

# *St. Leo The Great*

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

## THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

### On this week @ St. Leo The Great...

- CWL Announcements
- FYI
- Salvation-New Life in Christ
- Ignatian Weekend Retreat
- Family Consecration to the Holy Family
- New Year's Day Prayers
- Mary, Mother of God

**JEREMIAH 29:11**  
“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”



Happy  
New Year

  
**MASS INTENTIONS**  
OF THE WEEK

#### **Saturday, December 31st**

4:30 p.m. Pro populo

#### **Sunday, January 1st**

9:00 a.m. † All souls in purgatory  
11:00 a.m. † Patrick Sullivan

#### **Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 a.m. Christopher Duarte

#### **Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 a.m. † Madalaine Vonk

#### **Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 a.m. † Teresa O'Relly  
4:30 p.m. † Frank Utrosa

#### **Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m. † Thomas Passafiume  
11:00 a.m. † Tomasina & † Francesco Parente



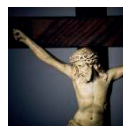
### Catholic Women's League

- CWL Executive Meeting: Sunday, January 15, 2023, after 11 a.m. mass in the lounge
- CWL General Meeting - 3rd Sunday of the month – January 22, 2023, after 11 a.m. mass in the lounge
- CWL Reflection: Saturday February 4, 2023  
Mass 8:30 a.m., Coffee at 9:15 a.m. and program ends at noon  
Theme: “*Catholic and Living it*”  
Open to all women of the parish.  
To register, please email Donna at [dmschaddick@gmail.com](mailto:dmschaddick@gmail.com) to register (no charge)

### FYI

- **Holy family statues**, wood-carved, now framed and hanging in baptistry area
- **Take a book, Leave a book** : One Book shelf for adults and one book shelf for young people as been arranged in the vestibule.

### Salvation-New Life in Christ



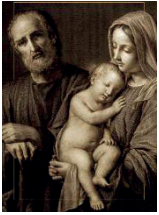
A 10 part video study program by Scripture scholar and theologian Michael Patrick Barber, providing a thorough, deeply catholic, and deeply biblical meaning of ‘*Salvation*’ is arranged from Thursday, January 19, 2023 7 p.m. - Thursday, March 23, 2023 9 a.m. at St. Gertrude's Parish hall, Oshawa. For details visit <https://stgertrudesos.archtoronto.org/> or call 905-925-9871

### Ignatian Weekend Retreat

A silent Ignatian weekend retreat for men, “On the road to Union with God”, by Fr. Henk van Meijel, SJ, is arranged in Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre from Friday, January 13, 2023 7 p.m. - Sunday, January 15, 2023 1p.m.. The hope is that the retreatant comes to a higher understanding of self in relation to our infinite

loving and merciful God in the context of their own earthly life- journey. For registration and info, visit: <https://Manresa-canada.ca/events/>

### **Family Consecration to the Holy Family**



*Holy Family, we consecrate ourselves and our family to you. May we be completely united in a love that is lasting, faithful, and open to the gift of new life. Help us to grow in virtue, to forgive one another from our hearts, and to live in peace all our days. Keep us strong in faith, persevering in prayer, diligent in our work, and generous toward those in need. May our home, O Holy Family, truly become a domestic church where we reflect your example in our daily life. Amen. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!*

*\*prayer taken from <https://ontariokofc.ca/>*



### **New Year's Day Prayers**

Pope John Paul II's blessing at the turn of the century resonates today, more than two decades later:

*I wish you a year filled with serenity and happiness: may you always be certain of God's love for us. As he did two thousand years ago, Christ comes today with his saving Gospel to guide the uncertain and faltering steps of peoples and nations, leading them towards a future of true hope. I ask him to bless this moment of festivity and good wishes, that it may be the promising beginning of a new millennium filled with joy and peace. Let us enter the Year 2000 with our eyes fixed on the mystery of the Incarnation. Christ, yesterday, today and for ever. To him belong time and the ages. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen! I thank you. Happy New Year to all. Praised be Jesus Christ!*

Jan. 1, 2000

### **Mary, Mother of God**

Mary's divine motherhood broadens the Christmas spotlight. Mary has an important role to play in the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. She consents to God's invitation conveyed by the angel (Luke 1:26-38). Elizabeth proclaims: "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your

womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:42-43, emphasis added). Mary's role as mother of God places her in a unique position in God's redemptive plan.

Without naming Mary, Paul asserts that "God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law" (Galatians 4:4). Paul's further statement that "God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out 'Abba, Father!'" helps us realize that Mary is mother to all the brothers and sisters of Jesus.



Some theologians also insist that Mary's motherhood of Jesus is an important element in God's creative plan. God's "first" thought in creating was Jesus. Jesus, the incarnate Word, is the one who could give God perfect love and worship on behalf of all creation. As Jesus was "first" in God's mind, Mary was "second" insofar as she was chosen from all eternity to be his mother.

The precise title "Mother of God" goes back at least to the third or fourth century. In the Greek form Theotokos (God-bearer), it became the touchstone of the Church's teaching about the Incarnation. The Council of Ephesus in 431 insisted that the holy Fathers were right in calling the holy virgin Theotokos. At the end of this particular session, crowds of people marched through the street shouting: "Praised be the Theotokos!" The tradition reaches to our own day. In its chapter on Mary's role in the Church, Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church calls Mary "Mother of God" 12 times.

### **Reflection:**

Other themes come together at today's celebration. It is the Octave of Christmas: Our remembrance of Mary's divine motherhood injects a further note of Christmas joy. It is a day of prayer for world peace: Mary is the mother of the Prince of Peace. It is the first day of a new year: Mary continues to bring new life to her children—who are also God's children.

*\*Article taken from the website [www.franciscanmedia.org](http://www.franciscanmedia.org)*










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