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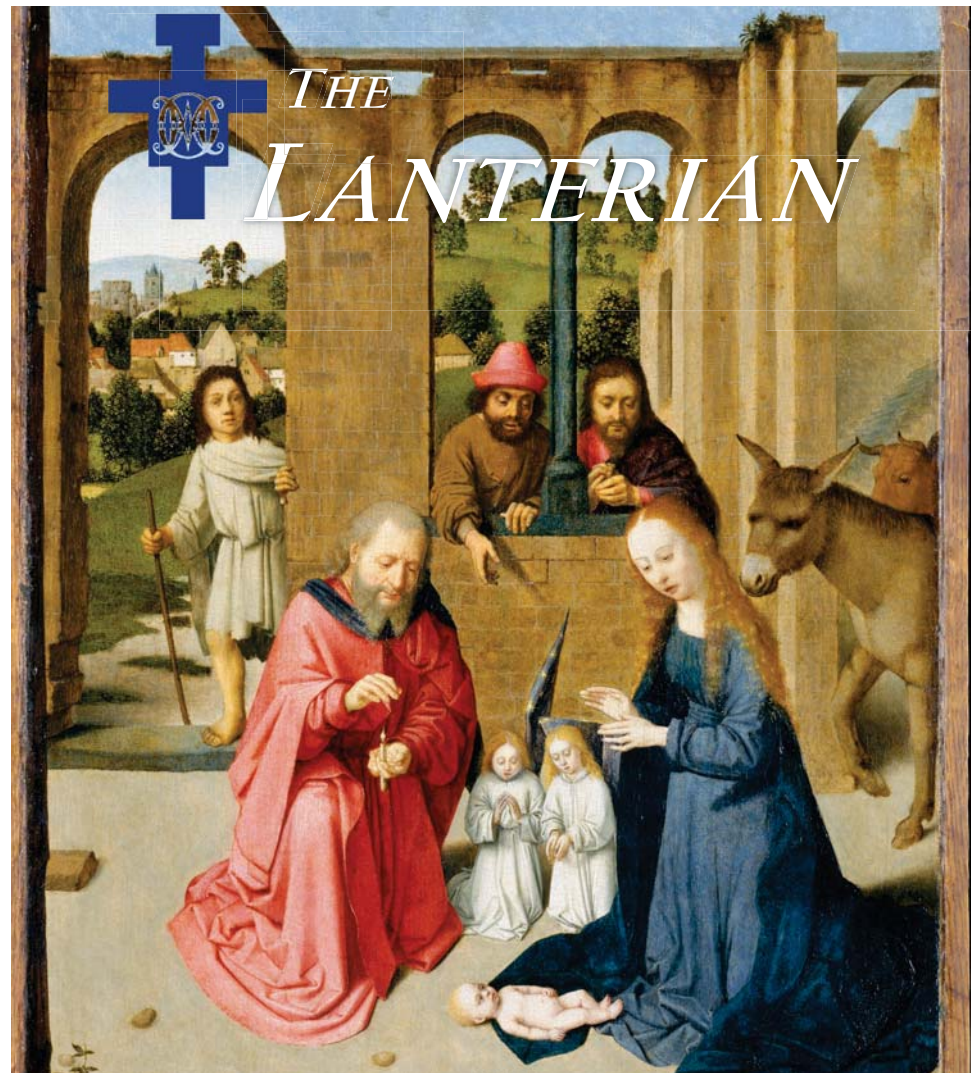
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THE
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SAINT FRANCIS CHAPEL
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THE OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY

ENCOUNTER THE HEART OF CHRIST IN THE HEART OF BOSTON

DECEMBER 25, 2022
CHRISTMAS



CHAPEL STAFF:

Fr. Isaac Abu, OMV
Fr. James Doran, OMV
Fr. Michael Warren, OMV

Sundays:

Fr. James Walther, OMV
Fr. Sean Morris, OMV

Pastoral Associate:

Isabelle Maria, CFP, CKA

Music: Steven Angelucci -
Director,
Saul Garcia, Cesar Garcia,
Stacey Ibe

Cleaning of Chapel

Environment: Nubia Viasus

The Pope's Prayer Intention for December:

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.



Cover Art:

The Nativity. Painting, Gerard David. The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Public Domain.

SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 4:00PM,
5:30 PM, (en español)

Sun. 8 AM, 9:15AM, 10:30AM, 11:45AM,
1:15 PM (en español), 4:00PM, 5:30PM

Weekday Masses:

Mon.—Fri. 8:00AM, 12:05PM, 4:45PM
Saturday 9:00AM, 12PM

Confessions:

Mon.—Fri. 11:15 -11:50AM, 12:45-4:15PM
Saturday 9:30 - 11:45 AM, 12:45-3:30PM

Devotions:

Tuesday after Mass: Our Lady
Wednesday after Mass: St. Joseph
Thursday after Mass: St. Jude

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Mon.—Fri. 8:30-11:50AM, 12:30-4:30PM;
Sat. 9:30-11:30AM, 12:30-3:30PM;
Sunday 2:30-3:30PM


Gift Shop Hours:

Monday—Friday 10:00AM - 5:30PM*;
Saturday 9:30AM - 6:30PM*;
Sunday 8:45AM - 6:30PM*
(*Closed during Masses)

CONTACT US

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Byzantine Akathist Hymn to the Holy Theotokos

Kontakion 1

To Thee, the Champion Leader, we Thy servants dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving as ones rescued out of sufferings, O Theotokos: but as Thou art one with might which is invincible, from all dangers that can be do Thou deliver us, that we may cry to Thee: Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride! (*Three times*)

Ekos 1: An archangel was sent from heaven to say to the Theotokos: Rejoice! And beholding Thee, O Lord, taking bodily form, he was amazed and with his bodiless voice he stood crying to her such things as these:

Rejoice, Thou through whom joy will shine forth:
Rejoice, Thou through whom the curse will cease!
Rejoice, recall of fallen Adam:
Rejoice, redemption of the tears of Eve!
Rejoice, height inaccessible to human thoughts:
Rejoice, depth undiscernible even for the eyes of angels!
Rejoice, for Thou art the throne of the King:
Rejoice, for Thou bearest Him Who beareth all!
Rejoice, star that causeth the Sun to appear:
Rejoice, womb of the Divine Incarnation!
Rejoice, Thou through whom creation is renewed:
Rejoice, Thou through whom we worship the Creator!
Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

Kontakion 2:

Seeing herself to be chaste, the holy one said boldly to Gabriel: The marvel of thy speech is difficult for my soul to accept. How canst thou speak of a birth from a seedless conception? And She cried: Alleluia!

Ekos 2: Seeking to know knowledge that cannot be known, the Virgin cried to the ministering one: Tell me, how can a son be born from a chaste womb? Then he spake to Her in fear, only crying aloud thus:

Rejoice, initiate of God's ineffable will:
Rejoice, assurance of those who pray in silence!
Rejoice, beginning of Christ's miracles:
Rejoice, crown of His dogmas!
Rejoice, heavenly ladder by which God came down:
Rejoice, bridge that conveyest us from earth to Heaven!
Rejoice, wonder of angels sounded abroad:
Rejoice, wound of demons bewailed afar!
Rejoice, Thou Who ineffably gavest birth to the Light:
Rejoice, Thou Who didst reveal Thy secret to none!
Rejoice, Thou Who surpassest the knowledge of the wise:
Rejoice, Thou Who givest light to the minds of the faithful!
Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

Prayer for Christmas

A Root shall come forth from the stock of Jesse And a Flower shall rise out of his root! And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him the spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the spirit of counsel and of fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and of godliness. The people that walked in darkness shall see a great light, For a Child is born to us and a Son is given to us. To Him all power shall be given. His Name shall be: Wonderful One, Strong God, Eternal One, Prince of Peace. He shall sit on the throne of David, And He will found a new Covenant which will last for ever and ever. Amen.

Christmas Manger Prayer

O God, whose mighty Son was born in Bethlehem those days long ago, lead us to that same poor place, where Mary laid her tiny Child. And as we look on in wonder and praise, make us welcome him in all new life, see him in the poor, and care for his handiwork the earth, the sky and the sea. O God, bless us again in your great love. We pray for this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Prayer for Christmas Dinner

Eternal God, This joyful day is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds. May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do. May we share the divine life of your son Jesus Christ, even as he humbled himself to share our humanity. Bless us and the feast that You have provided for us, let us be thankful for the true gift of Christmas, your Son. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 25

Midnight Lynch Family

8:00 AM Joshua Salvaggio

9:15 AM +Cunniffe Family, +Roger Lee, +George Diamondopolous

10:30 AM +Prof. Charlie Steele

11:45 AM +John & +Genevieve Gallagher

1:15 PM Por Los Oblatos de la Virgen Maria

Monday, Dec. 26

8:00 AM +Noreen Flavin

12:05 PM Robert Czajkowski & Family

4:45 PM +Virginia Feeney

Tuesday, Dec. 27

8:00 AM Gratitude

12:05 PM +Victoria & +Alicia Vasquez

4:45 PM Ruo Chen

Wednesday, Dec. 28

8:00 AM +Antonio Ozaeta—anniv.

12:05 PM +Peter & Mary Tran

4:45 PM For Blessings

Thursday, Dec. 29

8:00 AM Rony Laurent

12:05 PM Ary Auguste & siblings

4:45 PM +David Scattergood

Friday, Dec. 30

8:00 AM Mr. & Mrs. Jason Allain

12:05 PM +Jim Grossi

4:45 PM +George Riley

Saturday, Dec. 31

9:00 AM +Patrick Molloy—anniv.

12:00 PM Monica Zorzi

4:00 PM +Ena Savoie

5:30 PM In Thanksgiving

Prayer Before Mass



by Ven. Bruno Lanteri

My God, I offer you this holy sacrifice to proclaim, honor and glorify your infinite greatness, and in recognition of the supreme dominion which, as the first principle and last end, you have above all created things. I give you this homage for all those who still do not know you or do not want to recognize you.

I offer this too in thanksgiving for the benefits that I and all the world have received and will receive from your infinite goodness; in satisfaction for my sins and those of the whole world; to implore the graces that are necessary for my eternal salvation and for all mankind. Oh, my God, I offer to you the merits of Jesus Christ; grant me at this Holy Mass a profound adoration of him.

My God, my Creator, I implore you to grant me the grace of final perseverance. I know by faith that I do not deserve it, nor can I deserve it, but your Divine Son deserves it for me with all his virtues and with all the wounds he shows you in his Most Holy Body, on behalf of my wounded love. Amen.

Christmas and the Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Opening Prayer: Jesus, Our Treasure by Ven. Bruno Lanteri

O, Jesus, you descended in the fullness of time from the royal throne; O you who are most desired of all. You came from the height of heaven to visit us, and we are overwhelmed with joy, for as soon as the eternal Father had seen you born in our flesh, he made the angels proclaim peace and grace to all of good will. Freeing us from all misery, the Father gave us his kingdom and filled us with all your good. Make our hearts open and able to hold so great a treasure. Amen.

Day 1, Christmas Day: Fruit of the Spirit: Charity

Scripture: Colossians 3:14

And above all these [virtues] put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Action for the Day: Whether opening gifts or eating dinner or visiting with family and friends, love should be the motivation for everything on this day. The First Noel was held in a cave. Whatever our circumstances we have received God's greatest gift: his Son. As God has given himself to us, give yourself to others today in the Spirit of Charity.

Day 2, St. Stephen's Day: Fruit of the Spirit: Generosity

Scripture: Acts of the Apostles 7:59

As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Action for the Day: St. Stephen's Day celebrates the first martyr after Christ's resurrection. St. Stephen was one of the original seven deacons of the Church, who were ordained by the Apostles to administer charity to the needy. Stephen proved to be a powerful witness for Christ in being ready to give without counting the cost. Today, continue the celebration of Christmas by being generous in your time and in your treasure. Many in the world think today is post-Christmas and are thinking of the gifts they may need to return. Help others today to know that, with the Spirit of God, the gifts keep coming.

Day 3, St. John the Apostle: Fruit of the Spirit: Chastity

Scripture: Psalm 51:10

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Action for the Day: The greatest gift of Christmas is that God has made himself a sacrament; he has made himself visible in the humanity of his Son Jesus Christ. Jesus lived his life on earth with a vision of his Father. He has made himself visible in his humanity so that we might merit to also see as Jesus does, the pure Spirit and essence of God, the beatific vision. The virtue of chastity makes you whole. Holistic healing is what we all wish for; to be clean in the whole of our humanity, body, soul, and spirit. This is what chastity attains. To have the potential to see God as he is, is the mark of the great dignity of a human person. Today keep your eyes fixed on the beautiful Christmas images of the season. Give to God the gift of seeking to see him throughout the day in the face of his Son. Let the manger, the angels, the star, the Holy Family lift your vision to heaven.

Day 4, The Holy Innocents: Fruit of the Spirit: Patience

Scripture: Romans 12:12

Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Action for the Day: Few things test our love as children do. The helplessness of the child should inspire in us the greatest acts of selflessness, but so often it also exposes our own weaknesses and helplessness. Herod responded to the birth of Jesus not with humility but with envy and rage. He sought to exterminate that which exposed his own weaknesses. The death of the Holy Innocents at the hands of Herod and the fleeing of the Holy Family was a dark moment in an otherwise joyful time. Even in the midst of this season of divine goodness we can be tempted by darkness to lose the Spirit of Christmas. Patience is the virtue that maintains equanimity and poise in the midst of sadness. Call on the Holy Family to be with you today in managing any temptations to discouragement. Be patient with yourself and others in this hectic time.

Day 5, Fifth Day of Christmas: Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness

Scripture: Romans 12:21

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Action for the Day: Today, radiate the Spirit of goodness by secrete giving.

Day 6, The Holy Family: Fruit of the Spirit: Modesty

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Action for the Day: Today we remember the Holy Family. That first Christmas could not have been more modest than to have been spent among animals with Jesus lying in a manger. Jesus, Mary and Joseph lived a humble life in the virtually unknown town of Nazareth, despite the impeccability of Jesus and Mary and the reputation of Joseph as an excellent carpenter. The worldly spirit seeks to make an ostentatious show of itself; today remember the Spirit of modesty in your behaviors and appearance. The Holy Spirit has made of you a holy temple.

Day 7, Mary, Mother of God: Fruit of the Spirit: Peace

Scripture: Isaiah 54:10

Though the mountains fall away and the hills be shaken, My love shall never fall away from you nor my covenant of peace be shaken, says the LORD, who has mercy on you.

Action for the Day: Why do we call this new year 2023? It means for the 2023rd year in this world the grace of God has been offered to us through Jesus Christ. It is a year of grace. It is a year of favor. It is another year when God offers his peace to the world, peace that only comes through Christ. Our Lady, the Mother of God, accepted this peace on behalf of the whole world, and so she can rightly be called the mother of us all. Like anyone in this world, Our Lady suffered through many trials but she did so with a deep peace in her heart because she trusted completely in the will of God and surrendered herself to it. Today, spend some time with our Blessed Mother, speak to her in your own words and ask her for help in finding the deep peace of living as a disciple of Christ.