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*St. Joseph The Worker Parish, Russell, MB      St. Theresa's Parish Rossburn, MB*

**Responsorial Psalm 67:** May God be gracious to us and bless us.

St. Joseph's Russell needs volunteers to read and usher on Sunday Morning Mass, please choose which Sunday and sign up on the Ministry Schedule – found on the table where the donation envelopes are located. Thank you!

**Did you Know!** The National Catholic Broadcasting Council offers Sunday & Daily TV Mass on the Web, visit the website at [www.dailytvmass.com](http://www.dailytvmass.com) or [www.youtube.com/dailytvmass](http://www.youtube.com/dailytvmass) to watch Mass each day.

**Zoom Along with Us** you can use it on your computers, tablets, i-pads & smart-phones

We still have **Sunday zoom Mass at 9:00 a.m.**

**St. Joseph The Worker News:**

**Please remember in your prayers** those who are sick in hospitals, care homes, or in their homes & those who care for them. If you wish to receive the Sacraments of Anointing, Confession, or Holy Communion – please call the parish office & leave a message: 204-773-2924.

Praying with Pope Francis, December: *For educators:* We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

**Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation Nothing Stands Alone Summary**

**Remaining in Communion**

Father Richard illustrates our inherent union with God—and the small self that keeps us separate.

We go through our lives, our years on this earth, thinking of ourselves as separate. That sense of separateness basically causes every stupid, sinful, silly thing we ever do. The little, separate self takes offense when people don't show us proper respect. The separate self lies and steals and does unkind things to other people. When we're separate, everything becomes about protecting and defending ourselves. It can consume our lives.

One word for overcoming that false sense of separateness, that illusory self, is heaven, and, quite frankly, that is what death offers us. It is simply returning to the Source from which we came, where all things are One. The whole gospel message is radical union with God, with neighbor, and even with ourselves. I think that's why so many of us are drawn to church each week—to receive communion and to eventually, hopefully, realize that we are in communion.

Probably no gospel story says this more clearly and forthrightly than the parable of the vine and the branches (John 15:1–10). Jesus says, "I'm the vine, God is the vine grower, and you (we) are the branches." As long as we remain in that relationship, we are in love and in union. Whenever we do anything unloving, at that moment, we're out of union. Even if it's just a negative, angry, or judgmental thought, we're doing that out of a sense of disunion—always! And Jesus is very clear. He says that state is useless. Once the branch is cut off from the vine, we might as well throw it into the fire because it's not going to bear any fruit. He's not making a threat. He's just talking practically, as if he were the vineyard owner.

Now, that's a pretty strong statement about us and the choices we make from that unnecessary state of separateness. We have never been separate from God except in our thoughts, but our thoughts don't make it true! Nor are we separate from anyone else. Whatever separates us from one another—nationality, religion, ethnicity, economics, language—those are all just accidentals that will all pass away. We are One in God, with

Christ and with one another. "I am the vine and you are the branches" (John 15:5). If only we could live that way every hour!

We all pull back into ourselves. We pout and complain and resent and fear. That's what the little self does. The little self, the branch cut off from the vine, can do nothing according to this gospel. So Jesus says, "Remain in me as I remain in you" (John 15:4). The promise is constant from God's side. The only question is from our side. Do we choose to live in that union? Every time we do something with respect, with love, with sympathy, with compassion, with caring, with service, we are operating in union.

*Adapted from Richard Rohr, "The Illusion of a Separate Self," homily, May 6, 2012.*

**Mass Intentions For This Week:**

**Mary, The Holy Mother of God    World Day Of Peace**

- |          |        |   |
|----------|--------|---|
| Saturday | Dec 31 | 7:30 p.m. Russell Mass + Jutta Leven req. by Anne & Ubald Deschambault  |
| Sunday   | Jan 1  | 9:00 a.m. Russell <b>Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. &amp; YouTube after 10:15 am</b><br>For all parishioners by Father Paul                            |
|          |        | 11:00 a.m. Rossburn Mass + Nellie & Frank Kaskiw req. by Kaskiw family  |
| Monday   | Jan 2  | Health of family & friends req. by Jean Goba  |
| Tuesday  | Jan 3  | For Health req by Brenda and family   |
| Wed.     | Jan 4  | 10:00 a.m. Russell PCH Music & Mass ??<br>+ Emilienne Mangin req. by George Mangin & family   |
| Thurs.   | Jan 5  | 10:30 a.m. Rossburn Adoration<br>11:00 a.m. + Norma Kaskiw req. by Joe & Shirley Slobodian & Family   |
| Friday   | Jan 6  | 8:30 a.m. Russell Adoration<br>9:00 a.m. Special Intentions req by Carlene Douglas<br>10:45 a.m. Rossburn <b>First Friday</b> Sacred Heart of Jesus |

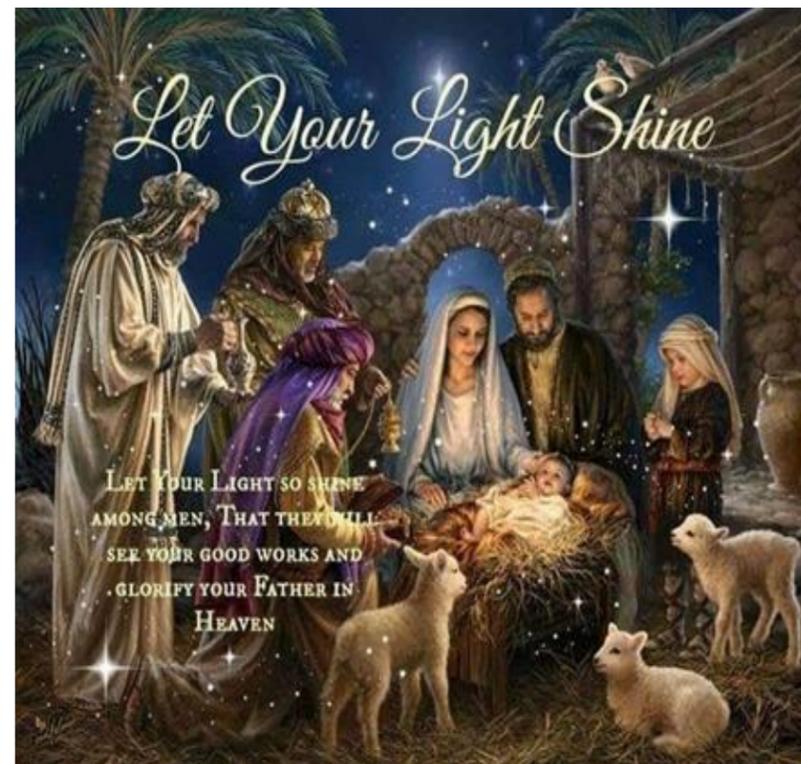
**Epiphany of The Lord**

- |          |       |  |
|----------|-------|--|
| Saturday | Jan 7 | 10:45 a.m. Rossburn <b>First Saturday</b> Immaculate Heart of Mary<br>7:30 p.m. Russell + Jutta Leven req. by Anne & Ubald Deschambault  |
| Sunday   | Jan 8 | 9:00 a.m. Russell <b>Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. &amp; YouTube after 10:15 am</b><br>For all parishioners by Father Paul<br>11:00 a.m. Rossburn + Norma Kaskiw req by St. Theresa's Parish |

**\* Religious Holidays:**

An atheist complained to Jimmy, "Christians have their special holidays, such as Christmas and Easter; and Jews celebrate their holidays, such as Passover and Yom Kippur; Muslims have their holidays. EVERY religion has its holidays. But we atheists," he said, "have no recognized national holidays. It's an unfair discrimination." Jimmy replied, "Well, why don't you celebrate April first?"

**\*Deciding to jump:** A boy asked his father, "Dad, if three frogs were sitting on a limb that hangs over a pool, and one frog decided to jump off into the pool, how many frogs would be left on the limb?" The dad replied, "Two." "No," the son replied. "Here is the question again: There are three frogs, and one decided to jump, how many are left?" The dad said, "Oh, I get the point! If one decided to jump, the others would too. So there are none left." The boy said, "No dad, the answer is three. The frog only DECIDED to jump." — Does that sound like our last year's resolutions? Great inspiration and great resolutions, but oftentimes we only decide, and months later we are still on the same limb of doing nothing.



# Dear Padre,

***I understand that all Catholics, not just priests and religious, are called to holiness. How can laypeople become holy?***

The five elements of holiness are the same for all the baptized, always in the context of their vocational calling.

**Prayer:** In the liturgy, we join our sisters and brothers to offer communal worship where we are nourished and formed by word and sacrament. In private prayer, we maintain, clarify, and nourish our relationship with God.

**Love of neighbor:** We are called to treat others with the acceptance and respect that God has for each person. Every person is our neighbor, especially people in need (Matthew 25:40).

**Living one's vocational commitment:** Being faithful to a spouse in marriage, working for family harmony, staying true to dedicated singleness in the world or in the religious community setting—all are avenues of holiness.

**Penance and self-discipline:** The Christian life demands self-denial, control, and sacrifice. Christians must deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow Jesus (Luke 9:23).

**Reaching out in discipleship:** Holiness also comes from and finds its noblest expression in a life of service and ministry. Baptism initiates us into the fullness of Christian reality, which ultimately means discipleship—sharing our faith and serving others, especially the most needy.

For laypeople, the main arena of holiness is where they live, work, play, and struggle every day. It is there that they must proclaim “the kingdom of God is in our midst,” and answer their call to holiness. ●



NIKKI ZALEWSKI / SHUTTERSTOCK

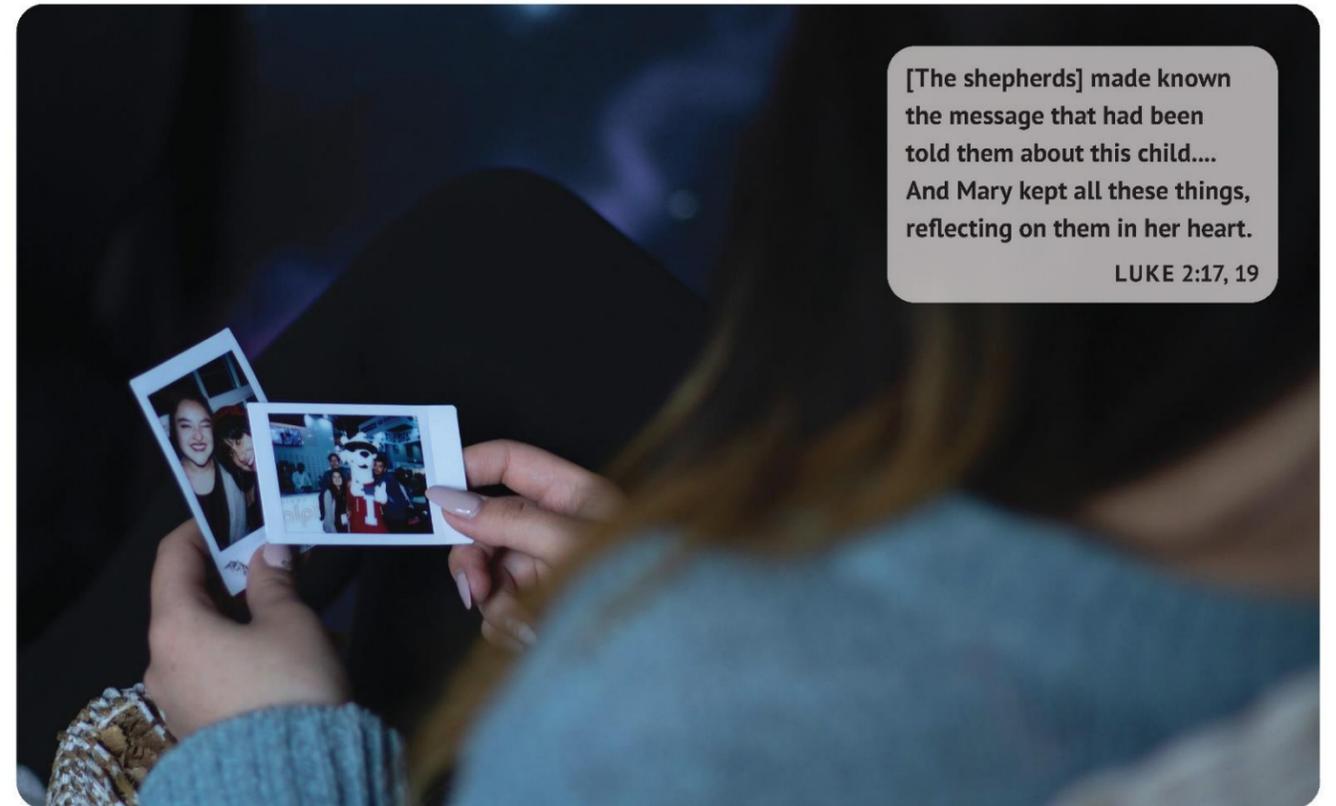
**The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org**

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 1, 2023

**Mary, Mother of God (A)**

Numbers 6:22–27 / Galatians 4:4–7 / Luke 2:16–21



[The shepherds] made known the message that had been told them about this child.... And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

LUKE 2:17, 19

## What Do You Hold in Your Heart?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**O**n **New Year's Eve**, some of my friends try to recall a significant event from each year, beginning with the most recent, and work their way back. They tell me that memories from the first couple of years, the most recent, are fairly easy to call to mind, but after that, memories get reduced to births and deaths, marriages and moves to new homes, vacations, and ultimately to not remembering anything significant for some years. It's an interesting conclusion—not remembering anything significant—given the human emotions and energies we pour into trivial disagreements, unresolved conflicts, and family issues.

The Gospel recounts how Mary reflected upon the events of her Son's birth and how she kept them all in her heart. I suspect that many of the events we might recount from that New Year's Eve exercise would end up being some of the moments we hold in our hearts. Most would likely revolve around family, all those people we keep in our hearts. Others might be about job promotions or successes, or memorable recognitions. We justifiably keep these as treasures to remember.

As Mary did, we might learn something about ourselves by pondering significant personal faith events. I doubt most of us will recall one for each year, which may say something about how seriously we take our faith lives. Yet those we do recall could be treasures of the past that will bless us in the present. ●

### Reflect

**What do the events you carry in your heart say about who you are?**



CNS PHOTO / PAUL HARING

### A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

**As we begin this new year, let us ask ourselves....**

**Do I know how to look at people with the heart?**

**Do I take to heart the people with whom I live?...**

**Let us ask for the grace to live this year with the desire to take others to heart and to care for them.**

HOMILY, VATICAN, JANUARY 1, 2020

### MONDAY

January 2  
*Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church*

1 Jn 2:22–28  
Jn 1:19–28

### TUESDAY

January 3  
*Christmas Weekday*  
1 Jn 2:29–3:6  
Jn 1:29–34

### WEDNESDAY

January 4  
*St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious*  
1 Jn 3:7–10  
Jn 1:35–42

### THURSDAY

January 5  
*St. John Neumann, Bishop*  
1 Jn 3:11–21  
Jn 1:43–51

### FRIDAY

January 6  
*Christmas Weekday*  
1 Jn 5:5–13  
Mk 1:7–11

### SATURDAY

January 7  
*Christmas Weekday*  
1 Jn 5:14–21  
Jn 2:1–12

### SUNDAY

January 8  
*Epiphany of the Lord*  
Is 60:1–6  
Eph 3:2–3, 5–6  
Mt 2:1–12

### Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective

*Catholic Update* explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org) or call 800-325-9521.