

December 26 – Feast of the Holy Family



THE JOYFUL FAMILY

In Francesco Mancini's Rest on the Flight into Egypt, he paints the realistic details that make this scene as ordinary as any family playing with their child in a park. Mary has a bowl of water in her hand, perhaps ready to offer a drink to Jesus after he tastes the strawberry or to clean his stained fingers. A silver bowl of food for the baby rests on a white baby blanket. Perhaps it was just placed there by Joseph, for Jesus has finished his vegetables and now Dad offers dessert! A traveling basket sits in front of a water jug. These instruments show that they are a pilgrim family, and the Egyptian obelisk in the background indicates their destination.

The circumstances are precarious yet joyful, even playful, in their following of God's path. This was just one of the trying times for the Holy Family, which would eventually include losing the Child Jesus in the Temple. As their whole focus in this painting is on Jesus, imagine their fear when they can no longer find the heart of their family. This is a fantastic image of the joys and challenges of family life. There is joy in having Jesus in our midst, and no sacrifice is too great when he is present. But when he is lost from the center, fears and anxieties enter.

The words of Colossians sum up this attitude, making one think that Paul had a good idea of what virtues family life require! Let's work in our families to have Jesus at the center, and once he is there, to "put on" all the virtues that his presence inspires. + (Fr. Mark Haydu, LC)

LET US ALL FIND YOU WHEREVER WE SEARCH.

*Mary and Joseph searched everywhere
with their whole hearts,
and with harrowing anxiety, for you, Jesus.
And they found you.*

*Let us all find you wherever we search:
in your Father's House, or in the faces of the poor,
in songs we sing together,
in searching for answers to end all racial injustice,
to find climate solutions;
to look into the deep thoughts of others; and in poetry.*

Let it all be prayer. Come to us, Lord Jesus.

SANCTUARY LIGHT

December 26 – Harry and Loretta Simon
January 2 – Rosemary Schroeder
January 9 – Tom Tunny

MASS INTENTIONS

December 26 – Ada Meister
December 31 – Ray Geis
January 1 – Clara Marie Wagner
January 2 – Wayne Schutte

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Saturday – January 8 at 4:00 PM

Lector: Jack Ferkinhoff
Gifts: Mark and Rosie Lunsford
Eucharist Minister: Roseann Wirth

Sunday – January 9 at 10:00 AM

Lectors: Arlene Gehl, Amy Kinker
Gifts: Mike and Katie Spreckelson
Eucharist Minister: Cindy Weisenbach

Saturday – January 15 at 4:00 PM

Lector: Tara Ricke
Gifts: Ken and Terry Harmeyer
Eucharist Minister: Judy Steuri

Sunday – January 16 at 10:00 AM

Lectors: Donna Harlemert, Jane Pictor
Gifts: Ken and Janice Fry
Eucharist Minister: Vicki Wagner

PARISH SUPPORT

Adult Envelopes	\$1995.00
Children's Envelopes	\$ 31.50
Loose Collection	\$ 415.00
Total Collection	\$2441.50
Capital Improvement	\$25.00
Christmas Flowers	\$65.00
Religious Retirement	\$245.00
Immaculate Conception	\$15.00

MONTHLY REPORT - NOVEMBER

Electronic Giving for November	\$2,285.00
Total Sunday & Holy Day Collections (7/1/21 - 11/30/21)	\$76,259.64
Amount Required to Meet Budget (7/1/21 - 11/30/21)	\$73,370.00

THANK YOU FOR RECOGNIZING THE GIVER OF ALL YOUR GIFTS!

REST IN PEACE – St. Maurice parishioners extend sympathy to the family of Francis Vawter, whose Mass of Resurrection was celebrated on December 22. May he now sit among the saints of heaven and join the angels of heaven in praising God!

MASSES NEXT WEEKEND – Friday, December 31, New Year's Eve – Mass at 4:00 PM for the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, and for World Peace.

Saturday, January 1, New Year's Day – Mass at 4:00 PM for the Feast of the Epiphany.

Sunday, January 2 – Mass at 10:00 AM for the Feast of the Epiphany.

Please Note: There is the obligation to attend Mass for both the feast of Mary and the feast of the Epiphany.

GIVING TREE – What joy and gratitude the Sisters expressed as all your gifts were delivered to them! They, and I, were amazed at your generosity again this year. Be assured of their prayers for you each day.

MEN'S CONFERENCE – The 7th Annual Catholic Men's Conference is scheduled for February 26, 2022. One of the speakers will be Matthew Kelly. Registration for this conference began on December 1.


RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Preschool through Grade 5 will have their next religion class on Wednesday, January 5, 6:45 PM. Welcome back following your Christmas break. The Lord will be waiting for you!

Junior High and High School will have their next religion class on Sunday, January 9, 8:30 AM.

WORDS OF GRATITUDE – “The root of joy is gratefulness.” (David Steindi-Rast)

Fr. John, Fr. Bill and I thank you for your prayers, Christmas wishes, and gifts during this holiday season.

PRAYER – Lord, through your Word we receive the knowledge and wisdom of God. May your Spirit lead me to your sacred Word and guide me in my search for knowledge and truth. (From *Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney)



HOW TO KEEP CHRISTMAS

Inspirational author Wilfred Peterson pondered ways to “best keep Christmas” and “defeat the little bit of Scrooge in all of us.” After reading his suggestion, add your own!

- By following the Star...to stand again in awe and wonder before the Babe in the manger.
- By rediscovering the faith and simplicity of a little child.
- By being still and listening to the angels sing within our hearts.
- By quietly evaluating our lives according to the Master's standards as set forth in the Sermon on the Mount.
- By resolving to give ourselves away to others.
- By using the light of Christmas to guide us through...the coming year.
- By (add your own)

BIBLICAL RESOLUTIONS

Hold firmly to your faith. (Hebrews 4:14)
Assemble with the saints. (Hebrews 10:25)
Pray and thank God earnestly. (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
Petition God for great blessings. (Malachi 3:10)
Yield not to temptation. (1Thessalonians 5:22)

Notice opportunities to serve others. (Galatians 6:10)
Examine yourself daily. (2 Corinthians 13:5)
Work diligently for the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yearn for righteousness. (Matthew 5:6)
Exercise godliness. (1 Timothy 4:7)
Aim for sinless perfection. (Hebrews 6:1)
Redeem the time, living wisely. (Ephesians 5:15-16)

- Gus Nichols (adapted)

THE LORD'S LAUGHTER – A Sunday school teacher asked a little boy: “Bobby, do you believe in the devil?”

“No,” the boy said. “He's just like Santa Claus. I think it's my Daddy.” (The Joyful Noiseletter)

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
			Confession for Grades 3, 4, and 5 7:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting 6:00 PM	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8:00 – Noon 	Celebration of the Eucharist 4:00 PM Confession Before and After Mass Hall Rented
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Mass – Second Sunday of Advent Religious Education 8:30 AM Hall Rented		 Ladies Christmas Party 6:00 PM (Doors Open at 5:30 PM)	Mass for Feast of the Immaculate Conception <i>Religious Education Children Will Attend</i>		St. Anthony, Morris, Live Nativity 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Celebration of the Eucharist 4:00 PM Confession Before and After Mass Parish Pre-Christmas Gathering
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
RE Classes – 8:30 AM 10:00 Mass – Third Sunday of Advent Confession Before and After Mass Parish Pre-Christmas Gathering St. John Parish Mission – 7:00 PM	St. John Parish Mission 7:00 PM	St. John Parish Mission 7:00 PM Holy Family, Oldenburg, Parish Mission 7:00 PM	RE Classes and Christmas Party 6:45 PM Holy Family, Oldenburg, Parish Mission 7:00 PM	Holy Family, Oldenburg, Parish Mission 7:00 PM		Celebration of the Eucharist 4:00 PM Hall Rented
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
RE Classes and Breakfast – 8:30 AM 10:00 Mass – Fourth Sunday of Advent GIVING TREE GIFTS RETURNED DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS					 <i>Christmas Eve</i> Mass 4:00 PM	 <i>Christmas Day</i> Mass 8:30 AM
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
10:00 Mass – Feast of the Holy Family 					Feast of Mary, Mother of God 4:00 PM	