

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God January 1, 2017

*As a loving, joyful, and thoughtful mother,
Mary pondered God's wondrous gifts in her
heart.*

Alpha is coming to The Good Shepherd Parish

What is Alpha? Alpha is a tool for evangelization that is being used by thousands of Catholic parishes in over 70 countries around the world. Alpha is also run by churches of many other denominations to introduce people to the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. This has led to more than 27 million people around the world experiencing Alpha. In particular, it is attracting many people who are asking the question, 'Is there more to life than this?'

The Good Shepherd Parish will be running an Alpha session this January and we need your help!

For more information contact: alan1.dunham@gmail.com

Spiritual Adoption Program:

Everyone loves the beauty and innocence of a baby. As an expression of that love our parish is sponsoring a Spiritual Adoption Program where we are invited to 'spiritually adopt' an unborn baby who is beginning their life in the womb of their mother. Each of you is invited to pray daily for a baby you commit to spiritually adopting and whose life may be endangered by abortion. Posters will be displayed in the Vestibule of the church to show the development of your baby and bulletin announcements will help you to follow the growth and development of your baby. Watch for the arrival and follow the growth of your spiritually adopted baby.

LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT RE Bill C-277 – An act providing for the development of a framework on palliative care in Canada.

As an organization committed to the development of a culture of life and a civilization of love, the Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF) is firmly convinced that Canadians approaching the end of life will be assured of receiving the kind of life-affirming care and the respect they deserve only through the establishment of a national palliative care strategy. [Read More...](#)

MARYVALE ACADEMY OF OTTAWA ANNUAL

FUNDRAISING DINNER GALA: "For Love of You" on Sat., Feb.

4 at St. Elias Centre, 750 Ridgewood Ave. Live & silent auctions, 50/50 draw, musical performances, speeches and dancing. Cocktails & silent auction at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$85/person (\$40 tax receipt). Info/tickets: Maryvale Academy (613-321-2186); www.maryvaleacademy.ca;

www.facebook.com/MaryvaleAcademyOttawa).

OTTAWA SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND SPIRITUALITY

2016-17 WINTER TERM: The OSTS is a lay and volunteer school supported by the United, Presbyterian, Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches, that offers adult theological and spiritual education courses of interest. Courses begin Mon., Jan. 9, 7:00 p.m., Dominican University College, 96 Empress Ave. Info & registration: www.osts.ca; president@osts.ca).

Offering for December 25/16 (Totals to be posted in January 8th bulletin)

Sunday Envelopes:	\$
OPAC/Visa/MC	\$
Loose:	\$
Total Collection:	\$

STEUBENVILLE TORONTO 2017 INTEREST MEETING:

Steubenville Toronto is Canada's largest Catholic Youth Conference. Youth who will be in Grade 9 in September 2017 up to those who will be graduating high school by the end of 2017 can attend Steubenville Toronto. An interest meeting for parents and youth will be held **Jan. 12, 6:30-9:30 p.m.** at the Diocesan Centre, 1247 Kilborn Place. Info: Krista Wawrykow (613-738-5025 ext. 222); (kwawrykow@ArchOttawa.ca).

Pastor's Corner

January 1 is the Octave Day of the Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas). On this Octave of Christmas, the Church around the world celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. When we call Mary the "Mother of God," we are not saying that she gave birth to the Divine Nature or that she pre-existed before God was. The expression "Mother of God" or Theotokos (Θεοτόκος; literally, "God-bearer") was confirmed by the Church at the Council of Ephesus in the year AD 431. It was the Church's response to a heresy known as Nestorianism. The Bishop Nestorius (then Patriarch of Constantinople), taught erroneously that Mary could be called Christotokos (Χριστοτόκος; literally, "Christ-bearer" or Mother of Christ) but not Theotokos ("God-bearer" or Mother of God). This is because he believed that there was no possible union between the divine and the human. In other words, Jesus could not possibly be the Eternally-Begotten Son of God the Father.

In order to preserve belief in the Divinity of Christ, the Church confirmed the title Theotokos as attributed to the Blessed Virgin Mary, thus teaching that the person to whom the Blessed Virgin gave birth was truly and fully divine: He is God Himself, in human flesh! Mary could rightly be called "Mother of God" because she gave birth in this world to the One who was (and eternally is) the Second Person of the Most Blessed Trinity.

We see here a very beautiful principal in theology: namely, correct devotion to Mary actually safeguards our faith in Jesus. The Church defended her belief in Christ's Divinity by bestowing upon Our Lady a title that confirmed that the fruit of her womb was indeed Divine. Mary always leads us to Jesus, and never away from Him. She leads us into the fullness of truth because she leads us to the One who said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is so important in the eyes of the Church that this day is a holy day of obligation throughout the Church, even when it does not fall on a Sunday. May we celebrate this feast day with great joy, and may we begin this new civilian year by consecrating it in a special way to the maternal care and protection of the Blessed Virgin, the Mother of God and our Mother.

INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 31 – Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

5:00 pm †Cecilia Tadiello req by John Tadiello
†Simone Carr req by Ken & Dorothy Riopelle
Intention of Denis Cudahy req by Laynes & Clara
Alphonse
Intention of Josephine O’Hagan req by the Linton family
Deceased members of the O’Connell family

Sunday, January 1 Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

9:00 am †Anita Relova re by the family
†Brendan Quinn req by Vincent Quinn
Intention of Elizabeth Stewart & Al D’Costa req by
Carmen D’Souza

11:15 am For Our Parishioners

Monday, January 2 – Memorial, Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

9:00 am Private Intention

Tuesday, January 3

9:00 am Souls in Purgatory req by a Parishioner

Thursday, January 5

9:00 am Private Intention

Friday, January 6

9:00 am Private Intention

Saturday, January 7 – The Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 am For Our Parishioners

5:00 pm †Leonidas & Carmelina Ropero req by the family
†Cecilia Tadiello req by the Andrews family

Sunday, January 8 – The Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 am †Lucie Tillart req by Mariane & Don Louis-Seize
†Philomena & George Timko req by Bobbi Timko
Intention of Anne DeJong req by the El-Zarka family
Intention of Joseph & Barbara Ginter req by the El-Zarka
family

11:30 am For Our Parishioners

Please pray for our sick; Michael Nortey, Lorna Kennedy, Ann Delage,
Dominique Duma, Ester Ropero, Adrian Ropero, Lorretta Dillon-Robinette,
Louise Clarke, Nadia Clement, and John MacDonald.

Please pray for our deceased, that they may be received into God’s love.

PRO LIFE CORNER

Let us pray that elected officials in Canada and elsewhere may have wisdom, courage and sincere concern for those they represent, including pre-born children.

Pope Benedict XVI recommended that the faithful begin the New Year by looking at Mary. It is of course through Mary that the mystery of bringing the child Jesus into the world was achieved. Let us remember Mary’s response to the Angel Gabriele “Let it be done unto me according to thy word.” Let us then look to our mother Mary so that we will go to Jesus through her just as she brought Jesus to us through her.

If you or someone you know is pregnant and needs support, confidential help is available. www.stmaryshome.com www.miriamottawa.org 613-830-8623 www.birthright-ottawa.org or visit: www.abortionincanada.ca www.adoptionincanada.ca or contact the parish office.