

# Dear Padre,

*I understand that all Catholics, not just priests and religious, are called to holiness. How can laypeople become holy?*

The five elements of holiness are the same for all the baptized, always in the context of their vocational calling.

**Prayer:** In the liturgy, we join our sisters and brothers to offer communal worship where we are nourished and formed by word and sacrament. In private prayer, we maintain, clarify, and nourish our relationship with God.

**Love of neighbor:** We are called to treat others with the acceptance and respect that God has for each person. Every person is our neighbor, especially people in need (Matthew 25:40).

**Living one's vocational commitment:** Being faithful to a spouse in marriage, working for family harmony, staying true to dedicated singleness in the world or in the religious community setting—all are avenues of holiness.

**Penance and self-discipline:** The Christian life demands self-denial, control, and sacrifice. Christians must deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow Jesus (Luke 9:23).

**Reaching out in discipleship:** Holiness also comes from and finds its noblest expression in a life of service and ministry. Baptism initiates us into the fullness of Christian reality, which ultimately means discipleship—sharing our faith and serving others, especially the most needy.

For laypeople, the main arena of holiness is where they live, work, play, and struggle every day. It is there that they must proclaim “the kingdom of God is in our midst,” and answer their call to holiness. ●

**The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org**



NIKKI ZALEWSKI / SHUTTERSTOCK

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 1, 2023

Mary, Mother of God (A)

Numbers 6:22–27 / Galatians 4:4–7 / Luke 2:16–21



[The shepherds] made known the message that had been told them about this child.... And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

LUKE 2:17, 19

## What Do You Hold in Your Heart?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**O**n New Year's Eve, some of my friends try to recall a significant event from each year, beginning with the most recent, and work their way back. They tell me that memories from the first couple of years, the most recent, are fairly easy to call to mind, but after that, memories get reduced to births and deaths, marriages and moves to new homes, vacations, and ultimately to not remembering anything significant for some years. It's an interesting conclusion—not remembering anything significant—given the human emotions and energies we pour into trivial disagreements, unresolved conflicts, and family issues.

The Gospel recounts how Mary reflected upon the events of her Son's birth and how she kept them all in her heart. I suspect that many of the events we might recount from that New Year's Eve exercise would end up being some of the moments we hold in our hearts. Most would likely revolve around family, all those people we keep in our hearts. Others might be about job promotions or successes, or memorable recognitions. We justifiably keep these as treasures to remember.

As Mary did, we might learn something about ourselves by pondering significant personal faith events. I doubt most of us will recall one for each year, which may say something about how seriously we take our faith lives. Yet those we do recall could be treasures of the past that will bless us in the present. ●

### Reflect

**What do the events you carry in your heart say about who you are?**



CNS PHOTO / PAUL HARING

### A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

**As we begin this new year, let us ask ourselves.... Do I know how to look at people with the heart? Do I take to heart the people with whom I live?.... Let us ask for the grace to live this year with the desire to take others to heart and to care for them.**

HOMILY, VATICAN, JANUARY 1, 2020

### MONDAY

January 2  
Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church  
1 Jn 2:22–28  
Jn 1:19–28

### TUESDAY

January 3  
Christmas Weekday  
1 Jn 2:29–3:6  
Jn 1:29–34

### WEDNESDAY

January 4  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious  
1 Jn 3:7–10  
Jn 1:35–42

### THURSDAY

January 5  
St. John Neumann, Bishop  
1 Jn 3:11–21  
Jn 1:43–51

### FRIDAY

January 6  
Christmas Weekday  
1 Jn 5:5–13  
Mk 1:7–11

### SATURDAY

January 7  
Christmas Weekday  
1 Jn 5:14–21  
Jn 2:1–12

### SUNDAY

January 8  
Epiphany of the Lord  
Is 60:1–6  
Eph 3:2–3, 5–6  
Mt 2:1–12

### Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective

Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org) or call 800-325-9521.



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 Lisa Gannett, DRE 355-6611  
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 Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair 272-1030  
 Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair 355-6206  
 Altar Society President, Nanette Rice 355-7676  
 Tom Bachman, Grand Knight 640-8259  
 Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek 355-1696  
 & Nanette Rice 355-7676

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD** (color: White)

**12/31/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.**  
**Servers:** Lucy Gannett, Jonathan Gannett, Nathan Gannett  
**Reader:** Gwen Waechter  
**E.O.HC:** Tino Rosales Jr., Karen Burden

**01/01/2023 –Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Servers:** Cade Berning, Jace Berning, Luke Woodrow  
**Reader:** Kyle Berning  
**E.O.HC:** Teresa Beltran, Maria Enriquez

**SOLEMNITY OF THE EPHIPHANY OF THE LORD** (White)

**01/07/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.**  
**Servers:** Volunteer, Jason Velasco, Ryann Bamberger  
**Reader:** Karen Burden  
**Extra Ordinary of HC:** Rosemary & Tom Bachman  
**01/08/2023 –Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Servers:** Kirbe Koons, Joleigh Lohman-Fuller, Volunteer  
**Reader:** Mike Broeckelman  
**E.O.HC:** Alvin Bergkamp, Bob Woodrow

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Saturday, Dec. 31</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Bill Urie</b>
<b>Sunday, Jan. 1</b>	<b>9:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Lucy Martinez</b>
<b>Monday, Jan.2</b>	<b>8:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Charles &amp; Eileen Hoff</b>
<b>Tuesday, Jan. 3</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Charles &amp; Eileen Hoff</b>
<b>Thursday, Jan. 5</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Maureen Jones</b>
<b>Friday, Jan. 6</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Suellen Bergkamp</b>
<b>Saturday, Jan. 7</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Bridget &amp; Tony White</b>
<b>Sunday, Jan. 8</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Chuck Sullivan</b>

**Reconciliation:** Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.

**Baptism:** Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

**Marriage:** Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

*Happy New Year!*

My friends, The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is always celebrated on January 1, the day our calendars turn over to a new year. For most of us, this day each year is truly a kind of new beginning, a day on which we look to the year ahead and imagine the way we hope the year unfolds, imagine the things we want to accomplish, and most importantly, imagine the person we hope to be. We hope to be ... such as, "I want to lose weight. I want to get a better job. I want to read more and watch less TV. I want to start jogging. I want to finally learn how to play guitar (or piano, or whatever). I want to get my own place. I want to meet someone...." So many things we wish were much different. Am I one of those "things"? Do I want to be different?

If so, if we truly want to be the person our loving God created us to be, truly want to be the best version of ourselves, truly want to be more than we were yesterday --- then Mary is a worthwhile example for us --- a fitting lens through which we can look more clearly at ourselves and see what is lacking, see the countless opportunities we have each and every day to turn our "nos" into "yesses". Like Mary, we need to learn to say "yes" to God's will and "no" to sins. Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

IN THIS SEASON OF TRANSITION, FROM ONE YEAR TO THE NEXT, MAY GOD WATCH OVER YOU AND BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY! Fr. Peter

**COLLECTION** for December 25, 2022: Envelopes: \$1575; Loose: \$445; Online Giving: \$256.64; Total \$2276.64 Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under +515.47

**CHURCH PROJECT GOAL** \$52000—Building Fund To Date: \$18739.27 *Thank you so much for your love for our parish church and your faithful stewards.*

**SINCERE SYMPATHY & PRAYERS** Our deepest sympathy and prayers to you and your family, on the passing of your beloved mother, Maureen Jones. May the Almighty God wrap His loving arms around you and the entire family and give you peace. May she rest in peace.

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK (Prayer over the offering for the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God)** O God, who in your kindness begins all good things and brings them to fulfillment, grant to us, who find joy in the Solemnity of the holy Mother of God, that, just as we glory in the beginnings of your grace, so one day we may rejoice in its completion. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (Luke 2:16-21)**

**Shepherds** Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the birth place of King David. Before becoming a military leader, David was a shepherd. In 2 Samuel 7:16 God tells David that his descendants will rule Israel forever. The presence of the shepherds recalls this promise and points to its fulfillment in Jesus. Shepherds were also poor. Their presence rounds out the portrait of Jesus' humble beginnings. His parents are too insignificant to command better lodgings. Their child is lying in a feeding trough. They might be sharing their space with livestock.

**Pondering these things** The shepherds announce to others what angels announced to them: the infant is a savior who will bring peace on earth (v.8f). This assertion of greatness contrasts sharply with the circumstances of Jesus' birth, leaving Mary to ponder all that is happening (v.19). Twelve years later, she will still be trying to make sense of it all (v.51b).

**Circumcision** By noting that Jesus is circumcised according to the Jewish law, Luke reminds us that Joseph and Mary were devout Jewish parents. Circumcision marks Jesus as a Jew, incorporating him into God's ancient, chosen people. This verse also emphasizes Jesus' humanity ([www.oursundayreadings.com](http://www.oursundayreadings.com))

**HONORING MARY** Holy days in honor of Mary began in different places during the sixth and seventh centuries. Christians in Rome chose to honor her on January 1 because that day is the octave, or eighth day, of the Christmas season. As our readings for today indicate, Mary is the bearer of blessing for all humankind. She invites us to celebrate and ponder the Incarnation.

**MARY AS MOTHER OF GOD** *Theotokos* is a Greek word that means the one who gave birth to the one who was God, or simply, mother of God. In the early centuries of the church, as they struggled to understand Jesus' identity, some teachers argued that only the humanity of Jesus took flesh in Mary's womb. They called Mary the mother of Christ. Other teachers responded that Jesus' humanity and divinity can't be pulled apart as if sometimes he was human and at other times divine. He was fully divine even in the womb. One way of insisting upon the unity of his two natures is to call Mary the Mother of God.

**UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING** (Galatians 4:4-7)

**Troubled Christians** Jewish Christian preachers told the Christians who lived in Galatia that they had to both believe in Christ and obey the Jewish law in order to be saved. Paul insisted that only faith in Christ was necessary for salvation. Paul didn't think that the Jewish law was bad, only that it was no longer God's way to save people.

**Authority over the law** This passage is part of a larger one in which Paul compares Christians to the son of a wealthy family. The son is subject to the authority of his elders until he comes of age and assumes responsibility for the household (vv.1-2). Jesus, like all Jews, was born under the law. He upheld the law until the time had come for him to begin his public ministry. By fully submitting to the Jewish law, Jesus could ransom those under it. That is, Jesus could assume authority over the law and even set new terms for salvation.

**Becoming heirs** God shares the spirit of his Son (v.6) with those who believe in Jesus. These believers become God's sons and daughters through this spiritual adoption (v.5). Such people are no longer servants, who are subject to the law, but God's children (v.7). They are thus heirs of all that God has promised. Christians celebrate their new status by calling God Abba, an Aramaic word that implies familial closeness to God. Jesus himself used this term during his ministry

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION— Mary Had A Little Lamb** Mary was given a penultimate role in stewardship history. Yes, she was married to the "Terror of Demons", and yes, she was immaculately conceived, but nowhere in human history is there a manual for raising God's only begotten son, or any child for that matter! There is a good chance you, too, are in a role, like Mary, where there is no manual to reference and guide you. These situations are very challenging and call us to prayer. Perhaps, you are trying to decide how much time or talent or treasure you should give to your parish. Most of us live busy lives. Perhaps, you are feeling that you should help, but it's hard to be motivated to start. Like Mary, there is no manual or reference guide to steer you on your stewardship journey. Pray first, asking "Abba, Father" what his wishes are for your stewardship role.

There is a good chance Mary humbly asked God for help that night in Bethlehem. Like Mary, we will be amazed at who or what God sends to help!

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS  
2022**

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS: FOR  
JOSHUA SKIPTON  
ALFONSO SANDOVAL  
JESSE AND CAROL SKIPTON**

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS: FROM  
MIKE AND MARY JANE SKIPTON, MICHAEL,  
ASHLEY, AUDREY & BRAXTON SKIPTON**

**THOMAS K. EDWARDS  
THE EDWARDS FAMILY**

**TIM AND DELORES EDWARDS**

**SULLIVAN FAMILY  
WAECHTER FAMILY**

**P.J. AND JANEY SULLIVAN**

**CHUCK SULLIVAN  
MR. MRS. MAX MILTZ  
SANDRA ADAMS  
MAXINE ADNERSON  
JEAN FRY**

**PHYLLIS SULLIVAN**

**LINDA NOE**

**DALE AND LISA GANNETT FAMILY**

**MCKINNEY AND BERNING FAMILIES**

**STEVE AND DEBRA BERNING**

**ROONEY, DARNELL, AND RICHMEIR  
FAMILIES**

**BILL AND JANET ROONEY**

**LOREN AND ELENORAL LANE  
CLEM AND ROSE MARIE GEUBELLE  
KAREY LANE**

**STEVE AND MARGE LANE**



*Thank you to all who generously contributed to the Christmas Flower this year.*

**SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD**

**And let it begin with me**

"The world must be educated to love Peace, to build it up and defend it." With these words, Pope Paul VI in 1968 called us each to personal responsibility for keeping the peace. Since then, successive popes have related the quest for peace to fighting poverty, protecting creation, defeating racism, caring for migrants, supporting education, ensuring opportunities to work, and overcoming indifference. As the pandemic bloomed, Pope Francis described peace as cultivating a "culture of care." Building peace includes encountering people outside our typical social cocoons. It necessarily involves creating good politics and living with hope. Make peace your personal priority. (Prepare the Word)

**SOLEMNIDAD DE MARÍA, LA SANTA MADRE DE DIOS**

**Y que empiece por mí**

"Hay que educar al mundo para amar la Paz, construirla y defenderla." Con estas palabras, el Papa Pablo VI en 1968 nos llamaba a cada uno a la responsabilidad personal de mantener la paz. Desde entonces, los sucesivos papas han relacionado la búsqueda de la paz con la lucha contra la pobreza, la protección de la creación, la derrota del racismo, la atención a los migrantes, el apoyo a la educación, asegurar oportunidades de trabajo y superar la indiferencia. Mientras la pandemia florecía, el Papa Francisco describió la paz como el cultivo de una "cultura del cuidado." Construir la paz incluye encontrar a las personas fuera de nuestros típicos capullos sociales. Implica necesariamente crear una buena política y vivir con esperanza. Haz que la paz sea tu prioridad personal.