

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,  
MARY AND JOSEPH

5:00PM Dec'd Mbrs. Ferrara, Eichler,  
Pellegrino & Parenta Families

8:00AM Stephen John Petruzzello

10:00AM Dorothy Lombardo

12:00PM Dorothy Lombardo

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 31**

**ST. SYLVESTER**

8:00AM Erica Duran

5:00PM John Bucco

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2019**

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY  
MOTHER OF GOD**

9:00AM Pablo & Rosa Zofra &  
Zofra Family

11:30AM Antonio Tarabocchia

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2**

**ST. BASIL THE GREAT & ST.  
GREGORY NAZIANZEN**

11:30AM Trinidad Benitez

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 3**

**MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS**

8:00AM Ints. of Skific Family

11:30AM Punssing Kim

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 4**

**ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON**

8:00AM Holy Spirit & Thanksgiving

11:30AM Bruno Matesic

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 5**

**ST. JOHN NEUMANN**

11:30AM Zdenko Matesic

Riccardo Mattessich

5:00PM Katie D'Angelo

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 6**

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

8:00AM Zlatko Simonovics

10:00AM Marie Appuzzo

12:00PM Jose & Maria Henriquez

**ALTAR BREAD**

*In Memory of*

John Mattessich

**ALTAR WINE**

*In Memory of*

Mara Magnozzi

**SANCTUARY LAMP**

*In Memory of*

Michael C. Jordan

**MASS CANDLES**

*In Memory of*

Marc Tarabocchia

**PREPARING FOR MASS**

*The readings for next Sunday are:*

**Is 60:1-6**

The new Jerusalem will shine in glory

**Ps 72**

Every nation on earth will adore you

**Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6**

The Gentiles are co-heirs in Christ

**Mt 2:1-12**

The Magi come to adore Jesus

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE DECEMBER 30, 2018**

*My dear parishioners and friends,*

**On the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

As I was doing my regular "sweep" of the tables in the church vestibules the other day I found a few pamphlets that had been left behind by someone who I believe is a well-meaning person with the best of intentions. One of these caught my eye because it stated in bold letters that the document, "*Amoris Laetitia*" (*The Joy of Love*) is "The Pope's Destructive Call for Undermining 2,000 Years of Church Teaching". While there are some conservative elements in the church who feel that this is the case, I think that it is important for all of us to consider the actual content of the document, along with considering the intention for which the bishops of the world and many committed lay contributors came together over the period of several years to give their input. This is the process which produced the Holy Father's post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation on Love in the family.

Probably, the most controversial topics that were raised in this document include:

1. **A footnote on Communion which** makes a general statement about those in "irregular" situations (305): "Because of forms of conditioning and mitigating factors, it is possible that in an objective situation of sin – which may not be subjectively culpable, or fully such – a person can be living in God's grace, can love and can also grow in the life of grace and charity, while receiving the Church's help to this end." A second footnote (f351) adds: "In certain cases, this can include the help of the sacraments. Hence, 'I want to remind priests that the confessional must not be a torture chamber, but rather an encounter with the Lord's mercy' (Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* [24 November 2013], 44: AAS 105 [2013], 1038). I would also point out that the Eucharist 'is not a prize for the perfect, but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.'"

2. The document addresses the question of how external circumstances may reduce culpability for sin (301). This bears on the question of pastoral discernment in "irregular situations". "It can no longer simply be said that all those in any 'irregular' situation are living in a state of mortal sin and are deprived of sanctifying grace. More is involved here than mere ignorance of the rule. A subject may know full well the rule, yet have great difficulty in understanding 'its inherent values', or be in a concrete situation which does not allow him or her to act differently and decide otherwise without further sin. As the Synod Fathers put it, 'factors may exist which limit the ability to make a decision.'" "The Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly mentions these factors: 'imputability and responsibility for an action can be diminished or even nullified by ignorance, inadvertence, duress, fear, habit, inordinate attachments, and other psychological or social factors.'"

3. The document does not deal in depth with the question of authority, but it does not claim to make authoritative doctrinal statements. It presents itself as a summing-up of the recent Synods, with some "considerations". "For this reason, I thought it appropriate to prepare a post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation to gather the contributions of the two recent Synods on the Family, while adding other considerations as an aid to reflection, dialogue and pastoral practice, and as a help and encouragement to families in their daily commitments and challenges." (4)

4. The exhortation briefly summarizes the conclusions of the synod, which strongly opposed the redefinition of marriage (250) and repeats the Church's teaching on showing consideration to gay people (251): "During the Synod, we discussed the situation of families whose members include persons who experience same-sex attraction, a situation not easy either for parents or for children. We would like before all else to reaffirm that every person, regardless of sexual orientation, ought to be respected in his or her dignity and treated with consideration, while 'every sign of unjust discrimination' is to be carefully avoided, particularly any form of aggression and violence." "Such families should be given respectful pastoral guidance, so that those who manifest a homosexual orientation can receive the assistance they need to understand and fully carry out God's will in their lives."

Contrary to the information presented in this pamphlet, "*Amoris Laetitia*" is not the Holy Father's attempt to undermine Catholic Teaching. It is, rather, an honest attempt to gather together the reflections of many sincere and committed Catholic faithful in order to address how the church might become more pastoral in dealing with the issues confronting families in the present crisis. Taking a "hard line" with regard to these issues has proven only to further alienate those families and individuals who are suffering.

Pope Francis intends that as Jesus' missionary disciples, we need to find ways to accompany our brothers and sisters rather than exclude them, only to sit in judgment of them, without offering them our compassion and the mercy and grace of God.

*Fondly yours in Christ,*

*Fr. Bruce*

**103<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARISH HOMECOMING POT LUCK**

In celebration of our parish feast, the Epiphany of the Lord, we invite you to our 103<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary - Parish Homecoming Pot Luck Luncheon on Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1:30PM following the 12 Noon Mass. Please bring in enough food for your table and one extra dish for the main buffet. Cost is \$5.00 per person to cover dessert and soda. You must RSVP by purchasing tickets at the rectory by January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Also, please let us know what smaller dish you will be bringing to share at this affair.

**BIBLE DIARIES FOR SALE**

We have a limited number of Bible Diaries available for sale at \$12.00 each. Published by Claretian Publications and distributed through "Lets Evangelize", these compact, attractive hard-bound books offer the daily readings for mass each day of the year (2019) as well as a daily reflection and other inspirational words. It's a great resource for our daily prayer because it keeps us in touch with the liturgical life of the church even when we may not be able to attend daily mass. To purchase one of these books, please contact the parish office or drop in during our regular business hours. It makes a great last-minute Christmas gift that keeps on giving for the whole year!

**SAVE THE DATE**

The Neighborhood's Annual Extravaganza at The Elan, Lodi, NJ will be held on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. It will feature the Neighborhood Band and Singers, the Manhattan Skyline and other fine entertainment. Dine, drink, dance and enjoy a great evening. Details will follow in a future bulletin.

**YOUNG ADULT RETREAT**

There will be a Young Adult Retreat from February 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> at the Marianist Family Retreat Center, Cape May Point, NJ. Come join other young adults (ages 22-35) married or single, to take a step back from your busy lives. This will be a time to examine your personal faith and your relationship with God, your family members and yourself. Our time will be filled with prayer experiences, peer group discussions, Eucharist and lots of fun! Cost is \$135 per person, double occupancy. You may register at [capemaymarianists.org](http://capemaymarianists.org) or call 609-884-3829. Any other questions may be directed to Anthony Fucci, Center Director at the above phone number.

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S & MEN'S CONFERENCE**

The Archdiocese of Newark's Office of Evangelization announces the dates for the 2019 Women's Day of Reflection on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> and the Catholic Men's Conference on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Both events will be held at Seton Hall University, which will feature English and Spanish tracks and include breakfast and lunch. Registration fee is \$25.00. It will be held from 8:00AM-4:00PM. There will be an opportunity for Holy Mass, Holy Hour, Adoration Chapel, confession speakers who inspire us to learn, love and live our faith better, fellowship with like-minded Catholics, learn about the ministries of the Archdiocese, and Catholic gifts and books for sale. More information can be found soon at [www.rcan.org/womenscommission](http://www.rcan.org/womenscommission) or [www.NJCatholicMen.org](http://www.NJCatholicMen.org). You may also contact [evangelization@rcan.org](mailto:evangelization@rcan.org) or you may call 973-497-4137 for more information.

**PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR**

*God, thank you for a New Year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another. As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time. Amen*

**PARISH SUPPORT**

*Thank you for sharing the gift of your treasure so that we can continue to do God's work here*

**DUE TO THE EARLY DEADLINE FOR THE BULLETINS DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON, WE WILL PUBLISH THE LAST FEW COLLECTIONS IN THE JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> BULLETIN**

*"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." - 1 John 3:1*

*During this season of giving, let us remember the most important gift we have received - being children of God. As God's children, it's important that we express our love for others as well. Tell you spouse, children and other family members and friends that you love them, frequently.*



**BINGO**

**THURSDAY BINGO GAMES BEGIN AT 12:15PM. WE NOW OFFER BIGGER JACKPOTS, PROGRESSIVE AND 50/50 GAMES. COME OUT AND ENJOY YOURSELF AND WIN SOME MONEY AND HAVE FUN.**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS**

*Monday, December 31*

Vigil Mass.....5:00PM

**NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES**

*Tuesday, January 1*

Masses.....9:00AM & 11:30AM

**PATRONAL FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**

Saturday, January 5, 2019 .....5:00PM

Sunday, January 6.....8:00AM, 10:00AM & 12 Noon

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE AND DAY**

**Please note that the Rectory Office will be closed on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.**

**MASS ON JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**There will be only one Mass on Wednesday, January 2nd, and that will be at 11:30AM.**

**CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN WOMEN**

The monthly mass for the Confraternity of Christian Women will be on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at the 5:00PM Mass. Please make an effort to be present on our parish feast day and wear your Medal.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH**

*Ann Callagher, Peter Bertinato, Anna Tarabokija, Eric Grigsby, Carrie Craven, Felicia Martello, Oscar Benitez, Elva Lopes, Marilyn Brenes, Frank Mendez, Maria Azucena Mercado, John Reynolds, Arianna Cappola, Doris Levy, Cindy Simeone Reynolds, Tammy Ledden, Baby Juliette Payne, Brian Hone, Laura Palmieri, Margarita Lopez-Amaro, Helen Gallina DeLuca, Renee Pascarella, Brother Peter Lyne, Cora Shaffer, Ivan Tarabokia, Paul Barbara, Kathleen Warren Meserole, Matt Allen, Richie Allen, Jazmin Cruz, Jaime Van Dam, Meaghan Kilner, Baby Michael, Joe Villani, Michael Duddy, Peter Foglio, Jr., Paul Kiczek, Kenneth Crawford, Clyde Harger, Cesar Valdecantos, Kay Tak, Michele Spino, Evelyn Rodriguez, Tony Martello, Ruth Behsman, Barbara Snow, Mary Iannaccone, Norma Brown, Doris Portillo, Cabrini Lepis, Elizabeth Magliato Loughlin, Teresita Zafra-Santos, Ann Marie Applegate, Geraldine Fox, Tatiana Flores.*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED OF THE PARISH**

*Ann Marie Hallaert, Clement Petrocelli.*

**"STEWARDSHIP IS NOT WHAT WE DO AS MUCH AS WHO WE ARE. AND, WHO WE ARE, DIRECTS WHAT WE DO!"**

