



Welcome!

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Climbing the Cross of Christ

We were created by love and for love. It is the deepest desire of our human soul. Our music, books, TV shows, and movies across time and across cultures reveal the deep longing to love and to be loved. However, the greatest love story is Jesus dying for us upon the Cross. God explained to St. Catherine of Siena how to climb the Cross of Christ and taste Christ's love. But we must have the courage to climb, and we must be vulnerable enough to allow ourselves to truly be loved by Him. Ladies, this is what you were made for — are you ready? Come and receive the peace and joy your Heavenly Father desires for you. All women are welcome.

- 1. Motivation to Climb: Knowing Jesus the Living God
- 2. Created to Love and be Loved
- 3. Climbing the Cross our Bridge to Heaven

Motivation to Climb: Knowing Jesus, the Living God

"For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made; for what you hated, you would not have fashioned. And how could a thing remain, unless you willed it; or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you? But you spare all things, because they are yours, O LORD and lover of souls, for your imperishable spirit is in all things!" Wisdom 11:24-26 (Part of first reading Nov. 3)

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in Him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the Church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He Himself might be preeminent. For in Him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile all things for Him, making peace by the Blood of His Cross through Him, whether those on earth or those in heaven."

Colossians 1:15-20 (Part of second reading Nov. 24)

Created to Love and be Loved

"God's hope in the human race is the birth of each new baby" - A deacon from North Carolina

"Motherhood implies from the beginning a special openness to the new person: and this is precisely the woman's 'part'. In this openness, in conceiving and giving birth to a child, the woman 'discovers herself through a sincere gift of self.'" – St. John Paul II

When a woman is pregnant: Fear/excitement, sickness, cravings, movement, body changes, ultrasound

• When the baby is delivered: All things change. Our world is rocked because we are so in love.

God desires us to have that love when we look upon the face of Baby Jesus, the Son of the Living God.

"But I in justice shall behold Your Face; on waking I shall be content in Your presence." Psalm 17:15 (Responsorial psalm Nov. 10)

Are we willing to appear as a fool for the love of the Baby?

• Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10, Gospel on Nov. 3)

Are we willing to suffer and be courageous for the Baby?

"You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of My Name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives." Luke 21:5-19 (Gospel on Nov. 17)

- Reading about seven brothers: 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14 (First reading Nov. 10)
- This is not scary; this is our hope. They are claiming our promised inheritance.

"Climb the tree on which Jesus hung for you, and you will see Jesus." - St. Augustine

"The rulers sneered at Jesus and said, 'He saved others, let Him save Himself if He is the chosen one, the Christ of God.' Even the soldiers jeered at Him. As they approached to offer Him wine they called out, 'If you are King of the Jews, save yourself.' Above Him there was an inscription that read, 'This is the King of the Jews.'" Luke 23:35-38 (Part of Gospel for Nov. 24)

- By *not* saving Himself He saved others.
- He chose to appear to be a fool and the suffer for love of the Baby. You are that baby.

Climbing the Cross — our Bridge to Heaven

God explaining the Bridge (Christ on the Cross) to St. Catherine of Siena:

"I have told you, My daughter, that the Bridge reaches from Heaven to earth; this is through the union which I have made with man, whom I formed of the clay of the earth."

First step: His Feet. She detaches from things of the earth. She strips herself of vice. She reaches up to His Feet signifying her love and affection for Jesus.

"The world promises you comfort, but you were not made for comfort; you were made for greatness." - Pope Benedict XVI

Second step: She uses His pierced Feet as a step to climb up to His Side. She fills herself with love and virtue. This reveals the secret of His Heart.

"... the soul, rising on the steps of her affection, commences to taste the love of His Heart, gazing into that open Heart of My Son, with the eye of the intellect, and finds It consumed with ineffable love ... He being one and the same thing with Me. Then the soul is filled with love, seeing herself so much loved." - From The Dialogue of St. Catherine of Siena

Third step: At His Mouth she finds peace from the war she has been waging with her sin. She finally tastes peace.

"What has He done for me? He has loved me and given me His whole self. What shall I do for Him? I shall love Him and give myself to Him without reserve." - St. Ignatius of Loyola

"I sent Him in order that He should be lifted on high on the wood of the Cross, making of it an anvil on which My Son, born of human generation, should be re-made, in order to free you from death, and to restore you to the life of grace; wherefore He drew everything to Himself by this means, namely, by showing the ineffable love, with which I love you, the heart of man being always attracted by love. Greater love, then, I could not show you, than to lay down My life for you . . ." - God to St. Catherine

"Totally love Him, who gave Himself totally for your love." - St. Clare of Assisi

Foundational Item to work on this month (10 minutes daily prayer, church on Sunday, staying out of mortal sin):		
Ideas to Build Myself/Others/Church thi	s month:	