

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

DECEMBER 27, 2020



*Simeon said,
“Now, Master, you may let your servant
go in peace, according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation.”*

Luke 2:29-30

THE CHILD GREW
AND BECAME STRONG,
FILLED WITH WISDOM;
AND THE FAVOR OF GOD
WAS UPON HIM.

LUKE 2:40



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FAMILY

On this feast of the Holy Family, we want to offer all families blessings. “Family” may have a lot of different connotations these days. In the United States, the “father, mother, child” family is less common now, and large Catholic families are not as common as they once were. The concept of family is more fluid with many forms of blended families due to second marriages, multigenerational households, and other living arrangements. In a recent survey by the Pew research center, four in ten babies are born to single mothers. Other children are being raised by grandparents or foster parents. In today’s Genesis story, Abraham was ready to concede to another form of family, making the child of one of his servants his heir. The reading from Hebrews reiterates the story of Genesis, and “your descendants will be more numerous than the stars.” The Gospel relates the story of the presentation in the temple.

POWER IN PRESCRIBED RITUALS

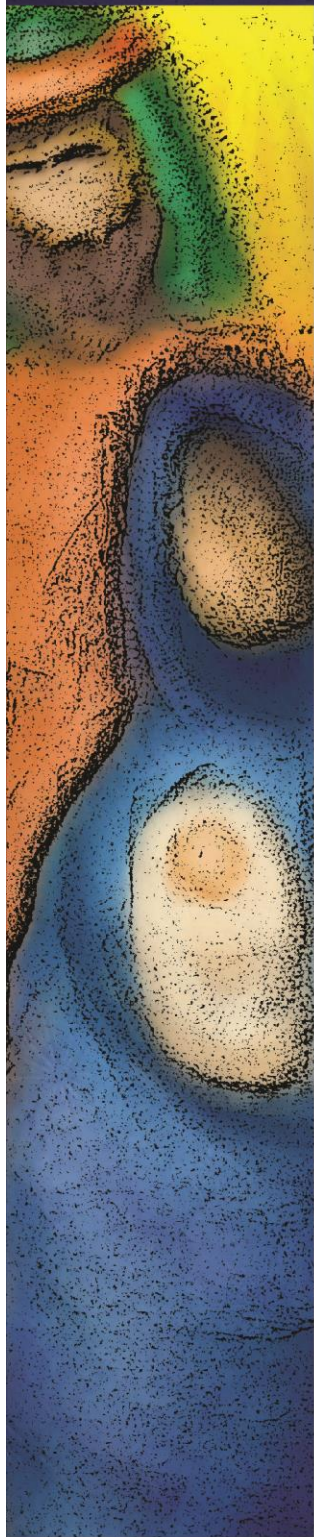
Joseph and Mary presented Jesus in the temple at eight days old, as was prescribed by Mosaic law. For many Catholic families, baptismal gowns were handed down through generations, and a baptism was a time of great celebration. Sadly, in our culture, baptisms continue to decline. There are many reasons for this: fewer practicing Catholics, more interfaith marriages, more secular weddings, fewer weddings by clergy, and problems or misunderstandings that turn people away. Many have left the church altogether because of the way they were treated. For some the parish is not a welcoming place. For others baptism has become just a ritual they go through for the sake of the grandparents.

EXAMPLES IN OUR ELDERS

When someone does present a child for baptism, it can become too easy for others to pass judgment because the parents don’t know the rubrics well, or aren’t dressed better, or “why is that single mother having her baby baptized during Mass?” Notice that the Gospel says nothing about the priests of the temple and how they received Jesus. Rather it talks about Simeon and Anna. They are worth a study in themselves. Simeon is a devout man who is there waiting for a particular sign, and it is fulfilled when he see the Christ Child. Anna is just in the temple praying, as is her custom. After the presentation of Jesus, she does what she does best—she goes back to praying in the temple. Perhaps these readings teach us how we as a faith community can see the sacredness in those families presenting their children for baptism, and welcome them as did Anna and Simeon. May we all learn from their wisdom!

TODAY’S READINGS

Genesis 15:1–6; 21:1–3
Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 8–9
Hebrews 11:8, 11–12, 17–19
Luke 2:22–40 [22, 39–40]



Weekly Mass Intentions**Saturday, December 26, 2020**

5:00 pm..... Parishioner Intentions

7:30 pm..... Parishioner Intentions

Sunday, December 27, 2020

9:00 am..... Parishioner Intentions

10:30 am (OLG)..... Parishioner Intentions

11:30 am (SH)..... Parishioner Intentions

6:00 pm..... All College Students

Weekly Parish Activities**December 27 – January 2**

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 27**St. Mary**

8:30 am..... Confession

9:00 am..... Holy Mass

Our Lady of Guadalupe

10:00 am..... Confession

10:30 am..... Holy Mass

Sacred Heart

11:00 am..... Confession

11:30 am..... Holy Mass

St. Brendan

5:30 pm..... Confession

6:00 pm..... Holy Mass

Monday, December 28

8:00 am..... Daily Mass (St. Brendan)

Tuesday, December 29

8:00 am..... Daily Mass (St. Brendan)

12:00 pm..... Al-Anon Meeting (St. Brendan)

Wednesday, December 30

7:00 pm..... Daily Mass (St. Brendan)

Thursday, December 31

8:00 am..... Daily Mass (St. Brendan)

Friday, January 1**SEE MASS SCHEDULE BELOW****Saturday, January 2**

4:30pm..... Confession (St. Brendan)

5:00 pm..... Holy Mass (St. Brendan)

7:00 pm..... Confession (St. Mary)

7:30 pm..... Santa Misa (St. Mary)

Online Giving is available on our parish website: www.stbrendanscc.org**Prefer Mail:****Make check payable to your parish and mail to 1444 W. Washington St. Stephenville, TX 76401.****WE ARE GOD'S HOLY FAMILY****DECEMBER 27, 2020**

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. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

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.

Psalms — 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]).

SOMOS LA SAGRADA FAMILIA DE DIOS 27 de diciembre de 2020

Las lecturas de Israel están repletas de relatos de parejas estériles a quienes Dios les concedió el milagro de tener hijos. Sin duda el relato más conocido es el de la primera lectura de hoy: Lucas se inspiró en este relato para contar el milagroso nacimiento de Juan Bautista, hijo de Zacarías e Isabel, y el nacimiento aun más milagroso de Jesús, hijo de María y José. En ambos casos, vemos ejemplos o modelos a seguir de personas que confiaron en Dios. Más que ser ejemplos de personas que confiaron, son modelos de entrega incondicional de sí. Abandonaron sus propios preconceptos y prejuicios sobre el funcionamiento del mundo y entregaron sus vidas a creer en un Dios que puede hacer que haya vida en lugares en donde era inconcebible que la hubiera; un Dios que puede convertir la muerte en una vida nueva e inimaginable; un Dios que puede, hoy, tomar a un niño de padres humildes en un pueblo insignificante y convertirlo en una luz para el mundo entero. Esto es a lo que se nos llama a hacer cada día como Sagrada Familia de Dios: confiar no sólo en nosotros mismos y en la manera en que pensamos que deberían ser las cosas, sino a abrirnos y entregarnos en fe a un Dios de promesa infinita. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK**Monday:** 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt:13-18**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40**Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18**Friday:** Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21**Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28**Sunday:** Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Giving during the COVID-19 pandemic: During this challenging time, we depend on online donations to keep our parish family going. Please take advantage of online giving by visiting our parish website at www.stbrendanscc.org.

The Annual Diocesan Appeal is underway throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Through this annual campaign, the Diocese funds programs and ministries for its 90 parishes and missions throughout the 28 counties it serves.

Information sheets and commitment envelopes are in the back of 4 churches. Once completed please mail your contribution or pledge card directly to the Diocese office in Fort Worth. You can also go to <https://stbrendanscc.org/>.

Here is the latest ADA report from the Diocese:

As 12-18-20

Our Lady of Guadalupe...14 donors...Goal \$5000
Committed...\$4140 (82%) Paid...\$3840 (77%)

St. Mary's...32 donors...Goal \$16,500
Committed \$14,106 (85%) Paid...\$13,906 (84%)

St. Brendan's...26 donors...Goal \$17,500
Committed...10,955 (63%) Paid...\$8125 (46%)

Sacred Heart...10 donors...Goal \$6000
Committed...\$2282 (38%) Paid...\$1082 (18%)

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

December 26-27.....Sacred Heart Building Fund
January 9-10.....Priest Care Fund

Office Hours are Monday – Friday, 9 am – 3 pm.

Please be sure to call during these hours for assistance. (254-965-5693)

Remember to check the website

<https://stbrendanscc.org/> for important updates on Mass Schedules, Covid-19 guidelines, and Church Gatherings updates.

Please Remember:

1. There is no obligation at this time to attend Mass.
2. Masks are to be worn at all times inside parish buildings.
3. All church gathering are still prohibited at this time.

Our Parishes will have a **second collection** this weekend, **December 26-27**, for the **Sacred Heart Building Fund**. The project is almost 75% funded! Thank you to those who have been generous in making this possible. Giving can be done at mass, by mailing a check to the office, or via online giving on our website.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Schedule

New Year's Eve (Thursday)

St. Brendan's..... 6:00 pm
St. Mary's.....8:00 pm

New Year's Day (Friday)

St. Brendan's..... 8:00 am
St. Mary's.....9:00 am
Sacred Heart.....10:00 am
Our Lady of Guadalupe.....10:30am

PRAYER CORNER: Please pray for the different intentions of each person this week for: John McCarthy Carolyn Hoelscher, Virginia Esquibel, Lupe and Lee Zarati, Irma Lopez, Jeremy Deforest (RIP) and his family, Jennifer Lancaster and Family, Della Munson and Husband, Jackie Demetruk, Carl Volleman, Lt. Evan Flores and Caitlin Cook, Isaac Montelongo, Mack McCormick, Dan and Rita Kernaghan, Mary Haschke, Ann Blair, Glenda Withers, Paulette Jones, Paul Dominguez, Amanda Nicholson, Elise Smithson, Jessica Huxen, Jocelyn Lewis, Donnie H., Peter DeJong, Teresa Villadesanchez, Marisol Sanchez, Tino Bernal, Lupita Ojeda, Elizabeth Olfers, Margie Derrick, Maria Bernal, Rudy Guerrero, Filegonio Cardenas, Chris Roemer, Mykal Jones, David Gonzales, Bole Family, Rex Wisner, Jeanna DeViney, Bill Luther, Pete Sanchez, Teresa Sanchez, Patrick Noonan, Estela Patlan, Cristino DeLeon, Jr., Janice Schuetz, Dorothy Casseotta, Jose Torres, Patsy Shafer, Cheryl Mauer, Lisa Bradshaw, Jennifer Lannin, Sara Maldonado, Mary Rose, Lagarde Family, Baby Lauren, Jerry Soape, Florin Schlautman, Linda Mitchell, Kayla Cambers, Stephanie Martinez, Crystal Lena Martinez, Colleen Carey Dotson, Kathryn Schneider, Nursing Home Patients, homebound parishioners, all who are ill, and for the souls in purgatory.

Dec. 26-27, 2020 - As we celebrate Holy Family Sunday, let us remember that God's love for us is reflected in the love for each other in our family. Why not celebrate and encourage that love by giving your spouse the gift of a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend? For dates for "virtual" Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends visit our website at: <http://www.dfwme.org/> For more information e-mail apply@dfwme.org or call 469-444-0904. Para mas informacion de Encuentro Matrimonial en Espanol, escriba a emmdfw@gmail.com

Live Streaming of the Sunday 9:00 a.m. mass from St. Mary's is available on Facebook, by search "*St. Brendan's Catholic Church*".

Weekdays masses are also streamed live from St. Brendan's, at 8:00 a.m. Mon-Tu-Th-Fri, and 7:00 p.m. on Wed.

TMIY: The Vision of Man Fully Alive

The Vision of Man Fully Alive enables men to experience authentic freedom as sons of God. Through living the three-fold mission of abiding presence, joyful service and living sacrifice, their hearts and homes will experience the joy that God desires. To sustain them on their spiritual journey, the men will be led directly to the three spiritual foods that Christ himself proclaims: The Eucharist, The Word of God, and The Will of God. Join us for food, fellowship and faith at **Newman Hall, on Saturdays at 8 AM. All men are welcome.** Learn more at tmiy.org.

Contact Anthony Williams at 817-894-5343 or awillj@gmail.com

Monthly Baptism Preparation Classes:

Monthly Baptism classes (English and Spanish) are for **children UNDER the age of 7**. Please contact the office (254) 965-5693 for information/enrollment.

THERE ARE NO BAPTISMS DURING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Children 7 and older prepare for Baptism via the RCIA-Adapted for Children program. This program is available **ONLY** at St. Mary in Dublin and runs on the regular CCD schedule, contact Karen Harper for information/enrollment.

God-parents **MUST** be practicing Catholics.

If you cannot receive Communion you cannot be a God-parent.

The following requirements **MUST** be met in order to be a God-parent:

Baptized

Confirmed

If Married, they **MUST** be married in the Catholic Church

If Single, they **CANNOT** be cohabitating

Clases para preparación de Bautismo Mensual:

Clases de Bautismo mensuales (Inglés y Español) son para **niños que tengan MENOS de 7 años**. Comuníquese con Irma Chacón (254) 965-2078 para el horario de clases

Niños que tengan 7 años o más serán preparados para el Bautismo por acabo de él programa RCIA-Adaptado para niños. Este programa solamente está disponible en la Iglesia Santa María de Dublin y lleva a cabo durante el año calendario normal de Catecismo.

Padrinos **TIENEN** que ser Católicos practicantes.

Si no puede recibir la Comunión, no puede ser un padrino.

Los siguientes requisitos **TIENEN** que ser cumplidos en orden de poder ser Padrinos:

Tiene que ser Bautizados

Tiene que estar Confirmados

Casados por la Iglesia Católica se están casados

Si no están casados no pueden estar viviendo con una pareja

CCM is selling T-shirts for \$15. If you would like to purchase one, please bring cash or a check to the office. Contact Nathan to buy one outside of office hours.



Upcoming Holy Days

January 1.....Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Note: There is no obligation at this time to attend

Mass.

BULLETIN NOTICES: Please direct all bulletin announcements to Nathan in the church office. Email them to catholic@embarqmail.com Deadline: Wednesday by 12:00 pm.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our family to yours! From Fr. Matthew, Fr. James, Nathan and Melissa.

The office will be closed from **Thursday, December 24 through Friday, January 1, 2021** for the Christmas Holiday.

The **1st Thursday Rosary** for January will be held on **January 7th at 6:00 p.m.**

The **1st Friday Adoration** will be held on **January 8th from 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

Both services are at St. Brendan's.

