

echoes

FROM LOURDES

January - February, 2026
Vol. 17 No. 3

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOURDES CENTER ♦ MARIST FATHERS AND BROTHERS



Rogier van der Weyden, *Adoration of the Magi*, ca. 1455



THE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

FR. PHILIP PARENT, SM

Greetings from the Lourdes Center! We wish you and all those you love a Happy and Peaceful New Year. May 2026 be a year of blessings and peace for all of you and your loved ones. When you receive this edition of "Echoes from Lourdes", all of the focus on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day will have faded away. I never had much success with New Year's resolutions; I'm not sure many people do! But now can be a time to take stock of where we are in our earthly journey. We might ask: "Where am I right now regarding my life and my faith? Where am I headed as I continue to live my life?"

Here at the Lourdes Center, we receive a lot of mail, emails, and phone calls from all over the country and some from Canada as well. I've come to better realize just how large North America is. We hear from people in big cities and small towns: Places like Manhattan in New York City, Chicago, and Honolulu. But also, from towns like Wasilla, Alaska, Opelousas, Louisiana, or Export, Pennsylvania. People share their stories with us, including their joys and struggles. They speak about difficulties that they face in their lives or their concerns about what is happening in the lives of those they love. Of course, health issues predominate as they contact us, especially because so many of us are "well along in years". (That's better than saying "we're getting old!"). But there are so many other things that trouble them, including the serious illness of others, including young children and, often, the pain of seeing their children or grandchildren live without any connection to the faith they were brought up in. We here at the Lourdes Center pray for all those that ask for our prayers and for their intentions. We are connected to each other by our common faith and by our trust in God and in Mary, the Mother of God, whom we honor as Our Lady of Lourdes. In reality, we are all on the same journey and we all yearn for the same thing: A deeper union with God and the fulfillment of our human destiny in heaven, the Kingdom of God.

We remember the story of the people of Israel when they were released from their bondage in Egypt, led by Moses. They believed that God was leading them to a Promised Land. Theirs was a long journey; they wandered in the desert and frequently failed to abide by the covenant that God had made with them. But after 40 years, they finally stood with Moses on a mountain and were able to look to the west to see the land God was giving them – the land of promise. We are on the journey of life, facing many challenges and sometimes going astray, but we too are heading to a Promised Land – one that is not in this world but the next. The Book of Revelation describes what our future is if we continue to follow our Lord's lead. In Revelation 21: 1 – 5, we see a vision of what is to come for us: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them [as their God]. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, [for] the old order has passed away'. The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Friends, that is our future, so let us live in hope! May God bless you all!

Peace,

Fr. Philip Parent, SM

Director

A LOURDES MIRACLE

Francis Pascal was born on October 2nd, 1934 in Beaucaire, a city in southeastern France. At the age of 3 years and 3 months, he developed meningitis. He didn't die from the disease, but he was paralyzed in his lower limbs, partly paralyzed in his upper body, and became blind. This was verified by many doctors who had been consulted about Francis' situation. The child, not yet 9 years old, was brought to Lourdes on August 31st, 1938 and was taken to the baths. It was after the second bath that Francis was free of paralysis and his sight was restored. This was verified by several doctors who had examined him before. They all spoke of a definitive cure, one that could not be medically explained. In October of 1946, he returned to Lourdes to visit the Medical Board of Verifications. After examination, his cure was confirmed by the doctors, who said it "had been maintained for 8 years and for which no medical explanation was possible". This complete healing was ratified by the Lourdes Medical Bureau in both 1947 and 1948. Archbishop Charles de Provencheres declared on the 31st of August, 1949, exactly 11 years to the day after Francis' visit to Lourdes, that that the curing of Francis Pascal was miraculous and that "it must be attributed to the special intervention of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God". Francis lived out the rest of his life peacefully.



Cover Image Credit: Rogier van der Weyden, Columba-Altar: Anbetung der Könige, um 1455, Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen – Alte Pinakothek München, URL: <https://www.sammlung.pinakothek.de/en/artwork/jWLpO7nxKY> (Last updated on 27.10.2025)

Readers Write

Dear Fr. Philip,

Just a note just to wish you Happy Holidays and blessings. I want to say how much I enjoy the Echoes newsletter; it really brightens my week. I use this time of year to look over all the wonderful blessings I've received. (These include) my health and my family who give me strength. I've also been blessed with wonderful friends who always keep in touch; we often get together. Lastly, I've been blessed with the gift of faith and with the parish church that I belong to. In closing, I would like to offer a donation so you can continue the work that you do. Your friend in Christ -
D. K., WI.

Father,

Enclosed is a check which is my donation to the Lourdes Center. Please use it for the Chapel. I went to Lourdes in 2005. My mother, Mary T., (who died in 2003) visited the Lourdes Center. It was in 1998 or 1999. Fr. Caron gave us a tour of the Center. My aunt, T. A. R., introduced us to the Center and its connection to Our Lady of Lourdes. We have always had Lourdes water on hand. Merry Christmas! **C.C.**

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Loving God, at the start of this New Year, I look to you for the gifts of hope, joy, and peace. Thank you for the many ways in which you have blessed me in 2025. Give me the courage to do all that You ask of me. Please help me to avoid doing anything that is not from you. Show me how to remain in your grace and accept Your love for me more fully, day by day. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

MARIST GUIDANCE

A Lesson from Christmas

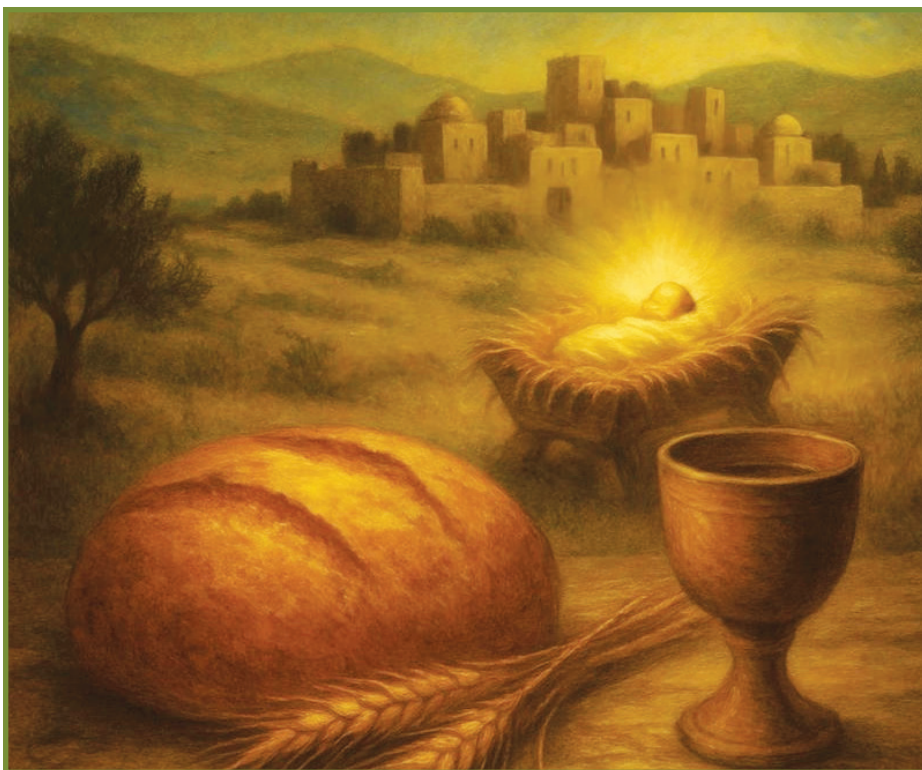
BY FR. FRANCIS A. GRISPINO, SM

This lesson is a result of playing peekaboo. Normally parents and adults play this out with children, but did the Christ Child reverse this game?

Let's spotlight what the Angel of Christmas announced to the shepherds, "And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" (Luke 2, 12). This invitation was not an easy one to accept for we cannot miss the intrigue of the important hint revealing where the Christ Child would be found. It is not that of being in the swaddling clothes because that is customary dressing for a newborn; what is unusual is that the Child would be found in a manger – the food basket for animals! It must be remembered that there were crowds of visitors flooding the town of Bethlehem, propelled there due to the mandate of the governor that citizens return to their place of birth to register for the census. Our search party of shepherds must have gotten looks from newborns (and adults alike) that could be translated into words such as, "Don't look at me, I am not lying in a manger" or "there is no peekaboo, I see you here."

Who is Searching for Whom?

Too many of us are being



pulled into different directions, pursuing dead ends, chasing unfulfilling goals and wasting time. What is most important is to follow the example of the Christmas shepherds. They left the comfort of a restful night to strike out on a personal quest to find Jesus. These words of scripture are both an invitation and a challenge, "When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you, and I will change your lot" (Jeremiah 29, 13-14).

This quote from the Prophet Jeremiah could very well have been the inspiration of St. Augustine's saying, "To seek

God is already to have found him." God is always a step ahead of us. His merciful eyes are always first upon us. In short: Jesus sees us before we see him! So, GOD says, "Peekaboo, I see YOU!" The one searching is the first to be seen!

Bethlehem and the Manger

A The words of Jeremiah and St. Augustine express a deep yearning: God seeks a relationship with man. What follows shows how God has devised the manner of his presence to be found on earth. The word which is the name of the town of

Continued on next page

MARIST GUIDANCE

Continued from previous page

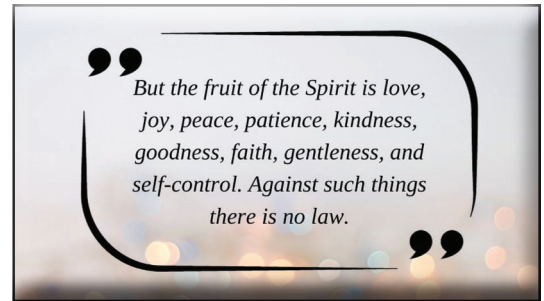
Jesus' birth is freighted with meaning. The word "beth" in Hebrew means "house"; the word "lehem" in Hebrew means "bread". Bethlehem gets its name "House of Bread" because it was known for its abundant wheat harvest. It is no stretch to think that Jesus was already suggesting the place where he could be found in today's world. The Bethlehem of today is to be found in the tabernacles of our Catholic churches for therein is found the true bread that promises life: "Whoever eats this bread will live forever" (John 6,28).

New Year's Resolution?

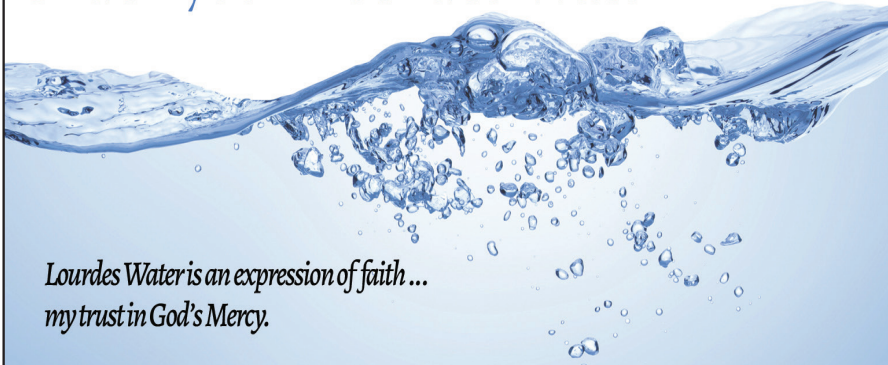
It follows from all the above that Jesus would be appreciative of something that is habitual among friends: a visit. This kind of visit is not to be done under the shadow of obligation as a weekend Mass might be. This visit is more like the husband who presents his wife with a bouquet of roses in the middle of the week simply to express his love and devotion.

The New Year's resolution suggested is to make a visit to Jesus in the tabernacle

sometime during the week under no constraints but simply as a demonstration of your love and devotion, friend to friend. Moreover, such a visit will be proof to you that Jesus is a Person and Divine and not an idea. He has seen you first from way back! Happy New Year!



Order your Lourdes Water



Lourdes Water is an expression of faith... my trust in God's Mercy.

Offering to cover shipping and handling \$_____ N.B. A donation of \$3.00 per bottle is suggested to cover our expenses. When the offering permits, we use Priority Mail. We will accept orders of 1-3-5-6 and 10 bottles. For multiples thereof and for unusual numbers requested, we reserve the right to send what is both just and feasible.

Please allow 3-6 weeks for delivery

Please send _____ bottles of water from the Shrine at Lourdes

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Requested by: _____

Does this person receive this newsletter? Yes No
If not, should we send Echoes from Lourdes to them?
 Yes No

A Gift from You...

Give someone you care about a FREE SUBSCRIPTION to Echoes from Lourdes!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

USE SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

E-mail to: ourlady@lourdescenter.org

LOURDES CENTER

698 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02215-2594

Our Deceased

We have been notified that the following friends of the Lourdes Center have passed away. Please join us in remembering them in your prayers.

SHIRLEY C. JORDAN, RI
 GEORGE PESTER, KS
 ROGER COTE, ME
 LILLIAN NACHMAN, WI
 PATRICIA J. REINHART, OH
 SANDY DEBLACKER, WY
 DONALD H. BURKLE, FL
 MARTHA ALICK, AK
 MARY JOSEPH, AK
 PATRICK N. EDWARDS, AK
 ELSIE DICK, OH
 ALICE PITKA, AK
 MARGARET SALLADE, WY
 HELENE GOUDREAU, MA
 FRANK AZZARITO, MA
 JUDY RUFFING, OH
 MADELINE BUCHEK, PA
 MARTINA JOHN, AK
 LARRY JOHN, AK
 KATIE CURTIS, AK

JANICE WALKER, MO
 MARY SELFRIED, TX
 SR. LIZ KERWIN, MN
 SR. MARCELLA MARY, PA
 JAY BAUER, SC
 GAETANO TALLUTO, MI
 CATHERINE MCLAUGHLIN, MA
 RAYMOND GUMERINGER, TN
 LUELLA GUMERINGER, TN
 MARY T. GOULD, NY
 PHILOMENE CARMICHAEL, MA
 BARBARA BUTLER, IA
 ROBERTA JUSTILIAN, LA
 MURIEL BACHMAN, MN
 FRANCES GATHERALL, CANADA



Purgatorials for the Deceased

Name of Deceased _____

Please send Purgatorial to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Requested by: _____

Suggested offering: \$20.00 perpetual.

Our Lady's Purgatorial Society

Each year, your enrolled deceased and loved ones are remembered during the 365 daily Masses celebrated by the Marist Fathers. An attractive certificate framed in a blue folder with a colorful picture of Our Lady is sent to the donor or recipient.

Please mail responses to: Lourdes Center, 698 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02215-2594

Our Gift Center



The following gift items are available for order from the Marist Lourdes Center in Boston.

- 2026 WALL CALENDAR (LIMITED SUPPLY).....\$10.00
- OUR LADY OF LOURDES MEDAL IN GROTTTO.....\$5.00
- BROWN SCAPULAR.....\$3.00
- OUR GIFT FROM MARY SCAPULAR BOOKLET.....\$3.00
- BROWN SCAPULAR BOOKLET AND BROWN.....\$5.00
SCAPULAR
- GREEN SCAPULAR.....\$2.00
- BOOKLET: "LOURDES AND OUR LADY".....\$4.00
BY FR. JOHN LYNCH, S.M.

Please send your order with payment to:
 698 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215-2594

Affiliations

Remembrance in 50 Masses yearly.

Person to be Affiliated:

Requested by:

Offering

1 year: \$2.00; 3 years: \$5.00; Lifetime: \$10.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

On Friday, January 9 and Friday, January 23
and Friday, February 13 and Friday, February 27,
the Marists of the Lourdes Center will be praying for you.

You can count on it. On the second and the fourth Friday of every month, we hold a prayer day when we offer special prayers and celebrate a Mass at our chapel for our extended Lourdes family.

Please send us your intentions: _____

Please direct your intentions, and any offering you'd like to send, to:
Lourdes Center, 698 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215-2594

Published bi-monthly to promote devotion
to Our Lady and interest in her shrine at
Lourdes.
Director: Rev. Philip Parent, SM
Printed with Eccelesiastical Approval

Lourdes Echoes



Lourdes Center
698 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02215-2594
617-536-2761
www.lourdescenter.org
OurLady@LourdesCenter.org

Address Service Requested