

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph...and the virgin's name was Mary.

LUKE 1:26-27

THE ANNUNCIATION, HENRI OSSAWA TANNER, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Wondering Why

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The old axiom goes: if you want to make God laugh, tell God your plans. All too often the vision God has for us takes us in quite varying directions. The stories of King David and of Mary echo such realities. David, who wanted to build a temple for the Ark of the Covenant so God would not need to live in a tent, had his plans nixed, only to be reminded that it is *God* who does the building in life and not David. And Mary, who found herself confused over how she might conceive, was asked to simply trust and place her life in the hands of God. Both said "yes."

There are always times when the unfolding path of God for us may unsettle us: the complexities of immigrants at our doorstep, the changing demographics of our cities, the need to close or merge parishes, the upheavals of our personal lives. We find ourselves asking why without receiving any answers. Each time there is no answer, consider it an invitation to trust in a power greater than ourselves.

Not all rhythms of life are necessarily caused by the hand of God, but then one can never be sure. Who is to say where and how and through whom God works? Christmas comes as a reminder that God's love and presence still unfolds in varied and new ways, always giving birth again and again to the divine made flesh in our lives. The mystery of the Incarnation points to this truth: God is present in all of life. ●

Reflect

Have you ever had your plans unsettled in a way that turned out, in the end, to be a gift from God?

**St. Mary's & St. John's
Brush CO & Stoneham CO**

Pastor: Rev. Marek Ciesla, S. Chr.
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Maurice Okeke

Masses:

Brush: Sat. - 5:00 PM, Sun. - 10:00 AM
Thurs. - 5:30 PM, Fri. - 8:00 AM
Stoneham: Sun. - 8:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Brush: Sat. - 3:00 PM
1/2 hr. before weekday Masses
or by appointment
Stoneham: Sun. - 7:30 AM

Adoration & Benediction: 1st Friday of the
month immediately after Mass (till 9:00 a.m.)

Anointing of the Sick: - call the Office

Office: Thursday & Friday
Leave a message **970-842-2216**

Website: www.stmarybrush.org

Sign up for Flocknote

www.flocknote.com/stmarybrush

or text **Brush** to **84576**

Facebook: www.facebook.com/STMBrush

Donate Online: Visit www.stmarybrush.org
Click "Donate" and select your church.
Thank you for your ongoing support!

Visit Formed.org & watch for free!
Sign Up & Select "I belong to a Parish"
Enter 80723 / select St. Mary's
Enter your e-mail - and you are in!

Mass Intentions

Sat. Dec. 23 Vigil

5:00 pm **St. Mary's** †Manual Rocha Sr.-EJR

5:30 pm **St. John's** Graces for Jenny Spiker

Sun Dec. 24 Mass/4th Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. †Mary Ellen Uhrig - GS

Sun Dec. 24 Mass/Christmas Eve

6:00 pm **St. Mary's** For Parishioners

8:00 pm **St. John's** For Parishioners

Mon Dec 25 Mass/Nativity of the Lord

10:00 a.m. For Parishioners

Wed Dec 27 Mass/St. John the Evangelist

5:30 pm **St. John's** For Parishioners

Thurs Dec 28 Mass/The Holy Innocents

5:30 p.m. †Ervin Hammond - BH

Fri. Dec. 29 Mass

8:00 a.m. Graces for Brianna

Sat. Dec. 30 Vigil

5:00 p.m. Graces for Teodosia Perez

Sun Dec. 31 Mass/The Holy Family

8:00 a.m. Health for Tom Koch

10:00 a.m. †Judy Garcilazo - EP

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Our Sick: Joseph Wilson, Tom Flores, Rosa Maria Santos, Gia Marquez, Jan Yokum, Kane Schrock, Deja Adam, Bernice Padilla, Rosemary Garcia, Sean Gleason, Marj Blatt, Ben Mettlen, Arabella Macias, Brianna Hill, Gina Mortenson, Margaret Mann, Paula Meier, Sheryl Garvik, Izaac Morales, Kayla Albrant, Stan Prather, Christy Chapman, Ron Uhrig, Anthony Steven Villarreal, Shelby Daughenbaugh, Caiden Lee, Frank Laso, Fritz & Irene Ramirez, Rodney Hergenreter, Stella, Amanda Weisensee, Norma Wolfe, Daniel Hoffman, Alvin Vigil, Jessica Penner, Eloy Padilla, Nadine Odell, Jennifer Romero, Pennie Haller, Armando Saucedo, Richard Radke, Jeffery Pieper, Carmona Family, Delbert Meier, Leo Millburg, Teodosia Perez

Welcome to the Fourth Sunday of Advent.
Our Advent cry:
"Come Lord Jesus"
will end Christmas Day.



From Fr. Marek & Fr. Maurice....

**Christ is born!
Prince of Peace!**



A Wonderful, Blessed Christ-

Many thanks to all who helped decorate the church for Christmas and to those who volunteered and participated with our youth group in the Las Posadas celebration!



***Have a Blessed
Merry Christmas!***

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve (December 24th)

Children's Mass

4:00 p.m. - St. Joseph, Akron

6:00 p.m. - St. Mary, Brush

8:00 p.m. - St. John, Stoneham

Christmas Day (December 25th)

8:00 a.m. - St. Joseph, Akron

10:00 a.m. - St. Mary, Brush



New Year's Day Masses

/Not a Holy Day of Obligation/

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Monday, January 1st

8:00 a.m. - St. Mary, Brush

6:00 p.m. - St. Joseph, Akron

6:00 p.m. - St. Mary, Brush

Adult Study will resume January 2nd
Christmas Blessings to all!

Mass time changes for St. John's:
All Sundays in January: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
– Mass at 12:00 p.m.
Sundays in February: 4th and 11th
– Mass at 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 27th,
Feast of Saint John the Evangelist
5:30 p.m. - Mass at St. John's

*Blessings to St. John Parishioners as they
celebrate the Catholic faith and their Patron*
**"No one has a greater love than this: that
he lay down his life for his friends."**

JOHN 15:13

REQUEST FOR MASS INTENTIONS

There is no charge for Mass; however,
a customary offering of \$10 is appreciated.

Intention Name:

_____ Living _____ Deceased

Requested by:

Phone:

Date wanted:

Which church?

___ St. Mary ___ St. John



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

Food Drive - Help feed families

Consider canned goods & items for
the Brush Food pantry.

Monetary donations welcomed.

Drop off at St. Mary's

Thank you for your support!

Dear Padre,

The Bible talks about Jesus' brothers and sisters. Is there scriptural proof that Jesus was Mary's only child?

The Catholic Church's position is that Mary had only one child; her son called Jesus. Yet there are at least ten scriptural references to "the brothers of Jesus" or to his "sisters" (see Matthew 13:55–56, Mark 6:3, and Luke 8:19–21).

The difficulty is that the meaning of the term "brothers" (translated from the Greek *adelphos*) isn't restricted to the sharing of a parent. On the contrary, it may not only refer to other relatives, including cousins, but also to close relationships, such as disciples. This is not unlike how we might refer to "brothers in arms" as those who fought in a war together, or a religious order of brothers or sisters.

Recall, too, that Jesus and his disciples spoke Aramaic, and there is no equivalent for the meaning of "cousins" as we know it in that language. Instead, the word for brother or sister was used when referring to cousins. Thus, when St. Jerome (*circa* 340–420) translated the Bible from Hebrew into Church Latin, he considered "the brothers of Jesus" as cousins, not siblings. After all, it would have been the rightful responsibility of these male relatives of Jesus to take care of Mary when Jesus died. Yet Jesus entrusts his mother to the care of his beloved disciple John (John 19:26). ●



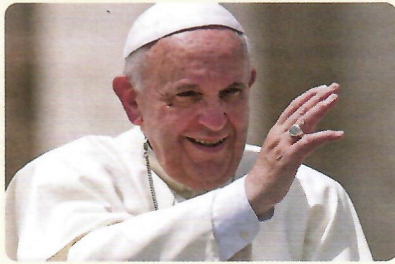
VIRGIN AND CHILD, ASIA (ARTIST UNKNOWN)

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 25 <i>Nativity of the Lord</i> Is 52:7–10 Heb 1:1–6 Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14	December 26 <i>St. Stephen, the First Martyr</i> Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59 Mt 10:17–22	December 27 <i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i> 1 Jn 1:1–4 Jn 20:1a, 2–8	December 28 <i>Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i> 1 Jn 1:5–2:2 Mt 2:13–18	December 29 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 2:3–11 Lk 2:22–35	December 30 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 2:12–17 Lk 2:36–40	December 31 <i>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</i> Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17 Lk 2:22–40 or 2:22, 39–40

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Let us ask our Lady for a grace...that she kindle our enthusiasm for the ideal of holiness which is not a matter of holy cards and images, but is about living what happens each day, humbly and joyfully...with our eyes fixed on God and the neighbor we meet.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 8, 2021



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