



Central New York Marian Center, Inc.

Promoting The Gospel Through The Marian Messages

December 2020

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Currently we are blest to be celebrating our 27th year!

The Monthly Message of Our Blessed Mother from Medjugorje: November 25, 2020

“Dear children! This is a time of love, warmth, prayer and joy. Pray, little children, for little Jesus to be born in your hearts. Open your hearts to Jesus who gives Himself to each of you. God sent me to be joy and hope in this time, and I am saying to you: Without little Jesus you do not have the tenderness or the feeling of Heaven which is hidden in the Newborn. Therefore, little children, work on yourselves. By reading the Sacred Scripture you will discover Jesus' birth and joy, as in the first days which Medjugorje gave to humanity. History will be truth which, also today, is being repeated in you and around you. Work on and build peace through the Sacrament of Confession. Reconcile with God, little children, and you will see miracles around you. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

See a rose Pray a Rosary!



BISHOP LUCIA NOVENA PRAYER FOR AN END TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC www.syrdio.org:

O Mary, full of grace, Patroness of this nation and Mother of the Church, in this time of illness and worldwide need we seek your intercession for the human family before your Son's throne of grace and mercy. We ask for strength in adversity, health in weakness, and comfort in sorrow. Help us, O Blessed Mother, to be filled with confidence and trust in the tender compassion of our God. Let us not be afraid, like our own Saint Marianne Cope, who entrusted her life and ministry among the outcasts of society into the care of our Divine Physician. Continue to watch over all who are sick as well as those who care for them and give wisdom to all who are seeking a cure. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HEAVEN CALLS—IS YOUR RINGER ON ?

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

The month of December is dedicated to the **Immaculate Conception**. The first 24 days of December fall during the liturgical season known as of **Advent** and are represented by the liturgical color **purple**, a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart. The remaining days of December mark the beginning of the **Christmas** season. The liturgical color changes to white or gold, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence.

The Feast of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary December 8, 2020

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***.

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)**

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, 2020

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.

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.

There is reason to believe that at Tepayac **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, 2017.

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, 2020

Today the Church celebrates the Birth of **Jesus Christ**, the first day in the octave of Christmas. Throughout Advent the Church longed ardently for the coming of our Savior. Today she celebrates **His** birth with unrestrained joy. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." The **Son of God** became man to give us a share in that divine life which is eternally **His** in the **Blessed Trinity.** Christmas time begins on December 24 with the first Vespers of the feast and ends on the feast of the **Baptism of Christ.** White vestments reappear in our churches as a sign of joy.

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.**"]

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 assigned December 25 for the celebration of the birth of **Christ.**



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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, 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.

The Christmas feast is a festival full of joy. The Eternal Word has become Man and dwells among us. The longings of the patriarchs and prophets are fulfilled. With the shepherds we hurry to the manger and adore the Incarnate Son of God, who for us and for our salvation descended upon earth. The purpose of the Christmas feast is beautifully expressed in the Preface of the Nativity: "For by the mystery of the Word made flesh the light of Thy glory hath shone anew upon the eyes of our mind; so that while we acknowledge Him a God seen by men, we may be drawn by Him to the love of things unseen."

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.**"

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!!

St. Stephen, First Martyr December 26, 2020

The deacon **Stephen**, stoned in Jerusalem two years after the death of Christ, has always been the object of very special veneration by the faithful. He is the first martyr. The account in the **Acts of the Apostles** relating his arrest and the accusations brought against him emphasize the parallel with our Savior's trial; he was stoned outside the city wall and died, like his Master, praying for his executioners.

THE RELIQUARY



Stephen was "filled with faith and with the Holy Spirit," "full of grace and strength" he showed himself as a man of God, radiating divine grace and apostolic zeal. As the first witness to Christ he confronted his oppo-

nents with quiet courage and the promise made by Jesus (Mark 13.11) was fulfilled: ". . .Disputing with Stephen they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit that spoke."

In St. Stephen, the first martyr, the liturgy emphasizes the imitator of Christ even to the extent of the complete gift of self, to the extent of that great charity which made him pray in his suffering for his executioners.

Feast of the Holy Family December 27, 2020

Scripture tells us practically nothing about the first years and the boyhood of the Child Jesus. All we know are the facts of the sojourn in Egypt, the return to Nazareth, and the incidents that occurred when the twelve-year-old boy accompanied his parents to Jerusalem. The general breakdown of the family, however, at the end of the past century and at the beginning of our own, prompted the popes, especially the far-sighted Leo XIII, to promote the observance of this feast with the hope that it might instill into Christian families something of the faithful love and the devoted attachment that

characterize the family of Nazareth. The primary purpose of the Church in instituting and promoting this feast is to present the Holy Family as the model and exemplar of all Christian families.



Looking at the Holy Family, we see the love, the protection, and the diligent care that they gave to the Redeemer. We can not fail to feel uneasiness, perhaps a shameful thought, for the times in which we have not rendered the appropriate care and attention to the Blessed Eucharist. We can only ask for forgiveness and do penance for all the sacrilegious acts and the lack of respect that are committed in front of the Blessed Eucharist. We can only ask the Lord, through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, for a greater love for their Son Incarnate, who has decided to remain here on earth with us every day until the end of time.

The gifts of the Magi, I do not have. I come forth on bended knee before the Prince of Peace, truly present in every Tabernacle in the world!!!

Holy Innocents, Martyrs December 28, 2020

During this octave of Christmas the Church celebrates the memory of the small children of the neighborhood of Bethlehem put to death by Herod. Sacrificed by a wicked monarch, these innocent lives bear witness to Christ who was persecuted from the time of His birth by a world which would not receive Him. It is Christ Himself who is at stake in this mass-murder of the children; already the choice, for or against Him, is put clearly before men. But the persecutors are powerless, for Christ came to perform a work of salvation that nothing can prevent; when He fell into the hands of His enemies at the time chosen by God it was to redeem the world by His own Blood.

The feast of the Holy Innocents is an excellent time for parents to inaugurate the custom of blessing their children. From the Ritual comes the form which we use on solemn occasions, such as First Communion. But parents can simply sign a cross on the child's forehead with the right thumb dipped in holy water and say: May God bless you, and may He be the Guardian of your heart and mind, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Christmas joy is tempered today by a feeling of sadness. But the Church looks principally to the glory of the children, of these innocent victims, whom she shows us in heaven following the Lamb wherever He goes.

We hope you have enjoyed the write ups about the reliquary on loan to us at the CNY Marian Center. It is presently in our Chapel or you can view it on our website. Go to Pray with the Pilgrim Rosary tab. Please contact us with any intentions by email, cnymariancenter@gmail.com or phone, 315-452-4698.

St. Felix of Cantalice was a Capuchin Friar who served God's people and led a life of devout prayer. The Felician Sisters you may be familiar with are officially known as the Congregation of Sisters of Felix of Cantalice Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi (CSSF).

St. Ambrose fought against Arianism after being made Bishop of Milan in 374. Ambrose had great influence with St. Augustine and became a spiritual father to him after the death of Augustine's father.

St. Roch (Rocco) was born into a wealthy family but gave everything away after his parents' death and became a mendicant pilgrim as a Third Order Franciscan. He is the patron saint of plagues, dogs and dog lovers. He cured many of those infected with the black plague in Rome and other European cities by making the Sign of the Cross over them, a sign for us to use in prayer to protect ourselves and others during the current pandemic.

St. Augustine was the son of St. Monica, a devout Christian who prayed for over 30 years for her son's conversion. Her perseverance was met with great rewards as Augustine is a Doctor of the Catholic Church and the author of *Confessions* and *The City of God*.

St. Bernardine of Siena adopted a strict life of humility and poverty as a Franciscan of the Strict Observance. He continued the work of St. Vincent Ferrer, a Dominican evangelist, preaching to the lapsing Catholics in Italy. He turned down the office of bishop three times and served as Vicar General of the Franciscans for five years, reviving its practice of strict living.

**A Blessed and Merry Christmas to all!!!
Bud O'Brien, Chairman of the Board**



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CNY Marian Center is Pleased to Present

There are no group meetings at the Marian Center currently because of the increase in Covid. *Individuals may come to pray but must follow posted CDC guidelines.*

Please join us in TelePrayer at 516-597-9459: 9:45AM Monday, Divine Mercy Cenacle; 7:30PM Intercessory Rosary; 3PM M-F Divine Mercy Chaplet; 4PM T, W, F Sts. Michael, Joseph and Seven Sorrows Chaplets; 10:10AM SAT Rosary for our Country.

We always appreciate our volunteers and supporters and normally acknowledge it with a Christmas party. This year is less than normal, however, and for everyone's intentions we instead will have a Votive Candle burning from **December 19-26** at St. Daniel's Church, 3004 Court Street, Syracuse. On Sunday, **March 21st**, the 12:15PM Mass will be offered for our volunteers and supporters at St. Daniel's. We hope you can attend. We are planning on an informal summer picnic to thank you all, details will follow in 2021. **Many thanks for all you do for the Marian Center.**

We invite you to pray daily for the Marian Center with the following prayer

Holy Mary, "chosen to be the Mother of God and your mother"; * Jesus gave you to us at the Cross. We pray for your intercession that the mission given by God to the Central New York Marian Center will be fulfilled. May we, your children, give our Fiat for His Will to be done. Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us. Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us. Queen of Peace, *Queen of Divine Mercy*,** pray for us. Amen.

*spoken by Our Lady in her February 2, 2020 message **From 12/31/19 homily of Archbishop Luigi Pezzuti

May you be blessed this Christmas with the love of our infant Saviour, Jesus

For more information: www.cnymariancenter.com; Call 315-452-4698; Email: mariancenter.cny@gmail.com
Central New York Marian Center, 5180 West Taft Road, North Syracuse 13212

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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