

# Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Sunday, December 26, 2021

The Most Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



## PARISH STAFF

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Deacon Anthony Barile  
Deacon Al Kucinski  
Deacon Edward Muller (retired)  
Dan Salvatore ..... Coordinator of Religious Education  
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## PARISH OFFICE

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## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, Council 9920

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## WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday ..... 5:00 pm  
Sunday ..... 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am

## DAILY MASSES

Monday-Saturday ..... 8:30 am (except Wednesday)  
Wednesday ..... 7:00 pm  
Holy Days ..... 8:30 am & 7:00 pm

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday ..... 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday ..... 4:15 - 4:45 pm

## SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM, MARRIAGE & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the office to arrange.

## Masses for the Week

### Saturday, December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord IS 52:7-10 / HEB 1:1-6 / JN 1:1-18

7:30 am For OLMC Parishioners & their Families  
9:00 am For OLMC Parishioners & their Families  
11:00 am For OLMC Parishioners & their Families

### Sunday, December 26 – Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

SIR 3:2-6, 12-14 / COL 3:12-21 / LK 2:41-52

7:30 am Msgr. Charles Cassidy *by Patricia Rumsey*  
9:00 am Kathy Heater *by Heater Family*  
11:00 am James Corcoran & Frederick Manak  
*by Zaleski & Manak Families*

### Monday, December 27 – Feast of Saint John, Apostle

1 JN 1:1-4 / JN 20:1A and 2-8

8:30 am Matthew Simpson *by Mary Youngblood*

### Tuesday, December 28 – Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 JN 1:5—2:2 / MT 2:13-18

8:30 am Intentions of Barbara Froetscher  
*by Barbara Froetscher*

### Wednesday, December 29

1 JN 2:3-11 / LK 2:22-35

7:00 pm Bob Froetscher *by Barbara Froetscher*

### Thursday, December 30

1 JN 2:12-17 / LK 2:36-40

8:30 am Intentions & Birthday Blessings for  
Sylwia Leczycka *by Val Derbyshire*

### Friday, December 31

1 JN 2:18-21 / JN 1:1-18

8:30 am God's Healing & Blessings for  
Michael Pasternak *by Tom & Darlene Scarince*

**\*New Year's Eve (Vigil)\***

5:00 pm For OLMC Parishioners & their Families

### Saturday, January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

NM 6:22-27 / GAL 4:4-7 / LK 2:16-21

9:00 am Msgr. Louis Biesaida *by Parish Staff*  
5:00 pm For OLMC Parishioners & their Families

### Sunday, January 2 – The Epiphany of the Lord

IS 60:1-6 / EPH 3:2-3A, 5-6 / MT 2:1-12

7:30 am Deceased Members of the Muller & Weisser  
Families *by Dcn. Ed & Mary Lou Muller*  
9:00 am Claire Settimo *by George & Peggy Shammas*  
11:00 am Nancy Warren *by Mary Rondinara*

### Please Remember To Pray For The Following:



Colleen Apter, Ted Cassera, Matt Chapkosky, Fr. Angelus Croce, Stephanie Cuomo, John, Joe Curulli, Marie Curulli, Larry Domonkos, Emma Finnegan, Jason, Henry Kochanski, Bruce Konar, Susanne Martone, Mike Maldonado, Deacon Ed Muller, Yvette Murphy, Fr. Peter Oddo, Madelyn Patton, Joseph and Rosemary Sciascia, George Shammas, Stephanie, Charles Sullivan, Constance Van Hoven

### *This Week the Sanctuary Lamp Burns for God's Blessings and Intentions for Julia Scales*



### A GOOD STEWARD

December 19<sup>th</sup> collection amounts were not available at the time of printing, and will be posted in next week's bulletin.

*Thank you for your generosity!*

### WOMEN AND MEN OF THE ARMED FORCES

We ask God the Father, through the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel, to protect all the men and women in our Armed Forces. May they be brought back safely to those whom they love:

Captain Jason Gieniewski, US Army.



### Scripture Message December 26, 2021

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. This feast is part of the Christmas season, and we should place today's Gospel in the context of what Luke's Gospel tells us about the birth of Jesus. Luke has been answering the question "Who is Jesus?" through his stories of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Today's Gospel reading continues this theme. Mary's importance is even greater than her role as Jesus' mother. Mary is the first disciple and will be present with Jesus' disciples after his Resurrection at Pentecost.



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

On this, the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, we honor

the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In honoring them, we also honor all families, big or small. And in honoring all families, we honor the family of God, the Church. But most especially, we focus in on the hidden, day-to-day life of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

What was it like to live day in and day out in the household of St. Joseph? What was it like to have Jesus for a son, Mary as a wife and mother, and Joseph as a father and husband? Their home would have certainly been a sacred place and a dwelling of true peace and unity. But it would have also been so much more.

The family home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph would have been, in numerous ways, just like any other home. They would have related together, talked, had fun, disagreed, worked, eaten, dealt with problems, and encountered everything else that makes up daily family life.

Of course, the virtues of Jesus and Mary were perfect, and St. Joseph was a truly “just man.” Therefore, the overriding characteristic of their home would have been love.

But with that said, their family would not have been exempt from daily toil, hurt and challenges that face most families. For example, they would have encountered the death of loved ones, St. Joseph most likely passed away prior to Jesus’ public ministry. They would have encountered misunderstanding and gossip from others. Our Blessed Mother, for example, was found with child out of wedlock. This would have been a topic of discussion among many acquaintances for sure. They would have had to fulfill all daily chores, earn a living, put food on the table, attend gatherings of family and friends and the like. They would have lived normal family life in every way.

This is significant because it reveals God’s love for family life. The Father allowed His Divine Son to live this life and, as a result, elevated family life to a place within the Trinity. The holiness of the Holy Family reveals to us that every family is invited to share in God’s divine life and to encounter ordinary daily life with grace and virtue.

Reflect, today, upon your own family life. Some families are strong in virtue, some struggle with basic communication. Some are faithful day in and day out, some are broken and deeply wounded. No matter the case, know that God wants to enter more deeply into your family life just as it is right now. He desires to give you strength and virtue to live as the Holy Family. Surrender

yourself and your family, this day, and invite the Triune God to make your family a holy family.

\* Mass schedule for **New Year’s Eve**, Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup> is 5:00 PM.

\* **January 1<sup>st</sup>**, Saturday, is **the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God**. This is a **Holy Day of Obligation** with Mass at 9:00 AM.



### **Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

Shortly after the time of Christ’s birth, King Herod made an unsuccessful attempt to destroy the infant Jesus by ordering the slaughter of all male children age two and younger. The event is recorded in Matthew 2:16–18: “Herod . . . gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ‘A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.’”

Herod’s Massacre of the Innocents was carried out, but his plan to rid the world of the Messiah was thwarted when God intervened to protect Jesus in yet another fulfillment of prophecy. When the Magi left Bethlehem to return to their homeland, Joseph had a dream: “An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. ‘Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother,’ the angel said. ‘Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.’ That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, and they stayed there until Herod’s death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: ‘I called my Son out of Egypt’” (Matthew 2:13–15, NLT; cf. Hosea 11:1). God the Father saved His Son to fulfill His purpose of securing our salvation.

The Massacre of the Innocents was Herod’s attempt to thwart God’s plan and stop a biblical prophecy from being fulfilled. Of course he failed, and in the course of his failure he added to the misery and sin of the world. “The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together, against the LORD and against His Anointed One” (Psalm 2:2, BSB). But their fight is futile. The Christ is victorious. “Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. . . . Kiss his son, or he will be angry and your way will lead to your destruction” (verses 10, 12).

## *New Year's Resolutions*

With a new year comes a fresh start — and not just for more organized homes or a renewed plan for healthy eating. We also have the opportunity to get our spiritual houses in order. With that in mind, we offer a few reflections that we hope will help you turn the page on 2021 and enter into 2022 with renewed spiritual zeal.

Reflect: Did I think about, pray for and support others enough last year, especially those who may have been struggling financially, mentally or physically? Or was I too concerned with my own well-being?

Reflect: Did I maintain a connection with my parish in 2021? Have I continued to financially contribute? Or did out of sight become out of mind?

Reflect: Did I take advantage of the emptier 2021 calendar to actively pursue a stronger prayer life? Did I make talking to God a priority every day?

Reflect: Despite the hardships of 2021, did I manage to express gratitude to God for his blessings? Did I find joy in the small, unexpected gifts of everyday life?

Reflect: Did I connect enough with my family? In the first few weeks of “lockdown” in 2020, forts were built, and time at home with loved ones was treasured. As the pandemic continued in 2021, did the familial closeness?

Reflect: Did I make an attempt to see the “face behind the mask”?

Reflect: With so much fear, frustration and conflict in the last year, did I do my part to pursue and advance the cause of peace?

Adapted from OSV Perspective



*“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1.1)*

## **Why a Year of the Eucharist?**

On January 9, 2022, the Diocese of Paterson will inaugurate a Year of the Eucharist. The purpose of this year is to promote a renewed appreciation, understanding, and devotion of the Eucharist. This will be achieved using through various catechetical, liturgical, and pastoral components on the diocesan and parish level.

The highlight of the Year of the Eucharist will be the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress which will be held the weekend of September 23-25. The keynote speaker will be Archbishop Rino Fisichella, the President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization.

## **Nativity Prayer**

**God our Heavenly Father, from the moment of creation, you have never ceased showing your love for us.**

**Even when we turned away from you, you did not abandon us to the darkness of sins and death. Indeed, it was when our need was greatest that you sent us a Redeemer – your Son, Jesus – to be born of the Virgin Mary.**

**Bless us as we look upon this manger. May it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus and raise our minds to contemplate the awesome mystery of God-made-flesh. Let this holy season fill us with hope that we might join Him in the eternal Kingdom of peace in heaven. Through Christ our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen**





### In the midst of hardship and anxiety they completely trusted in God's plan and weathered the storm

Christmas time is a time for families to get together. Sadly, since last year, family get togethers has been a little different because of the pandemic. Some families will be unable to see their loved ones again this year because they are afraid of transmission of the virus. Some families resorted to FaceTime, Zoom or any other video chat to get together. And for many immigrants who are unable to be with their families, the 'Whatsapp' app is a channel of communication and meeting. At the dinner table extra plates and chairs would not be set out since some extended family members are not going to join. In 2020 and also this year-2021, it is not much about presence. It is about absence. The more people not involved, the better. But like any other year, this year on the Feast of the Holy Family we are challenged to think once more about what it means to be a family, and how we can be more like the one we call "holy." The readings call us to reflect the importance of family. In fact, the readings today speak about ideal family structure and relationships as well as the roles of husband and wife, the roles of children in a family.

The first reading from Sirach speaks clearly that children should be respectful and honor their parents. Love of parents is not an option but is written into the very character of a godly person. Honoring parents is clearly mandated by the fourth of the Ten Commandments, but rather than prescribing a duty, the commandment prescribes a relationship between parent and child. Nowadays, the most common adjective you might hear before "family" isn't "holy," but "dysfunctional." So many of us are living with divorce, separation, alcoholism, addiction, abuse. More families are coping with unemployment, economic hardship and uncertainty. Chances are, every person in this church this morning has been affected by all of these in one way or another. How can we try to live as a holy family in times like these? We encounter this feast, just days after Christmas, and wonder: what do we have in common with those prayerful people in that Nativity scene?

It is worthwhile to note the Holy Family like every other family had their difficulties, struggles and life challenges. Thus, they are patrons of every family, in every circumstance. Holy Family must have felt like an outcast when there is no room for the birth of Jesus. So, there are many things we can learn from them. **First, they are patrons of those who are outcast.** They are a family nobody had room for. And they are a family that was forced to run for their lives. This has a special urgency and relevance today especially for Christian families who are fleeing from persecution. "They are the family you see huddled under a bridge, with no place else to go, worrying about where the journey of life will take them and who will give them shelter. They are the people so many in our society overlook or look past. The Holy Family intercedes on behalf of those who are desperate and alone." **Secondly, they are the patrons of parents who live with fear and anxiety. You will recall** the first words of Gabriel to a startled young Mary were words to guide her through life: "Do not be afraid." Those profound words must have comforted Mary during challenging times especially when they were forced to flee to Egypt and become a refugee because of Herod's death threat. Imagine the fear and anxiety they had when Jesus got lost.

Indeed, they are the advocates for every parent whose child has gone missing, or whose bank account is dwindling, or whose son is on death row. They stand beside every mother and father who wonders what God has planned, how they will get through the next day, next week, next month—and to them the Holy Family whispers to them, "Do not be afraid." Know hope. Know trust. Know that you are not alone." **Thirdly, they are the patrons of the unexpected.** It's safe to say that Mary and Joseph had very different plans for their lives—plans that didn't include visits from angels; a birth in a stable; a flight into Egypt; and a son standing trial and undergoing a brutal and humiliating public execution. The Holy Family can serve today as advocates of every family who sees life taking unexpected and sometimes alarming turns. They stand before us as models of faith, hope and trust—people who embraced all that in spite of everything they encountered. But they are people of love, prayer, profound hope and trust in God's plan. **Their journey was never easy. But that is true for all of us.** The Holy family is a model for all families. It is not surprising in the second reading today St. Paul encourages husband and wife to love each other. In addition, St. Paul emphasizes the children to love their parents but however, the parent should avoid provoking and discouraging their children. Finally, St. Paul shows us the best way to achieve a holy and ideal family relationship. "Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another. On this day may we remember the Holy Family who give themselves totally to God. When we find ourselves overwhelmed with anxiety, hardships or trials may we look upon them. Like them we should be people of prayer, people of forgiveness, people of love and compassion. – Fr. Abuchi