

St. Joan of Arc Parish

Proclaiming and Living the Gospel through Stewardship. All are Welcome.

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Served by the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement

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ADVENT



MASS
INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 21

5:30pm Int. of Marlene and family

Sunday, December 22

10am Parish Community

12pm Leon & Maria Dacanay †

Monday, December 23

5:30 pm Janek Pabian †

Tuesday, December 24

Parish Community

Wednesday, December 25

Parish Community

Thursday, December 26

No Evening Mass

Friday, December 27

5:30pm William Trchala †

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The Sick: Inez Meleca, Charles Coupal, Lucia Xavier da Silveira, Louis Gris, Marianne Chard, Debbie Wagstaff, Mary Kelly, Carmel Foley, Vivian Gonneau, Virginia Kiflit.

The Deceased:

John Robertson, Moya Carton, Edna Schlatau, Cyril Davis.



The Friar's Nook

The fourth gift of the Holy Spirit is Fortitude. Fortitude denotes a firmness of mind in doing good and in avoiding evil, particularly when it is difficult or dangerous to do so, and the confidence to overcome all obstacles, even deadly ones, by virtue of the assurance of everlasting life. Stand up for what is right, even if it means facing rejection, abuse, or harm. Choose what is morally right. Persist in pursuing what is right and good. Patiently endure suffering. Conquer sin and grow in goodness.

The gift of Fortitude is something we often don't even think about. But that doesn't mean we don't use it. When I was in fifth grade, I was walking to my Cub Scout meeting after school. Three boys decided to pick on me. I didn't even know who they were, but they eventually knocked me down and started punching me. As I was trying to protect myself, each of them was pulled off of me by a big sixth grader who I knew by name but was sure he didn't know me. He said sternly "Leave him alone!" Then he asked if I was OK. I said yes and he left. All I could think of was how he saved me from being beaten up and then walked away like the Lone Ranger! His Fortitude enabled him to take on three kids who could have turned on him, yet his firmness made them run away. Something in me changed that day. Whenever I saw somebody being picked on after that, I always interceded and stood up for them.

Pope Francis says about the gift of Fortitude: "A Christian without courage, who does not turn his own strength to good, who does not bother anyone, is a useless Christian." With the gift of fortitude, we don't have to worry about what other people think or do but simply concern ourselves with what God thinks and doing what is right and good. It helps no one if we think about doing the right thing but don't do it. We need to rely on the Spirit's gift of Fortitude to cast out our own fears of what might happen to us. As Jesus taught us it's not all about us but rather about the good we can do for others helping our brothers and sisters especially those who are weaker than us. That's the guidance of the 10 commandments. That's the direction of the beatitudes.

Don't talk yourself out of doing good, any good, for fear of how people will look at you or think about you, or in fact fear of what people may do to you. Jesus came as an example and he gave his life for us. I can say with some degree of surety that we probably won't be crucified in this life so we should do whatever we can relying on the Wisdom of the Spirit and using the Fortitude of the Spirit to act whenever we can.

This Christmas go and be Christ for all those who need him,

Fr. Bob

Wrapped in Swaddling Clothes: the Sacrificial Lamb without Blemish

Finding a firstborn son wrapped in swaddling cloth and lying in a manger would have significance for the shepherds. It was customary for the shepherds to choose the firstborn lamb of the flock as a sacrificial offering for their sins at the temple. In order for it to be without blemish, they would wrap it in swaddling cloths and usually lay it in a manger in order to protect it from being trampled. *Jesus is the Lamb without blemish or spot. (1 Peter 1:19)*



Advent and Christmas Party – A Heartfelt Thank You! We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who supported our parish fundraiser on Sunday, December 15th. Whether you were part of the organizing team, volunteer, donor, or attendee, your participation made this event a success. Thank you!

Congratulations to all the winners of the door prizes, and a special congrats to **Ms. Le Yen (Ticket #279)** for winning the Maple Leafs tickets! We also extend our appreciation to all those who took part in the raffle. Your generosity and support mean so much to our parish community. Thank you once again for making this event memorable!

Lying in a Manger: Symbol of the Eucharist The very name of Jesus' birthplace suggests His title as the Bread of Life. In Hebrew, Bethlehem means, literally, "House of Bread." We look upon the Divine Child lying in the manger - a feeding trough filled with grain. Here, born for us, is the Daily Bread he will himself teach us to pray for everyday of our life. "The manger becomes a reference to the table of God, to which we are invited so as to receive the bread of God," Pope Benedict XVI wrote in *Jesus of Nazareth—The Infancy Narratives*. "From the poverty of Jesus' birth emerges the miracle in which man's redemption is mysteriously accomplished."



Christmas Schedule New Year Schedule

Christmas Eve, December 24

5:30 pm Children's Liturgy & pageant
8:00 pm Christmas Liturgy
12:00 am Christmas Liturgy

Christmas Day, December 25

10:00 am Christmas Liturgy
**No Evening Mass*

**December 26, No Evening Mass*

New Year's Eve, December 31

5:30 pm Mary, The Holy Mother of God Liturgy

New Year's Day, January 1st

10:00 am Mary, The Holy Mother of God Liturgy
**No Evening Mass*

January 2nd, regular schedule for evening Mass



On behalf of the parish office, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. May this joyful season bring peace, love, and abundant blessings to you and your loved ones.

Parish Office Closed
December 23, 2024 to
January 3, 2025

Monthly Offertory 2024

Offertory	November
Envelopes	\$8,745
Loose	\$3,181
PAG	\$6,427
Total	\$18,353

Contributions to the Building Maintenance Fund for the month of November were \$2,782.

ShareLife Campaign Contributions

January to November 2024

Parish	\$9,737.50
Through Archdiocese	\$24,499.00
Total	\$34,236.50

Campaign Parish Goal \$ 62,800.00
Goal reached 54.5%

"And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2 10 - 11)

Please stay for Coffee after the Christmas Eve Mass (5:30pm & 8pm) and Christmas Day (10am).

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