

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

DECEMBER 31, 2017

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

—Luke 2:30-31

BEARERS OF THE WORD

The Church has placed a number of notable feast days immediately after Christmas. The feasts of Stephen, John the Evangelist, and the Holy Innocents form a summary of the life lived in Christ, the Word made flesh. What do these have to do with the feast of the Holy Family, which crowns the Octave of Christmas? These feasts remind us that suffering will occur in fulfilling the mission of Christ, and that we are all called to be bearers of this Word whose birth we celebrate. We also see this manifested in the lives of Joseph and Mary, both of whom took social and religious risks in obedience to the will of God, and both of whom were open to the word of God sent to them from on high. In these ways they prefigured the life of Jesus himself. Most likely, few of us found ourselves at Mass this past Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, but the essence of these feasts and the essence of the holiness of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus remain central, a holiness we celebrate today.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

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]).

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$6,556.00	\$4,815.00
Number of Families contributing	151	112
Total Pledge for 2017	\$170,088.00	\$170,342.00
Pledged to Date (51 Weeks)	\$166,892.00	\$167,128.00
Received to Date	\$175,215.56	\$148,320.20
Envelopes Outstanding	(\$8,323.56)	\$18,807.80

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2017
\$300.00	\$14,995.00

Thirty ladies made a contribution last week.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL WEEKLY REPORT

2017 Parish Goal	\$25,705.00
Amount Received to Date	\$14,996.61
Amount Outstanding	\$10,708.39

Four people made a B.A.A. contribution last week.

HALL RENOVATION FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2017
\$60.00	\$11,596.00

Two people made a Hall Fund contribution last week.

PARKING LOT totaled \$6.00.

25 **CHILDREN** contributed \$73.00.

POOR BOX totaled \$43.00

CHRISTMAS ENVELOPES totaled \$2,266.00

The **ATTENDANCE** for last Saturday 4:00 P.M. Mass was 275, 7:00 P.M. Mass was 150 and Sunday 10:00 A.M. Mass was 120.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

One stormy night many years ago, an elderly man and his wife entered the lobby of a small hotel in Philadelphia. The couple approached the front desk to get some shelter for the night.

"We'd like a room please," the husband requested.

"All of our rooms are taken," the clerk said. "But I can't send a nice couple like you out in the rain. Would you be willing to sleep in my room? It's not exactly a suite but it will be good enough to make you folks comfortable for the night."

When the couple declined, the clerk insisted. "Don't worry about me; I'll make out just fine," he told them.

So the couple agreed to spend the night in his room. As he paid his bill the next morning, the elderly man said to the clerk, "You're an exceptional man. You are the kind of manager who should be the boss of the best hotel in the United States."

Two years passed. The clerk received a letter from the old man. It recalled that stormy night and enclosed a round-trip ticket to New York, asking him to pay him a visit. The old man met him in New York, and led him to the corner of Fifth Avenue and 34th Street. He then pointed to a great new building.

"That," he said, "is the hotel I'd like you to manage."

That old man's name was William Waldorf Astor, and the building was the original Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. The clerk who became the first manager was George C. Boldt. His simple act of sacrificial service led him to become the manager of one of the world's most glamorous hotels.

Let us fill ourselves all through this New Year 2018 with such little sacrifices and make all the difference in the world.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. the Wife and Family of Pat "Al" Carroll in loving memory of him on the 4th Anniversary of his death;
2. Patrick Michael and Cindy, and Tom and Ann Rita in thanks to St. Expedite for Regan;
3. the Family of Margaret Sherlock in loving memory of her on the 3rd Anniversary of her death;
4. and a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

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 2018 bring you great blessing and joy.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

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

DIVINE CHILD JESUS NOVENA

Beginning next Sunday, January 7th a Novena to the Divine Child Jesus will be held in the Church from 2:00-4:00 P.M. for nine Sundays.

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 on Thursday, January 4th. If you would like to participate in this very rewarding opportunity please contact Jack's Mary Rita.

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

JOKE OF THE WEEK On New Year's Eve, a man 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 o'clock in the morning?" asked the police officer.

"I'm on my way to a lecture," answered the man.

"And who on earth, in their right mind, is going to give a lecture at this time on New Year's Eve?" enquired the policeman sarcastically.

"MY WIFE," slurred the man grimly.

PEACE OF MIND

Peace of mind is available free just by letting go 3 C's:

1. C — Criticizing
2. C — Comparing
3. C -- Complaining

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Monday: Mary, the Holy Mother of God;
New Year's Day

Tuesday: Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

Wednesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Thursday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Friday: St. John Neumann; First Friday

Saturday: St. André Bessette; First Saturday

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: For the repose of the soul of Pat "Al" Carroll on the 4th Anniversary of his death.

Tuesday: In honor of the Holy Souls and St. Joseph.

Wednesday: For the repose of the soul of Tommy Taylor on his Birthday.

Thursday: For the repose of the soul of Maul's Jim on the 6th Anniversary of his death and Rumer Sherlock on her 2nd Birthday.

Friday: In thanks to St. Expedite.

THE ESSENCE OF CHRISTMAS

Follow the road to Bethlehem
This holy Christmas night -
Let the love of the newborn Babe
Enhance your heart's delight.

Treasure the endearing sight
Of Jesus and His mother
In your humble heart, so warm,
And trade it for no other.

Hope anew will light the way
To paths of inspiration -
Through the birth of Jesus Christ,
The way to sweet salvation.

READERS

Sat. Dec. 30th, 4:00 P.M.

Sable &
Mary Martha

Sat. Dec. 30th, 7:00 P.M.

Jay &
Mary Melissa

Sun. Dec. 31st, 10:00 A.M.

Theresa Maria Cat & Jimmy Joseph

Sat. Jan. 6th, 4:00 P.M.

Grace &
Rita Riley

Sat. Jan. 6th, 7:00 P.M.

Carolyn &
Mary Regina

Sun. Jan. 7th, 10:00 A.M.

Theresa Maria Cat & Jimmy Joseph

READERS - WEEKDAYS

Monday	Kara
Tuesday	Karen
Wednesday	Christina Apple
Thursday	Cathy Lisa Butts
Friday	Annette

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKEND

Saturday 4:00 P.M.

Front
Left Cup

December 30th

Bridget Ann
Winnie Ann

Saturday 7:00 P.M.

Front
Cup

December 30th

Jay
Johnny Jay's Ann

Sunday 10:00 A.M.

December 31st

Pete Man's Nora
Rose Marie

January 7th

Pete Man's Nora
Rose Marie

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

Monday	Mary Cat
Tuesday	Pete Man's Nora
Wednesday	Ann T.
Thursday	Bibbie's Catherine Ann
Friday	Ann Rita

CHURCH SIGNS

- **God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.**
- **Nothing ruins the truth like stretching it.**
- **He who kneels before God can stand before anyone!**
- **God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.**

GOD

God whispers to us in our pleasures.
Speaks to us in our conscience. But shouts to us in our pains.

~~~~~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.