



January 1st, 2020 | Mary, Mother of God

Canadian Martyrs Catholic Parish

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The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God — World Day of Peace



Happy New Year!

More than likely there were plenty of parties and celebrations on New Year's Eve as the old new year ended and the new one was ushered in. As we continue the sacred season of Christmas, today, New Year's Day, we mark and celebrate this important day in the company and presence of our Lady, the Mother of God. Mary is not only central to Advent and Christmas; she is central to God's plan for salvation. From the moment of her conception, which we celebrated on the 8th of December, through her being called personally by God to be the Mother of Jesus and her final vigil at the foot of the cross, Mary is offered to us as the prime example of what it is to follow Jesus as his disciple.

In reality, the gospels do not actually give us a lot of details about the life of Mary; all we have are small but very significant accounts of the important things that happened for and to her. The gospel for today's wonderful feast is one of those gospels. One of the gospels for Christmas Day told us that shepherds made their way to the manger to see this new born child and his parents. The gospel today tells us that they hurried away from the manger sharing with everyone everything they had seen and experienced. It must have been an experience that was full of noise, excitement

Can we follow the example of Mary; can we put our faith, hope and trust in God? Can we ponder and treasure in our hearts all that happens to us?

and perhaps even some confusion. But somehow, with all that what was going on around her; **Mary treasured all these things in her heart.** Wisely, Mary did not dismiss, deny or ignore anything that happened to or for her. All that was taking place was part of God's plan for her and for the whole human race. Through the grace and gift of faith, Mary cooperated fully with what God asked of her; not just at her Annunciation, but each and every day of her life as she followed Jesus. This is Mary's greatness and her example that we are asked to follow in our own daily

lives. Difficult though it can be sometimes to believe or accept, God does have a plan for each us; no matter what happens to us. Can we follow the example of Mary; can we put our faith, hope and trust in God? Can we ponder and treasure in our hearts all that happens to us?

Today is also World Day of Peace. A title often given to Mary, is 'Mary, Queen of Peace'. We know that from watching the news and reading our newspapers any evening, that sadly there are many people and countries that are suffering because of violence and random acts of

terrorism. Some of these acts of violence take place in our own communities and in our own streets. We pray for all victims of violence, whether at home or abroad and those who carry out these terrible deeds. As we begin this New Year, may Mary, Queen of Peace, guide, lead and protect us, now and always.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

– Br Michael Moore

LISTEN. THINK. ACT.

“All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” Lk. 2:18-19

Listen. Think. Act.

That is a mantra or slogan for many different groups. Some seek to battle prejudice and bias. Other groups hope to eliminate poverty or reduce crime. I have even found some companies use it as a way of increasing engagement among their employees. In a nutshell, it is about taking in what you have heard and then reflecting on it before you act. The most fruitful actions are those that take place after careful reflection.

This is an important thing to remember for those trying to live a stewardship way of life. If we are honest with ourselves, too often most of us jump to conclusions too quickly or act in ways that cause friction because we didn't really think about the consequences of our actions. We are moving too fast in a world that seems to be moving ever faster.

When the shepherds came to visit Jesus, the newborn king, they told Mary everything that the angels had told them. Luke tells us that after hearing all this, she “kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart”. No response. No panic. No action. Her reflection was the appropriate response.

In this New Year, you and I would do well to remember this Gospel account of Mary, the Mother of God. Let us resolve to listen more, reflect often, and then act accordingly. We are called to use our gifts wisely, sowing them in good soil. If we just throw them out, allowing them to simply fall wherever they may, have we really used them for God's glory? We need to listen. Think. Then act.

Tracy Earl Welliver

Thanks to all who gave so generously of their time!

Liturgy truly is the work of the people! During the Advent and Christmas seasons, it takes the time of many people to produce the wonderful liturgies and beautiful environment in our church. Blessing and thanks to all of you who gave so generously of your time:

- ◆ The Advent and Christmas Preparation Team who worked on the vision and concepts for the entire season.
- ◆ Ryan, Michelle, Janine and their families who took on the special season of Advent and Christmas who worked hard every weekend to get the church ready for Advent and for our Christmas celebrations.
- ◆ All the families who readily agree to be part of the Advent Wreath Lighting each week at Mass.
- ◆ The Lectors who proclaimed the messages of anticipation and of celebration, and blended so beautifully with the choir for the prayers of the faithful.
- ◆ The choirs and cantors and musicians who help us all to pray twice, for all of their time in preparation. Special thanks to Kathryn and her youth choir and Andreas and their family, the Singles for Christ and the Light of Jesus for the beautiful singings and music for our Christmas celebrations.
- ◆ The EMOEs who distribute the Eucharist, the Altar Servers who assist at the table, the Ushers who greet the community and make the visitors feel welcome, and the Altar Linens ministry for their hard work.
- ◆ Our team of Mass Coordinators who make sure all goes well behind the scenes.

The parish is constantly and eternally grateful for the gifts of time and talent from this faith community. We wish all of you joy, happiness, and the peace of our Savior in the upcoming year!



MASS TIMES

Monday– Saturday 9:00 am

Saturday 5:00 pm Vigil Mass

(Confessions 4:00 pm to 4:30 pm or anytime by appointment)

Sunday 9:00 am & 10:45 am

Children's Liturgy of the Word (ages 3-7) held September-June at the 10:45 am Sunday Masses except on holidays and long weekends of the Calgary Catholic Schools.



WEDNESDAY, JAN 1

10:00 AM Canadian Martyrs Parishioners

THURSDAY, JAN 2

9:00 AM Canadian Martyrs Parishioners

FRIDAY, JAN 3

9:00 AM Felipe Cueto Jr. (RIP);
Edward Saunders (RIP); Ayo-Gegajo (LIV) 33rd
Wedding Anniversary

SATURDAY, JAN 4

9:00 AM Canadian Martyrs Parishioners
5:00 PM Fernando Family (LIV);
Birklein Family (LIV)

SUNDAY, JAN 5

9:00 AM Anunciacao Fernandes (RIP)
10:45 AM Ashleigh Pereira (RIP); Esther Nelson (RIP)

MONDAY, JAN 6

9:00 AM Liza Rivera (LIV); Sophie Provencher (RIP);
Felisa Navarro (RIP)

TUESDAY, JAN 7

9:00 AM Jean Francois Cotoir (LIV)

WEDNESDAY, JAN 8

9:00 AM Canadian Martyrs Parishioners

THURSDAY, JAN 9

9:00 AM Ida Del Degan (RIP)

FRIDAY, JAN 10

9:00 AM Canadian Martyrs Parishioners

SATURDAY, JAN 11

9:00 AM Legion of Mary Members (LIV)
5:00 PM Rosita Singco (RIP); Victor Borres (RIP)

SUNDAY, JAN 12

9:00 AM Canadian Martyrs Parishioners
10:45 AM Canadian Martyrs Parishioners

Our Parish Vision:

"FORMING MISSIONARY DISCIPLES" IN
BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Our Parish Mission:

WE SERVE THE PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH,
COMMUNITY AND DIOCESE BY LIVING OUT
THE EVANGELIZING MISSION OF CHRIST WITH
FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

WELCOME to all new parishioners and visitors.
Please take a moment to fill out a registration
form in the foyer. Our ushers will be happy to
assist you.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 4:00 – 4:45 pm or anytime by
appointment.

Blessed Sacrament Adoration:

Every Friday at 9:30 am – 10:00 am

Rosary:

Monday - Friday 8:30 am (before Mass)
Sunday 8:30 am & 10:15 am (before Mass)

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion:

Saturday morning 9:00 am Mass

Baptism

A family interview with the priest is required
prior to any arrangement for the baptism of a
child. Baptismal instruction is obligatory for both
parents.

Wedding Arrangement:

Couples contemplating marriage should contact a
priest at least six months prior to the date chosen.

Hospital Visit:

If you have a family member or you have the
permission of someone in the hospital who would
like a visit by one of our priests to receive
Anointing of the Sick, please call the Parish
Office at 403.284.3311

Parish Priest

Rev. Vincent TuanHa
pastor@canadianmartyrsparish.ca

Parish Secretary

Ricki Blackwell
Robyn McWilliam
Etta Ibach (Office Volunteer)
Lourdes Ocampo (Office Volunteer)
secretary@canadianmartyrsparish.ca

Parish Custodian:

PolMax Ecology 403.512.8069
Andrew & Barry 403.289.2714

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Hamper Request 403.205.1835
ssvpfoodhampers@gmail.com

A Prayer for Peace

O God, Creator of the universe,
who extends your paternal concern
over every creature and guides the
events of history to the goal of
salvation, we acknowledge your
fatherly love when you break the
resistance of mankind and, in a world
torn by strife and discord, you make us
ready for reconciliation.

Renew for us the wonders of your
mercy; send forth your Spirit that he
may work in the intimacy of hearts,
that enemies may begin to dialogue,
that adversaries may shake hands and
peoples may encounter one another in
harmony.

May all commit themselves to the sin-
cere search for true peace which will
extinguish all arguments, for charity
which overcomes hatred, for pardon
which disarms revenge.

- Saint Pope John Paul II

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

*"Then they opened their treasures and
offered him gifts of gold, frankincense,
and myrrh." (Matthew 2:11)*

The image of the Magi kneeling before
the infant Jesus and opening their
treasure chests for Him is an image that
we should all try to follow each day. In
gratitude for all that we have been
given, we are called to generously
share all of our gifts, not just the ones
we pick and choose. God wants us to be
generous with everything, but
especially that one thing that means
the most to us.



WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Question:

My friend has never heard
of Christ and I want to
share the Gospel with her
but I'm afraid to. How do
I share my faith?

Answer:

There are a lot of ways to
bring up the topic of
religion, without being
judgmental or pushy.
Begin by asking what her
thoughts are about
religion, or what her
experience was growing
up. Finding common
ground is often easier
than you think, because
the questions and
problems we have about
God, the presence of evil,

our purpose in life, and
our relationship with God
are universal concerns.
Why are you afraid? If
you do not want to insult
or offend someone, don't
be pushy or judgmental.
If you are uncertain
about how to explain
your own faith, do a little
reading or practice with a
friend. If you measure
success only by this
person converting, focus
your attention more on
beginning the conversa-
tion, not on bringing it to
a perfect close! Faith is a
journey of many acts of
belief, many discussions
about God, and many
choices about how we
practice what we preach.
In some we will have

great success; in others we
will need forgiveness and
perseverance. The most
important thing to keep
in mind is that the Holy
Spirit is always at work
and our most humble
efforts can bear great
fruit. Have faith in God
because he has faith in
you!

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