

MOST HOLY REDEEMER

Parish



Feast of the Holy Family

December 31, 2023

Worship Hours

Monday - Friday Daily Mass: 8:00am

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00pm

Sunday Masses: 8:00am, 10:00am & 6:30pm

Holy Days: 8:00am and 7:00pm

Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:45pm to 4:30pm

Baptism & Marriages

Please call the parish office
for an appointment.

For marriages please call the parish
office six months in advance.

Our Mission at Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church

Most Holy Redeemer Parish is a Roman Catholic Christian Community. The parish draws people from isolation to community, from searching to awakening, from indifference to concern, from selfishness to meaningful service, from fear in the midst of adversity to faith and hope in God.

The community of Most Holy Redeemer shares God's compassionate love with all people. The parish offers a spiritual home for senior citizens and youth; single people and families; those who are straight, gay, lesbian, and transgender; the healthy and the sick, particularly persons with HIV.

As a parish community, we celebrate God's loving presence in our lives. In worship and sacrament, especially the Eucharist, we are nurtured and challenged to extend God's kingdom of justice, truth, love and peace by growing in the spirit of Jesus, the Most Holy Redeemer.

God's Inclusive Love Proclaimed Here!



**MOST HOLY REDEEMER
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
100 Diamond Street
San Francisco, California
Phone (415) 863-6259
www.mhr.org

Pastor

Fr. Matt Link, C.P.P.S.
frmatt@mhr.org

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Ty Henderson, Director of Music
ty@mhr.org

PARISH OFFICE

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PASTORAL COUNCIL

Michael Kirkland
Richard Levy
Trudy Miller
Cyndy Zimmer
Shaan Bijwadia
Marnie Pira

FINANCE COUNCIL

Marc Colelli, Chair
Steve Adams
Micaela Connery
Stephen McCarthy
John Solaegui
Diane Trewin

LITURGY COMMITTEE

Ty Henderson, Chair
Jacque Grillo

Pablo McLachlan
Sr. Marilyn Morgan
Curtis Murray



JAN 1 — JAN 7

Monday: Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Day: Nm 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28 Jn 1:19-28
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6 Jn 1:29-34
Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10 Jn 1:35-42
Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21 Jn 1:43-51
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13 Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38
Sunday: Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

MASS TIMES

Daily Mass: 8am (Mon ~ Fri)
Saturday Vigil Mass: 5pm
Sunday Masses: 8am, 10am & 6:30pm
Holy Days: 8am & 7pm
Reconciliation: Saturdays 3:45pm - 4:30pm
(or by appointment)

THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

JAN 1— JAN 7

Monday

New Year's Day
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Mass - 10am

Tuesday - Friday

Mass - 8am

Wednesday

Wednesday Night Suppers

Saturday

Vigil Mass - 5pm

Sunday

Masses: 8am, 10am & 6:30pm

*Join us for Coffee Hour after the
8am & 10am Masses*

Livestream the 10am Sunday Mass
www.mhr.org/livestream





Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

***Our Mass celebrants
will remember the following intentions
during the celebration of the Eucharist:***

Saturday, December 30

5pm Anton & Barbara Leimeter †

Sunday, December 31

8am

10am MHR Parish

10:00pm

Monday, January 1

10 am Rita, Al & Barbara Ludeman †

Tuesday, January 2

8am

Wednesday, January 3

8am William A. Oakes †

Wednesday Night Suppers

Thursday, January 4

8am

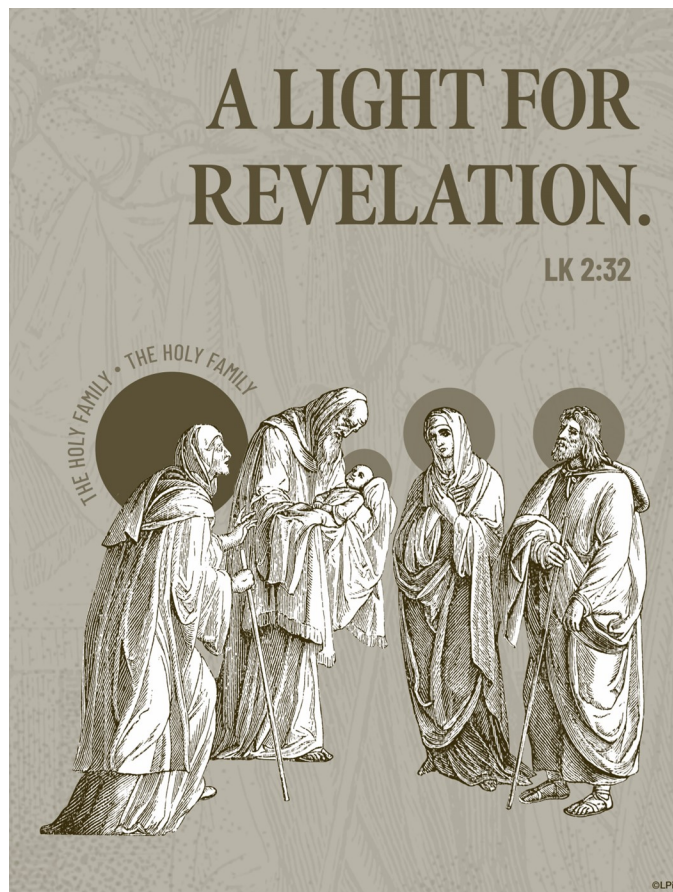
Friday, January 5

8am Anthony Sweetman †

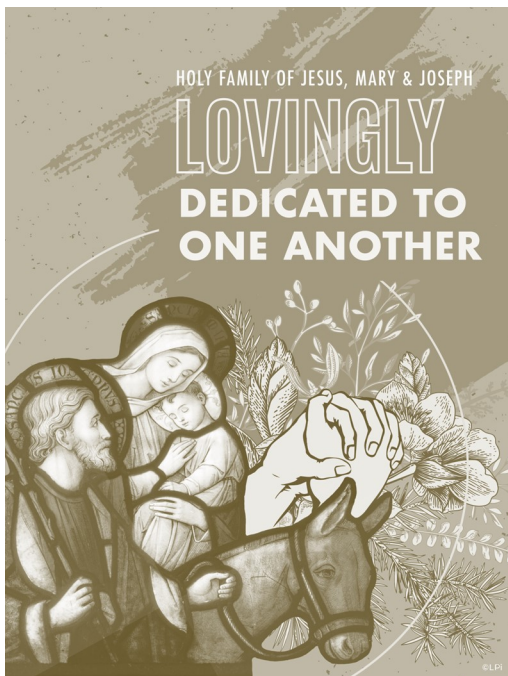
Saturday, January 6

5pm

To schedule a Mass Intention
or sponsor the weekend altar flowers,
please call the parish office at 415-863-6259
or email office@mhr.org.



**Ryan Zuniga, Maria Palma, Christian Irizary , Joshua
Filho, Leigh Thorup-Murray and John Johnson**



December 31, 2023 :

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

As 2023 draws to a close, we recall major events that have happened this year in our church and world. In Rome, Catholic clergy and laypeople gathered at the Vatican Oct. 4-29 for a synod to discuss synodality, with an emphasis on communion, participation and mission. As Carolyn Weir Herman wrote for America, the synod working document underscores the problem of sexism in the church and highlights the need for women to have meaningful roles in ecclesial life.

In Dubai, United Arab Emirates, heads of state, ministers and negotiators, along with climate activists, mayors, civil society representatives and CEOs met from Nov. 30 to Dec. 12 for the United Nations climate change conference, known as COP28, the largest annual gathering on climate action. The summit began as new reports showed that the planet is set to breach 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming sooner than expected. Elsewhere in the Middle East, Russia, Ukraine, Africa and many other parts of the world conflicts and wars rage on.

Against this backdrop, the post-Christmas liturgical season invites us to celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The readings for this Sunday's feast day are as varied as this year's events, and yet, when read in the context of our present world, we see how they provide us with insight and challenges. Two of the readings today are about family. The first reading from Genesis sets the stage for the flourishing of the Israelite community. The story's main characters, Abraham and Sarah, are about to start a family, the fulfillment of a promise made to them by the Divine One.

Interestingly, the storyline features prominently the two male characters: the deity and Abraham. The male deity singles out another male out for a divine vision; he converses with him, makes him a promise, grants him a son whom the woman bears and whom Abraham names. Even though the woman, Sarah, has a major role in the development of the Israelite ancestral line, she remains in the shadows as the deity "takes note" of her and allows her to become pregnant so that the divine promise can be fulfilled. Never once do we hear the woman's voice.

Embedded in many biblical stories is a culture that was patriarchal, patrilineal and male dominated. This culture embedded in most biblical texts continues to be reinscribed into today's cultures, especially when a story like this one from Genesis is proclaimed during liturgical celebrations. Without a critical hearing of the text that beckons the preacher to preach on it in new ways that call out the story's embedded cultural sexism, stories like this one will continue to shape our theological imagination and our experience of church. Sarah, like many women today in our church and world, needs to be recognized and esteemed for the significant role she had — and the new roles today's women need to assume. Unfortunately, Sarah's role as a child bearer was a traditional role in biblical times, but this was millennia before synodality. The time has come for the church to move forward with its teachings about Scripture and its preaching on texts like this one.

The second story about family is heard in today's Gospel reading from Luke. In this story, Mary and Joseph are careful to follow the law of Moses. They fulfill the demands of the ancient purity laws and then fulfill further prescriptions of the law that required them to present their new child to God. For this family, the Jewish laws were important and they kept them as was the custom of the day and not because of legalism. From a Christian perspective, as the Gospel stories develop, we see a shift from the Mosaic Law to the new covenant grounded in an emphasis on love and right relationship, which was also at the heart of the Law of Moses.

The theme of covenant is central to the responsorial psalm where the refrain reminds us again and again that the Divine One remembers forever the covenant made with the people. In biblical times, to be remembered by the Holy One was to be favored and blessed. All creation shares in the divine covenant and remains graced. The question is this: Have we who are believers forgotten the Holy One and in doing so, have we forgotten who we truly are? If we are remembering as we are remembered, then our engagement with the world takes on a very different tone than what is often experienced today.

Finally, the reading from Colossians beckons us, as holy and beloved people, to live differently in our world — to embrace compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness and above all, love. Thus, the readings for the feast of the Holy Family invites the world's people to turn the page of history, to embrace a new vision for 2024.



COMMUNITY
LIFE

Visit us:

On the web: www.mhr.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/mhrsf

Instagram: [mhrcatholicsf](https://www.instagram.com/mhrcatholicsf)

Centering Prayer is meeting via Zoom on Monday evenings @ 7:00pm.
Email centering@mhr.org for Zoom login details.

Bible Study on upcoming Sunday readings meets via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 7pm.
Email biblestudy@mhr.org for login and for more information.

Christian Healing Prayer Group: Please join us on the first Monday of each month at 2pm in the Library. Email markwbass@yahoo.com for information.



MOST HOLY REDEEMER HIV/AIDS SUPPORT GROUP

Volunteers Needed:

We are looking for volunteers to call, visit and/or help our people.

If you are interested in volunteering,

please contact Pete Toms at 415-612-0651 or email asg@mhr.org.



Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Monday, January 1st
10:00 am

Parish Office - CLOSED

Monday, January 1st

MHR PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

December 2023

How Different Cultures Honor Mary

Celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in the Philippines

The celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception is preceded by nine days of Novena Masses, and the church is specially decorated for these Masses. The nine days also include a variety of cultural shows, talent shows, and livelihood training sessions.



During the Visperas, the day before the feast day, a brass band of about 20 players marches around the town to prepare the way. A family with a high economic status is usually assigned to finance the band and provide the food for that day.

The Feast Day

On the feast day, the main altar of the Basilica is lavishly decorated with white flowers. Masses start at 5 a.m. and continue every hour until noon, resuming again at 3

p.m., with a High Mass at 5 p.m. followed by the procession of the image of the Immaculate Conception. The procession, accompanied by the brass band, also includes many images of the patron saints of the different parishes of the Malolos diocese. In 2014 the procession pushed through despite typhoon Ruby's strong winds and intermittent rain. The planning committee, which adorns both the church and the plaza, decorated the plaza with colored papers called banderitas hung from bamboo poles, big pictures of the Immaculate Conception, greetings and lights.

Interviewees at the celebrations indicated that they wanted to venerate and honor Mary as their Patroness and show their love and faith. They believe that Mary intercedes for us to Her son Jesus. They also believe that by doing the nine-day novena, their prayers and petitions would be heard. Some even claimed to have experienced miracles by doing the devotion.

During the procession, a man with his face and body covered with small lumps kept wiping the image of the Immaculate Conception with his handkerchief during the procession, and then wiping it on the lumps on his face and body in hope of experiencing a miracle. The act of wiping the images of Saints with their handkerchiefs and then wiping it onto themselves or the parts of their body in need of a cure is called "punas-puna," and is very common as a way of expressing faith and ensuring that the saint's power will result in miracle. Elder devotees said that it is a tradition that was passed on to them by their parents and that they will pass on to their children and grandchildren.

Youth attendees said they celebrate the feast day because they were influenced by their parents and friends. Some who are studying in Catholic schools said that it was a holy day of obligation for the Catholic Church and that they are obliged to go to Mass. But there were also younger devotees who said that their love, faith and respect were the reasons why they celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception and that's why they keep the traditions alive.



LET'S CELEBRATE A

New Year

JANUARY 1, 2024 @ 10 AM