

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD



AND OUR MOTHER



Here we are at the first month of a new year! We know it as “January” after the Roman god Janus, the two faced god. Janus had one face looking to the future while the other face looked back on the past. So with the beginning of a “new year” it made sense to our ancestors to name this first of the months after this god who looked both to the past and to the future.

I’m sure this was the origin of making “resolutions” for the New Year, resolutions that, for many, don’t make it to February. If we take our cue from this Roman god, we can look back on all that’s happened during the past year and then plan on making the coming year better. It’s a nice idea, but it mostly doesn’t work. Why? There’s no one to enforce the resolutions we make. And, perhaps, if truth be told, we don’t take the whole thing very seriously in the first place.

What real incentive do we have to alter our behavior? What’s the point? Why bother? Perhaps there is some wisdom in the Church’s celebration of today - the Solemnity of the Mother of God. Her life may offer us some insight into this whole business of new beginnings

Mary dreamed of her future as a mother and wife of Joseph living within her Jewish village. To be a wife and mother had been the life of most women for ages. Gabriel’s visit changed all that. Now she had to look back on what had been and look into a totally unknown future of what God had in store. Which would she choose? How did she come to make her decision?

Gabriel expressed God’s dream of life for the whole human race which could come about through the birth of his son. Mary, I’m sure, reflected on the plight of her people as conquered by the Roman Empire and what the Messiah would mean to all her people, perhaps even all the world. By bringing forth the Messiah she would bring hope to her people and the world. For the sake of so many others she chose to take the future offered by Gabriel over whatever her family and friends - and Joseph - had to say. And that has made all the difference.

Anything we choose to change in our lives will probably not have that dramatic an effect on the history of the world. Nevertheless, Jesus has charged us to *Go make disciples of all nations*, to take up his mission of bringing God into our world of Isis, the Syrian conflict, a change in our government, modern technology and Iran getting the bomb. How could we embrace the wild view of life that Jesus lays out and present that to our present world? Do we believe what Jesus calls us to is even possible? I guess it comes down to whether we believe God through Jesus can make our world whole again. It means deciding whether Jesus was really who he said he was and that what he said was reality. It means letting go of what *we* anticipate and working for what God has planned.

This is easier said than done. This is no resolution to go on a diet or get me to a gym. It matters a great deal how we answer these questions. To decide about Jesus and his message may call for a profound change in our understanding of what life is all about and how I’m going to live it. And that can be very challenging.

The Holy Father has called us to dream big: “I dream of a ‘missionary option,’ that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.” Picking up on this call to dream, Cardinal Cupich is calling us to renew the Church of Chicago: “Just as our ancestors responded in faith to their dreams and built the church we have today, it is our time to dream big and to take up this work.” Both leaders of our faith have recognized we can’t keep doing things “the way we’ve always done it” if we are going to bring hope to today’s world. We’re here to bring “all nations” the Good News of Jesus beginning in our own neighborhood, in our own parish.

To accomplish this mission, to bring God’s dream to reality means we have to start with ourselves. The resolution “to dream big” will bring lots of changes, some of which we will find hard. We will mourn the passing of what was (looking back), but we will experience what can be (looking to the future). The power of God can do this. It only takes our saying “yes” to the Father’s dream and Jesus’ call to accept his mission. It takes our choice to believe.

Fr. Denis

Church Bulletin Board

Monday, January 2

6:30pm Boy Scouts-C
7:00pm Baptism Class-CH

Tuesday, January 3

5:00pm Athletics-PC
7:00p.m. Bible Study-R

Wednesday, January 4

5:00p.m. Athletics-PC

Thursday, January 5

5:00p.m. Athletics-PC
6:30p.m. Cub Scouts-C

Friday, January 6

5:00p.m. Athletics-PC
7:00p.m. Teens-PC/C

Saturday, January 7

10a-10p Athletics-PC

Sunday, January 8

7:30a.m. Teen Choir-M
10:45.m. Faith Formation
12:30a.m. Baptisms
12:00p.m. Athletics-PC
4:00p.m. BEDS-C
8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous-R



JANUARY FOOD DRIVE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 7/8

Your generous donations put food on many tables at this time of the year. Thank you to those who remember the needy.

Father Henry's Review

Dear Parishioners,

As you may know, I have been participating in an annual review from the Archdiocese: 360 Catholic Leadership review. Part of the review, the Parish-wide survey, has not yet received enough responses to obtain a valid score. So I ask again, if you have not taken the survey, please participate now.

The survey is easily accessed by going to the Archdiocese's web page, (Archchicago.org) and clicking on "Departments" on the upper left of the page, then scrolling to "Ministerial Evaluation" to access our web page. There, in the middle of the page, find "360 Catholic Leadership review for priests" and click on your appropriate language. Finally, follow the instructions for anonymous participation. You may also access the Parish-wide survey by smart phone. Thank you.

Father Henry

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Because you are concerned...

Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Louise would like to thank those who donated so generously to the Giving Tree at Christmas time. The donations will allow us to continue our help to the less fortunate in our area. We are grateful for your support and thank you...God Bless!

Thank You... To those who, week after week, place a contribution in the St. Vincent de Paul poor box. "The poor boxes are the bread boxes of the needy." We appreciate your allowing us to be a channel of your charity. On behalf of the poor you assist, we thank you.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

"Octave" comes from the Latin word for "eight," and since eight is one step beyond seven, the number of days in a week, it has long been seen as a symbol of perfection, completion, and new beginnings. Early Christians called Sunday the "eighth day," since it was the day after the Sabbath and a day of resurrected life, the Lord's Day. By the seventh century, people regarded the eight days after Easter Sunday as one great day, an octave, one glorious feast when people were forbidden to fast or kneel. In the seventh century, Pentecost acquired an Octave, too. Christmas didn't claim the honor of a continuous feast, but it did get an Octave Day. January 1 is the oldest Marian feast, the Octave of Christmas. It was originally a feast of the motherhood of Mary, although for centuries until 1969 it was called the Feast of the Circumcision. Our reformed calendar follows the earlier tradition of celebrating Mary as Mother of God. —James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Saint Aloysius Parish
2300 W. Le Moyne, Chicago, IL

Dear Fr. Denis Condon,

Thank you and your parishioners so much for your very generous donations of over 1,000 food items and thirty turkeys to our Food Pantry on November 12. More than one hundred families were provided with Thanksgiving baskets.

With your partnership and coordinators, Michael and Karyn Miller, you have partaken in an amazing time of giving to our needy food pantry clients and homeless neighbors. Again, on behalf of the families and our parish, thank you.

Minerva Perez, Social Services

MINISTER OF CARE TRAINING

Have you ever wanted to be trained to bring Communion to the sick? The Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darian is sponsoring training for people who want to become Ministers of Care. The two required sessions are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, January 14 and 21, at the Carmelite Center, 8419 Bailey Rd., Darian. The cost is \$50. To register, call (800) 431-8720.

Here at St. Louise, there is a need for new Ministers of Care to visit the sick in their homes, the hospital, and in extended care facilities. For more information, call Deacon Dave Brencic at (708) 485-6614.

*Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks,
For this is the will of God for you in Jesus Christ.*

**CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
PLACEMENT TESTING
Saturday, January 14, 2017
Class of 2021**

Call the school of your choice for details
and time of the testing.



Thoughts for the New Year



1. Take a 10-30 minute walk every day.
And while you walk, smile. It is the ultimate antidepressant.
2. Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day.
Talk to God about what is going on in your life.
3. When you wake up in the morning, complete the following statement,
My purpose is to _____ today.
4. Eat more foods that grow naturally and eat less food that is manufactured.
5. Try to make at least three people smile each day.
6. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
7. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
8. Don't take yourself too seriously. No one else does.
9. You are not so important that you have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
10. Make peace with your past so it won't spoil your present.
11. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
12. No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
13. God heals everything—but you have to ask Him.
14. However good or bad the situation is, it will change.
15. Forgive everyone for everything.
16. Remember that you are too blessed to be stressed.

Panther Beat

Coming Soon...

VEGAS NIGHTS!



Vegas Nights is the biggest fundraiser of the year for St. Louise School...and we need a little help to ensure it's success! Please consider helping in one (or more) of the following ways:

- **Top shelf liquor and wine is needed for our raffles.** If you receive any bottles during the holiday season that you are willing to donate, it would be very much appreciated! Please bring donations to the school office.
- **Matching gifts/sponsorships.** Many companies have a gift matching program. Please consider making a donation and having your company double that donation! Sponsorship letters are available at the school office.
- **Vegas Stars sponsorships.** Our Vegas Stars will be on sale soon. Purchase a star for \$10 to be hung on our All Star Wall!
- **We are looking for people who have connections with local businesses or any other companies to bring our donation letter to them.** A personal touch always seem to work better! If you have any connections, please let Martha Swanson or Vickie Paradee know. Sponsorship letters are available at the school office.
- Finally, please **"like" our event** on the St. Louise de Marillac School Facebook page and "share" it with your friends and family!

Thank you in advance for your help in making this years Vegas Night a success! If you have any questions or concerns please contact Martha Swanson at msenese10@sbcglobal.net or Vickie Paradee at vparadee@slmschool.org.

MARCH 10 & 11

SAINT
LOUISE
DE MARILLAC
SCHOOL
FAITH • VALUES
ACADEMICS • FAMILY

slmschool.org
(708) 352-2202



High School Teen Club: There will be Teen Club from 7:30-10p.m. on Friday, January 6, 13, and 27. Open gym begins at 8:00. Must have current high school ID and a contact form signed by a parent. Contact info available online at slmteenclub.weebly.com.

Coming Attraction: Chicago Wolves' Faith and Fellowship Night, Saturday, February 5. Permission forms are available at Teen Club, the rectory, and in the youth ministry bulletin rack at the southwest door of the church. Money and forms due by January 8.



God our Father, Your son Jesus shared with Mary and Joseph the life of an earthly home. As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, bless our homes as well. Make them places of love, joy, and peace. Teach us to help and care for one another as Jesus' family did. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING WE RECEIVE

The blessing we experience in Christ Jesus is proclaimed in Numbers as the special blessing for the people of Israel. They and we are to be blessed by the invocation of God's loving kindness, the shining glory of God's face turned toward us in love, not away from us in anger. We are blessed by God's own peace!

Our wish and our hope are fulfilled in this blessing, which is made visible in the coming of Jesus. In Jesus, the image of the invisible God, God's face is shown to us and God's presence is made known to us in faithful and loving kindness.



Altar Servers

Mon., Wed., Fri., Jan. 2, 4, 6

8:30 - A. Roussin, M. Hanson

Tues. Thurs., Jan. 3, 5

8:30 - L. Keen, A. Porras

Sat., Jan. 7

5:00 - J. Thomas, L. Keen

Sun., Jan. 8

7:30 - Z. Mazurkiewicz, K. Keen, A. Gonzalez

9:30 - A. Roussin, J. Camarena, M. Adams

11:00 - M. Hanson, D. Hanson, H. Mahay

January 2-8

Monday, Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

8:30 - John & Anna Weiler

Tuesday, The Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:30 - Don Bartelson

Wednesday, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:30 - Esther Bednarz

Thursday, St. John Neumann

8:30 - Marcella Jentz

Friday, Saint Andre Bessette

8:30 - Josephine Besau

Saturday, St. Raymond of Penyafort

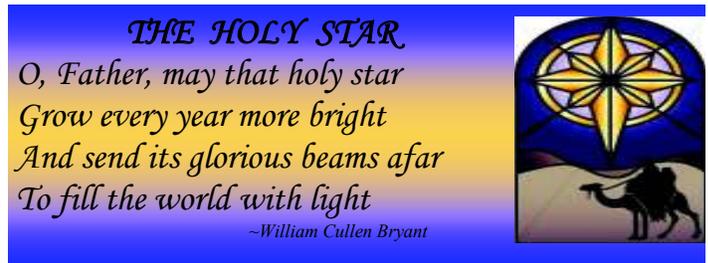
5:00 - Barbara Matusiak, Andino Cipolletta,
Frank Materazzo, Colette Puntini

Sunday, EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7:30 - Betty Andel

9:30 - Irene Kasper, David Kawiecki

11:00 - Jarmilla Burian



The true miracle of Christmas is not the power of God to become man. It is not the mystery of divinity merged with humanity. No, it is something more wondrous, more astonishing - for we have a God that comes to us! Jesus' birth gave us a God who is a seeker, one who runs to find His children, even in the lowest of habitations, a stable. The Nativity is the most precious of gifts, the mercy and love of a God who does not wait for our stumbling steps, but instead he came to visit us.

Presiders

January 7

Confessions - Fr. Henry

5:00 - Fr. Henry

January 8

7:30 - Fr. Henry

9:30 - Fr. Denis

11:00 - Fr. Denis

Readers

January 7

5:00 - D. DeSanto

January 8

7:30-E. Keegan

9:30-M.A. Donlon

11:00-L. Mate, D. Porras



Eucharistic Ministers

January 7

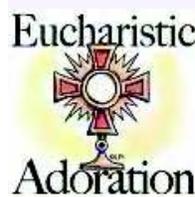
5:00 - P. Thorburn, R.&B. Stepina, S. Cipolletta,
M. Gibson, R. Williams, Deacon Dave

January 8

7:30 - B. Strnad, P. Libedinsky, B. Petek, A. Porras,
M. Schaffer
9:30 - M. Sinde, B&M. Garvey, S. Driscoll, D. Parcel,
J. Reynolds, L. Korenchan
11:00 - Jo.&Ja. Gaske, J. Discipio, T. Hilger, B. Koll,
C. Korabik, Deacon Dave

CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR?

In addition to Wednesday evenings, we would like to have Adoration on Tuesdays, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. While people can come and visit Jesus from a few minutes to several hours, at least one person has to be with Him at all times. Can you be that person? It can be once a week, twice a month, or even once a month. If you are willing, contact Marianne at 485-6561 or jmjswon@yahoo.com



Due to the early bulletin printing schedule, offertory collection totals are not available at this time.



You're Invited to Our Annual

Card Party

Friday, January 13, 2017

Sponsored by St. Louise Men's Club



Doors Open at 7 pm

St. Louise Colonnade Room



1112 Raymond Ave., LaGrange Park

Food ~ Drinks ~ Snacks ~ Raffles & Prizes



Bean Bag Toss & Setups Available

Chili and Beef Sandwiches Served at 9 pm

Come Join Us for a Fun Evening!

**Admission \$10 ~ Ladies and Seniors \$8
Tickets at the Door**

