

DECEMBER 27, 2020

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Today, we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Just as the Holy Family is holy, we are also called to be holy. This holiness is achievable by living as disciples of Christ.

St. Paul calls us to put on “heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience... as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.” Let us “give thanks to God the Father” by being good stewards of His love and mercy to all our family members.



Today's Gospel says a lot about trust and surrender to our Lord. When Simeon and Anna prophesized about what was to come, Jesus' parents were “amazed at what was said about him.” We can imagine that two parents would be taken back by these words! Yet, the Holy Family surrendered their lives to God and had unwavering faith and trust in His plan.

God's plan will fulfill our hearts more than we could have ever imagined. Like the Holy Family, we just need to trust, surrender and be attentive to God's voice.

Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship Consultants

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, December 28

4th Day Within the Octave of the Nativity
8:30 a.m. - Giuseppe Rodrigues and deceased members of the Rodrigues family †
9:00 a.m. - Holy Hour

Tuesday, December 29

5th Day Within the Octave of the Nativity
8:30 a.m. - Special Intention
9:15 a.m.

Wednesday, December 30

6th Day Within the Octave of the Nativity
8:30 a.m. - Mary & Joseph Petric †
9:15 a.m.

Thursday, December 31

7th Day Within the Octave of the Nativity
5:00 p.m. - Livestream on YouTube

Friday, January 1

The Solemnity of Mary,
the Holy Mother of God
9:00 a.m. - Livestream on YouTube
Cecilia Leo †
10:00 a.m. | 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 2

5:00 p.m. - Rita VanderVoort †

Sunday, January 3

The Epiphany of the Lord
9:00 a.m. - Mass for the People
10:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m. - John Gilbert † | Alfonso DiFrancesco †

1 Corinthians 13—Christmas Version

(Author Unknown)

*If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows,
strands of twinkling lights, and shiny balls,
but do not show love to my family,
I am just another decorator.*

*If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of
Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals, and
arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime,
but do not show love to my family,
I am just another cook.*

*If I work at a soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home,
and give all that I have to charity, but do not show
love to my family it profits me nothing.*

*If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and
crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday
parties, and sing in the choir's cantata,
but do not focus on Christ,
I have missed the point.*

*Love stops cooking to hug the child.
Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse.
Love is kind, though harried and tired.*

*Love does not envy another's home that has
coordinated china and table linens.
Love does not yell at the kids to get out of the way,
but is thankful they are there to be in the way.*

*Love does not give only to those who are able to give
in return, but rejoices in giving to those who cannot.*

*Love bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, and endures all things.
Love never fails.*

*Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost,
golf club will rust,
But giving the gift of love will endure.*

Amen

DID YOU KNOW....

New Year's Day is not just the start of a new year, it's also a Holy Day of Obligation in the Catholic Church? On January 1st we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, a liturgical feast day honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary's motherhood in the wake of the birth of the baby Jesus Christ. This holiday is also the Octave of Christmas or the 8th day of Christmas. As Mary's fiat reminds the faithful: "Be it done unto me according to Thy word." A solemnity is the highest ranking holy day in the Church calendar. As a family of believers here at St. Julia, let us begin the new year together, in prayer as we turn to our blessed Mother for her intercession as she takes our prayers and petitions for the year ahead to her son, our savior Jesus Christ!



ARE YOU BEING CALLED?

"By faith Abraham obeyed."

If you should be called to serve the Lord as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, pray for a deep faith and obey Him in love. Contact Fr. Greg at the church office, 905 684 5603 or email frgregoryschmidt@gmail.com.

WERE YOU UNABLE TO ATTEND CHRISTMAS MASS?

If you were unable to attend Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day due to lack of space or concern regarding crowds, the Church in her wisdom has established the Octave of Christmas. You can celebrate Christmas and attend Mass on any of the eight days.

The Octave of Christmas

- Christmas has its own **octave** (eight days of celebration) during which the feasts of St Stephen (26th), Saint John (27th) and the Holy Innocents (28th) are celebrated.
- These saints are seen as having a particular relation to the Christmas mystery and are traditionally honored as "companions of Christ". The Sunday within the Christmas octave is celebrated as the feast of the Holy Family.
- The last day of the Christmas octave, 1st January, is observed as the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

