

SCRIPTURE READINGS

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

**First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6,
12-14**

Sirach emphasizes the importance of honoring one's parents. He explains that spiritual riches will come to those who are kind to their mother and father.



Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Paul advises us to treat each other with kindness and mercy and to forgive as God forgives us. His words remind families to always love and respect one another and let Christ's peace reign in their hearts and in their homes.

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

When Jesus was twelve years old, the Holy Family traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast. Jesus did not return with the company. Instead, he stayed in Jerusalem, sitting among the teachers while amazing them with his understanding and questions. When found by his concerned parents, Jesus reminded them that he must be in the house of his Father. Returning together, Mary kept these things in her heart.



**For the Week of December 30th through
January 5th**

Sunday

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Lk 2:41-52 or, for Year C,

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

Monday

1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

Tuesday

Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Wednesday

1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

Thursday

1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34

First Friday

1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42

First Saturday

1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51



The US Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) provides a full listing of the Sunday and Daily Readings, in print and audio format, on its website, <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings>.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 29th

4:00 p.m. Marie Gruber

Sunday, December 30th

8:00 a.m. Anna Graziao

10:00 a.m. James Breger

Monday, December 31st

8:30 a.m. Charlie and Doris Moloney

5:00 p.m. (SH) Mass for Our Parishioners
Living and Deceased

Tuesday, January 1st

9:00 a.m. (SJ) Mass for Our Parishioners
Living and Deceased

Wednesday January 2nd

8:30 a.m. Frederick McCall

Thursday, January 3rd

9:00 a.m. Communion Service

Friday, January 4th

8:30 a.m. Communion Service

Saturday, January 5th

4:00 p.m. Doris Moloney

Sunday, January 6th

8:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. Julia Marie Ortman



REMEMBERING THE SICK OF THE PARISH: Remember in your prayers the sick of the parish: John Troffo, Valerie Lindyberg, Patricia Dana, Elizabeth Montague, Angela Wilmer, Faith King, Rosemary Keating, Eugenia Brooks, Mary Ann Abeska, Alicia Bourne, Pamela Prue, and all those whose names appear in the PARISH BOOK OF INTENTIONS.

NEW TO THE PARISH: Please be sure to register with the Parish Office and introduce yourself to Father Grasing after Mass. Registration forms are available at the doors of the Church, the Parish Office, or online. For additional information, please call 410-778-3160, or go to sacredparish.org.

NEW YEAR'S LITURGIES:

Monday, December 31st: Sacred Heart at 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 1st: St. John at 9:00 a.m.

PREP

Parish Religious Education Program



Bringing the Gospel Home

Feast of the Holy Family
Luke 2:41-52

Reflection for Parents

Parents who have lost track of a child, even for a few minutes, can understand the anxiety Mary and Joseph must have felt when they realized that Jesus was not with them. Like most children, Jesus seemed rather nonplussed about it all. While most parents strive to do their best at keeping track of their children and keeping their children safe from harm, there will be times of anxiety, confusion, and worry along the way. As a parent, pray daily for God’s protection for your children and for all children of the world—especially those in harm’s way.

Bringing the Good News Into Your Family

The word *holy* means “connected to God.” Today, take a family inventory of how you are staying connected to God. Decide as a family one way you can become a more holy family by deepening your connection to God in the coming year. Perhaps you will say grace together at every meal, whether at home or in a restaurant. Maybe you will increase your donations to the parish food pantry or clothes closet. Or maybe you will take the time to pray together each day before leaving for school or work.

Discussion Starters

1. A time when I was lost and frightened was . . .
2. I think our family is holy because . . .
3. A gift I give to our family is . . .

PARENTING POINTERS: After the hubbub dies down, pause as a family not only to thank each other, but to be thankful that you have the resources to give gifts and that you have a family to share this time with. Don't let the day slip slide away without this pause.



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DID YOU KNOW.....

that our Parish Religious Education Program is now called *Households of Faith*? This family centered approach to catechesis emphasizes the role of the family in sharing our Catholic faith with others, particularly our children. The goal of family catechesis is to provide parents with the tools and information needed to live the faith more fully within the “domestic church” - the home. The household is the place where our faith is lived daily, and so is the natural place for handing on our cherished beliefs and traditions.

Well, this opportunity for learning more about our Lord and His Church is too good to limit to only parents of young children. Whether you are a household of one, or a household of many, you are invited to join us on the second Sunday of each month to grow in faith and knowledge!

Households of Faith begins at 11:00 a.m. with a light meal followed by age appropriate faith formation sessions. Children’s groups are led by our dedicated catechists while adults and older students remain in the Hall. This year our focus is on the Sacraments. Thus far we have discussed Baptism, Marriage and Holy Orders. Our January 13th gathering will be facilitated by Ed Gordon, a fellow parishioner who was previously the Director of Religious Education for the Diocese of Wilmington. Our topic is the Sacrament of Confirmation.

So you think you know what Confirmation is all about??
Join us on January 13th and see!



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“We are God’s children now;
... we shall be like him.”

Sheepish Question:

Recognizing my own shortcomings, how can I strengthen--and be strengthened by--God’s holy family?

PARISH NEWS

OFFERTORY TOTALS FOR THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 23rd WILL BE PUBLISHED IN NEXT WEEKEND'S BULLETIN.

COLLECTING WINTER OUTER

WEAR: The Chestertown food pantry is currently collecting gently used winter outerwear – coats, hats, gloves and scarves (no shoes please). We have collection bins in the foyer of Sacred Heart and the front of St. John. Thank you for your generosity.



ELECTRONIC GIVING: It is possible to make your weekly financial commitment to the Parish using Electronic Funds Transfer. We are encouraging everyone to consider using this contribution method. Contact Mary Jo Frohlich with any questions at 410-778-3160, or mfrohlich@sacredparish.org. Sign up forms are available at the doors of the Church.

RETROUVAILLE is a peer ministry of volunteer couples who can help a couple re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille can help heal a marriage, as it has for tens of thousands of couples throughout the world. **The next program begins on the weekend of February 8-10 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. Additional weekends will be held in April and August.** For more information, or to register for one of our weekends, visit our web site at: www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 1-800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

REMINDER TO ALL LITURGICAL MINISTERS AT SACRED HEART: Thank you to the ministers who volunteer to serve weekly at our liturgies. Please remember to "check in" before mass in the foyer of the church. Simply highlight your name on the schedule so that we know in advance if we need to fill positions or make changes. All ministers should check in...Lectors, Greeters, Cantors, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers. Thank you for your attention to this request.

WINTER SHELTER: Beginning January 2nd, The Samaritan Group of Kent County will open its emergency winter shelter to provide a warm, safe place for the less fortunate residents of Kent County. The shelter is hosted by area churches (Chestertown Church of the Nazarene, First United Methodist Church and Presbyterian Church of Chestertown) and staffed by a multitude of volunteers! There are two opportunities each evening to fulfill our Christian responsibilities of caring for the marginalized in our society.

If you would like to provide an evening meal for shelter guests, please contact Janet Hilty at ghjh@atlanticbb.net. Meals are delivered hot and ready to eat and you are encouraged to sit and share the meal and conversation with the guests. If you are an early riser, you may choose to be a breakfast volunteer, again by contacting Janet at the address above.

Evening volunteers are also needed from 5:30-11:00 p.m. to provide oversight and companionship to the shelter guests. If you have volunteered in this capacity in past years, you only need to contact Barbara Harrison at barbara.hrrsn@gmail.com to sign up for a time slot. If you are new to this position you will need to complete an application form first. These can be obtained through Barbara Harrison at the address above, or from Barbara Kelly at barbara.kelly.dre@gmail.com.

SEASONAL REMINDERS

First, regarding the *weather*—

- Before venturing out, it is always prudent to call the parish office to check our open/closed status; personal safety is the main concern
- One is not put in a state of serious sin by missing Mass on a day when travel to/from church would be hazardous

Naturally, if there is an occasion that a State of Emergency is declared all parish offices will be closed and all activities cancelled.

And regarding *flu and other illnesses*—

- *If you are not feeling well you should stay at home.* The obligation to attend Mass does not mean coming to church when you are ill and at risk of infecting others.
- *Whether to drink of the cup of the Lord's Blood is, as always, a personal decision.* We will continue to offer communion under both forms, encouraging you to be prudent in your decision making. You may wish to consider receiving communion in the hand if you do not already do so.



