

THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

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Rev Fr Peter Tammearu, Pastor



MASS SCHEDULE

Monday to Friday at 12.05 pm

Saturday at 9 am & 5 pm (Vigil)

Sunday at 9 am & 11 am

CONFESSIONS

Monday to Friday at 11.45 am

Saturday at 4.30 pm

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

(First Communion, Confirmation, RCIA)

Alice Warford, Sacramental Coordinator

ihmsacraments@gmail.com

SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM AND MARRIAGE

Please make an appointment to see the pastor

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Please call 647.428.2880

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Darlene Barron, President 416.264.6407

LEGION OF MARY

Letty Denovan 416.755.9569

OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH

Rev Fr Peter Gitendran, Pastor 416.264.6544

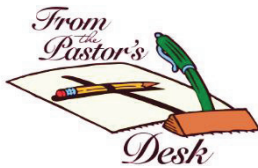
Sunday Mass at 4.30 pm (in Tamil)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Thursday 10 am to 4 pm

Susan Lee, Parish Secretary

**SECOND SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 14, 2018**



An Unheard Homily

(Some kind of cold got me down just around Christmas, and I didn't get to say Mass at New Year's. But I had already written a homily, and it sums up some things I think are important to say about Our Lady, so I thought maybe some of you would be interested in reading what I would have said. Fr P)

The shepherds made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. (Lk 2:16-21)

The shepherds told Mary that the angel of the Lord came to them and told them not to be afraid. The news that the angel brought was not just for them, but for everybody. A child was born in Bethlehem, and that child was sent by God to be the Savior of the world. And the shepherds heard the angels singing: *Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth.*

These were the words that the Blessed Virgin Mary treasured and pondered in her heart: words about good news and God's gift of salvation. And they are the same words that we have heard throughout the Christmas season. But the question is how we can keep them in our hearts the way that Mary did.

It is fitting that we celebrate Mary's motherhood in the Octave of Christmas because of the part she plays in the Incarnation of Our Lord. It's a difficult concept: that God should have a mother. But we know that for our salvation, God decided to become man: *The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.* And flesh-and-blood children have mothers.

The meaning of Christ's Incarnation is that we see that God is not distant or incomprehensible, but that God is present and active in the world around us. And this Presence is at the heart of our Catholic understanding of faith: that we approach God in the material reality of this world, through the Church that is the visible community of faith, and through her Sacraments, where we receive God's grace in the real intersection of the visible and invisible realms.

In other words, God is not somewhere else: He is here among us. And salvation is about what God is doing for us.

But Mary's motherhood also shows us that God does not do the things He does for us entirely on His own. Our salvation always depends on our cooperation with God's will. The old theologians used to speculate quite uselessly on how things all might have turned out differently: What if there was no sin, and humanity didn't need salvation? What if God decided not to send Jesus into the world? What if God decided to save us even if we didn't want to be saved?

It's like angels dancing on pins: it's all useless speculation, because sin *did* enter the world, and humanity *does* need to

be redeemed—and perhaps God could accomplish this in a million different and unimaginable ways, but the fact is that He chose to become man. *The word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.*

But God's vast plan for everyone's salvation depended entirely on the word of one woman, who was given the complete freedom and awesome power to say no to God. It's strange enough that God should have a mother, and even stranger that He would ask her how she felt about it. The angel of the Lord told Mary that through the power of the Holy Spirit she would conceive a Son who would be holy, and would be called the Son of God.

But the point is she had the freedom to say yes or no. God does not force anyone to do anything, and He will not even force us to love Him. It's a freedom that many don't really want; they think it would be better if God always made us be good, and kept us from making bad choices. But God gives us the freedom to say yes or no.

And Mary said yes: *Be it done unto me according to Thy word.* And by becoming the Mother of Jesus, she became the Mother of God, because Jesus is True God and True Man.

It's strange to think that God would let so much depend on a single human being saying yes or no. What matters is that Mary said yes, but she didn't have to. In His infinite perfection and power, God does not actually need us for anything. The Creator of all things can accomplish everything on His own—even our salvation—and He could do it all for us and without us. But God wants us to enter into His love, so He asks us to help Him out, and God wants us to say yes.

Some of you probably do exactly the same thing with your children. It might be so much easier and quicker for you to set the dinner table by yourself, instead of letting your kids learn to put the plates and forks out where they should go—especially if sometimes a plate gets dropped or a glass gets broken.

You could do it all for them and without them, but you ask them to help out, and you want them to say yes, because you want what's good for them. That's what love is about. Now maybe you don't give them the complete freedom and power to say no—but God always does, because that's what He has chosen to do.

And this is just how God deals with His children. In Jesus, we see God's infinite power united with Man's unlimited vulnerability. But in us, the balance between God's power and our own weakness depends on the terrible freedom that has been given to us: it is our freedom to turn away from God, to reject His love. God will never not force us to love Him—simply, because without freedom, it wouldn't be love. God always lets everything depend on whether we say yes or no.

And so, in this same freedom and power, Mary said yes and became the Mother of God. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. And as we look to our Blessed Mother, she teaches us, who are her children, too, to treasure the Word of God and to ponder this in our hearts. She invites us to look to Jesus and to come to the table of the Lord, because she wants us to say yes to God.



Mass Intentions

Monday January 15

12:05 pm For the intentions of Thomas Glennon
requested by Anne Hoban

Tuesday January 16

12:05 pm In thanksgiving for Mike's health
requested by his wife, Carol

Wednesday January 17

12:05 pm † Eduardo Villanueva
requested by Tessie Fernandez & Lito Sanchez

Thursday January 18

12:05 pm † Benedicta Sarmiento
requested by Laurie Llarenas

Friday January 19

12:05 pm † Fr. Charles Wolbang
requested by Roger & Mary McCrorie

Saturday January 20

9 am † Fr. Charles Wolbang
requested by Roger & Mary McCrorie

5 pm † Rumolo Estavillo & Julian Molina
requested by Tess, Rick Francisco & Family

Sunday January 21

Third Sunday in ordinary time

9 am For the People of the Parish

11 am In thanksgiving and for the intentions of Nereza Frias on her birthday
requested by her friends of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish



Thursday January 18

12:30 – 1:30 pm Line Dancing [Church hall]
7:30 pm – 9 pm Legion of Mary meeting [*Seniors*]

Friday January 19

3:45 – 5 pm Children's Choir practice

Monday January 22

12:30 – 2 pm Monthly Social

The Lord continually calls us – do we have ears to hear?

Samuel does not recognize God's voice, but he is alert and obedient, listening and ready for action. We hear that he ran when called, and another time he rose. Eli give Samuel the correct response: *Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.* We live in a world of noise and distraction. **Are we ready to answer? Can we even hear?**



MINISTRY WITH MATURING ADULTS

The Ministry with Maturing Adults has already begun to plan activities for 2018. Please save the dates for the following events:

❖ **Line Dancing** every **Thursday** after the 12:05 pm Mass in the Church Hall continuing this **Thursday, January 18th.**

Don't forget your dancing shoes! Actually, you will need a change of shoes. Bring indoor shoes for dancing. What a way to begin the New Year with exercise, fun and friendship.

❖ **January Social and Fellowship - Monday, January 22nd** after the 12:05 pm Mass. Since the previous socials have been very successful we have been asked to continue these gatherings monthly. This one in January includes a special treat. Three gracious women of our parish community who have returned from the Holy Land will share their experiences and memories of their trip with us. We look forward to hearing their stories and insights in a brief presentation after the 12:05 pm followed by light refreshments. Please join us in the Church Hall.



GOD'S GIFT OF LONG LIFE

Continue to check the Bulletin to learn more about upcoming events.



On behalf of the St Vincent de Paul Society, we would like to thank the parishioners and volunteers of Immaculate Heart of Mary parish who helped make our Christmas drive successful.

With your generous donations, our volunteers were able to wrap and deliver over 100 individual gifts to our neighbours in need. In addition, we would like to thank those who sponsored our families and donated gifts. Many families woke up on Christmas day with a tree full of gifts and memories to be made. Thank you for making the holiday season a little brighter. God bless!



2018 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Please pick up your box of envelopes at all Sunday Masses and before the end of January. If your envelope # is above the 300 range, please check the listing in the foyer of the Church before picking up your envelope.

There will be **extra** boxes of envelopes for those wishing to use Church envelopes; and forms, for those wishing to give via the 'Pre-Authorized Giving Plan' [PAG]. **Note: For parishioners currently using PAG, you will still need to pick up a box of envelopes for other collections [exclude weekly collection and repair fund].**

If your box # is in the 8XX series, please pick up a box of envelopes which can be found in the 'EXTRA ENVELOPE' box. Thank you for supporting your parish!



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