



## *And the Word became flesh*



Jeremiah Solis, 7/19/2008 - 11/1/2016

*Sincerest prayers to all for a Christmastide overflowing with the unmerited joy of the Holy Spirit; the abiding peace of the Bringer of reconciliation; and the infectious goodwill of the Christ Child.*

*To those who have lost loved ones in the past year, deepest condolences.  
You are not forgotten but are especially in our prayers this day.  
May the Healer of souls be ever our succor and consolation.*

## I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day

*I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

*I thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along th'unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

*And in despair I bowed my head:  
'There is no peace on earth, ' I said  
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men.'*

*Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

January 2017

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## One Minute Meditations

### St. Genevieve

St. Genevieve was born in Nanterre near Paris in 422.

She became a nun at the age of 15 and moved to Paris, where she became known for her piety. When Attila the Hun marched on Paris, Genevieve convinced the inhabitants to pray and fast. Attila retreated, leaving Paris untouched. Again, when King Childeric occupied Paris, she crossed enemy lines to bring food to prisoners and convinced the king to release them. She is the patroness of Paris.

### Hope in God

Even the saints experienced times when their faith in God's goodness was tested, yet they never gave up hope; they knew that whatever happened, God's unchanging love would see them through. When you feel disheartened, pray for God's grace and hope in him.

*"I have told you this that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world"* (John 16:33).



## Resolve to have perfect faith

Imagine having complete confidence that God is with you in all things. Think how differently you would respond to troubles, temptations, or hardships. Worry would be obsolete. That's perfect faith and it is possible. Here's how.

**Believe in God's love.** Perfect faith comes from believing that God loves you without limit or condition. God is love, so to believe in God is to believe in his love. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence do not rely"* (Proverbs 3:5). The key is to remember that God loves you and only wills your good.

**Banish fear.** *"There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear*

*has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love"* (1 John 4:18). We were not created to be afraid. It is Satan who wishes to drive a wedge between us and God and tempts us to fear. When we remember that God has consistently proven himself to be faithful and dependable, only faith is left.

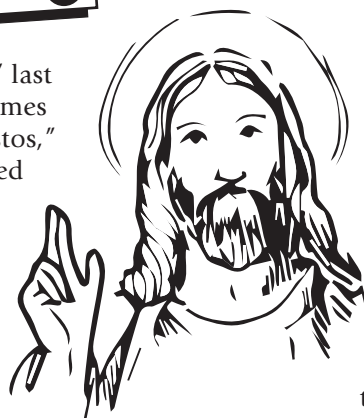
**Practice makes perfect.** Perfect faith results when we live God's word, not just hear it. Adhering to the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and the two Great Commandments (love God, love your neighbor), we notice God's hand in our lives and trust in him grows.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics call Jesus "Christ"?

"Christ" is not Jesus' last name, but a title. It comes from the Greek "Christos," which means "Anointed One." Ancient Jews enthroned their kings in a ceremony by anointing them with oil. This anointing distinguished the king as being the



one chosen by God to deliver Israel from its enemies. So in calling Jesus "Christ," Christians affirm not only his Lordship over all creation, but also his mission as Savior and the promised Messiah of the Jews.



## A kinder, gentler you

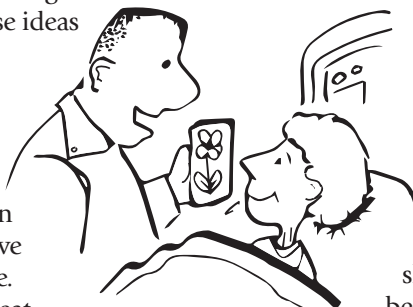
Kindness is contagious. A recent study found that witnessing an act of kindness produces good feelings and inspires imitation. In the new year, try these ideas to be kinder and inspire others to do the same.

**Make connections.** In days past, households weren't easily relocated, so neighbors were lifelong relations. That made solving disagreements necessary and important. What resulted was a supportive network to help when necessary. Make sure you are part of a supportive network of friends and family wherever you are.

**Be interested, not interesting.** Many of us treat

conversation like a competitive sport that gives points for the cleverest, loudest, and longest speaker. Interrupting, insisting, and entertaining are not conversing. Instead, listening is a kindness that shows someone he is valued and understood.

**Choose not to be offended.** Being right is no compensation for broken friendships. If there is someone in your life who deliberately tries to offend you, walk away. Otherwise, look the other way when feeling slighted. Being kind is more rewarding than being right.



## from Scripture

### Matthew 5:1-12, paths to happiness

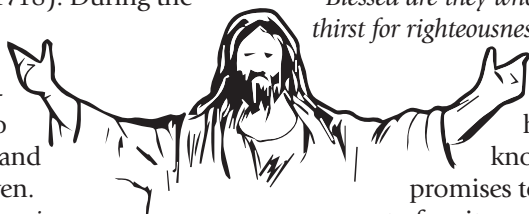
God wants us to be happy. When he created us, he put into our hearts the desire to be happy (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1718). During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave us the Beatitudes – guaranteed ways to obtain peace here and happiness in Heaven.

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit ..."* Recognize that we need God to compensate for our weakness. Depend upon his help.

*"Blessed are they who mourn ..."* God knows what you need even better than you do. Trust him to strengthen you and bring you comfort.

*"Blessed are the meek ..."* Jesus is meek and gentle. Imitate him and you will have everlasting peace.

*"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness ..."* Peacefully



accept whatever happens knowing that Jesus promises to give you courage to face it.

*"Blessed are the merciful ..."* Mercy is love in the face of sin and injury. If we show mercy, we are guaranteed mercy.

Perhaps the real secret to happiness is remembering that when we follow Jesus, there will always be a happy ending.

## Q & A

### How do we make a good Confession?

Jesus knew that, even after Baptism, we would fall into sin, so he instituted the Sacrament of Confession. In confession,



we admit what we've done, apologize, and resolve not to do it again. In return, we receive absolution and the grace to fight against temptation. "His mercy is infinitely greater than our sins" (Pope Francis).

A good confession begins with a thorough examination of conscience. Using the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes as guides, reflect on instances when you have failed to love like Christ. Confess any mortal sins since your last confession and any venial (lighter) sins that you remember. For sin to be mortal, it must be serious, freely chosen, and committed knowing it was a sin.

After hearing your confession, the priest will ask you to make an Act of Contrition expressing sorrow for sins and a desire to change. He will give you absolution and assign you penance. Remember, God loves you dearly and he wants to forgive you; you need only ask for it.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**Jan. 1 – Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God.** Today, we honor Mary, but also Jesus as God. Today is a holy day of obligation. In their honor, attend Mass and pray a Rosary.

**Jan. 7 – St. Raymond of Peñafort (1275).** St. Raymond studied and taught canon (Church) law in Barcelona, and later joined the Dominican Order. He was called to Rome to work for Pope Gregory IX. He was appointed archbishop of Tarragona, Spain. He

retired after two years, only to be elected head of the Dominicans. He is the patron saint of lawyers.

**Jan. 9 – Baptism of the Lord.** Jesus began his public ministry by getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. Jesus was free of sin, but he allowed himself to be baptized in order to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). By his baptism, Jesus declared his willingness to fulfill God's saving plan. It is also at this time when God revealed Jesus as his "beloved Son" (Matthew 3:17).



### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

Schedule of Masses Dec. 26 <sup>th</sup> -Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2016			
Day	Time	Requested for	Requested by
<b>Mon 12/26</b>	9 AM	Lourdes Rendon	Salud
<b>Tues 12/27</b>	9 AM	(Liv) Fr. David Stump	James Walsh
<b>Wed 12/28</b>	9 AM	Dolores McNamara	Debby & John
	7 PM	Special Intention	OL Perpetual Help Group
<b>Thurs 12/29</b>	9 AM	Maria Russo	Fr. Nigel
<b>Fri 12/30</b>	9 AM	Christina Burke	Fr. Nigel
<b>Sat 12/31</b>	9 AM	Carmine Creazzo	Toni Belfiore
	5:30 PM	Christina Burke	Fr. Nigel
	7 PM	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Marquez Family
<b>Sun 1/1</b>	8 AM	Novena	Parish
	10 AM	For the People of the Parish	God
	12 PM	Christina Burke	Fr. Nigel

Sanctuary Gifts December 25 <sup>th</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup> , 2016		
Gift	In Memory of	Requested By
Altar Wine	Minguel & Mercian T. Mascarenhas	Daughter & Family
Altar Bread	Minguel & Mercian T. Mascarenhas	Daughter & Family
Sanctuary Lamp	Minguel & Mercian T. Mascarenhas	Daughter & Family
Altar Candles	Minguel & Mercian T. Mascarenhas	Daughter & Family

## SICK LIST

*AnnMarie Williams, Constance Czegular, Rosemary Perduto, Juliet Nawrocki, Doreen Busacca, Kathleen Link, Orlando Basile, Marie Carlson, Patricia Kucinski, Frank McNamara, Jennifer O'Connor, Donna Tuzzo, Matt Bolger, Lawrence Shin, Lupe Pena, Frances Kearns, Josephine Cermak Rowan, Steve & Rachel Mastin, Diane Shea, Joseph Callandrillo, Humberto Quintana, Javier Vega, Jennifer Moloughney, Antoinette Maddi, Carol Jordan, Anthony Biggio, Sammy DeLeon, Shane Quinn, Alice Daly, Sadie Krieger, Dianne O'Sullivan, Carl Carlson, Larry Bello, Miyuki Campbell, Diane Albert, Meghan Connaughton*

**MASSES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

**JANUARY 1ST, 2017**

**New Year's Eve (12/31)**

5:30 PM (English)

7:00 PM (Spanish)

**New Year's Day (1/1)**

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM

12:00 PM

**WEEKLY PLANNER**

**SUNDAY 12/25**

***CHRISTMAS DAY***

Mass Times: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM

**MONDAY 12/26**

Rectory Office is Closed for Christmas Holiday

**TUESDAY 12/27**

3:30 PM-4:30 PM Legion of Mary-Cent Hall

**WEDNESDAY 12/28**

**THURSDAY 12/29**

9:30 AM-10:30 AM Holy Hour for Priests-Church

**FRIDAY 12/30**

Rectory Office is Closed for New Year Holiday

**SATURDAY 12/31**

***VIGIL FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD***

Mass Times: 5:30 PM; 7:00 PM (Spanish)

**SUNDAY 1/1/2017**

***SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD***

Mass Times: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM

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