

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Feast of the Holy Family

December 27, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. We recall the fact that Jesus' first experience of humanity did not happen in solitude or isolation, but rather, it happened within the embrace of a family. Jesus was born and grew up in a traditional family setting where He experienced the love of His mother Mary and His foster father Joseph. Jesus was profoundly formed and influenced physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually by his earthly parents. The Church honors the Holy Family to emphasize the function of the family in our own human development and growth and to stress the role of the Holy Family in our relationship with God. The Church reminds us that the Holy Family serves as an enduring icon of that external exchange of love which exists in the Blessed Trinity.



Today's feast day gives us an opportunity to ponder upon marriage and family life within our present day culture and examine and reflect upon our own marriage and family life. Like Jesus, we are part of a family and we are formed and influenced by our parents and siblings. Our family is the most important community to which we will ever belong. However, we do know and understand that being family is a journey of challenges and changes. But, we are aware that the love and support of our spouses, parents, and siblings enables us to confront those difficult challenges and negotiate and survive those changes.

I am sure many of us imagine that the Holy Family lived a charmed life without challenges, problems, or stress. The truth is that the Holy Family did face challenges, difficulties, and heart aches. Problems arose within the Holy Family even before Jesus' birth as Joseph was planning to break off his engagement to Mary. Recall where Jesus was born: in a smelly, dirty, damp, cold stable. Also, let us remember that the Holy Family became refugees as they had to flee from King Herod's wrath and they ended up living in the foreign land of Egypt.

In today's Gospel passage we are told that Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the Temple, consecrating Him to God. While in the Temple they meet Simeon: "a devout and righteous man who was awaiting the consolation of Israel and the Holy Spirit was upon him." Simeon took Jesus into his arms, prayed over and blessed Him, and declared that Jesus would be a light to all people.

Continued...

Weekend Masses

Sat Dec 26	4:00 p.m	George Donaldson
Sun Dec 27	8:00 a.m.	For our parish
Sun Dec 27	10:00 a.m	Special Intention
Sat Jan 2	4:00 p.m	In Thanksgiving
Sun Jan 3	8:00 a.m.	For our parish
Sun Jan 3	10:00 a.m	Robert Blake

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,396.00	Loose \$66.00
	Total	\$3,462.00
44 envelopes returned = 21%		



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

Assignments for December 26 & 27, 2020

**Money Counters: Barb Galvan, Janet Begg
4:00 p.m.**

Cantor: Courtney McLaughlin
Ushers: Jeanne and Jerry Wehri
Lector: Jenny Roby
E.M.: Edna Conkling
Servers: Adelyn Althaus

8:00 a.m.

Cantors: Courtney McLaughlin
Ushers: *Volunteer*
Lector: *Volunteer*
E.M: *Volunteer*
Server: *Volunteer*

10:00 a.m.

Cantor: Courtney McLaughlin
Ushers: Roger Brodman
Lectors: Lisa Welch
E.M.: Michelle Risner
Servers: Izzy and Ally Stechschulte

Readings for January 3, 2020

The 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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...After the blessing Simeon then made a bold and chilling prophecy in which he tells Mary and Joseph that their beloved child: "is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted." Simeon then warns Mary that she will suffer as part of her mission of being Jesus' mother and that her heart would someday be broken because of Him.

The Holy Family embodies values that transcend cultural shifts and the passage of time. Acknowledging that our concept of the traditional family has changed dramatically over the years, we can still see that the Holy Family models for us the numerous values that are crucial for the benefit and growth of our own families and our society. The Holy Family shows us more than anything the power of living life grounded in the theological values of faith, hope and love. Through their faith the Holy Family knew that God would always keep His promises. With their hope they knew that God would always provide and take care of them. And in their love and respect for God and each other the Holy Family knew that they were never alone and that they would be able to overcome any challenges or obstacles that came their way.

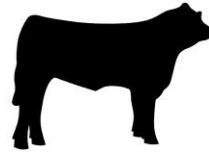
This Holy Family Sunday provides us with an opportunity not only to reflect upon family life in general but also it provides us with a great opportunity to make a decision on how we can strengthen our **own** family's life in the coming 2021 year. If we embrace and live the virtues of faith, hope and love within **our families** just as Jesus, Mary and Joseph did, and then our families will become **holy**. Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,
Fr. John

New Parish Office Hours: Starting on January 4th the office hours will be:
Tuesday – Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
The office will be closed on Mondays



Friday, January 1, 2021 is the Feast of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. This year the feast is not considered a Holy Day of Obligation because of the Coronavirus pandemic. However, I will celebrate Mass on Thursday, December 31, at 4 PM and on Friday, January 1, at 10 AM as we honor our Blessed Mother and ask for her protection during the New Year. Thanks, Fr. John



The St. Mary's Catholic Youth is selling tickets to raffle off 1/4 beef to raise funds for summer camp next summer. Beef is donated by 6-K. Tickets are \$20.00. It's an approximate \$600 value.

- 2nd prize - Oil change from Leiber's Garage,
- 3rd prize - Luke's Gift Card
- 4th prize - Strattons/Roots Gift Card
- 5th prize - Twisted Whisk Gift Card

The winner will be drawn January 10th. Beef will be available around January 21st and will need to be picked up by the winner from Rodabaugh Meats in Pandora. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket, please see the students in the entrances after Mass! Thank you for your support.



Thank you to Logan and Lisa Welch, Tom and John Schulte, Dennis and Shar Dunlap, Eric Santomieri, Deb Hohenbrink, Keith, Landon, and Aubrey Sunderhaus,

Michelle Risner, Karen Phillips, Jessica, Grace, and Maria Rahrig, and Beth Yarger for decorating the church for Christmas. We were done before 7 thanks to all their hard work! The church is beautiful as always!

P.R.E.P

K-5: Class will meet Jan. 6 for K, 1, 2, and 5 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Jr High: Don't forget about your take home work in place of the January 3rd class. Happy New Year!



God Squad--High School Youth Group



God Squad High School Youth will meet January 3rd! Happy New Year!