



**4609 Martin Street South, Cropwell, AL 35054**  
Office: 205-525-5161 Fax: 205-525-5162  
[www.ollpellcity.com](http://www.ollpellcity.com) [parish@ollpellcity.com](mailto: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**

**Jim Mathis**  
**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.-10:30 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, December 11, 2021  
Mass 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 12, 2021  
Masses 8:30 am & 11:15 am



Third Sunday of Advent  
December 12, 2021

*With joy you will draw water at the fountain of  
salvation. —Isaiah 12:3*



Dec 13 - Dec 19

- Monday:** All Patients in Nursing Homes by the Brazzolottos
- Tuesday:** Jan Bowman by Jeff Bowman †
- Wednesday:** Edward Smallwood by Bob & Karen Hand †
- Thursday:** Theresa Smith by Walton Smith †
- Friday:** Flor Gonzalez by James & Gloria Raynor †
- Saturday:** Joe Stanley by the Brazzolottos †
- Sunday:** For the People  
Hope Bakane by Fr. William Lucas †

### Please pray for the ill and shut-ins:

Paul Boyle, Jacky Johnson, Peggy Gessler,  
Ron & Diana Markevich, Walton Smith,  
Juanita Crowson, Toni James, Bob Walsh, Sarah  
Svetlay, Fred Brown, Silvia Moten, Mary  
& Wayne Adams, Herb Kuntz, Bill & Loretta  
Frost, David & Audrey Springer, Christine Jaks,  
Jeanie Reid, Ruth Stanley, Jackie Thoma, Frank  
Troncalli, Angela Ledlow, Michael Brayman,  
Shannon Ray, Mark Boyle, Lee Walsler, Judy  
Marston, Geri Bunt, Jay Benson,  
Charles & Libby LaFleur

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](mailto:sharonstice46@gmail.com) or call 205-613-1053.

## Weekly Readings December 13—December 19

- Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27
- Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32
- Wednesday:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 7:18b-23
- Thursday:** Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Lk 7:24-30
- Friday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
- Saturday:** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
- Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

## Today's Readings



**First Reading —** Shout for joy! Sing joyfully! Be glad and exult! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

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

**Second Reading —** Rejoice! The Lord is near. Make your requests know to God (Philippians 4:4-7).

**Gospel —** John tells his hearers to share their possessions with the needy; be honest; do not threaten or accuse others falsely (Luke 3:10-18).

## **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOY**

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called, "Gaudete Sunday", from the Latin word for "rejoice". The entrance antiphon for Mass that day comes from Philippians 4, 4-5: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice. Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near." The rose-colored candle is lit on the Advent wreath and rose-colored vestments may be worn.

Joy is something more profound than happiness. If you go on vacation, you experience happiness, until you return to work. If your team wins, you experience happiness, until the next game. Happiness is temporary because it is based on outside circumstances. When those circumstances change, happiness may evaporate.

As the passage from Philippians tells us, joy comes from the belief that the Lord is near. Whatever circumstances we may be living under at present, we know we are loved by God and, therefore, God will protect us. We live "under God's wings" as Psalm 91 says. Joy is the result of God's nearness.

Advent is a penitential season. Though God is near us, we are not always near God. God is always present to us, but we are sometimes absent from God. We have our times of public and personal prayer, but what about the rest of the day? We expect God to be present when we are ready to meet Him. Are we ready to meet God as He reveals Himself to us today? Matthew Chapter 25 tells us that we encounter God in the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the stranger, the sick, and the imprisoned. God is revealing Himself to us more often than just when we want Him to. Are we present to God who is always present to us?

The more we are aware of God's nearness, the more we will experience joy. No person or circumstance will be able to take that joy away from us.

Next Week: The Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONFESSION**

As we approach Christmas, Father Bill will be available for confessions at additional times:

- Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> following Morning Mass.
- Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:45-11:00 a.m.
- Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup> following Morning Mass.
- Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00-6:45 p.m.
- Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> following Morning Mass.
- Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

He is always available by appointment at 205-525-5161.

## **Advent Communal Penance Service**

Please join us Wednesday, December 15th for a Communal Penance Service at 7:00 pm in the church. Father Bill and Father Sexton will be available for confessions that evening.



## **SILENCE BEFORE AND AFTER MASS**

The 15 minutes before Mass and the 15 minutes following Mass are used by some people as a time for prayerful preparation and thanksgiving. That is why we try to maintain a "reverential silence" in the church during those times. Fellowship is also a part of our faith, but the place for that is in the foyers of the church or outside. Please try to be respectful of the needs of others and maintain a reverential silence in the church before and after Mass.

Father Bill

## Offertory Collection

July 2021 — June 2022

	Actual	Needed weekly
Dec 5 Offertory	\$8,005	\$6,500
Year to Date	\$153,588	\$149,500

## Building Fund Collection

July 2021 — June 2022

	Actual	Needed monthly
December 5 Building Fund	\$1,511	\$2,152
Year to Date	\$23,630	\$13,988



**Chair: Jeff Reach**  
jreach@protonmail.com

**Vice Chair: Bernie Funderburg**  
boxacarbern1@aol.com

**Secretary: Brenda Rochford**  
edenrochford@yahoo.com

**Mary Burns:** angels4maryb@gmail.com

**Leslie Hutto:** ljhutto@gmail.com

**Britton Falkner:** brittonfalkner@gmail.com

**Debbie Gossett:** debbiegossett@msn.com

**Allen Ross:** allentross5555@gmail.com

**Cristy McKinney:** cmckinney9839@gmail.com

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

## Advent Wreath Candle Lighters Third Sunday of Advent

**Saturday, December 18**

**5:00 pm Mass—Bill & Dee Watkins**

**Sunday, December 19**

**8:30 am Mass— TBD**

**11:15 am Mass— TBD**

### A Catholic, Pro-Life, and Pro-Woman Approach to Medicine

**December 14, 2021 7:00 pm**

**St. Paul's Cathedral, Great Hall**

Join us for an informational presentation on a new Pro-life, Catholic-run, Women's Health Clinic opening in the Birmingham area in 2022. Enjoy desserts and drinks with Dr. Nicholas Kongoasa, MD, FACOG, Elizabeth Park, PA-C, & Laura Ducote, FNP-C and hear about all we have to offer you and those you love!

Contact us for more information at [info@rhmgyn.com](mailto:info@rhmgyn.com).

### Catholic Charities and Communities

There is still time to make a pledge or donation to Catholic Charities and Communities for 2022. Any pledges made before December 31st will be added to this year's pledge drive. If you need a pledge card, they are available in the parish office.





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Columbus



Assembly 2972

**Saturday December 18, 2021 at 11 AM**

HELP US TO SAY **THANK YOU** TO OUR AMERICAN HEROES.

ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 18TH (11 AM) AT  
ST. CLAIR MEMORIAL GARDENS  
WE WILL REMEMBER AND HONOR OUR VETERANS  
BY LAYING REMEMBRANCE WREATHS ON THE GRAVES  
OF OUR COUNTRY'S FALLEN HEROES.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

Contact: John Bryant for more info  
[japb@mindspring.com](mailto:japb@mindspring.com)  
(205) 541-1604

*Assignments—December 18 and 19, 2021*

**SATURDAY MASS**

**12/18/2021 5:00 PM**

**Greeters:** Karen Hand, Jan Spencer  
**Lector:** Susan Moseley  
**Ministers:** Deacon, Allen Ross  
**Altar Servers:** Michael Gagliano, Tom Graffo  
**Ushers:** Amy Carreker, Jim Gorman

**SUNDAY MASS**

**12/19/2021 8:30 AM**

**Greeters:** D & J Beavers, Amelia Reese  
**Lectors:** Jane Snider, Jorge Solis  
**Ministers:** Deacon, Teri Gagliano  
**Altar Servers:**  
**Ushers:** Michael Gagliano, Henry Cardenas,  
Ronni Gagliano, Robert Paulitzky

**12/19/2021 11:15 AM**

**Greeters:** P. Cowart & Patsy LopezdeVictoria,  
**Lectors:** Miranda Bryant, Larry Foltz  
**Ministers:** Deacon, Sonya Lewis  
**Altar Servers:** Tommie Ann Johnson, Logan Bluhm  
**Ushers:** Chris Gallegly, Gregg Becnel,  
Emily Bluhm, Lexie Smith

*If you are unable to keep your assignment, please  
find a substitute.*

**The 2022 Calendars are here! Please take  
one located in each foyer of the church.**

**2022 Offertory Envelopes**

**Please pick up your offertory envelopes  
for calendar year 2022 in the Parish  
Hall. If you do not see yours, please call  
the office at 205-525-5161.**

*Help with Reading Skills*

*The Literacy Council of St. Clair County offers  
programs in the following areas:*

- *Adults learn to read or improve your reading skills.*
- *Assist you in preparing to get your GED.*
- *ESOL Classes (English for Speakers of Other Languages)*

*All classes are free and flexible scheduling is available.*

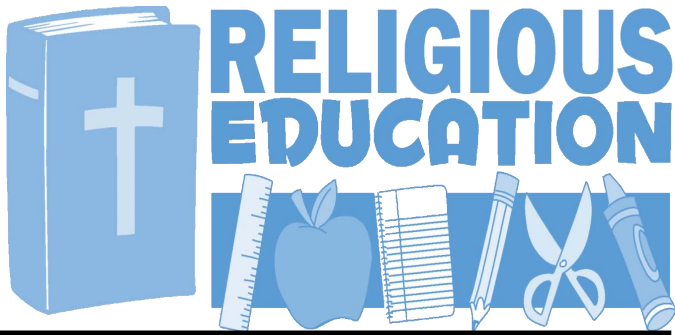
*Call 205-378-9072 for more information*



**Church Bell  
Tower Under  
Construction**

As you may have noticed,  
construction has begun  
on the north side of the  
church on the Bell Tower.

Construction is progress-  
ing as planned and we  
expect that work will be  
completed sometime after  
the first of the year.



### Pointing the Way to Jesus

In today's Gospel reading we hear about the people being filled with expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Saint John the Baptist told the people how to prepare for his coming —by doing good and repenting of their sins.

At first, the people thought that John the Baptist might be the Messiah. But Saint John was only a messenger. We can think of him as a sign-post pointing the way to Jesus. People came to see and hear him, and he showed them the way to God. How can **YOU** be like Saint John the Baptist and show other people the way to Jesus?

Source: The Kids' Bulletin

**FORMED**  
FAITH AT HOME

Parish Code: **JRQNH8**

### Looking Ahead:

**December 12th - R.E. 9:45AM-11AM. 3rd Sunday of Advent.**

**Reconciliation for 9th grade and High School students.**

**December 19th - NO R.E.**

**December 26th - NO R.E.**



*Youth Group will continue to meet every Wednesday at 6PM. Students in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us for food, fellowship, and reflection on His Word! Bring a friend!*

*"There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light."*

- John 1:6-8

### BOTTLED WATER COLLECTION

Because of Covid, local children are not able to use water fountains in their schools. Our parish will be collecting bottled water to donate to the local schools. Just leave the donations in the foyers of the church or in the parish hall when they are open.

Thank you.



### Our Lady of the Lake Christmas Dinner



*Sunday, December 12, 2021  
Celebrations  
4:00-6:00 pm*

*Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ as a parish family. Our special friend from the North Pole will join us for pictures.*

*Please bring a favorite dish to share. The Knights will provide the main course. We will need mashed potatoes, gravy, mac & cheese, dressing, casseroles and desserts.*

*If you have any questions, contact Karen Hand at 205-338-9737 or Gloria Rodgers at 256-487-1966*

### Sunday December 12– 3rd Sunday of Advent

**Masses 8:30 & 11:15 am  
RE-9:45 am  
RE Reconciliation– High School**

**Parish Christmas Dinner-  
Celebrations 4:00-6:00 pm**

**Monday– December 13  
Mass 9:00 am**

**Tuesday– December 14  
Mass 9:00 am  
RCIA–7:00 pm**

**Wed–December 15  
Communal Penance Service- 7:00 pm  
Youth Group-6:00 pm**

**Thursday– December 16  
Mass 9:00 am**

**Friday– December 17  
Mass 9:00 am  
Reconciliation 9:30 am**

**Saturday– December 18  
Reconciliation 4:00-4:45 pm  
Mass 5:00 pm  
Pilgrim Virgin– 6:30 pm Parish Hall**

### Sunday December 19– 4th Sunday of Advent

**Masses 8:30 & 11:15 am  
Reconciliation 9:45-11:00 am  
Holy Hour– 7:00-8:00 pm**

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# Catholic

## UPDATE

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DECEMBER 2021

## Twelve Days of Christmas *with Thomas Merton*

A REDEMPTORIST PASTORAL PUBLICATION



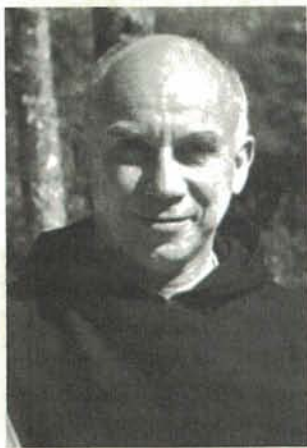
*Lord Jesus, assuage our blindness and activate our hearts...so we may find your presence hidden in ourselves. May we unveil the mystery of Christ-with-us and work toward the true restoration of the whole world in your image. Let your light shine in our hearts so we may always know the truth of your love. Amen.*

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WITH THOMAS MERTON



**T**homas Merton, OCSO, was a Trappist monk, hermit, peace activist, poet, retreat leader, spiritual writer, and a charismatic religious figure. Born in France in 1915 to a father from New Zealand and an American mother, Merton was baptized in the Church of England, converting to Catholicism in 1938 while he was a student at Columbia University in New York. In 1941, he entered the Trappist monastery of Our Lady of Gethsemani in Kentucky. Ordained a priest in 1949, Fr. Merton wrote more than sixty books.

In the classic epilogue to his journal *The Sign of Jonas* (1953), Fr. Merton invites us to accompany him



CNS PHOTO / THOMAS MERTON CENTER AT BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY

within the confines of the abbey in Kentucky. When we enter the choir novitiate with Merton, he's suddenly haunted by his early days as a convert to Catholicism and to "the freezing tough winter when I first received the habit and always had a cold, the smell of frozen straw in the dormitory under the chapel, and the deep, unexpected ecstasy of

Christmas—that first Christmas when you have nothing left in the world but God!"

On December 10, 1968, Fr. Thomas Merton died unexpectedly at age fifty-three while attending a conference on monastic life in Bangkok, Thailand. Shortly before Christmas 1968, his body was returned for burial behind the abbey church in Kentucky where, twenty-seven years earlier, he had desired to leave worldly matters in search for nothing but God.

Selections from some of Fr. Merton's books (identified after each reflection) are intended to inspire you during the twelve days of Christmas, starting Christmas Day. These paragraphs show Fr. Merton to be a warm, straightforward writer. In the preface to the Japanese edition of *The Seven Storey Mountain*, he states, "I don't want to speak to you as an author, or a narrator, not even a philosopher, but simply as a friend. I would like to speak to you as your alternate self.... If you listen, you will hear things that will be said that perhaps are not written in this book. And that will be coming, not from me, but from the One who lives and speaks inside both of us."

## Day One | *Sunrise of Praise*

PSALM 113:1-9

Sunrise is an event that calls forth solemn music in the very depths of humanity's nature, as if one's whole being had to attune itself to the cosmos and praise God for the new day, praise him in the name of all creatures that ever were or ever will be. I look at the rising sun and feel that now upon me falls the responsibility of seeing what all my ancestors have seen, in the Stone Age and even before it, praising God before me. Whether or not they praised him then, they must praise him now in me. When the sun rises, each one of us is summoned by the living and the dead to praise God.

CONJECTURES OF A GUILTY BYSTANDER

## Day Two | *Freedom to Hope*

PSALM 119:75-81

The one who hopes in God does not know that he is predestined to heaven. But if he perseveres in his hope and continually makes the acts of will inspired by divine grace, he will be among the predestined. That is the object of his hope, and "hope does not disappoint us" (Romans 5:5). Each act of hope is his own free act, yet it is also a gift of God. And the very essence of hope is freely to expect all the graces necessary for salvation as free gifts from God. The free will that resolves to hope in his gifts recognizes, by that very fact, that its own act of hope is also his gift: and yet it also sees that if it did not will hope, it would not let itself be moved by him. Hope is the wedding of two freedoms, human and divine, in the acceptance of a love that is at once a promise and the beginning of fulfillment.

NO MAN IS AN ISLAND





## Day Three | *Harmony of Grace*

ISAIAH 49:25–26

It is beautiful to see God's grace working in people. The most beautiful thing about it is to see how the desires of the soul, inspired by God, so fit in and harmonize with grace that holy things seem natural to the soul, seem to be part of its very self. That is what God wants to create in us—that marvelous spontaneity in which his life perfectly becomes ours and our life his, and it seems inborn in us to act as his children, and to have his light shining out of our eyes.

THE SIGN OF JONAS

## Day Four | *Alpha and Omega*

EXODUS 3:13–15

Repentance is a complete renewal, a discovery, a new life, and a return to the old, to that which is before everything else that is old. But the old and the new meet in the metanoia, the inner change, that is accomplished by the hearing of God's word and the keeping of it. That which is oldest is also newest because it is the beginning. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end" (Revelation 22:13). The Jews were scandalized at Christ, who spoke as if he were already known to Abraham. "You are not yet fifty years old." Christ replied: "Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:57–58). The new is within the old because it is the perennial beginning of everything and emerges from the old, transcending it, having no part in it, eternally renewing its own life. The gospel is handed down from generation to generation, but it must reach each one of us brand new or not at all.

CONJECTURES OF A GUILTY BYSTANDER

## Day Five | *Yoke of Sin*

MATTHEW 5:3–10

Despair is not permitted to the meek, the humble, the afflicted, the ones famished for justice, the merciful, the clean of heart, and the peacemakers. Each beatitude hopes against hope, "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Corinthians 13:7). The beatitudes are simply aspects of love. They refuse to despair of the world and abandon it to a supposedly evil fate which it has brought upon itself. Instead, like Christ himself, the Christian takes upon his own shoulders the yoke of the Savior, meek and humble of heart. This yoke is the burden of the world's sin with all its confusions and all its problems. These sins, confusions, and problems are our very own. We do not disown them.

PASSION FOR PEACE

## Day Six | *Hope and Imagination*

PROVERBS 3:5–10

We are not perfectly free until we live in pure hope. For when our hope is pure, it no longer trusts exclusively in human and visible means nor rests in any visible end. He who hopes in God trusts God, whom he never sees, to bring him to the possession of things that are beyond imagination.

NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

## Day Seven | *Wise and Foolish*

MATTHEW 25:1–13

The virgins in the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids are equally divided. Of the ten, five are wise, five are foolish. One sometimes wonders whether, in actual fact, the foolish are not far more numerous than the wise. It is all too easy to go through life with a supine and slumbering liberty that is like a lamp without oil—a lamp that does not give light when it is needed. We most need the light enkindled in our spirit by the Spirit of God when the cry goes up, "The bridegroom comes." And he comes not only at the end of time, at the *Parousia* [the Second Coming], but also at unpredictable moments in our lives—moments of crisis, when we are providentially summoned to surpass ourselves and press onward to the fulfillment of our own personal destiny.

THE NEW MAN

## Day Eight | *Mary's Poverty*

LUKE 2:8–11, 13–18

It is most fitting to talk about [Mary] as a Queen and to act as if you knew what it meant to say she has a throne above all the angels. But this should not make anyone forget that her highest privilege is her poverty, and her greatest glory is that she is most hidden, and the source of all her power is that she is as nothing in the presence of Christ, of God. It is because she is, of all the saints, the most perfectly poor and the most perfectly hidden, the one who has absolutely nothing whatever that she attempts to possess as her own, that she can most fully communicate to the rest of us the grace of the infinitely selfless God. And we will most truly possess him when we have emptied ourselves and become as poor and hidden as she is, resembling him by resembling her.

SEEDS OF CONTEMPLATION

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He who hopes in God trusts God,  
whom he never sees, to bring him  
to the possession of things  
that are beyond imagination.

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## Day Nine | *Fire of Charity*

MATTHEW 11:25–30

The Christian life is nothing else but Christ living in us, by his Holy Spirit. It is Christ's love, sharing itself with us in charity. It is Christ in us, loving the Father, by his Spirit. It is Christ uniting us to our brothers by charity in the bond of this same Spirit. Jesus often expressed his desire to share with us the mystery of his divine life. He said he came that we might have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10). He came to cast that life of charity like fire upon the earth, and he longed to see it enkindled.

THE LIVING BREAD

## Day Ten | *Living Prudently*

ROMANS 8:1–8 (JUBILEE BIBLE)

It is one thing to live in the flesh, and quite another to live according to the flesh. In the second case, one acquires that “the prudence of the flesh is enmity against God” because it makes the flesh an end in itself. But as long as we are on this earth, our vocation demands that we live spiritually while still “in the flesh.” Our whole being, both body and soul, is to be spiritualized and elevated by grace. The Word who was made flesh and dwelt among us, who gave us his flesh to be our spiritual food, who sits at the right hand of God in a body full of divine glory, and who will one day raise our bodies also from the dead did not mean us to despise the body or take it lightly when he told us to deny ourselves. We must indeed control the flesh, we must “chastise [it] and bring it into subjection,” but this chastisement is as much for the body's benefit as for the souls (1 Corinthians 9:27, Douay Version). For the good of the body is not found in the body alone but in the good of the whole person.

NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

## Day Eleven | *Breath of Life*

1 JOHN 5:11–12, 14–15, 18–20

When God made man, he did more than command him to exist. Adam, who was to be the son of God and God's helper in the work of governing the world he had created, was mysteriously formed by God, as the Old Testament so frequently tells us, as a potter forms a vessel out of clay. “Then the LORD God formed man out of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being” (Genesis 2:7). The life of Adam, that is to say the “breath” which was to give actuality and existence and movement to the whole person of man, had mysteriously proceeded from the intimate depths of



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God's own life. Adam was created not merely as a living and moving animal who obeyed the command and will of God. He was created as a “son” of God because his life shared something of the reality of God's own breath or Spirit.

THE NEW MAN

## Day Twelve | *Body of Christ*

JOHN 6:31–33

The Being who is present is entirely invisible because, in the sacrament of the Eucharist, Christ is present only in the manner of a substance. The substance of a thing is its aptitude to be what it is, its aptitude to exist by itself, its power to be itself. It is the substance that answers our question, “What is this?” Now in this sacrament, precisely, when we ask this question of the consecrated host, we must listen to the answer of faith, which responds in the words of Christ, “This is my body.” The words “my body” designate the only substantial being which is now present. There no longer remains anything of the substance of bread. We see the accidents of bread, but they contain the substance of the body of Christ.

THE LIVING BREAD

*Imprimi Potest:* Stephen T. Rehrauer, CSsR, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists  
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EDITOR: ELIZABETH A. HERZING-GEBHART