

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

DECEMBER 26, 2021

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

— 1 John 3:2a

FAMILY LIFE

Christmas celebrates the Incarnation, the “en-flesh-ment” of God as a human person. In Jesus, God is bodily present in the human story. Today we honor the Holy Family, helping us to see that God is active in daily family life. God is near at hand, amidst the tensions, joys, and uncertainties of family life. As our Gospel passage describes, even with family miscommunications and with limited understanding of Jesus’ mission, the Holy Family persevered in their life together. Like many family conflicts, there was no immediate or clear resolution of the issues raised by Jesus and by Mary. God’s intentions for the family, and for Jesus, were still unfolding. They continued to stay connected with each other and with God. Within the turbulence of family life, they trusted God to actively sustain and guide them into an uncertain future. We are invited to follow their example.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).

Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).

Gospel — Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45).

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$2,789.00	\$1,724.00
Number of Families contributing	86	75
Total Pledge for 2021	\$161,051.00	\$162,928.00
Pledged to Date (45 Weeks)	\$157,309.00	\$160,167.00
Received to Date	\$154,869.00	\$124,095.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$2,440.00	\$36,072.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2021
\$148.00	\$9,592.00

Eighteen ladies made a contribution last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2021
\$20,587.00	\$217,622.00

Seven people made a P.L.C. contribution last week.

BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$69,865.00

POOR BOX totaled \$197.00.

15 **CHILDREN** contributed \$43.00.

BAA totaled \$100.00.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Among the many decorations enjoyed at Christmas, it is the poinsettia. Known for its bright red color, the plant was named for Joel Robert Poinsett, an amateur botanist and the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico.

But the Mexican name for the plant is Flores de Noche Buena or Flowers of the Holy Night. According to legend, a little girl longed to bring a gift to the Infant Jesus at Christmas, but she was so poor she had nothing. Her cousin told her that even a humble gift offered with love would be welcomed, so she gathered a bunch of roadside weeds. When she entered the Church and laid the bouquet in front of the Nativity scene it burst into the beautiful flowers we've come to love.

Legend or not, it's true that God appreciates the simplest gift from the heart, if it's presented with love.

“Child of Bethlehem, let every gift of mine be one of love for You. And may I share that love with all Your children.”

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. The Family of Angela Fox in loving memory of her on the 1st Anniversary of her death;
2. and a Parish Family member in thanks to St. Expedite.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will be closed this Thursday, December 30th and will reopen on Monday, January 3rd.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

The Banns of Marriage are announced for the first time for Jim Bosco Sherlock and Cameron Riley.

Happy New Year From Fr. Chertan

Heartfelt thanks to God for the completion of a Year and the start of a new year. May this New Year 2022 bring you great blessing and joy.

THANK YOU

to a parish member for their donation in thanks to St. Expedite; a parish member for their donation in thanks to St. Raphael, St. Mother Theresa and Padre Pio; a parish member for their donation in thanks to St. Jude; a parish member for their donation in thanks to St. Expedite and St. Joseph for the needy.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER FOR A JOYFUL HEART

“As we celebrate the joyful feast of Christmas, and look at the crib scene, we should reflect on the fact that we best communicate with babies by a smile. We so often pray to God for a ‘clean heart.’ Why not ask for a ‘joyful heart’ this Christmas?”

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABIES

- When a pastor asked the class, "Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem?" a boy raised his hand and replied, "Because his mother was there."
— Rev. William Armstrong, S.J.
- A Sunday school teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. "They couldn't get a babysitter," a small child replied
—Catherine Hall

JOKE OF THE WEEK

Just before Christmas, an honest politician, a generous lawyer and Santa Claus all got into the elevator at the Ritz Hotel in London. As the lift travelled from the 5th floor down to the ground, one by one they noticed a £50 note lying on elevator floor. Which one picked up the £50 note and handed it to the reception? Santa of course, the other two don't actually exist!

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:** The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Monday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Tuesday: The Holy Innocents
Wednesday: Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Thomas Becket
Thursday: Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
Friday: Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Sylvester I; New Year's Eve
Saturday: The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; Mary, the Holy Mother of God; World Day of Prayer for Peace; New Year's Day; First Saturday

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday:** For the repose of the souls of the Samulski and Tantillo families and also for the repose of the souls of Krissie Hopkins, Timothy Mahal, and Richard Mahal.
Tuesday: For the repose of the soul of Kernal's Shirley.
Wednesday: In honor of the Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Joseph for all the sick and for all the holy souls in purgatory.
Thursday: For the repose of the soul of Johnny Shack Riley.
Friday: For the repose of the soul of Nim's Jim Gorman.

LET'S KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

*Let's keep the Christ in Christmas,
May Christ reign in our hearts;
It's all about the Son of God,
This Gift, God did impart.*

*When lowly shepherds heard the news,
They went to see the One —
The promised One of glory,
God's precious Son.*

*The Wise Men, too, saw the star and knew
A King was born that day.
They went to pay Him homage,
That Babe upon the hay.*

*Let's sing a song of Christmas
Full of joy and cheer.
The hope the earth has longed for
Has come in Christ, most dear.*

READERS

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| Sun. Dec. 26 th , 10:00 A.M.
Ciara & Jim Patrick | Sun., Dec. 26 th , 5:00 P.M.
Christina & Dayna |
| Sat. Jan. 1 st , 4:00 P.M.
Christina & Julie Ann | Sat. Jan. 1 st , 7:00 P.M.
Dayna & Leah |
| Sun. Jan. 2 ⁿ , 10:00 A.M. | Blue & Jimmy Joseph |

READERS – WEEKDAYS

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|-----------|---|----------|
| Monday | - | Marilyn |
| Tuesday | - | Lauren |
| Wednesday | - | Graclynn |
| Thursday | - | Fallon |
| Friday | - | Ciara |

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

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|-----------|---|---------------|
| Monday | - | Kim Gallon |
| Tuesday | - | Nora |
| Wednesday | - | Catherine Ann |
| Thursday | - | Mary Cat |
| Friday | - | Rosie Cat |

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

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| <u>Sunday 10:00 A.M.</u> | <u>December 26th</u>
Rose Marie
Mary Cat |
| Sunday 5:00 P.M | <u>December 26th</u>
Winnie Ann
Bridget Rita
Catherine Ann |
| <u>Saturday 4:00 P.M.</u> | <u>January 1st</u>
Winnie Ann
Cathy Pole
Catherine Ann |
| <u>Saturday 7:00 P.M.</u> | <u>January 1st</u>
Blue
Bridgette Anna |
| <u>Sunday</u>
January 2 nd
Rose Marie
Mary Cat | <u>Sunday</u>
January 9 th
Rose Marie
Mary Cat |

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is love in action.
Every time we love, every time we give,
it's Christmas.

~~~~~PRAYER CORNER~~~~~

A PRAYER FOR CHRITMAS

Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts this mystery of Christmas. Put into our hearts this peace which we seek so desperately and which you alone can give us. Help us know one another better, and as children of the same Father. Reveal to us also your beauty, holiness, and purity. Awaken in our hearts love and gratitude. Join us all together in your love, and give us your heavenly peace. Amen.