

**THE SPRIT GUIDES AND STRENGTHENS US!**

Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. As we hear in Galatians: God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law. As Catholics, we believe that our Savior, Jesus Christ, is both fully human and divine. Therefore, the Church confesses Mary to be truly the “Mother of God.”

When the angel announced to Mary that god had chosen her to become the mother of Jesus, the Son of the Most High God, Mary had a choice. She could have said no. Instead, in humility and perfect fidelity, Mary responded “yes” to what God was asking of her. As a result of her freely given consent to the will of god and her cooperation with God’s grace, the Blessed Virgin Mary conceived our Lord and Savior, Jesus, in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As today’s second reading tells us, God sent his Son to be born of a human mother so that we all might become sons and daughters of God. As proof that we are God’s children, god sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts: However, it is up to us to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, and to respond to the Holy spirit’s promptings.

Like Mary, we have a choice. We can allow the Holy spirit within us to guide and direct us, or we can say no. we can choose to ignore the holy nudges we receive. If our lives are crowded with too much noise and activity, it’s likely we may fail to be attentive and responsive to the promptings of the Spirit stirring within us. That’s why it’s so important to take quiet time and listen to God so we may do his will and be faithful to his call for our lives.

We hear in today’s Gospel that Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Let’s do the same.

On this first day of the new year, we review our goals and make resolutions to discipline ourselves by losing weight, exercising more, or other similar efforts. What if we take some quiet time to listen to what God’s plan for us might be in the year ahead? What if we reflect on whatever we hear in the silence? What might happen if we choose to act on God’s plan for us as the days, weeks and months of this new year unfold? Very simply, our lives will be changed so that more and more we will come to share Christ’s light, love and peace with all those we encounter.

Let us pray to be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and the grace to respond and go where the Spirit leads us. May the Lord bless you and keep you! May the Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

|      |       |   |
|------|-------|---|
| Mon  | Jan 2 | 1 Jn 2:22-28, Jn 1:19-28, Eph 4:1-7, 11-13, Mt 23:-8-12         |
| Tues | Jan 3 | 1 Jn 2:29-3:6, Jn 1:29-34                                       |
| Wed  | Jan 4 | 1 Jn 3:7-10, Jn 1:35:42, Sir 26:1-4, 1 Cor 13:4-13, Lk 10:28-42 |
| Thur | Jan 5 | 1 Jn 3:11-21, Jn 1:43-51  |
| Fri  | Jan 6 | 1 Jn 5:5-13, Mk 1:7-11, Lk 3:23-28                              |
| Sat  | Jan 7 | 1 Jn 5:14-21, Jn 2:1-11   |
| Sun  | Jan 8 | Is 60:1-6, Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6, Mt 2:1-12                           |



**YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND**

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Regular Collections     | \$19,688.00        |
| Nativity Maintenance    | \$ 1,130.00        |
| Capital Improvement     | \$ 1,605.00        |
| <b>TOTAL COLLECTION</b> | <b>\$22,418.00</b> |
| <b>CASH NEEDED</b>      | <b>\$14,400.00</b> |

**SPECIAL APPEAL – MAINTENANCE FUNDS**

Our original goal of \$150,000 has been met. However, payments, as scheduled on current pledges, will not be completed until January, 2017. Please continue to use the orange envelopes for these payments. Likewise, many of you who did not pledge are participating by weekly or monthly gifts through the orange envelopes. Pease continue your generosity. The response from you, our parishioners, has been extremely gratifying and will enable us to complete all the maintenance items delineated in our original appeal letter in January 2016. After our original survey of maintenance items, additional needs have developed. We assure you all funds received will be prudently expended.

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>TOTAL GIFTS AND PLEDGES TO DATE</b> | <b>\$168,808</b> |
| <b>PAYMENTS TO DATE</b>                | <b>\$158,963</b> |
| <b>BALANCE TO COMPLETE PLEDGES</b>     | <b>\$ 8,845</b>  |

**NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

\*As we begin this new calendar year, please be assured that you are remembered in prayer by the students, faculty and staff of Nativity BVM School as we pray each day “for those who are so good to us and so good to our school.” May God bless you!

\*Classes will resume for Nativity Students on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

\*Please don’t forget that our school saves the following: Box Tops for Education, Community Coffee UPC labels and aluminum beverage cans.

**ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY**

The SVdP provides assistance each Tues from 9-11:00 am. Your continued support helps to ensure the SVdP is able to provide support for those in need.

## SCHEDULED LAY MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

| <b>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</b>  | <b>LECTORS</b>   | <b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Jan 7 4:00 pm</b><br><b>1. Deacon Ben</b><br>2. Mary Wimberly<br>3. Helen Languirand<br>4. Andrea Gilich<br>5. Kalin Lloyd<br><b>Jan 8 7:00 am</b><br><b>1. Deacon Ben</b><br>2. Dale Dorcik<br>3. Jim Shugart<br><b>9:00 am</b><br><b>1. Deacon Ben</b><br>2. Barbara Ziz<br>3. John Brauchle<br>4. Maggie Landry<br>5. Jim Compton<br><b>11:00 am</b><br><b>1. Deacon Ben</b><br><b>2. Deacon</b><br>3. Nanette Burke<br>4. Johnny Williams<br>5. Sondra Williams<br>6. Rocky Greathouse<br>7. Edward Warner<br><b>5:30 pm</b><br><b>1. Deacon Ben</b><br>2. Tricia Creel<br>3. Roland Creel | <b>Jan 7 4:00 pm</b><br>Rhonda Clark<br><b>Jan 8 7:00am</b><br>Marcia Mayfield<br><b>9:00 am</b><br>Linda Bourgeois<br><b>11:00 am</b><br>Kristi Arguelles<br><b>5:30 pm</b><br>Youth Ministry<br><b>CANTORS</b><br><b>Jan 7 4:00 p.m</b><br>Joh Welter<br><b>Jan 8 9:00 a.m.</b><br>Nate Hettinger<br><b>11:00 am</b><br><b>CHOIR</b> | <b>Jan 7 4:00 pm</b><br>Keegan Cuevas<br>Sabree Sander<br><b>Jan 8 7:00 am</b><br>Bernard Skripek<br>Teresa Skripek<br><b>9:00 am</b><br>Troy Fulton<br>Trent Fulton<br>Brennan Tarrant<br>Annabelle Tarrant<br><b>11:00 am</b><br>Michael Pfarrer<br>Greysen Ross<br>McRae Ross<br>Simon Randall<br><b>5:30 pm</b><br>Jacob Arguelles<br>Dylan Mitchell<br>Nicholas Arguelles<br>Sydi Wells |

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 2 - Men's Club at 6:00 p.m..  
 Jan 3 - Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC  
 - BINGO Mania, 5:30 p.m. - Bingo Hall  
 Jan 4 - Cleaning Team "C"  
 Mass at Seashore Retirement Home, 3:00 p.m.  
 CCD Classes at 5:30 p.m.  
 Jan 5 - Mass at Greenbriar Nursing Home, 10:00 a.m.  
 Jan 6 - First Friday Adoration, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.,  
 Marian Chapel

### BINGO MANIA

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Carreon (Jose & Rico), Lyons (David & Christina), Nguyen (Steven & Tuyen), Richards (Justin & Juliet), Spears (Michael & Emily), Tran (Hai Tran & Kim Nguyen), WATTS (Mark & Allison), Wijdenes (Daniel & Kate), Abbott (Tina) and Baker (Roy & (Jenny). **REMEMBER!** If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.

### OUR LADY OF FATIMA TOURING STATUE

Nativity Cathedral will be receiving and sponsoring a special Our Lady of Fatima Touring Statue. This holy statue will be place in the Cathedral Church.

### PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

When planning a baptism, marriage, or for subsidized tuition rates for our Catholic Schools, you must demonstrate that you are a practicing Catholic and that you attend Mass. Using envelopes helps maintain a record of Mass attendance. The parish registration form can be found online at [www.nativitybvmcathedral.org](http://www.nativitybvmcathedral.org), or at the entrance of the Cathedral in the vestibule.

### Mass Intentions

|            | <b>6:30 a.m.</b>               | <b>8:00 a.m.</b>         |
|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mon Jan 2  | Sonny Ross                     | Chester Balius Family    |
| Tue Jan 3  | Deceased Husband and Son       | Richard Wells            |
| Wed Jan 4  | Eileen McAuliffée              | Ray Yenewine             |
| Thur Jan 5 | Helen Ross (S.I.)              | Deceased Husband and Son |
| Fri Jan 6  | Gaspar & Mary Pisarich         | Dan Williams             |
| Sat Jan 7  | 8 – Maurice Ambrose McAuliffée | 4 Thomas Andrews         |
| Sun Jan 8  | 7 – Mary Rosella McAuliffée    | 9 – For the Parishioners |
|            | 11 – Stanley Dellenger         | 5:30 - Thomas E. Connell |

### SANCTUARY CANDLE

This week's candle is lit in memory of Ben F. Wimberly, Sr. With love from Deacon Ben and Family.

### PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Anna Jo Wentzell, Kay Lawson, Jeanie Harbison, Helen ross, Mickey Roberts, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Lisa Walker Kirkman, Raymond Egers, Barbara Kridle Maynard, Betty Hilton, Walter Blessey, Mary Lancaster, Joe Powell, Patsy Smolcich, Danny Boney, Sr., Beverly Hammond, Kathleen Hebert, Gwen Gollotte and Clair Sekul Hornsby.

### FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

This is such a beautiful and holy time to come and spend with Jesus in Adoration. Won't you prayerfully consider giving the gift of your time to our savior and be pleasantly surprised to receive the gifts He will give you in return. First Friday Adoration is January 6<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 in the Marion Chapel.

### R.C.I.A.

Please continue to pray for our Catechumens, Candidates and their Sponsors during this Christmas Season. If you would like further information, please contact Greg or Penny Payne 228-365-6348.

### CCD CLASS INFORMATION

CCD classes are held on Wednesdays, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., in the Sacred Heart Center.

### CHASE CASTEL, ORGANIST

Chase Castle is an organist and collaborative musician from Cleveland, Ohio. He currently studies with Nicole Keller at Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music in Berea, Ohio, with a double major in organ performance and music history and literature. He has played some of the fines instruments on the east coast. Chase will be performing on January 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at St Peter's By-The Seas, 1909 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Gulfport. Organ Recital featuring: J.S. Bach, Dietrich Buxehude, Cesar Franck and Godwin Sado. For more information, please call 228-863-2611 or email [www.stpetersbts.org](http://www.stpetersbts.org).

### NOTRE DAME RETREAT

Father Dennis will be away from the Cathedral Parish for Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> until Wednesday January 11<sup>th</sup>, while giving a Second Theology to Notre Dame Seminary students. Please keep the seminarians in your prayers.