

HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY
DECEMBER 27, 2009



The incarnation of the second person of the Trinity, the Word of God, in the person of Jesus put him in a family, one that did not always understand him, but did provide him a place to grow in wisdom and favor before God. We call them the Holy Family, as such, they comfort and confront us.

The story in the Gospel of Luke about the twelve-year-old Jesus and his parents going up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Passover says much about the perspectives that guide the lives of both Jesus and his mother. And their lives were filled with a sense of fear.

The family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph knew all too well the experience of fear. Like families of every time and place, they experienced hardship and pain; they faced a difficult and unexpected pregnancy; they were forced from their home because of the tyrant Herod; and in today's Gospel, they experienced every parent's worst nightmare: the disappearance of their child. But like so many of us, they make it through their fear by the love that binds them together as a couple and as a family, the love that makes their poor home a place of welcome and acceptance, a harbor of forgiveness and compassion. It is that love that is celebrated in today's liturgy.

Ask God for the grace to live in peace with all the members of your own family, especially if there are any from whom you feel distant or alienated. Ask God to give all peoples the wisdom to know what it means to live as the holy family.



We welcome Fr. Matt Cirilli for our celebration of the Vigil of the Holy Family and Fr. Phil Farrell, Regional Vicar who will celebrate liturgy with us on the Feast of the Holy Family. Fr. Tom is away this weekend enjoying some time with his family.

I will be away December 30-January 2nd visiting my family for Christmas. Bess Biamonte, Pastoral Associate will be here should you need anything.

NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE



We will follow our holy day schedule with Mass on Thursday, December 31st at 6 pm, and Friday, January 1st at 10 AM.

Prayer for the New Year

Dear Lord, at the beginning of this New Year, I remember that you are a God of beginnings and endings. You created the world, with all its eternal patterns.

Winter begins in frost, and ends in Spring's thaw. Spring begins in new, green life, ending in Summer's heat.

Summer begins in sunshine, and ends in Autumn's breezes. And Autumn's color leads to the white of Winter again.

As another year ends and begins in our lives, help us to remember that you have made a world of cycles.

When fortune turns to trials, or hardship turns to joy, help me take delight in the life I've received from you. Remind me that I will one day pass from this world and enter a new life like those who've gone before me.

Have a Blessed Week.
Sister Dorothy

SCHOOL NEWS

No School

There will be no school this week. Students are to report back to school on Monday, January 4, 2010.

Happy New Year

On behalf of our principal, teachers, staff and students we would like to wish you a Happy New Year. We pray that this year finds you happy, healthy and safe. We look forward to the many wonderful memories to be made in 2010.



Did you know that St. Bartholomew Catholic School has an excellent academic program for students from preschool through eighth grade? We also provide a strong religious education program, integrated daily into our curriculum, based on our Catholic teachings, morals, and values. Registrations are now being accepted for the 2010-2011 school year, financial aid will be available at the beginning of the year. For more information, please call the school office at 412-242-2511. Thank you for your consideration, and may God continue to bless you always.

The Holy Family



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 27, 2009

THE HOLY FAMILY



Don't forget....Quest Bible Study continues on Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 PM and Thursday evening at 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited to come and pray the scriptures for the upcoming weekend liturgy. If you have any questions, please call Sister Dorothy or Bess at the office.

We will begin a new session on Wednesday, January 6th. Everyone is invited to attend.

37th Annual MARCH FOR LIFE

St. Joseph Church will sponsor a bus to Washington, DC for the annual **March for Life**

Friday, January 22, 2010
If you are interested, contact St. Joseph Church Office at 412-795-5114 to make your reservation. Seating is limited.

The cost of the trip is
\$20.00 for an Adult
\$15.00 for a Student
\$45.00 per Family (immediate)
Reservations and money are due by Monday, January 11, 2010

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, December 28, Holy Innocents

10:00 AM Dawn McGuire (Ciccotelli & Henley Families)

TUESDAY, December 29, Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus
9:00 AM St. Gerard Majella, St. Susanna

WEDNESDAY, December 30, Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus
9:00 AM St. Gerard Majella, St. Susanna
7:00 PM No Holy Hour

THURSDAY, December 31, Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas

6:00 PM Baver Family (Gino & Mary Jean DeIullis)

FRIDAY, January 1, 2010 The Octave of Christmas

10:00 AM People of the Parish

SATURDAY January, 2 Vigil Epiphany

5:00 PM Betty Turka (St. Bart's Lifeteen)

SUNDAY January 3, Epiphany

8:00 AM People of the Parish
10:30 AM Officer Michael Crawshaw (Sister Dorothy, & The Members of St. Bart's Parish)



Please remember in your prayers the sick, shut-ins, and hospitalized members of our Parish. The Sanctuary Candle will be lit this week in memory of Rose & Anthony Calvano from Pat & family