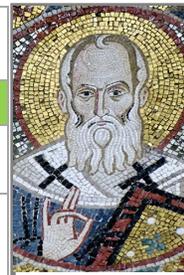


**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
January 17, 2021 ~ Bulletin No. 3 Vol. XXXVII

**CALENDAR ~ January 16-24, 2021**

Sat 16	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Jerry Nichter by Tom & Meg Nichter
Sun 17	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Tony Johnson by Kate Johnson Mass for ROS Father Gabriel Meehan by the Knights of Columbus Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call 289-6336 for information
Mon 18	9:00am	Mass for ROS Rosaly & Carmen Lugo by Mike & Karen Lugo
Wed 20	7:00pm 10:30am	Mass for ROS Pete & Maria Cilone by Andy & JoAnn Cilone Prayer Group, Parish Hall
Thurs 21	12:10pm 1:00pm 7:00pm	Mass for ROS Beverly Axline by Don Axline Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel Rosary and Benediction, Chapel
Fri 22	12:10pm 7:00am	Mass for ROS Hank Sunderman by Tom & Judy Bonhaus Men's Prayer Group
Sat 23	5:00pm 1:00pm	Mass for Terry, Theresa & Faith Hicks by Theresa Hambleton Third Order Carmelite Meeting, Parish Hall
Sun 24	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Lewis Samuel Clark by Bob & Linda Allard Mass for ROS Alfred Urban by Barbara Urban Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call 289-6336 for information



*From the Holy Fathers*  
"If only we could be what we hope to be, by the great kindness of our generous God! He asks so little and gives so much, in this life and in the next, to those who love him sincerely."  
~ Saint Gregory Nazianzen ~  
d. 390 AD



*Wisdom of the Saints*  
"To hope that any other will please me does wrong to my Spouse. I will be His, Who first chose me Himself. Executioner! Why do you delay? If eyes that I do not want can desire this body, then let it perish."  
~ Saint Agnes ~  
Virgin, Martyr ~ Feast Jan 21

**For Annulment Information Contact:**

Rachel Harrill 1-828-447-1908 or  
Email: Rachel\_harrill@yahoo.com

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED**

During the last several months, there have been several occasions where messages/information had to be sent out quickly to parishioners, most recently when weekend Masses were cancelled a couple of weeks ago. Since early May 2020 we have been emailing the Bulletin to parishioners who have been cautious over COVID concerns and haven't been able to attend Mass. The email list includes about 80 families. We would like to expand our emailing list so that we would be better able to contact parishioners quickly and effectively when the need arise. **Understand that: 1- the email list will NOT be shared with anyone. 2- All emails will be sent BCC (Blind Carbon Copy) so no one on the list will see everybody's email address. 3- Parishioners have the option to receive the parish bulletin weekly, and/or receive just news alerts.** Please pass the word on to friends and family. Send email addresses and preference re: bulletin and/or news alerts to: [pjwlm@gmail.com](mailto:pjwlm@gmail.com)

THANK YOU!

**Jan 17** There will be a second collection **TODAY** for the Combined Missions. This includes the Church in Latin America, in Central and Eastern Europe, the US Mission Appeal, Catholic Home Missions and the Church in Africa.

**Additional coverage is needed for Adoration on Thursdays** for the 5:00-6:00pm slot and the 6:00-7:00pm slot. Call JoAnn Cilone at 828-245-6219 if you are able to help.

**COLLECTION CONTRIBUTIONS:** We encourage parishioners to make their contributions by mailing them in to: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION RC CHURCH, 1024 W. Main Street, Forest City, NC 28043. You can make online donations through the following link: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/immaculateconceforestcity>.

**Collection Information Weekend of January 9-10:**

\$5,107.00 -Regular Offering  
\$20.00 -Building Repair Loan



John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" — which translated means Teacher —, "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" — which is translated Christ —. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" — which is translated Peter.

## *The Espousals of Mary and Joseph - Feast January 23*



Scripture tells us very little of the marriage of Mary and Joseph other than what we find in Luke 1: 26-27: *“In the sixth month, the Angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary.”* In those days betrothal was a two-part marriage celebration. First came the legal arrangements made between the parents of the couple. Once the couple agreed to the arrangement, they were considered to be betrothed.

Over the years, several visionaries have shared their experiences. Venerable Mary of Jesus of Agreda received private revelations of Our Lady. Of one of these revelations Agreda wrote: *“On the day our princess Mary completed her 14th year of life, the men, who at that time in the city of Jerusalem who were descendants of the tribe of Judah and of the race of David, gathered in the Temple. The sovereign Lady was also of that lineage. Among the number was Joseph, a native of Nazareth...He was then 33 years of age, of handsome person, and pleasing countenance, but also of incomparable modesty and gravity; above all he was most chaste in thought and conduct...”*

All the eligible men were gathered in the Temple, and with the priests, prayed for a sign as to which man would be wed to the virgin, Mary. *“While they were thus engaged in prayer, the staff which Joseph held was seen to blossom and at the same time a dove of purest white and resplendent with admirable light, was seen to descend and rest upon the head of the saint, while in the interior of his heart God spoke: “Joseph, my servant, Mary shall be thy spouse; accept her with attentive reverence, for she is acceptable in My eyes, just and most pure in soul and body, and thou shalt do all that she shall say to thee.” At this manifestation and token from heaven the priests declared Saint Joseph as the spouse selected for the maiden Mary...and the priests espoused her to the most chaste and holy of men, Saint Joseph.”*

In regards to the feast of the Espousals itself, it has an interesting history. In 1416 at the Council of Constance, renowned French theologian Jean Gerson proposed the feast to be celebrated on January 23rd. Several localities celebrated the feast of the Espousals on different dates, but the feast was not entered on the universal calendar of the Church. In the 1600s the feast was celebrated by several countries (France, Holland, Brazil and other Latin American countries), Spain, and religious institutes on January 23rd as well as on other dates. In 1725, Pope Benedict XIII extended the feast to the Papal States, and in 1840 permission was granted to celebrate the feast in the United States.

Because of the extent of the celebrations of the feast, it was listed in the pre-Vatican II Roman Missal in the section for celebrations for particular places. Over the years, permission was granted to many other locations and religious societies. In the early 1960s the Sacred Congregation of Rites removed certain feasts from the calendar, including the Espousals. Exceptions were permitted where these feasts held a particular importance or connection. Today the Feast of the Espousals of Mary and Joseph is celebrated in several dioceses and shrines around the world, including the shrine at the Oratory of Saint Joseph in Montreal.

In a time when attacks are being made on marriage and the family, perhaps we could consider the words of Saint Bernardine of Siena: *“Mary and Joseph were but one heart and soul; they were two in one same mind, one same affection, and each of them was the other’s second half, because Our Lady and he were, so to speak, only one person. The heart of Mary with that of Saint Joseph; the heart of Joseph with that of Mary, who could imagine a union so intimate, a grace so great.”*

Saint Pope Paul VI wrote: *“Joseph and Mary are the summit from which holiness spreads all over the earth. The Saviour began the work of salvation by this virginal and holy union.”*

While the feast of the Espousals is not listed on the universal calendar of the Church, it can still serve as another opportunity for married couples to turn to Mary and Joseph, to ask for their intercession for themselves and their families.