

Solemnity of Mary

January 1, 2017

Vol. XXXIII, No. 1

Mary Mother Of The Church

As mother to our Savior, Mary figures profoundly in the history of salvation. By blessed example, she mirrors within herself the central truths of our faith. So when she is remembered or honored, her story naturally draws our eyes and hearts to her Son and His sacrifice and to love for the Father. For those of us who seek after Christ, Mary provides an exalted model, walking before us as we progress in faith, hope and charity, learning from her how to do the will of God in all things. When this blessed mother touches each individual's heart so intimately, how can the Church ignore her? It is only right that the Church looks to Mary, who brought forth Christ, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of her Virgin obedience, so that Christ may be born and grow in the hearts of the faithful also. The Virgin Mary's example of maternal love, which should empower and encourage the Church and each of its members as we seek the rebirth of all men on earth.



First Friday January 6



Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. on First Friday in honor of The Most Blessed Sacrament. At the conclusion of Mass, **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** will begin and continue until **Benediction** at 5:00 p.m. *Sign-up sheets for Adorers are at church's main entrance.*

Blessings Upon You!

Many thanks to all our generous parishioners who decorated the church and church grounds for our celebration of Christmas. We also thank the parishioners who set up our outdoor Nativity scene and the indoor crèche. The results were beautiful and very much appreciated, Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the deacons, altar servers, ushers and lectors. We also want to extend a special thank-you to those cantors, choirs and musicians who spent their time in preparation for their performances with the new organ. The beauty and splendor of our Christmas Masses would not be the same without your dedication and musical talents.

We also wish to express our appreciation to the volunteers who gave a special cleaning to the church in preparation for Christmas. We ask God's greatest

blessings upon each of you during 2017.

Offertory Giving

The encounter between God and Moses in today's first reading is awe-inspiring. God bestows three blessings upon Moses and directs him to extend those blessings to others: The Lord blesses you and keeps you. The Lord lets His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord looks upon you kindly and gives you peace. Good stewards realize these blessings are showered upon them in a unique and special way each time they receive the Eucharist, and exercising good stewardship of the Lord's blessings in this sacrament begins by receiving these gifts with profound gratitude. Perhaps it would be a good idea this week to memorize these marvelous blessings and repeat them to yourself frequently. Make them part of your morning prayer

Weekly Budgeted Need	\$7,100.00
Last Sunday Dec. 25	
Envelopes (Adult)	\$12,000.00
Loose	<u>1,149.00</u>
Total	\$13,149.00
Progress Report	
Cumulative Budget	\$184,600.00
Cumulative Income	<u>181,496.35</u>
<Behind>	<\$3,103.65>

each day.

Building Fund

The parish Building Fund will be next weekend's second collection.



Holiday Office Schedule

The Church Office will be closed **all day Monday, January 2**. It will reopen on **Tuesday, January 3**, at 1:00 p.m. The Office will also be closed **Wednesday, January 4**, for a Staff Meeting from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

2017 Church Contribution Envelopes

Contribution envelopes for 2017 can be picked up from the main entrance of the Church for your convenience.

Pope Francis' Mission Intention

"That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity

Mass Intentions Requested

Monday, January 2

(1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28)

No Mass Scheduled

Tuesday, January 3

(1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34)

8:00 a.m. Josephine Rodriguez

Wednesday, January 4

(1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42)

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

Thursday, January 5

(1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51)

8:00 a.m. Michael Bourgeois

Friday, January 6

(1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11)

8:00 a.m. Gustave and Viola Wahl

Saturday, January 7

(1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 2:1-11)

5:00 p.m. Rosemary Poche, Tina Mangano, Ken & Adele Salzer, Louis Mangano Sr. & Jr., Roszczynialski Family, Lee & Yvonne Tracey, Joseph D'Antonia Jr., Dolly Parantino, James Bailey Jr., Frank & Julia Drake, Eugene Blanchard Jr., Don & Sonia Braud, Kim Tanner, Kathy Berault, Wayne Pfeiffer Sr., Marie Theresa Messa, Altar Society Members

Sunday, January 8 The Epiphany of The Lord

(Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12)

7:00 a.m. Joe Milczarek

8:30 a.m. Ronnie & Betty Lambert, Cathy Downey, Catherine Lambert, Andrew Lambert, Louise C Funel Jr., Elizabeth Necaie, Maurice Poche, Pam Baldo, Emily & Tony Stuprich, Burnick Terrebonne Sr.

10:30 a.m. Parishioners



Pray For The Sick

Valdeana Bauer, Diana Bradshaw, JoAnn Brewin, George & Wanda Butko, May Caballero, Patricia Cuccia, Dotsy Chedville, Pat & Cathy Downey, Julia Drake, Steve Dunn, Marcelle Ernewein, Carroll Fourcade, Jeanette Gomez, Deacon John Howard, Virgie Hurstell, Allen & Joan Jagneaux, Maria Kalcic, Gloriette Kiern, Elizabeth Kittel, Catherine Lambert, Pat Langsford, Cheryl Martin, Shirley Matthews, Rose Mire, Bailee Mitchell, Vito Montalabano, Jessie O'Dell, Cheryle Poiroux, Ed Roszczynialski, Cathy Smith



WEEKLY EVENTS

Legion of Mary—Monday 7:00 p.m. in St. Anthony Hall

Tuesday Morning Rosary—Tuesday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and the St. Jude Novena in St. Anthony Hall

Antonians—Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in St. Anthony Hall

RCIA Track I—Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in classrooms

Knights of Columbus—Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. after Mass in St. Anthony Hall

Patriotic Rosary—Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Church

Altar Society Bake Sale—After all Masses Saturday, January 7, and Sunday, January 8, in the Parish Hall

GASPP—Monday, January 9, at noon in the Parish Hall

Singers Needed

Do you like to sing? Do you have a good voice? If so, why not consider becoming part of Sts. Peter and Paul Church Choir. We are in need of many more voices to join in our praise and rejoicing. For information, call June Calkins at 985-863-2560.



God's Northshore Blessings

A Special Needs Mass will be held Sunday, January 15, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, 312 Lafitte Street, Mandeville. The celebrants will be Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond and Fr. Charlie Latour, O.P. All are invited to attend. Please join us.

Tabernacle Lamp

This week the Tabernacle lamp in the Sanctuary burns in memory of the **Deceased Members of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish.**



St. Joseph's Altar Preparations Begin

Preparations for the St. Joseph's Altar, celebrated March 18, will soon begin. An organizational meeting will be held Saturday, January 28, in the Parish Hall. Baking will be held on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon. If you are interested in working in this ministry, call Gene Templet at 863-2545.



A Christmas Blessing

May there be harmony in all your relationships.

May sharp words, envious thoughts, and hostile feelings be dissolved.

May you give and receive love generously.

May this love echo in your heart like the joy of church bells on a clear December day.

May each person who comes into your life be greeted as another Christ.

May the honor given the Babe of Bethlehem be that which you extend to every guest who enters your presence.

May the hope of this sacred season settle in your soul.

May it be a foundation of courage for you when times of distress occupy your inner land.

May the wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children be awakened within you.

May it lead you to renewed awareness and appreciation of whatever you too easily take for granted.

May the bonds of love for one another be strengthened as you gather with your family and friends around the table of festivity and nourishment.

May you daily open the gift of your life and be grateful for the hidden treasures it contains.

May the coming year be one of good health for you.

May you have energy and vitality.

May you care well for your body, mind and spirit.

May you keep your eye on the Star within you and trust the Luminescent Presence to guide and direct you each day.

May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart and visit the One who offers you peace.

May you bring this peace into our world.

Joyce Rupp

Mass For God's Special Children



The Mass for God's Special Children will be held at St. Francis Xavier Church, 444 Metairie Road, Metairie, on Sunday, January 8, at 2:00 p.m. This Mass allows those with special needs to participate more in the Mass with family and friends. This Mass is totally wheelchair accessible with off-street parking available. Refreshments will be served after the Mass. For more information, contact Joy Zainey at 504-834-5865 or visit www.godsspecialchildren.org



The Faiths Of Our Neighbors

Know about your neighbors and their various faiths. Come for evenings of discovery and fellowship. These meetings are organized by the East Jefferson Interfaith Clergy Association and are hosted by a different faith community each month. The meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The January 5 meeting will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church, 6690 Fleur de Lis Drive, Metairie. The February 2 meeting will be held at the Disciples of Christ First Christian Church of Greater New Orleans, 8121 Airline Drive, Metairie.

Life After The Year Of Mercy

A Men's Morning of Reflection

Share a spirit-filled morning with Catholic men as we strengthen our faith to face the challenges of the new year as Catholic men. St. Maria Goretti Catholic Men's Fellowship invites all the men and men-in-training to "A Men's Morning of Reflection." The event will be held Saturday, January 14, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Monsignor Gauthreaux Center, 7300 Crowder Boulevard, New Orleans. The keynote speaker will be Father Deogratias Ekisa. Coffee and donuts will be served.

"Irresistible Call"

St. Raymond and St. Leo The Great Present

The Great Women's Conference 2017

Come join us the weekend of January 14-15 for our women's conference "Irresistible Call." The dynamic keynote speaker will be Cynthia Willard-Lewis. The event will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Corpus Christi/Epiphany Community Resource Center, 2022 St. Bernard Avenue, New Orleans. Registration is \$100 with a \$45 registration fee for high school and college students. The Youth Explosion Services (Saturday only) will be provided free for ages 2-13. The Sunday Luncheon/Fashion Show (adults only) is included in the fee. For information, email srslwomensconference@yahoo.com or call 504-324-6270.

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St. Basil The Great—January 2

One of ten children of St. Basil the Elder and St. Emmelia, he was born in Caesarea, Cappadocia, Asia Minor, and was educated by his father and his grandmother, St. Macrina the Elder. He took advanced studies at Constantinople and Athens, where Gregory Nazianzen and the future Emperor Julian the Apostate were classmates. On the completion of his studies, Basil taught rhetoric at Caesarea and then decided to pursue the religious life. He was baptized, visited monasteries in Palestine, Syria and Egypt, and in 358 settled as a hermit by the Iris River in Pontus. He attracted numerous disciples, whom he organized into the first monastery in Asia Minor. He was ordained in 363 at Caesarea but returned to Pontus because of a disagreement with Archbishop Eusebius. Basil remained there until 365, when his friend Gregory requested his assistance in combating Arianism in Nazianzus. He returned to Caesarea, was reconciled to Eusebius, and in 370, on Eusebius' death, was elected Archbishop of Caesarea and consequently Metropolitan of some fifty suffrage bishops, despite the opposition of Arian Emperor Valens. When Valens launched his persecution of the orthodox, he demanded that Basil submit to his demands; Basil refused, and in the confrontation of wills that followed, Valens capitulated and left Caesarea. Basil was soon faced with another struggle with Bishop Anthimus of Tyana claimed to be Metropolitan of New Cappadocia when Cappadocia was divided, politically, into two provinces; Basil was forced to submit to the partition of his see into two dioceses. He was active in helping the sick and the poor, built a hospice and huge complex to minister to the ill, and attracted huge throngs with his preaching. He became the leader of the Orthodox in the East in the continuing struggle against Arianism, though not too successful in securing aid from Rome and the West against the heresy that threatened to destroy the Church in the East. He died at Caesarea on January 1 (when his feast is celebrated in the East), a few months after Valens died on the battlefield, and the accession of Gratian to the throne halted the spread of Arianism. Basil was one of the giants of the early Church. He was responsible for the victory of Nicene orthodoxy over Arianism in the Byzantine East, and the denunciation of Arianism at the Council of Constantinople in 381-82 was in large measure due to his efforts. The organization and rule he devised at Pontus became the basis of monastic life in the East (as was so of Benedict in the West) and remains so to the pre-

sent day. Basil fought simony, aided the victims of drought and famine, strove for a better clergy, insisted on a rigid clerical discipline, fearlessly denounced evil wherever he detected it, and excommunicated those involved in the widespread prostitution traffic in Cappadocia. He was learned, accomplished in statesmanship, a man of great personal holiness, and one of the great orators of Christianity. His doctrinal writings and his four hundred letters (many still in existence) had tremendous influence. Among his outstanding treatises are "On the Holy Spirit," the three "Books" against Eunomius, and with Gregory Nazianzen, he compiled a selection of passages from Origen, Philocalia. He is a Doctor of the Church and patriarch of Eastern monks.

Dictionary of Saints by John I. Delaney

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton—January 4

Born in New York city on August 28, 1774, she was the daughter of Richard Bayley, professor of anatomy at King's College (now Columbia) in New York and the stepsister of Archbishop James Roosevelt Bayley of Baltimore. She was educated by her father, married William Magee Seton in 1794, and became involved in social work, helping to found the Society for the Relief of Poor Widows with Small Children in 1797. She was widowed with five children in 1803 when her husband died at Leghorn, Italy, where they had gone for his health. She returned to the United States and in 1805 became a Catholic—a step that led to her being ostracized by her family and friends. She was invited to open a school in Baltimore by Dr. Dubourg, rector of St. Mary's Seminary there, and in 1809 with four companions founded a religious community, the Sisters of St. Joseph, and a school for poor children near Emmitsburg, Maryland, the beginning of the far-reaching Catholic parochial school system in the United States. The new community's rule was approved by Archbishop Carroll of Baltimore in 1812. She was elected superior, and with eighteen sisters she took vows on July 19, 1813, the founding of the Sisters of Charity, the first American religious society. The order spread throughout the United States and numbered some twenty communities by the time of her death at Emmitsburg on January 4, 1821. She was canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1975, the first American born saint.



Dictionary of Saints by John I. Delaney