



GLORY
TO GOD
IN THE
HIGHEST
AND ON
EARTH
PEACE TO
THOSE
ON WHOM
HIS FAVOR
RESTS.

LUKE 2:14

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Our Lady of Peace Church

Sunday, December 26, 2021



My dear friends,

Pope Francis: Nurture tomorrow's hope by healing today's pain

On this final weekend of 2021, we are immersed in the beautiful celebrations of Christmas (Saturday, December 25) and the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (December 26). The Scripture readings and prayers of these Masses remind us that, at the heart of our faith, is a person, not an idea. It is Jesus, the Son of God, who was born in poor circumstances and who was part of a human family. The birth of Jesus is the dawn of our ultimate reason to have hope, even in the midst of all the challenges our world faces.

At the beginning of the Season of Advent, our time of preparation for the feasts of the Christmas season, we had a rather somber reading from the Gospel of Luke 21:25-28, 34-36, which focused on the **end of days**. In his teaching to his disciples Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken." And yet, Jesus concludes with a message of hope for his followers: "But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." With the celebration of Christmas, we acknowledge that our redemption has been born, and his name is Jesus Christ.

In a homily for the Fifth World Day of the Poor (November 14, 2021), **Pope Francis** has invited the entire Church community to reflect deeply on the central events of our faith. The Holy Father begins with the above reading from Luke.

"This Gospel passage helps us to interpret history in two of its aspects: *today's pain* and *tomorrow's hope*. It evokes all those painful contradictions in which humanity in every age is immersed, and, at the same time, the future of salvation that awaits us: the encounter with the Lord who comes to set us free from all evil. Let us consider these two aspects through the eyes of Jesus.

"First: *today's pain*. We are part of a history marked by tribulation, violence, suffering and injustice, ever awaiting a liberation that never seems to arrive. Those who are most wounded, oppressed and even crushed, are the poor, the weakest links in the chain. The World Day of the Poor which we are celebrating asks us not to turn aside, not to be afraid to take a close look at the suffering of those most vulnerable. Today's Gospel has much to say to them. The sun of their life is often darkened by loneliness, the moon of their expectations has waned and the stars of their dreams have fallen into gloom; their lives have been shaken. All because of the poverty into which they are often forced, victims of injustice and the inequality of a throwaway society that hurries past without seeing them and without scruple abandons them to their fate.

"There is, however, another aspect: *tomorrow's hope*. Jesus wants to open our hearts to hope, to remove our anxiety and fear before the pain of the world. And so, he tells us that even as the sun grows dark and everything around us seems to be falling, he himself is drawing near. Amid the groans of our painful history, a future of salvation is beginning to blossom. Tomorrow's hope flowers amid today's pain. Indeed, God's salvation is not only a future promise, but is even now at work within our wounded history, spreading in the midst of the oppression and the injustice of our world. All of us have a wounded heart. Amid the tears of the poor, the kingdom of God is blossoming like the tender leaves of the tree and guiding history to its goal, to the final encounter with the Lord, the King of the universe who will definitively set us free.

"At this point let us ask: what is demanded of us as Christians in this situation? We are asked to *nurture tomorrow's hope by healing today's pain*. The two are linked: if you do not work to heal today's pain, it will be hard to have hope for tomorrow. The hope born of the Gospel has nothing to do with a passive expectation that things may be better tomorrow, but with making God's promise of salvation concrete today. Today and every day. Christian hope is not naïve, even adolescent, optimism of those who hope that things may change—that won't happen—but in the meantime go on with life; it has to do with building daily, by concrete gestures, the kingdom of love, justice and fraternity that Jesus inaugurated. Christian hope, for example, was not sown by the Levite and the priest who walked by the man wounded by the thieves. It was sown by a stranger, a Samaritan who stopped and did that (cf. Luke 10:30-35). And today it is as if the Church is saying: "Stop and sow hope amid poverty. Draw near to the poor and sow hope." Hope for that person, your hope and the hope of the Church. This is what is asked of us: to be, amid the ruins of our everyday world, tireless builders of hope; to be light as the sun grows dark, to be loving witnesses of compassion amid widespread disinterest; to be an attentive presence amid growing indifference. Witnesses of compassion....What touches the heart is compassion: we draw near, we feel compassion and we perform works of tender love. That is God's way of doing things: closeness, compassion and tenderness. That is what is being asked of us today."



Saturday, December 25-Rosary at 3:15P

10:00A *Claire Singley*
by a friend

Sunday, December 26

8:00A *Louella Bergeron*
by Bob & Yvette Bissell

10:00A *Kostanski & Geraghty families*
by Virginia & families

Saturday, January 1-Rosary at 3:15P

10:00A *Our Parishioners & birthday of our parish*
4:00P *Carolyn Prunier*
by Paul

Sunday, January 2

8:00A *Anna Kawecki*
by John & Sue Davis/McCarthy Funeral Home

10:00A *Pam Deery*
by Marie Putala

DAILY MASS

Monday, December 27

8:00A *No Mass*

Tuesday, December 28

8:00A *No Mass*

Wednesday, December 29

8:00A *Marleen Barrett*
by her family

Thursday, December 30

8:00A *The Balthazar family*
by Bob & Yvette Bissell

Friday, December 31—No 8:00A Communion Service

4:00P *Phyllis Choleva*
by Marcia Caloon



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
at MCSM is in need of snacks over the winter months. The kids appreciate a snack after a long school day!



2021 VATICAN NATIVITY SCENE COMES FROM PERU
Over 30 figurines created by five different artists belonging to the Chopcca Nation, make up the traditional Nativity Scene soon to be inaugurated in St. Peter's Square.

The Chopcca Nation comprises several communities that are located in the Huancavelica region in the high Andean region of Peru. The life-sized figurines representing the Child Jesus, the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, the Three Kings and the shepherds are made of ceramic, maguey wood and fiberglass, and will be wearing traditional Chopcca costumes. Baby Jesus will have the appearance of a "Hilipuska" child, so-called because he is wrapped in a typical Huancavelica blanket tied with a "chumpi" or woven belt. The Three Kings will be carrying traditional foods such as potatoes, quinoa, and other indigenous cereals, and they will be accompanied by llamas with the Peruvian flag on their backs. The birth of the Savior will be announced by an angel playing the Wajrapuco, the traditional Andean wind instrument. Indigenous animals such as alpacas, vicunas, and the Andean condor, Peru's national symbol, will also be featured.

RCIA will not meet on Sunday, **December 26 or January 2**. It will resume on Sunday, **January 9** at 9:00A in the rectory.

Our Lady's Window

January 1
Joseph Rodovich
by his family



NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

New Year's Eve

Friday, **December 31**

Mass **4:00P**

New Year's Day

Saturday, **January 1, 2022**

Mass **10:00A**

EPIPHANY

Saturday, **January 1**

Mass **4:00P**

Sunday, **January 2**

Mass **8:00A**

Mass **10:00A**



PARISH COLLECTIONS

Weekend of **December 19**
Amounts not available at press time

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