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"Jesus Wept." John 11:35

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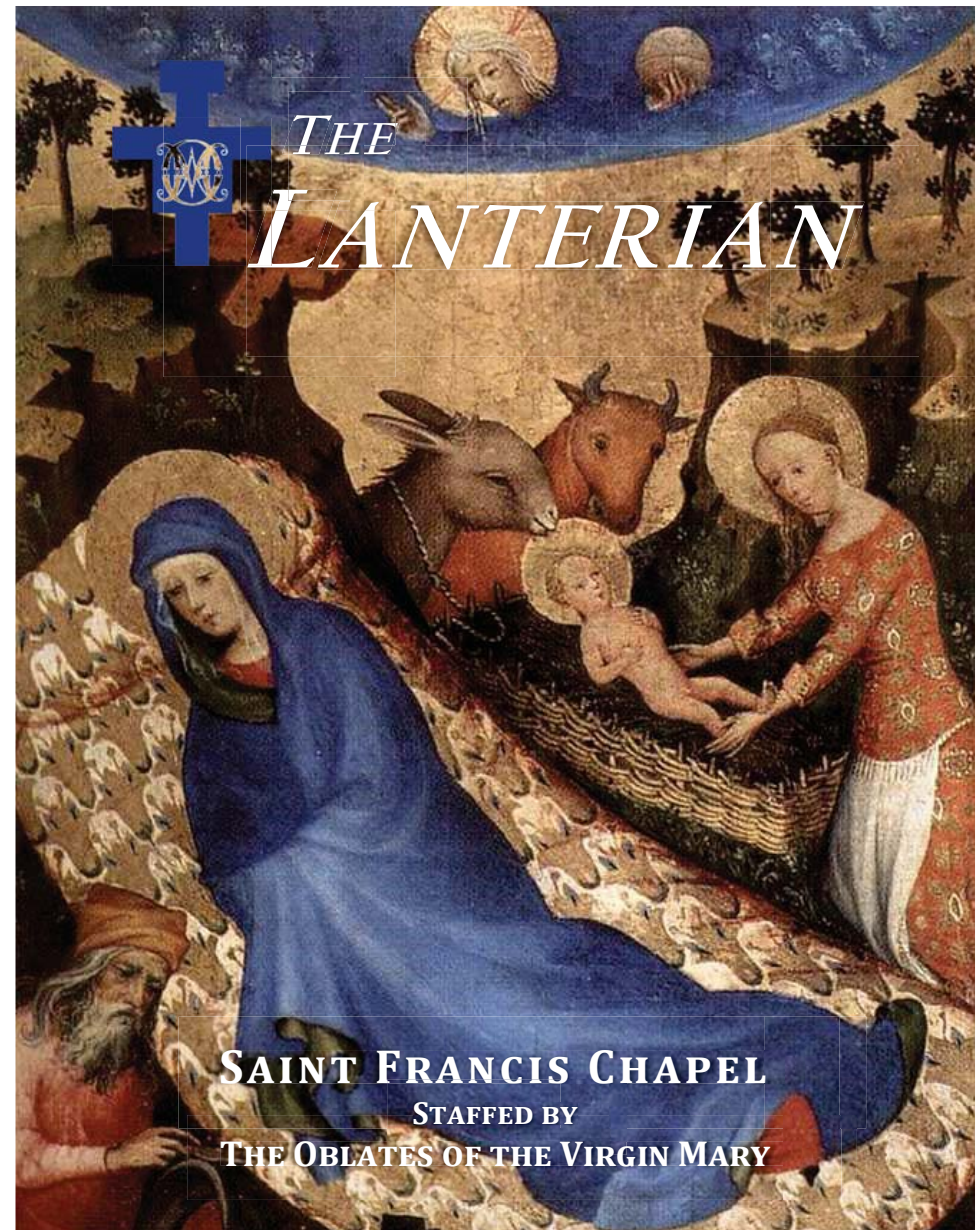
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**THE
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SAINT FRANCIS CHAPEL
STAFFED BY
THE OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY

ENCOUNTER THE HEART OF CHRIST IN THE HEART OF BOSTON

DECEMBER 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

CHAPEL STAFF:

Fr. Isaac Abu, OMV
Fr. Victor Nwabueze, OMV
Fr. Michael Warren, OMV
Fr. John Wykes, OMV

Sundays:

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

Music: Saul Garcia, Cesar Garcia, Stacey Ngozi, Celine Wynn

Cleaning of Chapel

Environment: Nubia Viasus

The Pope's Prayer Intention for December:

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



Cover Art:

The Nativity. 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. 8:30 -11:50AM, 12:30-4:40PM
Saturday 9:30 - 11:45 AM, 12:30-3:30PM

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 - 4:30PM*;
Saturday 9:30AM - 6:00PM*;
Sunday 8:45AM - 6:00PM*
(*Closed during Masses)

CONTACT US

St. Francis Chapel
800 Boylston St., Boston MA 02199

617-437-7117
stfrancis@omvusa.org



SFChapel



stfrancischapel

omvusa/st-francis-chapel.org



Reflection by Fr. Michael Warren, OMV

We are told in chapter 1 of John's Gospel that no one has ever seen God. No one knows the Father's true Heart. But we also learn in that same chapter that the only Son of God—the Word made flesh—is “at the Father's side.” In the original Greek that phrase means “to be in the bosom of the Father.” The Son of God, who dwells among us, rests in the bosom of the Father and reveals the Father's Heart to us. And that heart overcomes all darkness. The mystery of Christmas is that the Father's Heart is now known.

An epic poem in Old English—set around the time of Christmas in 500 A.D.—tells the tale of a great warrior and hero of the Geats, *Beowulf*, who comes to the aid of the Danish King Hrothgar. Hrothgar's great hall, where he holds his court and feasts with his servant warriors, is named Heorot. The great hall is the heart (heorot) of the Danish kingdom not only because it is the seat of government but most importantly it is a place of community, culture and merriment. It provides warmth, joy and protection against the harsh, cold and dark forces of winter. Outside of that hall, prowling in the dark is the demon Grendel, who hates joy and feasting. He has been attacking Heorot and killing Hrothgar's people. Grendel represents the demonic attack against the human heart that so deeply desires the joy and security of being in communion with the Father's Heart (symbolized by King Hrothgar's hall). The demonic always seeks to destroy our connection to the Father's Heart, given to us through the Incarnation of His Son.

Hrothgar is an aged king and needs assistance to fight the demon. Fortunately, his plight reaches the ears of Beowulf who is the king of the Geats. Beowulf travels to Heorot to face Grendel and free the Danes from the terror. Beowulf is truly a Christ-like figure, for Christ wishes to come into the heart of every person through the Holy Spirit to fight and destroy all that would corrupt it and keep it from experiencing God's joy.

Christmas is the celebration of the Father's Heart opening up to us completely through His Son, who comes into the world to bring the light, warmth and joy of communion with the Father's Heart to the scattering of all dark forces.

*And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it."
(Isaiah 30:21)*

Day of Discernment for Young Men



January 20, 2024

St. Joseph's Retreat House
65 Father Carney Dr.
Milton, MA 02186

- Learn skills for Ignatian Discernment
- Learn How to Choose God's Will
- Hear from Layman, Priest and Brother about life in each vocation
- Time for Prayer
- No Cost and Lunch Provided

To Register: stfrancis@omvusa.org

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 24

8:00 AM Carole Adams
 9:15 AM Tony & Sharon Scollo
 10:30 AM +Angel Ramon Sanchez
 11:45 AM +Ena Savoie
 1:15 PM +Claude & +Stephen Savoie
 4:00 PM Cunniffe Family, +Roger Lee & +/George Diamondoplous
 5:30 PM Olive—intentions
 7:00 PM +Martha, Ana, Ruben Vasquez

Monday, Dec. 25

12:00 AM +Lilia Mary & Family
 8:00 AM +Mary Lee Taylor
 9:15 AM Cunniffe Family, +Roger Lee & +/George Diamondoplous
 10:30 AM Fr. Omar Loggiodice
 11:45 AM Dolly—birthday
 1:15 PM Maria E. Tobon—cumpleanos

Tuesday, Dec. 26

8:00 AM +Matthew McCrann
 12:05 PM +Raul, +Samuel, +Margarita Mejia
 4:45 PM +Linda & +Paul Tonelli

Wednesday, Dec. 27

8:00 AM Glen & Leslie Manson—Hing—Wedding anniv.
 12:05 PM +Romelia, +Sergio, Sr. & Jr. Norena
 4:45 PM Donna O'Neill—healing

Thursday, Dec. 28

8:00 AM +Antonio Ozaeta—anniv.
 12:05 PM Marie D'Souza—safe travels
 4:45 PM +Barabara, +Donald, +Alden Tonelli

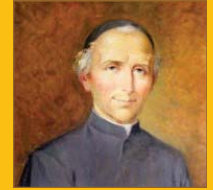
Friday, Dec. 29

8:00 AM Souls in Purgatory
 12:05 PM +Revs. Fergus Healey, +Paul Zapata & Sr. Lucia Angel
 4:45 PM +Mr. & Mrs. Walsh

Saturday, Dec. 30

9:00 AM Theresa Mieir—healing
 12:00 PM Souls in Purgatory
 4:00 PM +Josephine Bacas
 5:30 PM +Felipe Gonzalez y +Oliva Villalobos y +Felipe Gonzalez, Jr.

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 secret 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.