



The Holy Family * December 31, 2017

"When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned ... to their own town of Nazareth." Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews who followed the norms of their religion. Today's Gospel describes the event we call "The Presentation." Jesus' parents, like every Jewish family, presented their infant son to the Lord in a formal ceremony at the temple in Jerusalem. Having done what their religious rites required (and having heard the prophetic words of Simeon and Anna), Mary and Joseph returned home. It was back in their native region of Galilee, amidst the daily routine of domestic life, that Jesus "grew and became strong, filled with wisdom."

As Christians, we too consecrate our children to the Lord when we have them baptized in the Church. Seeing our children receive this sacrament of initiation is always a moment of great joy and hope as we anticipate the life that lies ahead for them, both on earth and in eternity. But the baptism of a baby is only the beginning of this journey towards heaven. In truth, the little daily details, the simple living of family life in our own home paves the way for our children to reach their eternal home.

And so it was with the Holy Family. Jesus' childhood, his formation and development took place not primarily amidst the public drama of the temple, but in the quiet privacy of his home. How important this home was, where his parents raised him in their faith and helped him live in such a way that "the favor of God was upon him." May we too, in our homes and our families, remember that although our mission may be lived out in very small moments, taken together they have an eternal significance.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

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Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday: 6:00 p.m. (Vigil)

Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Holy Day Mass Schedule: Refer to bulletin

Weekday Mass Schedule: Monday-Saturday 8:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Daily: 9:00 a.m.

Saturday: 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. or by appointment

Sacrament of Baptism: Baptism is celebrated any Sunday at 12:15 p.m. Parents are required to attend a Preparation Class prior to the Baptism.

Sick Calls: Notify the Rectory for hospital visits or Communion to the sick or shut-ins.

Bulletin deadline: Monday at Noon



*Happy New Year everyone!
May God bless you and all your family
throughout the New Year.*

A Family Perspective - Today's gospel says Joseph "made his home in Nazareth." A "home" is built on the foundation of love, commitment and a shared history and is decorated with forgiveness, acceptance, rituals, discipline and mutual support. The Holy Family challenges us today: Don't live 'anyplace', live at HOME!

New Years Mass - Monday, January 1st is not a Holy Day of Obligation, falls on a Monday. Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 a.m.

Bingo - Join us Tuesday for Bingo in Finley Hall. The Jack-pot will be \$1,175.00 in 55 numbers. The Magic Number will \$206.00 plus this week's take. The 'All Nighter' game will be \$1,190.00 until it is won. Early Birds begin at 7:15 p.m., regular games at 7:30 p.m. Great way to start the new year!

The Flower Calendar for 2018 is in the vestibule. So that everyone will have a chance to select their special date, we will offer the flower selection to two families per week. The cost for one vase will be \$20.00. There are two spaces on each date, please use only one unless you want both vases for \$40.00 then put your name through both spaces. Please put your last name and **phone number** by the date of your choice and we will contact you as to the intention to be placed in the bulletin. Any question, call the parish office at 724-348-7145.

Knights of Columbus - Any Catholic man age 18 or older who would like to join other Catholic men in charity, unity, and fraternity are welcome to be a part of this organization. If you have any questions or would like to join, call Frank Kovscek at 724-348-6534.

Eucharistic Adoration is the First Friday of the month, January 5th from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Come and thank God for all the blessings of 2017 and for continued blessings for 2018.

Marriage Moments - We humans mark time with watches and calendars. As we start a new year, however, perhaps it would be meaningful today, to enter into a conscious NOW with your beloved. As you read this, pause, find your spouse, and look at each other tenderly. Ponder the goodness of being together. Embrace.

Parenting Pointers - How will you celebrate the end of 2017? Gather the family and remember the joys of the year (birthdays, accomplishments, milestones) and sorrows (deaths, hurts, mistakes). End with a group hug.

Sanctuary Candle - The Sanctuary Candle burns before the Blessed Sacrament 24 hours a day. It is a symbol of the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. If you wish to have the Sanctuary Candle burn for a special intention, please pick up the special envelope in the vestibule of the Church. Please mark the envelope with the name(s) you would like to be remembered, or a special intention and return it with a \$10.00 donation.

Each week we will publish in the bulletin the intention for that week. We will try to honor your request, but as the envelopes come in on a first come, first serve basis.

Discovering Christ Program will be held at St. Benedict Parish, McMurray, January 4 - February 15th 2018.

To register call Scott McKinney at 412-913-8172 or smckinney@connectelinc.com.

Ministry Schedule - January 6/7**6:00 p.m. Saturday**

Ministers: Weisdack, Foster, Brucker, Checque,
Deluliis, Hoover, Wietrzykowski

Lector: E. Garry

Servers: T., T., & T. Smida

8:00 a.m. Sunday

Ministers: Drahnak, F. & R. Funtal, Fox, B. Lewis,
Barner, Schirra

Lector: L. Obringer

Servers: M. Miller, D. Drahnak, R. Funtal

11:00 a.m. Sunday

Ministers: Haid, Folz, Pitzer, S. & A. Parker,
Battaglia, Hamilton

Lector: V. Lombardi

Servers: J. Scherer, V. Lombardi, G. Mucci

The Christmas Season ends with the Baptism of the Lord, January 8th. We will begin taking down our decorations after 11:00 mass. Please stop by and give us a hand. Help! Please! If you made a donation for Christmas Flowers, you make take a plant home with you next Sunday, January 7th.

Thank you for all the donations for the Poinsettias, they truly made the Church beautiful for the Christmas Season.

For all members of our Parish - If you are very sick or know that you have an easily communicable disease you are not bound by the obligation to participate in Mass on Sundays. Stay at home and return to church when you are well. (For longer illnesses, contact the rectory so that arrangements can be made to have someone visit you with Holy Communion, please call 724-348-7145.)

Safe Environment Procedure - If you volunteer in our parish, you are required to have clearances to comply with our Diocesan Safe Environment Policy. The following people need to be compliant and have clearances. Adult Servers, Lectors, Ushers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Choir members, Bingo workers, CCD teacher, parish picnic workers, anyone who comes in contact with children. This includes our Ladies Guild, Ladies of Charity, Columbiettes and Knights of Columbus, who have fund raisers that children are present. Contact our Safe Environment Coordinator so she can help you with the paperwork, Mary Jane 724-344-2444.

**Today, December 31, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

*Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3, Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] . 1
Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19*

6:00 p.m. (Sat.) John Oliverio - Rosalin Roberts
8:00 a.m. For the People of the Parish
11:00 a.m. J. Bradley McGonigle - Vince &
Colleen Lombardi

Monday, January 1, The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord

Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
8:30 a.m. Earl ' Kit' Wain - Krempasky & Wain
Families

Tuesday, January 2, SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28
8:30 a.m. Chuck Jaki - Donna & Tom Mishanko

Wednesday, January 3, Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 [3cd]/Jn 1:29-34
8:30 a.m. George Wilson - Timothy & Linda
Broderick

Thursday, January 4, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [3cd]/Jn 1:35-42
8:30 a.m. Sue Pfaff - Sister, Carol & Family

Friday, January 5, St. John Neumann/First Friday

1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2a]/Jn 1:43-51
8:30 a.m. Ruth Sarsfield - Columbiettes
6 - 9 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday, January 6, Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Mk 1:7-11
8:30 a.m. Mary Parish - Michele Foster & Joe
Bowers

Confessions after 8:30 a.m. Mass daily**Sunday, January 7, The Epiphany of the Lord**

*Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/
Mt 2:1-12*

6:00 p.m. (Sat.) Luigi Rigano - Family
8:00 a.m. For the People of the Parish
11:00 a.m. Joe Polacek - Rich & Judy Trypus

Home With Christ - Please pray for the souls of **Betty Schaner** and for **Judy Elder**, both are sisters of Stella Barszczowski. *May they rest in peace.*

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week **"In Memory of Helen Grace"** requested by Ed & Barb Checque.

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