



Holy Spirit

Catholic Parish and School

January 9th, 2022
The Baptism of the Lord

Worship Centers:

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

201 44th St S; Great Falls, MT 59405

Parish Office:

Mon-Thur: 9:00-4, Fri: 9:00-noon

201 44th St S; Ph. 452-6491

Email: hsparish@holyspiritgf.org

Website: holyspiritgf.org

Holy Spirit Catholic School

2820 Central Ave, Great Falls, MT 59401

761-5775; Principal: Melissa Hallahan

Email: mhallahan@holyspiritgf.org

Website: holyspiritgfschool.org

Check out FORMED.org.

Mass Schedule:

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 4:30pm

Sunday 8:30 am (live stream) & 11:00 am

Week day Masses:

Monday 8:30 am

Tuesday 5:15 pm

Wednesday 8:30 am

*2nd Wed. Park Place, 2:30 pm (suspended)

*3rd Wed. Highgate, 1:30 pm (suspended)

Thursday 8:30 am

Friday 8:30 am

Saturday 8:30 am

Reconciliation:

Saturdays 2-4 pm; Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 pm



Adoration:

Sunday 7 pm -- Tuesday 5 pm

Parish Staff:

Fr. Doug Krings

Pastor

Dcn Pete Woelkers

Deacon

Aubrey Rearden

Parish Administrator

Worship

Cindy Eultgen

Christian Service

Nick Wingerter

RCIA,

Adult Formation

Joel Corda

Music

Mary Moore-Wingerter

Administrative Asst.

Elem. Formation

Molly Schmitz

Youth Minister

Tracy Tomich

Custodian

"Today let us do honor to Christ's baptism and celebrate this feast in holiness. Be cleansed entirely and continue to be cleansed. Nothing gives such pleasure to God as the conversion and salvation of men, for whom His every word and every revelation exist. He wants you to become a living force for all mankind, lights shining in the world!" ~ St. Gregory Nazianzen



Knights of Columbus Council #9395
Cinnamon Rolls & Burritos!
Sunday, January 16



'22 Raffle and Moving Mountains Benefit

The Diocese of Great Falls-Billings is holding the 2nd annual charity raffle and our first Moving Mountains Benefit event. These major fundraisers are focusing on raising money to support the ministries of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings.

RAFFLE TICKETS ON SALE IN OUR PARISH OFFICE!

Tickets are \$20 each

Prizes include Early Bird Cash Prizes:

\$250 1/19/22, & \$250 2/16/22

Grand Prize: 2022 Keystone Camper **or** \$15,000 cash

2nd Prize: 2022 Honda Pioneer Side by Side **or** \$10,000 cash

3rd Prize: BBQ Package with a Traeger grill, cooler, \$500 gift card

4th Prize: Kayaks for 2

5th Prize: Outdoor Movie Theater Package

Make checks out to the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings
Kick off the New Year with a chance to win big!

Weekly Happenings~

Mass Intentions:

Mass	Intention	Requested by
Sat 1/8—8:30 am —4:30 pm	+Daniel Hurley +Hal Webb	C Root Gettens
Sun 1/9—8:30 am 11:00 am	+Adrienne Gue Parishioners	C Mehrens
Mon 1/10- 8:30 am	Don Jiran (sp int)	D & E Martin
Tue 1/11- 5:15 pm	+Mary Bubnash	M Olszewski
Wed 1/12- 8:30 am	+Jim Kirkendall	Munsterteigers
Thu 1/13– 8:30 am	Al Oslzewski (sp int0	J Kranz
Fri 1/14– 8:30 am	+Hal Webb Isabel Decker, Bessie McKee, O'Rourke and Koerber families, Jean O'Rourke, Irvin Rome, Emma and Anton Smarker, and George Wald	M Mathson-Nadeau & G Nadeau School Mass inten- tions
Sat 1/15– 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	+Dolores Fayh Kropp +Gene & Alice Meyer	Mathews family Meyer children
Sun 1/16– 8:30 am - 11:00 am	Parishioners +Patricia Chovanak	R Chovanak

Readings for next week~ 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
Gospel: John 2:1-11

Bus Schedule

Sunday, Jan 9: Jan Olson & Senan Greene
Sunday, Jan 16: Roger Seilstad & Kathleen Seilstad

Calendar of Events January 8-16

Saturday:	No 8:30 Mass Adoration ends at 2:00 pm Mass at 4:30 pm	
Sunday:	Mass– 8:30 & 11:00 am Adoration—6 pm	
Tuesday:	Christian Service—6 pm	Con. Rm.
Wednesday:	High School Bible Study—6:45 am Elem. Formation—4:30 pm Youth Group—6:30 pm	Schultes Sts P&P Sts P&P
Thursday:	RCIA—7 pm	Sts. P & P
Friday:	School Mass—8:30 am	
Saturday:	Daily Mass—8:30 am St. Joseph’s Workshop—9 am Mass 4:30 pm	hall
Sunday:	Masses at 8:30 and 11:00 am Knights of Columbus Rolls & Burritos! Adoration—6 pm	



Please join us to pray the Rosary at 1/2 hour before every Mass time. All are welcome to join us. If you can’t join us, please pray the Rosary on your own.

Liturgical Ministers for Jan 15, 16

4:30 PM	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
★ Sub requested ~ log in to Web Terminal and accept the sub		
		Holy Wash
Sacristan		
S Mohler	K Rosendale	W Newman
Greeters		
Ushers		
Cross Bearer		
Altar Servers		
J Polacek C Polacek	A Donnelly L Donnelly	T Hansen T Hansen
Readers		
T Gilligan	W Secord	M Schmitz
Musicians		
	Joel Corda	Joel Corda
Ministers of the Eucharist		
K Weinheimer M Handwerk	P Woelkers C Schnider	P Woelkers C Christiaens



Care for our Common Home!

Thank you for Recycling cardboard, aluminum, & mixed paper.

Weekend Newspaper Cardboard

1st (Jan 7-13)	K of C 9395	C. Jernigan
2nd (Jan 14-20)	K. Weinheimer	A. Fisher
3rd (Jan 21-27)	OPEN	C. Nowak
4th (Jan 28-Feb 3)	D & P Birkenbuel	R. Shipley
5th (Jan 21—Feb 3)	K of C 9395	K of C 9395

**Call Parish Office for information on RCIA,
Adult Formation or Marriage Preparation**

For all who seek to become Christian believers

Call Nick at the office, ext 205, or come Thurs. at 7 pm in the RCIA room (Sts. Peter and Paul Center) all year round.

Youth Ministry

Molly Schmitz 452-6491 ext. 207 molly@holyspiritgf.org



High School Bible Study will meet on January 12, at 6:45 am at Schultes. Youth Group meets on January 12 at 6:30 pm at Sts. Peter and Paul. Contact Molly at the parish office 452-6491, ex 207. Thank you!

Elementary Faith Formation

Elementary Formation (Pre-K - 6th Grade)
& Sacramental Prep (2nd Grade)

Mary: mwingenter@holyspiritgf.org
406-452-6491, ex 201

Elementary Formation will meet Wednesday January 12th at 4:30 pm at Sts. Peter and Paul.

Sacramental Preparation

Mary Moore-Wingenter, mwingenter@holyspiritgf.org
406-452-6491

1st Reconciliation will be January 17 and 18, 2022. Please log into Sign Up Genius to schedule a time that works for you.

Holy Spirit School

Melissa Hallahan, Principal, mhallahan@holyspiritgf.org
Jackie Wike, Robin Verzuh Administrative Assistants
Jenifer Thomas, Development Director
761-5775 www.holyspiritgfschool.org

Holy Spirit Catholic School is back and rested from our Christmas break. We are planning an ice fishing trip with our 5th graders, middle school ski trips, gearing up for Catholic Schools week, and much more. We are busy once more!

We had some big news over the break. Holy Spirit Catholic School has been awarded the Purple Star Award! We received this honor as we are committed advocates of our military community. We have been active in service projects for our military members, hold military events, and are supportive of our military students and families here at Holy Spirit Catholic School. We are one of the first private (non-public) schools to achieve this award.

Holy Spirit Catholic School is selling raffle tickets that all

proceeds go towards furthering our mission of Christ centered education. We have put together an amazing Montana Adventure raffle package. The raffle is worth over \$4000 and includes passes to Big Sky waterpark, Museum of the Rockies, ZooMontana, \$2500 cash and much more. They are 6 for \$100 or \$20 each. You can purchase tickets from any Holy Spirit Catholic School student or from our development director, Jennifer, at the school.

Please consider joining our team of substitute teachers at Holy Spirit Catholic School. If interested, contact the office at 761-5775

Volunteers and Christian Service

Cindy Eultgen 452-6491 ext. 208
cindy@holyspiritgf.org

Two times this month!

All are welcome to come to the tranquil setting at the Poor Clares for **Grief Support**

Group. Tuesday, January 11 at 4 pm.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Street address: 3020 18th Ave. S. , For directions: 406-453-7891.



We will still have the **Grief Support Group** on January 25 at 4 pm in the Parish Hall.

Come and See what we are planning for the next few months. All are welcome!

Christian Service Commission meeting this week on Tuesday, January 11 at 6 pm.



Volunteers—if you have not heard from someone regarding the ministries that you signed up for, please give us a call.



Stewardship

Monsignor House Reflection: Romans 5:20 emphasizes the gift of grace given to us from the death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord. Today we, who have heard the whole story of Jesus through the Gospels, celebrate his baptism, the marking of the beginning of his ministry. Just as Mary and Elizabeth greeted each other when their babies were in the wombs, so we have the ministries of Jesus and John intersecting. John, a veteran prophet and proclaimer of the God of Israel, says he is not worthy to untie the sandal of Jesus. He also says to those who already follow him, that he must decrease just as Jesus enters the 3 year ministry that we have learned (John did not know) changes the world. In fact, John encourages some of his own followers to follow Jesus. As we practice our faith, we understand that following Jesus requires paying attention to those in need. Thank you, Holy Spirit Parish for your caring of the family in the Monsignor House. We have had many families find respite there—they have found new hope and purpose for their lives and we have been able to give them a hand-up. The gift of grace continues as it has for 2000+ years.

Needs and thanks for the Monsignor House: Thank you so much to the folks who donated paper products for use at the Monsignor House. The Hospitality House functions because of people like you continue to give to its needs. If you have questions regarding the Monsignor House, feel free to call Kathie Malby at 406-781-5033. Please leave a message and she will get back to you.

Worship

Aubrey Rearden –Worship Coordinator
452-6491 ex. 207 aubrey@holyspiritgf.org
Mary Wingerter—Ministry Scheduler

Please log into Ministry Scheduler and check your schedule for January through March. If there is a time you can't make, please request a sub. Thank you!

Catechism Corner

CATECHISM CORNER

What is meant by the phrase “life in Christ”? (CCC 1691-1698) Jesus uses the analogy of a tree to describe our relationship with him: “I am the vine you are the branches” (John 15:5). Jesus is the source of our life, “through him was life” (John 1:4). By the Sacraments we are saved from the damnation and death of sin into a life of grace, grafted mystically to Christ’s own body. Through faith we confess what the Sacraments confer, that “we have become children of God and partakers of the Divine Nature” (1692). By this grace, inspiration, and guidance from the Holy Spirit, the Christian is called to “live a life worthy of the Gospel.” We, therefore, live a life modeled after Christ and informed by the Holy Spirit, by grace, by the Beatitudes, knowledge of sin and forgiveness, intentional human virtue developed into Christian virtue, and the commandments of love set forth in the 10 Commandments (1697). Why? Jesus says: “If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.” (John 15:9-10)

Courtesy Announcements

Father Jay Peterson is leading a pilgrimage to Rome!
May 31-June 8, 2022.

Father Jay invites you to join him on a pilgrimage to Rome. The program includes visits with Travel Illume’s local expert guides and daily liturgy in historical venues. The hotel selected is first-class and in an ideal location. A day excursion to Assisi, birthplace of St Francis, is planned as well. The program includes a group flight out of Great Falls with the option to use your own frequent flyer miles. Come join us for a memorable and inspiring journey! For information and registration visit: travelillume.com/trc/xvu. We encourage you to register by Nov 30, 2021 to ensure your place.

Rediscover Your Marriage—Retrouvaille simply means “rediscovery”. The program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. Retrouvaille is not a spiritual retreat, not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, not a social gathering. Retrouvaille is for any couple who would like to rediscover their marriage and improve communication. Our next program begins February 25, 2022. For more information about an upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend program for couples, contact registration team: at 1-800-470-2230 or visit HelpOurMarriage.com. Not counseling or group therapy. All contacts and names held in strictest confidence.

Milestones



Welcome to **Jerry and Cassi Schmitz**, and their son, **Trace**, who recently registered in our parish. Welcome to Holy Spirit!

Parish Council of Catholic Women

Our Lady of Snows Circle will once again meet on Wednesday, January 19th, 7:00 pm in the social hall. It has been a long time and we have some things to celebrate. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend. We meet once a month and have 2 bake sales a year as well as decorating for the harvest dinner. We pray together and laugh a lot.

Help! We are trying to update our Parish records!!!
Please update your information with the parish.

Have you dropped your land line?

Have you changed your address?

Do you have a new email address?

Please call the parish office with any changes, 452-6491, or email hsparish@holyspiritgf.org

Saint Michael Radio ~ *FM 97.1
Sharing the Splendor of Truth

Let's Try this again!

St. Joseph's Workshop

A Day of Faith Formation and Prayer for All Men (13+)

Saturday January 15th 9AM-12PM in the Parish Hall

Confessions beginning immediately after

St. Joseph, the Worker, Guardian of the Holy Family, and Terror of Demons,
Pray for us

Call Nick for questions:
406-868-4770





January 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8:30 & 11 am Masses NO Adoration	27 No MASS Office Closed	28 No MASS Office Closed	29 H.S. Bible study, 6:45 am, Schultes No MASS Office Closed	30 No MASS RCIA, 7 pm Sts. P&P	31 NO 8:30 MASS Vigil Mass 6 pm Adoration 7 pm	1 NO 8:30 MASS 2-4 p.m. Confession 4:30 Mass
2 8:30 & 11 am Masses Adoration, 6 pm	3 8:30 am Mass Adoration	4 5:15 p.m. Mass Adoration Pastoral Council 6:15 pm, Hall.	5 8:30 am, Mass H.S. Bible study, 6:45 am, Schultes Elem. Formation, 4:30 pm Sts. P&P Confessions 5:30- 6:30 pm Youth Group, 6:30 pm Sts P&P	6 8:30 a.m. Mass RCIA, 7 pm Sts. P&P	7 Mass 8:30 a.m.	8 8:30 am Mass 2-4 p.m. Confession 4:30 Mass
9 8:30 & 11 am Masses Adoration, 6 pm	10 8:30 am Mass Adoration pm	11 5:15 p.m. Mass Adoration Christian Service, 6:00 pm, hall	12 8:30 am Mass H.S. Bible study, 6:45 am, Schultes Elem. Formation, 4:30 pm Sts. P&P Confessions 5:30- 6:30 pm Youth Group, 6:30 pm Sts P&P Knights of Colum- bus, 7 pm hall	13 8:30 a.m. Mass RCIA 7 pm Sts. P&P	14 Mass 8:30 am	15 8:30 am Mass St. Joseph's Work- shop, 9 am 2-4 p.m. Confession 4:30 Mass
16 8:30 & 11 am Masses Knights of Colum- bus, Burritos and Cin. Rolls Adoration, 6 pm	17 8:30 am Mass Adoration	18 5:15 p.m. Mass Adoration Bereavement team; 4 pm, hall	19 8:30 am Mass H.S. Bible study, 6:45 am, Schultes Elem. Formation, 4:30 pm Sts. P&P Confessions 5:30- 6:30 pm Youth Group, 6:30 pm Sts P&P Lady of Snows, 7 pm hall	20 8:30 a.m. Mass RCIA 7 pm Sts. P&P	21 Mass 8:30 am	22 8:30 am Mass 2-4 p.m. Confession 4:30 Mass
23 8:30 & 11 am Masses Adoration 30 8:30 & 11 am Masses Adoration	24 8:30 Mass Adoration 31 8:30 Mass Adoration	25 5:15 Mass Adoration Grief support, 4 pm Formation comm. 6 pm, P&P Worship Comm, 6:15 pm	26 8:30 am Mass H.S. Bible study, 6:45 am, Schultes Elem. Formation, 4:30 pm Sts. P&P Confessions 5:30- 6:30 pm Youth group 6:30	27 Mass 8:30 am RCIA 7 pm P&P	28 Mass 8:30 am	29 8:30 am Mass 2-4 p.m. Confession 4:30 Mass



*Thank you to everyone who donated poinsettias!
Our church looks beautiful!*



<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Memory Of</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Memory Of</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Memory Of</u>
Jim & Susy Baroch	Don & Betty Rearden	Darlene & Sly Barros	Jessica McCurdy	Becker family	Uncle Mike King
Susan Bissonnette	David Bissonnette	Bob & Kim Brook	Irene Brook	Pattie Coolidge	Paul Coolidge
Crum family	James Hoffman	Barbara Culliton	John & Mike Culliton	Deb Dickman	Bernie Dickman
Deb & Dave Frey	Stacy, Mom & Dad	Friend	Mary Froehle family	Jack & Rosann Johnson	Kelly Johnson
Ruth Hellen	Jim Hellen	McCallums	Parents & siblings	Diane Mellem	Mom & Dad
Connie Morris	Bill Morris	Kate & Royce Shipley	Jack & Mae Thelen	Dan & Kay Shull	Pat & Steve Shull
Jim Trunkle	Anne Trunkle	Noreen Udall	Gene & Alice Meyer	Welsh family	Thank you!
Wingerters	John & Jeanne Moore	Toni Zadick	Bob Zadick	Marie & Randy Olson	Jesus & Regina Marquez
Lakner family	Resendez & Lakner family	Dave & Terry Stukey	Mary Sause, Eddie Sause, Carl Stukey	Nick, Christina, Patricia, Poirier & Fulton Wingerter	Jeanne Marie Poirier Moore & John Fulton Moore
Polacek family	Annie & Roger Habel Jerry & Josephine Polacek	Margaret, Mike, Pat, Vince, & Pete Onstad	Onstad & Kuhlmann ancestors	Maralene Michaels	Neil Michaels and Simperman family
Barbara McNaught	John McNaught Richard Lefford	Jim & Sandee McKenna	Pearl & John Lucotch Paul & Betty McKenna	McCabes	Brian McCabe, McCabe & Sheridan families
Mary Jo Lacher	Murray and Lacher families	Michele & Carol Kommers	Sally & Jerry Kommers	Kirkendall family	Jim & Laverna Kirkendall
Andre & Michelle Jezewski	Theresa & George Jezewski	Andre & Michelle Jezewski	LaVonne & David Pidcock	Shirley Wilson	Doug Wilson & Nardinger family
Ann Dougherty	Darell Dougherty Jane Throckmorton	Jim & Jo Anne Capp	Capp & Palagi families Leary & Seymour families	Joe & Lori Durocher	Tig & Lucy Durocher Steve & Aileen Shoemaker
Larry & Mary Seitz	John & Eva Seitz, Tony & Mary Ellen Bauer, Marcia Seymour, Kathy Mahoney	Proud family	Lincoln Andrew, June Claire, Tia Noel Proud	Marcia Ouellette	Peters family, Ouellette family, Bleskin family, Roger Ouellette
Fid & Lillian Fitterer	Earnest & Marjorie Sparlund, Fidelis & Kathryn Fitterer, family, & friends; priests & sisters	Bob & Jona McNamee	Helen, Bob & Bill McNamee; Fred, Bernadette, Art, Jane & Bill Anderson	Jones family	Barbara & Ron & William Kenison, Rita & Phil Jones, John Caldwell
Justin, Lisa, Pat & Denise Bishop	Bishop family & Weiselman family	Scott & Mary Herzog family	Lawrence & Brett Herzog	Balyeat family	Jere Davis, Jennifer Hackett, Daniel Hackett
Mohler family	Recent deceased family members, & Buck Storey	Eunice Eckhart Scott & Mary Herzog family	Elmer & Leonard Eckhart; Teresa Lockhart, deceased family		

Holy Spirit Parish Parish Nurses



Our parish nurses minister in our parish in many ways: Women's Day of Prayer, Baby Bottles for Echoz, and Prayer Shawls just to name a few. Please see the following to learn more about another important ministry of the parish nurses.

One of the ministries of Parish Nursing is the collection of eye glasses and hearing aids in the little round basket on the table by the office door.

This started back in 2003 after the funeral of a very dear friend when the family asked what to do with many pairs of glasses and hearing aids. Resources were found.

The glasses are taken to the eye doctor's office and then collected by the Lions' Club. From there they will go to third world countries where they are fitted by doctors at the clinics.

The hearing aids are taken to the Montana State Deaf and Blind School. The doctors can fit them for the children—which is a big help as they sometimes get lost or broken which is a hardship for parents and the school.

To date, we have collected 3878 pairs of glasses and 195 hearing aids. Thank you to all parish members who have helped us with this ministry.

*Angela Trunkle
Parish Nurse*

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

January 2022

Holy Spirit Catholic Parish

Father Doug Krings

Who needs Jesus?

One Minute Meditations

Laying our gifts at the feet of the King

The three Wise Men gave Jesus gifts worthy of a king. We can also present Him with our own royal gifts. While ours may not be actual gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we can still give to Him the best we have. Give God the first and the best of what you have and He will give you more than you can imagine in return.



Fall in love with God

From the moment God created you, he has been deeply in love with you. He made you deliberately so he could love you. *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you"* (Jeremiah 1:5). He waits for you like a parent anticipates the return of a beloved child. Don't let Him wait long.

"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ" (Ephesians 2:4-5).



Many today say that they don't have a need for Jesus. They go to work, have homes, put food on their tables, raise families without His help. In fact, daily activities go on but the world can't really make sense without Him.

Truth. The truth is in Christ, *"in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge"* (Colossians 2:3). We cannot understand the truth without Him. To make sense of the world, we need Jesus to lead us.

Life. The life we have will eventually end. To keep living, we need Jesus. *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father,*

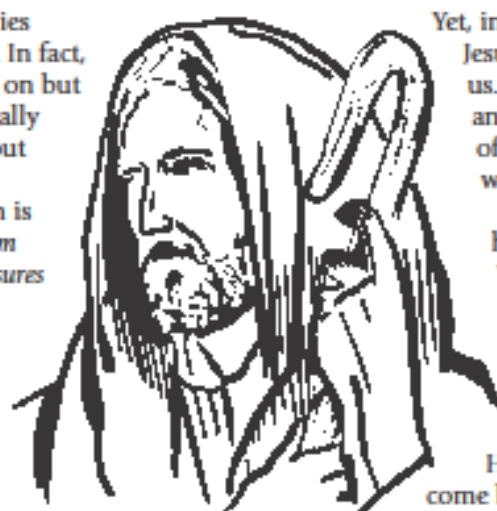
but by me" (John 14:6). Eternal life comes through Him.

Death. None of us escapes death. Yet, in the Resurrection, Jesus defeated death for us. It didn't hold Him and He offers the gift of life to each of us if we live in Him.

Sin. Even the holiest of us sins. Without Jesus, what becomes of us? He *"gave himself as a ransom for all"* (1 Timothy 2:6). If we don't accept

His price, our sins come back to us for eternity.

Suffering. Modern science can alleviate but not eliminate some of the world's suffering. Jesus provides comfort and healing to those who trust Him and surrender to Him.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Catholics don't pray to Mary, but instead ask her to pray for us. For example, the Hail Mary prayer asks the Mother of God to stay close to us in prayer.

While we don't

Why do Catholics pray to Mary?

worship Mary, we honor her as Jesus' mother. On the Cross, Jesus gave her to us as our own mother (John 19:27). We can approach her with our needs and concerns and ask her to present them to Her Son. Mary always leads us to Him.

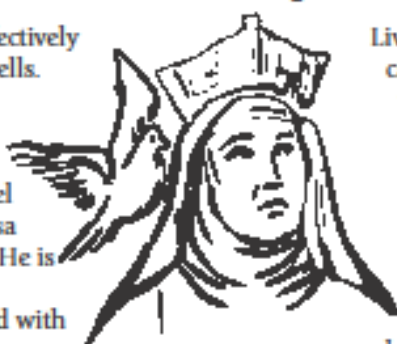


Three tips to boost your prayer

Prayer fuels our spiritual life, but praying effectively can be challenging. Even the saints had dry spells. Among these was the mystic and Carmelite reformer, St. Teresa of Avila. Try these suggestions from her to enliven your prayer:

Become aware of God's presence. It may feel as if God is distant, but He is so close. St. Teresa began by enjoying God's nearness. Know that He is with you and wants your company.

Bring a good book. St. Teresa, who struggled with dryness in prayer, kept a book with her. Scripture,



Lives of the Saints, or a book about the Faith can help us focus and spark conversation with Him.

Be honest. It is said that St. Teresa once fell into the mud and told God bluntly, "If this is how you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few of them!" God wants you to share all your experiences with Him – good and bad. Entrust your cares to Him and "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5).

from Scripture

Luke 4:21-30, God's will is unexpected

In this Gospel, Jesus returns to Nazareth after launching His public ministry. He announced He is the Messiah of Isaiah's prophecy. But then comes a twist: Jesus recounts a time when great prophets were sent to call Israel to repentance and were ignored and persecuted.

The response of faith God was looking for in His Chosen People was found elsewhere, in the Gentiles. Jesus' listeners doubted that He was really the Messiah and were deeply insulted at being reminded that "foreigners" had received God's favor instead of them. In anger, they threw Jesus out of the synagogue and tried to

cast Him off a cliff. He passed unharmed through their midst.

God's will can surprise us. For example, He willed that the Messiah-King be a local carpenter. God's favor extended beyond the Chosen People to include Gentiles, who were

considered outsiders. Sometimes, we assume we know how God works, and lose faith when He does something that seems illogical. We can pray for the faith to see Jesus as He really is and trust Him, even if He does the unexpected.



Feasts & Celebrations

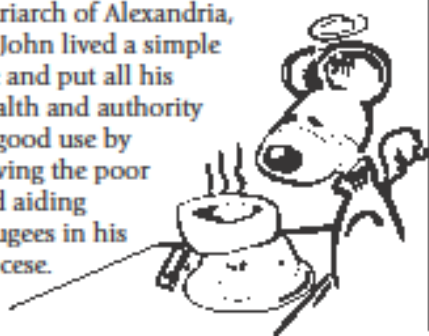
Jan. 1 – Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. When we celebrate this feast, we honor Mary, and also Jesus, as true God and true Man.

Jan. 9 – Baptism of the Lord. Jesus began his public ministry by getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. The Heavens opened up and God the Father spoke, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

Jan. 14 – St. Macrina the Elder (340). St. Macrina was related to St. Basil the Elder and St. Macrina the

Younger. She and her husband were forced to flee during the Diocletian persecutions and endured many hardships. After her return, she helped raise her grandchildren Saints Gregory of Nyssa and Basil the Great.

Jan. 23 – St. John the Almsgiver (616). Despite being a noble and the Patriarch of Alexandria, St. John lived a simple life and put all his wealth and authority to good use by serving the poor and aiding refugees in his diocese.



Q & A

Can you suggest a New Year's resolution to grow in Holiness?

All Christians are called to holiness. "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). There are three tools on which every Catholic can rely to attain greater holiness.

Daily prayer. God meets us in a very real and present way when we come to him in prayer. Start in the morning and pray throughout the day.

Weekly Mass. The Mass is a sacrifice and a meal. We receive Jesus' body and blood as real food for our souls. He said, "For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him" (John 6:55-56). That's why we call it, "Communion."

Monthly Confession. Jesus created the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (Confession) because he knew we would stray. He also knew we would want to come back. Frequent participation in this Sacrament sharpens our sense of sin, holds us accountable for our errors, and gives us the grace to keep trying for holiness.

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