

BULLETIN: Mary Mother of God January 1, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Missed Christmas Mass: One of the most agonizing, dismal, and sad feelings I ever had was missing Mass at Holy Rosary in Dillingham. For a priest to miss Christmas Mass, well, lets just say “not a great feeling.” After two unsuccessful attempts to pick me up in King Salmon, the weather was finally good enough to fly out Christmas afternoon. Even then, the weather was terrible and I practically kissed the ground when we landed in Dillingham. I prayed the entire way from King Salmon.
2. I managed two wonderful Christmas celebrations, one at Saint Peter the Fisherman in Clarks Point and one at Saint Theresa in King Salmon/Naknek. Here are a few pictures from our Clarks Point celebration:



3. Saint Theresa had a very nice turnout and two teenagers, who will be confirmed by our new Archbishop, Kaleb and Kaylee, helped out with the Homily. We put together a puzzle of the Nativity like the one above.
4. Happy New Year. May the Peace of our Savior be with you always.

HOMILY

MARY'S PLIGHT

You are unmarried, a woman, and have never had a serious relationship with a man. "You are pregnant," proclaims the angel. You are going to bear the savior of the world. "Your baby is the messiah," declared the shepherds, "Angels told us." The gospel tells us that "Mary treasured all of these things and pondered them in her heart."

PONDERING DEFINITION

What does "pondering in the Heart" mean?" A friend said, "To me, Mary's reflecting in her 14-year-old heart means quiet contemplation and trust." Jesus was no ordinary baby. Through Jesus, Mary had a unique relationship with God. She pondered what the shepherds were saying about her little baby being the Savior of the world.

PONDERING BROUGHT MARY CLOSER TO GOD

Pondering what the angel revealed and what the shepherds said about her son, brought Mary to faith, trust in the Almighty, and a life of prayer.

PONDERING STRENGTHENS OUR RELATIONSHIP

We too can have that special relationship that Mary had with Jesus. We can strengthen our faith, grow in trust, and develop our prayer life. All we need to do is learn to ponder things in our heart.

MIND AND HEART

God made us with hearts and minds. He then adopted us. The best decisions we can make may start from our minds, but they should end in the heart. Ultimately, hearts should make our decisions because that is where the Holy Spirit dwells. Paul tells us in Galatians, "The proof that we are adopted by God is that our Lord has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts."

PONDERING SPIRITUALLY LINKS US TO GOD

Because the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts, not in our minds. "Pondering in the Heart" allows God's time to work, rather than our own time. By using our hearts we set up a spiritual link directly to Jesus. When pondering we are hot wired to Jesus. Pondering strengthens our relationship with God.

BENEFITS OF PONDERING

How can pondering things in our heart help us? It helps us make better decisions. Pondering slows us down and changes us to God's time. Best of all, pondering enlivens the gifts of the Holy Spirit: like patience, knowledge, gentleness, and understanding. Jesus gave us those gifts, but they have to be enlivened before they work. We do that by pondering. "Pondering in the heart" helps us to take control of our spiritual gifts so that we can use them to love others.

CONCLUSION

Let's learn from Mary to Ponder ALL THINGS in our hearts. Tell the brain to get some information from the heart. Treasure that information and ponder it for a few moments. This will allow God in. Let God help you run your life and let his peace and joy wash over you (430 Words).

READINGS

Nm 6-22-27;

The LORD said to Moses:

"Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them: This is how you shall bless the Israelites. Say to them: The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them."

Gal 4:4-7;

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption. As proof that you are children, God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Luke 2:16-21

So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

INTERCESSIONS

Almighty God, help us so to live that our happiness may be in doing your will and in serving our brothers and sisters. We make our prayers to you, loving Father, through Christ our Lord, in the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

For the Church, imitating Mary's purity, faith, and humility that it grow in holiness, we pray to the Lord.

For our nation and world, that this new year be filled with peace, we pray to the Lord.

For those in distress of any kind, that God bless and keep them and make his face to shine upon them, we pray to the Lord.

For families struggling to make ends meet, that they receive the grace they need, we pray to the Lord.

For our parish and archdiocese, that we resolve to follow Christ more faithfully this year, we pray to the Lord.

In Silence let us now add our own intentions for our community and for the world.....We pray to the Lord.