

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Today's feast is new as feasts go, and it sets us this year in a very modern crisis. Amid conflicting schedules and commitments, a young man, testing the limits, has strayed from his parents and gone off to the big city. Mary and Joseph search frantically, only to find the child Jesus in the temple, conversing with the elders and scholars of the law, who are amazed at his wisdom.

In the time of Jesus, the temple was the religious center of Jewish ritual. Outside of Jerusalem, people gathered in the synagogues, centers of learning, for daily prayer and study. Still, everyone longed to journey to the temple to participate in the offerings, and to fulfill certain obligations of the law that could only be done there. On this feast, we catch a glimpse of the family of Jesus: parents dealing with the normal stresses of raising a child, and yet completely grounded in the ways of faith and tradition.

There has always been an appreciation in Christianity for the value of pilgrimage—the journey to holy places that is a symbol of our life's journey to God, and a sense of connection to important events in our family history. During the Christmas season, many of us undertake pilgrimages to the family homestead for festival meals, to the parishes where we were formed in the faith, or perhaps even to a beautiful manger scene or festival of lights. There are few better days than this in our calendar for spending time with the family, especially on a short pilgrimage to a favorite place. Just make sure that no one gets left behind!

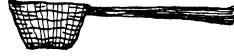
—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Wedding Banns

Jessica St. Pierre & Blake Coleman (3)
Jamie Schutte & Scott Thistlewaite (3)

December 15th/16th , 2018 Weekly Offering

Weekly Collection	\$ 8,621.00
Weekly Loose	1,879.70
ACH Weekly	335.00
	\$ 10,835.70



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St. Joseph's Jag Swag
 Saturday, February 9, 2019

Thibodaux Regional
 Wellness Center
 8:00 PM—12:00 AM
 Silent/Live Auction

A variety of items to bid on Classroom items, sport items, artwork and much more...

Tickets \$75.00 each or 2 for \$100.00
 (checks should be made to St. Joseph Elementary)

Donated items for the Silent Auction may be dropped off at the school office.

Want to be a corporate sponsor? - - - Questions?
 Contact Leah Jones
 lcarri1@hotmail.com or 504-220-6958

All forms can be found on Plus Portals

Mary, Mother of God



Solemnity of Mary
 (A Holy Day of Obligation)
Monday, December 31st
 Vigil Mass 4PM

Tuesday, January 1, 2019
 7:30 AM
 9:30 AM
 11:30 AM

The Life Center office will be closed.

The Rosary is prayed on
 Mondays and Thursdays
 at 9:30 AM in Church.

All are welcome to join us.



First Friday Adoration
 Friday, January 4th
 7AM till 5PM

Jesus is waiting for you!



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Please remember **Marie Yvonne Lewis & Wilson Toups, Jr.** who passed on into the Kingdom of our Father recently. Please pray also that their families may find comfort and consolation through their faith.

The Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
December 30, 2018

Beloved, we are God's children now;
 what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

— 1 John 3:2a



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