



210 Oak Grove Avenue  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
tel: (650) 323-7914  
fax: (650) 323-3231  
[www.nativitymenlo.org](http://www.nativitymenlo.org)

# Church of the Nativity

## MASSSES

**Sundays** 08:00, 09:30, 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM  
05:00 PM (traditional Latin Mass)  
**Saturdays** 08:00 AM and 05:00 PM (Vigil)  
**Weekdays** 07:30 AM and 05:30 PM

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**Saturdays** 09:00 AM - 10:00 AM  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
03:30 PM - 04:30 PM  
(also by appointment)

**BAPTISMS** 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month  
(contact rectory 2 months in advance)

**WEDDINGS** Saturdays 11:00 AM and 02:00 PM  
(contact rectory at least 6 months in advance)

## 24-HOUR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Mrs. Mary Ellen Peloso (650) 269-7794

## PASTOR

Very Rev. Mark Doherty

## PAROCHIAL VICAR

## IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Michael Thomas, CSC

## PERMANENT DEACONS

Rev. Mr. Dominick Peloso  
Rev. Mr. Bob Andrews

## SCHOOL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Noreen Browning  
[nbrowning@nativityschool.com](mailto:nbrowning@nativityschool.com)



HEARING LOOP ENABLED

**FIRST READING**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

*Isaiah 8: 23 - 9: 3*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

The Lord is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid?

*Psalms 27*

**SECOND READING**

Be united in the same mind and in the same purpose.

*1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17*

**GOSPEL**

Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

*Matthew 4: 12-23*



# The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

## 25 January 2026

Come after Me, and I will make you fishers of men.

*Matthew 4: 19*

## CALENDAR

### SCHEDULE OF MASSES AND INTENTIONS WEEK OF 25-31 JAN

<b>SAT:</b>	<b>05:00 PM</b>	Priest's intentions
<b>SUN:</b>	<b>Masses</b>	Priest's intentions
<b>MON:</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	Manny and Jo and family
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	† Frederick Heyeck; † Edna Heyeck; Didi Fisher; Janine Louise Ramos
<b>TUE:</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	Julia Yap
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	† Carolyn Colonelli
<b>WED:</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	† Gladys de Mancilla
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	Jared Parker
<b>THU:</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	† Sister Joyce Stemper
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	† Marta Dias de Villegas
<b>FRI:</b>	<b>07:30 AM</b>	† Maria Chiyo Masuda
	<b>05:30 PM</b>	† Michele Soley
<b>SAT:</b>	<b>08:00 AM</b>	† Marie Masuda; † Charles Tuzar; † Jim Rivera

*Please pray for those in need of physical or spiritual healing*



*The Miraculous Draught of Fish  
-- Raphael, ~1515*



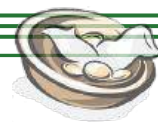
### BIBLICAL ART

### PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

If you believe you are a victim of sexual abuse, please call our hotline at 415/614-5506.

<b>SUN</b>	<b>07:00 PM</b>	Holy Hour for Priests
<b>MON-FRI</b>	<b>07:10 AM</b>	Morning Prayer
<b>MON-FRI</b>	<b>08:00 AM</b>	Morning Rosary
<b>MON-FRI</b>	<b>05:10 PM</b>	Evening Prayer
<b>MON</b>	<b>07:00 PM</b>	Nativity Family Rosary
<b>TUE</b>	<b>06:00 PM</b>	Cenacles of Life Rosary
<b>WED</b>	<b>06:00 PM</b>	Novena to Saint Joseph
<b>THU</b>	<b>06:00 PM</b>	Perpetual Help Novena
<b>SAT</b>	<b>06:15 AM</b>	Men's Prayer Group
<b>SAT</b>	<b>07:40 AM</b>	Morning Prayer
<b>SAT</b>	<b>09:00 - 10:00 AM</b>	Confessions (parish priest)
<b>SAT</b>	<b>10:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b>	Confessions (Opus Dei priest)
<b>SAT</b>	<b>03:30 - 04:30 PM</b>	Confessions (parish priest)

<b>25 JAN</b>	<b>(Sunday)</b>	
	<b>09:15 AM</b>	OCIA
	<b>09:30 AM</b>	Catholic Schools Week Mass
<b>26 JAN</b>	<b>(Monday)</b>	
	<b>08:00 AM</b>	Legion of Mary
	<b>07:00 PM</b>	Nativity Family Rosary
<b>27 JAN</b>	<b>(Tuesday)</b>	
	<b>09:30 AM</b>	Bible Study
<b>28 JAN</b>	<b>(Wednesday)</b>	
	<b>08:45 AM</b>	Nativity School Mass
	<b>07:30 PM</b>	Total Consecration to Jesus
<b>29 JAN</b>	<b>(Thursday)</b>	
	<b>12:00 PM</b>	Senior Thursday Group
<b>30 JAN</b>	<b>(Friday)</b>	
	<b>09:00 AM</b>	Catholic Schools Week Closing Mass
<b>31 JAN</b>	<b>(Saturday)</b>	



### PARISH OFFERINGS

	<b>WEEK OF 03-04 JAN</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$15,090</b>
<b>ADA Progress:</b>	<b>GOAL MET!</b>
<b>2025 ADA Goal:</b>	<b>\$156,819</b>

# SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

SOLEMNITY, FEAST, MEMORIAL • OPTIONAL MEMORIAL • OTHER

**28 JAN (Tuesday):**

**SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS, Doctor of the Church**

Educated by Benedictine monks at Monte Cassino, and at the University of Naples, his works (e.g., *Summa Theologica*) are seminal to the thinking of the Church. Pope Leo XIII commanded that his teachings be studied by all theology students. He was proclaimed a **Doctor of the Church** in 1567.



**31 JAN (Tuesday):**

**SAINT JOHN BOSCO, Priest (1815-1888)**



Born in Becchi, Italy, John devoted his priestly life to children. He was ordained in 1841, and by 1846 he had befriended 800 difficult boys. He founded a religious society, now known as the Society of St. Francis de Sales (Salesians), which spread worldwide. He also helped found the Daughters of Our Lady Help of Christians who work with poor girls.



Livestreaming of the  
Nativity Sunday Mass  
is now at **11:00 AM**

**02 FEB (Wednesday):**

**FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD**

According to the Law of Moses, Jesus would have been brought to the temple in Jerusalem 40 days after His birth to be presented to God. It was then that **Simeon** and **Anna** made their prophecies concerning the lives of the child and His mother. At the beginning of the 8th century, **Pope Sergius** inaugurated a candlelight procession to commemorate this event, including the blessing and distribution of candles, which gave the feast the name **Candlemas**.

**03 FEB (Thursday):**

**SAINT BLAISE, Bishop and Martyr (d. ~316)**

**Blaise** was the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia, who was persecuted under the governor Agricola. Thrown into a lake to drown, Blaise stood on the surface and invited his persecutors to walk out and join him to prove the power of their gods: they all drowned. He was then martyred by being beaten, his flesh torn with wool combs, and beheaded.

**SAINT ANSGAR, Archbishop (801-865)**

Benedictine monk and Archbishop of Hamburg. He established the first Christian school in Denmark and was responsible for many conversions in Scandinavia.

## MINISTRY AND GROUP NEWS

### ROSARY OUTSIDE ABORTION CLINIC

If you would like to pray the Rosary during the week in front of the Planned Parenthood in Redwood City, please contact **Jacqueline** at 510/697-9670 or [nativitymenlorespectlife@yahoo.com](mailto:nativitymenlorespectlife@yahoo.com) for more information.

### CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE ETHICS CONFERENCE

Health care professionals are invited to the fifth *Converging Roads* health care ethics conference on **21 FEB 2026** from **09:45 AM-06:15 PM** at **St. Patrick's Seminary** in Menlo Park, CA. This one-day conference will explore the theme of *The Future of Human Flourishing in Medicine* and offers continuing education for health care professionals rooted in the Hippocratic and Catholic ethical tradition. Registration: **\$75-\$159** based on CME/CNE inclusion. This conference is presented by the St. John Paul II Foundation, the Archdiocese of San Francisco, the San Francisco and Santa Clara Guilds of the Catholic Medical Association, and St. Patrick's Seminary. For more info, please visit [convergingroads.com/sanfrancisco](https://convergingroads.com/sanfrancisco) or email [nancy@forlifeandfamily.org](mailto:nancy@forlifeandfamily.org).

### OCIA AND FAITH FORMATION

Thinking about becoming Catholic? Have questions about our Catholic faith?

**All are welcome (OCIA students, parishioners and friends)!**

**WHAT:** The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

**WHERE:** O'Hare Center

**WHEN:** Sundays (09:15-10:30 AM)

**MORE DETAILS:** <https://www.nativitymenlo.org/OCIA>  
There are also OCIA brochures in the back of the Church

**JAN'26 THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR (topics subject to change) JAN'26**

- The Vocations of Holy Orders and Religious Life
- The Vocation of Matrimony
- Sacramentals, Spiritual Warfare
- Tradition of Prayer

Please contact **Mary Rudolph** ([mem.rudolph@gmail.com](mailto:mem.rudolph@gmail.com)),  
**Joan Desmond** ([jfdesmond@aol.com](mailto:jfdesmond@aol.com)),  
**Hal Fletcher** ([hal.fletcher@gmail.com](mailto:hal.fletcher@gmail.com))  
or the Rectory (650/323-7914).

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Nativity Church is open **24x7**. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration and there is always someone present in prayer. Won't you join us by signing up for a weekly Holy Hour? Jesus told an Irish priest (in our current century) that midnight adoration is as powerful as fasting.

Please consider the following hours as there is no one currently assigned to them (or pick an hour that works for you):

**Sunday: 01:00 AM, 02:00 AM**

**Friday: 02:00 PM**

**Saturday: 01:00-03:00 AM (once per month),  
09:00 AM, 11:00 PM**

Call **Mary Ellen Peloso** (650/269-7794) to sign up.

*You have never strayed too far for the Father's forgiveness and grace.*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## NATIVITY BIBLE STUDY

We will be holding a Bible Study on the *Book of Revelation* each **Tuesday** morning from **27 JAN** to **31 MAR 2026** in the Parish Center. The classes will be from **09:30-11:00 AM**. They feature DVDs by Jeff Cavins, a short lecture and group discussion. It has been said that the Book of Revelation has been mostly symbolic until the current time. We will see how the Kingdom of Christ and His Church is connected to the Kingdom of Heaven, especially through the Sacrifice of the Mass. We will learn about all the mysterious figures and images in the book, as well as what will happen during the Second Coming of Christ, what has happened, and what is now happening in salvation history. This should be very interesting and challenging to our spiritual life. No sign-ups ahead of time needed. For information, call **Deacon Dominick Peloso: 650/269-6279**.

### OPEN HOUSE

Join us for our **Catholic Schools Week Open House** event on **Sunday, 25 JAN 2026 at 10:30 AM!** Classrooms will be open and our faculty and staff will be available to answer questions. View the campus, experience all the exciting learning that has happened so far this year and come and learn more about how Nativity may be a great fit for your family. You may register on our website: [www.nativityschool.com](http://www.nativityschool.com). We look forward to welcoming you!

Dear parishioners,

You may recall that last July we in the *Nativity St Vincent de Paul Society* reported on our activities in the first half of 2025, and we thought you might appreciate a similar report on our usage of resources entrusted to us in the second half of the year.

For the 6 months ended **31 DEC 2025**, we received **\$55,400** in donations from parishioners from Brown Bag Sundays and other generous donations. During the same 6 months, we distributed **\$59,000** in grocery store gift cards. We provided **\$6,000** in rent and other monetary assistance.

We made nearly 700 "house calls", typically delivering bags of fresh produce, frozen protein and bread and dry staples, along with the gift cards. We estimate that we continued to deliver to over 500 people per month during this period.

All food items are provided by Second Harvest Food Bank - at no cost to us. All "shopping" and delivering of food/gift cards is accomplished by a group of fellow parishioners who volunteer a few hours each week to do this extremely rewarding work. We have tasks that can generally work around busy schedules. If you have an interest in learning more about what we do and perhaps getting involved, please contact **Dan Winnike 650/714-4644**.

As always, we very much appreciate the opportunity to manifest your charity and concern for our neighbors.

## IN THE COMMUNITY



**Parish Office Hours**  
**09:00 AM-04:00 PM (M-F)**  
**closed 12:00-01:00 PM (lunch)**

## NEED YOUR PRAYERS FOR PREGNANT MOTHERS

When pregnant mothers, scared and worried, come to Planned Parenthood, thinking they have no other option, pro-life volunteers are there with our resources, prayers and care.

Many women with abortion appointments will cancel when they encounter loving, compassionate people on the sidewalk who are praying for them and their unborn. Please consider joining us; God will bless you!

**WHAT:** Pro-life people praying there, led by members of *San Mateo Pro Life*

**WHERE:** Planned Parenthood sidewalk, 2907 El Camino Real, Redwood City

**WHEN:** Mornings, **Monday-Friday 08:30-11:30 AM**

**WHY:** The more people present and praying, the more graces God grants to save precious babies! Many lives have in this way been spared!

**CONTACT:** For more information, visit [www.sanmateoprofrolife.com](http://www.sanmateoprofrolife.com) or call **Erika at 650/283-5353**

**Do you speak Spanish?** Your help could be crucial in saving a life!



## FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

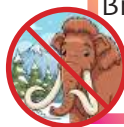
Spend some time with your fellow parishioners after the **09:30 AM Mass** on the **1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays** of each month!



The *Food and Fellowship Ministry* will be serving coffee and donuts.



If you're interested in helping the *Food and Fellowship Ministry*, please sign up using the QR code or email [liz.palla@gmail.com](mailto:liz.palla@gmail.com).



**Bringing animals inside the Church  
IS NOT ALLOWED  
AT ANY TIME!**

## REGISTER WITH THE PARISH

We welcome all visitors and invite those who are considering coming home to the Catholic Church to register. Church attendance alone does not make you or your family registered members. To register online, please go to [www.nativitymenlo.org](http://www.nativitymenlo.org) and fill out the *Parish Registration Form*. To obtain one in the mail, please call the rectory office **650/323-7914** during regular business hours.

Pregnant? Need Help? Please contact

• *Birth and Beyond* • (331/444-5433),

• *The Gabriel Project* • (800/910-0191),

or • *San Juan Diego Centro por la Vida* • at St. Francis (650/322-2152).

## FROM THE HOLY SEE

Each month His Holiness asks for prayer intentions.  
For **January 2026**, the Holy Father's intention is:

**Intention:** *For Prayer With the Word of God*

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

## THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

### NATIVITY HOLY HOUR FOR PRIESTS

Everyone is invited to attend our weekly holy hour for priests each **Sunday** evening at **07:00 PM**. It includes a rosary, chaplet of Divine Mercy, a meditation, brief talk on the spiritual life, and Benediction. We all need to lift up our priests both here in the parish and throughout the world with our prayers. Please join us.



### DID YOU KNOW? ON-GOING DEVOTIONS

#### WEEKDAY MORNING ROSARY

A group meets every morning (**Mon-Fri**) in the church to pray the rosary at **08:00 AM**. They have been practicing this devotion since the 1970s. Perhaps you'd like to join them!

#### EVERY MONDAY AT 07:00 PM ...

*Our Lady Queen of Peace Prayer Group* meets for Rosary and the latest message from Medjugorje, now approved by the Vatican. All are welcome (in the **Guadalupe Room**).

#### CENACLES OF LIFE PRAYER GROUP

After the **05:30 PM** mass on **Tuesdays**, the *Nativity Cenacles of Life Prayer Group* pray two rosaries for the protection of all life and for the protection of religious liberty in the Church. They pray a decade or two in different languages. They welcome and enjoy this addition to their prayer; please come and join the group.

#### FRIDAY EVENING ROSARY

A group meets at **07:30 PM** every **Friday** at Vallombrosa, year-round at the Lourdes shrine, to pray the rosary. They have been practicing this devotion for 5 years. All are invited to join.

#### MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Men have been meeting every week for the last 16 years to pray together and share experiences in spiritual growth. We meet at **06:15 AM** on **Saturdays** in the O'Hare (Parish) Center in back of the church. It has been a time of grace and strength for everyone who attends. You are welcome to join us. For questions, call **Deacon Dominick Peloso: 650/269-6279**

#### EVERY FIRST FRIDAY AT 05:30 PM ...

An evening of adoration, prayer and reflection with *Our Lady Queen of Peace* starting at **05:30 PM** Mass followed at **06:00-08:00 PM** rosary, music, meditation and closing with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome. (in the church).

## CALENDAR OF NOVENAS

<b>25 JAN (SUN)</b>	<b>SEVENTH Day: St. Thomas Aquinas</b>
<b>26 JAN (MON)</b>	<b>EIGHTH Day: St. Thomas Aquinas</b>
<b>27 JAN (TUE)</b>	<b>NINTH Day: St. Thomas Aquinas</b> FIRST Day: St. Agatha
<b>28 JAN (WED)</b>	<b>Feast of Saint Thomas Aquinas</b> SECOND Day: St. Agatha
<b>29 JAN (THU)</b>	THIRD Day: St. Agatha
<b>30 JAN (FRI)</b>	FOURTH Day: St. Agatha
<b>31 JAN (SAT)</b>	FIFTH Day: St. Agatha
<b>01 FEB (SUN)</b>	SIXTH Day: St. Agatha
<b>02 FEB (MON)</b>	SEVENTH Day: St. Agatha FIRST Day: Our Lady of Lourdes
<b>03 FEB (TUE)</b>	EIGHTH Day: St. Agatha SECOND Day: Our Lady of Lourdes
<b>04 FEB (WED)</b>	NINTH Day: St. Agatha THIRD Day: Our Lady of Lourdes
<b>05 FEB (THU)</b>	<b>Feast of Saint Agatha</b> FOURTH Day: Our Lady of Lourdes
<b>06 FEB (FRI)</b>	FIFTH Day: Our Lady of Lourdes
<b>07 FEB (SAT)</b>	SIXTH Day: Our Lady of Lourdes

### FIND THE NOVENA PRAYERS

**Saint Thomas Aquinas:**

<http://www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/english5/p03449.htm>

**Saint Agatha:**

<http://preview.tinyurl.com/qcm7zmr>

**Our Lady of Lourdes:**

<http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/lourdes.htm>

### OTHER NOVENA PRAYERS

**Infant Jesus of Prague (nine-hour):**

[www.ewtn.com/library/PRAYER/PRAGNOV.TXT](http://www.ewtn.com/library/PRAYER/PRAGNOV.TXT)

**St. Therese "24 Glory Be's" Novena:**

[www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/24\\_glory.htm](http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/24_glory.htm)

**Novena for Priests:**

[www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/priests.htm](http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/priests.htm)

**Effecacious Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus:**

[www.ewtn.com/devotionals/heart/sh\\_novena.htm](http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/heart/sh_novena.htm)



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The Institute of Catholic Culture would like to offer this gift to you at no charge. Perhaps a friend or family member might be interested, or maybe you are part of a group that could take this course together, like a parish guild, Knights of Columbus Council or a Bible study group.

**WHAT:** Free online course  
Taught by Jared Staudt, Ph.D

**WHEN:** Thursdays, 22 JAN-25 JUN 2026 (8:00 PM EST)

**MORE**

**DETAILS:** <https://tinyurl.com/BoF-CAH101>



## 2026 Catholic Calendar

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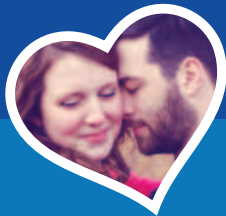


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Nativity Church, Menlo Park, CA

A 4C 05-4088



What is the "ichthys symbol" (ICK-thoos)? It was a sign used by early Christians (1st and 2nd centuries A.D.) to identify one another as fellow believers in Jesus. In the early days of the Church, Christians had to practice their faith in secret: to openly be a follower of Jesus meant persecution and probably a martyr's death. So Christians had to meet secretly in each other's homes to pray, teach, and learn more about Our Lord. You might find this symbol drawn in the dirt or carved near a door, and if you were a Christian, you would know that another Christian lived there.

When two travelers met on the road, one might draw half of the symbol (just one of the arches). If the other traveler completed the symbol by drawing the other arch, both would know they were in the company of a believer.

The letters are Greek (which was the common language in those days) and spell the word "fish". But Christians used each of the letters to stand for "Iesous Christos, Theou Uios, Soter", which means "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior".

I X Θ Y Σ

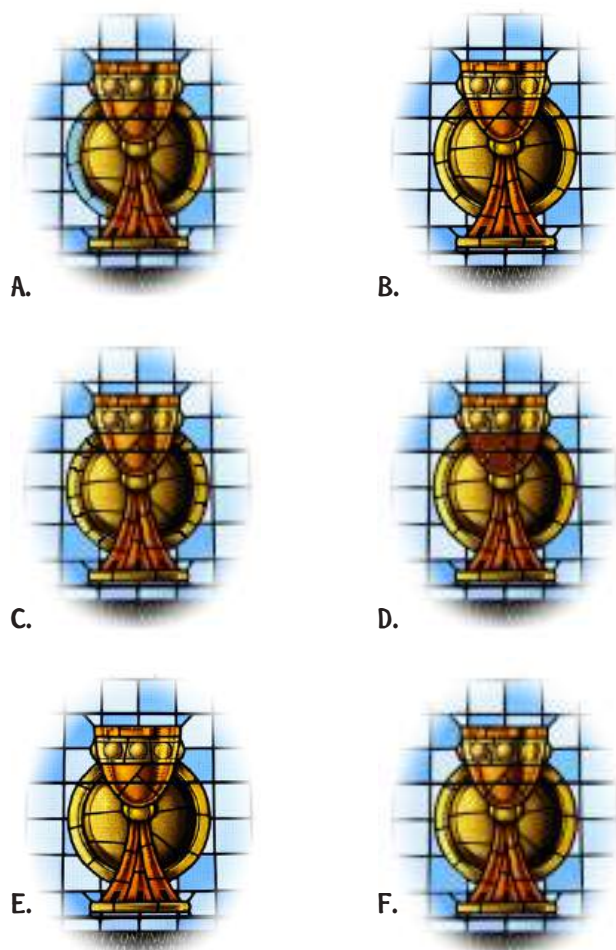


In another form of the symbol, the five letters were drawn on top of each other, and the result looks like a 8-spoked wheel.



You can see many examples of the "ichthys wheel" symbol around the ruins of Ephesus in Turkey.

WHICH TWO IMAGES ARE THE SAME?



## PRAYER OF ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT

Our Lord revealed to St. Gertrude that the following prayer

would release 1000 souls from Purgatory each time it was said.

"Eternal Father, I offer You the Most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the Universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen."

The apostle  
"whom Jesus loved".

The only apostle  
brave enough to  
step out of the boat.

St. Paul's name  
before his conversion.

To calm the storm,  
Jesus spoke to the  
wind and \_\_\_\_\_?

The harp-playing  
giant-killer of  
the Old Testament.

Now arrange the letters in the bold squares to reveal the name  
of the first season of the liturgical year.