

December 22, 2019

SHARING THE GIFT OF MARY AT CHRISTMAS!

SHARING THE GIFT OF MARY AT CHRISTMAS! What is this Special Gift of Mary? It is JESUS HIMSELF. When Mary says YES to the Angel Gabriel, she gives herself totally to GOD and by doing so; she gives us THE PERFECT GIFT Jesus, the Son of God! CHRISTMAS IS A TIME TO SHARE GIFTS. THE PERFECT GIFT OF HOPE, JOY AND LOVE IS JESUS HIMSELF.

Over the last three weeks of ADVENT, as a parish we chose to focus on MARY and how she can help us to prepare for receiving the JOY OF CHRISTMAS. You recall the way we presented to you the two-part course: "THE GIFT OF MARY: SEE ADVENT THROUGH THE EYES OF MARY". We just completed those two sessions: December 5 and 12. Both were well attended (about 50 parishioners each time), and one could feel the Joy of Advent: the anticipation of the COMING OF JESUS at Christmas.

The presentations were based on "An Advent Retreat with Mary" by Dr. Brandt Pitre author of "Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary". It was refreshing to imagine how Mary, a Jewish young girl felt about the dramatic encounter with Angel Gabriel (Annunciation) and then with her cousin Elizabeth (Visitation). We also had excellent discussions in small groups. Small groups are always a good way to share but also to make new connections. Even if you could not attend "The Gift of Mary", I encourage you to meditate on the mystery of Christmas and ask Mary to help you see the baby Jesus through her eyes and with her heart. Some Christmas cards are amazing painting representations of Mary and Baby Jesus. Meditate on them: can you feel Mary's joy and peace, can you feel Jesus' total abandonment to Mary, can you look at Mary's face and Jesus' face and how they glow in divine light...

Through the Advent Season, we have had a series of readings from the prophet Isaiah. We know that Isaiah always announces the coming of Jesus "the Messiah" long awaited by the Jewish people. We can find in Isaiah a great source of reflection on the mystery of the Incarnation and on our own journey from earth to heaven. Read Chapter 2: 1-5 "*Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways and we may walk in his paths. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!*" Or read Isaiah 9:1-6 "*The people who walked in darkness have seen a GREAT LIGHT...You have brought them abundant JOY and GREAT REJOICING ... for A CHILD IS BORN UNTO US, A SON IS GIVEN US ...They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-hero, Father-Forever, PRINCE OF PEACE. His dominion is vast and FOREVER PEACEFUL.*"

CHRISTMAS is also a TIME TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD! Take a few minutes to think about the blessings you and your family have received since last Christmas, and be GRATEFUL TO GOD. I for one am grateful to God for having given me one more year to serve you, to pray with you (in good times and in bad times), to celebrate the Eucharist as a parish community, to hear confessions, to baptize children, marry young couples, bless homes of new parishioners, feel part of a wonderful family of families... We have embarked on the implementation of the third and final Phase of our capital campaign. We also began 12 months of celebrating our 40th anniversary. We plan to have all church improvements completed by April 2020, in time for the major celebration of our Parish Feast Day with Archbishop Wilton Gregory on May 24.

Just a few more days before we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that this Christmas will be for everyone a time of JOY. I pray that we will all REJOICE at the coming of Jesus. We can rejoice with Mary's cousin Elizabeth, who is the first to recognize Mary as the mother of God: "*Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does it happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb (John the Baptist) leaped for JOY*" (Luke 1:39-46). We can join Mary in her beautiful response to Elizabeth: "*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord. My spirit REJOICES in God my savior*" (Luke 1:47). Yes, we can imagine that we are present at this encounter between Mary and Elizabeth, an encounter filled with the HOLY SPIRIT.

On behalf of Fr. Ben, Deacon Rich, Deacon Bill, Sister Rosario and all our staff, I would like to wish you all a MOST BLESSED CHRISTMAS! Remember to keep MASS and CHRIST in CHRISTMAS! Every Mass is Christmas, Christ's Mass. Every Mass, we celebrate the BIRTH OF CHRIST, but also His Passion, Death and Resurrection. Remember that THE MASS IS HEAVEN ON EARTH! May you all and your families find the JOY OF HEAVEN, the JOY OF BEING WITH GOD, as you participate in one of our Christmas Masses (Christmas Eve: 5 pm, 8 pm, 9:30 pm Spanish or Midnight, and Christmas Day: 8:30 am, 10 am, 11:30 am Spanish and 1 pm French).

COME LORD JESUS! COME! COME LORD JESUS!

One in Christ,
Fr. Alain

Fourth Sunday of Advent



CCD Class Schedule

Dec. 22/23- No CCD Classes

Dec. 29/30- No CCD Classes

Jan. 5/6- CCD Classes

Jan 12/13- CCD Classes

Community Outreach

Outreach News. The Christmas food baskets will be delivered this Sunday after the 10 a.m. Mass. Please consider volunteering to deliver one or two. Thank you!

The next Shepherd's Table for Outreach will be Feb. 20, 2020 at Good Shepherd Church. Our next Outreach meeting will be Jan. 8, 2030 at 7 p.m. All are welcome!

Do you still have 2019 RMD (required minimum distribution) from your IRA or savings plan? Consider a tax exempt gift to OLHOC. Leverage your donation by gifting before tax money. Contact the office for the easy process.

2020 Calendars

Are available in the Narthex. Please take one home with you today!

Christmas Flowers

All parishioners are invited to make a donation in honor or remembrance of loved ones this Advent. Your donations will offset the cost of the poinsettias used to decorate our church for Christmas. Please use the envelope provided in your monthly mailing, or stop by the office.

Suggested offering is \$15.

~Pre-school News~

Fall 2020 registration opens to parishioners January 6! Children must be confidently potty trained and at least three years old by Dec. 31, 2020, in order to start school in September. We have a half day and a full day program for 3- and 4-year-olds. Please call the office and ask for Nieda, or email preschool@olhoc.org.



Christmas Masses

December 24 (Christmas Eve)

5 pm (Children's)

8 pm (Solemn Mass)

9:30 pm (Spanish)

12 am (Midnight Mass)

December 25 (Christmas Day)

8:30 am (Mass for Christmas)

10 am (Mass for Christmas)

11:30 (Spanish)

December 31 (Mary, Holy Mother of God, Vigil)

5 pm Mass

January 1 Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

8:30 am

10 am



We are asked to pray for:

Sandra Barrientos
 Brandon Mack
 Ana Maria Delmira Sibrian Escobar
 Nestor Ermelindo Molina
 Doris Chesley
 James Thompson
 Rebecca (Tess) Franch
 Vicky Welch
 Naomi Lilly
 Sterling Greene
 Aleli Puzon
 Patricia Delgado
 Rosano Wheeler
 Larry McGraw
 Ilene Custer
 Derrick Webster
 Pat Fisher
 Christ Goldhammer

Julie Davis
 David DeMarr
 Dinnie Proctor
 Amelia Vinceguerra
 K.D. Dillard
 Tabitha Barton
 Maria Townsend
 Chrystal Beauregard
 Sheryl Carter
 Alex Leon
 Sharketer Butler
 Steven Bowling
 Edna Yarngo
 Kathy Grimes
 Sheny Padilla
 Richard White
 Mary Dooley
 Victor Cordero
 Georgiana Norgren

Marie Marie Bottorf
 Joy Cooper
 Dorian Webster
 Dionne Gause
 Patricia Sutton
 Trena Price
 Michael Sofield Jr.
 Norm Green
 Mary A. Dyson
 Jim Lavish
 The Dixons

and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.
Please let us know if any names should be removed from the list.



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, December 21, 9:00AM: Bill Bryner (+)
 Saturday, December 21, 5:00 PM: Andy Coles
 Sunday, December 22, 8:30 AM: Bill Bryner (+)
 Sunday, December 22, 10:00 AM: Our Lady Help of Christians Parishioners
 Sunday, December 22, 11:30 AM: Moussi Family
 Sunday, December 22, 1:00 PM: Elira Andrews (+)
 Sunday, December 22, 7:00 PM: Youth Core Team
 Monday, December 23, 9:00 AM: Bill Bryner (+)
 Tuesday, December 24, 5:00 PM: Morales & Valdoviños Family
 Tuesday, December 24, 8:00 PM: Peter Nikolai (+)
 Tuesday, December 24, 9:30 PM: Manuel Lam
 Wednesday, December 25, midnight: Carolyn Thompson (+)
 Wednesday, December 25, 8:30 AM: Fr. Nathan Dreyer and Family
 Wednesday, December 25, 10:00 AM: Moussi Family
 Wednesday, December 25, 11:30 AM: Our Lady Help of Christians Parishioners
 Thursday, December 26, 9:00 AM: Rivert Obas (+)
 Friday, December 27, 9:00 AM: Donna Emerson (+)

Father Alain, Father Ben, and the OLHOC staff wish you and your families a joyous Christmas!

Tuesday Scripture Study - Join us on Tuesday mornings after the 9 am Mass to study the readings for the next Sunday.

Wednesday Scripture Study- The Friday night scripture study has been changed to Wednesdays. They will be begin at 7:30, following the 7 pm Mass

First Friday- The first Friday of each month the evening Mass is said in Latin. This Mass is dedicated to promoting the Priesthood.

First Saturday—Join members of the Marian Group on the first Saturday of the month after the 9 am Mass. Learn more about consecrating your life to Jesus through Mary.

Divine Mercy- Join us on the first Saturday of each month as we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet as a community at 3 PM.

Mass Readings for December 29, 2019.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

***First Reading**

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

***Second Reading**

Colossians 3:12-21

***Gospel**

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23



www.usccb.org



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:

Youth Ministry: Questions, please contact Marlen marlen@olhoc.org

Life Teen: high school youth ministry (meets most Sundays 5-6:30 pm, check website for other dates)

Edge: middle school youth ministry (meets monthly for All Youth Night)

FIAT: Faith in Action Team elementary school ministry (meets monthly for All Youth Night)

For more info and an updated list of our events please visit www.olhoc.org/ymevents

To Join Our Youth Core & Support Team, please visit our website or talk to Marlen Coles. Together we can help lead our youth closer to Christ!

Time to Request Spots for Camp Covecrest - August 2-8, 2020 in Tiger, Georgia For more details and a video on this transformative week of fun, activities, time with friends, prayer and growing in your faith visit www.olhoc.org/camp2020 Questions, please contact Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org



OLHOC offices will be closed December 24, 25, 31, 2019 and January 1, 2020

Mary's Helping Hands would like to thank everyone who supported us at our bake sale and raffle. Because of your generosity, we are able to continue our contributions to local charities. The winner of the raffle is *Steve Law*.

Please join us for a Consecration to the Holy Family Sunday Dec. 22 following 7 pm Mass

The Knights of Columbus John Henry Griffin Council invites each family in our parish to consecrate themselves to the Holy Family and to devote themselves to the ideal model of familial love set by Jesus, Mary and Joseph. A prayer of consecration will be offered following the 7 pm Spanish Mass on December 22nd. The consecration prayer will be offered in Spanish and in English.

Through this consecration, each participant is consciously choosing to be a beacon of God's love through his Church.

