

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, & JOSEPH
DECEMBER 31, 2017**



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2017

5:30 P.M. Rocco Florio
Tom Norton
Peter Shirhall
Tom Karwacki
Mary & Bill DiMiceli

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017

7:30 A.M. Parishioners
10:00 A.M. Oliva Glorioso
Dorothy & Frank Orafino
Shirley & Roy Parian
Rocco Tarulli
John Shutte
12:00 NOON Tom Karwacki
Gerald Cervino

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018

9:00 A.M. Eleanor Leppin
Jared Fisher
Eleanor Bolsman
In Thanksgiving - Tindoc Family
Deacon Charlie Tenga
7:30 P.M. Msgr. Hans Weidner

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018

8:00 A.M. Regina Sullivan

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2017

8:00 A.M. Mike Perrota

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2017

8:00 A.M. PARISH PURGATORIAL
Susan Fredericks

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017

5:30 P.M. Tom Norton
Edmund Bakowski
Kevin Walker
Anne McEntee Molnar
Jessica Dunkerley

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2017

7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Vivancio Tindoc
Ida & Hugh Brown
Sister M. Evarista Bullett
10:00 A.M. Benjamin Glorioso
Joseph Giordano
Tom Karwacki
Rose Gray
12:00 NOON Grace Vitulano
Jessica Dunkerley

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Mary Carton Jacob Hicks Helen Lubertazza Evelyn Means
Tom Guzowski Audrey Grace Higgins Ava Rae Nebbia
Gary Ragusa Silverio Conte Alex Haines Larry Perry
Baby Michael Soojian Jan Hongo Susan Nichols-Boggio
Baby Ryder Sasso Carmela Fusco Frank Morici
Frances De Maria Dorothea King Jerome Foray
Gabe Bellantoni Manuel Esguerra Eileen McPartland
Rosemary Liebman Cenelia Soto Frank Sanclementi
Sharon Acquaire Noah Lorencovitz Sandra Pacifico
Sister Marie Louise George Link Amida Jaloudi
Barbara Kincaid Carmela Caropreso Bitondo
James Quinn Florence Grim

DECEASED: Kathleen M. Cook Joan M. Mitchell

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday – \$6,748.00
Christmas - \$19, 230.00

Thank you for your continued support.



Dear friends in Christ,

We celebrate the Holy Family today. The readings talk mostly about Abraham and Sarah, until the Gospel, when we see the child Jesus with His parents. Why Abraham and Sarah? Because their child was also a surprise.

In the Book of Genesis, God promises Abraham a son with Sarah. Nothing happens. They begin to think that God must have meant something else. Sarah gives Abraham her servant, Hagar, to have a child with. God returns to tell them: No, Sarah will have a son with Abraham. That brings lots of laughter. Abraham and Sarah are so old they know that it is impossible. The lesson for them and for us: nothing is impossible for God. The Letter to the Hebrews goes even further with the story of Abraham and Sarah. Abraham is put to the test and told to sacrifice Isaac, his only son. What an odd story this is. The teaching is clear, however: we do God's will and God will watch over us. We must be prepared to sacrifice all that is most dear to us.

The Gospel from Luke today is about the presentation of Jesus in the temple. Again, it is a gentle family scene, with two parents bringing their child to give that child to the Lord. In the temple, both Simeon and Anna recognize in some mysterious way that this child is the One sent by God, a special child indeed. How they recognize Him we do not know. That they do recognize Him is clear from the story.

We return to the theme of the Holy Family. What an unusual family this is! When we begin to reflect, however, we might see that every family is unique and special and unusual. Some families have one child, some have several, some have lots of children. Some families seem to go through life without much challenge and others seem to be challenged all the time. This Holy Family went through periods, as far as we know, without many problems and then there was suffering. We don't know when Saint Joseph dies. We do know of the suffering of this special child.

We are invited to reflect today on the mystery of this Holy Family and on the mystery of our own families and on the mystery of what it is to be a family. In all of this, if we see deeply, we see the face of God who loves us

HOW DO YOU SEE MARY?

On January 1, Our Catholic Church celebrates Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God. It's worth asking a question, how we Catholics, Her spiritual children perceive Mary, the Mother of Jesus? How do we see Mary?

We often display photographs in our homes; they remind us of family and friends who mean so much to us. Do you have a photograph of the Blessed Virgin Mary? No, of course not! In the time of the Incarnation, there were no cameras. We can only imagine what she looked like, but still we Catholics enjoy having either a painting or statue of her in our homes because she is our Spiritual Mother; a special member of the family. These paintings and statues portray Mary in many different

ways. The artists who first created these images had to rely on verbal accounts of apparitions, historical information, and a lot of inspiration from the Holy Spirit.

If you grew up with picture or statue of Our Lady of Lourdes in your home, you may think of her as wearing white with a blue sash at her waist and golden roses on her feet. If Our Lady of Fatima was the image in your home, you may remember her with a tall crown on her head. Mary is often depicted as Our Lady of Grace, standing on top of the world, with her arms outstretched, her foot upon the serpent and the moon beneath her. This image comes from sacred scripture. Does your Mary have a crown of twelve stars over her head? You will find the reason in the Book of Revelation 12:1.

There are many truly magnificent images of Mary that have been painted and sculpted since the time she walked the earth. They were created by the loving, faith filled minds, hearts and hands of very gifted artists; some depict Mary in rich, vibrant colors, in some portraits the colors are more subdued, some show her wearing the magnificent clothing and jewels typical of that artist's era, and some show her wearing the simple garb of a young woman living in a poor village. We know from sacred scripture that Mary and her people dwelt in very humble homes with dirt floors and no luxuries. They often had to travel far to fill up a clay jar with water for their daily needs; drinking and cooking. Those jugs must have been very heavy when filled up and carried back home from. Water was a precious necessity not to be wasted. Can you imagine how much more difficult it was to bathe and wash clothing in Mary's time? Yet, somehow we know that God did not mind if her clothing was a little bit dusty or shabby. It was her inner purity that shone so brightly; it was her cleanliness of heart that earned her the greatest title of all: Mary, Mother of God.

St. Stephen, Martyr

Feast Day: December 26

St. Stephen is the first Christian martyr. He was stoned to death in Jerusalem in the year 36, not long after the death of Christ. Stephen was one of seven deacons appointed by the Apostles to help them with their work. The idea was that the deacons could perform some of the work the Apostles were doing, and that would allow the Apostles to devote more time to their ministry. Stephen preached the teachings of Jesus, and this offended members of various [synagogues](#). They accused him of [blasphemy](#), and at his trial, he made a long speech denouncing the Jewish authorities who were sitting in judgment on him. They tried to dispute what Stephen was preaching, but they were not able to resist his words, for he spoke with wisdom and the words of the Holy Spirit.

The account of Stephen's martyrdom can be found in the Acts of the Apostles. It tells us of his arrest and the accusations brought against him and emphasizes the similarity between his trial and the trial of Jesus. He was condemned to death. His accusers threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ... 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them'" (*Acts* 7:55-56, 58a, 59, 60b).

The [martyrdom](#) of Stephen was witnessed by [Saul of Tarsus](#). It is said that, before he was stoned, Stephen removed his cloak and laid it at the feet of Saul. Saul was a [Pharisee](#) who would later experience a great conversion. We know Saul by the name he took after his conversion; St. [Paul the Apostle](#).

Stephen he held fast to his faith, and gave up his life for it. In complete charity and imitation of Christ, he prayed for his executioners. The Church has designated the feast of St. Stephen on the day after Christmas because his witness so vividly demonstrates the mission of the redeeming Messiah.

Saint Stephen is the patron saint of Deacons.

KIDNEY NEEDED

There is a parishioner in our parish who needs, most of all, your prayers, but who is in need of a kidney. Sometimes just knowing of a need or talking about it, brings amazing results. So, in your conversations, you may want to bring this topic up because you never know whose ears that this story falls upon, might be the lifesaving ones. But, above all, prayers are priceless. Thank you and God bless you.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

CCD Classes resume as follows:

10th Grade – January 7th – Retreat – 12 Noon Mass to follow at school till 5:00 PM. – In Church Confirmation Practice – Parent, Student & Sponsor.

Confirmation – Thursday, January 11th at 7:30 PM.

9th Grade – January 21st – 6:45 PM in School

6th, 7th, 8th Grades – January 7th – 6:45 PM in School

1st – 5th Grades – January 8th – 4:15PM in School

NEW YEAR'S DAY

January 1, 2018 falls on a Monday, therefore the Day of Obligation has been suspended. However, Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 AM and 7:30 PM for those who wish to attend Mass.

ADORATION AT ST. FRANCIS CHAPEL

We will begin our first overnight **adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** on Friday, January 5th at 7:00pm. Adoration will conclude on Saturday, Jan. 6th just before the 11:00am mass. The mass will be followed by the Fatima novena. This is an exciting and challenging undertaking. And this is how to become a part of it. Our chapel has a side door that faces the back parking lot. This door now has a lock that only can be opened with a code. To become part of the overnight adoration, call Jane in the rectory, give her the time you will be at adoration and she will give you the code to open the side-door lock. The door will lock behind you so that all the doors of the Church will be locked. The Blessed Sacrament will be housed in a locked, glass door tabernacle. If you have to leave and no one is in the chapel, the Lord will be safe.

We often say among ourselves that we want to see St. Francis parish grow and thrive. Based on experiences in other parishes, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, which deepens and strengthens our own spiritual lives, is the most effective path to parish growth. We offer adoration for one hour before the Saturday, 5:30 mass; this next step is an outgrowth of that experience. See, adoration does work! Be brave, sign-up, expect wonders to unfold. (P.S. I plan to be there from 2:00-4:00am. Pat D.)

CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS!

Thank you to all who participated in our Calendar Raffle!
Congratulations to the following winners:

Week 1 Winners

Date	Prize	Ticket #	Winner
12/25/17	\$500.	441	Sue Akin
12/26/17	\$ 25.	716	Pat Demarest
12/27/17	\$ 25.	060	James Spina
12/28/17	\$ 25.	764	Kathy McMurray
12/29/17	\$ 25.	138	Annie Rivera
12/30/17	\$ 25.	630	Raymond Beiner



What is your New Year's Resolution?

2018 is the year for YOU!
Do Something Extraordinary for yourself ...

Make time to Relax, Reflect, Renew, and
Refresh your Mind, Heart and SOUL

Start 2018 off at Women's Cornerstone...
**See for yourself what a spiritual, self-enlightening, social
experience is yours for the taking.**

Women's Cornerstone March 2&3, 2018
St. Mary's Church, Pompton Lakes

Say "YES" to yourself and Register Now!

For more information contact

Cyndi Shah: cnshah@optonline.net 973-699-1909

Lisa Egan: LEgan@capezio.com, 973-650-6560



THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT ETERNAL

Why must only Christmas be
A time to live more peacefully;
Why only then does hate depart
And we place joy within our heart.
And why does Christmas always seem
A better time to hope and dream,
A time for giving thought to those
Whose days are filled with cares and woes.
It seems that everyone we see
Will smile at us so pleasantly,
For even strangers that we meet
Become friends that we stop to greet.
How does this warmth come on His birth,
Of peace to men, goodwill on earth;
Why should this feeling fade away
And last no longer than a day.
For if we let this spirit last
Until another year has past,
Although from Christmas we depart,
His birth lives on within our heart.
And if we live each day the same
And kindness spread to praise His name,
Then, maybe, everyday would be
A Christmas Day for you and me.

Josephine Barbier Athanasakis

LAKELAND NURSING HOME SCHEDULE SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2017

Frank & Sandy Polglaze

LECTORS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017

5:30 P.M. Pat Demarest

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2017

7:30 A.M. Barbara Garutto

10:00 A.M. Chris Marren

12 NOON Hatima Omolon

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017

5:30 P.M. Martha Bisaccio & Peg Carolan

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2017

7:30 A.M. Linda & Jim Hartigan

10:00 A.M. Diane Drew & Judy Moran

12 NOON Linda O'Connell & John Arendas

ALTAR SERVERS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017

5:30 P.M. Scott & Steven Bracken

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2017

7:30 A.M. Elizabeth Reid

10:00 A.M. Kelly Frisina & Jonathan Hogue

12 NOON Tim Kenny & Divine Crilly

Gospel Today

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph | Luke 2:22-40

Mary and Joseph took the newborn baby Jesus to the Temple to be presented to God. When Simeon and Anna laid eyes upon Jesus, they proclaimed Him to be the Anointed One.

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Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



The Holy Family of

_____ and _____.

Fill in their names, found in bold above. Draw in faces and color the picture.