

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

#### First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

This passage from Sirach details the duties children owe to father and mother. Their life-long devotion will not be forgotten and “will take lasting root.”



#### Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Paul urges Christians particularly in the setting of the family, to “clothe” themselves with kindness, patience, humility, and mercy; to forgive; and, above all, to love!

#### Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

An angel of the Lord, appearing in a dream to Joseph, urges him to flee with Jesus and Mary to Egypt to escape the murderous schemes of Herod. Later, in another dream, an angel tells Joseph to go with Jesus and Mary to a town called Nazareth in the region of Galilee, thus fulfilling the Scriptures: “He shall be called a Nazarean.”



For the Week of December 29<sup>th</sup> through  
January 5<sup>th</sup>

#### Sunday

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

#### Monday

1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

#### Tuesday

1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

#### Wednesday

Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

#### Thursday

1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

#### First Friday

1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34

#### First Saturday

1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42

#### Sunday

Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12



The US Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) provides a full listing of the Sunday and Daily Readings, in print and audio format, on its website, <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings>.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. Marie Gruber

### Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>

8:00 a.m. Wyatt Clark

10:00 a.m. Joe Duell

### Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. Frederick McCall

### Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

8:30 a.m. For Our Parishioners,  
Living and Deceased

5:00 p.m. (SH) Mary Ann Abeska

### Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

9:00 a.m. (SJ) For Our Parishioners,  
Living and Deceased

### Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. Marge Faucett

### Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>

8:00 a.m. For Our Parishioners,  
Living and Deceased

10:00 a.m. George Glenn

### REMEMBERING THE SICK OF THE PARISH:

Remember in your prayers the sick of the parish:  
*John Troffo, Valerie Lindyberg, Patricia Dana, Angela Wilmer, Faith King, Eugenia Brooks, Alicia Bourne, Tom Blum, and all those whose names appear in the PARISH BOOK OF INTENTIONS.*

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**NEW TO THE PARISH:** Please be sure to register with the Parish Office and introduce yourself to Father Grasing after Mass. Registration forms are available at the doors of the Church, the Parish Office, or online. For additional information, please call 410-778-3160, or go to [sacredparish.org](http://sacredparish.org).



## PREP

### Parish Religious Education Program



## Bringing the Gospel Home

Feast of the Holy Family  
Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

### Reflection for Parents

We may not always be as successful as we would like, but as parents we try to create some stability for our children. It must have been hard for Mary and Joseph to bring their child into the world in such a hurried and rustic environment. Barely had the child been born and visited by the Magi, when the Holy Family made a late-night escape through unfamiliar territory to an even more unfamiliar land they would call home until Herod died. At the news of Herod's death, Joseph moved his young family back to Israel, but to a still different place from where he called home.

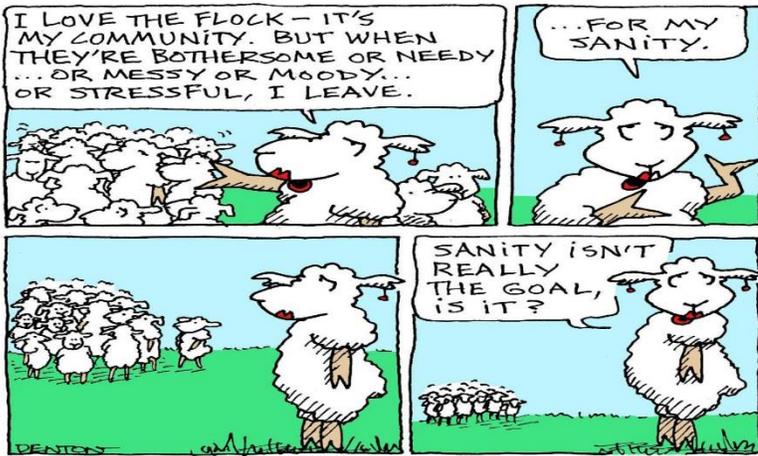
The movement of our lives may not be as dramatic and life-threatening as that of the Holy Family, but it surely helps us to know that the presence of God is the one continuous thread that binds us together no matter where we are.

### Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

Listen to the news or read the newspaper and share stories with your children about people who may not be able to stay safely in one place. Perhaps you know of an organization in your community that reaches out to families who lack stability. Or, perhaps there is a resettlement project in your area. Decide together how you might help these families. As a family, prepare food, provide supplies, or make prayer cards for them. Be sure to keep struggling families in the prayers of your family each day.

### Discussion Starters

1. For a family, one of the hardest things about moving from place to place is . . .
2. Our family is also a Holy Family because . . .
3. If my family was threatened, I know God would . . .

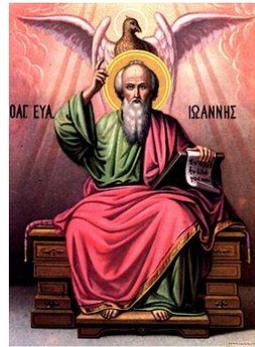


“Put on love. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body.”

### **Sheepish Question:**

When have I been less than understanding with members of my own family or faith community?

## DECEMBER SAINTS



## DECEMBER 27 -JOHN THE APOSTLE

John is sometimes called “the beloved disciple” or “John the Evangelist.” He was the only one of Jesus’ apostles who did not leave him during his crucifixion and death. In the gospel Jesus even

asks John to take care of Mary, the Blessed Mother, after his death.

John’s brother was also an apostle, St. James. Both were called by Jesus early in his public ministry, and like their father, Zebedee, they were fishermen. John witnessed many of Jesus’ miracles. He may have been the youngest of the apostles.

We know that after Jesus’ ascension, John traveled to Asia Minor, telling people about Jesus and founding many new churches. Along with Matthew, Mark, and Luke, John is one of the four Gospel writers. He also wrote three epistles and is believed to have written the Book of Revelation. When you see St. John portrayed in art, you will often see an eagle in the artwork.

A story about John claims that an emperor who persecuted Christians ordered him to be thrown into a pot of boiling oil, but the apostle was left unharmed and without even a mark on his skin when he was pulled out of the pot. The emperor then banished him to an island, where he lived to a very old age and died around the year 100.

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**CHILDREN’S LITURGY OF THE WORD:** It is with disappointment that Sacred Heart Parish discontinues the ministry of Children’s Liturgy of the Word. It is fervently hoped that the numbers of children attending the 10:00 am Sunday Liturgy will increase and allow this ministry to resume at a future date.



# PARISH NEWS

## *A couple of seasonal reminders:*

First, regarding the *weather*—

- Before venturing out, it is always prudent to call the parish office to check our open/closed status; personal safety is the main concern
- One is not put in a state of serious sin by missing Mass on a day when travel to/from church would be hazardous

*Naturally, if there is an occasion that a State of Emergency is declared all parish offices will be closed and all activities cancelled.*

And regarding *flu and other illnesses*—

- *If you are not feeling well you should stay at home.* The obligation to attend Mass does not mean coming to church when you are ill and at risk of infecting others.
- *Whether to drink of the cup of the Lord's Blood is, as always, a personal decision.* We will continue to offer communion under both forms, encouraging you to be prudent in your decision making. You may wish to consider receiving communion in the hand if you do not already do so.

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## **LIFE LINE**

**SCREENING**, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on **February 13, 2020**. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle) or text the word circle to 797979.**



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**Offertory totals for the weekend of December 21/22<sup>nd</sup> will be posted in next weekend's bulletin.**



## **LITURGIES FOR NEW YEAR'S:**

**Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>:**  
5:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart

**Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>:**  
9:00 a.m. at St. John

**ELECTRONIC GIVING:** It is possible to make your weekly financial commitment to the Parish using Electronic Funds Transfer. We are encouraging everyone to consider using this contribution method. Contact Mary Jo Frohlich with any questions at 410-778-3160, or [mfrohlich@sacredparish.org](mailto:mfrohlich@sacredparish.org). Sign up forms are available at the doors of the Church.

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**HOSPITAL VISITS:** We are not able to access patient records from the Chester River Hospital Center. If you or someone in your family is a patient, and you wish to receive Communion, please contact the Parish Office at 410-778-3160, and provide us with the patient's name and room number and we will do our best to accommodate the request.

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**COLLECTING WINTER OUTER WEAR:** The Chestertown food pantry is currently collecting gently used winter outerwear – coats, hats, gloves and scarves (no shoes please). We have collection bins at the doors of both churches. Thank you for your generosity.

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**Church offices will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week in observance of New Year's.**