

Central New York Marian Center, Inc.

Promoting The Gospel Through The Marian Messages

January & February
2023

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Currently we are blest to be celebrating our 30th year!

The Monthly Message of Our Blessed Mother from Medjugorje: November 25, 2022

“Dear children! The Most High sent me to you to teach you how to pray. Prayer opens hearts and gives hope, and faith is born and strengthened. Little children, with love I am calling you: return to God, because God is your love and hope. You have no future if you do not decide for God and that is why I am with you to guide you to decide for conversion and life, and not for death. 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.

Do our hearts ring out with joy in proclaiming the **Holy Mother of God**, Her highest title in the Catholic Church and our very own Heavenly Mother?

The month of January is dedicated to the **Holy Name of Jesus**, which is celebrated on January 3. The first ten days of January fall during the liturgical season known as **Christmas** which is represented by the liturgical color white — the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored). The remaining days of January are the beginning of **Ordinary Time**, which is represented by the liturgical color **green**. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection.

The month of January is dedicated to the **Holy Name of Jesus**. "In the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth" (Phil 2:10). Christ's name is chosen in heaven, and the **Angel Gabriel** announces it when he informs the **Blessed Virgin** of the incarnation: "**Behold thou shalt conceive in thy**

womb and shalt bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name **Jesus**". It is a name that has marvelous implications, for it means "**savior**." The very name bespeaks the magnitude of His mission, His infinite love, a love that will cause Him to offer Himself up for us.

Mary, the Holy Mother of God January 1, 2023

New Year's Day, the octave day of Christmas, the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of the Holy Mother of God**, the divine and virginal motherhood of the **Blessed Virgin**.



Mother of God is Mary's highest title and roles in the Church. From all eternity, **God** chose the Virgin of Nazareth to be the Mother of His Son. With her "fiat" at the Annunciation, she became the **Theotokos**,

the **Mother of God** (CCC no. 495). At Calvary, **God**, in the person of **Christ**, gave His Mother to all mankind as our spiritual Mother, so that through Her we might come to Him, as through Her He came to us. In A.D. 431, the third general council of the Church at Ephesus (the Council of Ephesus) defined as Catholic dogma that the **Blessed Virgin is the Mother of God (Theotokos)**; the Council also reasserted the teaching of the truth that there is but one divine person in **Christ**. This feast is a holy day of obligation.

As we look at the nativity scene we see hope and promise immersed in the figures surrounding the manger, pulling us closer to the child. We see our **Heavenly Mother**, that with her "yes" to being the Mother of Our Savior. Because of Her "yes," Bethlehem was the small village where **Jesus**, in whom the hope of **God** and the hope of man meet, is born. We see **St. Joseph**, through the message of our Angel, saying "yes" to taking the Mother of our Savior for his wife and becoming the **Holy Family**.

How many of us really say "yes" to Our Lord and our Lady and the will of the Father in His Divine Plan for each of us? Before we close our eyes at night, let us offer up Our Heavenly Mother's response to the angel. "Be it done

unto me, according to thy Word." When we arise to a new day in our life, let us pray the prayer of the **Angel of Peace** given to the children of **Fatima**.

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You! I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You!

The Epiphany of the Lord January 6, 2023



The Feast of the **Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ** is one of the oldest Christian feasts, though, throughout the centuries, it has celebrated a variety of things.

Epiphany comes from a Greek verb meaning "to reveal," and all of the various events celebrated by the **Feast of the Epiphany** are revelations of **Christ** to man.

Epiphany in **Christianity** is a feast celebrating the 'shining forth' or revelation of **God** to mankind in human form, in the person of **Jesus Christ**. The observance had its origins in the **eastern Christian church**, and included the birth of **Jesus Christ**; the visit of the three **Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar)** who arrived in **Bethlehem**.

The gifts of the **Magi** we do not possess but let us all offer up our Hearts, Mind's, Bodies and Souls to the **Prince of Peace, Lord of Lords and King of Kings!!!** What gifts can we bring to the manger? Some of us have rich talents to bring to Christ; others, like the shepherds, have only themselves, their poverty, their work. What matters is not what we give but whether we give, how much we give (all, like the widows pence), and how we give freely, (for **God** loves a cheerful giver). Remember: Life too is a gift. **God** gives us our lives, our very existence, and then His life in substitution when we forfeited ours by sin. Our fundamental response to **God** must be like His to us: the gift of self.

Baptism of the Lord January 8, 2023

Today we celebrate the **baptism of Christ** in the Jordan. This is the second epiphany, or

manifestation, of the Lord. The past, the present, and the future are made manifest in this **epiphany**.

The most holy one placed Himself among us, the unclean and sinners. The **Son of God** freely humbled Himself at the hand of the Baptist. By His baptism in the Jordan, **Christ** manifests His humility and dedicates Himself to the redemption of man. He takes upon Himself the sins of the whole world and buries them in the waters of the Jordan. — *The Light of the World* by **Benedict Baur, O.S.B.**



Today the Church celebrates the **Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord**. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or **epiphany** which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire **Trinity** intervenes.

In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of **Christ** in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the **Baptism of Christ**. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Many of the Fathers of the Church, as well as the medieval Scholastics, saw **Christ's** Baptism as the institution of the sacrament. His **Flesh** blessed the water, and the descent of the **Holy Spirit** (in the form of a dove) and the voice of **God the Father** announcing that this was **His Son**, in Whom He was well pleased, marked the beginning of **Christ's** public ministry.

Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle January 25, 2023

St. Paul was born at Tarsus, Cilicia, of Jewish parents who were descended from the tribe of Benjamin. He was a Roman citizen from birth. As he was "a young man" at the stoning of Stephen and "an old man" when writing to Philemon, about the year 63, he was probably born around the beginning of the Christian era.

Entrusted with a formal mission from the high priest, he departed for Damascus to arrest

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the Christians there and bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he was nearing Damascus, about noon, a light from heaven suddenly blazed round him. **Jesus** with His glorified body appeared to him and addressed him, turning him away from his apparently successful career.

An immediate transformation was wrought in the soul of **St. Paul**. He was suddenly converted to the Christian Faith. He was baptized, changed his name from Saul to Paul, and began travelling and preaching the Faith.

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord February 2, 2023

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of **Jesus** and is also known as **Candlemas** day. The Presentation or **Our Lord** bridges the two seasons, Christmas and Easter! In addition, the faithful may receive in February two of the four major public sacramental that the Church confers during the liturgical year: blessed candles and the blessing of throats.

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes February 11, 2023

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in the apostolic constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*. A little more than three years later, on February 11, 1858, a young lady appeared to **Bernadette Soubirous**. This began a series of visions. During the apparition on March 25, the lady identified herself with the words: "**I am the Immaculate Conception.**"

The pilgrimage of Lourdes is founded on the apparitions of the **Blessed Virgin** to a poor, fourteen-year-old girl, **Bernadette Soubirous**. The first apparition occurred February 11, 1858. There were eighteen in all; the last took place July 16, of the same year. Bernadette often fell into an ecstasy. The mysterious vision she saw in the hollow of the rock Massabielle was that of a young and beautiful lady. "Lovelier than I have ever seen" said the child. But the girl was the only one who saw the vision, although sometimes many stood there with her. Now and then the apparition spoke to the seer who also was the only one who heard the voice. Thus, she one day told her to drink of a mysterious fountain, in the grotto itself, the existence of which was unknown, and of which there was no sign, but which immediately gushed forth. On another occasion the apparition bade Bernadette go and tell the priests she wished a



chapel to be built on the spot and processions to be made to the grotto. At first the clergy were incredulous. It was only four years later, in 1862, that the bishop of the diocese declared the faithful "justified in believing the

reality of the apparition". **A basilica was built upon the rock of Massabielle by M. Peyramale, the parish priest.**

In 1873 the great "national" French pilgrimages were inaugurated. Three years later the basilica was consecrated and the statue solemnly crowned. In 1883 the foundation stone of another church was laid, as the first was no longer large enough. It was built at the foot of the basilica and was consecrated in 1901 and called the **Church of the Rosary**. **Pope Leo XIII** authorized a special office and a Mass, in commemoration of the apparition, and in 1907 **Pius X** extended the observance of this feast to the entire Church; it is now observed on February 11.

Through that humble girl, **Mary** revitalized and continues to revitalize the faith of millions of people. People began to flock to Lourdes from other parts of France and from all over the world. In 1862 Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions and authorized the significance of **Our Lady of Lourdes** for the diocese. The **Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes became worldwide in 1907.**

Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and healing, but even more of faith. Church authorities have recognized over 60 miraculous cures, although there have probably been many more. To people of faith this is not surprising. It is a continuation of **Jesus' healing miracles** now performed at the intercession of His mother. Some would say that the greater miracles are hidden. There still may be people who doubt the apparitions of Lourdes. Perhaps the best that can be said to them are the words that introduce the film **The Song of Bernadette**: "For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe, no explanation is possible." **Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, located in Syracuse, are currently leading virtual pilgrimages.**

(www.lourdesvolunteers.org)

Bernadette was born on January 7th 1844, into a loving and devoted family. As a young 14 year old girl, **Bernadette Soubirous had 18 visions of the Blessed Lady** in a grotto in the outskirts of Lourdes. She died in 1879 at the Convent at Nevers. She received Beatification in 1925 and Canonization in 1933 under **Pope Pius XI**, not so much for the content of her visions, but rather for her simplicity and holiness of her life. 30 years after her death, **St. Bernadette's** body was exhumed and found to be intact. Since 1925, the body of **St. Bernadette** is preserved in a shrine in the chapel of the Convent of St. Gildard of Nevers.

Feast of the Chair of St. Peter February 22, 2023

This feast brings to mind the mission of teacher and pastor conferred by **Christ** on **Peter**, and continued in an unbroken line down to the present **Pope**. We celebrate the unity of the Church, founded upon the Apostle, and renew our assent to the Magisterium of the Roman Pontiff, extended both to truths which are solemnly defined *ex cathedra*, and to all the acts of the ordinary **Magisterium**.

"We shall find in the Gospel that **Jesus** to himself the inviolable promise which makes him the foundation of the Church. **Christ**, willing to begin the mystery of unity in His Church, among all His disciples chose twelve; among the twelve He chose one. The first, Simon, who is called Peter. Here, in a second separation, **St. Peter** is set at the head, and called for that reason by the name of Peter, 'which **Jesus Christ**,' says **St. Mark**, 'had given him,' in order to prepare, as you will see, the work which He was proposing to raise all His building on that stone.

Jesus Christ, who is the true Stone, strong of Himself, to Simon, who is only the stone by the strength which **Jesus Christ** imparts to him. It is to him that **Christ** speaks, and in speaking acts on him, and stamps upon him His own immovableness. And I, He says, say to you, you are Peter; and, He adds, upon this rock I will build my Church, and, He concludes, the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. To prepare him for that honor **Jesus Christ**, who knows that faith in Himself is the foundation of His Church, inspires Peter with a faith worthy to be the foundation of that admirable building. **You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.** By that bold preaching of the faith he draws strength."



The liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the **Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum)**. Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in fasting and prayer (**CC 540,1095, 1438**).

The season of Lent is the time the church gives us to re-examine our lives in the light of the word and the call of **Jesus: "Be converted and believe in the Gospel"** and in the light of **Our Lady's** messages of prayer, penance and sacrifice given to us for many years.

Lent (the word "Lent" comes from the Old English "lencten", Meaning "springtime") lasts from Ash Wednesday to the Vespers of Holy Saturday - forty days and six Sundays. **The Latin name for Lent, Quadragesima, means forty and refers to the forty days Christ spent in the desert** which is the origin of the Season. The last two weeks of Lent are known as "**Passiontide**," **made up of Passion Week and Holy Week. The last three days of Holy Week - Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday - are known as the "Sacred Triduum."**

The liturgical use of ashes originates in the Old Testament times. Ashes symbolized mourning, mortality, penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "**Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**" Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from **God**.

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the **Palm Sunday** celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that **God** is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance.



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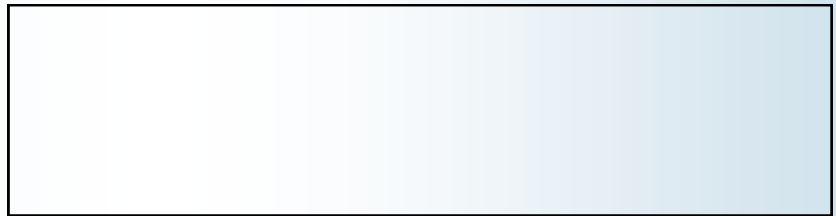
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CNY Marian Center is Pleased to Present

We continue to make and provide rosaries to parishes, hospitals, nursing homes, small groups and individuals. Please keep our ministry in prayer.

Join the **Intercessory Rosary group** at the Marian Center **Mondays 7PM**, *weather permitting*. **TelePrayer** (dial 516-597-9459) continues **3PM M-F** Divine Mercy; **4PM: Tue.** St. Michael Chaplet; **Wed.** St. Joseph Sorrows and Joys; **Fri.** Seven Sorrows Rosary; **10:10AM Sat.** Weekly Rosary.

We ask for your prayers for the Marian Center: *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.*

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

The CNY Marian Center wishes a very Merry and Blessed Christmas to all! May the Peace, Joy and Love of the Christ Child bless you and your families this Christmas Season. Thank you for all you do for the CNY Marian Center and your continuing prayers for our ministry.

