

*Our Lady
of*



Fatima

Vol. 1 No. 2

PARISH NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2017

Stewardship Prayer for February

Gracious God, You sent us Your Spirit to help us live the Gospel according to the gifts we have been given. Show us how to be good stewards of your grace and passionate followers of Christ, Your Son. Grant us the wisdom to recognize that through His gift of the Eucharist there is one bread, and we are one body. Give us the strength to proclaim His Good News in word and deed. And teach us to live, no longer for ourselves, but in Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Amen.

A Prayer for Healing

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, you care for us with all that we need. You shower us with your love and send people into our lives to help care for us, especially in time of sickness or pain.

I pray for healing for myself and for all who suffer because of illness or advanced age. I pray especially for (mention your loved ones by name).

In the midst of our pain and weakness, strengthen our faith that we might be filled with hope in you. In the midst of our frustration and discouragement, give us patience that we might accept our own limitations. In the midst of our loneliness and fears, help us know we are not alone, that you walk with us each moment of our lives.

Be with us, Lord, in our time of need. Heal us in body, soul and spirit that we may rejoice in your grace and blessings in this world and come to enjoy the fullness of your presence in the life to come.

We make this prayer in your name, for you are our risen Lord. Amen.

~Apostles of the Holy Spirit - Bulletin



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY 2016

The Our Lady of Fatima Filipino American Association hosted the parish children's Christmas party on December 17. The event was chaired by longtime parishioner **Evelyn Nuguid**.

It was a very successful party attended by more than 50 people, including children, parents and grandparents. They were joined by the Altar Servers. The attendees were welcomed by **Fr. Paul Da Silva** who gave a very inspirational Christmas message.

Rochelle Guanlao and **Philip Giannino** coordinated the games for the guests. Parents and children participated together. Music was provided by **Father Virgil Tolentino** and was enjoyed by all. You should have heard the fathers sing the Christmas songs!

The highlight of the party of course was the visit of Santa Claus from the North Pole. He distributed gifts to the children. **Larry Farinhas** volunteered to play Santa Claus.

Delicious food was prepared by **Steven Nuguid**, a professional chef. Each family contributed desserts and water. The parish family would like to thank all who volunteered to make this a fun way to celebrate Christmas for the children.

This is a reprint with the correct picture.

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The Newsletter will be published
MONTHLY

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

The foundation of the Christian family is Christian marriage. Matrimony is a Sacrament at the Service of Communion and vocation to a state of life that joins one baptized man and one baptized woman in a lifelong covenant of love for “the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring.”² It is constituted by the covenant itself, which is a permanent commitment to mutual self-giving and acceptance.³

Matrimony is a Sacrament of the New Covenant; it was instituted by Christ, who entrusted it to his Church, and it signifies and confers grace.⁴ It increases sanctifying grace and also conveys a specific sacramental grace to strengthen the couple in all aspects of married life, particularly their mutual love.⁵

Old Testament roots. The marriage covenant was designed by God at the very beginning of creation. The Book of Genesis reveals that our first parents were created in the state of marriage. When God saw that it was “not good that the man should be alone,”⁶ he made a woman that they might be in union together, thus, he is the “author of marriage.”⁷ As the Catechism teaches, “The vocation to marriage is written in the very nature of man and woman as they came from the hand of the Creator.”⁸

God who created man out of love also calls him to love, the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being. For man is created in the image and likeness of God who is himself love.⁹ Since God created him man and woman, their mutual love becomes an image of the absolute and unfailing love with which God loves man. It is good, very good, in the Creator’s eyes. And this love which God blesses is intended to be fruitful and to be realized in the common work of watching over creation: “And God blessed them, and God said to them: ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it.’”¹⁰ (CCC1604)

The union of a man and a woman in marriage reflects the image and likeness of God, because God is love, and marriage is a union of love.¹¹ This was God’s original plan for marriage.

~Introduction to Catholicism for Adults ~ Rev. James Socias

1. St. Josemaria Escriva, *Christ is Passing By*, 25.

2. CIC,1055§1; quoted in CCC 1601;cf.GS .48§ 1.

3. Cf. CCC1601.

4. Cf. CCC1617.

5. St. Josemaria Escriva, *Christ Is Passing By*, 23.

6. Gn. 2:18

7. Gs 48.

8. CCC 1603

9. Cf. Gn 1:27; 1 Jn 4:8, 16.

10. Gn 1:28; cf. 1:31.

11. Cf. Gn 1:26-28.



Adoration Chapel

Guardians are needed for the following hours:

Wednesday 8:00 AM, 3:00 PM, 7:00 PM & Saturday 12 NOON

Please call Gerry 732-266-4145 or Pat 732-752-4479

O heart of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament, burning with love for us, inflame our hearts with love for thee.

Sts. Cyril and Methodius

February 14

These two brothers were from Thessalonica, Greece. Methodius was born in 815 and Cyril in 827. Both became priests and shared the same holy desires to spread the faith. They became missionaries to the Slav nations of Moravia, Bohemia and Bulgaria. This is how it happened: In 862, just seven years before Cyril's death, the prince of Moravia asked for missionaries. They would bring the Good News of Jesus and the Church to his country. The prince added one more request: that the missionaries speak the language of his people.

The two brothers, Cyril and Methodius, volunteered and were accepted. They realized that they were being asked to leave their own country, language and culture behind out of love for Jesus. They did this willingly. Cyril and Methodius invented a Slav alphabet. They translated the Bible and the Church's liturgy into the Slav language. Because of them, the people were able to receive Christianity in words they could understand.

Some in the Church at that time did not approve of the use of a native language in the Church's liturgy. The two brothers faced criticism. They were called to Rome to have a meeting with the pope. Some people may have been surprised at the way the meeting went. Pope Adrian II showed his gratitude and admiration for the two missionaries. He approved their methods of spreading the faith and named them bishops. It seems that Cyril, a monk, died before he could actually be consecrated a bishop but Methodius was. Cyril died on February 14, 869. He is buried in the Church of St. Clement in Rome. Methodius returned to the Slav countries and continued his labors for fifteen more years. He died on April 6, 885.

On December 31, 1980, Pope John Paul II declared St. Cyril and St. Methodius co-patrons of Europe along with St. Benedict.

Let us admire the generosity of these two holy brothers. We can ask them to inspire us with courage and kindness. They will help us be respectful of all people even if their religion, customs, language and culture may be different from our own.

~Saints For Young Readers For Every Day - (Vol1) Daughters of St. Paul

VOCATION INTERCESSION FOR FEBRUARY

*That all those in consecrated life be empowered to serve
and blessed with radiant joy, we pray to the Lord.*

