

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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Fr. Charles Forget, **Pastor**

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*Give thanks to the Lord for
His many Blessings
On Thanksgiving*

October: Month of the Holy Rosary

A confession: Earlier on, even earlier on as a priest, I was ambivalent about Mary, the Mother of God. I thought and even said foolish things like, “Mary is a tissue (part of the body of Christ) but not an issue”. I thought she fulfilled God’s will, played her simple part in Jesus’ saving of the world and then simply walked away, fulfilling her call, her vocation. I was sooooo wrong about Our Lady. It’s only when our relationship with her becomes personal in the sense that she is my Mother and the spiritual Mother of us all, as given to us by Christ Himself, that we begin to grasp her rightful, God-given role in salvation. She is not the Saviour or even a saviour. She gave birth to the One, the only Saviour of the world beginning with a beautiful faith that was already in her and being lived out when Gabriel appeared to her. And her “yes”, her ‘fiat’ to God was her willing of Motherhood itself and by the power of the Holy Spirit conception took place within her. She is the great and splendid intercessor whose very life, beauty and holiness, ‘full of grace’, points to Jesus. And so should ours.

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

The Annunciation (*the Announcement*)

I see Mary in this scene, who had perhaps been calmly sitting, in prayer or doing the dishes, being suddenly startled and overwhelmed by the magnificent and gigantic manifestation of an Angel of God! But it’s not just a manifestation but a powerful, stunning message to this young girl of faith. The Angels’ told her “Do not be afraid”, which means that she would have been. When Gabriel speaks of the plan of God that Mary give God a human nature, she questions the angel with words that indicate that Mary has already taken a vow of chastity, “How can this be since I am a virgin?” And the angel explains how Mary will conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit and the Saviour will be born through her. And, because she was already a woman of great faith and trust in God, she simply states her “yes” to God’s will and personally wills motherhood. In 2 Samuel 6, when David brings the ark of the covenant up to Jerusalem, it says that “David arose and went to the country of Juda to bring the ark”, while Luke states that after the annunciation, “Mary arose and went to the hill country of Judah. Mary IS the new ark of the covenant. The ancient ark carried three things: the manna in a gold vessel, the commandments and the staff of Aaron. Jesus, within the womb of Mary, is the new manna, the ‘Bread come down from heaven’, He is the ‘Word made flesh’ (no longer on tablets of stone), and He is the new High Priest as Aaron was a priest. Mary carries these divine realities within her body as the new Ark of the Covenant.

The Visitation (*of Mary to Elizabeth*)

I recently saw a beautiful painting of Mary and Elizabeth’s greeting each other when Mary had gone in haste to see her cousin. It is of great joyful expressions with one another that the great news of the coming Messiah through Mary is made known. Elizabeth knows that Mary, her cousin, is the “Mother of my Saviour”, as she put it. She also praises Mary for already having believed that God’s promise to her would be fulfilled. Mary

didn’t visit Elizabeth seeking proof that what Gabriel had told her was true. She went to both assist her with her now 6-months of pregnancy with John the Baptist. Mary is a woman of love and service. The confirmation of God’s work in her brings her to stay and assist Elizabeth in the last three months of her pregnancy. Mary had only to speak in greeting Elizabeth when in response Elizabeth acknowledges that Mary is pregnant with the Saviour. “Who am I that the Mother of my Saviour should come to me?” This echoes again 2 Samuel 6 where David (like Mary) arose and took the ark to Obed-Edom where it remained for three months, just as Mary arose and went to Elizabeth and stayed with her for three months. Mary, again, is the new Ark of the Covenant.

The Nativity (*Mary gives birth to Jesus, the Saviour*)

While Christmas cards and Christian art often portray the scene of the Nativity as warm and glowing, it wasn’t. Away from home to participate in the mandatory census, Mary is due to give birth and Joseph tries to find a place where she can give birth. Yet, the One who made this world could not find a suitable place to be born in it. This, then, is for us a great sign of the humility of God made flesh in that He did not claim superiority nor strike out through angels against those who denied His birth a place at the inn. He is born in a stinking cattle shed and laid in the feeding trough for the animals as a crib, in Bethlehem, which means ‘House of Bread’ as the Bread of Life who will feed the world with Himself.

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

This mystery of the Rosary presents us with Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus and Simeon. Simeon, a temple priest was told that he wouldn’t see death until he had seen the Messiah. The Holy Spirit arranges it so that when Mary and Joseph come to the temple to do for Jesus what is required in the law, Simeon is there at the same time. He knows, by the Spirit, that this new baby is the Messiah! He would not have believed his own eyes that he would behold the Messiah in this way as a mere helpless baby. But the shadow of the Cross, even in this joyful moment for Simeon, was present – the very reason Jesus came into the world – to die for us. He states that Jesus will be a sign of contradiction and that Mary herself, will be united with her Son with a sword; the sword of suffering, for she will witness Jesus’ horrific and brutal scourging and mockery and torture and ultimately His death on the Cross. Our Lady of Sorrows.

The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

Who is lost in this scene? From the frantic reactions of Mary and Joseph who searched for Jesus and found Him in the Jerusalem temple, and the calm, composed reaction of Jesus to their frenzied questioning, it appears Mary and Joseph were lost. Like them, we are lost when we can’t, don’t or won’t find Jesus. He Himself said that “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost”. (*Lk 19:10*) In Mark’s Gospel, after Jesus awoke early in the morning and went off alone to pray, Simon and his companions went out in search to find Him, and when they did, Simon said to Jesus “Everyone is looking for you.” How true. Everyone, whether they know it or not in their human pursuits, are really looking for Jesus. And He is so often found where we least expect to find Him – even within ourselves. (*Fr. Charles*)

OCTOBER 13, 2024



Tues Oct 15 th 7:00pm	+Gerry Roth Requested by Genevieve & Clark Carson
Wed Oct 16 th 8:30am	+Evelyn Freire Requested by Victoria & James Huntley
Thurs Oct 17 th 8:30am	+Dick Doughty Requested by Antonietta & Domenic Sanfilippo
Friday Oct 18 th 7:30am 8:30am	Holy Hour +Margot Brandreth Requested by Cora & Adrian O'Connor
Sat Oct 19 th 3:30 to 4:00pm 4:30pm	Confession +Gene Cudney Requested by Kathy MacFarlane & Family
Sunday Oct 20 th 9:00am 11:00am	For the People Intentions of Kirsten Guerrero & Family

Please Pray for the Sick

Jean Ferguson, Fred Coulson, Hilary Joseph, Henry Niepalla, Kaz Watroba, Albert Sant, Teresa & Feliks Kosierb, Patrick McKee, Elizabeth Pavilsa, Vera Petrovic, Ashley Zavitz, Alex Poirier & Family, Tammy MacDonald, Anita Taglione, Denis Fennessy, Mary Little, Yvonne Grimm, Joyce Mittermeier

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased

Barbara Sullivan

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns
In Memory of Peter Josef Petrovic
From Oct 6 to Nov 2 2024



Regular Collection Oct 6 \$5090.65 (Inc PAG)
Indigenous Healing & Reconciliation \$1028.00



PLEASE NOTE THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
ON MONDAY OCTOBER 14th 2024

**Share your Blessings
This Thanksgiving**



Thanksgiving is a time for gratitude, but right now families are struggling to put enough food on the table. ShareLife has returned with the Food Security Grants – dedicating \$750,000 to help those in need of a warm meal. Will you share your blessings by contributing to our parish's ShareLife Campaign? We have currently raised \$31,248.00 towards our suggested goal of \$41,000.00. Please give with love at sharelife.org/donate or our parish with a ShareLife envelope.

World Mission Sunday

There will be a second collection next weekend Oct 19th and 20th for the Evangelization of the Nations, otherwise known as World Mission Sunday. This is a worldwide collection for the missionary church and it is our opportunity to assist at-need Catholic Communities globally. Offerings are combined with offerings from other Catholics around the world and distributed to missions and dioceses. We are called to share from our abundance with those less fortunate who lack the basic essentials to know, love and praise God. Thank you for your support of this important work

**The Appeals of Our Lady
Apparitions & Marian Shrines in the World**

St. Mary's is pleased to announce the return of the Poster Exhibition on The Appeals of Our Lady's Apparitions & Marian Shrines in the World. There will be 37 posters in the parish hall the weekend of Oct. 19/20, 2024 for you to view before or after the Masses. This exhibition was initiated in 2006 by Blessed Carlo Acutis, but was unable to finish due to the sudden onset of Fulminating leukemia. Blessed Carlo Acutis will likely be proclaimed a Saint during the 2025 Jubilee. Carlos Feast Day is October 12th.

Church Bulletin Advertising

Liturgical Publications will setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin. The advertising will begin in December 2024 and supports the bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service. Call Liturgical Publications at 1 800 268 2637



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