



ST. PIUS X PARISH

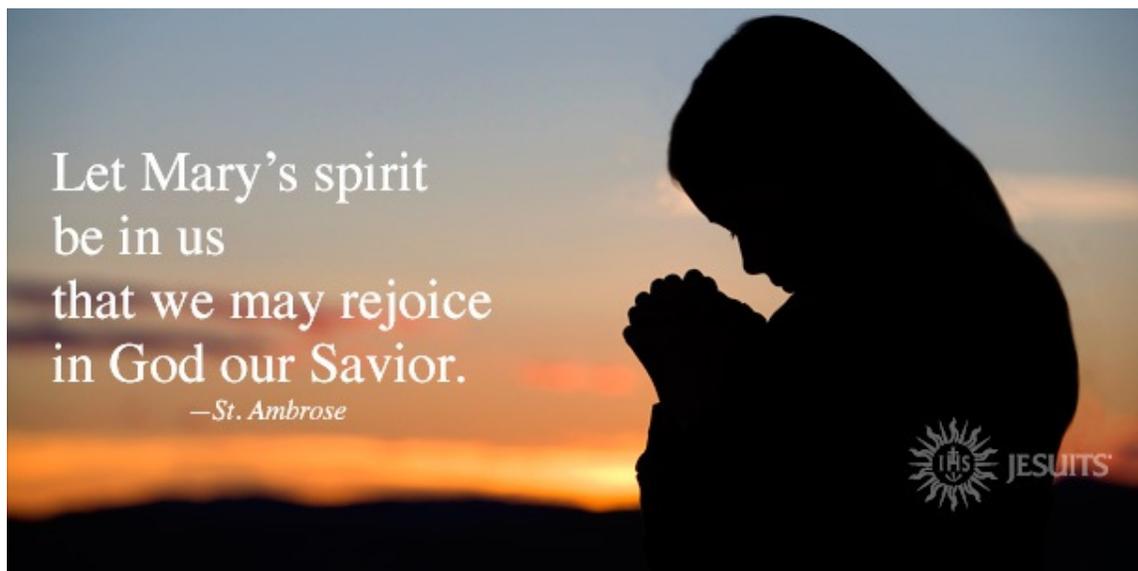
16 Smithville Crescent
St. John's, NL
A1B 2V2
Tel: (709) 754-0170



E-Mail: stpiusx@nl.rogers.com
Webpage: www.spx.ca



OUR PIUS UPDATE
DECEMBER 14, 2021



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

(Luke 1: 26-38)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "*Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.*" But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, "*Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.*"

Mary said to the angel, "*How can this be, since I am a virgin?*" The angel said to her, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.*"

Then Mary said, "*Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.*" Then the angel departed from her.

HOW CAN THIS BE?

During Holy Week, I participated in The Jesuit Post's online retreat, "***Live the Questions: A Holy Week Retreat in the Ignatian Tradition***" In the third talk of the retreat, the presenter, ***Eric Immel, SJ***, calls retreatants to consider Mary's question from today's Gospel, "*How can this be?*" He says that in the face of the unexpected, it is natural to respond with fear or disbelief, to ask "*How can this be?*" When we simply cannot imagine, let alone believe, not to mention accept, that which God has put in front of us, we ask "*How can this be?*".

When feasibility or purpose surpass our understanding, we are invited to take our cue from Mary and respond with courage and humility to whatever it is that God has in store for us. How do you respond when faced with the unexpected? In this season of Advent, ask God for the grace to respond to the unexpected with the courage and humility of Mary.

- Jackie Schulte is the Dean of Faculty Formation and a history teacher at Creighton Preparatory School in Omaha, Nebraska.

Prayer

*Called to a destiny more momentous
than any in all of Time,
she did not quail,
only asked
a simple, 'How can this be?'
and gravely, courteously,
took to heart the angel's reply,
the astounding ministry she was offered...*
-Excerpt from "Annunciation" by Denise Levertov's

SOURCE: www.JesuitPrayer.org



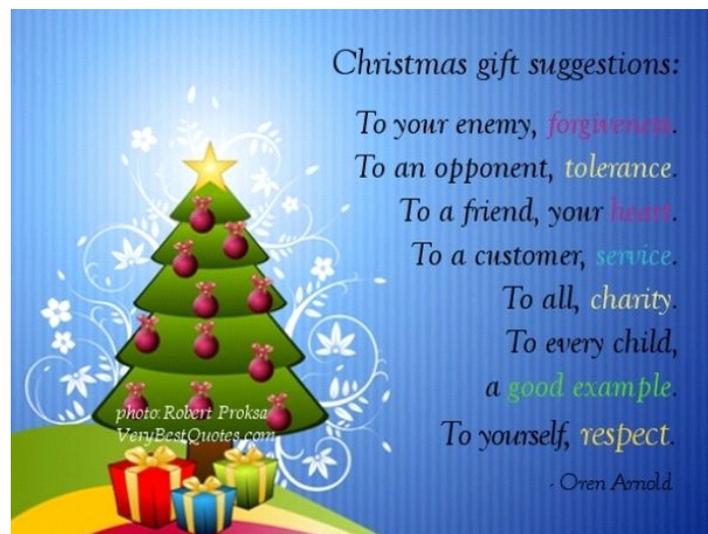
Many years ago on a drive to the Story Land amusement park, my three- and five-year-old boys screeched in the back seat with excitement. Every 30 seconds it seemed they would beg in anguish, “*Are we there yet?*” My husband’s patience grew thin, and his responses became an increasingly terse “*No!*”

In a moment that we all now laugh about, my husband threatened to stop the car and turn around if the boys asked one more time. The car filled with total silence. Thirty seconds later my three-year-old laid his little head reluctantly on the car window and gazed out, chanting in a whisper to himself, “*Are we there yet? NO! Are we there yet? NO! Are we there yet? NO!*” My husband and I doubled over in laughter.

This has become my Advent chant. The commercial build-up to Christmas makes it so hard to stay in the “*We’re not there yet.*” Our office parties and school gift exchanges all come before the celebration of Christmas itself—in my book they should all come afterwards. To stay in Advent, I imagine myself in the back seat of a car on a drive to my Story Land—the moment of sitting alone in that space of prayer with the angels, basking in the fullness of the Incarnation, the moment the chorus at church belts out “*Joy to the World*” with trumpets and bells, the moment of being with my family—especially that little boy who is now 19 and coming home from college. Are we there yet? No! But if I can keep myself in the back seat, screeching with anticipation for just a few more days, I know I will not allow a single one of those Christmas moments to pass me by unnoticed or unwrapped.

What are the moments you are waiting for with anticipation this season?

SOURCE: Lisa Kelly, www.ignatianspirituality.com



LITANY FOR JOHN THE BAPTIST



Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.
God the Father of Heaven, Have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.
God the Holy Ghost, Have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, One God, have mercy on us.

Saint John the Baptist, pray for us.
John the Baptist, precursor of Christ, pray for us.
John the Baptist, glorious forerunner of the Sun of Justice, pray for us.
John the Baptist, minister of baptism to Jesus, pray for us.
John the Baptist, burning and shining lamp of the world, pray for us.
John the Baptist, filled with the Holy Spirit before thy birth. pray for us.
John the Baptist, heavenly contemplative, whose element was prayer, pray for us.
John the Baptist, intrepid preacher of the truth, pray for us.
John the Baptist, voice crying in the wilderness, pray for us.
John the Baptist, miracle of mortification and penance, pray for us.
John the Baptist, example of profound humility, pray for us.
John the Baptist, who called all to repentance, pray for us.
John the Baptist, who came in the spirit and power of Elijah, pray for us.
John the Baptist, glorious martyr of zeal for God's holy law, pray for us.
John the Baptist, who turns the hearts of parents to their children, pray for us.
John the Baptist, who turns the hearts of children to their parents, pray for us.
John the Baptist, gloriously fulfilling thy mission, pray for us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.

***V. Pray for us, O glorious John the Baptist,
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.***

Let Us Pray

O Lord, you have honored this world by the birth of Saint John the Baptist:
grant that Your faithful people may be called to repentance
and may recognize and work toward the coming of the kingdom,
through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

STAYING CONNECTED



Reflect

Our brothers and sisters can be some of the greatest blessings in our life, but can also cause pain. Whichever reality we are experiencing right now, God desires to listen and be present to our needs, hopes, hurts, and concerns for our siblings.

Pray

Dear God, I know you love my siblings even more than I do,
and you are active in their lives.
I pray that you will comfort and strengthen them
in precisely the way they need it today.
Keep them from feeling alone or abandoned
and let them experience your nearness in a healing way.
Help me to support and love them in ways they can best receive.
Help me stay true to myself while caring for this person I love deeply.
Show me what their needs are, and how I can be Christ to them today.
Amen.

Act

Reach out to your sibling(s) through a phone call, email, or letter, simply to let them know that you love and care for them.

SOURCE: Pause'n'Pray, www.franciscanmedia.com



There will be NO pre-registration for our Christmas Masses.

Parishioners are reminded to arrive at least 30 minutes before Mass begins for check-in.

Friday, December 24 Christmas Eve
 4:00 pm **Vax Pass required**
 7:00 pm **NO Vax Pass**
 10:00 pm **Vax Pass required** *(live streamed)*

Saturday, December 25 Christmas Day
 10:00 am **Vax Pass required**

Sunday, December 26 Feast of the Holy Family
 10:00 am **Vax Pass required**

Friday, December 31 (New Year's Eve) - anticipated Mass for *Feast of Mary, the Mother of God*
 4:45 pm **NO Vax Pass**

Saturday, January 1 (New Year's Day) - Feast of Mary, the Mother of God
 10:00 am **Vax Pass required** *(live streamed)*

Sunday, January 2 Feast of the Epiphany
 10:00 am **Vax Pass required**

NO Vax Pass Mass

- Protocols same as we have been using - **No Vax Pass**
- Check in at door - name, contact information
- Masks at all times
- Physical distancing both when seated and moving
- No congregational singing
- Limited capacity - 120

Vax Pass Mass

- Check in at the door **with Vax Pass and proof of ID**
- Name and contact information at the door
- Masks at all times - both seated and moving
- No physical distancing when seated
- Physical distancing when moving
- Congregation and choir sing with masks on
- Full capacity is possible
-

Masks are required for both Masses as well as signing in with your name and contact information.

Our weekday Masses will continue with the same COVID-19 protocols as we have been using recently, that is, the same as No Vax Pass Mass.