

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

JANUARY 1, 2023



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First: Numbers 6:22-27

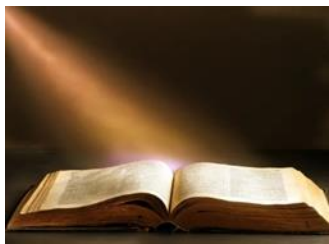
Second: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

FOCUS: The birth of Christ is the manifestation of God's unending love for humanity.

To express his love for all humanity, God takes on our human nature by being born of a woman, Mary. As she is the mother of Jesus, we honor Mary as our spiritual mother, the mother of all God's adopted sons and daughters. Through the Son's Spirit sent by God, Christ dwells in our hearts and we can't help but share this Good News, as the shepherds did, by praising and glorifying God in our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:



In the Book of Numbers, the Lord instructs Moses to tell Aaron and his sons that he will bless them. In his Letter to the Galatians, Saint Paul explains that they are now adopted children because God sent his Son

to be born of a woman. In the Gospel, after seeing the Infant Jesus, the shepherds share the message they heard from the angels and praise and glorify God. Mary keeps all these things ... in her heart.

MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Frank Valenti, Hamlet & Sofie Valenti and Jan Berlin

10 a.m.: Richard Tolliver, Charles Watson and the Ryan, Borst & Costello families



HOW LONG IS CHRISTMAS?

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him, including the fact that he was born to die for us.

This year, Christmas lasts from December 24 until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 9. So until January 10, Merry Christmas!

PARISH MEETING SCHEDULED

Yes, for those of you who are paying attention, we did say last week that the Financial Report that warrants a special meeting would be in THIS week's bulletin. However, what we meant was the January 7-8 bulletin, which is now next week – and better timed for the meeting.

Then after the 10 o'clock Mass the following **Sunday, or January 15**, there will be a Parish Meeting to discuss in detail that Financial Report, which you will have available to review the week prior.



TREASURER'S REPORT **December 18-25 (Regular Sunday):**

Totalled \$ 5,588.56

Envelopes: \$ 2,800.00– Online: \$ 2,788.56

Christmas to date: \$ 11,805.00

THANK YOU!

LAST WEEKEND'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. Christmas Eve: 181

8 p.m. Christmas Eve: 58 entered from the East Wing
(There was no one to count at the main entrance.)

10 a.m. Christmas Day: 74

PURPOSEFUL PAGEANTRY

Deacon Michael, and the entire congregation, lauded and applauded our pageant participants after their presentation of the Nativity of Jesus Christ at the 5 o'clock Mass on Christmas Eve.

Deacon Michael, who noted the impressive swaddling of the Baby Jesus, went on to say that if we were not deeply moved by the reverence and beauty with which the children re-enacted this day so integral to our faith, then nothing would – for there are lessons for all of us found in the innocent mindsets of children.

Plus, they make us smile. The clarity with which the narrators read and the personality with which the roles were portrayed – directed by Pageant Coordinator Rebecca Suchy – evoked joyful smiles. Our Youth Choir, led by Music Director Debbe Garry, accented the pageant with beautifully sung Christmas carols that prompted smiles of appreciation. And everyone present beamed during the final round of applause that celebrated not only our children but the birth of the Infant Jesus more than 2,000 years ago.



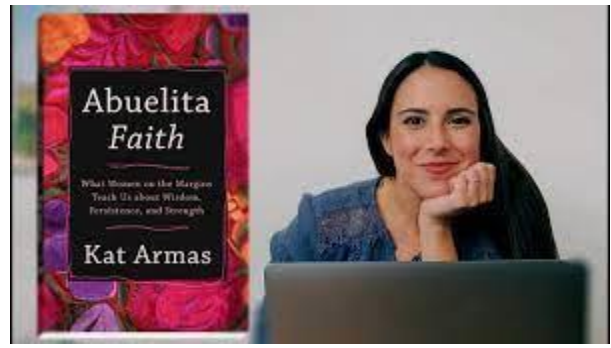
COFFEE SOCIAL NEXT WEEKEND

The New Year offers the opportunity to get back on track – including monthly after-Mass gatherings. As next weekend is the first full weekend of January, it also marks the first **Coffee Social** weekend of 2023.

Fr. Zach Presutti, S.J., is scheduled to speak on January 8 – and is looking forward to socializing with parishioners afterward. He is the founder of Thrive for Life, which has a mission of transforming lives behind and beyond prison walls through education.

GOSPEL DISCUSSION RETURNS

Coinciding with the church's liturgical year, Scripture discussion of the **Gospel of Matthew** will take place on Zoom from 10-11:15 a.m. Mondays, beginning **January 9**. New participants are welcome! Call Gail VanTassel at 845-457-3432 so the study guide can be ordered.



BOOK CLUB'S NEXT GOOD READ

Kat Armas, a second-generation Cuban American and author of "**Abuelita Faith**," grew up on the outskirts of Miami's Little Havana neighborhood. Her earliest theological formation came from her grandmother, her abuelita, who fled Cuba during the height of political unrest and raised three children alone after her husband died – thus illuminating the book's subtitle: "What women on the margins teach us about wisdom, persistence and strength."

The author combines personal storytelling with biblical reflection, weaving her own journey of faith and resistance with unsung female characters from the Bible. By exploring this intersection of women, Scripture and Cuban identity, Armas illustrates how those often dismissed and oppressed because of gender, socioeconomic status or lack of education have invaluable lessons about following God.

The book can be purchased from Amazon (\$15.29) and other book sellers. The first session will take place from 10-11:15 a.m. Tuesday, **January 10** at which time Chapters 1-3 will be discussed.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP BEGINS AT OLMC

A new support group for those who have lost a loved one will hold its first meeting in the Parish Center of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church on at 9:30 a.m. **Saturday, January 7**. Thereafter, **The Light Bereavement Hour** will continue to meet from 9:30-10:30 a.m. every first and third Saturday of the month.

If you are grieving or know someone who needs accompaniment in the loss of a loved one, please contact Katie Carson Decker or Fr. Pablo Richmond, O.Carm. for more information. They can be reached through the OLMC office at (845) 343-4121.

