

*Dear Parishioners,*

You have found favor with God.  
*(Luke 1:30)*



We all know how special Mary is. After all, God chose her to be the mother of his Son. But just because Mary is special, that doesn't mean you are ordinary. You're special too! Like her, you have found God's favor—unmerited and undeserved grace from heaven. In fact, God loves you so much that he sent his Son into the world, not to condemn you, but to save you (John 3:17). That's pretty special!

The Greek word for "favor" in this passage can mean "grace" as well. Mary is full of grace—but so are you. God has filled you with his grace so that you can become "graceful" just as Mary was. She was graceful not because she had perfect etiquette or social skills. Mary was graceful because of the way God's grace molded and formed her.

Scripture tells us God has given us an "abundance" of his grace (Romans 5:17). It's always with us, like a spring bubbling up in our hearts. There is no end to what this grace can do in our lives. Paul tells us that God's grace is "sufficient" even to make God's power "perfect" in our lives (2 Corinthians 12:9).

This grace moves us to be unselfish, kind, and generous to everyone we meet. It helps us to forgive other people and to let go of our hurts. Most of all, the grace of God empowers us to be more and more like him. That's what grace did in Mary's life, and it's what grace can do in our lives.

Tomorrow is Christmas Day. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could all sit quietly and let the grace that is in us convince us that Jesus is Lord? That's what Mary did as she spent time pondering God's greatness and his grace in her life (Luke 2:19). In fact, the best Christmas present we can give Jesus is to let his grace well up in our hearts. Remember: you are special. You are filled with God's grace. So just sit with the Lord, and let that grace touch your heart.

"Thank you, Lord, for your grace and favor."

*Deacon Mark Race, Administrator*

## Christmas Schedule

### CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Children's Mass

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 PM

Midnight Mass - Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
*(Christmas Carols at 11:30 PM)*

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

### NEW YEARS EVE MASSES

Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 12:15 PM

### NEW YEARS DAY MASS

*The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*  
Monday, January 1, 2018 at 8:00 AM

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### Free Dinners Christmas Day at St. Agatha

*Dinner served from 11AM to 3PM in the parish hall.*

Please invite those in your community who are homeless, needy, lonely or who need a spirit filled inviting place to celebrate the birthday of our Savior Jesus Christ. A hot sit down meal with giveaways, used clothing, Santa visits and gifts for the children... Address: 2610 S. Mansfield Avenue, near S. LaBrea and West Adams, 90016. For more information call 323.935.8127.

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### ACCW

The Central District of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) invites all women of the parish to a day of prayer and fellowship with other Catholic women of the area. Every Catholic Woman is a member and there are no dues. The next gathering will be **Friday, January 19, 2018** at Holy Name of Jesus Parish located at 1955 West Jefferson Blvd. in Los Angeles in the Acacia Room next to church. The day begins at 9:30 AM with registration and includes a speaker, Mass, lunch and ends at 1:30 PM. For more information call your parish representative Helen Argusta at 323.295.9024.

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### Mass & Healing Service

St. Bernadette Catholic Church is hosting a Mass & Healing Service on **Friday, January 26, 2018** with Father Jim Clarke presiding. The celebration will begin with Praise and Worship at 6:30 PM and Mass at 7:00 PM. Please call 323.293.4877 for more information.

## DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Sunday</b>	2 Sm 7:1-16, Ps 89:2-29, Lk 1:26-38
<b>Monday</b>	Is 52:7-10, Ps 98:1-6, Jn 1:1-18
<b>Tuesday</b>	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59, Mt 10:17-22
<b>Wednesday</b>	1 Jn 1:1-4, Jn 20:1-8
<b>Thursday</b>	1 Jn 1:5-2:2, Mt 2:13-18
<b>Friday</b>	1 Jn 2:3-11, Lk 2:22-35
<b>Saturday</b>	1 Jn 2:12-17, Lk 2:36-40
<b>Sunday</b>	Sir 3:2-14, Ps 128:1-5, Lk 2:22-40

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday December 23

5:15 PM Soul of Barbara Samuels

### Sunday December 24

8:00 AM Soul of Lillian White  
10:00 AM Soul of Yula Wilkes  
5:15 PM Soul of Angula Bates  
Midnight Intention of all Parishioners

### Monday December 25

10:00 AM Souls of Yvonne, Jackeline, Dilcia & Wilfred Morgan, Jr.

### Tuesday December 26

8:00 AM Soul of Simone Anderson

### Saturday December 30

5:15 PM Intention of all Parishioners

### Sunday December 31

10:00 AM Soul of Sam Richardson



## WEEKLY OFFERING December 17, 2017

\$4,325.00 Tithes and Offering  
168.00 Building Fund  
39.00 "We Care"

**NO COFFEE & DONUTS TODAY...**  
**Return Sunday, January 7, 2018**  
**for a delicious Chicken & Waffle Breakfast**  
**hosted by Transfiguration School.**

## PRAY FOR THE SICK

LaVerne Agnew, Brian Argusta, Joyce Barnett, Rose Ball, Percenia Beasley, Veronica Bearce, Fr. Emile Belletty, Sister Juliet Berber, Glenda Brown, Andrei Briggs, Vivian Burgess, Barbara Butler, Brownie Cain, Sister Cecilia Calva, Mary Captain, Alberto Casanova, Jeannie Chapron, Katherine Clark, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Agnes Cooper, Rita Cormire, Edward Cousin, Juanita Davis, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Jayden Dunn, Nigel Dunn, Gwen Files, Ferdinand Foye, Betty Flowers, Teresa Franklin, Judy Felton-Gardner, Mavis Gibbs, Refugio Godinez, Nancy Goosby, Barbara Harris, Jacqueline Holman, Mattie Hilburn, Janie Jackson, Aaron Jittu, Aaron Katz, Briana Katz, Barbara Lagarde, Irwin Lagarde, Jeanne LeBlanc, Barbara Lindsey, Connie Louie, Joe McZeal, Gloria McClaurin, Vydred Manor, Sister Marianna, Sabrina Markos, Dorothy Okoye, Martina Peters, Daisy Pratt, Wiley R. Pugh, Dorothy Pulliam, Vickie Race, Andrea Raggette, Dottie Rodriguez, Doris Rogers, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Chris Simon, George Simon, Sr., Maurice Simon, Jeremiah Skyes, Darnell Stang, Michele Starks, Annie Starks, Leila Thomas, Stephanie Thompson, Emma Thornton, Iris Turner, Johnnye Washington, Cassandra Williams, Thomas Williams, Peggy Wright and Emmerson Young.

## Annual Men's Retreat

Transfiguration Annual Retreat for men will be held at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center on the weekend of January 19, 20, and 21, 2018. 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, and 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 1:00 PM. **A \$50.00 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your weekend Retreat, this time is reserved for you.** This year's Retreat theme: **"Going without knowing... pitching our Tent in Faith"** For more information or to make your reservation please call Greg Warner at 323.974.7405/310.538.2214 or Maurice Simon at 323.296.1501.

## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Mass

You are invited to the Los Angeles Archdiocese Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Mass at Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral, on **Monday, January 15, 2018** at 2:30 PM. This Mass is hosted by the African American Community for the city of Los Angeles. The Celebrant will be Most Reverend José Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles. The Homilist will be Most Reverend J. Terry Steib, SVD, Retired Bishop; Diocese of Memphis, TN. The Knights of Peter Claver, Coordinating Councils & Courts, (CCC) will offer travel assistance by bus for those who may want to attend. **Pick up time will be 1:00 PM.** The location for bus pick up and return will be at designated parishes. **All are welcome to ride! The cost for passengers will be by love offering only!** Please sign up after mass or send your name and phone number to the Rectory if you would like to reserve a seat on the bus!

## Happy Birthday to: Dorothy Coignet Stanley



who celebrates her

## 99<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 26<sup>th</sup>

*Blessed, Thankful and Beautiful...*

*From your family, friends and also lots of love, kisses and hugs from your friends in the Transfiguration 50 + Club.*



## Happy Birthday to:

*Robert Johns*

who celebrated **97** on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Congratulations from his family.*