

Fragments

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

ODCCW Mission Statement

*To promote among our Catholic women a greater devotion to Christ and the Church,
as we share the Blessed Mother's role of bringing others to Christ
through spirituality, leadership, and service.*



HOLY FAMILY **Janine Meckler** ODCCW President

I find myself often pondering and contemplating the lives of the Holy Family. Mary's faith and immediacy to answer God's call to be the Mother of God is innocent yet filled with wisdom, purity, and trust. Joseph lived out his trust in God through

his very care for Mary and Jesus daily. Not only was Joseph a holy and devout man but a vessel of strength and protection. Joseph was tasked with protecting Mary, the mother of God, and Jesus, God's only Son. I cannot imagine the humanity and fear that Joseph kept at bay exhibiting his steadfast trust in God step by step along the journey of life.

(continued on next page)

As we move from one liturgical season to another, now in Ordinary Time, we will celebrate their continued journey to the temple for the Presentation of The Lord on February 2. There was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon who was righteous and devout...It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not die before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. ...When he met the child with Mary and Joseph, he took the child into his arms and blessed God saying: "Now Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples:a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel"(Lk 2:25-32).

As we journey on our own adventures of life, may we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and honor Mary and Joseph for their steadfastness and love of God. May we thank God for His perfect plan carried out in His Son Jesus born into a family, The Holy Family.

Janine Meckler
ODCCW President

ORDINARY TIME

Fr. Chris Heath

ODCCW Spiritual Advisor

“Ordinary Time” Sounds...ordinary, doesn't it? Humdrum, run-of-the-mill, boring, usual, common... [yawn] Well, luckily, that's not what Ordinary Time means in the Catholic liturgical calendar! Nor should we think of our relationship with God in this way. So what is this time we entered on Tuesday, January 10?

The weeks that are not part of the Seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter are called Ordinary. There are 34 weeks in this time, more than the four others combined, so we spend more of our liturgical life in this Season, which makes it important in itself.

A better translation of the Latin “tempus ordinarium” could be “ordered” or “numbered” or “measured” time. We have a word in English, ordinal, that would also work: an ordinal is a word like “first,” “second,” or “third,” a position in a series, which the weeks we count certainly are a series of time in motion.

So it's not really ordinary as much as it is counted. Counting time, counting forward until...what? Until Christ's return, counting until we reach our Promised Land, counting up to our eternity. Have you ever done a countdown? Counting to the day of retirement, the start of vacation, the visit of family, the birth of a child?

Heaven should be something we're looking forward to, something so vastly important that it changes how we live. If we really believe Heaven is for real, that there are consequences for our actions and choices in life, this belief should inform everything we do. And this counting time is meant to be a reminder, as much as we count the days for any important event, what can be more important than our eternity? No, we don't know when we will die, but our eternity has already begun! And every time we go to Mass we enter that eternal time by worshipping together with the Angels and Saints the One True God and Jesus Who He sent.

There is nothing ordinary about God's interactions with us! It is extra-ordinary, super-natural, a relationship with the God-man Jesus, to bring us to eternal life with Him!

Fr. Chris



JANUARY GENERAL GATHERING



Photos from the ODCCW General Gathering on January 17.

Father Eugene Lee, Pastor of St Thomas More, gave a beautiful talk on "Reverence Enhances Our Relationship With Christ". He emphasized how we can bring people or our parishes to Christ through a personal, dynamic, and reverent relationship with Jesus. The anchor to reverence is knowing what matters, meeting people where they're at, fellowship, hospitality and PRAYER.

Thank you Father Eugene, YLI Chapter #247 for your gracious hospitality, and all the attendees for a wonderful General Gathering to start our New Year!

CELEBRATING THE HOLY FAMILY

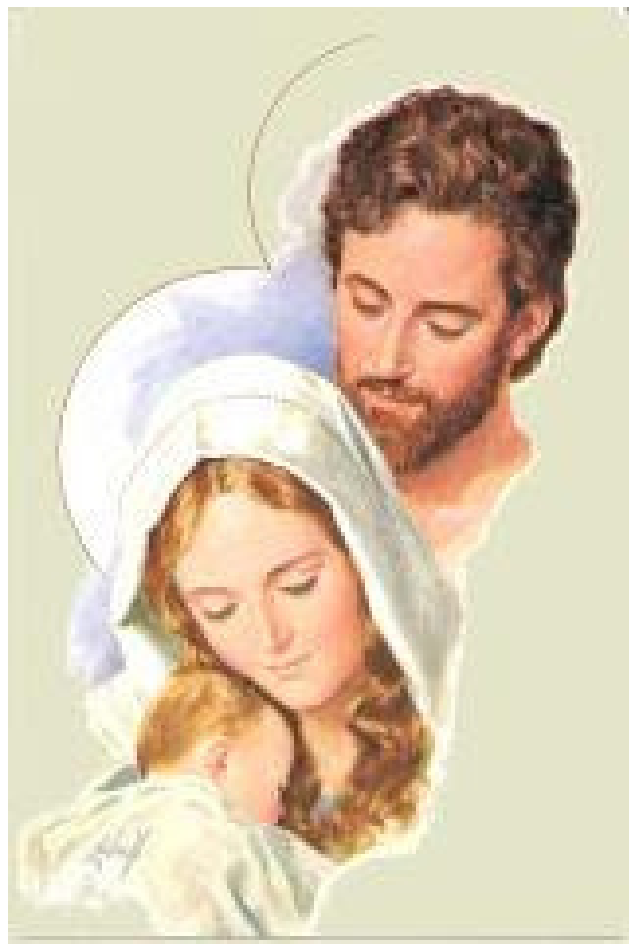
The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family. The special devotion which proposes the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the model of virtue of all Christian households began in the 17th century.

It started almost simultaneously in Canada and France: the Association of the Holy Family was founded in Montreal in 1663, and by the Daughters of the Holy Family in Paris in 1674. This devotion soon spread and in 1893 Leo XIII expressed his approval of a feast under this title and himself composed part of the Office. On account of the flight into Egypt this feast has been observed by the Copts from early times.

The feast was welcomed by succeeding Pontiffs as an efficacious means for bringing home to the Christian people the example of the Holy Family at Nazareth, and by the restoration of the true spirit of family life, stemming, in some measure, the evils of present-day society.

In the words of His Holiness Pope Leo XIII, "Nothing truly can be more salutary or efficacious for Christian families to meditate upon than the example of this Holy Family, which embraces the perfection and completeness of all domestic virtues."

Article by: Catholic Culture



FAREWELL 2022 | WELCOME 2023

Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD
ODCCW Emeritus Advisor

"Those were the days my friends, we thought they'd never end..."

As I bid farewell to 2022, I am reminded of the blessings and challenges that many faced this past year and look forward to 2023 with renewed hope. As we ponder the miracle of Jesus' birth, let us reflect on Him, the center of our lives as we make our New Year's Resolution.

First and foremost, let us consider reading and studying the Bible. As you read the Bible, don't separate the two Testaments but view them as a whole. The Old Testament points to the coming of Jesus, while the New Testament points to Jesus. Read the Bible as it focuses on Christ (Christologically) because Jesus said, "...the Scriptures point to me!" (John 5:39 NIV). The Bible is alive and active.

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Hebrews 4:12, NIV).

Many Biblical scholars tell us to start reading the Bible with the Gospel of John. I actually found it more exciting to start reading it with the Gospel of Mark. He is fast-paced and full of Jesus' miracles. Actually, there isn't a good or bad way to read the Bible...just do it.



What is your hope for the New Year? Alfred Tennyson said, "Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering 'it will be happier'." From Psalm 9:18 "God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish."

Have you made a New Year's resolution? The Babylonians started the practice of New Year resolutions over 3,000 years ago by making promise to their gods at the start of each year to return borrowed objects and pay their debts. The Romans started their year by making promises to the god Janus. During the Medieval era, Knights made a "peacock vow" to re-affirm their commitment to chivalry. At watch night services, many Christians prayed and made resolutions to prepare for the year ahead. Jewish traditions include Rosh Hashanah, High Holidays, and Yom Kippur to reflect on wrongdoings and seek forgiveness. The traditional New Year's resolution practice stems from the Catholic Lenten sacrifice. No matter what creed, most people seek areas of self-improvement as their New Year's resolution.

FAREWELL 2022 | WELCOME 2023

Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD
ODCCW Emeritus Advisor

What is your New Year's resolution? Will you look within and "train yourself to be godly" as is written in 1 Timothy 4:7-8?

Here are some Catholic resolutions:

1. Pray for wisdom. "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you" James 1:5.
2. Ask God to reveal His goals for you
3. Rely on God's strength to help you. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13.
4. Trust in God. "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this" Psalm 37:5.
5. Give glory to God. "My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and honor him" Joshua 7:19.
6. Volunteer at your church.
7. Pray for wisdom, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you" James 1:5.
8. Ask God to reveal His goals for you. Rely on God's strength to help you. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13.

9. Trust in God. "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this" Psalm 37:5.

10. Give glory to God. "My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and honor him" Joshua 7:19.

Sources:

1. <https://www.biblegateway.com>
2. <http://www.gotquestions.org/Old-Testament-Christ.html>
3. <http://www.jumpintotheword.com/tag/reading/>
4. <https://www.google.com/Images>
5. <http://www.knowableword.com/2012/12/14/how-to-see-jesus-in-any-bible-passage/>
6. <http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/Catholic/Ten-New-Years-Resolutions-for-Catholics.aspx?p=3>
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9. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Year%27s_resolution
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12. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Year%27s_resolution

JANUARY FACTS

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ODCCW Emeritus Advisor

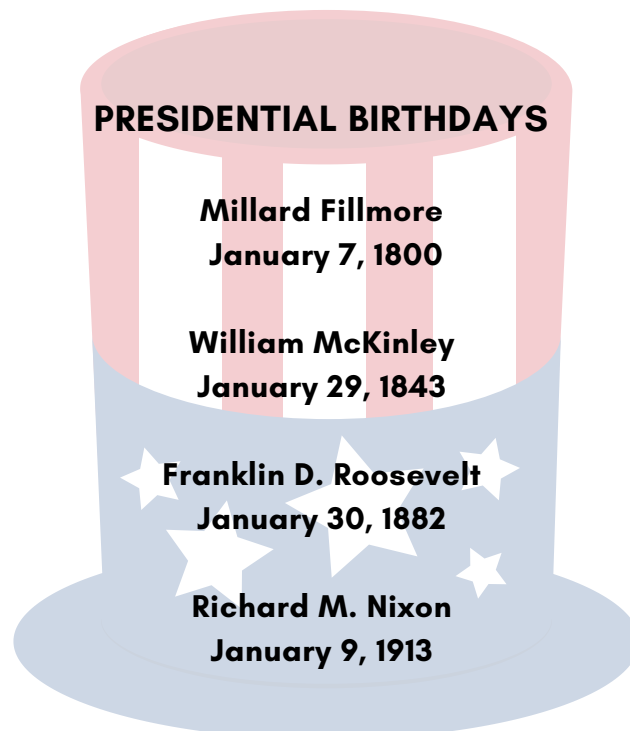
January is the first month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars and the first of seven months to have a length of 31 days.

It is a winter month in the northern half of the world and a summer month in the southern half.

January is, on average, the coldest month of the year within most of the Northern Hemisphere (where it is the second month of winter) and the warmest month of the year within most of the Southern Hemisphere (where it is the second month of summer).

January initially had 29 days and came after December, but the Roman year still started in March. In 154 BC, a rebellion forced the Roman senate to change the beginning of the civil year from March to January 1. With this reform, January officially became the first month in the year 153 BC.

<http://justfunfacts.com/interesting-facts-about-january/>
#:~:text=January%20is%2C%20on%20average%2C%20the%20coldest%20month%20of,Gregorian%20calendar%20that%20is%20used%20around%20the%20world.



JANUARY FACTS

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<http://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/martin-luther-king-jr-day-third-monday-in-january/>



<http://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/new-years-day>



<http://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/ratification-day-january-14/>

ST. VALENTINE PRAYERS

- A Special Valentine Prayer** - My powerful and glorious and holy God, with ...
- A Valentine Prayer** - I said a Valentine prayer for you and asked the ...
- A Valentine Prayer (2)** - Pray, then, O holy Martyr, for the Faithful, who ...
- A Valentine Prayer (3)** - Dearest Heavenly Father, I want to thank you ...
- A Valentine Prayer (4)** - Lord, I submit myself to You. I realize that ...
- Blessing to Magnetize True Love** - May your life be filled with the blessings of ...
- Calling Out to Love** - I call to God, Please assist my efforts to find ...
- I Am Ready for Love** - Dear God, I am ready to have a relationship with ...
- Litany of the Love of God** - Lord have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on ...
- May I remember...** - God, I find myself heartbroken by the hatred I ...
- Please Heal My Wounded Heart** - Dear God, please help me heal From grief, loss ...
- Prayer to Saint Valentine** - Dear Lord, who art high in the Heavens, Giver of ...
- Psalms 119, Love of God's Law** - 1 How blessed are those whose way is blameless, ...
- Psalms 18 - Psalm of Love for God** - 1 [For the choirmaster Of David, the servant of ...
- Psalms 31, Love Yaweh all Faithful** - 1 [For the choirmaster Psalm Of David] In you, ...



A "DIET" THAT'S GOOD FOR YOU

Connie Nguyen

ODCCW Interim Recording Secretary

- D** - Detach from sin
- I** - Invest more time in silence & prayer
- E** - Engage in quality time with family
- T** - Trust in God

ODCCW 2022-2023 GENERAL GATHERING & EVENT SCHEDULE

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Location: ST. TIMOTHY

Speaker: TBD

Address: 29102 Crown Valley Pkwy.

Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

Saturday, March 11, 2023

ODCCW WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Location: FREED THEATER at CHRIST CATHEDRAL

Speaker: Lisa M. Hendey

Special Musical Entertainment: Bishop Vann

Address: 13280 Chapman Ave.

Garden Grove, CA 92840

Register at: ocdccw.org

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Location: HOLY TRINITY

Speaker: Renee Bondi

Address: 1600 Corporate Dr.

Ladera Ranch, CA 92694

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

MAY CROWNING

Location: CHRIST CATHEDRAL

Speaker: TBD

Address: 13280 Chapman Ave.

Garden Grove, CA