# St. Jerome's Parish

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## PARISH STAFF

Fr. Jan Kolodynski, Pastor

Mrs. Rocelyn Esposo, Parish Secretary Mr. Jorge Barbosa, Property Manager





December 31<sup>st</sup> – January 6<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, 9:00 a.m. † Eileen White

**Sunday, 10:30 a.m.** Thanksgiving – Jann Rei & Francis Jingco

Please remember in your prayers those who have died. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



#### 2019 SUNDAY MISSALS

The 2019 *Living with Christ* Sunday Missals are now available for purchase at the parish office. Cost \$5.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) December 31 <sup>st</sup>	5:00 p.m.
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) January 1, 2019	10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.
<b>Daily Mass</b> January 2, 2019	7:00 p.m.

#### CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS



The office will closed at **Noon on Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1, 2019**. <u>Daily Mass will be at 7:00 p.m. on</u> <u>Wednesday, January 2, 2019</u>. The office will be open on **Wednesday, January 2,**  PROVIDE-A-MEAL PROGRAM Good Shepherd Centre



The next pick-up date for the Good Shepherd Centre is Friday, January 4, 2019. Please remember to bring your casseroles to the church before 10:00 a.m.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

#### 2019 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

A reminder to all parishioners to please pick up your new 2019 offertory envelope box. Please ensure that you pick up the correct envelope number and confirm your name and address information is correct.



Please let the parish office know if there are any changes. The address on the offertory box will be used to mail out your 2018 tax donation receipt.

# Any offertory envelopes not pick up before December 31<sup>st</sup> will be re-assigned for 2019.

**DO USE ENVELOPES FROM A PREVIOUS YEAR**, as that envelope number is re-assigned to another parishioner and your donations will not be accounted for.

# 5 THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup>

If someone asked you about the significance of the January 1, what would you say? The first thing that would probably come to your mind would be that it is New Year's Day. And, you might possibly cite it as the biggest hangover day of the year. If you're really up on your Catholic Faith, you would remember that the Church honors Mary as Mother of God on that day. You'd be correct about all three of these things, but did you know that there's more to it?

Here are five things that you might not know about January 1:

- January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. A 1. solemnity is a liturgical celebration that is different from feast days and memorials. All three honor the Saints or special aspects of Jesus and Mary, but solemnities are the highest degree of celebration and are reserved for the most important mysteries of the Faith. Solemnities include Easter, Pentecost, the Immaculate Conception, the main titles of Jesus, and Saints that are of particular importance in salvation history. Solemnity masses have the same basic elements as Sunday ones, including all three readings, prayer of the faithful, the Creed, and Gloria. Some solemnities are also holy days of obligation but these vary from country to country according to the standards set by the bishops' conferences. In the United States, January 1 is a holy day of obligation.
- 2. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, is celebrated on the Octave of Christmas. Octave comes from the Latin

word for "eight," and is the name for the ancient Church practice of celebrating Christmas for eight days. The tradition dates back to the Old Testament, when the Hebrew people observed many of their feasts for a period of eight days. For example, the "Feast of Tabernacles" and the "Dedication of the Temple." Later, the Roman Emperor Constantine added the celebration of the dedication of basilicas to this tradition. In the past, there were several feasts that were celebrated with octaves; since Vatican Council II, only Easter and Christmas have octaves.

- 3. The reason the Hebrews celebrated for eight days was that life was so hectic for them and families struggled under pressures and divisions caused by pagan traditions; the Church granted a period of eight days, so that families could more fully take in the importance of these liturgical feasts. With Christmas bearing the importance that it does, it's no wonder the Church allows us eight days of special contemplation (although traditionally the Christmas season ends with the Baptism of Jesus, celebrated on January 9<sup>th</sup> this year).
- 4. Mother of God, or in Greek Theotokos, is the highest title ever to be given to Mary. She was given this title during the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD. The Council taught that Jesus' humanity and divinity could not be separated, and therefore Mary rightly deserved the title Mother of God. Mary brought Jesus into the world, and so she truly is God's mother, since Jesus is the second person of the Trinity.
- 5. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, is the oldest feast of Mary celebrated in the Catholic Church.
- 6. Mary not only is Mother of God but she also is truly your mother. When she said yes to Gabriel at the Annunciation, she said yes to being Jesus' mother, and at that same moment gave her yes to becoming our spiritual mother. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that Mary is our mother *in the order of grace*.

"Her role in relation to the Church and to all humanity goes still further. In a wholly singular way she cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope, and burning charity in the Savior's work of restoring supernatural life to souls. For this reason she is a mother to us in the order of grace."

"'This motherhood of Mary in the order of grace continues uninterruptedly from the consent which she loyally gave at the Annunciation and which she sustained without wavering beneath the cross, until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect. Taken up to heaven, she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation . . . . Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix." (CCC 968, 969) Mary's role as our mother began at the Annunciation and continues for all Eternity. Because she loves her Son so very much, she loves us tenderly as members of his Mystical Body.

~Marge Fenelon



### FIRST COMMUNION ENROLMENT WEEKEND

The First Communion Enrolment weekend will be on **January 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>** at all the Masses, we will welcome the grade 2 students who will be receiving their First Holy Communion. The Enrolment Ceremony encourages families to continue to attend Mass together, as well as making the children feel welcome, recognized and witnessed through the congregation. The children will be asked to come up to the Altar at the end of the Mass to present their "Hearts" before the final Blessing.



# CONFIRMATION ENROLMENT WEEKEND

The Confirmation Enrolment weekend will be on **January**  $26^{th}$  &  $27^{th}$  at all the Masses. The purpose of Enrolment weekend are:

- To encourage the candidates to make public their commitment to preparing for Confirmation within the parish community
- To highlight the importance of partnership in the preparation programme for Confirmation
- To make the connection between Baptism and Confirmation more tangible by the renewal of Baptismal Promises
- To invite the candidates to make a commitment to personal prayer, to community prayer by attending Mass, to take seriously all the preparation for Confirmation, at school, in the parish and at home and finally to do their best to be a kind of person that Jesus would want them to be. We also invite their parents and sponsors to witness this commitment and to promise to help and encourage their child in their endeavours.

The students will be asked to come up to the Altar at the end of the Mass "Enrolment assignment" before the final Blessing.

