

January 1, 2012

Mary, The Holy Mother of God

- ✠ Saturday, December 31 St. Sylvester I
5:00 p.m. **Norman Baines**
by Catherine and John Kappus
- ✠ Sunday, January 1 Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God
8:00 a.m. **Patrick and Anna Kane**
by Susan Reynolds
10:30 a.m. **New Year Blessings for the Banas Family**
- ✠ Monday, January 2 NO MASS
- ✠ Tuesday, January 3 The Most Holy Name of Jesus
8:45 a.m. **Madonna of Health**
by Angela Gross
- ✠ Wednesday, January 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
8:45 a.m. **Sister Catherine Gallagher**
by Mary Rupell
- ✠ Thursday, January 5 St. John Neumann
8:45 a.m. **Angela Emerson**
by The Haines Family
- ✠ First Friday, January 6 St. Andre Bassette
8:45 a.m. **Theresa Rebinski**
by Henry Rebinski
- ✠ First Saturday, January 7 St. Raymond of Penyafort
8:45 a.m. **Anna and Edward Durnin**
by Mary Rupell and Family
5:00 p.m. **Kyle Pagerly**
by Charlie and Nancy Guerriere and Family
- ✠ Sunday, January 8 The Epiphany of the Lord
8:00 a.m. **Vincent Perna**
by Family
10:30 a.m. **The Altar Rosary Society**

Mary was a woman who herself understood what it was like to live in an uncertain and frightening time. The Mother of God was forced, days after giving birth, to become a refugee, to save the life of her child. Yet she never abandoned hope. She never lost trust in God. Her trust in God, and her faith in the future, is one reason why we honor Mary today, the first day of the New Year.

But consider another reason, too: in this early moment, the brand new year – like the Blessed Mother – is spotless.

The future is a clean page, an empty calendar, waiting to be written on. Everything is pure. Everything is possible. And that is Mary. She is Possibility. She is Creation begun anew – the New Eve. With Mary, and the birth of her son, the coming of God as man, we get a fresh start.

It begins this day with a reminder of how it began 21 centuries ago, when the grandeur of God was made known in the unlikeliest of places, a manger.

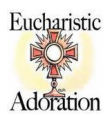
The gospel reading today speaks of the first people to discover it: the shepherds who hurried to the stable. As Luke tells us, they left from that encounter with Jesus to “make known the message that had been told them about this child.”

It was those anonymous shepherds, men who probably couldn’t even read or write, who were the very first to tell the good news. Luke tells us that soon others were also hearing the news – and that they were “amazed” at what they were told.

And Mary? She doesn’t utter a word. She “kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” Others spread the word. But she is the one who gave us The Word.

This is traditionally a day of beginnings – when resolutions are made. That treadmill you got for Christmas will get a work out – for a week or two. So will the diet...and the promise to stop smoking...and the vow you made to finally clean out the garage. It all sounds good for a few days. But it’s soon forgotten, or neglected.

But don’t forget or neglect this beautiful reality: God’s grandeur is with us, and among us. The world IS “charged with the grandeur of God.” It is there in the Eucharist we are about to receive. It is there in the bright light of every winter morning – and the bright hope that is promised to us with the birth of the savior. If you’re going to make resolutions, resolve to live this year in that hope.



January 6 & 7
First Friday & First Saturday
Mass at 8:45 a.m. followed by Exposition and
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament



About a century ago, the Jesuit poet and priest Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote a poem that begins: “The world is charged with the grandeur of God.”

It’s a beautiful statement of the miraculous – and it’s more

surprising because Hopkins himself suffered from depression. His life was a struggle, full of difficulties and disappointments. It was not always easy for him to see God’s goodness in the world around him. We need to be reminded of that, I think. It’s easy to miss – especially given the times we live in. Foreclosures, unemployment, recession, growing debt, the bloody battles underway in Israel. It seems hopeless. But then we look at the feast we celebrate today, and find hope.

And my hope for you, and my prayer for you:
That the Lord bless you and keep you.
That the Lord let his face shine upon you and be
gracious to you. And that the Lord look upon you
kindly and give you peace. Happy New Year!
Fr. Zenek, SDS

THANK YOU

I want to thank all of you who have given cards,
gifts, and prayers. I would like to take the
opportunity to thank everyone for the wonderful job
they have done in making Christmas so beautiful:
those who came to decorate and
clean the church; the Choirs,
Ushers, Altar Servers, Lectors and
Eucharistic Ministers.



Thank you from the bottom of my
heart!
Fr Zenek, SDS

St. Theodore's Religious Education Calendar 2012

JANUARY

Monday, Jan. 2nd No Religious Education -
New Years Holiday
Monday, Jan. 9th Classes at School
Monday, Jan. 16th No Religious Education -
(Martin Luther King)
Sunday, Jan. 22nd 8th Grade at 10:30 Mass
Monday, Jan. 23rd Classes at School
Sunday, Jan. 29th 7th Grade at 10:30 Mass
Monday, Jan. 30th Classes at School

FEBRUARY

Monday, Feb. 6th Classes at School
Sunday, Feb. 12th 6th Grade at 10:30 Mass
Monday, Feb. 13th Classes at School
Monday, Feb. 20th No Religious Education -
President's Day
Wednesday, Feb. 22nd All Grades at Church
for Ash Wednesday Mass 6:30 p.m.

MARCH

Monday, March 5th Classes at School
Sunday, March 11th 5th Grade at 10:30 Mass
Monday, March 12th Classes at School
Sunday, March 18th 4th Grade at 10:30 Mass
Monday, March 19th All Grades at Church for
St. Joseph Feast and First Penance Practice
Sunday, March 25th 2nd Grade at 10:30 Mass
& Penance Service at 11:30
Monday, March 26th Classes at School
Saturday, March 31st 8th Grade Retreat at St.
Theodore's

2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal

Thank you to the parish families who made a pledge to
the 2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal.

To date, the Development Department has received
pledges totaling \$ 8,027.35 and payments totaling
\$ 6,071.10 from 67 parishioners. This represents 79.5%
of your \$10,100.00 goal.



**"Thinking about joining the
choir?" Now would be a
perfect time to join and also
meet our new director, Sarah
Starcher. The St Theodore's
choir rehearsal on Friday, Jan.
6th at 7:00p.m. in the church**

2011 Income Tax Contribution Statements are
available. Please, when you submit your request, include
a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

TAX REFUND & TITHING

Are you receiving a tax refund this year? Have you
considered giving a percentage of it back to your parish?
Even if you are not yet able to give a full 5% or 10% tithe
to your parish on a regular basis, many Catholics find that
tithing on unexpected income – a tax refund or an
inheritance is a great first step to experiencing the joy and
contentment that come when we really do give as God
has asked us to go give.

Stewardship Treasure (Collections)

Christmas and Sunday 2011 \$ 11,643.36	Last year \$ 10,932
Flowers 2011 \$ 807	Last year \$761



Please pray for: Chris, Keira, Anna & John
Saksa, Theresa, Stephen, Bobby Gross, Lillian
Shaffer, Bridget, Erin Stanton, Katlyn Faulkner,
Barbara Zack, Bobby Greco, Frances
Fiumefreddo, Stanislaw Rogulski, Jay Mildrum, Enrico
Staiano, Emir Kane, Gracie Witte, Billy, Carol A, Kim
Paine, Mary Ellen Horner, Richard Horner.

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