

CHRISTMAS 2020

FOR TODAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN
BORN FOR YOU WHO IS MESSIAH AND LORD. LUKE 2:11



Back Cover

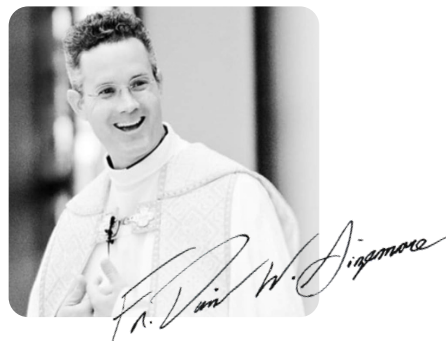
Front Cover

Madonna with Christ Child
Sassoferrato (Early 1600s)

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CATHOLIC CHURCH

40 GRANVILLE STREET NEWARK, OHIO 43055
740-345-9874 WWW.STFRANCISPARISH.NET

Christmas Greetings from Fr. Dave



Have you heard the saying, “If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans”? Well given all that has happened in 2020 everyone can relate to plans being derailed on more than a few occasions. If this year has given us anything it is the lesson that control is just an illusion. The great news is that the antidote to feeling out-of-control, overwhelmed, and afraid is actually found in the act of surrender. Not just blindly giving into material things or earthly ideas but surrender to the will of God himself, He who loves us so deeply and whose perfect love drives out fear.

While God does not make bad things happen, He wants us to know Him so well that we fully trust Him even in uncertain times. To do this, we must nurture our relationship with Him. Thanks to a donor, we have the book *I Heard God Laugh* by Matthew Kelly as a Christmas gift for you! Within its pages, God shares His joy and pure delight in you. Yes you!

This book will facilitate a deeper relationship with God and guide you to develop habits that will keep you close to Him. We may be unsure about what God is doing but, when we know Him, we know He wants our good.

EXPERIENCE THE GOSPELS LIKE NEVER BEFORE

virtual watch party

MONDAYS @ 7:30P
BEGINNING 01.11.2021

REGISTER FOR A ZOOM LINK ONLINE AT
STFRANCISPARISH.CHURCHCENTER.COM

The
CHOSEN



How Covid Taught Me to Find Holiness in a Silent Night

By Elizabeth Krump



One of the sweetest Christmases I can remember was in my early teens. At that age, a snow day was still a happy inconvenience, and it felt like a dream to wake up to 6 inches of winter wonderland that Christmas Eve. This was about the same age when Midnight Mass became a great excuse to stay up late the night before Christmas.

Going to Midnight Mass was a privilege only given out to the older kids in the family. I would carefully plan what to wear to church that night, knowing that everyone else would be dressed in their best. My brothers and I would accompany our grandparents to Mass, leaving my parents at home to wrap gifts and prepare for Christmas

morning in relative peace. After Mass was over, we delighted in being the first to blurt out “Merry Christmas” to friends as they exited the church.

There was something magical about arriving home to a well-decorated Christmas tree, bulging stockings and the mellow sound of Roger Whittaker singing Christmas lullabies. We’d chatter with my parents about who was at Mass, squeezing a few more minutes out of an already late night. After savoring a mandarin orange and a piece of festive baking, we’d reluctantly slip into bed, Christmas quite real in our dreamy heads.

It's easy to romanticize these distant memories, but I recall that there was something extra special about this particular Christmas Eve. My family home is situated at the top of a large hill, and when it snows we always get a few more inches than other areas of the city. The snow had continued to fall throughout the day and well into the evening, by which point the streets were covered in a soft pillow that was impossible to drive in. Undeterred, my brothers leapt at the chance to walk in the knee-high drifts to the church, some 2 km away and located on the steep hill. I threw on my boots and joined them at the last moment, somewhat begrudgingly, imagining the wet mess that we'd be by the time we made it to the service, but not wanting to miss out on an adventure.

We marched down the middle of silent streets; lights illuminating everything with a warm glow. Our feet squeaked beneath us and if I recall correctly, snowballs were hurled either to or from the Midnight service. Around us the neighborhood, devoid of traffic, was silent except

for our chatter and squeals. The walk felt daring and any misgivings of being a wet mess melted away as the sweet Christmas silence soaked into my soul.

This year, in March, a similar silence fell over the world. Covid became a pandemic and everything seemed to stop overnight: stores were mostly closed, restaurants shut down, there was no general hum of activity. Less cars patrolled the road as people stopped commuting to work; everyone was staying close to home. Unlike my wintery memory, this silence was less sweet and more like an anxious pause.

My roommate and I began new rhythms such as reading aloud and going for long walks. I didn't have a car at the time and, being uncomfortable on public transit, I began to walk everywhere. Walking felt safe and I suddenly had all the time in the world to get anywhere since there was nowhere else to go and nothing else to do.

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Learn more or register at www.stfrancisparish.net

7 Ways to Help Your Family Grow in the New Year

By Anita Houghton & Tara Stenger

2020 has been a year that seems to be rushing by and moving in slow-motion all at the same time. Time continues to march forward, and we are quickly approaching 2021! While the start of a new year often means new resolutions to grow personally or professionally, become more disciplined or to try something new, it can also be a time to commit to habits as a family. 52 Sundays is here to help you do just that, and you don't have to wait until the end of December to commit to it!

The Prayer Resolution: *We need to pray more!*

52 Sundays includes a different family prayer for each Sunday of the year, as well as the Easter triduum and Christmas. There are a variety of prayer styles explored throughout the year so families can learn new ways to pray.

The Scripture Resolution: *I will read more of the Bible this year. I will look at the readings for Mass ahead of time each week.*

Reflecting on Sacred Scripture allows God to speak into the concrete circumstances of our lives. 52 Sundays contains the text of each Sunday's Gospel in 2021 as well as the biblical citations for all the readings of the day. Families can read them ahead of time, use them for reflection or more.

The Church Resolution: *We will go to Mass together every week. I will engage more at Mass.*

Knowing that Mass is essential to how we reclaim Sunday as Catholics, 52 Sundays provides a weekly "Liturgy Link" as an easy way to better engage at Mass and become more aware of the church's environment.

Meet the St. Francis Missionaries to the Family



Email families@stfrancisparish.net for more info!

"WE NEED A CHURCH CAPABLE OF WALKING AT PEOPLE'S SIDE, OF DOING MORE THAN JUST LISTENING TO THEM; A CHURCH THAT ACCOMPANIES THEM ON THEIR JOURNEY..."

-Pope Francis, July 28, 2013

The Quality Time Resolution: *We will spend more time together as a family. I will connect with others about my faith in a meaningful way.*

52 Sundays includes a fun activity for your family to do together each week of the year. Check out the beginning of this year's edition for an easy way to use 52 Sundays in the context of a family small group setting to help your family connect with others about the faith.

The Kitchen Resolution:

I will learn to cook or bake something new. We will sit down at least once a week to share a meal together.



52 Sundays includes many recipes submitted by families around the Archdiocese of Detroit. Each recipe connects to the theme for that particular week. Make the menu item part of your shared family meal on Sundays.

The Sharing Resolution:

I will spend more time listening to my kids and sharing my faith with them.

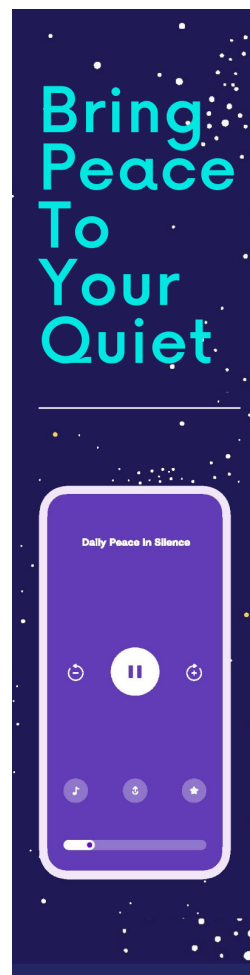
52 Sundays includes questions for reflection and discussion among family members about the Sunday Gospel and the highlighted saint. There are tips and ideas for sharing in the introduction of the book as well. Each week also includes a “Family Challenge,” which is a way for your family to put the Gospel into action by extending radical hospitality, performing works of mercy, practicing virtues or doing random acts of kindness.

The Knowledge Resolution:

I will learn more about the faith this year.

Each week you get to meet a new member of the communion of saints. This year, we will introduce a saint that has made the ultimate sacrifice and laid down his or her life for Christ. You'll often see a picture of the saint to help put a face with the name as well. The “Fun Facts” section will include some fun Catholic and secular trivia for the given day or week.

52 Sundays was created to help families reclaim the Lord's Day for faith and family each week – to highlight and reflect on the Sunday Gospel, to explore the lives of the saints, to encourage and introduce a variety of structures for family prayer and to offer suggestions for food and family fun. Grow as a family in 2021 using this book. For more information, visit www.52Sundays.com and also see a sample of the book. ❁



Hallow

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Meditation
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website

SPAGHETTI DINNER

BENEFITS THE WOMEN'S AND MEN'S MINISTRIES

JOHNSON HALL
SATURDAY JANUARY 9, 2021- 4-8 PM

\$8 PER PERSON \$20 FOR A FAMILY OF 4

DINE IN OR CARRY OUT
DINING IN REQUIRES GUESTS
TO FOLLOW STATE REQUIRED COVID PROTOCOLS

Silent Night

Continued from page 3

I was new to the neighborhood so walking helped me get my bearings. I discovered that one of the most popular parks in East Vancouver, Trout Lake, was only a fifteen minute jaunt from my house. I'd go there to think as I walked; to process what was going on in the world and in my soul.

In a world affected by Covid, these walks provided a silence that made room for authentic dialogue with God.

In my conversations with God I found that I was angry about many things, but was also able to open to beauty and love in new ways. In the protected stillness of my heart, I learned to trust in God's healing and loving presence. “Silent Night, Holy Night,” begins the traditional Christmas carol. Silence paves the way to holy ground.

When Covid restrictions began to ease, the world seemed to go back to its noisy patterns. I've noticed that the noise gets especially amplified on social media. Not everything online is just noise, but it's a forum where the volume is easily turned up on anyone's unfiltered opinion. Even in the safety of my own home, it can feel like hundreds of people are yelling at me what to believe through my screen. It can be confusing, disorienting and unsettling.

Of course, there are real things to be concerned about outside our doors, real change to address, and real people who are suffering because of Covid, politics and grave abuses of power. And yet, if I'm going to grapple with any of these



Learn more or register at www.stfrancisparish.net

things in a decent and thoughtful way, I need to begin with silence. In the silence, we open up space to meet God.

The great Christian writer, C.S. Lewis writes that at Christmas, "God entered into our human condition quietly, as a baby born in obscurity... because He had to slip covertly behind enemy lines." Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, himself arrived into our world in a moment of silence, in the dead of night. There was no Instagram post announcing his arrival or its significance. The angels gave him a bit of fanfare, but to shepherds, the general nobodies of their time.

For the next thirty years, Jesus lived a relatively undocumented existence in Nazareth. The Gospel writers are silent about thirty of the thirty-three years of his life.

This might appear odd except that we know Jesus himself loved going away to a quiet place to spend time with his Father. Silence was his source of strength. Therefore these years were

not insignificant, but a time of growing in intimacy with his Father in heaven.

He modeled this to us. Likewise, setting aside ten minutes of quiet at the start or end of the day can be a source of strength as we bring our burdens and joys to the Father.

"GOD ENTERED INTO OUR HUMAN CONDITION QUIETLY, AS A BABY BORN IN OBSCURITY..."

C.S. Lewis

This Christmas, let's not be afraid of a Silent Night. We don't need a heavy winter snow to create the right conditions, or a global pandemic to shut us down; we simply need to put away distractions to allow ourselves the delight of welcoming Jesus into our hearts and minds. We are in need of a Savior and he is on his way. He isn't asking for an exquisite family dinner or the perfect Christmas tree, he simply wants our hearts. ❀

PERFECT LOVE DRIVES OUT FEAR

Who knew? There might be something here for you! Our theme for 2020-21 is Perfect Love Drives Out Fear - we could all use a bit less anxiety & fear these days. Explore these options & learn more or register at stfrancisparish.net or by calling the parish office at 740.345.9874.



Make registering easy!



Activities for the Week

Please Note: Contact Ministry Leaders for Links to Zoom Meetings Listed Below

Saturday, December 26

Respect Life Group Rosary – Marian Garden – 9:30-9:50a
Reconciliation – Dominican Library – 3:45-4:15p
Rosary for Peace – Church – 4:20-4:35p

Sunday, December 27

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
Adoration – Chapel – 7-10p

Monday, December 28

PARISH OFFICES AND SCHOOL CLOSED

Adoration – Chapel – 5a-10p
Basketball Practice – Gym – 3-9p
Boy Scouts – via Zoom – 6-8p

Tuesday, December 29

SCHOOL CLOSED
Adoration – Chapel – 5a-10p
Clinical Counseling – Pastoral Office – By Appointment
Basketball Practice – Gym – 3-9p
Fruit of the Vine Prayer Meeting – Mary Room – 7:30-9p

Wednesday, December 30

SCHOOL CLOSED
Adoration – Chapel – 5a-10p
Basketball Practice – Gym – 3-9p
Reconciliation – Dominican Library – 5:30-6:15p

Thursday, December 31

New Year's Eve
PARISH OFFICES AND SCHOOL CLOSED
Holy Mass/The Solemnity of Mary – Church – 4:30p

Friday, January 1

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD & NEW YEAR'S DAY
PARISH OFFICES AND SCHOOL CLOSED
Holy Mass/The Solemnity of Mary – Church – 12n

Saturday, January 2

Basketball Practice - Gym – 8a-3p
Respect Life Group Rosary – Marian Garden – 9:30-9:50a
Reconciliation – Dominican Library – 3:45-4:15p
Rosary for Peace – Church – 4:20-4:35p

Sunday, January 3

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
PSR – via Zoom - 9:30-10:45a

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, December 27 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

4:45p Vigil People of the Parish
8:30a † Carol Ann Doneff (Richard Thornton)
11a † Deceased Past Pastors of St. Francis de Sales

Tuesday, December 29 – Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

12n †Theresa DiBlasio (Class of 1952)

Wednesday, December 30 – Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

6:30p † Ray Rector (Rita Rector and Family)

Thursday, December 31 – Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

4:30p † Dan Fandrey (Brenda Fryburger)

Friday, January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

12p † Julia Ospina (Family)

Sunday, January 3 – Epiphany of the Lord

4:45p Vigil † Martha Norman (Sister)
8:30a People of the Parish
11a † Charlotte Osborn (Family)

Holiday Hours & Info

ADORATION

Adoration closed on Wednesday, December 23 at 10p and will resume on Sunday, December 27 at 7p. Adoration will close on Wednesday, December 30 at 10p and will resume on Monday, January 4 at 5a.

PARISH OFFICES

Parish Offices and Facilities will be closed Thursday, December 31 through Sunday, January 3 in observance of the New Year Holiday.



Epiphany Chalk Blessing

Catholic priests traditionally would bless the house and then use chalk to write above the main entrance the specific year, separated by the letters C, M and B (e.g., 21+C+M+B+21, for the 2021 blessing). The inscription is applied as a prayer that Christ will bless homes so marked and that he will stay with those who dwell there throughout the year and with any guest who may cross their threshold. The letters stand for the Latin blessing, “Christus Mansionem Benedicat (May Christ Bless this House),” as well as the legendary names for the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Instructions packets with chalk will be available in the Church next weekend for the feast of The Epiphany of the Lord on the weekend of January 2 and 3. Join us in the sacred tradition!✠




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IT STARTS WITH YOUR FAMILY & BUILDS ON FAITH!

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