



**From the Desk of
Fr. Leo F. Arnone
Reconciliation
Opportunities:**

Thursdays 8:00pm at SA, Saturdays 11:00am at SA & FX, and I am hearing Confessions on Friday, Dec. 18 at 6:00pm at FX.
The best gift we can give Jesus in

honor of His Incarnation is our own heart and soul free from the stain of sin.

Gaudete Sunday: While the theme of Advent is a focus on the coming of Jesus in three ways: His first, His present, and His final Advent, the readings for Gaudete Sunday deal with rejoicing in the Lord – Christian joy – as well as the mission of John the Baptist and his connection with Advent. Henri Nouwen described the difference between joy and happiness: while happiness is dependent on external conditions, joy is the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing – sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death - can take that love away. Thus, joy can be present even in the midst of sadness. Let's make the intentional choice to focus on the joy of Christ's presence in our lives!



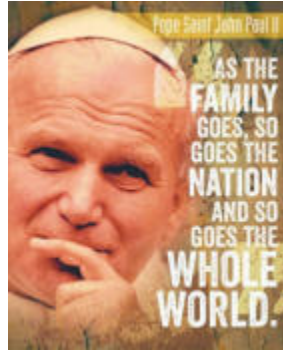
SA & FX Christmas

Mass Schedule:

Thur, Dec. 24, 4:00pm at SA
Thur, Dec. 24, 7:00pm at FX
Midnight Mass at FX
Fri, Dec. 25, 9:00am at SA

Parish Membership Implies Participation and Support: While this pandemic has caused several parishioners to choose to avoid attending Mass in our parishes in genuine concern for their own health, our census records show that many more have not been attending for the past two years and more. It is necessary for me, once again, 1) to try to win them back to the active and regular practice of the faith, or 2) remove them from the census so that we are not assessed for their membership. I taught you years ago that we are assessed apx. \$260.00 for every registered family listed in our parish census. The parish pays that amount every year for each registered family just for having your name on our census.

Every family who has not actively participated in person in our parishes and has not financially supported the parishes for the past two years will receive a letter inquiring of their current membership. If they do not respond to my letter within a reasonable time, I will remove their names from the census so that we are not assessed the \$260.00 for them.



FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO

I - FORMING A COMMUNITY OF PERSONS

The Rights and Role of Women

22. In that it is, and ought always to become, a communion and community of persons, the family finds in love the source and the constant impetus for welcoming, respecting and promoting each one of its members in his or her lofty dignity as a person, that is, as a living image of God. As the Synod Fathers rightly stated, the moral criterion for the authenticity of conjugal and family relationships consists in fostering the dignity and vocation of the individual persons, who achieve their fullness by sincere self-giving.

In this perspective the Synod devoted special attention to women, to their rights and role within the family and society. In the same perspective are also to be considered men as husbands and fathers, and likewise children and the elderly.

Above all it is important to underline the equal dignity and responsibility of women with men. This equality is realized in a unique manner in that reciprocal self-giving by each one to the other and by both to the children which is proper to marriage and the family. What human reason intuitively perceives and acknowledges is fully revealed by the word of God: the history of salvation, in fact, is a continuous and luminous testimony of the dignity of women.

In creating the human race "male and female," God gives man and woman an equal personal dignity, endowing them with the inalienable rights and responsibilities proper to the human person. God then manifests the dignity of women in the highest form possible, by assuming human flesh from the Virgin Mary, whom the Church honors as the Mother of God, calling her the new Eve and presenting her as the model of redeemed woman. The sensitive respect of Jesus towards the women that He called to His following and His friendship, His appearing on Easter morning to a woman before the other disciples, the mission entrusted to women to carry the good news of the Resurrection to the apostles - these are all signs that confirm the special esteem of the Lord Jesus for women. The Apostle Paul will say: "In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.... There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."



Reflection: While the Church is often accused of not acknowledging the equal dignity of women, JP II sites several biblical references where Jesus Himself demonstrated particular favor toward women, none the least of which is our Heavenly Father's will that His Son should take on the flesh of a woman so as to become a Man. No man could have done what Mary did. Thanks be to God for Mary and all mothers!