

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

SAINT JOSEPH

Last weekend, on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, I focused in on St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus and the husband of Mary, who, while he never utters a single word in the Gospels, speaks volumes in his actions and the life he lived. Joseph appears as the quiet man who is the strong and faithful guardian of first, the infant Jesus and Jesus who grows up with Mary and Joseph who lovingly care for him and ponder all that He is to be. As the Gospel of Matthew makes known, Joseph was a man who lived right before God (more than a 'good' man) and his love for God was completed by his love for others, particularly and most especially, Mary, for he did not want to expose her to public disgrace when she is with child but he, engaged to her, has had no relations with her. And God so beautifully, to those who trust Him and live a life of faith before Him, takes care of the details of what appears to be an extremely confusing and messy situation, and just when God's help is needed. As my mother used to say, "God never comes too soon or too late". He reveals through an angel who appears to Joseph in a vivid dream, what God is doing in Mary's life and through her mysterious and marvellous pregnancy with the instruction that he is to take Mary as his wife. And Joseph, faithful who loves God and neighbour in the human summation of The Great Commandment, takes Mary as his wife and loves her and the Saviour in her womb.

This is the poem by Fr. Leonard Feeney I recited:

NAILS

Whenever the bright blue nails would drop
Down on the floor of his carpenter shop,
Saint Joseph, prince of carpenter men,
Would stoop to gather them up again;
For he feared for two little sandals sweet,
And very easy to pierce they were
As they pattered over the lumber there
And rode on two little sacred feet.

But alas, on a hill between Earth and Heaven
One day — two nails in a cross were driven,
And fastened it firm to the sacred feet
Where once rode two little sandals sweet;
And Christ and His mother looked off in death
Afar — to the valley of Nazareth,
Where the carpenter's shop was spread with dust
And the little blue nails, all packed in rust,
Slept in a box on the window-sill;
And Joseph lay sleeping under the hill.

THE FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

This is a great feast day of the Church which rightly singles Mary, Jesus' Mother, out among all women who ever existed or will ever exist. Who is this woman whose true identity and presence is still such a cause of division between Catholics and non-Catholics? Sadly, for them, many Christians still don't understand Our Blessed Mother even though they have a great love for sacred scripture which, as the Word of God, manifestly reveals Mary to us and to all generations as unique, sinless and the Universal Mother of us all.

WHY IS MARY UNIQUE?

Because, as Fulton Sheen so succinctly put it: "You and I did not make our own mothers. But Christ did." And as God in the Flesh, God who always was, "he could therefore make her the most beautiful and perfect woman who ever lived".

Mary is unique in that she was and remained a virgin. This reality is not only found in the Old Testament prophecies about her: "A virgin shall conceive and bear a son" (Isaiah 7:14) but also in ancient cultures' writings as well. These prophecies not only report on the strange event that a virgin could give birth to a child, but that the child, the 'fruit of Mary's womb' was going to be the Saviour of the world! All of the prophecies in the scriptures and among the ancients spoke of "A saint who will be born in the East", or of a "Virgin who will give birth to a son, of whom the iron age will pass away..." and many others. All this is to say, especially when compared to the 'founders' of all of the world religions, that unlike them all, He was expected. No one knew centuries before that Mohammed or Confucius or the Buddha or any other leader was coming. But Christ, the Messiah, was expected.

MARY IS UNIQUE NOW, IN OUR TIME

Since God made His own Mother and protected her from the stain of sin from her conception (the Immaculate Conception) she has not only played an important role in the ancient world with the birth of the Saviour but throughout history, particularly in the last few centuries and still in our own time, when she appears, often to young children, and speaks to them and through them to the world of God's message of salvation and man's need to repent of sin and return to God. Through Guadalupe, Lourdes, Fatima, Knock and many others, the Blessed Mother of God urges the world, the Church, to come back to God. And the instruction of how we are to do this is always consistent and the same: pray. Most especially, pray the Rosary. The Enemy can't say her name and hates a single 'Hail Mary' but it's God's weapon of choice for a sinful, godless world. Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church, pray for us! (*Fr. Charles*)



Tuesday Jan 3
8:30am Unannounced Mass

Wednesday Jan 4
7:00pm +Heather Sheppard
Requested by Marilyn Wihby

Thursday Jan 5
8:30am Unannounced Mass

Friday Jan 6
7:30am Holy Hour
8:30am Unannounced Mass

Saturday Jan 7
4:30pm Intentions of Anne & Ted Van Boxmeer on their
Wedding Anniversary
Requested by the Family

Sunday Jan 8
9:00am Katarina & Tomislav Skarjak
Requested by Georgina Skarjak

11:00am For the People

Our Sanctuary Lamp Burns
For the Parishioners of St. Mary's
From Jan 1 to Jan 7, 23



Please Pray for the Sick

Chelsea Cando, Dorothy Dynes, Margot Brandreth, Ken Buchan, Jean Ferguson, Rose Flanagan, Fred Coulson, Andrew Vella

Pray for those who have died recently

CWL



We were able to reach our goal with your support this fall. My Friends House, Barbara Weider House, Busby Centre (homeless), Peer Support for Mental Health, St Mary's School, received \$500.00 each. Thank You!!

The CWL of St Mary's wish all our parishioners, Father Charles, Father Bill Scanlon, Jayne Williams and Greg (our new custodian) a happy & peaceful Christmas.

VERY PUNNY

You can't keep getting mad at people for sucking the life out of you if you keep giving them the straw.

I never thought orthopedic shoes would really work for me. But I stand corrected.

Once upon a time there was a king who was only 12 inches tall. He was a terrible king but he made a great ruler.

A Mexican magician says he will disappear on the count of 3. He says: "Uno, dos ..." Poof. He disappeared without a tres.

I wrote a book on how to fall down the stairs. It's a step-by-step guide.

My son was chewing on electric cords, so I had to ground him. It's OK, though. He's doing better and conducting himself properly.

My friend claims that he "accidentally" glued himself to his autobiography, but I don't believe him. But that's his story and he's sticking to it.

An armed man ran into a real estate agency and shouted: "Nobody move."

Got the flu yesterday and threw up in the elevator on my way back home. It was disgusting on so many levels.

I asked the surgeon if I could administer my own anesthetic. He said, "Sure. Knock yourself out!"

I got into a fight today with 1,3,5,7 and 9. The odds were really against me.

In Britain it's called a lift but Americans call it an elevator. I guess we were just raised differently.

97% of people are stupid. Glad I'm in the other 5%.

The Almighty said to John, "Come forth and ye shall receive eternal life." But John came fifth and got a toaster instead.

AND FINALLY,
I have 2 unwritten rules:

- 1.
- 2.

A blessed and God-returning year of 2023 to all! (Fr. C.)

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