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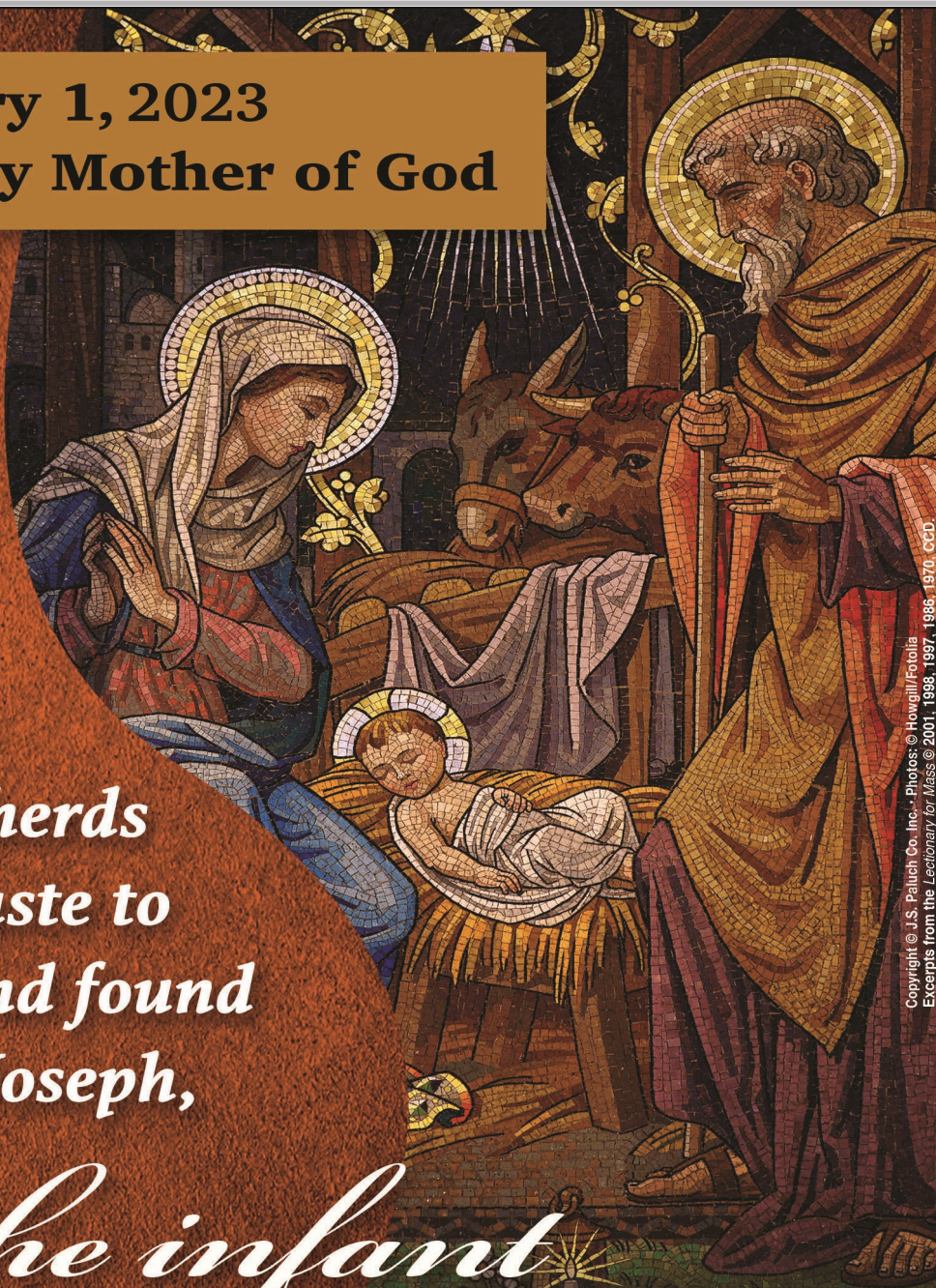


January 1, 2023
Mary, the Holy Mother of God

*The shepherds
went in haste to
Bethlehem and found
Mary and Joseph,*

*and the infant
lying in the manger.*

Luke 2:16



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God sent his Son born of a Woman

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. It is a celebration of an event that begins with intense love, not just Mary's great love, but God's love for all of us, for you and me. But what is love? It is not a feeling, it is not an emotion, it is not the romantic sensation as is so often portrayed in movies, TV shows, and other media. Love is a conscious decision of the will to reach out to the other. Love is to forget self and desire solely the good of the other. And often love costs.

God sees our brokenness. He sees the pain and suffering we have brought upon ourselves ever since the first act of rejection in the Garden of Eden. God sees sin and its consequences, and He sees death. God in his immeasurable love for us, chooses to bring us the good. But to do so, He must become human. To conquer death, He must confront death by undergoing death. God cannot die, only a human can die and thus He must take on our humanity. And to do that, He needs the one person who is absolute love, who is Immaculate since Conception, who is full of grace. He needs Mary.

Mary becomes the mother of Jesus, she becomes the mother of God. She also, forgetting self, gives of herself completely to the son. This is the very definition of love. Among many things, she gives Jesus three particular gifts.

First, she gives Him life, she gives Him his humanity. A very piece of her body, an egg cell, will now become the body of God. The Word becomes flesh through her. God now can experience death. But besides the physical death of the body, He seeks a death of the will, a death of the self. St. Paul states in Philippians 2 "He humbled and emptied himself". The God of all power and might takes the form of a helpless baby.

The second gift Mary gives her son is nurturing care. Her child is helpless. Among all God's creatures none is born as helpless as we humans. Mary feeds her child, clothes him, and gives him all the protection and care he needs. She cradles her baby and gives him all the tender love and emotional support he needs. God, who is love, experiences love in its purest form.

Mary and her husband Joseph will care, protect, and teach the child as he grows into manhood. But there is one teaching that Mary is uniquely disposed to give her son. This is her third gift. She teaches Jesus how to embrace suffering. She herself, as mother, will suffer greatly, culminating with witnessing the death of her son, holding his lifeless body in her hands. It is not uncommon for love and sorrow to go together. As mother, Mary will assist Jesus with his sacrificial mission.

As she is Mother to God, so she is mother to each of us. She offers her tender love to all of us in a very personal and intimate manner. As we begin the new calendar year, it is traditional to make New Year's resolutions. Consider a resolution of renewing or starting an intense relationship with your mother. Love her as a child. Let her love you as a mother. There is a song in our missalettes titled "Hail Mary, Gentle Woman". In it, there is one key phrase, "teach us wisdom, teach us love".

God is Love, and Mary is a most excellent vehicle for experiencing that love.

~ *Rico Chapa*

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

**Friday, January 6th
& Every first Friday
of every month in the
church from
8:30 am to 12 pm.**



**Correction from last weeks
bulletin. There WILL BE a
6:00 pm Mass on
Sunday, January 1st, 2023.**

Alive in Christ gathering at St. Frances Cabrini on January 12, 2023. Praise With All Your Might. "Love the Lord...with all your heart...soul...and mind..." (Matt 22:37). Express your love in praise, using your voice and moving your body! Share the Holy Spirit's gifts, then worship Jesus in His True Presence in Eucharistic Adoration. Join us at 6:30 pm on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at St. Frances Cabrini, 3201 E. Presidio Rd.

CALENDARS

Holy Hope Cemetery supplies Catholic Churches with calendars. Due to administration changes, they are not able to supply calendars to churches this year.

Capilla de Guadalupe

We will be having a Mass at Capilla Guadalupe on Friday, January 6th at 6:00 p.m. Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The Grupo Guadalupano next group meeting will be Monday, January 9th.

Tendremos una misa en Capilla Guadalupe el viernes, 6 de enero a las 6:00 p.m. continuando con Exposición del Santísimo Sacramento. La próxima junta del Grupo Guadalupano será el lunes, 9 de enero.

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE

- **Call 911** to make a report.
- **If the abuse happened in Arizona, call the Police or Sheriff's Office in the specific area.** If the abuse happened in any other state, call the Police or Sheriff's Office in the specific area of that state.
- **Call the diocese in which the abuse happened.** If the abuse happened in the Diocese of Tucson, call the Victim Assistance Program of the Diocese of Tucson at 520-623-0344 or (1-800-234-0344 in Arizona) and/or the Office of Child, Adolescent and Adult Protection of the Diocese of Tucson at 520-838-2513.

Parish Contribution Letters

The parish contribution letters for 2022 will be mailed out by the end of January. To make sure you receive your letter, please call the parish office 520-623-3833 if you need to update your information. Thank you.

Cartas de Contribución Parroquiales

Las cartas de contribución parroquiales del 2022 se enviarán por correo a fines de enero. Para asegurarse de recibir su carta, por favor llame a la oficina parroquial 520-623-3833 si necesita actualizar su información.
Gracias.



Our Parish Offices will be closed starting Friday, December 23rd through Tuesday, January 3rd for winter break.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Grieving during the Holidays

The Our Lady of Mount Carmel Bereavement Group at Santa Cruz Church has developed a video on the topic: "How to cope during the holidays while grieving". If you are interested in viewing this video here is the link:
<https://youtu.be/DgMM1IK1AvY>

Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger
Diocese of Tucson (520) 838-2500

Santa Cruz Catholic Parish
1220 South Sixth Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85713

Parish Office (520) 623-3833 Fax (520) 903-2742

~ Website santacruzchurchtucson.com ~

~ Email santacruzparish@hotmail.com ~

Sign up for Flock Notes text santacruzaz to 84576
Business Hours Monday - Friday 8:30am - 3:00pm

Pastor:
In Residence:

Rev. Stephen Watson, O.C.D.
Rev. David Costello, O.C.D.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 31st

8:00am In Thanksgiving to Our Holy Mother of God/Int. Vega Family
5:30pm Mother Maria, O.C.D./Improved Health
9:00pm Special Int./Santa Cruz Parishioners & Families

Sunday, January 1st

6:30am Santa Cruz Parishioners
8:00am Special Int./Sonia Zarate
10:00am In Honor to Mary, Our Holy Mother of God
12:00pm Mary Ann Bravo/R.I.P.
6:00pm Special Int./Amaro & Martinez Family

Monday, January 2nd

In Honor of All Souls in Purgatory/R.I.P.
8:00am Pedro Sinotes/Improved Health

Tuesday, January 3rd

In Honor of All Souls in Purgatory/R.I.P.
8:00am Genoveva Bermudez/R.I.P.

Wednesday, January 4th

In Honor of All Souls in Purgatory/R.I.P.
8:00am Alicia Garaygordobil/Happy Birthday

Thursday, January 5th

In Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Guadalupe
8:00am George Chacon/Improved Health

Friday, January 6th

Ignacio & Hilda Vega & Walter Vega/R.I.P.
8:00am Alex Gallego, Lupe Gallego & Delfina Gallego/R.I.P.

Visit our Website: santacruzchurchtucson.com

Facebook Stephen Watson

Please sign us for Flock Notes to be informed of parish events

Flock Notes text santacruzaz to 84576
or go online to
santacruzchurch.flocknote.com

New Parishioners: Always welcome!

Please register by using our forms available in the church.

Masses: Sun. 6:30 am, 10 am, 12 noon & 6 pm

8 am Spanish at Capilla de Guadalupe (409 E. 31st Street)

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 am, Sat. 8 am & 5:30 pm (Vigil)

Confessions: Sat. 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Baptisms: Call the parish office / Llame a la oficina parroquial

Matrimony: Please call at least six months in advance.

Por favor de llamar con seis meses de anticipación.

Parish Administrative Assistant: Hada Reyes (520) 623-3833

Religious Education: Martin Doe, Director (520) 882-9687

Santa Cruz Catholic School: (520) 624-2093

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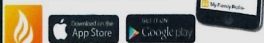
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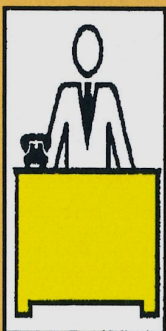
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