

The Parish Community of Saint Agnes • Elyria, Ohio,

Greetings to the Saint Agnes Parish



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.

—Deacon Bruce Tennant

Mass Intentions

Thursday, December 24
CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 PM - Members of the Parish

Friday, December 25
CHRISTMAS

10:00AM — Members of the Parish

Saturday, December 26
Saint Stephen

4:30PM — Heidi Monske

Sunday December 27
THE HOLY FAMILY

10:00AM — L/D of the Mittler Family

Monday, December 28
The Holy Innocents

9:00AM — Deceased Mothers of the Klein Family

Tuesday, December 29
Saint Thomas Becket

9:00AM — Jerry Lewis

Wednesday, December 30
9:00AM — Father Al Krupp

Thursday, December 31
Saint Sylvester 1

4:30— M. Szabo, C. Hutman, P. Diedrich

First Friday, January 1
*Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God,
Holy Day of Obligation*

9:00AM — Ann Malchesky

First Saturday, January 2
*Saints Basil the Great
& Gregory Nazianzen*

4:30PM — Josephine Blaz

Sunday, January 3
Epiphany of the Lord

10:00AM — Roseann Cavaceci



Christmas Prayer : Glory to God in the highest! My precious Lord, Jesus, I adore You with profound love and rejoice in the celebration of Your birth. Your love for us is unfathomable, it is glorious transforming, awe-inspiring, and deeply personal. You chose to come and dwell among us, being born into poverty, rejection and humility. Yet Your mother knew whom she bore, Her heart was filled with the tenderest love as she adored her Child and her God. Help me, dear Lord, to come to love You with the heart of Your mother. Invite me to adore you with St. Joseph and the poor shepherds. Reveal to me the glorious power of Your birth and change my life on account of this perfect gift of Yourself. I love You, dear Lord Jesus. Help me to love You with all my heart. Newborn Savior of the World, I trust in You. Mother Mary and St. Joseph, Pray for me and for all. Amen.



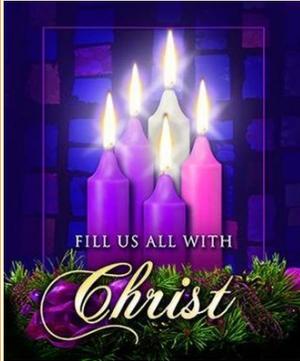
Scripture Readings for Next Sunday

Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2: 1-12

Please read them prayerfully to prepare for the Liturgy of The Word.

Christmas 2020 and New Year 2021



CHRISTMAS

This Sunday, we conclude our journey of Advent. Christ the King is Born!! Today is the first day in the octave of Christmas. Today we celebrate with unrestrained joy, "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us". Christmas time begins with the first Vespers of the feast on Christmas Eve, and ends on the fest of the Baptism of Christ. Now is a time to proclaim the good tidings of great joy to all, and a remembrance that we have received the greatest of all gifts from God.



HAPPY NEW YEAR: As we begin the new year, let us approach it as we do the Catholic New Year, or beginning of Advent. Let us remember what is important in life, and better our souls this 2021 and focus on our relationship with God.

FAMILY PERSPECTIVES:

Throughout the entire season of Christmastide, there is a strong theme of light and darkness. At Mass today we hear proclaimed, "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." This Christmastide will be different for many of us as we journey through the corona virus pandemic. For us as Christians, the light is a concept, but even more, it is a person. In Jesus's life all darkness is dispelled. Let us hold on to hope this Christmastide and proclaim that light is always stronger than darkness.

We come to know Jesus through both word and sacrament. The words of the Bible illuminate our minds and lift our spirits to consider things not as human beings do but from the perspective of our divine and heavenly God: God the Creator, Jesus the Redeemer and the Holy Spirit. In considering the life of the Holy Family in Nazareth, we might ponder: How can we also look at the events of our days as a constant living with the word of God? How do we make room and space for this word to dwell within us richly? How do we experience Jesus as consolation and comfort?

MASS INTENTIONS: the Mass book for 2021 is now open. The usual offering for a Mass intention is \$10 (set by diocesan policy). Call or visit Natalie in the parish office or drop your request in the collection basket and mark it "Mass intention".

Wedding Anniversary Blessings To:

Bob & Jean Hutman 63 years on December 27th

Your parish family wishes you continued joy and happiness



Activities for the Week

Thursday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 PM Mass

Friday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00AM Mass

Saturday, December 26

4:00PM Rosary

Sunday December 27th

The Holy Family

10 a.m. Mass on WUAB Channel

9:30AM Rosary

Mass will also be Live Streamed on Facebook on the Elyria Catholic Cluster page.

Monday, December 28

8:30AM Rosary and
miraculous medal Novena

Tuesday December 29

8:30AM

-Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet
9:30-10:30-Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, December 30

8:30AM Rosary

Thursday, December 31

Friday, January 1

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother
of God**

8:30AM Rosary

Saturday, January 2

4:00PM Rosary

Sunday January 3rd

Epiphany of the Lord

10 a.m. Mass on WUAB Channel

9:30AM Rosary

Mass will also be Live Streamed on Facebook on the Elyria Catholic Cluster page.

Collection

Thank you for your generous support toward our weekly budget of \$4,200.00!

This weeks donations will be in the January 3rd bulletin due to the holiday schedule for printing. Thank you! We encourage you to utilize the We Share online giving at saintagneselyria.churchgiving.com