

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

ST. MARY'S IS A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ON A JOURNEY OF FAITH WHOSE  
PURPOSE IS TO WITNESS CHRIST'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

**Come join us downstairs for coffee & donuts after Sunday's Mass.**

## From the Pastor:

This Sunday marks the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. "God set a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother" (Sirach 3.) The Holy family gives us the model of love in the family. This love which starts between the husband and wife spreads to the hearts of the children. Today love must be re-discovered.

It is very often assumed that life should be without difficulties. Our Blessed Lord did not predict it so. He said in scripture that in this world you shall have tribulations. Even when one enters into a realm of love such as marriage there are difficulties. So let us call this homily, the things we do for love.

There are often two types of difficulties in marriage. First, when the love in marriage dulls. Second, when a spouse becomes what is sometimes referred to as impossible.

First, when married life dulls. This it does. Simply because everything in life dulls after a time. Love does not continue to be one abiding ecstasy. Simply because flesh is the medium of the love and it suffers the penalty. It becomes use to affection. As life goes on a greater stimulus is required to create an equal reaction to sensation. The eye can become use to beauty. The finger use to the touch of a friend. This intimacy that was at first so desirable could become at times a burden. Individuals may find they want to be alone or return to their parents.

These difficulties strip the eyes of rose-colored glasses. The heat of passion cools and love is in danger of walking out. The very habit of love becomes boring. Because it is a habit and not an adventure. It is conceivable to want a new partner. Then there comes with children multiplied accidents and diseases and all these real things brings one out of the clouds and into the real.

Sooner or later the affective emotional life is brought face to face with the question—Is love a snare? I thought there would be complete happiness. Yet it has settled down to a routine.

Now those who think we came from an ape and not man think another partner could supply what is lacking. That is not true. Emptiness does not come from the other person but from the nature of life itself. And here is the reason for that feeling. The heart is made for the infinite God. Only God can satisfy it.

The beginning honeymoon is to remind the couple that love was a gift, it came from heaven. They must discover it comes from God. Remember when the Lord first gave the people bread to eat for their stomachs. It was a taste of what was to come in the holy Eucharist. So too is human love an ignition switch in order that we might seek the flame which is God.

When married life becomes dull, this is not the bottom of life. One has only hit the bottom of pride. One has not hit the bottom of his soul, but the bottom of his instinct, not the bottom of his mind, but the bottom of his emotional life.

The dreamy life then fades and the person learns in order to attain perfect love it takes effort. The seed needs to sprout. Children need to grow up and our love has to grow up. Therefore God remains quiet like a lamb. If he did not we would never push forward. Therefore every now and then he makes us run up against a brick wall.

This dullness which leads to a nothingness is not peculiar to marriage. It happens in spiritual life too. We who are dedicated to God as priests and sisters reach this crisis too. Prayers become dry and formal. There is danger that we may become use to the touch of the bread of life. There is not the same emotional thrill in praying the mass as at our first mass. There may not be the same excitement in preaching. So it becomes difficult for all. So we have our problems too. It is a problem of love.

How can I love better? By sacrifices. Just as in the dark night, the soul needs considerable purification through self denial in order to reach a deeper insight of love—so too in marriage. Whenever there is discontent God is stirring the soul. Our love is looking for something not of this world

Sometimes the married life is said to be impossible. Marriage becomes a cross. The spouse might be a drunkard, cruel, a tyrant, bossy. What are we to do? Well, we said the other person is always gift from God. God's gifts are sweet or bitter. Nevertheless, they are still a gift. If we are selfish we try to get rid of them. If we are Christian we take on the burden as something coming from the hand of God. Jesus says, "renounce yourself take up your cross and follow me."

Usually we want to accept a cross we choose and very often say, I can't take that cross. But God knows what's best. Where a soldier is wounded for his country it is even more noble to be wounded for God. Besides you want the faithful partner to be saved on the judgment day and your merits will not go un-noticed by God. Greater love that his than to lay down one's life for his/her Spouse. Once married the two are one flesh. God Bless!

**POPE BENEDICT:** Despite last-minute efforts to improve the language on abortion and conscience rights in the Senate's proposed health care reform bill, the U.S. bishops oppose its passage. This was affirmed in a statement released Saturday by Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chairman of the conference's Committee on Pro-Life Activities; Bishop John Wester of Salt Lake City, chair of the bishops' Committee on Migration; and Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Centre, New York, chair of the Domestic Policy Committee. Reform which truly protects the life, dignity, conscience and health of all.

## **WEEKLY BIBLE VERSES TO MEMORIZE: Lk 18:15**

Now they were bringing the babes also to him that he might touch them; **Acts 16:33** And he took them at that very hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he and all his family were baptized immediately.

# Holy Family Sunday December 27 2009

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

**Monday, Dec. 28** Holy Innocents, martyrs  
 7:00 pm Mass † Bill Nirschl/Kevin & Karla Willman  
 \*6:00 pm-12:00 am NO Adoration

**Tuesday, Dec. 29** Thomas Becket, bishop & martyr  
 7:00 am Mass † Ted Waters/Mary Moore  
 \*12:01 am-12:00 am NO Adoration

**Wednesday, Dec. 30** 6th Octave of Christmas  
 5:15 pm Confession  
 6:00 pm Mass Theo Rylee Hogan/Feller Family  
 \*6:30 pm No RE  
 \*12:01 am-12:00 am NO Adoration

**Thursday, Dec. 31** Sylvester I, pope  
 7:00 am Mass † Bill Nirschl/Omar & Cecilia Torres  
 \*6:00 pm Mass Special Intention/Fr. Clemens  
 \*12:01am-12:00 am NO Adoration

**Friday, Jan. 1** The Blessed Virgin Mary the Mother of God  
 \*8:00 am Mass For the Parish  
 \*12:01 am-10:00 am NO Adoration

**Saturday, Jan. 2** St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen  
 8:00 am Special Intention/Fr. Clemens  
 3:30 pm Confession  
 4:30 pm Rosary  
 5:00 pm Family & Friends/The Willmans

**Sunday, Jan. 3** The Epiphany of the Lord  
 8:00-9:00 am Holy Hour  
 9:15 am Confessions  
 9:30 am Rosary  
 10:00 am Mass † Laura Moore/Deanna & Roger Brandhagen  
 11:30 am Mass (Sp) For the Parish

**Monday, Jan. 4** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton  
 7:00 pm Mass Jeffery Tuyen Family/Blanche Kemp

**Tuesday, Jan. 5** St. John Neumann  
 7:00 am Mass † Bill Nirschl/Mary Helfrich  
 7:00 pm RCIA Class

**Wednesday, Jan 6** Blessed Andre Bessette  
 6:00 pm Mass Kathryn Thomsom/Jeff & Nancy Burnett  
 6:30 pm RE Class/Adult Class

**Thursday, Jan. 7** St. Raymond of Penafort  
 7:00 am Mass † Bill Nirschl/Omar & Cecilia Torres

**Friday, Jan. 8** Christmas Weekday  
 7:00 am Mass Priests of Baker Diocese/Herbes

**Saturday, Jan. 9** Vigil of Baptism of the Lord  
 5:00 pm Mass † Phillip Vescio/Don & Ann Vescio

**Sunday, Jan. 10** The Baptism of The Lord  
 10:00 am Mass † Christopher Ritz/Frank & Phyllis Ritz  
 11:30 am Mass For the Parish

**ADORATION:** Adoration will close on Wednesday Dec. 23 at 6:00 pm it will reopen on Jan. 4th at 6:00 pm. We will have two holy hours during Christmas before each Mass. *"For where two or three are gathered together for my sake, there am I in the midst of them."* Call Karla at 276-3615.

ST. MARY'S ON-LINE: The website is [stmaryspendleton.org](http://stmaryspendleton.org)

We ask you to remember in your Masses and Prayers for Jake Penner who passed away last week. "May eternal Rest Be Granted to Him O'Lord, And Perpetual Light Shine Upon Him."

**BULLETIN:** There will be no bulletin on Jan 3rd as Karla will be on vacation.

**CALENDARS:** The Indulgences Calendars "The Beauty of Grace" same as last year are in the back of the church. Cost is \$12 we have extra one if you did not get signed up. We also have the free calendars from Burns in the back of the church.

### Altar Servers for Dec. 31- January 01

Dec. 31	6:00 pm	Nolan & Grant Kennedy
Jan. 01	8:00 am	Logan Thorne, Mitchel Montchalin & Quinn Doherty
Jan. 2	5:00 pm	Braden & Jacob Sprenger
Jan. 3	10:00 am	Seth & Peter Case & Walker Hoolehan

## We Would Like To Welcome You To Our Parish Family

If you are new to the Parish, please fill out your name and address below. We would love to add you to our Parish Family. Please visit us at the Parish Office or mail this form to us or place it in the collection basket.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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