

## **A CHRISTMAS SERMON BY ST. LEO THE GREAT**

Dearly beloved, today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness.

No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice as he sees the palm of victory at hand. Let the sinner be glad as he receives the offer of forgiveness. Let the pagan take courage as he is summoned to life.

In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God's wisdom, the Son of God took for himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its Creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that very nature by which he had overthrown mankind.

And so at the birth of our Lord the angels sing in joy: Glory to God in the highest, and they proclaim peace to men of good will as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from all the nations of the world. When the angels on high are so exultant at this marvelous work of God's goodness, what joy should it not bring to the lowly hearts of men?

Beloved, let us give thanks to God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in his great love for us he took pity on us, and when we were dead in our sins he brought us to life with Christ, so that in him we might be a new creation. Let us throw off our old nature and all its ways and, as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh.

Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's kingdom.

Through the sacrament of baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Do not drive away so great a guest by evil conduct and become again a slave to the devil, for your liberty was bought by the blood of Christ.

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***Merry Christmas!***

The clergy, wardens, and pastoral team of Our Lady of Fatima Parish  
join in wishing you every blessing this Christmas;  
in your homes, families, schools, and places of work.



**ANNOUNCED MASSES**  
**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

<b>Tuesday</b> 8:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m.	<b>Dec. 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b> Bruna Alesi – RIP – by her parents Bill Yvorchuk – RIP – by the family
<b>Wednesday</b> 11:00 a.m.	<b>Dec. 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>CHRISTMAS: NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b> <i>Pro Populo</i>
<b>Thursday</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Dec. 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saint Stephen</b> Thanksgiving by Zoilo and Tessie Cubero
<b>Friday</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Dec. 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saint John</b> Deceased and Living Members of the Rodrigues family – by Leo and Lavinia
<b>Saturday</b> 10:00 a.m.	<b>Dec. 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Holy Innocents</b> Anniversary Blessings and Thanksgiving by Mr. & Mrs. Cesar Brazal
<b>Saturday</b> 4:30 p.m.	<b>Dec. 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday Vigil</b> Noreen Bolohan – RIP – by Joan
<b>Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m.  11:00 a.m.	<b>Dec. 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Holy Family</b> Leo, Rosa Maria and Anthony Borges – RIP – by the family <i>Pro Populo</i>
<b>Monday</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Dec. 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Weekday</b> Blessings and Thanksgiving by Raymond Abboud and family
<b>Tuesday</b> 4:30 p.m.	<b>Dec. 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>New Year's Eve</b> Emil and Maria Kolaj – RIP – by the Piacek family
<b>Wednesday</b> 11:00 a.m.	<b>Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>MARY, MOTHER OF GOD</b> <i>Pro Populo</i>
<b>Thursday</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Saint Basil and Saint Gregory</b> Dorothy Brisebois – RIP – by Ron & Carolyn
<b>Friday</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Most Holy Name of Jesus</b> For Souls in Purgatory – by Zoilo and Tessie Cubero
<b>Saturday</b> 10:00 a.m.	<b>Jan. 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Weekday</b> Teresita Manzo Manzanal – RIP – by Jerry and Ofelia Roy
<b>Saturday</b> 4:30 p.m.	<b>Jan. 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday Vigil</b> Feliks Rewers – RIP – by Wanda
<b>Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m.  11:00 a.m.	<b>Jan. 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b> Agustin Atas and Luisa Bencito – RIP – by the family <i>Pro Populo</i>

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE OF MASSES

<b>December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Mass)</b>	<b>-8:00pm and 10:00pm</b>
<b>December 25<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Mass)</b>	<b>-11:00am</b>
December 26 <sup>th</sup> (Weekday Mass)	-9:00am
December 27 <sup>th</sup> (Weekday Mass)	-9:00am
December 28 <sup>th</sup> (Holy Innocents)	-10:00am
<b>(Sunday Vigil)</b>	<b>-4:30pm</b>
<b>December 29<sup>th</sup> (Sunday Mass)</b>	<b>- 9:00am and 11:00am</b>
December 30 <sup>th</sup> (Weekday Mass)	-9:00am
<b>December 31<sup>st</sup> (Mary Mother of God Mass)</b>	<b>- 4:30pm</b>
<b>January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 (Mary Mother of God Mass)</b>	<b>- 11:00am</b>

~Note: masses in **Bold**: Holy Days of obligation

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## PRAYER BEFORE THE MANGER CRIB

May I cast myself down before Thee with the simplicity of the shepherds, the faith of St. Joseph and the love of the most Blessed Virgin Mary! May I on bended knees venerate this precious memorial of our salvation with that spirit of mortification, poverty and humility with which Thou, the Lord of Heaven and earth, didst choose a lowly manger as a resting place for thy tender limbs.

O holy Child Jesus! Accept me for Thy servant and grant that I may obey Thee gladly. Accept me for Thy disciple and grant that I may learn diligently all Thou shalt teach me. Accept me for Thy very own and grant that I may love Thee above all things and remain faithful to Thee in joy and sorrow, in life and death, in time and eternity.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE - HOLY HOUR

Following the *Mary, Mother of God* vigil mass at 4:30pm (Dec 31st) there will be a Holy Hour of adoration; rosary, silent prayer, divine praises and benediction. This will be a most blessed moment to prayerfully thank God for the past year as it comes to an end, and to offer God the coming year as it begins.

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Thinking about your "New Year's Resolution"? Saint Francis' well known prayer provides a great foundation upon which we should strive to live; for love of God, neighbor, and self.

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:*

*where there is hatred, let me sow love;*

*where there is injury, pardon;*

*where there is doubt, faith;*

*where there is despair, hope;*

*where there is darkness, light;*

*where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,*

*to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,*

*it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

*R/. Amen*