



# Our Lady of Fatima Mission

Rev. John Trough

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## December 23, 2023

### Ember Saturday

#### Mass Intention

Andrea Morgan, RIP (Richardson Family)

Father is current accepting Mass intentions. Customary offering is \$25 per Mass.

#### Vigil of the Nativity

“At length,” says St. Peter Damian, in his sermon for this holy eve, “we have come from the stormy seas into the tranquil port; hitherto labor, now rest; hitherto despair, now hope; hitherto the way, now our home.... But if, notwithstanding all your care, some drops of the steam of this life’s frailties are still on your hearts, wipe them away and cover them with the snow-white robe of confession. This I can promise you from the mercy of the diving Infant: he that shall confess his sins and be sorry for them, shall have born within him the Light of the world; the darkness that deceived him shall be dispelled; and he shall enjoy the brightness of the true Light. For how can mercy be denied to the miserable this night, in which the merciful and compassionate Lord is so mercifully born? Therefore, drive away from you all haughty looks, and idle words, and unjust works’ let your loins be girt, and your feet walk in the right paths; and then come, and accuse the Lord, if this night He rend not the heavens, and come down to you, and throw all your sins into the depths of the sea.”

Let us contemplate our blessed Lady, and her faithful spouse Joseph, leaving the city of Jerusalem, and continuing their journey to Bethlehem, which they reach after a few hours. In obedience to the will of heaven, they immediately repair to the place where their names are to be enrolled, as the emperor’s edict requires. There is entered in the public register, Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth in Galilee. To his name, there is, doubtless, added that of Mary, spouse of the above-named Joseph. Perhaps they enter her as a young woman in the ninth

month of her pregnancy. And this is all! O Incarnate Word! Thou art not yet counted by men. Thou art upon this earth of Thine, and men set Thee down as nothing! And yet, all this excitement of the enrollment of the world is to be for nothing else but this, that Mary, Thy august Mother, may come to Bethlehem, and there give Thee birth. O ineffable mystery. How grand is this apparent littleness. How mighty this divine weakness. But God has still lower to descend than merely coming on our earth. He goes from house to house of His people: not one will receive Him. He must go and seek a crib in the stable of poor dumb beasts. There, until such time as the angels sing to Him their hymn, and the shepherds and the Magi come with their offerings, He will meet “the ox that knoweth its Owner and the ass the knoweth its Master’s crib”. O Saviour of men, Emmanuel, Jesus, we too will go to this stable of Bethlehem. Thy new birth shall not be without loving and devoted hearts to bless it.

#### Spiritual Life

A word or smile is often enough to put fresh life in a despondent soul. - St. Therese of Lisieux

Everyone of us needs half an hour of prayer each day, except when we are busy – then we need an hour. - St. Francis de Sales

We all have a vocation. We believe that God has placed us in this life to fill a special need that no one else can accomplish. - St. Francis de Sales

#### Announcements

**Reminder:** Since the Vigil of the Nativity falls on a Sunday this year there is no customary Fast and full Abstinence.

The mission will be decorating the chapel for Christmas after Mass on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please plan to stay for a short time after Mass to assist.

Mission Christmas party will be hosted by Sharon Rose after Mass on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Further details were provided in an electronic invite sent to everyone on the mission email list. Please RSVP if you are planning on attending.

Please join us for the Rosary. Sundays at 9 AM on Discord.

<https://discord.gg/K42TYCr>

If you are not receiving the mission newsletter, please contact Christy Hilliard, [cahilliard7@gmail.com](mailto:cahilliard7@gmail.com).

#### Prayer List

Please remember the following intentions:

Sharon Rose, Donna Perry, Michael Spann, Kathleen Weidner, Dennis Smith, Theresa Fishman, Father Trough, Success of the Mission

#### Upcoming

**December 25: Nativity of Our Lord (Holy Day)**

**January 1: Circumcision of Our Lord (Holy Day)**

**January 13: Mass, 10 AM**

**January 27: Mass, 10 AM**

#### Collections

Last Mass: \$592

Year-to-date: \$21,987

Thank you for your generosity in support of the mission!

#### Dress Code

Welcome! Out of respect for the True Presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and for the edification of our neighbor, we kindly request that all who come to our parish observe the basic traditional Catholic standards of dress for church attendance:

- Women and girls must cover their heads.
- Women and girls must wear dresses or skirts that cover the knee completely when standing or sitting. Slacks, shorts, sleeveless, tight or low-cut clothing, and dresses or skirts with long slits above the knees are not permitted.
- It is recommended for men and boys to wear suit coats and ties for Sunday Mass. Jeans and other casual attire are inappropriate for attendance at church.