

Christ Child Catholic Church
Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the
Challenges of Loving Service

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SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE
HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
January 1, 2017

The Water Lily

A priest was giving a retreat to some college students in Chicago. One afternoon one of the students came into the priest's room to talk. The conversation eventually drifted to a discussion of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Suddenly the student turned to the priest and said, "Would you like to hear a poem I wrote about Mary?" The priest said, "I'd love to hear it." The student flipped opens a small spiral notebook and read. The poem went something like this:
"Today I saw a water lily growing in a pond. It had the most beautiful color of yellow I'd ever seen.
"The lily – a precious treasure- was unconcerned about whether anyone noticed its astounding beauty.
"As I sat there, watching it unfolding its petals noiselessly, I thought of Mary, pregnant with Jesus.
She, too, was a precious treasure. She, too, was unconcerned about whether anyone noticed her astounding beauty.

But to those who did, she shared a secret. Her beauty came not from herself, but from Jesus' life unfolding its noiseless petals within her."

That poem underscores the reason for celebrating today's feast. It's not to honor Mary in some isolated way, but to honor her because she was chosen to be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God.
It's not accidental that the Church's official teaching about Mary is summed up: first, that she was sinless; second, that she was a virgin; third, that she was taken bodily to heaven; and fourth, that she is the Mother of God. The last teaching, of course, is the key one. The other three- her immaculate conception, or sinlessness, her perpetual virginity, and her assumption- all stem from the fact that she was chosen to be the Mother of God...

The practical message of today's feast is obvious. We should imitate Mary and cooperate with God's gifts, just as she did. God has given us health; God has given us freedom; God has given us talents; God has given us friends; God has given us faith; God has given us the promise of eternal life. Just as Mary responded generously to the gifts God gave her, so we should respond generously to the gifts God gave us. If we are looking for a New Year's resolution, we could do no better than to resolve to imitate Mary's prayerfulness during the year ahead.

Let me close by repeating over you the 4,000-year-old blessing of Aaron that is found in today's first reading:
"The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon kindly and give you peace!"

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By request or appointment
BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS:
Call the office for an appointment.

Anointing of the Sick

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually by appointment

For Pregnancy Support:

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

Prayer Group in the Parish

Every Tuesday at 8:15 a.m. All Women and All Men.

MASS INTENTIONS December 31 – Jan 6

Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sobrak-Seaton Family
Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Martina Durham
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. McGrath Family
Thursday 8:00 a.m. Communion Services
Friday 8:00 a.m. Communion Services

Stewardship of Treasury

December 24 & 25, 2016 Christmas Collection
Total \$5,391.00

Thank you and God bless your generosity!

The Food Pantry needs you!
Did you remember to bring an offering for the Holy Cross Food Pantry... Please bring food every Sunday. Thank You!

We Need Your Support

The 2017 Collection Envelopes are in the entrance to the CHURCH.
Please pick up your box if you had one last year.
God bless you, Fr. Eugenio

MAY THE BLESSINGS OF CHRISTMAS BE WITH YOU TODAY AND THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR – 2017 -

Check out our Website

We would like to invite and encourage everyone to take a look at our Parish website at www.christchild.org
Weekly bulletins, information about parish ministries, helpful links and calendars are available on this site.

Men's Club Meeting

Next Wednesday January 11th at 6:30 p.m. gather and Dinner at 7 pm. Community Center. We have very good food and support for one another!

Women's Club/Prayer Group

We meet the 4th Wednesday of each month, January 25th from 7-8:30 pm. Our focus is social and spiritual at the same time. Please contact Ruth McCormick ruthmcc@flash.net

A LIFELINE FOR MARRIAGE

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriage. For confidential information about, or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on Jan 27 – 29, 2017 call 831-479-1260 or email: Monterey@RetroCA.com or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com

THANK YOU!

Season of ADVENT and CHRISTMAS, full of HOPE and JOY!
Thanks to the many brothers and sisters, who worked with great dedication to make it all happen - music, art, flowers, money, talent and children in the procession of Christmas Eve and also to Santa Claus!
God bless and reward your family with many gifts.

Fr. Eugenio and the entire Parish!

"Gracias"