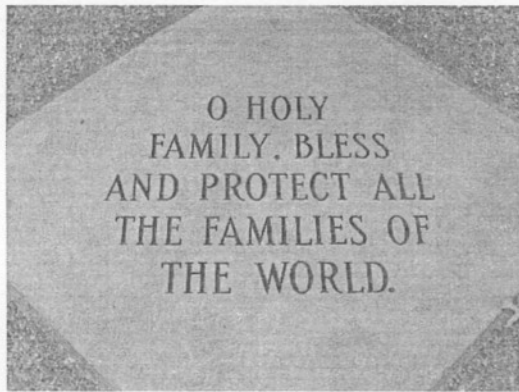


FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



Today is a special day for our parish. During the 10:30 am liturgy Fr. Dave Bonnar will be joining us as our celebrant and he will bless our Holy Family Prayer Garden. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this project so successful. The donor plaques are located in the vestibule closest to the Prayer Garden.

Let us join together in a prayer for families written by Pope John Paul II

Lord God, from You every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. Father, You are Love and Life. Through Your Son, Jesus Christ, born of woman, and through the Holy Spirit, fountain of divine charity, grant that every family on earth may become for each successive generation a true shrine of life and love.

Grant that your grace may guide the thoughts and actions of husband and wives for the good of their families and of all the families of the world. Grant that the young may find in the family solid support for their human dignity and for their growth in truth and love. Grant that love, strengthened by the grace of the sacrament of marriage may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass.

Through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that the Church may fruitfully carry out her worldwide mission in the family and through the family.

We ask this of You, who are Life, Truth and Love, with the Son and the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

I will be away visiting my family for a few days this week so Bess, our Social Minister will be on call should you need our services for any type of emergency.

Have a Blessed Week

- - -Sister Dorothy



School Resumes

School will resume on Wednesday.

January 2nd

Mass

Please join Mrs. Eggan and the sixth graders as they celebrate mass on Thursday, January 3, 2008. Our students have worked very hard planning this mass.

Happy New Year

From our teachers, students and staff we wish all of you a blessed and Happy New Year. As we pray for you, remember to keep our school family in your prayers.

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The Silver Ring Thing

The Silver Ring Thing is a high-tech, high-energy performance that educates teens about the benefits of remaining abstinent until marriage and the dangers of promiscuous behavior. On January 18th the Silver Ring Thing will be held at Seton LaSalle High School from 6:30-9:00 P.M., and all teenagers, parents, and youth workers are invited to attend. With dramas, videos, special effects, and speakers, teenagers will be motivated in a unique and personal way to choose to commit to both God and their future spouse to remain abstinent until marriage. For further information please contact your DRE, Principal, or Youth Minister.

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

It is good Joseph was tuned into God for directions. He was "warned" to flee to Egypt, then to return to Israel and later to move to Galilee. Open your heart to God's direction in your life. What new place is God leading you in 2008? Listen and let the Lord Lead!

WEEKEND RETREAT

A Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat for post-abortion healing will be held on February 1-3, 2008 at the Spiritan Center in Bethel Park. To register or for more information, call Catholic Charities at 412-456-6999 by January 25; ask for Ann Depner or Karen LaFrance.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

"Octave" comes from the Latin word for "eight," and since eight is one step beyond seven, the number of days in a week, it has long been seen as a symbol of perfection, completion, and new beginnings. Early Christians called Sunday the "eighth day," since it was the day after the Sabbath and a day of resurrected life, the Lord's Day. By the seventh century, people regarded the eight days after Easter Sunday as one great day, an octave, one glorious feast when people were forbidden to fast or kneel. In the seventh century, Pentecost acquired an Octave, too. Christmas didn't claim the honor of a continuous feast, but it did get an Octave Day. January 1 is the oldest Marian feast, the Octave of Christmas. It was originally a feast of the motherhood of Mary, although for centuries until 1969 it was called the Feast of the Circumcision. Our reformed calendar follows the earlier tradition of celebrating Mary as Mother of God.

Today's Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is a modern one, instituted in 1921. Strains on family life then, with the world emerging from the first "Great War," were enormous. From its inception, this feast was clearly intended to inspire people with an image of family harmony even amid difficulties.

In 1969 the Feast of the Holy Family was moved to its present position, the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas. When Christmas falls on a Sunday, this feast is bumped to December 30, but is not a holy day. The Gospels chosen in 1969 all depict stressful times in the life of the family of Jesus: the Presentation (with the warning of future sorrow), the flight into Egypt, and Mary and Joseph's frantic search for their son in Jerusalem. The feast's former place in the calendar is taken now by the Baptism of the Lord.

—Rev. James Field, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

MASS INTENTIONS

MON., DEC. 31 SEVENTH DAY IN OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

10:00 P.M., JOSEPHINE & JIM HINE (DAVID PARRENDO)

VIGIL BVM, THE MOTHER OF GOD

6:00 P.M., PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

TUES., JAN. 1 BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

10:00 A.M., BOB SMITH (SISTER & BROTHER)

WED., JAN. 2 BASIL THE GREAT, AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS & DOCTORS

8:00 A.M., ST. IRENAEUS

9:00 A.M., ST. GERARD, ST. SUSANNA

7:00 P.M., HOLY HOUR

THURS., JAN. 3 CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

10:00 A.M., GERALD IOLI (THE MANZO FAMILY)

FRI., JAN 4 ELIZABETH ANN SETON

10:00 A.M., MARY ROSE & ANTHONY CALVANO (ED & PAT CALLAHAN & FAMILY)

SAT., JAN. 5 VIGIL EPIPHANY

4:00 P.M. CONFESSIONS

5:00 P.M. EARL SCHOMBURGER (CLAIRE BRADY)

SUN. JAN 6 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8:00 A.M., PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

10:30 A.M., JOHN & EVA VALCENTI

(JOHANNA & MARIA VALICENTI & FAMILY)

6:00 P.M., EPIPHANY CLUSTER CONCERT

Please remember in your prayers the sick, shut-ins, and hospitalized members of the Parish.

Please remember in your prayers the departed members of our parish family.