

Happy New Year  
May the God of hope fill  
you with all joy and peace  
all year through!

祝新年快樂  
在新的一年，  
願主的喜樂與平安  
充滿你的每一天！

## Theme Sharing

### Mary, Mother of God

"God our Father, may we always receive your blessings through the intercession of the Virgin Mother Mary; for you bring us life and salvation through Jesus Christ her Son." (Opening Prayer)

"Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary became the Virgin Mother of your only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is forever the light of the world." (Preface)

The first reading speaks of the Holy Name of God as the source of all blessings: "So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them." This foretells that, by the holy name of Jesus, we will be saved. As Christians, we are gathered under the name of Christ and we become truly blessed children of God.

In the second reading, Paul compares the identity of men under the old law (bondage and slavery) with that under the new covenant (God's heirs). In the time of the New Testament, the time was ripe and so God executed his plan of salvation. The Incarnation of the Son of God then became a reality; and Paul emphasized that Christ was "born of a woman" and "born under the law".

Mary is the Mother of God. She is also our Mother. We should love her, imitate her and pray for her intercession for us. Mary's fiat agreeing to become the Mother of Christ signals the start of our salvation because she gave birth to our Saviour.

"Father, all the good things come from you and are accomplished in you. As we now celebrate the Feast of Mother of God and the beginning of our salvation, please shower your blessings on us so that one day

we are able to obtain the fullness of our salvation."

## News & Others

### Pope Francis: Christmas message

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Happy Christmas!

Today the Church once again experiences the wonder of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and the shepherds of Bethlehem, as they contemplate the newborn Child laid in a manger: Jesus, the Saviour.

On this day full of light, the prophetic proclamation resounds:

"For to us a child is born,

To us a son is given.

And the government will be upon his shoulder;

and his name will be called

"Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

(Is 9:6)

The power of this Child, Son of God and Son of Mary, is not the power of this world, based on might and wealth; it is the power of love.

It is the power which created the heavens and the earth, which gives life to all creation: to minerals, plants and animals; it is the force which attracts man and woman, and makes them one flesh, one single existence; it is the power which gives new birth, pardons faults, reconciles enemies, and transforms evil into good. It is the power of God. This power of love led Jesus Christ to strip himself of his glory and become man; it led him to give his life on the cross and to rise from the dead. It is the power of service, which inaugurates in our world the Kingdom of God, a kingdom of justice and peace.

For this reason, the birth of Jesus was accompanied by the angels' song as they proclaimed:

"Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" (Lk 2:14).

Today this message goes out to the ends of the earth to reach all peoples, especially those scarred by war and harsh conflicts that seem stronger than the yearning for peace.

Dear brothers and sisters,

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given": he is the "Prince of peace". Let us welcome him!

Details at [www.Vatican](http://www.Vatican)

## 'Misericordia et Miseria' Apostolic Letter

### Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter

### 'Misericordia et Miseria'

### Pope Francis: To All Who Read This

### Apostolic Letter-Mercy and Peace

Now, at the conclusion of this Jubilee, it is time to look to the future and to understand how best to continue, with joy, fidelity and enthusiasm, experiencing the richness of God's mercy. Our communities can remain alive and active in the work of the new evangelization in the measure that the "pastoral conversion" to which we are called will be shaped daily by the renewing force of mercy. Let us not limit its action; let us not sadden the Spirit, who constantly points out new paths to take in bringing to everyone the Gospel of salvation.

First, we are called to celebrate mercy. What great richness is present in the Church's prayer when she invokes God as the Father of mercies! In the liturgy, mercy is not only repeatedly implored, but is truly received and experienced. From the beginning to the end of the Eucharistic celebration, mercy constantly appears in the dialogue between the assembly at prayer and the heart of the Father, who rejoices to bestow his merciful love. After first pleading for forgiveness with the invocation "Lord have mercy", we are immediately reassured: "May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life". With this confidence, the community gathers in the presence of the Lord, particularly on the holy day of the resurrection. Many of the "Collect" prayers are meant to remind us of the great gift of mercy. In Lent, for example, we pray: "O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy". To Be Continued.

## Saints Quotes

### January 2- Monday

The bread that you store up belongs to the hungry; the coat that lies in your chest belongs to the naked; the gold that you have hidden in the ground belongs to the poor.-St. Basil

January 3– Tuesday

The sweet Name of Jesus produces in us holy thoughts, fills the soul with noble sentiments, strengthens virtue, begets good works, and nourishes pure affection.- St. Bernard of Clairvaux

January 4– Wednesday

Let us pray for each other Our Lord may give us the grace that we need to become saints.- St. Bernadette

January 5– Thursday

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.- St. Therese of Lisieux

January 6 – Friday

The Lord grants in a moment, what we may have been unable to obtain in dozens of years.- St. Philip Neri

January 7– Saturday

When you say to God " Our Father," he has his ear right next to your lips.- St. Andre Bessette

## Parish Activities

Heartfelt Thank You From Our PastorFr. Joseph Nguyen

I would like to sincerely thank Deacon John Wu, Deacon Edward Lam, Sisters, Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Lay Groups and all parishioners for their continued support to our parish throughout the year.

Your generosity and sharing with others of God's gifts, is a perfect example of our response to the call of Jesus: "You are my witnesses." Love is the soul of mission and we are first and foremost invited to be credible witnesses by the way we live as Disciples of Christ. Keep up your good work! May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit and wishing you a joyful and peaceful New Year!

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on January 7

The January's Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be led by Pastoral Care Team on January 7 from 10am to 11am.

Fr. Nguyen will listen to Confession.

Parishioners are encouraged to attend.

Chinese New Year Banquet

Date : Saturday February 4

Time : Reception from 6:00 p.m.,  
dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Venue : Regency Palace  
328 Centre Street, SE.

Ticket: \$35/adult,

\$15/Child (age 12 or under)

[Note: Children would have to purchase Adult tickets should they wish to sit together with their parents at the adult's table]

Banquet tickets will be sold at the Church main entrance after each mass. Parishioners can contact Church Group representatives to purchase tickets. Donation of gifts for Banquet Draw would be much appreciated. Please contact Parish Pastoral Councilors or Parish Office for details.

Together in Action 2016

The 2016 "Together in Action" The theme this year is: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown Mercy."

As of October 14, our campaign has received a total of \$37,140.95. We plead for your ongoing support.

## Weekly Activities

Fri Jan 6

OLPH Senior Centre

Time: 9:00a.m.-12:00 noon

Place: OLPH Church Upper Hall

Sat Jan 7

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Time: 10:00a.m. -11:00 a.m.

Place: OLPH Church

Legion of Mary ( meeting )

Time: 11:00a.m.

Place: K of C Room at OLPH Church

Tai Chi Lesson

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30p.m.

Place: OLPH Church Lower Hall

Yoga beginner class

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 12:45p.m.

Place: OLPH Church Upper Hall

R. C.I.A (Mandarin)

Time: 3:00 p.m. - 5:00p.m.

Place: K of C Room

Young Adults choir practice

Time: 5:00p.m.-7:00p.m.

Place: OLPH Lower Hall

Sun Jan 8

R. C.I.A (Cantonese and English)

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Place: OLPH Church Lower Hall

Sunday School

Time: 10:00a.m.-12:30p.m.

Place: OLPH Church Office Building

Young Adults

Time: 2:00p.m.-4:00p.m.

Place: OLPH Lower Hall

K of C Matteo Ricci 10119 meeting

Time: 12 : 30p.m.-3:00p.m

Place: OLPH Church K of C room

## Stories Faith Sharing

### A Personal Story

Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close.

A baby just hours old was left in a manger in a Christmas nativity outside a New York church. A young, desperate mother had wrapped him warmly and placed him where he would be discovered. If we are tempted to judge her, we can instead be thankful this baby will now have a chance in life.

This gets personal for me. As an adopted child myself, I have no idea about the circumstances surrounding my birth. But I have never felt abandoned. Of this much I am certain: I have two moms who wanted me to have a chance in life. One gave life to me; the other invested her life in me.

Share the love of Christ.

In Exodus we read about a loving mother in a desperate situation. Pharaoh had ordered the murder of all baby boys born to the Jewish people (1:22). So Moses's mother hid him as long as she could. When Moses was three months old, she put him in a watertight basket and placed the basket in the Nile River. If the plan was to have the baby rescued by a princess, grow up in Pharaoh's palace, and eventually deliver his people out of slavery, it worked perfectly. When a desperate mother gives her child a chance, God can take it from there. He has a habit of doing that—in the most creative ways imaginable.

Father, today we pray for those facing desperate and lonely times. We pray especially for poor and defenseless children everywhere. Help us meet their needs as we are able.

Share the love of Christ.

INSIGHT:

As a result of Jochebed's faith in God, Moses was saved. Amazingly, Jochebed was even paid by Pharaoh's daughter to nurse her own son! (Ex. 2:7-9). As the grandson of the Pharaoh, Moses was given the best education possible as well as military and administrative training that would enable him to lead many Jews out of Egypt (Acts 7:22). Pharaoh sponsored all of this. The baby in peril is now a baby of

privilege. Only God could accomplish something like this!

## Mary Surrender

### Character Study: Mary - Surrender

"And Mary said, 'Behold, the bond-slave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.'" Luke 1:38

I've never identified too much with Mary, the mother of Jesus. I'm nothing like her really. Mary seems so much a background character in the gospels; what did she really DO?

Actually, lots. Starting with her very sacrificial acceptance of becoming the mother of the Messiah. Maybe that would appear to be the glory road for any young Jewish girl but I think she knew it would not be the case. Engaged but not yet married, she saw the implications of accepting the angel's proposal immediately. "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'" (Luke 1:34)

Showing up pregnant and unwed in a society that had stoning rules for such things was pretty chancy. She accepted but the bigger thing is that she did not defend herself at all. I really don't identify with that. I would have gone to Joseph and my parents immediately and let them in on my big secret so we could devise a plan and manage the fallout. She didn't say a word to anyone. Her view must have been if God can make me pregnant by his Holy Spirit, he can handle the rest of the details too.

Right along, Mary quietly trusted God and let him direct her life however he chose without adding her own two cents. She was made aware pretty close to the beginning that she had rough waters ahead. When Jesus was presented in the Temple as an infant for his purification, a man named Simeon spoke to her. He said, "'Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed—and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.'" (Luke 2:34-35)

In the end, Mary attended the crucifixion of Jesus, the Messiah of Israel. But no matter who he was to the nation, first he was her son. Who can comprehend the pain she faced and who would have blamed her if she had stayed home? I believe it was in that terrible six hours while Jesus hung on the cross that Simeon's prophecy was fulfilled. She did not shrink back from it. Mary may

have been meek and mild but she was no wimp!

## 主日分享

### 天主之母節

在新年的第一天，教會邀請我們慶祝天主之母盛大節日，讓整個一年得到聖母的助佑。另一方面，教會也不忘給我們拜年：第一篇讀經為我們每一個人表達了這些祝賀。第二篇讀經和福音談到瑪利亞成了母親。

第一篇讀經取自戶籍記，為我們指出了舊約中的司祭降福。以色列子民的司祭有傳遞天主的降福的使命，天主的降福為整個人類是決定性的：天主藉著祂的降福促進人的生命、繁榮和幸福。

為了使我們的生命活得圓滿，天主打發祂的聖子來到世界上，生於一個女人聖母瑪利亞。這是天主為世界作的最重要的工程。保祿宗徒說：“時期一滿，天主就派遣了自己的兒子來，生於女人，生於法律之下[...]，使我們獲得義子的地位。”天主聖子降生成為一個女人的兒子，為使我們成為天主的兒子。這是天主整個計畫的一個概括，這是一個美妙、慷慨無比的計畫。瑪利亞在這個計畫中擔任了格外重要的角色。一年的開端我們請求祂的助佑，使我們有能力在基督內度天主子女的聖召的生活。在她的兒子耶穌內我們成為天主的兒子。生養和教育耶穌的瑪利亞幫助我們接納天主願意在我們身上越來越能更好實現的義子地位。藉著瑪利亞的轉禱、助佑和引領，我們應邀在這新的一年中的每一天都如天主的子女般地生活。

我們該懷著喜悅和信賴的心接納耶穌為我們的救主，在我們的生活中與瑪利亞有同樣的態度，“把這一切事默存在自己心中”。

節錄自梵蒂岡廣播電台講稿

## 新聞及其他

### 教宗方濟各 2016 年聖誕文告

親愛的弟兄姐妹們，聖誕快樂！

今天，教會再次體驗童貞瑪利亞、聖若瑟和白冷城牧人們的驚訝，瞻仰已經誕生並躺在馬槽中的聖嬰：耶穌，救世主。

在這充滿光明的日子裡，回憶著先知的宣告：

“一個嬰孩為我們誕生了，有一個兒子賜給了我們；

祂肩上擔負著王權，

祂的名字要稱為：

神奇的謀士、強有力的天主、永恒之父、和平之王”（依九 5）。

這位嬰孩是天主和瑪利亞的聖子，祂的王權不是這個世界上依靠武力和財富的權力，而是愛的權力。這權力創造了天地，賦予每個受造物生命：賜下礦物、植物和動物；這權力吸引男人和女人，使他們結為一體，一個生命；這權力產生新生命，寬恕罪過，使仇人和好，轉惡為善。這是天主的王權。這愛的王權促使耶穌基督卸下自己的尊榮而成為人，引領祂在十字架上奉獻自己的生命並從死者中復活。這是服事的王權，在世界上建立了天主的國度，正義與和平的國度。為此，耶穌的誕生得到眾天使宣報的讚歌相伴：

“天主受享光榮於高天，

主愛的人在世享平安！”（路二 14）

今天，這宣報傳遍整個大地，抵達所有人民，尤其是那些因戰爭和殘酷衝突而受到傷害的人民，他們對和平的渴望更為強烈。

親愛的弟兄姐妹們，

“一個嬰孩為我們誕生了，有一個兒子賜給了我們”：祂是“和平之王”。讓我們接納祂！

詳細的內容請參閱梵蒂岡電台訊

## 《慈悲與憐憫》宗座牧函

### 教宗方濟各《慈悲與憐憫》宗座

牧函：聽告解司鐸應本著接納、明確及慷慨的態度施行寬恕

教宗特別提到修和聖事，指出“在基督信仰生活中必須恢復修和聖事的重要地位”。在修和聖事中，“我們感受到天父的擁抱，祂前來會晤我們，恢復我們重新做祂子女的恩寵”。司鐸必須“接納眾人”，即使人犯了嚴重的罪，司鐸也應做個懷有父愛的見證人；司鐸應殷勤地幫助人反省自己的過錯；明確提出道德原則；樂於陪伴信友走

懺悔之路，耐心跟隨他們成長的進度；應有遠見，分辨每一種個別情況；慷慨地施行天主的寬恕。

面對犯了姦淫罪的婦人，耶穌選擇了保持沉默，使她免於被處死。聽告解的司鐸也應像耶穌那樣寬宏大量，意識到每個悔罪者都在提醒他本人所在的相同處境：他是罪人，但也是慈悲的執行者。因此，“24 小時奉獻給天主”祈禱活動“仍然是一項強而有力的牧靈工作，幫助信友們妥善辦告解聖事”。

待續

## 堂區活動

### 阮明聰神父的衷心感謝

我誠意感謝鄔執事、林執事、所有修女、堂區牧民議會、所有善會及各位教友對堂區的支持及付出。

在過去的一年，大家的付出，慷慨地與他人分享天主的恩賜，正如主耶穌基督教導我們，為主作見證，在愛德的引領下，善盡宗徒的使命，共同用行動去見證基督，以彰顯天主的愛。大家繼續努力吧！

願主耶穌基督的恩寵與你們的心神同在，並祝大家新年平安快樂！

### 一月顯供聖體

永援聖母堂一月份的顯供聖體由牧靈關愛組帶領，時間為一月七日上午十時至十一時。當天除了朝拜聖體外，阮神父將為教友聽告解。請各位教友盡量參與！

### 永援聖母堂新春團拜晚宴

日期：2月4日(星期六)

時間：晚上 6 時恭候，

6 時 30 分入席

地點：富麗宮大酒樓

票價：成人每位 35 元、

12 歲或以下小童每位 15 元。

(註：小童如欲與成人同桌，他們則需購買成人餐券)

教友可於每台彌撒後到聖堂正門入口處購買或直接與各善會代表購票。春茗晚宴將設有大抽獎助興，盼望教友熱烈捐贈及贊助抽獎禮物，詳情請與堂區牧民議會各委員或堂區辦事處聯絡。

### 2016 教區公益金，齊來獻愛心

2016 年教區 TIA 籌款的主題為：「憐憫的人是有福的。截至 10 月 14 日，捐款已累積至 37,140.95 元。捐款信封可在聖堂入口處索取。

## 活動一週

星期五 1月6日

永援聖母松柏軒

時間：上午 9 時至正午 12 時

地點：永援聖母堂上禮堂

星期六 1月7日

顯供聖體

時間：上午 10 時至 11 時

地點：永援聖母堂

聖母軍

時間：上午 11 時(開會)

地點：聖堂二樓騎士會室

楊式太極班

時間：上午 10 時至 12 時 30 分

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

瑜珈初班

時間上午 11 時 30 分至 12 時 45 分

地點：永援聖母堂上禮堂

成人慕道班(國語)

時間：下午 3 時至 5 時

地點：聖堂二樓騎士會室

大專青年團練習聖詩

時間：下午 5 時至 7 時

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

星期日 1月8日

成人慕道班(粵語及英語)

時間上午 9 時 30 分至 12 時 30 分

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

主日學

時間：上午 10 時至 12 時 30 分

地點：寫字樓大廈，聖堂騎士會室

大專青年團

時間：下午 2 時至 4 時

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

利瑪竇騎士會 10119 開會

時間：下午 12 時 30 分至 3 時

地點：聖堂騎士會室

## 心靈小品

### 年復一年

年復一年你看破了多少，日復一日你放下了多少，千方百計你得到了多少，精打細算你失去了多少，求而不得你煩惱了多少，斤斤計較你結怨了多少，貪心不滅你造惡了多少，人生在世你享受了多少，臨命終時你帶走了多少。

人生就是一陣風，起了，沒了。理想就是一盞燈，燃了，滅了。人情就是一陣雨，下了，乾了。朋友就是一層雲，聚了，散了。閑愁就是一壺酒，醉了，醒了。寂寞就是一顆星，閃了，滅了。孤獨就是一輪月，升了，落了。死亡就是一場夢，累了，睡了。

人都太在乎自己的慾望，才會在乎別人的反應，求而不得，就會感到很受傷；

你貪心的少，

別人就難以找到和利用你的慾望，實現他的目的。

煩惱都是自找的，越貪心，越脆弱，越在乎自己，越痛苦，越想得到，越失去，傷害皆因為貪慾，慾望越少的人越無敵。

所謂，無慾則剛。

夢，不能做得太深，深了，難以清醒；話，不能說得太滿，滿了，難以圓通；調，不能定得太高，高了，難以合聲；事，不能做得太絕，絕了，難以進退；情，不能陷得太深，深了，難以自拔；利，不能看得太重，重了，難以明志；人，不能做得太假，假了，難以交心。

淡然的心態，是人生的成熟。

越長大越孤單，越長大越無奈。

曾經可以肆無忌憚出口的個話，不計後果做出的事，

在長大的那一天，

終於硬生生地壓回了心底。

長大了，懂事了，

心卻不得不複雜起來了。

歷經曲折，嘗盡百苦之後，

還是覺得淡然最好，簡單最快樂。  
人生之事，計較越多，煩惱越多。  
淡然，是一種徹悟。

## 靈修小故事

### 最棒的禮物

在一個冬季退修會中，有人提出一個問題：「你收到最棒的聖誕節禮物是什麼？」

一個愛好運動的成員有點急切地回答：「這很簡單！」他看了身邊的朋友一眼，繼續說：「幾年前，我大學畢業，心想我一定能成為職業橄欖球選手。但卻事與願違，我開始怨天尤人，心中充滿苦痛，脾氣暴躁，令人難以接近。」

「隔年的聖誕節，也是我第二個無球可踢的球季，我去了這人的教會看聖誕劇。」他指了指身邊的朋友。「我去不是想要認識耶穌，而是去看姪女的表演。我很難解釋那天我怎麼了，但就在看孩子們表演的時候，我竟然想要跟那些牧羊人與天使一起遇見耶穌。當眾人唱完《平安夜》時，我禁不住哭了。」

「那天晚上，我收到了最棒的聖誕禮物！」他再次指著他的朋友說，「他沒和他的家人一起回家，而是留下來告訴我如何認識耶穌。」接著，他身邊的朋友也大聲說：「各位，那天我也收到了最棒的聖誕禮物。」

在今年聖誕節，願我們把握機會對人述說耶穌降生的故事，分享平安與喜樂。

天父，求祢讓我們看見人們需要救主，並給我們傳福音的勇氣。求祢幫助我們記得，聽見並訴說救主降生，才是聖誕節真正的意義。

分享耶穌的平安與饒恕，是最棒的聖誕禮物。

## 效法瑪利亞

### 效法瑪利亞「感恩聖事的聖母」

第一代基督徒舉行感恩祭宴，「團聚擘餅」(宗 2:42)時，瑪利亞必定也在場。

\* 瑪利亞一生是一位「充滿感恩的」女性，教會以聖母為榜樣。

感恩聖事是信德的奧蹟。\* 完全順服

於天主之聖言，那麼在這路上，沒有誰比瑪利亞更能支持和引導我們。「祂無論吩咐你們做什麼，你們就做什麼」。在建立聖體聖事之前，瑪利亞已經生活出她對聖體的信德，她為了天主聖言的降生成人，而獻出自己的童貞母胎。感恩聖事在記念耶穌受難與復活的同時，也是天主降生奧蹟的延續。她回答報喜的天使所說的「承行主旨」，以及每位信友領受聖體時所回答的「亞孟」，兩者之間有十分相似之處。\* 腹中懷著成為血肉的聖言，她以某種方式成為歷史上第一個「聖體櫃」。

聖母瑪利亞在她陪伴基督的一生中，不祇是在加爾瓦略山上，更把感恩聖事中「犧牲的幅度」實現在自己身上。「有一把劍刺透你的心靈」，瑪利亞日復一日地在為走向加爾瓦 山做準備時，體驗到一種「提早 聖體」，可以說是一種「神領聖體」的渴望和奉獻。

在「紀念」加爾瓦略時，基督藉祂的苦難及死亡所完成的一切，都得以臨在。\* 在我們每一次舉行的感恩祭時，瑪利亞偕同教會，並以教會的母親的身分臨在。如果教會與聖體聖事是合一而不可分開的，那麼聖母瑪利亞與聖體聖事也是如此。

感恩聖事，就同聖母謝主曲一樣，主要是讚美與感謝。天主賜給我們感恩聖事，為使我們的生命也能肖似聖母瑪利亞的生命，完全成為一首「謝主曲」。