

Blessed
are you

blessed is the fruit of your womb



St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara ***Founder of Carmelites of Mary Immaculate***

This week I am happy to introduce CMI Congregation and its founder, St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara (pronounced St. CHA-VA-RA), whose feast is celebrated annually on January 3rd. You may have noticed these three letters: C.M.I. after my name. This is the short form of my congregation: Carmelites of Mary Immaculate, which was started under the leadership of St. Chavara who was a diocesan priest from Kerala India (1805-1871). He was canonized on 23 November 2014 in Rome by Pope Francis.

Saint Chavara was born on 10th Feb, 1805 in a village Kinakary, Kerala India surrounded by back waters and lakes. He joined the seminary at a young age of 12 and became ordained a priest at the age of 29. To lead a more radical and holy life, he asked permission from the bishop to start a religious order for men (Carmelites of Mary Immaculate). On December 8, 1855 he made the religious profession along with other 10 companions. He died on January 3rd, 1871 in the odour of sanctity, leaving behind the high reputation of a very holy monk.

St. Chavara also started a congregation for women (Congregation of Mother Carmel, C.M.C.), which has more than 4,000 sisters serving in education, hospitals, orphanages and nursing homes. While he was Vicar General of the Diocese, St. Chavara became the pioneer of popular education in India, and the one who inspired the Catholics to start schools in every parish along with their churches like our Catholic schools here in USA. Today the CMI congregation is running 110 high schools, 113 middle schools, 10 professional colleges, 3 engineering colleges, 10 hospitals, one medical college and the Christ University in Bangalore, the only Catholic University in India.

Amidst his diverse and manifold activities, he wrote books on spirituality and popular devotion. His counsels to Christian families given in the form of a "Testament of a Loving Father" are universally applicable and are relevant to this day. Amidst his several religious and social activities, he remained essentially a man of prayer and intense charity, staying in close communion with the Lord, permeating his spirituality to all around him, and was accepted and referred to as a man of God, from his early years. His mortal relics are kept in our mother house of the Congregation at Mannanam in Kerala India, where thousands of pilgrims visit the Tomb of St. Chavara in search of his intercession and blessing.



CMI congregation is a vibrant religious order with contemplation and activity. It has 2004 priests (24 more will be ordained this year), 9 bishops having mission dioceses in north India, 604 Seminarians and 130 Novices in different stages of formation to become priests and in 43 countries as missionaries. There are 94 CMI's working in the US and Canada doing ministries in parishes, hospitals, universities, prisons, and mission to the Syro-Malabar Catholics.

St. Chavara Feast at St. Thomas More

For the first time, we are honouring St Chavara Kuriakose, the patron saint of families, with a Holy Mass at 9 AM on Tuesday, January 3. All are welcome to join for Mass followed by a small celebration in our parish Hall.

Fr Joe Mappilamattel

"Let there be no day in your life in which you did no good to others" –St. Chavara Kuriakose.

CMI in North America: Serving in the Archdioceses of Boston, Hartford, Los Angeles, Louisville, New York, Seattle, St. Paul and the dioceses of Alexandria, Austin, Beaumont, Baker, Biloxi, Brooklyn, Camden, Charleston, Covington, Gary, Birmingham, Joliet, Knoxville, Lafayette, Metuchen, Miami, Minneapolis, Nashville, Orlando, Sacramento, Salina, San Angelo, Shreveport, Sioux Falls, Springfield, St. Augustine, St. Paul and Tulsa. In Canada we are in the Archdiocese of Toronto and the dioceses of Charlottetown, Hamilton, St. Catherine and St. Paul, Province. Recently we opened the first CMI Monastery in St. Paul, Canada.



**Celebrate the Feast of
St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara,**
the Patron Saint of Families

**Tuesday, January 3, 2023
Holy Mass and Novena
9:00 AM**

at St. Thomas More
A light reception and video presentation
will follow in the parish hall.

*"Let there be no day in your life
in which you did no good to others"*

-St. Chavara Kuriakose.



Many thanks to our wonderful
Knights of Columbus, always willing
to help out and beautify our churches
for Christmas.

Left:
St. Veronica Chapel decorating team.

Below:
The St. Thomas More decorating team.

And, thanks also to those who participated
but are missing from these photos.



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Columbus®**
Pope Pius XII Council 5295

MASS *intentions*

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31ST (Vigil)

4 PM – Birthday Remembrance ~ Vincenza Masiello

5 PM – for the soul of Jacqueline Gannon

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1st

8 AM – for the soul of Carmel Martin

9 AM – for the soul of William F. Sullivan

10 AM – for the soul of Maria Joanne Mulroy

11 AM – Birthday Remembrance ~ Harry Conetti

MONDAY, JANUARY 2nd

9 AM – Birthday Remembrance ~ Michael Vigliotti

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3rd

9 AM – for the deceased members of the Goodwin family

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4th

9 AM – for the soul of Theresa A. Seita

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5th

9 AM – Birthday Remembrance ~ Jessica Tylor

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6th

9 AM – for the soul of Frank Gesmondi

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7th

9 AM – for the soul Carmina Reho

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7th (Vigil)

4 PM – for the soul of Patricia Fogarty

5 PM – for the soul of Harrison Charles Goodwin

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8th

8 AM – for the soul of Mina Mueller

9 AM – for the soul of Gerry Jones

10 AM – for the soul of Peter Bower

11 AM – for the soul of Frank Palumbo

The parish office will be closed on
Monday, January 2nd
in observance of the New Year.



Thank you to all who donated to the Knights of Columbus Hat, Glove and Scarf drive. These boxes represent only a portion of items donated this season to the Galilee Mission, Jonnycake Center, Narragansett Sr. Association and to Providence parishes.



Christmas Flowers *in memory and honor of our loved ones*

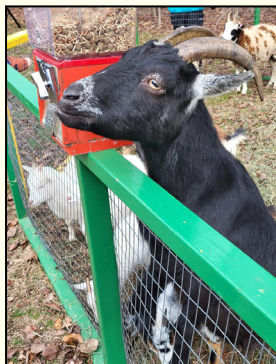
Angela Sansone
Brady Family
Nassor Family
Mario Tomarelli
Jacqueline Collias
Margaret Ayres



Petting ZOO

at the
Manger

So much fun!





The true meaning of Christmas - Children's Christmas Pageant 2022

Thank you to Kim O'Connell for directing, MaryTheresa Conca for coordinating, Marissa Maroni for the beautiful music, new parents of Greyson, our baby Jesus - Gregory & Brooke Horton and to all the parents who helped to make this year's pageant such a success.





Happenings around the parish

Gospel Reflections Group

All are welcome to join our informal discussion group which meets on Mondays from 10-11:30 AM in the parish hall. Over coffee & refreshments, we read and reflect on the Gospels of the coming week and share our personal insights of those readings.

Men's Bible Study

Our parish has a very active group of men who meet each Saturday morning in the parish hall at 7:30 AM to discuss the Sunday scripture readings. This is very informal and all are invited to join.

Pennies for the Poor

The small donation boxes on the church walls labeled "Pennies for the Poor" goes to the Diocesan Dire Emergency Fund in South County, which helps with rental assistance, utilities and prescriptions. Thank you.

Prayer Chain Ministry

If you know someone who would like extra prayers, please call Jean at 783-3403 to express your request. Volunteers are needed and welcome to join this important ministry.

Pray the Rosary

The rosary is prayed Monday - Saturday after the 9:00 AM Mass at St. Thomas More. All are welcome.

Rosary Repairs

Drop broken beads in the box in the foyer using the envelope provided. Include your name and contact info. You will be contacted within a few weeks when your repair is complete.

St. Vincent dePaul clothing bins

Accepts clothing and shoes. Bins located at the back of the St. Thomas More parking lot, inside the white fence.



Relevant Radio "Morning Air" Show

Join Fr. Taillon at 550 AM every Wednesday at 8:00 AM or listen on relevantradio.com

- listen on your computer: <http://relevantradio.com>
- get the App for your phone: relevantradio.com/app
- listen on your radio: AM 550 in the Providence area

Religious Education

There are no Religious Education classes the week of December 25th and January 1st for Christmas Break.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

"And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy.'"

- Luke 1:41-44

Men's Retreat January 20th - 21st, 2023

"Speak Lord, your servant is listening"

Join us for our annual retreat at Enders Island. Fr. Mark Nowel, OP will lead us in prayer and reflection. Reconciliation and Holy Mass will be offered.

This is an opportunity for men to gather together to focus on God, their spirituality, and their faith.

Cost

(per person)

Single Room - \$150

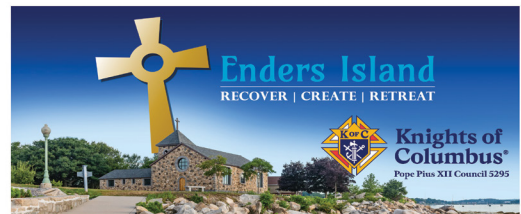
Shared Room - \$120

Includes Three Meals

(Friday: Dinner & Saturday: Breakfast & Lunch)

To register, visit www.popepiusxii.org/men-s-retreat

Please note any special dietary needs in the comments section on the registration form.



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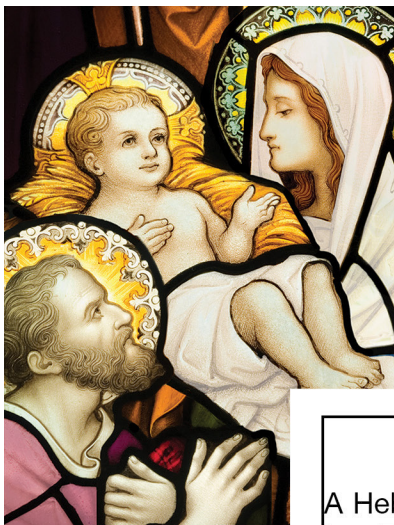
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The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found

MARY AND JOSEPH, AND THE INFANT LYING IN THE MANGER.

Luke 2:16

January 1, 2023 • Mary, the Holy Mother of God

SHALOM

A Hebrew word that many people are familiar with is *shalom*, commonly translated into English as “peace.” However, the word is much richer, deeper, and broader than that. As a matter of fact, when the blessing in today’s first reading concludes with *shalom*, it serves as a summary of the entire blessing: *shalom* is God’s wholeness, well-being, longevity, harmony, as well as God’s peace. Perhaps Mary prayed this blessing while she found herself in the midst of angels, shepherds, and—quite likely, thanks to the shepherds—inquisitive neighbors who had been told of the wondrous birth. Perhaps she prayed for God’s *shalom* not only for herself, but also for her child as she reflected on his birth. As we stand at the threshold of a new year, we can likewise pray this blessing, with Mary as our example, pondering the mysteries of Christ in our hearts, praying for the richness, depth, and breadth of God’s *shalom*.

MARY THE CAREGIVER

At some point in time, most people will find themselves needing to watch over another person. This is true for parents and children of course; for others, perhaps an aging parent or spouse; a friend or neighbor living alone after surgery. At these times, along with the caregiving of the moment, there is often a focus on the future, a wondering about what will come. Quite naturally for the new mother Mary there is this future focus, with many possibilities for her to hold in her heart. She reflects quietly in the midst of the very hectic series of events that follow the birth of her child: hurrying shepherds who go and tell the wondrous news to others, then those others sharing their amazement. Luke tells us that Mary keeps all of this, and reflects on it in her heart. Mary is watching over Jesus as mothers do, watching over each and every moment.

GOD THE CAREGIVER

As Mary watches over her child, so did Israel pray for God to watch over them and one another, to bless and keep them, as Mary kept and reflected on things in her heart. Mary’s face surely shone upon the infant Jesus, as Israel prayed for God’s face to shine upon them with that graciousness we also know in her whom we call “full of grace.” At the conclusion of the blessing in today’s first reading is a prayer for God to look on us in kindness and, even more, to grant us peace. It may be in this final line of the blessing that we see God most at work in the face and the care of Mary, gazing gently on her child, wishing the fullness of God’s *shalom* for Jesus and his future. Our mission as disciples is to show the divine care we hear in the blessing prayer, and to live out the care-giving we see today in Mary.

TODAY’S READINGS

Numbers 6:22–27
Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8
Galatians 4:4–7
Luke 2:16–21

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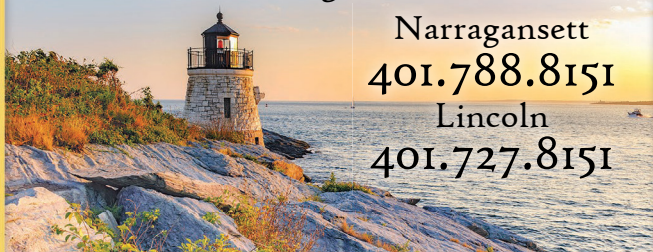
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