

September 14, 2008

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross



What was it like to be around him?

Some Christians think Jesus' divinity meant that an all-knowing, divine person masqueraded as a human. He might look like he needed sleep or food or some time to himself—but he was really above all that. He might ask questions, but he already knew the answers. Couldn't he have stepped out of this human role any time? Hecklers at his death suggested that. He was tempted early in his ministry to do just that.

Do we believe Christ struggled? If he didn't, how could he ever understand us? Did he only pretend to suffer? It is fascinating that one of the earliest temptations among those who heard the Gospel, one of the first Christian heresies, was *Docetism* (from the Greek word meaning "to seem"). This was the belief that the Son of God only *pretended* to suffer and die on the cross. Christians continue to be tempted to this view.

How human *was* Jesus? So human he could die. How connected *was* Jesus to us humans? So connected he would rather die than give up on us or separate himself from us. Why *not* give up all this pain and frustration? Why *not* change stones to bread? Why *not* throw some divine power around? *Show the Romans* who the boss is! *Show the sinners* who is right here! Show the weak just *who has the clout*, here and now, once and for all. Why don't you use your *power*?!

That was not the route Jesus, the Son, took. He refused to exploit equality with God. He refused to exploit divine power. Instead, Jesus *emptied* himself.

What did that accomplish?

No matter how weak, how empty, how deeply we are caught up in trouble, even caught up in death, Jesus has been there. Jesus is there.

The Good News of Christ risen means this: God would not—*will* not—let death be the final word.

DAN FINUCANE | sundaybulletins@liguori.org

How
human
was
Jesus?



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DESIGNPICS

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Office Hours – Monday through Friday

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Rectory – 1904 Bethel Road

817-596-9586

Web Page – www.ss-cc.org

Gift Shop – Saturday 5:30 to 6 PM

Sunday 9:45 to 11:00 AM

Noon to 12:30 PM

Club House—817-599-8423

Pro Shop—817-599-8431

MASS SCHEDULE

All Masses are held at the Church on Bethel Road unless otherwise noted

Saturday 6:00 PM ♦ Confessions Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:45 AM (English) ♦ 12:30 PM (Spanish)

Holy Days 7:00 AM & 7:00 PM

Daily Mass 8:45 AM

WELCOME NEW FAMILIES AND VISITORS

Please complete a registration card at the Welcome Table in the church foyer and return it at your earliest convenience. Thank You!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	September 13	6:00 PM	Helen Hendrix, RIP	<i>Memorial of St. John Chrysostom, bishop and doctor of the Church</i>
Sunday	September 14	8:00 AM	Winnie Jones, RIP	<i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>
		10:45 AM	Our Community	<i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad	<i>La Exaltación de la Cruz Santa</i>
Monday	September 15	8:45 AM	Communion Service	<i>Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows</i>
Tuesday	September 16	8:45 AM	Communion Service	<i>Ss. Cornelius, pope and martyr, and Cyprian, bishop and martyr</i>
Wednesday	September 17	8:45 AM	Communion Service	<i>Memorial of St. Robert Bellarmine, bishop and doctor of the Church</i>
Thursday	September 18	8:45 AM	Communion Service	<i>Weekday</i>
Friday	September 19	8:45 AM	Communion Service	<i>Memorial of St. Januarius, bishop and martyr</i>
Saturday	September 20	6:00 PM	Our Community	<i>Memorial of Ss. Andrew Kim Taegon, priest and martyr, Paul Chong Hasang, martyr, and their companions, martyrs</i>
		8:00 AM	Isabel Valentini, RIP	<i>25th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		10:45 AM	Phil Nixon, RIP	<i>25th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Sunday	September 21	12:30 PM	La Comunidad	<i>25° Domingo Ordinario</i>

Marriage – six months notice required – please see Fr. Casey. **Aviso para el Matrimonio** – seis meses es necesaria

Baptism Instruction—English (1st Thursday of each month); Spanish (1st Monday of each month)

Quinceañera – three month notice required – girl must be attending CCD and Mass *regularly* – please see Fr. Casey

Prayer Chain Coordinators—Ann Allen (817-594-8637) Bette Binzer (817-599-0454) LaVerne Cardwell (817-594-3805)

Weekly Visitation of the Sick & Shut-Ins. Contact the church office to be on the schedule.

Census Information—Please notify the church office if you are new to our Parish, have a change of address or phone number, or move to another Parish.

Bulletin Notices are to be written or typed and in the office at least one week prior to event – notices may be e-mailed – deadline for bulletin is Noon on Tuesday – your cooperation is greatly appreciated – Thank You!

**REGULAR
COLLECTION
September 6 & 7
\$12,418.44
SECOND
COLLECTION
Property Purchase
\$2,898.00**

*Flowers for the Altar this Weekend
Are A Gift From
Veronica & Diana Light
In Memory of
Daniel Light*



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger, and rich in compassion. Are you following in Jesus' footsteps? Pray for the grace to forgive.
(Psalm 103)
For those who suffer from a hardened heart, may they be touched by the gift of mercy and compassion.

24° Domingo Ordinario
No morimos ni vivimos para nosotros mismos. Es una idea temerosa, pero nos libera. ¿De que nos libera Dios? ¿Para qué nos libera Dios? (Romanos 14:7-9)

**WELCOME TO ALL, INCLUDING VISITORS AND
NEW PARISHIONERS.**

Please join us this Sunday between Masses for breakfast in the parish hall, provided by the Knights of Columbus.

Changing Our Hearts

*"While we have the opportunity,
let us do good to all." Galatians 6:10*

Today we kick-off our yearly annual diocesan appeal, **Sharing in Ministry**. Over the past 25 years more than \$40 million has been given in support of the ministries throughout our 28 counties and 90 parishes and missions. Your generosity to **Sharing in Ministry** will extend to countless people in need throughout our diocese. Please consider pledging to this worthwhile endeavor. Through our participation in the annual diocesan appeal, **Sharing in Ministry**, we continue to be channels of the living and loving presence of Christ in our world.

El Cambio en Nuestros Corazones

*"Por lo tanto, siempre que tengamos la oportunidad, hagamos bien a todos, y en especial a los de la familia de la fe".
Gálatas 6:10*

Hoy iniciamos nuestro llamado anual diocesano, **Compartir en Ministerio**. Durante los últimos 25 años, se han donado más de \$40 millones en apoyo de los ministerios en nuestros 28 condados y 90 parroquias y misiones. Su generosidad a **Compartir en Ministerio** se extenderá a una cantidad innumerable de personas en necesidad de ayuda en toda nuestra diócesis. Por favor considere ofrecer su donativo a este digno esfuerzo. Por nuestra participación en la petición diocesana anual, **Compartir en Ministerio**, seguimos siendo canales de la

MANDATORY PARENT AND STUDENT MEETING! All students wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this school year need to bring an adult and be present at our meeting on **Sunday, September 21st during RE class time**. We will meet in the 'new' building. Any questions, please contact Jeanette Houle at 817-613-8008 or doschicas@att.net.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY STARTING. A 6-week study of The Eucharist beginning the first week in October. Set to meet evenings, day is negotiable. Contact Jeanette Houle at 817-613-8008 or doschicas@att.net.

PARKER COUNTY CENTER OF HOPE. Are you out in Parker County everyday because of the work you do? Would you like to serve your community without adding hours to your schedule? Would you feel good knowing you helped a family in need by something as simple as sharing printed materials? If you would like to know more, please call Burton Cook, Executive Director of Center of Hope, at 817-550-7328. Center of Hope is a Christian ministry dedicated to reversing the cycle of poverty in Parker County.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Stewardship of Treasure is showing gratitude to God for our blessings.

"It is in giving that we receive."
—St. Francis of Assisi

"We must live more simply so that others may simply live."
—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

AROUND THE DIOCESE

The Annual Memorial Mass For Children Who Have Died Before Baptism. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for Children who Died Before Baptism will be celebrated at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 509 West Magnolia, East of Hemphill, in Fort Worth on **Saturday, October 11, 2008**. Mass will begin at 12:00 Noon and will be followed by a reception in the church hall. A light lunch will be served. For more information and reservations call 817-738-1086, mail to 3704 Myrtle Springs Road, Fort Worth, TX 76116, or e-mail mubcare@charter.net. **Reservations should be received no later than Wednesday, October 8, 2008.**

The Fall Mother-Daughter Tea will be held on **Sunday, October 19 in Arlington at St. Vincent de Paul Parish from Noon - 4 PM**. Girls, ages 10-13, are invited to come with their mother, grandmother, or special woman in their lives. Tea and other refreshments will be served with a light lunch. The cost is \$12.50 per person. For reservations call Kathy Stojak at 817-773-8096. They will be accepted on a first call basis as space is limited. If you would like to help with this event or need more information you may also call Kathy at 817/773-8096.

TEEN CORNER

Youth Group: Please join us each **Wednesday 6-8 PM** for Youth Group. **Dinner is served weekly at 6 PM**. For those who have not been to Youth Group this year, a parent/guardian will be needed to complete appropriate paperwork. Any questions call Susan Ourada at 817-596-3872. Everyone is invited to join the Youth Group each Wednesday for the Divine Mercy Chaplet at approximately 6:45 PM.

St. Stephen Youth will be holding a **T-shirt Fundraiser** the week-ends of **October 5th and 12th after all Masses**. Proceeds will benefit our Youth 2000 trip in April. Any questions, please contact Jeanette Houle 817-613-8008 or doschicas@att.net.

All youth ages 13 and above are invited to participate in the **Youth Music Ministry**. Any questions contact Anthony Lucia at 940-859-1449 or Jeanette Houle at doschicas@att.net.

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(All activities held at Bethel Road)

Sunday, September 14

9:15 AM Religious Education Classes (English)
9:15 AM Adult Catechism (Room 19)
11:15 AM Religious Education Classes (Spanish)

Monday, September 15

7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #72
7:00 PM RCIA
7:00 PM Citizenship Classes
6:00 PM Parish Pantry

Tuesday, September 16

9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study (Rm. 1 & 2)

Wednesday, September 17

6:00 PM Youth Group
6:30 PM Choir Practice
7:00 PM Catholic Daughters

Thursday, September 18

10:00 AM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
10:00 AM Quilting Group (Pro Shop)
7:00 PM Grupo de Oracion

Saturday, September 20

7:00 PM Cursillistas Ultreya (Spanish)

Dear Padre

How do I defend my Church?

Q The crisis in the Church has thrown me for a loop. So many priests did such horrible things. My non-Catholic friends mock me mercilessly.

Phillip

Dear Phillip,

It would be easy to find statistics that show abuses take place in all denominations and professions in the United States, but I think that would be off the point. The truth is that the Catholic Church is an easy target—some of our traditions and customs make it easy to poke fun at the Church. I would guess that priest and nun jokes far outnumber minister and pastor jokes.

At times, the seeming secrecy of the Church has done us a disservice. The crisis has been a terrible moment in the Catholic Church, but I believe the Church has grown from it. I wouldn't go so far as to say the abuse has led to new life, but the Church now is much more transparent. We've learned that trust is something we need to earn and can't take for granted. So the criticism from the outside can serve



SHUTTERSTOCK

the higher purpose of enabling us to reflect on who we are as Church and how we can make our Church better—not just the Church of the hierarchy, but the Church of all of us.

Avoid trying to refute the criticism by pointing out problems in other religions. Simply ignore it and realize that only those without sin can cast the first stone.

Patrick Keyes, C.Ss.R.



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Monday



September 15

Our Lady of Sorrows
1 Cor 11:17–26,
33 Jn 19:25–27
or Lk 2:33–35

Tuesday



September 16

St. Cornelius, pope and martyr, and St. Cyprian, bishop and martyr
1 Cor 12:12–14,
27–31a
Lk 7:11–17

Wednesday



September 17

Weekday
1 Cor 12:31–13:13
Lk 7:31–35

Thursday



September 18

Weekday
1 Cor 15:1–11
Lk 7:36–50

Friday



September 19

Weekday
1 Cor 15:12–20
Lk 8:1–3

Saturday



September 20

St. Andrew Kim Taegon, St. Paul Chong Hasang, and companions, martyrs
1 Cor 15:35–37,
42–49
Lk 8:4–15

Sunday



September 21

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 55:6–9
Phil 1:20c–24,
27a
Mt 20:1–16a