

**December 30, 2018**  
**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**From the Desk of Rev. Fr. Anthony C. Ekanem, MSP:**

I wish to use this wonderful opportunity to encourage you, our parish family to reflect on the approach of this devout Jewish family of Mary and Joseph who did not criticize or punish their son who stayed behind in the temple all along.

We hear people say, 'we don't choose our family,' but there is an aspect of obedience on the part of Jesus and also on the part of his parents when they finally found him with the scholars. The response of Jesus to Mary's worry was with respect, care and concern even though he was only twelve years of age. Saint Paul in his letter to the people of Colossae sums it beautifully by saying, "put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another" (Colossians 3:12-13).

Our parish family in the City of Yonkers has a lot to offer; a place for spiritual refuge for our sisters and brother who are busy debating on issues on human life, Church issues, immigration policies, political and social issue of our country, etc. How can the Holy Family be a model for our parish family? What about young people in Foster Homes in our society who are anxiously waiting for a call to belong to a family, to be adopted? Our multi – cultural setting can be a good platform to begin to consider this deep human yearning for a human family.

Yes, every family has its own challenges, there is no perfect family. Family can bring the best and the worst in its members. Where do we go from here? In this spirit of Christmas and as we draw to the end of the year, we need to challenge ourselves to learn from the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Also, on this note, I wish to inform our pariah family that Rev. George Nnamdi, Okoro, MSP has been appointed a Parochial Vicar of the Church of the Immaculate Conception – St Mary's and will take effect on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.

**Marriages:** In order to provide sufficient time for the Marriage Preparation Course, please call the parish office and ask to speak with the pastor at least six months in advance of the wedding.

**Collection: Last Sunday, December 23, 2018 our weekly collection was \$3,606.**

**January 1, 2019:** the Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God. Is a Holy Day of Obligation ~ Mass of Anticipation will be on Monday December 31, 2018 at 5:00 pm. Masses on Tuesday January 1, 2019 will be at 7:30 am and 11:00 am in English and 9:00 am in Spanish. How appropriate that in this holy time of Christmas we honor Mary as the Holy Mother of God. God chose her before she was born to bare the Son of God. In the face of doubt and uncertainty, she assented to the word of God. She is a model for all of us in her willingness to obey God, to prepare a place for Jesus in herself, and to be devoted to Christ throughout her life.

**Parish Membership:** Every family or single adult to be considered active members of St. Mary's must be properly registered in the parish, receiving and regularly using the weekly donation envelopes. Only in this way can the parish issue documents attesting to parish membership and Catholic practice, e.g. a letter to be a Godparent or Sponsor. Also if you have moved and still want to continue as a parishioner of St. Mary's please stop by the office with your new address so that we may make the appropriate changes. Thank You

**January 2019:**

4th all confirmation candidates are to report to Mrs. Rivera at the Parish Hall at 7:00 pm

5th Religious Education Classes ~*Family Day 9:00 am to 12:00pm*

12th Religious Education Classes

19th Religious Education Classes

21st Monday **Confirmation Retreat 9:30am to 2:00pm Parish Hall**

26th Religious Education Classes

**Mass Schedule for the week of  
December 30, 2018 to January 6, 2019**

**Mass are daily at 8:15 and 12:05 in English and in Spanish on Thursdays at 7:00pm**

**Below are the Special Intentions for this week**

**Sunday, December 30, 2018:**

7:30 am– For the Parishioners

9:00am– Joaquim Neto

Rida Lopez

11:00 am– Juvenil & Celina Antao

Eduardo & Alejandra Rodrigues

**Monday, December 31, 2018:**

12:05 pm -Celina Antao

Esther & Eduardo Rodrigues

5:00pm - For the Parishioners

**Tuesday, January 1, 2019: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God :**

7:00 am-For the Parishioners

9:00 am– For the Parishioners

11:00 am– Rose Kunny

Family

**Thursday, January 3, 2019:**

7:00 pm– Gabino Vanegas

Maria Rubio

**Friday, January 4, 2019:**

7:30pm– Sacred Heart of Jesus

**Saturday, January 5, 2019:**

5:00 pm– Jose & Mary Vadakel

George Vadakel & Family

**Sunday, January 6, 2019; The Epiphany of the Lord:**

7:30 am– For the Parishioners

9:00 am– Joaquim Neto

Mirta Rocafort

11:00 am– Celina Antao

Esther & Eduardo Rodrigues