

Most Precious Blood Church Bulletin

A Little Italy Newsletter

Sunday, December 7, 2008

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Patron of The United States

Tomorrow (Monday, December 8,) is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This feast is great here in the United States of America for the very simple reason that this land was dedicated to Mary Immaculate in a special way. She is the Patroness of our land and given the precarious position that our land finds itself in these days of economic uncertainty, it is something good and definitely to our advantage that Mary is the one who will be looking out for our best interests in the months to come.

This is also a Holy Day of Obligation. This means that as baptized Roman Catholics, we have an obligation to assist at Mass tomorrow. Masses in our church will be this evening at 5:30pm (the vigil Mass - if you go to this Mass, it does NOT count for Sunday Attendance - and on the feast itself, Mass will be at 8 am and at 12:10pm

Ordinarily, if a Holy Day of Obligation falls on a Saturday or Monday, the obligation of assisting at Mass does not bind. HOWEVER, because the Immaculate Conception is the Patroness of the United States, and this year, it falls on a Monday, the obligation is binding on every baptized Catholic unless there is a serious reason not to assist at Mass.

We would think that one would do everything possible to attend Mass anyway on this Feast Day which is perhaps Mary's greatest Feast. It was God's way of preparing her for her role in the salvation of the world by becoming the Mother of the Messiah and at the same time, hold on to her precious vow of Virginity. It meant everything to Mary to

remain a Virgin, and yet it also meant a lot to her to be obedient to God's will.

Special Collection

There will be a Special Collection taken up today in all the churches of the Archdiocese of New York to help support Retired Priests and religious. This collection is taken up once a year for them to recognize the work they have contributed to our Archdiocese and given them the opportunity to live their last years in peace and dignity. We ask you to please be as generous as you can. Remember we owe our education to these men and women.

2009 Weekly Envelopes

The Weekly Offering envelopes for 2009 are now ready and they can be found at the rear of the church with your names on the top of the boxes. We ask you to take your box home with you and try to use your envelopes weekly and faithfully. To all those who have not been using weekly envelopes, we ask you to take a box that does NOT have a name on it, and put your name and full address on the first few envelopes. Perhaps you might also put your phone number on them so that we might use that information to keep as our record that you are now a registered Parishioner. It is important that you are registered in the Parish at some time of your life here at Most Precious Blood. And the best way to do it is thru the use of the Envelope system.

Christmas Flowers & Decoration

Envelopes for YOUR contribution to help defray the expenses of decorating the Church for Christmas and to purchase flowers can be found at the back of the church as well as in the Sacristy. Please take one and drop your contribution in any of the candle boxes at the front of the church. You know that we try our best to make our church the best decorated Church in lower Manhattan, if not in all of New York. But we do need your help. The Church is always here to be enjoyed by all.

Welcome

To Aelxa Rose Esposito who is being admitted to the Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism this Sunday, December 7, 2008. The proud parents are Salvatore and Senta Fichera. We congratulate them and wish them many years of happiness in their Christian life.

Banns Of Marriage

The Intention to marry is announced for the 1st time between Kevin Smith of Walter and Elaine Wachowicz, to Joanna Lisi of Joseph and Ilog Pandhur. Their marriage will take place in our Church on December 27, 2008.

Parish Sick & Deceased

Pray for the sick and deceased of the Parish especially your own relatives and friends and those who asked to be remembered in your prayers.

Thank You, Australia!!!

You might have missed this in the rush of news but there was actually a report that someone in Pakistan had published in a newspaper a reward to anyone who killed an American, any American. So an Australian dentist wrote an editorial the following day to let everyone know what an American is, so they would know when they found one.

"An American is English, or French, or Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian or Greek. An American may also be Canadian, Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Australian, Iranian, Asian, Arab,

Pakistani or Afghan. An American may also be Comanche, Cherokee, Osage, Blackfoot, Navaho, Apache, Seminole, or one of the many other tribes known as native Americans.

An American is Christian, or he could be Jewish, or Buddhist, or Muslim. In fact, there are more Muslims in America than in Afghanistan. The only difference is that in America they are free to worship as each of them choose.

An American is also free to believe in NO religion. For that, he will answer only to his God, not to any government, or to armed thugs claiming to speak for the government and God.

An American lives in the most prosperous land in the history of the world. The root of that prosperity can be found in the Declaration of Independence, which recognizes the God given right of each person to the pursuit of happiness.

An American is generous. Americans have helped out just about every nation in the world in their time of need, never asking a thing in return.

When Afghanistan was overrun by the Soviet army 20 years ago, Americans came with arms and supplies to enable the people to win back their country.

As of the morning of September 11, Americans had given more than any other nation to the poor in Afghanistan., Americans welcome the best of everything the best products, the best books, the best music, the best food, the best services. But they also welcome the least.

The national symbol of America, the Statue of Liberty, welcomes the tired and the poor, the wretched refuse of your teeming shores, the homeless, the tempest tossed. These in fact, built America.

Many of them were working in the Twin Towers that fateful morning earning a better life for their families. It's been told that the World Trade Center Victims were from at least 30 different countries, cultures and first languages, including those that aided and abetted the terrorists.

So you can try to kill an American if you must. Hitler did. So did General Tojo, and Stalin, and Mao Tse-Tung and other blood thirsty tyrants in the world. But, in doing so, you would be just killing yourself. Because Americans are not a particular people from a particular place. They are the embodiment of the human spirit of Freedom. Everyone who holds to that spirit everywhere, is deep in his heart an American.

Tips for Handling Telemarketers

When you detect a Telemarketer, just pick up the phone and say: "Hold on, please!" Then put the phone receiver down and walk away; when you hear the phone company's 'beep,beep,beep, you know it time to go back

and hang up your handset. Those 3 words have done their job.

And when you get "junk mail, return them in the included postage paid envelope - they'll gradually learn not to send any more when it costs them .51 cents.