

Discussion Questions

What do you think of when you hear the phrase “self-emptying love?” How has God’s self-emptying love impacted your life?

Share about a time or an experience when you have experienced love within a community.

What are some obstacles that you have encountered to experiencing God’s love at Ave Maria Catholic Parish?

Consider Jesus’ wish, “This is how all will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35) Think back to last week’s situational question. How might our parish community express life-giving love to this mother? Think past the “welcome” and be specific.

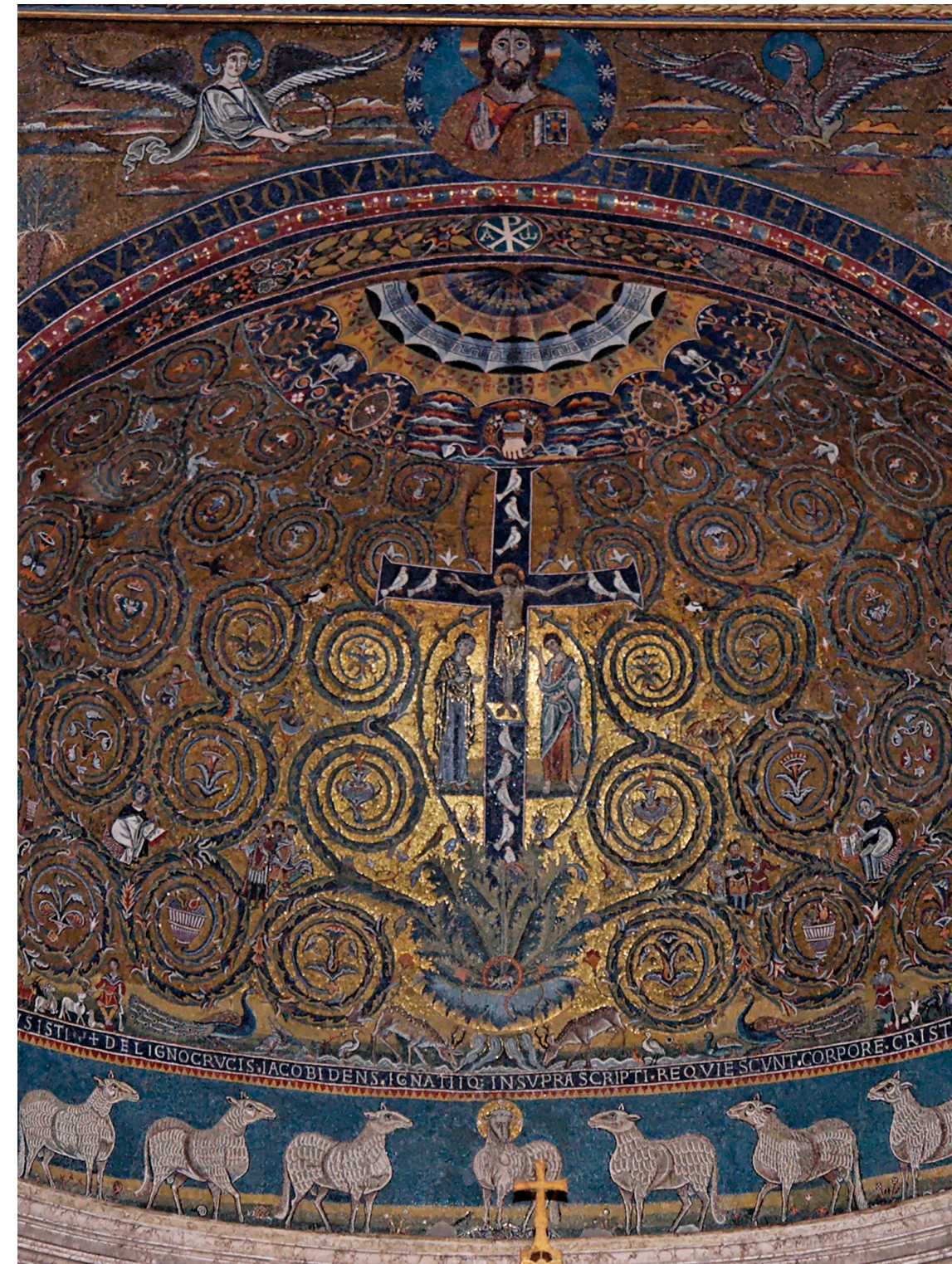
Last week’s situational question:

A single mom and her 2 young children are walking in the doors of Ave Maria. The kids are not baptized and the mom, while raised Catholic, has not been to Church in over 10 years. She has just left an abusive relationship and finds herself turning to God for the first time in a long time. What would you hope her experience would be when she walks into the doors of Ave Maria Catholic Parish. Be specific.

For Further Reading

Michael Reeves, *Delighting in the Trinity: An Introduction to the Christian Faith*
InterVarsity Press, 2012 - 135 pages

God Is Here Series 1, Part 2



The Most Holy Trinity Invites Us into COMMUNION

The Word of God

The death and resurrection of Christ: Luke 23:44-56;24:1-9

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, and said, "Certainly this man was innocent!" And all the multitudes who assembled to see the sight, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance and saw these things.

Now there was a man named Joseph from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their purpose and deed, and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and saw the tomb, and how his body was laid; then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

Series 1 Prayer

"Grant, we pray, almighty God, that your Church may always remain that holy people, formed as one by the unity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, which manifests to the world the Sacrament of your holiness and unity and leads it to the perfection of your charity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever."

–Collect For the Church C

Voices of the Church

"Come, then, you nations of men.... I am your forgiveness.... I am your ransom, your life, your resurrection, your light, I am your salvation and your king. I will bring you to the heights of heaven. With my own right hand I will raise you up, and I will show you the eternal Father."

(St. Melito of Sardis, Easter homily, 2nd century)

"The Incarnation ... is ... the very method that the Holy Trinity has chosen to open to us the way of communion. Christian faith is either an encounter with [the Risen One] alive, or it does not exist.... In all the sacraments we are guaranteed the possibility of encountering the Lord Jesus and of having the power of his Paschal mystery reach us."

(Pope Francis, *Desiderio Desideravi* 10-11)