

OUR LADY OF VICTORY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL

WINTER

2024



"How many of you say: I should like to see His face, His garments, His shoes. You do see Him, you touch Him, you eat Him. He gives Himself to you, not only that you may see Him, but also to be your food and nourishment."

St. John Chrysostom

ADORER NEWS

Confirmation Adoration Hours: Beginning Dec. 30, the Adoration Chapel will be open for one hour immediately after the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass Saturdays and the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass every weekend until the end of April. This is to allow extra opportunities for the Religious Ed Confirmation students to experience Eucharistic Adoration at a time convenient for many families, and is also open to anyone seeking to visit Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. As the students are required to show proof of their Adoration time, adorers may be asked to vouch for their attendance in the Chapel. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Lenten 40 Hours: In a few short weeks, Lent will be upon us. To mark the beginning of this holy season, we will again offer a 40 Hours Devotion in the main church and chapel. Details will be forthcoming. We invite you to spend a special hour in prayer before the Real Presence, as we begin our Lenten journey in reparation, self-sacrifice, and deeper union with Christ.

International Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit: This very special event will take place from Friday, March 1 thru Monday, March 4 at St. Mary's Academy. The traveling exhibit, which was designed and created by recently beatified Bl. Carlo Acutis, consists of dozens of displays of Eucharistic miracles from around the world.

Blessed Carlo was a teenager from Italy who developed a website dedicated to the documented and scientifically scrutinized occasions when the Holy Eucharist visibly changed in its physical appearance, reminding us that the bread and wine of the Mass truly become the Precious Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has earned the nicknames "God's Influencer" and "Cyber Apostle of the Eucharist". To learn more about his faith, life, and work, visit www.carloacutis.com.



“Our aim has to be the Infinite, not the finite. The Infinite is our homeland. We have always been expected in Heaven.”

Blessed Carlo Acutis

Beginning Anew



Ring in the new year rekindles our hopes and dreams. The deep desires of our heart float up to the surface, and we can't help but wonder: *What is right around the corner? What else is in store for me?* The dawn of a new year can also leave us feel hesitant to hope. Perhaps we made resolutions in years past that fizzled after a month or two, and our expectations fell flat. And again, we wonder: *Will this year be another disappointment? What if this new year is no better than the last? What if I fail again in making real change in my life?*

In order to sort through this array of emotions, we must approach the new year with **prayer**. And as we entrust it all to Him and listen to His response, we realize God's plan of sheer goodness for us. (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1). Through prayer, His plan will unfold and our hearts will increasingly open to His holy will for us. *What do You want to do in my life this year, Lord? What area of my life needs attention? Will You be my strength, Lord? Because I can't begin anew without You.*

Let us consider six themes:

1. **Start right where you are**
2. **Reflect on the past**
3. **Trust in the Lord**
4. **Look forward with hope**
5. **Make resolutions**
6. **Don't give up**

Moreover, let us contemplate what the Saints say about starting over in the new year. After all, their desire is to help us not only reach our new year's goals but our final reward: eternity with God in Heaven.

On Beginning Anew

The Saints have much to say about the simple idea of beginning anew. They know that January is not the only time to start over. Rather, God's mercies are new every morning (see *Lamentations* 3:22-23). So every day of the year, we can begin again.

"The saints did not all begin well, but they all ended well." -Saint John Vianney

“Begin now to be what you will be hereafter.” -*Saint Jerome*

“Every day I say to myself, today I will begin.” -*St. Anthony of the Desert*

“It is right that you should begin again every day. There is no better way to complete the spiritual life than to be ever beginning it over again.” -*St. Francis de Sales*

“Begin now ... Believe me, don't wait until tomorrow to begin becoming a saint.” -*St. Thérèse of Lisieux*



Start Right Where You Are

In order to begin anew, we need to embrace where we are in this very moment of the brand new year. This is exactly how God wants us to come to Him in prayer.

“Trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.” -*St. Teresa of Avila*

“Go to our Lord just as you are. Be natural in your meditation. He wants the thought and prayer of that heart as the genuine expression of its love for Him.” -*St. Peter Julian Eymard*

“He who climbs never stops going from beginning to beginning, through beginnings that have no end.” -*St. Gregory of Nissa*

Reflect on the Past

Once we accept where we are in this present moment, it is good to reflect on the past before we move forward:

“Do not let the past disturb you—just leave everything in the Sacred Heart, and begin again with joy.” -*St. Teresa of Calcutta*

“Trust the past to the mercy of God, the present to His love, and the future to His providence.” -*St. Augustine*

“Do not look back to the past, nor forward to the future. Claim only the present, for it holds God’s will.” -*St. Rose Philippine Duchesne*

Trust in the Lord

With a clean slate from the past and acceptance of where we are in this present moment, we can entrust any anxiety we have about the new year to the Lord.

“Jesus does not demand great actions from us but simply surrender and gratitude.” -*St. Thérèse of Lisieux*

“Learn to live in God’s hands.” -*St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross*

“We can only learn to know ourselves and do what we can, namely, surrender our will and fulfill God's will in us.” -*Saint Teresa of Avila*

“When you have nothing left but God, you have more than enough to start over again.” -
St. Teresa of Calcutta



Look Forward With Hope

And we also can fully embrace, with expectant hope, the surprises God has in store for us this coming year.

“Whenever you begin any good work you should first of all make a most pressing appeal to Christ our Lord to bring it to perfection.” -*St. Benedict of Nursia*

"Few souls understand what God would accomplish in them if they were to abandon themselves unreservedly to Him and if they were to allow His grace to mold them accordingly." -*St. Ignatius of Loyola*

“To have courage for whatever comes in life, everything lies in that.” -*St. Teresa of Avila*

Make Concrete Resolutions

Coming up with new year’s resolutions is easy. Honing in on just one or two can be hard to discern. So, we invite God into our plans, asking Him where

He desires us to improve. If we long for healing, growth, and flourishing, we can be certain He wants that for us even more.

“You aspire to great things? Begin with little ones.” -*St. Augustine*

“Start by doing what’s necessary, then what’s possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” -*St. Francis of Assisi*

“When we once begin to form good resolutions, God gives us every opportunity of carrying them out.” -*St. John Chrysostom*

“Without love, deeds - even the most brilliant - count as nothing.” -*St. Thérèse of Lisieux*

Don’t Give Up

Will we execute our new year’s resolutions perfectly over the next 365 days? Absolutely not! But that does not mean we should give up. Rather, beginning anew is an ongoing process, one that allows us to start fresh again and again.

“Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections but instantly set about remedying them—every day begin the task anew.” -*St. Francis de Sales*



“Don’t despair over your shortcomings. Start over each day. You make spiritual progress by beginning again and again.” -*St. Francis de Sales*

“When tempted, invoke your Angel. He is more eager to help you than you are to be helped! Ignore the devil and do not be afraid of him: He trembles and flees at the sight of your Guardian Angel.” - *St. John Bosco*

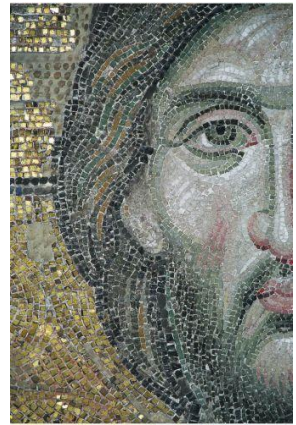
“If you should fail, be humble, make a resolution to be submissive to God’s will and then get up, and carry on.” -*St. Pio of Pietrelcina*

Condensed from “Blessed Is She”; Sarah Damm.

NICE PEOPLE OR NEW MEN

We must not be surprised if we find among the Christians some people who are still nasty. There is even, when you come to think it over, a reason why nasty people might be expected to turn to Christ in greater numbers than nice ones. That was what people objected to about Christ during His life on earth: He seemed to attract “such awful people.” That is what people object to, and always will. Do you not see why? Christ said, “Blessed are the poor” and “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom” and no doubt He primarily meant the economically rich and economically poor.

But do not His words also apply to another kind of riches and poverty? One of the dangers of having a lot of money is that you can be quite satisfied with the kinds of happiness money can give and so fail to realize your need for God. If everything seems to come simply by signing checks, you may forget that you are at every moment totally dependent on God. Now quite plainly, natural gifts carry with them a similar danger. If you have sound nerves and intelligence and health and popularity and a good upbringing, you are likely to be quite satisfied with your character as it is. “Why drag God into it?” you may ask. A certain level of good conduct comes easily to you. Everyone says you are a nice chap and (between ourselves) you agree with them. You are quite likely to believe that all this niceness is your own doing: and you may easily not feel the need for any better kinds of goodness. Often the people who have all these natural kinds of goodness cannot be brought to recognize their need for Christ at all until, one day, the natural goodness lets them down and their self-satisfaction is shattered. In other words, it is hard for those who are “rich” in this sense to enter the Kingdom.



There is either a warning or an encouragement here for every one of us. If you are a nice person – if virtue comes easily to you- beware! Much is expected from those to whom much is given. If you mistake for your own merits what are really God's gifts to you through nature, and if you are contented with simply being nice, you are still a rebel: and all those gifts will

make your fall more terrible, your corruption more complicated, your bad example more disastrous. The Devil was an archangel once; his natural gifts were as far above yours as yours are above those of a chimpanzee.

But if you are a poor creature – poisoned by a wretched upbringing in some house full of vulgar jealousies and senseless quarrels – nagged day in and day out by an inferiority complex that makes you snap at your best friends – do not despair. He knows all about it. You are one of the poor whom He blessed. He knows what a wretched machine you are trying to drive. Keep on. Do what you can.

“Niceness” – wholesome, integrated personality – is an excellent thing. But we must not suppose that even if we succeeded in making everyone nice

we should have saved their souls. A world of nice people, content in their own niceness, looking no further, turned away from God, would be just as desperately in need of salvation as a miserable world – and might even be more difficult to save... God became man to turn creatures into sons: not simply to produce better men but to produce a new kind of man. It is not like teaching a horse to jump better and better but like turning a horse into a winged creature.



What can you ever really know of other people’s souls – of their temptations, their opportunities, their struggles? One soul in the whole of creation you do know: and it is the only one whose fate is placed in your hands. If there is a God, you are, in a sense, alone with Him. You cannot put Him off with speculations about your next-door neighbors or memories of what you have read in books. What will all that chatter and hearsay count (will you even be able to remember it?) when the anaesthetic fog which we call “nature” or “the real world” fades away and the Presence in which you have always stood becomes palpable, immediate, and unavoidable?

-C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*.