

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
DECEMBER 27, 2020

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all the peoples.
 — Luke 2:30-31

WE ARE GOD'S HOLY FAMILY

The scriptures of Israel are filled with many stories of barren couples who were miraculously granted the gift of children by God. Surely the best known among these is the first reading from today, from which Luke took inspiration when he recounted the miraculous birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah and Elizabeth, and the more miraculous birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph. In each instance, we are given examples or role models of those who trusted in God. More than examples of those who trust, they are models of self-surrender. They abandoned their own presuppositions and prejudices about the workings of the world and turned their lives over to belief in a God who can make life grow where none ought to; a God who can turn death around into a new and unimagined life; a God who can, today, take a tiny child of humble parents in an insignificant town and make him into a light for all the world. This is what we, as God's holy family, are called to do each day: to trust not in ourselves and the way we think things should be, but to open ourselves and surrender ourselves in faith to a God of endless promise.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Those who honor their parents will be greatly blessed and will atone for sins (Sirach 3:2-6,12-14) or *Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3.*

Psalm — Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways (Psalm 128) or *Psalm 105.*

Second Reading — Be thankful; do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17]) or *Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19.*

Gospel — The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom (Luke 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]).

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I want to be happy! I hunger to be happy. I realize that all men are seeking—seeking happiness—in but one of two ways—either God's way or anti-God's way.

Man's way of seeking happiness without God is the sure and only road to unhappiness; for, without God, there is no "heaven-going", there is no true, happy living.

God's way leads to happiness and heaven. God's plan of my life leads to heaven on earth.

The happiest people are the holiest people, for they are closest to God, the Source and Giver of all happiness.

If I really want to be happy this year, let me make a determined effort to be holy this year.

That action is best which procures the greatest happiness for the greatest number.
 —Francis Hutcheson

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Ralph and Rose in loving memory of Popeyes's Kate on the 17th Anniversary of her death;
2. Tommy Newman in loving memory of Popeye's Kate on the 17th Anniversary of her death;
3. and a Parish Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION - MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 31st — 5:00 P.M. — *New Year's Eve*
 Friday, January 1st — 10:00 A.M. — *New Year's Day Mass*

Happy New Year from Fr. Charian

Heartfelt thanks to God for the completion of a Year and the start of a new year. May this New Year 2021 bring you great blessing and joy.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Church Office will be closed this Thursday, December 31st and will reopen Monday, January 4th in observance of the New Year Holiday.

THANK YOU to a member for a donation in thanks to the Holy Spirit, Sacred Heart, Precious Blood and St. Expedite; a member for a donation in thanks to St. Mother Teresa and St. Raphael; a member for a donation in honor of the Holy Spirit; a member for a donation in honor of St. Michael; a member for their donation in thanks to St. Expedite.

NEW YEAR PAGE

We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on there ourselves. The book is called "**OPPORTUNITY**" and its first chapter is: "**NEW YEAR'S DAY.**"

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES will begin Monday, January 4, 2021. *Classes will be on Monday and Thursday only.* The classes will be as follows:

MONDAY — 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th Grades
THURSDAY — 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Grades

OUR GIFTS RECORD

Offertory Development

Last Week's Collection	\$2,807.00	\$2,187.00
Number of Families contributing	100	82
Total Pledge for 2020	\$167,031.00	\$162,928.00
Pledged to Date (50 Weeks)	\$158,482.00	\$160,320.00
Received to Date	\$181,993.00	\$140,758.00
Envelopes Outstanding	(\$23,511.00)	\$19,462.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2020
\$619.00	\$18,835.00

Twenty-three ladies made a contribution last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2020
\$5,485.00	\$23,777.00

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

BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$63,780.00

POOR BOX totaled \$91.00.

22 CHILDREN contributed \$159.00.

BAA totaled \$125.00.

RECIPE FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Like Abraham – trust implicitly in my God.
Like Job – be patient under all circumstances.
Like Joseph – turn my back on all seductive advances.
Like Moses – choose to suffer rather than enjoy sin.
Like Andrew – strive to lead others to Christ.
Like Jehoshaphat – prepare my heart to seek the Lord.

A GIFT YOU CANNOT BUY

CARING is a gift that no one can buy. It is made of **LOVE** that roots in our **HEARTS** and creates **MEMORIES** not just for a while but for a **LIFETIME**.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

Betty, who is very independent, likes to feed the pigeons in the park. One day she brought with her a whole loaf of fresh bread just to feed her daily company. Little by little, pinch by pinch, she fed each pigeon with joy.

Then suddenly a man rained on Betty's parade by telling her that she shouldn't throw away good food on a bunch of pigeons that can find food anywhere when there are a lot of people starving in Africa.

Betty said, "Well, maybe, but I can't throw that far!"

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Monday: The Holy Innocents
Tuesday: Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Thomas Becket
Wednesday: Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
Thursday: Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Sylvester I; New Year's Eve
Friday: 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 Friday
Saturday: Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen; First Saturday

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: In honor of the Infant of Prague for a special intention.
Tuesday: In thanks to the Holy Spirit, Sacred Heart and Precious Blood for a special intention.
Wednesday: In honor of the Infant Jesus for the sick and the Holy Souls.
Thursday: For a special intention.
Friday: For the repose of the soul of Al on the 7th Anniversary of his Death.

HIS UNFAILING PRESCENCE IN 2021

*Another year I enter its history unknown;
Oh, how my feet would tremble to tread it path alone!
But I have heard a whisper I know I shall be blest;
"My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."*

*What will the New Year bring me? I may not, must not know;
Will it be love and rapture, or loneliness and woe?
Hush, hush I hear His whisper; I surely shall be blest;
"My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."*

READERS

Sat. Dec. 26th, 4:00 P.M. Julie Ann & Natalie	Sat. Dec. 26th, 7:00 P.M. Carolyn & Bridget Anna
Sun. Dec. 27th, 10:00 A.M.	Jimmy Joseph & Rose Marie
New Year's Eve, 5:00 P.M. Christina & Duggan's Mary	New Year's Day, 10:00 A.M. Blue
Sat. Jan. 2nd, 4:00 P.M. Reed & Skylar	Sat. Jan. 2, 7:00 P.M. Ireland & Heidi
Sun. Jan. 3, 10:00 A.M.	Jimmy Joseph & Rose Marie

READERS – WEEKDAYS

Monday	- Paige
Tuesday	- Skylar
Wednesday	- Julie Ann
Thursday	- Kathleen
Friday	- Kara

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

Monday	- Cathy Pole
Tuesday	- Kim Gallon
Wednesday	- Rosie Cat
Thursday	- Mary Cat
Friday	- Rose Marie

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

Saturday 4:00 P.M.	December 26th
Front	Mary Margaret
Right	Cathy Pole
Left	Kim Gallon
	Saturday 7:00 P.M.
December 26th	January 2nd
Bridget Rat	Rose Melissa
	Sunday 10:00 A.M.
December 27th	January 3rd
Rose Marie	Rose Marie
Mary Cat	Mary Cat

A NEW YEAR IS LIKE A BLANK BOOK

- **and the pen is in your hands. It is your chance to write a beautiful story for yourself.**
- **Every end marks a new beginning. Keep your spirits and determination unshaken, and you shall always walk the glory road. With courage, faith and great effort, you shall achieve everything you desire.**
- **You're supposed to let go of the past and start off new. You're supposed to forgive all those who have hurt you and be open to new relationships, with open arms. That is why it is called the 'New' year.**

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

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Come, Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Risen Christ, be with us today and always. Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter. Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier. May this new year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us, a time of welcoming your graces and gifts, a time for forgiving freely and unconditionally, a time for growing in virtue and goodness. Come, Holy Spirit, be with us today and always. Amen.