

THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

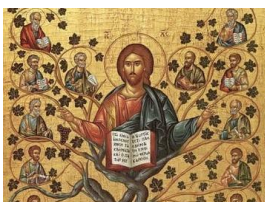
Saint Mary of Mercy, Saint Martin of Tours and Saint Stephen Parishes

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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time January 24, 2021

Confessions, Masses, Mass Intentions, Holy Rosaries, Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Monday, January 25	7:30 a.m.	Carmelite Monastery	Special Intention
Tuesday, January 26	7:30 a.m.	Carmelite Monastery	Special Intention
Wednesday, January 27	7:30 a.m.	Carmelite Monastery	Special Intention
	9:00 a.m.	Saint Stephen, Bridgewater	Dean and Dorothy Kirby (Father John S. Rader)
	5:45—6:15 p.m.	Saint Mary, Alexandria	Confessions
	6:30 p.m.	Saint Mary, Alexandria	Recitation of Our Most Holy Rosary
Thursday, January 28	7:30 a.m.	Carmelite Monastery	Special Intention
Friday, January 29	7:30 a.m.	Carmelite Monastery	Special Intention
Saturday, January 30	7:30 a.m.	Carmelite Monastery	Special Intention
	4:00—4:40 p.m.	Saint Martin, Emery	Confessions
	5:00 p.m.	Saint Martin, Emery	Dan Warkel
Sunday, January 31	7:30 a.m.	Carmelite Monastery	Special Intention
	9:00—9:40 a.m.	Saint Mary, Alexandria	Confessions
	10:00 a.m.	Saint Mary, Alexandria	For the People of the Parishes
	3:15 p.m.	Carmelite Monastery	The Most Holy Rosary and The Benediction



J.M.J. Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Holy Gospels, “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel.” Jesus offered the Holy Gospel to all without cost. What is required from us is our surrender to Him in all that He asks of us. Let us wait no longer. “Here am I, Lord. I come to do Your Will.”

*Please pray for: +Rita Phelps, +Marcie Moran, +Henry Aaron, Donna Squires, Jessica Goodwin, Dennis Maiers, Kathy Engerbrecht, COVID-19 patients, Father Charles Duman

and Father Dana Christensen.

*For a free-will offering, there will be available excess household items from the Rectory in Alexandria this Saturday, January 30th from 2:00-3:00 p.m. in the Saint Mary of Mercy Parish Hall.

*From Father Ken Lulf: Mrs. Emily Ruden will begin on Monday, February 1st as the new Secretary for our three Parishes. Welcome, Emily, and please be assured of our prayers for you and your family.

*The use of masks during Mass is recommended as a safety measure for oneself and for those who are nearby.

“What is Your Question?”

By Father Ben Miriam

Q. What are the “Seven Penitential Psalms?”

A. The Website of the Catholic Bishops of the United States of America offers the following explanation. “During times when we wish to express repentance and especially during Lent, it is customary to pray the seven penitential psalms. The penitential designation of these psalms dates from the seventh century. Prayerfully reciting these psalms will help us to recognize our sinfulness, express our sorrow and ask for God’s forgiveness.” The Seven Penitential Psalms are Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130 and 143. Older Bibles will enumerate these Psalms thus: 6, 31, 37, 50, 101, 129 and 142. Saint John Fisher (1469?-1535), who was martyred out of hatred for the Catholic Faith in England, wrote the edifying *Commentary on the Seven Penitential Psalms*.

	Saint Martin of Tours, Emery	Saint Mary of Mercy, Alexandria
	Saturday, January 30th, 5:00 p.m.	Sunday, January 31st, 10:00 a.m.
Lector	Quinton	Kelly
Sacristans	Jack and Theresa	Joe
Altar Servers	The Bergs	Paige, Isabel and Skylar
Musician	Bonnie	Sandy
Most Holy Rosary	Jack and Theresa	The Knights of Columbus
Money Counters	Darin	Lyle, Julie

Offerings for January 16th and 17th: Saint Mary of Mercy—\$1,232.05; Saint Martin of Tours—\$371.00

Excerpts from the Statement, dated January 20, 2021, of
 Archbishop José H. Gomez, the Archbishop of Los Angeles
 and the President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops,
 on the occasion of the
 Inauguration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., as the
 Forty-sixth President of the United States of America

My prayers are with our new President and his family today.

The nation's bishops are given the duty of proclaiming the Gospel in all its truth and power, in season and out of season, even when that teaching is inconvenient or when the Gospel's truths run contrary to the directions of the wider society and culture. So, I must point out that our new President has pledged to pursue certain policies that would advance moral evils and threaten human life and dignity, most seriously in the areas of abortion, contraception, marriage, and gender. Of deep concern is the liberty of the Church and the freedom of believers to live according to their consciences.

For the nation's bishops, the continued injustice of abortion remains the "preeminent priority." Preeminent does not mean "only." We have deep concerns about many threats to human life and dignity in our society. But as Pope Francis teaches, we cannot stay silent when nearly a million unborn lives are being cast aside in our country year after year through abortion.

Abortion is a direct attack on life that also wounds the woman and undermines the family. It is not only a private matter, it raises troubling and fundamental questions of fraternity, solidarity, and inclusion in the human community. It is also a matter of social justice. We cannot ignore the reality that abortion rates are much higher among the poor and minorities, and that the procedure is regularly used to eliminate children who would be born with disabilities.

Rather than impose further expansions of abortion and contraception, as he has promised, I am hopeful that the new President and his administration will work with the Church and others of good will. My hope is that we can begin a dialogue to address the complicated cultural and economic factors that are driving abortion and discouraging families. My hope, too, is that we can work together to finally put in place a coherent family policy in this country, one that acknowledges the crucial importance of strong marriages and parenting to the well-being of children and the stability of communities. If the President, with full respect for the Church's religious freedom, were to engage in this conversation, it would go a long way toward restoring the civil balance and healing our country's needs.

We are all under the watchful eye of God, Who alone knows and can judge the intentions of our hearts. I pray that God will give our new President, and all of us, the grace to seek the common good with all sincerity.

I entrust all our hopes and anxieties in this new moment to the tender heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Christ and the Patroness of this exceptional nation. May she guide us in the ways of peace and obtain for us wisdom and the grace of a true patriotism and love of country.