

**MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER  
OF GOD**

**JANUARY 1, 2017**

*Mary kept all these things,  
reflecting on them in her heart.*

~ Luke 2:29



**THE BLESSING WE RECEIVE**

The blessing we experience in Christ Jesus is proclaimed in Numbers as the special blessing for the people of Israel. They and we are to be blessed by the invocation of God's loving kindness, the shining glory of God's face turned toward us in love, not away from us in anger. We are blessed by God's own peace!

Our wish and our hope are fulfilled in this blessing, which is made visible in the coming of Jesus. In Jesus, the image of the invisible God, God's face is shown to us and God's presence is made known to us in faithful and loving kindness.

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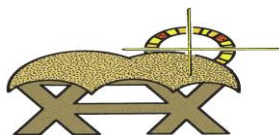
**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! (**Numbers 6:22-27**).

**Psalm** — May God bless us in his mercy (**Psalm 67**).

**Second Reading** — God sent the Spirit of the Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but an heir, through God (**Galatians 4:4-7**).

**GOSPEL** — The shepherds glorified and praised God for all they had heard and seen (**Luke 2:16-21**).



**SPECIAL PRAYER LIST**

Charles Nicholson	Home
Edith Bolder	Home
Mable Allen Reed	Senior Living Center
Marguerite Hamilton	Home
Jeanette Hamilton Evans	Home
Eddie Jennings	Home
Ernie & Marti Straub	Home
Inell Hunter	Home
John Martinez, Jr.	Home
Margaret G. Jones	Research Hospital.
Martha Melton	Benton House Center
Bertha Beatty	Home
Marcheita Bush	Home
Betty Givens	St. Luke Hospital, Plaza
Mary Brown	Home
Johnny Chambers	Home
Bob Motley	Home
Lorna Lewis	Home
Carlos Nix	Home
Delores Bazy	Home
Georgia Willoughby	Myers Nursing Center.
Lavel McCullough	Home
Rosa Birch	Home
Sandra Cloyd	Home
Kevin Brown	Son of Vera Brown
Jackie Countee	Home
Phil Roos	Center Point Hospital

**FAMILY MEMBERS:** Please inform our Pastor, Fr. Tom, when a loved-one is home bound or has been hospitalized. Call 816-471-3696 or email: stmonica1616kc@hotmail.com

**JANUARY 8, 2017 ASSIGNMENTS**

**SERVERS** Coordinator: V. Ammons\*  
8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. All Servers

**LECTORS** Coordinator, Rose Palmer\*  
8:00 a.m. Deborah Scott,  
Margaret Sams  
10:00 a.m. Rose Alexander,  
Sebastian Allen

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:**

Coordinator, Dianna Miller\*  
8:00 a.m. Dianna Miller, Julia Price,  
Rita Womack, Gerald Buckman  
10:00 p.m. Pamela Green, Ronald Green,  
Carolyn Greene, Ben Gruber, Joann James,  
Margaret Jones, Syrtiller Kabat, Sharon  
Lemmones, Dorothy Mustin, Rose Palmer

**USHERS:** E. Burtin\*, J. Gillis\* Coordinators

8:00 a.m. G.L. Blankinship, Elaine  
Johnson, Hargett Hayes,  
10:00 a.m. Team A: Jan Wallace,  
Chaunceyette Mize, Phaedra Lombard, Mary  
Alexander, Sharon Dunmore

**WELCOME:** Myra and Cyla Scales

**3RD SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP HOST:**  
Africa Rising Social Action Committee

**MEETING – DATES - TIMES**

**SUNDAY** ~ 11:30 a.m. St. Monica Building  
~ Sunday School 1st & 3rd Sun.  
~ 1st Communion, Sunday  
~ Jr Youth Group, 2nd & 4th  
( Ferguson Hall/Lower Level )  
~ Senior Youth Group, 1st & 3rd  
~ Confirmation Class, 2nd & 4th  
~ RCIA Class, (Small Chapel)  
Health Ministry 2nd Sunday 11:30 a.m.  
Ushers Ministry 4th Sunday 11:30 a.m.

**KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER**

3rd Degree Knights	1st Sat. 1:00 p.m.
4th Degree Knights	1st Sat. 11:45 a.m.
Fr. Constantine Ct.	1st Sun. 9:00 a.m.
Ladies of Grace	4th Sun 2:00 p.m.
Jr. Daughters	2nd Sat 2:00 p.m.
Jr. Knights	1st Sun 4:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

9:00 a.m. ~ NO Communion Service  
6:00 p.m. ~ Prayer Service

**SATURDAY**

~ Men & Women's Breakfast & Bible Study  
Classes will reconvene on Saturday,  
January 7th

**FINANCE**

<b>MONTHLY GOAL</b>	<b>\$38,000.00</b>
<b>FORECASTED WEEKLY BUDGET</b>	
Regular Offering Goal	\$7,700.00
Debt Reduction Goal	1,800.00
Weekly Offering Goal	\$9,500.00

**HOMEGOING**

Dr. Albert M. Crocker, beloved pediatrician for many of our families, died peacefully, on Tuesday, December 27, 2016. Funeral Services for Dr. Crocker, are as follows:

St. Monica Parish

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Visitation: 9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.  
Funeral Service: 11:00 A.M.

**HOMEGOING**

Mr. Ernie Straub

Ernie very peacefully passed on to God,  
on Tuesday, December 27, 2016.

Wake: Friday, January 6, 2017

5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Funeral Mass: Saturday, January 7, 2017  
10:00 a.m.

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
5501 Monticello Rd – Shawnee KS – 66226 -  
Pray for Ernie, his wife Marty, and the family.



## TREASURES ~

### FROM OUR TRADITION

"Octave" comes from the Latin word for "eight," and since eight is one step beyond seven, the number of days in a week, it has long been seen as a symbol of perfection, completion, and new beginnings. Early Christians called Sunday the "eighth day," since it was the day after the Sabbath and a day of resurrected life, the Lord's Day. By the seventh century, people regarded the eight days after Easter Sunday as one great day, an octave, one glorious feast when people were forbidden to fast or kneel. In the seventh century, Pentecost acquired an Octave, too. Christmas didn't claim the honor of a continuous feast, but it did get an Octave Day. January 1 is the oldest Marian feast, the Octave of Christmas. It was originally a feast of the motherhood of Mary, although for centuries until 1969 it was called the Feast of the Circumcision. Our reformed calendar follows the earlier tradition of celebrating Mary as Mother of God.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## FROM FATHER'S DESK



**Greetings!**

**Happy New Year, happy 2017!** You and I both know the old story, just when you get used to writing 2016 it is a new year. Well, be that as it may there is a new year and it is something we must do. We start this year off on a Sunday, which means, as a universal Church we begin with the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. I wondered how this feast came about, so I did some research: The Second Vatican Council stated: "Clearly from earliest times the Blessed Virgin is honored under the title of Mother of God." and at an early stage the Church in Rome celebrated on 1 January a feast that it called the anniversary (*Natale*) of the Mother of God. When this was overshadowed by the feasts of the Annunciation and the Assumption, adopted from Constantinople at the start of the 7th century, 1 January began to be celebrated simply as the octave day of Christmas, the "eighth day" on which, according to Luke 2:21, the child was circumcised and given the name Jesus. In the 13th or 14th century, 1 January began to be celebrated in Rome, as already in Spain and Gaul, as the feast of the Circumcision of the Lord and the Octave of the Nativity, while still oriented towards Mary and Christmas, with many prayers glorifying the maternity of Mary. Pope John XXIII's 1960 revision removed the mention of the circumcision of Jesus and called 1 January simply the Octave of the Nativity. The feast of the "Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary" was established in Portugal in 1914 for celebration on 11 October and was extended to the entire Catholic Church by Pope Pius XI in 1931. The 1969 revision of the liturgical year and the calendar states: "1 January, the Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, and also the commemoration of the conferral of the Most Holy Name of Jesus." It removed the 11 October feast, even for Portugal, stating: "The Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on 1 January in the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God." There is your first history lesson of the year.

Make it a holy year!

**Fr. Tom**

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28  
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34  
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42  
 Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 4:14-22a  
 Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]  
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Sal 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 2:1-11  
 Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Mary, the Holy Mother of God; The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord; World Day of Prayer for Peace; New Year's Day  
 Monday: Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen  
 Tuesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus  
 Wednesday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton  
 Thursday: St. John Neumann  
 Friday: St. André Bessette; First Friday  
 Saturday: St. Raymond of Penyafort; 1s Saturday; Julian Calendar Christmas

### OFFERING ENVELOPES

*New Method Of Distribution*

Effective January 2017: Registered Parishioners will no longer receive weekly envelopes by mail.

After DECEMBER 18, Boxed Envelopes will be available at the Church Office,

**MONDAY 11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.,  
 WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

### SERVICES FOR ERNIE STRUB

The Straub Family is providing a bus for the St. Monica Music Ministry, to attend the services.

The Music Ministry is offering any extra seats to parishioners, who would like to ride the bus. This is on a first come – first serve basis, and depends on the number of seats available.

*You must contact Marilyn Scott, Home: 816-861-7688 Cell: 913-530-4473, to put your name on the list, for the available seats.*

The Music Ministry would like to extend an invitation to YOU to join us. (Both Choirs) We plan to record and introduce New Mass Setting songs. We want these projects to be Nationally recognized, therefore we need a huge presence. Can you imagine a 100 voice choir singing at St. Monica and Nationally known?

**WE WANT YOU!!!!!! See any choir member.**

*Melvin Kerr, Minister of Music*



**Deadline for Bulletin Entries: Wednesday/ NOON**

**REPORT CHILD ABUSE - Call the Missouri**

*Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline, 800-361-2665, or  
 Diocesan Ombudsman, Jenifer Valenti, 816-812-2500.*



