

ST. TIMOTHY'S CHURCH
PARISH NEWS

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SOLEMNITY OF MARY—YEAR A

01 January 2021

Parish Priest / Administrator: Fr. Tony Kerin
Secretaries: Millicent, Tues: 9-4pm,
Fri: 1- 5pm
Corrie, Wed-Thurs: 9 - 3pm



Liturgically, the Octave of Christmas commemorates: the Solemnity of the Mother of God; the day designated for prayers for global peace; and the beginning of the New Year. Though the shepherds gain insight into the presence of God by seeing this holy family, it is Mary who holds all these things in her heart. She is the one who ponders the significance of these mysterious events. Mary becomes for

Christians an inspiration of contemplation and reflection. She inspires us to consider deeply the significance of events, lest we go blandly through life without meaning or direction. She inspires us to fidelity to the practices of our faith, practices which are the disciplines of soul that lead the community to a clearer focus on God's presence in human affairs.

PEACE. Its meaning, 'fullness of life', bursts forth in every one of the readings. The ancient blessing of peace is an appropriate start for the New Year. It resonates well with the angels' wish for people of good will. Peace is also our inheritance in Christ. As adopted children of God, we have been given the freedom to live in a godly manner, calling God our *Abba*. Right relationships in the covenant activity of God are the pathways of peace. The beginning of a New Year is a good time to reach out to others and to pray for God's blessing of peace for each dimension of human encounter.

Dianne Bergant CSA was a Professor of Biblical Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago,



“...And the peace of God which, surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”- Philippians 4: 7

PENITENTIAL RITE:

Lord Jesus, you come to us in Word and Sacrament.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the chosen one of God.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the Word made flesh.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

FIRST READING: *Numbers 6: 22-27*

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to **Aaron** and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of **Israel**. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of **Israel**, and I will bless them.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

May God bless us in his mercy.

1. God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. **(R.)**

2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples. you guide the nations on earth. **(R.)**

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R.)**

SECOND READING: *Gal 4: 4-7*

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, '**Abba, Father**', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: *Luke 2: 16-21*

The shepherds hurried away to **Bethlehem** and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.