

Feast of the Holy Family

December 29, 2019

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 28th

8:30 am - St. John – 2nd Lt. Joseph Fortin by the family
9-9:30 am *Confessions at St. John*
3:00 pm *Confessions at St. John*
3:30 pm *Confessions at St. Elizabeth*
4:00 pm - St. John – In thanksgiving for prayers answered by a parishioner
4:30 pm - St. Elizabeth – Mass for the parishioners

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

7:30 am - *Confessions at St. John*
8:00 am - *Confessions at Queen of Peace*
8:00 am - St. John – Charlotte Farrow by M/M Bill Young
8:30 am - Queen of Peace – Marie and Rebecca Lang by the family
10:30 am - St. Elizabeth – John Wall, Jr. by his estate
11:00 am - St. John – Barbara Caldbeck Lyon by the family
2:00 pm - St. John – Holy Family Devotion, Holy Hour

Monday, December 30th

8:30am - St. Elizabeth – James & Gloria Carlton by the family
2:15pm - The Pines – Mass
5:15pm - St. John – Mass for all Souls

Tuesday, December 31st (Morning)

8:30am - St. John – Special Intention by a parishioner

Tuesday December 31st, Evening: Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary,

4:00pm - St. John - NO Mass
4:30pm - St. Elizabeth (Vigil Mass for Holy Day) – John Wall, Jr by his estate

Solemnity of Mary, Wednesday, January 1st (Holy day of Obligation)

8:00am - St. John – intentions of Gerda Blaszyk by a friend
8:30am - Queen of Peace – Janice Maynard by the family
10:30am - St. Elizabeth – Mass for the People
11:00am - St. John – Dick Gracie by Susan Dugan

Thursday, January 2nd - St. Basil & St. Gregory

8:30am - St John – Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus & the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Amy Marcinko
5:15 pm - St John – NO MASS

Friday, January 3rd – The Holy Name of Jesus

8:30am - St Elizabeth – Dec'd members of the Schoppe/Fisher families by M/M Scott Schoppe
4:30 pm - Confessions at St. John's
5:15 pm - St. John – Raymond Dumotte by the Secular Franciscans

Saturday, January 4th St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:30 am - St. John – safety & spiritual welfare by M/M Scott Schoppe
9-9:30 am *Confessions at St. John*
3:00 pm *Confessions at St. John*
3:30 pm *Confessions at St. Elizabeth*
4:00 pm - St. John – Raymond Belanger by his children
4:30 pm - St. Elizabeth – Mass for all Souls

Sunday, January 5th Epiphany of the Lord

7:30 am - *Confessions at St. John*
8:00 am - *Confessions at Queen of Peace*
8:00 am - St. John – Special Intention by a parishioner
8:30 am - Queen of Peace – Intentions of Mary Rooker by the family
10:30 am - St. Elizabeth – Mass for the people
11:00 am - St. John – Deacon Bernier Mayo by a grateful member of his Inquiry Class

Please keep our parishioners who are ill & in need of your prayers, especially: Randy Mackay, Martin Fortin, George Thurston, Charlie Weis, Randy Thomas, Jerry Prevost & Camilla Dente

PARISH EVENTS

Sat. Dec. 28th 6:00pm **NO** K of C Bingo
Sun. Dec. 29th **NO** Religious Education/All 3 Churches
NO Confirmation or Adult Education
Sat. Jan. 4th 6:00pm K of C Bingo

Please consider using the Online Giving tool for your weekly offertory donations. Visit our website at: nekatholic.com and click "Give Online" to sign up! Leave your checkbook at home, and save the parish the expense of envelopes!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year: 7/1/19-6/30/20 Budget: \$282,000 (\$6,000 needed per week)
Reg. Collection Year-to-date: \$130,002.38 **On-Line: YTD:** \$21,944

Collections and Receipts: December 8, 2019

Regular Offertory: \$4310

2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal

The 2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal is 84% to goal. We have been blessed with a challenge gift that will match all donations made now until the end of December up to \$18,000 to help us reach our goal.

The **FORMED** program is available to everyone in our parish. To start enjoying this free gift, please visit the FORMED website:

1. Go to: nekatholic.formed.org
2. Click on REGISTER to create a personal account

Bulletin Sponsors

Each week we want to highlight a business that supports our bulletin.

Thank you to: **St. Johnsbury House of Pizza, 748-5144**

Please support those who support us!

Save the Date:

On Sunday January 19th, at 5pm, Fr. Brian O'Donnell will be offering a traditional Latin Mass (a/k/a Extraordinary Form or Tridentine Mass) at St. Elizabeth Church in Lyndonville.

New Hymnals & Missals: We're offering parishioners the opportunity to donate individual books in memory of loved ones, whose name would be pasted on the inside cover of the book. For more info, please see the display at the back of the church.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS FOR NEW YEARS:

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED:
MONDAY, DECEMBER 30th (Staff Christmas Party)
NEW YEAR'S EVE AT 3:00PM
NEW YEAR'S DAY

Good Shepherd Catholic School

As we enter this season of giving, we are reminded that the gift of education and faith are perhaps the greatest gifts we can give. Good Shepherd Catholic School prepares students for a life of learning, service, compassion, personal excellence, and faith in God. We are proud to offer a great student to teacher ratio, excellent educators and many extra-curricular activities to our students. If you know of any children, Catholic or non-Catholic, who are entering school age or looking to change schools, visit goodshepherdschoolvt.org to schedule a visit.

Associates for Training & Development

Are you unemployed, 55+ and looking for work? If you want to train for available jobs, update job & computer skills, and connect with local employers, we can help. Call 748-8635 for more information.

Thank You!

"Thank you" to all those who helped with the Christmas celebrations; the musicians, lay ministers, servers, & those who gave so selflessly of their time to decorate the churches: you helped us all to see the light of Christ shining in the mystery of Christmas. Thank you for all you do!

From our hearts, we want to thank all those who sent us cards and gifts to wish us well in the Christmas season. As Priests, we really do see our parishioners as family, and we appreciate when you remember us in the same way. Each day we pray for you, especially during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass; hopefully you feel our daily prayers for you! In a special way we have prayed for you during this Christmas Season. May God bless you all, and all those whom you love.
~Fr. Hahr & Fr. Robert

Please join us for a Holy Hour in honor of the Holy Family at St. John's church. Come and pray for your family! – Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

The Life Of The Child Jesus In Egypt And In Nazareth.

Our Blessed Redeemer spent the first part of His childhood in Egypt, leading there for several years a life of poverty and humiliation. In that land Joseph and Mary were foreigners and strangers, having there neither relatives nor friends. Only with difficulty could they earn their daily bread by the labor of their hands. Their home was poor, their bed was poor, their food was poor. Here Mary weaned Jesus; dipping a piece of bread in water, she would put it in the sacred mouth of her Son. Here she made His first little garments and clothed Him with them. Here the Child Jesus took His first steps, stumbling and falling as other children first do. Here too He spoke His first words, but stammeringly. O wonder of wonders! To what has not God lowered Himself for love of us! A God stumbling and falling as He walks! A God stammering in His speech!

Not unlike this was the poor and humble life that Jesus led in Nazareth after His return from Egypt. There, until He was thirty years old, He lived as a simple servant or workman in a carpenter shop, taking orders from Joseph and Mary. "And He was subject to them." Jesus went to fetch the water; He opened and closed the shop; He swept the house, gathered the fragments of wood for the fire, and toiled all day long, helping Joseph in his work. Yet who is this? God Himself, serving as an apprentice! The omnipotent God, who with less than a flick of His finger created the whole universe, here sweating at the task of planing a piece of work! Should not the mere thought of this move us to love Him?

O Jesus, my Savior! When I consider how, for love of me, Thou didst spend thirty years of Thy life hidden and unknown in a poor workshop, how can I desire the pleasures and honors and riches of the world? Gladly do I renounce all these things, since I wish to be Thy companion on this earth, poor as Thou wast, mortified and humble as Thou wast, so that I may hope to be able one day to enjoy Thy companionship in heaven. What are all the treasures and kingdoms of this world? Thou, O Jesus, art my only treasure, my only Good! I keenly regret the many times in the past when I spurned Thy friendship in order to satisfy my foolish whims. I am sorry for them with all my heart. For the future I would rather lose my life a thousand times than lose Thy grace by sin. I wish never to offend Thee again, but always to love Thee. Help me to remain faithful to Thee until death.

O Mary, thou art the refuge of sinners, thou art my hope. Amen.

Sunday December 29th: Feast of the Holy Family

NAZARETH is a kind of school where we may begin to discover what Christ's life was like and even to understand his Gospel. Here we can observe and ponder the simple appeal of the way God's Son came to be known, profound yet full of hidden meaning. And gradually, we may even learn to imitate him.

Here we can learn to realize who Christ really is. And here we can sense and take account of the conditions and circumstances that surrounded and affected his life on earth: the places, the tenor of the times, the culture, the language, religious customs, in brief everything which Jesus used to make himself known to the world. Here everything speaks to us, everything has meaning. Here we can learn the importance of spiritual discipline for all those who wish to follow Christ and live by the teachings of his Gospel.

How I would like to return to my childhood and attend the simple yet profound school that is Nazareth! How wonderful to be close to Mary, learning again the lesson of the true meaning of life, learning again God's truths. But here we are only on pilgrimage. Time presses and I must set aside my desire to stay and carry on my education in the Gospel, for that education is never finished. But I cannot leave without recalling, briefly and in passing, some thoughts I take with me from Nazareth.

1. *First, we learn from its silence. If only we could once again appreciate its great value. We need this wonderful state of mind, since we are beset by the cacophony of strident protests and conflicting claims so characteristic of these turbulent times. The silence of Nazareth should teach us how to meditate in peace and quiet, to reflect on the deeply spiritual, and to be open to the voice of God's inner wisdom and the advice of his true teachers. Nazareth can teach us the value of study and preparation, of meditation, of a well-ordered personal spiritual life, and of silent prayer that is known only to God.*
2. *Second, we learn about family life. May Nazareth serve as a model of what the family should be. May it show us the family's holy and enduring character exemplifying its basic function in society: a community of love and sharing, beautiful for the problems it poses and the rewards it brings; in sum, the perfect setting for rearing children—and for this there is no substitute.*
3. *Finally, in Nazareth, the home of a craftsman's son, we learn about work and the discipline it entails. I would especially like to recognize its value—demanding yet redeeming—and to give it proper respect. I would remind everyone that work has its own dignity. On the other hand, it is not an end in itself. Its value and free character, however, derive not only from its place in the economic system, as they say, but rather from the purpose it serves.*

In closing, may I express my deep regard for people everywhere who work for a living. To them I would point out their great model, Christ their brother, our Lord and God, who is their prophet in every cause that promotes their well-being.

~ Pope Saint Paul VI