

DECEMBER 30, 2023 – JANUARY 7, 2024

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

Saturday: Dec. 30 2023 Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8. 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2:22-40

4:00 pm St. Mary: Intentions of the Vocationist Fathers

Sunday: Dec. 31, 2023 Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8. 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2:22-40

8:30 am St. Edward: † Merle Wheeler (2nd Ann.)

9:30 am St. Mary: † Oscar & † Yvonne Desrochers & Families

10:30 am St. James: † Luwina Allard and Healing for a Special Person

11:00 am St. Mary: An End to the Violence in the Middle East

Monday: Jan. 1, 2024 Numbers 6:22-7; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

SOLEMNITY OF MARY: THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

9:00 am St. Mary: Intentions of Fr. Benny on the 13th Anniversary of his Ordination

4:00 pm St. Mary: An End to the War in Ukraine

5:30 pm St. Edward: † Dorothy Begin

Tuesday: Jan. 2, 2024 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28

Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen: Bishops & Doctors of the Church

9:00 am St. Mary: † Lucille Meunier

4:00 pm St. Mary: † Antione Brasseur

Wednesday: Jan. 3, 2024 1 John 2:29 – 3:6; John 1:29-34

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

9:00 am St. Mary: † Ila Poginy

4:00 pm St. Mary: † John Ward, Sr.

Thursday: Jan. 4, 2024 1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton: Religious

9:00 am St. Mary: † Nancy Goulet

2:00 pm Northern State Correctional Facility: Intentions of Inmates

4:00 pm St. Mary: † Frank Goad

Friday: Jan. 5, 2024 1 John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51

Saint John Neumann: Bishop

First Friday of the Month: Anointing of the Sick at all Masses

9:00 am St. Mary: In Thanksgiving for my Kidney Donor and her Family

11:00 am St. James: An End to Mass Shootings in the U.S.

4:00 pm St. Mary: † Anthony Lague

5:30 pm St. Edward: † Virginia Holbrook

Saturday: Jan. 6, 2023 1 John 5:5-13; Mark 1:7-11

Saint Andre Bessette: Religious

9:00 am St. Mary: Eucharistic Revival at Mater Dei Parish

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday: Jan. 6, 2024 Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6;

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6;

4:00 pm St. Mary: Intentions of the Vocationist Fathers

Sunday: Jan. 7, 2024 Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Luke 2:22-40

8:30 am St. Edward: † Merle Wheeler, † Jeannine Gratton and † Richard & † Regina Provost

9:30 am St. Mary: † Adelard & † Claire Riendeau and † Frank Goad

10:30 am St. James: Intentions of Fr. Thomas Naduviledath on the 16th Anniversary of his Ordination

11:00 am St. Mary: † Leonard Lizotte, † Rev. Charles Davignon Blessings on Fr. Yvon Royer on his Birthday

Saturday: December 30, 2023

3:00 pm St. Mary: Confession w/Fr. Rijo & Fr. Jim

7:00 pm on Zoom: Parish Holy Rosary

Sunday: December 31, 2023

7:00 pm on Zoom: Parish Holy Rosary

Monday: January 1, 2024

Happy New Year!!

NO Adoration at St. Edward's

7:00 pm on Zoom: Parish Holy Rosary

Tuesday: January 2, 2024

10:30 am Bel-Aire: Holy Mass w/Fr. Jim

NO Catholic Faith Formation at St. James

6:00 pm: Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday: January 3, 2024

9:30 am St. Mary: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament w/Fr. Rijo

930 am – 3:30 pm St. Mary: Adoration

3:30 pm St. Mary: Benediction w/Fr. Rijo

6:00 pm St. Mary: Bible Class w/Fr. Rijo

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm St. Mary's Rectory Chapel: SDV Adoration w/all Priests

7:00 pm on Zoom: Parish Holy Rosary

Thursday: January 4, 2024

9:30 am NCH: Hospital Visits w/Fr. Jim

2:00 pm NSCF: Prison Ministry w/Fr. Tom

7:00 pm on Zoom: Parish Holy Rosary

Friday: January 5, 2024

First Friday – Anointing of the Sick

10:30 am St. James: Adoration w/Fr. Jim

2:00 pm St. Mary: VAUS Prayer Group w/Fr. Rijo

6:00 pm St. Edward: Bible Class w/Fr. Tom

7:00 pm on Zoom: Parish Holy Rosary

Saturday: January 6, 2024

Fr. Rijo will be away this weekend to officiate at a wedding.

3:00 pm St. Mary: Confession w/Fr. Jim & Fr. Rijo

Sunday: January 7, 2024

7:00 pm on Zoom: Parish Holy Rosary

2024 Prayer List



Tracy Ashman
Alexandra Bannach
Betty Blair
Raymond Bowen, Sr.
Steve Comeau
Marcel Deslandes
Cindy Fournier
Macie Fournier
Nancy Goad
Shirley Hand
Kathy Howes
Alicia Letourneau
Andrea Peden
Andy Ricard
Roger Roberge, Jr.
Timothy Roberge
Corrine Ross
Lily Scott & Family
Peter Wenk

*We begin a new prayer list
in January of each year.*

*Please call the parish office at
(802) 624-4970 or email
office@materdeivermont.com
if you would like to add a
name to the list.*

Prayer for the Sick

*Heavenly Father, we place our
sick in Your loving care, and
humbly ask that You bring
healing to Your servants and
restore them to health. May
they experience Your loving
care during this difficult time.
Above all, grant us the grace
to accept and acknowledge
Your will. Amen.*



The Shepherds Went in Haste, and Found Mary and Joseph and the Infant Lying in a Manger.

Devotion to the Holy Family began the very same night that Jesus was born. It is no accident of fate that God chose simple shepherds to be the first people to worship the baby Jesus. He did not choose kings, or priests, or the rich and mighty. No, the first witnesses to God's miracle, found in the comforting warmth of the Holy Family, were simple shepherds.

Now shepherding was not an honored profession during the time of Jesus. Quite the contrary, shepherds were poor and considered low in the social hierarchy. Yet God chose shepherds to be the first to worship Jesus and His Holy Family!

Today's readings are about promises. When was the last time someone promised you something and didn't follow through? Or when was the last time you made a promise that you didn't keep? Today we hear about promises that are fulfilled – kept by a faithful God, a God who is Emmanuel, a God who is with us.

In today's first reading from Genesis, the Lord tells Abram not to be afraid. He promises to be Abram's shield and to make his reward very great. Abram put his faith in God and was rewarded with a son – even though his wife Sarah was sterile, and Abraham was an old man. "Look up in the sky and count the stars," God told Abraham. "So shall your descendants be." A promise made and fulfilled.

In today's Gospel from Luke, another couple received a promise, and that promise is also fulfilled. Mary and Joseph brought their child Jesus to the temple because the Law of Moses required that every firstborn son be consecrated to God. The Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would not die until he had seen Christ the Lord. Not only did he see the Christ, he took Him in his arms and blessed God. "Now, Master you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation..." Another promise made and fulfilled by a faithful God! And Anna, the prophetess, a widow who worshipped day and night at the temple, gave thanks to God and spoke about the child who would redeem Jerusalem. Simeon and Anna were filled with the Holy Spirit and were able to see things that others couldn't. They saw salvation, peace, redemption, Christ the Savior. Others didn't recognize Him – they saw only a couple with a child fulfilling a requirement of the law. Simeon also made a promise to Mary on that day – that a sword would pierce her heart – a promise sadly fulfilled when Christ was crucified. Mary and Joseph were probably filled with questions that day at the temple, but they returned home with God in their hearts and the hope of a promise. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him. Promises fulfilled!

Scripture tells us almost nothing about the boyhood of the Child Jesus. Even so, the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph are an example of trusting in God and working through life's challenges. Family is more than blood. It involves relationships, challenges, suffering, and sacrifice – all things endured by the Holy Family. What are you willing to sacrifice for those you love? What are you willing to sacrifice to live as a child of God?