

LIVING FAITH

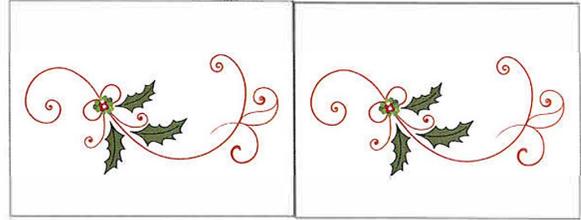
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD
JANUARY 1, 2018

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

Luke 2:16-21



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S



So the shepherds went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. Today, we also celebrate New Years' Day, a new beginning, and a fresh start. Mary was the means by which God gave our world a fresh start.

Mary teaches us a lot about how to respond when God steps in and changes our lives. First, Mary recognizes God, and listens to what is being asked of her. Second, Mary says "yes" to God. Next, Mary treasures all that she hears and sees. And lastly, Mary ponders all of this in her heart.

What about you? Do you recognize God when God is at work within you and around you? Lots of times, we are too busy looking somewhere else, or looking down at our smart phones. Mary teaches us to be attentive, to be watchful and alert and to be prepared to meet God in our lives, often in unexpected places and unexpected people.

Mary shows us how important it is to take time, reflect, treasure and ponder, and look for the meaning of the things that are happening within us and around us.

When has God stepped into your life?

What did God ask of you then?

What is God asking of you today?

What fresh start is God offering you today, as we stand on the threshold of a new year?

Visit @ www.rcsj.org

Start Finish



Hail _____, full of
_____!

The _____ is with
_____.

Hail Mary

_____ art thou
among
_____.

hour of
our
_____.

and

_____ is the
_____.

_____ and
at the



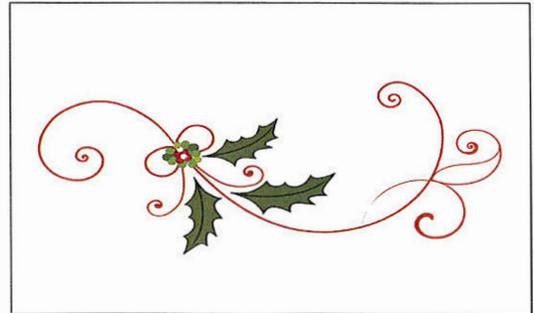
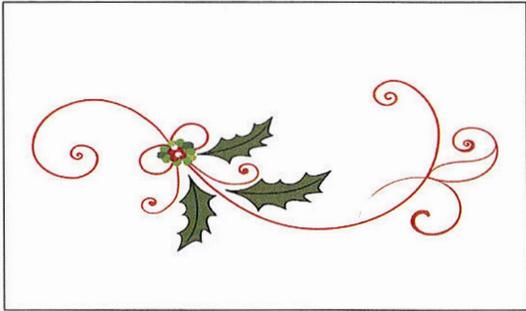
of thy
womb.
_____.

pray for us
_____.

Mother of _____.

Holy _____.

THE CHURCH TEACHES ABOUT MARY: THE FOUR "MARIAN DOGMAS"



1) MARY IS THE MOTHER OF GOD

Mary's divine motherhood was proclaimed at the Council of Ephesus in 431. Various names are used to describe Mary's role as mother of Jesus. She is called "Mother of God" which translates the more accurately stated Greek term "Theotokos" or "Birthgiver of God."

2) PERPETUAL VIRGINITY

The expression perpetual virginity, ever-virgin, or simply "Mary the Virgin" refers primarily to the conception and birth of Jesus. From the first formulations of faith, especially in baptismal formulas or professions of faith, the Church professed that Jesus Christ was conceived without human seed by the power of the Holy Spirit only. Although never explicated in detail, the Catholic Church holds as dogma that Mary was and is Virgin before, in and after Christ's birth.

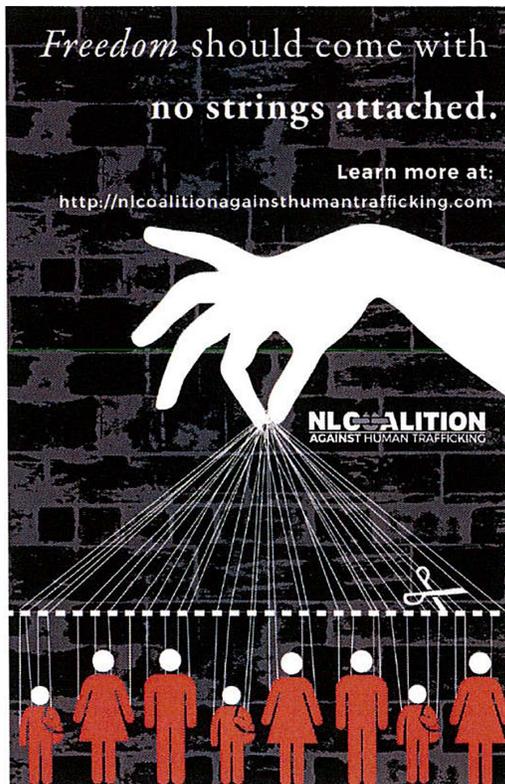
3) IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The solemn definition of Mary's Immaculate Conception states "that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege from Almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, was kept free of every stain of original sin."

4) THE ASSUMPTION

This Marian dogma was proclaimed by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950 on his Encyclical *Munificentissimus Deus*. The dogma states that "Mary, Immaculate Mother of God ever Virgin, after finishing the course of her life on earth, was taken up in body and soul to heavenly glory."

CHRISTMAS PEOPLE BRINGING THE GOOD NEWS WHERE PEOPLE MOST NEED TO HEAR IT NL COALITION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

The NL Coalition Against Human Trafficking aims to eradicate Human Trafficking through public awareness and education, services to trafficked persons, advocacy, and resources and training support to law enforcement. The coalition does this through:

1. Raising awareness of Human Trafficking in the community and creating a network of contacts so that victims of Human Trafficking can be identified and supported.
2. Ensuring a coordinated effort to provide a first and second response to victims of Human Trafficking.

<http://www.nlcoalitionagainsthumantrafficking.com>

In today's Gospel, we listen to the story of the visit of the shepherds and the angels to the stable in Bethlehem. All of this began with God's invitation to Mary and her "yes."

Today, we see the rise of human trafficking, sometimes described as a modern-day form of slavery. It robs people of their right to say "yes."

What is Human Trafficking?

Human Trafficking has been described as a modern day form of slavery. It involves the recruitment and/or transportation, and/or harbouring and/or control of the movement of persons for the purpose of exploitation. Most often, this takes the form of sexual exploitation or forced labour. Human Trafficking also includes the forced removal of organs.

Human trafficking is a serious crime that affects the most vulnerable member of society. Women and children are often the victims of human trafficking, and particularly vulnerable to sex trafficking. However, men can also be victims of human trafficking.

What does the coalition do?

The mandate of the coalition is to help eradicate human trafficking. It is recognized that until human trafficking is eliminated, we must provide support and services to victims of HT by ensuring a coordinated effort to provide a first and second response to victims of Human Trafficking – providing immediate and follow up services as well as advocacy and community connections.

Members of the Coalition are available to provide training support and services to both the federal and provincial police departments and non-governmental agencies, as well as to the community at large.

