

# SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

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

JANUARY 2022 – CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY

## LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

**A**ND it came to pass, that when they were there, her days were accomplished, that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him up in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds watching, and keeping the night watches over their flock. And behold an Angel of the Lord stood by them, and the brightness of God shone round about them; and they feared with a great fear. And the Angel said to them: Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people: For, this day, is born to you a Saviour, Who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David. And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the Infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God, and saying: Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace to men of good will. **S. Luke 2:6 – 14**

**G**LORY to God in the highest, all of heaven cried at the birth of the Saviour, Jesus Christ, the *King of kings* and *Lord of lords* (II Timothy 6:15), and we must not allow anything, *anything*, to impede our joy and gratitude to God for such a wondrous privilege and gift to mankind. God came to us as one of us, clothed in our humanity but always in perfect

harmony with His Divinity, the *Word made flesh* that *dwelt among us* (S. John 1:14)! The necessity of the Incarnation, as explained by S. Athanasius (d. 373), tells us that *He takes to Himself flesh capable of dying, so that this flesh, by partaking of the Word Who is superior to all, might be worthy to suffer death in place of all, and might, because of the Word dwelling in it, remain incorruptible, so that from then on corruption might be stayed from everyone, by the grace of the Resurrection* (*Oratio de Incarnatione Veri* 9,1).



I encourage all to make a greater effort at meditating upon the mystery and the glory of the Incarnation of Our Blessed Lord, the Word made Flesh; such meditation will be highly profitable for the pious soul and vivify the spiritual progress of any mediocre soul. Make a true **New Year's Resolution**: become a saint! The sanctification of one's soul is the only sure way to remain joyful, enthusiastic and filled with love, especially in such a troubled and weary world, as S. Ignatius of Loyola (d. 1556) teaches us: *for those who love, nothing is too difficult, especially*

*when it is done for the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.* This love of and for Christ the King *must* be actualized, as S. Ambrose (d. 397) of Milan, Saint and Doctor of the Church teaches us: *It is not enough just to wish well, we must also do well* (*De Officiis Ministrorum, Libri I.* 143).

Will we *do well* this year? Will we become saints in order to glorify God and witness His greatness to the world? Will we keep our *Christmas Joy*, that is, the holy hope of Our Saviour in our hearts, on our lips and in our deeds this year? This month, most especially, let us hold these sacred days raised high and holy: the **Nativity**, the **Circumcision**, the **Most Holy Name**, the **Epiphany** and the **Most Holy Family**: glorious feasts that call to mind when heaven came to earth in order to allow us to go to heaven! Do not let sentimental and secular *merriment* replace *spiritual joy* and grace in your hearts and souls: Jesus Christ, the God-man, came to share His heavenly glory with us, His creatures. Happy and blessed Christmas – and a joyful and grace filled New Year!

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**

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q:** My Lord: I recently heard that the Nativity Scene was originally used in the Church by St. Francis of Assisi: is that true or just pious legend?

*Anonymous, Los Angeles, CA*

**A:** The Nativity scene used in churches, also called *Presepio* (Italian) or *Crèche* (French), were indeed used as early as the fourth century, usually as paintings, murals or sculpted reliefs. Dear S. Francis was the first to use *live* people and animals to emphasise the reality of the birth of Our Blessed Lord, and he did so with the blessing of Pope Honorius III (d. 1227). In general such scenes are pious examples of the Nativity of our Lord, but should always avoid being cartoonish or the cause of ridicule.

*If you have a question, please feel free to e-mail:  
info@stfrancisoratory.org*



*S. Francis de Sales (29<sup>th</sup> of January):  
Pray for us!*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**YOUR** prayers are requested for the sick, especially **Father Matthew Howard, Mr. George Porter, Mr. Kirk Lewis, Mrs. Diane Powers, Mr. McCanna Anthony Sinise, Mr. Paul Howard, Mr. Jeff Michaels and Mrs. Maria Gomez.** Please also remember in your prayers the souls of those who have died, especially **Father Patrick Perez†** and **Mrs. Joyce Zignego†.** *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.*



*Real Men Kneel at Holy Mass!*

## HOW TO DONATE AND SEND MASS STIPENDS

**D**ONATIONS and Mass Stipends can be sent on-line or you can always be sent to our Post Office Box:

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

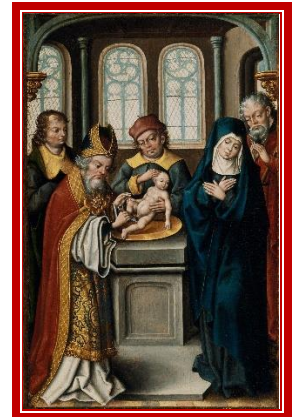


The normal stipend for a Mass Intention is \$20.00. Please be sure to include the person's name (w/Mr., Mrs. or

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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!



*Circumcision of the Lord  
(1<sup>st</sup> January)  
Holy Day of Obligation*

## HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION FOR 2022

- 1 January 2022 (Saturday)  
*Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord*
- 26 May 2022 (Thursday)  
*Feast of the Ascension of the Lord*
- 15 August 2022 (Monday)  
*Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
- 1 November 2022 (Tuesday)  
*Feast of All Saints*
- 8 December 2022 (Thursday)  
*Feast of the Immaculate Conception*
- 25 December 2022 (Saturday)  
*Feast of the Nativity of the Lord*





**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**:

**2 January 2022:**

**Most Holy Name of JESUS:**

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

**9 January 2022:**

**Feast of the Holy Family:**

Commemoration of the *Sunday within the Octave of the Epiphany* and within the *Octave* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion, Last Gospel of the *Sunday within the Octave*.

**16 January 2022:**

**Second Sunday after the Epiphany:**

Commemoration of *St. Marcellus I, Pope Martyr* and of the *Blessed Virgin Mary* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

**23 January 2022:**

**Third Sunday after the Epiphany:**

Commemoration of *St. Raymond of Peñafort, Confessor* and of *St. Emerentiana, Virgin & Martyr* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

**30 January 2022:**

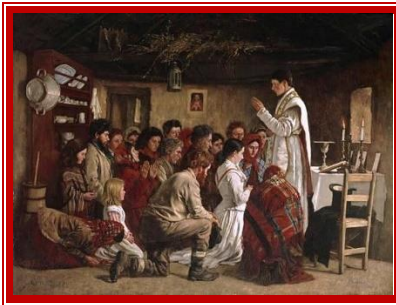
**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany:**

Commemoration of *St. Martina, Virgin & Martyr, Confessor* and of the *Blessed Virgin Mary* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

**T**o 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.



*The Hiding Mass in Ireland*



*The Hiding Mass in Van Nuys*

Saint Francis Exchange

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

(818) 786-2540

e-mail: [info@stfrancisoratory.org](mailto:info@stfrancisoratory.org)

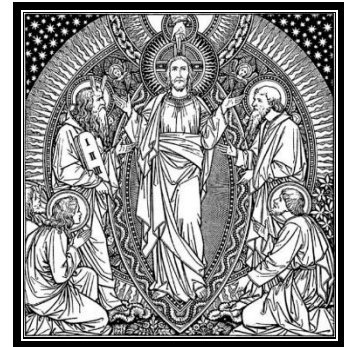
Be sure to visit our web site at:

[www.stfrancisoratory.org](http://www.stfrancisoratory.org)

N.B.: Our Mailing Address is:

Post Office Box 8469

Van Nuys, CA 91409-8469



✿ 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](http://www.traditio.com)

[www.traditioninaction.com](http://www.traditioninaction.com)

[www.remnantnewspaper.com](http://www.remnantnewspaper.com)

[www.traditionalmass.org](http://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.*