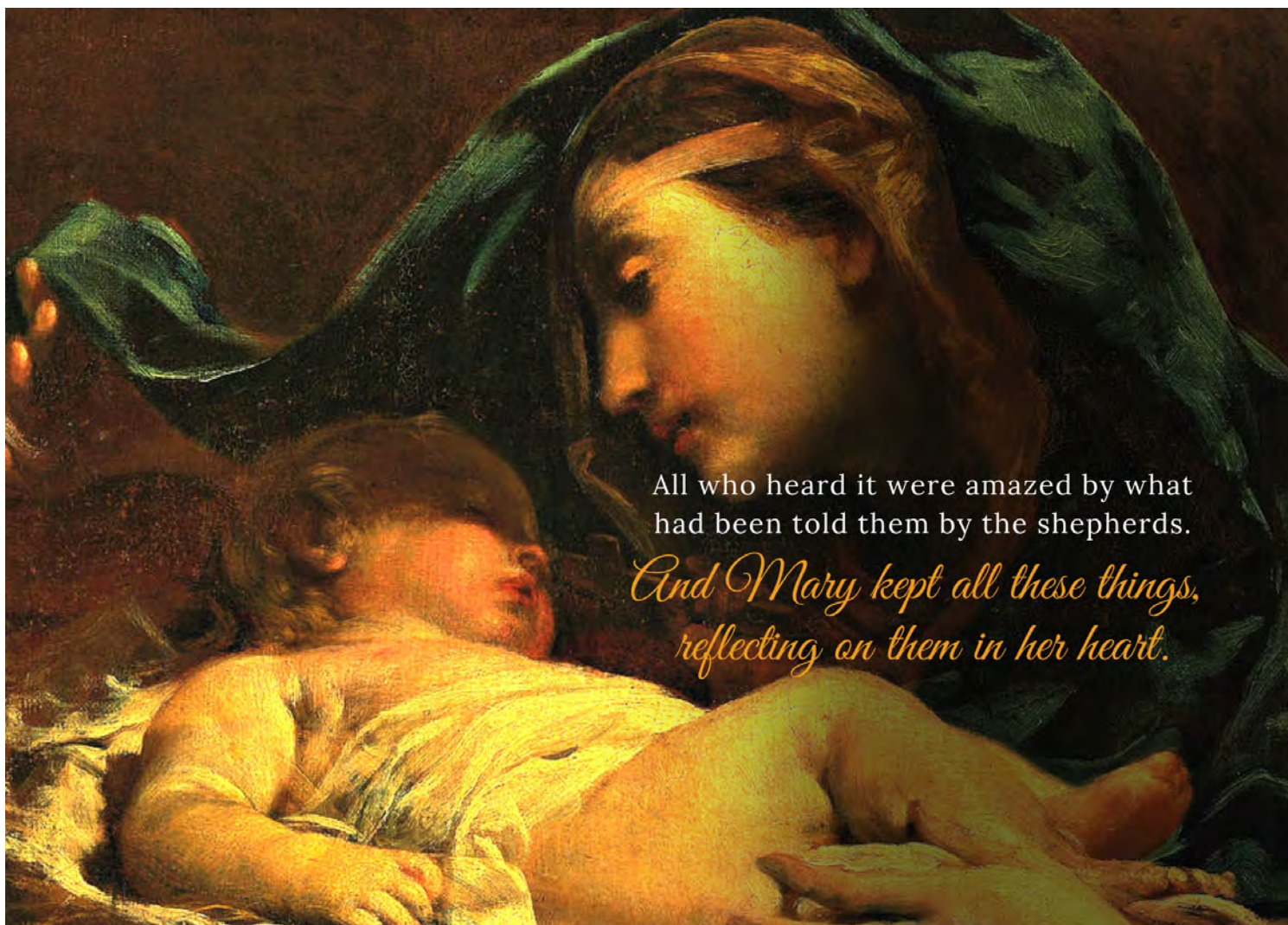




TO GUIDE. TO INSPIRE. TO SERVE.

January 1, 2023 | VOLUME 53 NUMBER 1 | Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God





GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

We hide ourselves and our secrets from God because we are afraid. Even Mary can seem too perfect to approach. The shepherds find the strength to speak to Mary and Joseph at the moment they see the child in the manger. They open their hearts and share what they've experienced. Saint Luke writes of the shepherds, "When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child."

When I was a college student, I visited Rome. Beggars often approached and said, "Mangia? Mangia?" I didn't speak Italian and thought, "Why are they speaking about the Christmas nativity

scene?" My friend said, "Mangia means eat. They're hungry." That's when I realized more deeply than ever before that Mary puts her baby in a place designed for hungry animals to eat.

See that baby in the manger in your heart. Imagine Mary kneeling nearby looking at you with love. She doesn't cling to God for herself. In that cave, from the beginning, she quietly offers her son to hungry souls. The manger means vulnerable self-offering love. That's the sign. This week that same manger opens our hearts to tell Mary about our lives, too.

— Father John Muir

When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. - Lk 2:17-19

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

"So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites,
and I will bless them." (Nm 6:27)

PSALM:

May God bless us in his mercy. (Ps 67)

SECOND READING:

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son,
born of a woman. (Gal 4:4)

GOSPEL:

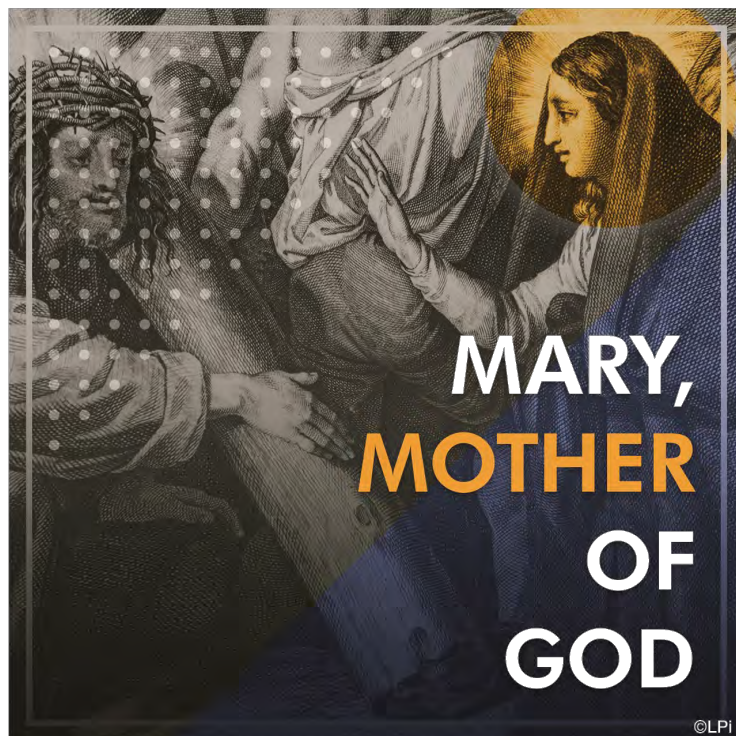
The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem
and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in
the manger. (Lk 2:16)

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 1, 2023

- Sunday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God, National Migration Week,
New Year's Day
- Monday: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops
and Doctors of the Church
- Tuesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus
- Wednesday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
- Thursday: St. John Neumann, Bishop
- Friday: St. André Bessette, Religious
- Saturday: St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
- Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord



Happy New Year!

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making our path easy,
But by making us sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from us,
But by taking fear from our heart;
Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping our face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making our life always pleasant,
But by showing us when people and their causes need us most,
and by making us anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to us for the year ahead.

- Author Unknown; Adapted by Debra Mooney

Saint of the Week

St. John Neumann, patron saint of educators, immigrants, and sick children, was the first male saint to be canonized from the USA. An immigrant himself, he expanded Catholic education in his region from 2 schools to 100 & ministered in 6 different languages!

Prayer

Prayer for St. John Neumann's intercession

O St. John Neumann, your ardent desire of bringing all souls to Christ impelled you to leave home and country; teach us to live worthily in the spirit of our baptism which makes us all children of the one Heavenly Father and brothers of Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the family of God.

Obtain for us that complete dedication in the service of the needy, the weak, the afflicted, and the abandoned which so characterized your life. Help us to walk perseveringly in the difficult and at times painful paths of duty, strengthened by the Body and Blood of our Redeemer and under the watchful protection of Mary our Mother. May death still find us on the sure road to our Father's house, with the light of living faith in our hearts.

(Prayer Source: <https://stjohnneumann.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Prayers-to-St.-John-Neumann.pdf>)

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- Chalk Your Door - Feast of the Epiphany

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Novena for Life Jan. 24 - Feb. 1

STM Knights of Columbus members and their families invite the parish to join them in praying a novena, nine days of prayer, for the protection of human life, January 24 thru February 1. On Tuesdays, Jan. 24 and 31, the novena will be prayed in the church after 6 pm Mass, and on other days, the novena will be prayed in the Mother Teresa room at 6:30 pm.

We are pleased that **Deacon Art Miller** will be coming to STM to facilitate a Lenten mission focusing on **HOPE**.

Deacon Art Miller serves at St. Mary's Church in Simsbury, CT. He's an author, radio host, revivalist and retired businessman, and is the former director of the Office for Black Catholic Ministries for the Archdiocese of Hartford.



Mark plans to join us
March 13-15, 2023



Pope Francis
@Pontifex



In the womb of a woman, God and mankind are united, never to be separated again. In God, there will forever be our humanity and Mary will forever be the Mother of God.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Jan. 3 - 6 p.m.: Martha Salario, Martha Dupuy, Martha, Calvin Bajon, Anna Gan

Thursday, Jan. 5 - 8:45 a.m.: Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, Jan. 7 - 4:30 p.m.: Souls in Purgatory

Sunday, Jan. 8 - 8 a.m.: Martha Dupuy; **10 a.m.:** Thomas Webre; **5 p.m.:** Souls in Purgatory

SANCTUARY LIGHTING

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Martha Salario the week of Jan. 1 as requested by Frances and Kevin Mitchelson.

FLOWER DONATIONS

The flowers in front of the ambo were donated in memory of Hudson J. Hargroder last weekend, Dec. 24-25, by Mary and Rory Lato.

The flowers under the crucifix were donated in memory of Andrew H. Littlefield last weekend, Dec. 24-25, by Debbie Littlefield.

PRAYER LINE

For serious or urgent prayer requests, call Sharon Hebert at 225-978-1246 (leave your name and phone number if there is no answer), or send a request by email to prayerline@stmbr.org.

PRAYER LIST

To add a name to the prayer list for 2023, contact Elise in the church office (225.275.3940, morane@stmbr.org) to have their name added to the list for 2023.

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spiritual growth of the parish family.*

OUR PARISH FAMILY

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the families of **Jerry Campbell** and **Thomas Farrell**.

DAILY MASSES

Tuesday: 6:00 pm

Thursday: 8:45 am

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 4:30 pm Vigil

Sunday: 8 am, 10 am, and 5 pm

RECONCILIATION

Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Saturdays from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Also by appointment.

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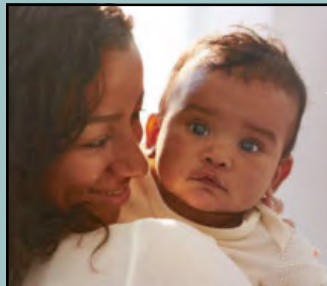
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