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PASTORAL TEAM

Fr. Mario Cafarelli, C.PP.S. - Pastor

Fr. Gerardo Laguartilla, C.PP.S. - Associate Pastor

Sergio Spadafora, Deacon

PARISH STAFF

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Felix Vargas, Custodian



Feast of the Holy Family

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

NEW YEARS' MASS SCHEDULE 2025 Jubilee Year "Pilgrims of Hope"

New Year's Eve
4:00 p.m. Mass in English
New Year's Day
9:00 a.m. Mass in English
11:00 a.m. Mass in Italian



Fr. Mario, Fr. Gerardo and Deacon Sergio extend to all our parishioners best wishes and God's Blessings for a Blessed and Prosperous New Year! May Jesus' light shine on you all year long.

.THE HOLY FAMILY

As an example for us to follow, the Holy Family can seem a little too perfect: when we consider the more "dramatic" events of the Christmas and Easter story, it can seem so far removed from us. And yet, as today's Gospel reminds us (especially in the shorter version), there were also the so-called "hidden years" - the many years of family life in Nazareth, spent in ordinary things. During that time, we hear how Jesus grew and matured, and in the glimpse of that family life we see our example. The family is a basic unit of our Christian society, despite coming under threat nowadays. Our celebration of this feast, and the Word of God we proclaim, announces that there is a lasting value in the ideals of family life, and the relationship between husband, wife, parents and children. Whatever the changing details of each age, honour, understanding and love always remain the recipe for the perfect, and holy, human family. It is love that we put on over all the other clothes of changing cultures and places, to guarantee the life of the family in imitation of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

FIRST FRIDAY

First Friday mass and holy hour. January 3 at 7 PM. All are welcome to come and spend some time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

INCOME TAX ENVELOPE

In your **2024** offertory envelope boxes, the last envelope is the income tax envelope. Should you require a tax receipt, please deposit the envelope (empty) in the collection basket. Please make sure to fill out your name and FULL address. We would appreciate it, if you would put a stamp on the envelope to help defray the cost of postage.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

On January 1 we celebrate the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God. It's a rather curious title. In 431, a group of Christians began denying that Jesus was God, saying he was no more than a man. The leaders of the Christian community responded by affirming that Jesus was both God and man, and to emphasize their point further, began addressing his mother as "*Theotokos*", the "God-bearer".

It was a title given to Mary, but a title that really said more about Christ than about his mother. Mary bore Christ in her womb, Christ who was God.

This is one of those curious things about theological statements or doctrines about Mary. On the surface, they look like doctrines about her. But look more closely and you'll see that they're really doctrines that say more about Jesus than about anyone else.

Christ is the real point of every statement about Mary, because every statement about her is really a statement pointing or witnessing to Christ.

It is really fitting then, that we celebrate the feast of Mary, the "*Theotokos*", the "God-bearer" on this the first day of the New Year.

On this day, we make resolutions, some a few, others many. Perhaps we might want to consider including in our resolutions, to become, like Mary and countless other good Christians out there, "God-bearers", bringing the message of Christ to those whose lives we shall touch this year.

A preacher once said, "There are five gospels of Jesus Christ—Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and you, the Christian. Many people will never read the first four".

For many people, the life that we as followers of Christ live, will be the greatest and perhaps the sole proclamation of Jesus' message that they shall ever encounter.

Let us pray therefore that as we begin a New Year, we may be bearers of God, witnesses of Christ's love and compassion to a world of men and women that two thousand years after Jesus was born, still await the coming of Christ into their lives.

CWL

The St Charles Borromeo Catholic Women's League will be hosting a Fundraiser Brunch for the Bethlehem Crèche on Sunday, January 26th at Venu Event Centre from 11am to 3pm. There will be raffles and door prizes. All proceeds in support of the Bethlehem Crèche run by the Sisters of St Vincent de Paul, an orphanage for abandoned babies and children in need in the Holy Land. The Sisters rely on the generosity of donors and do not receive any governmental funding. The Bethlehem Crèche has struggled over the years of the pandemic and now with the war.

Tickets can be purchased in the parish office. Tickets are \$100 a person with a cash bar.

BUON ANNO

Padre Mario, Padre Gerardo e il diacono Sergio, a nome personale e a nome della parrocchia, porgono i più sinceri e sentiti auguri di un santo and felice anno nuovo. Che il Signore, benedica tutti e tutte durante il 2025.

SANTA FAMIGLIA DI GESÙ, MARIA E GIUSEPPE

Con la nascita di Gesù, la famiglia di Giuseppe e Maria è al completo. Con gioia celebriamo la festa della S. Famiglia e di tutte le famiglie che ad essa fanno riferimento.

La realtà dell'alleanza di trova al centro della storia della salvezza. Ma si richiede la fede: Abramo crede che dentro l'impotenza umana può operare la potenza vivificante del Dio fedele. E così diverrà padre di una moltitudine di popoli. L'autore della lettera agli Ebrei presenta l'esperienza religiosa di Abramo, fondata sulla fede in Dio nonostante tutte le apparenze. Egli sa che la vita appartiene prima di tutto a Dio.

La Santa Famiglia si reca al tempio a quaranta giorni di distanza dalla nascita del bambino. Accadono cose straordinarie. Raccogliamo l'implicito invito ad orientare le famiglie, in particolare i figli, verso la chiesa.

MARIA SS. MADRE DI DIO

Tutti sanno che Capodanno; forse non molti sanno che è una festa mariana e, per certi aspetti, la più importante festa mariana: Maria Madre di Dio. L'immacolata e l'Assunzione sono l'una preparazione, l'altra corollario della divina maternità di Maria. Si ricorda anche la circoncisione di Gesù e l'imposizione del nome. E per finire giornata della Pace, un tema tanto sentito e di battuto. Un paniere ricco di spunti per la nostra riflessione.

Leggiamo la benedizione dettata da Dio a Mosè per gli Israeliti. Chiaro riferimento al primo giorno dell'anno civile. L'uomo riscattato da Gesù, figlio di una donna (unico accenno a Maria nelle lettere degli Apostoli), ospita nella sua persona lo Spirito di Dio, ininterrotto tramite col Padre.

Si riprende il racconto della nascita con l'arrivo dei pastori alla capanna, a cui segue il breve racconto della circoncisione e imposizione del nome. Al centro dell'attenzione Maria col Bambino.

CERTIFICATO DELLE TASSE

Nel pacchetto delle buste parrocchiali, c'è una busta speciale che si usa per il certificato delle tasse (è l'ultima busta nel pacchetto). Se volete ricevere il certificato, depositate questa busta (vuota) nella colletta. Se non vi dispiace, potete mettere un francobollo per aiutarci con le spese postali. Per favore, non dimenticate di includere il nome, indirizzo e numero delle buste sulla busta.

LE DONNE DELL'AZIONE CATTOLICA

Le Donne dell'Azione Cattolica di San Carlo Borromeo ospiteranno un brunch per una raccolta fondi per l'asilo nido di Betlemme, domenica 26 gennaio, 2025, presso il "Venu Event Centre" dalle 11:00 alle 15:00. Ci saranno lotterie e premi all'ingresso. Tutto il ricavato è a sostegno dell'asilo nido di Betlemme, gestito dalle Suore di San Vincenzo de' Paoli, un orfanotrofio per neonati abbandonati e bambini bisognosi in Terra Santa. Le suore contano sulla generosità dei donatori e non ricevono alcun finanziamento governativo. Il presepe di Betlemme ha lottato negli anni della pandemia e ora con la guerra.

I biglietti possono essere acquistati presso il nostro ufficio parrocchiale. I biglietti costano \$ 100 a persona, (non incluse le bevande).

Masses of the Week

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

4:30PM Mass Association

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

8:00AM Raffaella Maneli

9:30AM In thanksgiving Vito, Emma, Justine, Davin, Jocelyn

11:00AM Paolo e Ermita Gentile, Giuseppe Iozzo, Bruno e Elisa Foti, Agostino e Italo Luci, Aristide D'Andrea, Giuseppe Chioran

12:30 PM Pro Populo

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

8:00AM Benito D'Angelo

12:05PM Vincent Joshua Eden

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31 – New Year's Eve

4:00 PM English Mass

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR

9:00AM Mass in English

11:00AM Mass in Italian

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

8:00AM Anna e Luigi Iannacci

12:05PM Mass Association

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

8:00AM Defunti Iscritti Alle Messe Perpetue

12:05PM Safe Travels Fr. Gerardo

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

4:30PM Pro Populo

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