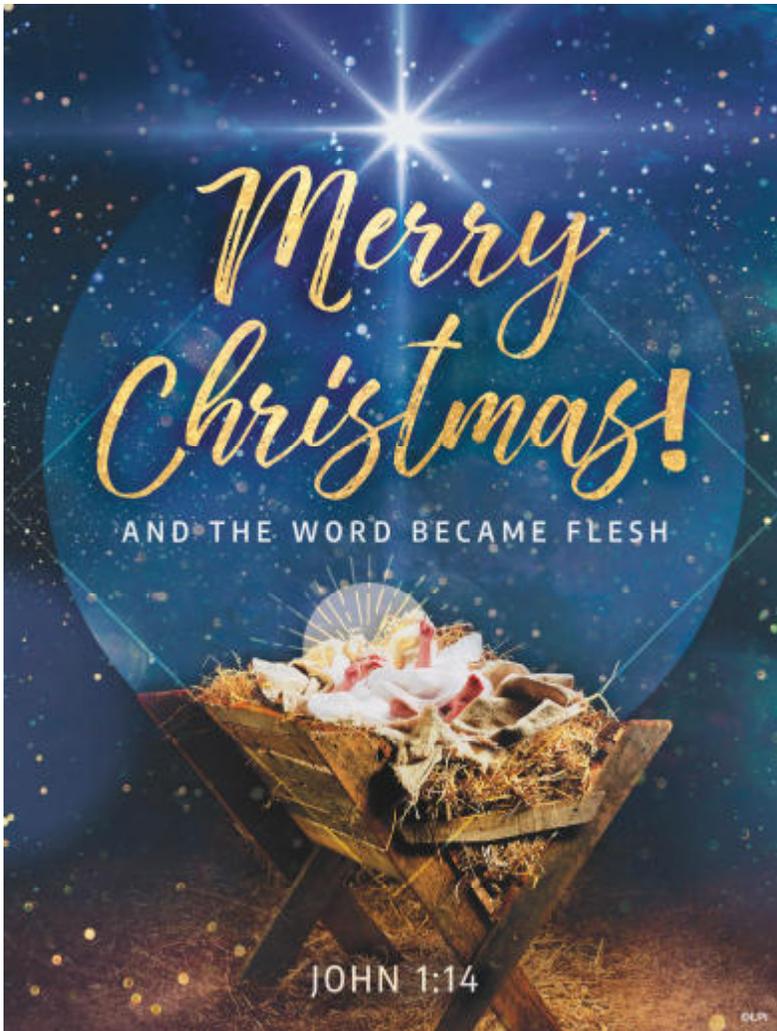


GOSPEL MEDITATION—The Nativity of the Lord

“He so loved us that for our sake He was made man in time, through Whom all times were made; was in the world less in years than His servants, though older than the world itself in His eternity; was made man, Who made man; was created of a mother, whom He created; was carried by hands which He formed; nursed at the breasts which He had filled; cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word without Whom all human eloquence is mute (St. Augustine, Sermon 188).”



The miracle of what happens at Christmas is truly an awesome mystery. Revealed in the silent ordinariness of life is God’s intimate love for humanity and all that he made. The Word, existing for all time, comes and dwells among us. God kisses us. We can seek and soar with playful delight as a joy never known before fills our heart.

Joy is best expressed through dance. There is just something truly wonderful about the self-abandon a beautiful melodic dance reveals. If we are able to let go and really be free, it celebrates life in a way few other experiences really can. With the birth of Jesus Christ, God takes the Divine Dance to a deeper and more tangible level. We can now not only see what we believe but believe what we see! This most perfect dance is a call to beauty, innocence, truth, purpose, hope, faith, and love. Today we know, beyond doubt, that we are a necessary part of God’s beautifully choreographed masterpiece of life and not just a random happening without real intent or purpose. We are loved, treasured, and blessed.

Accepting the truth of God’s birth in time we also accept an invitation to dance with God. We can let go of what tethers us to anxious concerns and superficial securities. Throw caution to the wind and go with God. We have been blessed with talents, gifts, and life eternal. Follow the rhythm of the dance with joy and listen to what

the Word who became flesh tells us about what the next steps can be. Today, heaven remains the same, but earth has been profoundly changed. ©LPi

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK FOR CHRISTMAS

Merry Christmas! There is something sacred about sun when it dances upon a field of newly iced snow. Lights and colors bounce around in myriad ways flashing prisms of beauty as if in tune with the rhythm of a melodic dance. The Word became flesh and now dwells among us. Humanity can now dance. We sparkle with the beauty and radiance of God and can now walk through life with confidence knowing that we have been divinely kissed. It is a sacred moment, a holy marriage between God and His sons and daughters. All is bright and all is well. Today we celebrate who we are in Christ and rest safely in God’s care. God’s presence, revealed in the humble birth of His Son, dances in our hearts, calling us to beauty, truth, purpose, and love. Today we know, without doubt, that we are not the product of the rambling offerings of a universe that created itself. We are loved, treasured, and blessed. We have a Savior who can show us the way. Accept him. ©LPi



MASS INTENTIONS

St. Stephen | Feast Day December 26

Saturday, Dec. 25 Nativity of our Lord

9 am Living & Deceased Parishioners

11 am Living & Deceased Parishioners

Sunday, Dec. 26 Feast of the Holy Family

8 am +Douglas Croft by family

+Stella Schultz by family

+Irene Blast by family

10 am +Craig Stephens by Mrs. Labadie

+Nancy Manfre by Chris Sitek

+Ted & Irene Pastuszka by family

5 pm +Donna Mouchet 1st ann. by Parish

+Robert Favot by M/M Herb Tarnowski

+Eugene Langwerowski by neighbors

Monday, Dec. 27 St. John, Apostle & Evang.

8 am +George Johnson

6:30 pm +Gerald Haliburda, Jr. by family

+Gerald Haliburda, Sr. by family

+Robert Schwagle 1st ann. by Parish

Tues., Dec. 28 The Holy Innocents, martyrs

8 am +Fr. Charles Goentges (ann.)

Wednesday, Dec. 29 St. Thomas Becket

8 am +Stanley Zabik by Lorraine Witkowski

Thursday, Dec. 30 Sixth Day in Octave

8 am Special Intention

Friday, Dec. 31 St. Sylvester I, pope

8 am +Peggy Butler 30th ann. By Tracy & Travis Baker

4 pm Vigil +Richard Macek 1st ann. by Parish
Deceased Members of the Fron Family

Saturday, Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

9 am Living & Deceased Parishioners

11 am Living & Deceased Parishioners

4 pm +Richard Macek 1st ann. by Parish

Deceased Members of the Fron Family

Sunday, Jan. 2 Epiphany of the Lord

8 am +Joseph Galea 1st ann. By Parish

+Sal & Dee Rodriguez by family

10 am +Robert Betts 1st ann. By Parish

+Jim Cayley by Betty Cayley

+Pearl Dube by family

+Alice Comport by family

+Frank Leszczewicz by Deacon Regis & Ann Buckley

5 pm People of the Parish

New Year's Mass Schedule Overview for The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Friday, New Year's Eve: 4 p.m.

Saturday, New Year's Day: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

***It is NOT a holy of obligation this year.



The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow. ©LPi

Question: I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

Answer: If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back. This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be. ©LPi

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS (from www.catholic.org)

You're all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" I think. To most it's a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had a quite serious purpose when it was written.

It is a good deal more than just a repetitious melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts.

Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law - private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic.

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith - a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in *writing* indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get



you imprisoned, it could get you hanged, or shortened by a head - or hanged, drawn and quartered, a rather peculiar and ghastly punishment I'm not aware was ever practiced anywhere else. Hanging, drawing and quartering involved hanging a person by the neck until they had almost, but not quite, suffocated to death; then the party was taken down from the gallows, and disembowelled while still alive; and while the entrails were still lying on the street, where the executioners stomped all over them, the victim was tied to four large farm horses, and literally torn into five parts - one to each limb and the remaining torso.

The songs gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..."

The other symbols mean the following:

- 1 Partridge in a Pear Tree = Jesus Christ, Son of God
- 2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments
- 3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
- 4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
- 5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
- 6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation
- 7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
- 8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes
- 9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments
- 11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles
- 12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

"The angels declared, *Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, goodwill toward men* (Lk. 2:14). God's glory and peace on earth are inseparable. Where God is excluded, there is a break down of peace in the world." — Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



Merry Christmas!!!



A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME

Deacon Regis



We are on the 2nd day of our 8-day celebration of Christmas. Recall that in the liturgical year Christmas Day lasts for eight days (The Octave of Christmas) and that the Christmas Season won't end until January 9th, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, a total of sixteen days! What a wonderful Church we have!!!

Today, December 26th is the Feast of the Holy Family which is celebrated during the Octave on the first Sunday after Christmas, except when Christmas falls on Sunday, in which case it's celebrated on December 30 because the first Sunday after Christmas within the Octave is January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary. Now that's a mouthful. Anyway, I thought I'd devote some time to this Feast as it is most especially relevant today. It's a repeat from last year, but I think it's worth repeating!

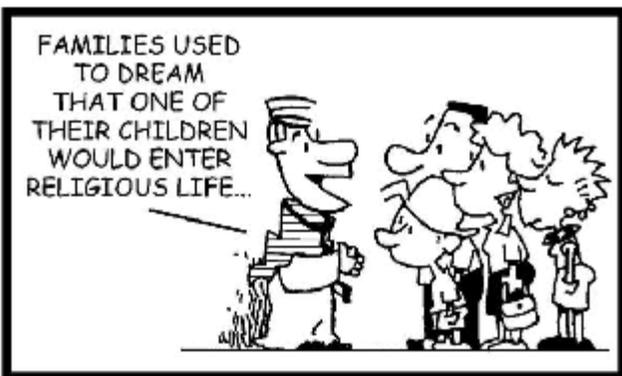
The Holy Family is the name given to the family unit of Jesus: The Divine Son of God, Jesus, his mother Mary, and his foster-father Joseph. We know very little about the life of the Holy Family through the Scriptures. But, While the exact details of the day-to-day life of the Holy Family may be unknown, we can still learn a lot from the stories we do have.

Devotion to the Holy Family is a recent development, but one that naturally grows out of a love for Jesus and his family. On October 26, 1921 the Congregation of Rites (under Pope Benedict XV) inserted the Feast of the Holy Family into the Latin Rite general calendar. Until then it had only been celebrated regionally. Popes before and including Benedict XV (especially Leo XIII) promoted the feast as a way to counter the breakdown of the family unit (sound familiar?).

The Holy Family is the ideal model for the Christian Family. Mary and Joseph experienced many difficulties within their family: traveling to Bethlehem with Mary ready to deliver; having to stay and give birth in a smelly stable; dealing with uninvited guests (the shepherds); fleeing from Herod at the command of an angel; losing their son in the temple. We experience difficulties in our families too: Dad loses his job; mom or the kids get sick; uninvited guests (surprise visits by friends and relatives); sheltering our families from an increasingly secular world where God has no place.

The Holy Family gives us the model for dealing with these problems. First, we deal with them together, as a family. When the angel told Joseph to leave and go to Egypt, he didn't send Mary and Jesus ahead while he stayed behind to tie together any loose ends. They left together.

HOLY FAMILY



Second, we trust in the Lord. We pray about our situation and listen and watch for God's response. It may not be what we want to hear. Imagine Joseph being told by the angel that he was to pack up his family in the middle of the night and move to Egypt. "Why do I have to go at night? Couldn't this journey wait till the morning? I have neither horse nor money." If we had been in Joseph's place, would we not have made a thousand excuses? Not Joseph! He promptly did all that the angel commanded. The peace and serenity of mind of Mary and Joseph shows their constant openness to do God's will amid all the unexpected events that befell them.

Every family has struggles: Our children have fallen away from the Faith that we taught them; Our jobs have become very stressful; The world is becoming increasingly hostile to Catholic Christians. How do we react? Turn to the Holy Family for the answer. Deal with the situation together. Pray! Listen and watch for God's answer to our prayers. Be open to God's will. In other words, Trust Him!!

Next week: When should we take down our Christmas decorations? You might be surprised at the answer!

God is good all the time; All the time God is good!



Faith Formation

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter? We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading: Hannah, the mother of Samuel, and Samuel's father are portrayed as parents of deep prayer and great faith. How would you describe the faith of your mother or father?

Second Reading: John teaches us that if we believe in Jesus and love one another, "we may be called children of God." How do you show gratitude for being part of this holy family?

Gospel: Luke is the only Evangelist to preserve a story about Jesus from his youth. In this account, Mary and Joseph are filled with "great anxiety" as they searched for Jesus who they thought was lost. How do you seek God's help for the anxious moments in your family? ©LPi

We have been very busy this Advent Season in Faith Formation. This year each classroom decided to do service projects of their choice. One Classroom chose a spiritual gift of praying for someone in need,

another class chose to bring in hats and gloves to be distributed for the food pantry, and other classrooms chose to make blankets for the Lennon Crisis Pregnancy center. Everyone decided that they wanted to help the food pantry and have brought in non-perishable food items to be distributed. We are so very blessed by these children and their families who give so generously to those in need. On behalf of all of us who work and volunteer in Faith Formation, Have a Very Blessed Christmas.

Note: Faith Formation will be off for the Christmas Season on Monday, the 27th. Our Regular Schedule will start up again on Monday, Jan. 3.

Question: Our parish has been focusing on issues of peace and justice. What are the principles that guide decision-making and social morality?

Answer: There are seven principals of Catholic social teaching that guide our sense of social morality. These seven key points are the hallmarks of a just society, moral laws, and good leadership. They help shape our social "conscience" and lead us to choose those things that characterize social justice. They are 1) respect for the life and dignity of the human person; 2) call to family, community, and participation; 3) rights and responsibilities; 4) a preferential option for the poor; 5) the dignity of work and the rights of workers; 6) solidarity; and 7) care for God's creation.

Catholic social teaching has had a great influence in our history and continues to guide us well. We must value every person in all walks of life, but especially those who are weak, vulnerable, and least able to defend themselves. We cannot justify the ends with the means, so no life can ever be sacrificed for the sake of another. The basic necessities of life cannot be denied someone: food, shelter, clothing, and medical care. We can and must find ways to put into practice the Gospel values we preach and proclaim, so that all people can know and experience God's love for them. That might be the greatest principle of all!

Please
Pray
for...



Norm Abramczyk
Louise Ames
Anna Axe
Joyce Babosh
Harry Bacalia
Sue Bacalia
Norma Bak
Violet Barrette
Bob Behmer
Bob Bellottie
Jim Bellottie
Vincent Bellottie
Judy Bennett
Sharon Bieniek
Cynthia Blaha
Marilyn Block
Evelyn Boettger
Aaron Boyless
Thomas J. Brennan, Jr.
Ken Butler
Joan Buzo
Jacob Cassar

Michaeline Chwastek
Richard Cline
Zoe Cossin
Betty Ann Crawford
Sylvia Cyncewicz
Tina Doney
Jason Dull & Family
Marsha Farmer
Geraldine Filippi
Cecil Fernandez
Tina Fernandez
Lisa Foster
Rose Fraley
Duane Glossa
Roseann Gomez
Bob & Lori Gonzales
Gary Graham Jr
Abigail Graves
Jennifer Hanna Green
Charlotte Gutierrez
Eileen Halpin
Annie Hapunowicz
Ronald Hetner
Tina Hovis
Sue Jagodka
Joanne Kacher
Norman Kaletto
Brenda Kaletto
Jeanine Kemp
Fr. Terry Kerner
Phyllis Kinnell

Evelyn Kisell
Joan Klimchalk
Chris Kovac
John Kovac
Jenene Kozinski
George Kramar
Patrica Lacopelli
Jennifer Lasky & Family
Joseph Lasky
Margaret :Lasky
Henry Lemmens
Guadalupe Madrigal
Phyllis Mareck
Donald Martin
Erin Martin
Patricia MCoy
Larry & Carol McGrew
Frank & Jane Mellnick
Linda Molek
Steven Monroe
Pat Mozdzen
Suzanne Nicholas
Gigi Novak
Daniel O'Connor
Diane Owens
John Palmer
Mary Pellegrini
Helen Petroski
Jimmy Piche
Kathleen Pietras
Mary Pike

Jeff Pingilley
Jess Pingilley
Linda Pingilley
Robert Pingilley
Sam Pingilley
Wayne Pingilley
Carol Regnier
Whitney Regnier
Noemia Reid
Linda Robb
Richard Roberts
Laura Salazar
Fred Sanscrainte
Matt Sanscrainte
Joann Sanscrainte
Dennis Scanland
Darlene Shannon
Phil Shannon
Rose Shannon
Jaxon Shubik
Margaret Smith
Jimmy Stecki
Gerald Stevens
Jim Tokarczyk
Laurie Trupp
Michael Wheelock
Eileen Winnie
The Wirick Family
Frank Wojcik
Stephen Zelle



Air Force

Matthew Thornton, Nicole Thornton,
Michelle Thornton, Brittany Mack,
Tiffany Kay Smith (Ladd), husband, Don Smith

Army

Josh Harpster, Zachary Robbins,
Robert Truchan, Anthony Lemieux,
Bryce Bieniek, Tony Pernicano, Jacob Grzebienik,
Matthew Hapunowicz

Marines

Joseph Krawzyk, 1st Lieutenant, Joseph McGinnis,
Corporal, Andrew Clark, 1st Lieutenant,
Cody S. Pratt, Luke Cohen, PFC 1st Class

Navy

Ryan Detlor, Patrick Hanosh

Army National Guard

Vincent Nowak, Michael Dunne

CHRISTMAS



Tax Advantaged Ways to Give to Our Parish

Parishioners may consider these two tax-advantaged ways to make charitable gifts to our parish at the year end.

Gifts of Appreciated Securities continue to be beneficial for donors since they offer significant tax advantages including income tax deductions and avoidance of tax on capital gains if the donor were to sell the highly appreciated securities. Through a gift of appreciated securities to benefit our parish, including to the Catholic Services Appeal, parishioners who itemize may receive an income tax deduction up to the full market value of the securities and can also avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation. In essence, you may save twice—on income tax and capital gains tax.

IRA Rollover --Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) provides a way for donors 70 ½ and older to receive a tax benefit for their generosity. It is beneficial because the QCD will not be included in adjusted gross income and is therefore not subject to tax. This is now more beneficial in view of the increased standard deduction in the new tax law. A donor can make a QCD of up to \$100,000 annually directly from the IRA to a charity, and as an added benefit, if the donor is age 72, the QCD satisfies the donor's required minimum distribution. Parishioners 70 ½ or older should consult with their IRA administrator for the procedure to make a QCD to our parish.

For More Information, contact the Parish Office, or Archdiocese of Detroit Department of Development – Mission Advancement 313-596-7408 Development @aod.org

Please consult your tax or financial advisor. Our parish and the Archdiocese of Detroit are not engaged in legal or tax advisory service. The examples listed above are intended to provide useful information of a general character only. For specific advice and assistance please consult a qualified tax or financial advisor.

The Archdiocese of Detroit will be offering a monthly EnCourage ministry support group meeting for family and friends of people who experience same-sex attractions and/or gender dysphoria. In many cases, their loved ones have adopted the LGBTQ label, and may have moved away from actively practicing their faith. The EnCourage group meeting is for family and friends to receive help and encouragement to understand the experience of their loved ones more deeply, to foster healthy relationships within their families, and to deepen their own relationship with Christ.

The first EnCourage meeting will be on **Saturday, January 9, 2022.** All meetings are confidential and facilitated by an archdiocesan priest who has specific training and a passion for this ministry.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK FOR HOLY FAMILY

It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Our families can bring out the best and the worst in us. This is true of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our church, our society, and the like. In all of our family experiences, what stands out as our most challenging memory? Everything human can be found on the pages of family life. But there is also a Divine story to be discovered as well. When life gets difficult and perplexing, today's Feast of the Holy Family stands to remind us that it is not just by human effort that we tread treacherous waters. We have to remember and learn from the Divine effort too. We need this perspective if our love lessons are going to be learned completely and well. We are all works in progress and we all come from homes that are broken by imperfection. In whatever life brings us and in whatever family we find ourselves, may the promptings we feel toward faith and hope lead us to greater love. ©LPi

PLEASE NOTE: A CHANGE IN THE WAY ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TO BE MADE

About two years ago the Archdiocese informed the parishes that the IRS requires that donations to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul **should be made out directly to them and not to the parish.**

You are asked NOT to combine your SVdP contribution in the same check you make out to the parish for your parish offertory contribution. Any SVdP donations, whether cash or check, will still be given to SVdP.

Your generosity in assisting their care for the needy is commendable and a sign of our parish's active expression of Gospel charity and solidarity.



St. Vincent de Paul



Food Pantry

St. Maria Goretti Parish

Please drop off your donations on Mondays and Wednesdays between 12:00 and 2:00pm or call Matt at 313-595-1317

Here is the current list of needs for our pantry:

- Coffee (No decaf please)
- Peanut Butter
- Paper Towels and Toilet Paper
- Coffee Filters
- Ketchup
- Strawberry Jelly
- Spaghetti Sauce in a Jar
- Cooking Oil
- Mayonnaise
- Pancake Syrup (Need Badly)

All of us here at the Pantry are so grateful for all of the help we've been receiving on our list of needed food. We have been serving 22-29 families per week, which is only 2 days, four hours per week. When I have a total of our Simply Give Program, I will let everyone know how well we did. I am expecting to surpass our \$22,000 amount from our last program we were in.

Thank you all in advance. We would like to wish everyone a glorious Christmas season and a very happy and

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Sunday, Dec. 26

8 am Pat Wallace
10 am Michael Munoz
5 pm Francis Tofil

Fri. Dec. 31

4 pm Richard Fron

Sat. January 1

9 am Chris Bergeron
11 am Pat Woodby

Sun. January 2

8 am Tom Koselka
10 am Gary Schoenherr
5 pm Francis Tofil

Sat. January 8

4 pm Dave Griswack

Sunday, January 9

8 am Mary Ellen Sobczak
10 am Richard Fron
5 pm M J Favot

Sat. January 15

4 pm Marge Taylor

Sun. January 16

9 am Pat Wallace
10 am Kathy Munoz
5 pm Francis Tofil

SIMPLY GIVE PROGRAM THROUGH MEIJER IN ALLEN PARK

Once again it's time for our **Simply Give Program** at Meijer. **Beginning NOW thru January 1st**, you can go to the Meijer Store on the hill in Allen Park, pick up a **Simply Give** donation card



located at every other register and donate a minimum of \$10.00 which Meijer will MATCH.

Please help us keep our shelves stocked and your neighbors fed throughout the year. We have seen quite an increase and surely could use your help.

This is the holiday season and we thank you for thinking of others in need.

— St. Maria Goretti's St. Vincent de Paul Pantry



BULLETIN EDITOR

** bulletin@simgoretti.com **

All submissions are due 10 days before publication date.

The deadline for bulletin submissions is **2:00pm on Thursday, 10 days before the bulletin date.**

Exceptions occur when the bulletin is required to be sent early due to holidays.

Please plan ahead as submissions received past the deadline will be published in the following week's bulletin.

Submissions should be sent as a Word document (single spaced), PDF or photo format (JPEG, TIFF, GIF, PNG), attached to or in the body of an email

give online

Online giving makes it easy to give! You never have to bring envelopes, cash or checks to church. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and plan its budget.

There are no fees for on-line giving.

- ★ Visit the St. Maria Goretti website at www.stmariagorettiparish.com
- ★ Click on the Online Giving link on the left side of the home page.
- ★ Complete the registration form

Please feel free to call the Parish Office if you should have any questions or want to know more about Online Giving.

Your donations are vital to the success of our Parish community.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

with Deacon Regis

Join us on

*Fridays at 3:00pm to pray the
Divine Mercy Chaplet on ZOOM.*

*To connect by computer use this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85478055945>*

*To connect by smart phone call
1 (312) 626 6799*

PARISH COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS AND GROUPS

Parish Council

Chairperson: Richard Fron

Co-Chairperson: Chris Bergeron

Secretary: Thomas Koselka

Members at Large: Barbara Balnius Mario Ferrante
Pat Wallace David Griswack Valerie Koselka
John O'Callaghan Marge Taylor Sandy VanAssche
Linda Wielkopolan

Worship Commission: David Griswack

Education/Formation Comm: Marge Taylor

Christian Svc. Commission: Cathy Nagle

Finance Council: Dianna Dunne

Ushers President: Dave Griswack
313.999.5144

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Phone: 313.562.5356 Fax: 313.562.0058

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SENIOR DEACON Rev. Mr. Lawrence Girard

PARISH DEACON

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313.563.0960

ORGANIST ELYSE PENZATO music@smgoretti.com

BULLETIN EDITOR bulletin@smgoretti.com

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY EXT. 309
Matt Kulczyk Direct Number: 313.563.3970

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday: 4 p.m.

Sunday: 8 a.m., 10 a.m. & 5 p.m.

DAILY MASSES:

Monday through Friday: 8 a.m.

Monday Evening: 6:30pm

First Friday: 8 a.m. & 12 Noon

First Saturday: 8 a.m.

CONFESSIONS Saturday: 3 - 3:30 p.m. or by request

HOLIDAYS TIMES TO BE DETERMINED

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT Each Monday,
beginning at Noon, ending prior to 6:30pm Mass

BAPTISMS Contact Parish Office for arrangements.
Pre-Baptism Class required.

MARRIAGES Please contact Parish Office at least six (6)
months in advance.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Calls after hours should be limited to emergencies only.

Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 4 pm

(The office is closed daily for lunch Noon - 1 pm)

Friday: CLOSED for the time being

If you need to contact the parish office,
please call during regular business hours.
You can also reach the parish office by email:
parishoffice@smgoretti.com



Sunday, Dec 26, 2021 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,

MARY, AND JOSEPH Bless the children Holy families aren't necessarily picture-perfect. But they are faithful and consistent in their values and goals. Like Mary and Joseph and biblical parents before them, holy families consecrate their children early and often to the care of God. They do this by baptizing them and seeing to their sacramental preparation. They do this by praying for and

with their little ones. They provide them a religious education and share faith-filled practices of compassion and charity. All the children in our lives look to us for love and acceptance, guidance and Christian example. Teach the children well. TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52 (17A); or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52 (17C). "Once the child is weaned, I will take him to appear before the LORD and to remain there forever."

Monday, Dec 27, 2021 FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST He lived to tell the tale

John the Apostle is credited with being the author of the Gospel of John. He is also believed to have been the "Beloved Disciple" of Jesus mentioned in that gospel and is presumed to have outlived the other apostles, perhaps being the only one to die of natural causes rather than martyrdom. Imagine being the last survivor, and the heartache he endured on losing his peers to violent deaths for their faith. Perhaps it was John's job to live to tell the story—"that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name"—as he says in his final line. Take John's mission to heart and embrace his good word today. TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697). "Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed."

Tuesday, Dec 28, 2021 FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS Children deserve protection

Nowadays when we think of Christmas pageants, we envision adorable children in bathrobes dressed as shepherds. But in the Middle Ages, religious pageants were a serious business. The whole community gathered to enact mystery plays that told the stories of birth, death, resurrection, and the lives of the saints. It's from such a mystery play that we get the haunting words and melody of "The Coventry Carol"—a song about King Herod's slaughter of the Holy Innocents that asks plaintively, "What may we do to preserve . . . this poor youngling for whom we sing?" Pray today for children who continue to suffer and face certain death without our help. TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698). "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children."

Wednesday, Dec 29, 2021 FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF NATIVITY OF THE LORD; MEMORIAL OF THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR Choose God

Everyone must at times make the choice of serving God or something less. Today we remember Saint Thomas Becket, bishop of Canterbury. Thomas was faced with such a dilemma when his friend the king, Henry II, continuously tried to interfere with church matters. Allowing the king to interfere with the church would have allowed Thomas to be in the king's good graces. Instead, Thomas chose to serve God above anything and anyone else, even at the cost of martyrdom. "When is constancy required," Thomas writes, "except under persecution. Are not friends then proved? If they always yield, how can they ever succeed? They must, one time or other, make a stand." TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202). "And you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Thursday, Dec 30, 2021 SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Take your time to absorb Christmas Today we continue as a church to honor the feast of our Savior's birth. It is day six in the octave of Christmas—the eight-day liturgical focus on the birth of Christ. The entrance of the Christ into human history is such a significant event that the church notes its magnitude by keeping our gaze on it through the specified readings, psalms, and prayers during these eight days. Take a moment today to allow the wonder of God-among-us to continue to sink in. TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40 (203). "She gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem."

Friday, Dec 31, 2021 SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Out with the new, in with the old The end of the year gives us pause to reflect on the past and change for the future. Typically, we find something new to embrace or resolve to do. But if it's true that there's really

nothing new under the sun, then perhaps we should look to the old! This is exactly what the church does, as it moves into the new year, not with any newfound epiphany, but instead with a commitment to the very old-school value of peace. As we anticipate the World Day of Peace tomorrow, January 1, what are some deeply held and longstanding values that you would like to deepen during the coming year? How might you go old school? TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18 (204). "In the beginning was the Word."

Saturday, Jan 01, 2022 OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD; SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD; WORLD DAY OF PEACE



Rocking with Mother Mary People in every age have their particular way to celebrate the new year. These days we might change old eating habits to be healthier; get on track financially; spend more time with family. But maybe this year it could be about what young Catholics refer to as "rocking with Mary," that is, getting to know the mother of Jesus on a deeper level. Understanding her courage, strength, and faithfulness can help us realize our own potential as bearers of the Good News. On her feast day and in the days ahead, reflect on Mary and

strive to imitate her in bringing Good News to the world. TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (18). "And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart."

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1. The world is often dominated by consumerism at this time of year. Meditate on these words from Saint John of the Cross, whom the Church celebrates today, "Now that I no longer desire all, I have it all, without desire."
2. Have you and your spouse been consumed with the busyness that often comes with this time of year? Find a moment to reconnect as a couple and enjoy each other's company.



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