



Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

December 31, 2022

January 1, 2023

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Fr. Prashanth Lobo

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MASS SCHEDULE

St. Boniface:

Saturday

5:00 pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Sunday:

8:00 am-8:45 am Rosary

8:30 am Confession

9:00 am Mass


Tuesday & Thursday:

5:30 pm

Bible Study

Thursday 8:00 pm

Mission Statement: We are a welcoming parish of Roman Catholic Christians with diverse roots deep in Appalachia and beyond. We are committed to growing in our faith and community through our worship and celebrations, with particular attention to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and The Holy Eucharist. We are a community gathered together by the Holy Spirit, filled with hope, to love and serve God and neighbor in the name of Jesus Christ; and through our sharing of Good News in word and deed, we seek to live and reveal to all the grace and peace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit.



[The shepherds] made known
the message that had been
told them about this child....
And Mary kept all these things,
reflecting on them in her heart.

LUKE 2:17, 19

What Do You Hold in Your Heart?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

On New Year's Eve, some of my friends try to recall a significant event from each year, beginning with the most recent, and work their way back. They tell me that memories from the first couple of years, the most recent, are fairly easy to call to mind, but after that, memories get reduced to births and deaths, marriages and moves to new homes, vacations, and ultimately to not remembering anything significant for some years. It's an interesting conclusion—not remembering anything significant—given the human emotions and energies we pour into trivial disagreements, unresolved conflicts, and family issues.

The Gospel recounts how Mary reflected upon the events of her Son's birth and how she kept them all in her heart. I suspect that many of the events we might recount from that New Year's Eve exercise would end up being some of the moments we hold in our hearts. Most would likely revolve around family, all those people we keep in our hearts. Others might be about job promotions or successes, or memorable recognitions. We justifiably keep these as treasures to remember.

As Mary did, we might learn something about ourselves by pondering significant personal faith events. I doubt most of us will recall one for each year, which may say something about how seriously we take our faith lives. Yet those we do recall could be treasures of the past that will bless us in the present. ●

Reflect

**What do the events
you carry in your heart
say about who you are?**

<i>Date</i>	<i>OLPH</i>	<i>Saint Boniface</i>
<i>Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord New Year's Eve</i>	9:00 pm ~ Vigil Mass	
<i>Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God (January 1)</i>	8:00 – 8:45 am Adoration & Rosary 8:30 am ~ Confession 9:00 am ~ Mass <i>Novena Prayer</i>	5:00 pm ~ Mass
<i>Tuesday</i>	5:30 pm ~ Mass	
<i>Wednesday</i>	5:30 pm ~ Mass	
<i>Thursday</i>	5:30 pm ~ Mass	
<i>Friday</i>	5:30 pm ~ Adoration 6:30 pm ~ Mass	
<i>The Epiphany of the Lord Solemnity (January 8)</i>	8:00 – 8:45 am Adoration & Rosary 8:30 am ~ Confession 9:00 am ~ Mass <i>Novena Prayer</i>	5:00 pm ~ Mass

	<i>OLPH</i> <i>Mass 9:00 am</i>		<i>ST. BONIFACE</i> <i>Mass 5:00 pm</i>	
Date	January 1	January 8	December 31	January 7
Lector	Mandy Hall	Joe McNaughton	Mary Jo Leygraaf	Jerry Nowak

Mass Intentions	OLPH	St. Boniface
December 31 January 1	Intentions of Parishioners	Intentions of Jerry and Sharon Nowak
January 8/9	Intentions of Parishioners	† Lorenzo (Lawrence) Comparoni Jr.

Our Gifts	OLPH	St. Boniface
December 25	\$ 110.00	\$ 101.00

*May God bless you for your generous contributions
to our Church.*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

*Jerry & Sharon Nowak
(December 28)*

Reading I

Nm 6:22-27

The LORD said to Moses:

"Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them:

This is how you shall bless the Israelites.

Say to them:

The LORD bless you and keep you!

The LORD let his face shine upon

you, and be gracious to you!

The LORD look upon you kindly and

give you peace!

So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites,

and I will bless them."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

May God bless us in his mercy.

May God have pity on us and bless us;

may he let his face shine upon us.

So may your way be known upon earth;

among all nations, your salvation.

May God bless us in his mercy.

May the nations be glad and exult
because you rule the peoples in equity;
the nations on the earth you guide.

May God bless us in his mercy.

May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you!
May God bless us,
and may all the ends of the earth fear him!

May God bless us in his mercy.

Reading II

Gal 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters:
When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son,
born of a woman, born under the law,
to ransom those under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as sons.
As proof that you are sons,
God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,
crying out, "Abba, Father!"
So you are no longer a slave but a son,
and if a son then also an heir, through God.

Alleluia

Heb 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia.

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Lk 2:16-21

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger.

When they saw this,
they made known the message
that had been told them about this child.
All who heard it were amazed
by what had been told them by the shepherds.
And Mary kept all these things,
reflecting on them in her heart.
Then the shepherds returned,
glorifying and praising God
for all they had heard and seen,
just as it had been told to them.

When eight days were completed for his circumcision,
he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel
before he was conceived in the womb.

REFLECTION

Since we celebrate the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, on New Year's Day, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year! I pray that the Lord Jesus and His Mother Mary may enrich your lives during the New Year with an abundance of God's blessings. Today we celebrate the oldest of all Marian feasts in our liturgy, most appropriate for those of us concerned with new beginnings, with new resolutions, and renewed hopes. Today's Feast of Mary, the Mother of God is a very appropriate way to begin a new year. This celebration reminds us that the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, is also our Heavenly Mother. Hence, our ideal motto for the New Year 2022 should be "To Jesus through Mary!" This is an occasion to renew our devotion to Mary, who is also Mother of the Church because she is our spiritual mother — and we are the Church.

The doctrine of the Church: Based on these references in the New Testament and on the traditional belief of the early Church, the Council of Ephesus affirmed in AD 431 that Mary was truly the Mother of God (Theotokos), because “according to the flesh” she gave birth to Jesus, Who was truly God as well as truly man from the first moment of His conception by Mary. The Council defined Mary as the Mother of God both to honor her and to safeguard the dogma that Jesus Christ is not just truly God but also truly man.

As we celebrate the feast of Mary Mother of God it reminds us about the life of Mary. Man needed God and God needed a mother. And God called a maiden Mary a ordinary Jewish lady. God made a right choice of selecting Mary because Mary truly lived by the call that she received. Today we honour her as the mother of God, one of the best titles that Mary received in her life. Let us learn from our mother.

1) **Let us strive to be pure and holy like our Heavenly Mother.** All mothers want their children to inherit or acquire their good qualities. Hence, let us honor Mary, our Heavenly Mother, by practicing her virtues of Faith, obedience, purity and humble service.

2) Three ways to make the New Year meaningful (William Barclay):

a) **something to dream,**

b) **something to do, and**

c) **Someone to love.** We need to remember the proverb: “Cherish your yesterdays, dream your tomorrows, but live your today.”

3) **Let us sanctify every day of the New Year:** by asking for the anointing and strengthening of the Holy Spirit to do good to others and to avoid evil.

May the Mother of God Intercede for us all. Amen

We will be praying the Novena Prayer at conclusion of Mass each weekend. The Prayer is as follows (copies are available in the Church)

Mother of Perpetual Succour

O Mother of Perpetual Succour, behold me a miserable sinner at thy feet. I have recourse to thee and put my trust in thee O Mother of Mercy have pity upon me. I hear thee called by all the refuge and the hope of sinners; be then my refuge and my hope Succour me for the love of Jesus Christ; stretch forth thy hand to me a poor sinner, who recommend and dedicate myself to thee as thy perpetual servant. I bless and thank God for having in His Mercy given me this confidence in Thee. the pledge, as I believe of my eternal salvation. Alas, too often in past times have I miserably fallen because I had not recourse to thee. I know that with thy help I shall conquer, I know that thou will help me if I recommend myself to thee, but I fear lest in the occasion of falling I should cease to call upon thee and so should lose my soul. This then is the grace I seek from thee, and I beg of thee as far as you know how and can, to obtain it for me namely, in the assaults of hell, always to have recourse to thee and to say to thee; O Mary, help me. Mother of Perpetual Succour, suffer me not to lose my God, Amen.

THREE HAIL MARY.

UPCOMING SAINTS AND FEASTS

*Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops and Doctors of the Church ~ Memorial*

January 2

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

January 3

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious ~ Memorial

January 4

Saint André Bessette, Religious

January 6

Saint Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

January 7

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray to end Abortion, Russell Brooks, Cassie & Clifton Centers, Maere Tekanene, Bill Moses, Jerry Roberts, Donna Blevins, Norma Wilson, Dennis Parks & Family, Erica Davis, Chris & Amanda Decker, Debbie Moses Haggins, Rose Grant, Sandy Hurts, Dominic Cureton, Todd Morris, Alex Woods, Christopher Braden, Bonnie (Warfield) Bishop, Sister Alice, Curt and LeeAnn Hall, Jay Baird, Gail Willis, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Bisceglia, loved ones who are ill, Brody Beavers and family, Shawn Lee Day, Geneva Couch, Judy Delisle, Dal Macon, Linda Mills, Judy Patrick, Bob and Marie Alvaro, JoAnn Brown, Cathy Sims, Robert Moses, Kristina Neitsch, Danny Ezell, Jean Sharp and Iva Lee Hamblin.

If you know of someone that needs added or removed from the Prayer Requests, please notify the office by email or by calling the office.



Dear Padre,

I understand that all Catholics, not just priests and religious, are called to holiness. How can laypeople become holy?

The five elements of holiness are the same for all the baptized, always in the context of their vocational calling.

Prayer: In the liturgy, we join our sisters and brothers to offer communal worship where we are nourished and formed by word and sacrament. In private prayer, we maintain, clarify, and nourish our relationship with God.

Love of neighbor: We are called to treat others with the acceptance and respect that God has for each person. Every person is our neighbor, especially people in need (Matthew 25:40).

Living one's vocational commitment: Being faithful to a spouse in marriage, working for family harmony, staying true to dedicated singleness in the world or in the religious community setting—all are avenues of holiness.

Penance and self-discipline: The Christian life demands self-denial, control, and sacrifice. Christians must deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow Jesus (Luke 9:23).

Reaching out in discipleship: Holiness also comes from and finds its noblest expression in a life of service and ministry. Baptism initiates us into the fullness of Christian reality, which ultimately means discipleship—sharing our faith and serving others, especially the most needy.

For laypeople, the main arena of holiness is where they live, work, play, and struggle every day. It is there that they must proclaim “the kingdom of God is in our midst,” and answer their call to holiness. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



NIKKI ZALEWSKI/SHUTTERSTOCK



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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*As we begin this new year, let us ask ourselves....
Do I know how to look at people with the heart?
Do I take to heart the people with whom I live?...
Let us ask for the grace to live this year with
the desire to take others to heart and to care for
them.*

HOMILY, VATICAN, JANUARY 1, 2020

MONDAY

January 2
Sts. Basil the
Great and Gregory
Nazianzen, Bishops
and Doctors of the
Church
1 Jn 2:22–28
Jn 1:19–28

TUESDAY

January 3
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:29–3:6
Jn 1:29–34

WEDNESDAY

January 4
St. Elizabeth Ann
Seton, Religious
1 Jn 3:7–10
Jn 1:35–42

THURSDAY

January 5
St. John Neumann,
Bishop
1 Jn 3:11–21
Jn 1:43–51

FRIDAY

January 6
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:5–13
Mk 1:7–11

SATURDAY

January 7
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:14–21
Jn 2:1–12

SUNDAY

January 8
Epiphany
of the Lord
Is 60:1–6
Eph 3:2–3, 5–6
Mt 2:1–12

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