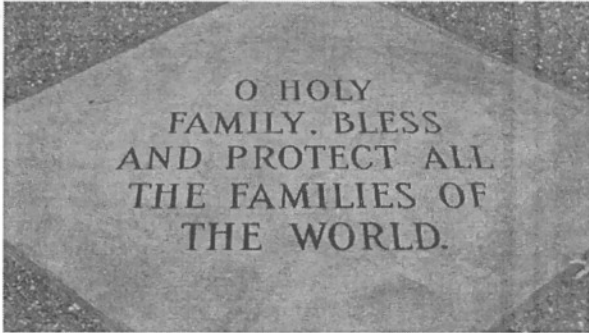


*FEAST OF THE
HOLY FAMILY OF
NAZARETH
December 28, 2008*



The Holy Family is not limited to three people who lived two thousand years ago. While Jesus, Mary and Joseph can be thought of as the Holy Family, they were only the beginning of a new family, based not on blood but on the working of the Holy Spirit. We are all part of God's holy family.

Have you ever taken the time to reflect on what it means to be part of God's family? What are the benefits? What are the responsibilities? What are the aggravations? What are the joys?

Each one of us by our Baptism was given our place in God's family. Being part of God's family comes with obligations. Are you open to performing and/or living those obligations?

As we begin this new year many will set resolutions of all different sorts. My prayer for you is that you have the courage to avail yourself to the opportunities that surround you in your parish and become involved where you are able.



**MASS SCHEDULE
MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
(Holy Day of Obligation)**

**New Year's Eve (12-31-08)
6 PM—Vigil**

**New Year's Day (1-1-09)
10 AM**



Once again this year, we extend our most heartfelt THANKS to Gross Funeral Home (John Rosella and staff), Trenz Funeral Home, (Theresa and Chuck), and Wylie Funeral Home (Bill, Findley and Janice) for providing our parish calendars. I hope that if or when you have the occasion to see any of these individuals that you will also utter your thanks for their support of us here at St. Bart's.

Thank you is also in order to the Woman's Group and the Men's Club for working together to purchase the new altar server robes. These robes are expensive and our servers appreciate being able to look their best as they serve God and us as a Parish. Again, Thank you so much.

*Blessed New Years,
Sister Dorothy*

School News

School Recess

Our school will remain closed this week in observance of the Christmas Holiday. School will resume on Monday, January 5th.

Happy New Year

From our students, staff and teachers, we wish everyone a Happy New Year. May the New Year find peace and unity among all people. We pray for each of you every day.



THE HOLY FAMILY

JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

It may sound like a story line from a bad situation comedy, but how many of you parents out there have gone to one of those parent-teacher meetings, only to come away shaking your head in wonder. "Was that our kid she was talking about?" Little Junior who can't find the clothes hamper, talks with his mouth full, and slugs his sister at home is one of the most delightful young students in Mrs. Smith's class. Sometimes, are we standing too close to our children to really see them for who they are?

According to ancient Jewish laws, a woman who had given birth was not allowed into the temple for forty days, where she was then given "purification" as described in today's Gospel reading from Luke. Most new mothers would also offer a lamb and a dove for a sacrifice, or if the family was very poor, two doves or pigeons, as was the case for Joseph and Mary.

It was Simeon and Anna, two faith-filled individuals from outside the family, who recognized with joyful exclamations that the child Jesus was the Messiah. Luke tells us that Joseph and Mary "were amazed at what was said about him."

In today's seemingly secular world, where those of faith are greeted with disdain and even hostility, the faithful family stands even more importantly as a center of life itself (CCC 1656). The Second Vatican Council even recognized that parents are "by word and example the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children. They should encourage them in the vocation which is proper to each child." Today is the feast of the Holy Family; look at the children around you, perhaps for the first time, with amazement at these young gifts from God.



DECEMBER 28, 2008



THE SILVER RING THING

THE SILVER RING THING is a high-tech, high energy performance that educates teens about the benefits of remaining abstinent and the dangers of promiscuous behavior. On January 16th the *Silver Ring Thing* will be held at Seton La-Salle High School from 6:30—9:30 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 spouses, to remain chaste until marriage. For further information please contact your Colleen Ford, our Youth Minister at 412-242-7207.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY IS CELEBRATED THE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 7-8, 2009.

THERE WILL BE A DIOCESAN CELEBRATION OF WORLD MARRIAGE DAY ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2009 AT ST. MAURICE PARISH, FOREST HILLS, PA.

IT WILL BEGIN WITH MASS AT 5:00 PM IN THE CHURCH WITH BISHOP ZUBIK AS THE PRESIDER AND HOMILIST . FOLLOWING MASS THERE SILL BE A WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION IN THE PARISH HALL. A PRESENTATION BY MIKE CLARK OF CHANNEL 4 NEWS WILL FOLLOW. DONATION IS \$10.00 PER COUPLE. TO REGISTER PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE FOR FAMILY LIFE AND CATECHESIS 412-456-3160.



DECEMBER 28, 2008

Mass Intentions

MON., December 29, Fifth Day in Octave of Christmas

10:00 AM Ester DelDuca (St. Bart's Golden Agers)

TUES., December 30, Sixth Day in Octave of Christmas

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus

9:00 AM St. Gerard Majella, St. Joseph

WED., December 31, Vigil Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

6:00 PM Anthony Cinna (Ann Ruffing & Mary Jo Hurley)

THURS., January 1, Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

10:00 AM People of the Parish

FRI., January 2, Basil the Great, & Gregory Nazianzen

10:00 AM Harry L. Brooks (Mr. & Mrs. Rossi)

SAT., January 3, Vigil, Epiphany

4:00 PM CONFESSIONS

5:00 PM People of the Parish

SUN., January 4, Epiphany

8:00 AM Jeanne Strickler (Patti Diamond)

10:30 AM Eva Valicenti (Family)

Please remember in your prayers the sick, shut-ins, and hospitalized members of our parish; also the recently departed members of our Parish Family, especially

Jeffery Simonelli

&

Carol P. Geyer

