



PRINCE of PEACE

CATHOLIC PARISH

5 Worcester Road (P.O. Box 305) Princeton, MA 01541 | Office hours Mon.-Wed. 9:00 am-2:00 pm | (978) 464-2871

MEETINGS

Baptism

Instruction is required for all parents seeking baptism of their child. Please contact the Rectory.

Care of the Sick

Please advise us of parishioners who are sick that we may keep them in prayer. We would also like to bring the Eucharist to those who cannot celebrate Mass with us in church.

Confidential Prayer Line

To add intentions call Ellen Calamari at 978-660-3818 or the Rectory at 978-464-2871.

Marriage

Interviews, instruction and Pre-Cana are required. Please contact the Rectory at least one year in advance.

Programs

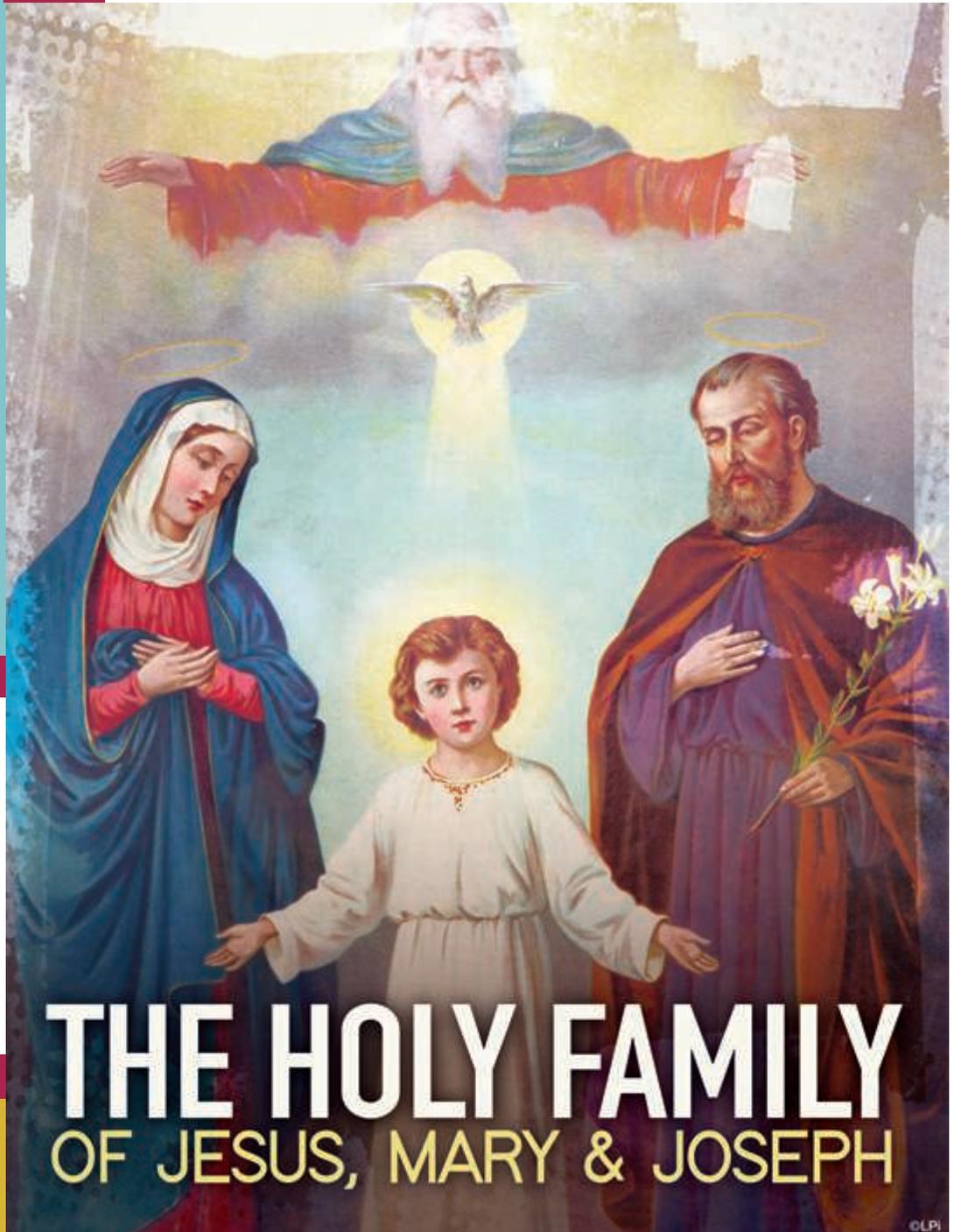
- Adult Bible Study
Please contact the Rectory for class schedule.
- Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting
Wednesdays at 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall.
- Reconciliation/Confession
Saturday 3:45 pm at the church, or by appointment.

Rev. H. Edward Chalmers, Pastor

STAFF

Parish Secretary, Paula Greeley

Religious Education Coordinator, Sharon Bushway



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Development Committee
978-464-2871

Finance Council
Chairperson: Gerald Gates (978) 464-5636

Education Committee
(978) 464-2871

Liturgical Committee
(978) 464-2871

Evangelization & Outreach Committee
(978) 464-2871

SCHEDULE/MASSES

Monday—Friday 8:30 am

Saturday 4:30 pm

Sunday 8:30 & 10:30 am

Holy Days/Feast Day 8:30 am & 7:00 pm

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

CLPI

Your talents are welcome. We encourage you to call a ministry chairperson to find out more about our on-going programs.

Mass Intentions for the Week



Saturday, December 25th
 4:30 PM NO MASS
 Sunday, December 26th
 8:30 AM Unrequested
 10:30 AM Unrequested
 Monday, December 27th
 8:30 AM Holy Souls in Purgatory
 Tuesday, December 28th
 8:30 AM Nick Galletta
 Wednesday, December 29th
 8:30 AM Unrequested
 Thursday, December 30th
 8:30 AM Unrequested
 Friday, December 31st
 8:30 AM Unrequested
 Saturday, January 1st
 8:30 AM **Holy Day Mass**
 3:45 PM Confessions
 4:30 PM Unrequested (Epiphany of the Lord)
 Sunday, January 2nd
 8:30 AM Unrequested
 10:30 AM Unrequested

NATIONAL COLLECTION FOR THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

The Catholic University of America is unique among universities in the United States—even among Catholic universities. Established by Pope Leo XIII and the U.S. bishops in 1887, it is the national university of the Catholic Church. In addition to alumni who hail from this diocese, Catholic University claims one third of the U.S. bishops and 12,000 priests and religious as alumni. In Washington, DC, the University provides an education based in the Catholic intellectual tradition to almost 7,000 students through its 12 schools.

Next weekend, **January 1-2**, we will be taking up the National Collection for The Catholic University of America. Your support will enable Catholic University to expand its impact in preparing the next generation of leadership for our Church and nation. We appreciate your generosity. You can learn more at collection.dua.edu.



Due to holiday printing schedules, the finance reports for December 11-12 and December 18-19 will be printed in future bulletins.

The Holy Family
December 26, 2021

Dear Friends,

I hope that everyone had a blessed and joyful Christmas. May we always treasure our celebration of Christmas. For the Christian believer, the incarnation when “The Word became Flesh and made His dwelling among us” (John 1:14) gives real meaning to our lives. In faith, hope, and love, let us courageously reject sin and evil, humbly and graciously preparing our souls for Jesus.

Today, we honor Jesus, Mary, and Joseph with the liturgical celebration of the Holy Family. May we continually reflect upon the sanctity of the Holy Family. Mary and Joseph protected Jesus as He prepared to offer Himself for the salvation of humanity. In a similar way, they protect us by interceding for us before the throne of God. May Our Lady and St. Joseph keep us safe from evil and spiritually lead us to Jesus.

Be well and be safe!

God’s love and prayers always,

Fr. Ed



Prayer for the New Year

Dear Lord,

*At the beginning of this New Year,
 I remember that you are a God of beginnings
 And endings.*

*You created the world, with all its eternal
 Patterns.*

*Winter begins in frost, and ends in Spring’s
 Thaw.*

*Spring begins in new, green life, ending in
 Summer’s heat.*

*Summer begins in sunshine, and ends in Autumn’s
 breezes.*

*And Autumn’s color leads to the white of
 Winter again.*

*As another year ends and begins in our lives, help us to
 remember that you have made a world of cycles.*

*When fortune turns to trials, or hardship turns
 To joy, help me take delight in the life I’ve received from
 you.*

*Remind me that I will one day pass from
 This world*

*And enter a new life like those who’ve gone
 Before me.*

Amen.

Good News!

December 26, 2021

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (C)

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28

Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk
2:41-52

So many family-oriented television programs today feature the antics of dysfunctional families. They're often so well produced that we laugh at the blundering exploits, thus giving them credibility. The readings for today's feast show us what a real family looks like. Parents worry about the security of their children (Luke); brothers and sisters are told to be compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, and patient (Colossians); elders are respected and cared for in their need (Sirach). Even the psalm response sketches the profile of a flourishing family as understood at that time.

We can only guess what the Holy Family must have been like. There is no indication that their neighbors saw them as anything more than an average family. Jesus learned Joseph's trade and, most likely, would take over the business after he died. Instead, he launched out as an itinerant preacher. Even that does not seem to have been so exceptional for that time. Nor was Mary's widowhood reason for him to stay home. The Gospels indicate that she was part of a protective family unit. This did not appear to be an exceptional family. But how exceptional it was!

The lesson is that even an average family has the potential to be a holy family. What we should do is pattern our lives after Paul's exhortation to the Colossians. If we live like this, we will discover that holiness is all in the family.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

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My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Each year the celebration of Christmas resounds with the glad tidings of great joy that brought awe, wonder and peace to the shepherds at Bethlehem. Each of us has treasured family traditions that surround and support our celebration of Christ's birth—a family gathering after Mass, delivering dinners, trimming trees, displaying crèches, exchanging gifts or visiting friends.

For many months, Covid precautions have disrupted, curtailed or postponed the traditions and practices of everyday life. We long for a return to normalcy. As we edge closer to normalcy, reports of Covid variants, breakthrough infections and rising hospitalizations can give us the jitters and make us skittish.

But even as we heed prudent precautions, that skittishness and those jitters should not shake us. We should not be shaken because the essence of Christmas, the source of our joy and the cause of our awe, wonder and peace remain the same—God so loved the world that He sent His Son to take on human flesh, to become one of us so that we might become children of God and share forever in His love. Because of that, no virus, no variant, not even death itself will keep the faithful from sharing the joy of God's love both here amidst earth's uncertainties or forever in Heaven where no threat, shadow or separation will vex us.

While the essence of Christmas remains the same, its message never becomes static or grows stale. When our prayer life deepens, our sacramental life is sustained, our holiness grows and we gain an ever more profound awareness of God's closeness to us and His love for us. That realization is grace, God Himself with us, Emmanuel dwelling in our souls. That grace frees us from fear, allows us to persevere with prudence and fills us with confidence and peace to face and overcome every challenge.

In the new year may our weekly communal worship at Mass continue to inspire us with the Word of God and nourish us in the Eucharist that we may grow ever more confident in our conviction and joy that the Savior born to us at Bethlehem remains with us now and forever.

With every prayerful best wish for a Blessed and Merry Christmas, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester*