

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

JANUARY 1, 2023

“Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”

— Luke 1:42

BLESSINGS

Today’s readings include another account of the story of Jesus’ birth. The reading from the book of Numbers reminds us that we are blessed. We are looked upon with kindness and grace. The psalm and Galatians remind us of the blessings given through God’s Son. Luke tells of our ultimate blessing, that Mary, a human being like us, gave birth to a child who is God’s Son. Mary, a young mother, watches all that is happening around the birth of her son. She listens as the shepherds bring messages from angels, a message she also received from an angel, about her son. Yet Mary remains silent. She keeps all this news about her son to herself. She reflects on all these experiences. The only thing she shares is the name of her son, Jesus, a name given him before he was even conceived. Her silence leaves us wondering if this is how one responds to such a great blessing.

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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 be merciful and bless us (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).

OUR GIFTS RECORD

Offertory Development

Last Week’s Collection	\$5,223.00	\$2,321.00
Number of Families contributing	91	79
Total Pledge for 2022	\$160,375.00	\$163,292.00
Pledged to Date (52 Weeks)	\$160,375.00	\$163,292.00
Received to Date	\$150,865.00	\$116,642.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$9,510.00	\$46,650.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2022
\$161.00	\$10,755.00

Nine ladies contributed last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2022
\$60.00	\$158,500.00

Two people made a P.L.C. contribution last week.

BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$71,565.00

POOR BOX totaled \$50.00.

3 **CHILDREN** contributed \$13.00.

BAA totaled \$15.00.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Though even thinking on the subject of **TIME** may prove discomfoting, it is not a bad idea – especially at the beginning of a new year.

As we look into 2023, we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds. And all is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchased it. Like air we breathe, time comes to us as a part of life.

The gift of time is not ours alone, it is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak – every man, woman and child has the same twenty-four hours every day.

Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no way to slow it down, turn it off, or adjust it. Time marches on.

And you cannot bring back time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever. If yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year’s block of time, but we really have no guarantee that we will experience any of it.

Obviously, time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it on ourselves. Or, as good stewards, we can invest it in the kingdom of God. The New Year 2023 is full of time.

As the seconds tick away, will you be tossing time out the window, or will you make every minute count.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. In loving memory of Maul’s Jim and Bridget Ann on the 11th Anniversary of his death;
2. and a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

*Happy New Year from Fr. Chetian
Heartfelt thanks to God for the completion of a Year and the start of a new year. May this New Year 2022 bring you great blessing and joy.*

BANNS OF MARRIAGE The Banns of Marriage are announced for the second time for John Patrick Carroll and Gianna Carroll.

RECIPE FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Like Abraham – trust implicitly in my God.

Like Job – be patient under all circumstances.

Like Joseph – turn my back on all seductive advances.

Like Moses – choose to suffer rather than enjoy sin.

Like Andrew – strive to lead others to Christ.

Like Jehoshaphat – prepare my heart to seek the Lord.

THANK YOU to a parish member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite.

NEW YEAR IS LIKE A BLANK BOOK

- and the pen is in your hands. It is your chance to write a beautiful story for yourself.
- Every end marks a new beginning. Keep your spirits and determination unshaken, and you shall always walk the glory road. With courage, faith and great effort, you shall achieve everything you desire.
- You're supposed to let go of the past and start off new. You're supposed to forgive all those who have hurt you and be open to new relationships, with open arms. That is why it is called the 'New' year.

JOKE OF THE WEEK A guy goes to see his grandmother on New Year's Day and takes one of his friends with him. While he's talking to his grandmother, his friend starts eating the peanuts that are on the coffee table, and finishes them off.

As they're leaving, the friend says, "Thanks for the peanuts." The grandmother says, "Yeah, since I lost my dentures, I can only suck the chocolate off 'em."

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:** Mary, the Holy Mother of God; The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord; 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

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday:** For the repose of the soul of Al on the 9th Anniversary of his death.
- Tuesday:** For the repose of the soul of Tommy Taylor on his Birthday; for the repose of the soul of Maggie Taylor on the Anniversary of her death; and for the repose of the soul of Nora Riley on the Anniversary of her death.
- Wednesday:** In honor of the Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Joseph for all the sick and for all the holy souls in purgatory.
- Thursday:** For Johnny Thomas and Drake.
- Friday:** For Mary Regina Mack on her Birthday.

HAPPY NEW YEAR WISH

*My Happy New Year wish for you
Is for your best year yet,
A year where life is peaceful,
And what you want, you get.*

*A year in which you cherish
The past year's memories,
And live your life each new day,
Full of bright expectancies.*

*I wish for you a holiday
With happiness galore;
And when it's done, I wish you
Happy New Year, and many more.*

READERS

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|---|---|
| Sat. Dec. 31st, 4:00 P.M.
Julie Ann & Macy | Sat. Dec. 31st, 7:00 P.M.
Leah & Dayna |
| Sun. Jan. 1st, 10:00 A.M. | Jimmy Joseph & Blue |
| Sat. Jan. 7th, 4:00 P.M.
Cathy Lisa & Reed | Sat. Jan. 7th, 7:00 P.M.
Natalie & Christina Apple |
| Sun. Jan. 8th, 10:00 A.M. | Jimmy Joseph & Blue |

READERS – WEEKDAYS

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|------------------|---|---------------|
| Monday | - | Theresa Hun |
| Tuesday | - | Macy |
| Wednesday | - | Julie Ann |
| Thursday | - | Lauren Ashley |
| Friday | - | Christina |

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAYS

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|------------------|---|------------------|
| Monday | - | Theresa Hun |
| Tuesday | - | Jack's Mary Rita |
| Wednesday | - | Julie Ann |
| Thursday | - | Betty Jo |
| Friday | - | Rosie Cat |

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Saturday 4:00 P.M. | December 31st |
| Right | Winnie Ann |
| Left | Bridget Rita |

Saturday 7:00 P.M.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| December | Mary Regina & Julie Ann |
|-----------------|-------------------------|

Sunday 10:00 A.M.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| January 1st | January 8th |
| Ned's Rose Marie | Nora |

FUNNY QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- Why do birds fly south for New Year's Eve?**
It's too far to walk.
- Why should you put your new calendar in the freezer?**
To start the new year in cool way.
- What do you say to your friends on New Year's Eve?**
I haven't seen you since last year.

SPELLING MISTAKE

One spelling mistake in a hurry can make hell!
A golfer wrote a romantic message to his wife on his golf tour and missed an "e" in the last word. Now he is seeking police protection to enter his own house.
He wrote, Hi, darlin I'm experiencing the best time of my life and I wish you were her!

~~~~~**PRAYER CORNER**~~~~~

**NEW YEAR'S PRAYER**

*Jesus, I want to thank You for this new day and this new year and I ask You to please allow the archangel Gabrielle to visit me and all my family with good news throughout this whole new year regarding our bills, payments, obligations, life issues, health issues, hopes, plans, dreams for the future, expected and unexpected doctor visits, letters phone calls, news, meetings, life meetings, life decisions, let all end well. Amen.*