

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Feast of the Holy Family

December 29, 2019

Dear Parishioners:

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We recall the birth of Jesus into a traditional family setting of a mother and "earthly" father whose love and care deeply influenced and shaped Him physically, emotionally and spiritually. Jesus' divine mission will be discerned in and through daily life of a family. For many of us it is not easy relating to this feast since we cannot personally identify with the Holy Family's life and their family experiences: (1) The Holy Spirit is responsible for the conception of the child Jesus, (2) the child Jesus is divine, and (3) the child's parents get their instructions via angels and heavenly visions. Our everyday families do not operate this way! We also tend to think that our daily life experiences and situations are not the same as those of the Holy Family. However, if we take a closer look, we will become well aware that our family life and our family experiences and situations **do** closely parallel the life and the situations and experiences of the Holy Family.



Today's feast also provides us an opportunity to reflect upon the necessity of marriage and family life as it positively influences our communities. It is within the family structure that we all discover what it means to be human. The family is where we will experience love and forgiveness for the first time. Living in a good healthy family structure we will learn how to form lasting relationships. We will experience the values of sacrifice, unity, acceptance, generosity, respect, loyalty and kindness. We will also learn how to become a responsible person in society.

Each of our scripture readings for today's feast speaks to us of the importance of family life. The author of the Book of Sirach provides a beautiful reflection on the divine origin of family. The author explains to us what we must do to keep **peace** and **unity** in our individual families. If we want family **peace** and **unity** then we must keep God within the center of our family. The author also reminds children that they must always **honor** and **respect** their parents. St. Paul in his Letter to the Colossians explains what we must do in order to keep **peace** and **unity** in our Christian community. Paul urges all to treat each other as beloved; sharing the love, kindness, compassion forgiveness and the peace that Jesus offers. In our Gospel passage from St. Matthew we hear how Mary and Joseph deeply shaped Jesus' human nature by protecting Him from King Herod and King Archelaus and finally bringing Jesus to settle in Nazareth... *(continued)*

Weekend Masses

Sat Dec 28	4:00 p.m.	In thanksgiving, George Donaldson
Sun Dec 29	10:00 a.m.	Dick & Tootie Schlumbohm
Sat Jan 4	4:00 p.m.	Theda Hankish, George Donaldson
Sun Dec 29	10:00 a.m.	Sue Schlumbohm

Communion Service

Fri Jan 3 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,076.00	Loose \$1284.00
Children	\$19.00	Total \$3,661.00

77 envelopes returned = 37%



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Assignments for January 4 & 5, 2019

Money Counters: Angie Wenger and Nick Recker

4:00 p.m. – *please sign the sheet in the main entrance*

Greeters: Basil Meyer

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink

Ushers: _____

Lector: _____

E.M.: Jennifer Tschour

Servers: Adelyn Althaus

10:00 a.m.

Greeters: _____

Cantor: Karen Phillips

Ushers: _____

Lectors: Caitlyn Couch

E.M.: Logan Welch, Lisa Welch, Cathy Hermiller, Linda Kinn, Rachel Welch

Servers: Carson Meyer, Ty Meyer

Readings for January 5, 2019

Epiphany of the Lord

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1 – 6

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2 – 3, 5 – 6

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1 – 12

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