



Lent 2020

**SEEING and BELIEVING**  
**Our IDENTITY in CHRIST**

A Project of Written Reflections  
by English I Students

AND

Brief Expressions from RCHS Seniors

VOLUME 6

**Routt Catholic High School**  
Jacksonville, Illinois

*"Enter to Grow; Leave to Serve"*

## Introduction

### OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

We live in a world where we hear stories of identity theft or may have even experienced it personally. Think of how a person typically identifies himself or herself: name, occupation, education, the place where one lives. Others may identify us by physical attributes, by family and heritage, even by possessions, and certainly by our words and actions. Students in English I classes have been exploring identity – the identity of fictional characters, the identity of real people, and their own growing and evolving identity. Perhaps Lent 2020 is an excellent time to explore our identity as Christians through the various titles presented in Holy Scripture.

Christ Himself takes a risk with His identity whenever He allows us to use His Name...CHRISTian. When we identify ourselves as a Christian, His credit rating gets mingled with our own. Yet by endangering His own reputation, 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. Perhaps Lent 2020 is an excellent time to **see and believe our identity in Christ** through inspired Scripture and through the simple meditations of the heart from some of our RCHS students. May we never stop discovering who we are and who we can become because of Him.

The titles from Scripture presented in this booklet are certainly not an exhaustive list. Mainly the presentation of titles appears in alphabetically 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 2020 Lenten Booklet as we journey through Lent together.

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, Instructor

With appreciation to the officers of  
The Marilyn Merris Chapter  
of the National English Honor Society at RCHS:  
Sydney W., President; Andrew A., Vice-President;  
Isabella M., Secretary; Ben H., Treasurer;  
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**February 26: Ash Wednesday – AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST**

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

The meaning of ambassadors for Christ could be very logical or confusing for people. The word ambassador specifically means a person who represents and talks about your nation or company or school in a positive way. Even here at Routt, we have student ambassadors that work with Ms. Doyle to promote Routt and make newcomers welcome. Being ambassadors for Christ means that we Christians, we Catholics, represent Christ in a *positive* way – by spreading the Word, building up the Church, welcoming and living with love. There are many identities for us in Christ, but the word ambassador is a strong image with a strong calling – we represent Christ to everyone we meet! Think about being an ambassador for Christ throughout this season of Lent – “God making His appeal through us.”

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord, may Your Holy Spirit guide and strengthen us to live as ambassadors for You. Amen.*

Amber A.

**February 27: Thursday of the First Week 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**

Beloved is defined as much adored, treasured; beloved is defined as one whom you affectionately love unconditionally, or just simply one who is LOVED. In regards to our relationship with Christ and our identity in Christ, know you are adored, treasured, loved! Not only do we appreciate God, not only do we thank God, not only do we treasure God, but we are beloved by Him. We are worthy of living this life to the fullest because we are beloved by God. We are created in His image. No matter what things come your way, no matter if your team wins or loses, no matter what hardships come, we need to remember that we not only love God, but we are beloved by Him. During this Lenten season, there will be temptation – whether it be not getting out of bed, craving that last bite of chocolate that you gave up, or failing to be kind to others. We need

to remember our identity in Christ: we are beloved by God and called to imitate good.

**Prayer:** *Almighty God, grant us strength during this Lenten season to keep our minds clear of who we are in Christ and live beloved by You! Amen.*

Isaac A.

### **February 28: Friday of the First Week of Lent – BODY OF CHRIST**

**“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”**

**1 Corinthians 12:27**

In Corinthians, Paul talks about how the body is a unit, made up of many parts. Each part is important to help the body function. As the body of Christ, we are the people who follow God. As the body of Christ, we are called to reject sin and follow God’s teachings. As the body of Christ, we need to act as Jesus, each doing our part, so we can make the world a better place. We do not all have the same gifts or talents, so we need one another to be the body of Christ. Think of being Christ’s hands and feet every day in the world. Paul also wrote:

**“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)**

**Prayer:** *Lord, help us to accept You in our lives; allow us to do all the good things You wish of us. Amen.*

Daxton B.

### **February 29: Saturday of the First Week 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**

In the Bible Jesus uses the image of branches and vines to show that our relationship with the Lord should be a close connection with Him, the vine, the source of sustenance, of life, of strength. If branches are to live and bear fruit, they must completely depend on the vine, and even fruit-bearing branches are pruned so they will bear more fruit.

**Prayer:** *Lord Jesus, may we bear good fruit for You during this season of Lent and every day of our lives through Your grace. Amen.*

Will J.

**March 1: Sunday of the First Week of Lent – IN CHRIST, I AM...**

*IN CHRIST, I AM whole.* – Adam L.

*IN CHRIST, I AM strong, happy, free.* – Rachel E.

*IN CHRIST, I AM changed.* – Madison M.

*IN CHRIST, I AM fearless against my opponent.* – Clayton C.

*IN CHRIST, I AM an instrument of peace.* – Abby T.

*IN CHRIST, I AM beautiful, loved, and ENOUGH.* – Kristen H.

*IN CHRIST, I AM without worry because of my trust in Him.* – Alex C.

**March 2: Monday of the First Week 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**

The Thessalonians often were referred to as “brothers”. This helped them to recognize that they were indeed part of God’s family. God was their Father, and they were brothers – brothers “beloved by God”. Brothers is also the term Jesus uses to refer to His disciples, which are we, too. Jesus said, **“For whoever does the will of My Father in Heaven is My brother and sister and mother.” – Matthew 12:49-50.** We are chosen by God to carry out His will as part of God’s family. God gave us, through His grace, the gift of the Holy Spirit to help guide us on our journey, spreading God’s word through our words and actions as brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Prayer:** *Dear God, please help us to do the will of our Father as beloved family of Christ. Amen.*

Emily K.

### March 3: Tuesday of the First Week 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**

Everyone comes into the world as a child of someone. Even though this title seems simple and one we may easily identify with, our identity as a child of God carries great meaning. Similar to 1 John 5:1, Paul writes to the Galatians, **“For you are the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:26.** By faith in Jesus, we are children of God. Even as a child, within our earthly family, come privilege and responsibility. Think of the privileges and responsibilities of being children of God!

**Prayer:** *Help us to remember that nothing is going to happen to us today that You and we together cannot handle. Amen.*

Aiden L.

### March 4: Second Wednesday of Lent – CHILDREN OF PROMISE

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

When every human child is born, there is promise in the eyes and hearts of the parents and other family members. There is hope and joy in how this new life will bring hope and joy into the lives of others. To me, “children of promise” as believers in Christ means He has hope and joy in us and the hope and joy we can bring into the world around us – ready to follow God, ready to go where He leads. To promise is to assure or declare that you will follow through, that you will obey. Children of promise are people who are ready and devoted to follow the Word of God. Peter would be an example because God gave him the keys of the church, and he went through with what God wanted him to do. As children of promise, we have received the promises of God! As children of promise, will you promise to live for God?

**Prayer:** *Your promises to us are rich and abundant, Lord. We pray we might live in the promises borne of Your love and that we might obey our promises to You. We pray for those in need, knowing everyone is in need of You. Amen.*

Emily N.

**March 5: Thursday of the Second Week 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**

In the wrong minds, the term “chosen race” could be interpreted as implying that one race or type of person has superiority over others. However, in God’s eyes, it is not so. All people, whether they have physical or psychological disabilities, physical or psychological gifts, are a part of the same race. It does not matter whether one is a descendent of Asia, Europe, Australia, Africa, South America, or North America. It does not matter what language you speak or the color of ones’ skin. We must all continue the work of God as the “chosen race” – the HUMAN race who “declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

**Prayer:** *Lord, give us the strength to complete the tasks ahead of us in declaring Your wonderful deeds, bringing Your light and love into an often dark and hate-filled world. Amen.*

Colby N.

**March 6: Friday of the Second Week 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**

Conqueror – a person who conquers or rules a place, a people. Some people throughout history have wanted to conquer or rule the world. Others may want to conquer a certain somebody. When I think of the word conqueror, I think of Jesus – who came, who comes, to save us from our sin, who conquered death and blesses us with eternal life with Him. In Christ, we are “more than conquerors”. Because of Christ’s victory over sin and death for us and the promised Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us, we can conquer the challenges and difficulties throughout our life because nothing “will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**Prayer:** *Almighty God, may we see Your all-conquering power at work in the world and in our daily lives, as well as rejoice in Your glory and victory. Amen.*

Ryan O.

**March 7: Saturday of the Second Week 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**

A disciple is a personal follower of Jesus during His life, especially one of the twelve Apostles. If we are a disciple of Christ, then we follow Jesus today – in our lifetime. We love one another as He has loved us. We also spread the word about God and tell people how much God loves us, and how Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins. As a disciple of Christ, we love Jesus with all of our minds, souls, and hearts because that is how He loves us. To be a disciple takes discipline. With God’s power and strength, may we be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Prayer:** *Dear God, help us to be Your disciples, spreading Your love through our words and actions wherever we go. Amen.*

Hannah P.

**March 8: Second Sunday of Lent – IN CHRIST, I AM...**

*IN CHRIST, I AM eternal, fulfilled, happy, with a sense of belonging.*

– Faith E.

*IN CHRIST, I AM a hardworking, kind individual who loves to help others when it is needed.* – Sam N.

*IN CHRIST, I AM strengthened and empowered.* – Carston C.

*IN CHRIST, I AM unique because there is no one the same as me; I am someone who He looks after and watches over.* – Addie S.

*IN CHRIST, I AM a servant.* – Jason B.

*IN CHRIST, I AM a part of a large family where I am loved by God and by others.* – Coy B.

*IN CHRIST, I AM blessed and grateful.* – Katie D.

*IN CHRIST, I AM determined.* – Trace R.

**March 9: Monday of the Second Week 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.” 1 Peter 5:2-3**

We are the flock of God. Like sheep, we need to be lead in the right direction because, without guidance, we are lost. God tends to us and protects us. He helps us find our way when we are lost. He nurtures us – and He works through us to “tend the flock” – helping each other willingly and eagerly. We need to be examples to one another. We are the flock of God, and He is our shepherd. Read **Psalm 23** today.

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank You for guiding us and steering us away from sin. Help us to be the best version of us. Amen.*

Blake P.

**March 10: Tuesday of the Second Week 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**

In reading this passage, such a relationship sounds like an abusive relationship; it sounds like slavery, doing what someone else tells you to do. Unfortunately in the world today, there are “friendships” that are like slavery, that are abusive, that are only used for selfish, personal gain. Jesus is not that kind of “friend.” In fact, Jesus laid down His life and died for the forgiveness of our sins. Even He was (and is) betrayed in friendship. If you have a faithful friend, then you can understand more positively this title. As our friend, Jesus understands our struggles, hurts, failures. As a friend, He commands us to **“love one another, as I have loved you.” John 15:12.**

**Prayer:** *Too often, we have been hurt by “friends”; so help us, Jesus, to understand and accept Your friendship with us. Amen.*

Vincent P.

### March 11: Third 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**

Every four years we elect a president; the American voters choose who will serve in that office – and all the other offices of our democracy. Those elected are to represent the people. Now, let’s not get political here, but the word elect makes us think of election, of choice, of choosing. While there are many Biblical passages about the elect, I know I do not fully understand this title. God is sovereign and all-powerful, and God offers to all the possibility of salvation; what is our response in accepting His salvation and persevering in His call until the end? God gives us the power to choose; God picks us to spread His word, to go to church, to follow Him.

**Prayer:** *You alone are sovereign, God. Your power is beyond all we can imagine or think. May we accept Your gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. May we represent You well in all that we do and say. Amen.*

Anna R.

### March 12: Thursday of the Third Week 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, God’s building.” 1 Corinthians 3:7, 9**

We, God’s people, grow in the church. God gives us the growth, but He often works through “fellow workers” who “plant a seed”, who “waters” our minds and hearts so we can grow and produce great things in the world for God. We grow by attending church, reading Scripture, praying; we grow through the strength God gives us to face our hardships and weaknesses. Being God’s field means that God places His trust in us for us to grow and spread the Word of the Lord, producing the “fruit of the Spirit” in our lives – **“love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” Galatians 5: 22-23**

**Prayer:** *Lord, help us to learn and grow from weakness to strength, to produce good in the world for Your glory. Amen.*

Madisyn R.

### March 13: Friday of the Third Week 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**

God’s people are everyone that He saves by sending His Son to die on the cross for our sins. We are God’s people, made in His image and likeness. God puts us on earth for a reason, and that reason is to spread His word and His mercy. Without God’s Son coming down to die on the cross and saving us, we would be nothing. God’s people are not perfect – but God’s people pray for forgiveness and seek to live more and more into the image of God through Jesus. When we put our faith in Jesus Christ, we are God’s people, belonging to Him, representing Him. How will you express your identity as God’s people?

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank You for saving us and giving us eternal life so that we may be Your people – here on earth and forever in heaven. Amen.*

Faith R.

### March 14: Saturday of the Third Week 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**

We are heirs of God! Saying YES to God made us heirs of God. Heir means a receiver of an inheritance. Being heirs of God is part of a Christian’s inheritance – an inheritance that began when we said YES to God and continues through eternity. Saying we are heirs of God is saying we are children of God – listed in the will, if you will! Through Christ, we are all considered brothers and sisters, part of the family of God, rich in our inheritance. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians writes: **“I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe” (Ephesians 1: 18-19).** As heirs of God, we follow Him, glorify Him, and spread the word of Christ to all.

**Prayer:** *Thank you, Lord, for the glorious inheritance we have in Christ, from the moment we say yes. Thank you for making us Your heirs. May we humbly live as You call us to live. Amen.*

Jessica W.

**March 15: Third Sunday of Lent – IN CHRIST, I AM...**

*IN CHRIST, I AM inspired to become the best version of myself.* – Tony R.

*IN CHRIST, I AM empowered. “God’s way is not a matter of mere talk; it’s an empowered life” (I Corinthians 4:20).* – Bella M.

*IN CHRIST, I AM given hope and faith.* – Ben H.

*IN CHRIST, I AM forever loved and thankful.* – Lacey S.

*IN CHRIST, I AM far from oppression, and will not live in fear - Isaiah 54:14.*  
– Jacob P.

*IN CHRIST, I AM loved, accepted, blessed.* – Ellie R.

*IN CHRIST, I AM on the right path.* – Alex H.

*IN CHRIST, I AM One within my own element.* – Gabe R.

**March 16: Monday of the Third Week 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**

The word holy means having a divine quality, and the word nation means a group of people. To me, holy nation means a divine group of people, **the church**. God calls upon His divine group of people, the church, to spread the Word of the Lord, to declare His love in words and deeds, to help people grow in their faith. In Christ, we are called and empowered to live as a holy nation - even in the midst of unholiness.

**Prayer:** *Dear God, may we live today as Your holy nation, the church – loved, redeemed, empowered. Amen.*

Delaney B.

**March 17: Tuesday of the Third Week 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**

Over the summer, my family started building a house. I learned about the importance of building on a firm foundation. If the foundation is not firm, the weight of the house could bring it down which would make it unsafe to live in. A cornerstone is the most important part of the foundation. It is the first stone laid to build everything else on. The Bible refers to Jesus Christ as the cornerstone. He is the crucial piece of our faith. The apostles and prophets are the foundation, which means they added and expanded what Jesus had already done. This firm foundation has allowed us to be members of the household of God, meaning we are spreading and building and living the faith. As members of the household of God, we are expected to carry on the message and follow Jesus who is the cornerstone of our faith.

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank You for laying a firm foundation of faith in my life and in the lives of others. Guide me and Your people to be a faithful member of the household of God. Amen.*

Julia B.

**March 18: Wednesday of the Third Week 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**

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 like “jars of clay” with a “treasure” inside. From dust (clay) we were created (Genesis 2:7). Our physical bodies, like jars of clay, come in all shapes and sizes. Think of the treasure of God within us – and all that means! We are beautiful and useful instruments in carrying out specific

service and ministry because Jesus gives us His love and His very life in sacrifice for us on the cross.

**Prayer:** *Dear God, thank You for sending Your treasure, Jesus Christ; all power comes from You. Amen.*

Raileigh C.

**March 19: Thursday of the Fourth Week 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” – and what is the message you send to others? We are like the messengers of God. What message do others “read” from your life?

**Prayer:** *Thank You, God, for giving me the ability to spread Your word. Help us all to remember that every word and every action sends a message to others. We need Your help to live in love and forgiveness as Christ. Amen.*

Colton D.

**March 20: Friday of the Fourth Week 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**

Light is referred to many times throughout the Bible. Jesus describes Himself and His disciples as the light of the world in the New Testament. The spiritual meaning of light is life. We are the light of the world to shine in the darkness, to let others see our good actions as we give glory to our amazing Father in heaven. As we allow the light of Christ to shine through us, we can help others see the way.

**Prayer:** *Dear God, may the light of Christ shine brightly in the world today. Amen.*

Grace G.

**March 21: Saturday of the Fourth Week 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 2:4-5a**

In this scripture verse, Saint Peter is saying that Jesus is a living stone, and we as His followers are living stones. Jesus is a living stone that is set, firm, strong while we are still being “built into a spiritual house.” Peter is telling us that Jesus – then and even today – may be rejected, but God chose Jesus, and He is precious in the sight of God. We, too, are precious in the sight of God, and in Christ, we are a living stone in the spiritual house of God. Through Christ, we have the opportunity to create, to build, to become a spiritual house for the Lord.

**Prayer:** *Dear God, help me and everyone that is looking for Christ to become the living stones of Your spiritual house – here on earth and in heaven. Amen.*

Lilly G.

**March 22: Fourth Sunday of Lent – IN CHRIST, I AM...**

*IN CHRIST, I AM part of the light of the world, a strong child of God.*

– Sydney W.

*IN CHRIST, I AM forgiven and loved.* – Chloe W.

*IN CHRIST, I AM complete; through Him I reach my fullest self.* – Austin Q.

*IN CHRIST, I AM a much better person.* – Bella P.

*IN CHRIST, I AM blessed and hopeful.* – Addisen P.

*IN CHRIST, I AM strong, confident, happy.* – Oliver N.

*IN CHRIST, I AM able to overcome obstacles.* – Hallee P.

*IN CHRIST, I AM saved from sin; I am loved.* – Chris N.

**March 23: Monday of the Fourth Week 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**

The title “new creation” is in the Second letter to the Corinthians. This phrase means that Jesus, who is the “New Creation”, comes not only to replace the “old” but also to purify it as well through a new way – Christianity. Jesus came, replacing the old sacrificial system; He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, who forgives us and offers us new and abundant life now and forever. When Nicodemus visited with Jesus, as recorded in the **Gospel of John**, Jesus replied, **“Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again” (v. 3)**. Through our belief in Christ (and His belief in us), we are born again, becoming a new creation. Still Jesus continues to invite others into His “new creation.”

**Prayer:** *Dear God, please guide us in living as Your new creation and in inviting others into new life with You – now and forever. Amen.*

Kyler G.

**March 24: Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent – PARTAKERS OF A HEAVENTLY 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, we have a duty. The duty God gives us is to follow the heavenly ways of Christ. As we practice and exercise our faith, we find that sometimes this calling is hard to bear. However, we look to Jesus to whom we confess our sins and receive strength to partake in His heavenly calling – now – with the hope of heaven.

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord, help us to confess and lean on You, to be strong in our duties God has given us, even when it is hard. Amen.*

Kohen H.

**March 25: Fifth 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**

Living as a peacemaker follows the example of Jesus Himself. He is called the Prince of Peace. Jesus says if you have peace within yourself, you can extend peace to others. We need to go beyond extending a handshake of peace during Mass; we need to live in peace with all of God’s creation. Jesus said to His disciples before His arrest and crucifixion: **“Peace, I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).**

**Prayer:** *Dear God, let us be the blessed peacemakers that You created us to be so that we can all live in unity. Amen.*

Aidan H.

**March 26: Thursday of the Fifth Week 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**

God sacrificed His own Son, “who knew no sin”, to save us, to give us right standing with God. Dictionaries define righteousness as behavior that is morally right. But human beings cannot achieve righteousness through their own efforts. Therefore, “for our sake”, God, who is righteous in every way, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, opens the way for us to “become the righteousness of God”. Christ sets the perfect example for us to follow.

**Prayer:** *Thank you, God, for sending the perfect sacrifice for us so that we can be forgiven and saved through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Nolan K.

**March 27: Friday of the Fifth Week 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.” 1 Peter 2:9**

When I first read and heard this title, royal priesthood, I thought of the priests and pastors that I know in our community. When I think of a priest or pastor, I think of a person called to share God’s word and God’s love with others. Not only can priests and pastors do these things, all Christians are to share God’s word and God’s love with others. Priests and pastors have certain tasks that we may not do, but each of us can bring “light” into a dark world. God calls us out of the darkness; darkness may also include a hard time in your life. Trust in God to lead the way.

**Prayer:** *“I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength.”  
Philippians 4:13*

Jacqui K.

**March 28: Saturday of the Fifth Week 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**

We are the salt of the earth. Salt can heal. Salt preserves food. Just like salt, we should preserve the earth. Our responsibility as Christians is to spread the word of God and take care of the earth. I think this verse means that if we go down the wrong path, away from God, then we will lose our “taste.” To restore our saltiness, we must follow God’s path; we become more and more like Jesus. We must take care of the earth and the people of the earth. We must live in such a way as to preserve the earth. Salt also gives flavor. If we are the salt, then we must keep our flavor and taste for God so we can create positive change in the world. We cannot do this alone; God is with us.

**Prayer:** *Creator God, please give us the strength and faith to follow You and do our part to preserve the earth and its people every day. Amen.*

Will M.

**March 29: Fifth Sunday of Lent – IN CHRIST, I AM...**

*IN CHRIST, I AM; in the world, I am not.* – Andrew A.

*IN CHRIST, I AM complete and made holy through our Lord and Savior.*  
**AMEN.** – Quin L.

*IN CHRIST, I AM supported and loved.* – Meredith S.

*IN CHRIST, I AM free to be myself, free to think my thoughts, to live my life stronger, and welcomed into His family.* – Eli A.

*IN CHRIST, I AM continuously blessed and humbled.* – Maggie M.

*IN CHRIST, I AM complete.* – Ian H.

*IN CHRIST, I AM thankful for all that I have.* – Peter W.

*IN CHRIST, I AM empowered and completed.* – Kirby P.

**March 30: Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent – SERVANT OF GOD**

**“...but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way...by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love...”**  
**2 Corinthians 6:4-6**

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

As God’s children, as followers of Christ, we are to do many things for God. Perhaps our most important duty is to be a loyal, obedient servant of God. As a servant of God, we work for God; we work in love, with Christ being the perfect

model of a servant. **Mark 10:45** says this: **“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”**

As a servant of God, we are to live our life humbly in helping others – modeled by Christ. Our service hours at RCHS should be tangible ways of serving God. Our whole daily life should demonstrate we are servants of God.

**Prayer:** *Lord God, thank You for Your generosity in Your creation of me and my brothers and sisters in Christ. Please guide us in being loving, respectful, humble servants of God. Amen.*

Eli P.

### **March 31: Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Lent – SHEEP**

**“My sheep hear my voice, and I know then, 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**

People are like sheep in that they need to be watched over and cared for. Sheep have little defense and are easily scared, so sheep need an attentive, caring shepherd. Just like us! Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He watches over us and guides us. In John’s Gospel, Jesus states that His sheep hear His voice and know to follow Him. We, too, hear His voice in prayer, in reading the Scripture, through music and creation and even other people. Our Shepherd, Jesus, cares for us every hour of every day and gives us eternal life with Him.

**Prayer:** *Lord, in this world, we need You as our Good Shepherd; thank You for wrapping Your arms around us, protecting us, and loving us. May we follow You unto eternal life. Amen.*

Kirstin R.

### **April 1: Sixth 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**

In my immediate family, there are no sons. I have three sisters. My parents still love me (and my sisters), even though I am not a son. My family still cares for me (and my sisters), even though I am not a son. The meaning here is that through Christ we stand related to God – near and dear to God – as children, sons and daughters – fully blessed into the family of God.

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord, in this moment, we pray for the children of God whom You have placed within our hearts and minds to lift up to You. Thank You, Father, for hearing our prayers. Amen.*

Sadie R.

**April 2:** Thursday of the Sixth Week 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**

**“For we are the temple of the living God; as God said: ‘I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people...”**

**2 Corinthians 6:16**

A temple is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, of God. The Apostle Paul teaches us that we are temples of the Holy Spirit as believers in Christ. So as a temple of the Holy Spirit, we are responsible to live in a way that is pleasing to God. As a Christian, would you trash your own church? Our Saviours Church? You would not trash that dwelling place, so why would you purposefully do things to harm your physical mind and body?

**Prayer:** *Thank you, God, for caring enough to send the Holy Spirit down into every one of Your followers. I am thankful that I am one of those followers.*

Abby T.

**April 3:** Friday of the Sixth Week 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**

As Christians, God calls us to be witnesses of Christ. This means we should spread the good news of Christ’s life, death, resurrection and ascension. We should use our words and actions to show and teach others about the saving action of Christ. This also means we should not be ashamed to be Catholic. We should stand strong and firm when someone tests our faith. Stand tall like

Christ did on the cross. Lent is a time to repent and ask for forgiveness for sins, but we can also spread God's word during this time. Let your clean, light heart help you spread the good news this Lenten season, and then continue to live so throughout your whole life.

**Prayer:** *Lord, help each of us to be a witness for You. Give us the courage to spread Your word to others. Amen.*

Ethan W.

#### **April 4: Saturday of the Sixth Week 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**

We are here on earth to do God's will, to do God's work. We are put on earth to work for God, the center of our lives, the power of our lives. He awards our good work with His kingdom.

**Prayer:** *Lord, help us to fulfill our work on earth so that we may enjoy our place in Heaven with You. Amen.*

Joseph W.

#### **They'll Know We Are Christians**

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, (repeat)*

*And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.*

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

*We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, (repeat)*

*And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.*

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

*We will work with each other, we will work side by side, (repeat)*

*And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.*

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

*All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,*

*And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only son,*

*And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.*

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

*(Scholtes, Hymn 832)*

**April 5: 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.

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 6: 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?

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 7: 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 8: Wednesday of Holy Week – IN CHRIST, I AM...

“...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, 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:** *“God is here! As we His people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share; here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts, wait the coming of His Spirit into open minds and hearts.” (Green, Hymn 764)*

April 9: 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 10: 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.' They 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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**Prayer:** *In your own words...* \_\_\_\_\_

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**April 11: Holy Saturday – IN CHRIST, I AM...**

Hear these words delivered by Pope Francis in 2015.

**“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.”**

## 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