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# OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSENGER

THE MIR CENTER OF WESTERN COLORADO

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*Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger...(Lk 2: 4-7)*

**Our Lady of Medjugorje's  
Monthly Message of  
November 25th, 2025:**

***D***ear children! In this time of grace, I am calling you to follow me. Pray for those who do not pray and do not want peace and joy, which only the Most High can give. May your souls be united in the joy of expectancy and your heart will be filled with peace. You will be convinced, little children, that all will be good and that God will bless all; because the good that you give will return to you, and joy will enfold your heart because you are with God and in God. Thank you for having responded to my call. (With ecclesiastical approval)

On the 25th of each month, Our Lady gives a message through the visionary Marija Pavlovic-Lunetti for the villagers in the parish of Medjugorje and for all those who choose to follow her on the path to holiness.



The Nativity of the Lord

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## When God Came to Dwell Among His People

By Carl Malito

***“Sing for joy and be glad, O daughter of Zion; for behold I am coming and I will dwell in your midst,” declares the Lord. Zechariah 2:10***

There are many passages in the bible that call for us to rejoice but the most significant for us to consider at Christmas time is the above verse from Zechariah. God has come to dwell with His people. The whole Old Testament can be seen as preparation for the time when God will come to dwell among us. We realize that God is everywhere but in a unique way, He comes to dwell among his people, to walk and teach, to heal and instruct, and finally to die to redeem us and that plan launches with His birth in Bethlehem.

The people of Israel knew that it was inappropriate to worship any human being as God. But they failed to understand that God could choose, if He desired and it suited His purpose, to become a man.

But how could this happen? How could the all holy, all powerful Creator of the universe, the one who existed before all things, the one who made all things from nothing enter into His fallen creation in human form? It should be obvious to all that there is a unique relationship between Mary and Jesus, between her body and His body, between her flesh and His flesh. Fulton Sheen once remarked that often we note how a child looks like it's mother but in this case we should note how the mother resembles her Son.

It would certainly have made life easier for Jesus if He had come floating down out of the clouds and landed in Jerusalem. Maybe Satan was onto something when he suggested that Jesus throw Himself down from the parapet of the temple. Movie star Tom Cruise certainly attracted a lot of attention and adulation when he descended from the roof of the Stade de France in Paris and landed among the star struck athletes at the closing ceremonies of the 2024 Olympics. No one seemed to be upset that he relied on hidden wires to accomplish the feat. For many watching around the world, it was the highlight of the evening.

But when God comes to dwell among His people, He takes a completely different approach. No adoring crowds, no fanfare, no attention at all. He seems to want to avoid notice. “God”, wrote C.S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity*, “has landed on this enemy-occupied world in human form.” Jesus is born in the small town of Bethlehem, not Jerusalem and not in a palace, but a cave. Yes, Bethlehem, the city of bread, is the birthplace of the great King David, but it has fallen on difficult times. Conquered by the Romans, the Jewish people have to do what they are told, they have to obey the dictates of their pagan rulers. This included travel to their hometown to register for a census imposed by Caesar Augustus but inspired by God.



But before Jesus could travel to Bethlehem in the womb of His mother, before He could be born there, He had to come ‘to be’. Jesus, the Word made flesh, had a physical beginning. Almighty God, of course, is pure spirit and exists without limit. The Son, to be clear, is coeternal with the Father. But God chose to become man and entered into human history at a particular time, in a particular place and through the cooperation of a particular young Jewish woman.

The incarnation of God Had taken place months earlier when this virgin, betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the line of David, said ‘Yes’ to God. It was precisely then, when she replied to the angel Gabriel’s request and said, “Be it done to me according to your word,” that the Word became flesh.

And the Word became flesh not just anywhere but precisely there, in the womb of a woman named Mary who was also from the line of David. St Paul wrote in first Corinthians, “Do you not know that you are temples of the Holy Spirit?” If it is true for us, how much more so for Mary?

Adam had once said of Eve, “at last this one is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh.” And all of tribes of Israel once went to David and said, “We are your own flesh and blood,” before they anointed him king. But

when Jesus became one with us, He became bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh through the ‘Yes’ of a virgin, betrothed to a carpenter, not a king.

The one who can most appropriately say, “At last this one is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh” is the teenage girl who hails from Nazareth. Jesus is bone of her bone and flesh of her flesh in a unique way. The God of all creation took up residence in the womb of the Virgin Mary for nine months. Jesus and Mary share much more than a culture and a lineage, they share the same genetic makeup. All Israel was aware that when the Messiah came, He must come from the line of David. And, indeed Jesus is a descendant of the line of David but not through Joseph, but rather through Mary, the Virgin who found favor with God. Joseph, a good and just man the scriptures tell us, is not the biological father of Jesus, but Mary is His biological mother. Joseph, a distant relative of the great King David, will protect the newborn king but the promise is fulfilled through Mary. We should realize that Jesus and Mary shared the same blood type, the same genotype, and as Paul reminds us, the same Spirit. She is not God but she is a fitting temple where God can dwell, the new ‘ark’ of the covenant.

“Can anything good come from Nazareth?” asks Nathaniel in John’s gospel. Such was its reputation. And one can only wonder about the reputation of the unmarried virgin who found herself with child after being overshadowed by the Holy Spirit. The short answer is yes, something good can come from Nazareth. Not just something but someone; God incarnate, God in the flesh, the one all Israel, all of humanity has

*(When God came to dwell continued on page 6)*

## From the Diary of Sister Emmanuel

www.childrenofmedjugorje.com

On October 25th, 2025, the visionary, Marija, received the following monthly message:

**Dear children, The Most High in His goodness gave me to you to lead you on the way of peace. Many have responded and are praying, but there are many creatures who do not have peace and have not come to know the God of love. Therefore, little children, pray and love, create prayer groups to encourage each other to the good. I am with you and am praying for your conversion. Thank you for responding to my call. (With ecclesiastical approval)**

### *A wonderful communion of saints!*

The Lord sometimes allows us to meet wonderful people who truly follow Him and radiate His light. After years of absence, I saw Maureen again recently, and I cannot keep to myself the story she told me about what happened to her.

“My name is Maureen. I stayed in Medjugorje in 1997 at the Community of the Beatitudes. I was 23 years old and single. The doctors had diagnosed me with endometriosis and told me quite clearly that I would never be able to have children, especially since the endometriosis was very, very severe.”



On the day Vicka, the visionary, celebrated her birthday—she was 30 at the time—I went to celebrate at her home, having been invited along with the entire Community of the Beatitudes. How delighted I was to be able to spend some time with her! Her friends were there too, and she welcomed us all into her large living room. Then, to my great surprise, she suddenly crossed the room like an arrow, came over to me, and whispered a few words in my ear in Italian: “You will have many children!” Then she went to join her friends. A sister translated this surprising message for me. At the time, I thought I was going to have many spiritual children, because I was thinking more about dedicating myself to the Lord. But later, after returning to France, I got married and had five children—yes, five beautiful children, including twins, and all without any health problems. So I was cured of endometriosis; not all at once, however, but little by little, with each pregnancy. When I got married, aware of this disease, my hus-



Sister Emmanuel

band and I had, of course, thought we would never have children. But the Lord surprised us greatly!

Vicka was right... How did she know that Maureen was destined for such great fertility and that she would become a happy mother? She will never say, but Vicka prays for the sick with great compassion, and one can easily guess that during her encounters with the Mother of God and in her fervent daily prayer, she received this knowledge of the heart. Even though Vicka no longer has the

opportunity to meet the pilgrims, we know that her prayer continues in secret and that, in this field of death that the world has become as described by Don Dolindo Ruotolo, her prayer for us all still goes in the direction of life! Let us also pray for her and for the five other visionaries of Medjugorje!

### *Another story from Maureen*

“When I was in Medjugorje with the Community of the Beatitudes,” she said, “one morning it was my turn to cook. But there was a major unforeseen event, and I had to leave my stove to translate a talk into English for some American pilgrims. Given the unavoidable circumstances, we had no choice. Seeing my distress, Sister Emmanuel said something I will never forget: ‘Go ahead! The Lord will bless your obedience and he will take care of the meal himself.’” So there I was, translating while wondering how I was going to manage the meal, especially since we had to go to Mass after the conference. I knew we had some pasta in the cupboard, but what was that to make a meal? I then turned to the Blessed Virgin Mary and said to her in my heart: Listen, I have done God's will. So you, who were such a wonderful mother, you who never let anyone go hungry, I leave you to take care of the meal! Sister told me I had nothing to worry about.

“When we returned from Mass, it was magnificent! The table was set, and there were large platters with vine leaves, rice, meat... and vegetables were heating on the stove. In short, everything was ready, with a delicious dessert as an added bonus. Without our knowledge, the neighbors had come to give us this gift, and everything was blessed! In conclusion, this lesson has stayed with me all my life: when we do our best to do God's will, He provides for all our needs and even beyond.”

Thank you Maureen for your faith and trust! You remind us of this saying of Jesus that we too often tend to forget: “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Mt 6:33).

### *Ready for a quiz?*

I propose a holy activity that should encourage us to encounter Jesus in his Word. It involves completing the Gospel passages quoted here. In this way, we can assess our level of listening and how we allow the voice of the Shepherd to resonate within us. In Medjugorje, Our Lady encourages us to talk among ourselves about the Word of God, to share what touch-

## Montichiari, Rosa Mystica, and The Hour of Grace

from stthomasaquinasociety.org

During the period of November 24, 1946 to December 8, 1947, the Blessed Mother appeared to Sister Pierina in a little church in Montichiari, Italy, eleven times. On the first appearance the Blessed mother told Sister Pierina she wanted to be known as the "Mystical Rose," and that an hour of grace should be kept at noon, December 8th, in all the Catholic Churches of the world. The Blessed Mother wanted this to be known through all of Italy, and the entire world.

It was November 16, 1947 when Sister Pierina was finishing Her Thanksgiving after Holy Communion when she saw a great light. She then saw a vision of the Blessed Mother as the "Mystical Rose".

Sister was so deeply moved by the stunning beauty of Our Lady that she began talking to Her. All of a sudden a gentle force made her kneel down in front of Our Lady. The Blessed Mother spoke these words, **"My Son is so greatly offended by the sins of the people, especially by the sins of impurity. He is already planning to send the deluge upon the people, for their destruction, but I have asked Him to show mercy, and not send the destruction. So that is why I have appeared, to ask for penance and atonement for the sins of impurity."**

Then the Blessed Mother asked for an act of humility by Sister Pierina. She asked her to make the sign of the cross with her tongue on each of the four stones in the sanctuary. **"This shall be a reminder to the people that I have appeared here and do not have the people step on those stones."** The Blessed Mother then stepped on each of the stones so that Her gown touched all four stones.

On the 22nd of November, Sister Pierina felt the overwhelming urge to go to church at 4:00. The Mother Superior, four Sisters, and a group of friends accompanied her. They were all saying the Rosary when the Blessed Mother appeared as before. She instructed Sister Pierina to make the sign of the cross on the stones and fence them off so that no one would step on them.

Again, Our Lady asked for penance. She said, **"Penance is nothing more than accepting all our crosses daily willingly. No matter how small, accept them with love."** At this time She told Sister Pierina to come again December 8th at noon, **"This will be my Hour of Grace."** The Sister asked how she was to prepare for this Hour of Grace? To which the Blessed Mother said, **"With prayers and penance. Pray the 51st psalm with outstretched arms three times. During the Hour of Grace, many spiritual graces would be granted. The most hard-hearted sinners will be touched by the grace of God."** The Blessed Virgin promised that whatever a person asked her for during this Hour of Grace, even in impossible cases would be granted to them, if it was in accordance with the Divine Will of the Eternal Father.

It was December 7th when Sister Pierina felt the urge to go to church. This time she was accompanied by the priest and the Mother Superior. The Blessed Mother appeared with a young boy and girl dressed in beautiful white clothing.

The Blessed Mother said, **"Tomorrow I will show you My Immaculate Heart, which is so little known among the people."** She asked people to pray for Russia, **"There are so many people being held prisoners, which their families know nothing of, because they have been gone for so many years. Pray for the conversion of Russia, the suffering of the soldiers and their sacrifices and martyrdom will bring peace to Italy."**

**"The little children are Francisco and Jacinta. I am giving them to you as your companions, you will have much to suffer for my sake. I want simplicity and goodness from you, as of these little children."** The Blessed Mother then blessed Sister Pierina, the priest and all those who were gathered there.

On the morning of December 8th, people began arriving at the little church at 8:00 in the morning from neighboring towns. By noon, some 10,000 people had gathered to see the Blessed Mother, many of whom had to stand outside because the church did not have enough room for the large crowd.

Sister Pierina was accompanied to church by her mother and brothers, the Mother Superior, and the Chief of Police from Montichiari. Sister was reciting the Rosary with the crowd in the middle of church. Suddenly, a brilliant white light appeared from the ceiling. Stairs were coming from the light down to the floor of the church, about fifteen feet in length. The staircase was beautifully decorated with red, white and yellow roses. The Blessed Virgin appeared so radiant, dressed

in white, with Her Hands folded. She was standing on a splendid carpet at the top of the stairs, made of the red, white and yellow roses.

In the Most Gentle and Loving Voice, Our Lady smiled and began to speak, **"I am the Immaculate Conception, the Mother of all graces, and the Mother of my Beloved Son, Jesus. I want to be known as the Mystical Rose. My wish is that every year on the 8th of December, at noon, an "Hour of Grace" will be installed. Many spiritual graces and physical blessings will be received by those who pray undisturbed during this time."**

Then slowly, She began to descend the staircase, gracefully scattering roses as She went along, until She reached midway of the staircase. There again the Blessed Mother spoke, **"I am very happy to see this great demonstration of Faith."**

Sister Pierina asked for many of the sinners to be forgiven. The Blessed Mother replied, **"My Divine Son will show His Greatest Mercy as much as the people will pray for them. I want this to be known and told to the Pope Pius XII. Tell him I want him to install the "Hour of Grace" through the whole world, and even those who are not able to go to church during this hour, will receive the same graces by praying during this time in their home at noon time."**

She also asked that a statue be made and placed on the spot where She stood. This should be called the "Rosa Mystica", and carried in a procession through the town, at which time many graces will be given and cures will take place. Then the statue

*(The Hour of Grace continued on page 6)*



## You Just Need to Start

by Stephanie Engelman from [mysticpost.com](http://mysticpost.com)

"You just need to start," the shopkeeper repeated, and returned to his work. Sheila's arms prickled with goosebumps and she stared at the man as he organized souvenirs on a nearby shelf. Start *'what'* she wondered. She sensed that the man's words were no accident. They were meant for her, and they held a deep meaning. Now, she just had to figure out what the meaning might be. The question continued to plague her as she went about her day in Medjugorje. It was only her second day in the town, and she still felt slightly out of her element. A fallen-away Catholic, in a place that was distinctly Catholic. Crucifixes were everywhere, and paintings and statues of Mary and Jesus decorated nearly every wall. Looking at the schedule for the next eight days read like a total immersion in Catholicism – daily Mass, countless Rosaries, opportunities for Confession, and visits with priests, religious and supposed visionaries.

The following morning, Sheila stood at the foot of Cross Mountain. She had made up her mind before the pilgrimage began that she would not climb its rocky slopes. Plagued with knee problems – and with surgery scheduled for less than a month away – walking short distances on flat surfaces was difficult. There was absolutely no way her knees could withstand the strenuous and steep ascent of Cross Mountain. But the shopkeeper's words continued to play through her mind: "You just need to start." She had prayed and prayed, attempting to decipher why the man, a complete stranger, had been led to say those words to her. She watched as one of her fellow pilgrims began the ascent, her heart beating hard in her chest. There was no way she could do this. "All things are possible with Christ," the words came, unbidden, into her mind. She took a deep breath, stepped onto the trail, and followed the shopkeeper's advice.

Sheila had been raised Catholic, but left the Church when she was 19, and she'd never looked back. Disturbed by a faith that seemed to be filled with people who made her feel judged and found wanting, where the judges themselves were hypocrites, she had gone to seek greener pastures, pastures where Christians steeped themselves in the Bible, and where going to church was an experience in being fed, with vibrant pastors who set their congregations on fire for God's Word and His will in their lives. She'd never experienced that within the Catholic Church, and found that her faith came alive when surrounded by such vibrant believers.

Her brother had hounded her for years to return to the Church, but she wanted no part of it. Every night before going to bed, she asked God, "Lord, was I pleasing to you today?" and as long as she felt the answer to that question was yes, she knew she was exactly where she was meant to be.

When her brother told her she needed to go to Medjugorje, and on retreat with Fr. Zlatko Sudac, she resisted. Her knee surgery was scheduled for a month after the retreat! She could barely walk around the grocery store, let alone walk around the town of Medjugorje. She had a daughter and grandchildren to care for at home, not to mention all of the help that she provided to her brother and his family. How could she possibly leave for ten days, handicapped and needed at home? Not only that, did

she even want to go to this explicitly Catholic place, when she had been perfectly happy apart from the Church for more than thirty years? And would she feel strange, excluded, out of place, as the only non-Catholic among so many devout Catholics?

Nonetheless, when her brother offered to send her on the pilgrimage and retreat she was willing to pray about it. She'd seen the effect Medjugorje had had on her brother decades before, completely changing his life. She'd seen the changes within her mother as well, when she went more recently. And she couldn't deny the draw of being on retreat with Fr. Sudac, a priest who had received the stigmata. She'd heard stories of his passion, commitment, and love for Christ, and she had heard that healing graces flowed abundantly at his retreats. While Sheila had accepted the medical crosses she bore, she couldn't deny her deep desire for healing – whether spiritual or physical – if that was God's will for her. She prayed about it, and woke one morning with the certainty that she was meant to go to Medjugorje. Her brother booked the trip, Sheila packed her bags, and took the first step on an incredible journey.

There's so much peace here, Sheila thought as she walked the streets of Medjugorje. Everyone was friendly, smiling, joyful even. Just imagine if you could just take this place and make the whole world so peaceful, she thought.

What was different? Where did the peace and joy come from? Sheila looked around and saw people with their rosary beads, praying together or quietly to themselves as they walked the city streets. She saw pilgrims kneeling in prayer before statues and images of the Blessed Mother. Swept up in the tide of everyone else's prayer, she found herself praying the Rosary for the first time since childhood, and she noticed something truly remarkable within herself.

Prayer was nothing new to Sheila. She prayed all the time, and yet her prayers had never brought the profound peace that she experienced while praying the Rosary. And the peace didn't end with the final Amen, but continued into the minutes and hours that followed. This peace was the peace of Christ, but why could she feel it more strongly here, in Medjugorje, than she had felt it back home in Indianapolis? Why was it stronger when praying the Rosary than during a powerful sermon at church? Why did the people here exude such peace and joy, when many of the devout Christians she knew still struggled against doubts and anxiety?

The realization slowly dawned on her. It was Mary. Mary, the Blessed Mother, the Gospa, called "the Queen of Peace," who brought Christ into the world and continued to bring Christ into the lives of people throughout the world. Sheila realized that it is Mary's entire mission, loving her Son and helping others to know him and love him. Mary truly is the Queen of Peace, bringing Christ who is Peace to the people in Medjugorje!

A mother can talk to a mother, and suddenly Sheila found herself conversing with Mary as a mother – her mother and Christ's mother, seeking her help, her advice, her intercession. Laying her worries at Mary's feet and asking her to place them

*(You just need to start continued on page 7)*



Fr. Sudac, stigmatist priest

*(Diary of Sister Emmanuel continued from page 3)*

es us, to ask questions, during meals for example, and I have noticed that this brings much joy to the participants. Weren't the pilgrims on the road to Emmaus filled with longing when Jesus spoke to them from the Scriptures? (Luke 24:18-35).

Here are some sentences to complete:

"So in everything, do to others...?" (Matthew 7:12)

"The work of God is this...?" (John 6:29)

"This is to my Father's glory, that...?" (John 15:8)

"I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth because you...?" (Matthew 11:25)

"Father, forgive them...?" (Luke 23:34)

"Father, into your hands...?" (Luke 23:46)

The good thief said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you...?" (Luke 23:42-43)

Jesus said to them, "If anyone wants to follow me, let him...?" (Mark 8:34-35)

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has...?" (John 6:54)

"Some children were brought to Jesus... but the disciples rebuked them. Then Jesus said...?" (Matthew 19:14)

A scribe asked Jesus, "Which is the most important commandment?" Jesus answered, "It is...?" (Mark 12:28-29)

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but...?" (Mark 2:17)

"Whoever wants to become great among you must...?" (Mark 10:43-44)

Complete the commandments that Jesus gives us in the Gospel of Luke. (Luke 6:26-31)

"But to you who are listening: Love...?"

Do good to...?

Bless those who...?"

Pray for those who...?

To the one who takes your coat...?

Give to everyone...?

And if anyone takes what belongs to you...?

"Do to others...?"

Some will be eager to suggest other questions, and together we will grow in the knowledge of Christ, for the greater joy of his Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary!

### ***The 25th anniversary of the death of Fr. Slavko***



On November 24, 2000, after leading the Stations of the Cross with the parish, Father Slavko Barbaric passed away on Mount Krizevac. The following day, the monthly message from the Our Lady moved us deeply:

***"Dear children, rejoice with me, for your brother Slavko has been born into heaven, and he intercedes for you..."*** And we cried out: "Slavko is in heaven, Slavko is in heaven!"

On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of his birth into Heaven, let us pray to him!

He who loved to work so much, let us ask much of him! Did not Mary declare to us: ***"He intercedes for you!"*** We are witnesses to so many graces from him: conversions, consolations, inner light, moral and physical healings... Everyone is free to pray to him according to their heart.

### ***Bringing a priest out of Purgatory?***

As an act of mercy, have you considered having a Mass celebrated for the release of a priest from Purgatory? During the Jubilee Year of Hope, we can offer a deceased soul a plenary indulgence and release them from Purgatory! Priests suffer greatly in this place of purification. Before Mass, we can ask Mary to choose the priest she wishes to release from Purgatory. Once freed, this priest will be deeply committed to powerfully helping his fellow priests on earth, those who have embarked on paths of sin and spiritual death, so that they may return wholeheartedly to Christ and His Word. In this way, we can do immense good for the Church and the world! Share this initiative with your loved ones; it will multiply the graces for our priests!

It's not too late! Let's make the most of this Jubilee Year of hope, which ends on January 6! Let's open the door of our hearts! The Church offers us three things:

1. To experience the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Confession, to draw from the source of love and be reconciled with God, with ourselves, and with others.
2. To rediscover the meaning of pilgrimage: setting out on a journey and visiting a shrine.
3. To bear witness to hope through works of mercy and charity.

*(The Hour of Grace Continued from page 4)*

was to be returned to the church. Our Lady prayed for the sick, some were cured others were not. Many men, women and children were cured at that very instant. A 26 year old woman who could not say a word for nine months, suddenly began shouting, "I see her, I see the Blessed Virgin." An 18 year old girl with ulcers was instantly cured. A five year old boy who had been paralyzed was told by the blessed Mother, ***"Come to Me, you will be walking now."*** He was placed on the blessed stones and was able to walk. There were three others who were very sick and were immediately cured. But of course, the greatest miracles taking place were those of the spiritual blessings being shed upon the people gathered in the church.

The Blessed Mother said, ***"This is the last time I will appear here. Pray, keep and do penance on these stones, and you will receive the care of My Motherly Heart."*** She then left the little church, but because of the unending Love of Our Heavenly Mother, She has given us "The Hour of Grace" to be spread through the entire world. She had given all the opportunity to demonstrate our love and trust to Her, and to help make reparation for the grievous sins offending her Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

*(When God came to dwell continued from page 2)*

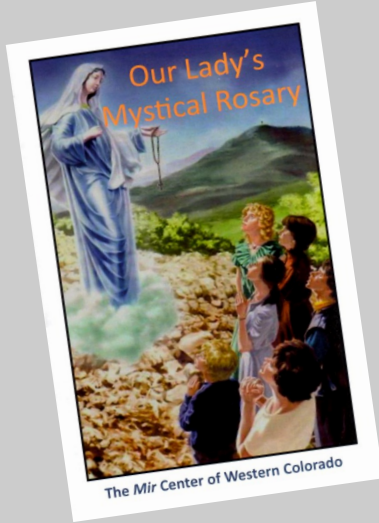
been waiting for. The young girl risked death to bring the author of life into the world. She could have been stoned to death for becoming pregnant before marriage. However, Mary, like her Son, was completely abandoned to doing the will of God no matter the cost. If Mary's response to the angel had been different, if she had politely declined the angels request, would Jesus have seen the light of day at that time and in that place?

All human suffering, all of the disorder of the human condition will be done away with during a Passover thirty-three years later. All of the hatred, envy, malice, misunderstanding, cruelty, stupidity, violence, all illness, and yes, even death itself, all of the consequences of sin that have afflicted humanity from the time of the first sin, all of that will be washed away one Friday afternoon through the blood of the spotless lamb of God, the perfect sacrifice, who was God's only Son. And that Son, was Mary's Son too. Let all the world rejoice!

## A Perfect Gift!

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*(You just need to start continued from page 5)*

at the feet of her Son. Having done so, Sheila was blessed with a peace and a joy unlike anything she could remember ever experiencing in her life. One of her new Medjugorje friends continued to push Sheila to go to Confession, but she resisted. God knew her sins, and she had asked his forgiveness. Why did she have to confess to a man? Finally, she caved, and went to speak with the priest who had befriended her over the last few days. He took one look at her face and said, "Let's go get coffee." They walked to a nearby coffee shop and the world melted away as Sheila shared her story – the judgement and hypocrisy that had caused her to leave the Church, the lack of devotion and scriptural commitment that had kept her away, her longing to be fed in a church service which no Catholic Mass seemed to meet. For three and a half hours they talked, completely unaware of the time. Sheila sobbed as she laid it all out before this man of God and, while he didn't answer her every disagreement and skepticism, she left with the sure knowledge of one thing: it was time to come home to the Catholic Church.

The next day, the group left Medjugorje and traveled to the Island of Krk, for a three-day retreat with Fr. Zlatko Sudac. When Father began speaking that evening, Sheila was stunned. She had seen peace, joy, and a remarkable love of Christ in many people in the town of Medjugorje, but Fr. Sudac... his love for Christ seemed to emanate from every pore. Truly, this priest has the authority of God speaking through him, Sheila thought.

The days of retreat continued to build upon the previous days of pilgrimage. Medjugorje had a huge impact on her, but the effect of Fr. Sudac's retreat was nothing less than profound. Sheila finally went to Confession, and felt "clean." She witnessed a priest, in the midst of a vocational crisis, return from a brief conversation with Fr. Sudac filled with new joy. She felt the overwhelming influence of the Holy Spirit at work among each and every one of the retreat participants, and she experienced the joy of knowing that she was exactly where God wanted her to be.

By the end of the pilgrimage, Sheila fully understood the words of that shopkeeper. "You just need to start," he said. The next morning, she had accepted those words as a sign that she was meant to climb Cross Mountain, against all odds. Miraculously, she had climbed to the fifth station – a feat she never thought she could accomplish – and made it safely back down. But with that first start, she had also opened her heart to many other starts – believing in the love, intercessory power, and Queenship of the Blessed Mother; offering forgiveness to those who had made her feel judged in the past; coming home to the Catholic Church; and recognizing that her desire to be "fed" at church was met, not through the words of a pastor, but through the Bread of Life who offers Himself to us at every Mass in the Eucharistic Feast.

Aren't the messages of Our Lady too good to keep to yourself? Isn't there a friend or relative that you'd like to add to our mailing list? There is no charge for "Our Lady's Monthly Messenger", but donations are accepted. Please Note: if you add more than 2 names, please consider a donation of 20 dollars per name per year. Make checks payable to: *The Mir Center*. And please, no overseas orders... Thanks and God Bless!

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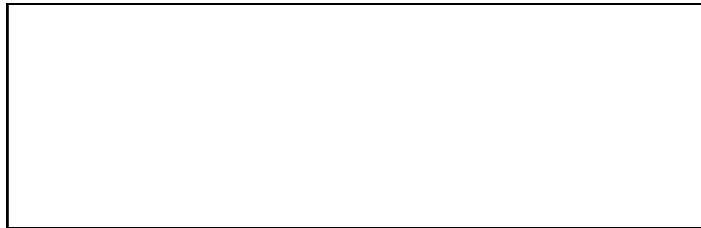
The Mir Center of Western Colorado  
2574 Young Court  
Grand Junction, CO 81505

# December

| S                         | M                              | T  | W  | T                   | F                               | S  |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--|----|---------------------|---------------------------------|----|
|                           | 1                              | 2 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis  | 3  | 4                   | 5                               | 6  |
| 7                         | 8 <b>Immaculate Conception</b> | 9 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis  | 10 | 11                  | 12 <b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b> | 13 |
| 14                        | 15                             | 16 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis | 17 | 18                  | 19                              | 20 |
| 21                        | 22                             | 23 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis | 24 | 25 <b>Christmas</b> | 26                              | 27 |
| 28 <b>The Holy Family</b> | 29                             | 30 Medjugorje Prayer group 7:00pm St Francis | 31 |                     |                                 |    |

## Upcoming events:

- + **The Immaculate Conception, December 8th**
- + **Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12th**
- + **The Nativity of the Lord, December 25th**
- + **The Holy Family, December 28th**



Our Lady's Five-Point Program  
 \*Conversion  
 \*Prayer  
 \*Fasting  
 \*Peace  
 \*Reconciliation

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The Mir Center of Western Colorado  
 2574 Young Court  
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**Return Service Requested**

Our primary goal, our main focus, is to bring Jesus Christ to the world and to bring the world to Jesus Christ. To accomplish this task, the MIR Center of Western Colorado was established to provide accurate information about the messages and events originating from Marian apparitions occurring in Medjugorje and elsewhere. We are committed to living and sharing the messages of Medjugorje and helping others to live the messages as well. By living the messages of Medjugorje, which are in essence the message of the Gospel, we hope to spread peace into our families, into our communities, and into our world. As a nonprofit organization, we intend to use any and all funds raised or donations received to aid in spreading the messages of Our Lady to all who will listen. With regard to the apparitions occurring in the world today we humbly submit to the final authority of the Catholic Church.

MISSION STATEMENT