

Lent 2026

**“But what about you?” Jesus asked.
‘Who do you say I am?’”**

Mark 8:29

Matthew 16:15

A Project of Written Reflections by English I
Students

AND

Brief Expressions from RCHS Seniors

VOLUME 11

**Routt Catholic High School
Jacksonville, Illinois**

“Enter to Grow; Leave to Serve”

Introduction

**“But what about you?” He asked.
‘Who do you say I am?’”**

**Mark 8:29
Matthew 16:15**

At first glance, the question (“Who do you say I am?”) that Jesus asks His disciples may appear to be rather simple to answer. Yet a name or title rarely captures the essence, the totality of being that a person is – much less who Jesus is. Our freshmen in English I have been exploring identity – the identity of fictional characters, the identity of real people, and their own growing and evolving identity. Perhaps Lent 2026 is an excellent time to explore the identity of Jesus through the various titles/names of Jesus in Holy Scripture. Perhaps Lent 2026 is an excellent time to come to know Him more deeply through inspired Scripture and through the simple meditations of the heart from some of our RCHS students, along with your own prayerful meditation. May we never stop discovering who Jesus is.

The titles/names selected from Scripture are certainly not an exhaustive list. Mainly, the presentation of titles/names appears in alphabetical order – without trying to weigh one over another. Each is like a facet of a precious gem. While one or more titles/names may resonate with you, be open to exploring each one presented in our 2026 Lenten Booklet as we journey together. Read additional Scripture that surrounds the verses selected for each day. Our RCHS seniors responded to this question that Jesus poses; you will find their reflections in this booklet on Sundays, except Palm Sunday.

While each generation of believers has brought its own experience and insight to bear on this essential question of who

Jesus is, individually each of us must answer this question of Jesus. May we be blessed as we utilize this daily Lenten tool to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen!” (2 Peter 3:18).

Janet Chipman, English I
Instructor and NEHS Adviser

With appreciation to the 2025-2026 officers of
The Marilyn Merris Chapter
of the National English Honor Society at RCHS:

Claire Bonjean, President; Owen Geinardt, Vice President;
Hayden Hamel, Secretary; Talon Thompson, Treasurer.

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February 18: Ash Wednesday - ADVOCATE

“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.” 1 John 2:1

An advocate is a person of action that supports, promotes, or pleads for a cause, or the rights and interests of another person or group, acting as a voice. Jesus is our advocate because He defends and protects all life, and He saved us all from sin by sacrificing Himself on the cross. Every day Jesus is there for us, leading us away from sin, essentially being our defender or advocate. The amazing thing about Jesus is if we do sin, as long as we ask for forgiveness, He will forgive us. We should be eternally grateful.

Prayer: *Lord, thank You for always defending me to God, protecting my soul from sin, and for being an amazing, all-powerful advocate. Amen.*

Brody B. – Class of 2029

February 19: Thursday of the First Week of Lent – ALPHA AND OMEGA

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” Revelation 22:13

The Beginning and the End. What does this really mean? The start and end of a season? The beginning and end of a school year? Or even the beginning of life until it's over. But with Jesus, the Son of God, and God the Father, life will never really end. God started our holy lives, and they won't end until God decides. Even after life on this current Earth, no one's life is actually over. May we be received in Heaven where God greets us with open arms. God is our beginning and our end; God is our Alpha and our Omega.

Prayer: *God, You started my life. You are my Alpha. God, You carry my life. God, be with me at the end of my life; I trust You as my Omega. Amen.*

Danny D. – Class of 2029

February 20: Friday of the First Week of Lent – AUTHOR and PERFECTER of FAITH

“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2

Hebrews 12:2 tells us that Jesus is the author and perfecter of faith because He did not just teach faith, but He lived faith; He experienced faith. By carrying the cross and enduring pain, Jesus demonstrated complete trust in God and His plan. Jesus's faith never failed, even in complete suffering; this shows that faith is created and completed in Him. Because Jesus completed His mission in faith and ascended into Heaven, He proves that the final destination and goal of faith is to be in Heaven with God. This verse reminds me that my faith begins with Jesus and continues and is strengthened by following His example.

Prayer: *Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to show us true faith. Help me to keep trust in You through future challenges and temptations. Guide my heart during this Lenten season so I can grow closer to You. Amen.*

Maizi F. – Class of 2029

February 21: Saturday of the First Week of Lent – BREAD OF LIFE

Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’ John 6:35

Jesus states He is the Bread of Life in a sense that if someone chooses to believe in Him, they receive His life. Jesus Himself is life. Jesus is also stating that whoever believes in Him will be fulfilled and never be hungry or thirsty. He is the fulfillment of our human desires, just as He is also the fulfillment of God's revelation and love for His people. Jesus reflects that He is the Messiah through this statement. He is fully God and fully man.

Prayer: *Dear God, help me remember that You fulfill my needs. Help me be thankful for Your saving revelation through Your Son, Jesus. Amen.*

Kiley G. – Class of 2029

February 22: Sunday of the First Week of Lent – WHO DO YOU SAY I AM? – Senior Reflections

Jesus is my Savior. He is the Son of God, who came to this world to save us from our sins. Jesus is our pathway to Heaven. He is our Redeemer and the one we should follow. – Avanel J.

Jesus is someone who will always be there. He will be there in the darkest times to show us the light. He will be there as someone to comfort and support you when you need it the most. Remember that Jesus is by your side and through Him, all things are possible. – Talon T.

Jesus is our Heavenly Father who will always protect us from evil, harm, and all bad things around us. He also took the ultimate risk for us so that we can be free of original sin. – Angelique L.

Jesus is God, who has saved my life and continues to give me ideas. I am grateful for God, my life, His way. – Ben B.

Jesus is my Light and Path for life. Everything I do is in light of Him. I always try to follow His path in building my relationship with Jesus Christ. – Dominick Y.

Jesus, You are my star, the center of my faith, above all. You help lighten my emotions every day; thank You for every word and thing You have done. – Easton H.

Jesus is our Redeemer. He saved us from the sins of the world. Jesus is our Father, not only literally, but figuratively. He created us in His image, and He shows us the right path to one day join Him again in Heaven. – Brady T.

February 23: Monday of the First Week of Lent – BELOVED SON OF GOD

“And behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’ Matthew 3:17

This verse reminds me that Jesus is God’s Son, and He came down from Heaven to save us from sin and bring us to fullness of life everlasting. This verse shows how much God loves the world and that He wants us to follow Him. I am to trust Jesus and live His way, not my way. God was willing to send His only Son for us, proving how special we are. Faith in Jesus is important, and following Him can lead us to live better, treat others with kindness, and trust God even when things are hard. Jesus is the Beloved Son of God.

Prayer: *Dear Lord, I thank You for sending me to Earth to live out my life for You so I can one day join You in Heaven. Amen.*

Quinn J. – Class of 2029

February 24: Tuesday of the First Week of Lent – CARPENTER’S SON

“Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?” Matthew 13:55

This verse makes me think about how easy it is to underestimate people just because you know their background. The people questioning Jesus

focus on His family instead of listening to His message. They struggled to believe that he was capable of being someone great because they just knew Him as “the carpenter’s son.” This verse reminds people not to overlook someone else’s gifts just based on a label. It also reminds us to stay humble and open-minded, and to not judge others based on what they are known as. It encourages me to believe that God can work through anyone. Let’s look beyond labels and trust that there is more to a person than what we see on the outside. As “the carpenter’s son”, let Jesus **build** you into the unique and magnificent being He desires you to be.

Prayer: *Dear Lord, help us not to judge others by what we think we know about them. Please open our minds to see people for who they truly are. Help us to trust Your plan, even when it is unexpected. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

Calla M. – Class of 2029

February 25: Second Wednesday of Lent – CHIEF CORNERSTONE

“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.” Psalm 118:22

“...members of this household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.” Ephesians 2:20

A cornerstone is defined as “an important quality or feature on which a particular thing depends or is based.” A house, which people take refuge in for safety, is built on a cornerstone. A church, where people go to worship and praise, is built on a cornerstone. In our lives, we cannot have a full life or ever be fully fulfilled without the cornerstone of faith, and the chief cornerstone of faith is Jesus Christ. A cornerstone is the starting block. Essentially, without Christ, our lives would have no plan to build upon without Christ Jesus, the chief cornerstone who keeps everything together and prevents what it holds together from falling apart.

Prayer: *Lord, help us find You and see You as the cornerstone of our lives. Let us never forget You are the core of our faith and the truth in which we live. Amen.*

Brooklyn M. – Class of 2029

February 26: Thursday of the Second Week of Lent – DOOR (GATE)

“I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.” John 10:9

What do you think of when you think of a door? An opening? A closing? Metaphorically, a door can represent opportunity. In the context of speaking of shepherding and caring for sheep, Jesus uses an analogy that his hearers at that time would understand. After moving and gathering the flock, finding a needed food source, the shepherd would literally lay down as the door of the corral-like area to protect the sheep. In Revelation 3:20, Jesus says, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”

Prayer: *Dear Jesus, thank you for inviting us into Your kingdom, and for protecting and caring for us. Amen.*

Mrs. Chipman

February 27: Friday of the Second Week of Lent – GOOD SHEPHERD

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” John 10:11

What is a “good” shepherd? A good shepherd is a leader who provides sacrificial care, guidance, and protection for their followers, their flock. Jesus identifies Himself as the protector who sacrifices Himself for his followers, in contrast to a hired hand who abandons the sheep. This verse gives the idea that Jesus has willingness to give His life with His sacrifice, caring, guiding and protecting the sheep from the thieves who come to steal and destroy. Jesus protects us from all evil that tries to tempt us. Jesus died on the cross for us and will always be our Good Shepherd.

Prayer: *Lord, You have given me many gifts, and I know You will show me the way to go. Like a good shepherd, I know You will always love me and never abandon me. Amen.*

Gavin P. – Class of 2029

February 28: Saturday of the Second Week of Lent – GREAT HIGH PRIEST

“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.” Hebrews 4:14

There have been many high priests throughout the history of ancient Israel – high priests who could offer sacrifice to atone for the sins of the people. Jesus is referred to as a great high priest because He offered Himself as the once and for all perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin and He lives forever. In this verse, we are told how we have a “great high priest” that is Jesus Christ. He is someone above all by using the adjectives “great” and “high”. Because we have Jesus as our Great High Priest, we are to “hold fast our confession” which means hold onto our faith in Jesus. Holding on to our faith is important because we have this Priest, the Son of God, who died for our sins.

Prayer: *Lord, please help me to remember there is someone greater looking after me; help me remember to stay faithful always. Amen.*

Kaylin R. – Class of 2029

March 1: Second Sunday of Lent - WHO DO YOU SAY I AM? – Senior Reflections

Jesus is the one whom I believe to be the Almighty Father. He saved us from sin, and He provides us a chance to be forgiven. – Kendall L.

Jesus is my King, my Savior. He is the one I can always rely on when times get tough. – Gameli W.

Jesus is my Savior. He is the person I go to when I am sad, happy, nervous or excited. He knows me best and loves me even with my flaws. He is forgiving and the one I always turn towards. – Izzy V.

Jesus is the one I go to for everything. Every hope, dream, and prayer. Jesus is the Light in every darkness in my life. Jesus knows what is best for me before I do, and He knows when I am ready to be rewarded. Jesus is my Savior. – Grace C.

Jesus is my everything. He is why I wake up in the morning. He is what gets me through the day. Jesus, You are the sun that brings out a new day. Jesus, You are my loving and dying Savior. – Adam A.

Jesus is the one I can rely on when times get tough. Jesus is my rock, whom I take my prayers to and confess my sins. Jesus is my Savior, who died to save not only me, but all of us. Jesus is the reason I get to celebrate this Lenten season. – Sophia S.

Jesus is the greatest gift to the world. He was given to the people for the people to be saved. Even though people have betrayed Him, He still gave His life to save us. – Brandt B.

March 2: Monday of the Second Week of Lent – HEAD OF THE CHURCH

“And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way.” Ephesians 1:22-23

In learning more about this verse, this may be the first time that Paul uses the word church in his writings. As the church, we are to be the Body of Christ. As Head of the Church, Jesus has authority, and we are to be obedient and follow what Jesus says. This is why reading the Holy Scriptures is so very important.

Prayer: *God, give me knowledge, strength, and hope to know and worship You better. Help me to have courage to lift up Your church. Amen.*

Burke W. – Class of 2029

March 3: Tuesday of the Second Week of Lent – IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.” Colossians 1:15

What does God look like? How does God act? God reveals Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ. As “the firstborn over all creation”, Jesus, God’s Son, has the highest power over everything that was created by God.

Prayer: *Dear Jesus, thank You for watching over us and making sure we are safe. Thank You for dying for our sins and giving us a chance for eternal life with You.*

Quin D. – Class of 2029

March 4: Third Wednesday of Lent – EMMANUEL (IMMANUEL)

“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel’ (which means ‘God with us’).” Matthew 1: 22 – 23 (Isaiah 7:14)

The name Emmanuel means that God is with us. Therefore, this scripture, as all do, has a very special meaning. God promised to send a Savior to save all creation from original sin. His way of doing that was to send His one and only Son. Through the Holy Trinity – God, the Father; Jesus, His Son; the Holy Spirit – are one. So, in sending His son, God also sent Himself. This fulfills the name Jesus was called, Emmanuel, which was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy regarding Jesus. It signifies that God is with us all always. Jesus helps us to fill the void between God, the merciful Father, and us, sinful people. The birth of Jesus was a promise of hope and gave us the ability to have a faithful relationship with God.

Prayer: *Dear Lord, thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help me to be open to Your ways and accept You in my life. Amen.*

Ali E., Class of 2029

March 5: Thursday of the Third Week of Lent – INDESCRIBABLE GIFT

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.” 2 Corinthians 9:15

God has given us many gifts in life that are quite valuable, such as wisdom, strength, and peace. At the center of all God’s gifts to us is His profound love. God’s greatest gift of all is Jesus Christ - a gift beyond words.

Prayer: *Lord, thank You for Your indescribable gift - Jesus Christ. All your gifts You have given us help us grow closer to You and to succeed in life. Amen.*

Cooper F., Class of 2029

March 6: Friday of the Third Week of Lent - JUDGE

“...He is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.” Acts 10:42

Acts 10:42 describes Jesus as the one appointed by God to judge the living and the dead, and this idea can feel heavy at first. When people hear the word, judge, they often think of a harsh punishment. However, reflecting on who Jesus is throughout the Bible changes how I understand this verse. Jesus is not a distant or uncaring judge; He is someone who lived among people, experienced suffering, and showed compassion to those who were broken or overlooked. Knowing this makes His role as judge feel more just and personal, because Jesus truly understands humanity.

This verse also reminds me that judgement is connected to truth and accountability, not fear. Jesus as Judge means that goodness, mercy, and justice ultimately matter, even when the world feels unfair. Knowing this challenges me to live with integrity, knowing that my actions have meaning, but it also brings comfort because the one who judges is the same one who loves, forgives, and offers grace. Instead of seeing judgement as something to dread, Acts 10:42 invites reflection on living faithfully and trusting that Jesus judges with perfect wisdom and love.

Prayer: *Lord, thank You for Jesus, who judges with both trust and love. Help me to trust Your wisdom and live in a way that reflects integrity and faith. When I feel afraid or uncertain, remind me that Your judgement is also filled with mercy and grace. Guide my heart to follow Jesus daily. Amen.*

Danica G., Class of 2029

March 7: Saturday of the Third Week of Lent – KING OF KINGS

“They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because He is the Lord of lords and King of kings – and with Him will be His called, chosen, and faithful followers.”
Revelation 17:14

King of kings...this speaks of Jesus's supreme authority as ruler over all. He is a king to be trusted, to be followed. The evil of this world - which can come in many forms and ways - will always try to come after people. But, those who align themselves with the King of kings “will be His called, chosen, and faithful followers.” Christ will always win against the demons of this world. You can see this in the story of when the devil kept tempting Jesus in the desert. You can see this when Jesus rose from dead - defeating death once and for all. We will see His glorious and victorious appearance again someday.

Prayer: *Lord, keep us safe from the demons of this world. Let us stay by Your side for You are the King of kings. Amen.*

Wyatt J. - Class of 2029

March 8: Third Sunday of Lent - WHO DO YOU SAY I AM? – Senior Reflections

Jesus is the Son of God, God made man, and our Redeemer. He was sent to make the love of God visible. He gave an example of how we should love, and He related God to us by living like us. Today we live in joy of His sacrifice and look to His example. We can still encounter Jesus in our daily lives through prayer. – Grant N.

Jesus is my Lord, the one who gave me my life. Jesus is there in the darkest of days to stand by my side. He always lets me turn to Him when I have sinned. Thank you, Jesus, for always looking over me. – Jacob B.

Jesus is the embodiment of hope. Jesus is a hope for us sinners that one day He will come down to judge us and bring us to eternal life. He is the hope that will bring peace in the world. – Cannon C.

Jesus is my Savior. He is someone who loves me the most and will do anything for all of us. He is someone I can always go to and talk to while struggling or even when I am not struggling. – Chloe M.

Jesus is God. God is our Savior. Living your life with God is a very peaceful life. Jesus is our one ruler. – Memphis M.

Jesus is the Savior of this world. He saved us from our original sin and our sinful lives that we live. His Father sent His only Son to die for us, and Jesus willingly died. The good in this world comes from Jesus, and we owe everything to Him. – Kenzie V.

Jesus is my Savior and my Leader. He guides me through the hard parts of my life. He is my Light in my darkness. Jesus is the person I lean on when I need direction. – Meaghan M.

March 9: Monday of the Third Week of Lent – LAMB OF GOD

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’ John 1:29

Lambs were sacrificed during Passover, and they had to be perfect, a perfect sacrifice for the sins of the people. Think of how many lambs were sacrificed for thousands of years! So when Jesus is called the Lamb of God, He is the ultimate sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins; no other lambs need to be sacrificed. As a lamb, Jesus was innocent and full of love. He was willing to sacrifice Himself for everyone. Not only was Christ the sacrifice for everyone in the past, but His sacrifice is the perfect one for the present and the future – for all time. This title of Jesus helps me remember how much Jesus loves me, cares for me. It reminds me to be thankful and to live a life worthy of His sacrifice, following Him.

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus, the Lamb of God, to love and forgive us. Help us to follow His example of being loving and forgiving others, and doing what's right. Please guide us every day and help us grow in faith. Amen.

Tyler M., Class of 2029

March 10: Tuesday of the Third Week of Lent – LIGHT OF THE WORLD

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of Life.” John 8:12

Light. Just think of the many uses of light. Without light, we cannot see – physically and spiritually. I believe that Jesus saying He is the Light of the World means that He is our guide through the darkness of our world, of our society. Jesus wants us to act like Him and be a guide for others to the church. God wants us not to “walk in darkness” but to “walk in the light of Life.” In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus says, “You are the light of the world...Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is heaven.” Jesus, the Light of the World, calls us to reflect His light and shine with good works.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, please give me the strength and fortitude to be Your light for others and guide them through the darkness of our world. Thank You for being the Light of the World. Amen.

Emmett M., Class of 2029

March 11: Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent – MASTER

“Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ. He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” Matthew 23:10-12

In this passage, master means the one with ultimate authority and truth. Jesus is saying that no human should claim power or importance over others. Only Christ is the true master because He leads with love,

humility, and service - not pride or control. When Jesus says, “the greatest among you shall be your servant,” he’s teaching that being close to God is not about titles, status, or being better than others. Instead, true greatness comes from serving others, being humble, and putting God first. Those who lift themselves up will be humbled, but those who choose humility will be honored by God.

Prayer: *Dear Lord, thank You for being my true master and guide. Help me to follow You with a humble heart and not seek importance or praise from others. Teach me to serve the people around me with love, patience, and kindness - just as Jesus did. Help me remember that real greatness comes from humility and obedience to You. Amen.*

Amelia P., Class of 2029

March 12: Thursday of the Fourth Week of Lent - MEDIATOR

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” I Timothy 2:5

When I first read this verse, I stopped, thought and read it again. There is one mediator between God and man. Meaning, Christ Jesus is the only mediator who can reconcile humanity with God. This shows how powerful and important Jesus Christ’s role as mediator is and He is the overall bridge that brings humanity to God and God to humanity. I reflected and remembered that Jesus Christ is both God and human which is how He fits the role perfectly. This allows Him to offer direct connection with God, maintaining salvation and modeling care for others. This verse serves as a reminder to the sufficient work Christ did connecting the gap caused by sin and ensuring that all who put their faith in God can approach Him confidently.

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of Jesus, my one Mediator, through whom I can approach You with confidence. Amen.*

Kenaya M., Class of 2029

March 13: Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent – PRINCE OF PEACE

“...and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

When you hear the words “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace,” what do you think of? These words show power. Through this verse, we see the power of God entering our broken and chaos-filled world through His Son, the “Prince of Peace.” We are called to follow God where He leads us. Unlike the leaders of our world today, who rule through authority, God rules through understanding and compassion. If we follow God and His Son, Jesus Christ, we will be completely fulfilled and never lost. The words in this verse show us that we should not put anything else above God. Therefore, no matter how dark the world feels, God has not abandoned us. He proved His love for us by sending His only Son, and so we should always put Him as our highest priority. In Jesus, we find peace and are called to be peacemakers.

Prayer: *Lord, help us remember that You are our main priority and the giver of peace. Guide us to put You above everything. Amen.*

Ava T., Class of 2029

March 14: Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent – REDEEMER

“And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth.” Job 19:25

Everyone loves a good story where the villain is offered a chance to change his/her ways by the hero. But this isn’t just a story element. Christ offers us a chance to change our ways and turn to Him. Every. Single. Day. This is why He is called the Redeemer. Because He always offers everyone a chance to change. Because He always offers everyone the forgiveness of our sins. Because He always offers everyone a love that never ends. So, during this Lenten season, I implore you to look at your own life where Christ is offering you a second chance.

Prayer: *Oh Lord, please show us Your grace through the second chances You grant to us. Amen.*

Parker W. - Class of 2029

March 15: Fourth Sunday of Lent - WHO DO YOU SAY I AM? – Senior Reflections

Jesus is our Savior and the Giver of Life. He is the one that forgives us for our sins from and on the cross. The greatest suffering in the history of life was when Jesus took up the cross to save us. He was innocent, but He was condemned and took up the cross anyway. Jesus is an important figure in my life as I reach out to Him in my prayer life and when I am at Mass. I know He is always with me and is watching over me, so I can live a strong and moral life to reach Heaven. – Owen G.

Jesus is the One. He is the One guiding you in the darkest of times. He is the One riding with you when you are on cloud nine. He is the Light you look up to. He is the Comfort during tough trials. He is always with us – watching, hoping, and caring for us. That is who Jesus is. – Alek B.

Jesus is the Savior who died so that our sins might be forgiven. He is the Son who sacrificed Himself so we might live. He is the Lamb who did not let us remain astray. – Hayden H.

Jesus is the only Way. If you follow His will, you will be with Him in eternal paradise with no pain or suffering. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Light (John 14:6). – Clarissa E.

Jesus is HIM. He is the one who saved us from our sins. He brought His wisdom into the world. He is responsible for the good in the world. Jesus, help us continue towards good and lead us away from evil.. – Hector A.

Jesus is a Friend, always in your corner, who is willing and able to calm your anxieties, ease your burdens, and guide you on a righteous path. He never gives up on His followers, even when they lose sight of Him and His teachings. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, willing to leave the 99 to save 1 of His lost followers. – Claire B.

Jesus is Perfect. Jesus has the power to do anything and everything. He is all-knowing. He loves everyone unconditionally, and it is our choice to love Him, trust Him, and accept Him into our hearts. Relationship with Jesus Christ matters. – Samuel L.

March 16: Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent - ROCK

“For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.” I Corinthians 10:4

This passage serves as a reminder that Christ is always with us. When the Israelites wandered through the desert, God gave them water to drink out of a rock, thus saving them. It was the very same Trinitarian God in Christ, and it is the same God in the Holy Spirit with us today. When reading the Old Testament, it may be hard to relate to the stories from so long ago. To do so, let us remember the One God, present through all generations. The spiritual Rock from which the water came is the Spirit of God in all our lives. It is the God that won our salvation.

Prayer: *Lord, let us never forget Your presence in our lives. May we remember the love You have for Your people and Your history of redeeming us. May we remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Grant N., Class of 2026

March 17: Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent - SAVIOR

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11

In a stable, amid the shuffles and snorts of livestock and the scent of straw and animals, Jesus entered the world He came to save. The baby who Mary cradled in her arms was destined to suffer and die, in one of the most excruciating ways imaginable. Christ offered Himself as the lamb required to be sacrificed so that we might live and seek eternal life. In a trough, meant for animal food, rested the one who would turn water to wine, calm and wade on water, and raise the dead. One of the most humble beginnings led to the most crucial end.

Prayer: *Father, I pray that we all find purpose within Your Light. In a world full of darkness and hatred, let us recognize and be the love and joy.*

Hayden H. – Class of 2026

March 18: Fifth Wednesday of Lent – SON OF GOD

“And the angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.’ Luke 1:35

Jesus entered the world through a divine conception. His mother Mary gave God an important “yes” to the calling He had for her. This verse shows the divinity and the power of Jesus Christ as the Son of God. The angel’s message to Mary and all of the followers of Jesus is to trust Him because of His power to be fully God and fully man.

Prayer: *Jesus, help us trust You and the plan You have for us. Remind us of Your divine love and grace as the Son of God. Amen.*

Claire B., Class of 2026

March 19: Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent – SON OF MAN

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Luke 19:10

The name, Son of Man, refers to Jesus being born from the human body of the Virgin Mary and uniting Himself with man (humankind) by living among people here on earth. Jesus sacrificed Himself to fulfill His Father’s plan “to seek and to save the lost.” The Lord came to save all. He wants people that are chained by their sins to condemn them and turn to Him. He finds His people that are lost and is the Light that guides them back to His love and presence.

Prayer: *Lord, help me to search for You when I am trapped in my sin. Help me to rejoice in Your presence and continue to live for You daily. Amen.*

Meaghan M., Class of 2026

March 20: Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent – SUPREME CREATOR

“By Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible...all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things and in Him all things hold together...”
1 Corinthians 1:16-17

Our finite minds cannot fully comprehend the breadth and the depth of who our Triune God is. To say that God is supreme means that God - Father, Son, Holy Spirit - is superior to everyone and everything. He has no rival - and yet, we allow other people and things to crowd Him out. May

we sit a while today thinking about “He is before all things and in Him are things hold together...”

Prayer: *Almighty God, You are supreme...and yet You love me, You cherish me, You want to be in relationship with me. Amazing. Amen.*

Mrs. Chipman

March 21: Saturday of the Fifth Week of Lent - TEACHER

“...because He taught as one who had authority...” Matthew 7:29

“You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.” John 13:13-14

Jesus lived to save us and serve as an example for all Christians. As we go through life, we should follow Jesus, our Teacher. Jesus continues to teach us through His parables, through His holy words in Scripture, and through the indwelling of His Spirit. Like Jesus, a servant teacher, we should treat everyone as brothers and sisters in Christ. Therefore, go out and teach as Jesus has taught and spread the good news to all.

Prayer: *Dear Lord and Teacher, thank You for guiding and advising us through life, giving us an example to live by. Please continue to bless us with Your teachings as we grow in our faith in You. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

Talon T., Class of 2026

March 22: Fifth Sunday of Lent – WHO DO YOU SAY I AM? – Senior Reflections

Jesus is someone who you can go to about anything, someone who you can ask for guidance, help, and forgiveness. Jesus is someone who has an endless amount of love for you and will not judge you.

– Cameron F.

Jesus is the Son of God that came down to save us from our sins. Jesus is the example of how we should act towards people and how we should live our lives. Jesus should be a mentor to everyone. – Eli. B.

Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Christ is the one and only begotten Son of the Father who was sent to Earth to die on the cross for the sins of the world. He was put on trial under Pilate and was put to death. But on the third day He rose! – Isaac M.

March 23: Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent – THE WAY

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” John 14:6

This powerful title, which Jesus reveals, comes in the context of the death and resurrection of His friend, Lazarus. Though Lazarus had died, Jesus is the way to life, resurrected life, an eternal life that begins when we first believe. Jesus Christ is the Way – the way that we should follow. If we follow Him, we will find happiness now and forever in Heaven with God. Near the end of the Gospel of John (20:30-31), it says: “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His Name.” The Bible points the way to Jesus. The life Jesus lived on earth points the way to how He wants us to live. Jesus is the way to have life – abundant life now, eternal life in Heaven.

Prayer: *Dear God, the Father, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus as the way to salvation and as the way we should follow. Amen.*

Mrs. Chipman

March 24: Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Lent – THE WORD

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” John 1:14a

Jesus Christ, the Word, took on flesh in the incarnation to take up residence in the world among people - dwelling among us. Jesus entered our world with both a human and divine nature. God gave His only Son to save us from our sins. On Earth, Jesus dispensed knowledge through His

words and stories and actions. Our Triune God created everything in this world with His word. He shows us how using our words can create wonderful things in the world today. What a comfort to us that Jesus, the Word, still speaks to us today.

Prayer: *Lord, we are so thankful for You for the forgiveness of our sins. We pray we can live a life like Jesus and use our words to worship You. Thank you for dwelling among us and within us.*

Jacob B., Class of 2026

March 25: Sixth Wednesday of Lent – TRUE VINE

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.” John 15:1

This verse/title of Jesus paints a vivid picture of the relationship of Jesus and His followers. We are the branches of the vine, and He is the main stem or the source of life. Jesus portrays God as a gardener who prunes branches, keeping the plant healthy. In our life, God prunes us so we can bear more fruit. While it can be painful, it is a reminder to us that God is working in our lives. His pruning may not be comfortable, but it is for our benefit.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, You are the true vine, and the Father is the careful gardener. Keep us rooted in You. Prune what does not bear fruit in our lives and help us to grow in love, obedience, and faith. May our lives bring glory to You as we remain in You. Amen.*

Avanel J., Class of 2026

March 26: Thursday of the Sixth Week of Lent – WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

“For unto us a child is born...and He will be called Wonderful Counselor...” Isaiah 9:6

Jesus is named a wonderful counselor in Isaiah 9:6. Jesus is always a counselor helping and guiding us to live a Christian life and to fulfill the will that God has given us. He gives us direction; He provides comfort and hope. Counseling His disciples before His arrest and crucifixion, Jesus says, “These things I have spoken to you, while I am still with you. But the

Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” John 14:25-26.

Prayer: *Thank you, God, for giving us parents, role models, teachers and students to help us in our faith journey. We are grateful that You are our Wonderful Counselor. Amen.*

Mrs. Chipman

March 27: Friday of the Sixth Week of Lent – HOLY ONE OF GOD

“...and he cried out, ‘What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.’” Mark 1:24

Jesus is there to combat our sins. He is there to guide us to a better, holier life. Even though we, as humans, may struggle in recognizing Jesus in His divine nature and ability, He is still there waiting for us. He wants to lead us to a holy life in Him, regardless of our past, He is truly powerful and holds divine authority; He helps us as the Holy One of God.

Prayer: *Even the unclean spirit as recorded in Mark 1:24 knew that Jesus was the Holy One of God. Help lighten our vision so we can recognize the power You hold over darkness and walk the holy path alongside You. Amen.*

Alek B., Class of 2026

March 28: Saturday of the Sixth Week of Lent – THE RESURRECTION and THE LIFE

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.’” John 11:25

Lazarus had died. His sisters are grieving. These words of Jesus to Martha, a sister of Lazarus, as recorded in John 11:25 represent a profound truth: Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. He tells us not to be afraid because He is with us. Believe. Let the peace of Him fill our hearts, and know that we can do all things through Him. Jesus forgives our sins and calls us to be forgiving; He calls us to pray about everything. Jesus tells us that whatever we do, do it will all our hearts as something done for the Lord.

Believe that He is the Resurrection and the Life. “For I know the plans I have for you, plans to give you a hope and a future” - Jeremiah 29:11.

Prayer: *Almighty God, may we never forget Your sacrifice for us and Your resurrection power – all the days of our life. You are the Resurrection and the Life. Amen.*

Sam L., Class of 2026

March 29: Palm Sunday – WHO DO YOU SAY 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?

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

March 30: Monday of Holy Week - LORD

“For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:9-11

The name of Jesus is above all names. Jesus is Lord; Jesus is our Savior. Let us praise Him for everything He has done and will do for us - especially His sacrifice on the cross for the sins of the world. May we live with Jesus as our Lord.

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, You humbled Yourself, becoming obedient to death on a cross for our sake. I pray You will open our eyes and hearts in accepting and confessing Jesus as Lord. May our lives boldly worship You. Amen.*

Chloe M., Class of 2026

March 31: Tuesday of Holy Week

“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. Answer this question of Jesus...

Personal Reflection:

Prayer: *Dear Jesus, may we continue to know You, to love You, to obey You, and to become who You created us to be. Amen.*

April 1: Wednesday of Holy Week

“He asked His disciples, ‘Who do men say that 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, even 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. Many titles/names of Jesus in Scripture are presented in our 2026 Lenten Booklet, along with personal brief responses to Jesus’ question from our seniors. As we continue to walk through this Holy Week and beyond, may God’s grace carry us forward into greater understanding of who Jesus is.

Personal Reflection:

Prayer: *May we, like Peter, proclaim with loving grace and boldness: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Amen.*

April 2: Holy Thursday

“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

Personal Reflection:

Prayer: *O Lord, are we still sleeping? Help us to watch and pray. On this holy night, our words seem so inadequate...*

April 3: Good Friday

“...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, ‘Prophesy 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

“Who do you say I am?”

April 4: Holy Saturday

“We are often preoccupied with teaching doctrine...but we risk forgetting that our first task is to teach what it means to know Jesus Christ.” - Pope Leo XIV

The following words come from The Homily of Pope Francis,
Easter Vigil, on Holy Saturday, March 30, 2013.

“What was a simple act, done surely out of love – going to the tomb – has now turned into an event, a truly life-changing event. Nothing remains as it was before, not only in the lives of those women, but also in our own lives and in the history of mankind. Jesus is not dead, he has risen, he is *alive!* He does not simply return to life; rather, he is life itself, because he is the Son of God, the living God. Jesus no longer belongs to the past, but lives in the present and is projected towards the future; Jesus is the everlasting “today” of God.”

REFLECTIONS