

Roman Catholic Churches of Hancock County

++ V. Rev. Emile Dubé, VF, Pastor ++

May God's Blessings Touch You in the New Year 2022!

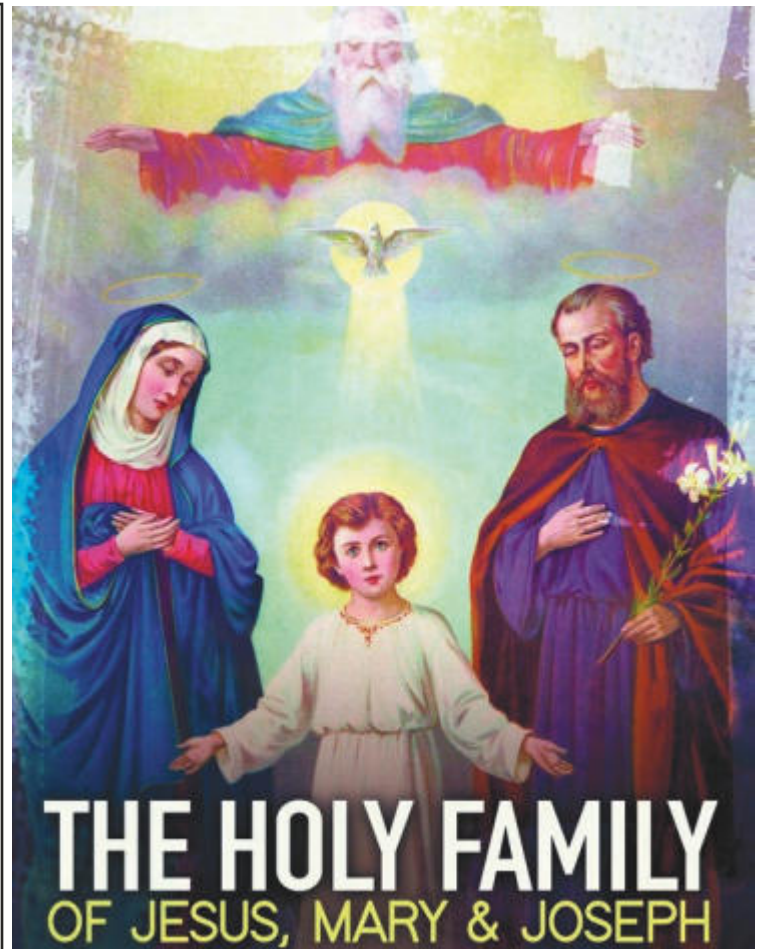
Father Emile + Father Roland + Father Anthanasius

Dear God's Holy people, just a day after celebrating the birth of Jesus we celebrate his family, the Holy Family. This reminds us that the Savior was born into a family. This celebration gives inspiration to the family, the basic unit of society and the first Church and the first school. The Mass of the day reminds us of how the Child developed in a family which devoutly observed religious practices.

The first reading from the book of Sirach contains wise counsels on how to lead a life pleasing to God. This section of Sirach deals with the relationship between parents and children and the respect and care to be expected from children. The family is really a basic cell of society, and a lot takes place in the family. 'It is the natural society in which husband and wife are called to give themselves in love and in the gift of life. Authority, stability, and a life of relationships within the family constitute the foundation for freedom, security, and fraternity within society.. The family is the community in which, from childhood, one can learn moral values, begin to honor God, and make good use of freedom. Family life is an initiation into life in society' CCC 2207. For this reason, Psychologists say that we are our parents. What we become in society can be traced back to our family. 'A good tree produces good fruit and a bad tree bad fruit'. We need to be careful what we make of homes as parents. It was Mother Theresa who said, "*What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family*".

The qualities of the Holy Family we need to imitate for the good of our family. A holy family is accepting of the frailty of its members and of behaviors that may not be what the family

(continued on page 6)



Bishop Deeley strongly recommends all persons in Maine Catholic churches wear masks in church. This applies to Mass and other gatherings in churches only. It does not apply to other kinds of parish activities elsewhere on parish property for the time being. Please continue to pray for all those suffering from the pandemic. If you have NOT been vaccinated, you must wear a mask.

St. Joseph Parish

*Ellsworth, Lakes, and
Schoodic Peninsula*

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Roland Berngeh Njoyir

PARISH OFFICE

231 Main Street
Ellsworth, ME 04605

(207) 667-2342

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Thursday
8:00 am to 3:30 pm
Call ahead for appointments

EMAIL:

StJosephEll@portlanddiocese.org

ADMINISTRATION

Monica Giordano

MUSIC MINISTRY

Dan Conte

WEBSITES

www.stjosephellsworth.org
www.hc-catholics.org

FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/
stjosephellsworth/

LIVESTREAM

Weekend Masses are
livestreamed on Facebook

CHURCHES

St. Joseph

231 Main Street
Ellsworth, ME 04605

*** St. Margaret**

Grindstone Avenue
Winter Harbor, ME 04693

*** Our Lady of the Lake**

5 Finnegan Drive
(off Green Lake Road)
Dedham, ME 04429

* Summer Missions

WOMEN'S COUNCIL - Would you like to keep up with the Women's Council? If you'd like to be kept in the loop or your email address has changed, please contact Sue Hann at susie4@roadrunner.com to be added to our email list.

BAKERS NEEDED for Sunday morning coffee Would you be able to bake treats once a month for the coffee hour held after the Sunday 8 am Mass? Our baker for the 4th Sunday of the month is going south for the winter, and we have no volunteer for months with a 5th Sunday. You need not attend the 8 am mass; baked goods can be left in the parish hall the night before. Surplus baked goods received on any week can be frozen for use on subsequent weeks. If you can help on these (or other weeks), please contact Sue Hann at susie4@roadrunner.com.

ROSARY - Weekend Masses: 1/2-hour before Mass followed by 15 minutes of quiet time to prepare for Mass. Weekday Masses: Immediately following Mass. Wednesdays: 9:00 am. Tuesday: 9:00 am with Benediction.

ROOM AT THE INN - A wonderful gift that gives twice! One vision and dream of our cluster churches is to support one bed every day with a donation to the Emmaus Homeless Shelter. Your contribution in a loved one's name will give someone in your local community a warm, safe bed for the night. On December 29, **Kate Pool** is honored. Future donations may be made through the St Joseph Parish Office at 207-667-2342.

SANCTUARY LAMP - The Sanctuary Lamp before the Blessed Sacrament burns this week for the Glory of God and **in memory of Fr. Peter Gorham.**

LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD PANTRY - The Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry of Ellsworth serves those with food insecurity in Hancock County. They are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and Wednesday 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Call 667-4363 to reserve a time.

Parish Schedule and Mass Intentions

St. Joseph - Ellsworth

Sat	Dec 25	10:00 am	Mass	Richard M. Suydam (D) by <i>Michelle Suydam</i>
Sun	Dec 26	8:00 am	Mass	Edna Pickford by <i>Lucia Pinder</i>
		11:00 am	Mass	Denise Poulin, L.M.C. (D) by <i>Laurie Dwyer, L.M.C.</i>
Mon	Dec 27	9:00 am	Mass	Cora Dwyer by <i>Dwyer Family</i>
Tue	Dec 28	9:00 am	Mass	Barry Mooers (D) by <i>Lorraine Mooers</i>
Wed	Dec 29	9:00 am	No Mass	
Thu	Dec 30	9:00 am	Mass	Robert Seibel (D) by <i>Inez Seibel</i>
		3:00 pm	Eucharistic Adoration	
Fri	Dec 31	9:00 am	Mass	Cluster 11 Priests with <i>Love & Thanks</i>
Sat	Jan 1	3:15 pm	Confessions	
		4:30 pm	Mass	Richard Suydam (D) by <i>your wife, Shelly</i>
Sun	Jan 2	8:00 am	Mass	K. Haas by <i>Mom & Dad</i>
		11:00 am	Mass	Charles Edkins (D) by <i>Birdsall Family</i>

CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED - Holy Redeemer is still looking for new choir members. We would love to have more members in our choir, so please come join us! A sign-up sheet is in the back of the church or contact Sally: sallyleo1016@gmail.com.

SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE - Give the gift of intercessory prayer to your priest and parish. Seven women spiritually united in prayer, each offering one hour of prayer, one day each week, solely for the intentions of the Pastor. The hour within the given day can be flexible, and the manner of prayer is the gift of the Seven Sister. The seven are formed so that each day of the week the Priest has the gift of intercessory prayer. The bond of prayer strengthens the Priest, the seven, the Church the community, and brings sustaining grace. Additional groups of Seven can be formed as the Apostolate continues to grow. Any woman of the Parish is welcome to participate. Please contact: Laurie Dwyer; at LDwyerlmc@gmail.com and put "Seven Sisters" in the subject line.

ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP - The Adult Discussion Group reflection and discussion on *The Eucharist: Real Presence and Piety* will continue in January. More details coming once dates are set.

SANCTUARY LAMP - The Sanctuary Lamp before the Blessed Sacrament burns this week for the Glory of God.

THE BAR HARBOR FOOD PANTRY - Serves those with food insecurity throughout the Mount Desert Island community. It is located at 36 Mt. Desert St. (behind the YWCA) Drop by on *Fresh Fruit Fridays* 9:00 - 12:00 or call 288-3375 to pick up.

FATIMA PRAYER - O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are in most need of Thy mercy.

Parish Schedule and Mass Intentions

Holy Redeemer - Bar Harbor

Sun	Dec 26	9:15 am	No Confessions
		10:00 am	Mass Robert Pyle (D) by <i>Miriam Pyle</i>
Mon	Dec 27	8:30 am	No Mass
Tue	Dec 28	8:30 am	Mass Pat Crisci (D) by <i>her daughter</i>
Wed	Dec 29	8:30 am	Mass George & Eleanor Cummings by <i>John & Nancy Colberg</i>
Thu	Dec 30	8:30 am	Mass Barbara Crowley (D) by <i>John & Nancy Colberg</i>
		9:00 am	Choir Practice (in the Choir Loft)
Fri	Dec 31	8:30 am	Mass Louisa Meade (D) by <i>those who knew and loved her</i>
		9:00 am	Hour Holy of Adoration and Exposition
		4:00 pm	Mass Vanessa Hyde by <i>JoAnn Fairchild & Family</i>
Sun	Jan 2	9:15 am	No Confessions
		10:00 am	Mass Elizabeth Houghton (D) by <i>her husband</i>

St. Peter - Manset

Sun	Dec 26	4:00 pm	Mass Andy Mays (D) by <i>Jim Geary & Louise Soucy</i>
Sun	Jan 2	8:00 am	Mass For the People

Transfiguration Parish

Mount Desert Island & Little Cranberry Island

PASTOR

V. Rev. Emile Dubé, VF

PARISH OFFICE

Holy Redeemer
56 Mount Desert Street
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

(207) 288-3535

OFFICE HOURS

Monday and Thursday

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Transfiguration
@portlanddiocese.org

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Cathy Scovill
Derf McKeeton
Sally Leo

MUSEUM CURATOR

Paul Saltysiak

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Holy Redeemer

56 Mount Desert Street
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

St. Peter

5 Ocean House Road
Manset, ME 04679

* **St. Ignatius**

8 Lookout Way
Northeast Harbor, ME 04662

* **Our Lady Star of the Sea**

Little Cranberry Island
Islesford, ME 04646

* Summer Missions

Stella Maris Parish

*Bucksport, Castine,
and Stonington*

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Anthanasius S. Wirsy

PARISH OFFICE

St. Vincent de Paul
PO Box S / 64 Franklin Street
Bucksport, ME 04416

(207) 702-9217

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday & Thursday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

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CLUSTER WEBPAGE

www.hc-catholics.org

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MUSIC MINISTRY

Wendy Johnston
Kathy Jellison
Peggy O'Neil-Murphy
Noëlle Bourré
Martha Goss

CHURCHES

St. Vincent de Paul

64 Franklin Street
Bucksport, ME 04416

St. Mary Star of the Sea

8 Granite Street
Stonington, ME 04681

Our Lady of Holy Hope

137 Perkins Street
Castine, ME 04421

HOLY HOUR - Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Holy Hour of Adoration and Benediction is held every Monday evening at St. Vincent de Paul Church 6:00 to 7:00 pm.

ROSARY BEFORE MASS - Begins 30 minutes before each all Masses at St. Vincent de Paul and St. Mary Star of the Sea.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY - SVDP - The KofC Fish Fry is on 3rd Saturday of each month. The next Fish Fry is January 15 at 5 pm.

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY - The Divine Mercy Chaplet is recited on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 pm at St. Vincent de Paul, Bucksport. The next chaplet is Sunday, January 16. The Chaplet Prayers:

(Optional Opening Prayer) *"You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us."*

Repeat three times: *"O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!"*

Our Father. Hail Mary. Apostle's Creed.

(On the Our Father beads) *"Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world."*

(On the Hail Mary beads) *"For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."*

(At the end 3x) *"Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world."*

(Optional Closing Prayer) *"Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself."*

Parish Schedule and Mass Intentions

St. Vincent de Paul - Bucksport

Sun Dec 26 10:15 am Confessions (10:15 - 10:45 am)
11:30 am Mass John & Agatha Harvey (D) by John & Jane Meade

Mon Dec 27 8:30 am No Mass
6:00 pm Holy Hour Adoration & Benediction

Thu Dec 30 8:30 am No Mass

Fri Dec 31 4:00 pm No Mass

Sun Jan 2 10:15 am Confessions (10:15 - 10:45 am)
11:00 am Mass Dana Wardwell (D) by Rosemarie Frigon

St. Mary Star of the Sea - Stonington

Sun Dec 26 8:00 am Mass Wayne "Butch" Ciomei (D) by Sandy Leach

Tue Dec 28 8:30 am No Mass

Sun Jan 2 8:00 am Mass Priest's Intentions

Our Lady of Holy Hope - Castine

Sat Dec 25 4:00 pm No Mass

Sun Dec 26 10:00 am Mass Priest's Intentions

Wed Dec 29 8:30 am No Mass

Sat Jan 1 4:00 pm Mass Priest's Intentions

ROSARY - beginning 30 minutes before each weekend & daily Mass at SVDP and SMSS

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY - 3rd Sunday of the Month at 3:00 pm at SVDP

CONFESSIONS - Sundays 10:15 - 10:45 am at SVDP or by appointment

Looking for resources to grow in your spiritual life? Our Cluster has access to FORMED and Word on Fire – ENGAGE subscriptions for you to use free (through a grant). Try one of these offerings or browse the libraries for other topics that interest you. The Cluster website has links for you to connect: <https://hc-catholics.org/faith-formation>.

FORMED: The Story of the Nativity: The Truth of Christmas
The story of the birth of Jesus is often misunderstood. This is an invaluable tool for believer and unbeliever alike to learn more about Jesus of Nazareth and about the truth of Christmas. <https://watch.formed.org/the-story-of-the-nativity-the-truth-of-christmas>.

Word on Fire – ENGAGE program, “Priest, Prophet, King” Session 6 – “King of Kings” - Pope Benedict XVI wrote in *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration* (Doubleday, 2007), the “core content of the Gospels is this: The Kingdom of God is at hand. ... This announcement [of the Kingdom] is the actual core of Jesus' words and works. Benedict makes this crucial observation: the “basic question is actually about the relationship between the Kingdom of God and Christ. It is on this that our understanding of the Church will depend”. “Jesus himself is the Kingdom; the Kingdom is not a thing; it is not a geographical dominion like worldly kingdoms. It is a person; it is he”.

Reflection:

1. What does Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI mean when he writes in his book *Jesus of Nazareth* that "Jesus himself is the Kingdom..."? (CCC 541-42; 763-66; 2816-21)
2. Pope Pius XI wrote that the kingdom established by Jesus “is spiritual and is concerned with spiritual things.” What does that mean regarding the nature of kingdom and the way that it is revealed and known in the world? (Isa. 9:5-6; Jn. 18:36-37; CCC 550, 2816)
3. How do we, especially the laity, share in the kingship of Christ here on earth? (Gen 1:27-30; Matt. 20:25-28; CCC 898, 2013, 2015)

It's easy to view this program and study guide - - go to: <https://hc-catholics.org/word-on-fire>.

A TOUR TO ITALY WITH FR. EMILE is scheduled for June 12-22, 2022 and with an option to visit Rome at the end of the tour! Want a brochure? Call the Cluster Office and speak with Monica! There's quite a bit of interest!!

VOCATIONS - “Now I, in turn, give him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the Lord.” Contact Fr. Greg Dube, Director of Vocations, at (207)-773-6471 or email vocations@portlanddiocese.org.

Stewardship by Parish (December 11-12)

The Offertory Collection numbers were not available at the time of printing and will be published in next week's bulletin.

CLUSTER 11 STAFF

CLUSTER 11 OFFICE

231 Main Street
Ellsworth, ME 04605

(207) 667-2342

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BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bulletin announcements must be submitted to your parish office at least two weeks in advance of the publish date of the bulletin.

SANCTUARY LAMP

Unfortunately our churches are not permitted to have open flame votive or devotional candles at this time. However, if you would like to donate a sanctuary lamp/candle for a special intention, please contact your parish office. These candles burn for one week at a time. Your special intention will be placed in the bulletin along with the Mass intentions of that week.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

For sacramental preparation and to schedule a date, please call the parish office of the church where you would like the baptism to occur.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please contact the cluster office (207) 667-2342 at least six months in advance of making your wedding plans.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Please contact the funeral homes, and they will work with your parish to help you make arrangements.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK & COMMUNION CALLS

Please call your parish office with the address and phone number of the person(s) in need of pastoral care.

MINISTRY TO THOSE IN NEED

We support the Emmaus Homeless Shelter and local food pantries.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please call your parish office to add someone to the prayer list or to offer a prayer intention.

LEARNING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Please speak with a priest; call your parish office; or go to formed.org to watch, listen and read.

FORMED provides Catholic content from more than 60 organizations to help parishes, families and individuals explore their faith anywhere. Enjoy a wide selection of movies, talks, ebooks, and videos to deepen your understanding and appreciation of the Catholic Faith. Get children's programs, parish programs and studies direct to your browser, mobile or connected device. Signing up for FORMED is easier than ever: Go to

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conceived as ideal or even normal. Think of what happened to Mary and Joseph before they came to live together. A holy family is obedient and loyal. Mary and Joseph listened deeply for the voice of God in their lives. A holy family is loving. The love and faithfulness the Holy Family experienced from God, enabled them to love and trust each other as they moved forward into an uncertain future. As long as we work to model our lives on the love of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we can trust that God will shape our hearts into the holiness we desire and the unity we seek. It is in the family that we learn how to communicate and how to express our love for God and neighbor, right from wrong and the importance of forgiveness and how to pray and how to be a scholar. We pray that our families turn to the Holy Family for all they need to be God's faithful children.

Fr. Roland Berngeh Njoyir

CLUSTER PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED -

Carol Hurd, Carol deGraffenried, Christopher, Bethine Sordyl Crookedacre, Vanessa Hyde, Anna Ryan, Joe Sulya, Linda Oyster, Mary Lou Weaver, Diana Wakefield, Charlene Kennedy, Carol Stabinsky, Suzanne FitzGerald, Beth Kyzer, John Conroy, Tom Conroy, Roger Greene, and Warren.


Women Who Have Had Abortions Speak Out - The most powerful and convincing advocates for the pro-life movement are the courageous women who have had an abortion, yet are willing to speak out. This is increasingly evident and was very clear during a recent legislative hearing on a Right to Know bill (providing more information to any expectant mother considering an abortion) in the Wyoming legislature. The pro-life side of the debate packed the hearing room with women. They consisted of mothers who have had abortions and have personal experience of the subsequent problems. These brave women who testified spoke of being "treated like cattle" at the Planned Parenthood abortion center. They talked about the lack of choices and information and how staff at the abortion business "sold" the abortion to them. They talked about spiritual and mental health issues they faced following their abortion, referred to the miscarriages and problems in subsequent pregnancies, spoke of the breast cancer they battled, and of the regret and guilt they had to overcome. The legislators and the abortion advocates had little response. How can you respond to someone's tragic personal story? When women who know firsthand how abortion hurt them share their side of the story (which too often is the forgotten part of the debate) it is virtually impossible to refute. Although the babies cannot speak for themselves, no one can do so with the same intensity and feeling as women who have had abortions and have found genuine healing and, forgiveness afterwards. We need to show our love and appreciation to all our mothers. We should also be particularly thankful to the mothers who have had abortions and who have found healing and are now speaking out on behalf of the pro-life movement. As these brave women increasingly lead the battle, we are increasingly likely to win the abortion war! - *Ruth Weber*

ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD - On New Years Day, Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, with a feast. This celebration is within the octave of Christmas. An octave is an eight day extension of the feast. In the modern Roman Calendar, only Christmas and Easter have an octave. This holiday is a celebration of Mary’s motherhood of Jesus. It is a reminder of the role she played in the salvation of humankind.

The title “Mother of God” is a western derivation from the Greek *Theotokos*, which means “God-bearer”. Mary being chosen by God, the Father, to bring Jesus Christ into this world, and her willingness to do so is great cause for celebration. Without her role, Jesus would not have been able to die for the sins of humanity, thus giving them a second chance at redemption.

The honoring of Mary as the Mother of God can be traced back to the Council of Ephesus in 431. By the 7th century, January 1st was observed as a celebration of the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the 13th century, the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ had come to replace the feast honoring Mary. However, in 1751, Pope Benedict XIV allowed Portugal’s churches to devote a feast to Mary on the first Sunday in May. This was because of a push in Portugal for an official feast day celebrating Mary’s divine maternity. Eventually, the feast was expanded to include other countries.

In 1914, the feast started to be observed on October 11. In 1931, Pope Pius XI extended the feast to the entire church. In 1974, Pope Paul VI removed the feast of the Circumcision of Christ from the liturgical calendar. He replaced it with the feast of the “Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God”, bringing Mary’s feast day back to the first day of the calendar year. - *Dhruti Bhagat*



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