

Dear Padre,

I understand that all Catholics, not just priests and religious, are called to holiness. How can laypeople become holy?

The five elements of holiness are the same for all the baptized, always in the context of their vocational calling.

Prayer: In the liturgy, we join our sisters and brothers to offer communal worship where we are nourished and formed by word and sacrament. In private prayer, we maintain, clarify, and nourish our relationship with God.

Love of neighbor: We are called to treat others with the acceptance and respect that God has for each person. Every person is our neighbor, especially people in need (Matthew 25:40).

Living one's vocational commitment: Being faithful to a spouse in marriage, working for family harmony, staying true to dedicated singleness in the world or in the religious community setting—all are avenues of holiness.

Penance and self-discipline: The Christian life demands self-denial, control, and sacrifice. Christians must deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow Jesus (Luke 9:23).

Reaching out in discipleship: Holiness also comes from and finds its noblest expression in a life of service and ministry. Baptism initiates us into the fullness of Christian reality, which ultimately means discipleship—sharing our faith and serving others, especially the most needy.

For laypeople, the main arena of holiness is where they live, work, play, and struggle every day. It is there that they must proclaim “the kingdom of God is in our midst,” and answer their call to holiness. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



NIKI ZALEMNI/SHUTTERSTOCK

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 1, 2023

Mary, Mother of God (A)

Numbers 6:22-27 / Galatians 4:4-7 / Luke 2:16-21



[The shepherds] made known the message that had been told them about this child.... And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.
LUKE 2:17, 19

What Do You Hold in Your Heart?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

On New Year's Eve, some of my friends try to recall a significant event from each year, beginning with the most recent, and work their way back. They tell me that memories from the first couple of years, the most recent, are fairly easy to call to mind, but after that, memories get reduced to births and deaths, marriages and moves to new homes, vacations, and ultimately to not remembering anything significant for some years. It's an interesting conclusion—not remembering anything significant—given the human emotions and energies we pour into trivial disagreements, unresolved conflicts, and family issues.

The Gospel recounts how Mary reflected upon the events of her Son's birth and how she kept them all in her heart. I suspect that many of the events we might recount from that New Year's Eve exercise would end up being some of the moments we hold in our hearts. Most would likely revolve around family, all those people we keep in our hearts. Others might be about job promotions or successes, or memorable recognitions. We justifiably keep these as treasures to remember.

As Mary did, we might learn something about ourselves by pondering significant personal faith events. I doubt most of us will recall one for each year, which may say something about how seriously we take our faith lives. Yet those we do recall could be treasures of the past that will bless us in the present. ●

Reflect
What do the events you carry in your heart say about who you are?



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

As we begin this new year, let us ask ourselves.... Do I know how to look at people with the heart? Do I take to heart the people with whom I live?.... Let us ask for the grace to live this year with the desire to take others to heart and to care for them.

HOMILY, VATICAN, JANUARY 1, 2020

MONDAY January 2 <i>Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church</i> 1 Jn 2:22-28 Jn 1:19-28	THURSDAY January 5 <i>St. John Neumann, Bishop</i> 1 Jn 3:11-21 Jn 1:43-51	SATURDAY January 7 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 5:14-21 Jn 2:1-12
TUESDAY January 3 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Jn 1:29-34	FRIDAY January 6 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 5:5-13 Mk 1:7-11	SUNDAY January 8 <i>Epiphany of the Lord</i> Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective
Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.



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St. Joseph Neier

Rev. Thomas J. Wissler, Pastor

12/31/2022
and
1/1/2023
Happy New Year!!

Weekday: 6:30am
Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 8:00am & 10:00am
Confessions – Saturday
4:00pm – 4:40pm

Office: 636.583.2806
Website: stjosephneier.com
Email: parishoffice@stjosephneier.com
Father Tom's Cell: 636.744.5587
Sarah's Cell: 314.808.0337



From Fr. Tom,

For me personally, few things make me smile more than a mother with her infant and/or with a few little toddlers tagging along as she walks through a store. My first comment to those moms is this: "Looks like you're busy!" The non-verbal look (forehead down, eyes raised) I get in response says: "No kidding!" That look from the moms is precious because it reflects their tiredness but also the fact that they would not have it any... other... way. Imagine the look on Mary's face when Jesus, her child, was born...now imagine her look and feelings when she held Him after the soldiers took Him down from the cross. She first cradled Jesus in her arms as a newborn infant, and again at the end of His life as the redeemer of all humankind. With Mary, the cycle of life and death ends up with eternal life! Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.



Please pray for those who are sick in our parish and families:

Betty Bean
Shirley Beckman
Anna Marie Brueggemann
Peggy Collins
Chris Elbert
Cynthia Faust
Zachery Goosage
Benny Hammer
Andrew Hellebusch
Marcia Herbst
Brandon Huels
Kevin Gibbons
Olivia Jasper
Rick Just

Get
Well
Soon

Alisha Koelling
Marcus Lowe
Jacob McMullin
Jean Oldavi
Frank Rice
Alice Rolf
Ashley Shelton
Marcia Shollenberger
Courtney Smith
Dan Snelling
Special Intention
George West
Sr. Georgiann Wildhaber, SSND
Sheri Zambruski



Please pray for those serving our country:

Adam Amato
Matthew Blankenship
Jamie Brueggemann Murphy
Andy Davis
Taylor Donner
Emily Guenther

Caleb Logsdon
Michael Miller
Michael Murphy
Reese Pellin
Sam Smith
Owen Struckhoff
Luke Stuesse

We would like to say
THANK YOU
 for all of your thoughts, prayers,
 phone calls, cards, house calls,
 and a special thanks to the Ladies
 Sodality for the wonderful
 funeral luncheon.
 With Love,
 The Ted
 Feth Family

St. Louis Review Subscription

Anyone who would like to cancel their subscription for the St. Louis Review must do so in writing. You may email the parish office, or for your convenience you can complete the information below, cut and return it in the collection basket on or before February 1st. Thank you!

Please cancel the St. Louis Review Subscription for...

 Name/Names

THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 2nd

NO MASS | HAVE A VERY BLESSED DAY!

Tuesday Morning, January 3rd

6:30AM | POOR SOULS IN PURGATORY

Wednesday Morning, January 4th

6:30AM | DELORES KOLKMEYER

Thursday Morning, January 5th

6:30AM | THERESA BOLAND

Friday Morning, January 6th

6:30AM | ST. JUDE

Mary, Mother of God

MASS TIMES	THIS WEEKEND	NEXT WEEKEND
5:00pm Saturday	December 31	January 7
Mass Intention:	Virginia, Arthur, Dennis & Karen Voss	Parish Family of St. Joseph
Lector:	Theresa Straatmann	Judy Brueggemann
Eucharistic Minister: (C)	Jo Noelker	Theresa Straatmann
Eucharistic Minister: (C)	Kathy Feth	Cheryl Voss
8:00am Sunday	January 1	January 8
Mass Intention:	Rev. Robert Banken	Mary & Albert Eckstein
Lector:	Jim & Chris Block	Dennis Randolph
Eucharistic Minister: (C)	Delores Swoboda	Vi Schroeder
Eucharistic Minister: (C)	Dennis Randolph	Jen Kissinger
10:00am Sunday	January 1	January 8
Mass Intention:	Parish Family of St. Joseph	Ronald Salvino
Lector:	Patti Greife	Marilyn Rau
Eucharistic Minister: (C)	Jeff Baker	VOLUNTEER
Eucharistic Minister: (C)	VOLUNTEER	Patti Greife

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

Sunday, January 1st

OPEN HOUSE

- Open House – 12pm – 4pm – Church

Monday, January 2nd

- OFFICE CLOSED – Happy New Year!

• Wednesday, January 4th

- PSR – 6:30pm – 7:45pm – Parish Hall

• Thursday, January 5th

- Eucharistic Adoration – 7am – 5:50pm – w/ Benediction after – Church
- 4H – 7pm – Parish Hall

• Sunday, January 8th

- No Ladies Sodality Meeting

• Wednesday, January 11th

- PSR – 6:30pm – 7:45pm – Parish Hall

• Monday, January 16th

- OFFICE CLOSED – MLK, Jr. Day

• Wednesday, January 18th

- PSR – 6:30pm – 7:45pm – Parish Hall

• Wednesday, January 25th

- PSR – 6:30pm – 7:45pm – Parish Hall

Knights of Columbus “Roses for Life” Campaign

The Knights of Columbus ask that you sign the postcards that are available in the pews at Mass on the weekend of January 7th & 8th. There are cards for various officials so sign as many as you can. Please take these home, sign them and drop the postcards in the box provided in the vestibule. If you wish to make a donation to help support the “Pro-Life Campaign”, please put it into the same box. The postcards will be delivered to our elected officials to show our concern for the unborn infants whose lives are being taken every day through abortion.

Thank you for your support.



please join us



*Eucharistic
Adoration*

Let's give thanks to Our Lord


Thursday, January 5th

**7:00AM – 5:50PM
With Benediction After**

January "Extra" Envelopes

*January.
First Offering - \$10
Solemnity of Mary*

*January 15th
St. Louis Review - \$35*



*Thank you to all those who took
the time to help decorate the
Church for Christmas.
It is absolutely beautiful!!*

Rich Birke

Jim & Chris Block

**Val & Brenda Bolzenius & grandson,
Lucca Geoppo**

Carl & Judy Brueggemann

Karen Dierking

Gerry Donner

Amie Kohlbusch


Jim & Jo Noelker

Viola Schroeder

Lester & Delores Swoboda

Dianne Wildhaber

Thank you!!



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Lester & Delores Swoboda

Dianne Wildhaber

Thank you!!