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The Holy Family

“Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you.” 725 kilometers. That’s the distance on modern roads from Bethlehem to Cairo. Assuming one covered 40km a day on foot — ambitious for two young parents and their infant son — the journey would take well over two weeks. Of course, the Holy Family didn’t have modern roads. They would travel through wilderness, fear bandits, run low on water, and cross the vast Sinai Peninsula in a reverse of their forefathers in Exodus. Here, in struggle and sacrifice, are the beginnings of the forging of the Holy Family.



“Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod.” Large Jewish communities existed in most major cities of the ancient Mediterranean world, after the collapse of their kingdoms chronicled

in the Old Testament, and Joseph could likely find work as a carpenter. All the same, today’s Gospel reminds us that the first formational years of Jesus as a babe-in-arms were spent in a strange land.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. God took on our humanity. He is in solidarity with our own trials and difficulties. On the feast of the Holy Family, we honour the special place of the family within society. We are invited, too, to recall those families who share in the struggles of the Holy Family in a particular way. We pray for immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees. We pray for all parents who sacrifice their own well-being and comfort so their children may have a better life, closer to God.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS: God’s GPS Never Fails

I use GPS wherever I go, and it serves me well most of the time. However, sometimes it leads me to a place that does not exist. Then there are those times when I am about to turn, and the man inside my phone shouts out, “GPS signal lost!” or “Rerouting!”

The problem is, when the area is unfamiliar to me, I have no choice but to listen. I could try to get where I am going by simple intuition or by pulling over to look at a paper map, but I don’t trust my sense of direction. And I haven’t bought a paper map in close to a decade!

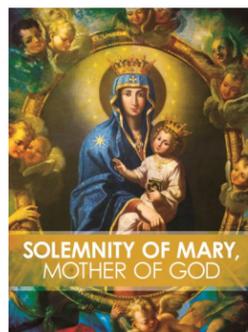
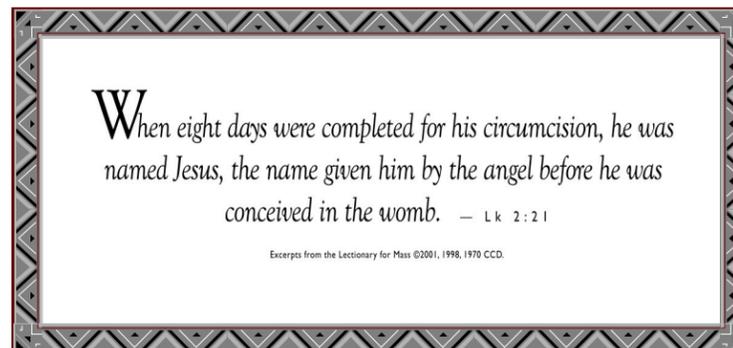
Many people move through life without any direction. They find themselves constantly rerouting and wondering when they will ever get to a satisfying final destination. What they need is a compass and a companion for the journey. Yet they have no idea how to get either.

Prayer can serve as a compass, and it connects us to a companion for the journey. Stewardship living is impossible without prayer. If we count on our own will and believe we can become fruitful without daily contact with the Divine, we can find ourselves looking for directions more than moving toward a destination. God, through prayer, will help us see all we have as a gift. God, through prayer, will lead us away from materialism and selfishness and toward freedom and generosity. Even when we fall to sin, the path back is clearer. God’s GPS signal is never lost.

A very special thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas celebration so special. Thank you to all liturgical ministers, altar servers, choir and musicians, ushers, decorators, cleaners and offertory counters and all who assisted in any way.



Wednesday, January 1st, 2020 Solemnity of Mary The Mother of God



Let us pray...God of heaven and earth, you came to us and took our earthly flesh through the gift of Mary's yes. She is our Mother in faith, as she is your earthly mother. We are thankful beyond our ability to thank you for the gift of Your and her Son as our brother and Saviour. Through her self-giving, we have been reconciled to you. Bless us as we begin this New Year and endow us with the desire and ability to become saints and to create a world of peace. We ask all this through the intercession of Mary to you, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

January 1st—World Day Of Peace 2020 Theme “GOOD POLITICS AT THE SERVICE OF PEACE” Pope Francis’ Message On World Day Of Peace 2020

How can we use our political and social systems to seek peace? In announcing the theme for this year’s World Day of Peace on January 1st, the Vatican made note of the call to all of us to engage with our civic systems saying, “Political responsibility belongs to every citizen and, in particular, to those that have received the mandate to protect and to govern.” Instead of indifference, cynicism or thinking our voices do not matter, we believe the Gospel calls us to raise our voices for the common good, for “politics is one of the highest forms of charity.”

Advocating for and with communities who are oppressed, disadvantaged, or excluded is a response to our baptismal call to love all members of the Body of Christ, in imitation of Christ’s love. God created human beings as social and relational creatures, made in his own image. We are called to reach out and build relationships of love and justice, making love visible in structures and policies through political engagement.

Two areas in which we are called to protect human dignity is in our “concern for the future of life and of the planet, of the youngest and littlest.” We must work to ensure that the dignity of all is protected is through our political, social, and economic systems. As Pope Francis teaches us in his World Day of Peace Message, these systems must always work to promote peace in our communities.

Catholic Social Teaching demands that politics must have a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable, and not be used to promote violence or marginalize those in poverty. Instead, “Good politics is at the service of peace.” Pope Francis’ message is the most recent in a long history of messages for the World Day of Peace beginning with Pope Paul VI in 1968.

Parish Calendar

January 2020.....
Jan 1st..... Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. Mass 10am
Jan 1st.... World Day of Prayer
Jan 9th.... Bingo resumes
Jan 15th..... St. Ann School Mass 9:30am
Jan 15th..... Youth Ministry resumes 6:30-8:30pm.
Jan. 15th..... Finance meeting 6:30pm
Jan 18-25.... Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

2020 Offertory Envelopes: FOR THE YEAR 2020, PLEASE USE ONLY THE ENVELOPES ASSIGNED TO YOU FOR THAT YEAR.

Some numbers are re-assigned every year and if you use old envelopes someone else may get credit for your contribution. **It is best to destroy all old envelopes.** A reminder that if you forget your envelope at home, there are visitor envelopes at the church entrance you can use - don’t forget to include your name and address on them.

- If you are making up for a missed week, **it is not necessary** to use more than one envelope. Use the envelope for the week you are attending.
- It is always helpful for us if you mark the amount of your donation on the envelope, however this is not required.
- If you are using a lot of coins for your contribution, we suggest that you tape the envelope well as loose change falls out easily.
- For any donations by cheque, please make payable to St. Ann Parish, **including all special collections. Take extra care with the date for the new year.**
- **PLEASE ADVISE THE OFFICE IF YOUR ADDRESS OR OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION HAS CHANGED.**

If you do not use envelopes but would like to, contact the office and we will prepare a box for you.

Church Contributions: All Church donations for 2019 must be **received on the weekend of Dec 28/29, 2019** to be applied to your 2019 tax receipt. Please note though, that donation envelopes received on Dec 31st for the January 1st Feast of Mary the Mother of God will be applied to your 2020 tax receipt. Thank you for your cooperation.

Office Closure: Regular office hours will resume on Friday, January 3rd, 2020. Messages may be left at any time and will be checked regularly.

Cathedral Appeal Update: Did you know that the memorial bell at the Cathedral, named after Monsignor Michael Cullinane (St. Catherine of Alexandria Church pastor 1936-1946), rings each day at 12 noon and 6 p.m.? Why? It calls the faithful to pray the Angelus. Accordingly, the bell calls the living to worship, to mourn the dead, and interestingly enough, to ward off lightning. This is part of the rich history of the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria. Ring in the New Year of 2020 by making a donation to our Cathedral restoration project! With your help we will meet our goal of \$1.2 million. Be sure to visit us on the web at www.saintcd.com/appeal or pick up a brochure and pledge form in your church today to play your part in this amazing restoration project. May God bless you!



A New Year's Prayer: Lord, 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

Sunday, December 29th, 2019



THE HOLY FAMILY

“Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” - Mt 2:20

Sat. Dec 28	9-10am	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
	4 -4:45pm	Confessions
	5:00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions
		Intentions of Vulcan & Arwen (Teresa Walters)
Sun. Dec 29	9:30am	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo
		✠ Michael Bucci (Sherry & Jake Voogt)
Mon. Dec 30	9:30am	✠ John & Mary Rutyna (Stan & Gloria Rutyna)
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Confessions
Tues. Dec 31	5:00pm	Solemnity of Mary the Mother Of God
		Intentions of Vern & Donna Walters (Teresa Walters)
Wed. Jan 1	10:00am	Solemnity of Mary the Mother Of God
		Thanksgiving Mass to the Blessed Virgin Mary (Rosemary & Steve Lastovic)
Thurs. Jan 2	9:30am	✠ Gena Vani (Gloria Egert & Family)
Fri. Jan 3	9:30am	✠ Patrick Bisson (Gloria Egert)
		Special Intention
Sat. Jan 4	9-10am	Epiphany of the Lord
	4 -4:45pm	Confessions
		Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions
	5:00pm	✠ Noel Nadeau (Bill & Mary Podolyak)
Sun. Jan 5	9:30am	Epiphany of the Lord
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo
		✠ Marion Mullin (Teresa Walters)

