



MASSES FOR THE WEEK
December 8—December 14
EACH MASS IS OFFERED FOR
THE INTENTIONS OF EVERYONE
PRESENT AND FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

4:00 p.m. Ree Alario; Charles, Stephen & Thomas Blanchard; Elizabeth Coleman; Marlene Morris

5:30 p.m. Theresa M. Barry; Leona O'Dwyer; Barbara Rush

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

8:00 a.m. Members of St. Patrick's Church (Propopulo)

9:30 a.m. Roberta W. Bruley; Jane O. Chatelain; John J. Clesi; John M. Coogan; Mrs. Emilda Formusa; Charles Gegg; Nellie J. Leone; Glenda Lubrano; Carol Mallett; Norma McClellan; Ludger Miller; Sandra Schmitt; John H. Schroder, Jr.; Richard Venabale; Joseph I. Vidal

11:00 a.m. Margaret f. Gottscho; E. Carlton Guillot, Jr.; Barbara Rush

5:30 p.m. James W. Rhoads

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List

12:00 p.m. Leona O'Dwyer; Barbara Rush

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

11:30 a.m. Bettina & Ted Gancayco & children

12:00 p.m. Theodore a. Gancayco, M.D.; Barbara Rush

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List

12:00 p.m. Joseph Maselli III; James C. Purdy

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

11:30 a.m. Stephen Luccioni

12:00 p.m. Ester Dawson; Jane C. Purdy

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List

12:00 p.m. Leona O'Dwyer

TRIDENTINE LATIN MASS—Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
Second Sunday of Advent

Solemn High Mass—First Sunday of the month.

Benediction—Third Sunday after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH CENACLE OF
OUR LOVING MOTHER PRAYER GROUP—
MORNING OF PRAYER**

Saturday, December 17, 2007; 9:00a.m.—11:00a.m.

Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, Confession, Novena and Holy Mass. All are invited.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND
BENEDICTION**—Every Sunday, 3:00pm—5:00pm

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS—
DECEMBER 8-9, 2007**

More than 19,000 religious (mostly sisters and nuns) have less than 20 percent of the amount needed for the projected costs of living and health care as they age.

Please be generous in today's appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Learn more: www.retiredreligious.org.

SUNDAY OFFERING

December 2, 2007

First Collection \$ 9,568

Second Collection \$ 2,168

* Maintenance and Restoration

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS FOR THE HIGH ALTAR

Envelopes for the annual giving of poinsettias, to be placed on the high altar during the Christmas season, are available in the vestibule. The listings will be published in the Christmas bulletin and the midnight Mass program. The final date for submitting a request is **Thursday, December 20, 2007.**

FATHER STAN KLORES ON PILGRIMAGE

Father Stan Klores is leading a pilgrimage of thanksgiving to the Shrine of the Holy Infant of Good Health and on to Mexico City for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. He will return December 13, 2007. While on this special pilgrimage, Father Klores will be praying for all of St. Patrick's parishioners, their good health and particular intentions.

CHRISTMAS 2007—MASS SCHEDULE**Monday, December 24, 2007—Vigil of Christmas****Security will be provided.**

4:00 p.m. Mass (Ordinary Rite with carols)

5:30 p.m. Mass (Ordinary Rite with carols)

Solemn High Mass of Midnight—Extraordinary Rite**Security will be provided.**

11:00 p.m. Doors open

11:15 p.m. Music begins

12:00 a.m. Solemn High Mass of Midnight

St. Patrick's Choir will perform *Mass in C (Coronation Mass) KV 317* with soloists: Sarah Jane McMahon, soprano; Therese Juneau, mezzo soprano; Jane Wilson, alto; Rene Toups, tenor, and Chris G'sell, bass.

Tuesday, December 25, 2007—Christmas

8:00 a.m. No Mass

9:30 a.m. Ordinary Rite with carols

11:00 a.m. Ordinary Rite with quartet (Novus Ordo)

5:30 p.m. No Mass

IN MEMORY OF—2008 ENVELOPES

Names are now being accepted for the 2008 "In Memory Of" listing on the back of the Sunday Bulletin. Envelope forms, found in the vestibule of the church, should be completed and returned to the rectory office no later than **Friday, January 11, 2008.**

1. To ensure proper spelling, recording, etc., all requests **MUST** be made by completing the designated envelope form.
2. The rectory office will **NOT** be responsible for requests received without the completed envelope form.
3. The United States Postal Service is quite often heavily burdened with the amount of mail. Please do not rely on the USPS to deliver mailed envelopes before the final date **Friday, January 11, 2008.**
4. During these next **six weeks** completed envelopes can be deposited in any Mass collection basket or hand delivered to the rectory office.

The office staff appreciates your understanding and cooperation in assisting with this annual project.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL

For the sick of our parish and those who have asked for our prayers especially: Tom Alexander; Brett Bradley; Rene Crane; Ann Clair Duplechin; Rose Fee; Reverend Stan Klores; Lolita Lannan; Betty McArthur; Lucille Ogden; Stephanie Summers; Hugh Ramsey; Tom Roach; Diane Sikes; Adele Silva, Mary Silva

SECURITY PROVIDED AT ALL EVENING SERVICES

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MARY, AS MODEL OF FAITH

"Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!" Picture the scene: Jesus has just impressed a crowd and a woman, probably a mother, shouts out: "You must of had a wonderful mother!"

Jesus responds something to this effect: "Yes, I had a wonderful mother, though in ways you don't imagine. She was wonderful not because she gave me biological birth, all mothers do that. What made her a great mother is that she gave me birth in the faith."

Here, as in others places, we have to be careful to understand what Jesus is really telling us about his mother. We see places in the gospels where he seemingly does not speak highly of her when in fact the reverse is true. For example, the instance when he is approached and told: "You're mother is here, trying to see you," and he answers, "Who is my mother?" Then, pointing to the people sitting around him, he says, "Those who hear the word of God and keep it are mother and brother and sister to me."

Is Jesus distancing himself from his mother here? No. He's pointing out the real link between them, namely, among all the people in the gospels, Mary is the pre-eminent example of the one who hears the word of God and keeps it. For this reason, more than because of biological motherhood, Jesus claims her as his mother. Giving birth to Christ is something more than biological.

Moreover, it's also something we're asked to do. How?

Looking at how Mary gave birth to Christ, we see that it's not something that's done in an instant. Faith, like biology, also relies on a process that has a number of distinct, organic moments. What are these moments? What is the process by which we give birth to faith in the world?

First, like Mary, we need to get pregnant by the Holy Spirit. We need to let the word take such root in us that it begins to become part of our actual flesh.

Then, like any woman who's pregnant, we have to lovingly gestate, nurture, and protect what is growing inside us until it's sufficiently strong so that it can live on its own, outside us... Eventually, of course, we must give birth. What we have nurtured and grown inside of us must, when it is ready, be given birth outside. This will always be excruciatingly painful. There is no painless way to give birth.

Birth, however, is only the beginnings of motherhood. Mary gave birth to a baby, but she had to spend years nurturing, coaxing, and cajoling that infant into adulthood. The infant in the crib at Bethlehem is not yet the Christ who preaches, heals, and dies for us. Every mother needs to give birth twice, once biologically and once in faith, once to an infant and once to an adult.

Finally, motherhood has still one more phase. As her child grows, matures, and takes on a personality and destiny of its own. the mother, at a point, must ponder (as Mary did). She must let herself be painfully stretched in understanding, in not knowing, in carrying tension, in letting go. She must set free to be itself something that was once so fiercely hers. The pains of childbirth are often gentle compared to this second wrenching.

All of this is what Mary went through to give Christ to the world: Pregnancy by the Holy Spirit; gestation of that into a child inside of her; excruciating pain in birthing that to the outside; nurturing that new life into adulthood; and pondering, painfully letting go so that this new life can be its own, not hers. When the woman in the crowd told Jesus, "You must of had a wonderful mother!", his answer had precisely this in mind. Mary was a wonderful mother, but in ways that went far beyond the simple fact of motherhood. She heard the word of God and kept it. That obedience, more than

biological motherhood, gave both an infant Jesus and an adult Christ to the world.

And in this, Mary wants imitation, not admiration: Our task too is to give birth to Christ. Mary is the paradigm for doing that. From her we get the pattern: Let the word of God take root and make you pregnant; gestate that by giving it the nourishing sustenance of your own life; submit to the pain that is demanded for it to be born to the outside; then spend years coaxing it from infancy to adulthood; and finally, during and after all of this, do some pondering, accept the pain of not understanding and of letting go.

Christmas isn't automatic, it can't be taken for granted. It began with Mary, but each of us is asked to make our own contribution to giving flesh to faith in the world.

Ronald Rolheiser, OMI

PLENARY INDULGENCE FOR THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOURDES

VATICAN CITY, DEC 5, 2007 (VIS) - According to a decree made public today and signed by Cardinal James Francis Stafford and Bishop Gianfranco Girotti, O.F.M. Conv., respectively penitentiary major and regent of the Apostolic Penitentiary, Benedict XVI will grant the faithful Plenary Indulgence for the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Lourdes.

... "the Supreme Pontiff Benedict XVI has decided to concede the gift of Plenary Indulgence" to the faithful under the usual conditions (sacramental Confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer in keeping with the intentions of the Holy Father), in the following way:

A) "If between December 8, 2007 and December 8, 2008 they visit, preferably in the order suggested: (1) the parish baptistery used for the Baptism of Bernadette, (2) the Soubirous family home, known as the 'cachot,' (3) the Grotto of Massabielle, (4) the chapel of the hospice where Bernadette received First Communion, and on each occasion they pause for an appropriate length of time in prayer and with pious meditations, concluding with the recital of the Our Father, the Profession of Faith, ... and the jubilee prayer or other Marian invocation."

B) "If between February 2, 2008 ... and February 11, 2008, Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lourdes and 150th anniversary of the apparition, they visit, in any church, grotto or decorous place, the blessed image of that same Virgin of Lourdes, solemnly exposed for public veneration, and before the image participate in a pious exercise of Marian devotion, or at least pause for an appropriate space of time in prayer and with pious meditations, concluding with the recital of the Our Father, the Profession of Faith, ... and the invocation of the Blessed Virgin Mary."

The decree concludes by recalling that faithful who "through sickness, old age or other legitimate reason are unable to leave their homes, may still obtain the Plenary Indulgence ... if, with the soul completely removed from attachment to any form of sin and with the intention of observing, as soon as they can, the usual three conditions, on the days February 2 to 11, 2008, in their hearts they spiritually visit the above-mentioned places and recite those prayers, trustingly offering to God, through Mary, the sickness and discomforts of their lives."