

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

January 1, 2012

FROM THE DESK OF FR. MICHAEL TANG!

The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God which we celebrate this weekend, commemorates the divine motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the God-Bearer, and the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. This feast is always celebrated on January 1st, exactly one week after Christmas.

It is fitting to honor Mary as Mother of Jesus, following the birth of Christ. When we Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God we are not only honoring Mary, who was chosen among all women throughout history to bear God incarnate, but we are also honoring our Lord, who is fully God and fully human. Calling Mary "mother of God" is the highest honor we can give her. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace," the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace".

In the 4th and 5th centuries debates about the nature of Christ raged in the Church. The debate was about the relationship of Christ's divine and human natures. At the center of this debate was a title of Mary. Since at least the 3rd century, Christians had referred to Mary as *theotokos*, meaning "God-bearer." The first documented usage of the term is in the writings of Origen of Alexandria in AD 230. Related to *theotokos*, Mary was called the mother of God. Referring to Mary this way was popular in Christian piety, but the patriarch of Constantinople from AD 428-431, Nestorius, objected. He suggested that Mary was only the mother of Jesus' human nature, but not his divine nature. Nestorius' ideas (or at least how others perceived his arguments) were condemned at the Council of Ephesus in AD 431, and again at the Council of Chalcedon in AD 451. The Church decided that Christ was fully God and fully human, and these natures were united in one divine person, Jesus Christ. Thus Mary could be called "mother of God" since she gave birth to Jesus who was fully divine as well as human. Since this time, Mary has been frequently honored as the "mother of God" by Catholics, Orthodox, and many Protestants.

This year we are lucky to have a long Christmas Season to celebrate; in fact the Feast of the Epiphany is next Sunday. It is fitting then that we continue to celebrate the birthday of our Savior within the context of the New Year. Many of us might be making New Year's resolutions such as to go on a diet, exercise more, or quit smoking. However let's not forget that this is also a good time to make spiritual resolutions, such as to say daily prayers, or go to Mass more often. The New Year is an opportunity for all of us to begin again; it's a time to ask God to give us the grace to become everything He wants us to be. Happy New Year everyone and may this year be filled with peace, prosperity, health and happiness!

REVIVAL

Dr. Martin Luther King Day

Friday, Saturday & Sunday - January 13, 14 & 15 @ 7pm nightly

Father Charles "Chuck" Andrus, SSJ

Retain HOPE and fulfill the DREAM!

Music by: St. Agatha Choir, St. Brigid Choir, Holy Name Brighter Day Jr. Choir,
Chris Nuño, Reverence, Transfiguration Gospel Choir.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

PETITION FOR THE SICK

Virgie Aguillar, Yolanda Anderson, LaVern Agnew, Oliver Bartholomew, Booker T. Ball, Edgar Banks, Timothy Baker, Sr. Juliet Berber, Jerone Bill, Glenda Brown, Mary Brown, Andrei Briggs, Manual Brule, Bernard Byars, Barbara Butler, Brownie Cain, Dorothy Campbell, Mary Captain, Alberto Casanova, Katherine Clark, Lois Gomes Clark, Shirley Dieudonne, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, John Crear, Nigel Dunn, Angela Dupré, Ethel Earley, Robert Evans, Connie Farlice, Anita Finie, Edith Foster, Teresa Franklin, Stacy Franklin, Marian Fussey, Mavis Gibbs, Catherine Green, John Grossman, Pat Hernandez, Marion Hernandez, Mattie Hilburn, Janie Jackson, Angela Johnson, Ellis Jones, Irwin Lagarde, Connie Louie, Joe McZeal, Sr. Marianna, Vylfred Manor, Yvonne Morgan, James U. Mundy II, Dorothy Okoye, Paula Osborn, Dale Payne, Daisy Pratt, Gerald Pratt, Wiley R. Pugh, Michelle Raines, Emma Rausch, Evelyn Roach, Reanna Semien, Lionel Smith, Sr., Shirley Spicer, Darnell Stang, Michele Starks, Wilbur Starks, Ken Ruff, Alice Tenette, Louise Thomas, Emma Thornton, Curtis Tureaud, David Tureaud, Iris Turner, Lubertha Weathers, Doris Whyne, Leon Williams, Lilla Williams, Patricia Williams and Agnes Wilson.

MEN, MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Transfiguration Annual Retreat for men will be held at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center on the weekend of January 20, 21, and 22, 2012. Join your fellow parishioners for this weekend of spiritual enrichment and growth. The Passionist retreat team offer inspirational talks on the theme, as well as time for quiet prayer, Mass, Confession and Stations of the Cross. You may arrive as early as 3:00 PM. Friday. Our retreat opens at 6:15 PM with a buffet supper and closes Sunday after lunch about 1:30 PM. A **\$50.00 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your weekend Retreat, this is reserved for you.** This years Retreat theme: **CATCH THE FIRE! Responding to God's Touch.** To make your reservation please call Greg Warner 323.974.7405, 310.538.2214 or Maurice Simon 323.296.1501.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday Nm 6:22-27, Ps 67:2-8, 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
Sunday Is 60:1-6, Ps 72:2-13, Mt 2:1-12

SACRIFICIAL GIFTS

Saturday, December 25, 2010

\$6,881.47 Sacrificial Gift

Sunday, December 26, 2010

\$5,466.23 Sacrificial Gift

425.60 Building Fund

243.00 "We Care"

SACRIFICIAL GIFTS

Sunday, December 25, 2011

\$7,137.68 Sacrificial Gift

385.62 Building Fund

295.15 "We Care"

Thank you for your generosity!

SCHOOL NEWS

The students, parents, teachers and staff of Transfiguration School would like to wish its parishioners, friends and family a very Merry Christmas and Happy & Prosperous New Year.

School resumes Tuesday, January 3.

CALLING ALL BINGO PLAYERS!

Next Bingo is Sunday, January 8th at 2pm in the hall.

Join the school as we celebrate **Dr. Martin Luther King Day** with our parade on Friday January 13, 2012.

RECYCLING PROGRAM

We are asking every family in the parish and school to save plastic bottles, glass, and aluminum cans, (**no plastic bags, no plastic utensils and no foil paper**) and bring them to the parish to recycle. All proceeds will help to pay off the school debt to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Deacon Greg Patterson



is featured in this week's
 Los Angeles
 Sentinel Newspaper
 December 29, 2011.

Please pick up a copy to read
 his inspiring story.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 31

5:15 p.m. Int. of all Parishioners

Sunday, January 1

8:00 a.m. +Tom Franklin

10:00 a.m. +Johnny Moll

12:15 p.m. Int. of Eula Dupre

Monday, January 2

8:00 a.m. +Charles D. Murray

Tuesday, January 3

8:00 a.m. +George Hill

Wednesday, January 4

8:00 a.m. +Velma Mosley and Int. of Thelma Foye

Thursday, January 5

8:00 a.m. Int. of Jeanette Fruge

Friday, January 6

8:00 a.m. Int. of the Godinez Family

Saturday, January 7

5:15 p.m. +Veronica Manson

Sunday, January 8

8:00 a.m. Int. of all Parishioners

10:00 a.m. Int. of Raymond Molina, Jr.