

# OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**  
**May you encounter God in Jesus this Christmas,**  
**and may you receive the peace that only he can give!**  
**Joyous Christmas greetings and a blessed New Year!**  
**Thank you for all your support during this very difficult year.**  
**In the love of Jesus, Mary and Joseph,**  
*Father Robert Smith*

**Stewardship Moment**—Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, give the gift of forgiveness with someone—a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

**Year of St. Joseph**—In the year 1870 Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph patron of the universal church. To commemorate this 150th anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a “year of St. Joseph” beginning on December 8, 2020, feast of the Immaculate Conception, until December 8, 2021. Through the generosity of a parishioner there are a variety of holy cards of St. Joseph with prayers on the table near The Family Room. Please help yourself, perhaps sending some to relatives.

**THANK YOU** to each and everyone who helped make the Blood Drive at OLP on 12/21 a fabulous success. We exceeded the expected totals by over 50% !  
 Marion Baker—Blood Drive Co-coordinator

Mon	12/28	OLP	11:00am+Daniel Mazzeo
Tue	12/29	OLP	9:00am + Mark Lipsica
Wed.	12/30	OLP	9:00am + Daniel Mazzeo
Thur	12/31	OLP	9:00:am +Daniel Mazzeo 4:00pm For the people
Fri	1/1	St. Agnes	9:00am +Daniel Mazzeo
		OLP	11:00am +Mark Lipsica
Sat	1/2	OLP	9:00pm +Daniel Mazzeo 5:00pm +Vernon & Jeanette Marshall
Sun	1/3	OLP	10:30am Father's Intentions
			St. Agnes 8:30AM +For the people

<b><u>OLP STEWARDSHIP 12/27</u></b>	
Adult envelopes	\$1390.00
Plate	\$60.00
Votive	\$14.00
Belcourt	\$70.00
<u>Indian Mission</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>
Total	\$1584.00

OLP prayer chain information  
 Julie Lipsica 786-2138 or Julie.lipsica@may-portcg.com;  
 Marge Spies 788-8775 or maggiejj@yahoo.com or  
 Dee VonRuden 788-3334

# ST. AGNES PARISH

Weekly Prayer of the Faithful petitions  
That God will provide us the strength to forgive those that  
have hurt us.

## Sanctuary of Life

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. Though he was conceived of a virgin, Jesus nevertheless lived as a son in a human family -- a family which points the way for the rest of us.

The family is the sanctuary of life. There can be no life without family, and there can be no family without life. The family, above all, is where life is to be welcomed, no matter how fragile or inconvenient it may be.

One of the many reasons why the Pope and bishops identify abortion and euthanasia as pre-eminent issues is because these crimes are committed by one family member upon another. May the Holy Family lead us to a Culture of Life!

**Trivia question:** When does the Christmas Season end?

- A. December 26
- B. After the Epiphany
- C. After the Baptism of the Lord
- D. None of the above

Did you get it right? Look it up or see next weeks bulletin for the answer!

## St. Agnes Stewardship 12/27

Adult envelope	\$750.00
Retirement fund	\$50.00
Total	\$800.00

If anyone has something to share that should be included in the bulletin, please contact Lois, 874-2144, 701-238-4380,

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Holy Hour Sundays:4:00-5:00pm

December 27, 2020

*Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (B)*  
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3  
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17  
or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19  
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

*The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.*

LUKE 2:40

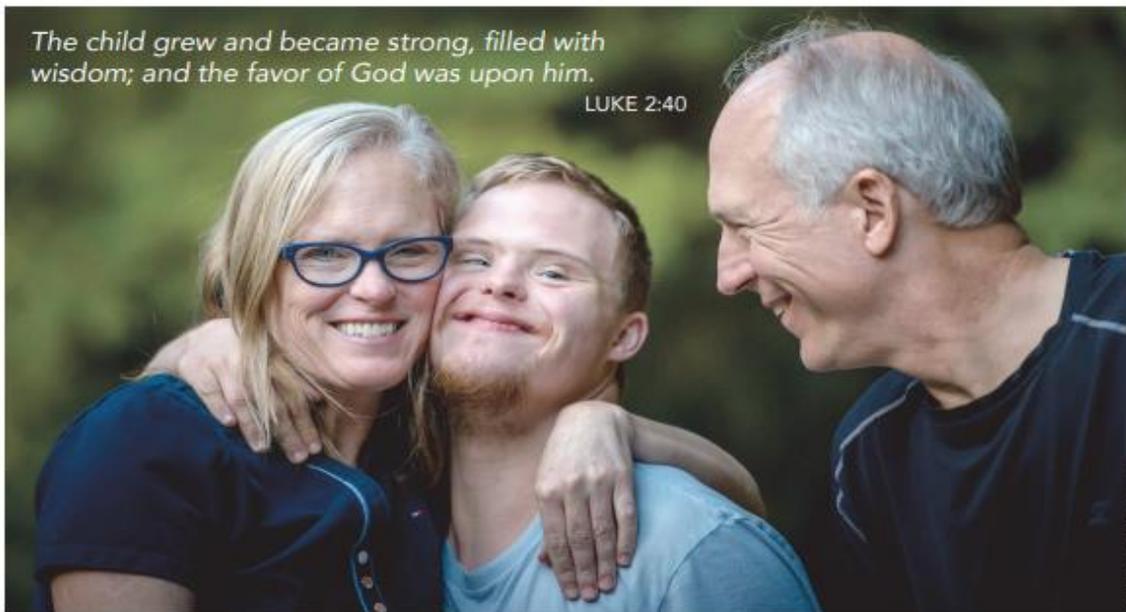


PHOTO: KIMBERLY HARRIS

## Family Values

**S**ome of the most popular television programs depict family interactions. Unfortunately, many of these families are dysfunctional, and those that are not often appear to be vapid, boring, even unrealistic. Today's readings offer examples of genuine family values and the kind of relationships for which most people yearn.

Sirach describes the tender care that bonds parents and children. First it is the parents who care for the children. Over the years the roles reverse and adult children care for elderly parents. The family is the basic community, where one first learns the hard lessons of unselfishness and forgiveness. The psalm response also describes a model family. The husband will experience success in his work and enjoy the blessings of family life with his wife and their children. Paul provides a list of values to which family members should

commit themselves: "compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another" (Colossians 3:12-13). Finally, the Gospel reading provides a glimpse into the lives of the Holy Family. Here they are: a refugee family with Joseph as the protector.

In a way, these are all "holy families." Prayer is important in the first reading; fear of the Lord is rewarded in the psalm; Paul calls the people "God's chosen ones" (Colossians 3:12). This feast is not meant to be only a look into the past at the Holy Family. It is an opportunity for us to look into the present and do our part to make our own families holy.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- ★ *What already makes your family holy?*
- ★ *What might make it holier?*

# Dear Padre,

**Why does the Church celebrate the Holy Family? Jesus doesn't seem to be much of a family person. Scripture show him ignoring—even rejecting—Mary and Joseph.**

**A**s Jesus grows in age and wisdom, it becomes clear that he hasn't come to build up his own little family but to create a worldwide family of disciples. This family would claim God as the father of everyone in the family, with Jesus and all others as brothers and sisters. All who followed him would be as dear to Jesus as his mother or his foster father. As Jesus said: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you" (John 15:9).

The roles of Mary and Joseph in this new family of Jesus were not to be only earthbound parents but, more importantly, to be examples of how to follow God's purpose. Both Mary and Joseph accepted God's path for them, even though they didn't know where the path would take them.

In the new family of God, we are people who seek out and follow God's purpose in our lives. We are to say yes with Mary; we are to imitate Joseph in following God's direction. Jesus said this quite plainly: "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother" (Mark 3:35). The will of God becomes the cornerstone of Jesus' new, universal family of humankind. Every Christian family, then, has a double task in raising their children: teaching and inspiring them to love and believe in Jesus and to always seek God's will.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSsR | [Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



HOLY FAMILY / IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHEDRAL, EAST TAMPA / BIBLECOMMONS

## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*Instead of returning home with his family, he stayed in Jerusalem, in the Temple, causing great distress to Mary and Joseph who were unable to find him....Returning home, Jesus surely remained close to them, as a sign of his complete affection and obedience. Moments like these become part of the pilgrimage of each family.*

—FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, DECEMBER 27, 2015



## Calendar

### Monday

DECEMBER 28  
*Holy Innocents,  
Martyrs*  
1 Jn 1:5—2:2  
Mt 2:13—18

### Tuesday

DECEMBER 29  
*Christmas Weekday*  
1 Jn 2:3—11  
Lk 2:22—35

### Wednesday

DECEMBER 30  
*Christmas Weekday*  
1 Jn 2:12—17  
Lk 2:36—40

### Thursday

DECEMBER 31  
*Christmas Weekday*  
1 Jn 2:18—21  
Jn 1:1—18

### Friday

JANUARY 1  
*Solemnity of Mary,  
Holy Mother of God*  
Nm 6:22—27  
Gal 4:4—7  
Lk 2:16—21

### Saturday

JANUARY 2  
*Sts. Basil the Great and  
Gregory Nazianzen,  
Bishops and Doctors  
of the Church*  
1 Jn 2:22—28  
Jn 1:19—28

### Sunday

JANUARY 3  
*Epiphany of the Lord*  
Is 60:1—6  
Eph 3:2—3a, 5—6  
Mt 2:1—12