

ASCENSION

A Newsletter from the Church of the Ascension

REFLECTION | REFLEXIÓN Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



RECOGNIZE GOD IN ORDINARY MOMENTS

When I was little, you could tell I believed in the destructive power of the monsters who lived beneath my bed because I would never let my ankles anywhere near the bottom of the mattress. (It's common

knowledge that bare ankles are premium monster bait — ask any child you know).

You can often tell what a person believes by what they fear.

But here's the thing: belief isn't always enough. It's obvious that Herod believed in Christ's power because of how terrified he was by it and by the room he made in his life for the possible impact of the Messiah. In fact, if belief was the only measure of orthodoxy, you could stand most modern Christians next to Herod and he would tower above them.

Remember, there's something just as bad as disobeying God: discounting Him. I know I am guilty of that in a thousand small ways each day. In the person I ignore or the opinion I sneer at. In the unkind words I let roll from my tongue. In the prayers of thanksgiving that I don't say because I am "too busy."

I believe in God, but I do not fear Him — mostly because my very modern understanding of the concept of "fear" would lump God in with those monsters beneath my bed.

But what if we understood fear in a more traditional sense — awe, reverence, and wonder? *"All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him."* — Psalm 72:11

When Herod heard the news of the coming of the Messiah, it compelled him to do something. Not the right thing, mind you, but something. It moved him into action. So, then, it should move us all.

We saw his star at its rising, and have come to do him homage. — Matthew 2:2

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman lives in the Milwaukee area and writes for LPI.

Pray for us

Ruega por nosotros

Por los enfermos y los que están sufriendo de nuestra comunidad.

For the sick and suffering in our community: **John Cavanaugh, Roberto Velasquez.**

Por nuestros amados difuntos, que descansen en los amorosos brazos de Jesús.

For our beloved dead, may they rest in the loving arms of Jesus: **Clay Michaels.**

RECONOCE A DIOS EN TUS MOMENTOS ORDINARIOS

Cuando era pequeña, se notaba que creía en el poder destructivo de los monstruos que vivían debajo de mi cama porque nunca dejaba que mis tobillos se acercaran al fondo del colchón. (Es de conocimiento común que los tobillos desnudos son carnada de monstruos de primera calidad; pregúntale a cualquier niño que conozcas).

A menudo se puede saber en lo que una persona cree por lo que teme.

Pero aquí está la cosa: creer no siempre es suficiente. Es obvio que Herodes creyó en el poder de Cristo debido a lo aterrorizado que estaba por el y para el posible impacto del Mesías. De hecho, si la creencia fuera la única medida de la ortodoxia, podrías colocar a la mayoría de los cristianos modernos al lado de Herodes y él se alzaría sobre ellos.

Recuerda, hay algo tan malo como desobedecer a Dios: menospreciarlo. Sé que yo soy culpable de eso en mil pequeñas

formas cada día. En la persona que ignoro o la opinión de la que me burlo. En las palabras desagradables que dejo salir de mi lengua. En las oraciones de acción de gracias que no digo porque estoy "demasiado ocupada."

Creo en Dios, pero no le temo, principalmente porque mi comprensión muy moderna del concepto de "miedo" agruparía a Dios con esos monstruos debajo de mi cama.

Pero ¿y si entendiéramos el miedo en un sentido más tradicional: maravilla, reverencia y asombro? *"Todos los reyes le rendirán homenaje, todas las naciones le servirán."* — Salmo 72:11

Cuando Herodes escuchó la noticia de la venida del Mesías, lo obligó a hacer algo. No es lo correcto, eso sí, pero algo. Lo movió a la acción.

Entonces, debería conmovernos a todos.

"Vimos surgir su estrella y hemos venido a adorarlo." — Mateo 2:2

¿Necesita bautizar su hijo/a de 7 a 12 años?

Preparación de BAUTISMO para niños y jóvenes de 7-17 años comenzará el sáb, 20 de enero. Clases serán los sábados, 20 de enero, 3 y 17 de feb, 2 y 16 de marzo de 10 a 11:30 a.m. para los niños, sus padres y padrinos. Llame a o hable con Anita para registrarse: 612-424-6211.

Baptism prep for those aged 7 -17

Baptism preparation for older children and youth will be starting on Saturday, Jan. 20. The sessions are for parents, their child/ren and godparents every two weeks: Jan. 20; Feb. 3 & 17; March 2 & 16. Baptisms will be at the Easter vigil on Saturday, March 30.

Please call Anne for more information or to register: 612-424-6211

Newly Married Retreat

Saturday, Feb. 3, 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Good Shepherd, Golden Valley

All couples married 0 to 7 years are invited to join the Newly Married Retreat with Dr. Edward Sri. Dr. Sri will give two talks, one on "Marriage: The Good, The Messy, and The Beautiful" and the other on "Theology of the Body and Marriage."

Cost is \$50/couple and includes a light breakfast, catered lunch and workbook. Go to archspm.org/nmr to register.

Valentine's Dinner, Dance at St. Raphael

Couples are invited to a St. Valentine's Formal Dinner and Dance at St. Raphael Church on Saturday, Feb. 10. Enjoy a catered buffet dinner and live music starting at 6 p.m. This will be followed by ballroom dancing in the school gym to the Jerry O'Hagan Combo featuring Charmin Michelle at 7:15 p.m. Cost for the evening is \$125 per couple. For more information and tickets, contact Bruce & Mary Gunderson at catholicmarriagedance@gmail.com. Dinner must be reserved by Jan. 26. St. Raphael Church is at 7301 Bass Lake Rd, Crystal.

Symfonia Koled: World Premiere of a Christmas Symphony

Friday, January 12, 7:30 p.m.,
Holy Cross, 1621 University Ave. NE, Minneapolis

Minneapolis-based organist and composer Samuel Backman will premiere a newly composed four-movement symphony entitled Symfonia Kolęd. This vivacious and stirring work quotes Polish Christmas carols extensively, and it was written to honor the memory of Janusz Zorawski, an immigrant from Poland, and a beloved pillar in his community. This concert is free and open to the public, and a reception will follow. Go to ourholycross.org/sacred-music for more information.

Come and join our Sewing Group

Our Sewing Group meets from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in the lower level of the Club Building. Upcoming dates are **Jan. 20, and Feb. 3 and 17**. All materials are provided.

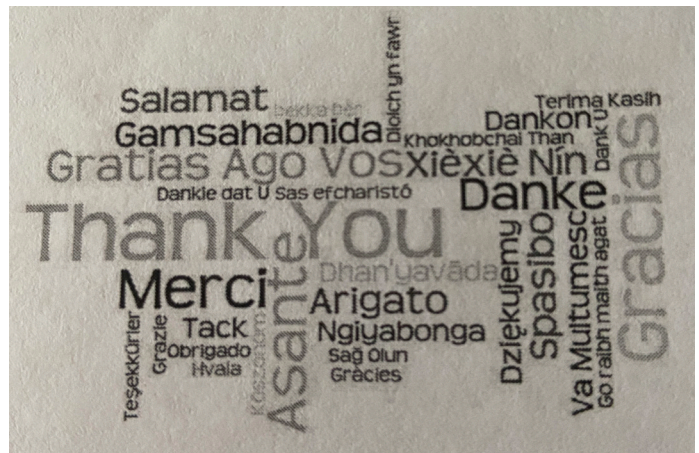


Fechas del Grupo de Costura Bilingüe

El Grupo de Costura se reúne de 9 a 11.30 horas en la planta baja del edificio del Club. Las próximas fechas son el **20 de enero, 3 y 17 de febrero**. El grupo es gratuito y se proporcionan todos los materiales.

Parish office will be closed
Monday, Jan. 15, for Martin Luther King Day.

La oficina parroquial estará cerrada el lunes, 15 de enero, por el día de Martin Luther King.



Thank You From Missionaries of Jesus

Greetings of peace and joy!

Thank you very much for the generous contribution during this year's Mission Appeal in your parish. The amount we received from the Archdiocese will be distributed according to the mission needs in the Philippines, Guatemala, Matamores in Mexico, and to St. Anne Penitas in Brownsville, Texas.

¡Saludos de paz y alegría!

Muchas gracias por su generosa contribución durante la Campaña Misionera de este año en su parroquia. La cantidad que recibimos de la Arquidiócesis será distribuida de acuerdo a las necesidades misioneras en Filipinas, Guatemala, Matamores en México, y a Santa Ana Peñitas en Brownsville, Texas.