





# The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 27, 2020

**"Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,  
heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,  
bearing with one another and forgiving one another."**



## **Mass Intentions**

Saturday, December 26 – 5:00 p.m. - Henry Vaira +  
Sunday, December 27 – 9:00 a.m. – Anna Clifford +  
Sunday, December 27 – 11:15 a.m.- The intentions of the Golding family  
Sunday, December 27 – 6:00 p.m. – John Mattingly +  
Monday, December 28 – 8:00 a.m. – Dickie Estevez +  
Wednesday, December 30 – 8:00 a.m. – Agnes and Kirby Carpenter +  
Friday, January 1 – 8:00 a.m. – Tom and Loretta Higdon +

**Christ and culture, Christmas and culture.** Every culture has its own distinctive Christmas images and traditions. Even within each society the practices change over time. New practices are added, some old ones are cherished, some just fall away. In Puritan New England, it was illegal to celebrate Christmas at all. It was too Catholic, not very biblical (the Nativity is biblical, the date isn't), it seemed even a bit pagan to them, being celebrated close to the winter solstice; with parties and rituals.

Some of us have fond memories of model trains running around Christmas villages under the tree. There is nothing especially Christian about trains or villages, and none of that could have happened for the first 18 centuries of Christianity, because there were no trains. Of course the trains were more exciting, especially when they could run around on their own, with Edison electricity powering those small electric motors. My father's train was "N" gauge, my older brother's was "O" and mine was "HO". Memories of past Christmases have much to do with fond memories of the people, the meal, and decorations; and especially the lights. Some people even hold onto 1950's aluminum Christmas trees, lit by a colored spotlight in a turntable base.

The continuous development of Christmas traditions had to happen, or our observances would just be old ways of doing things. In the northern hemisphere, a lot of Christmas images involve snow, because we celebrate the feast in winter. Movies have spread the centrality of snow to other cultures that seldom see snow, and never in December. Types of housing, food, even employment have evolved over time, so the aspects of those activities which find their way into Christmas traditions change as well. The loss of some cherished childhood observance is not the end of the world, or the collapse of western civilization. It is just what happens when God enters into the human world of differences and change.

Once the second person of the Holy Trinity entered into our world in the flesh and in time, we were eternally blessed by His union with humanity, but we also experience and envision God in our human, imperfect and ambiguous cultures. Think of the "classic" Christmas movies- *It's a Wonderful life* (1946), *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street* (1947), *White Christmas* (1954), *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (1965), (sorry but I could not think of a memorable 1970s movie), *A Christmas Story* (1983), *Home Alone* (1990), *Elf* (2003). Each movie says something to us about the human condition, redemption and joy, but none perfectly reflects the Incarnation. None of them shows us the selfless love of an omnipotent God who emptied Himself to be one of us. None of them gives more than a vague hint of the wonders of eternal union with God.

Is this all bad? No, certainly there are some awful expressions of Christmas, some of which distort our understanding of basic Christian belief. *It's a wonderful Life* is indeed a delightful movie, but it has perpetuated a truly unorthodox idea- that people become angels. People become part of the heavenly host, not pure spirits.

There are also life experiences that change our celebrations. This year, a number of us will not be celebrating by driving to have a big family dinner. For some, the change is to protect our health, for others it is because the usual host has passed-we pray into eternal union with God. The real test of Christmas celebrations and observances is whether they help us to realize that God truly entered into time and human history, to make us whole and take us to himself.

**Sincere sympathy** to Alice Mattingly and their family, on the passing of her husband and our long time parishioner, John Mattingly this past week. John helped out and supported outreach at the parish and in the community, volunteering at Wayside Food Bank and also serving the homeless last Christmas when our parish served as hosts for Safenights. Please remember John and his family in your prayers. Due to COVID restrictions, the family has decided to have a memorial service for John in the Spring.

**NO Faith Formation, Confirmation Prep, or Youth Group on December 27th. Have a joyous Christmas!**

**HYBRID Faith Formation returns on Sunday, January 3rd with Week "A" coming in-person.**

**Confirmation Prep returns on Sunday, January 3rd.**

**Eighth Grade Parent & Sponsor Meeting will be on Sunday, January 10th at 5:00 PM.**

**Youth Group does not return until Sunday, January 10th.** We will be preparing meals for SafeNights. Contact Sarah MacMillan if you would like to make a donation towards supplies at [ignatiusreligion@gmail.com](mailto:ignatiusreligion@gmail.com) or (301)885-7020.

**We need help! Volunteers to lector, usher and clean at all Masses.** Please contact the parish office if you can help with any of these things.

**Christmas Memorial Flowers** Thank you to everyone who donated to help offset the cost of decorating the church with Christmas memorial flowers. A BIG THANK YOU to Brenda and Dick Mudd and their helpers for all the time and hard work decorating the church this past week.

**Help Our Marriage** Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped many couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a weekend on January 29th - January 31st, 2021, please visit: [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org), call (443) 400-7017, or email: [3015@HelpOurMarriage.org](mailto:3015@HelpOurMarriage.org).

**Christmas Gift** This year, we thought a book you could use to follow the Sunday Mass every week would be a good idea. Because of Covid, we have not had the weekly missalettes in the pews. You may pick up a Sunday Missal which has all the Sunday readings from November 28, 2020 through Christ the King in 2021. Many of you are participating from home, here or for some other Sunday Mass on-line or on TV. The Missal will be of help to you, for the readings and the prayer. They will be in plastic bags in the vestibule. Use it at home if you are livestreaming- bring it with you to Mass when you come. They should not be left in pews.

## **Upcoming Retreats at Loyola on the Potomac Ignatian Weekend Retreats**

**Upcoming Retreats for 2021: Ignatian Weekend Retreats** *We Journey in Hope: January 8-10 (Men), January 22-24 (Men); January 29-31 (Men and Women), February 26-28 (Men), March 5-7 (Men), March 12-14 (Women).* *The weekend retreat fee is \$245/ \$195 for first time retreatants or young adults (35 years and younger).* **Directed and Private Retreat: January 4-8, 2021** *Fee: \$425; Directed/ \$380 private.* **Days of Prayer January 11, 2021--All things New; February 15, 2021—God so Loved the World; March 1 and March 29, 2021—Finding Hope in the Cross. *Each day of prayer begins at 9 am and includes: Continental breakfast, Lunch, and Mass. Fee \$40.* **Young Adult Retreat** (For Adults 18-35); **His Name was Ignatius: March 26-28 2021** *Fee: \$165.***

For more information go to [www.loyolaonthepotomac.com](http://www.loyolaonthepotomac.com) or call (301) 392-0819.

**Livestream our Mass** St. Ignatius Church will livestream Mass at **9:00 a.m.** on Sunday mornings on Facebook. Go to our Facebook page or reach that page from our website: [www.chapelpoint.org](http://www.chapelpoint.org).

**VERY IMPORTANT REMINDER:** When you go to Communion, leave your mask UP until you get to the priest. Either reach under your mask with the Eucharist you've taken from the priest to place in your mouth; or pull down your mask briefly and immediately pull it back up before moving back to your pew. This protects you, the priest and others.

**The bulletin via email** For safety, we cannot put out paper bulletins in the church. If you'd like to receive the weekly bulletin via email, please email Brenda Canter with your name and preferred email address at [stigooffice@yahoo.com](mailto:stigooffice@yahoo.com).

**To make a reservation to attend weekend Masses, email: [stigooffice@yahoo.com](mailto:stigooffice@yahoo.com) by 3 pm on Friday or call 301-934-8245 ext. 2 and leave a message** Leave your name, phone number and first and second choice of Masses. If you have underlying health conditions and are in the at risk category, the dispensation is still in effect for attending Mass. If you decide at the last minute you want to attend, please come and we'll make room.

**On-Line Giving** We have an electronic giving link on our webpage: [www.chapelpoint.org](http://www.chapelpoint.org). You can make donations using your checking account or credit card. You can make one time contributions, donations that repeat weekly, every two weeks or monthly. The giving link can be found on the lower half, on the right side of the home page of the website.

**If you prefer not to use electronic giving**, and are still not comfortable coming back to church, please mail in your weekly offering to the parish office. Do not write offering or donation on the envelope- there is no need to create temptation. The address is 8855 Chapel Point Road, Port Tobacco, MD 20677. You can also drop them in the chute under the guestbook in the back of the church. Be sure to turn the handle so the donation drops into the safe inside the wooden column.

**Restore and Renew PLEASE** - We ask that you **write a separate check** for donations and pledge payments to the “Restore and Renew” capital campaign. **We have a separate account for the restoration work. It confuses the tracking of funds when they have to be transferred in between the two accounts.**

**Christmas Collection** This year has been difficult for everyone. Most of us have escaped any serious encounter with the corona virus, but it has changed our interactions and especially our ability to join together in person. Those of you who are able have been very generous in continuing your support of our parish. We have not had to take any extreme measure to continue to pay our bills. Thank you so much for your generosity and confidence in our mission. I would just like to remind you that as always the Christmas collection is exempt from the tax for the diocese. This collection has always been an end of the year boost. As long as your contribution is in a Christmas Collection envelope, has Christmas collection on the memo line, or is contributed in the on-line giving for Christmas, it will still be exempt. Thank you again.

**Collection Report for the weekend of December 12-13;** Offertory \$4,204; Retirement Fund Religious \$663; Votives \$7; Christmas Flowers \$675; Immaculate Conception \$230; Sol. Of Mary \$40; Christmas \$750; TOTAL: \$6,569. **Collection for weekend of December 19-20;** Offertory \$2,489; Christmas Flowers \$195; Christmas \$650; Retired Priests \$25; Sol. Of Mary \$4; Immaculate Conc. \$24; TOTAL: \$3,387. Thank you for your support.

**Please remember the following people in your daily prayers:** William Coughlon, Judy LeSage, Keech Edelen, Charlie Hayden, Peggy and Dave Gaestal and family, Marie Jenkins, Traci Renner, Gary Stumpf, Ruth Watson, Van Watson, Pat Kirkland, Eddie Fitzpatrick, Jules Greenwell, Rose Langley, The Dunphy Cosenza family, Francis Knott, Chuck Gould, Danny LeSage, Shirley Watson, The staff and residents of assisted living and nursing homes, Amelia Zito, Karen Muhlenkamp, Peter Dahl, Elizabeth McCarthy, Alice Pickett, For those affected by the COVID19 virus, Brenda Pilkerton, Nellie Pearce, Mary Simmons, Dorothy Simms, Antoine Watson, Vickie & Greg Pickeral, David A. Proctor, Ms. Pickeral, Irene Proctor, Mary Jane Zuknick, Vibha Pubbi, Xavier Bean and family, Brian Thomason, Toni Gallagher, Bessie Farmer, Bobby Terrett, John Abell, Pat Anderson, Steve and Joann Oliff, Victims, families and survivors of abuse, Tyler Sage, Douglas Hammes, Sharon Ryan, John Reese, Frankie Chiorcariello and family, Tim Moore, James Johnson, Cecelia Yates, Victoria Liberty, Tamera Scroggins, James J. Nalley, Theresa San Luis, Elaine Gaddis, Butch Hayden, Stacie Hayden.



Saint Ignatius Church - Chapel Point  
Christmas Masses and Penance Service 2020

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

Advent Penance Service with  
confessions – 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve Masses

3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.,

**FIRST 3 MASSES ARE FULL-NO MORE**  
**RESERVATIONS**

9:00 p.m., Midnight Mass 12:00 a.m.

**STILL HAVE ROOM-CALL SOON**

Fri., December 25, 2020

Christmas Day Masses

8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

**STILL HAVE ROOM – CALL SOON**

Sat., December 26, 2020

Feast of The Holy Family-Vigil 5:00 p.m.

Sun., December 27, 2020

Feast of the Holy Family 7:30, 9:00,

11:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Thurs., December 31, 2020

Vigil-Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

5:00 p.m.

Friday, January 1, 2021

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass 10:00 a.m.

Due to the 50% capacity state restrictions, reservations are strongly suggested for all Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. You can make a reservation for your first and second choice of Masses by emailing Brenda Canter in the parish office [stigoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:stigoffice@yahoo.com) or via phone 301-934-8245 ext. 2. Reservations will be taken up until COB, Tuesday, December 22. **Please arrive at least 10 minutes before Mass. Three minutes before Mass begins, any remaining pews will be filled by anyone waiting outside without a reservation.**

The 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass and the 8:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass will be livestreamed for those that don't feel comfortable attending. The dispensation for Mass attendance is still in effect. Access the livestream Mass by going to the St. Ignatius facebook page.