



December 27, 2020

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

<u>Our Lady of the Holy Spirit</u>	<u>Mass Intention</u>
<b>Monday, Dec. 28</b> 8:00 am	All Souls
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 30</b> 5:30 pm	Souls in Purgatory
<b>Thursday, Dec. 31</b> 8:00 am	Special Intention
<b>Friday, Jan. 1</b> Noon & 5pm	For All Parishioners
<b>Sunday, Jan. 3</b> 10:30 am 5:30 pm	Paula Burkhart All Parishioners
<u>St. Isidore</u>	<u>Mass Intention</u>
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 29</b> 8:00 am	All Souls
<b>Friday, Jan. 1</b> 8:00 am	Tom & Wilma Reedy
<b>Saturday, Jan. 2</b> 8:00 am	Special Intention
<b>Sunday, Jan. 3</b> 8:00 am	Barbara Reedy



The weekly collection report will return after the holidays. Thank you for your contributions to our parishes.

The parish office and Little Doves will be closed the week of Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>- Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. May you all have a safe and Happy New Year.



Please pray for the sick: Shannon Barker, Edie Cox, Sandy Nicholson, Carol Jacoby. Please call the office at 864-3467 to add or remove names. Or email to [secretary@mtzolhs.org](mailto:secretary@mtzolhs.org)

***Miss seeing someone at Mass? Contact them and invite them back, let's keep growing.***

Now is the time to continue to support your parish. Thank you all for your dedication. Mail in or drop off your envelopes.

Decatur Catholic Radio  
**WDCR 88.9/96.5**

**EVERY DAY AT 4:40 WE INVITE YOU TO PRAY WITH US A HAIL MARY FOR OUR DIOCESE TO HAVE 40 SEMINARIANS.**

**4:40**  
**for 40**  
**SEMINARIANS**



**Be Not Afraid to PRAY BIG!** - Be Not Afraid to PRAY BIG! We currently have 16 seminarians, which is great! But wouldn't 40 be better?? YES!!! We invite you to pray a Hail Mary EVERY DAY at 4:40 for our diocese to have 40 seminarians. 4:40 for 40 Seminarians!

**Parish Connections and Suggestions**

**Mobile App:** Our Lady of the Holy Spirit

**Website:** [www.mtzolhs.org](http://www.mtzolhs.org)

**Facebook:** Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Catholic Church and St. Isidore Catholic Church – Bethany

**Email:** [pastor@mtzolhs.org](mailto:pastor@mtzolhs.org) [secretary@mtzolhs.org](mailto:secretary@mtzolhs.org)  
[faithformation@mtzolhs.org](mailto:faithformation@mtzolhs.org) [youthministry@mtzolhs.org](mailto:youthministry@mtzolhs.org)

**ONLINE GIVING** Go to [www.mtzolhs.org](http://www.mtzolhs.org) and set up online giving. Or go to [OLGapp.com](http://OLGapp.com) and click on the app store for your device. There is a video that walks you through how to set up one-time or recurring online giving. The link address is: <https://youtu.be/kW1s4AvfMo4>

**FORMED.org** The Catholic Faith on Demand. Go to [www.mtzolhs.formed.org](http://www.mtzolhs.formed.org)

**Are you new and need to fill out parishioner forms?** Call the office.

**Life threatening emergencies** please call 217-264-2868.

**Make your church** an “extra child” in your will.

**Parish Council** A parish council is a consultative body that serves to advise the parish about pastoral/parish issues. Call the office to reach a member of parish council.

**A locked dropbox** is located by the parish office door for 24/7 drop off of paperwork, registrations, collection envelopes, etc.

# The Pastor's Corner

## The Battle Against the Family

On the Feast of the Holy Family, I would like to offer some reflections on the family. Sr. Lucia, the last-surviving of the three children who say Our Lady at Fatima, wrote the following to the late Carlo Cardinal Caffara: “A time will come when the decisive battle between the kingdom of Christ and Satan will be over marriage and the family. And those who will work for the good of the family will experience persecution and tribulation. But do not be afraid, because Our Lady has already crushed his head.” This was in the early 1980’s, and now we are in the midst of the battle which she spoke of. Satan knows that if he can destroy the family, he will accomplish many of his goals: depriving souls of the mutual support they need to get to heaven, sending souls to hell directly by mortal sin, drying up holy vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and teaching impressionable young souls that evil is good. But note what Sr. Lucia says: “Our Lady has already crushed his head.” She refers to Genesis 3:16, where God tells the serpent that Mary shall crush his head. Sr. Lucia speaks of this as an accomplished fact.

The popes of the 20th century were not blind to the developing crisis. Pope John Paul II’s apostolic exhortation “Familiaris consortio” (1981) may be found on [vatican.va](http://vatican.va), the Vatican website. For a more overtly theological (but no less pastoral) document, look at Pius XI’s encyclical “Casti connubii” of 1930. I also highly recommend that you read Paul VI’s courageous encyclical “Humanae vitae.” If you are tempted to ask what (if I may put it so bluntly) a dead pope has to say to us moderns, I will tell you. It is a characteristic of the major writings of the greatest popes that they accurately read the signs of the times. They saw what was happening, they understood what the causes were, and they traced out what would happen in the future if the corruption were left unchecked. In reading one of these old documents, we find *the pope was right* about the future effects that he predicted. Based on this, we can infer that he was right about the causes and about the cures he proposed. It is a sobering exercise to read an encyclical from seventy-five years ago. Humanity has not changed much in seventy-five years, nor in six thousand, and our problems still come from ourselves, not our circumstances.

To return to the family, let us say this directly. Satan wants you to be selfish and to think in terms of what other family members can do for you. Satan wants you to be so busy and distracted with temporalities and trifles that you forget the love and duties that you owe to each other and to God. Satan wants you to think that domestic living arrangements not intended by God are “families” and are pleasing to God and may be entered into without sinning gravely.

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Against all of this, we have powerful intercessors in St. Mary and St. Joseph. Mary, after all, has *already* crushed the head of the serpent. We also have SS. Louis and Zélie Martin, the parents of the Little Flower, who were canonized together in 2015. Another pair of married saints comes to us from 12th century Spain: St. Isidore the Farm-Laborer and his wife St. Maria de la Cabeza. We also have saints such as St. Catherine of Genoa whose sufferings, prayers, and holy example ultimately converted her wicked husband. Let us seek their intercession to make our families holy. Let us, moreover, strive to be holy ourselves. It is not enough to be merely “O.K.” The battle has already been joined, and those who are satisfied with being mediocre will be put to flight by Satan and his minions. Let us take up our arms under the protection of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Let us fight for our salvation and the salvation of those we love most. Let us make our families holy.

*Rev. Jason P. Stone*

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Feast – December 27, 2020** Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3. Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9. Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 7-19. Luke 2:22-40.

**This Child.** Every parent knows a child is a blessing who is filled with innocence and wonder and grace. Grandparents know this, too, perhaps in renewed and deeper ways. It is their hope that every child will grow strong, be wise, and be favored. How will I care for a child today even if not related to me? How can I help children be holy? How will I be holy because of the blessedness of children?

Exposition and Benediction on Wednesdays at OLHS is cancelled for the remainder of the month of December. Confessions will continue to be heard as usual at 4:15 p.m., and Mass will continue to be said as usual at 5:30 p.m.

**BE NOT  
AFRAID**



**What are you afraid of?** – Going to confession, failing as a parent, to become Catholic, quitting a porn addiction, dying, getting an annulment, to have a child, talking to your adult child who has left the faith – all things you might be fearful of. Visit [benotafraid.dio.org](http://benotafraid.dio.org) to explore and experience your fears and find resources, answers, and help to some of life’s biggest fears as a Catholic.