



Family Devotionals and Sacrament Schedule

Eucharistic Adoration

St. Anne's Chapel at
St. Louis Bertrand, Foreston
Monday at 8:00 a.m. until
Saturday at 7:00 a.m.

St. Mary's, Milaca following
Daily Mass each Thursday until
5:00 p.m. Except the Thursday
before First Friday, then
Adoration closes after
Reconciliation at 5:45 p.m.

Reconciliation

Saturdays

Confession at 3:00 p.m. in
Foreston and after 6:00 p.m.
Mass in Ogilvie.

Sundays

Confession upon request before
Mass in Milaca and Mora.

Second Friday of Each Month

Confession at St. Mary's, Mora
from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

Thursday before First Friday

Confession at St. Mary's, Milaca
from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m.

Family Rosary

Sundays at St. Mary's, Milaca at
6:00 p.m.

First Friday

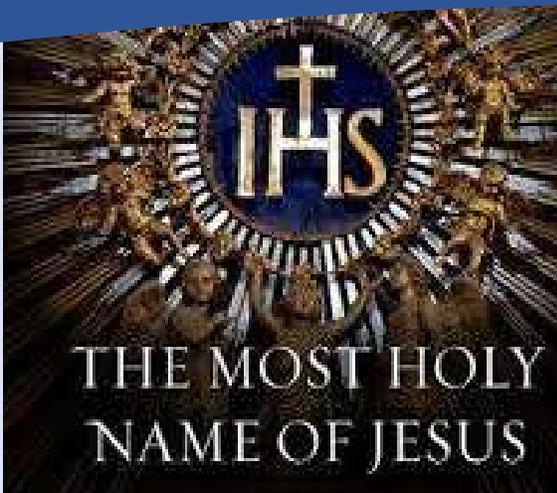
Mass at St. Mary's, Mora each
First Friday at 7:00 a.m.

First Saturday

Prayers and devotions on the
first Saturday of each month held
at St. Mary's, Milaca at 9:00 a.m.

*"Be a Catholic. When you
kneel before an altar, do it
in such a way that others
may be able to recognize
that you know before whom
you kneel."*

~ St. Maximilian Kolbe



January is Dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus

January 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Solemnities are the highest rank of liturgical celebration, higher than feast days or memorials. By celebrating a solemnity dedicated to Mary's motherhood, the Church highlights the significance of her role in the life of Christ. Why does the Catholic Church give so much attention to Mary? Mary is honored because her Son is so much more important. Her great dignity flows directly from her being the human mother of Jesus Christ. One of the central truths about Jesus is that He is both fully God and fully man. To understand this, one must understand the distinction between the terms "person" and "nature." Person refers to *who* we are. Nature refers to *what* we are. If we ask, "who is Jesus Christ?" the answer is that this is the name of God the Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity *Incarnate*. If we ask "what is Jesus Christ?" the answer is that He is a being with two natures-divine and human.

The term "Mother of God" is often misunderstood. It has a very specific meaning. It does not mean that Mary gave to Jesus His divine nature. At a particular moment in history, the second person of the Holy Trinity took to Himself a human nature. He became a man, while remaining at the same time, fully God. This is called the "Incarnation." This is where Mary comes into the picture. When the Son of God "stepped into" human history, He did so through Mary. The womb of Mary is where He received His human nature.

Mary is the woman out of all human history who was chosen by God the Father to give human flesh and blood to His divine Son. This fact makes Mary absolutely unique and special.

Mary is the Mother of God and Our Mother

When Jesus saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing near, He said to His mother;

"Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, Your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home (John 19:26-27).

Why should we pay attention to what Jesus said from the cross? Because His words not only express His concern for His mother on a human level but also reveal Mary's motherhood to us. Jesus never ceases to be the Savior of the world, so His words to John are His words also to us, "*Behold, your mother*" (John 19:27).

By giving her to the Church, represented by His disciple John, Jesus reveals His desire and the plan of God the Father to make Mary mother of the Church and our mother in the order of grace. It is through her intercession, expressed in a mother's love for her children, that the grace and gifts of salvation are brought to us. We cannot afford to be without her help, and so we are invited like John at the cross, to take her into our home. Such love and devotion for her is pleasing to the Father and in no way detracts from our love for Jesus. (CCC 968-972)

This Month's Q&A

Q: Why do Catholics teach that Mary was a virgin throughout her life when the Bible clearly says that Jesus had brothers?

A: The Meaning of Brother - The first thing to understand is that the term *brother* (Gk. *adelphos*) has a broader meaning than uterine brothers. It can mean a biological brother, but it can also mean an extended relative, or even a spiritual brother.

These "brothers" are never once called the children of Mary, although Jesus himself is (John 2:1; Acts 1:14).

Because of the Bible's broad semantic range of "brother," we can rest assured that although St. Paul writes, "[Jesus] appeared to more than five hundred...brothers at the same time" (1 Cor. 15:6), we need not infer from this verse that Mary gave birth to more than 500 children! (CatholicAnswers.com)

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January 2 – Epiphany

Epiphany means “manifestation.” The first Epiphany was the visit of the Magi to adore the Christ Child. It is traditional for parish priests to bless water, chalk, and salt on the eve of Epiphany, and use them for the blessing of homes the next day. While there is no official teaching of the superiority of one holy water over the other, there is a special blessing for Epiphany Water. “Epiphany water is considered the most potent of holy water because it is blessed once a year on the vigil of Epiphany and blessed using an extensive liturgy, similar to vespers. It is mixed with exorcised salt, and the exorcism over the water is lengthier. Hence it was deemed more potent by many, especially exorcists.” Father Richard Heilman

January is Dedicated to *The Most Holy Name of Jesus* (Celebrated January 3)

"Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

There are a number of acts of reverence we can perform that show our devotion to Jesus. Incorporate these into our daily routines and teach our children to do the same.

- ✠ We can make the Sign of the Cross as we pass by a Catholic Church.
- ✠ Bow our heads when the Name of Jesus is spoken.
- ✠ Offer a silent prayer of reparation when we hear the Lord's Name used in vain.

January 9 – Baptism of the Lord

(This brings an end to the Season of Christmas and Begins Ordinary Time.)

As the Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the Body of Christ is invited to not only reflect on the event of Jesus' Baptism, but also to reflect on the mystery of our own Baptism.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) explains how there are five Fruits of Baptism (1262-1274). As the Baptized, we can look at these “fruits” and “graces” to recommit ourselves to living as authentic disciples of Jesus Christ. The five Fruits of Baptism are:

In Baptism, all sin (both original and personal) is forgiven. After Baptism, committed mortal, serious sins must be confessed. Through Baptism, we “put on Christ” (Gal 3:27) and choose His way.

Baptism makes us a new creature, that is, a Child of God, member of Christ (and co-heir with Him), and a temple of the Holy Spirit. As a “new creature,” we're given the gift of grace, participation in the life of God and the virtues of faith, hope, and love.

Baptism makes us members of the Body of Christ, the Church. Through Baptism, we become “priests” to offer our sufferings, vocations, work, families, and friendships to God. We become “prophets” to proclaim the Word of God by our lives, words, and deeds. We become “kings” to lead others to Jesus, to truly love (be charitable), and provide for those in need.

Baptism brings us into communion with Christians. Through Baptism, we share a bond of unity with all those who bear the name Christian, including those who are not yet in full communion with Jesus' Catholic Church. Mindful of this, we can pray for greater Christian unity; that all of Jesus' disciples might be fully united in His true Church as one flock with one shepherd.

Baptism configures us to Christ, claims us as Christ's own, and indelibly marks us. The seal of the Christian life can never be erased, even if or when falling into sin. (<https://catholic-link.org/feast-baptism-our-lord/>)

Mark Your Calendars for our Four Pillars in Faith ACC Parish Mission February 7 – 9, 2022 (Held at St. Mary's, Milaca)

Fr. Louis Guardiola of the Fathers of Mercy will be speaking at all Four Pillars in Faith ACC weekend Masses, February 5 and 6 and will have a presentation each evening Monday through Wednesday (February 7-9) at St. Mary's, Milaca. The theme for the Mission will be “*Eucharistic Adoration.*” We hope you and your family will join us.

Monday: *The Holy Eucharist Sacrifice, Holy Communion and Real Presence Sacrament*

Tuesday: *The Importance and Value of Eucharistic Adoration*

Wednesday: *Social World Transformation through Personal Eucharistic Transformation*

Vatican International Exhibit of the Eucharistic Miracles of the World

St. Mary's, Milaca will host the exhibit during the parish mission. This exhibit includes 126 historically documented Eucharistic miracles that have occurred in various countries since the Last Supper. These are visible proof of Jesus Christ's Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. All are welcome including members of other faiths. Free admission.

Saint Feast Days in January

1	Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, The Octave Day of Christmas
2	Ss. Basil the Great/Gregory Nazianzen
3	Epiphany of the Lord
4	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
5	St. John Neumann
10	Baptism of the Lord
21	St. Agnes
22	Day of Prayer for the Unborn
25	Feast of Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
25	Ss. Timothy/Titus
28	St. Thomas Aquinas

January 5 - 6:15pm – 7:45pm
Class at St. Mary's for all Students,
Parents & Parishioners
Guest Speaker:
David Rinaldi – “Living Your Faith”

January Software Pick

Pray Catholic Prayers - #1 Catholic Novena App with daily prayer reminders.

January 22 Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

is the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. It is the day established by the Church as a day of prayer and penance for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. As individuals, we are called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or giving alms.

All human beings are created in the image and likeness of God. This manner of creation brings us to understand the unique essential dignity of every human being. A person might be born with a disability, or may suffer disability through injury or disease, but these deprivations do not affect his basic dignity.



When God created each of us, He did so with precision and purpose. He looks on each of us with love that cannot be outdone in intensity or tenderness. No matter how the world might view us or others, let us treat each person as the masterpiece that he or she is.