

Mass Intentions

An individual may ask a priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (such as on a birthday), or, as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. One must never forget the infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit ones soul. Pope Leo XIII in his encyclical "*Mirae caritatis*" (1902) beautifully elaborated this point and emphasized the connection between the communion of saints with the Mass: "The grace of mutual love among the living, strengthened and increased by the sacrament of the Eucharist, flows, especially by virtue of the Sacrifice [of the Mass], to all who belong to the communion of saints. " —catholiceducation.org

Saturday, December 23rd 2017

5:00PM †The deceased members of the Doyle Family by Adeline Doyle..

7:00PM Simbanggabi: Salinggawi and Pedro & Fely Quiocho

Sunday, December 24th, 2017

10:30AM Anniversary Blessings to Janet & Bernard Burcena

Thanksgiving Blessing by Merly Nunez and family

7:30PM †Emmett Cavanagh and Gary Cavanagh by Lily Cavanagh

Patrick & Josephine Doyle By Adeline Doyle

Rogel Bonete and Bobby Bonete and thanksgiving blessings by the Bolofer family

Sponsored by Bolofer Family

Monday, December 25th, 2017

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Birthday Blessings for Eiriana Carolina Gambalan, on her 2nd Birthday, and Christopher, Vic and Andrea by Ricarte Ganbalan and Eilyne Baetiong

Tuesday, December 26th, 2017, 7:00PM

Pro Populo

Wednesday, December 27th, 2017, 7:00PM

For the intentions of Marcela Ellasos..

Thursday, December 28th, 2017, 9:00AM

†Leona Panganiban by Maureen Redrino

Friday, December 29th, 2017, 9:00AM

†Salvador Reginales By Jorge Reginales and family

Saturday, December 30th, 2017, 5:00PM

Thanksgiving Mass by Shiela Cornelio..

Sunday, December 31st, 2017

Thanksgiving, healing and fast recovery of Jose Larry Comodero By Nonong Comodero and family..

Monday, January 1st, 2018

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

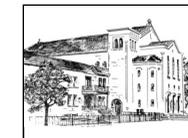
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December 24, 2017 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reflection

The work of any family is to make their house a home. David, in our first reading for this Advent Sunday, feels a bit embarrassed about having his rest in a beautiful palace, while the residence for the Ark of God, dwells in a mere tent. We hear a long speech by God through the Prophet Nathan reminding David of God's fidelity in the past and the future of David's family line. "The Lord also reveals to you that He will establish a house for you."

Those who will proclaim the second reading will have to take one very deep breath, because the reading is one long praise of God's secret and plan which has been revealed through Jesus Christ.

The wondrous gospel we hear today tells of the angel coming into the house of Mary and preparing her to make a home for the secret soon to be shared. The presence of God, once carried about in a tent, remains portable, moveable, accompaniable in the tent of the flesh of one human being.

David both desires a more honorable place for God's presence, but also falls into the most human desire, that is of wanting stability, permanence and locateability. We all want to have that for ourselves and also for our God. We want to be able to locate God and go there and find answers. God wants to be with us where we are, where we really live. God wants to locate us and accompany us and prove faithful to us as God was to David.

The house God promises to David is the sacred Body of Jesus. "Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me." The house of David will become the home for the Word-Made-Flesh. Prophecies and promises lie waiting for their fulfillment. Mary waits, knowing well the tradition of her faith; there will be fullness. Mary is moved and troubled by the visit and the message. She is to play her part in completing the promise and telling the secret.

We are preparing these days to make our houses of stone, brick and wood, homes of welcome, warmth and love. Our God is ever laboring to make a home in us for Jesus. God labors to find room to wedge a way through our personally-arranged fullnesses. The empty womb, the empty stable, the empty world were all available for His taking up residence. God told Nathan that a human house was not big enough; what is big enough is human emptiness, human longing and human openness to the God-prepared completion.

There is a virginal aspect to our human hearts. Nothing has penetrated to the place where only God's love can make our hearts a home. There is and will always be, an incompleteness within every experience of human love. Perhaps the image of our physical hearts with the little declivity at the top, is a perfect symbol for Advent more than Valentine's Day.

While making our houses homes these days, we pray with the empty places of our lives. All the friends and family, all the gifts given and received, all the warmth and welcomes extended, are all both quite real and sacramentally symbolic of how God wants to make places in our flesh for the Word to make "new Nazareths and new Bethlehems."

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Archive/1999/121999.html>

Christmas Prayer

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas, the incomprehensible comprehended, the poetry made hard fact, the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder. We kneel before you shepherds, innkeepers, wisemen. Help us to rise bigger than we are. Amen.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24th, 2017 Christmas Carols 7:00 pm, followed by Mass at 7:30 PM
 Monday, December 25th, 2017 Solemn Mass, 10:30 AM
 Sunday, December 31st, 2017 Mass 7:00 PM
 Monday, January 1st 2018 Solemn Mass 10:30 am

Dates for faith formation and Formation for lay people

Thursday Bible Study and Catholicism Will Resume on Jan 4, 2018.

Every Thursday, Bible Study at 6:30PM, in Rectory, followed by Catholicism 7:15PM

Lectors and Lay Ministers Meeting: Sunday, Jan 14, 2018, following the 10:30am Mass.

Acolytes: Saturday, Jan 13, 2018, at 9:00AM

Faith in the family: The next faith in the family will resume on Sunday, Dec 31, 2017, at 9:00AM

Dates to Remember

Flea Market: Saturday, Jan 13, 2018, 9:00AM to 3:00PM

Simbanggabi: Dec 15 through 24, 2017, at 7:00PM

Holiday Hours for the office

Please note that from December 23, 2017 to January 3, 2018, the office will be closed.

The emails and the voicemail will be checked regularly.

CONFESSIONS will be heard 15 minutes before each Mass ~ weekdays, as well as on weekends.

BAPTISM Parents wishing to have their child baptized are asked to contact the Parish Office at 514-769-9678. A meeting with Parents and Godparents is a pre-requisite. Godparents must be baptized and confirmed in the Catholic Church.

MARRIAGE Please contact the Parish Office or Father Gregory well in advance, as it is important to reserve the church before the Hall.

Pastor

Fr. Gregory Nunez
Office Staff
 Anastasia Wargachuk
Administration

Pope: at Christmas Jesus knocks at the doors of your heart

Speaking to the pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square for the Angelus Prayer, the Pope reflected on the liturgy of the last Sunday of Advent that tells of the Annunciation of the Archangel Gabriel to Mary and on how she simply, and humbly – with an attitude of total faith in the Lord – said “yes”. She said “I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1, 38).

Mary – Pope Francis said - did not know what had been laid out for her in the future, she did not know what pains and what risks she would be called to face. But she was aware that the Lord had asked something of her and she trusted in him completely. This – he said – is the faith of Mary!

Another aspect to take note of – Francis continued – is this capacity of Mary to “recognize the time of God”. Thanks to her the Incarnation of the Son of God was possible.

Mary teaches us – the Pope said – to be aware of the favorable moment in which Jesus passes in our lives asking for a ready and generous answer.

And Jesus – he said – does pass in our lives. At Christmas he knocks at the heart of every Christian and each of us is called to respond, like Mary, with a sincere and personal “yes”, putting ourselves at the disposal of God and of his mercy.

How often – the Pope pointed out – we so caught up in our own thoughts and concerns, perhaps in these very days in our preparations for Christmas, that we do not even notice that he is knocking at the doors of our hearts, asking for a welcome, asking for a “yes”.

And recalling the words of a Saint who used to say “I am afraid that the Lord will pass me by” the Pope explained that he was really afraid that he would not notice the Lord's presence and would not be ready to respond. This attitude – Francis said – and this fear that we feel in our hearts “is really the Lord knocking” and it makes us want to be better, to be close to others and to God.

“If this is what you feel, stop” - the Pope said – “the Lord is there! Pray, go to confession, do some cleaning up... this is good. But remember: if you feel this wish to be better, it is He who is knocking. Don't let him pass you by!”

And Pope Francis concluded his reflection recalling the silent, prayerful figure of Joseph, as he is portrayed in every nativity scene.

The example of Mary and Joseph – he said – is an invitation to all of us to welcome Jesus openly; he comes to bring the gift of peace: “peace on earth to those on whom his favor rests” ((Luke 2, 14). Just as the angels said to the shepherds – Pope Francis said – the precious gift of Christmas is peace, and Christ is our true peace: “Christ is knocking at the doors of our hearts go give us His peace. Let us open those doors to Christ!”

http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2014/12/21/pope_at_christmas_jesus_knocks_at_the_doors_of_your_heart/1115607

Mass Schedule

Saturday @ 5:00 pm
Sunday @ 10:30 am
 (incl. Children's Liturgy)
Tues @ 7:00 pm (Rectory)
Wed @ 7:00 pm
Thursday & Friday @ 9:00 am
Adoration Fridays
 9:30am to 11:30am

Birthday/Anniversary Blessings to

all Parishioners who are celebrating this week.
 Happy Birthday to Susan Charlebois
 Happy Anniversary to Janet & Bernard Burcena

Thank You to

◇Mike, Roger, Ann, Cora, Merly, Judith, Wendy, Ruth, Melissa and all the volunteers who worked in the rectory and in the Church.
 ◇all of AJ's team of Christmas elves who prepared and delivered the Christmas Baskets

Nov 4-5, 2017—\$1,256.35
 Nov 11-12, 2017—\$811.85
 Nov 18-19, 2017—\$1,201.75
 Nov 25-26, 2017—\$721.60
 Dec 2-3, 2017—\$2,135.95
 Dec 2-3, 2017—\$2,135.95
 Dec 9-10, 2017—\$969.80
 Dec 16-17, 2017—\$917.00