

Rejoice! The Word became flesh and dwells among us! Oh, come, let us adore Him!



LITURGY SCHEDULE

December 26, 2021

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Monday, Dec. 27, Feast of St. John the Evangelist at St. John's

10:00a.m...Billy & Cheryl Meyer

Tuesday, Dec. 28

5:30p.m...No Mass

Wednesday, Dec. 29 at St. John's

12:00noon...No Mass

Thursday, Dec. 30 at St. Mary's

5:30p.m...No Mass

Friday, Dec. 31 Solemnity Vigil at St. John's

9:00a.m...Gerard Merkel

Saturday, Jan. 1, Solemnity of Mary at Holy Family

10:00a.m...Parishioners of St. Mary's, St. John's, and Holy Family

Saturday, Jan. 1 (Sunday Vigil)

5:00p.m...Parishioners of St. Mary's, St. John's, and Holy Family at St. Mary's

6:30p.m...Severino Sulit at St. John's

Sunday, Jan. 2, Epiphany of the Lord

9:00a.m...Bill & Pat Schantz at St. John's

11:00a.m...Mickey McPherson at Holy Family

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Dec. 27: [St. John, Apostle & Evangelist] 1 Jn 1: 1-4; Jn 20: 1a, 2-8

Dec. 28: [The Holy Innocents, martyrs] 1 Jn 1: 5—2: 2; Mt 2: 13-18

Dec. 29: [St. Thomas Becket, bishop & martyr] 1Jn 2: 3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Dec. 30: 1 Jn 2: 12-17; Lk 2: 36-40

Dec. 31: [St. Sylvester I, pope] 1 Jn 2: 18-21; Jn 1: 1-18

Jan. 1: [Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God] Nm 6: 22-27; Gal 4: 4-7;

Lk 2: 16-21

Jan. 2: [Epiphany of the Lord] Is 60: 1-6; Eph 3: 2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2: 1-12

Merry Christmas and Blessed Feast Days of the Holy Family and St. John the Evangelist to all of our parishioners, families, visitors, and guests these next few days. Thanks for being here to celebrate these great feasts and for those who are apart, please know of our prayers for you as well, and how you are always unified with us in the great sacrifice of the Holy Mass. In many ways, reflecting on this Pastor's Note, I am not 100 percent sure of the differences between this Christmas and last. It seems that we are still dealing with many of the same issues, but I know and I believe that there are differences and improvements between the two. It certainly brings to mind one of my favorite quotes from the *Lord of the Rings*, where one of the characters states in response to a miracle, "Is everything sad going to come untrue?"

As Catholics, the answer to this question is always yes, but when these sad things will become untrue is not always fully known or even experienced fully in our own particular times. But as the Christmas season reminds us, God fulfills His promises in surprising ways such as being born in a cave well over 2000 years ago. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI once wrote, "Often, God's plan is hidden under the opaque terrain of human vicissitudes, in which the 'proud,' the 'mighty' and the 'rich' triumph. However, in the end, his secret strength is destined to manifest who God's real favorites are: the 'faithful' to his Word, 'the humble,' 'the hungry,' namely, the community of the People of God that, as Mary, is constituted by those who are 'poor,' pure, and simple of heart." So, if our poor, pure hearts have been touched and influenced at all by God since last Christmas, then this Christmas cannot help but be different and better because God is always faithful to his beloved children. So, let us experience great joy in these Christmas celebrations and liturgies, and continue to offer our poor and simple hearts to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Merry Christ, Fr. Hurley

The first reading today provides a challenging guideline for the good stewardship of our family relationships. How do I measure up?

All in the pastorate are invited to our Feasts!

Feast of Holy Family Christmas dinner leftovers luncheon and White Elephant exchange is this Sunday in Reemmer Hall following 11am Mass.

Feast of St. John the Evangelist is Monday, December 27. Starting with 10am daily Mass then all are invited to the parish hall to share in St. John's Love (a special drink to warm us), snacks, a short Christmas DVD, and the blessing of bottles of wine (or other favorite drink).

The Grant County Community Foundation college scholarship applications are due by December 31st. Visit the website for the application: <https://givetogrant.org/scholarships/>

Donations for the Pregnancy Help Center in Marion are due by Tuesday so we can get them turned in before the end of the year. Thank you.

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS:

The Holy Family experienced many of the same joys and trials that all parents and children experience today. And, so, we can look to this Family for help in our own family lives and see in them a model of stewardship in family life. The Gospel passage from Luke starts by telling us something about Jesus' parents: "Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover, and when he was 12 years old, they went up according to festival custom." This Family took seriously the stewardship of their time. The "Holy Couple" carefully observed the traditions and practice of their Jewish faith and brought up their Son to do the same. They worshiped as a family, and with their faith community. And they did so faithfully. We can take their example to heart by making Sunday Mass attendance a priority for our families, by making prayer with our family a priority every day, by making sure that we regularly celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and by observing in our family life the feasts and fasts appropriate to the liturgical calendar. When we, as families, prioritize our Time with God and worship of Him we will be imitating the Holy Family.

On this Feast of the Holy Family, let us reclaim the beauty and importance of family life. Let's commit to steward our families well in 2022, making time spent with God and practicing our faith the most important appointments on our family calendars.