



ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

7200 Lancaster Pike • Hockessin, DE 19707 • (302) 239-7100

CELEBRATION OF MASS

Monday – Friday: 8:30 AM • Saturday: 8:30 AM, 5:00 PM • Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Live streamed Mass Sunday at 9:30 AM on
St. Mary's website: www.smachurch.com

PASTOR: VERY REV. JOSEPH J. PIEKARSKI, V.F.

Associate Pastor: Rev. John Enemu
Weekend Assistant: Rev. James B. Smith
Deacons: John Giacci, Larry Brecht, Joseph Jackson,
Joseph LoPorto, Larry Morris

PARISH OFFICE STAFF

Daniel DiGiacobbe, Business Manager	ext. 11
Annette Fad, Parish Secretary	ext. 33
Sandy Fiscella, Director of Religious Ed.	ext. 18
Flora Giacci, Receptionist	ext. 10
Deacon John Giacci, Director of Liturgy	ext. 32
Matthew Jewell, Director of Music	ext. 16
Cindy Krebs, Director of Preschool	ext. 34
Denise Troise, Bookkeeper	ext. 14

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

PREP: Grades 1 through 8 • Confirmation: Grade 9
Sandy Fiscella, DRE (302) 239-7100, ext. 18.

ST. MARY'S PRESCHOOL

Ages 2 through Pre-K.
Cindy Krebs, Director (302) 239-7100, ext. 34.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:30 PM or by appointment.

BAPTISM

During a Mass or Sunday afternoon at 1:00 PM.
Baptisms are scheduled the second
and fourth Sundays of the month.
Baptism classes are every other month.
Please call Parish Secretary for details
(302) 239-7100 ext. 33.

MARRIAGE

Contact Parish Secretary before a wedding date is finalized.
The diocese requires one year of preparation.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Contact the Parish Office, (302) 239-7100.

ST. PATRICK'S CEMETERY

Contact Daniel DiGiacobbe (302) 239-7100, ext. 11.





From Fr. Joe...

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. Our Gospel describes the religious observance of Christ's mother and foster father. Their presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple, eight days after His birth, shows Joseph and Mary as devout Jews following the prescriptions of the Law of Moses.

The Gospel alludes to several aspects of Jewish protocol: the purification of a woman after childbirth, the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord, and the circumcision and naming of the Child. Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem where He was consecrated to the Lord and given the name Jesus...the name He was given by the angel Gabriel. Then as a family of lowly means, they made their humble offering to God, a pair of turtledoves.

Mary and Joseph encounter two other devout Jews, Simeon and Anna, who recognize the infant Jesus as the fulfillment of Israel's hope for redemption. Today's celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family highlights the importance of family in our religious life and religious life in the family. The Church is a family made up of many different families that need to respect each other, love, support and pray for each other. We see this in the devotion of the older man and woman who recognize Child's greatness with His parents.

We know that Mary and Joseph's faithfulness to God enabled them to cooperate in God's plan for our salvation by accepting the responsibility to raise God's Son, Jesus. From His parents, Jesus learned how to be a faithful believer in His Jewish tradition. Religious life is necessary to pass on the faith. The Holy Family was a devout Jewish household, observing the customs, devotions and guidance of their ancestry. From this nucleus of faith, came the Light of revelation from the people of Israel to the entire world.

Note that we see in the family of Jesus an example for our own family life. It explains the necessity of observing our religious beliefs just like Mary and Joseph expressed their faithfulness to God through their observance of the Law of Moses. It also exemplifies our Church family life as a commitment to one another, sharing good times and supporting one another through difficult times.



Monday, January 1, 2024 is the **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**. We have one Mass, at 9 a.m. on New Year's Day. It is a noble way to open the New Year thanking God for the past and asking graces for the future.

A Blessed and Joyous New Year to everyone. May the perfect example of Jesus, Mary and Joseph support us in the days ahead. May their prayers, and our collective prayers as a family, bestow countless blessings to each one of us. God Bless!

Fathers Piekarski, Enemuo & Smith;
Deacons Giacci, Brecht, Jackson,
LoPorto and Morris
and the staff of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish



Mass Schedule

Monday New Year's Day January 1, 2024

8:30 a.m. Gino Gazdag
Christmas Novena

Tuesday January 2, 2024

8:30 a.m. Cecilia Shattuck
Christmas Novena

Wednesday January 3, 2024

8:30 a.m. Brad Scott
Christmas Novena

Thursday, January 4, 2024

8:30 a.m. Eugene Fagan
George Sowinski

Friday January 5, 2024

8:30 a.m. Penny Gabriel

Saturday January 6, 2024

8:30 am Tom Green
Earl Girardi
Bill McCabe
Elsie Oneta Matthews
Salvatore Paschitti
Stanley Plastek
5:00 p.m. Stephen Harkins

Sunday January 7, 2024

7:30 a.m. Edward Leo Farrell
9:30 a.m. George Whitwell
11:30 a.m. Parishioners

In your charity, please pray for all who have gone before us and all the deceased of St. Mary of the Assumption.

+William Falgowski



Liturgical Life

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Abraham and Sarah relied on their faith in the Lord as they struggled with family matters. When have you needed to rely on faith when it comes to your family?

Second Reading

Hebrews teaches us that at every challenge in his life, Abraham consistently trusted and obeyed God. When have you had to surrender complete trust to God?

Gospel Reading

In their purification ritual in the Jerusalem Temple, Mary and Joseph learn news from Simeon and Anna about their newborn baby, Jesus. In your family, how do you deal with startling or unsettling news?

PRAY FOR US

“...A LIGHT FOR REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, AND GLORY FOR YOUR PEOPLE ISRAEL...”

THE HOLY FAMILY

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Becoming Women of the Word:
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JANUARY 27, 2024

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BY VISITING

smachurch.com/retreat

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

— *Father John Muir*

Reminder – Send in 50-50 Tickets

The Super 50-50 raffle is at the halfway point and there is still plenty of time to purchase and return your tickets. The K. of C. and the Parish pro-life Committee rely on the raffle to help fund pro-life and other charitable work. There are extra ticket strips and return envelopes at the Church entrances and they are also available in the Parish office. The drawing for 50 winning tickets will take place at the K. of C. chili cook-off on Saturday, January 20th .

If you have questions, please ask any K. of C. Member or in the office, and they will direct you to the answer.

Observances for the week of December 31, 2023

Sunday: The Holy Family; New Year's Eve
Monday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace
Tuesday: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
Wednesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Thursday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
Friday: St. John Neumann, Bishop
Saturday: St. André Bessette, Religious



Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. During our New Year may our families "grow in Wisdom and have the favor of God upon them."

This past month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to bring Christmas to the hearts of the poor, by assisting 40 families, providing \$10,600 in food, gifts, utility and rent bills, etc. Thanks!

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of December 31, 2023

Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps
128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/
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

Monday:

Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/
Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday:

1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday:

1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/
Jn 1:29-34

Thursday:

1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Friday:

1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday:

1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/
Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34,
36, 38

Next Sunday:

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see
11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

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— *Father John Muir*

RETRouvaille: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Ret-ro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties, or crises. **The next program will be held February 16 - 18, 2024 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA.** For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Catholic Cemeteries

All Saints 302-737-2524
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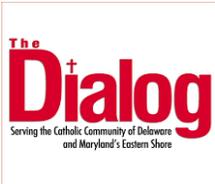
Need a Ride???

Fellow Parishioners!!! Do you occasionally need a ride to Church for Mass or perhaps elsewhere? As one of the service organizations of our parish, The Knights of Columbus may be able to help. Contact, John Ryan, Community Director for the council. You may contact him at, 302-507-7915.

Helping you stay socially connected!

Join us every Sunday for the 9:30 a.m. Mass Live-streamed
<http://www.youtube.com/c/smachurch>

FORMED®



Calendar

Monday January 1, 2024

Mary, Holy Mother of God

8:30 a.m. Mass (C)
Parish office closed

Tuesday January 2, 2024

8:30 a.m. Mass (C)
7:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Monthly meeting (M)
7:00 p.m. Adult Handbell Choir Rehearsal (C)

Wednesday January 3, 2024

8:30 a.m. Mass (C)
10:00 a.m. Ladies Guild meeting (M)
1:00 p.m. Holy Spirit Prayer Group meeting (CP)
7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal (C)

Thursday January 4, 2024

8:30 a.m. Mass (C)
6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 803 meeting (H)

Friday January 5, 2024

8:30 a.m. Mass (C)
9:00 a.m. Legion of Mary (CF)
9:15 a.m. Mother's Prayer group (CP)

Saturday January 6, 2024

8:30 a.m. Mass (C)
3:30 p.m. Confessions (CP)
5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass (C)

Sunday January 7, 2024

Epiphany of the Lord
Trustee Elections at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel

7:30 a.m. Mass (C)
9:30 a.m. Mass (C)
Children's Liturgy of the Word (CF)
OCIA Breaking Open the Word (J)
11:30 a.m. Mass (C)
12:30 p.m. Junior Praesidium (CF)

Parish Office Rooms:

***Coffee Run Room (CF), St. Mary Room (M)
Chapel (CP), Church (C), St. John Room (J),
Hall (H), Gathering Space (GS)***

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