

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, The Mother of God



Why We Do What We Do

We honor Mary as our mother and give her a special devotion because of her special place in human history. We do this because Jesus told us to.

On the cross, Jesus tells St. John and us: "Behold, your mother." (Jn 19:27) "Devotion to Mary as mother of God and mother of the church has been a consistent dimension of Christian faith. From Jesus' words on the cross in Jn 19, 25-27, Christians have identified with the Beloved Disciple and seen Mary as their mother." (*The Catholic Youth Bible*)

In our time, devotion to St. Mary is on the decline, praying of the rosary is on the decline, especially in the South. Other Christian denominations are pressuring Catholics into forgetting St. Mary. They are the ones misunderstanding her role and her importance. We must reawaken authentic Catholic spirituality and love for St. Mary.

"Jesus is Mary's only son, but her spiritual motherhood extends to all men whom indeed he came to save: 'The Son whom she brought forth is he whom God placed as the first-born among many brethren, that is, the faithful in whose generation and formation she co-operates with a mother's love.'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 501*)

"What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ." (487) "The 'splendor of an entirely unique holiness' by which Mary is 'enriched from the first instant of her conception' comes wholly from Christ: she is 'redeemed, in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son'.

"The Father blessed Mary more than any other created person 'in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places' and chose her 'in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before him in love.'" (*Cf. Eph 1:3-4*) (492)

"The Holy Spirit prepared Mary by his grace. It was fitting that the mother of him in whom 'the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily' should herself be 'full of grace.' She was, by sheer grace, conceived without sin as the most humble of creatures, the most capable of welcoming the inexpressible gift of the Almighty. (722)

"Mary, the all-holy ever-virgin Mother of God, is the masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullness of time. For the first time in the plan of salvation and because his Spirit had prepared her, the Father found the dwelling place where his Son and his Spirit could dwell among men." (721)

"Her role in relation to the Church and to all humanity goes still further. 'In a wholly singular way she cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope, and burning charity in the Savior's work of restoring supernatural life to souls. For this reason she is a mother to us in the order of grace.'" (968)

"This motherhood of Mary in the order of grace continues uninterrupted from the consent which she loyally gave at the Annunciation and which she sustained without wavering beneath the cross, until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect. Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation . . . Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix.'" (969)

"Mary's function as mother of men in no way obscures or diminishes this unique mediation of Christ, but rather shows its power. But the Blessed Virgin's salutary influence on men . . . flows forth from the superabundance of the merits of Christ, rests on his mediation, depends entirely on it, and draws all its power from it." (970)

"All generations will call me blessed (Lk 1:48): 'The Church's devotion to the Blessed Virgin is intrinsic to Christian worship.' The Church rightly honors 'the Blessed Virgin with special devotion. From the most ancient times the Blessed Virgin has been honored with the title of "Mother of God," to whose protection the faithful fly in all their dangers and needs. . . . This very special devotion. . . differs essentially from the adoration which is given to the incarnate Word and equally to the Father and the Holy Spirit, and greatly fosters this adoration.' The liturgical feasts dedicated to the Mother of God and Marian prayer, such as the rosary, an 'epitome of the whole Gospel,' express this devotion to the Virgin Mary." (971)

Prayer

"Mary did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man? Mary did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand? Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod? And when you kiss your little baby, you have kissed the face of God.

"Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations? Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb? This sleeping child you're holding is the great I am." (*"Mary, Did You Know?"*, lyrics by Mark Lowry)



"2012" Weekly Budget.....	\$ 5,650.00
Offertory collected December 18 th	\$ 6,366.24
Difference.....	+\$ 716.24

Second Collection

Second collection December 18th "St. Vincent de Paul Society"
Building Fund donation.....\$ 1,035.00

***Due to the holiday deadlines the collections for December 25th will be listed in the January 8th bulletin.**

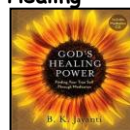
Campaign '12 Pledges:

Total donations made (from pledges) as of 12/05.....	\$ 115,197.00
December 18 th collection.	\$ 145.00
New Campaign total donations from pledges.....	\$ 116,342.00

Next week's Second collection

Next week's second collection will be for the St. Clement's Building and maintenance fund. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Healing



Today begins a New Year of healing. We have to want it for it to happen. We have to open up to the power of God. We have to trust that He knows the healing we need—where we need it and how much we need it.

Today begins a New Year of God healing us so we can then be sent as instruments of healing to our families, to our places of work, to our world that is afraid healing will never come. Jesus, the source of healing, has come. Are we ready to listen to the doctor of doctors or are we going to continue to think we know more than He does? Jesus comes to heal His way, not our way.

Stewardship



Financially we are in the middle of the Church budget year (July 1-June 30). For everyone else, it is the start of the year. We hope your New Year's resolutions include St. Clement's. When treasure is tight, we can always use the donation of time and talent—service with a smile.

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
The Mother of God
January 1, 2012

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

They shall invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them.

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

God sent his Son, born of a woman.

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

They found Mary and Joseph and the infant. When the eight days were completed, he was named Jesus.

Living the Paschal Mystery

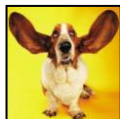
Mary is a model *par excellence* of cooperation with God's grace. Mary assented, conceived, and gave birth, so now, in Christ, can receive God's offer of salvation. No wonder we honor Mary during this season of celebrating God's mighty deeds of salvation! Mary "kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." What God was asking of her wasn't easy. This child born of her was no ordinary child. All the events of conception and birth confirm the special identity and mission of her Son. Mary reflected, pondered, and worked out in her daily yes to God the meaning of all this. Such also is our task during this New Year: to reflect, ponder, and work out in our daily yes to God the meaning of salvation for us. Only in this way can our New Year truly be "happy." ~ *Living Liturgy*

Sunday, January 1 st , 8:30 am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 1 st , 10:00 am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 1 st 11:30 am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 1 st , 1:00 pm.....	Andres Estrada & Natividad Nino (RIP)
Sunday, January 1 st , 7:00 pm.....	Our Parish Family
Monday, January 2 nd , 12:15pm.....	Daily Mass
Tuesday, January 3 rd , 12:15pm.....	Daily Mass
Wednesday, January 4 th , 12:15pm.....	Daily Mass
Wednesday, January 4 th , 6:30pm.....	Rosary in English
Wednesday, January 4 th , 7:00pm.....	Rosary in Spanish
Thursday, January 5 th , 12:15pm.....	Communion Service
Friday, January 6 th , 12:15pm.....	1 st Friday Mass in English
Friday, January 6 th , 6:30pm.....	1 st Friday Mass in Spanish
Saturday, January 7 th , 5:30 pm.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 8 th , 8:30 am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 8 th , 10:00 am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 8 th , 11:30 am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 8 th , 1:00 pm.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 8 th , 7:00 pm.....	Our Parish Family

Food for Thought

In St. Luke's Gospel, shepherds find Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus in a stable in Bethlehem and understood what had been told them-Mary, the Mother of God, has given birth to Jesus, the Word made flesh. Mary, along with Joseph, becomes the first disciple of Christ. St. Paul teaches that through Jesus, the Son of God, born of Mary, we become children of God. Stewardship begins by accepting discipleship in the Lord. Let us follow Mary's example of fully trusting in God's call and doing His will in our lives.

Family



Families today are too busy to listen. The reason why so many families don't communicate is because they don't make time to.

Listening requires that we use our minds to focus on what the other person has to say. Not on what I want to say next.

Every conversation becomes a win/lose argument when we are insecure, allow our egos to control our interactions, and when we don't believe courtesy and respect are necessary. And when we are in a hurry and something else is more important than the person standing before me. When that other person is a child, especially our child, we need to reexamine our priorities. A child is always the most important person. Is always the priority. Ask Jesus.

Children know when they are not valued by their parents. It begins

with how they are treated and whether they are listened to. Listen.

Our Prayers are needed for:



Elia Uribe-health, Rosa Raymundo Canales-health, Fran & Jim Digeraloma-health, Katie Dain-cancer, Mary Sharon Albrecht-health, Maria Teresa Germann-health, Roy Davies-health & safety, Paul Jeffery Adams-health, Dorothy Stanley-health, Connie Robins-health, Keisha

Shoemaker-pregnancy/health, Huston Evans-cancer, Rocco Pittarese-health, Lavere Dembicki-health, Brian Dingler-health, Fr. Denis Kolumber-health, Jean Satz-chrons disease, T.J. Rushing-tumor, JoAnn Silvers-health, Robert O'Brien Sr.-illness, Alice Nott-surgery, John Muysken-health, Denise Bonk-recovery, Dolores Maldonado-health, Karla Tatiana Hernandez Maldonado-surgery, Terese Zanol-cancer.

Reflections on 10 Years



The beginning of January always features the celebration of two great American saints. Sadly, they are often overlooked in the aftermath of Christmas. It is also sad that so few Americans know about our saints.

January 4 is the feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, "the first native-born citizen of the [United States](#) to be [canonized](#) by the [Roman Catholic Church](#)." (*Wikipedia*)

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was a convert. She founded the first Catholic school in the United States in Baltimore, Md. As a widow, she established the Sisters of Charity and laid the groundwork for Mount St. Mary's College and Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

St. John Neumann, came to the United States as a young Redemptorist priest from Bohemia (Czech Republic). He eventually became the Archbishop of Philadelphia and is the only bishop of a U.S. diocese to be canonized. His feast day is January 5.



Pope Benedict XVI's January Prayer Intentions

General: That the riches of creation be preserved, valued and made available to all, as a precious gifts from God to mankind.

Missionary: That Christians may achieve full unity, bearing witness of the universal fatherhood of God to the entire human race.

Archdiocesan News

Faith and Public Policy Workshop for all Catholics: The Archdiocese of Atlanta invites you to join us for a Faith and Public Policy Workshop sponsored by the Georgia Catholic Conference on Saturday, January 7, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon at St. Ann's Catholic Church, 4905 Roswell Road, NE, Marietta, Georgia 30062.

The workshop will include a presentation on Catholic Social Teaching, Faithful Citizenship, and today's public policy issues. To register for the event go to: www.archatl.com/ or contact Joy Place at jplace@archatl.com or 404-920-7346. There will be a \$10.00 registration fee to cover cost of materials (*Communications Office*).

JANUARY RESPECT LIFE MEMORIALS: All are invited to attend the events commemorating the thirty-ninth anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court rulings of January 22, 1973 that legalized abortion in America, including the Annual Mass for the Unborn on Monday, January 23, 2012 to be concelebrated by Archbishop Gregory and priests of the archdiocese at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. In addition, high school students are invited to join Bishop Luis Zarama for the Rise Up For Life Lock-In Sunday-Monday, January 22-23. For a complete schedule, please contact the archdiocesan Respect Life Ministry at (404) 920-7360, RespectLife@archatl.com, or go to <http://www.archatl.com/ministries/respectlife/jan22.html> If you have any questions, please call me at (404) 920-7362 or send an Email to mboyert@archatl.com.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.