



DECEMBER 26, 2021
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Sun	12/26	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	In Memory of Pat Taylor Mass at St John's - Bob Coonen	 The Holy Family
Tues	12/28	8:15 AM	Mass at St John's - Living & Deceased Members of the Coonen & Kline Families	
Wed	12/29	8:15 AM 9:00 AM	Mass at St John's - Joe & Alice Daul Communion Service / Adult Faith Formation	
Thurs	12/30	8:15 AM	Mass at St John's - Henry & Florence Van Dyn Hoven	
Fri	12/31	8:15 AM	In Memory of Richard Bluma Req by Rose Kleist	
Sat	1/1	4:00 PM	Mass at St John's - Esther Liesch	
Sun	1/2	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	In Memory of Bill & Mary Matuszak Req by Barb Socha Mass at St John's - Helen Leisgang	 EPIPHANY



Thank you to Don & Helen Vande Hei for sponsoring the December bulletin for the Living & Deceased Members of the Vande Hei & Garrity Families

New Year's Eve Mass 8:15 A.M. Friday, December 31st
 St Sebastian Parish

 Father Sengole will be gone Jan 3rd-Feb 18th. He is heading home to visit his family. While gone, we have priests to cover Masses. Some normal Masses will be Communion Services instead. A complete schedule will be posted next week. Enjoy your time Father!

 **Rel. Ed. Classes:**
 Sunday, January 9th
 Grades 1-11 9:00-11:00 am
 in Parish Center.

 **God's Unfolding Story of Love**

A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just.~ Pope Francis

 **CUP OF JOY**
 Friday, Dec 31st-New Year's Eve OPEN MIC! 7pm. Wanna play? Signup at jano@cupofjoy.com

The Holy Family Prayer

Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

Mary, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

Joseph, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.



Everyday Stewardship - All in the Family

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

DAY/TIME	LECTOR	DISTRIBUTORS	MUSIC	SERVERS	USHERS
SUNDAY	Abby Matuszak	Georgian Rynish		Ella Ambrosius	Louis Rynish
8:00AM/JAN 2				Saddie Ambrosius	Fred Fleming

INCOME FOR THE WEEK:

Church Support	\$ 5,072.00
Loose Collection	77.00
Improvements	1,000.00
Christian Women Bake Sale	230.00
Other	233.25

DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE WEEK:

WeShare Fees	\$ 3.00
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YEAR-END GIVING December 31st is at the end of this week. If you want your parish donation to be counted on this years taxes, please get them in before December 30th as the office is closed on December 31st. All mail must be post marked with the December 31st date or sooner. Anything after that date will go on next years taxes.

Saint of the Week - Examples of our Faith

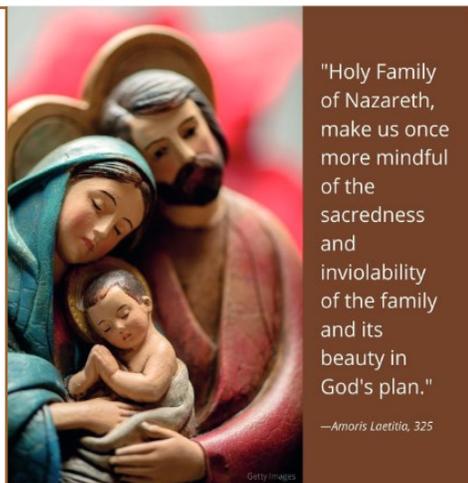
St. Stephen | Feast Day December 26

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.

We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on the first Sunday after Christmas! This feast day is a reminder to us of the example Mary and Joseph set for all of us in welcoming Jesus into their lives. The Holy Family serves as a model for us all in which to live in faith and simplicity.



Why Do We Do That? Catholic Life Explained

Question: I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

Answer: If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

Living the Liturgy

It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Our families can bring out the best and the worst in us. This is true of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our church, our society, and the like. In all of our family experiences, what stands out as our most challenging memory? Everything human can be found on the pages of family life. But there is also a Divine story to be discovered as well. When life gets difficult and perplexing, today's Feast of the Holy Family stands to remind us that it is not just by human effort that we tread treacherous waters. We have to remember and learn from the Divine effort too. We need this perspective if our love lessons are going to be learned completely and well. We are all works in progress and we all come from homes that are broken by imperfection. In whatever life brings us and in whatever family we find ourselves, may the promptings we feel toward faith and hope lead us to greater love.

God never tires of waiting for us. When we turn away, He comes to look for us; when we fall, He picks us up; when we return to Him after losing our way, He waits for us with open arms. His love is always gives us the courage to start anew. ~ Pope Francis

Ministry of the Sick: Please notify the parish office if a member of your family is confined to their home or is hospitalized. Also, please inform the hospital of your affiliation with your parish.

Baptisms: Please call the parish office two months in advance.

Marriage: Please call St. John's parish office eight months in advance.

Funeral Arrangements: Please call St. John's parish office.

Anointing of the Sick and Dying: Please call St. John's parish office.

Fr. Sengole Dass
St. John Parish Office - 833-6140

DC. Richard Matuszak
833-2294 or 609-5292

St Sebastian Parish Office - 833-2558
Hours – Mon/Tues/Thurs/8:00 – 4:00
Wednesday 8:30 - Noon, Closed Friday