

SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

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

JANUARY 2025 – CHRISTMASTIDE

LETTER FROM THE MONSIGNOR

GRANT, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that we, upon whom is poured the new light of Thy Word made Flesh, may show forth in our actions that which by faith shineth in our minds. – *Collect from the Second Mass of Christmas Day*

THE glorious cry and acclimation of the Angel rings in our ears, hearts and minds: *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 2:10 – 14).

Knowing that God has become man in order to redeem him must bring us profound gratitude and humility, for the Creator *appears* as a creature and walks among us, hidden from us who are blinded by sin and error, as the Apostle teaches us concerning the Incarnation, and its purpose: *Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being*

made in the likeness of men, and in habit found as a man. He humbled Himself, becoming obedient unto death, even to the death of the Cross (Philippians 2: 6 – 8). God's supreme generosity of becoming man in order to redeem man is such a profound and glorious mystery, and must fill us the greatest of gratitude and humility with the realisation that *God so loved the world, as to give His only begotten Son; that whosoever believeth in Him, may not perish, but may have life everlasting* (S. John 3:16).



S. Ignatius of Loyola teaches us that the generosity of God can never be outdone, and so we must respond to this generosity with great zeal and charity: we must love God above everything, and then love one another as He loves us (*cf.* S. John 13:34)! We are called to love, even those whom we find it difficult to love, as the Saviour teaches and commands, *You have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thy enemy.*

But I say to you, love your enemies: do good to them that hate you: and pray for them that persecute and calumniate you: that you may be the children of your Father Who is in heaven, Who maketh His sun to rise upon the good, and bad, and raineth upon the just and the unjust. For if you love them that love you, what reward shall you have? Do not even the publicans do this? And if you salute your brethren only, what do you more? Do not also the heathens do this? Be you therefore perfect, as also your heavenly Father is perfect (S. Matthew 5:43 – 48).

As we gather around the manger to adore the Newborn King, let us do so as Our Lady and Blessed Joseph do, with tender love and gratitude – let us imitate their love for the Christ Child and the people He was born to save!

I beg you to maintain your Christmas joy throughout the whole year and grow in the grace of Christ the Newborn King, calling to mind the encouragement of the Apostle; *Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing; that you may abound in hope, and in the power of the Holy Ghost* (Romans 15:13).

As always, 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: Monsignor:
None of my children, all adults, were Confirmed, and now none of them even practice the Faith. Should I have insisted on them being confirmed and did I commit a sin in not doing so?

G.M., Austin, TX

A: Alas, yes, parents have a moral obligation to see that their children are raised in the Faith and receive the Sacraments. You can see the direct result of your lack of diligence and failure to secure your children's wellbeing and salvation. I would definitely confess this and begin to offer prayers and sacrifices for your children's conversion: I would strongly suggest being a good example to them rather than a "holy nag" about it.

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

info@stfrancisoratory.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

YOUR continued prayers are requested for the sick, continued prayers are requested for the sick, especially Fr. Matthew Howard, Mrs. Norma Hernandez, Mr. Charles Edward McClusky, Mr. Paul Howard, Mr. John Owen and Mr. Jeff Michaels. 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 the Monsignor know so he can arrange for a sick call.*



Real Men Kneel at Holy Mass!

HOW TO DONATE AND SEND MASS STIPENDS

DONATIONS and Mass Stipends can be sent on-line via **PayPal** and **Zelle** (be sure to select *donation* and not payment) or you can always send it 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 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 2025

1 January 2025 (Wednesday)
Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord
29 May 2025 (Thursday)
Feast of the Ascension of the Lord
15 August 2025 (Friday)

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Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

1 November 2025 (Saturday)

Feast of All Saints

8 December 2025 (Monday)

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

25 December 2025 (Thursday)

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:

5 January 2025:

Most Holy Name of Jesus:

Commemoration of the *Vigil of the Epiphany* and *S. Telesphorus, Pope & Martyr* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

12 January 2025:

Holy Family Sunday:

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

19 January 2025:

Second Sunday after the Epiphany:

Commemoration of *S. Marus & Companions* and *S. Canute, King & Martyr* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

26 January 2025:

Third Sunday after the Epiphany:

Commemoration of *S. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion.

To participate *correctly* 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.



*S. Francis de Sales
29 January:
Pray for us!*



The Hiding Mass in Van Nuys

Sunday Mass Time:

10:00 am

(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:

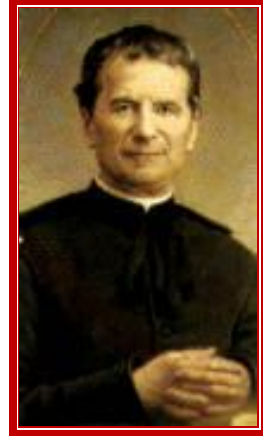
Post Office Box 8469

Van Nuys, CA 91409-8469



*S. Timothy, Bishop & Martyr
25 January:
Pray for us!*

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*S. John Bosco, Confessor
31 January:
Pray for us!*



✿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

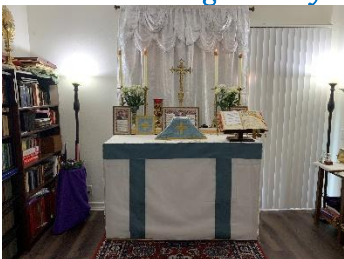
www.traditionalmass.org

www.novusordowatch.com

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

IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION 2024

Some images from the recent feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



PETER SPEAKS:



OUR soul overflows with joy and our tongue with exultation. We give, and We shall continue to give, the humblest and deepest thanks to Jesus Christ, Our Lord, because through His singular grace He has granted to Us, unworthy though We be, to decree and offer this honour and glory and praise to His Most Holy Mother. All Our hope do we repose in the Most Blessed Virgin; in the all fair and immaculate one who has crushed the poisonous head of the most cruel serpent and brought salvation to the world: in her who is the glory of the prophets and apostles, the honour of the martyrs, the crown and joy of all the saints; in her who is the safest refuge

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and the most trustworthy helper of all who are in danger; in her who, with her Only-Begotten Son, is the most powerful Mediatrix and Conciliatrix in the whole world; in her who is the most excellent glory, ornament, and impregnable stronghold of the Holy Church; in her who has destroyed all heresies and snatched the faithful people and nations from all kinds of direst calamities; in her do we hope who has delivered us from so many threatening dangers.

(Pope Pius IX *Ineffabilis Deus*, 8 December 1854)



2025 LITURGICAL
CALENDAR

We again recommend that ALL the faithful purchase their 2024 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>