



December 30/31, 2017 Jan 1, 2018
Holy Family/Holy Mother of God/New Year

OUR FAITH. OUR FOUNDATION.

SINCE 1911



Holy Family

The first reading stresses the giftedness of Isaac. In Old Testament times childlessness was seen as a curse. But Christians no longer so regard it. Though childlessness is a cause of great sadness, it must not be seen as a punishment from God.

The second reading stresses the great faith of Abraham and Sarah. They put their trust in God and were not disappointed. Husbands and wives today need great faith. When a man and a woman get

married, they make a life-long commitment to one another. To be faithful to such a commitment is never easy. But it is easier for those who believe in God and who turn to him for help in time of need.

In the Gospel reading the events surrounding the conception and birth of Jesus marked him out as a special child with a unique destiny. He was the one through whom the promise to Abraham would be fulfilled. He would be the hope and comfort of Israel, and a light for the nations. But the Gospel also talks about the rejection of Jesus, a rejection which would cause a sword of sorrow to pierce Mary's heart. Parents share the joys and sorrows of their children.

New Year's Day



Mary

The Gospel presents Mary to us as a model of new life in Christ all of us wish for ourselves in the new year. We read that when the shepherds came to adore the infant Lord, "Mary kept all these things and reflected on them in her heart."

Do we ever spend time reflecting on the ways God has touched our lives in the past year, this past Christmas? Some of us are very good at remembering all the negatives in our life, the ways people have harmed us. Do we ever try to recall the moments of grace when God touched our lives?

Mary took the time to reflect on these things and lift them all to the Father in prayer. The holiness of Mary was certainly God's gift to her but she also cooperated with that grace.

St. Paul says in today's second reading that we have received the spirit of adoption, a special relationship with God through Christ because of our baptism. Do we try to activate and energize that relationship?

As we begin the new year, let's try not to just make wishes for the new year but resolutions, concrete resolutions to tend to our responsibilities and strengthen our relationships with family, friends, God and Church that we have been given. Today we ask God's blessing and Mary's intercession to guide us in this new year so that in all that happens in the next months it will be for us a year of grace.

This Week

Monday, January 1

9:00am Mass **New Year**
11:00am Mass **New Year**

Tuesday, January 2

10:00am Mass

Wednesday, January 3

8:00am Mass
7:00pm Mass

Thursday, January 4

8:00am Mass
7:00pm Mass

Friday, January 5

8:00am Mass
11:00am Funeral +Beryl Daoust
7:00pm Mass +Winston Shemain

Saturday, January 6

8:00am Mass +Giley Carlos
11:00am Meeting RCAV Outreach Retreat
5:00pm Mass

Sunday, January 7

9:00am Mass
11:00am Mass
Bapt
5:00pm Mass

Papal Prayer Intentions for January

That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.



Pope's Message

"Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart! (Lk 2:19). In these words, Luke describes the attitude with which Mary took in all that they had experienced in those days. Far from trying to understand or master the situation, Mary is the woman who can treasure, that is to say, protect and guard

in her heart, the passage of God in the life of his people. Deep within, she had learned to listen to the heartbeat of her Son, and that in turn taught her, throughout her life, to discover God's heartbeat in history. She learned how to be a mother, and in that learning process she gave Jesus the beautiful experience of knowing what it is to be a Son. In Mary, the eternal Word not only became flesh, but also learned to recognize the maternal tenderness of God. With Mary, the God-Child learned to listen to the yearnings, the troubles, the joys and the hopes of the people of the promise. With Mary, he discovered himself a Son of God's faithful people.

In the Gospels, Mary appears as a woman of few words, with no great speeches or deeds, but with an attentive gaze capable of guarding the life and mission of her Son, and for this reason, of everything that he loves. She was able to watch over the beginnings of the first Christian community, and in this way she learned to be the mother of a multitude. She drew near to the most diverse situations in order to sow hope. She accompanied the crosses borne in the silence of her children's hearts. How many devotions, shrines and chapels in the most far-off places, how many pictures in our homes, remind us of this great truth. Mary gave us a mother's warmth, the warmth that shelters us amid troubles, the maternal warmth that keeps anything or anyone from extinguishing in the heart of the Church the revolution of tenderness inaugurated by her Son. Where there is a mother, there is tenderness. By her motherhood, Mary shows us that humility and tenderness are not virtues of the weak but of the strong. She teaches us that we do not have to mistreat others in order to feel important (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 288). God's holy people has always acknowledged and hailed her as the Holy Mother of God.

To celebrate Mary as Mother of God and our mother at the beginning of the new year means recalling a certainty that will accompany our days: we are a people with a Mother; we are not orphans.

Mothers are the strongest antidote to our individualistic and egotistic tendencies, to our lack of openness and our indifference. A society without mothers would not only be a cold society, but a society that has lost its heart, lost the "feel of home". A society without mothers would be a merciless society, one that has room only for calculation and speculation. Because mothers, even at the worst times, are capable of testifying to tenderness, unconditional self-sacrifice and the strength of hope. I have learned much from those mothers whose children are in prison, or lying in hospital beds, or in bondage to drugs, yet, come cold or heat, rain or draught, never stop fighting for what is best for them. Or those mothers who in refugee camps, or even the midst of war, unfailingly embrace and support their children's sufferings. Mothers who literally give their lives so that none of their children will perish. Where there is a mother, there is unity, there is belonging, belonging as children.

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To begin the year by recalling God's goodness in the maternal face of Mary, in the maternal face of the Church, in the faces of our own mothers, protects us from the corrosive disease of being "spiritual orphans". It is the sense of being orphaned that the soul experiences when it feels motherless and lacking the tenderness of God, when the sense of belonging to a family, a people, a land, to our God, grows dim. This sense of being orphaned lodges in a narcissistic heart capable of looking only to itself and its own interests. It grows when what we forget that life is a gift we have received – and owe to others – a gift we are called to share in this common home.

It was such a self-centred orphanhood that led Cain to ask: "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gen 4:9). It was as if to say: he doesn't belong to me; I do not recognize him. This attitude of spiritual orphanhood is a cancer that silently eats away at and debases the soul. We become all the more debased, inasmuch as nobody belongs to us and we belong to no one. I debase the earth because it does not belong to me; I debase others because they do not belong to me; I debase God because I do not belong to him, and in the end we debase our very selves, since we forget who we are and the divine "family name" we bear. The loss of the ties that bind us, so typical of our fragmented and divided culture, increases this sense of orphanhood and, as a result, of great emptiness and loneliness. The lack of physical (and not virtual) contact is cauterizing our hearts (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 49) and making us lose the capacity for tenderness and wonder, for pity and compassion. Spiritual orphanhood makes us forget what it means to be children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents, friends and believers. It makes us forget the importance of playing, of singing, of a smile, of rest, of gratitude.

Celebrating the feast of the Holy Mother of God makes us smile once more as we realize that we are a people, that we belong, that only within a community, within a family, can we as persons find the "climate", the "warmth" that enables us to grow in humanity, and not merely as objects meant to "consume and be consumed". To celebrate the feast of the Holy Mother of God reminds us that we are not interchangeable items of merchandise or information processors. We are children, we are family, we are God's People.

Celebrating the Holy Mother of God leads us to create and care for common places that can give us a sense of belonging, of being rooted, of feeling at home in our cities, in communities that unite and support us (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 151).

Jesus, at the moment of his ultimate self-sacrifice, on the cross, sought to keep nothing for himself, and in handing over his life, he also handed over to us his Mother. He told Mary: Here is your son; here are your children. We too want to receive her into our homes, our families, our communities and nations. We want to meet her maternal gaze. The gaze that frees us from being orphans; the gaze that reminds us that we are brothers and sisters, that I belong to you, that you belong to me, that we are of the same flesh. The gaze that teaches us that we have to learn how to care for life in the same way and with the same tenderness that she did: by sowing hope, by sowing a sense of belonging and of fraternity.

Celebrating the Holy Mother of God reminds us that we have a Mother. We are not orphans. We have a Mother. Together let us all confess this truth. I invite you to acclaim it three times, standing [all stand], like the faithful of Ephesus: Holy Mother of God, Holy Mother of God, Holy Mother of God.

WELCOME TO ST. AUGUSTINE'S PARISH

St. Augustine's Oblate Parish is a Catholic community centered in Christ and the Eucharist that has a shared mission to – welcome and invite all to participate – celebrate in Word and Sacrament – foster evangelization and spiritual formation – advocate for social justice – care for our common home.



World Day of Peace

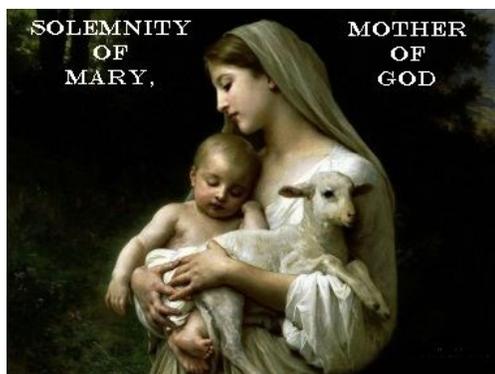
January 1

The world day of peace was established by Pope Paul VI in 1968 who asked that "every year, this commemoration be repeated as a hope and as a promise, at

the beginning of the calendar year which measures and outlines the path of human life in time, that Peace with its just and beneficent equilibrium may dominate the development of events to come." Each year has a specific theme, chosen by the Holy Father. This year's theme is: Nonviolence: a style for politics for peace.

Did You Know...

The Story of Mary, Mother of God



Mary's divine motherhood broadens the Christmas spotlight. Mary has an important role to play in the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. She consents to God's invitation conveyed by the

angel (Luke 1:26-38). Elizabeth proclaims: "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:42-43, emphasis added). Mary's role as mother of God places her in a unique position in God's redemptive plan.

Without naming Mary, Paul asserts that "God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law" (Galatians 4:4). Paul's further statement that "God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out 'Abba, Father!'" helps us realize that Mary is mother to all the brothers and sisters of Jesus.

The precise title "Mother of God" goes back at least to the third or fourth century. In the Greek form Theotokos—God-bearer—it became the touchstone of the Church's teaching about the Incarnation. The Council of Ephesus in 431 insisted that the holy Fathers were right in calling the holy virgin Theotokos. At the end of this particular session, crowds of people marched through the street shouting: "Praised be the Theotokos!" The tradition reaches to our own day.

Around the Parish...



Year 2018 Parish Envelopes

Personalized year 2018 Envelope Donation boxes are available for pick-up outside the parish hall. Please do not take a box if it does not have your name on it. There will be volunteers from our new Community theme committee to assist you in finding your envelopes 10 minutes before Mass

as well as after Mass. Also, if there is not a box with your name on it please ask one of the volunteers and they will assign an envelope number to you. DO NOT use 2017 in the year 2018 as your donation may be credited to another individual.

Around the Archdiocese...

Archdiocesan Holy Hour for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life

Join Fr. Rodney Nootebos, Director of Vocations and Seminarians, along with other members of the Faithful throughout the Archdiocese, in a monthly Holy Hour of prayer, intensely focused on asking the "Lord of the Harvest to send forth labourers into the harvest."

January 18, 2018 @ 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, 7455 Tenth Ave, Burnaby, BC 2S1



Oblate Corner



I AM OCCUPIED WITH MEDITATING ON THE HOLY VIRGIN'S SUFFERINGS AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS
Posted by Frank Santucci

In grief, who do I allow to stand by me as a support?

Eugene describes the last hours of Marius Suzanne:

I believe, dear friend, it has been a long time since last I wrote you. My hours, my days and my nights are spent beside our blessed patient who accomplishes his sacrifice with heroic dispositions. Everyone is intent on gathering his every word while I am occupied with meditating on the holy Virgin's sufferings at the foot of the cross where of until this day, I have had a very imperfect idea.

To the malady which is taking away this beloved son and which would have led him, it seems, into eternity without too great suffering, is added an inflammation of the bowels and of the stomach, a continual hiccup which nothing can relieve, and frequent convulsions, etc., which rank him amongst the martyrs. He can, this dear child, feel all these pains, for he remains fully conscious and communicates to me all his agony with a rending of soul which is inconceivable while repeating to me a thousand times, with the most tender accent, these words: "My good father" which sooth him and pierce me, for indeed that is what I am, good father, and that is what kills me, being on the point of losing so good a son, a being whom I have always cherished more than myself.

Letter to Hippolyte Courtés. 29 January 1829, EO VII n 323

Later, Eugene wrote:

We have just lost this very day at two o'clock in the afternoon our very dear and very precious Fr. Suzanne. All his qualities are known to you; but what you have not been able to admire, as we have, are the sublime and heroic virtues that he constantly showed forth in the course of the long and cruel illness which took him away from us. In the state of desolation in which we are, I have only time to commend him to your community prayers of intercession.

Letter to Jean Baptiste Honorat, 31 January 1829, EO VII n 324



May the LORD bless you and protect you. May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace. (Numbers 6.24-26)

A word from Fr. Andrzej..

The Gospel presents Mary to us as a model of that new life in Christ that all of us wish for ourselves in the New Year. There we see that Mary was prepared to do something to realize this goal. What did she do? We read that the shepherds, when they went to adore the Child Jesus in the manger, told all that the angels had said to them. "But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." Again after the boy Jesus was found in the Temple, we are told that "His mother treasured all these things in her heart". Mary was a woman who valued the word of God, who treasured it and made time to meditate and ponder it. It is true that the holiness of Mary is attributed to the grace of God, but this should not make us forget that she needed to make an effort in order to cooperate with the grace of God. She pondered the word of God in order to discern what God was saying to her at every stage in her life as the handmaid of God.

The two examples above of Mary pondering the word of God, namely, after the visit of the shepherds and after the finding in the Temple, show that Mary found the word of God both in the divine revelation and in her own experiences. Similarly God speaks to us today through divine revelation – Bible, the teaching and preaching of the Church, as well as through our personal experiences, if only we made time to reflect on them as Mary did.

Whatever the situation we find ourselves in – a hardship, a disappointment, a decision to make – God has a solution, an answer that is right for us. We tell God about it in our prayer but we also listen to what God has to tell us about it. Prayer is a conversation with God but sometimes all we do is pick up the phone, read out the list of our problems to God and drop the phone without listening to hear what God has to say to us. Let us today resolve to listen more to the voice of God, to treasure God’s word and ponder it in our hearts. Then we shall be able to realize our New Year resolution of a new life in union with God.

If you are new to our Parish Community or have an address or telephone change, please fill out the information below and submit it to the parish office or drop into the collection basket. please print in block letters.

New Parishioner Need Envelopes Information Change

First Name	First Name
Spouse First Name	Spouse Last Name
Children: Name(s) & Date of Birth	
Mailing Address	
City	Phone
Postal Code	Email
Comments	

Parish Information

RECONCILIATION

Weekdays 15 minutes before weekday Mass
 Saturday 4:00pm–4:30pm

PASTOR

Rev. Andrzej Stendzina, OMI 604.736.4455 x 227
 astendzina@rcav.org

PARISH OFFICE

Monday & Friday 9:00am-12noon,1:00pm-5:00pm
 Tues/Wed/Thurs 10:00am-12noon,1:00pm-5:00pm
 Monday is the Priest’s day off.

Email: parish.saug@rcav.org

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Linda Arnold 604.736.4455 x 229

PARISH SECRETARY

Jayne Le Vierge 604.736.4455 x 221

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM—PREP

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
 Vea Coronado 604.736.4455 x 224
 vea@staugustineschurch.ca

FAITH AND FOUNDATION

Campaign Office 604.736.4455 x 231
 donate@faithandfoundation.com

ST AUGUSTINE SCHOOL

2154 West 7th Avenue V6K 0E3 604.731.8024
 office@staugschool.ca

BAPTISM

604.736.4455 x 221
 Preparation classes held first Thursday of the month

MARRIAGES/WEDDINGS

604.736.4455 x 221 parish.saug@rcav.org

PARISH MINISTRIES

RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS)

Linda Arnold rcia@staugustineschurch.ca

MUSIC MINISTRY

Peter Allen 604.257.3525
 Manfred & Suzanne Milbers 604.255.0567
 Mary Ellen Turnbull 778.995.6423

COMMUNION TO THE SICK

Nelson Cheung 604.328.3882

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sonny Harsono em@staugustineschurch.ca

PARISH COUNCIL

Mary Ellen Turnbull parishcouncil@staugustineschurch.ca

CWL (CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE)

Samantha Strudwick 604.255-1662

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Roy Pimentel 778.330.6850

LEGION OF MARY

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MOM’S N TOTS

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BUSY HANDS & GARDENING

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ARTS & ENVIRONMENT

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