

SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

The Newsletter and Bulletin of the Oratory of Saint Francis of Assisi

CHRISTMASTIDE 2021

LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

**FOR A CHILD is born to us,
and a Son is given to us, and
the government is upon His
shoulder: and His Name shall
be called, Wonderful,
Counsellor, God the Mighty,
the Father of the world to come,
the Prince of Peace. – Isaias
9:6**

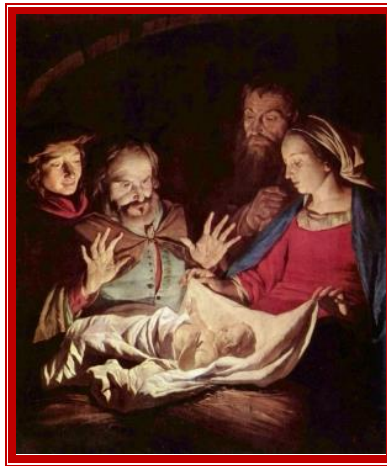
THE solemn prophecy of Isaias is fulfilled in Our Lord Jesus Christ, and all doubt is dispelled concerning the Divine Nature of the **Word made Flesh**: He is God!

It seems that God has given a special grace this Christmas to His remnant faithful: an intimate feast of the Nativity made more joyful on account being only with true family and friends. The *retail Christmas* was made inadequate by the scourge of the politics of the COVID, and instead true believers kept a light in the windows of their hearts for the Holy Family. The children of our little chapel made Advent Lamps, sang songs and snacked on baked apples and spiced oranges after Holy Mass on the Second Sunday in Advent, which was also S. Nicholas Day (6 December).

When faithful Catholics leave the secular world to its own devices and instead choose convivial activities with each other Christ remains in their midst; the children forget the fears and disruptions of the

world and cling to their parents who comfort them with the Holy Faith and the joy of the birth of Our Lord and King Jesus Christ. Remember that *Emanuel* means *God is with Us* and He is!

Praise be the Lord Who has given to His people the gift of Himself, and is praised by the very children who are touched and loved by His Most Sacred Heart (*cf.* Psalm 8:2/3).



***O Come let us adore Him:
Christ the Lord!***

I wish to send each and every reader of this little newsletter the blessing of hope and the gift of true love: the charity of Christ Our Newborn King! We must remain ever joyful and grateful that God has loved us so much and so well that even in the midst of our current inconveniences, all of our own making, He pours forth His graces and choicest blessings: *O God, of Whose mercies there is no number, and of Whose goodness the treasure is infinite; we render thanks to Thy most gracious majesty for the gifts Thou has bestowed upon us, evermore beseeching Thy clemency, that as Thou grantest the petitions*

of them that ask Thee, Thou wilt never forsake them, but wilt prepare them for the reward to come (Collect from the Votive Mass of Thanksgiving).

I like to remind the faithful, quite regularly, that we are called to be saints; not at some future time or day but right now. This is found in the Sacred Scriptures in the Psalms, the Prophets, the New Testament Epistles and of course by Our Blessed Lord Himself in His Holy Gospels. The greatest act of thanksgiving to God is to be converted and remain in a state of grace.

As we enter into the New Year let us do so with the spirit of love, trust and thanksgiving, let nothing disturb our hope and peace in Christ

As always, I am most grateful for your prayers and support. Be assured of my paternal benediction and prayers, especially at Holy Mass.

I remain, in Christ the King,

Monsignor ✠ Thomas JF Sebastian



***Our last Christmas at the old
Oratory Chapel of S. Francis
(2018)***

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Monsignor:

Is a sacramental like holy water made more holy depending on the sanctity level of the priest imposing the blessing upon said object? And if a priest is not in a state of grace, is the transubstantiation of the host into the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ equally as effectual as a priest who is in the state of grace?

In Christ,

E.C., Van Nuys, CA

A: Believe it or not this was settled almost 1,600 years ago! In the fourth and fifth century the North African Church, most especially Carthage, went into schism over this heresy, and once again it was the Champion of the Holy Faith, S. Augustine, who defended the truth and helped end this painful chapter in the Church's history. In a nutshell it was erroneously believed that if a Priest or Bishop committed a personal sin of any type he could no longer validly offer the Sacraments. This is dangerous on many theological levels and was officially condemned by Pope S. Miltiades (d. 314). S. Augustine used this phrase for his defense of the Church's true Teaching: *The Sacrament does not depend upon the worth of the minister.* Now let us break this phrase down:

a) the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders can only be received *validly* once; they leave a mark on the soul which cannot be removed. The Creed

reminds of this, *I believe in One Baptism for the forgiveness of sins*, as do the Sacred Scriptures, *Thou art a Priest forever* (Psalm 109:4, Hebrews 7:17).

b) a wicked Priest or Bishop can still confect a valid Sacrament, although he sins gravely in doing so and those who receive the Sacrament receive the full power and strength of that Sacrament and do not partake in his sin. This is predicated upon the principle *ex opere operantis*, from the work of the worker. This basically means that although the action of the one who acts (*opus operans*) is sometimes unclean, i.e.: sinful, the act done remains clean (*opus operatum*) (*De Sacro Altaris Mysterio* 3.6). We are being taught that a Priest or Bishop perform the actions of the Sacraments as instruments of Christ, we call this *in persona Christi*, in the Person of Christ, so that truly it is Christ Jesus Who performs each Sacramental action through the person of His Priest or Bishop.

Therefore, using your example of the Holy Water, there is no *level* of holiness of conferring a Sacrament or a blessing a sacramental (e.g.: Holy Water, Our Lady's Rosary), whether performed by a very holy Priest like S. Jean Vianney, or a very wicked Pope like Alexander VI.

If you have a question, please feel free to e-mail:

info@stfrancisoratory.org

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WHY FATIMA REMAINS RELEVANT

IT is impossible to conceive but there are many faithful Catholics who view the *approved* Apparitions that occurred at Fatima, Portugal in 1917 as *something in the past*; this seems a poor and even unfaithful opinion to hold. Now it is important to understand that belief in apparitions, even those approved of by the highest authority in the Church, are *private revelation*, and *may* be believed or may even be *rejected* without sin. However, after seeing such horrible prophecies come true from Our Lady of Fatima, for example the Great War, the Atomic Bomb and the great apostasy of the modernist Church, it seems ridiculous that anyone would simply dismiss Our Lady's warnings.

It would behoove every serious Catholic to reexamine the great miracle of Fatima and Our Lady's warnings: in 2017 every month I delivered a lecture from May through October (on the 13th of each month) concerning a specific aspect of Fatima. These lectures will be posted on our website for those interested in how the prophecies of Our Lady are still relevant for us today.



*S. Agnes (21st of January):
Pray for us!*

PRAYER REQUESTS

YOUR prayers are requested for the sick, especially Mrs. Diane Powers, Mr. McCanna Anthony Sinise, Miss Lauren Howard, Mr. Paul Howard, Miss Rhonda Roeszler, Mr. John Owen, and Mrs. Maria Gomez. Please also remember in your prayers the souls of those who have died. *If you know of someone unable to attend Holy Mass due to sickness please be sure to let one of the priests know so they can arrange for a sick call.*



HOW TO DONATE AND SEND MASS STIPENDS

WE have had some recent inquiries on-line about

how to donate or send Mass stipends. You can always send your donation to our Post Office Box:

St. Francis of Assisi
PO Box 8469
Van Nuys, CA 91409-8469

You can also donate on line with the **PayPal** link on our webpage:



The normal stipend for a Mass Intention is \$20.00. Please be sure to include the person's name (w/Mr., Mrs. or Miss) and if they are living or deceased. Also, be sure to indicate if you wish a Mass Card to be sent to that person or their family.

Your continued support is appreciated and quite needed to continue our mission of offer the true and traditional Latin Mass of the Holy Catholic Church. The true Mass and Faith are ours to protect, defend and support!

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION FOR 2021

- 1 January 2021 (Friday)
Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord
- 13 May 2021 (Thursday)
Feast of the Ascension of the Lord
- 15 August 2021 (Sunday)
Feast of the Assumption of the BVM
- 1 November 2021 (Monday)
All Saints Day
- 8 December 2021 (Wednesday)
Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM
- 25 December 2021 (Saturday)
Feast of the Nativity of the Lord

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SUNDAYS OF JANUARY: THE CATHOLIC HAND MISSAL

In order to assist the faithful following Holy Mass with their hand missals here are the Sunday Masses for **January**:

3 January 2021 :

Most Holy Name of Jesus :

Commemoration of **Octave of S. John** at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

10 January 2021 :

Feast of the Holy Family :

Commemoration of **Octave of the Epiphany** at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

17 January 2021 :

Second Sunday after the Epiphany :

Commemoration of **S. Anthony, Abbot** at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

24 January 2021 :

Third Sunday after the Epiphany :

Commemoration of **S. Timothy** at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

31 January 2021

Septuagesima Sunday :

Commemoration of **S. John Bosco** at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

To correctly participate at Holy Mass one *silently* unites his prayers with those of the Church through pious and attentive meditation of the prayers and reading of Holy Mass.

If you are unsure how to correctly set your hand missal arrive early for Holy Mass and ask the Monsignor to assist you. It is also important to become familiar with the *Ordinary of the Mass*, those parts that never change, i.e.: Kyrie, Gloria,

Creed, Sanctus, Benedictus, and the Agnus Dei. And of course the Canon of the Mass, and the *Propers of the Mass*, those which vary according to the feasts of the day, i.e., Introit, Collect(s)(after the Gloria or Dominus Vobiscum), Epistle, Gradual, Alleluia, Tract or Sequence, Gospel, Secret, Communion Verse and Post Communion. On many feasts or days there are *Commemorations* (additional prayers) at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion. The careful attention to these prayers and readings will help one enter into a deeper spiritual relationship with the Holy Liturgy, the Saints and Mysteries of God.

**IMAGES FROM
S. NICHOLAS DAY 2020**

The Children of ALL ages were delighted with the visit of S. Nicholas on his feast day (6 December) which fell on the Second Sunday in Advent. All enjoyed baked apples and spiced oranges, and then made Advent Lanterns to light the way for the Holy Family.



Real men kneel at Holy Mass!

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The Hiding Mass in Ireland



The Hiding Mass in Van Nuys

Sunday Mass Time:
*(please call or email for current
Mass time and location)*

(818) 786-2540

e-mail: info@stfrancisoratory.org

Be sure to visit our web site at:

www.stfrancisoratory.org

N.B. : Our Mailing Address is:
Post Office Box 8469
Van Nuys, CA 91409-8469

MASS INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 2021

01 January 2021	CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD	10:00 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
02 January 2021	Octave of S. Stephen	Private Mass	Canon Henry Fragelli	Mr. Will Zignego
03 January 2021	THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS	10:00 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
04 January 2021	Octave of the Holy Innocents	Private Mass	Canon Henry Fragelli	Mr. Will Zignego
05 January 2021	Vigil of the Epiphany	Private Mass	Canon Henry Fragelli	Mr. Will Zignego
06 January 2021	EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	7:00 pm	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
07 January 2021	<i>Within the Octave</i> <i>Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart</i>	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
08 January 2021	<i>Votive Mass of the Immaculate Heart</i>	7:00 PM	Canon Henry Fragelli	Mr. Will Zignego
09 January 2021	<i>Votive Mass of the Immaculate Heart</i>	Private Mass	In Honour of Our Lady	Mr. Nicholas Garofalo
10 January 2021	HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY	10:00 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
11 January 2021	<i>Within the Octave</i>	Private Mass	Private Intention	Msgr. Sebastian
12 January 2021	<i>Within the Octave</i>	Private Mass	Canon Henry Fragelli	Mr. Will Zignego
13 January 2021	<i>Octave Day of the Epiphany</i>	Private Mass	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>
14 January 2021	S. Hilary	Private Mass	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>
15 January 2021	S. Paul, 1 st Hermit	Private Mass	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>
16 January 2021	S. Marcellus I, Pope	Private Mass	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>
17 January 2021	Second Sunday after the Epiphany	10:00 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
18 January 2021	S. Peter's Chair at Rome	Private Mass	Private Intention	Msgr. Sebastian
19 January 2021	S. Marius & Companions	Private Mass	Mr. Ronald L. Beeley†	Msgr. Sebastian
20 January 2021	Ss. Fabian & Sebastian	Private Mass	In Thanksgiving	Msgr. Sebastian
21 January 2021	S. Agnes	Private Mass	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>
22 January 2021	Ss. Vincent & Anastasius	Private Mass	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>
23 January 2021	S. Raymond Pennafort	Private Mass	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>
24 January 2021	Third Sunday after the Epiphany	10:00 am	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
25 January 2021	The Conversion of S. Paul	Private Mass	Private Intention	Anonymous
26 January 2021	S. Polycarp	Private Mass	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>
27 January 2021	S. John Chrystostom	Private Mass	<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	
28 January 2021	S. Peter Nolasco	Private Mass	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>
29 January 2021	S. Francis de Sales	Private Mass	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>
30 January 2021	<i>Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany (anticipated)</i>	Private Mass	<i>open</i>	<i>open</i>
31 January 2021	Septagesima Sunday		<i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	



✿ Saint Francis Chapel is staffed by the Priestly Society of Christ the King (SSCR); properly trained and ordained Roman Catholic Priests who are faithful to the teachings and disciplines of the Roman Catholic Church. Saint Francis is not affiliated with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Our Holy Fathers, the Popes, most especially Saint Pope Pius V in His infallible decree *Quo Primum*, have given their permission in perpetuity to offer the Traditional Latin Mass (*Missal of S. Pope Pius V* and rubrics of *S. Pope Pius X*).



MASS GUILD

Holy Mass is offered on the First Saturday of every month for all Friends and benefactors of SAINT FRANCIS ORATORY CHAPEL. Your generous donation (one time *or* monthly) enables you to be remembered upon the Altars of the Society, where *only* the traditional Latin Mass is offered, as codified and canonized by His Holiness, Saint Pope Pius V, *perpetually* approved of.

We would like to remind those who send Mass requests to PLEASE include the name of the person and/or intention with your stipend. Mass Cards will be sent to concerned parties upon request. Thank you and God bless you!

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:

www.traditio.com
www.traditioninaction.com
www.remnantnewspaper.com
www.traditionalmass.org

N.B.: Recommendation of a website is for information, and does not constitute association with or full agreement of opinions or positions.

2021 Church Calendar



2021 LITURGICAL
CALENDAR

We again recommend that ALL the faithful purchase their 2021 Liturgical Calendar directly from:

The Roman Catholic Calendar
2200 Smelter Avenue
Black Eagle, MT 59414
(406) 452-9021

<https://www.ihm-church.org/publications/church-calendar.html>