

*“And Mary kept all these things,  
reflecting on them in her heart.”*





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*Mass Intentions*  
for the Week  
©JPPC

**THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD  
JANUARY 1, 2023**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2022**

*The Vigil of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*  
4:00PM Nora "Dolly" Kugler—Birthday Remembrance

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1**

*The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*  
7:30 AM Irene McMann—Memorial  
9:00AM Anna T. Carnevale—Memorial  
10:30AM Jack Donnelly—Memorial  
5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

**MONDAY, JANUARY 2**

*St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church*  
7:30AM Rose & Ernest Knott—Memorial

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 3**

*Christmas Weekday; The Most Holy Name of Jesus*  
7:30AM Joe Zaino & Dec'd Members of Company B—Memorial

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4**

*St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious*  
7:30AM The Souls in Purgatory

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 5**

*St. John Neumann, Bishop*  
7:30AM Fr. Wilfred Gregoire—Memorial

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 6**

*Christmas Weekday; St. Andre Bessette, Religious*  
7:30AM Special Intention  
9:00AM Dec'd Alumni & Faculty of OLM School

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 7**

*Christmas Weekday: St. Raymond of Penafort, Priest*  
8:30AM Erica Claire Rose—Memorial  
*The Vigil Mass for the Epiphany of the Lord*  
4:00PM John P. Ponte—5th Anniversary

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 8**

*The Epiphany of the Lord*  
7:30 AM Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial  
9:00AM Joseph Laurino—Memorial  
10:30AM Lillian E. "Dolly" Healey—Birthday Remembrance  
5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy





Dear Parishioners:

Happy New Year! I wish you and your families God's choicest blessings for 2023! On New Year's Day, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. We begin a new year at Mass. It is the very best way to start the New Year!

This holy day is a celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary's motherhood of Jesus. It is a reminder of the role she played in the salvation of humankind. The title "Mother of God" is from the Greek *Theotokos*, which means "God-bearer."

Though for many, New Year's Day is a day for football and hangovers rather than for Mother Mary, there's a beautiful spiritual significance in celebrating her during the Christmas season.

St. Pope Paul VI, in his apostolic exhortation, *Marialis Cultus*, called this Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, "*a fitting occasion for renewing adoration of the newborn Prince of Peace, for listening once more to the glad tidings of the angels (Luke 2:14), and for imploring from God, through the Queen of Peace, the supreme gift of peace.*"

Every year on January 1, the Holy Father marks the World Day of Peace with a special message inviting all people to reflect on the important work of building peace. A long tradition of messages for this day began with St. Paul VI in 1967. Pope Francis urges the world to pray for peace, especially for those nations at war and those suffering violence, death, and destruction.

Also, on New Year's, many people make resolutions.

Losing weight, eating healthier, exercising more regularly, getting more sleep, or quitting bad habits like smoking and swearing are top New Year's resolutions.

As Catholics, we might try to make some spiritual resolutions for 2023. Focusing on physical health and well-being is great, but what about our spiritual health? Let us make some spiritual resolutions for 2023!

Resolve to begin and end every new day with prayer. What is the first thing you do when you wake up in the morning? Hit the snooze button? Roll over? Complain that you need more sleep? St. Josemaría Escrivá wrote about the heroic minute, meaning that once the alarm rings, get up and say a prayer. Begin your day with prayer and end your day with a prayerful examination of your conscience. St. Josemaría said: "*To be faithful to God requires a constant battle in one small thing after another, without giving in.*"

Resolve to stay close to Christ by clinging to the Sacraments. Make a concrete resolution to live a more Sacramental life. Strive never to miss Sunday Mass, make a good confession once a month, add one extra daily Mass each week, come to Marian Devotions and Adoration and spend more time praying in a church before the Lord in the tabernacle instead of just praying in traffic.

Resolve to read the Sacred Scriptures and good spiritual books. Pray and reflect upon the Sunday readings. Many "Read the Bible in one-year" books and apps are available.

They help gain a greater knowledge of the Word of God.

St. John Bosco said: "*Only God knows the good that can come by reading one good Catholic book.*" Many devotional books with meditations to help deepen our relationship with God are available. Catholic authors also write many books to help deepen knowledge of Jesus, Mary, the Church, the saints, and other Catholic faith topics.

We can take many other resolutions as Catholics to deepen our faith. Grace before meals at home and even at the restaurant, acts of penance like fasting, abstaining from meat or sweets regularly, praying the Rosary daily, praying the Stations of the Cross once a week, making a pilgrimage to a local shrine, or making a retreat.

The Catholic writer, G.K. Chesterton, said: "*The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul.*" In 2023, resolve to be a more committed Catholic, deepen your faith and renew your soul!

We thank the Carparco Family of the Hill Funeral Home for the generous sponsorship of the parish calendar. These beautiful calendars were distributed before Christmas. I hope you got one.

On Tuesday, the RI General Assembly begins a new legislative session. Pray for our elected officials. May they truly serve the common good! Be well. Stay safe. Do good. A Happy New Year! God Bless!

Father Healey

## ❖ Christmas in January

**WHEN DOES** Christmas end? It depends. If you are asking about the social celebration in the United States, it comes to an end on Christmas Day. Stores take down their decorations. “After-Christmas” sales begin. Holiday music disappears from radio stations. And in many homes, people pull down the tree, package up the manger, and tuck away the stockings.

Food is about the only thing left. You’ll probably still have Christmas cookies and leftovers from the big family dinner. But otherwise, evidence of Christmas goes into hiding until sometime next autumn.

It’s different at church. Most Catholic churches in the United States will leave their Christmas decorations up through the end of the liturgical Christmas season, which extends from Christmas Day through the Solemnities of Mary, Mother of God (January 1); Epiphany (the following Sunday); and the Baptism of the Lord (usually the Sunday after Epiphany, but in some years the very next day). The priest and deacon will switch from white vestments to green ones when Ordinary Time begins in earnest after observing the Baptism of the Lord.

This is why you may still see poinsettias and other decorations lasting well into January—but only at church. The decorations are one way that we express our complete belief in the meaning of this day. We have too much to celebrate on December 25. To grasp the full meaning of that day, we extend Christmastime well into January.

You could do the same at your home. Leave some decorations in place—both inside and outside the house. Let your home be a place where Christmas is too big to be restricted to one day. Let the spirit of the season extend into the New Year, spreading its joy that Christ is born for us.

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## Weekly Collection

### December 18, 2022

|                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Weekly.....           | \$10,536.00              |
| EFT.....              | \$5,554.00               |
|                       | <b>Total=\$16,090.00</b> |
| Outreach.....         | \$3,425.00               |
| Annual (to date)..... | \$108,935.00             |

### December 19, 2021

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| Weekly..... | \$21,100.00 |
|-------------|-------------|

**Thank You for Your Generous Support!**



## Second Collections

**This Week: Holyday Collection**  
**Next Week: Building & Grounds**

***Leave a Legacy of Faith for the next Generation! Remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.***

## New Year’s Holiday

The OLM Parish Office is closed in observance of the New Year Holiday on Monday, January 2, 2023.

***The OLM Staff wish all OLM Parishioners a Happy New Year!***





# Religious Education NEWS

## RE Schedule

**Sunday, January 8:** 9:00am Mass & Grades 1 & 2 First Communion Class follows in the OLM Gym; 5:00PM Mass & 8th Grade Confirmation Class to follow in the OLM School Gym

**Sunday, January 15:** MLK Holiday. No RE Classes.

**Sunday, January 22:** 5:00pm Mass & Grades 5, 6 & 7 class follows in the OLM School Gym

**Sunday, January 29:** 9:00am Mass & Grade 3 & 4 Class follows in the OLM School Gym



## Striving to Be Saints & Scholars!

### Upcoming Events:

- **Monday, January 2:** No School, New Year's Holiday observed
- **Tuesday, January 3:** Christmas Vacation ends & School resumes
- **Friday, January 6:** First Friday Mass at 9:00AM

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God Bless You In The New Year



## Outreach Update

• **OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of food items and paper goods for the members of our local community. Please place all donated items in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House. **All food items should be unexpired and non-perishable.** We also are in need of paper goods (paper towels, napkins). Thank you for your support.

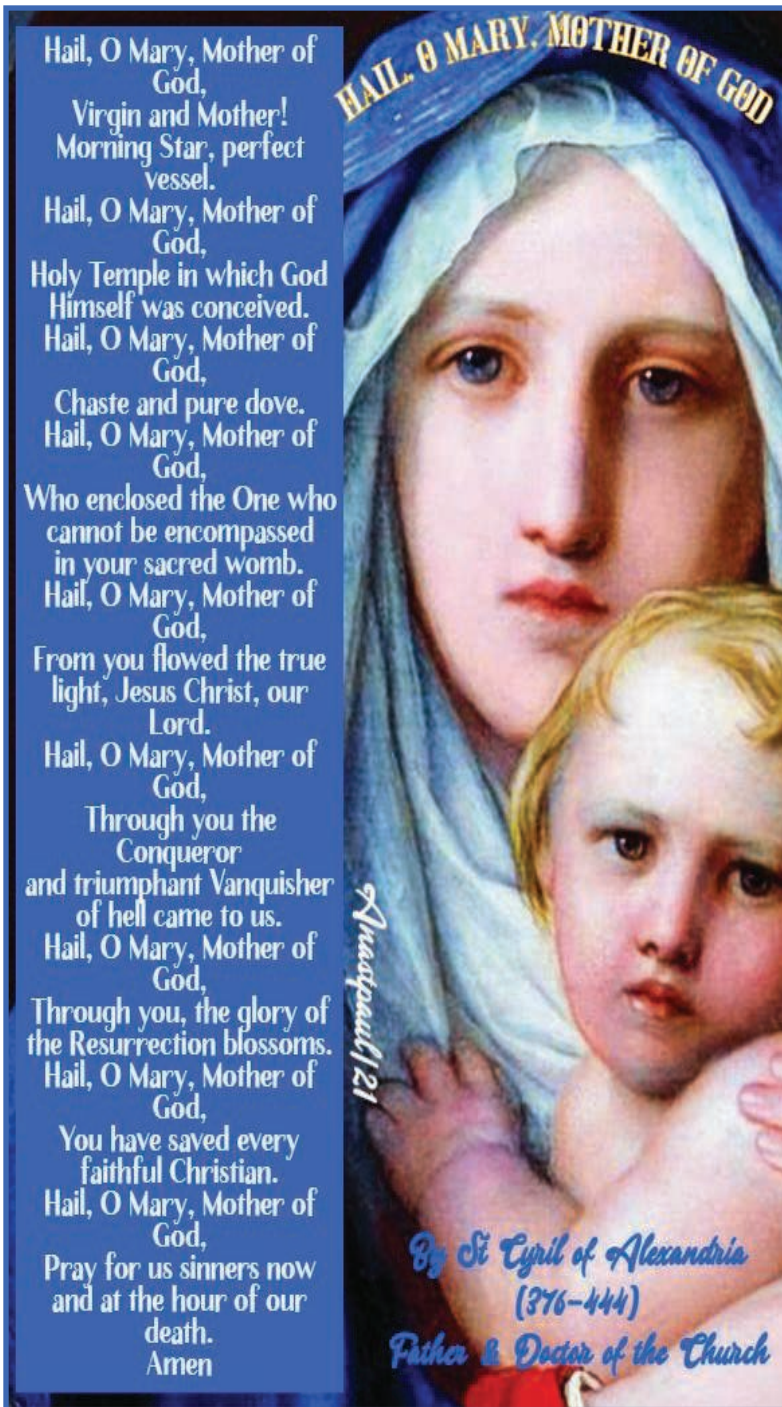
• **OLM Bereavement Group:** Next meeting Thursday, January 5 at 4:00pm in Mercy House. All those adults experiencing sorrow, grief or loneliness are most welcome to attend for prayer and discussion.

• **For more information,** please contact the OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 401-884-4410 or via email at [outreach@olmparish.org](mailto:outreach@olmparish.org)



Friday, January 6, 2023  
Exposition at 12:00 PM  
Adoration All-Afternoon  
Benediction at 6:00 PM  
Adorers are needed, sign up online





Hail, O Mary, Mother of God,  
 Virgin and Mother!  
 Morning Star, perfect vessel.  
 Hail, O Mary, Mother of God,  
 Holy Temple in which God Himself was conceived.  
 Hail, O Mary, Mother of God,  
 Chaste and pure dove.  
 Hail, O Mary, Mother of God,  
 Who enclosed the One who cannot be encompassed in your sacred womb.  
 Hail, O Mary, Mother of God,  
 From you flowed the true light, Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
 Hail, O Mary, Mother of God,  
 Through you the Conqueror and triumphant Vanquisher of hell came to us.  
 Hail, O Mary, Mother of God,  
 Through you, the glory of the Resurrection blossoms.  
 Hail, O Mary, Mother of God,  
 You have saved every faithful Christian.  
 Hail, O Mary, Mother of God,  
 Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.  
 Amen

Anastasi/21

By St Cyril of Alexandria  
 (376-444)  
 Father & Doctor of the Church

## ✠ January 1: Mary, the Holy Mother of God

**JANUARY 1** is New Year's Day to most of the world, but in the Catholic Church, it is also the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. This is a relatively new title for the day. Older Catholics will remember that we used to call January 1 the Feast of the Circumcision.

Circumcision may not seem like much to have a feast about, but the day commemorated an event in the life of Jesus, just as we have days for his Conception, Birth, Presentation in the Temple, Baptism, Transfiguration, Death, and Resurrection. Luke specifically mentions the circumcision of Jesus (2:21). It took place, according to the custom, on the eighth day after his birth. That is why the feast commemorating the event fell on the eighth day of Christmas. It just happened to be New Year's Day. The same passage from Luke says Jesus then received his name.

That is why the old calendar celebrated the Most Holy Name of Jesus on the Sunday between the Feasts of the Circumcision and the Epiphany. If no Sunday intervened, the feast occurred on January 2. It is now an optional memorial on January 3.

In present times, the Gospel passage for January 1 still refers to the circumcision, but the new title for the feast seems to have another verse in mind, Luke 2:19. There we hear that Mary treasured all the things that happened and the words that were said and pondered them in her heart. On the octave day of the birth of Jesus, we celebrate Mary, who bore him.

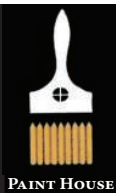
On January 1, we are also expected to pray for world peace. In the United States, this day is a holyday of obligation unless it falls on a Monday or a Saturday.

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