection. Similarly, Raymond E.



**What can we give God in return
for such a profound gift
as his only Son?**

According to St. Gregory the Great, the treasures of the Magi signify the gifts we present to Christ in our daily lives when we want to give him our very best:

Gold is Christ’s wisdom, which shines in us,

Frankincense is the prayer and adoration we offer him,

Myrrh is our daily self-sacrifices.

Brown, SS, notes that St. Paul “linked Jesus’ divine Sonship through the Holy Spirit with the resurrection, not with the conception of Jesus,” when he wrote his epistles twenty to thirty years before Matthew and Luke’s infancy stories. Hence, without Christ’s resurrection, the birth of the historical Jesus in a manger until his death on a cross is an incomplete faith story. The crib and cross demonstrate the mutual love and fidelity between Father and Son. When viewed in the light of the resurrection, they become our Christian anthem of “hope promised, hope fulfilled!”

Symbolically, then, when the Christmas and Easter events are seen together, the glorious smell of Easter lilies also permeated the confined stable’s array of acute and aggressive odors!

The Great Gift Exchange

According to Francis Xavier Durrwell, CSsR (1912–2005)—a theologian known for his groundbreaking work on the mystery of the resurrection—the biblical accounts of Jesus’ birth “actually form part of the Passover mystery of Jesus. His birth at Bethlehem anticipated his birth in fullness through the Holy Spirit. In his earthly coming, the mystery that was going to appear was being prepared, similar to the dawn whose light comes from the still hidden sun below the horizon” (*Christ Our Passover: The Indispensable Role of Resurrection in Our Salvation*, Liguori Publications, 2004).

For Durrwell, everything began in the mystery of the resurrection, for the resurrection was the work of the Father:

Here, the paternity of God becomes the beginning of everything. The resurrection was an act of love, an act of eternally begetting the Son according to the fullness of the Holy Spirit. That love is infinite and gratuitous. Absolutely gratuitous, it supersedes any notion of repairing sin or of satisfying justice. That infinite love was motivated only by itself, “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son” (John 3:16). “In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses” (2 Corinthians 5:19). To save sinful humans, with whom he was in solidarity, Jesus had nothing to give to his Father except what he already had. In his death on behalf of humans he opened himself up to the infinite love of the Father who begot his Son in the Holy Spirit. It is thus that he “takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

The Easter resurrection is Christmas, sunny side up! When one is celebrated, so is the other!

Thus, Christmas commemorates the birth of our Redeemer, while Easter celebrates our rebirth as God's people. In the Incarnation, Jesus takes on our human likeness; through Christ's resurrection, we are recreated into the likeness of God.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

1 PETER 1:3-4

It is the love and fidelity that Jesus demonstrated to his Father to the end that call us to be transformed into God's likeness and "rise" from egocentricity to other-centeredness:

Is it not sharing your bread with the hungry, bringing the afflicted and the homeless into your house; Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own flesh?



SHUTTERSTOCK



DETAIL: NOU ME TANGERE, GIOTTO: THE SCROVEGNI CHAPEL, PADUA

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn... and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

ISAIAH 58:7-8

At Christmas and Easter, a generous amount of gift-giving occurs for other-centered causes: to see the wonder of these holy days in children as they open their Christmas presents or discover hidden Easter eggs; to remember those who are forgotten; to support charities. You get the picture. In giving to these recipients, we also give to God

what belongs to him—our heartfelt gratitude for revealing his face to us in his Son, and for allowing us to share in Christ's resurrection when we die. Through him, with him, and in him, every present wrapped, every cookie baked, every dollar donated—all our charitable acts in the spirit of the seasons—are expressions of love.

However, above all, Christmas and Easter are about giving back to God what belongs to God: the gift of our very self, reimagined and redeemed through the resurrection of his only begotten Son. Make it a gift that keeps on giving!

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR, president and publisher of *Liguori Publications*, has led the company since 2015. He was ordained a priest in 1990.

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EDITOR: ELIZABETH A. HERZING-GEBHART