



BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD    SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023  
MOST HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC CHURCH    SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



**MOST HOLY REDEEMER  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
100 Diamond Street  
San Francisco, California  
415-863-6259  
[www.mhr.org](http://www.mhr.org)

**CURRENT WORSHIP HOURS**

Daily Mass: M - F 8am  
Saturday Vigil Mass: 5pm  
Sunday Masses: 8am, 10am & 6:30pm  
Holy Days: 8am & 7pm  
Reconciliation: Saturdays 3:45pm - 4:30pm

**Fr. Matt Link, C.P.P.S., Pastor**

[frmatt@mhr.org](mailto:frmatt@mhr.org)

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

[musicministry@mhr.org](mailto:musicministry@mhr.org)

**PARISH OFFICE**

**Michael Poma, Parish Manager**

[mpoma@mhr.org](mailto:mpoma@mhr.org)

**Will Ives, Secretary**

[secretary@mhr.org](mailto:secretary@mhr.org)



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**Collection - Weekend of December 18**

5pm -	\$482.00
8am -	\$425.00
10am -	\$1,194.00
6:30pm -	\$284.00
Misc. -	\$920.00
Online Giving -	\$1,388.00
Total -	\$4,693.00
Budgeted -	\$4,500.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!

**THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH**

Daily Mass

**Monday - Friday 8:00am**

Monday, January 2, 2023

**Parish office closed**

**Centering Prayer 7pm (Zoom)**

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

**Wednesday Night Suppers 5pm - 7pm**

Saturday, January 7, 2023

**Vigil Mass 5pm**

Sunday January 8, 2023

**Masses 8am, 10am & 6:30pm**

Join us for Coffee Hour after the 8am & 10am Masses

**FACE COVERINGS ARE RECOMMENDED.**

**Livestream the 10am Sunday Mass**

**on our MHR Facebook page:**

[www.facebook.com/mhrsf](https://www.facebook.com/mhrsf)



**JANUARY 2 - JANUARY 8, 2023**

**Monday: 1Jn. 2:22-28, Jn. 1:19-28**

**Tuesday: 1Jn. 2:29-3:6, Jn. 1:29-34**

**Wednesday: 1Jn. 3:7-10, Jn. 1:35-42**

**Thursday: 1Jn. 3:11-21, Jn. 1:43-51**

**Friday: 1Jn. 5:5-13, Mt. 1:7-11**

**Saturday: 1Jn. 5:14-21, Jn. 2:1-11**

**Sunday: Is. 60:1-6, Eph. 3:2-3a, 5-6, Mt. 2:1-12**



## Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

"Happy New Year!" If you're from Denver, you not only might repeat that greeting through the month, but also leave your Christmas lights on until Jan. 22, the last day of the National Western Stock Show. If that seems overdone, remember that we've been celebrating the Nativity of Christ for nearly 1,800 years (though nobody seems quite sure who chose Dec. 25 over Jan. 6 as Jesus' day of birth).

Most liturgists will tell us that, in spite of the hype of Christmas, Easter is the center of the church year. Yet, there would be no Easter without a Nativity, no cross or Resurrection without an Incarnation. That brings us to the feast we celebrate today, the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God.

This title, Mother of God, has been at the heart of immense, intense theological debate. It's not hard to understand why some considered the very idea as blasphemous: How could a creature be mother to God? Yet, that is exactly what the somewhat strange translation of the Nicene Creed defends with the phrase that describes Jesus Christ as "incarnate of the Virgin Mary." It may seem simple to say that through Mary, Christ is flesh of our flesh. It becomes a bit more shocking to say that God, the creator of the universe, chooses to be dependent on humanity in order to become one of us. The title Mother of God necessarily infers an almost scandalous degree of mutuality between humanity and divinity.

One response to this would be to write it all off as hifalutin theology, too convoluted to consider on the morning after New Year's Eve. On the other hand, there might be no more appropriate day to contemplate this mystery than the one on which many of us have made ourselves particularly aware of the limitations of our own incarnation and are looking toward starting anew.

We can read today's Liturgy of the Word as the description of a crescendoing process that invites us to move through God's blessing on all creation, to adoption, to the intimacy of shared life. For Christians, this is a summary of the history of salvation and ultimately an invitation to mysticism.

Now, lest we think that this is just too much, even for New Year's Day, we can turn to today's Gospel as a simple story that invites us to more than we might ask or imagine. Luke tells us that the first nonfamily members to discover Emmanuel were shepherds, denigrated folks of meager means whose work required very little in the way of intelligence or creativity. Perhaps their poverty and lack of sophistication opened them to wonders that the "wise and the learned" knew too much to comprehend. They had been told not to fear and to go find a savior whose circumstances were as humble as their own. And that was exactly what they found: an infant cared for by two migrants who had made him a bed in a cattle crib. Somehow, for these shepherds, that was enough to make them spread the message to whoever would listen.

In relation to today's readings, the shepherds might represent the movement from the blessing described in the Book of Numbers to the joy of experiencing the Spirit's work in them that Paul described to the Galatians. The cry "Abba, Father!" could be the gist of their glad tidings to others.

We see the next step, the move from adoration to mysticism, in Mary who "kept all these things in her heart." Luke's Gospel emphasizes that the birth of Christ came to pass because Mary identified herself as the servant of the Lord who, like her son, made it her life's goal that God's will be done through her. The birth of Christ, God's personal incarnation in history, took place through Mary's collaboration. She made herself available for God to do what God could not do without her.

This brings us to two of Christianity's most radical claims. First, the fact that God depended on Mary for the Incarnation reveals that God's power is vulnerable love that has nothing to do with domination. More radically, Mary is not unique: Jesus himself said, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it" (Luke 8:21). Thus, as Meister Eckhart explained 700 years ago, "We are all meant to be mothers of God."

The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, invites us to marvel at the God who comes to us in loving vulnerability and dependence. Following Mary, we are called to do nothing less than repeat her words: "May it be done in me according to your will." Christ is always needing to be born in and among us, and that calls for every year to be a New Year.

—Sr. Mary M. McGlone, *National Catholic Reporter Contributor*



*Our Mass celebrants will remember the following intentions during the celebration of the Eucharist:*

**Saturday, December 31**

**10pm Theresa Adams †**

**Sunday, January 1**

**8am**

**10am**

**6:30pm MHR Parishioners**

**Monday, January 2**

**8am**

**Tuesday, January 3**

**8am William Oakes †**

**Wednesday, January 4**

**8am Brian Flannagan †**

**Thursday, January 5**

**8am Joaquina & Victor Yague †**

**Friday, January 6**

**8am Anthony Sweetman †**

**Mass Intentions are celebrated for those to remember a loved one, honor someone on an important date or celebrate a special occasion. To schedule a Mass Intention or sponsor the weekend altar flowers, please call the parish office at 415-863-6259 or email [secretary@mhr.org](mailto:secretary@mhr.org).**



**Ted Alden, Jerry Anderson, Nick Andrade, Ino Austria, Rodolfo Cruz Bacilig, Bob Barcewski, Joseph Bielanski, Anna Bycholski, Becky Caylor, Earl Chan, Heather Combs, Dean Curtis, Jay D'Amato, David Gaitan, Eileen Gayton, Monica Grace, Wallace Greene, Serge Hubert, Liz Kovack, David Kossman, David Lamdin, Doug Lawrence, Jill Laufenberg, Michael Leonard, David Magna, Ronald & Sharon Martinkus, Edgar Matthews, Carol Moilan, Ben Montoya, Lou Montoya, Cliff Morrison, Doris Nassal, John Notor, Nadia O'Donnell, Beatriz Perez, Lloyd Oksen, Carlos Rodriguez, Maureen O'Sullivan, Lorena Santos, Bobby Schulte, Bob Schultz, Gregory Dake Schultz, Annie & Nok Sojka, Mary Stevens, Jim Stockholm, Ruth Varela, Joseph & Mary Vouglas, Maureen Vouglas, Stephen Wakefield, Dan Wandres, Ryan Zuniga, †Kathryn Mary Maimone† and †Carlo Mazzaferro†.**



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Centering Prayer is meeting via Zoom on Monday evenings @ 7:00pm.

Email [centering@mhr.org](mailto:centering@mhr.org) for Zoom login details.

Bible Study on upcoming Sunday readings meets via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 7pm.

Email [biblestudy@mhr.org](mailto:biblestudy@mhr.org) for login and for more information.

Young Adults Group: Meetings are on hiatus. Email [yag@mhr.org](mailto:yag@mhr.org) for info.

Christian Healing Prayer Group: Please join us on the first Thursday of each month at 2pm in the Church. Email [markwbass@yahoo.com](mailto:markwbass@yahoo.com) for information.

**An Auto External Defibrillator is located in hallway next to the women's restroom in Ellard Hall.**



**Emmanuel Tree Project:** A very big **THANK YOU** to all of you who contributed so generously to the Emmanuel Tree project. You have given many people a very Merry Christmas!

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY

**OUR PARISH COMMUNITY BIRTHDAYS**

**Edward Center, Lonny Israel,  
Denise Barton, Pete Toms,  
Juan Ramon Davila, Gregory Matracia.  
Steven Golden, Chuck Mercurio,  
and David Sundy**

**Join the MHR Acolyte Ministry!**

We are in need of additional acolytes (altar servers) for all of our Masses. We will provide you with individual training and an experienced mentor, and you won't be asked to serve until you feel ready. If you'd like to learn more about this important and meaningful ministry, please reach out. Women and young people are especially encouraged, but all are welcome!

Email [acolytes@mhr.org](mailto:acolytes@mhr.org) if you are interested.







Centering Prayer

## Centering Prayer & the Practice of Forgiveness

*"Forgiveness is the name of love in a wounded world."*

Henri Nouwen

### Speaker: Catherine Regan, Ph.D.

How many times have we heard or spoken the word "forgiveness"—in sermons, scriptures, inner promptings, prayers? We all have had countless opportunities to forgive our families, friends, co-workers, strangers, government, church, and ourselves. And yet how many times have our hearts been genuinely touched? Being honest with ourselves, have we been willing to forgive in some situations? Even with the best intentions, have we always been able to find access to our capacity to forgive?

There is so much more to forgiveness than we have yet discovered. Let us join together for a morning of contemplative reflection and dialogue on Jesus' words and a Buddhist forgiveness meditation on offering and receiving forgiveness.



**Catherine Regan, Ph.D.** is a spiritual director, retired psychologist, and longtime adjunct staff member at Mercy Center, Burlingame. She primarily serves on the Centering Prayer team, and is dedicated to the reclaiming of the Christian Wisdom Tradition and the contemplative practices so urgently needed at this time in our world.

Saturday,  
January 21, 2023  
10 AM —12:30 PM  
Ellard Hall  
(In-person event)

E-mail: [centering@mhr.org](mailto:centering@mhr.org)  
to register (name & e-mail  
address).

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2023 Calendars  
in the Church Entrance!



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**Several congratulatory notes** from parishes and Catholic ministries from across the archdiocese

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