

Lent 2025

## **Our IDENTITY in CHRIST**

“And we ask the Lord for the Church, that the Lord will guard it from all forms of worldliness. That the Church will always have the IDENTITY given to it by Jesus Christ; that we will all have the IDENTITY that we received in baptism. May the Lord give us the grace to maintain and preserve our CHRISTIAN IDENTITY against the spirit of worldliness that always grows, justifies itself and is contagious.”

Pope Francis, 2015

A Project of Written Reflections  
by

RCHS English I Freshmen, some NEHS/NHS members  
& RCHS Seniors

**VOLUME 10**

**Routt Catholic High School**  
Jacksonville, Illinois

*“Enter to Grow; Leave to Serve”*

## OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

We live in a world of identity theft; a recent statistic I read stated every 2 seconds, someone's identity is stolen. We live in a world of identity crisis; there is confusion about identity causing increased levels of anxiety and loneliness. Our identity goes beyond our name, occupation, education, the place where we live. Our identity goes beyond our race, our physical features, our possessions and net worth. Rather than base our identity and sense of worth on the opinions of others, the important question to ask concerning our identity is this: ***Who does Jesus say I am?***

When we identify ourselves as a CHRISTian, God's credit rating is mingled with our own. Yet by endangering His own reputation in the world, God gives us an indescribable gift – our identity in Christ. At the heart of what it means to be a Christian is to receive a new identity. Knowing our identity is in Christ is one thing, but understanding how that practically changes the way we live is another. Lent 2025 is an excellent time to explore our identity in Christ through inspired Scripture and through the simple meditations of the heart from some of our RCHS students.

Though our work on this Lenten booklet began early in January, at our faculty retreat on February 7, the following words were shared on a printout given by Sister M. Clementia Toalson, F.S.M.G.: "Our relationship gives us an identity, and our identity gives us a mission. What we do (our mission) flows from our identity (who we are), and who we are begins with our hearts in communion with Jesus...However, we often get this ordering reversed by putting mission first, then identity and lastly relationship. When we put mission first, it is easy to lose our way and our identity, because our focus and gaze is not on Christ, but rather on the mission and ourselves. When we get this upside down, the mission inevitably takes up all of our time and energy, and in the end we have no time for a personal relationship with Christ. It is much easier and less challenging for us to focus on the mission rather than on our relationship and identity with Jesus."

The titles presented in this booklet are certainly not an exhaustive list. The presentation of titles appears mainly in alphabetical order – without trying to weigh one over another. Each is like a facet of a precious gem – you. While one or more titles may resonate with you, be open to explore each one presented in our 2025 Lenten Booklet as we journey through Lent together, growing in our relationship with Jesus. May we be blessed as we utilize this daily Lenten tool – discovering who we are, whose we are, and who we can continue to become in Jesus Christ.

Janet Chipman - Instructor, Project Coordinator, NEHS Advisor

With appreciation to the officers of  
The Marilyn Merris Chapter  
of the National English Honor Society at RCHS:  
Ava C., President; Brianne R., Vice-President;  
Jocelyn E., Secretary; Karsyn M., Treasurer;  
Ava L. and Madelyn C., NEHS Project Coordinators  
(Members of the Class of 2025)

Cover Design created by Charlie A., Class of 2025

**March 5: Ash Wednesday – AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST**

**So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. 2 Corinthians 5:20**

2 Corinthians 5:20 emphasizes that we should take on the role of being an ambassador for Christ with full commitment. Being an ambassador for Christ means that our words, actions, and attitudes should reflect God’s truth, grace, and love. We have a responsibility to use our behavior to be a godly perception of who Christ truly is. We should live in a way that honors Him and draws others towards reconciliation. God works through His people, using us to communicate His message of salvation and forgiveness. Our role, our identity, as an ambassador is an honoring privilege to be able to share the Gospel and demonstrate Christ’s love to those around us.

**Prayer:** *Dear Father, help me to represent Christ well in all that I do and say. Fill me with Your love, grace, and truth so that others may see You in me. Amen.*

Tatum B., Class of 2028

**March 6: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of Lent – BELOVED**

**Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God. 2 Corinthians 7:1**

**Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. He who does good is of God... 3 John 1:11**

God through Christ has shown many great examples of ways to do good and offer love to everyone. We, beloved sons and daughters of God, are called to imitate His example to do good and grow in the Spirit. Brothers and sisters, God has given us the mission to make the world a better place using love. Every act of kindness brings us closer to God, our Father. However, please do remember, small deeds do not differ from large deeds. The same amount of love is present in saying kind words and helping the poor. These acts of kindness “imitate good”; these acts of kindness help us to remember we are loved, we are beloved.

**Prayer:** *Lord, help us to be grateful for Your love, and help us to do good and show love to one another. Amen.*

Aaron C., Class of 2028

**March 7: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of Lent – BODY OF CHRIST**

**Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27**

**For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.** 1 Corinthians 12:12

As Christians, we are called to be the Body of Christ together. We are all connected by God to serve as Christ's Body in the world. Just like a body with hands, feet, eyes, ears, we are given the honor to use our hands, our feet, our eyes and our ears to do the work of Christ today and every day. All the members of the Church should be inspired in their identity as the Body of Christ to become living versions of love.

**Prayer:** *Dear Jesus, please help us to join together and become the Body of Christ. Amen.*

Britni D., Class of 2028

**March 8: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of Lent – BRANCHES**

**I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.** John 15:5

A vine in nature is a plant with a twisting stem that offers support. Branches come off of the vine and produce fruit. In Scripture, the Lord promises that He will be our vine and support that we need in our life. The Lord tells us that we are to be the branches of His support. We are to produce the fruit of the Spirit. This verse is a beautiful metaphor that strikes motivation into us Christians. Additionally, the Lord says in this verse that, just like vines and branches, we cannot continue to live without Him. A branch cut off of a vine will die, but when the branch is attached, it will produce wonderful fruit. Therefore, through the Lord, our "fruit" is supposed to be spreading good virtues and most importantly, the Gospel. Apart from the Lord, we are unable and unaware that we are

to do these things. So let's "branch" out into the world and spread the Lord's "fruit".

**Prayer:** *Lord, help me to spread the fruit of Your Spirit throughout my life, and help me to be reminded that I can only do Your will through You. Amen.*

Abigail J., Class of 2028

**March 9: Sunday – IN CHRIST, I AM...Senior Reflections**

*IN CHRIST, I AM a student of God, always wanting to learn more about Him and what He does.* –Kellen C.

*IN CHRIST, I AM called to be a light to those in darkness, a hand to those in need, and an inspiration to those who cannot find their worth.* – Maddie C.

*IN CHRIST, I AM strong. The Lord gives me the strength to overcome any difficult situation. I know that in the most difficult of times, I can turn to Christ for guidance, and I will overcome anything.* – Kate C.

*IN CHRIST, I AM a friend. I am a friend of Christ because I can tell Him all my problems and talk to Him about anything and everything.* – Jocelyn E.

*IN CHRIST, I AM able to glow in rooms full of darkness.* – Jenna V.

*IN CHRIST, I AM an ambassador for Him. In being an ambassador for Christ, I try my best every day to emulate Christ in my thoughts, words, and actions in hopes that others notice this and try to do the same.* – Brianne R.

**March 10: 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Lent – BRETHREN BELOVED BY GOD**

**For we know, brethren beloved by God, that he has chosen you; for the gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.**

1 Thessalonians 1:4-5a

These words from Scripture are a powerful reminder of God's love for us through the power of the Gospel – the good news of Jesus Christ. Think of how the Gospel has impacted you. The good news of Jesus has impacted me. I am beloved by God because He has given me a great life to have. When I transferred to OSS, I didn't really have too much about religion. But now after three years at a Catholic school, I have learned a lot. When I came to OSS, my parents asked if I was interested in becoming Catholic, so I said yes, and since 8<sup>th</sup> grade I have been taking catechism classes to get closer to God. I am getting baptized on Easter. I think God wanted my parents to move me to OSS so I could get closer to Him. This is why I know I am beloved by God.

**Prayer:** *Dear God, thank You for loving me and giving me the Gospel in many ways. Amen.*

Brayden L., Class of 2028

**March 11: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of Lent – CHILDREN OF GOD**

**See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1**

**Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is a child of God... 1 John 5:1**

What an honor to be children of God! He created us so we can live for Him. As Christians we are supposed to listen and obey Him, following His example of love. God not only created us, but He has revealed Himself to us. Just like

children, we need correction and guidance. We are an integral and important part of God's family as His child.

**Prayer:** *Lord, forgive us when we do wrong. Guide us, as Your children, to do the right thing. Amen.*

Gabriel L., Class of 2028

**March 12: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of Lent – CHILDREN OF PROMISE**

**Now we, brethren like Isaac, are children of promise.**  
Galatians 4:28

When a child is born, surely there is hope and joy in how this new life will bring hope and joy into the lives of others. Being a child of promise means, to me, to be someone who lives as a disciple of Jesus Christ, bringing hope and joy to others. Children of promise do everything in their power to please God and live for Him. It also means that you are born again by faith in Jesus. It is very important that we are called to be children of promise.

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord, help us live as children of promise so that we may have eternal life with You. Amen.*

Nolan M., Class of 2028

**March 13: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of Lent – CHOSEN RACE**

**But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**  
1 Peter 2:9

This scripture reminds me that I am chosen by God for a special purpose. Being part of His "chosen race" – "holy nation" – means my life should reflect His love and goodness. It challenges me to live in a way that reflects His love, even in hard times. When I feel lost or overwhelmed, I can remember



that God has called me out of the darkness into His light, giving me hope and direction.

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord, thank You for choosing and calling me into Your light. Help me live in a way that reflects Your grace. Give me strength to share Your goodness and to trust in Your plan. Amen.*

Henry N., Class of 2028

**March 14: 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of Lent – CONQUERORS**

**No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:37-39**

Through these verses, Paul reflects on God's unconditional love and the unbreakable bond God's children share with Him through Christ. Verse 37 teaches us that we don't just overcome the trials and tribulations we face; we defeat them with the overwhelming victory we have through Christ's love. We are reminded that all of our strength and abilities come from our union with God. In verse 38 and 39, Paul shares a list of things – both earthly and spiritual – that cannot part us from God. We have the assurance that nothing will separate us from God's boundless love! God's love remains steadfast throughout all circumstances. In Christ, we are conquerors. We are called to live with confidence in God's love and to face challenges knowing we are even more than conquerors because we already have victory through Christ.

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank You for the assurance that nothing can separate us from Your boundless love. Grant us the confidence to face all battles, knowing that we are already made victorious through You. Amen.*

Millie S., Class of 2028

**March 15: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of Lent – DISCIPLE**

**If you continue in my word, then you are truly disciples of mine.** John 8:31

**By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.**

John 13:35

These words from John's Gospel emphasize the importance of our commitment to Jesus by continuing to demonstrate true discipleship. Being a disciple isn't just about initial belief but involves continuous and active engagement with His teachings. This ongoing dedication makes a person overall better, bringing themselves closer with the principles and values Jesus taught. It's a reminder that discipleship is a lifelong journey of knowing, growing, and living out your faith. A true follower isn't just about participating in religious activities, but showing genuine love for others. This love is meant to be evident to all, and it calls believers to embody compassion, kindness, and selflessness in their words and interactions. Identified as Christ's disciple is an honor. May we stay close to Jesus and continue to learn from Him to live the way He wants us to live.

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord, thank You for the gift of Your word and the love You have shown to us. Help us to remain faithful to Your teachings and to demonstrate our discipleship through genuine actions of love for one another. Amen.*

Abby W., Class of 2028

**March 16: Sunday – IN CHRIST, I AM...Senior Reflections**

*IN CHRIST, I AM a wonderful creation of God. God created us in His image and likeness. Every day we should strive to be the best version of ourselves.* – Karsyn M.

*IN CHRIST, I AM a proud child of God. God will always be there for me no matter what. Because of this, I proudly hold and claim the title of “Child of God” as I would not be here without Him. – Ava C.*

*IN CHRIST, I AM saved from sin and evil; I know He has a plan for me. – Tanner M.*

*IN CHRIST, I AM worthy. Jesus shows us how to love and trust in Him, but also ourselves. He shows us that we are important children of God. Christ is always present in our lives and never fails us. – Faith B.*

*IN CHRIST, I AM more confident and more comfortable with who I am. – Lauren E.*

*IN CHRIST, I AM a man trying to stay positive in a negative world. – Ben G.*

**March 17: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of Lent – FLOCK OF GOD**

**Tend the flock of God that is your charge, not by constraint but willingly, not for shameful gain, but eagerly, not as domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock.**

I Peter 5:2-3

We are the flock of God. Like sheep, we need to be led in the right direction because, without guidance, we are lost. We have the Lord as our good shepherd. And He calls us to be good leaders by helping others with kindness, and not for personal gain. These words are a reminder to care for people willingly, not bossing them around, but setting a good example through our words and actions. Leading is about serving, not controlling.

**Prayer:** *Lord, help me to lead with kindness and humility. Teach me to serve others willingly, reflecting Your love in all I do. Amen.*

Caden C., Class of 2028

**March 18: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Lent – FRIEND**

**You are my friends if you do what I command you...I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. John 15:14-15**

We all know that your choice of friends can affect your life – negatively or positively. If you choose the right friends, you discover people who want to help and support you in life, whether it's help with homework, or planning your wedding. Yet, if you choose bad friends, you will constantly feel like you are trying to make them support you. Overall, friends can impact your life greatly. How humbling it is that Jesus wants us to be His friend! He is the perfect friend.

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord, help me made the right decisions for myself in life, especially in choosing friends. Thank You for always being my friend. Amen.*

Chris E., Class of 2028

**March 19: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of Lent – GOD'S ELECT**

**What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies... Romans 8:31-33**

In democratic society, people are given the right to vote, to elect people at each level of government. To be called God's

elect means He has voted, He has chosen us to lead and help others. God not only has chosen us, but He has also equipped us to fulfill our life mission. He helps us – always. God is for us!

**Prayer:** *Thank You, God, for choosing us. Amen.*

Lillian G., Class of 2028

**March 20: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Lent – GOD’S FIELD**

**So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth...For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field...** 1 Corinthians 3:7, 9

In these verses, we are identified as God’s field. We can envision the fertile fields right where we live. Through God, we are able to grow and develop our faith and produce rich deeds as God gives the growth. But He also invites us to also be fellow workers who help to plant seeds of faith and water God’s creation. We are to preach and spread the Gospel of the Lord. We should not take credit for anything as it is all the work of God. We plant the seed and water it, but God makes it grow. Without God, nothing will grow to its full potential. Through Him we are able to be the field that produces the best version of ourselves. Through Him we are able to also be workers planting and watering the seeds of the Gospel of the Lord.

**Prayer:** *Lord, help me to know that God provides me with everything. Thank You for helping me grow. Amen.*

Reagan G., Class of 2028

**March 21: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of Lent – GOD’S PEOPLE**

**Once you were no people but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy.**  
1 Peter 2:10

Even if you falsely feel you are nothing, you are always someone to God. No matter what mistakes you have done, God will forgive you. The mercy we receive and accept from God gives us the identity as God's people. God considers us to be His people, opening the doors of the kingdom to us. He allows us to receive God's grace and share God's grace. While on earth, God's people are not perfect – but God's people pray for mercy and seek to live more and more into the image of God through Jesus.

**Prayer:** *God, You allow us to see You in many ways here on Earth. I appreciate that You allow us to join Your kingdom after all we have done. As Your people, help us to share Your grace with others. Amen.*

Annalise H., Class of 2028

**March 22: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of Lent – HEIRS OF GOD**

**When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.**

Romans 8:15b-17

When we become believers of Christ, God, the Father, or Abba, adopts us as sons and daughters. We are heirs with Christ! Just as kings have their heirs, God is our King and therefore, as His children, we are His heirs alongside Jesus.

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord, help us to do right as we lovingly live as Your heirs – here on earth and someday in heaven. Amen*

Chloe M., Class of 2028

**March 23: Sunday – IN THINKING OF MY IDENTITY...Senior Reflections**

*IN THINKING OF MY IDENTITY, I WANT TO BE KNOWN as someone whose persistence is unmatched, whose gratitude is known, and whose love is unfaltering. – Ava L.*

*IN THINKING OF MY IDENTITY, I WANT TO BE KNOWN as someone who is a strong believer in God. I want to be seen as someone who can guide others in their faith and someone who people can trust. – Aiden M.*

*IN THINKING OF MY IDENTITY, I WANT TO BE KNOWN as a person whose behavior aligns with Christ, that others can see Christ through and in me. – Izzie B.*

*IN THINKING OF MY IDENTITY, I WANT TO BE KNOWN as a hard worker who doesn't get up, as an honest person who just wants to get by in this world. – Caleb S.*

*IN THINKING OF MY IDENTITY, I WANT TO BE KNOWN as a sincere follower of Christ, doing what God asks of me. – Devon C.*

*IN THINKING OF MY IDENTITY, I WANT TO BE KNOWN as the person that others can rely on and look up to when times are tough. – Brock R.*

**March 24: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of Lent – HOLY NATION**

**But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**

1 Peter 2:9

God calls us to be His chosen people, set apart for us to share His goodness as a holy nation – made up of believers from various geographically nations of the world. He brings us out of the darkness of sin and into light – giving us a purpose to declare His love and goodness. In Christ, we will always belong to God who wants us to live as a holy nation without borders.

**Prayer:** *God, thank You for calling us to a higher standard. Help us to live apart as Your holy nation, declaring Your goodness in all we do. Amen.*

Jackson P., Class of 2028

**March 25: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of Lent – HOUSEHOLD OF GOD**

**So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.**

Ephesians 2:19-20

Houses need to be built on a strong foundation, and effective households are built on communication, cooperation, trusting love. While reading this Scripture, it made me think about what it means that I am a part of the household of God. We are not outsiders anymore, but insiders belonging to a community with Jesus as the foundation, with Jesus as the most important member of the family.

**Prayer:** *Thank You, God, for making me part of Your family. Help me to live like Jesus, loving others and following His teachings. Amen.*

Jacob P., Class of 2028

**March 26: 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of Lent – JARS OF CLAY**



**But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us.**

2 Corinthians 4:7

**“...we are the clay, and You are the potter; and we all are the work of Thy hands.”**

Isaiah 64:8

We are the clay that is constructed by the potter; this means we have a purpose on earth as the potter (God) creates us and shapes us to do good, to be of use. God created us to spread His word and His love to people who may not know Him. Think of how a skilled potter takes raw clay, shaping it and molding it into something beautiful, something useful. In ancient times, sacred scrolls, valuable documents, were rolled up and placed inside a jar of clay for safekeeping. We are “jars of clay” with a “treasure” inside.

**Prayer:** *Dear God, thank You for making us as Your clay into the shape of love, In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

Kale R., Class of 2028

**March 27: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of Lent – LETTER FROM CHRIST**

**You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on your hearts, to be known and read by all; and you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered to us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts.** 2 Corinthians 3:2-3

Do you think of yourself as a letter from Christ to others? Do you think of your words and actions being “read”? Do you think of the message you send to others? What message do others “read” from your life? We are sent from Christ to help spread God’s word to the world.

**Prayer:** *Thank you, God, for giving me the ability to spread Your word all around the world. Help us to remember every word and every action sends a message to others. Amen.*

Aleigha R., Class of 2028

**March 28: 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of Lent – LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

**You are the light of the world...let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.**      Matthew 5:14a, 16

Without light, we cannot see. Without light, plants cannot grow. These words of Jesus are powerful words. He preaches that we cannot see our bright future without His light, and if we do not have His light in the world, we cannot grow in faith. He is the Light of the World, and yet He calls us to be His light in the world by reflecting His light of love and truth. We are the light of the world – not only for ourselves but for others as well.

**Prayer:** *Dear God, thank You for calling us to be light, shining Your love and truth to those around us. Amen.*

Luke S., Class of 2028

**March 29: 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of Lent – LIVING STONES**

**Come to him, to that living stone, rejected by men but in God's sight chosen and precious; and like living stones, be yourselves built into a spiritual house...**      1 Peter 2: 4-5

What does being a living stone mean to you? We are asked in this passage of Scripture to live for Christ and to be built into a spiritual house – a house in which the Spirit of God dwells. We need to become the best version of ourselves and treat everyone with kindness and respect. We should follow God's commands and always go to Him first when in trouble

or in need. If people reject God, do not follow them; keep God in your heart. Your spiritual house is God, so He is who you go to for everything. Unlike stone idols pagans sought, we are to be living stone, and come to Jesus, the living stone – who rose from the dead.

**Prayer:** *Dear God, You are a living God – not some cold, stone idol. May we continue to build your kingdom as living stones of Your spiritual house – here on earth and in heaven. Amen.*

Erin S., Class of 2028

**March 30: Sunday – IN CHRIST, I AM...Senior Reflections**

*IN CHRIST, I AM fully known and fully loved. I don't have to strive for approval because His grace has already made me righteous in His eyes.*  
– Henry R.

*IN CHRIST, I AM a friend. In being a friend, I try to be kind, compassionate, and supportive to everyone – friends and strangers alike.* – Brianne R.

*IN CHRIST, I AM a servant of God. I spread the word of God and attend Mass on Sunday.* – Aiden M.

*IN CHRIST, I AM growing. Bonding with our God does wonder for our lives. Our relationship with Christ must deepen over time in order to become, and remain, full of His good graces.* – Kate C.

*IN CHRIST, I AM made to help my neighbors.* – Devon C.

*IN CHRIST, I AM able to overcome the hard things in my life. Through my relationship with Christ, I have found a mentor, helper, and rock that I can turn to at any time. He has given me the ability to understand and overcome difficult things I have faced.* – Ava C.

**March 31: 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of Lent – A NEW CREATION**

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.** 2 Corinthians 5:17

When a person accepts Jesus into their life, the person becomes a completely new person – a new creation. One's old sinful nature is replaced by a new nature, a new life, which is focused on Christ and allows Christ to work within that person – becoming the best version of one's self – in glory and thanksgiving to God.

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank You for the gift of new beginnings. As we embrace our new creation in Christ, help us to leave behind our old ways and walk in newness of life. Amen.*

Milee V., Class of 2028

**April 1: 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of Lent – PARTAKERS OF A HEAVENLY CALLING**

**Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession.**  
Hebrews 3:1

Partakers of a heavenly calling means, to me, a call to the faithful to focus their minds and hearts on Jesus. In this verse is emphasis of the importance of recognizing Jesus as an apostle and a high priest. The apostle is one who is sent with a mission. The high priest is one who mediates between God and humanity. Because, in Christ, we are partakers of a heavenly calling, may we be encouraged as believers to stay guided in our faith and to draw inspiration and guidance from Jesus on our spiritual journey.

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord, help us to fix our thoughts on Jesus, our Apostle and High Priest. Guide us to remain in our faith and draw strength from His teachings. Amen.*

Madi W., Class of 2028

**April 2: 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of Lent – PEACEMAKERS**

**Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual up building.** Romans 14:19

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.** Matthew 5:9

Followers of God are called “peacemakers.” People who follow Christ walk in the light of God and know of the peace He brings us. Peacemakers are people who actively work every day to bring peace. For example, nurses, police officers, and service workers work for peace. I am called to bring peace into the world. We need to slow down and indulge in what brings peace. As we give ourselves inner peace through Christ, we also bring a “mutual up building.” If one finds true peace and calmness, there will be others to follow. Christians help others, and by simply taking time out of your day to be calm could do many good things in the long run. “Blessed are the peacemakers.”

**Prayer:** *God, help me find peace and bring peace to those who need it. Your light will guide me the right way and to the place I need to be. In Jesus’ Name, I pray. Amen.*

Kenzie V., Class of 2026

**April 3: 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday of Lent – RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD**

**For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**  
2 Corinthians 5:21

Jesus took on all our sins and protects us from the Devil. Jesus is perfect and has never sinned, but He still decided to die for us because of His love for each and every one of us. Jesus first did this on the cross, but in the sacrament of Reconciliation, God will forgive us for our sins if we are truly sorry and want to change. God will never turn His back on us. He knows we will mess up and never will be perfect; however, He loves us and will forgive us and calls us “righteousness of God” – in right standing with God – through Jesus Christ.

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord, I'm sorry for all the wrong I have done. I will try my best to do as You would do. Please guide me to make the right decisions. Amen.*

Bryson M.. Class of 2026

**April 4: 5<sup>th</sup> Friday of Lent – ROYAL PRIESTHOOD**

**But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**

I Peter 2:9

This Scripture teaches us that as followers of Christ, we are called to proclaim God's wonderful deeds and share His works throughout our lives. God has chosen each of us for a special reason, and it is our responsibility to accept it and proclaim His good deeds.

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord, I pray that You help us proclaim Your wonderful deeds and help us not to lose sight of what really matters. Amen.*

Avanel J., Class of 2026

**April 5: 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday of Lent – SALT OF THE EARTH**

**You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?** Matthew 5:13a

Jesus tells the crowd, “You are the salt of the earth...” Salt at that time was mainly used for the preservation of food and to stave off rot. This means that Jesus is literally telling us that our purpose is to preserve the world God created and the good therein. If the world loses its saltiness, then it will not only lose its flavor, but it will rot and decay. If we do not trust in God and work to build a relationship with Him, then the goodness, the “flavor”, of the world will fade away, and the world will be left in a much worse state.

**Prayer:** *God, I pray that the good we do on Earth is enough to keep it salty and preserved for the future to come. Amen.*

Hayden H., Class of 2026.

**April 6: Sunday – IN CHRIST, I AM...Senior Reflections**

***IN CHRIST, I AM strengthened to push past all of my sorrows and struggles. He leads me on His path chosen for me.*** – Maddie C.

***IN CHRIST, I AM made in the image and likeness of His love.*** – Izzie B.

***IN CHRIST, I AM learning to walk by faith, not by sight.*** – Henry R.

***IN THINKING OF MY IDENTITY, I WANT TO BE KNOWN as a child of God who is strong and dedicated to live my faith.*** – Jocelyn E.

***IN THINKING OF MY IDENTITY, I WANT TO BE KNOWN as a strong follower of Jesus and a true believer in God and the messages He sends us.*** – Kellen C.

***IN THINKING OF MY IDENTITY, I WANT TO BE KNOWN as someone that doesn't need to hide my true self to be liked and respected.*** – Lauren E.

*IN THINKING OF MY IDENTITY, I WANT TO BE KNOWN as a disciple of Christ. It is important to serve others as Christ served us. – Faith B.*

**April 7: 5<sup>th</sup> Monday of Lent – SERVANT OF GOD**

**Live as freemen, yet without your freedom as a pretext for evil; but live as servants of God. 1 Peter 2:16**

Be thankful for our precious gift of freedom, but be careful of the power it holds. Freedom is an exciting state, but it is important to not let this freedom become a source of evil in our lives. Specifically, this makes me think of our senior class as they enter a new stage of freedom in their collegiate lives. My hope for them is that they use this newfound freedom as a way to improve themselves, their peers, and their community. If a person knows the Lord and keeps Him close, they will be guided by Him to use their freedom for the good – as servants of God. Living as servants of God prepares us for the life that awaits us in eternal happiness in heaven.

**Prayer:** *Lord, guide us to use the gift of freedom in ways pleasing to You. Allow us to live as servants to You and prepare us for our greatest gift of all – heaven. We are free to love You unconditionally, so please make Your presence known to us in our lives. Amen.*

Claire B., Class of 2026

**April 8: 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of Lent – SHEEP**

**My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand. John 10:27-28**



**Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.** Psalm 100:3

God is our creator. He created us and everything around us – like the food we eat, the water we drink, and the air we breathe. He will provide and take care of all our needs. God will also be there when we need Him; we are never alone. He is our shepherd who guides us, takes care of us, provides for us, and serves as our protection. You are never alone. Look for God and He will take care of you like a shepherd provides and takes care of his sheep.

**Prayer:** *Dear God, thank You for another day of providing our every need. May we follow You and be a reflection of You in everything we do. Amen.*

Talon T., Class of 2026.

**April 9: 6<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of Lent – SONS OF GOD**

**For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship.**

Romans 8:14-15a

This passage serves as a reminder to everyone that the Holy Spirit is always here and is a director or guide for our life. We are adopted into God's family when we decide to follow Him, and by those means we inherit all He has to give. As sons of God, we must confidently pray and spread the Word of God to others for His glory. This passage also refers to how we can use the strength God gives us to overcome difficulties. Instead of falling back or down, God encourages us to use and look deep inside Him for answers to pick us back up.

**Prayer:** *Lord, please guide me into the right direction, and give me the courage to achieve all I'm capable of. Amen.*

Alek B., Class of 2026

**April 10: 6<sup>th</sup> Thursday of Lent – TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.** 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

This Scripture passage reminds us that we are all chosen by God. We are strengthened by God's presence in us. When we open ourselves to the Lord, the Holy Spirit presides in us and guides us. When this passage says, "You are not your own," it means that we are with God, we can trust God, and we can see God in the world. It also means that we should put God first and humble ourselves, for He has chosen us. When Christ came to live among us, God was promising to be with us on earth. By making us temples of the Holy Spirit, He is continuing that promise. God is still walking the earth through us all. He is leading us and has not abandoned us. Furthermore, since God is no longer on earth in a physical form, we, as His followers, are called to be an example of Him by using the gifts the Holy Spirit gives us. We can be the living representative of Christ and feel an even higher responsibility to treat everyone with care and respect.

**Prayer:** *Lord, help me to treat everyone with respect, remembering that we are all temples of You. Let me be an example of You in our world. Amen.*

Grant N., Class of 2026

**April 11: 6<sup>th</sup> Friday of Lent – WITNESS**

**But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses...** Acts 1:8

When you find God, you will inherit the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes with the grace from God. You are connected with God, and God helps you through life, giving you the power to make the decisions that will be best. We are called to be witnesses of God's love, power, and strength.

**Prayer:** *Dear God, may I be a strong witness for You. Give me the strength to let You in my life, and help me be closer to You. Amen.*

Kendall L., Class of 2026

**April 12: 6<sup>th</sup> Saturday of Lent – HIS WORKMANSHIP**

**For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.** Ephesians 2:10

Growing up as a follower of Christ, you learn time and time again that Jesus puts you on Earth for a purpose. From the start of life to the end, you do acts and kind deeds for others all for the love of Jesus Christ. Just by having a strong faithful life, you could participate in many Sacraments. A special Sacrament of Matrimony is a start to a long and fruitful family. That could be your work of Christ which is going into the world. Another work for God is becoming a priest by having the Sacrament of Holy Orders. As a priest, one can express his faith, but he also can explain it to others. Each person is different in God, and through God each person can express his works in a myriad of ways.

**Prayer:** *Dear God, I trust You for all You do. I will be Your worker in honor and praise of You. Amen.*

Owen G., Class of 2026

**April 13: Palm Sunday – IN CHRIST, I AM...**

**The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before Him and that followed Him shouted, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!’ And when He entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, ‘Who is this?’** Matthew 21:6-10.

“Who is this?” How might you have responded then? How do you respond today? Your answer to who Jesus is greatly affects your own identity.

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In Christ, I am

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**Prayer:** *May we come to know You more fully and love You more dearly, Loving and Forgiving God. Amen.*

**April 14: Monday of Holy Week – IN CHRIST, I AM...**

**Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. They gave a dinner for him there, and Martha served, while Lazarus was one of those reclining at table with him. Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil made from genuine aromatic nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair; the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. Then Judas the Iscariot, one of his disciples, and the one who would betray him, said, ‘Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days’ wages and given to the poor?’ He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief and held the moneybag and used to steal the contributions. So Jesus said, ‘Leave her alone. Let her keep this for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.’ The large crowd of the Jews found out that he was there and came, not only because of him,**

**but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. And the chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus too, because many of the Jews were turning away and believing in Jesus because of him.’**

John 12:1 – 11

Do others believe in Jesus because of me?

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In Christ, I am

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**Prayer:** *Jesus, You humbled Yourself as a servant, becoming obedient to death on a cross for our sake. May our lives boldly claim that You are Lord. Amen.*

**April 15: Tuesday of Holy Week – IN CHRIST, I AM...**

**Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me; or else believe me for the sake of the works themselves.”** John 14:9-11

Here comes another question from Jesus: “Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me?” As we put ourselves into the Holy Week and Easter narratives, where do you see yourself? One disciple betrays Jesus; another denies

Him; all scatter – for a brief time. They could not understand that Resurrection was coming – even their own new life, their new identity in Christ!

In Christ, I am

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**Prayer:** *In the name of the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, may we continue to know You, to love You, to obey You and to become who You created us to be in Christ Jesus, Our Lord. Amen.*

**April 16: Wednesday of Holy Week – IN CHRIST, I AM...**

**He asked His disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter replied, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’** Matthew 16:13-16

It seems that Jesus asked His followers a safe question first: “Who do OTHERS say that I am?” The response to this question did not really require personal conviction, personal commitment, personal risk. The disciples could just repeat what others had been speculating about the identity of Jesus. “But who do you say that I am?” makes us become vulnerable, makes us become personal in our response to this powerful, life-changing question. May God’s grace carry us forward into greater understanding of who Jesus is and who we are because of Him.

In Christ, I am

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**Prayer:** *Dear Jesus, we are humbled by Your question to us. Who do we say You are? May we proclaim with loving grace and boldness, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Amen.*

**April 17: Holy Thursday – IN CHRIST, I AM...**

**Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, 'Drink of it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.' Matthew 26:26-28**

**Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to His disciples, 'Sit here, while I go yonder and pray.' And taking with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, He began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then He said to them, 'My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with Me.' And going a little farther He fell on His face and prayed, 'My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.' And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and He said to Peter, 'So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' Again, for the second time, He went away and prayed, 'My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, Thy will be done.' And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, He went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then He came to the disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into**

**the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.'**      Matthew 26: 36-46

In Christ, I am

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**Prayer:** *In your own words...*

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April 18: Good Friday – IN CHRIST, I AM...

**But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him, ‘I adjure You by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have said so. But I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.’ Then the high priest tore his robes, and said, ‘He has uttered blasphemy. Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your judgment?’ They answered, ‘He deserves death.’ Then they spat in His face, and struck Him; and some slapped Him, saying, ‘Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?’**

Matthew 26: 63 - 68

**Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked Him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ Jesus said, ‘You have said so.’ But when He was accused by the chief priests and elders, He**



made no answer. Then Pilate said to Him, ‘Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?’ But He gave him no answer, not even a single charge; so that the governor wondered greatly. Matthew 27: 11-14

And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split; the tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe, and said, ‘Truly this was the Son of God!’ Matthew 27: 50-54

In Christ, I am

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Your Prayer:

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**April 19: Holy Saturday – IN CHRIST, I AM...**

“And we ask the Lord for the Church, that the Lord will guard it from all forms of worldliness. That the Church will always have the IDENTITY given to it by Jesus Christ; that we will all have the IDENTITY that we received in baptism. May the Lord give us the grace to maintain and preserve our CHRISTIAN

IDENTITY against the spirit of worldliness that always grows, justifies itself and is contagious.” Pope Francis in 2015.

**IN CHRIST, WE ARE:**

Ambassadors for Christ  
Beloved  
Body of Christ  
Branches  
Brethren Beloved by God  
Children of God  
Children of Promise  
Chosen Race  
Conquerors  
Disciples  
Flock of God  
Friend  
God's Elect  
God's Field  
God's People  
Heirs of God  
Holy Nation  
Household of God  
Jars of Clay  
Letter from Christ  
Light of the World  
Living Stones  
A New Creation  
Partakers of a Heavenly Calling  
Peacemakers  
Righteousness of God  
Royal Priesthood  
Salt of the Earth  
Servant of God  
Sheep  
Sons of God

Temple of the Holy Spirit  
Witnesses  
His Workmanship

**REFLECTIONS**

## **REFLECTIONS**