

December 26, 2021

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

Saint Mary Catholic Parish



*They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life,
to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Acts 2:42*

OUR *Vision*

St. Mary's is a parish that welcomes, lives and inspires faith, and serves others.

ALL ARE *Welcome*

If you are alienated or upset, we welcome you lovingly. If you are in need of forgiveness, **Jesus forgives and loves you unconditionally, and so do we.** If you have been hurt by the Church, **we are truly sorry.** If you are angry, **Jesus offers you peace.** If life has become burdensome, **we are here to support you.** We are happy you are here and want you to stay. **Come visit us each week and worship God with us!**

St. Mary Catholic Parish

Church: 795 Dartmouth Street

Office/Mailing Address: 789 Dartmouth Street

Dartmouth MA 02748

508.992.7505

stmarysdartmouth.org

Liturgies and Sacraments

Mass Schedule

Daily Mass: Monday through Thursday: 8AM

Rosary: 7:30AM

Vigil: Saturday at 4PM

Sunday Masses: 8AM, 10AM, 12PM, 5PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sunday: 3PM-4PM

Wednesday: 6PM-7PM

Adoration

Sunday: 3PM-4PM

Wednesday: 6PM-7PM

First Fridays Devotion

Mass: 8AM

Eucharistic Adoration: 8:30AM to 5PM

Benediction: 5PM

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on Saturday afternoons.

Please visit our website to complete the initial form or contact Deacon Frank.

Sacrament of Marriage

Congratulations! Couples contemplating marriage must contact Fr. David one year in advance for proper preparation.

Communion to the Homebound

Please notify the rectory of any parishioner who is unable to attend Mass due to illness, disability or age.

Stay Connected!

We are not just Sunday Mass! We are pleased to be able to provide ways for you to keep informed and connected, and grow in your faith throughout the week.



Facebook.com/
stmarysdartmouth



@stmarysdartmouth1



@stmarysdartmouth



@stmdart



Our St. Mary's app is available to download for iPhone and Android smart phones. Stay connected with our parish throughout the week with instant notifications, an easy to access event calendar, and the ability to quickly reply to or share messages via Facebook or Twitter. Also enjoy a bunch of additional features like prayers, daily readings, helpful reminders to silence your phone before Mass or Confession, and much more. Help foster a stronger parish life at St. Mary's and better engage the New Evangelization. Download our app today at myparishapp.com or search your phone's app store for myparish.



We have transitioned from Flocknote to Evangelus. If you had a Flocknote account, you're all set! We transferred your information over. Otherwise please visit eva.us/Dartmouth to sign up and stay connected!

ST. MARY CATHOLIC PARISH

How May We Serve You?

Pastor

Father David C. Frederici
pastor@stmarysdartmouth.org

Pastoral Associate

Deacon Frank Lucca
dcnfrank@stmarysdartmouth.org

Deacon

Rev. Mr. Gregory Quenneville

Director of Faith Life

Benvinda Costa-Reedy
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Youth Minister

Bea Furtado
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Director of Music Ministry

David Arruda

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Faith Life Office: FaithLife@stmarysdartmouth.org
508.742.6923

Parish Office: info@stmarysdartmouth.org
Office/Parish Center: 508.992.7505

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9AM-5PM
(Lunch 12PM-1PM)



Mass Intentions



Weekly Readings

Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/
Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Saturday, December 25	Midnight 10AM	For the People For the People
Sunday, December 26	8AM	For the People
	10AM	Felicia Jesus Alexandra
	12PM	9th Anniversary Henrigue Morais
	5PM	George & Marie Reedy
Monday, December 27	8AM	Harold Goodwin
Tuesday, December 28	8AM	Louise Sarazen
Wednesday, December 29	8AM	Dr. Antonio Fernandes, Jr.
Thursday, December 30	8AM	22nd Anniversary Jesuina Rose
Saturday, January 1, 2022 Happy New Year!	4PM	Ernest Sylvia
Sunday, January 2	8AM	25th Anniversary Muriel Rolnick
	10AM <i>Parish Memorial</i>	Maria C. Borges Mary Reiniche Barbara DiTata Ralph E. Vierra Tavares
	12PM	Jean Quinn
	5PM	For the People



Ralph E. Vierra Tavares
Barbara DiTata
Mary Reiniche
Maria C. Borges
John R. Ventura
Dolores Macedo

Everett Sylvia
Raymond Oswald
Charles Jacintho
Jack Wayne Pereira
Antonio Vassal
Dr. Antonio Fernandes, Jr.
Michael Luce
James Severino
David Raposo
Antone Gomes, Jr.

Leonard Amaral
Ernest Severino, Jr.
Edna Perry
Beverly Medeiros
Serafim Correia
Joyce I. Walecka

And all our Service Men & Women, as well as those affected by COVID-19.



If you would like to have someone prayed for please call the Parish Office, submit on our website, or email prayer@stmarysdartmouth.org



Diocese of Fall River

Office of the Bishop

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.

Bishop da Cunha's 2021 Christmas Message A Season of Opportunity

Dear Friends in Christ,

Opportunity is defined as a set of circumstances that makes it possible to do something. The last two years have presented us with various circumstances, some extremely difficult, with which we can do something beautiful. We can come together and use these moments to breathe fresh hope into our homes, parishes, and world. While the Covid-19 pandemic continues to concern us, and require our caution, I look toward the celebration of Christmas and the New Year that is nearly upon us with expectant hope and faith.

This year, Pope Francis invited the whole Church to join on a two-year journey (2021-2023) to focus on synodality: a decisive theme for the life and mission of the Church. The Holy Spirit is undoubtedly moving in our Diocese. As the theme of my pastoral letter, I chose *Journeying Together: With Jesus on the Path of Faith and Hope*, shortly after Pope Francis announced the synod theme, *For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission*. Synodality asks us to consider: how can the Church better function as the Body of Christ?

The central hope for us embracing this synodal process is for all of us to become part of a caring and listening Church. Journeying together requires a great commitment to listen to the voices of all who make up the People of God. Individually and as a parish, we have an opportunity to embrace the process as a means for growth and creating meaningful connections. First, during this joyous time of holiday gatherings, either in person or virtual, open your heart to truly listen to your friends and family—pay attention to their cares and concerns; what a magnificent way to experience the synodal process in your life. Second, the synod will create opportunities for parishes in their revitalization efforts. What remarkable potential the formal and informal coming together of the People of God presents.

I also look forward with faith and hope to the nationwide Eucharistic Revival set to launch next summer and conclude with a Eucharistic Congress in 2024. I am truly excited as plans are taking shape for this initiative. I can already envision the many blessings these will bring to the Church at large as well as to the Diocese of Fall River. The three years working together to better understand and communicate the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist will bring innumerable graces. I have no doubt hearts will be set aflame, people's faith will be reignited, and souls will grow ever closer to Christ.

During this Christmas season, I pray that we all experience a renewal of faith and hope as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. May our celebrations strengthen us to remain steadfast in our desire to share this Good News with the world. May we see all the good things put into motion this year come to fruition in our lives, our Diocese, and the world. May all answer God's call to be a part of the revitalization and renewal of the Church, through our love, dedication, and perseverance as disciples and witnesses of our Eucharistic Lord.

May God bless you and your loved ones, and may you enjoy a very happy, joyful, blessed and Merry Christmas.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V.

Prayer Resources

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops www.usccb.org You can find the readings for Mass, and a digital copy of the Scriptures.

Magis Center www.magiscenter.com Organization headed up by Fr. Robert Spitzer, SJ. Fr. Spitzer is the former President of Gonzaga University. A great resource for the use of science and philosophy in coming to know about God and growing in faith.

St. Paul Center <https://stpaulcenter.com> A website set up by Scripture Scholar, Dr. Scott Hahn. Great resource with some audio bible studies.

<https://stmarysdartmouth.blogspot.com>: A blog set up by Fr. David.

Formed (Can be accessed at stmarysdartmouth.formed.org) Catholic movies, study programs, audio and e-books.

MyParish App. Various resources to help you grow spiritually, as well as news and updates from the Parish. Download the MyParish App from the Apple Store or Google Play.

Holy Family Catechism References

CCC 531-534: the Holy Family

CCC 1655-1658, 2204-2206: the Christian family, a domestic Church

CCC 2214-2233: duties of family members

CCC 534, 583, 2599: the Finding in the Temple

CCC 64, 489, 2578: Hannah and Samuel

CCC 1, 104, 239, 1692, 1709, 2009, 2736: we are God's children now

CCC 163, 1023, 1161, 2519, 2772: we shall see him face to face and be like him

AROUND THE PARISH

Open Arms Reception

The Open Arms Reception scheduled for January 9, 2022 has been postponed. The rescheduled date will be announced later in January.

Parish Offices The Parish Offices will be closed Monday December 27-Friday December 31 for the holiday. We wish you a blessed Christmas!

Reminder As you are aware, the Pandemic is far from over. If you are not feeling well, have a fever, sore throat, body or muscle aches, shortness of breath, cough or congestion (that aren't allergies), please refrain from attending Mass or Parish Activities.

Youth Minister Position Available We are looking to hire a 20 hour/week Youth Minister. Information may be found on the parish website.



The Sanctuary Candle
burns the week of
December 26—January 1
in memory of
George & Marie Reedy

Please remember
George and Marie
in your prayers.



Glory to God in the Highest

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.



The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father
almighty, maker of heaven
and earth, of all things visible
and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all
ages. God from God, Light
from Light, true God from
true God, begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were
made. For us men and for our
salvation he came down from
heaven, and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate, he suffered death
and was buried, and rose again
on the third day in accordance
with the Scriptures. He ascended
into heaven and is seated at the
right hand of the Father. He will
come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead and his
kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the
Lord, the giver of life, who
proceeds from the Father and the
Son, who with the Father and the
Son is adored and glorified, who
has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church. I confess one
Baptism for the forgiveness of
sins and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead and the
life of the world to come. Amen

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Lectionary: 17

Reading I: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28

In those days Hannah conceived, and at the end of her term bore a son whom she called Samuel, since she had asked the LORD for him.

The next time her husband Elkanah was going up with the rest of his household to offer the customary sacrifice to the LORD and to fulfill his vows, Hannah did not go, explaining to her husband, "Once the child is weaned,

I will take him to appear before the LORD and to remain there forever;
I will offer him as a perpetual nazirite."

Once Samuel was weaned, Hannah brought him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and presented him at the temple of the LORD in Shiloh. After the boy's father had sacrificed the young bull, Hannah, his mother, approached Eli and said: "Pardon, my lord!

As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood near you here, praying to the LORD. I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD." Hannah left Samuel there.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10.

R. (cf. 5a) Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!
My soul yearns and pines for the courts of the LORD.
My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

R. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Happy they who dwell in your house!

Continually they praise you.

Happy the men whose strength you are!

Their hearts are set upon the pilgrimage.

R. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

O LORD of hosts, hear our prayer;

hearken, O God of Jacob!

O God, behold our shield,

and look upon the face of your anointed.

R. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Reading II: 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.

And so we are.

The reason the world does not know us

is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now;

what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

And his commandment is this:

we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us.

Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.

Alleluia: Cf. Acts 16:14b

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. ***R. Alleluia, alleluia.***

Gospel: Lk 2:41-52

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover,

and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom.

After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances,

but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers,

listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded

at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him,

they were astonished,

and his mother said to him,

"Son, why have you done this to us?

Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety."

And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me?

Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them;

and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

Music for the Weekend of December 26

Gathering

O come, all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels!

O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore
him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Preparation

It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth, good will to men
From heaven's all gracious king
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

Eucharist

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Come to Bethlehem and see
Him Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,

Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Sending Forth

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

SPM Praise and Worship

Gathering

O come, all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels!

O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore
him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Preparation

It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth, good will to men
From heaven's all gracious king
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

Eucharist

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo (*Continued...*)

Music for 5 PM Praise and Worship

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Eucharist *Continued*

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Sending Forth

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS: **All in the Family**

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a

Stewardship of Treasure

We are blessed to have thoughtful, generous parishioners who support the good works of our faith community with time, talent, and treasure.

Regular Collection for Dec. 12:	\$4,255.90
Egiving; Dec. 6 to Dec. 12:	\$1,899.50
Immaculate Conception - SVDP, Dec. 8:	\$1,244.00
Christmas Memorial (to date):	\$3,619.00
Annual (to date):	\$41,960.00

Thank you for your spiritual and financial commitment to our parish!

EGiving

Visit our website to enroll, or consider Text Giving. Simply type GIVE to 1 508-257-7449 or scan the QR Code with a QR App or your camera app, to start the registration process. Then simply type GIVE and the amount!



child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



Sunday, Dec 26, 2021 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH Bless the children

Holy families aren't necessarily picture-perfect. But they are faithful and consistent in their values and goals. Like Mary and Joseph and biblical parents before them, holy families consecrate their children early and often to the care of God. They do this by baptizing them and seeing to their sacramental preparation. They do this by praying for and with their little ones. They provide them a religious education and share faith-filled practices of compassion and charity. All the children in our lives look to us for love and acceptance, guidance and Christian example. Teach the children well. TODAY'S READINGS: *Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52 (17A); or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52 (17C). "Once the child is weaned, I will take him to appear before the LORD and to remain there forever."*

Monday, Dec 27, 2021 FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST He lived to tell the tale

John the Apostle is credited with being the author of the Gospel of John. He is also believed to have been the "Beloved Disciple" of Jesus mentioned in that gospel and is presumed to have outlived the other apostles, perhaps being the only one to die of natural causes rather than martyrdom. Imagine being the last survivor, and the heartache he endured on losing his peers to violent deaths for their faith. Perhaps it was John's job to live to tell the story—"that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name"—as he says in his final line. Take John's mission to heart and embrace his good word today. TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697). "Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed."*

Tuesday, Dec 28, 2021 FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS Children deserve protection

Nowadays when we think of Christmas pageants, we envision adorable children in bathrobes dressed as shepherds. But in the Middle Ages, religious pageants were a serious business. The whole community gathered to enact mystery plays that told the stories of birth, death, resurrection, and the lives of the saints. It's from such a mystery play that we get the haunting words and melody of "The Coventry Carol"—a song about King Herod's slaughter of the Holy Innocents that asks plaintively, "What may we do to preserve . . . this poor youngling for whom we sing?" Pray today for children who continue to suffer and face certain death without our help. TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698). "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children."*

Wednesday, Dec 29, 2021 FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF NATIVITY OF THE LORD; MEMORIAL OF THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR Choose God

Everyone must at times make the choice of serving God or something less. Today we remember Saint Thomas Becket, bishop of Canterbury. Thomas was faced with such a dilemma when his friend the king, Henry

II, continuously tried to interfere with church matters. Allowing the king to interfere with the church would have allowed Thomas to be in the king's good graces. Instead, Thomas chose to serve God above anything and anyone else, even at the cost of martyrdom. "When is constancy required," Thomas writes, "except under persecution. Are not friends then proved? If they always yield, how can they ever succeed? They must, one time or other, make a stand." TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202). "And you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."*

Thursday, Dec 30, 2021 SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Take your time to absorb Christmas

Today we continue as a church to honor the feast of our Savior's birth. It is day six in the octave of Christmas—the eight-day liturgical focus on the birth of Christ. The entrance of the Christ into human history is such a significant event that the church notes its magnitude by keeping our gaze on it through the specified readings, psalms, and prayers during these eight days. Take a moment today to allow the wonder of God-among-us to continue to sink in. TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40 (203). "She gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem."*

Friday, Dec 31, 2021 SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Out with the new, in with the old

The end of the year gives us pause to reflect on the past and change for the future. Typically, we find something new to embrace or resolve to do. But if it's true that there's really nothing new under the sun, then perhaps we should look to the old! This is exactly what the church does, as it moves into the new year, not with any newfound epiphany, but instead with a commitment to the very old-school value of peace. As we anticipate the World Day of Peace tomorrow, January 1, what are some deeply held and long-standing values that you would like to deepen during the coming year? How might you go old school? TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18 (204). "In the beginning was the Word."*

Saturday, Jan 01, 2022 OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD; SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD; WORLD DAY OF PEACE Rocking with Mother Mary

People in every age have their particular way to celebrate the new year. These days we might change old eating habits to be healthier; get on track financially; spend more time with family. But maybe this year it could be about what young Catholics refer to as "rocking with Mary," that is, getting to know the mother of Jesus on a deeper level. Understanding her courage, strength, and faithfulness can help us realize our own potential as bearers of the Good News. On her feast day and in the days ahead, reflect on Mary and strive to imitate her in bringing Good News to the world. TODAY'S READINGS: *Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (18). "And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart."*

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Desiree F. Winterhalter, D.M.D.
Antonio Fernandes, Jr., D.M.D.

FAMILY DENTISTRY
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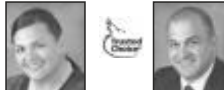
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