

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER**

**JANUARY 1, 2017**

*Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.*

— Luke 2:19

**THE BLESSING WE RECEIVE**

The blessing we experience in Christ Jesus is proclaimed in Numbers as the special blessing for the people of Israel. They and we are to be blessed by the invocation of God’s loving kindness, the shining glory of God’s face turned toward us in love, not away from us in anger. We are blessed by God’s own peace!

Our wish and our hope are fulfilled in this blessing, which is made visible in the coming of Jesus. In Jesus, the image of the invisible God, God’s face is shown to us and God’s presence is made known to us in faithful and loving kindness.

J. S. Paluch Co.

**TODAY’S READINGS**

**First Reading** — The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! (Numbers 6:22-27).

**Psalm** — May God bless us in his mercy (Psalm 67).

**Second Reading** — God sent the Spirit of the Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” So you are no longer a slave but an heir, through God (Galatians 4:4-7).

**Gospel** — The shepherds glorified and praised God for all they had heard and seen (Luke 2:16-21).

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

Mary Jane Ryan’s father lay in a hospital bed dying of emphysema. Yet when asked, “How do you feel, Dad?” he replied, “Life is good. I love watching the ball game on TV and I love reading the comics.”

Noting his emphasis on what he was enjoying rather than all he had lost, Ryan was reminded of the freedom we have to choose our approach to life.

“Our spiritual task is to move beyond a purely emotional response to life and cultivate positive emotions as habits of the heart,” says Ryan, author of *Attitudes of Gratitude*.

She encourages parents to train the next generation to think positively. Steer away from telling children about all the things for which they “should” be grateful, she suggests. Instead, ask little ones to name a few things they are grateful for at the end of each day. It’s an exercise that would benefit us all.

**“With gratitude in your hearts sing to God.”**

**(Colossians 3:16)**

***Thank you, good Lord, thank you.***

**FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:**

1. The Wife and Family of Pat “Al” Carroll in loving memory of him on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of his death;
2. a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

The Church Office will be closed this Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> in observance of the New Year Holiday.

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER**

**MASS SCHEDULE**

*Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> — 4:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M.— New Year’s Eve*

*Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> —10:00 A.M. — New Year’s Day Mass*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM FR. CHERIAN**

*Heartfelt thanks to God for the completion of a Year and the start of a new year. May this New Year 2017 bring you great blessing and joy.*

***HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017***

**THE BANNES OF MARRIAGE**

are announced for the third time for Nicholas Riley and Farrah Carroll.

The Bannes of Marriage are announced for the first time for Pete Martin Suedle Carroll and Reed Sherlock.

**THANK YOU**

to two members for their donations in thanks to St. Expedite.

**MASTER’S TABLE**

The Youth Group is scheduled to prepare and serve a hot meal to the clients of the Master’s Table in Augusta this Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to participate in this very rewarding opportunity please contact Jack’s Mary Rita.

**OUR GIFTS RECORD**

	Offertory	Development
<b>Last Week’s Collection</b>	\$5,070.00	\$3,005.00
Number of Families contributing	113	85
Total Pledge for 2016	\$171,467.00	\$185,504.00
Pledged to Date (51 Weeks)	\$170,420.00	\$182,896.00
Received to Date	\$201,158.73	\$146,965.23
Envelopes Outstanding	(\$30,738.73)	\$35,930.77

**LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD**

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2016
\$173.00	\$12,223.00

Twenty-two ladies made a contribution last week.

**BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL WEEKLY REPORT**

2016 Parish Goal	\$23,330.00
Amount Received to Date	\$15,102.07
Amount Outstanding	\$8,227.93

Five people made a B.A.A. contribution last week.

**HALL RENOVATION FUND WEEKLY REPORT**

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2016
\$60.00	\$11,598.00

Three people made a Hall Fund contribution last week.

20 **CHILDREN** contributed \$184.00

**POOR BOX** totaled \$103.00

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION** totaled \$1,224.00

The **ATTENDANCE** for last Christmas Eve 5:00 P.M. Mass 342 and Midnight Mass was 150 and Christmas morning mass was 110.

**JOKE OF THE WEEK**

A man placed some flowers on the grave of his mother and started back. Then he saw another man kneeling at a grave. He seemed to be praying intensely and kept repeating, "Why did you have to die? Why did you have to die?"

The first man approached him and said, "Sir, I don't wish to interfere with your grief, but this demonstration of pain is more than I've ever seen before. For whom do you mourn so deeply? A child? A parent?"

The mourner took a moment and then replied, "My wife's first husband."

**WHY DO CATHOLICS CALL JESUS "CHRIST"?**

"Christ is not Jesus' last name, but a title. It comes from the Greek "Christos," which means "Anointed One." Ancient Jews enthroned their kings in a ceremony by anointing them with oil. This anointing distinguished the king as being the one chosen by God to deliver Israel from its enemies. So in calling Jesus "Christ," Christians affirm not only his Lordship over all creation, but also his mission as Savior and the promised Messiah of the Jews.

**LIFE**

*Life is a circle of happiness, sadness, hard times, and good times.*

*If you are going through hard times have faith that good times are on the way.*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

- Monday:** In loving memory of Pat "Al" Carroll on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of his death.
- Tuesday:** In loving memory of Tommy Taylor on his Birthday.
- Wednesday:** For the suffering souls.
- Thursday:** In honor of the Holy Souls and St. Joseph.
- Friday:** In loving memory of Maul's Jim Carroll on the 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death.

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

- Sunday:** World Day of Prayer for Peace; New Year's Day
- Monday:** Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
- Tuesday:** The Most Holy Name of Jesus
- Wednesday:** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- Thursday:** St. John Neumann
- Friday:** St. André Bessette; First Friday
- Saturday:** St. Raymond of Penyafort; First Saturday

**LIFE'S MOUNTAIN**

*I've got no strength but I can pray;  
 Gotta climb me a mountain, O Lord.  
 I'd rather sit and while away  
 Than climb me a mountain, O Lord.  
 The river's deep, the road too long;  
 That mountain's a-callin', O Lord.  
 I'd rather sit and sing a song  
 But that mountain's a-beckonin' on.  
 So I'll rise up and start my day;  
 Gonna climb me a mountain, O Lord.  
 I know my friend won't let me stray;  
 Gotta climb me a mountain, O lord.  
 Rise me up and start my day.  
 Rise me up and I won't stray.  
 Rise me up and walk His way.  
 Gonna climb me Your mountain, O Lord.*

**READERS**

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|--|--|
| <b>New Year's Eve, 4:00 P.M.</b><br>Rita Riley &<br>Scott's Mercedes       | <b>New Year's Eve, 7:00 P.M.</b><br>Jay &<br>Mary Melissa            |
| <b>New Year's Day, 10:00 A.M.</b>  | Jimmy Joseph & Tommy Mack  |
| <b>Sat. Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 P.M.</b><br>Apple's Christina &<br>Dayna | <b>Sat. Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M.</b><br>Dominique &<br>Natalie |
| <b>Sun. Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 A.M.</b>                                | Theresa Maria & Jimmy Joseph   |

**READERS – WEEKDAYS**

- |                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>Kara</b>          |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>Tony's Kathy</b>  |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>Natalie</b>       |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>Annette</b>       |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>Theresa Maria</b> |

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND**

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Saturday 4:00 P.M.</b> | <b>Dec. 31<sup>st</sup></b> |
| Front                     | Bridget Ann                 |
| Left Cup                  | Winnie Ann                  |

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Saturday 7:00 P.M.</b> | <b>Dec. 31<sup>st</sup></b> |
| Front                     | Jay                         |
| Cup                       | Johnny Jay's Ann            |

**Sunday 10:00 A.M.**

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></b> | <b>Jan. 8<sup>th</sup></b> |
| Pete Man's Nora            | Pete Man's Nora            |
| Rose Marie                 | Rose Marie                 |

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY**

- |                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>Mary Cat</b>        |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>Pete Man's Nora</b> |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>Ann T.</b>          |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>Rose Marie</b>      |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>Bridget Ann</b>     |

**NEW YEAR IS A NEW CHAPTER**

The New Year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals.

**AN IRISH BLESSING**

***May the road rise up to meet you,  
 May the wind always be at your back,  
 May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
 The rain fall soft upon your fields and,  
 Until we meet again,  
 May God hold you in the palm of His hand.***

**PRAYER CORNER**

**NEW YEAR'S PRAYER**

*Lord, You make all things new. You bring hope alive in our hearts and cause our spirits to be born again. Thank You for this new year. For all the potential it holds. Come and kindle in us a mighty flame so that in our time, many will see the wonders of god and live forever to praise Your glorious name. Amen.*