



Central New York Marian Center, Inc.

December, 2015

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Hours: Mon.—Fri 9am–5pm

Phone (315) 452–4698

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Currently we are blest to be celebrating our 24th year!

The Monthly Message of Our Blessed Mother from Medjugorje: November 25, 2015

“Dear children! Today I am calling all of you: pray for my intentions. Peace is in danger, therefore, little children, pray and be carriers of peace and hope in this restless world where Satan is attacking and tempting in every way. Little children, be firm in prayer and courageous in faith. I am with you and intercede before my Son Jesus for all of you. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

Volunteers Needed, if interested call the center at 452-4698

For visitors, if the CNY Marian Center is locked, you are allowed to obtain a key upstairs at the doctor's office M- F 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The CNY Marian Center is available to hold group Meetings. For a reservation, call the Center and leave a message. Current Prayer groups meet Mon. 7:30 PM, Tues. 7 PM, Thur. 11:00 AM & Fri. 11:00 AM.

HEAVEN CALLS— IS YOUR RINGER ON ?

Blessing and prayers to all our friends, supporters and newsletter subscribers of the Central NY Marian Center.

Do our hearts ring out with joy as we sing “Glory to God in the Highest” with the angels celebrating the birth of **Our Savior**? Are our hearts overwhelmed in adoration as we join the Holy Family and the baby **Jesus** with the shepherds at the manger?

As we also celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe, we continue our journey with the outstretched arms of Our Blessed Mother, bringing us to Her Divine Son and Eternal Life!!!

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Paternal Feast Day of the United States of America, a Holy Day of Obligation December 8, 2015.

The feast of the Blessed Virgin's Immaculate Conception is the most solemn of all those which the Church celebrates during the holy time of Advent; for the Conception of Mary tells us that the Birth of **Jesus** is not far off.

The intention of the Church, in this feast,

is not only to celebrate the anniversary of the happy moment in which began, in the womb of the pious Anne, the life of the ever-glorious Virgin Mary; but also to honor the sublime privilege, by which Mary was preserved from original sin.

On December 8, 1854, **Pope Pius IX** officially declared the Immaculate Conception a dogma of the Church, which means that all Christians are bound to accept it as true. As the Holy Father wrote in the Apostolic Constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*, “We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by **Almighty God**, in view of the merits of **Jesus Christ**, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by **God** and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful.” Four years later the same Virgin Mary, appearing in Lourdes to St Bernadette, confirmed the truth of the doctrine by presenting herself with the title ‘**I am the Immaculate Conception**’.

To become the mother of the Savior, Mary “was enriched by **God** with gifts appropriate to such a role.” The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as “full of grace”. In fact, in order for

Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly born by **God's** grace. Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, “full of grace” through God, was redeemed from the moment of Her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as **Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854. (ccc 490,491)**

Mary, the one who is “full of grace” and the one whom “all generations will called ‘blessed’ has been viewed as unique since the earliest days of the Christian faith. Just as **Christ** has been called the “**new Adam**,” the Church Fathers, especially **Saints Justin (AD 150) and Irenaeus (AD 180)**, saw Mary as the “**new Eve**,” who humbly obeyed **God**, even though Eve disobeyed. The Church Fathers also called Mary the “new ark of the covenant” and *theotokos*, **God-bearer**. It is from these titles that the doctrine of Mary's Immaculate Conception and sinlessness unfolded. Thus **St. Ephrem the Syrian (d. AD 373)** spoke of Mary as without stain or blemish, calling her “all-pure, all-immaculate, all-stainless, all-undefiled, all-incorrupt, all-inviolable” (see *Nisibine Hymns*, and “*Precationes ad Deiparam*”). **St. Ambrose (d. AD 397)** wrote “lift me up not from Sarah, but from Mary, a Virgin not only undefiled, but a Vir-



gin whom grace has made inviolate, free of every stain of sin" (**Commentary on Psalm 118**).

The Feast of Mary's Conception is clearly known as early as the 7th century in the East, and may even date to as early as the 5th century in the Churches of Syria. The feast spread to the West, at least by the 9th century. The Council of Basle in 1439 affirmed that the Immaculate Conception was a pious belief in accord with the Catholic faith. In 1476 **Pope Sixtus IV** approved the feast with its own Mass and Office, and in 1708, **Pope Clement XI** extended the feast to the universal Church, making it a holy day of obligation. In 1847, **Pope Pius IX** proclaimed Mary as patroness of the United States, under the title of her immaculate conception. Thus, to this day, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is the patronal feast of the United States. **Pope Leo XIII**, Nov. 30 1879, raised the feast to a double of the first class.

**The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
December 12, 2015**

Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared in Mexico as the pregnant Mother of **God** to Saint Juan Diego, an Aztec Indian, on December 9, 10, and 12, 1531. She left a Miraculous Image of her appearance on his cactus fiber cloak (**tilma**), which still exists today for all to see in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

On December 9, 1531, in Mexico, Our Lady appeared to **St. Juan Diego**, a poor humble Aztec Indian who had recently converted to the Catholic faith. She identified herself as the ever Virgin Holy Mary, Mother of the True God for whom we live, of the Creator of all things, Lord of heaven and the earth. She asked him to go to the Bishop and tell him to build a church where she said "I will show and offer all of my love, my compassion, my help and my protection to my people." **St. Juan Diego** did as she asked, but the Bishop asked for a sign that this message was really from Our Lady.

Mother of God obeyed without delay or question to the church's local Bishop, and sent her native messenger to the top of the hill in mid-December to gather an assortment of roses for the Bishop.

After complying to the Bishop's request for a sign, She also left for us an image of herself imprinted miraculously on the native's **tilma**, a **poor quality cactus-cloth**, which should have deteriorated in 20 years

but shows no sign of decay 480 years later and still defies all scientific explanations of its origin. It apparently even reflects in Her eyes what was in front of her in 1531.

Her message of love and compassion, and her universal promise of help and protection to all mankind, as well as the story of the apparitions, are described in the "**Nican Mopohua**", a **16th century document written in the native Nahuatl language**.

There is reason to believe that at Tepeyac Mary came in her glorified body, and her actual physical hands rearranged the roses in **St. Juan Diego's tilma**, which makes this apparition very special.

An incredible list of miracles, cures and interventions are attributed to Her. Yearly, between 18 - 20 million pilgrims visit the Basilica, making it Christianity's most visited sanctuary.

Altogether 25 popes have officially honored Our Lady of Guadalupe. His Holiness **St. Pope John Paul II** visited her Sanctuary four times: on his first apostolic trip outside Rome as Pope in 1979, and again in 1990, 1999 and 2002.

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated on December 12th. In 1999, **St. Pope John Paul II**, in his homily from the Solemn Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, during his third visit to the sanctuary, declared the date of December the 12th as a Liturgical Holy Day for the whole continent.

During the same visit **St. Pope John Paul II** entrusted the cause of life to her loving protection, and placed under her motherly care the innocent lives of children, especially those who are in danger of not being born.

Our Lady came to offer faith, hope and consolation to the oppressed natives of Mexico and to reconcile them with their Spanish rulers. She put an end to the bloody human sacrifice of the Aztecs and converted eight million natives in the next seven years!!!

Christmas December 25, 2015

A Holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth. For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.

(Isaiah 9:1-6)

"For the first coming of **Our Lord** in the flesh [December 25, the fourth day] in the reign of Augustus [the forty-second year, and] in the year 5500 [from Adam]. And He suffered in His thirty-third year [March 25, the paraseve, in the eighteenth year of Tiberius Caesar, during the consulate of Rufus and Rubellio]."

The early Christians, who attributed to **Christ** not only the title ("**Kyrios**") but also many other honors that the pagans paid to their "divine" emperors, naturally felt inclined to honor the birth of the Savior. In most places the commemoration of **Christ's birth** was included in the **Feast of the Epiphany** (Manifestation) on January 6, one of the oldest annual feasts. Soon after the end of the last great persecution, about the year 330, the Church in Rome definitely assigned December 25 for the celebration of the birth of **Christ**.

Christmas soon became a feast of such great importance that from the fifth century on it marked the beginning of the ecclesiastical year. After the tenth century, however, the season of Advent came to form an integral part of the Christmas cycle; thus the beginning of the ecclesiastical year was advanced to the first Sunday of Advent.

To the North American continent the Christmas celebration was brought by the missionaries and settlers from the various European nations. The Spaniards established it in their possessions in the sixteenth century, the French in Canada in the seventeenth century. The feast was celebrated with all the splendor of liturgical solemnity and with the traditional customs of the respective nationalities.

The English word "**Christmas**" is based on the same pattern as the old names for other feast days in the liturgical year, such as Michaelmas, Martinmas, Candlemas. The first mention of the name, "**Christes Maesse**," dates from the year 1038. It means "**the Mass of Christ**."

"Merry Christmas" is a greeting that originally meant "blessed, peaceful, pleasant," expressing spiritual joys rather than earthly happiness.

Nicholas was among the most senior bishops who convened the Council of Nicaea in 325 CE. A cult was developed as celebration took place for him on the anniversary of his death, placing gifts in children's stockings on December 6th. The



Nicholas cult spread north until it was adopted by German and Celtic pagans. In 1809 **Dr. Clement Moore**, a professor at Union Seminary, read **Knickerbocker History**, and in 1822 he published a poem based on the character Santa Claus: **“Twas the night before Christmas.”** In 1931, the Coca Cola Corporation contracted the Swedish commercial artist Haddon Sundblom to create a coke-drinking **Santa**.

As **Christ** came into the world as the **“Light of the World.”** Let the light of the **“Prince of Peace, the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings”** remain with us always and open our eyes that we may see Him in all things and in all human beings throughout the world. Let Him open our ears that we may hear His “word” and let Him open our hearts that we may receive Him, live with Him, in Him, and share in His glory for all Eternity!!

For the last year, I have written in my column the true meaning of the liturgical seasons of the church and the Feast Days which are all spiritually connected.

Due to the lax of attitude and repetitious practice of our faith over the years, Our Lady had inspired the Church in the renewal of teaching us the real meaning of



the prayers we pray and why we pray them. Especially how we pray them with the Holy Mass. Our priests make a great effort to teach this faithfully from lecterns and in our many parish programs. We see the results through our change in habits and our renewal of our faith.

This renewal has gone out through the entire church. We have witnessed the breakdown of the family structure, which is the foundation of our society. Still ba-

bies are baptized, not because of the parents, but by the pressure's of the grandparents. We see this with our children's first Communion and Confirmation!! This renewal of faith is slowly bringing families back together. There are more children now than ever in our parishes attending religious ed and teen programs. We will see this continue through 2016.

As this newsletter goes out to the parish's of the Diocese, it goes coast to coast to other parishes, national organizations and major national shrines.

I truly thank everyone for their great emails and phone calls on the content of the newsletter!!!

The format of the 2016 newsletter will change with the pressing issues in church teachings. I will continue to note the Feast Days of the church and the **new year of Divine Mercy called by Pope Francis**. I will continue the **messages of Fatima** and **Eucharistic Miracles**, as 70% of practicing Catholics do not believe in the True Presence. You don't want to miss a single issue!!!

Bud O'Brien, Chairman of the Board

December 2015

Apostolate of Prayer for Priests ..Dioceses of Syracuse

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Heavenly Father, may the Immaculate Virgin prepare our priests for the radiant feast of Christmas.... Mother Catherine Aurelia, Foundress		1) Rev. J Smith FI Rev. P Keebler	2) Rev. S Dudkiewicz Rev. D McCallum SJ	3) Rev. R Fraats Rev. D Maldari SJ	4) Rev. F Mannara Rev. J Neville SJ	5) Rev. R D DeLorme Rev. P Naumann SJ
6) Bishop J M Moynihan	7) Rev. J Smith FI Rev. A Szebenyl SJ	8) All Priests	9) Rev. W Esposito Rev. D Hayes	10) Rev. T Durant Rev. C Martensen SJ	11) Rev. C Auth Rev. R O'Neill	12) Rev. J Phillips Rev. E Zandy
13) Bishop T J Costello	14) Rev. W Gleba Rev. D Bourgeois	15) Rev. T Tran Rev. D Mulhauser SJ	16) Rev. C Opondo-Owora Rev. J Mathews	17) Rev. G P Worn Rev. R Stephenson	18) Rev. P Drobin Rev. J Carr SJ	19) Msgr. R Davern Rev. J Schultz
20) Bishop R J Cunningham	21) Rev. C Ballard Rev. A Keltos OFM Cv	22) Rev. R Kelly Rev. C Seibt	23) Rev. J Amaechi Rev. J Manno	24) Rev. J Zareski Rev. A Hapanowicz	25) Our Holy Father	26) Rev. J Comeskey
27) Rev. R P Mathis Rev. D O'Hara	28) Rev. J Serowik Rev. J Croghan	29) Rev. W Dolan SJ Rev. J Fenlon	30) Rev. J Smegelsky Rev. A Baranski	31) Rev. R Sullivan Rev. C Cerwonka	So that the Divine Emmanuel might find in each of their hearts a little cradle scented by the purity of His all beautiful and loving Mother. Mother Catherine Aurelia, Foundress	



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The CNY Marian Center is pleased to present:

First Friday and First Saturday Devotion Group

Fridays starting with 11AM mass at the Franciscan Villa 6900 Buckley Road with the Sisters of St. Francis of the Newman Communities.

12 noon at the Marian Center a study group will meet in promoting first Fri., Dec. 4 and first Sat. Dec. 5 devotions. Led by [Nancy Graziano](#) who will cover the apparitions given to St. Margaret Mary, instructing her in first Friday devotions. Nancy will also cover the Fatima apparitions that Our Lady requested for first Saturday devotions to console the sorrows of [God, Jesus](#), and the [Virgin Mary](#) for the sins against Her [Immaculate Heart](#). To join the group contact [Nancy at 315-652-3253](#) or [email: Mariancenter.cny@gmail.com](mailto:Mariancenter.cny@gmail.com)

Important Notice to Our Readers

With rising postal and printing cost we need to revise our mailing list for those who truly want to receive this newsletter by mail. Please respond by phone call, postal mail, or email!! We are trying to continue to spread Mary's messages and need your support too. If you would like to be a regular sponsor or provide a donation towards the production of this newsletter & other Marian Center Projects, please fill out the form & mail it with your donation to the **CNY Marian Center, 5180 W. Taft Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212**

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