



*Assumption Grotto
Parish - 1832 -*

ASSUMPTION GROTTA NEWS

ASSUMPTION GROTTA CHURCH

December 20, 2020



*Our Lady of Lourdes
Shrine - 1881 -*

A Vicarious Descant

We have reached the last of our four Sundays of preparation of Advent. Hopefully, by God's grace and our persistent prayer and petition, this time has renewed our desire to be faithful disciples. We have frequently asked our Blessed Mother to intercede on our behalf and allow us to receive from her hands the many graces that God desires to pour out upon each of us. Hopefully, each of us received many graces in these days of gentle and hopeful preparation and penance.

St. Gregory the Great taught that when our Lord came, paganism was united while Israel was scattered. There was one Roman Empire, but four Tetrarchies into which Israel had been divided by the Romans to keep them subjugated. A house divided cannot stand or easily rebel.

To visit the Holy Land is to see nothing but mountains, hills, valleys, winding roads that have few level stretches. Steep inclines are often traversed over small, uneven stones arranged into steps—each of which is a misstep waiting to happen. Travel—to say the least—is difficult. Agriculture is nearly impossible in the area's natural condition. The very land seems to divide the people.

So, the image of every valley filled; and every mountain and hill brought low; and the crooked made straight; and the rough ways plain has a very powerful meaning when spoken of that area of the world. The amazing images of a changed landscape are fulfilled in a spiritual sense by changed hearts.

Two millennia have attested to the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Good News has not been perched at the top of a difficult mountain or through some treacherous path. The obstacles and hindrances placed in the way of its proclamation have only served to make that Good News more precious. It has been as accessible and as visible as something in the middle of a plain.

A changed heart means a new manner of life. "And all flesh shall see the salvation of God" was understood by the Fathers of the Church in many ways. Gregory of Nyssa saw the valleys as being a "peaceful manner of living, [whereby] one filled with good works." Chrysostom sees the mountain as symbolizing the proud and the valleys, the humble—those who exalt themselves will be humbled, while those who humble themselves shall be exalted—those who are humble are filled with the Good News and those who are proud are humbled by it.

Gregory the Great speaks of the crooked ways made straight "when the hearts of men, distorted by evil-doing, are made straight by the rule of justice." Likewise, the "rough ways are made smooth, when cruel and angry men are led by the infusion of heavenly grace to the mildness of gentle conduct" (Sermons of the Great Fathers, Vol 1, p. 76).

St. Gregory the Great also spoke about how St. Luke mentions both kingdom and priesthood. The two had not been united since Solomon. And now, at the coming of the Messiah, there is a united

kingdom—though of the Gentiles, not the Jews—and a united priesthood—though the true priesthood of Jesus Christ had yet to be revealed.

John the Baptist would tell the hypocrites: "bring forth fruits worthy of penance." St. Gregory notes that penance should be proportionate to the misdeed—just as one might deny lawful pleasures in the measure he has indulged in the unlawful (p. 92). John the Baptist then speaks of works of charity and almsgiving as being the necessary works to counter the evil that had been done.

It seems that today paganism is again quite united, while the Church and society seems divided. It seems that we are closer to the division of that first century at the time of the first coming of Christ: the forces of the world arrayed against Christ and His Church, and against lawful governance and justice.

But Isaiah tells us, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this" (Isaiah 9:6-7).

A ruler or magistrate in the ancient lands would wear a key on his shoulder as a sign of his authority. Isaiah says later of a righteous leader, "And I will place on his

Mass Intentions for the Week



Monday, - December 21, 2020

7:30 a.m.– Leo Demers (D)

Tuesday, - December 22, 2020

7:30 a.m.– Eric Boettcher (D)

Wednesday, - December 23, 2020

7:30 a.m.– Jason & Jessie Zielinski & Family (L)

Thursday, - December 24, 2020

7:30 a.m.– Special Intention

4:00 p.m.– Nativity of Our Lord

12:00 a.m.- Nativity of Our Lord

Friday, - December 25, 2020

6:30 a.m.– Nativity of Our Lord

9:30 a.m.-Nativity of Our Lord

12:00 p.m.-Nativity of Our Lord

Saturday, - December 26, 2020

7:30 a.m.– Christmas Novena Mass

4:00 p.m.– Special Intention

Sunday, - December 27, 2020

6:30 a.m.– Special Intention

9:30 a.m. -People of the Parish;

12:00 p.m.– Special Intention

“When we leave the holy banquet of Communion, we are as happy as the wise men would have been if they could have carried away the infant Jesus.” -St. John Vianney



Mass Servers

Saturday, December 26, 2020

4:00 p.m. D. Bastuba, J. Cline

Sunday, December 27, 2020

6:30 a.m. R. Jacek, M. Pomeroy.

9:30 a.m. K. Garavaglia, A. Santine, M. Grado, J. Prevo, D. Grado, C. Bueche

12:00 p.m. M. Chambers, A. & W. Remske, G. Welsing, J. & D. Berch

Readings for the week of

December 20, 2020

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/ Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6 -7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Thursday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25. **Night:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14. **Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20. **Day:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/ Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”- Isaiah 9:6

ASSUMPTION (GROTTO) PARISH

13770 Gratiot Avenue

Detroit, MI 48205

Pastor: Rev. Fr. Eduard Perrone

Associate: Rev. Fr. John Bustamante

Deacon Rev. Mr. James Wilder

RECTORY BUSINESS HOURS

Monday-Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm

Evening hours by appointment

Rectory 313-372-0762, FAX 372-2064

website: www.assumptiongrotto.com

email: grotto Rectory@ameritech.net

Grotto Gift Shop 313-332-4432

Parish Council President

Anna Graziosi 313-423-6972

Organist Ray Long 313-372-0762

Email: grottomusic@ameritech.net

SUNDAY MASSES: Saturdays at 4:00; Sundays at 6:30, 9:30 (Tridentine), & Noon

HOLY DAY MASSES: 6:30, 9:30 (Tridentine), Noon & evening at 7:00 p.m.

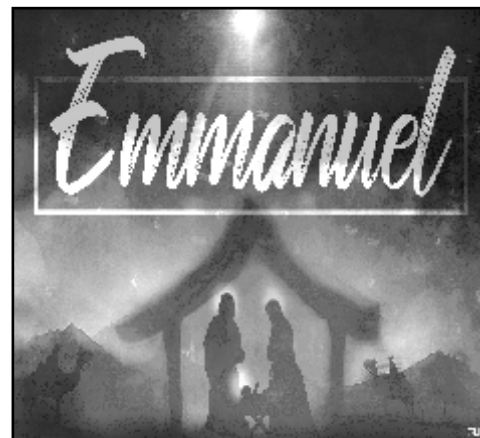
WEEKDAY MASSES: Monday-Saturday 7:30 a.m. (all Tridentine).

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 2:30-3:30, Sunday 9:00 & 11:30 a.m.

BAPTISMS: Every Saturday after the 4:00 p.m. Mass or Sunday after the Noon Mass. Arrange at the Rectory Office.

BLESSING FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS: After the Noon Mass on the first Sunday of the month.

REGISTRATION: Visit the Rectory or call for a form to be sent out to you.



A Vicarious Descant (continued)

shoulder the key of the house of David; he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open” (Isaiah 22:22). This points to the Cross being placed on the shoulder of Our Lord.

While we are at the end of our season of Advent, we will be beginning that for which we have been preparing. The Christmas season that begins this Thursday eve and extends through mid-January should be a time of great hope—hope for our spiritual lives and journey—hope for our temporal lives and needs. To look at what has happened in our country in just a few months one can only repeat the words of the householder in the parable of the weeds among the wheat: “An enemy has done this” (Matt 13:28). When the servants desired to pull up the weeds immediately, the householder prevented them and instead told them that they would be separated at the proper time.

Our country and world are in great need not only of God’s mercy but also in great need of hope. Our reparations for sins against the Immaculate Heart of Mary and our witness to others can remedy this need one soul at a time. Let us therefore apply ourselves as best as we are able and set about witnessing to the hope that is in us with gentleness and reverence (1 Peter 3:15).

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****Please note** There will not be Adoration on Monday, December 21st.**

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Ushers Needed

We are in need of additional men who are familiar with the parish to serve as ushers at the 4:00 PM Saturday Mass and 6:30 and Noon Sunday Masses. Please contact Marty at 586-873-3905 or the rectory office if you are able to help.

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Solemn Novena of Masses for Christmas - A Solemn Novena of Masses will

be offered from December 26th to January 5th, nine days of Masses for your loved ones. Each keepsake card is a full color photograph of the church with matching lined envelope. Donation \$10.00 per card. Come in or call the rectory to pick them up.

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Grotto parishioner, James Likoudis, was recently awarded an honorary doctorate by Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. A devout Catholic, the father of six children, and grandfather of 35, Likoudis and his wife now reside with their daughter Therese Williams in Ann Arbor. Likoudis served as president of Catholics United for the Faith, and for many years travelled and lectured throughout the world, defending *Humanae Vitae*, Catholic sexual morality, and the authority of the magisterium. A prolific writer, he helped thousands of ordinary Catholics understand the changes in society and liturgy. As a convert from Eastern Orthodoxy, his major scholarly contribution has been on the ecumenical front, defending papal primacy and authority in response to Eastern Orthodox objections. In 2002, Likoudis was recipient of the Blessed Frederick Ozanam Aware for Catholic Social Action, presented by the Society for Catholic Social Scientists. In view of his tireless promotion of sound doctrine, morals, liturgy, and ecumenism since his reception into the Church in 1952, Likoudis was awarded an honorary doctorate of theology by the Sacred Heart Major Seminary this year. Because of the Covid pandemic, no public awards ceremony could be held and he was awarded his degree in absentia. The happy news is that we may now address him as DOCTOR James Likoudis!

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Come and Visit the Assumption Grotto Secular Carmelites. If you would like to be a part of a Fraternal Community, be inspired by Carmelite Saints, seek the face of God through contemplative prayer, and have a special devotion to our Blessed Mother, call *Paula Zurawski*

at 586.463.1770 and leave a message to **schedule a visit with the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Discalced Carmelite Seculars**, at Assumption Grotto, in Detroit. We meet on the First Saturday of each month, beginning with a Communion Service at 8:30 am. The richness of Carmelite teachings and spirituality will still the restlessness of your heart as you learn to rest in the Lord. We look forward to meeting you!

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Assumption Grotto St. Vincent de Paul Helpers Parishioners who are in need of help may contact Jeff Cline at 586-242-1959.

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Seven Sisters Apostolate

See the flyer on the side tables of the church for more information on our three parish Seven Sisters Groups. The groups are organized to pray for Archbishop Vigneron, Fr. John Bustamante and Fr. Perrone. We are in need of more women willing to commit an hour a week for one of our priests as a substitute or alternate. Please call and leave your name at the rectory if God is calling you to assist our priests in this Apostolate.

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The Fr. John A Hardon 36 Week Advanced Marian Catechism Course will begin on Saturday, January 9th at 1 p.m. in the Shrine Lounge. You must have a certificate that you completed the Basic 16 Week course in order to participate. All class course materials must be purchased in advance. The class will meet every other Saturday completing one chapter every two weeks. This gives a sufficient time for busy Catholics to reflect and study. For more information on the Advanced or Basic Courses, or if you need to purchase the course materials, leave your name at rectory and someone will contact you.

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For questions regarding Eucharistic Adoration, please contact Mary at 248-225-5117.



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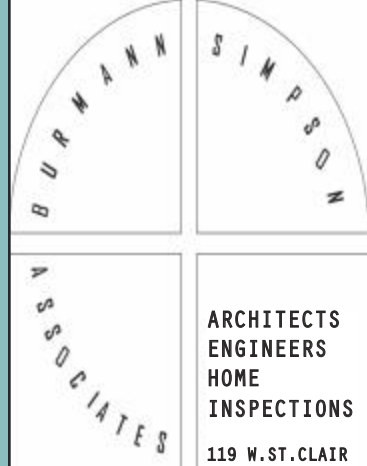
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Te Deum Laudamus!

A Blog by a Grotto Parishioner
DIANE M. KORZENIEWSKI

Photos from liturgical events at Grotto;
select topics in Catholicism; useful links

<http://te-deum.blogspot.com>



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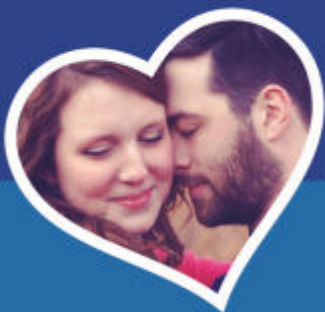
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