

<u>Good News Reflection, December 20, 2020; 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent:</u> Our personal connection to Mary. This Sunday's Gospel shows us how the mission of Christ affected the Virgin Mary even before Jesus was conceived in her womb.

Three decades later, Jesus would become the Savior of the world. However, that is not when his salvation plan began. Jesus is God; he has always existed. He is the uncreated Divine Son, the Person of the Holy Trinity who, as we proclaim in the Nicene Creed, was "born of the Father before all ages, God from God...." His salvation plan could -- and did -- impact Mary since the moment of her own conception.

In order for God to come into our world in the flesh, his Spirit totally bathed Mary in his pure, holy presence. Therefore, even though she could not understand how the promised Messiah could be conceived within her, since she'd had no sexual relations, by the grace of God's Spirit she could know that God was the one who was asking for it and God was the one who was doing it. That's all she needed.

All of us are called by God to carry the presence of Christ and birth him more fully into the world. What are you doing about it? How much are you fulfilling your divine destiny? Remember, he always empowers us to accomplish whatever he asks us to do. God knows what he's doing when he calls us to continue what Mary began, and he is always trustworthy and dependable. There is nothing to fear, no reason to hold back from fulfilling our true destiny.

With this in mind, when he asks us to do something for his kingdom, of course our answer is yes, right? Why wouldn't it be? Of course we want to cooperate with his plan, and we say yes to his plan even when we don't understand it nor see how God could possibly do what he says he'll do.

Often, we feel inadequate, because we know we are weak, sinful, and unqualified. Don't trust your feelings about it; trust God. Don't trust your feelings about it; trust God.

**Questions for Personal Reflection:** When was the last time you said to God, "But how can this be? You want me to do WHAT? I don't understand why!" What were you afraid of? How strong was your trust in God?

**Questions for Community Faith Sharing:** When God chooses you for a task or responsibility, what helps you move from uncertainty or confusion or reluctance into saying "yes"? When the plans of God don't make sense or they seem unpleasant, how do you overcome your reluctance?

© 2018 Terry Modica, Catholic Digital Resources, www.catholicdr.com. Printed by permission. To view or subscribe to daily Good News Reflections, visit www.gnm.org.

# Good News Reflection: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 27, 2020; Trust Jesus despite not understanding

"Joy mixed with drama marks the fifth [joyful] mystery, the finding of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple." Saint John Paul the Great wrote this In *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, his interesting encyclical about the Rosary.

He continued: "Here he appears in his divine wisdom as he listens and raises questions, already in effect one who 'teaches'. The revelation of his mystery as the Son wholly dedicated to his Father's affairs proclaims the radical nature of the Gospel, in which even the closest of human relationships are challenged by the absolute demands of the Kingdom. Mary and Joseph, fearful and anxious, 'did not understand' his words."

We, too, often fail to understand the words of Jesus. His teachings challenge us to accept a more difficult life, a life of doing good to our enemies, turning the cheek and going the extra mile, a life of courageously standing up for the truth and adhering to high moral standards that are counter-cultural.

Our preference, when living this way is inconvenient or unpleasant, is to rationalize and make excuses for our worldly behavior. But once we truly understand the demands of the Kingdom of God, we see their benefits and we obey gladly.

Without this understanding, we have to simply trust that the words of Jesus are right and true. Like Mary and Joseph, we need to ponder in our hearts what we don't understand, while moving forward and doing what Jesus wants us to do. As challenging as this is, that's when we discover how amazing God can be.

**Questions for Personal Reflection:** What teaching of the Church have you rationalized away so that you don't have to obey it? Or what teaching of Christ in the Sermon on the Mount (see Matt. 5,6,7) or elsewhere in the Gospels do you excuse yourself from? How much is your disobedience due to not understanding what is really being taught? What will you do to seek and gain a better understanding?

Upcoming Eucharistic Celebrations						
Opcoming Eucharistic Celebrations						
			1			
Mon.	Dec 21	7:00 PM	Alberto Siscar +			
Tues.	Dec 22	9:00 AM	William Krainyk +			
Wed.	Dec 23	9:00 AM	Special Intentions			
Thurs	Dec 24	5:30PM	Tristan, Clare, Blaze,			
			Ivan & Saint Crooks			
		7:30 PM	Janice Seitz &family			
		9:30 PM	Lauretta Schmidt			
Fri.	Dec 25	9:00 AM	The People of the Parish			
		11:00 AM	Theresa Istace			
		3:00 PM	Michael McIntyre			
Sat.	Dec 26	5:00 PM SVDP	Lloyd Zyla			
		7:00 PM St. Marys	Anthony Matthews+			
Sun.	Dec 27	9:00 AM	Josie Church +			
		11:00 AM	Leo Sellinger +			
		3:00 PM	Cancelled			
Mon.	Dec 28	No Mass				
Tues.	Dec 29	Lay Service				
Wed.	Dec 30	9 AM Mass	Dorothy Periard			
Thurs	Dec 31	7:00 PM	Derek Seitz +			
Fri.	Jan. 01	10:00 AM	Liliane Kot +			
Sat.	Jan. 02	5:00 PM	Donna Winter			
		7:00 PM St. Mary's	Martin Nagel +			
Sun.	Jan. 03	9:00 AM	Joe Velda & Reggie			
			Goski +			
		11:00 AM	Cole Crooks +			
		3:00 PM	Alice Tremblay +			

<u>December 24</u>						
Isaiah 9.2-4, 6-7 Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-16						
<u>December 25,</u>						
Isaiah 52.7-10 Hebrews 1.1-6 John 1.1-18						
<u>December 26 &amp; 27</u>						
Sirach 3.2-6, 12-14 Colossians 3.12-21 Luke 2.22-40						
January 1						
Numbers 66.22-27 Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2.16-21						
<u>January 2 &amp; 3</u>						
Isaiah 60.1-6 Ephesians 3.2-3a, 5-6 Matthew 2.1-12						
1						

Our condolences go out to the family of Stan and Edith Zaluski on the passing of their parents, Stan & Edith. The thoughts and prayers of your church family are with you.



# <u>List of Winners From CWL</u> <u>Christmas Raffle:</u>

\$350.00 Acrylic Painting - Lavine Stepp \$300.00 Co-op Gift Card - Janice Hanson

\$100.00 Maurer's Meat Gift Card - Veran Reiss Peavey Mart Kids Gift Basket - Colin Kaip Wholesale Club Christmas Décor - Terry Malley Sask.Roughriders Chritmas Wreath – Ryley Mantei Four Mckenna Turkey Suppers – Irene Marcotte



<u>Sacred Images Giveaway</u>: The Spiritual and Adult Faith Formation Committee is pleased to offer framed portraits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart

of Mary, and the Divine Mercy to our parishioners. Images are free, please take one and enshrine it somewhere prominent in your home: the kitchen, the living room, near the front door, etc. "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Limit one per household please, while supplies last.

Our Parish goal for the Archbishop's Appeal is \$46,413.00, and to date we have \$28,220.00 which is 61%. New 2021 envelopes are out in the foyer. Please do not use them until the New Year. Deadline for income tax receipts for 2020, for all donations will be Friday, December 25th.

# Christmas & New Year's <u>St. Vincent de Paul</u>

All Christmas masses are full

Thursday, December 24 @ 5:30, 7:30 & 9:30 PM Friday, December 25 @ 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Saturday, December 26 @, 5:00 PM Sunday, December 27 @ 9:00 & 11:00 AM, 3:00 PM Thursday, December 31 @ 7:00 PM Friday, January 1 @ 10:00 AM

# <u>St. Mary's</u>

Thursday, December 24 @ 4:00 PM Saturday, December 26 @ 7:00 PM Thursday, December 31 @ 5:00 PM

<u>AGM Reports for 2019 have been printed</u> and placed on a table in the foyer for our parishioners. Please help yourself.



## Father Francis' Christmas Message



Do not be afraid: for see - I am bringing you

good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Christ, the Lord." Luke 2.10

Those words of the Angel to the Shepherds don't know be afraid is more meaningful this year as the whole world is facing challenges in many ways. The baby born in Bethlehem came to free us all kinds of fear. This year our celebrations would be much different than our usual ways. Less visiting, less sharing of food and gifts etc. Still, we have every reason to rejoice at the birth of our Saviour. The reason is, the baby born in Bethlehem. A baby lying in the manger, helpless like any other babies. Who knew he would rule the whole world.

He is the Savior and Redeemer of our lives. Let us recommit and reconnect ourselves to this baby. May the peace coming from the manger in Bethlehem fill your homes. Let us adore and worship him together with the heavenly hosts and the shepherds who were able to see his glory.

I also take this opportunity to thank all of you for your generous financial support to your parish even in the midst of pandemic and financial struggles of our daily life. Thank you for thinking about your parish family even though many of you could not be present to the holy Eucharist. I will remember all of you in a special way during my Eucharistic celebrations this Christmas. Wishing all of you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fr. Francis Plaparampil

A Prayer for Families Loving God, During this holy season of Christmas we ask you for your blessings on all families. Let Mary's openness to your wondrous ways be an inspiration to place all trust in you. Let Joseph's courage provide hope during times of anxiety and uncertainty. Let Jesus' life ignite all families with a spirit of light and love. May the grace that encircled the Holy Family widen to embrace all the families. For this we pray. Amen

Stewardship of Time & Talent - December 19 & 20						
	SAT 5 PM	SUN 9 AM	SUN 11 AM			
Readers	Lloyd Zyla	Delores Herring Theresa Istace	Ron Wormsbecker Ingri Roman			
Power Point Randy Schiller		Vacant	Austin Leblanc			
Hospitality	Heather Fellner Ev Corbin	Omer & Chris Marcotte	Norm Mondor Al Pitre			
	Bernice Driscoll	Yvonne Kerr Richard & Celine	Joe Glab Roberto Roman			
		Wawro	Sheldon LeBlanc			
Counters	Sherry Dreis Kerry Dolter, Richard Wick					
Stewardship of Time & Talent - December 26 & 27						
	SAT 5 PM	SUN 9AM	SUN 11 AM			
Readers	Wendy Sidloski Ingri Roman	Peter Broccolo Jean Woodard	Marilyn Schuck Val Wing			
Power Point	Fingler Family	Vacant	Roberto Roman			
Hospitality	Jeff & Mary Ann Flaaten	Willie & Adele Nimegeers	Judy & Mel Van Betuw			
	Bonnie & Frank Kaip	Dick Michel	Gordon Rutten			
			Danette & Calvin Tracey			
Counters	Wendy Pitre, Joanne Babiarz, Christie McKenzie					
Stewardship of Time & Talent - January 2 & 3						
	SAT 5 PM	SUN 9AM	SUN 11 AM			
Readers	Merle St. Onge Janice Seitz	Pat Wolensky	Glenda Shupe			
Power Point Roberto Roman		Vacant	Jacob LeBlanc			
Hospitality	Yvonne Dzuba	Frank & Eveline Porte	Ron Wormsbecker			
	Dennis Tremblay Jim Wanner	Harry Jensen & Elaine Gray	Aime Isabey			
		Jim Parsons	Pat & Loretta Benning			
Counters	Counters Harry Plemel, Nick Coroluick, Terry Biss					

#### <u>Stewardship Bulletin Bit; January 3, 2021</u> <u>Epiphany of the Lord</u>

"..they fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh..." - Matthew 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

## **Stewardship Bulletin Bit; December 27, 2020 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph;**

"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive." - Colossians 3:13

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share give the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

 Parish Pastoral Council Members: Fr. Francis Plaparampil, Marga Cugnet (chair), Pat Wolensky, Sarah Ayeri, Brenda Kosior, John Tuchscherer, Vic Messer, Jim Wanner, Val Wing, Wendy Sidloski Parish Finance Chairperson –Pam Haupstein
Parish Pastoral Council Meetings - the last Thursday of each month.

K of C Grand Knight: Aime Isabey (861-3535) aime@sasktel.net K of C Faithful Navigator: Randy Schiller (861-1863) schrjt@sasktel.net Weyburn K of C Meetings: (Sept.-June) Exec & Directors – 2nd Mon. of month, Gen Mtg. – 4th Mon. of month

CWL President: Fran Messer (842-6259) CWL Meetings: (Sept. – June)

The Parish Pastoral Council wishes our parish community the gifts of peace, Love and hope from our Lord. Let us continue to pray and support each other as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of Christ.