

## Monthly Marriage Packet to Parishes

January 2017

### **Bulletin Corner**

Weekend of December 31/January 1                      Mary, Mother of God

When she said “Yes,” Mary could never have imagined what her life as the Mother of God would entail. New Year’s Day is a time to look forward. Take a few minutes to imagine what your life might be like in five or ten years. Might you have a different job? A different home? More (or fewer) children at home? Daydream together.

Weekend of January 7/8                                      Epiphany of the Lord

“They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.” (Mt 2:10-11) Spend some time today as a family basking in the joy of Christmas. Visit a nativity scene and pray together.

Weekend of January 14/15                                  2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today’s gospel John the Baptist announces the “Lamb of God” on whom the Spirit rests. How does your relationship with the Lamb of God prompt you to recognize Him in your spouse, leading to shared values, convictions and interests?

Weekend of January 21/22                                  3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

“I urge you...agree in what you say...be united in the same mind and in the same purpose...” (1 Cor 1:10-11) Moral decisions often involve how we use our time and money. Do I spend too many work hours away from home? Should both of us work outside the home? How many children should we have? Decide prayerfully and together.

Weekend of January 28/29                                  4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Blessed are the poor...the meek...the humble...the merciful...” (Mt 5:1-12a) Blessedness is marked by giving of self, emptying of self, letting go of self. How are you recognizing blessedness in your relationship with your spouse?

### **Prayer of the Faithful**

Weekend of December 31/January 1                      Mary, Mother of God

That parents and children learn from Mary how to hear, accept, and say “yes” to God’s word, and move forward through this New Year in holy harmony, we pray to the Lord.

Weekend of January 7/8                                      Epiphany of the Lord

That spouses and parents faithfully guide one another to Christ, the Light of the World, we pray to the Lord:

Weekend of January 14/15                                  2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

That families, the domestic church, may come to know the “Lamb of God” more fully and reveal him to others by the way they live, we pray to the Lord:

Weekend of January 21/22                                  3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

That married couples will shine with the light of Christ for one another, we pray to the Lord:

Weekend of January 28/29                                  4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

That married persons might know blessedness by living the gospel, shaping their everyday responses to trials and challenges with Christ-like love, we pray to the Lord: