



Solemnity of Mary
The Holy Mother
of God

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In the Beginning...

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Man oh man. In 2023, Fr. Mike Schmitz will be doing the "Catechism in a Year." (If you journeyed with him during his "Bible in a Year" podcast you'll understand the "man oh man" reference.)

What a great opportunity to dig deeper into our faith! I understand the difficulty in getting involved. I do. I have a full time job, a part time job, a wife, children, a dog and even some hobbies like treasure hunting (or treasure hiding). It's hard to make time for everything. But here's something you can do from home (or wherever!) with minimal time commitment. A great thing about Fr. Mike Schmitz's podcasts is that he keeps them to less than 30 minutes per episode and you can listen to them anywhere, any time. It's relatively easy to carve out 30 minutes a day when you think about it.

Check out [The Catechism in a Year YouTube Channel](#) —the only place to read along with every word of the podcast in 2023.

I can't tell you how excited I am for this! I don't know of anyone who has sat down and read the catechism from cover to cover (including myself). Usually, we use it as reference book to look up specific topics. But here's a great opportunity to join a community of thousands around the world and journey through Church teaching. If it's anything like Bible In a Year, Fr. Mike will read a section and then provide further reflection or explanation. Don't worry if you miss a day or a week. All episodes will continue to be available after they've been published. So you can start any time and move at your own pace.

Highly recommended!!

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Confession

Saturday: 2:00 - 3:30PM
Also, by appointment

Daily Mass

Tuesday: 8:30AM
Thursday: 8:30AM
Friday: 8:30AM

Weekend Mass

Saturday: 4:00PM
Sunday: 8:30AM, 10:30AM



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & RECONCILIATION PREP

Matt talks about how God Wants You to be Happy in a new series about reconciliation. Check it out:

[You Are Forgiven: Episode 1](#)

We have our schedule for parent meetings and other events leading up to First Holy Communion. Please see below.

The parent meetings will include a screening of the series "Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist," discussion, tips for preparing your children at home, Q&A and community fellowship.



SAINT JUDE

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION / RECONCILIATION DATES TO REMEMBER

PARENT MEETINGS

Sunday, January 15, 2023 5:30- 7 PM

Sunday, February 19, 2023 5:30 - 7PM

Sunday, March 19, 2023 5:30 - 7 PM

FAMILY MASS & BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 16, 10:30AM Mass

Breakfast after Mass

Student decorate Communion Plates

RECONCILIATION REVIEW & CHURCH TOUR

Students only

Sunday April 23, 2023 5:30 - 6:30 PM

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Thursday April 27, 2023 6:30 PM

FIRST COMMUNION PRACTICE

Thursday May 4, 2023 6:30PM

First Holy Communion Mass

Sunday May 7, 2023 10:30AM

Previous Signs of Grace
Episodes of
"You Are Loved"
(about the Eucharist)

[Episode 1](#)

[Episode 2](#)

[Episode 3](#)

[Episode 4](#)

[Episode 5](#)

[Episode 6](#)

[Episode 7](#)

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute" (CCC 2221).

Although the parish helps to form our children in the faith, no one can take the place of the parents' role in forming holy individuals. As parents, we should be well equipped to answer questions and to act, not only as the first teachers, but as the first witnesses of faith. This page is intended to help you in the journey as we work together to prepare your children for this special moment in their lives!

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

By Scott Hahn

Readings:

[Numbers 6:22-27](#)

[Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8](#)

[Galatians 4:4-7](#)

[Luke 2:16-21](#)

[LISTEN HERE](#)



Today we give thanks to Mary, the Mother of God. Her response to the angel, born of a humble heart, brought us life and salvation in the Child conceived in her womb.

From before all ages, God had destined her for this decisive role in salvation history. She was to be the woman who in the fullness of time would bear God's only Son, as Paul tells us in today's Epistle.

In times past, God spoke to His chosen people, the Israelites, through prophets (see Hebrews 1:1-2), and imparted His blessings upon them through His priests, as we hear in today's First Reading.

But now, He has sent His Son to reveal His glory and His kingdom, to make His way of salvation known to all nations, as we sing in today's Psalm. In the Infant lying in the manger, God has shone His face upon us (see John 14:8-9).

Jesus is made a child of Israel, an heir of God's covenant with Abraham, by His circumcision in today's Gospel (see Genesis 17:1-14). And we have been made adopted sons and daughters by Baptism, which is the circumcision of Christ, the true circumcision (see Colossians 2:11; Philippians 3:3).

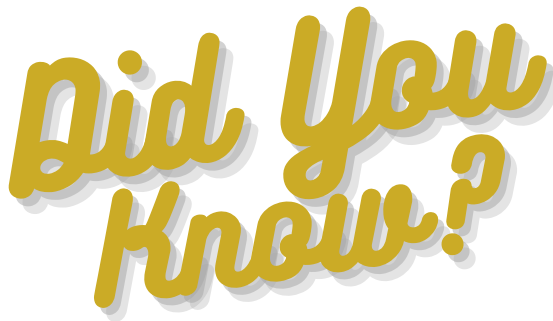
As children of God, Paul says today, we are heirs of the Father's blessings, which He promised to bestow on all peoples through the descendants of Abraham (see Genesis 12:3; 22:18; Galatians 3:14). This is the blessing that Aaron imparted to Israel, the people descended from Abraham. And this blessing comes to us through Mary and the Child.

This is the good news of great joy that the shepherds make known in Bethlehem today (see Luke 2:10).

Like the shepherds, we too should make haste today to find Jesus with Mary and Joseph, to glorify God for His blessings. And like Mary, we should keep His word and reflect upon it, letting it dwell richly in our hearts (see Colossians 3:16).

"And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them."

LUKE 2:16-18



Mary as the "Mother of God" is the first Marian Dogma

The first Marian dogma is the Divine Maternity of Mary, meaning that Mary is the Mother of God. This statement is at the very root of Our Lady's identity and the identity of her Son.

In the first few centuries after Christ's death, many false ideas about Him developed. Some said that Jesus had divine powers and a unique relationship with God the Father but was not divine. Therefore, since Jesus was not God, His death on the cross could not pay the infinite and eternal debt of sin for all mankind. Others believed that Jesus was an ordinary man and we could, as he did, earn our own place in heaven without God's mercy. "We have no need for God," this heresy claimed—only a need to "be good people."

Those who rejected the divinity of Jesus Christ did so in part because they refused to believe that God would be born of a woman. Humble Mary may have given birth to Jesus the man, they reasoned, but no woman could give birth to God Almighty. Thus, they reasoned, Jesus could not be God. They rejected Mary, and so rejected the fullness of Christ Himself.

In 431, the bishops of the Church held an ecumenical council at Ephesus. There, the bishops declared—with the authority of the Apostles—that Mary was Theotokos, the "God-bearer." She was the person—not an angel or spirit from heaven, but the person—who carried the God-man in her womb and gave birth to Him. Jesus, who was God Himself, was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.

Can the Mother of God be NOT eternal? If she is not the Mother of the Trinity, she is a created human being. Obviously she is not the Mother of the Trinity.

But Jesus is God. Mary gave birth to Jesus. She did not just give birth to His human nature—mothers are not mothers of "natures" but of "persons"—and since Our Lady gave birth to the Person of Jesus Christ, she is honored with the title "Mother of God."

This radical declaration of faith—that a poor woman from Nazareth gave birth to the Word Incarnate—is vital for truly understanding the person of Jesus Christ. It is only through the recognition of Mary's identity as Divine Mother that we can understand our own salvation.

Through the authority of His Church on earth, God has revealed to us four essential truths about Mary's identity, otherwise known as "the Marian dogmas."

To be in full communion with Christ — the Church reminds us — we must believe in each of these dogmas. In other words, they aren't optional beliefs.

Why would the Church treat these dogmas with such seriousness?

First, because they have been revealed by God.

Second, because through them, we understand truths about Jesus.

Each Marian dogma is—on the surface—only about the identity of Our Lady; however, each dogma affects the identity of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel at Home

THE OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Gospel Reading:

Luke 2:16-21

The shepherds find Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading is a continuation from the Gospel proclaimed at the Christmas Mass at midnight. In it the shepherds act upon the message they receive from the angel and go to find Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem. In their visit to the manger, the shepherds

"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."

LUKE 2:20

Tuesday, January 3:

7:00pm - Men of Emmaus in the Millennium Conference Room.

Wednesday, January 4:

8:30am - Senior Men's Group in the Thaddeus Center.

Thursday, January 5:

7:00pm - Eucharistic Adoration in the church. Join us as we spend time with Jesus in silent prayer and worship.

Friday, January 6:

7:30pm - Cor Jesu (Heart of Jesus) at the Basilica. All are welcome to this opportunity on the first Friday of each month to honor Jesus' Sacred Heart. Includes eucharistic adoration, praise and worship, and the sacrament of reconciliation. For more information, email Drew Anderson, aanderson@basilicagr.org or call 616-278-1176.

Coming Soon!

St. Jude Book Club: We're starting some new books in 2023! Join us for weekly discussions on some of C.S. Lewis's greatest works. We begin with "The Great Divorce", which examines the choice for Heaven over Hell in a narrative of one man's bus ride from Purgatory into Heaven. After this, we will read the short book "Abolition of Man", full of fascinating philosophical arguments for the importance of objective values, the necessity of natural law, and an objection against scientism in education. Book Club is held Tuesdays from 7:30-9pm in the Thaddeus Center, beginning **January 10** with the first two chapters of "The Great Divorce". [More info here!](#)

Rosary Study: Join our Formed.org based study with Dr. Ben Akers and professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School as they walk through these Biblical mysteries and seek to grow in understanding and love for Christ through them. The study begins on **January 9 at 7pm**. Contact Marty Smith for more details at msmith@stjudes.net.

The Sacraments with Marie Cirenza:

Instead of a meeting on **January 5**, we are having **Eucharistic Adoration**. Please join us in the church at 7pm. Meetings resume on **January 12** when we'll learn more about the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

"Jesus replied,
'The first is
this: 'Hear, O
Israel! The Lord
our God is Lord
alone! You shall
love the Lord
your God with
all your heart,
with all your
soul, with all
your mind, and
with all your
strength.'"

^M RK 12:29-

God's Mother and Our Mother

Today, on the very first day of the new year, we celebrate the feast of the greatest saint in Heaven! Before He even made the world, God knew that He would make Mary to be His mother. When the time came that Jesus should come into the world He sent His angel Gabriel to tell Mary that God wanted her to be His mother. Because Mary was obedient and loved God she said "Yes" to Him.



God gives us mothers to look after us and feed and teach us. He chose Mary, who was the most perfect woman, to look after His Son, Jesus. She loved Him with all her heart and took the best care of Him that any mother ever did for her children.

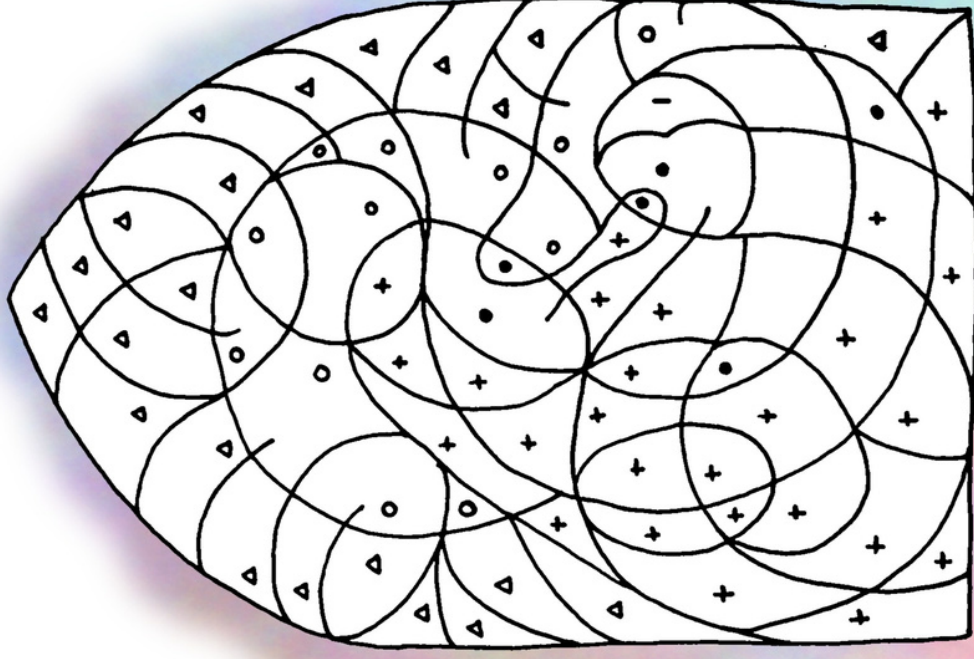
When Jesus was dying on the cross He gave His mother to us. So now we have His holy mother Mary for our mother in Heaven! Today we thank God for His holy mother. Can you remember to pray to Mary today and every day this year? She loves us because she is our mother and wants to help us every day!

Answer to Octave of Christmas Word-Find:
Mary the Mother of God

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

Sunday January 1st, 2023
Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God



Whose feast is it on New Year's Day?
Colour in the spaces to see! Here's the code:

+ Blue ▲ Pink ○ Yellow
! Brown • Skin colour

Saint John Neumann

January 5

JOHN NEUMANN WAS BORN IN BOHEMIA IN 1811. HE STUDIED FOR THE PRIEST- HOOD BUT THE BISHOP WOULD NOT ORDAIN HIM BECAUSE THEY HAD SO MANY PRIESTS!

SO JOHN WAS ORDAINED IN NEW YORK WHERE ONLY 36 PRIESTS HAD TO LOOK AFTER 200,000 CATHOLICS!

FR. JOHN WORKED IN A COUNTRY CHURCH THAT HAD A DIRT FLOOR AND NO STEEPLE.

It takes us two hours to get here. Can you come to our house next?

AT AGE 41 JOHN WAS CHOSEN TO BE BISHOP OF PHILADELPHIA. HE STARTED 100 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

ONCE WHEN VISITING ONE OF HIS PARISHES, BISHOP JOHN HAD TO TAKE A RIDE ON A MANURE WAGON!

ST. JOHN WAS ABLE TO HELP PEOPLE WHO CAME FROM ALL OVER EUROPE BECAUSE HE COULD SPEAK MANY LANGUAGES. HE ALSO TAUGHT BY WRITING IN NEWSPAPERS.

Octave of Christmas

Word-Find

Can you find all the words in the list in the puzzle below?
Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end.

ANGELS	GLORY	PRAISE
ANIMALS	GOD	SAVIOUR
BABY	HOLY	SHEEP
BARN	JESUS	SHEPHERDS
BETHLEHEM	JOSEPH	SING
BORN	MANGER	SKY
COLD	MARY	STABLE
FIELDS	MOTHER	WONDER
FOUND	NIGHT	WORSHIP

W P M S I N G N I G H T
O R A T A N G E L S B
N A S A M O T H E R E T
D I A B L A D J O S E P H
E S R E I R Y E S H H L
R G L O R T H E U S K Y R H
O A R W O R S H I P D E

On the eighth
day of
Christmas we
honour in a
special way

