

PARISH CALENDAR

The Feast of the
Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 29, 2019

Our God has appeared on the earth!



Saturday, Dec 28	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, Dec 29	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, Dec 30	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
	.... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
Tuesday, Dec 31	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
Wednesday, Jan 1	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mary Mother of God - Mass
		PARISH OFFICE CLOSED - NEW YEAR HOLIDAY
	.... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
Thursday, Jan 2	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a. m.	Mass
		PARISH OFFICE CLOSED - NEW YEAR HOLIDAY
	..... 7:30 p. m.	Prayer Meeting - Church
Friday, Jan 3	..... 7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Closed
Saturday, Jan 4	.... 4:00-4:45 p.m.	Confession
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Isaiah: 60:1-6: Nations shall walk by your light.

Ephesians: 3:2-3a, 5-6: All are co-heirs and co-partners.

Matthew: 2:1-2: Jesus is made known to the powerful.



Reflection

The advice so available and freely given in the first two readings is absent from the Gospel. Little is written about the family life of Jesus. Joseph speaks no word, asks no question, gives no sage advice. In the New Testament, he was identified by others as a carpenter and the father of Jesus. We do know from Matthew's Gospel that he was attentive to God's will for him. We know from Luke's Gospel that Mary also sought and followed God's will for her.

We can be certain that the family life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph was founded on love and expressed in a faithfulness that grew strong throughout the stress of days and nights in a small village, in small quarters, so near poverty, in a land occupied by a foreign army. This is not exactly an ideal setting for family life. We do not have to think very hard to imagine the difficulties that had to be faced and managed.

In today's Gospel, we see a small family in extraordinary distress. In that time, the man was legally the head of the household and bore the primary responsibility for caring for family members. His was the task of securing his family's safety. His was the choice to follow the will of God, expressed by the angel. We are reminded that Joseph is a man open to God's will and dependent on God's providence and protection.

The words of the Second Vatican Council, cited in the Catechism of the Catholic Church are applicable, surprisingly, to us as well as to the Holy Family: "... in a world often alien and even hostile to faith, believing families are of primary importance as centers of living, radiant faith" (#1656). The simple house of Jesus and Mary and Joseph was certainly a household of living, radiant faith. Today's Gospel story and all the others about their family life attest to this: Mary and Joseph begin their marriage faithful to God's will; they travel far into Egypt at the angel's direction; they go to the temple with their baby according to the current interpretation of the law of Moses; they make the long pilgrimage to Jerusalem for Passover, where they lose and then find the young Jesus. They are a faith-filled family. It shows in their actions when Jesus is in their care. And it shows when Jesus is a young man, who cared for his mother throughout his public ministry and in his dying moments.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRO-LIFE: The 47th annual Hawaii March for Life will be **Thursday January 16, 2020 from 4-6PM** at the State Capital rotunda. This year's theme is : **RAISE YOUR VOICE** for all of human life because Ohana begins at conception. For more information call the Diocesan Respect Life Office at 203-6722.

WORD OF LIFE: "Like Our Blessed Mother welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Living Out Christmas in the New Year"

WEEKLY READINGS

Dec 29 Sun: Holy Family

Sir:3:2-6, 12-14; Ps:128; Col:3:12-21; Mt:2:13-15, 19-23

Dec 30 Mon: Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

1 Jn:2:12-17; Ps: 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Lk:2:36-40

Dec 31 Tue: Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps:96:1-2, 11-12, 13; Jn:1:1-18

Jan 1 Wed: Mary Mother of God

Num::6:22-27; Ps:67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk:2:16-21

Jan 2 Thur: Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishop and Doctors of the Church

1 Jn:2:22-28; Ps: 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn:1:19-28

Jan 3 Fri: Christmas Weekday

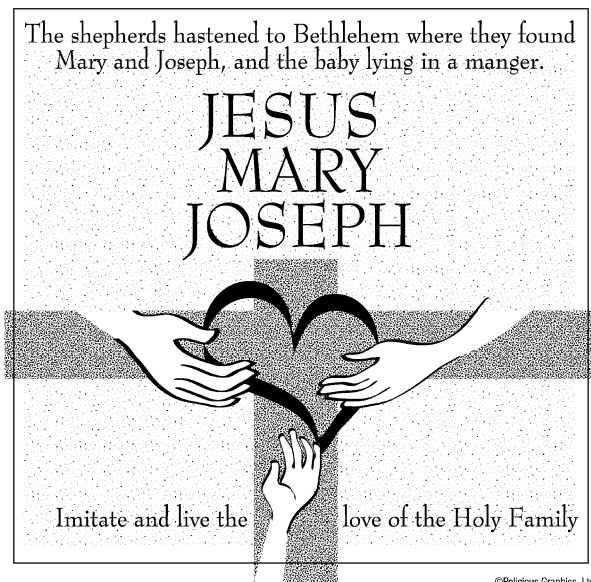
1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps:98 : 1, 3-cd-4, 5-6; Jn:1:29-34

Jan 4 Sat: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

1 Jn:3:7-10; Ps:98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn:1:35-42

Family

The concept of family is so strong, it gets called into service for every kind of human gathering. We speak of religious communities as families. We speak of the family of nations; the Christian family; the parish family. Whenever the word is used, we imagine an ideal. We imagine warmth and love and generosity. We all want this to be the story of our family of origin. We all want the families we found to be these centers of mutual love and responsibility. We all know what we want, what we long for, what we hope and pray to build. This is a good start. Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.



NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's second reading we listen to one of the most compelling exhortations for Christians living: "Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Col 3:17). "Whatever you do" –that means the whole of life is to be related to Christ Jesus. Everything in life, every activity, can become an act of glorifying the Lord. Good stewards commit even their daily routine to Christ: doing everything "in the name of the Lord." Perhaps it would be a good idea this week to memorize this marvelous verse and repeat it to yourself frequently. Make it part of your morning prayer each day. (International Catholic Stewardship Council)

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

REFLECTING ON TOMORROW

Your Will or Trust can be a creative way to help perpetuate your Christian faith. After first providing for the needs of loved ones you can benefit St. Rita by making a bequest in your Will. Ask your attorney to include the following statement to your Will or Trust:

*"I leave to the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii,
St. Rita Church
89-318 Farrington Hwy.
Nanakuli, HI 96792
the sum of _____, or _____% of my estate."*

MARY MOTHER OF GOD

The Scripture readings for today reflect the fact that this feast was once known as the Holy Name of Jesus (see first reading and Gospel) and the Circumcision (see Gospel) in addition to its present title, Mary the Mother of God (see second reading and Gospel). The text from the book of Numbers also resonates with the modern-day designation of the first day of January as a World Day of Prayer for Peace. The reading from Numbers is also familiar to us from the fact that its threefold blessing has been incorporated into our liturgy on a regular basis by its inclusion as one of the solemn blessings at the end of Mass.

The book of Numbers contains a diverse collection of material whose origins stretch out over many centuries. The priestly prayer we read today is thought to be among the more ancient parts of the book, and it holds an important place in the piety of both Jew and Christian alike. This prayer was used as a blessing over the people at the end of prayer and was at one point incorporated into the daily Temple prayer at Jerusalem. The repetition of three wishes that are very similar is a characteristic way of expressing importance, since there was no superlative form in biblical Hebrew. Each of the three phrases expresses in its own way the hope that the Lord God will remain with the people and continue to bring blessings upon them. To "invoke the name" on the people was a way of rendering present—through the priestly utterance—the Lord God's very being and power in this word of blessing. The final invocation for peace (shalom) is a prayer that they might enjoy all of the good things that accompany a world at peace. For the Jewish people, shalom was a word that represented the sum total of all the blessings one might hope for in this life.