

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018

Salesian Perspective

In today's Gospel, we experience Elizabeth proclaiming Mary to be blessed as the mother of Our Lord. St. Francis de Sales notes:

When Elizabeth proclaims Mary's blessedness, Mary affirms that she is indeed blessed, for all her happiness comes from God. God looks at Mary in her lowliness and exalts her. Mary, in her humility, is in awe that God has made her the mother of Jesus.

A very exalted love of God and neighbor, as well as a profound humility, form a special union in Mary's heart. Humility has Mary experience the immense and inexhaustible depth of God's goodness. After experiencing the immensity of God's love, she is aware of her littleness in the face of God's loftiness. She immediately acts on her love for God, by saying: Let it be done to me as You say. In giving her consent to God's will, she demonstrates the greatest charity conceivable. For at the moment she consents, the Divine Word takes on flesh. Infinitely graced, Mary desires God's love for all.

As with Mary, our first fruit of the grace of God is humility. Humility has us experience the infinite love of God. At the same time, humility has us experience the limitations of our capacity to love God and others. While grace inclines us to the excellence of God's divine love, humility has us see how God's love profoundly purifies the heart before God and creatures. Like in Mary, God's love, in us, has us love others.

What a good sign humility of heart is in the spiritual life! If we humble ourselves by giving our consent to God's will in our life, we too can give birth in our heart to the Christ Child. To let go of our own willful desires is painful. Yet, to bring Christ to birth in our hearts is well worth trusting in God's action in us. Our divine Savior, with our consent, will assuredly make us eternally blessed, and introduce us into eternal life.

(Sermons of St. Francis de Sales, L. Fiorelli, Ed.; Saint Francis de Sales, Oeuvres.)

Our Lady of the Seas Pastor - Fr Fred Smuda

If you need to reach our Pastor please call (home) 252.995.6613 or please contact Anita Bills, Church Administrator at (home) 252.995.7892 or (cell) 252.202.1412

Principal Balance on our Mortgage ~ \$100,134.49
Thank you for your continuing support...

The Reading for today's Mass are found in the **Glory & Praise** at number **741**

1st Reading ~ Micah 5:1 – 4a

2nd Reading ~ Hebrews 10:5 – 10

Gospel Reading ~ Luke 1:39 – 45

Pope's Intentions December

Intention for Evangelization: In the Service of the Transmission of Faith. That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.



~ Christmas Mass Schedule 2018 ~

December 24th ~ 7:00 Christmas Vigil OLS

December 25th ~ 11:00 am OLS (Tuesday - only)
Mass *bi-lingual*. Homily in English)

We will NOT HAVE morning Mass on Wednesday & Thursday December 26th & 27th

Confessions before Mass or by Appointment



RCIA ADULT CLASS

IS DESIGNED FOR PEOPLE COMING INTO THE CATHOLIC FAITH. SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE SPEAK TO FR. FRED.

1st Communion, Confirmation & RCIA Classes

- 1st Communion
Sunday, Nov 23rd right after the 9:00 am Mass
Please have your parents pick you up at the Hall at 12:30 pm

Religious Education News

Rebuild, Renew and Rejoice in God's Service

“You learn to speak by speaking, you learn to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working; in just the same way you learn to love by loving.”

~St. Francis de Sales

MASS SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK

We will NOT HAVE morning Mass on Wednesday & Thursday December 26th & 27th

- 12/29 Saturday 5:30 pm
12/30 Sunday Morning 9:00 am
12/30 Domingo 5:00 pm (Lengua Española)
1/1 Tuesday 11:00 am (New Years Day)
1/4 1st Friday 8:30 am with 1 hour devotion following the Mass for the Sacred Heart
1/5 1st Saturday 8:30 am for Immaculate Heart
1/5 Saturday 5:30 pm
1/6 Sunday 9:00 am
1/6 Domingo 5:00 pm (Lengua Española)

Ladies, Don't Miss the Fellowship and Fun!

The Martha & Mary Ministry is adding contacts to our email list. If you want to be a part of this OLOTS' Ladies' Group, please send your name and email to janegrimm@aol.com. All are welcome.

CARE MINISTRY



The Parish Council is establishing a Care Ministry. Anyone who lives alone and/or anyone who would like a WELLNESS CHECK with a daily phone call is

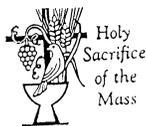
encouraged to sign up. You may sign up to receive a call or you may sign up to make a call. You can find the sign up sheet in the vestibule of the church.

Oblates on Facebook

Please like and join the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales **NEW** Facebook page. Continue to get you daily prayers and inspiration <https://www.facebook.com/DeSalesOblates/> on our new page. We look forward to continue sharing our Salesian Spirituality with you!



Our Lady of the Seas MASS CARDS MASS



INTENTIONS to be said at OLS. Please speak with Fr. Fred to specify the date for the Mass. Donations would be accepted.

We Take Request ~ Book of Prayer Intentions



Our church family can now make prayer requests by way of our Book of Prayer Intentions, which is provided specifically for that purpose. The dark blue book is in back of the nave near the baptismal font. Just write your intentions in it, and they will be remembered during the Prayer of the Faithful at our Sunday Masses. "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving make your requests known to God." -Philippians 4:6



Inspirational artwork by Brother Mickey McGrath, an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales. You can learn more at bromickeymcgrath.com

The 26th Annual Island-Wide Food Drive



Is here are again, our parish has a convenient drop-off location. (24-hr. drop box on porch - that's the hall, NOT the church)

Many thanks to all who supported our Food Drive through the years. Your generosity helps us to help those in need with our Charitable Outreach Programs. God bless.

SPECIAL THANKS to our Martha & Mary Ministry! (previously known as the Women's Guild)
The poinsettias decorating the altar this Holy Season are beautiful.



Many Blessings and Peace This Holiday Season.
Wishing everyone receives the most precious gift of all, our Lord and Savior.

¡Feliz Navidad!

Numerosas Bendiciones y Paz para estas Fiestas.
Deseando que todos reciban el más preciado regalo,
Nuestro Señor y Redentor.