

*Our Lady
of*



Fatima

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

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Why God Became Man

The Nicene Creed succinctly summarizes the reason for the Incarnation:

“For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven.”¹

The Son of God became man for several reasons, including:

- to save us and reconcile us with God;
- to reveal to us the love of God;
- to model for us the way of sanctity; and
- to allow us to share in the divine nature, the life of the Blessed Trinity, so we may become children of God.

The Incarnation is a tremendous and gratuitous gift from God.

- It strengthens our faith since God speaks to us.
- It increases our hope, revealing to us that God wants every soul to be saved, and sparks within us the desire to seek Christ.
- It enhances our charity because knowing how much God loves us encourages us to return that love.
- It inspires us to live better because since God himself has assumed it, the life of Christ is an example that illustrates the great dignity of human nature.

1. *Roman Missal, Third Edition, The Liturgy of the Word, no. 18.*

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.



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A Stewardship Prayer for the New Year

Good and gracious God, a new year is upon us, giving us impressions of crisp beginnings, new goals, and a fresh sense of hope.

Though we cling to our own expectations for the year ahead, we know you alone are the sovereign of our future, Lord of our lives, and the source of whatever good we may do. We thank you, O Lord, for the gift of the days and weeks you have entrusted to us. Teach us to be good stewards of our time ahead that we go about our days keeping you at the center of our lives.

In the midst of our daily pursuits and activities, focus our eyes on the needs of others; help us respond with compassion to the poor; and open our hearts to a suffering world.

We ask for a year of peace, a year that brings an end to hatred and strife, and a year where we find a deeper joy that can only be found in you.

We ask this through Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

~International Catholic Stewardship Council January 2017 e-Bulletin

Two Marian Dogmas

The church cannot teach anything contrary to Sacred Scripture, which, together with Sacred Tradition, forms the Deposit of Faith. The dogmas of the Blessed Virgin Mary's Immaculate Conception and Assumption are grounded in Tradition and have been taught by the Magisterium since apostolic times.

The Archangel Gabriel's description of the Blessed virgin Mary as "full of grace" suggests a level of sanctity in her that would not be possible had she born with the stain of Original Sin. The Church has discerned that the purity that spared her from Original Sin was part of God's preparation for her to be the Mother of his Only-Begotten Son.

The Assumption is intimately related to the Immaculate Conception and to the Blessed Virgin Mary's lifelong freedom from sin, and this tradition also dates to the apostles. If death is a consequence of Original sin and she was free of any stain of Original sin and also did not commit any actual sins during her lifetime, then it is reasonable to believe she did not have to experience death. Adam and Eve themselves would not have died except for their introduction of sin into the world, and so the new Eve, by avoiding all sin, was privileged to be taken into Heaven by her Son body and soul.

~Introduction to Catholicism for Adults - Rev. James Socias

ST. JOHN NEUMANN

January 5

Not only was John Neumann quiet, he was short, five feet, two inches tall. His eyes were very kind and he smiled a lot. He was born on March 28, 1811, in Bohemia, now part of Czech Republic. His parents were Philip and Agnes Neumann. He had four sisters and a brother. After college, John entered the seminary. When time came for ordination, the bishop was sick. The date was never set because Bohemia had enough priests at the time. Since he had been reading about missionary activities in the United States, John decided to go to America to ask for ordination. He walked most of the way to France and then boarded the ship Europa.

John arrived in Manhattan on June 9, 1836. Bishop Jon Dubois was very happy to see him. There were only thirty-six priests for the two hundred thousand Catholics living in the state of New York and part of New Jersey. Just sixteen days after his arrival, John was ordained a priest and sent to Buffalo. There he would help Father Pax care for his parish, which was nine hundred square miles in size. Father Pax gave him the choice of the city of Buffalo or of the country area. Now John's heroic character began to show. He chose the most difficult, the country area. He decided to stay in a little town with an unfinished church. Once it was completed, he moved to another town that had a log church. There he built himself a small log cabin. He hardly ever lit a fire and often lived on bread and water. He only slept a few hours each night. The farms in his area were far apart. John had to walk long distances to reach his people. They were German, French, Irish and Scotch. In school, John had learned eight languages. Now he added English and Gaelic. Before he died, he knew twelve languages.

John joined the Redemptorist order and continued his missionary work. He became bishop of Philadelphia in 1852. Bishop Neumann built fifty churches and began building a cathedral. He opened almost one hundred schools, and the number of parochial school students grew from five hundred to nine thousand. Bishop Neumann's health never improved much, but people were still very surprised when he died suddenly on January 5, 1860. He was walking home from an appointment when he fell to the ground with a stroke. He was carried into the nearest house and died there at 3:00 P.M. In March Bishop Neumann would have been forty-nine. He was proclaimed a saint by Pope Paul VI on June 19, 1977.

We might not be as smart, strong, or active as we would like to be. But that doesn't stop God from loving us and from using us to do wonderful things. When we have to do something difficult, we can ask St. John Neumann's help.

~Saints for Young Readers for every day - Volume 1

VOCATION INTERCESSION FOR JANUARY

*That men and women may answer the call to share the light of Christ,
we pray to the Lord.*

