



Central New York Marian Center, Inc.

December 2016

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Hours: Mon. — Fri 9am– 5pm Phone (315) 452– 4698

Website: cnymariancenter.com

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

The Monthly Message of Our Blessed Mother from Medjugorje: November 25, 2016

“Dear children! Also today, I am calling you to return to prayer. In this time of grace, God has permitted me to lead you towards holiness and a simple life - that in little things you discover God the Creator; that you fall in love with Him; and that your life be a thanksgiving to the Most High for everything He is giving you. Little children, in love, may your life be a gift for others and God will bless you; but you, witness without interest - out of love for God. I am with you and intercede before my Son 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 can obtain a key upstairs at the doctor's office M- F 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The CNY Marian Center is available for group Meetings. For a reservation, call the Center and leave a message. Current Prayer groups meet Mon. 7:30 PM, Tues. 7 PM, First Wed. 6:30 PM and Thur. 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, 2016.

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 Virgin 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, 2016

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 protec-

tion 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. **St. Juan Diego's** feast day is December 9, 2016.

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, 2016

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 parasceve, 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 contract-

ed 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!!

December 30, 2016 is the Feast of the Holy Family.

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

The Christmas tree comes from medieval German mystery plays centered in representations of the Tree of Paradise **(Genesis 2:9)**. **St. Francis of Assisi** popularized the Christmas crib, or crèche, in his celebration at Greccio, Italy, in 1223.

They were soon joined by the Irish, who contributed the ancient Gaelic custom of putting lights in the windows.



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.

Let us all become a living part of **Christmas**. For the story happens, not just once in history, but to each individual sole. **Christ** comes to the world and to each one of us. As we look at the Nativity set, we are defined by our relationship to Him;

we are all Mary’s, Joseph’s, wise men or shepherds. Every time we make an act of faith, receive the Eucharist, we redo Mary’s fate and make **Christmas** happen again!!!

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 2017 newsletter will change with the pressing issues in church teachings. I will continue to note the Feast Days of the church and need to pray the Rosary, the Mass, Adoration and to receive the sacraments.

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!!!

Merry Christmas to all!!!!

Bud O’Brien, Chairman of the Board

December 2016						
Apostolate of Prayer for Priests ..Diocese of Syracuse						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Heavenly Father, may the Immaculate Virgin prepare our priests for the radiant feast of Christmas 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				1) Rev. J Bosco Rev. J Quinn	2) Msgr. J Lang Rev. J Finnegan	3) Rev. E Castronovo
4) Bishop J M Moynihan	5) Rev. P C Pilla Rev. L Kennedy	6) Rev. B Manding	7) Rev. D Casey SJ Rev. J Smegelsky	8) All Priests	9) Rev. L Olguin Rev. R O’Neill	10) Rev. T Ward Rev. P Naumann SJ
11) Bishop T J Costello	12) Rev. T Honold Rev. A Keeffe	13) Rev. R Kelly Rev. J Smycha OFM Cv	14) Rev. E Harer Rev. A Morbito	15) Rev. J Tormey Rev. R Stephenson	16) Rev. J Ahern Rev. R Jones	17) Rev. R Sullivan Rev. G Fukes
18) Bishop R J Cunningham	19) Rev. A Nortz Rev. P Madej	20) Rev. C Vavonese Rev. M Carmola	21) Rev. T Taugher Rev. D Bourgeois	22) Rev. T Servatius Rev. L Sogliuzzo SJ	23) Rev. R Morissette Rev. V Hevern SJ	24) Chorbishop J Faris Rev. R D DeLorme
25) Our Holy Father	26) Rev. A Bebel Rev. P Drobin	27) Rev. J Roark Rev. W Regan	28) Msgr. J Heagerty Rev. R Chryst	29) Rev. T Catucci Rev. T McGrath	30) Rev. A Dunghe SJ Rev. P Keebler	31) Rev. R Fraats Rev. J Hage



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The CNY Marian Center is pleased to present:

The Gesthemane Prayer Group

First Wednesdays at 6:30pm continuing as a monthly program

Anna Costa will lead the prayer groups in private, quiet prayer, **Lectio Divina (Sacred Reading)** to hear the word of God and a time of sharing and fellowship based on her book: *Praying for Those who are Addicted: A Mission of Love, Mercy and Hope.*

Anne Costa is a wife, mother, Catholic speaker and author with six books published through various Catholic presses, including the best-selling *Refresh Me Lord! Meditations to Renew a Woman's Spirit*. She co-hosts *Refresh Me Lord! Radio*, a vehicle for Catholics to speak from the heart about what Jesus has done in their lives! She is also the founder of *Charismata Coaching/Veronica Ministries*, a Catholic media apostolate. Anne is a soul-stirring speaker who combines practical insights with spiritual strategies to tackle some of life's most difficult subjects. Her books and talks focus on such topics as addiction, abuse, depression, forgiveness, HOPE, HEALING miscarriage and loss. Anna has experienced an enormous infusion of God's grace in her own life and passionately shares His words of wisdom and hope with others. Anna Costa's email: annabelle62@aol.com

Important Notice to Our Readers

With rising postal and printing cost we need to revise our mailing list. If you have email, please send us your email to the address below. 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 our many Marian Center Projects throughout the diocese, 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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