

Mass Intentions (Dec 31, 2022 – Jan 6, 2023)

Sat. Dec 31/4:30 p.m. Nick Baird

- Teresa Baird

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Sun. Jan 1/10:00 a.m. Intentions for all Parishioners

Wed. Jan 4/10:00 a.m. Isabelita, Romeo & Herminia Cansino - Guia Gélinas

Thu. Jan 5/10:00 a.m. Carolina & Lorenzo Ciallella - Anna Muzzo

Fri. Jan 6/10:00 a.m. Living & Deceased members of the Baird, Shanahan, Scott, Ryan, Malone, Faherty, McGarry & Kostner Families - Teresa Baird

January 1, 2023

*THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD*



Today the Church celebrates the place of Mary in God's plan of salvation. She is the bearer of God to the world. Her acceptance of God's invitation has given the world a Saviour and enabled us to be adopted as sons and daughters of God.

First Reading (Numbers 6:22-27)

The Lord promises his blessing to the people of Israel and with the blessing the gift of peace.

Second Reading (Galatians 4:4-7) God sent his Son, born of a woman.

Gospel (Luke 2:16-21) The naming of Jesus reveals his identity as Saviour.

REFLECTION

Jesus means "The Lord Saves". GOD continues to reveal to us what we should be doing with our lives. We know that we are doing what is asked of us when we sense GOD's presence and peace. That does not mean that we have it easy. Doing GOD's will is challenging and sometimes unpredictable, but we can move forward with the confidence that GOD is blessing us. That is what Mary was aware of as she said "Fiat" – "Let it be done" according to GOD's will.



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for World Peace.

Sacrament of Reconciliation every Sunday, 30 minutes before mass or any other day/time by appointment. (514) 488-0778.

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD DAY OF PEACE

There is light even in our darkest hour

Pope Francis releases his message for the World Day of Peace to be celebrated on 1 January 2023, and recalls that all crises are interconnected and that we must not forget any of them, but work for the good of humanity.

"No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace." With this as its title, Pope Francis has presented his message for the 56th World Day of Peace, held annually on 1 January.

Remain steadfast.

The Holy Father's message, released on Friday, opens with a quotation from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians (5:1-2).

"Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night."

Thus, the Pope recalls that the Apostle Paul encouraged the Thessalonian community to remain steadfast. Likewise he says, "when tragic events seem to overwhelm our lives, we are called to keep our hearts open to hope and to trust in God, who makes himself present, accompanies us with tenderness, sustains us in our weariness and, above all, guides our path."

Darkness of the Covid-19 pandemic

There is light even in the darkest hour, says Pope Francis, before going on to use the Covid-19 pandemic as an example: "The pandemic seems to have upset even the most peaceful parts of our world, and exposed any number of forms of fragility."

Three years later, he stresses, "the time is right to question, learn, grow and allow ourselves to be transformed as individuals and as communities" reminding us, as he has done before, that "we never emerge the same from times of crisis: we emerge either better or worse."

This experience has made us all the more aware of the need for everyone, including peoples and nations, to restore the word "together" to a central place in our lexicon. Only the peace that comes from a fraternal and disinterested love can help us overcome personal, societal and global crises.

"Our greatest and yet most fragile treasure is our shared humanity as brothers and sisters, children of God. None of us can be saved alone."

Man-made wars

Pope Francis goes on to stress that this is not the post-Covid era we had hoped for or expected. "At the very moment when we dared to hope that the darkest hours of the Covid-19 pandemic were over, a terrible new disaster befell humanity," he said, noting that the world witnessed the onslaught of another scourge: another war, "driven by culpable human decisions."

Pope Francis notes that the war in Ukraine is "reaping innocent victims and spreading insecurity, not only among those directly affected, but in a widespread and indiscriminate way for everyone, also for those who, even thousands of kilometres away, suffer its collateral effects – we need but think of grain shortages and fuel prices."

"This war," he says, "together with all the other conflicts around the globe, represents a setback for the whole of humanity and not merely for the parties

directly involved. While a vaccine has been found for Covid-19, suitable solutions have not yet been found for the war."

"Certainly, the virus of war is more difficult to overcome than the viruses that compromise our bodies, because it comes, not from outside of us, but from within the human heart corrupted by sin."

No one can be saved alone

"What then is being asked of us?" the Pope asks, in light of all these difficult times: "First of all, to let our hearts be changed by our experience of the crisis."

In fact, he explains: "we can no longer think exclusively of carving out space for our personal or national interests, (...) instead we must think in terms of the common good."

We cannot, however, ignore one fundamental fact, he continues: "Many moral, social, political and economic crises we are experiencing are all interconnected, and what we see as isolated problems are actually causes and effects of one another."

And he calls on all those in positions of responsibility and on all men and women of goodwill "to revisit the issue of ensuring public health for all"; to "promote actions that enhance peace and put an end to the conflicts and wars that continue to spawn poverty and death"; "to join in caring for our common home and in implementing clear and effective measures to combat climate change"; "to battle the virus of inequality and to ensure food and dignified labour for all, supporting those who lack even a minimum wage and find themselves in great difficulty."

"The scandal of entire peoples starving remains an open wound."

May we make this a good year for all

Finally, Pope Francis asks that in the coming New Year that "we journey together, valuing the lessons that history has to teach us."

"To all men and women of goodwill, I express my prayerful trust that, as artisans of peace, they may work, day by day, to make this a good year!"

Please pick up your **2023 SUNDAY ENVELOPES** at the back of the church. If your box is not available, please leave your name and box number on the sheet provided on the table and your box will be ready for the following Sunday. Should you take the wrong box by mistake, please don't forget to return it.

If you have moved please fill out one of your envelope with the new address for tax purposes. Thank you!

A new year is a time of new hope.

A new year is a time of new life.

A new year is a chance to begin again.

Last year is past and over.

This year has just been born and lies ahead.

It is God's gift to us.

What we do with it is our gift to God.

Happy New Year!