

Christmas The Nativity of the Lord



December 25, 2015

Masses for the Week

Thursday	Christmas Vigil	4:00pm
Friday	Christmas	8:00am
	Christmas	10:00am
Saturday	Denis Scanlon	5:00pm

Please Pray for Our Sick

Mattie Berhang, Elsie Harcut, Robert LaFera, Lynne Lazzaro, Thomas McGovern Sr., Grant Nicolson, Mario Occhi, Salvator Paone, Chico Perez, Dcn. Bob Repke, Ronald Smith, Daniel Sweeney, Alice Theiss, Thomas Vavrinec, Luisa Walsh, Irene Waddell

We also want to remember parishioners who are currently in Nursing Facilities. They are: Dorothy Boodakian, Frank Cahill, Nilka Rosado, Rose Sferrazza, Donato Tintori, Alice Tochterman

Holyday Mass Schedule

Thursday, Christmas Eve 4:00pm
 Friday, Christmas Day 8am & 10am
 Thursday, New Year's Eve 5:30pm
 Friday, New Year's Day 10am
 NO Adoration on 1st Friday
 1st Saturday, 8am & Rosary & 5pm

Christmas Blessings

As we stop to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Father Burke, Father John and the staff of St. Peter's want to take this opportunity to offer to you and your loved ones Best Wishes for a Happy and a Blessed Christmas. We are thankful for everyone's continued generosity to St. Peter's—from the many hours spent volunteering for this or that to the financial contributions.

Christmas Hours

The Parish Office will be closed until Monday, December 28th at 8:30am.

Religious Ed News

Religious Ed classes will not be in session December 24th and 31st but will resume on January 7th.

Blessing of Toys

On Sunday, January 3rd, the Feast of the Epiphany, we ask once again that boys and girls bring one of their Christmas toys to the ten o'clock Mass to be blessed at a little ceremony after the homily.

Christmas Calendar

Looking ahead into the Christmas season, these are the next few week's celebrations: this coming Sunday, December 27th will be the *Feast of the Holy Family*; January 1st will be the *Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God* (a holy day of obligation); the following Sunday, January 3rd, will be the *Feast of the Epiphany*; and the following Sunday will be the *Feast of the Baptism of the Lord*. That feast will mark the end of the Christmas season. Monday January 11th, will be Monday of the first week of Ordinary Time.



Mariapolis Luminosa of The Focolare

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Hail, favored one!

The Lord is with you.

Mary in the mystery of her annunciation and visitation is the very model of the way you should live, because first she received Jesus in her life, then she went in haste to give to her cousin Elizabeth; what she had received,



she had to give. You must be like her, giving in haste the world you have received in meditation. In every Holy Communion, Jesus the Word becomes flesh in our life, a special delicate, beautiful gift of God; it's a privilege—why you...and not someone else, I don't know. But you must protect it with tender care because he is giving himself, the Word, to you to be made flesh, to each one of you, and to those who will come after. Blessed Mother, pray for us, and teach me to live as you lived.
Mother Teresa

Silent Night, Holy Night

“Silence. Why does it frighten us so much? For one, our world is inundated with noise. Our i-pods, telephones, televisions, and those who live under the same roof with us are constantly bombarding us with noise. Even when we think we are in the midst of silence, there is that ever-present whirring of the fluorescent lights above. Silence can be frightening because we become accustomed to a life filled with noise. Silence frightens us because it challenges us to confront ourselves and how well we live out our divine calling as Christians. Silence is powerful because it is in silence that we are able to examine our lives in the light of Christ. In silence, we are confronted with ourselves—for better or for worse. It is in this confrontation that we are either challenged to become more Christ-like or are frightened by our wretchedness and thus run from Christ—the One Whom we should be striving to become like.

As Christians, we all share the same call to become *alter Christi-s*, or ‘other Christs.’ This is a non-negotiable fact. Paul’s letter to the Ephesians clearly states that ‘in love God destined us for adoption to Himself through Jesus Christ’ (Eph 1:5). Jesus Christ is God’s only Son by nature, but we become God’s sons and daughters by adoption. We become adopted sons and daughters through baptism, which in turn gives us the special grace of becoming *alter Christi-s* in our world. We are able to bring Christ to others because we *are* other Christs.

In silence, we are able to listen, not with our ears, but within the quiet depths of our hearts. In silence, we can grow in our mission of becoming more like Christ. The importance of silence in the Christian life is

not something that was invented by monks. The monks, rather, found the need for silence affirmed in the Scriptures. . . .

It may seem as if attaining silence is impossible. Sure, we can easily turn off the television and the cell phone. But what about dealing with the people we live with? The solution is simple. Take any free time we might have—those precious few minutes after the baby is put to bed or when the college roommate leaves the room. Giving God this time in silence allows *Him* to do the ‘talking.’ In silence, we can better understand His will in our lives so to better live out our divine calling to become another Christ.

Silence is a gift from God that calls us to convert our lives more truly and more perfectly to that of Jesus Christ, so that, like Christ, we can live out our mission as sons and daughters of the Father. Let us take a break from the noise and allow the silence to fashion us into other Christs in Our world.”

The Power of Silence, Br. John Kozlowski OP, Catholic Exchange, 9-14-06

The Pass

Perhaps the most famous Hail Mary in American History was said by Dallas Cowboys quarterback Roger Staubach in a 1975 NFC Divisional Playoff Game. With his team down by four and only 24 seconds left on the clock, Staubach launched a desperate pass from midfield to wide receiver Drew Pearson near the end zone. *I closed my eyes and said a Hail Mary*, said Staubach to reporters after the game. Apparently, his prayer was answered because the ball was caught, though Pearson thought he had dropped it. He scored a touchdown on the play and the Cowboys won the game in legendary fashion. Staubach’s miraculous pass would later become known as “The Hail Mary Pass,” a term that is now generally used by Americans to describe any last chance effort that is made without much likelihood of success.

