



# *St. Mary* OF THE *Expectation*

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON - HOUSTON

DECEMBER 31, 2023 | THE HOLY FAMILY

### MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday | 4:30 PM Live & Streamed  
Sunday | 8:30 AM, 10:15 AM, 12:00 PM  
Monday | 7:00 PM  
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday | 8:30 AM

### PARISH CLERGY

Fr. John Rooney, Pastor  
Deacon George Blanford  
Deacon Russ Carroll  
Deacon Fritz Claydon  
Deacon Andy DeYoung

### ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Pre-K Through 8th Grade  
281-332-4014 | stmarylc.org

### Reconciliation

We are following the area Advent  
Evenings of Reconciliation schedule.

### Baptism

Contact the Parish Office or visit our  
website for forms.

### Marriage

Contact the Parish Office for a  
marriage packet and information.

### Communion for the Sick

Contact the Parish Office to make  
arrangements.

### CONTACT US

#### Parish Office Hours

Mon-Thurs | 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Fri | 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

#### Ministry Office Hours

Elementary FF | Youth Ministry |  
RCIA Mon-Thurs | 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM



EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI



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1612 E. WALKER STREET, LEAGUE CITY, TX 77573 | 281-332-3031 | SAINTMCC.ORG

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 30, 2023  
4:30 PM - P.L. Kuriakose †

Sunday, December 31, 2023  
8:30 AM - People of the Parish  
10:15 AM - Manuel Macrohon †  
12:00 PM - Fr. Thomas Hyland  
Kapunda †

Monday, January 1, 2024  
7:00 PM - Fr. Michael O'Brien †

Tuesday, January 2, 2024  
8:30 AM - Ed & Denise Hartman

Thursday, January 4, 2024  
8:30 AM - Bobby & Elayne Spence †

Friday, January 5, 2024  
8:30 AM - Dick & Mary Anne  
Hoffman †

Saturday, January 6, 2024  
4:30 PM - Terry Seymour †

Sunday, January 7, 2024  
8:30 AM - Anne Hoffman †  
10:15 AM - Sharon Hoffman †  
12:00 PM - People of the Parish  
† deceased

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Melanie Granberry Bobrowski • London Dialas, Dolores Jensen, Pam Sowa, Betsy Rimmer, Jean Dupuis • Wayne Wright, Jimmy Sissom, Lisa Parmer • Bill and Anna Demus, Joe Arena • Kayla Sabin, Paul Pratt, Jayden Salinas, Fidela Salinas, Daniel & Anita Cegelski, Herb Phelan, Eric Brug • • • • Adriana Reyes, Robert Wiener, Bertha Banuelos, Cynthia Coronado, August Bishop, Elroy Bishop, Kaylee Klyng, Cindy Johnson, Shauna Billingsley, Phillip Dupuis • Ruby Jackson, The Ritchey Family, Sandra McDermott, Pat and Carol Duffin, Josie Galvan • Carol Base, Bessilyn Piazza, Berard Roan • Judy Duran, Sheri Reznicek, Theodora Foreman, Larry Johnston •

PARISH CALENDAR

MON 1	Happy New Year! Parish Offices Closed		
TUES 2	Knights of Columbus Legion of Mary	6:00 PM 6:30-8:00 PM	Cargill Hall Gabriel
WED 3			
THURS 4	Ladies Auxilliary	7:00 PM	Luke/John
FRI 5	First Friday Adoration	9:00 AM - 8:00 PM	Church
SAT 6	First Saturday Rosary	3:45 PM	Chapel
SUN 7			

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday**  
Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8;  
Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

**Tuesday**  
1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28

**Wednesday**  
1 Jn 2:29—3:6; Ps 98:1-3, 6;  
Jn 1:29-34

**Thursday**  
1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9;  
Jn 1:35-42

**Friday**  
1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1-5;  
Jn 1:43-51

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

**Sunday**  
Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 ;  
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

FLOWERS AT MARY

This week's flowers were  
donated in memory of  
Dorothy Malone.



SILENT PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a prayer request or  
would like to be a Prayer Warrior  
for the group, please call Gary at  
281-332-1303.

## DSF SPOTLIGHT: THE FINAL COUNTDOWN



A huge thank you to all who have donated to the Diocesan Services Fund (DSF) this year! We are still over \$16000 below our goal.

If you are able, we would greatly appreciate your help as we strive to raise \$165,000. Any amount helps!

All donations received by December 31, 2023 will count towards our goal!

The Diocesan Services Fund (DSF) supports 60+ programs benefitting 1.7 million Catholics in our Archdiocese.

Visit [archgh.org/dsf](http://archgh.org/dsf) for more information. Please remember to select St. Mary - League City as your parish when donating.



## NO MONEY KEPT ON PREMISES

## WEEKLY OFFERINGS

**December 17, 2023**

Regular Collection.....	\$31,043.69
Faith Direct.....	\$15,788.56
Subtotal.....	\$46,832.25
Budgeted Weekly ...	\$31,319.61
Difference.....	\$15,512.64

## ONLINE GIVING

We are always thankful for your contributions in whatever way you choose to give.

If online giving is your preference, our parish online giving options, either one-time or recurring, can be found at [www.saintmcc.org/give](http://www.saintmcc.org/give) or by scanning the QR code.



## DSF 2023 TOTALS

Parish Goal.....	\$165,000
Donations.....	\$148,486.05
Remaining Balance.....	\$16,513.95
DSF Donors.....	372

## PARISH REGISTRATION

If you would like to register as a parishioner or update your existing information with the parish, call the office or visit our website's 'New to the Parish' section. We are excited you are here!

## BULLETIN REQUESTS

To receive the bulletin by email or to submit items for consideration to be printed in the bulletin, send an email to [bulletin@saintmcc.org](mailto:bulletin@saintmcc.org) with your request. All information must be submitted 10 days before the Sunday you would like to be included.

## FINANCE COUNCIL

**Randy Klibert**  
[randy.klibert@hotmail.com](mailto:randy.klibert@hotmail.com)

**Bob Pool**  
[robertpool7@yahoo.com](mailto:robertpool7@yahoo.com)

**Greg A. Smith**  
[gasmit@icloud.com](mailto:gasmit@icloud.com)

**Lee Ann Crowder**  
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**Michael LaRocca**  
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**Sharon Mihalski**  
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**Anna Dietert**  
[abdietert@gmail.com](mailto:abdietert@gmail.com)

## PARISH CONTACTS

Pastor  
Parish Administrator  
School Principal  
Deacon  
Deacon  
Deacon  
Deacon

### Ministries and Services

Maintenance Facilitator  
Music Ministry  
Director of Elementary Faith Formation  
Director of Youth Ministry  
Coordinator of RCIA-C  
Coordinator of 1st Communion/Reconciliation

### Administrative Assistants

Bookkeeping  
Sacramental Records • Marriage • Mass Intentions  
Bulletin • Website • Livestream • Social Media  
Youth Ministry including: Life Teen • Edge • Confirmation  
Baptisms • Elementary Faith Formation • Adult Ministry • RCIA-C  
Part-time Safe Environment • Ministry Scheduling • Registration

Fr. John Rooney  
Lisa Sabatier  
Laura L. Halbardier  
Dcn. George Blanford  
Dcn. Russ Carroll  
Dcn. Fritz Claydon  
Dcn. Andy DeYoung

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David Harley  
Tina Fogleman  
Anna Dietert

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# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PARISH HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS



Our parish offices will be closed Monday, January 1 in observance of the New Year!

We will resume regular office hours on Tuesday, January 2.

## SANTA FOR SEAFARERS

We will continue to collect gift boxes for the seafarers for through January 15.

### SUGGESTED GIFT BOX ITEMS

Full-size Shampoo & Conditioner • Toothbrush • Dental Floss • Razors • Shaving Cream • Socks • Knit Cap • T-shirt • Sewing Kit • ChapStick • Nail Clippers • Hand Lotion • Comb • Souvenir Keychain • Tissues • Gloves

Candy and food items should be donated separately (not in the boxes) and they will be taken directly to the ships along with the gift boxes.

## SAVE THE DATE

### 2024 Casino Night:



Saturday, April 20, 2024

Hosted by: Knights of Columbus 9310 and Ladies Auxiliary

Now seeking sponsors and casino dealers.

Contact Grace Garza at [wograce@msn.com](mailto:wograce@msn.com) or 361-215-7151 or Marlena Lin at [marlena.hill1021@gmail.com](mailto:marlena.hill1021@gmail.com) or 240-344-2013 or see the parish website for details!

## LADIES AUXILIARY

The League City Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus is an organization for all women of St. Mary of the Expectation. We establish a creative outlet for the wives of the Knights of Columbus and the women of the parish, to grow spiritually, socially, and civically. Our objective is to provide limited scholarships to senior high school students who are registered members of St. Mary of the Expectation Church and meet certain requirements.



### Next Meeting:

Thursday, January 4 at 7:00 PM

Annual Dues: \$15

Come join us for fellowship!!!

## RESPECT LIFE



### Texas Rally for Life

The Texas Rally for Life will be Saturday, January 27, 2024. St. Clare Parish is leasing a full size, comfortable bus to travel to the Rally at the state capital in Austin. We hope you can join!

Go to link <https://tinyurl.com/RFL-Jan27> for details. Sign up is coming soon.

## EUCCHARISTIC VIGIL For Life

Thursday, January 18, 2024  
7 to 9 pm

St. Vincent de Paul  
Catholic Church

Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel  
Entra on Buffalo Speedway

REGISTER NOW

<https://archgh.swoogo.com/holyhour2024>



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF  
GALVESTON-HOUSTON

## AROUND THE PARISH

### 2024 Parish Calendars:

Our parish calendars have arrived and are available in the parish office as well as the vestibule of the church. Thank you to the sponsors of our calendar, Crower Funeral Homes and Catholic Cemeteries, for their generosity.



### Church Directories

Due to publisher delays, the parish directories will be coming in after the new year.

# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MONTHLY DEVOTIONS

We are already entering a new month this week! We are blessed to have monthly devotions to spend time in prayer with our Lord! We hope you are able to take advantage of one or both of these great opportunities!

### First Friday Adoration:

Friday, January 5

9 AM - 8 PM

In the church

### First Saturday Rosary:

Saturday, January 6

3:45 PM

In the chapel



## QUALIFIED CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION

Are you required to take a distribution from your IRA this year and don't need the money for living expenses? If you are 70 1/2 or older, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a great way for you to make a gift to support St. Mary Parish. QCD gifts can make a huge difference to our parish and its efforts to nourish our community!

The key provisions are:

- Donors 70 1/2 or older can transfer up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA annually.
- Qualifying individuals can make charitable gifts directly to a charity using pre-tax IRA assets rather than taking a distribution, paying income taxes, and using after-tax assets to make a charitable gift.
- For a QCD to count towards your current year's required minimum distribution (RMD), the funds must come out of your IRA by your RMD deadline, generally December 31.

Please contact the parish office for information and forms to complete your gift.

## FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

The Knights of Columbus, Fr. Roach Council 3217 and St. Mary Council 9310, are hosting their annual Free Throw Championship on Saturday, January 13, at 8 AM in the Shrine of the True Cross Catholic School gym. Contact Rene Garza at (361)215-8958 or email [rene.garza@hotmail.com](mailto:rene.garza@hotmail.com) for more information.



## CHRISTMAS DECOR NEEDED

We will be adding a new bazaar booth next year: Christmas Decor!

We are requesting NEW, GENTLY USED and homemade (if you're crafty) Christmas items beginning now through October 1, 2024.

### Accepting items such as:

Ornaments - Tree Toppers - Wreaths - Tree Skirts - Christmas Themed: plates, bowls & serving platters - Tabletop Centerpieces - Tablecloths - Fireplace/Mantel Décor - Floral Arrangements - Nativity Sets - Angels - Monetary Donations

No trees please, unless they are tabletop size.

WE WILL PICK UP YOUR DONATIONS.

If you have any questions, or have items to donate, please contact Linda Bilotta Liechty at [lindaliechty1267@gmail.com](mailto:lindaliechty1267@gmail.com) or 281-744-4052; or Laura Bilotta Sanchez at [ssanchez59@comcast.net](mailto:ssanchez59@comcast.net).



# TRIVIA NIGHT

Hosted by ACTS Ministry

## THEME: CHILDHOOD BOOKS

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

NO TEAM, NO PROBLEM!  
WE WILL HELP YOU  
FIND ONE!

**Tables of 8-10**  
\$50/Person or \$400/Table  
Dinner Included/BYOB  
Attendees must be 21

Details and registration on the parish website.



# ADULT FAITH FORMATION

## UPCOMING WOMEN'S STUDY

Registration and further details for our studies are available in the Ministry Building and on our parish website. [www.saintmcc.org](http://www.saintmcc.org)



**Mysteries of the Rosary Series**  
By Paradisus

*Dei* on the Joyful Mysteries along with meditations from Anne Catherine Emmerich - all which lead to a deeper encounter with our Lord in personal prayer and contemplation.

### THURSDAY MORNINGS

9:15 - 11:15 AM

January 11 - February 8, 2024

For information, contact:  
[charlapratt@comcast.net](mailto:charlapratt@comcast.net)

## CURRENT SERIES

Registration and further details for our studies are available in the Ministry Building and on our parish website. [www.saintmcc.org](http://www.saintmcc.org)



***The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation***  
A 24-Part Bible Study  
featuring Jeff Cavins

In this revolutionary approach to Bible study, *The Bible Timeline* divides the Bible into twelve color-coded time periods that make the narrative thread easier to follow. You will learn the major people, places, and events of the Bible and discover how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our Faith.

### TUESDAY MORNINGS

9:15 - 11:15 AM

### THURSDAY EVENINGS

6:30 - 8:30 PM

The sessions run simultaneously.  
Late registration is available.

For information, contact:  
[stlindablackwood@aol.com](mailto:stlindablackwood@aol.com)

## WELCOME!

It is with great delight that I announce that we have a new Director of Adult Faith Formation, Terri Ryan.

Terri has been married to her husband, Scott, for 20 years and has three children (two young adults and one teen). She spent several years as a volunteer leader for both Youth and Adult Faith Formation, and in 2013, Terri left her first career to care for her family, study, and eventually start a second career in ministry. She has served as the RCIA and Adult Confirmation Coordinator at Mary Queen in Friendswood, and most recently, as the Director of Adolescent Catechesis and Evangelization.

Terri Holds a BA in Theology and History of the Social Sciences and will complete her Masters in Pastoral Studies next fall from the University of St. Thomas. She is very excited to learn about and serve the faithful of St. Mary of the Expectation and will start full time on January 2, 2024.



-Fr. John Rooney

## FEEDING YOUR FAITH: APP SPOTLIGHT



Formed is a technology platform for the delivery of award-winning Catholic content, children's programming, audio

talks, e-books and more. Our parish has generously purchased a subscription for all parishioners to enjoy! Go to [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup) and enter: St. Mary League City in the search. Select our parish, and you are on your way to enjoying their content!

The Everyday Resources page on our parish website, [www.saintmcc.org/ordinary-times](http://www.saintmcc.org/ordinary-times), also has links to our daily readings, online content from sites like Hallow and Church Pop, and much more!

## Young Adult Ministry

Whether you are navigating life post high school, attending college/trade school, establishing yourself as an early career professional, or starting a family - join the St. Mary's Young Adult Community! We meet every week for faith-filled discussions and fellowship.

**Every Tuesday**  
**7:00 - 8:30 PM**  
Ministry Building  
St. Luke Room

Scan me

**FOR CURRENT TOPICS & SIGN UP FORM**

# YOUNG CHURCH MOVEMENT & FAITH FORMATION

## HOT TAKE

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. When we think of the Holy Family, as Catholics, I think most of us think of Jesus or the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is rightly so, but we also don't want to lose sight of the importance of Joseph, his role in the Holy Family, and what we can learn from him. So many of the saints are such eloquent speakers and writers. St. Paul was an incredible evangelist, the Venerable Fulton Sheen was such a lecturer, and Pope Benedict XVI was an eloquent writer. These things were not the case for St. Joseph, at least that we are aware of. St. Joseph has no quotes in scripture nor does he have any written works that we know of. So what exactly can we learn from him or even know about him for that matter? Firstly, we know he was a righteous man who chose to save Mary's life instead of having her stoned to death (the punishment for her becoming pregnant out of wedlock). We also know that he trusted God because once it was revealed to him that Mary became pregnant by the Holy Spirit, he believed God's angel and stayed with Mary. Another thing that I find amazing is that we have no record of what Jesus was doing between age 12 and age 30 (when his public ministry began). During this time, presumably, Jesus would have been working with his father who was a carpenter. Jesus was taught how to be a man by Joseph. Think about that, Joseph (along with Mary) taught Jesus, who is God, how to live. Lastly, St. Joseph's holiness is said to be so great that the Church has given him the nickname "terror of demons". So today as we celebrate the Holy Family, make sure you give Jesus and Mary their due, but don't forget to tip your cap to St. Joseph as well. God bless! -David



## UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN 1	NO Chosen NO Life Teen
JAN 7	NO Chosen NO Life Teen
JAN 8	NO Teen Leadership
JAN 10	NO EDGE
JAN 14	NO Chosen NO Life Teen

## PAPAL POST

"May Jesus, Mary and Joseph bless and protect all the world's families, so that within them may reign the serenity and joy, justice and peace that the newborn Christ has given as a gift to humanity."

-Pope John  
Paul II



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Holy family only consisted of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Sometimes English translations of the Bible will refer to Jesus' brothers and sisters, but "adelphos", the word in Greek (the language the New Testament was originally written in), is often used to describe kin relationships not just biological brothers and sisters.

## STAY CONNECTED



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# ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

On the night of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, the shepherds came to the stable to see if the message was true that they received from the angels. As revealed to them, they found the infant lying in a manger wrapped in swaddling clothes. How wonderful it must have been for Mary to hear their incredible story.

Following Jewish law, the parents took Jesus to the Temple eight days later to present him to the Lord. While Mary and Joseph were there, they met Simeon. He was an upright and devout man. God promised that he would not experience death until he set eyes on the Christ, the Anointed One. They met Anna too. She was an older woman who prayed in the temple day and night. Simeon and Anna proclaimed Jesus as Israel's salvation to all who would listen.

Mary believed what God had promised her. So much had happened since giving her "yes" to God nine months earlier—Joseph taking her into his home, the king's order for a census, making the long trip to Bethlehem, having no place to stay at the inn, giving birth to her Son in a stable, the message of the Shepherds, and the visit of the Wise Men. Simeon and Anna spoke of Jesus' greatness. Mary pondered all these things in her heart. "To ponder" means to meditate on something carefully. Pondering together with prayer can lead to understanding.

Looking at her beautiful baby boy and hearing what people said of him must have affirmed Mary's faith and trust in God. There was little room for doubt that things were going according to His plan.

God may not send shepherds, wise men, or prophets to us, but if we keep our eyes and ears open, we might discover God's messengers in our lives. These people affirm our faith and let us know that all is well. Like Mary, we must remember those moments, reflecting and praying about them often in our hearts, especially when life's difficulties test our faith.

**When have I pondered events in my life in light of God's plan? Who have been the messengers of God's plan for me?**

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## Simeon & Anna See Jesus

## PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we ponder true love. With confident trust we turn to you for assistance to live together in communion and prayer as small domestic churches and schools of the Gospel. Make us mindful of the sacredness and beauty of family life according to God's plan.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant us peace, patience, and kindness to seek the good of one another. Protect us from every evil and be our strength in temptation. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Graciously hear our prayer. Amen.



## FAITH FORMATION CALENDAR

Parish Offices are closed until Tuesday, January 2.

There are no faith formation classes until Wednesday, January 17, and Sunday, January 21.

Today is the final date to register for Sacrament Preparation classes.







**ST. MARY**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ENTER TO LEARN, LEAVE TO SERVE.



Pre-K to 8th Grade | 281-332-4014 | [stmarylc.org](http://stmarylc.org) | [facebook.com/stmarylc](https://facebook.com/stmarylc) | Principal: Laura L. Halbardier



# Blessings

to you and your family in the  
New Year from St. Mary  
Catholic School







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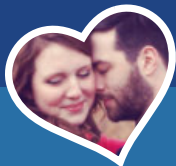


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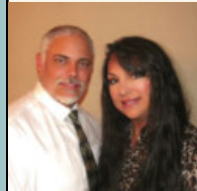
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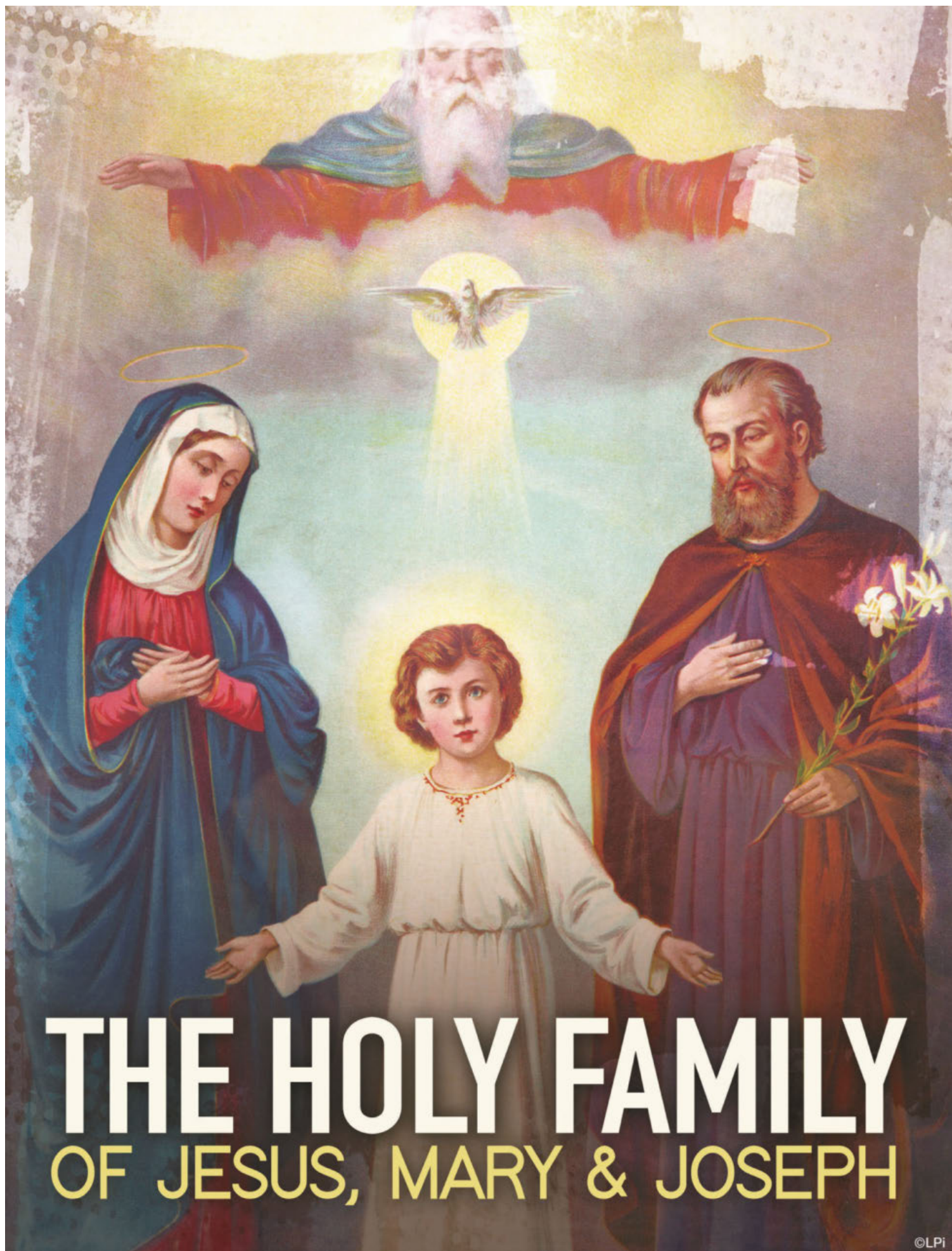
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