



Our Lady of Sorrows Church

December 25, 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear People:

A blessed Christmas to each one of you.

On a birthday, we usually give gifts to the one whose birthday we celebrate; and we all, hopefully, have a gift for Jesus. But on **this** birthday, the honoree **gives** so many gifts of grace. He gives people the extra grace to worship Him in church when they usually don't, or in these days, to make an act of the will to watch the Mass live streamed on television. The Scriptures say that we cannot even pray without His help. So, He gives people extra grace on His birthday to pray, to reach out to others with kindness, to visit one another and to speak to that relative to whom we would rather not be speaking.

The greatest gift Jesus gives to us is His coming into the world. We all came into the world to live; He came into the world to die so that we might live in heaven for eternity.

God has a way of hiding Himself. He hid Himself as a human infant in Bethlehem. Then, as an adult, His divinity is revealed with His miracle at the wedding feast of Cana, the curing of the blind, the deaf, the crippled, and bringing the dead back to life. Jesus then claimed to be God as He said, "Before Abraham (2000 B.C.) came to be, I am." With this, God was no longer completely hidden.

The God in Him was revealed as He came forth from the grave.

The Christian life is a life which cannot be lived unless Christ exists with His divine grace given to us. So, the hidden God is also seen in people who live the faith.

The effects of the birth of the Savior in our lives should be fourfold:

1. PRAISE: We praise Him for His goodness to us. The Angels, in coming to the shepherds to announce this birth, sang: GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST. We need to do the same.
2. REJOICE: We rejoice that we have a Savior, for who of us can say we don't need the forgiving power of God, saving us through the work of Jesus.

"Rejoice always, Again,
I say 'rejoice'" (Philippians).
3. GIVE THANKS: It is one thing to rejoice; but it is just as important to go back and not just see what has been done for us...but to thank Him for doing this (P.S. Don't forget the tithing card).
4. IMITATE: Just as Jesus has given so much to us, we need to find ways to give to other people. That is the reason for all the gift-giving at Christmas; let us do it in His name. Let us not forget the reason for the season.

When we approach a Nativity scene, we need to say: "Praise to You, God. I am so happy you came to save us. Thank you, a thousand times. Help me to do things for others, as you have taught us to do, by your life, death and resurrection."

With prayers and blessings,
Father Muller

Bishop Raica has extended the dispensation from the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation through Sunday, January 10. We will continue to livestream Masses. The moral obligation of keeping the Lord's Day holy remains, even for those who use the dispensation and do not attend Mass.



Joyce Cunningham, Julie Cunningham, Carmela Yeakle, Ronnie Williams, Amanda Gagliano, Carolyn Jefferson, Bob Doyle, Donald Taccone, Ellen Scalise, Tim Carlisle, Tom James, Mike Skellie, Harriet Dupree, Alan Pizzitola, Kenny Skellie



Mass Intentions

Monday, Dec. 28	Sp. Int. Ann Bruno Dr. Bill Stephens Irene Tomlinson
Tuesday, Dec. 29	Special Intention Tullie Hollis Barbara Mills
Wednesday, Dec. 30	Special Intention Tom Lucas Dr. Bill Stephens
Thursday, Dec. 31	Special Intention Mary Vacarella Richard Thomas
Friday, Jan. 1	Special Intention Peggy Beuerlein Leo Diemert
Saturday, Jan. 2	Dr. Bill & Mildred Stephens Barbara Mills William Walker
Sunday, Jan. 3	People of Parish Vincent Apicella Irene Tomlinson

Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve (Thursday)
6:00 p.m.

New Year's Day (Friday)
7:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
11:30 a.m.
6:00 p.m.



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Honor your father and mother, your wife, your husband, your children, your brother, your sister. Family ties bind us in love and root us in faith. What will you do to strengthen your family ties? (Sirach 3:2-6,12-14)
For families, may they nurture the gift of faith and encourage one another to follow Jesus.

**Annual Respect Life Mass
and Witness for Life
Saturday, January 16, 2021**

Respect Life Mass
9:00 AM · Our Lady of Fatima
708 1st St S, Birmingham

Prayer Vigil and Witness for Life
10:45 AM · Planned Parenthood
1019 1st Ave. North, Birmingham

Pandemic Protocols Encouraged
Contact: 205-447-8796

The Church Office will be closed on January 1. The priests and office staff wish all of you a Happy NEW Year!