
Today is the Feast of the Holy Family



The first Sunday after Christmas, on the liturgical calendar, celebrates the Holy Family. Pope Leo XIII instituted this feast in 1892. He established this feast day to remind families of the sacredness of the family and to provide the laity with a model upon which to structure their own families. In 1974 Pope Paul VI wrote:

On the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (the Sunday within the octave of Christmas) the Church meditates with profound reverence upon the holy life led in the house at Nazareth by Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Man, Mary His Mother, and Joseph the just man (cf. Mt. 1:19).

In this meditating on the interior life of the Holy Family we discover those areas of our family's life that need improving. We also find a model for family life that ultimately leads all its members to heaven. Today, let us pray for the grace to lead lives that imitate those of the Holy Family. As we prepare to leave the stable in Bethlehem let us turn our gaze to the house in Nazareth, for it was in the "ordinary" life of the Holy Family that "extraordinary" holiness was lived.

May the Holy Family continue to bless and guide you and your family.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God January 1, 2018

The title "Mother of God" goes back to the third or fourth century, but the Greek term *Theotokos* ("The God-bearer") was officially consecrated as Catholic doctrine at the Council of Ephesus in 431, thus becoming the first Marian dogma. At the end of the Council of Ephesus, crowds of people marched through the streets shouting: "Praised be the Theotokos!"

This Catholic doctrine is based on the doctrine of Incarnation, as expressed by St. Paul: "God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law" (Galatians 4:4).

In its chapter on Mary's role in the Church, Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution "Lumen Gentium" ("Light of the People") calls Mary "Mother of God" 12 times.

On this day the Catholic Church also celebrates the **World Day of Peace**, a tradition established by Pope Paul VI and confirmed by Saint John Paul II, and continues even today.



As the new year of 2019 is about to begin, please consider joining fellow parishioners, and of course myself, for daily Mass as we journey through the year by reflecting on a different saint of the day. ~ Fr. Irek

Monday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)

5:00 pm + ANDREW DOBBIN - Theresa
+ DOUG & FRANCIS WILSON - a friend

Tuesday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary

9:00 am - for the intentions of all parishioners
11:00 am + MARY DREHER - Daniel & Marianne Levstek

Wednesday, January 2

7:00 pm + JOHN DaCOSTA - Jose and Eduarda Tavares
+ JOSE DaSOUSA - Carmen and Simon
(No confessions and no adoration tonight)

Thursday, January 3

8:00 am - for the intentions of Bob - from Ann & John Davis
- for vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Friday, January 4 - First Friday (no morning Mass)

6:00 pm + KEVIN EZEKIEL - Marg and Finton Marche
+ DORVALINA ARAUJO - Luis Tavares and family
Confessions from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Saturday, January 4

8:00 am + HELEN AND EDMON MARION - Bonnie
5:00 pm + GENEVA AMBEAULT - Angela and Doris
+ IVAN CLEMENS - Kay Normore
+ DORIS DOBBIN - Gerald

Sunday, January 5 - Feast of the Epiphany

9:00 am - for the intentions of all parishioners
11:00 am + PASQUALE BELLISSIMO - from Dominic

Please help keep St. Ambrose Church scent free. We have parishioners who have allergies to fragrances.
Thank you

Just a reminder... the weekly exercise group will resume on Thursday, January 3 in the church hall.

**A Christmas Message from Father Mirek Mejzner SAC,
from the Pallottine Seminary in Poland:**

We are enchanted by the glow of Christmas. We are touched by the simplicity of the cradle and the image of the helpless newborn Child. Our heart trembles when we experience the intimacy of people sharing bread and singing carols together. We wish with all our hearts that these experiences will help us to understand and accept the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God.

Christ Jesus, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God as a thing to be grasped, rather He made Himself humble by taking the form of a servant, so that you, by His poverty, might become rich and be partakers of His divine nature.

Today, for this remarkable gift of intimacy in the person of Jesus Christ, we sing the joyful hymns of gratitude to God. This year we are especially thankful on the 100th anniversary of the Pallottine Seminary in Poland and the constant miracle of priestly vocations. We embrace all the "Friends of the Seminary" with fervent prayers and it is our wish for you that your Christmas might be full of joy and peace, and the New Year of 2019 may bring for you all good blessings and joy with people of good will.

Father Mirek

Thank you!! Many thanks to our parish choirs for leading us in beautiful music to celebrate this joyful and holy season.



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

January 1st 2019 (Holy Day of Obligation)

Masses will be: December 31st 5:00 pm

January 1, 2019 9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Retrouvaille - a Lifeline for troubled marriages

Visit Retrouvaille online: www.retrouvaille.org or
www.helpourmarriage.com Call: 905-664-5212

Husbands and wives are helped to re-establish communication and to gain new insights about themselves as individuals and as a couple.

The program is presented by a team of married couples and a priest. The team couples, who have experienced disillusionment, pain, anger, and conflict, offer hope as they share their personal stories of struggle, reconciliation and healing. You will find courage and strength in the realization that you are not alone in your struggle.

You will be encouraged to look beyond the hurt and pain, in order to rediscover each other in a new and positive way.

The Retrouvaille Weekend will help you discover how listening, forgiveness, communication, and the dialogue process are powerful aids for building a loving and lasting relationship.

**Message from Sister Vera Komar
On behalf of the Mexico Mission**

Dear Fr. Irek and all Parishioners of my dear St. Ambrose Parish, You may wonder, "What's new with the Mexico Mission"? Without being political but just sort of playing with words to help get a message across, and to make a meaningful impact, the following comes to my mind. Now-a-days we hear a lot about Fake News which invites us to ask ourselves ... Where is the Truth? Perhaps, this repeated expression of, Fake News, can create some attitudes of mistrust. And since we all are unique individuals, each one of us deals with it accordingly.

I would like to tie this thought into the following experience I had one day as I was checking my cell phone messages. I had received a message with a photo of a young lady who I did not recognize, so I did not want to open it in case it was a scam or fake message. However, I did not want to delete it because it made me wonder, what's going on, who is this person? Well, I overcame my fear of this possible fake message and clicked to open it.

Great joyful news, it was one of our former girls (whose name I have changed to Maria for privacy reasons). The last time I had seen Maria was when she was around 21 yrs. old and visiting us after she had left the Mission home for about 5 years earlier. This is Maria's true story.

When Maria was 5 years old her father was killed. Her mother had to go to work to survive, so her older teenage sister who worked as a maid for a wealthy elderly couple, took Maria with her. Soon her mother became ill and also died. Maria was left to be cared by her sister. The wealthy elderly couple decided to adopt Maria and so from the age of 5, Maria lived a very good life with the wealthy family. At the age of 15 years old, the couple she lived with died. For some unknown reason her wealthy step-siblings brought her to our Mexico Mission.

Her wealthy step-siblings offer to pay some of the expenses in the Mission to help support Maria. As time went by their visits and financial support became less and less until they never returned. We were now her only family - the Mexico Mission.

Maria did struggle, and had some discipline problems while with us. But at the same time she was very intelligent and did well in school. Now Maria, who is in her mid 30's, messaged me, "...*gracias a sus jalones de orejas termine una Carrera, soy ingeniero quimico*" translated sort of, "thanks for staying on my back, I finished my career, and I'm a chemical engineer". Maria is happily married, has a 5 year old daughter and she also said, "I want to be the best mother for her".

As we celebrate today the Feast of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the Sisters of the Holy Trinity of the Mexico Mission celebrate with you our St. Ambrose Family, the successful news of the outcome of Maria's life, along with thousands of other girls who have lived in our Mission Homes in Mexico since 1925. You, St. Ambrose preach and live the Good News that is truly shown in many ways and one is of your monthly donation for our Mexico Mission.

Felix Navidad and Merry Christmas, from all the Sisters of the Holy Trinity!

Sister Vera Komar