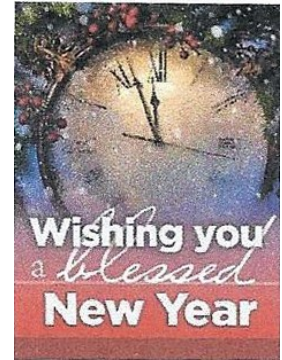


1 January 2021

Dear Parishioners and Parish Friends,

Helping a friend, volunteering for the church or school event, shoveling the sidewalk – all these actions require a yes. Becoming your parent's medical power of attorney, resigning from a job, or accepting a new one – our lives require yes after yes. Each one sets us up for even more choices. On this January 1st, New Year's Day, we celebrate Mary as Mother of God. This title is monumental. It elevates a simple girl from Nazareth to the most highly revered woman in all creation. And it all started with a simple yes! But it didn't end there. Being free from sin doesn't mean being free from temptation. Mary had countless opportunities to say yes or no to God throughout her life. She is an example for us on the power of graced perseverance! Whatever your resolutions or decisions in the coming year, ask for Mary's intercession to say yes.



Let us pray...

God of heaven and earth,
you came to us and took our earthly flesh
through the gift of Mary's yes.

She is our Mother in faith,
as she is your earthly mother.

We are thankful beyond our ability to thank you
for the gift of her Son as our brother and savior.

Through her self-giving,
we have been reconciled to you.

Bless us as we begin this New Year
and endow us with the desire and ability
to create a world of peace.

We ask all this,
through the intercession of Mary to you,
one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

May God grant you a blessed and happy New Year. Please stay safe and healthy!!



*God Bless you
always!
Fr. M.J. Pica*