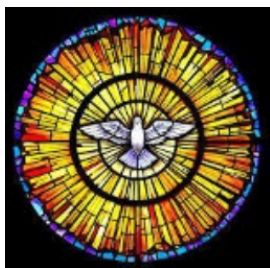




THE CHILD GREW AND BECAME STRONG, FILLED WITH
WISDOM; AND THE FAVOR OF GOD WAS UPON HIM.
—LK 2:40

THE HOLY FAMILY

**Our Lady of Mt.
Carmel and Our Lady of
Loreto Parish
PRAYER FOR PARISH
SPIRITUAL RENEWAL**



Lord God, You love us with an everlasting love, and You choose us to share Your love with others.

We ask that You rekindle in our hearts a new spirit of faith, of prayer and of reconciliation. Inspire us to search out and find ways of bringing one another closer to You. We pray for all who form our parish community, that we remain faithful to Your teaching, that we remain steadfast in our prayer, both personal and communal, that together with You and the Holy Spirit, our parish may be renewed and transformed. All this we ask in the name of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Please cut out and pray daily.

**A PRAYER IN TIME OF
PANDEMIC**



O God, whose Only Begotten Son bore the weight of human suffering for our salvation, hear the prayers of your Church for our sick brothers and sisters and deliver us from this time of trial. Open our ears and our hearts to the voice of your Son: Be not afraid, for I am with you always. Bless all doctors and nurses, researchers and public servants; give us the wisdom to do what is right and the faith to endure this hour, that we might gather once again to praise your name in the heart of your Church, delivered from all distress and confident in your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MASS SCHEDULE FOR MARY, THE MOTHER
OF GOD**

Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, December 31st at 4:00 pm and on Friday, January 1st at 10:30 am.

PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON NEW YEAR'S DAY. HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!

**Have an awesome day, and know that
someone has thought about you.**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe we're in the last days of 2020. Many will not miss this year of pandemic, turmoil and national division. We prepare to welcome a new year and a new presidential administration in Washington.

A new vaccine is being distributed to help us combat the covid-19 virus which gives us great hope. Let us thank God who often works through science and gifted researchers for this incredible medical breakthrough. God never leaves us, His people, orphans. He is always taking care of us and preparing us for better things.

Let us pray for our parishioners who have died during the past year, especially those who died because of the covid virus.

Let us pray for our new President and Vice-President, and all elected or re-elected officials, as they prepare to assume office in the new year, that they be open to the voice of God as they lead our great country.

Let us pray, not only for ourselves, for our fellow citizens of the United States and those of the world, that the Lord may continue to bless us with peace, good health and prosperity.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you, the parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Our Lady of Loreto Parish, not only for your goodness and generosity to our parish during some dark times, but for your incredible response the coat drive, the food drive, and to the Giving Tree requests among others. You have helped to brighten the lives of so many people in our community and in doing so you have responded to the voice of Christ who calls us to care for and love one another.

I am most proud to be your pastor! God bless you all!!

New Year Blessings!
Monsignor Pedone

ADULT CONFIRMATION

The Diocese has scheduled a special Confirmation ceremony on February 7, 2021 at 3:00 PM, at Saint Paul Cathedral for Catholic adults, 18 years of age and older, who have not been confirmed. If interested, please see Monsignor Pedone or Joan D'Argenis.

**Don't let your worries get the best of you.
Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.**



MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." Supernatural communication was nothing new for Mary. The angel Gabriel had already appeared and spoken to her when she agreed to bear God's Son. Her husband Joseph also had a kind of divine intervention in the dream where the angel told him to go ahead and marry her. When she was first pregnant, her cousin Elizabeth had been led by the Holy Spirit to know the secret that Mary was "the mother of my Lord" (Lk 1:43). Now, Jesus has just been born and a crew of earthy shepherds appears at her door with a message from heaven: that the Savior has been born. And Mary believed them. She did not doubt their sincerity or the authenticity of their message. She took the words to heart, and meditated upon the meaning of it all.

What might strike us as peculiar in all of this is that God chose to speak to Mary in a variety of ways. This holy and immaculate woman, this Mother of God, did not always receive direct communication from on high. Sometimes, God chose to speak to her through other people. Sometimes, he revealed himself to them in order to reveal himself to her. And God does the same with us.

It's easy to daydream about having our own personal revelation from God, to hear his voice loud and clear, directing, encouraging, and supporting us in our times of need and confusion. But this isn't the standard pattern of God's operation. Mary was tuned in enough to hear God's voice all around her instead of expecting it to always sound the same. We can imitate this same kind of openness by seeking to discover how God may be speaking to us through the voices of others.

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Friday, January 1st, is the **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God** and is a Holy Day of Obligation. This year, the obligation to attend Mass has been suspended by Bishop McManus due to the specific danger presented by the COVID-19 virus to older people and those with certain health conditions.

A New Year ~~~

A New Commitment

Looking for a fresh start seems only natural as we start a New Year. We make commitments to ourselves to improve some aspect of our lives as we look at our new, clean, uncluttered (for the moment) calendars. To help you with your fresh start, consider these suggestions:

Pray More

Advance Your Spiritual Journey

Learn Something New

Eat Healthier

Save Money

Spend More Time with Family

Say the Rosary

Be Less Stressed

Read More

Look Ahead with Joyful Hope

These are, however, only suggestions. Ultimately the decision is yours to make. How will you make a "Fresh Start" this New Year?

HAPPY NEW YEAR

*May 2021 bring you
Peace, Love and Blessings!*

Happy New Year!

*from
Msgr. Pedone, Deacon Gerry
and all the staff from our parish*

*Instead of counting sheep, talk to the
Shepherd*

Financial Stewardship

For the week ending December 20, 2020



Due to early transmittal of the bulletin, the financial statement was not available at the time the bulletin went to print. The figures will be posted in next weekends bulletin.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Please Note:

When entering an empty pew at Mass, please go to the middle so other people can sit on the ends. If you prefer the end seat, please stand and leave the row so someone may sit in the middle and then return to your seat. Also, **PLEASE WEAR YOUR MASK PROPERLY; IT MUST COVER YOUR MOUTH AND NOSE WHILE YOU ARE IN CHURCH.**

PLEASE PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING WHEN RECEIVING COMMUNION.

Please help us to keep everyone safe.

Thank You

Giving Trees 2020:

Thank You to all who participated in our effort this year to bring some comfort, happiness and joy to those children and families in our community who so desperately need it.

GOLDEN YEARS CLUB

Out of the abundance of caution, the Golden Years Club will not meet until it is safe to do so. We hope to gather again soon. Happy Holidays to all.

A Simple Morning Prayer

You have given me another day, O God, untouched and new. I ask you to renew me, too!

Forgive the many errors that I made yesterday and let me try again, dear God, to walk a little closer to you.

But, father, I am well aware I can't make it on my own. Take my hand and hold it tight for I can't walk alone.

Amen

(Ebenezer Lutheran Church
Columbia, SC)

MASS on TV:

Public Access Stations now carrying Masses:

Daily Mass

Worcester Ch 194 "the people's channel" - 9 am

Spencer Ch 192—9am

Holden/Auburn Ch 191—9 am

Shrewsbury Ch 28 and 328—4:30 pm

Sunday Mass

Worcester Ch 194—Spanish—8 am

English—10 am; replays Monday—6 pm

Spencer Ch 192—Sunday 10 am

Holden/Auburn Ch 191—Sunday 10 am

Templeton Ch 8—Sunday 10 am

Athol/Orange Ch 13/135—Sunday 10:30 am

Paxton Ch 192 Sunday 4 pm, replay Monday at 6 pm and 8 pm

We hope to announce more towns in the future.

MASS continues to be available online from worcesterdiocese.org both for Live Streaming @ 9:00 am and for viewing after 10 am on your computer.

Other options for MASS and the Rosary:

EWTN (channel 18 on Charter)

CATHOLIC TELEVISION (channel 101 on Charter)

NOTE:

If you do not have Spectrum/Charter as your cable provider, call your provider and ask what channels televise EWTN and CATHOLIC TELEVISION.

People are funny —

They want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church..

As a reminder Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Our Lady of Loreto Parish follows the guidelines of the national Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People approved by the US Bishops and the policies of the Diocese of Worcester in screening those who work with children in our care and in helping victims of abuse find healing.

If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a Church employee or volunteer in the past, please contact The Office for Healing and Prevention at 508-929-4363 (direct line & confidential voicemail). You may also contact Monsignor Pedone, or Deacon Montiverdi at 508-753-5001. If you are concerned about a current case of abuse, please contact the local civil authorities immediately.

All church staff and volunteers must complete a CORI form and complete a Safe Environment Training session. For more information please contact our Safe Environment Coordinator Pat Solitro at 508-753-5001.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 26, 2020—4:00 p.m.

John Gagliastro (1st Anniversary) by Wife Kay and Children

John and Joan Mero, Joyce Mills, Janet Eros and Jeanette Leclair by Family

Sunday, December 27, 2020—8:00 a.m.

The People of the Parish

Sunday, December 27, 2020—10:30 a.m.

Joseph Tufano (42nd Anniversary) by Family
In Honor of St. Theresa

Domenic Mercurio Sr. by Family

John and James O'Brien by Rita

Joseph and Rachel Toscano by Family

Monday, December 28, 2020—7:00 a.m.

The Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday, December 29, 2020—7:00 a.m.

Parishioners Intentions

Wednesday, December 30, 2020—7:00 a.m.

The Sick of the Parish

Thursday, December 31, 2020—4:00 p.m.

Parishioners Intentions

Friday, January 1, 2020—10:30 a.m.

Thanksgiving for Merlin and Maria Banzuela

Saturday, January 2, 2020—4:00 p.m.

The People of the Parish

Sunday, January 3, 2020—8:00 a.m.

The Sick of the Parish

Sunday, January 3, 2020—10:30 a.m.

Joseph Froio (3rd Anniversary) by Wife Antonietta and Children

Martha Lonardo, Domenic Pascucci and Carmen Picirillo by Carmine and Esther



Please pray for the sick of our parish: Francis Caf-fone, Susan Stomski, Donna Grasseschi, Lori Blackwell, Carmella Szklarz, Matteo Fiore, Patrick Loconto, Frank "Butch" Rano, Sylvia Pusateri, Thelma Ortiz, Cynthia Pedone, Roland Dionne, Louis Naple, Sue Cozzolino, Anthony DeAngelis, Anthony & Paul Locantore, Ann Servidio, Eleanor Gallo, Maria Dzi-czek, Joseph Vancelette, Vinny Tiscione, Madelyn Martin, Anthony Paldino, Ann Marie Verdolino, Emma Taubert, Charlene Swalec, Irene Bastardo, Lorrie Tu-fano, Riccardo & Silvia Cazzaniga, Maxwell Mitchell, Lynn Wagner, Carol Youngstrom, Rudy Aromando and Chris Watson. May the Lord give them strength, courage and healing.

**THIS WEEK OUR SANCTUARY LAMPS
ARE DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF:**

Vera Sbrogna
by husband Gus



EIGHT THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN GOING THROUGH TOUGH TIMES

1. Everything can – and will – change.
2. You've overcome challenges before.
3. It is a learning experience.
4. Not getting what you want can be a blessing.
5. Allow yourself to have some fun.
6. Being kind to yourself is the best medicine.
7. Other people's negativity isn't worth worrying about.
8. And there's always, always, always something to be thankful about.

"The poorest person on the world is not the one without money. It's the one without God."

PRAYER BEFORE MASS

Come, Holy Spirit, quiet my heart and my head, as I gather with my family, friends and neighbors to celebrate Mass. Quiet the thoughts and distractions that will keep me from worship. Open my mouth in prayer and song. Open my ears to hear God's word. Open my eyes to the mystery of the Eucharist. Open my heart to receive Jesus with love. May I go forth strengthened to take the Mass into my life this week.

One way to spread **JOY** is to put

Jesus first
Others second
You third



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

Sunday, Dec 27, 2020

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

The measure of success

Fruitfulness is a sign that we're doing something right. Plant a seed, water it, give it light, and it brings forth a shoot. Neglect it, and get nothing. We measure success in terms of fruitfulness: schooling completed, jobs held, relationships that endure, children raised, financial security, years lived, virtues practiced. God blessed Abram with wealth and years, but to that old man, the only true measure of success was a child. By what standard do you evaluate your life's worth? What's required for you to say in the end: "Lord, now you let your servant go in peace"?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40; or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2:22-40 (17). "But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what good will your gifts be, if I keep on being childless?'"*

Monday, Dec 28, 2020

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

Suffer little children

On the heels of the joyful celebration of the birth of our Savior, we remember the Holy Innocents—all the baby boys who were murdered by Herod in his attempt to kill the child Jesus. Remember too all those innocents who die today at the hands of their governments and who are victims of institutional and structural violence. About the Holy Innocents, Matthew quotes Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children . . ." Console today's mourning mothers by fighting for children's rights and protections.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698). "My children, I am writing this to you so that you may not commit sin."*

Tuesday, Dec 29, 2020

FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD; MEMORIAL OF THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR

Choosing right vs. might

Thomas Becket found himself having to choose between an earthly king and Christ the King. The cleric Thomas befriended England's Henry II—leading Henry to appoint him chancellor. Later, when Henry spotted a chance to wield power over church affairs, he named his friend the archbishop of Canterbury. But Thomas would not go along with Henry's plans. Repercussions followed, and in 1170 Thomas was brutally murdered—in Canterbury Cathedral—by the king's men. Though perhaps with less dramatic outcomes, standing up for your convictions may cost you, too. Are you willing to pay the price?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202). "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many."*

Wednesday, Dec 30, 2020

SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

The party never ends

On this sixth day of the Octave, the Christmas celebration continues. Or it can—even if the culture around us has moved on. Especially in pandemic days, you may feel challenged to find hope and joy in the promise that God is with us. So celebrate by sharing that Divine Love, however you feel able to. Bake and share cookies, make a call to someone you may have overlooked this busy season, write a note of gratitude to someone who challenges you, or contribute to an organization that cares for mothers and children in this season of the Holy Family. Take time in prayer to recollect and give thanks for any awareness of God's presence in recent days. *Loving God, help me remember that Christmas is not a day but rather a season that invites me to see you at work in my life every day.*

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40 (203). "And coming forward at that very time, [Anna] gave thanks to God and spoke about the child."*

Thursday, Dec 31, 2020

SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

The light still shines

We might well ring out a difficult year with the words of today's psalmist: "Let the heavens be glad and the Earth rejoice!" Rejoicing implies an expectation of better things to come, placing us firmly within the Christian virtue of hope. Christians are hopeful for many reasons, starting with the fact that Jesus's death led to resurrection. The church teaches, too, that hope lies in building the kingdom of God on Earth, "as it is in heaven." Lift up your hopes for 2021 to God, and be ready to work for them with God's grace.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18 (204). "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*

Friday, Jan 01, 2021

WORLD DAY OF PEACE; OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD; SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

Renew the face of the Earth

We have longed for the year 2020 to be over, to move away from the pandemics that have wounded us collectively and individually. With 2021 on the calendar now, it feels like maybe, just maybe we can start anew at some point. Given the chance, we, along with all of creation, have the capacity to renew, that is, to be "new again"—not only each year but each moment. An essential ingredient to renewal is peace. The church calls us to follow Christ the Way of Peace, as Pope Benedict said on this day in 2007, "with hearts full of hope, notwithstanding the dangers and difficulties that surround us." Let us pray for *and choose* peace for ourselves and for the world in all that we renew this year.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (18). "Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart."*

Saturday, Jan 02, 2021

MEMORIAL OF BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS, DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

Spiritual friendship lasts for ages

Spiritual friendship is one of the greatest gifts of life in a faith community. Basil and Gregory, fourth-century patriarchs of the Eastern Church, had such a friendship and spurred each other on to great accomplishments and service in their spiritual lives. We all need community and spiritual support as we work through the mysteries of our own personal lives and the challenges presented by a suffering world. Who can you count on for support and encouragement in these hard times? Do your resolutions for this new year include cultivation of spiritual community and friendships?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28 (205). "All the ends of the Earth have seen the salvation by our God."*