Mary, the Holy Mother of God
María Santísima Madre de Dios
A message from the heart of your pastor...

My Dear Parishioners,

It has been my prayer this Advent season that each of you has found opportunities to reflect on your faith and relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. Whatever it is that our hearts and souls desire, whether we realize it or not, our ultimate desire is Jesus Himself. Let us be filled with joy and consolation and the realization that at Christmas all that we hoped for has been fulfilled in the person of the Christ Child.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all of you for your ongoing support—not only to myself, but to all our clergy and staff at the parish. Thank you for making this such an outstanding year. I look forward to 2017 with great excitement for all we will accomplish in our parish. Together, may we grow in strength and grace to know and celebrate together God’s presence in our lives and His dominion over all things of this world.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, bless you, your families and loved ones at this blessed time of hope and grace. May Mary, the Mother of the Child Jesus and our Mother, watch over you and our beloved All Souls Catholic Church always.

Happy New Year!
Father Gilbert Medina, Pastor

The Sacraments

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: Confessions are heard each week on Saturday at the Church (SR #46) from 3:45pm to 4:45pm or by calling the parish office to make an appointment with a priest. Learn more about this beautiful sacrament by visiting our website: www.allsoulssanford.org/reconciliation

The Sacrament of Baptism: Call the parish office to learn the necessary requirements and make an appointment with Fr. Kenneth Metz to have your child baptized. Ask us about the requirements for Godparents.

The Sacrament of Marriage: Getting married? We wish you much happiness! The process of being married in the Catholic Church could take between 6 months to a year to complete. Please contact Ann Cammarata at the parish office as soon as possible after your engagement if you would like to be married at All Souls Catholic Church.

Anointing of the Sick: Please call the parish office. The Rite of Anointing tells us there is no need to wait until a person is at the point of death to receive the Sacrament. Did you know that the Sacrament may be repeated if the person becomes sick again? A person should be anointed before surgery when a dangerous illness is the reason for the intervention.

Eucharistic Ministry to the Sick and Homebound: If you are unable to attend Mass, please call the parish office so we may assist you in having a visit from one of our ministers or one of our priests.

Catholic Funeral and Burial: Please call the parish office or have the funeral home director contact us to arrange the Funeral Mass and for more information about burial at All Souls Catholic Cemetery.
**Stewardship**

Due to advanced bulletin deadlines set by our publisher, offertory collection details were not available at the time of publication and will be reported in next weekend’s bulletin. Thank you for your understanding.

**Lost or forgotten envelopes?**
Do you prefer to set up automatic donations? It’s easy with WeShare to Give Online.
Just visit: https://allsoulssanford.weshareonline.org/

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**Our Council of Catholic Women**

Dear Sisters in Christ, today we celebrate Mary, Mother of God. Thank you to our Blessed Mother for saying “yes”. Thanks also to all who made our Christmas journey so wonderful. We started with our Thanksgiving Dinner. Then the First Sunday of Advent, right into the Parish Mission. The Mission set the tone for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Praise God. Our first meeting of the year is Tuesday, January 3, K of C Hall 7 pm. Ladies of the Parish we invite you to attend.

*Lead with your heart....*

_Eleanor Tolley, President ~ 407.637.2236, etolley16@gmail.com*

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**The Knights of Columbus**

If you've got what it takes to go round after round, then you'll enjoy BINGO with the Knights of Columbus Council 5357. We offer three game packages plus extras, a snack bar and full meals, intermissions, and a guaranteed payout. Located in the Columbus Club of Sanford, 2509 Myrtle Ave, **Sunday & Thursday night, 5:30 pm.** State law requires that all persons playing Bingo must be at least 18 years of age. For more information call 407.324.3699.

The Knights of Columbus Council 5357 sponsored the Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest again this year. Thirty entries were received. Judging was concluded December 20. The winners are; in the 5 – 7-year-old division, Addison Richardson; in the 8 – 10-year-old division, Alyssa Kornegay; in the 11 – 14-year-old division, and Francesca Fulmer. Thanks to all who participated, congratulations to all who won.

*All are welcome here... If you are alienated or upset, we welcome you lovingly. If you are in need of forgiveness, Jesus forgives you completely—with unconditional love. If you have been hurt by the Church, we are truly sorry. If you are angry, Jesus offers you peace. If life has become burdensome, we are here to support you. We are happy you are here and want you to stay. We would like to share our lives with you. Come join us each week so we can worship God together.*
**All Souls Catholic Church**

**January 1, 2017**

**Faith Formation News...**

A reminder that our Faith Formation classes will resume on Tuesday, January 10th and Wednesday, January 11th, 2017.

Goodbye...The End...So long...Wait a minute...Not so quickly...

While 2016 has come to an end. Another year is before us. Our Advent preparation is over. Christmas Day is over. Now what? Do we get ready for Valentines Day? I pray not. That day will come and it will be taken care of. For now, I pray that we might consider enjoying fully what we were preparing for, and what we have received. “Emmanuel!” God with us! The Incarnation. God made flesh. He dwells among us. He is with us! My friends, what a gift to celebrate each and every day. We have an opportunity to delve into this truth, this reality of our Savior’s presence in our lives. How has the Incarnation changed me? Am I being changed and transformed as a result of HIS presence in my life? These are the questions I ask myself. May I invite you to do the same and may your New Year be filled with an abundance of God’s goodness and love. May you continue to become more and more like Him. God Bless you!

**Jenny Mansingh, Director of Faith Formation**

**Chalking the door—Epiphany House Blessing**

We invite you to adopt this custom in your family. The family gathers to ask God’s blessing on their home and on those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home’s entrance (inside or out), 20 + C + M + B + 17. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words Christus mansionem benedictat, “May Christ bless the house.” The “*” signs represent the cross and 2017 is the year.

**Blessing the Chalk:**

V. Our help is the name of the Lord:  
R. The maker of heaven and earth.

V. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:  
R. From this time forth for evermore.

**Let us pray.** Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Instructions for Blessing the Home:** Using the blessed chalk mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows:  
20 + C + M + B + 17 while saying:

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God’s Son who became human two thousand and fifteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then offer the following prayer:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen

“Chalking the door” is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God’s blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions. The Latin words Christus mansionem benedictat, “May Christ bless the house.”
Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Readings for the Week of January 1, 2017

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6; Jn 1:29-34
Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42
Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 2:1-11
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Mary was tuned in enough to hear God’s voice all around her confusion. But this isn’t the standard pattern of God’s operation. It’s easy to daydream about having our own personal revelation from God, to hear his voice loud and clear, directing, encouraging, and supporting us in our times of need and confusion. But this isn’t the standard pattern of God’s operation.

Mary was tuned in enough to hear God’s voice all around her instead of expecting it to always sound the same. We can imitate this same kind of openness by seeking to discover how God may be speaking to us through the voices of others.

Mary, the Mother of God

"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." Supernatural communication was nothing new for Mary. The angel Gabriel had already appeared and spoken to her when she agreed to bear God’s Son. Her husband Joseph also had a kind of divine intervention in the dream where the angel told him to go ahead and marry her. When she was first pregnant, her cousin Elizabeth had been led by the Holy Spirit to know the secret that Mary was "the mother of my Lord" (Lk 1:43). Now, Jesus has just been born and a crew of earthy shepherds appears at her door with a message from heaven: that the Savior has been born. And Mary believed them. She did not doubt their sincerity or the authenticity of their message. She took the words to heart, and meditated upon the meaning of it all.

What might strike us as peculiar in all of this is that God chose to speak to Mary in a variety of ways. This holy and immaculate woman, this Mother of God, did not always receive direct communication from on high. Sometimes, God chose to speak to her through other people. Sometimes, he revealed himself to them in order to reveal himself to her. And God does the same with us.

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, January 2nd. We wish you all a very happy, healthy & prosperous 2017.

This week at the Church, our Sanctuary Light burns in loving memory of Lucienne Rioux Poitras, as requested by Georgiana Rioux Cammarata and her children. May she rest in peace.

This week at the Historic Chapel, our Sanctuary Light burns in loving memory of Jeanne d’Arc Salvail, as requested by Paul & Norma Salvail. May she rest in peace.
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Happy New Year from all of your friends with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul!

Food Pantry Needs of the Week: Small Dish Soap. Thanks!

News from St. Vincent de Paul Orlando: Volunteer opportunities are available in our Stores and Food Pantries—great for young people needing community service hours! Check us out at: svdporlando.org.

Your Large Item Donation Helps us Help Others: St. Vincent de Paul Orlando turns donated furniture and appliances into items we provide to families in need through our Voucher Program. We pick up large items for FREE. Scheduled your pick up today at 888.986.4483 or via our Web site at: svdporlando.org

Vincentian Reflection: Today is the feast of Mary, Mother of God. Like Mary, may we always treasure the events in our life and reflect on them in our heart. Please remember to support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in 2017 so together we can continue to bring comfort and peace to our brothers and sisters who are poor and suffering. May the peace and joy of the New Year be yours!

SVDP Assistance Hotline call: 407.330.4400
SVDP for Pick up of donations: 1.888.986.4483
Thrift Store Location: 216 N. Hwy 17-92, Suite #150 – Big Lots Plaza, Longwood, 32750, Hours: Mon. to Fri.: 10 am to 7 pm; Sat. 9 am to 6 pm *Closed Sunday*

Visit Russia with Father Medina

RUSSIAN ADVENTURE WITH FATHER GILBERT MEDINA

Come celebrate with Father Gilbert for his 10th Anniversary of the Priesthood

August 10 - 21, 2017

Russian River Cruise from Moscow to St. Petersburg
Cruise / Air from Orlando $4,395 per person

Call: Annette Moskop for more details 407.971.1971

The following Latin Tridentine Masses will be offered at the Historic Chapel: The Octave Day of the Nativity and Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Sunday, January 1 at 2:00 pm The Epiphany of Our Lord on Friday, January 6 at 5:00 pm.

Have you seen the face of Jesus?

HUGS for the Homeless
(Hats, Underwear, Gloves, Socks)

Florida Council of Women started the project “Hugs for the Homeless” seven years ago. Next weekend, January 7 & 8 is “Hugs for the Homeless Weekend”, Council members in our parish will be collecting donations. We hope our parish family will be generous in supporting us to help the homeless. If donating by check make payable to All Souls CCW and in the subject area write “Hugs for the Homeless”. For further questions contact Annette Tolle at 407.349.5030, chairperson.

Inspiration for the week...

We seek the same faith and courage that Mary possessed as she accepted the tremendous responsibility of being the Mother of God. Life often requires great and heroic things of us and we often wonder how and if we are able to meet those challenges. Mary did not doubt that God was with her, giving her everything needed to complete the task before her. Because of her Son’s special relationship with his Father, we too can cry out “Abba, Father” and draw strength from the infinite and generous love God bestows upon us.