

Welcome

Welcome to Our Lady of Lourdes and Immaculate Conception! We are glad you are here with us today. If you would like to join our Faith Community, please contact our parish office or stop by any time.

Our Lady of Lourdes

Established – 1875

534 N. Wood Street
Gibson City, IL 60936

Mass Schedule

Saturday 5 pm

Sunday 10:30 am

Monday 8 am

Tuesday 8 am

Wednesday 8am

Thursday 5:30 pm

Friday 8 am

Holy Days: 7 am & 7 pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday 8:30-9:30 am

Thursday 6-7 pm (except first

Thursday of month-no Adoration)

First Friday of Month 8:30-9:30

Confession

Saturday 4:30 pm (OLOL)

Any time by Appointment



Immaculate Conception

202 E. Green Street
Roberts, IL 60962

Mass Schedule

Sunday 8:00 am

Confession

Sunday 7:45 am (IC)



Parish Office

Phone & Fax:

(217) 784-4671

General Information

pastor@ololg.org

Address:

534 N. Wood St.

Gibson City, IL 60936

Website

www.ololg.org

JANUARY 1, 2017

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH WORLD DAY OF PEACE ON JANUARY 1, 2017

At the beginning of this New Year, I offer heartfelt wishes of peace to the world's peoples and nations, to heads of state and government, and to religious, civic and community leaders. I wish peace to every man, woman and child, and I pray that the image and likeness of God in each person will enable us to acknowledge one another as sacred gifts endowed with immense dignity. Especially in situations of conflict, let us respect this, our "deepest dignity", and make active nonviolence our way of life.

This is the fiftieth Message for the World Day of Peace. In the first, Blessed Pope Paul VI addressed all peoples, not simply Catholics, with utter clarity. "Peace is the only true direction of human progress—and not the tensions caused by ambitious nationalisms, nor conquests by violence, nor repressions which serve as mainstay for a false civil order". He warned of "the danger of believing that international controversies cannot be resolved by the ways of reason, that is, by negotiations founded on law, justice, and equity, but only by means of deterrent and murderous forces." Instead, citing the encyclical *Pacem in Terris* of his predecessor Saint John XXIII, he extolled "the sense and love of peace founded upon truth, justice, freedom and love". In the intervening fifty years, these words have lost none of their significance or urgency.

On this occasion, I would like to reflect on nonviolence as a style of politics for peace. I ask God to help all of us to cultivate nonviolence in our most personal thoughts and values. May charity and nonviolence govern how we treat each other as individuals, within society and in international life. When victims of violence are able to resist the temptation to retaliate, they become the most credible promoters of nonviolent peacemaking. In the most local and ordinary situations and in the international order, may nonviolence become the hallmark of our decisions, our relationship and our actions, and indeed of political life in all its forms.

MY INVITATION

Peacebuilding through active nonviolence is the natural and necessary complement to the Church's continuing efforts to limit the use of force by the application of moral norms; she does so by her participation in the work of international institutions and through the competent contribution made by so many Christians to the drafting of legislation at all levels. Jesus himself offers a "manual" for this strategy of peacemaking in the Sermon on the Mount. The eight Beatitudes provide a portrait of the person we could describe as blessed, good and authentic. Blessed are the meek, Jesus tells us, the merciful and the peacemakers, those who are pure in heart, and those who hunger and thirst for justice.

This is also a programme and a challenge for political and religious leaders, the heads of international institutions, and business and media executives: to apply the Beatitudes in the exercise of their respective responsibilities. It is a challenge to build up society, communities and businesses by acting as peacemakers. It is to show mercy by refusing to discard people, harm the environment, or seek to win at any cost. To do so requires "the willingness to face conflict head on, to resolve it and to make it a link in the chain of a new process: To act in this way means to choose solidarity as a way of making history and building friendship in society. Active nonviolence is a way of showing that unity is truly more powerful and more fruitful than conflict. Everything in the world is inter-connected. Certainly differences can cause frictions. But let us face them constructively and non-violently, so that "tensions and oppositions can achieve a diversified and life-giving unity," preserving "what is valid and useful on both sides".

I pledge the assistance of the Church in every effort to build peace through active and creative nonviolence. On January 1, 2017, the new Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development will begin its work. It will help the Church to promote in an ever more effective way "the inestimable goods of justice, peace, and care of creation" and concern for "migrants, those in need, the sick, the excluded and marginalized, the imprisoned and the unemployed, as well as victims of armed conflict, natural disasters, and all forms of slavery and torture". Every such response, however modest, helps to build a world free of violence, the first step towards justice and peace.

In conclusion, As is traditional, I am signed this message on December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary is the Queen of Peace. At the birth of her Son, the angels gave glory to God and wished peace on earth to men and women of good will. Let us pray for her guidance.

"All of us want peace. Many people build it day by day through small gestures and acts: many of them are suffering, yet patiently persevere in their efforts to be peacemakers." In 2017, may we dedicate ourselves prayerfully and actively to banishing violence from our hearts, words and deeds, and to becoming nonviolent people and to building nonviolent communities that care for our common home.

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Religious Education
Alyce Hafer

Youth Ministry
Bruce Killian

Music Director
If interested contact
pastor@ololg.org

Parish Council President
Eric Rosenbaum (OLOL)

THIS WEEK'S INTENTIONS

If you wish to have a Mass intention for a loved one, anniversary or other occasion, please contact the parish office.

Mass intentions are \$10.

MON January 2	8:00AM	NO MASS
<i>Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory</i>		
TUE January 3	8:00AM	NO MASS
WED January 4	8:00AM	NO MASS
<i>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</i>		
THU January 5	5:30PM	NO MASS
FRI January 6	8:00AM	NO MASS
SAT January 7	5:00PM (OLL)	+Lyla Hutchcraft
SUN January 8	8:00AM (IC) 10:30AM (OLL)	+Margaret Rock +Bernard Seyller
<i>The Epiphany of The Lord</i>		

Thank You For Your Gifts OLOL

Sunday Total	\$4536.50
Capital Imp.	\$0
Food Pantry Dec. Total	\$41.00
Yr to Date FP	\$222.12
	\$3660.01

Imm Conception

Sunday Total	\$604.80
Capital Imp.	\$0

When we meet our CMAA Goals! OLOL and IC will get back 65% of every dollar received above our goals. Reaching our goals is a great achievement, and continuing to give is even greater!

2016 CMAA Goals
OLOL: 15,825
Goal: (\$12,712)
IC: \$1370
(Goal: \$905)

MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Date	Altar Servers	Lectors	Euch. Minister	Ushers	Homebound Ministry
Sat, January 7 5:00PM	Daxter Chaddock Caine Jost	Marj Brown	Marj Brown	Stan Alt Jerry Brown	Denis & Cherry Fisher
Sun, January 8 10:30AM	Hannah Hathaway Keegan Kutemeier	Ray Hanks	Paul Sarantakos	Brett Beyers Craig Davis	

The first Friday of the month adoration will follow 8AM Mass. The remaining weeks of every month Adoration will be on the usual Thursday evening following 5:30PM Mass and always Tuesday following 8AM Mass.

Baptism

Call the Rectory at least four weeks before the baptism. Instruction for the parents and God-parents is required.

Sick??

If you or a family member is sick or admitted to the hospital or makes a trip to the Emergency Room, please contact Fr. Thomas at (630) 639-0502 .

Marriage

Call the Rectory at least six months before. A six month preparation time is required.

VISITING PRIESTS

While Father Thomas is visiting his family in India. I would like to take the opportunity to welcome our visiting priests!

January 7/8 Fr. Burke Masters
January 21/22 Fr. Joselad
January 14/15 Fr. Dennis Spies
January 28/29 Fr. Dennis Spies

**Matt Warner Flocknote founder challenges all of us to break another world record in 2017!
Let's make the largest group in history to every study catechism even bigger!**

It's free, simple and effective. You get one email a day (Mon-Fri) and cover the entire catechism in a year! Just go to this link: flocknote.com/catechism. There is also Popes in a year. Each weekday morning, you will receive a short, engaging 2-minute something about one Pope. By the end of the year you will know something about every single one! To subscribe just visit the following link: flocknote.com/popets.

Can you think of a more amazing focus for 2017! Happy New Year and very blessed 2017!

The Word From Father Thomas

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AS MOTHER

The little child awakens to self-consciousness through being addressed by the love of his mother...

The interpretation of the mother's smiling and of her whole gift of self is the answer, awakened by her, of love to love, when the "I" is addressed by the "you"...

Nothing higher can be awaited beyond this, so that the fullness of reality is in principle enclosed in this "I" — "you" (as in paradise) and that everything that may be experienced later as disappointment, deficiency, and yearning longing is only descended from this...

The little child does not "consider" whether it will reply with love or nonlove to its mother's inviting smile, for just as the sun entices forth green growth, so does love awaken love; it is in the movement toward the "you" that the "I" becomes aware of itself. By giving itself, it experiences: *I give myself*. By crossing over from itself into what is other than itself, into the open world that offers it space, it experiences its freedom, its knowledge, its being as spirit...

Since the summons by the mother is not addressed to something *in* the child but to the child itself beyond the sum of its qualities (which it can share with other children), precisely in reality the "I" of the child, it experiences at the same time that my "I" is loved, is lovable for my mother, and that my reply can lie only in the gift of this "I"—together with all that may belong to it, although it is not necessary at all to know the individual details of this. Small children throw themselves upon one's lap like a round ball.

~Father Hans Urs von Balthasar

Father von Balthasar (+1988) was an eminent Swiss Catholic theologian who wrote prodigiously.



PARISH EVENTS



Tuesday, January 3

- CALM between 6:30-7PM

Wednesday, January 11

- K of C Mtg 7PM

Saturday, January 14

- Food Pantry 8AM-12NOON

Tuesday, January 17

CALM between 6:30-7pm

Saturday, January 28

- Food Pantry 8AM-12NOON

Tuesday, January 31

- CALM between 6:30-7PM

Calendar

Monday

January 2

Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

1 Jn 2:22-28

Jn 1:19-28

Tuesday

January 3

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:29-3:6

Jn 1:29-34

Wednesday

January 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

1 Jn 3:7-10

Jn 1:35-42

Thursday

January 5

St. John Neumann, Bishop

1 Jn 3:11-21

Jn 1:43-51

Friday

January 6

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 5:5-13

Mk 1:7-11

or Lk 3:23-38

Saturday

January 7

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 5:14-21

Jn 2:1-11

Sunday

January 8

The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Mt 2:1-12

Dear Padre,

Does calling Mary "the Mother of God" mean that she came before God?

No; it simply expresses our belief that Mary is truly the Mother of Jesus, who from the moment of his conception was both human and divine. Catholics believe that God is a Trinity of persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—in one divine nature. We believe that God existed from all eternity and is the source of all created things. We also believe that, to save us from sin, the second person of the Trinity, the Son, took on a human nature. God became one of us in the mystery of the Incarnation.

Luke's Infancy narrative (1:26-38) tells us that God sent Gabriel to Mary to announce that she would have a child, the Son of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary consented, and Jesus Christ was conceived in her womb. Later, Mary is greeted by Elizabeth as "the mother of my Lord" (1:43). This greeting expresses the reality that the Lord, the God of the Hebrew Scriptures, is present in Mary's womb. Other passages testify to the same fact. Mary is the Mother of Jesus. Jesus is God (John 20:28). Therefore, Mary is the Mother of God.

When we honor Mary as "the Mother of God," we are professing our belief that Jesus is truly God. We are not saying that Mary came before God but rather that the Son, who existed from all eternity, "became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14).

Source: *Dear Padre: Questions People Ask*, Liguori, 2003
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

"In Christ...we recognize a human nature and a divine nature, united in the same person in a miraculous and indissoluble way. This holds in an analogous way for the Church."

—General audience, October 29, 2014



Margaret Carey (1/2)
Roger Reum (1/3)
Joyce Freehill (1/4)
Brooks Schmitt (1/5)
Jack Eichelberger (1/6)
Haven Hathaway (1/6)
Nick Roesch (1/7)



Brett & Jody Beyers (1/8)

Pray for the Sick & Homebound

Loretta Bode
Mary Cothorn
Mardelle Duffy
Donovan Gaines
Dick Walter
Mary Masco
Jeff McGuire
Linda Ellington
Greg Delost

If you wish to add the name of a loved one who is sick, please contact the parish office at 217-784-4671 or pastor@ololg.org.

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 1, 2017

Mary, the Holy Mother of God (A)

Nm 6:22-27

Gal 4:4-7

Lk 2:16-21

Like the Morning Star

For the first four centuries following Jesus' ascension, Christians grappled with how to understand how his humanity and divinity commingled in his person. His humanity was evident to all who walked and talked with him. His divinity was also evident to his disciples because of the miracles he worked, not least his death and resurrection. In short, they knew he was fully human, and they knew he was fully God, but how could he be fully both at the same time?

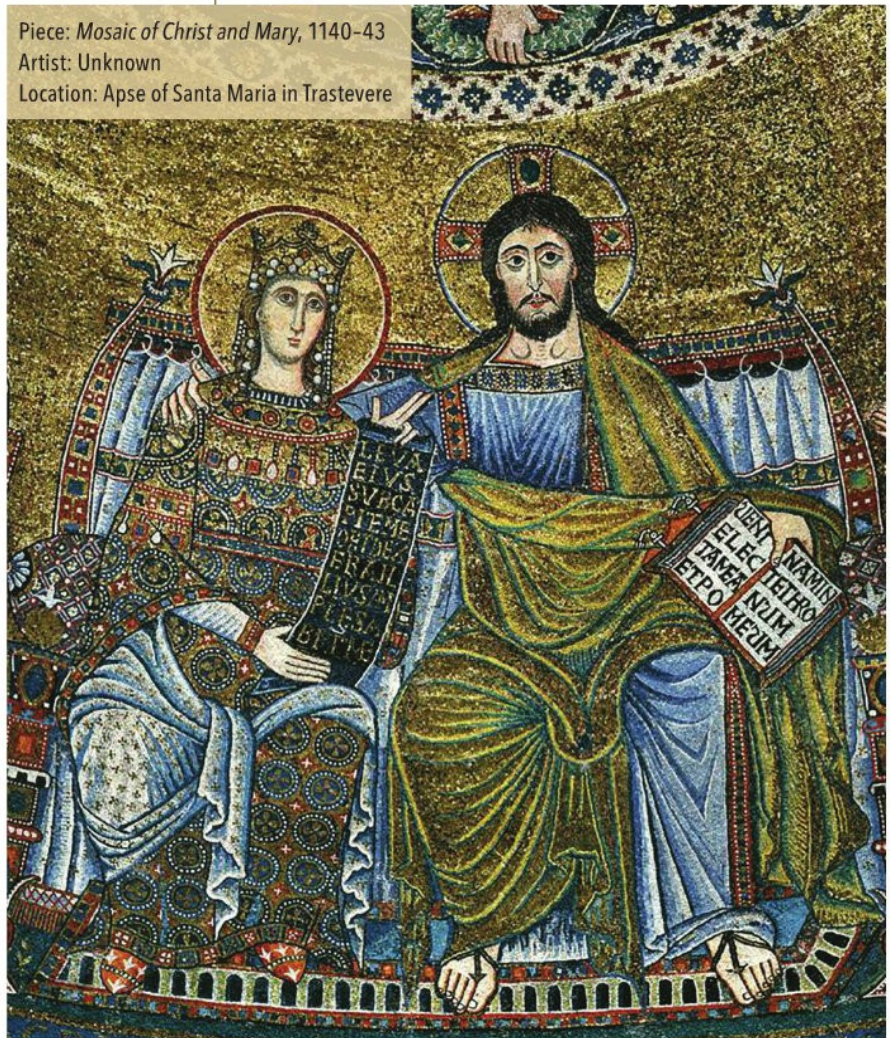
The Council of Ephesus in 431 settled the issue definitively. The Church declared that in the one person of Christ there are two natures: one divine and one human. This same council also declared, as a natural consequence, that the holy virgin is the Mother of God (*Theotokos*), since she conceived and gave birth to the Word of God. So today's feast is one of the oldest, shared by all Christians from the earliest times.

When Mary said "yes" to the Incarnation and gave birth to the

Savior, all of us could bask in his divine light. She is like the morning star that first breaks the horizon and mirrors the light of the sun that she both foretells and follows. In loving Mary, we truly honor her Son. God was the first to praise her through Gabriel—"Hail, favored one!"—and the one who blessed her beyond all other creatures. We are merely following his example.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Piece: Mosaic of Christ and Mary, 1140-43
Artist: Unknown
Location: Apse of Santa Maria in Trastevere



For Reflection

Do I let God's face shine on me by spending time in prayer or before the Eucharist? How can I honor Mary today for her lifelong fidelity and grace?

"The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!" (Numbers 6:24-25).