

**MASS INTENTIONS DEC 20<sup>TH</sup> – JAN 4<sup>TH</sup>**

Sat, 20<sup>th</sup> 5 PM Edna DeMary †  
 7 PM Silvino Suintay  
 Sun, 21<sup>st</sup> 9:30 AM For All Parishioners  
 12 PM Mordecai Priland  
 Mon, 22<sup>nd</sup> 9 AM KM, CTG & Joe †  
 r.b. D & L Tchir  
Tue, 23<sup>rd</sup> 9 AM  
 Wed., 24<sup>th</sup> 5 PM  
 7 PM For All Parishioners  
 Thur. 25<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM Patrick, Winnie & Frank †  
Thurs. 25<sup>th</sup> 12 PM  
Fri., 26<sup>th</sup> 9 AM George & Maria, Ira & Inez †  
 Sat, 27<sup>th</sup> 5 PM Joe & Mable, Donna & Harold †  
 7 PM Patricia Rohan †  
 Sun, 28<sup>th</sup> 9:30AM Camille, Anthony & Cedric  
 Sun, 28<sup>th</sup> 12 PM Deceased family & friends  
 r.b. R & M Gaspar Hernández  
 Mon. 29<sup>th</sup> 9 AM Elizabeth & Genevieve †  
 Tues., 30<sup>th</sup> 9 AM Deceased family & friends  
 r.b. G & P Wall

**Mary Mother of God – 2 Bilingual Masses**

Wed., Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 7 PM:  
 Deceased family & friends of A & Espinoza  
 Thurs., Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 9:30 AM:  
Deceased family & friends of D&C Kontowsky  
 Fri., Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 AM:  
Deceased family & friends of G & R Kennedy  
 Sat., Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> 5 PM:  
 Deceased family & friends of M/M Cliff Basel  
 Sat., Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> 7 PM Edgar Apt  
 Sun., Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM Pro Populo  
 12 PM Chay & Luisa Ching

*Parish Offertory for December 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>*

	5:00	7:00	9:30	12:00	Total
Parish	652	259	1,129	754	2,794
RRF*	202	64	424	334	1,024

\*Retirement Fund for Religious  
 Donations for Guadalupe: 978

Please pick up a 2015 envelope set in the vestibule. Kindly pardon and correct any error in spelling or address.

The sign in front of a local church read “Keep Christ in Christmas”. That is half of our need – for “Christmas”, we need both “Christ” and “Mass”. We can find in the nativity scene the anticipation of the Mass. The baby Jesus is in a manger – a feed box for creatures. In the Mass, the Christ gives us His Body for our food. We are created by God to come to know, love, and serve God in this life and prepare to be with God forever in heaven. To “be with” means to be “in Communion”. We receive this Communion by participating in Mass.

When I was young, parents, aunts & uncles, and even teachers worked in a coordinated effort asking, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Children were encouraged to understand the specific skills required for that future goal, and to work now to develop those skills. God wants each of us to grow up to be saints – and we can be saints at any age. The challenge is to continue to develop the skills that help us to stay in Communion.

Mary is the greatest saint – that’s why she is referred to as the “most blessed” Virgin Mary. Sadly, many Christians do not appreciate devotion to the saints. As Catholics, we must be careful to preserve all that Jesus revealed to the Church as necessary for our growth in holiness toward salvation. God continues to give us saints as examples of holiness and to pray for us. God wants us to live the Christian life in a way that others can imitate and to pray for others.

Pope Francis has dedicated 2015 to the consecrated life. Most specifically, this refers to the lives of men and women in religious orders who consecrate their lives to Jesus with the solemn vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Also, individual virgins can take this consecration.

Jesus always expanded our understanding of things, and the Church teaches a wider meaning of the consecrated life in addition to the above. Christians of any vocation can consecrate themselves to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and to Mary. The consecration to Mary is the most important part of the “Quinceañera”, and is fitting for any Christian’s life.

Mary shows us the perfect example. As a child, her parents consecrated her to the service of God. As an engaged woman, she and Joseph her spouse promised perpetual virginity anticipating the Kingdom of God. Preserved from sin with the Immaculate Conception, she was able to accept her calling to be Mother of God. Mary witnessed all the mysteries before and following Jesus’ birth – and teaches us to “hold these things in the heart”. She stayed faithful to her Son even as He died on the cross, and gathered the apostles in the upper room waiting for whatever would come next – the Resurrection. Following the ascension, she gathered them again waiting for whatever came next – the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the world as she had already received the Holy Spirit during her life.

St. Louis de Montfort (1673 – 1716) wrote a classic book to help people devote themselves to Mary. Just 3 years ago, Fr. Michael Gaitley translated this work for modern times adding insights from three other saints: Maximilian Kolbe, John Paul II, and Mother Teresa.

During 33 Thursdays of 2015 I will be speaking about the 33 reflections in this book. I will start in late January, and if you would like to join us please buy yourself a copy. We will have them available in the church in English or Spanish for \$5.

I will speak in English about the topic during Thursday’s 11:30 am Mass, and in Spanish after confessions in the evening. Our efforts involve study in coordination with prayer. That’s what it means for Mary to “hold these things in her heart”. She remembered the events, and thought of them again and again as she learned from Jesus’ life. As we grow, we learn more and more, and we need to go back to the basics and apply them to what we have seen and learned. Dedication to Mary and her example will allow us to bring wisdom to our knowledge.

Time spent adoring Jesus present in the Eucharist is very important for our growth in the faith. At Blessed Trinity, we have this opportunity most Thursdays – but Christmas and New Year’s interrupt the weekly cycle this year. So, please look for ways to make Thursday adoration part of your new year, beginning January 8<sup>th</sup>. Adoration begins after the 11:30 Mass, and continues thru 7:00 pm.