

Mary, did you know?

As we celebrate the coming of each New Year, it is a time of looking forward to what might be. Maybe there is hope and excitement about a new job ... a new opportunity ... our children growing up and moving on to a new phase in their lives. Often this is a time of mixed feelings, as we look to the “unknowns” that lie ahead with some trepidation and anxiety.

Today, as we celebrate Mary as the Mother of God, I think it is a good time to remember that she, like us, was a creature. When Jesus was born to her, I am sure she dreamed dreams of happiness and joy for her son. The Angel Gabriel told her that she was to bear the Son of God, but he did not tell her all of the details. This is what makes Mary so remarkable: **her extraordinary faith, her heroic trust in God’s providential care.** Not knowing what lie in store for her or for the child she conceived, she said “yes,” when the angel came to her. While it is easy to romanticize Mary’s role, it is worth remembering that she lived in occupied Jerusalem and that the Romans had no tolerance for competitive ruler in Palestine. **Mary, not knowing, simply surrendered herself to God’s care.**



As we approach this New Year, with all the unknowns that lie ahead, it is certainly good to plan, to dream, and to prepare, but more importantly, it is important to remember that we are not in control of the future, that we cannot know what the future holds. In reality, we can only make our best plans, dream our best dreams, and trust in the Lord’s providential care. **Trusting in the Lord is just another way of expressing the idea of “faith.”**

As we wish each other a “Happy New Year” let it be a blessing rather than simply a wish. If you need a good formula for a blessing, take another look at today’s first reading:

**The LORD bless you and keep you!
The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!
The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!**

P.S. I am truly excited to be part of the team at St. Paul as we move from “**Maintenance to Mission.**” Like Mary, I don’t know what lies ahead, but I can’t wait to see the great things God is going to do at St. Paul.

– John McGregor



January 1, 2017

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Mass Intentions

Week of January 2– January 8, 2017:

7:30 am Mon.: Monday night bible study group– Spec. Int.

7:30 am Tues.: Nolen Hughes (RIP)

6:00 pm Wed.: Rosie Morris (RIP)

7:30 am Thurs.: Mary Bandish (RIP)

***10:00 am Fri.: Healing Mass— Mairead Noonan (RIP)**

5:30 pm Sat.: Frank Tilmann (RIP)

8:00 am Sun.: Rosie Morris (RIP)

10:30 am Sun.: Tom Harris Sr (RIP)

Prayer Intentions

Kenny Weikum

Repose of the Soul

Marie Back

Pauline Silmon, mother of Sheri Watts

Adoration This Week: Monday—Thursday 8 am- 12 pm;
Wednesday 6:30 pm—7:30 pm;
****Friday 8 am—10 am**

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 4:30-5:00pm or by appt.

New Announcements

***January 5th– 4:45 pm–** Join the **Armed Forces Ministry** in the Chapel in praying the rosary for our men and women in the Armed forces and for our country.



***January 6th– 10 am Healing Mass** followed by Senior Adult Brunch.



◆ Faith Formation:

Correction: RCIA will resume *Tuesday, Jan. 10th.*

- Wednesday night Religious Education classes will resume on January 11th.

- Sunday Religious Education and Adult Religious Education will resume on January 15th.

Weekly offering for Dec. 25th: \$49,615

2nd collection next weekend: Saltillo Mission

Thank You!

Reminders

****There will be no Nursery or Children' s Liturgy on New Year's Day.**

**Save the Date: Saint Paul Drawdown:
January 28, 2017. More information to come!!**



We will host another **Discovering Christ Session in March!** This is the first session of the ChristLife series. Registration will open in January on our website. ****Due to insufficient numbers we will not be holding Following Christ in January 2017. Another session will be offered later in 2017!**

***Living Everyday with Passion & Purpose led by Matthew Kelly** will be in our area on March 11th. Our parish will have tickets available in 2017!

***Your 2017 offering envelopes are here.** Please pick up your box on the back counter.



Altar flowers are donated by Pat Amos in memory of Eric & Gerrit Amos.

Blessed Mother flowers are donated by Blake and Ann Wilson in honor of our Blessed Virgin Mary.

Applications are now being accepted at Saint Joseph Catholic School for the 2017-2018 school year. You can pick up an application at the school or go online to our website, www.stjoebruins.com, under the Admissions tab and print out or we can mail one to you. Registration begins February 1, 2017 .

SAVE the DATE: "Jeans, Jazz and Bruin Blues," Saint Joseph Catholic School's 24th Annual Draw Down is set for February 18, 2017, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. To sponsor or purchase tickets, visit the Saint Joseph Catholic School website at stjoebruins.com or call the school office at 601-898-4800.

Save the Date: Krewe de Cardinal Mardi Gras Carnival Ball- February 24, 2017 Old Capitol Inn Downtown Jackson 7:00 PM-11:00PM For sponsorship and ticket information please contact Chris Lombard clombard@strichardschool.org

***Altar Flowers and Blessed Mother Flowers sign-up for 2017** is now available on our website. Simply go to our website and go to the registration form tab.

****BULLETIN:** Information must be submitted in writing by note or email to the parish office **no later than 12:00 noon on Wednesdays** for the following weekend. When sending an email, please put **"BULLETIN"** in the subject line. Thank you for your cooperation!

Two weeks ago I addressed this question when writing on **Hospitality**:

If you were the person charged with writing the "Rules of Engagement in Catholic Worship" what are some of the items/conventions you would address? Please write me your responses or send an email.

This week, I'd like to share with you a response from Kenny Weikum. Thank you, Kenny, for writing in your thoughts and perspective on this topic.

- Fr. Gerry

Dear Father Gerry,

I have not been a Catholic very long, but I have attended Catholic services since the '60's. Things have changed greatly since then. Some for the good, and some for the not so good. Years ago, women were covered (veil, scarf, hat) and were dressed for Mass. Men wore dress slacks, dress shirts, and some wore coats and ties. The doors to the chapel were closed from the entrance foyer. When you (or the ushers) opened them and you went inside, you were expected to be "quiet and reverent".

In today's world, some churches, and ours, have the chapel off in some small room. The main church has become a gathering place much like an auditorium. Women come in jeans, loud psychedelic leggings, and even sweat pants. Men come in shorts, t-shirts, jeans, and tennis shoes. Most everyone is acting more casual which in my opinion makes the mass more casual and less reverent.

Now having said that, if we were to make the main church the chapel, with the doors closed and require higher standard of dress, would we have the same **"Perception" of "Leadership" toward a "Generous" and "Accessible", "Intentional" and "Hospitable" environment, with an "Enthusiastic" "Invitation" to an "Encounter" with "Purpose" for "Listening" without "Detachment" to the word of our Lord at Mass?**

I personally would like to see some of our congregation dress more appropriately, and have some use the cry room sooner. But as a whole, we have one of the best, friendliest, and most welcoming congregation I have ever had the pleasure of being a part of. Rules of engagement with our Lord come from within one's heart, and He will lead if we listen.

INTENTION
Invitation
Purpose
Accessible
PERCEPTION
DETACHMENT
ENCOUNTER
Generosity
LISTENING
ENTHUSIASM
Hospitality

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<p>Church Militant TV "Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on God's saving justice, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Dynamiccatholic.com Catholiconline.com</p>	<p> Jayne Welch 601.832.8684 cell 601.607.4777 office Parishioner GRAHAM & ASSOCIATES, INC., REALTOR MLS</p>	<p>SNIPPERS Hair & Nails  Full Service Salon & Barber Shop Tails, Trims, & Treatments 601.825.2332 5230 Hwy 80 E. Pearl, MS The Haircut Spot of Flowood</p>	<p>HARKINS REALTY, INC. COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE OFFICE AND RETAIL SPACE Lakeland Dr. Office Space At River Bend Pl. "Will Build TO SUIT" 601.932.4663 Parishioner</p>
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Church Office Hours: Tuesday — Thursday, 8 am - 4 pm /Friday 8am - 12pm

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