

*A Reflection from Fr. Joseph*

**Mary, Mother of God.**

The wonderful title *“Theotokos – God-bearer”* is one of the most sublime realities of the Christian faith. As Lumen Gentium says, *“from ancient times the blessed Virgin has been venerated under the title of God-bearer”* (§46).



Today's celebration helps us to contemplate the reality and the beauty of this doctrine. It is very fitting that we begin the New Year by dedicating this day to Our Lady and her motherhood, and to ask for her powerful intercession, so that we can be faithful disciples of Christ for another year. So, what does the doctrine of Mary as Theotokos involve?

Basically, there are two elements to the dogma. The first is that Mary is truly the mother of Jesus Christ. She gave Him everything that every mother gives to every child. She is truly a mother and Jesus is truly her human child: *“Blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.”* The second element is that because the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity took on our human nature at the moment of conception, we can say that Mary is also truly the mother of God. She is *“God-bearer”, the Theotokos*, not according to the divine nature of Christ, but because of the unity of the divine-human man Jesus Christ, to whom she very definitely gave birth.

This unique role in the history of the human race is adorned with all sorts of graces. Mary was granted the privilege of being redeemed by Christ from the very moment of her own conception, so that she would be a fitting temple for the Lord. *“The Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to his Temple.”* At the end of her earthly mission Mary was assumed, body and soul, into the glory of heaven, where she intercedes for us.

Catholic devotion has produced a marvelous compendium of all these doctrines in one of the best-known and best-loved prayers, the Hail Mary. In the first part of the prayer the humanity of Christ is stressed; *“blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”* In the second part, the divinity of the Christ, and the intercessory power of Mary is stressed; *“Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death...”* The unity of the whole prayer could be said to represent the unity of the person of Christ himself; Jesus Christ, true God and true man. We need never worry that any authentic devotion we give to Mary, in any way, detracts from the unique saving power and dignity of Christ for, to paraphrase St Bernard of Clairvaux, to honor the Son is to honour the Mother, and vice-versa.

As we begin the New Year, it is fitting for us to examine our attitude to Jesus and the Church. As we begin a New Year, we are conscious of being part of a beautiful tradition, a Sacred Tradition. Jesus is both human and divine, and this is the truth. This truth now shines forth as a beacon to carry us into a new year. May God continue to bless you with his many blessings in this year.

Happy New Year.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR! Please note that due to the stat holiday, Mass this coming Monday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>, will be celebrated at 9 am and our office will be closed.**

**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

- Mon. Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>** - ST. BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN  
1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28
- Tue. Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>** - 1 John 2:29, 3:1-6; John 1:29-34
- Wed. Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>** - 1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42
- Thurs. Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>** - 1 John 3:11-21; John 1:43-5
- Fri. Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>** - 1 John 5:5-13; Mark 1:4-5, 7-11
- Sat. Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>** - ST. ANDRE BESSETTE, memorial  
1 John 5:14-21; John 2:1-12
- Sun. Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>** - EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, solemnity  
Is. 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mat. 2:1-12



**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

- Sun. Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>  
9 am Mass for Rosalia Bermijuo, R.I.P.  
11 am Mass for Agatha Choy, R.I.P.  
5 pm Mass for parishioners
- Mon. Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>  
9 am Mass for Kenny Anthony Law, R.I.P.
- Tue. Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>  
8 am Mass for Alberto M. Lopez, R.I.P.
- Wed. Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>  
9 am Mass for the int. of Arda & Carolina Akoglu  
7:30 pm Novena Mass
- Thur. Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>  
8 am Mass for the int. of Eileen Teo
- Fri. Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>  
8 am Mass for the int. of Fr. Joseph Thoai Le  
7:30 pm Mass for the int. of Fr. Salvador Reyes, Jr.
- Sat. Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am Mass for the deceased members of the Jimenez, Mendoza & Alvarez Fmly.  
5:00 pm Mass for the int. of Chino & Colleen Betita

Dear St. Jude's Parishioners,



Let me greet you, a warm Blessed New Year!  
Let us welcome this New Year with full trust  
and faith in God as we face our new journey in life.  
Let us treasure all the good things that God has given  
us, this past year, as we continue to build our  
community. And let us be thankful to Fr. Joseph for  
leading this community with dedication and love. On  
our part let us always remember him in our prayers.

With this new assignment that the Archbishop has  
given me, as administrator of the parish, I am  
looking forward in serving God through you. Let us  
work hand in hand for the betterment of our parish.  
Everything can be possible if we join our efforts,  
creating new ideas, working together and aspiring  
for the best.

It is a privilege to serve you and may God bless us all.

Fr. Jun



#### ALTAR SERVERS

Wed. Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 PM - Volunteers

Fri. Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 PM - Volunteers

Sat. Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> - 5:00 PM - C.Akol, A.Chavez, F.Hua,  
R.Simsuangco.

Sun. Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 AM - A & G Del Monte, J.Manzano, C.Duong,  
I.Schilling-Regala. 11:00 AM - R & S Bottin, E & E Garrovillas, A  
& J Roque, A & A Ventura, I.Yun. 5:00 PM - K.Alonzo, H & L  
Cao, F.V. Dela Cruz, E & I Picariello, R.Suganob.

#### PARISH ENVELOPES FOR 2017

Have you picked up your new set of parish envelopes for 2017 from the tables at the entrance of the church? They are arranged in alphabetical order. Anyone wishing envelopes for 2017, is asked to call the parish office at 604-434-6700.



#### PREP NEWS

PREP resumes this Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm.

#### SCHOOL NEWS

- The school re-opens this Tuesday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- School Mass: This Wednesday at 9 am. Join us!
- Bottle Drive: Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. Save your empties! (cans, bottles, tetra packs). Drop off from 8:30 to 9 am and 2:30 to 3:15 pm in the school cafeteria. We appreciate your support.
- Kindergarten Registration: If you have a child who will be turning 5 in 2017 and entering Kindergarten, please notify the school so they will add their name to the list.



#### SEXUALITY AND YOUR CHILD

Parents of students in Grade 4-7, mark your calendars for a mandatory meeting which will be held next Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the school gym.

**FIRST FRIDAY, 24 HOUR, EXPOSITION AND ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT**, will be held this coming Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, following the 8 a.m. Mass, until Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Please write your name, at the hour you can attend, on the sign-up sheet provided in the vestibule.



## ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

### Up-Coming Events

#### Bursaries available from CHABC

The Catholic Health Association of BC will be awarding two bursaries valued at \$250 each to two 2017 graduating students who are enrolled in Catholic secondary schools, or who are members of BC or Yukon parishes and enrolled in public secondary schools, or who are home-schooled. Students are asked to submit a 500-word essay that demonstrates an awareness and understanding of the significance of **Spirituality in Health Care**. Submissions must be received on or before March 10, 2017.

#### Vancouver College Open House

Vancouver College is a K-12 Catholic school for boys established by the Christian Brothers in 1922. Join us on Tuesday, Jan. 10, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Vancouver College – Alumni Gymnasium, 5400 Cartier St, Vancouver.

#### World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2017

Pope Francis urges us to do as Jesus did by proclaiming the good news of hope to all, especially to those in great need. He wants to "focus attention on the smallest of the small." Children who often arrive unaccompanied in their destination countries, "are unable to make their own voices heard" and "easily become victims of grave violations of human rights." Join us on Sunday, Jan. 15, at 2:30 p.m. at St. Matthew's Parish, Surrey, for the 6th annual World Day of Migrants and Refugees Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Miller, CSB. [rcav.org/world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees](http://rcav.org/world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees)

#### Second Annual Ordinandi Dinner

Join Archbishop Miller and members of the Catholic faithful as we gather together in support of the men in our Archdiocese who are soon "to be ordained" ("ordinandi") to the priesthood. Meet your future priests: Deacon Francesco Voltaggio, Deacon Giovanni Schiesari, and Deacon Juan Lucca. Join us on Wednesday, Feb. 1, at the Italian Cultural Centre, 3075 Slocan Street, Vancouver. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner begins promptly at 6 p.m. Cost: \$50. You can also sponsor a priest or seminarian. To register or for more info on how to sponsor a priest or seminarian, visit: [vocationsvancouver.ca](http://vocationsvancouver.ca)

