

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

DECEMBER 30, 2018

LIVING GOD'S WORD

The feast of the Holy Family gives us pause to ponder the phenomenon of family. If we can duplicate the love Mary and Joseph and Jesus had for each other, there's no telling what the positive and rich effects might be.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK DECEMBER 31, 2018

Monday, Dec. 31, Vigil of Solemnity of Mary
5PM Barb Derickson by Gary & Debbie Rust
Tuesday, Jan. 1, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
9AM Elsie Bert by Lawrence Jany
Wednesday, Jan. 2
NO MASS
Thursday, Jan. 3
NO MASS
Friday, Jan. 4
8:15AM Roberta Jany by Louie & Theresa Oulvey
Saturday, Jan. 5
5PM Kenny Korando by Dorothy
Sunday, Jan. 6
9AM For the Parish

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK DEC. 30 THRU JAN. 6

Sunday	9AM Mass
Monday	5PM Vigil Mass Solemnity of Mary HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
Tuesday	9AM Mass Solemnity of Mary HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
Wednesday	10:30AM Communion Service at Three Springs NO SCHOOL / NO DAYCARE
Thursday	Fr. Gene's Day Off School Resumes - NO BUS SERVICE 2:50PM Dismissal - NO BUS
Friday	8:15AM Mass (Grades 3 & 4 Liturgy) 2:50PM Dismissal - NO BUS
Saturday	5PM Mass
Sunday	9AM Mass

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR: The family is our first school of faith. Parents are our first catechists. Today's readings affirm this reality. Hannah's prayers for a child were answered in the birth of Samuel. She and Elkanah taught him about the power of prayer and the need to be faith-filled. When Jesus' anxious parents find him in the temple, His gift for learning, most likely fostered by Mary and Joseph, is affirmed by the teachers in the temple. Although surprised by their anxiety, Jesus honors the wish of His parents to go home with them. I imagine that they all learned something about how to grow in wisdom, faith, and understanding that day. We belong to God's family of faith. Our "Big Brother" teaches us how to love as God loves and how to recognize the dignity of all. Our families teach us much, for good and for ill. Thank God for the good things. Ask for courage to seek healing for the bad. Learn how to grow in wisdom from those who show us the face of God, the love of Jesus, the faithfulness of Hannah, and the trust of Mary, even in the face of anxiety. No matter what, believe in the name of Jesus Christ and love one another.

TITHE WEEK OF DECEMBER 23, 2018

Mary Help of Christians: \$7,939.00
\$8,542.00 Christmas; \$2,157.00 Needy; \$155.00
Improvement Fund; \$65.00 Child Env.; \$6.00 Votives
WEEKLY Budget Need: \$7,000.00
YTD Average Weekly Tithe: \$6,866.77
Fiscal Year Week: 26
YTD Actual Giving: \$178,536.00
YTD Budget Need: \$182,000.00
YTD Budget Difference: (\$3,464.00)
YTD Weekly: (\$133.23)

SERVERS SCHEDULE for Jan. 5 & 6: 5PM, Nate Maes, Garret Hopkins; 9AM Jared Landeros, Elseah Congiardo, Maggie Caby

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: How will you teach others to love and recognize the dignity of all?

LADIES CHRISTMAS PARTY OUTING: We will travel to Ste. Genevieve on Saturday, Jan. 5, for Mass in their beautiful church. After Mass, we will dine at Audubon's Grill & Bar (formerly the Hotel Restaurant). Reservations are necessary, so please use the signup sheet on the bulletin board by Sunday, Dec. 30. Several people are willing to drive, so don't let lack of transportation be a hindrance to attending. We will leave the K of C parking lot by 4PM. Questions? Please contact Donna Ritter (826-3706).

DONATIONS SLIPS FOR THE DINNER AUCTION are available. Please return them by Friday, Feb. 1.

EVANSVILLE K OF C FISH BUFFET will be on Friday, Jan. 4, from 4:30-8PM.

NATIONAL SHRINE of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Perryville, will pray a Rosary for Life on the new rosary walk on Saturday, Jan. 12, at 10AM. The rosary will be recited in the Shrine Church if there is inclement weather. Two speakers will talk about the preservation of life afterwards. Participants will be able to sign a banner which will be carried in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. If you have any questions, call 1-800-264-6279.

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL juniors and seniors. Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) is a three day Catholic retreat for the young adults of Southern Illinois. It is a place for older teens and young adults to reflect on where they are in life and where they're going, where God fits in, where their faith is leading them, and how they can live their faith with love, joy, and courage. A TEC weekend will be held on Saturday, Jan. 19, thru Monday, Jan. 21, at Althoff High School, Belleville. Sacred Heart School, Du Quoin, will have a TEC weekend on Saturday, Feb. 16, through Monday, Feb. 18. TEC is also open to adult observers (18+). To learn more and/or to register, visit bellevilletec.org.

POVERTY AWARENESS MONTH is recognized by the U. S. Bishops in January. During this time, let's think of the Holy Family and how we can be stewards of good faith for those who may be facing poverty along their journey. "God of Justice, open our eyes to see you in the face of those in poverty. Open our ears to hear you in the cries of those exploited. Open our mouths to defend you in the public squares as well as in private deeds. Remind us that what we do to the least ones, we do to you. Amen."

HOLY PERSONS, HOLY FAMILY: It is, perhaps, easy to see the holiness in the Holy Family and not in our own. But holy we are, too. We are holy because of God's loving kindness and God living among us. Pope Francis says this clearly in *Gaudete et Exsultate* on the call to holiness in today's world. Let us look to the saint next door. Let us also be the saint next door. God, in creation, makes us holy. We are called to remain in holiness. Though we need help from God and from others, it is possible for each one of us. Who can I name as a saint next door? What do they do and say, not do and say, to make this so? What one holy and mercy work will I do in this Christmas season? What will I do and say to bring holiness to this sometimes messy world? And let us all pray for the holiness of our bishops during their retreat at Mundelein Seminary Jan. 2-8.