

# RISEN EAGLE

*Psalm 27:1, : The lord is my light*

**VOL 10**

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## SPIRITUAL FREEDOM



As we enter the season of Christmas, we pause to reflect on the greatest miracle the world has ever known — the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus

Christ. “The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world” (John 1:9). In this holy moment, heaven touched earth, and God drew near in humility and love.

The Nativity shows us that God often works through the unexpected. A young virgin, a faithful carpenter, a quiet stable, and a silent night became the setting for God’s promise fulfilled (Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2). Mary responded with trust, Joseph with obedience — reminding us that when we surrender to God’s will, He transforms ordinary lives into vessels of purpose.

The lowly shepherds were the first to hear the angels’ proclamation: “Glory to God in the highest” (Luke 2:14). The wise men followed the star from afar (Matthew 2:1–12). Together they reveal a powerful truth: God’s love reaches every person, no matter their past or position.

The same God who brought hope to

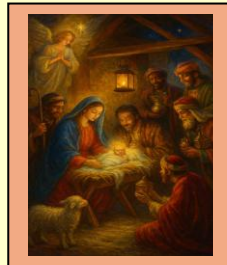
Bethlehem brings hope to us today. His light shines into every darkness, and “the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5). As we celebrate Christ’s birth, we ask: Have we made room for Him in our hearts? Are we letting His light guide our steps? Are we sharing His peace with others? This Christmas, may we welcome the Savior who came not in power, but in gentleness — to redeem, restore, and renew. “For unto us a Child is born” (Isaiah 9:6). May His presence fill us with faith, hope, and the freedom only Christ can give.

*~Fr. Sammy, Risen Eagle Spiritual Director~*

*Luke 2:11 — “For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you; He is Christ the Lord.”*

Prayer Line  
929-561-8301

Call and leave us a message with your brief prayer intentions. Prayers will be lifted at holy mass confidentially and our Eagle Ambassador prayer warriors will also intercede for your intentions.



## RE-ENTRY ROADMAP:

New Beginnings: This Christmas brings fresh hope and a new path forward. Need support? Call 929-561-8301.

*~Chemeka R, Risen Eagle Ambassador ~*

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Christmas season reminds us that comfort often comes from simple joys. This month’s sweet holiday recipe, shared by one of our friends behind the walls, adds a touch of warmth and cheer.

*~Tricia D, Risen Eagle Ambassador~*

### APPLE CRISP WAFFLE BANANA SUNDAE

3 Slice of Waffles  
2 Full Scoops of Apple crisp  
1 Bar of Butter  
1 Jar of Marshmella Fluff  
1 Jar of Syrup  
1 Banana  
1 Pt Vanilla Ice-cream



DESSERT

**Risen Eagle**



## INSIDE VOICES

### A Personal Testimony: Statement of Repentance to My Victims and All Humanity



First and foremost, I apologize to the victims of my crime and to all who similarly suffer pain, emptiness, and mental anguish due

to the untimely loss of a loved one caused by another's selfish, sinful, and inhumane act. Indeed, when one unjustly extinguishes a human life, it is as though that person has murdered all humanity. We are, after all, one family, one people, one nation, and of one Creator (1 Corinthians 12:12–26), and therefore subject under one law — to preserve life (Deuteronomy 5:17; Exodus 20:13). When we choose a path of destruction with our own hands, we subject ourselves to the consequences of bad decisions that arise from the evil whisperings of Satan, whose main aim is to destroy all humanity (2 Corinthians 2:11). As 1 Corinthians 15:56 states, “the sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.” We allow our own lowly and darkest desires to lead us away from God's path — the path He firmly established for us to follow (Deuteronomy 28:2).

Inherently, as God's creation (Jeremiah 18:6), we know what is right and what is wrong. When Eve was manipulated by the serpent's deceit in the Garden of Eden, persuaded to believe she would gain divine knowledge by eating the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:1–3), she could have rejected the lie by simply acknowledging that, being made in the image of the Creator (Genesis 2:27), she already possessed the God-given ability to discern good from evil. Unfortunately, in our weakness and brokenness, we often place God's statutes and commandments last, when they should always be first — following the footsteps of Satan instead of walking with God. I am one such individual — weak, broken, tormented, confused, and ruled by fleshly passions. I have erred in my ways and fallen prey to the “roaring lion” (1 Peter 5:8). I have blamed everyone and everything for my

downfall, except the person truly responsible for my horrid actions: myself. No one inherits the sins of their ancestors (Deuteronomy 24:16; Jeremiah 31:30; Ezekiel 18:18).

I have since repented of my wrongs and sinful ways. As I await my freedom, I have worked hard not only to seek forgiveness from God — to repent and be reconciled — but also to begin making reparations for the harm I caused to my victims, their families, and humanity as a whole. Importantly, I have also learned to forgive myself (1 John 3:19–22). These are essential steps not only in reconciliation, but in developing the moral leadership required to function in society and contribute productively and responsibly.

Without these steps, we cannot truly be part of a community, nor can we actively share the responsibility of preserving life, liberty, and freedom.

*~A Man Under God's Grace~*

*Mark 11:25 “And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”*

*Psalms 35:5 “May they be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the Lord driving them away.”*

#### WORDS OF HOPE

I am not defined by my circumstances.

I am defined by my actions.

I am committed to my personal growth and healing. I am worthy of respect, love and second chances.

*~Redeemed~*

**If you have a testimony to share on Inside Voices, we would love to hear from you. Write to your local Correctional Chaplain Services or mail it directly to our Ministry at [4711 Church Ave.](mailto:4711ChurchAve@riseneagle.org), Bklyn, NY 11203**

Check out our Instagram page [@riseneagle](https://www.instagram.com/riseneagle)



## Saint of the Month: St. Crispina



### Feast Day:

**December 5**

St. Crispina, a Christian wife and mother from North Africa, lived her faith with quiet strength and unwavering trust

in God. Though born into a respected family, she chose Christ above comfort, status, or safety. When persecution rose, Crispina was arrested and pressured to deny her faith — yet she stood firm, answering with peace instead of fear. Her courage came not from herself, but from the Savior whose birth we celebrate this season. St.

Crispina knew that nothing — not threats, hardship, or even death — could separate her from the love of Christ (Romans 8:38–39).

Her witness

reminds us that true spiritual freedom begins when Christ is at the center of our lives. Just as the light of Christmas broke through the world's darkness, Crispina's faith shone boldly in a time of fear. She encourages us to stand firm, hold fast to truth, and trust God in every trial.

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, may St. Crispina inspire us to choose Christ above all and let His light guide our steps.

*~Kim C, Risen Eagle Ambassador~*

