



An Advent Wish, Part 2: All are Welcomed

A message from The Madeleine Pastoral Council

“Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.” Romans 12: 12-13

Rejoice. Endure. Persevere. Contribute. St. Paul compels us to a hospitality that’s fully engaged in the spectrum of human emotion and circumstance. More than a shared principle, it’s a call to action.

The exercise doesn’t have to be exhausting. Simple hospitalities abound. Every Mass calls us to fellowship. Perhaps we might aid scheduled ministers in offering welcome, assisting in the collection, or volunteering to carry forward the Offertory Gifts without waiting to be asked. Similarly, when the same faces consistently appear as Eucharistic Ministers or Sacristans or Lectors, you might ask yourself, “How can I help?”

There are other less visible hospitalities, such as rejoicing in new parishioners. Welcoming new parishioners is as easy as assembling a rotating roster of people willing

to make an initial call, breaking the ice and opening channels to parishioners of sharing circumstance or interests, or inviting them to a potluck or coffee and donuts scheduled in their honor. Similar hospitalities are possible for parishioners who suffer illness, hospitalization, or the loss of loved ones. Here we persevere to ease suffering and help endure feelings of grief or isolation.

Jesus tells us: “Do this in memory of me.” Let’s remember Jesus, the caregiver persevering throughout His ministry and even into the throes of his passion, as we feed the hungry, heal the sick, comfort the lost, lead people to joy and to peace. It’s simpler than you think. And think also of all the Madeleine Community can achieve if each month every one of us contributed just one hospitable act?

Want to be part of this effort? Feel free to reach out to Dan O’Brien or any member of the Madeleine Pastoral Council. Email is pastoral-council@themadeleine.edu.

Parish Stewardship and end-of-year giving

Christmas donations: www.themadeleine.edu/christmasgiving

This year, as you’re considering your Christmas gifts and your end-of-year giving in time for tax deductions, we’d appreciate if you’d consider one more gift: **Please consider a Christmas Offertory Gift to The Madeleine.**

As you know, your donations are what keep our parish working...and this year, we’ve had a decrease in donations, so we really need your help.

If you are able, please take a moment to consider a gift...or an additional gift...to The Madeleine this holiday season.

The backbone of our parish budget

Your regular donations are the backbone of our parish budget, offering us the financial stability and means to keep our parish running smoothly and carrying out our ministries to the community.

Matching Gifts

Many employers will match tax-deductible contributions. If you work for such a company, please consider checking to see if either The Madeleine or The Madeleine School is eligible.

Many ways to give

In addition to regular stewardship via Sunday donations, there are many ways to support The Madeleine:

- One-time gifts
- Estate planning or bequests
- Life Insurance
- Appreciated securities
- Real estate and personal property.

If you wish to consider an additional gift to The Madeleine, please contact My Schoning, Business Manager at 503-281-5777 or mhoang@themadeleine.edu

Second Sunday of Advent

THROUGH JESUS, GOD FULFILLED the promise he made to his people to bring them salvation. Christ’s death and resurrection opened the way for eternal life for all who believe, including the Gentiles. Let us prepare the way of the Lord by asking for God’s healing, listening for God’s voice, and raising our hearts to him.

Pray For Our Faithful Departed

- ▶ Steve Graham—Funeral December 10, 11 am
- ▶ Julie DeJardin
- ▶ Ann Dufour
- ▶ Bob Burke

Prayer Requests

For those who are ill or in need of our prayers

- ▶ Debby Fenzl
- ▶ Bill Stevenson
- ▶ Kevin McMenamain
- ▶ Chris Mealy
- ▶ David Hendrickson
- ▶ Griff Marshall
- ▶ Mark Uhrich
- ▶ Kait Skyer
- ▶ Trish Grantham
- ▶ Kitt & Corinne Jordan
- ▶ Ann Czuba
- ▶ Jean Mitchell
- ▶ Charli Phipps

Mass Intentions

- 12/06, Sat The Madeleine Community
- 12/07, Sun 8:00 am Bob Burke †
- 10:00 am Dcn. Mike O’Mahoney
- 12/09, Tues Kevin C. Kelly †
- 12/10, Weds Michael Lavin †
- 12/11, Thurs Jerry Dindia †
- 12/12, Fri Kathryn Burk †
- 12/13, Sat Janeen Reilly
- 12/14, Sun 8:00 am The Madeleine Community
- 10:00 am Special Intention by Dick Feeney

Feast of the Immaculate Conception is Monday.
Masses at 9:00 am and 6:30 pm

Important: For your donation to be included in 2025 year-end statements, please have donations to the parish office by end of business day December 31. Online donations available at www.themadeleine.edu/christmasgiving

Calendar This Week

7 December • Sunday

- ▶ Second Sunday of Advent
- 8 am: Mass—Church
- 9:15 am: First Reconciliation Class—Library
- 10 am: Mass—Church  **ALSO LIVESTREAMS**
- 11:15 am: St Vincent DePaul—Fireside Rm
- 11:15 am: Confirmation Class—Old Church
- 6 pm: Piano Studio Recital—Old Church

8 December • Monday

- ▶ Office Closed
- 9 am: Immaculate Conception Mass—Church
- 10 am: Women's Coffee Club—St. Catherine Rm
- 6:30 pm: FA Meeting—Fireside Rm
- 6:30 pm: Immaculate Conception Mass—Church

9 December • Tuesday

- 8:30 am: Mass—Church
- 9 am: Adoration—Church
- 6 pm: Madeleine Parent Association—Fireside Rm

10 December • Wednesday

- 8:30 am: Mass—Church
- 11 am: Steve Graham Funeral—Church
Reception Follows
- 6:30 pm: Advent Faith Sharing Therese Fenzl—Zoom
- 7 pm: Madeleine Choir Rehearsal—Church

11 December • Thursday

- 2 pm: Mass—Church

12 December • Friday

- ▶ School Noon Dismissal
- ▶ Leaf Pick-Up Day
- 8:30 am: Mass—Church
- 2 pm: Madeleine Marketplace

13 December • Saturday

- ▶ Blessing of the Mangers at Masses
- 3:30 pm: Confession—Church
- 5 pm: Mass—Church

14 December • Sunday

- ▶ Blessing of the Mangers at Masses
- ▶ 2nd Collection: Retirement Fund for Religious
- 8 am: Mass—Church
- 9:15 am: First Reconciliation Class—Library
- 10 am: Mass with Baptism—Church
- 11 am: Knights Pancake Breakfast—Parish Hall
- 3 pm: Handel's Messiah (Bravo!)—Church

Upcoming Events

- ▶ **Madeleine Marketplace:** Fri., December 12
- ▶ **Blessing of the Mangers:**
At Masses of December 13–14
- ▶ **Lent begins:** February 18, 2026

PARISH LIFE

SAVE THE DATE • ALL ARE WELCOME



THE MADELEINE MARKETPLACE



Holiday Bazaar & Christmas Tree Lighting
FRI. DECEMBER 12 2:00 – 8:00 PM



Mmm...Pancakes!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PANCAKE BREAKFAST
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 - AFTER 10 AM MASS

Join us in the Parish Hall for a great pancake breakfast!
Lots of yummy food for the family.

No fixed prices....donations accepted to benefit St.

 Vincent de Paul Food Drive

<< Can't attend? Scan here to donate.



Ministries, teachers, groups

Please send in photos by December 18 for the annual Madeleine in Service edition of our parish bulletin on Christmas! Instructions and upload link at themadeleine.edu/photos

Annual St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Food Drive

The Madeleine Society of St. Vincent de Paul is currently underway with our annual Christmas Food Drive.

We expect to serve 50 families with food boxes...requiring 3,000 lbs of food...and gift items for families with young children. See the Church entry for a list of suggested items, then return donations to the collection barrel in the back of the Church by December 15. As always our parishioners have generously supported this cause and we are grateful for your participation in this ministry. Thank you so much.



In today's Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." This is what Advent is all about, for we are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts and families, and to reach out to those in need. Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

—Lisa Hawkins, (503) 309-7968 • **Emergency Services Client phone: (503) 235-8431**

Out of the Darkness

Advent 2025



Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bedding Drive

Bring new twin (not XL) bedding (sheets, pillows, blankets, and comforters) in original packaging for local children in need of a bed to sleep in. Leave in the blue barrel in the church or bring to the Parish Office during business hours.

Knights of Columbus Wool Sock Drive

Extended: Through December 15

Socks will be donated to those in need through Transition Projects and Saint André Bessette. Please bring wool socks to the blue barrels in the church or school entrances.

The Madeleine Giving Tree

Through Tuesday, December 9

Tags are on tree in Parish Hall turnaround by Nov. 22. Return gifts by Dec. 9. Benefits: Children of Incarcerated Parents at Northwest Family Services, and Community Transitional School.

Reconciliation

Saturdays at The Madeleine •

Wednesdays at St. Rose

- ▶ **Saturdays, 3:30–4:40 pm**—At The Madeleine Church with Fr. B.
- ▶ **Wednesdays, 6:00 pm @ St. Rose**—With Fr. Bonaventure and brother priests during Eucharistic Adoration. 2727 NE 54th Ave.
- ▶ **Also by appointment**—call the Parish Office.

Advent Faith Sharing

With Therese Fenzl • Via Zoom •

Wednesdays, 6:30 pm

- ▶ **December 3**—“Therefore stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” *Mt. 24:42*
- ▶ **December 10**—“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths.” *Mt. 3:3*
- ▶ **December 17**—“Here is your God...He comes to save you.” *Is 35:4*

Email tfenzl@themadeleine.edu for materials and instructions.

More details on these events and more at www.themadeleine.edu/advent

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 8

- ▶ **9:00 am School Mass ▶ 6:30 pm Mass**—We join on this feast day to celebrate Mary’s ongoing intervention for us and the grace given to her from God, shared through all time.

The Madeleine Marketplace & Tree Lighting

Friday, December 12 • Parish Hall

- ▶ **2:00 pm, Marketplace • 6:00 pm, Tree Lighting and Carols**—Get a jump on holiday shopping, and enjoy food, refreshments, and adult beverages. Photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus, too!

Blessing of the Mangers

December 13–14 at Masses

- ▶ **5 pm, 8 am, 10 am Masses**—Bring your tabletop Nativity to be blessed at all Masses this weekend.

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, December 14 • Parish Hall

- ▶ **11:00 am**—A family affair, offering great food and fellowship. Proceeds this year go to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive.

Handel’s Messiah with Bravo! Northwest

Sunday, December 14 • Main Church

- ▶ **3:00 pm**—Hallelujah! Join the **Bravo! Northwest** Chamber Choir & Orchestra, and Conductor Maria Manzo in this classic Advent musical tradition. *Tickets: bravoconcerts.com*

School Christmas Program

Thursday, December 18 •

Main Church

- ▶ **6:00 pm**—Through story and song we’ll travel to Austria to share a fanciful origin story of the beloved song Silent Night, and the reason for its existence—the Nativity. Grades Pre-K to 5th Grade will present this joyful and touching musical prayer.

Madeleine Choirs at The Grotto

Tuesday, December 23

- ▶ **5:00 pm**—The Madeleine Children’s and Youth Choirs will sing at The Grotto Festival of Lights.

Weekly Mass Times

Regular Mass Times:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 am
Thursday School not in session: 8:30 am
School Thursdays: 2:00 pm
Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am

Penance Saturday, 4:00–4:40 pm
Adoration Tuesdays, 9:00 am–2:00 pm

Parish Office

Hours Tuesday–Friday, 9:00 am–3:00 pm

Phone 503-281-5777

School Office 503-288-9197

Parish Staff

Rev. Bonaventure Rummell—Administrator
fatherbonaventure@themadeleine.edu, ext. 111

Rev. Nazario Atukunda—In Residence

Deacon Mike O’Mahoney—Permanent Deacon
deaconmike@themadeleine.edu

Jenn Langhus—Interim School Principal
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mhnguyen@themadeleine.edu ext. 112

Julie Kupers—Special Events
jkupers@themadeleine.edu . . . 720-936-5635

Dcn. Mike O’Mahoney—Facilities Supervisor
deaconmike@themadeleine.edu

Rich Hammons—Director of Communications
rhammons@themadeleine.edu ext. 129

Sacraments

Infant Baptism Lauren Craig, ext 116

First Reconciliation, First Eucharist—
Rose Horton . . . sac-prep@themadeleine.edu

OCIA (formerly RCIA)—
Lauren Craig, ocia@themadeleine.edu . . ext. 116

Marriages Fr. Bonaventure, ext 111

Anointing (Emergency) 971-301-4421

Funerals—
Therese Fenzl tfenzl@themadeleine.edu

Councils & Contacts

Pastoral Council—Dan O’Brien . . 503-206-2843
pastoral-council@themadeleine.edu

Finance/Admin—John Garrow . . 503-803-5693

Buildings & Grounds—Erin Couch, 503-281-9575

School Advisory—Emily Fellman, 503-752-4143

Facility Requests—themadeleine.edu/facilities

Maintenance Requests—My Schoning
mhoang@themadeleine.edu ext. 114

Knights of Columbus—
Dan O’Donnell 503-440-9415

Ministry Schedule
www.themadeleine.edu/minister-schedule

Bulletin submissions due 5:00 pm Tuesday
Email to bulletin@themadeleine.edu

Thinking about Separation or Divorce?

Is your marriage or that of a relative or friend heading for divorce? Do you want to help to save that marriage? Or do you feel helpless? Retrouvaille is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. It helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. The program is highly successful in supporting hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced. Retrouvaille is for any couple who would like to rediscover their marriage and improve communication. Visit www.helpourmarriage.org for program information and testimonials. For confidential information or to register for the January 30–February 1, 2026 weekend in Canby, Oregon, call (503) 225-9191 or email StevenAndSuzanne@helpourmarriage.org

Looking for Ways to Serve Our Community?

Are you interested in discovering a vibrant faith group that serves our local community in meaningful ways? Jesuit Volunteer (JV) EnCorps will support you in your commitment! As a program of JVC Northwest, we are a group, ages 40+, that meets monthly at Jesuit High School to explore our commitment to our Ignatian values of social and ecological justice, community, and spirituality. We assist group members in exploring volunteer options in our wider community and meet monthly for spiritual formation, support in our service, and to build community.

The Jesuit High community of JV EnCorps meets on the third Thursday of each month in the chapel at Jesuit High from 6 to 8 pm.

If interested, email Sarah Thompson: jvencorps@jvcnorthwest.org or visit our website at www.jvencorps.org.

Women’s Coffee Club

The Madeleine Women’s Coffee Club will meet on Monday, December 8, upstairs in the old church, St. Catherine’s room from 10:00-11:30 am. The doors will be locked after 10:15 so please arrive before then. Our December topic will be “your favorite holiday traditions” with a discussion led by one of our members. Come join us for coffee and treats and share your traditions with the group. All women of the parish are welcome!

Infant Baptisms and OCIC

Parents seeking baptism for their infant or young child should submit our registration form and sign up for one of our upcoming classes. Registration forms and instructions as well as class sign-ups are available on the Madeleine Parish website. Children older than 7 years and beyond 2nd grade must go through OCIA for children (OCIC). Please email Lauren Craig at lcraig@themadeleine.edu for more information.

Madeleine Book Club!

We are very thankful for the support of our wonderful MBC members! We invite other parishioners and friends to join us in this ministry to read and discuss interesting books. For further information please contact Gretchen Stevenson, 503-312-6834 or gypsyfrau47@yahoo.com

RMD for 2025?

If you are at least 70½ years of age and are required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA, you can donate part or all of that distribution to The Madeleine, tax free! For information, contact parish Business Manager, My Schoning, 503-281-5777 or mhoang@themadeleine.edu.

In Memoriam

THE MADELEINE FAMILY REMEMBERS

Steve Graham

Funeral Mass Wednesday, December 10, 11:00 am

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated for Madeleine parishioner Steve Graham on Wednesday, December 10, 11:00 am, at The Madeleine.

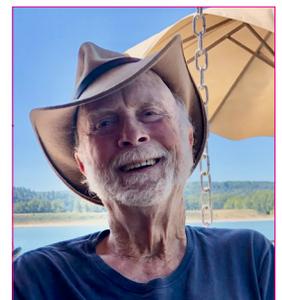
Lee Stephens Graham (aka Steve) died (at the age of 90) on Friday, November 21st, at his new home, the Inn at University Village. His wife of 35 years, his son Karl, and Granddaughter Elly at his side. Steve died of complications of congestive heart failure, COPD and dementia.

Steve was a man full of the Joy of the Lord and a great sense of humor. He enjoyed making people laugh. He adored Jesus and his wife (in that order) with all his heart.

In earlier years he was known for his whistle. He loved classical music and opera, having grown up in a musical family and always singing in choirs.

Steve’s career included graduation from Pomona College, teaching 5th grade, sales and management at

Burroughs welcome pharmaceutical company, and (his favorite job) janitor in an elementary school. I can imagine his



job in heaven will include welcoming newcomers and generally spreading joy.

Steve is survived by his wife, Patty (80); his one son, Karl, by his first wife, Friedl, Francesca (Karl’s wife), and four grandchildren, Sofia(23), Elly (21), Nicholas (19), and Peter (12); and great grandchildren, Marco (4), Mateo (3), and Camilla(1). His 3 nieces and their families have been actively involved in his life.

Steve was preceded in death by his fraternal twin (Stuart) and his older brother Bill.

“ If we wish to build peace we must anchor ourselves to heaven and, firmly set in that direction, let us love without being afraid of losing those things which pass away and let us give without measure.”

—Pope Leo XIV via X (Twitter) @pontifex



Knight of the Month and his family—Chris Ryan

- ▶ Chris Ryan
- ▶ **Years of Knighthood:** 12
- ▶ **Occupation:** Oncologist
- ▶ **Spouse:** Debbie Ryan - nurse
- ▶ **Family:** Catherine, 19, college student. Amelia, 16, high school student
- ▶ **Why I became a Knight:** My daughter was enrolled at the Madeleine and I was looking for different ways to help the parish. The camaraderie of the Knights drew me right in.



Annual Wool Sock Drive extended: Dec. 15

Please join us in helping our neighbors in need this winter. The Madeleine Knights of Columbus and The Madeleine School are sponsoring the annual Sock Drive. Blue barrels are in the church vestibule and the school entrance through December 1.



NOTE: Please look for socks with a wool blend and no cotton.

Socks will be donated to those in need through Transition Projects and Saint André Bessette.

Don't have time to go sock shopping? Or would you prefer we take your cash and purchase wool socks in bulk? Just scan the QR code at right, or drop off a donation at the Parish Office.



The Madeleine Giving Tree 2025

Benefits Children of Incarcerated Parents & Community Transition School
Please return all gifts by December 9

The tradition of The Madeleine Giving Tree will continue this year and the need has never been greater. This year we will be supporting two worthwhile and grateful organizations.

Northwest Family Services Children of Incarcerated Parents—These children face countless barriers including abuse, neglect, homelessness and food insecurity, as well as having one or both parents incarcerated.

Community Transitional School—CTS serves students ages 4-14 from Multnomah County who live in homeless and domestic violence shelters, cheap motels, on the floor of a friend's home and even inside of their cars. All children are in situations where poverty and uncertainty dominate much of their young lives. Please read the tags carefully for this group...due to their mobile nature, the tags indicate specific needs. **Please leave these gifts unwrapped.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: Each of the blue CTS tags has many gift ideas listed for each child, along with clothing and shoe sizes. Feel free to just choose a single item on the child's gift tag lists...or if you wish to give more, that's OK too. Most important is that each child receives at least one gift.



Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bedding drive

Through Christmas, Sleep in Heavenly Peace is accepting bedding donations at The Madeleine. Please look for the blue bins located in the church vestibule or bring your donations to the Parish Office during business hours.



Sleep in Heavenly Peace has provided 1,300 beds to children in the Portland area. Many of those beds were built and delivered by Madeleine parishioners and provided with sheets, blankets and pillows from Madeleine bedding drives.

Bedding needs to be for twin size beds (not extra long, please) sheet sets, blankets and comforters, mattress protectors and pillows. All donations must be new and still in the original packaging.

Thank you Madeleine Community for the continued support!

Immaculate CONCEPTION

The Immaculate Conception is the doctrine that Mary, conceived in the normal way through an act of love by her mother and father (St. Joachim and St. Anne), was born free of original sin and its effects from the first moment of her existence. This special favor was conferred on her because of her role in God's plan for our salvation. Historically, this doctrine has sometimes been

misunderstood as the conception of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit in the feast we know as the Annun-

ciation. Instead, the Immaculate Conception celebrates the special gift of God's grace to Mary because she was to be

the mother of Jesus, God's chosen agent to bring about

our salvation. We hail Mary in faith and prayer

because she is "full of grace" and because

"the Lord is with her." In other words,

Mary was filled with God's life well

before the Messiah was conceived

in her womb.

After consulting with the bishops of the Church, Pope Pius IX first solemnly defined the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception in 1854 in the Apostolic Constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*.

The Immaculate Conception has the distinction of being one of only two formal Church dogmas to be solemnly defined by the full teaching authority of popes rather than general Councils (the other being Mary's Assumption). This means that the Immaculate Conception has been solemnly defined as an infallible teaching to be believed by the whole Church. We not only believe that this is our truth, but we also try to imitate the meaning of this truth. While we honor Mary for the privilege of being without sin, we also try to be like her in becoming faithful bearers of Christ in the world. As we strive for greater integrity in our words and actions we allow God to work in us to help transform our world into one of greater justice and love. Thus we imitate Mary and become the kind of disciples that Jesus praises in the Gospel: "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it (Luke 11:28).



The Magnificat (Lk 1:46-55)

And Mary said:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Mary, Mother of the Church

Jesus gave Mary to the Church from the cross when he told his beloved disciple, “Behold your mother” (John 19:26-27). Mary was present in the upper room with the other disciples on Pentecost, when the Church was born (Acts 1:13-14). Over the centuries of Christianity, Mary has been sought out by the faithful who find in her support for their own lives of discipleship. As one whose own life of faith was not easy or simple, Mary is a companion who can show us a path in our everyday lives and in our suffering.

Mary is a wonderful example of what happens when one opens oneself to the life and power of God. As at the marriage at Cana, Mary always directs our attention to Jesus, saying “Do whatever he tells you.” (John 2:5). Mary is not a goddess wielding power. Neither is she controlling and domineering nor cold and aloof. Mary is there for us whenever we need her.

WHY DEFINE THIS DOCTRINE?

The doctrine of Mary’s Immaculate Conception affirms that through God’s grace she was never separated from God by sin. Over the centuries Mary’s freedom from original sin—the teaching that every human is born in the wrong relationship with God (this is what sin is and does) and so must be freed from this condition through God’s grace (this is what salvation is and does)—was disputed by theologians who could not agree.

After consulting with the Bishops of the Church to confirm that almost all Catholics believed this doctrine, Pope Pius IX first solemnly proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854 in these words: We declare, pronounce and define that the doctrine which asserts that the Blessed Virgin Mary, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, was preserved free from every stain of original sin is a doctrine revealed by God and, for this reason, must be firmly and constantly believed by all the faithful.

WHY DECEMBER 8?

December 8 is the liturgical celebration of Mary’s Immaculate Conception, i.e., her being “adorned from the first moment of her conception with the splendors of an entirely unique holiness” (Vatican II, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, #56). This date was chosen because it is 9 months (the time of a child’s gestation in the mother’s womb) before the traditional celebration of the feast of the Nativity of Mary on September 8.

A Prayer for the Immaculate Conception

We thank you, O Mother, because in showing yourself to us
You free us of all stain of sin;
You remind us that what comes first is the grace of God,
The love of Jesus Christ who gave his life for us,
The strength of the Holy Spirit which renews all things.
Let us not give in to discouragement,
But, trusting in your constant help,
Let us engage ourselves fully in renewal of self,
Of this city and of the entire world.
Pray for us, Holy Mother of God!

—Pope Francis



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