

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Sunday, December 29, 2019
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



PARISH STAFF

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WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am

DAILY MASSES

Monday-Saturday 8:30 am (except Wednesday)
Wednesday 7:00 pm
First Friday Mass 2:00 pm
@Homestead Nursing Home
Holy Days 8:30 am & 7:00 pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:15 - 4:45 pm

SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM, MARRIAGE & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the office to arrange.

Masses for the Week

Saturday, December 28 – Feast of the Holy Innocents

1 JN 1:5—2:2 / MT 2:13-18

8:30 am **George Romano** *by Dan & Dina Salvatore*5:00 pm **Intentions of Daniel & Veronica Stevans**
by JoAnn Lacovara-Friel

Sunday, December 29 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

SIR 3:2-6, 12-14 / COL 3:12-21 / MT 2:13-15, 19-23

7:30 am **Therese Myzwinski***by JoAnn Lacovara-Friel*9:00 am **For All Families** *by Parish Staff*11:00 am **George Romano** *by Parish Staff*

Monday, December 30

1 JN 2:12-17 / LK 2:36-40

8:30 am **Bob Froetscher** *by Barbara Froetscher*

Tuesday, December 31

1 JN 2:18-21 / JN 1:1-18

8:30 am **Souls in Purgatory** *by Parish Staff*

New Year's Eve

5:00 pm **All Parishioners & their Families**

Wednesday, January 1 – Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

NM 6:22-27 / GAL 4:4-7 / LK 2:16-21

7:00 pm **All Parishioners & their Families**

Thursday, January 2 – Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops

1 JN 2:22-28 / JN 1:19-28

8:30 am **Louis & Philomena Nazzaro**
John Crivelli *by Marie & Ray Nazzaro*

Friday, January 3

1 JN 2:29—3:6 / JN 1:29-34

8:30 am **John Crivelli** *by Marie & Ray Nazzaro*

Saturday, January 4 – Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

1 JN 3:7-10 / JN 1:35-42

8:30 am **God's Protection on Our Parish Families**
*by Parish Staff*5:00 pm **Bruce Visotsky** *by Cassie Liobe*

Sunday, January 5

SIR 3:2-6, 12-14 / COL 3:12-21 / MT 2:13-15, 19-23

7:30 am **Natalie Carmen Friel***by JoAnn Lacovara-Friel*9:00 am **Deceased Members of Muller & Weisser Families**
*by Deacon Ed & Mary Lou Muller*11:00 am _____ *by _____*

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

Ann Bott, Walter & Concetta Brock Jr., Bradley Burchfield, Ted Cassera, Joseph Colon, Olivia Compton, Fr. Angelus Croce, Stephanie Cuomo, Ingrid Diaz, Kara Deserto, Richard Hennings, Barbara Ingallinera, Eva Kieger, Ava Kljajic, Michael Kochanski, Bruce Konar, Joshua Koontz, Alex Krucinski, John Kucinski, Kden LeoGrande, Pete Mahler, Maria Mallozzi, Mary Jo Manno, Deacon Charles Mathias, Susanne Martone, Bob Metroke, Greyson Christopher Mueller, Deacon Ed Muller, Bill Nagy, Mary Ellen Nienstedt, Stephen Osborn, Jason Parker, Harry Pasternak Sr., Lorraine Paxton, Clarence Remke, Peter F. Reynolds, Tammy Rivers, Charles Schult, William Schult, Carol Rock, Colleen Romano, Olga Romeo, Linda Ross, Rose Marie Sciascia, Carole Salvatore, John Samssock, Greg Schmiditty, Marianne Skrocki, Debbie Smith, Stephanie, Andrew Sorce, Richie Sorce, Dale Swoboda, Roberta Treptau, Connie VanHoven, David & Vince Ventresca, Fred Worman, Brooke Zaleski

A GOOD STEWARD

Because of the holiday, last weekend's collection didn't make it into this bulletin. It will posted next week.

Thank you for your generosity!

*This Week the
Sanctuary Lamp Burns for
All Sick Members of Our Parish*



WOMEN AND MEN OF THE ARMED FORCES

We ask God the Father, through the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel, to protect all the men and women in our Armed Forces. May they be brought back safely to those whom they love: Major Brandon Bennett, NJ Army National Guard (Federal); Larisa Furs, US Navy; Lt. Jason Gieniewski, US Army; Pvt. Daniel Michael Mobilio, Army; Captain Richi M. Pazdzierski, US Army; Captain Jane Petrick, Army; Lt. Daniel T. Pevarnik, Jr., National Guard; Pvt. Chance Phillips, Army; Captain Cheryl Ryan, US Army; Seaman Recruit Tyler Joseph Salonia; Ethan Swartz; Michael Valeich, Staff Sergeant; Pvt. Kyle Titus, US Army; Pvt. Zachary Wharton, Robert Williams, Airman



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

*The Mass schedule for New Year's Eve, December 31st is 5:00 PM.

***January 1st is the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God.** This is a **Holy Day of Obligation** with Mass at 9:00 AM.

GRACE OF WEEKDAY MASSES

Attending weekday Mass is a way we can celebrate the feast days and holy days of the liturgical year. For Catholics, every day is a holiday. Not only do we have great feast days such as Christmas, but we have many days honoring the Blessed Mother, and the numerous saints and blessed who are part of our family in the Church.

The Mass is the greatest way we can help others. At the beginning of each Mass, we can offer it for someone or for a specific intention, such as the protection of unborn babies from abortion or world peace. We can also arrange to have Masses celebrated for individuals who are living or deceased, or for our intentions.

It is not always possible to go to Mass every day, but whenever we can, taking the opportunity would benefit us. Sometimes attending weekday Mass involves sacrifice, as you might need to get up earlier to go to Mass before work or drive some distance to find a Mass celebrated at a time that is suited to your schedule. As our attendance at Mass often depends on our work schedule, we may go to Mass at churches other than our parish, an experience that is like a pilgrimage. Going to Mass frequently gives us peace and prepares to be ready when God will call us back home.

SACRAMENTAL NEEDS

Sacrament of Anointing: Please call the parish priest as soon as there is any serious illness. **Ministry to the Sick:** Please call the parish office for a priest visit to the physically handicapped, aged, hospitalized, sick and shut in. **Sacrament of Reconciliation:** The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated individually every Saturday afternoon at 4:15pm or by individual appointment with Fr. Abuchi at any time. **Baptisms:** Parents may contact the parish before or after their child's birth. The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated every Sunday at the 11 am Mass or after. We also accommodate other days. You will be invited to attend a Pre-Baptismal session either before or after the birth of your child. **Sacramental Marriage** ~ The couple should contact the office several months before the desired date for the marriage to insure proper preparation for this Sacrament. Those who are civilly married may also contact the priest to help them convalidate their marriage in the Church.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

"He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man." (Luke 2:52-52)



On this, the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, we honor the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In honoring them, we also honor all families, big or small. And in honoring all families, we honor the family of God, the Church. But most especially, we focus in on the hidden, day-to-day life of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

What was it like to live day in and day out in the household of St. Joseph? What was it like to have Jesus for a son, Mary as a wife and mother and Joseph as a father and husband? Their home would have certainly been a sacred place and a dwelling of true peace and unity. But it would have also been so much more.

The family home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph would have been, in numerous ways, just like any other home. They would have related together, talked, had fun, disagreed, worked, eaten, dealt with problems and encountered everything else that makes up daily family life.

Of course, the virtues of Jesus and Mary were perfect and St. Joseph was a truly "just man." Therefore, the overriding characteristics of their home would have been love.

But with that said, their family would not have been exempt from daily toil, hurt and challenges that face most families. For example, they would have encountered the death of loved ones, St. Joseph most likely passed away prior to Jesus' public ministry. They would have encountered misunderstanding and gossip from others. Our Blessed Mother, for example, was found with child out of wedlock. This would have been a topic of discussion among many acquaintances for sure. They would have had to fulfill all daily chores, earn a living, put food on the table, attend gatherings of family and friends and the like. They would have lived a normal family life in every way.

This is significant because it reveals God's love for family life. The Father allowed His Divine Son to live this life and as a result, elevated family life to a place within the Trinity. The holiness of the Holy Family reveals to us that every family is invited to share in God's divine life and to encounter ordinary daily life with grace and virtue.

Reflect, today, upon your own family life. Some families are strong in virtue, some struggle with basic communication. Some are faithful day in and day out, some are broken and deeply wounded. No matter the case, know that God wants to enter more deeply into your family life just as it is right now. He desires to give strength and virtue to live as the Holy Family. Surrender yourself and your family, this day and invite the Triune God to make your family a holy family.

CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR LOVED ONES LIVING OR DECEASED

Have you ever thought about sending or requesting Mass for a friend, a loved one living or deceased as a Christmas gift? Why not offer such a beautiful gift to them. The reason that this tradition has been passed on for centuries is because of the many spiritual fruits that result from this form of prayer. The celebration of the Eucharist is the highest form of worship in the Catholic Church because we unite ourselves with Christ's sacrifice on the cross in worship of His Father.

1.) It doesn't cost anything...but if you're able to give, an offering is appreciated: There is no price tag on the Mass, however, it is customary to give an offering when requesting a Mass for an intention. That said, money should never be the reason for deciding against this beautiful tradition. Simply make your request known and talk with a priest who will make sure that a Mass is able to be said.

2.) A Mass can be offered for a person who is still living: Though we often think of having a Mass said for those who have passed away, Masses can be offered for those who are still alive. The Council of Trent says that Mass may be said "for the living and the dead, for sins, punishments, satisfactions, and other necessities." In other words, if you know someone who could benefit from the spiritual graces that come with having a Mass said on their behalf, there is no need to delay in doing so.

3.) You can have a Mass said in Thanksgiving or for a celebration: Again, most people remember to have a Mass said for the death of a loved one and a few may think to have a Mass offered for a special intention for a friend who is suffering, but rarely do we think of having a Mass offered for a celebration! Is there a better way to show our gratitude to God? Masses can be said for birthdays, anniversaries, in celebration of the reception of the sacraments, or for prayers that have been answered!

"Could you not watch one hour with Me?"

Jesus waits for us in the Blessed Sacrament. He waits for our little Acts of faith, adoration, love, thanksgiving, repentance, reparation and charity that we can offer Him as we contemplate -- His Divine Majesty -- in the Blessed Sacrament.

St. Alphonsus Liguori wrote: "Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the Sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us". The Eucharist is a priceless treasure: By not only celebrating the Eucharist, but also by praying before It outside of Mass, we are enabled to make contact with the very wellsprings of Grace ..."

Pope John Paul II in one of his homilies said, "It is pleasant to spend time with Him, to lie close to His

breast like the Beloved Disciple (cf. Jn 13:25) and to feel the infinite love present in His heart ... If, in our time Christians must be distinguished by the "art of prayer", how can we not feel a renewed need to spend time in spiritual conversation, in silent adoration, in heartfelt love before Christ present in the Most Holy Sacrament?"

"The Lord is faithful to all His promises and loving toward all He has made." (Ps 145:13)

Day and night Jesus dwells in the Blessed Sacrament because of His Infinite love for us!

Jesus gives us His body (to eat) so that He can nourish us, strengthen us and give us His own life and lest we be blinded by His glory, He humbles Himself to come to us in the humble species of bread... "Behold I will be with you always even to the end of the world," because "I have loved you with an everlasting love, and constant is My affection for you." (Mt 28:20; Jer 31:3)

How must we respond? ...Through our worship and recognition of Him in the Eucharist! He is calling us to faith, that we many come to Him in humility.

"Come to Me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Are you tired because of the burden of your duties, because of frustration due to unsuccessful projects, because many misunderstand you? Are you heavy laden with guilt from past sins? Are you trying to find hope and meaning in life? Do not lose heart! Abandon yourself to Jesus in this "Sacrament of Love": He will refresh you!

The more time you spend with Jesus, the more you will come away feeling renewed and healed.

Miracles of conversion, peace, discovery of vocations, answers to prayers, physical healings, and many other wonderful things happen where and when the Lord Jesus is adored in the Blessed Sacrament. They are the "gifts" that point to the Almighty Giver and testify to His Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

Confession:

"A voice is calling, 'Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.'"(Isaiah 40:3) This verse from the first reading for the Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 10, reminds all faithful that the liturgical season leading up to Christmas is a time for preparation and purification.

Amid the many ways Catholics get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus — festive potlucks, Misa de Gallo, caroling, gift-giving, entertaining family and friends — the sacrament of reconciliation is often overlooked. Yet a good confession can be one of the best ways to enter into the joy of the nativity with a clean heart, light and love.



Is there any family without a trial?

This Sunday we celebrate the Holy family of Nazareth-Jesus, Mary & Joseph. "Even though we call them the Holy Family that does not mean they never had problems to face, as every family does. Let us look at a few examples of their crisis: We can imagine how misunderstood both Mary and Joseph must have been about the conception of Jesus before they came to live together.

Joseph was even planning to divorce Mary privately before he was assured that it was the work of God. Nine months later, the birthplace of Jesus was an animal shelter, since no better lodgings could be found. Then the family had to flee as refugees to Egypt because the child Jesus' life was in danger from king Herod, in much the same way as refugees from war-torn countries have to flee to save their lives." Joseph and Mary must have been distraught after Jesus wandered away and was later found in the temple. Mary must have also been very heartbroken when she watched her son die in public disgrace, on the cross.

Regardless of their problems, they stuck together. Joseph listened and worked hard to protect his family at every threat. Of course, no marriage or family is without trial moments. The first reading emphasized the family structure as well as roles of parents and children in the family. Children are also encouraged to take care of their aging parents. St. Paul speaks further on the second reading advising the husbands and wives to love and care for each other. The family must strive to work together. In his book titled "Family First," Phil McGraw outlines what he calls "Five Factors for a Phenomenal Family: 1. Create a nurturing and accepting family system where each child's uniqueness is encouraged, and where there is a strong sense of security in the home. 2. Promote rhythm in family life by which the family discovers order and balance. 3. Establish meaningful rituals and traditions, such as regular worship and family celebrations. 4. Be genuine in your communication to each other, expressing real feelings honestly. 5. Learn how to manage crisis, so that the family can learn and grow from suffering."

The flight to Egypt and other crisis the Holy family faced must also have carved a place in the hearts of Mary and Joseph, preparing them for the suffering ahead they would all face. As we read in the gospel, you can imagine Jesus as a child was already a fugitive, an enemy of the State. "By the intervention of God, they dodged the sword this time. But this would not be the last time a government official in Jerusalem would threaten to kill Jesus. Three decades later, the Roman governor, Pilate, would pass another death sentence on an innocent Jesus. This time Mary would have to watch helplessly as the sentence was carried out on a cross outside Jerusalem. It was an indescribable moment of pain for her, and a time of indescribable suffering for her Son." Could it be that the times of crisis they had already known, starting with the flight to Egypt in the middle of the night so long ago, had helped prepare them both for this horrible moment? Perhaps so. For families that prepare for crisis and trust in God are more likely to learn from crisis, and to allow their times of suffering to strengthen them for even greater crises ahead. It worked for Holy family, it will work for us too. If more people would just trade some of those television hours into talking and playing together as families, or insist on protecting the family meal as sacred time, or learn to communicate honestly and openly with each other, our family will be strong, weather the storms and be there for each other in trial moments. Life is never a bed of roses. –Fr. Abuchi



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Lord, I do offer myself to You this day and in doing so I offer You my family. I offer every relationship, be it good or difficult, and I offer every challenge we face. Please come and sanctify my family, making it holy in imitation of your family in Nazareth. Jesus, I trust in You."

–Author unknown