

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
DECEMBER 30, 2018

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed.
 — 1 John 3:2a

HOME IS WHERE THE FAMILY IS

The idea, dream, and reality of family is so strong and durable that we use it to describe all that is best about human gatherings. We speak of the family of nations, of our church and parish families. The greatest compliment we can pay a friend or gracious host is to say that we feel at home with them, we feel part of the family.

Families are the first crucibles in which love is tested and tempered. Jesus himself was one of three people who lived in the shadow of each other. This family, like our own, did not always "get it right," but they always tried to. These three "amateurs" were on holiday, and one of them got lost. Two were worried sick and took great measures to find the third, a boy after all, who was seeking the meaning of his calling. He found his vocation—to do his Father's work—but he also returned home with his parents.
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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Hannah conceived, and at the end of her term bore a son whom she called Samuel (1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28) or *Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14*.

Psalm — Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord (Psalm 84) or *Psalm 128*.

Second Reading — See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God (1 John 3:1-2, 21-24) or *Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17]*.

Gospel — The boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. They found him in the temple, in the midst of the teachers (Luke 2:41-52).

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

A little girl climbed up into her grandfather's lap and asked, "Did God make me?"

"Yes," the grandpa replied.

"Did he make you, too?" asked the little girl.

"Yes," replied the grandpa again.

"Well," the girl said, looking at his wrinkles and thinning hair, "he sure is doing a better job nowadays!"

She thought that God is doing better as time goes on. As St. Paul says. "God is same. But we have to grow better."

As we are entering into the New Year 2019 let us remember the following thoughts for making the New Year fruitful and prosperous.

1. *Do not look back. Start anew and be ready to face the New Year with your head up.*
2. *Learn from the past and use it as a tool to start another year without fear.*
3. *With God as our Leader, may we be prepared to live another year under His guidance.*
4. *Make it a point to start each day of this New Year with a prayer. It works wonders.*
5. *Do not be afraid to face life. This New Year has a lot of promises for us. Trust God and everything will be fine.*
6. *Do not bring with you the memories of the past. Let them serve as your guide to keep moving on your journey.*

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$4,180.00	\$3,043.00
Number of Families contributing	129	103
Total Pledge for 2018	\$118,199.00	\$167,136.00
Pledged to Date (51 Weeks)	\$163,934.00	\$159,818.00
Received to Date	\$163,970.20	\$126,915.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$36.80	\$32,903.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2018
\$260.00	\$9,551.00

Twenty-eight ladies made a contribution last week.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL WEEKLY REPORT

2018 Parish Goal	\$25,705.00
Amount Received to Date	\$14,933.94
Amount Outstanding	\$10,771.06

One person made a B.A.A. contribution last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2018
\$310.00	\$90,590.00

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

PARKING LOT totaled \$2.00.

28 **CHILDREN** contributed \$133.00.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION totaled \$1,867.00

The **ATTENDANCE** for last Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass was 120, 7:00 P.M. Mass was 150 and Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass was 110.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. The Wife and Family of Maul's Jim Carroll in loving memory of him on the 7th Anniversary of his death;
2. the Wife and Family of "Al" in loving memory of him on the 5th Anniversary of his death;
3. and a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

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

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM FR. CHERIAN

Heartfelt thanks to God for the completion of a Year and the start of a new year. May this New Year 2019 bring you great blessing and joy.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will be closed this Tuesday, January 1st in observance of the New Year Holiday.

DIVINE CHILD JESUS NOVENA

Beginning next Sunday, January 6th a Novena to the Divine Child Jesus will held in the Church for nine Sundays. The Church will open at 2:00 P.M.

MASTER'S TABLE The Youth Group is scheduled to prepare and serve a hot meal to the clients of the Master's Table in Augusta this Thursday, January 3rd. If you would like to participate in this very rewarding opportunity please contact Jack's Mary Rita.

PARISH MISSION The Parish Mission with Fr. Jim Blount will be held this Wed., Jan 2nd thru Friday, Jan 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the church. All are welcome to this spiritual banquet.

THANK YOU to three members for their donations in thanks to St. Expedite.

JOKE OF THE WEEK On New Year's Eve, Daniel was in no shape to drive, so he sensibly left his van in the car park and walked home. As he was wobbling along, he was stopped by a policeman.

"What are you doing out here at 4:00 o'clock in the morning?" asked the police officer.

"I'm on my way to a lecture," answered Roger. "And who on earth, in their right mind, is going to give a lecture at this time on New Year's Eve?" enquired the constable sarcastically.

"My wife," slurred Daniel grimly.

7 UPS FOR THE NEW YEAR

1. **WAKE UP**- Begin the day thanking the Lord. It is His day. Rejoice in it.
2. **LOOK UP** – Open your eyes to the Lord. Ask for His strength and blessings for the day. After all, He is your only Savior.
3. **DRESS UP** – Put on a smile. It improves your looks. It says something about your attitude. It enables Jesus living within you to smile at others.
4. **SHUT UP** – Watch your tongue. Don't gossip. Don't be judgmental. Say nice things. Learn to listen to others with love. Be sympathetic.
5. **STAND UP** – Take a stand for what you believe. Resist evil. Do good. Have the courage of your Christian convictions by practicing what you believe.
6. **REACH UP** – Spend time in prayer by talking to God with your adorations, confessions, thanksgivings and supplications to the Lord and by listening to Him by attentively reading the Bible and applying its message to your life.
7. **LIFT UP** – Be available to help those in need – serving, supporting, and sharing. Try to find Jesus in others and serve him who live in others.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:** The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Monday: St. Sylvester I: New Year's Eve
Tuesday: Mary, the Holy Mother of God;
 World Day of Prayer for Peace; New Year's Day
Wednesday: Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
Thursday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Friday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; First Friday
Saturday: St. John Neumann; First Saturday

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday:** For Pat Gorman's family.
Tuesday: In honor of the Holy Souls and St. Joseph.
Wednesday: For the repose of the soul of "Al" on the 5th Anniversary of his death.
Thursday: For the repose of the soul of Tommy Taylor on his Birthday.
Friday: For the repose of the soul of Maul's Jim on the 7th Anniversary of his death.

READERS

Sat. Dec. 29th, 4:00 P.M. Cathy Lisa & Karen
Sat. Dec. 29th, 7:00 P.M. Jay & Mary Melissa

Sun. Dec. 30th, 10:00 A.M. Theresa Maria Cat & Jimmy Joseph

New Year's Eve, 5:00 P.M. Christina & Julie Ann
New Year's Day, 10:00 A.M. Jimmy Joseph & Theresa Maria

Sat. Jan. 5th, 4:00 P.M. Rita Riley & Grace
Sat. Jan. 5th, 7:00 P.M. Jay & Carolyn

Sun. January 6th, 10:00 A.M. Jimmy Joseph & Mary Cat

READERS – WEEKDAYS

Monday	-	Joy
Tuesday	-	Rose Marie
Wednesday	-	Theresa Maria
Thursday	-	Natalie
Friday	-	Christina

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

Saturday 4:00 P.M. **December 29th**
 Front Bridget Ann
 Left Cup Winnie Ann

Sunday 10:00 A.M.

December 30th **January 6th**
 Pete Man's Nora Pete Man's Nora
 Rose Marie Rose Marie

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

Monday	Mary Cat
Tuesday	Pete Man's Nora
Wednesday	Rosie Cat
Thursday	Betty Jo
Friday	P.A.'s Ann Marie

LIFE is best for those who are enjoying it... difficult for those who are comparing it... worst for those who are criticizing it... ***YOUR OWN ATTITUDE DEFINES YOUR LIFE.***

BE WISE

Don't approach a goat from the front, a horse from the back or a **FOOL** from **ANYSIDE**.

RECIPE FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

- I will: 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.

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

NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Jesus, I want to thank You for this new day and this new year and I ask You to please allow the archangel Gabrielle to visit me and all my family with good news throughout this whole new year regarding our bills, payments, obligations, life issues, health issues, hopes, plans, dreams for the future, expected and unexpected doctor visits, letters phone calls, news, meetings, life meetings, life decisions, let all end well. Amen.