



St. Joseph Catholic Church
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Mother of God Year A 1.1.2017

Announcements

Jan 8th Religious Ed
 11:30 – 2:30 PM.

 We received 6
 responses from architect
 firms

 Fr. Kuffel will be in Kotz
 Jan 4 – 10 for funeral.

 Fr. Kuffel retreat/vacation
 Jan 29 – Feb. 10
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	St. Joseph	St Francis	St. Anne
Sunday	\$1368.25	\$517.00	\$0.00
Fuel Bill	\$674.38	\$1697.00	



*All tithes of the land, whether in grain from the fields or
 in fruit from the trees, belong to the LORD; they are
 sacred to the LORD (Lev 27:30)*
 Do you give a tithe to the Lord?
 A tithe is 10%
 How much have you given in the past year?

We know what "mother"
 means. But we cannot
 grasp with our minds
 and our limited brains
 what "Mother of God"
 means. Only God
 comprehends perfectly
 what it means.



We have heard of
 persons who are
 obsessed, possessed
 by the devil,
 through whom the
 devil thought,
 spoke, and acted.
 We want to be
 possessed in this
 way, and even
 more, without
 limits, by Mary's
 love.

May she herself
 think, speak, and act
 through us. We
 want unite our heart
 to Her Immaculate
 Heart that nothing
 else remains in us
 that isn't hers, but
 that we become, as
 it were, changed
 into her,
transubstantiated
into her
 Because we know
 she was changed by
 the Holy Spirit!



What is Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary?

Total Consecration to Jesus is a beautiful devotion to increase our spirituality and ability to truly serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

The basic premise set forth by St. Louis Marie de Montfort is simply that Jesus came into the world through Mary and that we go to Jesus through Mary always be assured of being close to Jesus, even closer than ever before. We go through Mary to Jesus, initially, seems strange.

Why consecration through Mary?

Consecration means to set aside for a sacred purpose. Mary's life was set aside for the sole purpose of mothering our Lord.

By following her example, we, too, can completely give ourselves to Christ doing his will as Mary did and prayed: *I am the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done to me according to your word.*

Consecration to Jesus through Mary according to the method of St. Louis is a method used by Pope John Paul II and revived by Fr. Gaitley in his book 33 Day to Glory. (please read it)

Why do this?

We consecrate ourselves to be devoted solely to the Lord through His Blessed Mother. It helps us grow in holiness and increase our faith, hope, and love. It is a prayerful focused method to understand what it means to do his will perfectly.

How does it work?

The method of consecration set forth by St. Louis and Fr. Gaitley is presented on as 33 days of prayer, reflecting on how Mary perfectly conformed her will to Jesus and how others, including St. Louis, St. Kolbe, Mother Teresa, and John Pau all lived out their consecration.

Consecration consists of a 33-day period of prayerful preparation followed by the actual act of consecration itself in which we entrust ourselves to Mary as God entrusted Jesus to Mary at his conception and Jesus entrusted John to Mary at the cross.

The object of this consecration is to cast off the spirit of the world, the flesh, and devil which is contrary to that of Jesus, in order that we be filled with the Holy Spirit through Mary's intercession as seen at the Wedding Feast in Cana.

Catechesis: What do Catholics Believe?

I Believe in God! What does this mean? Our baptismal promises tell us we are to believe in God, Creator of heaven and earth, but who is God?

God is Father. Through our baptism, which is absolutely necessary through which God sends his Holy Spirit into our total being, opening our souls to receive Him, we are adopted into the family of God as St. Paul explains in today's reading:

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. As proof that you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir, through God (Gal 4:4).

If we are adopted into God's Family, we are to love God with all our heart. That is the New Law, the First Commandment which tells us God is Love! We cannot get this one wrong if we are going to be Catholic.

To Love God, means we are to love Him with our whole heart, whole being, and our whole strength! (Dt 6:5)

Do I love God as Father with my whole heart, being and strength? Here are some simple questions that help examine my consciences to see if I truly am keeping the First Commandment:

1. Do I love my Father as I love my human family: comforting and protecting Him as I do my children and spouse?
2. Do I worship Him as He deserves, especially on Sundays and Holy Days?
3. Do I participate and received reverently the Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist.
4. Do I reconcile myself yearly with the sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)?
5. Do I pray daily 5 – 10 minutes a day?
6. Do I take time to learn and study my faith?
7. Do I take time to read the Bible daily?

When we state, I believe in God, we claim that He created me; He created heaven and earth and all that is in it. We believe God is the Creator of the universe and know that He is intimately involved daily in our world and personal affairs. Do I take time to appreciate what He has done for me?

Consider how we try to be successful and achieve our goals in sports, job, business, or family. Do we give our loving Father that level of effort?

If we analyze what is at stake here, eternal life with our heavenly Father, should not our commitment and faith be more important than anything else; more important than our careers, homes, even our marriage. Seek First the Kingdom of God then the rest will be given! Do you seek God's Kingdom first?

Weekly Schedule:

Date	MassTime	Place	Feast Day	Lector/Minister	Intention	Activity
Mon Jan 2	5:30 PM	Nome	St. Basil		Bob Uerling	
Tue Jan 3	5:30 PM	Nome			Bob Uerling	
Wed Jan 4	No Mass		Eliz. Ann Seton		Bob Uerling	Rosary
Thu Jan 5	1:00 PM	Kotz	John Neumann		Margaret Hansen	Hansen funeral
Fri Jan 6	6:00 PM	Kotz	Andre Bessette		Leon Vitort	
Sat Jan 7	5:30 PM	Nome	Epiphany		Everet Maulding	
Sun Jan 8	10:30 AM	Nome	Epiphany		St. Ann Teller	
Sun Jan 8	11:00 AM	Kotz	Epiphany			

**God sent the Spirit of his Son
into our hearts, crying out,
"Abba, Father!"
So you are no longer a slave but a son,
and if a son then also an heir,
through God.**

**"I can't understand how God could love us so much that
two thousand years before we were born He sent His Son
into the world born of a woman to die on the cross for the
sins we were *going to* commit. But just because I don't
understand that love doesn't mean I can't accept it."**

Mary the Mother of God!

This title is most offensive. Mary, a human being, is the Mother of God.

Blasphemous!

But today Catholics celebrate Mary as the Mother of God, a Solemnity, which for most is all but forgotten and of course greatly misunderstood.

Everyone agrees that Mary is the Mother of Jesus. Even atheists acknowledge the fact that Mary is the woman who gave birth to Jesus. As any Christian knows, Christmas is the day we celebrate Mary giving birth to Jesus, whom true Christians believe is completely God and fully man. This is a fundamental teaching of Christianity. It is called the incarnation:

Taking up St. John's expression, "The Word became flesh", the Church calls "Incarnation" the fact that the Son of God assumed a human nature in order to accomplish our salvation in it. In a hymn cited by St. Paul, the Church sings the mystery of the Incarnation:

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross (CCC # 461).

Belief in the incarnation is the distinctive sign of the Christian Faith. Only those inspired by God will confess Jesus as true man and true God (1 Jn 4:3).

Yet, how can Catholics claim Mary is the Mother of God? This seems to be blasphemous because if she is the Mother of God, then she herself is God! Exactly, NO! She is not God. Jesus is God. She is the mother of his human nature – not his divine nature! You cannot separate his two natures.

In other words, Jesus was truly human: He had a human will and human body which was of the same DNA of Mary's body.

"The Incarnation is therefore the mystery of the wonderful union of the divine and human natures in the one person of the Word" (CCC 483).

That Jesus was truly human; He had to have a human mother, whom we all know as Mary. But that does not mean Mary gave birth to his divine nature!

What this does mean and what Catholics do believe is that Jesus has a divine nature which of course is uncreated. But since Jesus is also fully human: that is He assumes a human nature which has a human intellect, will, soul, and body, the very things that define a human as human, He becomes incarnate, human, without losing his divine nature.

Why is it so important for us to declare that Mary is the Mother of God? Because many during the early history of Christianity and even today make false claims of Who Jesus is. Some claimed that Jesus was solely human and adopted by God. Others say, that his human nature ceased to exist when the Word assumed the human nature. Most importantly, Nestorius, a bishop, taught that Jesus was only a human person, a super-human. So at the council of Ephesus in 431 the Council Fathers stated:

Mary is the Mother of God, *that the nature of the Word or his divinity received the beginning of its existence was not from the holy Virgin*, but that, since the holy body, animated by a rational soul, which the Word of God united to himself according to the hypostasis, that is the underlying reality or bodily, human substance, was born from her, the Word is said to be born according to the flesh."

Given that one cannot separate Christ's divine nature from his human nature, the Council declared that it is correct to call Mary by the title of *Theotokos*, Greek for "God-bearer" – or, as we are more likely to say these days, "Mother of God" for Jesus is truly divine and human – not Mary!

The Prayer to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots

Mother Mary you never cease to intercede to your Son for our needs as you did at the Wedding Feast of Cana.

Mother of Jesus, your Son entrusted me on the Cross to you. You never refuse to aid your child in need as you aided John at the foot of the cross.

Adopted through his Passion, we have become God's children and your example of divine love and mercy that exists in your heart moves us to turn to you as Jesus did on the cross.

Cast your compassionate eyes upon me and see the snarl of knots in my life.

You know how desperate I am. My pain seems overwhelming and I am bound by these knots I made by my choices.

Mary, Mother to whom God entrusted the undoing of the knots in the lives of His children, I entrust into your hands the thread of this knot in my life.

No one, not even the Evil One himself, can take my cares away from your precious love.

In your hands, there is no knot that cannot be undone. Powerful Mother, by your grace and intercessory power with your Son, my Liberator, Jesus, take into your hands today this knot. (Mention your petition here.)

I beg you to undo this mess in my life for the glory of God, once for all.

You are my hope. O my Lady, you are my sole consolation, you are the fortification of my feeble strength, you are the enrichment of my destitution and, with Christ, and you give me the freedom from my chains. Hear my plea. Keep me, guide me, and protect me,

O safe refuge of Jesus!

