

January 1, 2012

Mary, Mother of God

Readings:

Nm 6:22-27
Gal 4:4-7
Lk 2:16-21



January 1 is the oldest celebration of Mary in the Catholic Church. The custom of honoring the Virgin on the first day of the New Year originates in the sixth century, when her celebration was tied to the octave day of Christmas, the eighth day after December 25. In doing so, ancient preachers would remind their congregations about the role that Mary played in the history of salvation. Jesus was born of a woman, and so, as Eucharistic Prayer 4 states, "Made incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, he shared our human nature in all things but sin." The human nature of Christ is rooted in his being born like us. As we round out the Christmas celebration with its Octave Day on January 1, we venerate the woman who gave birth to him.

There is a dual action in today's Gospel that is sometimes overlooked. The shepherds find the infant in the manger as has been told to them by the angel. And then they go out to tell others about the child. In the meantime, Mary reflects on all these things in her heart. These are the two complementary stances of the Christian: action and reflection. Both are needed for a balanced spiritual life. It is, in effect, putting into practice the two great commandments: love God and love your neighbor.

As we begin the New Year, it is customary to make resolutions: to diet, to exercise, to change something in one's life. Like Mary, who reflected on the events surrounding the birth of her child, we take some time to reflect on our own lives: where we have been, and where we are going. The Gospel gives us the opportunity to situate that reflection in a spiritual context. What does the birth of Jesus mean for me spiritually (reflection), and what do I intend to do about that in my daily life (action)?

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Mass Intentions

► **No Mass Monday through Friday this week.**

Saturday, Jan. 7

5:00 p.m. - For all RCIA Candidates

Sunday, Jan. 8

9:30 a.m. - Marc and Karen Power Family
11:00 a.m. - In Memory of BJ Orbison
4:30 p.m. - St. Isidore's Community

Ministry Schedule

Weekend of January 7-8

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

EMHC: Vicki Gwartney
Ailleen Cray

Lectors: Pat Strathman

Hospitality: Stan Werner
Suzy Werner

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

EMHC: Lindy Enlow
Mike Stamm

Lectors: Geneva Jahnke

Hospitality: Diane Mack
Mark Boatwright

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

EMHC: Dona Koster
Tom Koster

Lector: Jenna Koster

Hospitality: Becca Greif
Brad Starnes

Sunday, 4:30 p.m.

EMHC: Craig Ackerman
Ashley Ackerman

Lector: Ryan Biedron

Hospitality: Glen Schalles
Duane McKinney

► **Please note:** There will be no daily Mass or confessions this week.

Choir Rehearsal

Choir rehearsal for the weekend Masses will be Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room.

Novena for an End to Abortion

Many parishes throughout the state of Kansas are joining together for a nine-day Novena. To participate, please pray the following prayer every day from Jan. 14-22. *"We forever entrust and consecrate Kansas to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Amen."*

Catholic Charities Roast Honoring Fr. Loren Werth

Date: Sunday, January 29

Location: St. Thomas More Church

Time: Social begins at 5:30 p.m.

Cost of Tickets: \$50 each

Evening includes a full dinner, dessert, glass of wine, live auction and the roast. All proceeds will benefit the local Catholic Charities.

Happy New Year!



Fr. Keith and the St. Isidore's staff extend to all of you a wish for health, happiness and many blessings in the new year.