

Dr. Ian Murphy



Dr. Ian Murphy has had a stirring journey into Christianity out of agnosticism. His subsequent ministry to reach other skeptics with the Gospel unexpectedly rocketed to public attention when his valedictorian speech about Jesus made headlines nationwide, inspiring a Congressional Law from the desk of Senator Arlen Specter. This momentum landed Ian into the position of head pastor at a Baptist church in Texas, where his ministry remained centered until his decision to enter the Catholic Church. Shifting career direction, Ian completed his Ph.D. in Theology at Duquesne University with a dissertation on the New Evangelization. As a professor, he has taught religious studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Penn State, Rosemont College, and Duquesne, and Divine Mercy University, and he is Senior Fellow of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology.

In addition to teaching, Ian's ministry has continued through regular appearances on the Familyland Television Network, as well as three seasons hosting his own radio broadcast on 105.1 FM out of Indiana, Pennsylvania. He has delivered his conversion story as a keynote address to the Defending the Faith Conference held at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. He has also been featured on the EWTN's Journey Home program, Sirius XM Satellite Radio's The Catholic Channel, and on the show Franciscan University Presents. Ian's conversion story book will be available soon. The book is entitled *Dying to Live: From Agnostic, to Baptist, to Catholic* and includes a foreword by Scott Hahn. It will be in Ignatius Press's catalogue of new releases in Spring 2020.

Ian resides near Charleston, South Carolina with his wife Rachel.

"For our light and momentary troubles
are achieving for us an eternal glory
that far outweighs them all."

2 CORINTHIANS 4:17

SAINT ANNE'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH PRESENTS

The Dark Night of the Soul

*The Thought of the Mystics
on the Meaning
of Human Suffering*

with Dr. Ian Murphy

Saint Anne's Catholic Church

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MARCH 8, 9, AND 10

7:15PM SUNDAY

7:00PM MONDAY & TUESDAY

SAINT ANNE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday

DYING TO LIVE: FROM AGNOSTIC, TO BAPTIST, TO CATHOLIC

We don't live "lists of bullet points", we live stories. We live in the narrative of our lives, as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, friends, fathers and mothers... from the cradle, to the grave, to the world-to-come... wrestling and loving through mountaintops and valleys... we live *stories*. The Good News of our Redeemer Jesus Christ comes to us as the Gospel story, across the story of salvation history.

Dr. Murphy's own wrestling journey into the Catholic Church out of the doubt, skepticism, and anxiety of agnostic disbelief is precisely a story of *brokenness*, and how beautiful it is in the hands of the Holy Spirit.

Monday

DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL

Many of us carry the unnecessary burden of believing that our faith is good if we *feel God* on the mountaintop; but that the valley times of *not feeling it* indicate that our faith-life must somehow be failing. Thanks be to God, this common perception could not be further from the truth. Ironically, it is often when we are suffering the most that our spiritual life is at its best, although it certainly doesn't *feel* that way at the time.

In this presentation about the "Dark Night of the Soul", we will explore the thought of the Catholic mystics on suffering. Through their timeless words and witness we will see that we are truly not alone, and that our brokenness is truly beautiful when united with the Sacred Heart of our Lord. We will thus encounter God as the Maestro Who chooses to play His symphony through broken instruments.

Tuesday

THE FATHER OF THE MYSTICS

Saint John's Revelation, the last book of the New Testament, is one of the most misunderstood books of the whole Bible. It's also one of the most singularly illuminating, comforting, and inspiring messages that our Lord has gifted to His Church. Granted, we can be understandably sidetracked by John's vivid and frightening depictions of fire-breathing horses with lion heads, or by scarlet beasts with horns. But its study is well-worth the effort because through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, John has given us a glimpse behind the veil of the natural order — and in fact, it's heavenly.

What the Lord reveals to us in the Book of the Apocalypse turns out to be a spiritual roadmap that shows secrets about where to uncover God's treasures, and secrets about how to identify the enemy. It is a powerfully hopeful and life-changing message to the People of God, especially for anyone who is currently experiencing the stings of earthly suffering.