



❄️ OLV. Rel. Ed. Newsletter ❄️



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January 2024

*January Dates to
Remember*

- Jan. 1: Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
- Jan. 4: Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- Jan. 5: First Friday
- Jan. 6: Epiphany, First Saturday
- Jan. 8: Feast of the Holy Family
- Jan. 18: Rel. Ed. Class 5
- Jan. 21: Feast of St. Agnes
- Jan. 22: Day of Prayer for the Unborn
- Jan. 24: Feast of Our Lady of Peace
- Jan. 25: Rel. Ed. Class 5 Snow Date
- Jan. 28: Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas
- Jan. 29: Feast of St. Francis de Sales
- Jan. 31: Feast of St. John Bosco

In the quiet, snow-laden landscape of the winter months, we are invited to further retreat into the stillness of the soul, the sanctuary where God speaks to us. In the silence, we can hear most clearly what God is calling us to do. When we speak, we best honor God through praising His Holy Name. It is fitting that Epiphany, the Feast of the Three Kings, should fall during the month of January, when we celebrate Jesus' Holy Name. The Three Kings honored the newborn Jesus in their reverent actions, which spoke louder than words. Their gifts of myrrh, gold, and frankincense symbolized different parts of Jesus' mission that He would carry out on Earth. These items told the story of His life, much like the Bible, the Rosary, and the Church year do, and much as our words and actions that are modeled after Jesus do. When we chalk our doors for the Epiphany blessing, we write the initials of the Three Kings' names on our door frames, petitioning God to protect our homes, and all those who enter it. Names of holy things carry weight. What God calls us says so much about His love for us, about how He sees us as His beloved children. Doing all things in the name of Jesus, we can be sure that no matter the outcome, God will be with us, working through us and using our efforts for His good. May we always live lives that give all love and praise to God, so that our names may be inscribed on His Heart, for Jesus' Name is Holy because of the great love in His Sacred Heart. Any mention of His Name reminds us of this great love, a love that conquered the Cross, that broke the silence of sin and despair forever, giving a voice to the voiceless, hope to the hopeless. As we begin our month of January with the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, we remember the power that the titles of Jesus and Mary have, serving as prayers in themselves. As the Mother of God, Mary brought Jesus, God the Father's only Son, into the world, and is always ready to help us, to bring us into new spiritual life as well. Let us call upon Her so that we may come closer to Jesus in this fresh, clean year, sure to be full of many blessings.

In His Name,

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Prayer: Divine Praises (Adoration)

Blessed be God. Blessed be His holy name. Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.

Blessed be the name of Jesus. Blessed be His most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be His most Precious Blood. Blessed be Jesus in the most holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the Holy Ghost, the Paraclete.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy. Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.

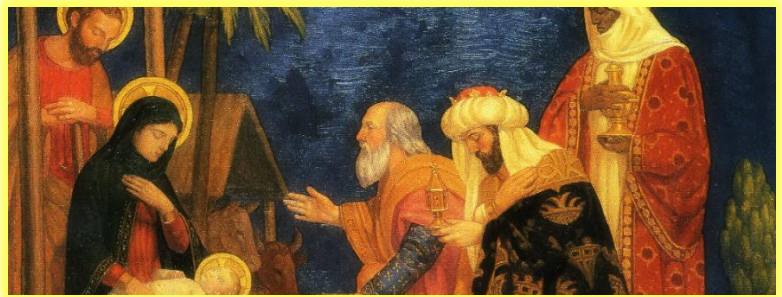
Blessed be her glorious Assumption. Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste Spouse. Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints. Amen.



Song of the Month:
“Holy God, We Praise
Thy Name”

Scripture Spotlight:
“The Mighty One has
done great things for
me, and holy is His
Name.” -Luke 1:49



Saint Spotlight: St. Thomas Aquinas

St. Thomas Aquinas' feast day is celebrated on January 28, according to the new liturgical calendar. As a child, St. Thomas Aquinas was called names by his classmates. They teased him because they did not understand him. St. Thomas Aquinas was ahead of his times, set apart by God. He was different from his classmates, but did not let this discourage him. Rather than correcting his classmates, he showed them through his actions that they had misjudged him. Though the names they called him were hurtful, St. Thomas Aquinas was humble, and continued to praise the Name of Jesus, gladly suffering for His sake. Growing to be a brilliant scholar, St. Thomas Aquinas wrote theological works of great depth and breadth that continue to be widely studied today, most notably, the *Summa Theologica*, or the “Highest Theology.” Although St. Thomas Aquinas was unmatched in his intellectual and spiritual contributions to the Church (including beautiful Eucharistic hymns still sung today at Adoration), lending a mind and heart illuminated by the Holy Spirit to our rich traditions, he still felt that all he had done was “straw” compared to the glory of God, and all that He has done for us. Living with the humility and dedication of St. Thomas Aquinas, embodying the Gifts of fortitude, piety, fear of the Lord, wisdom, counsel, knowledge, and understanding in the ways that he did, we can truly honor God, lifting our voices to proclaim His goodness, speaking the Name of Jesus, a name synonymous with triumph.

