

# St. Boniface Martyr R.C. Church

Established 1898 ~ Sea Cliff, NY

Serving the people of God in the communities of  
Sea Cliff, Glenwood Landing, Glen Head, Glen Cove

*We are a pilgrim people on a journey toward the Kingdom of God.*

Reverend Kevin J. Dillon, Pastor



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*The Nativity of the Lord, December 25, 2015 & The Feast of the Holy Family, December 27, 2015*

# **ST. BONIFACE MARTYR R.C. CHURCH**

**Glen Avenue, Sea Cliff, NY**

**[www.saintboniface.org](http://www.saintboniface.org)**

**516-676-0676**

*Serving the people of God  
in the communities of Sea Cliff,  
Glen Head, Glenwood Landing, Glen Cove*

**Rev. Kevin J. Dillon, Pastor**

## **Christmas Schedule 2015**



### **CONFESSION**

**4pm, Saturday, December 19**

**Communal Penance Service: 7:30pm, Tuesday, December 22**

### **MASSES**

**Christmas Eve: Thursday, December 24**

**4pm, 6pm, 10:30pm**

**Christmas Day: Friday, December 25**

**8am, 10:15am, 12 Noon**

**The Feast of Mary, Mother of God: Friday, January 1**

**New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31: 4pm, 5:30pm**

**New Year's Day, Friday, January 1: 10:15am, 12:30pm**

**The Epiphany of the Lord: Sunday, January 3**

**Saturday, January 2: 5pm**

**Sunday, January 3: 8am, 10:15am**

## Mass Schedule

**Daily Mass:** 8am in CHURCH through January 9th.

**Sundays:** Saturdays 5pm; Sundays: 8am, 10:15am\*

**Special Intentions:** 5pm first Saturday of the month

**Confession:** Saturdays 4pm-4:45pm.

**Rosary:** Mondays-Saturdays after 8am Mass (chapel)

### Thursday, December 24 (Mary Toto)

*2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79*

**8am Mass Celebrant:** Fr. Kevin Dillon

**4pm Mass** (Shaun Brala ); Celebrant: Fr. Kevin Dillon

**6pm Mass** (Pete McGowan)

6pm Celebrant: Fr. Hyacinth Jemigbola

**10:30pm Mass** (Novena) Celebrant: Fr. Kevin Dillon

### †Friday, December 25 (Larry Graziose)

**Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**

*Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18*

**8am Mass** Celebrant: Fr. Hyacinth Jemigbola

**10:15am Mass** Intention: Frank Carparelli

10:15am Celebrant: Fr. Kevin Dillon

**12pm Mass** (Parishioners); Celebrant: Fr. Kevin Dillon

### Saturday, December 26 (Michael Ucci)

Feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr

*Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22*

**8am Mass** Celebrant: Fr. Casmir Obi

**5pm Mass** Intention: Christmas Novena

5pm Celebrant: Fr. Kevin Dillon

### †Feast of the Holy Family: Sunday, December 27

*1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 or Col 3:12-21 ; Luke 2:41-52*

The altar bread, wine, candles and sanctuary lamp were donated in memory of **Luke & Kathleen Harte**, by Josie Harte.

**8am Mass** Intention: Christmas Novena

**8am** Celebrant: Fr. Kevin Dillon

**10:15am** Intention: Parishioners

10:15am Celebrant: Fr. Kevin Dillon

### Monday, December 28 (Christmas Novena)

Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs

*1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18*

**8am Mass** Celebrant: Fr. Kevin Dillon

### Tuesday, December 29 (Christmas Novena)

Feast of St. Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr

## Minister's Schedule

### **Feast of the Holy Family: December 27**

**5pm** **Celebrant:** Fr. Kevin Dillon

Lectors: Blanche & Eric Tyrkko

Ministers: Veronica Giordano  
Katherine Miller, Debbie Mink  
Eileen Bowersock

**8am** **Celebrant:** Fr. Kevin Dillon

Lector: Carole Kelly

Ministers: Andrew DiSalvo  
Peggy Niper, Marie Agosta  
Ana Arellano

**10:15am** **Celebrant:** Fr. Kevin Dillon

Lector: Tom Ryan

Ministers: Michele Walthers, Pat Warner  
Scott Whitting, Loretta Zahner  
Donna Calamis, Susan Castelli.

### Wednesday, December 30 (Christmas Novena)

*1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40*

**8am Mass** Celebrant: Fr. Kevin Dillon

### Thursday, December 31 (Christmas Novena)

*1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18*

**8am Mass** Celebrant: Fr. Kevin Dillon

**4pm Mass** Intention: (Christmas Novena)

4pm Celebrant: Fr. Kevin Dillon

**5:30pm Mass** Intention: Mary Toto

5:30pm Celebrant: Fr. Kevin Dillon

### †First Friday, January 1

**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

*Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21*

**10:15am Mass** Intention: Christmas Novena

10:15am Celebrant: Fr. Kevin Dillon

**12:30pm Mass** Intention: Arthur Merrick

12:30pm Celebrant: Fr. Kevin Dillon

### First Saturday, January 2 (Christmas Novena)

*1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28*

**8am Mass** Celebrant: Fr. Kevin Dillon

**5pm Mass** Intentions: Joseph and Grace Pascucci,  
Louis Wybaillie, Marilyn McCarthy, Parishioners,  
Michael J. Lincks, Jr., Terri Wronowski

5pm Celebrant: Fr. Kevin Dillon

### †Feast of Epiphany, Sunday, January 3 (Mary To-to)

*Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12*

**8am Mass** Celebrant: Fr. Kevin Dillon

**10:15am Mass** Intention: Don Renato Corbelletta

**10:15am** Celebrant: Fr. Kevin Dillon



## Please Pray for our Deceased

Please pray for those who have entered into eternal life.

## Please Pray for our Sick

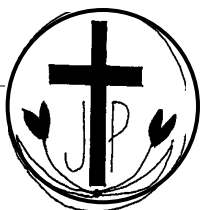
**William Anderson, Steve Anzalone,  
Keith Dunn, Michelle Martone,  
Concetta O'Regan, John Orozco,  
Sioban Rack, Maria Santoli,  
Rhonda Speranza, Steven Taibbi.**



*Placement of names on the sick list must be requested by an immediate family member through Fr. Kevin.*



Lieutenant Melissa Buffa & Lieutenant Travis Buffa  
Lance CPL Matthew B. Christman  
Second Lieutenant Mario Coronel, US Army  
Second Lieutenant Matthew Coronel, US Army.  
Flight Lieutenant Joseph Doyle  
Jake A. Hojnowski, Sailor E-3, US Navy  
Lance CPL Gregory Knox  
Captain Brett Korade, USN  
Private First Class Ignazio LaManna, US Army  
Private First Class Vincent S. LaManna, Jr., US Army  
Lieutenant Brian McMenamin  
Lieutenant Ian McMenamin  
Private First Class Joshua McMillan  
Lieutenant Junior Grade Michael R. Ragusa, USN  
Private First Class Cole N. Muttee, USMC  
Lieutenant Commander Drew Whitting, US Navy  
Private First Class Luke Whitting, US Army  
Captain Christina Merrick-Wright  
Captain Bradley Wright, US Army.



## Special Assistance Donation

*"Your surplus at the present time should supply their needs so that their surplus may in turn one day supply your need." (II Cor 2:58)*

If you have any "surplus" for those in need, please place your donation in an envelope marked **"For Special Assistance"** and Fr. Kevin will be sure it is distributed to help "supply their needs." **PLEASE PRAY** about this and what Jesus is calling you to

## St. Vincent de Paul Society

3

December 27th is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and so we can celebrate that we all belong to the holy family of God which makes us brothers and sisters to each other. As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul box by the stairs near the main doors of the church, please say a pray for those who may have no one to pray for them. Furniture donations are always welcome; please call 822-3132. If you wish to join the St. Vincent de Paul Society and be a communal part of your parish, please call 676-0676. *Thank you!*

## Stewardship . . . a Way of Life

Thank you for your financial stewardship last week.

## Catholic Daughters

First Mondays of the month at 11am in the parish center for women age 18 and older. Contact: Regent Eileen Stanton at [www.catholicdaughters.org](http://www.catholicdaughters.org).

## Prayer Group

Mondays at 7:30pm in the chapel. Join us! Call John and Rosemary Murello at 676-2767 for details.

## Holy Hour and Benediction

Wednesdays at 2pm in the chapel.

## Prayer Vigil for the Sick

Thursdays 7pm -7:30pm in the chapel.

## Scripture Study

Thursdays from 7:30pm-9pm in the parish center. Call Rosemary and John Murello at 676-2767 for details.

## Bingo

Fridays 7pm. Knights of Columbus Hall, 83 Sea Cliff Avenue. All proceeds go to charity, including our St. Boniface Outreach Ministry.

## Miraculous Medal Novena

Saturdays after 8am Mass in the chapel with veneration of the relic of St. Catherine of Labore.

## Lay Carmelites of Blessed Titus Brandsma

Third Saturdays of the month at 9am in the parish center.

## Men's Ministry

Fourth Saturdays of the month beginning with 8am Mass in the chapel. We are called, as Catholic men to become the best version of ourselves by the way we live. Our faith response to current events in our world is at the heart of our discussions. For more info, contact Rich Lucidi at [qbalwily@optonline.net](mailto:qbalwily@optonline.net).

## STEP INTO CHRISTMAS

Christmas carols and songs are an inherent part of the Christmas Season (which for the secular world starts around Halloween) but for the Church begins with the evening mass on Christmas Eve. So while we might have been hearing Christmas songs on our iPod, radios and in shopping malls and stores, we are hearing them for the first time in Church on Christmas Eve. Unlike the secular world when at midnight on December 26 all Christmas music ceases, carols will continue to be sung until the Baptism of the Lord which is celebrated on January 9 of 2016. So in essence we have just **STEPPED INTO CHRISTMAS!**



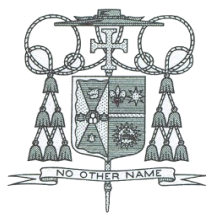
*Step into Christmas* is actually a catchy and upbeat pop Christmas song sung by Elton John, a contemporary British musician. The lyrics talk about stepping into Christmas with all the sights and sounds that surround this beautiful and **HOLY** Holiday. The lyrics mention eating and drinking and being merry. Certainly, after many of the tragic and horrible events we have witnessed on television and other forms of social media this year, we definitely need to **STEP INTO CHRISTMAS!**

Exactly what is it about Christmas that we need? Certainly NOT all the material goods from toys to electronic gadgets or even Christmas tree and decorations, we need to **STEP INTO THE MANGER** with **JESUS CHRIST, GOD MADE FLESH!** That's what Mary, His holy mother did, and Joseph, the step father of Jesus did, as well as the shepherds and kings (wise-men) who recognized that this **CHILD WAS HOLY and SPECIAL**. They were graced to recognize **GOD MADE FLESH IN THEIR MIDST**.

For us, we have grace filled moments as well, while we are not privileged to see God in the Flesh, we do encounter him in the Sacraments and in one another! At your Christmas gatherings with families and friends God is present; He is there in the smiles of young children as they open up the presents on Christmas morning; God is present in the hugs, words of affirmation and laughter with family and friends that hopefully will be exchanged during these special days of celebration with all the foods, drinks and gifts that we so enjoy at this time of year! As you enter into your celebrations with family and friends, **REMEMBER THIS; ALL THE FESTIVITIES AND JOYFUL ENCOUNTERS WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND ACCOMPANYING FOOD, DRINKS AND GIFTS ARE ALL POSSIBLE BECAUSE GOD TOOK FLESH AND CAME INTO OUR MIDST. IN ALL YOUR CELEBRATIONS DURING THIS CHRISTMASTIDE BE THANKFUL AND JOYFUL FOR GOD'S GREATEST GIFT TO HUMANKIND, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST! Keep that in mind as we celebrate these days and STEP INTO CHRISTMAS 2015.**

On behalf of my wonderful and dedicated STAFF, I would like to wish YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES a Blessed and Holy Christmas! Also a big **THANK YOU to my STAFF** for all their hard work each and every day of the year, and MANY THANKS to ALL THOSE WHO DECORATED OUR CHURCH, PARISH CENTER AND RECTORY FOR CHRISTMAS! Everything looks spectacular. May God bless you for your kindness, and finally MANY THANKS TO THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. BONIFACE, MARTYR FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT, NOT ONLY AT CHRISTMAS BUT ALL YEAR! IT IS PEOPLE LIKE YOU WHO MAKE THIS COMMUNITY OF FAITH SUCH A VIBRANT, WELCOMING AND LOVING PARISH!

Love,  
Fr. Kevin



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

## Christmas 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

***Christ is born: sing glory! Christ has descended from heaven: go out to meet Him! Christ is on earth: lift yourselves up! Sing to the Lord, all the earth; for He who belongs to heaven is now on earth!***

With these words, the fourth century theologian, St Gregory Nazianzen (+389) proclaimed the Christmas message that is as true today as it was from that first moment in Bethlehem when the Blessed Mother Mary brought her son Jesus into the world. Since that night we, like Gregory and all others who know Jesus, have exulted in the gift of the Son of God made man. His birth heralds the defeat of sin and death. His presence among us, like us in all things but sin, shines the bright promise of God's merciful love on our faces and into our hearts. Who does not rejoice to know that *God so loved the world that He sent His Son*? Which one of us would turn away from this blessed scene of the Virgin with Joseph in the Bethlehem stable offering the Child to us so that all humankind can be saved? How can we do anything but sing *Glory to God* with the angels and bend low in adoration with the shepherds. This night we all become free! This night we all are one. This night we see the salvation of our God.

My dear friends, this has not been an easy year for any of us, for our families, for our parishes, for our nation, for the world. The forces of darkness are strong and determined. Terrorism seems to be widening its sweep and too many of our leaders seem unsure of what must be done to protect society and care for the suffering. Too many families are struggling to make ends meet. Too many youth in our midst are led astray by the false gods of drugs, alcohol and momentary pleasures. Freedom is under attack at home and abroad. Many look in all the wrong places for answers that hurt rather than help.

We have the right answer. We all need Christmas. We all need Jesus. We all need Mary. God has given HIS answer to the world, an answer that overcomes all its tragedies and all its temptations. God's response to our cries is clear and unequivocal: His Son! Yes: Jesus Christ, His Son! He is God's answer to our cries. He is God's gift for our lives. He breaks down the barriers, for the name of peace is Jesus Christ. He is Our Peace! And He and He alone can calm our fears, renew our strength, lift up our hearts and give joy to our lives!

Yes, my friends, this Christmas go out to meet Him; lift up your hearts; Sing for joy. For all humankind has seen the salvation of our God! A blessed and Joyous Christmas to you all!

Bishop of Rockville Centre

# Catholicism: The Journey of a Lifetime

This internationally recognized series is presented by acclaimed author, speaker and theologian Father (now Bishop) Robert Barron. It is a stimulating and compelling exploration of the spiritual, moral and intellectual treasures of our Catholic faith presented in a clear and understandable manner, using locations, scripture, art and literature.

We will watch a 55-minute episode on Sunday afternoons (at 1 pm) followed by a short discussion. It is a great activity to help celebrate The Year of Mercy.

Come join us for any or all of the ten sessions that will be held in the Parish Center on Sunday afternoons from 1pm to 2:30pm beginning **January 10, 2016**. Refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to [stbondcntom@gmail.com](mailto:stbondcntom@gmail.com) or by calling the parish center at 676-0676 to allow for sufficient hand-outs.

- Jan 10 - **Episode 7:** Amazed and Afraid:  
The Revelation of God Become Man
- Jan 17 - **Episode 8:** Happy Are We:  
Teachings of Jesus
- Jan 24 - **Episode 9:** The Ineffable Mystery of God
- Jan 31 - **Episode 0:** Our Tainted Nature's  
Solitary Boast: Mary, the Mother of God
- Feb 7 - **Episode 1:** The Indispensable Men:  
Peter & Paul and the Missionary Adventure
- Feb 10 - ASH WEDNESDAY
- Feb 14 - No episode due to President's weekend
- Feb 21 - **Episode 2:** A Body Both Suffering  
and Glorious: The Mystical Union
- Feb 28 - **Episode 3:** Word Made Flesh, True Bread  
of Heaven (Liturgy and the Eucharist)
- Mar 6 - **Episode 4:** A Vast Company of Witnesses:  
The Communion of Saints
- Mar 13 - **Episode 5:** The Fire of His Love:  
Prayer and the Life of the Spirit
- Mar 20 - (Palm Sunday) **Episode 76:**  
World Without End: The Last Things



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For a brochure with complete details, detach below and mail to:  
Fr, Kevin Dillon, 145 Glen Avenue, Sea Cliff, NY 11579  
Phone: 516-676-0676 ~ Email: [stbonpastor@gmail.com](mailto:stbonpastor@gmail.com)

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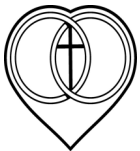
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_







The youth group meets on Sundays from 6pm-8pm in the Fr. James Donohoe Parish Center. All 8th-12th graders are invited! Follow us on instagram, username: stbonyg, join our facebook page 'St. Boniface Martyr Youth Group', or email Youth Minister, Chris, at stbonym@gmail.com



**First Banns of Marriage**  
Nhan Vo  
St. Martin of Tours, Amityville  
and Hong-ThaoHoang

## ST. BONIFACE CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### †Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

Masses will be celebrated at 4pm, 6pm, 10:30pm

### †Christmas Day, Friday, December 25

Masses will be celebrated at 8am, 10:15am, 12pm

### †Feast of Mary, Mother of God: Friday, January 1

New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31:

Masses will be celebrated at 4pm\*, 5:30pm

**\*On Thursday December 31, New Year's Eve, there will be an extended Holy Hour for Peace with Adoration and of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 2pm and concluding with Benediction just prior to the 4pm Mass. The rosary will also be prayed. Please come and spend some time with Our Lord and pray for peace in our world as we embark upon a New Year.**

New Year's Day, Friday, January 1

Masses will be celebrated at 10:15am, 12:30pm

**Please Note . . . All Parishes Offices Will Be Closed for the Christmas/New Year's Holiday on 12/24, 12/25, 12/26, and 12/27 as well as 12/31, 1/1, 1/2, 1/3.**

**From Thursday, December 24 until Saturday, January 9, the 8am DAILY MASS will be celebrated in the CHURCH. Daily Mass in the chapel will resume on Monday, January 11.**

**Pastor:** Rev. Kevin J. Dillon  
Email: stbonpastor@gmail.com

**In Residence:** Fr. Azubuike

**Deacon:** Tom Fox  
Email: stbondcntom@gmail.com

**Music & Liturgy:** Jeffrey Schneider  
E-mail: stbonmusic@gmail.com

**Business & Finance:** Eileen Krieb  
E-mail: stbonfinance@gmail.com

**Administration:** Joan Schiller (Mondays through Thursdays)  
Margaret Evans (Fridays). E-mail: stbonchurch@gmail.com

**Religious Education:** Karen Croce  
Phone: (516) 671-0418; E-mail: stbonccd@gmail.com

**Youth Ministry:** Chris Mandato  
Email: stbonym@gmail.com

**Bulletin Editor:** Julie Byrne. Deadline: noon Mondays. E-MAIL entries to stbonbulletin@gmail.com with contact info after approval from Fr. Kevin. **Dec 27 deadline: Dec 16; Jan 3 deadline: Dec 21.**

**Webmaster:** Robert Lynch. Website: www.saintboniface.org

**Parish Outreach:** Jerry Moran & Kevin O'Shea  
Fr. James Donohoe Parish Center.  
Wednesdays& Saturdays. 10 am-1pm  
Phone: (516) 676-0676. Email:stbonchurch@gmail.com

### Fr. James Donohoe Parish Center \* NEW HOURS \*

145 Glen Avenue, Sea Cliff, NY 11579

(516) 676-0676 / Fax: (516) 674-6742

E-mail: stbonchurch@gmail.com / www.saintboniface.org

Office Hours: 9am-12:30pm; 1:30-4:30pm, Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri  
Thursdays 1:30-4pm; 5pm-8:30pm (no Thursday morning hours; )

### All Saints Regional Catholic School (ASR)

Headmaster: The Very Reverend Dom Elias Carr, Can. Reg.

12 Pearsall Avenue, Glen Cove, NY 11542

(516) 676-0762. Website: www.asrcatholic.org

**Parish Registration:** We welcome all new members of our parish family. We ask all parishioners to welcome and invite new neighbors and their families to become a part of St. Boniface Martyr Parish. Parish registration (census) forms available by the main doors of the church and parish center. Please return forms to the parish center.

**Baptism:** Parents wishing to present a child for Baptism should be registered members of St. Boniface Martyr Parish. Parents are required to have a Baptism Preparation Interview and attend a Baptism class. Baptisms are celebrated on the last Sunday of the month. Godparents must be fully initiated members of the Catholic Church (having received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist), and provide a sponsor certificate. Please call 676-0676 to pre-arrange.

**Marriage:** Couples wishing to be married should call the parish center before any other arrangements are made. A minimum of six months is needed for marriage preparations.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA):** An ongoing process of formation for those interested in becoming Catholic. Call the parish center at 676-0676 for more information.

**Diocese of Rockville Centre:** 516-678-5800 or www.drvc.org  
50 North Park Ave. Rockville Centre, NY 11571-9023



# Take Five for Faith

## **Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday, December 27**

It is good and right to hold Jesus' family in the highest esteem. But in reality we have very few details about their daily lives. When we search scripture for clues we learn that Joseph and Mary each said *yes* to the unknown as they accepted the responsibility of parenthood. In truth, that is the situation encountered by every parent. We embrace the gift of life and do our best to parent and bring our children closer to God. But it is not a clear science. It is indeed entering the unknown with a sacrificial *yes* that allows every parent to share in the creative work of God. On this third day of Christmas, give the gift of gratitude to a parent you know.

## **Monday, December 28**

### **Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs**

"Children should be seen and not heard."

Aristophanes voiced this maxim in 423 B.C. By the 15th century, a clergyman's sermon amended it to "A *maiden* should be seen but not heard," and four centuries later Thackeray agreed that "little girls" are properly silent. B.W. Bellamy's 1915 *Table Rules for Little Folks* restores the original idea that children are best seen and silent. However you say it, this idea leaves the most vulnerable members of society open to bullying, violence, and abuse. On this fourth day of Christmas, give the gift of your attention to children.

## **Tuesday, December 29**

### **Feast of St. Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr**

In 1162, King Henry II of England appointed his good friend Thomas Becket as archbishop of Canterbury, which was the most powerful church position in the country. The king was hoping Becket would be his political puppet, but Becket realized his duty and out of principle refused to yield control of the church in England to the throne, and because of his stance he was martyred. When you're given responsibilities, remember that you're responsible to the people you serve, not the ones who got you there.

## **Wednesday, December 30**

Criticism is easy to dispense. We can always find the dust on the relative's bookshelves, the imperfection in the child's homework, the moral

fault in our neighbor. But how often do we offer praise where praise is due? The epistle writers of the New Testament take equal time to strengthen and encourage the community with words of affirmation and to steer it with corrections. On this sixth day of Christmas, give the gift of encouragement to someone who hasn't heard it lately.

## **Thursday, December 31**

How do we talk about our faith to others? Some may cringe: "Heavens, what a question!" Proselytizing is a game we'd prefer to leave to religious hustlers, and rightly so. But the witness of our faith is something to share generously, starting with our families and friends. If you had a plate of amazing cookies, wouldn't you eagerly bring them out to pass around? How much more the Good News of God's love and forgiveness? On this seventh day of Christmas, give the gift of a favorite Bible verse to someone you love.

## **Friday, January 1, 2016**

### **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

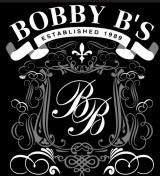
The feast of Mary as Mother of God occurs this year at the start of the new calendar year. Both are times of new beginnings. We celebrate Mary, who through her "yes" has borne Emmanuel, "God with us," marking a new moment in history. We also celebrate the New Year, with many of us resolving to make some kind of change for the better. How might Mary inspire you to newness this year? How might you inspire others? On this eighth day of Christmas, give the gift of gratitude for Mary's example of openness to God's calling.

## **Saturday, January 2**

### **Feast of Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzus,**

Several giants of the Early Church, including today's saints Basil and Gregory Nazianzus, were inspired by Basil's older sister Macrina (whose brothers also included two other saints, Gregory of Nyssa and Peter of Sebaste). Macrina deeply influenced her family with her asceticism. With the help of her younger brother, Peter, Macrina turned the family estate into a monastery and convent, providing a peaceful shelter for study and meditation. What inspiration can you draw from family members as you resolve to deepen your commitment to Christ in this new year dedicated to mercy?

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