ST. ANDREW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE CONSOLATA MISSIONARIES SERVE ST. ANDREW'S COMMUNITY SINCE 2003

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PARISH TEAM

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The Nativity of the Lord

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD | DEC. 25, 2022 | ST. ANDREW CHURCH

Welcome home to St. Andrew The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day) - Year A

Pondering the Birth of Christ

So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. 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. Luke 2:16–19

Merry Christmas! Our Advent preparations have been completed, and we are now invited by our Lord to enter into the glorious celebration of His birth!

How well do you understand the awe-inspiring mystery of Christmas? How fully do you comprehend the significance of God becoming a human, born of a virgin? Though many are quite familiar with the beautiful and humble story of the birth of the Savior of the World, that familiarity can have the surprising negative effect of keeping our intellect from deeply probing the depths of the meaning of what we celebrate.

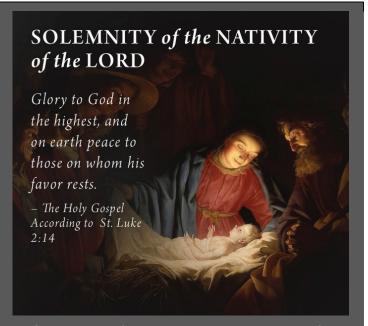
Notice the last line of the Gospel passage quoted above: "And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." What a beautiful line to ponder this Christmas day. Mother Mary was the one person who would have understood the mystery of the birth of her Son, the Son of God, the Savior of the World, far more deeply than anyone else. It was to her that the Archangel Gabriel appeared, announcing her pregnancy and His birth. It was her who carried her Son, the Son of God, in her Immaculate womb for nine months. It was to her that Elizabeth, her cousin, cried out, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:42). It was Mary who was the Immaculate Conception, the one who was preserved from all sin throughout her life. And it was her who gave birth to this Child, carried Him in her arms and nursed Him at her breast. Our Blessed Mother, more than any other, understood the incredible event that had taken place in her life.

But, again, the Gospel above says that "Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." One thing this tells us is that even Mary, the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of God, needed time to ponder, reflect and savor this most holy mystery. She never doubted, but her faith continually deepened, and her heart pondered the unfathomable and incomprehensible mystery of the Incarnation.

Another thing this tells us is that there is no end to the depth of the "pondering" to which we must commit ourselves if we want to enter more deeply into the mystery of the birth of the Son of God. Reading the story, setting up a nativity scene, sharing Christmas cards, attending Mass and the like are central to a holy celebration of Christmas. But "pondering" and "reflecting," especially during prayer and especially at the Christmas Mass, will have the effect of drawing us ever deeper into this Mystery of our Faith.

Reflect, today, with our Blessed Mother. Ponder the Incarnation. Place yourself into the scene that first Christmas. Hear the sounds of the town. Smell the smells of the stable. Watch as the shepherds come forth in adoration. And enter the mystery more fully, acknowledging that the more you know about the mystery of Christmas, the more you know how little you actually know and understand. But that humble realization is the first step to a deeper understanding of what we celebrate this day.

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The Priest and Deacons serving at St. Andrew Parish, together with the staff and leaders of pastoral groups, wish each of you a blessed and joyful celebration of Christ's Birth.

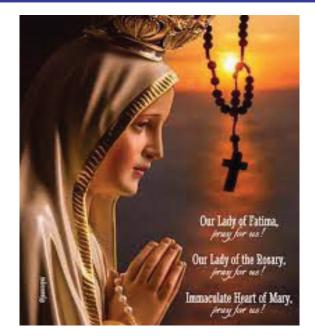
MERRY CHRISTMAS

ST. ANDREW'S CHRISTMAS 2022 AND NEW YEAR'S 2023 SCHEDULE CHRISTMAS NOVENA - SIMBANG GABI - MASS AT DAWN FROM DECEMBER 16 - 24 AT 5:30AM SAT. DEC. 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE SUN. DEC. 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY • 5:30 PM - CHRISTMAS FAMILY MASS • 8:00 AM (ENGLISH) • 2:00 PM (TWI MASS) • 9:30 AM (ITALIAN MASS) 10:30 PM - CAROLS SINGING 5:30 PM (SPANISH) 11:00AM (ENGLISH) 11:30 PM - MIDNIGHT MASS 7:00PM (UGANDAN) 12:30PM (ENGLISH) ON MON. DECEMBER 26 - MASS AT 8AM ONLY - NO EVENING MASS SAT. DEC. 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE SUN. JAN. 1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY • 2:00 PM (TWI MASS) • 5:30 PM (COUNASS) 8:00 AM (ENGLISH) • 10:30 PM - PRIVATE ADORATION OF 9:30 AM (ITALIAN MASS) **BABY JESUS** 11:00AM (ENGLISH) 7:00PM (UGANDAN) 11:30PM - THANKSGIVING MIDNIGHT MASS 12:30PM (ENGLISH) ON MON. JAN 2 - MASS AT 8:00 AM ONLY - NO EVENING MASS

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WEEKLY LITURGY ~ MASS INTENTIONS
$\dagger = For the soul of \forall = Special Intention$
Saturday, Dec 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE
8:30 am - (No Mass)
5:30pm -† Harry and Anne McAvoy, by Carol Anne McAvoy
- † Gertrude Morgan, by Alma and family
10:30pm - Carols Singing
11:30pm - Midnight Mass (No personal Intentions)
Sunday, Dec 25 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
(CHRISTMAS DAY)
8 am - Thanksgiving for Emmanuel Anochie on his birthday, by Onye Anochie
9:30 am - <i>(Ital Mass)</i> † Christina, Tony, Louie and Eugenio, by
Mary and family
11 am - For the people of the Parish
12:30pm -† Lancy Lawrence Desa, by wife and family
2 pm - (<i>Twi Ghana</i>)
5:30 pm - (<i>Spanish Mass</i>) Acción de gracias al Niño Jesús, by
José Pulla
Monday, Dec 26 - St. Stephen - (BOXING DAY)
8 am - † Julia Sealy, by Dianne
7 pm - (No Mass)
Tuesday, Dec 27 - St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
8 am - † Teresita Balauag (6 yrs death anniversary), by family
7 pm - (<i>No Intention</i>)
Wednesday, Dec 28 - The Holy Innocents
8 am - (No Intention)
7 pm - (<i>No Intention</i>)
Thursday, Dec 29 - St. Thomas Becket
8 am - † Mercedes Pulla, by José Pulla
7 pm - (No Intention)
Friday, Dec 30 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
8 am - Thanksgiving for blessings received, by Florencia
Champion
7 pm - (No Intention)
Saturday, Dec 31 - St. Sylvester I – (New Year's Eve)
8:30 am - (No Mass)
5:30pm - (No Mass)
10:30pm - Private Adoration of Baby Jesus
11:30pm - Thanksgiving Mass (No personal Intentions)
Sunday, Jan 1 - SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (NEW YEAR'S DAY)
8 am - † Pina Damico, by Rosa Wharton
9:30 am - (<i>Ital Mass</i>) † Domenico De Vincenzis, by family
11 am - For the people of the Parish
12:30pm - (<i>No Intention</i>)
2 pm - (Twi Ghana)
5:30 pm - (Spanish Mass) Acción de gracias a la Virgen de la
Nube, by José Pulla



For those who would like to receive the Statue of Our Lady of Fátima in their homes please write your name and phone number on the list posted at the entrance of the Church.

DONATIONS 2022

Please note that all donations to be credited for Year 2022 and tax receipt issued must be received by no later than December 31, 2022. Any donations received in January 2023 cannot be applied towards the 2022 Taxation year. They will be put towards Year 2023. It will be announce when Tax receipts for Year 2022 are ready. We thank everyone for your continued support of our parish.

SL ShareLife Let us say yes to living the Gospel

NEW: Your year-end gift will double in value! From now until the end of 2022, your contribution to our parish's ShareLife campaign will be matched by an anonymous donor up to a total of \$1 million.

"Our faith community has always responded heroically to the needs around us, particularly through our enthusiastic support of ShareLife. We can help alleviate the suffering of those whose lives have been upended by the pandemic. Let us say yes to Jesus' call to live the Gospel by providing for those in need." – Cardinal Thomas Collins

Please donate at the parish using a ShareLife envelope or at sharelife.org/donate.

Thank you for helping end hunger by donating generously to ShareLife today.

