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**Sunday, January 1st, 2017**  
**The Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God**

When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. — Lk 2:21

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Sat. Dec 31	9-10am	<b>Vigil Solemnity of Mary the Mother Of God</b>
	4-4:45pm	Reconciliation Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Birthday Blessings for Karen Kennedy (Michael Wilson)
Sun. Jan 1	9:30am	<b>Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God</b> Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	✠ Susie Mislán (Biggar & Mikolasek Families)
		✠ Anthony Filbert (Lynda & Family)
Mon. Jan 2	9:30am	✠ Dorothy McMorrón (Karen & Michael)
	7-8pm	<b>Holy Hour &amp; Reconciliation</b>
Tues. Jan 3	9:30am	✠ David Green (Voogt & Green Families)
Wed. Jan 4	9:30am	✠ John Sporbeck (Gloria Egert)
Thurs. Jan 5	9:30am	✠ John Sporbeck (Joan Crowther)
Fri. Jan 6	9:30am	The Walters Family (Karen & Michael)
Sat. Jan 7	9-10am	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>
	4-4:45pm	Reconciliation Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	✠ Kathleen & Joseph McGrath (Mike & Wanda McGrath)
Sun. Jan 8	9:30am	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b> ✠ Annie Blackett (Cargnelli Family)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.

**MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**  
 “And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” Supernatural communication was nothing new for Mary. The angel Gabriel had already appeared and spoken to her when she agreed to bear God’s Son. Her husband Joseph also had a kind of divine intervention in the dream where the angel told him to go ahead and marry her. When she was first pregnant, her cousin Elizabeth had been led by the Holy Spirit to know the secret that Mary was “the mother of my Lord” (Lk 1:43). Now, Jesus has just been born and a crew of earthy shepherds appears at her door with a message from heaven: that the Savior has been born. And Mary believed them. She did not doubt their sincerity or the authenticity of their message. She took the words to heart, and meditated upon the meaning of it all.



What might strike us as peculiar in all of this is that God chose to speak to Mary in a variety of ways. This holy and immaculate woman, this Mother of God, did not always receive direct communication from on high. Sometimes, God chose to speak to her through other people. Sometimes, he revealed himself to them in order to reveal himself to her. And God does the same with us. It’s easy to daydream about having our own personal revelation from God, to hear his voice loud and clear, directing, encouraging, and supporting us in our times of need and confusion. But this isn’t the standard pattern of God’s operation. Mary was tuned in enough to hear God’s voice all around her instead of expecting it to always sound the same. We can imitate this same kind of openness by seeking to discover how God may be speaking to us through the voices of others.

**Pope’s Prayer Intentions Month of January: Evangelization—** That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord’s teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.



**Reflection- Listen. Think. Act.** That is a mantra or slogan for many different groups. In a nutshell, it is about taking in what you have heard and then reflecting on it before you act. The most fruitful actions are those that take place after careful reflection.

This is an important thing to remember for those trying to live a stewardship way of life. If we are honest with ourselves, too often most of us jump to conclusions too quickly or act in ways that cause friction because we didn’t really think about the consequences of our actions. We are moving too fast in a world that seems to be moving ever faster.

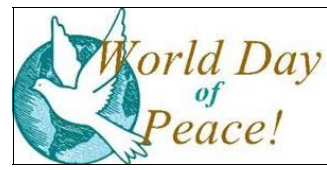
When the shepherds came to visit Jesus, the newborn King, they told Mary everything that the angels had told them. Luke tells us that after hearing all this, she “kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” No response. No panic. No action. Her reflection was the appropriate response.

In this New Year, you and I would do well to remember this Gospel account of Mary, the Mother of God. Let us resolve to listen more, reflect often, and then act accordingly. We are called to use our gifts wisely, sowing them in good soil. If we just throw them out, allowing them to simply fall wherever they may, have we really used them for God’s glory? We need to listen. Think. Then act.

**Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS**

<b>Offertory December 24th &amp; 25th, 2016</b>	
100 Envelopes	\$4, 773.00
Loose Collection	\$ 822.75
Total Offertory	\$5, 595.75

Christmas collection includes all donation envelopes Dec 24th & 25th.



**World Day of Peace:** was established by Pope Paul VI in 1968 who asked that “every year, this commemoration be repeated as a hope and as a promise, at the beginning of the calendar which measures and outlines the path of human life in time, that Peace with its just and beneficent equilibrium may dominate the development of events to come.” Each year has a specific theme, chosen by the Holy Father.

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTIETH WORLD DAY OF PEACE**  
**1 JANUARY 2017**

**Nonviolence: a Style of Politics for Peace:** At the beginning of this New Year, I offer heartfelt wishes of peace to the world’s peoples and nations, to heads of state and government, and to religious, civic and community leaders. I wish peace to every man, woman and child, and I pray that the image and likeness of God in each person will enable us to acknowledge one another as sacred gifts endowed with immense dignity. Especially in situations of conflict, let us respect this, our “deepest dignity”, and make active nonviolence our way of life.

This is the fiftieth Message for the World Day of Peace. In the first, Blessed Pope Paul VI addressed all peoples, not simply Catholics, with utter clarity. “Peace is the only true direction of human progress – and not the tensions caused by ambitious nationalisms, nor conquests by violence, nor repressions which serve as mainstay for a false civil order”. He warned of “the danger of believing that international controversies cannot be resolved by the ways of reason, that is, by negotiations founded on law, justice, and equity, but only by means of deterrent and murderous forces.” Instead, citing the encyclical *Pacem in Terris* of his predecessor Saint John XXIII, he extolled “the sense and love of peace founded upon truth, justice, freedom and love”. In the intervening fifty years, these words have lost none of their significance or urgency.

On this occasion, I would like to reflect on **nonviolence** as a style of politics for peace. I ask God to help all of us to cultivate nonviolence in our most personal thoughts and values. May charity and nonviolence govern how we treat each other as individuals, within society and in international life. When victims of violence are able to resist the temptation to retaliate, they become the most credible promoters of nonviolent peacemaking. In the most local and ordinary situations and in the international order, may nonviolence become the hallmark of our decisions, our relationships and our actions, and indeed of political life in all its forms. Jesus himself lived in violent times. Yet he taught that the true battlefield, where violence and peace meet, is the human heart: for “it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come” (*Mk 7:21*). But Christ’s message in this regard offers a radically positive approach. He unfailingly preached God’s unconditional love, which welcomes and forgives. He taught his disciples to love their enemies (cf. *Mt 5:44*) and to turn the other cheek (cf. *Mt 5:39*). When he stopped her accusers from stoning the woman caught in adultery (cf. *Jn 8:1-11*), and when, on the night before he died, he told Peter to put away his sword (cf. *Mt 26:52*), Jesus marked out the path of nonviolence. He walked that path to the very end, to the cross, whereby he became our peace and put an end to hostility (cf. *Eph 2:14-16*). Whoever accepts the Good News of Jesus is able to acknowledge the violence within and be healed by God’s mercy, becoming in turn an instrument of reconciliation. In the words of Saint Francis of Assisi: “As you announce peace with your mouth, make sure that you have greater peace in your hearts”.

**Parish Calendar**

<b>January.....</b>	
<b>Jan 1st.....</b>	Feast of Mary the Mother of God.
<b>Jan 4th.....</b>	Movie, “The Euthanasia Deception”, church hall 6:30pm
<b>Jan 10th....</b>	Tuesday Bingo resumes, 7pm
<b>Jan 11th....</b>	Youth Ministry Resumes 6:30pm
<b>Jan 18th....</b>	School Mass 9:30am
<b>Jan 18th....</b>	Confirmation class 5-6:30pm
<b>Jan 18th....</b>	Finance Council meeting 6:30pm

**YOUTH MINISTRY:** YM for grades 5-8, Wed. evenings will resume January 11th, 2017. Registration form is on our website <http://stannfenwick.wixsite.com/youthministry>. If you would like to volunteer, check out our website <http://stannfenwick.wixsite.com/youthministry> or email me [gbroadley@branchesoftheword.org](mailto:gbroadley@branchesoftheword.org)

**2017 Offertory Envelopes:** are available in the church hall. **If you do not find a box prepared for you, please phone the office.** **As we begin a new year, A few requests regarding envelope use:**

Please note that there have been updates made to the offertory numbering system. **FOR THE YEAR 2017, 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 coin 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.

**Diocesan Refugee Project:** This Christmas, you may wish to consider making a donation in support of the Syrian refugees who are being sponsored by parishes across the diocese. These donations will be distributed to the ongoing work in parishes striving to meet the financial requirements to sponsor a family. Cheques can be made payable to the Diocese of St. Catharines, noting “Diocesan Refugee Ministry” or they can be sent through your parish or by mail to P.O. Box 875, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2R 6Z4 (income tax receipts will be issued). Donations can also be made by credit card through the diocesan website (CanadaHelps) at [www.saintcd.com](http://www.saintcd.com).

**If you would like to make a donation to our own Syrian Refugee initiative, you may do so at any time. In the new year, the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Committee will share updates on this project and how you can be of further assistance.**