

Feast of the Holy Family December 26, 2020

The Gloria:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading **Genesis 15: 1-6**

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." Abram said, "Lord God, what will you give me, since I continue childless, and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" Abram said, "Behold, to me you have given no offspring, and behold, one of my household is my heir." Behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This man will not be your heir, but he who will come from your body will be your heir." The Lord brought him outside, and said, "Look now toward the sky, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." He said to Abram, "So shall your descendants be." He believed the Lord; and he reckoned it to him for righteousness.

The Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had promised. Abraham named his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore to him, Isaac. The Word of the Lord. . . . Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm **Psalm 128**

R. Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways.

Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways. For you will eat the labor of your hands. You will be happy, and it will be well with you. R.

Your wife will be as a fruitful vine, in the innermost parts of your house; your children like olive plants, around your table. R.

Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion, and may you see the good of Jerusalem all the days of your life. R.

Second Reading: **Hebrews 11: 11-19**

Brothers and Sisters: By faith, Abraham, when he was called, obeyed, going to the place which he was to receive as an inheritance. He went out, not knowing where he went.

By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, and she bore a child when she was past the age, since she counted him faithful who had promised. Therefore as many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as innumerable as the sand which is by the sea shore, were fathered by one man, and him as good as dead.

By faith, Abraham, being tested, offered up Isaac. Yes, he who had received the promises was offering up his only son. He to whom it was said, "In Isaac will your offspring be named", concluded that God is able to raise up even from the dead. Figuratively speaking, he did receive him back from the dead.

The Word of the Lord. . . Thanks be to God!

Gospel: **Luke 2: 1-14**

When the days were fulfilled of their purification according to the law of Moses Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord as it is written in the law of the Lord: "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord", and to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord: "A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

Behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. He came in the Spirit into the temple.

When the parents brought in the child, Jesus, to do concerning him according to the custom of the law, he took him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, "Now you may release your servant, Master, according to your word, in peace; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all peoples; a light for revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel."



Joseph and his mother were marveling at the things which were spoken concerning him, and Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary, his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be contradicted. (Indeed, a sword will pierce through your own soul) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

There was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with a husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow for about eighty-four years. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and petitions night and day.

Coming up at the same hour, she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of him to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem. When they had accomplished all things that were according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. The child grew, and became strong in spirit, being filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord. . . Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer for Family



God of Mercy and Love we place our Families before you today. May we be proud of our history and never forget those who paid the price for our liberation. Bless us one by one and keep our hearts and minds fixed on higher ground. Help us to live for you and not for ourselves, and may we cherish and proclaim the gift of life. During this pandemic and always, bless our parents, guardians and grandparents, relatives and friends. Give us the amazing grace to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Help us, as your children, to live in such a way that the beauty and greatness of authentic love is reflected in all that we say and do. Give healing anointing to those less fortunate, especially the motherless, the fatherless, the broken, the sick and the lonely. Bless our departed family members and friends. May they be lead into the light of your dwelling place where we will never grow old, where we will share the fullness of redemption and shout the victory for all eternity. This we ask in the Precious Name of Jesus, our savior and Blessed Assurance. . . . AMEN!!!!

(Prayer composed by Fr. Jim Goode, OFM, who founded the National Day of Prayer for the African American Family)


*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

Mary Adderly, Karen Brown-Berkley, Renee Bruce, Kathy Burundi, Fred Buchanan, Al Butler, Anita Cole, Patricia Cullings-Dix, Davonta Drummond, William Ford III, Phyllis Ford, Sarah Gamble, Fr. Bill Graham, OFM Cap., Cornell (Nelson) Johnson, Joseph Jones, Alice Manns, Kimberly Merrill, Allan Noble, Rhonda Rumbra, Carl & Bernice Shrieves, Daniel Smith Sr., Augustine and Archie Stith, Rosalita Stone, Alease Stokes, Gloria Tate, Jean Thomas and Alice Zabrowski.

4pm Mass intentions

Dec. 26th, Mrs. Helen Graham, deceased sister to our Yvonne Wilder and aunt to Damia Stavis, who passed on Oct. 4th.,
Dec. 31st, Mrs. Rita LaPanche
Jan. 2, 2021, Mr. Eugene Kernan Buettner
Jan. 9, 2021, Mr. Joseph C. Buettner, Jr.
Jan. 16, 2021, Mrs. Pauline Fendlay
Jan. 23rd, MRs. Betty Butler, on the 2nd anniversary of her passing.

Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord and let your perpetual light shine upon them, may their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace, Amen

Resurrection Garden of Hope

Fr. Paul is designing and planning a garden in the area to the left of the front door of the rectory. To grace the garden a statue of Jesus resurrected has been purchased in memory of Ms. Bencine Blake. The landscaping is complete in anticipation of Spring and Easter: when the new garden will be formally blessed. By that time, all of us will need some new Hope and blessings for Easter. If you would like to help by sponsoring the garden, please look on our website for the flyer or call Barbara for more information. The statue is on display in the back of church.

Parish Phone Pal

In the winter months ahead, many are feeling lonely and depressed. Human contact is the best medicine. If you would like to have a Phone Pal, someone you don't know but would like to call and speak to in the months ahead, please call Barbara to get you connected with someone in the parish. Simple call and make a friend.

Special Thanks

Fr. Paul and Fr. Bill would like to thank everyone for all the card and gifts over this Holiday Season. God Bless you and Thank you!

Feast of the Epiphany

Next Saturday, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. The arrival of the Three Wise Men who came to see the Child Jesus was a manifestation of His glory to the whole world. Next week, the three kings will arrive at Mass to bring the Gospel alive.



Thursday,
December 31st,
2020



Watch Night Service

New Year's Eve Mass
and Watch Night Service, 5pm