



**CELEBRATE THE LORD'S DAY MASSES:**

**LITURGY SCHEDULE**  
**December 27, 2020**  
**The Nativity of the Lord**  
**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**Monday, December 28 at St. John's**  
 10:00a.m...Bill & Pat Schantz

**Tuesday, December 29**  
 0:00a.m...No Mass

**Wednesday, December 30, at St. John's**  
 12:00noon...John Bonvillian

**Thursday, December 31, Solemnity of Mary, Vigil**  
**St. Mary's** 5:00p.m...Parishioners of St. Mary's, St. John's and Holy Family  
**St. John's** 7:00p.m...Audrey Cimino

**Friday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary at Holy Family**  
 10:00a.m...Mickey Thomas McPherson

**Saturday, January 2, at St. Mary's**  
 5:00p.m...Catherine & Jim Hartnagel

**Sunday, January 3**  
 9:00a.m...Jerry Trant at St. John's  
 11:00a.m...Parishioners of St. Mary's, St. John's and Holy Family at Holy Family

**SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

*My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen*

**NEW MISSALLETTES FOR NEW CHURCH YEAR**

Our new missalettes are here for St. John's and St. Mary's. You are welcome to take a missalette home with you, but keep it as we are still not able to distribute these at church. There is a box at each church entrance.



With great joy we have made it to the great feasts of Christmas and Holy Family and the subsequent feasts that follow. It seems that it has taken a great deal of effort on our parts to get to these celebrations, but it is nothing compared to God's patience and great delight in waiting to begin His plan for the salvation of the human race. As one of the Church Fathers once wrote, "He devised a plan, a great and wonderful plan, and shared it only with his Son." Imagine working hard on developing a plan and having to wait to put it into action and multiply it times thousands of years; yet that is precisely how God operates and He would do it again to save anyone of us at any moment.

That is why it is a great joy to celebrate as a parish family these wonderful days; to recognize together how much God loves and cares for every single one of us. And even though we might not be able to all be here in person yet to do so, to know that God gathers us all in spirit to experience His ongoing plan for the salvation of all the world and that each of us has a unique role to play in it as well. As we continue to experience God's great love for us, we have all the opportunity to share it with our friends and families in such a unique and individual way just as the Magi did on their journey millennia ago. Please know of the prayers of our staff and volunteers for all of our parish families and their guests this day, night, and weekend, and we look forward to celebrating more in the days and years to come.

In Christ, Fr. Hurley

**PRAYER CHAIN:** To have someone prayed for or be one of those doing the praying, please contact Janice Jackson at 348-1521 or the office at 348-3889 or 674-2605.

**Please pray for all those parishioners and their families dealing with illness.**

**PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS**

**FOR DECEMBER:**

**For a Life of Prayer**

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

- Dec. 28: [The Holy Innocents, martyrs] 1 Jn 1: 5 – 2: 2; Mt 2: 13-18
- Dec. 29: [St. Thomas Becket, bishop & martyr] 1 Jn 2: 3-11; Lk 2: 22-35
- Dec. 30: 1 Jn 2: 12-17; Lk 2: 36-40
- Dec. 31: [St. Sylvester I, pope] 1 Jn 2: 18-21; Jn 1: 1-18
- Jan. 1: [Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God] Nm 6: 22-27; Gal 4: 4-7; Lk 2: 16-21
- Jan. 2: [Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, bishops & doctors of the Church] 1 Jn 2: 22-28; Jn 1: 19-28
- Jan. 3: [Epiphany of the Lord] Is 60: 1-6; Eph 3: 2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2: 1-12

**FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE**

Please remember in your prayers Billy Meyer, parishioner of St. John's, and William Lidy, brother-in-law of Ann Lidy, parishioner of Holy Family, who passed to eternal life. May their families be comforted by your prayers.

Applications for the Holy Family Scholarship are now available and will be taken through the Grant County Community Foundation, 505 W 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Marion (765-662-0065) until the end of January 2021.

**ADORATION NOTES**

As we look ahead to the new year, let's remember that God has always been and always will be faithful. Holy Family will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 10am Solemnity of Mary Holyday Mass until 9pm. Plan to start the year with God.

**CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:**

Find information about our three parishes on the web at [www.stmaryjohn.org](http://www.stmaryjohn.org). Mass times, adoration, and confession schedules are listed. Bulletins, newsletters, calendars are under the "About" tab.

We also now have online giving set up under "Donate". You can pick the parish and for what the donation should be applied.

**Solemnity of Mary**, January 1, is a holyday of obligation with Mass schedules as follows:

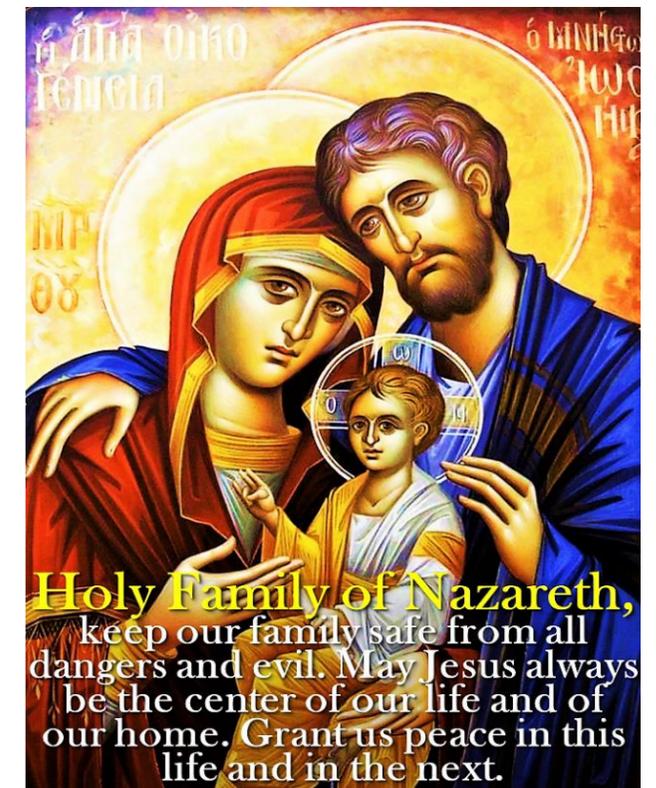
- Vigil, Thursday, Dec. 31, 5pm at St. Mary's  
7pm at St. John's
- Holyday, Friday, Jan. 1, 10am at Holy Family

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

- St. Mary's**  
 Sunday Collection: \$1,497.00  
 Food Pantry: \$146.00  
 Needed Weekly: \$887.87
- St. John's**  
 Sunday Collection: \$2,369.00  
 Building: \$60.00  
 Food Pantry: \$100.00  
 Flower Fund: \$55.00  
 Advent Tree: \$305.00  
 Needed Weekly: \$3,225.23

- Holy Family**  
 Sunday Collection: \$3,347.05  
 Sharing Cupboard: \$237.00  
 Needed Weekly: \$2,238.00

*The shepherds who heard the joyous news from the angels on that first Christmas night and then hurried to find the infant Savior must surely have been changed by that experience. How has His coming changed my life?*





**GOSPEL REFLECTIONS:**

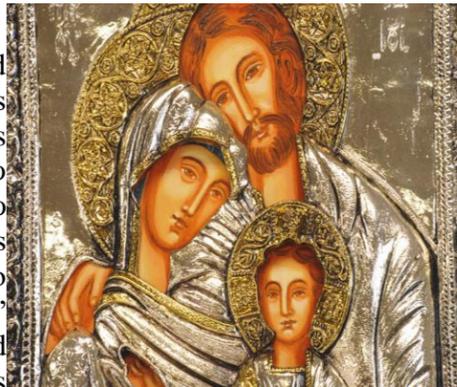
**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**SIR 3:2-6, 12-14; PS 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; COL 3:12-21; LK 2:22-40**

Today, we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Just as the Holy Family is holy, we are also called to be holy. This holiness is achievable by living as disciples of Christ.

St. Paul calls us to put on “heartfelt compassion, kindness,

humility, gentleness, and patience... as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.” Let us “give thanks to God the Father” by being good stewards of His love and mercy to all our family members.



Today's Gospel says a lot about trust and surrender to our Lord. When Simeon and Anna prophesized about what was to come, Jesus' parents were “amazed at what was said about him.” We can imagine that two parents would be taken back by these words! Yet, the Holy Family surrendered their lives to God and had unwavering faith and trust in His plan.

God's plan will fulfill our hearts more than we could have ever imagined. Like the Holy Family, we just need to trust, surrender and be attentive to God's voice.

**PRAY THE ROSARY**

Let us rejoice the birth of our Savior as we celebrate Christmas. During this Christmas Season, let us pray the rosary with thankful hearts as Mary unwrapped that first Christmas present to the world.

The rosary is prayed each Sunday at 4pm with Divine Chaplet and each Wednesday at 4pm with recitation of 15 decades at Holy Family.

**A Prayer for Christmas Gatherings**

In this Christmas season like no other, even now, O God, your name is worthy to be praised.

For in your mercy and kindness you sent your Son to be our Savior.

For the blessings of the Incarnation we have known and for those we have yet to recognize, to you we sing our praise.

For life that reminds us how fragile we are and also how strong we can be: Glory to God in the highest.

For sheltering that is a reminder of your abiding protection: Glory to God in the highest.

For communication that allows us to connect in ways new and old: Glory to God in the highest.

And for mindfulness that shows us how much we rely on one another: Glory to God in the highest.

Watch over your family, Lord, gathered here and at tables separated by miles, and bless those who work tirelessly to keep us all safe.

Though we may be kept apart in this season that calls us together, we know that your Word dwells among us.

Lord, we ask you to ease the pain of empty chairs that bring to mind our beloved dead.

Let our grieving find its rest in your Son, Jesus, in whose Resurrection is our hope.

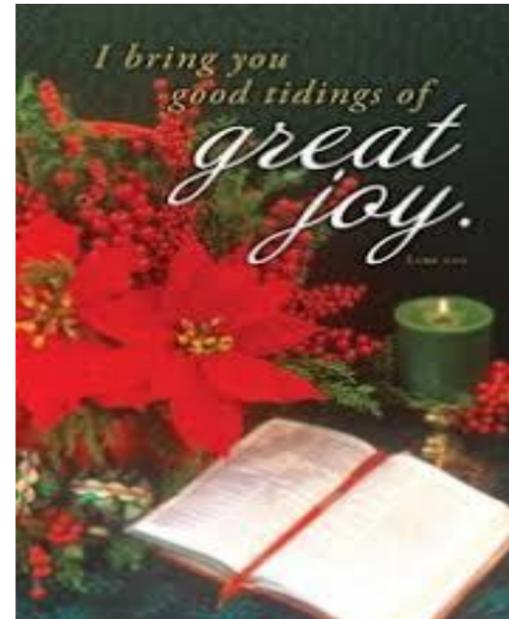
Grant your Spirit to be present here that this meal may become a foretaste of your heavenly table

where every tear shall be wiped away, every hunger fed,

and no distance can separate us from your love in Christ

our Savior, from whom all good things come. Amen.

Adapted from "A Thanksgiving Prayer in Time of Pandemic." Copyright © Diana Macalintal, 2020. Used with permission.



**The Nativity of the Lord  
Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Contact the parish office about preparation. The sacrament is normally celebrated with the community during Mass. May God continue to bless you and your new little one.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Confessions are available by appointment as well as:  
St. Mary, 5-5:30pm each Thursday  
St. John, 3-4:00pm each Saturday  
Holy Family, 12noon-1pm each Sunday; 8:30-8:55am each Friday.

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage. Please contact the parish office to begin the preparation at least six months in advance.

**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK**

Generally, Fr. Hurley is available after Mass for anointing, or you may contact the parish office to arrange a time.

**RELIGIOUS FORMATION**

Sessions for children and youth (grades K-12) are available on Sunday morning. Contact the parish office for details.

**St. Mary, Dunkirk**

**St. John the Evangelist,  
Hartford City**

**Holy Family,  
Gas City**

**A Pastorate of  
The Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana**

**Pastor, Fr. Kevin Hurley**

**PARISH OFFICES**

Office e-mail: [DHolsten@dol-in.org](mailto:DHolsten@dol-in.org)  
Fr. Hurley's email: [fr.khurley@dol-in.org](mailto:fr.khurley@dol-in.org)

**St. Mary, Dunkirk**

P.O. Box 286, Dunkirk, IN 47336  
Parish Office: 765-348-3889  
Church Basement: 765-768-1283

**St. John the Evangelist, Hartford City**

213 S. Spring St., Hartford City, IN 47348  
Parish Office: 765-348-3889  
Fax: 765-348-4399

**Holy Family, Gas City**

325 E North A St, Gas City, IN 46933  
Parish Office: 765-674-2605

**PARISH REGISTRATION**

Visitors are always welcome. Residents are invited to join the community by calling the parish office.

**RCIA**

People interested in knowing about the Catholic faith and way of life meet each week. Contact the parish office for information