

December 29, 2019

**The Sunday Within The Octave Of The
Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

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

Feast



The Family, a Crucible of Grace

The major themes of today's readings highlight the unity and love evident of family life. They identify the kind of living that will result in family harmony. The Holy Family, like all other families experienced its own difficulties and anxieties. The Holy Family however, placed itself in the hand of Divine Providence. They lived in a state of thanksgiving, in peace and love with one another. God chose to communicate the gift of salvation through the bonds of family.

Let us celebrate the gift of family life.

MASS INTENTIONS



Tuesday, December 31

4:30 p.m. The Benefactors of the Parish

Moulton: Wednesday, January 1

10:00 a.m. The Benefactors of the Parish

Saturday, January 4

4:30 p.m. Mary & Jerome Kocian

Sunday, January 5

8:00 a.m. Vlasta Pekar

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



Next weekend is *The Epiphany of the Lord*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Responsorial Psalm: 72

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

**The Sanctuary Light
will be lit this week
for Julia & Anton Stryk.**



2019 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2019 Assessment \$7,813.00
Contributions So Far \$ 5,900.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed \$ 1,913.00

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

Pat Masek

Anonymous Donor

Nancy & Thomas Petru

We thank all those who contributed towards our D.S.A. assessment so far. With your generous support we should be able to pay off our remaining debt to the bishop. We are counting on all who have not yet contributed to the fund to do their part.

ST. MARY'S MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Edith Pavlicek

Shirin & George Jalufka

Kathryn & Billy Joe Stepan

Mark, Valerie, Nathaniel & Nicholas Therrien

PRAHA PANCAKE SUNDAY – NEXT SUNDAY



ALWAYS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Come out and join us next Sunday, January 5 for the first Praha Pancake Sunday for the year. It brings our community together for fellowship. A free will donation is appreciated.

Volunteers welcome: The time commitment is from 7:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. All of the supplies are provided we just need your helping hands and smiling face!

The dates for the 2020 Pancakes are:

January 5	February 2	March 1
April 5	May 3	June 7
July 5	August 2	September 6
October 4	November 1	

Please contact Lori Janecka and let her know when we can count on your help.

THANK YOU!



We thank the following for baking the Christmas Cookies that were delivered to the homebound on December 19:

Gail Stryk, Georgia Cerny, Kathleen Svatek, Josie Kubenka, Robin Cerny, Helen Schaefer, Lori Janecka, Elizabeth Janak, Barbara Jasek and Pat Masek.

REFLECTION

Family Living

The first reading from the book of Sirach sketches for us a picture of customs of a society, the head of the family. Although this is different from values that are speak to our We clearly values of respect, and service between wives and husbands, between parents and children, and between the young and the old. The focus is the respect and obedience that children owe their parents. As Sirach demonstrates, the Son who was once dependent on the father now becomes his caretaker. These values challenge us today. The gospel depicts Joseph as the one who is open and obedient to the directives of God. For the sake of the safety of the child, he willingly leaves behind his familiar life and with Mary journeys to a foreign land. He is the model of a parent who puts the needs of the child before his own. Our children are not our possessions; we hold them in trust for God, the giver. In Joseph, we see one who took this trust very seriously. This gospel story is a marvelous example of family values in operation.



ancient family patriarchal father is the family. society may be ours, we find enduring and society today. discover the mutuality,

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Today, in the company of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we celebrate our identity as family. In addition to our own nuclear family, our Judeo-Christian faith reminds us that we also belong to a global family that excludes no one. But this is a goal we must work for.

At this moment, untold numbers of our worldwide family are struggling to survive circumstances that threaten their very existence. War and its consequences destroy thousands in the human family each day. Famine and disease claim even more lives, leaving countless children orphaned and alone.

This hard reality is well-known, and many among us acknowledge our suffering brothers and sisters with generous help, prayers and service. But there are other family members whose voices are not heard and whose claim on us is not acknowledged. Millions of people from developing countries are seeking to survive through emigration, driven by hunger and weighed down by poverty, joblessness and political oppression, these refugees risk their life for their own families. Many do not survive the journey; others are turned away at unfriendly borders. Nevertheless, their need is so great, they keep coming and keep hoping that someone will recognize their humanity and welcome them.

Happy New Year !

The first of January has many observances: We mark the conclusion to the octave of Christmas; it is New Year's Day; we celebrate the Day of Prayer for World Peace; and we observe the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

Mary The God-bearer: The Church today celebrates



Mary as the Mother of God. She is called *Theotokos* (God-bearer), for "God sent his Son born of a woman." Because Mary found favor with God, his Son took the flesh of Mary – it is thanks to her that Jesus is *fully* human with flesh like ours, except for sin, and also fully divine. Mary is the

ultimate symbol of the Christian, for what is a Christian if not one who bears Christ within our world and brings him to people?

PRACTICE OF CHARITY

The most important thing about family is that it gives children their first glimpse of God, who is unconditional Love. Imagine yourself holding Mary's infant. Look at the tiny hands, his mouth, his sleeping face. Notice the wonder and love he evokes in you and reflect it back to him. That feeling, that pouring out of wonder and joy, is what God feels for us, for our children.



Family Prayer

O God, You have created us in love and saved us in mercy, and through the bond of marriage you have established the family and willed that it should become a sign of Christ's love for his Church. Shower your blessings on this family gathered here in your name. Enable those who are joined by one love to support one another by their fevor of spirit and devotion to prayer. Make them responsive to the needs of others and witnesses to the faith in all they say and do. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



January 3 – Denise Greive



December 29 – Carol & Gene Patalik