



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

December 31, 2023 ▪ Feast of the Holy Family Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

The Holy Family's marriage advice



Tom Hoopes

4 Ways that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph set us on the right track in everyday life.

My son is getting married this weekend, and his Christmastime wedding is making me think of how the Holy Family's lessons apply to everyday life. Here are four ways.

First, God makes things way harder — and way happier — for you.

I know a priest once who had a saying: “Mary got Jesus, and then all her troubles began.” It’s true. Even those God appoints a special task — especially those whom God appoints a special task — can expect things to get harder, not easier.

We see it every Christmas: Because God chose them, Mary and Joseph had to travel and have their baby in a manger, then flee to Egypt.

Having Christ in your family life doesn’t make problems go away. There are new levels of planning that have to happen, new duties and new prohibitions.

But would Mary and Joseph have been happier in a quiet Nazareth life, with no hosts of angels, no gold, frankincense and myrrh? Of course not. And even if they’d had a trouble-free life, a life with no divine purpose, no friendship with God, and no religious ritual would have been far less happy — for them, and for us, too.

(Of course, I don’t mean to say a life without God is a life without suffering. As the wise saying goes: “We have two options in life: To suffer with Christ or to suffer without him.”)

Second, your spouse’s flaws are what save you.

Joseph didn’t have to deal with sins in Mary, and we don’t know of sins Mary had to put up with in him. But we do know that she had to travel to Bethlehem for him, and that he had to live a very different marriage to be with her.

We have it worse. Early on in our marriages — and, truth be told, later on, too — our spouse’s flaws seem like our living nightmare. We feel we have put our whole life in the orbit of someone who is too loud, or too quiet; too selfish or too squeamish; too sloppy or too strict.

In fact, though, the things that grate on you like sandpaper turn out to be the very things that smooth out your rough edges. Realizing that you will never have the life you want is the necessary first step to learning that life isn’t about having things you want.

In the end, a “perfect” spouse who met your every selfish desire would be the real nightmare.

Continued next page . . .



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Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

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Deacon Lionel Roberts,
Deacon Emeritus

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Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM
Fr. Randall Roberts, OFM
Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM
Fr. Victor Bartolotta

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 PM
Sunday

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Follow the Sunday Mass on our
website, btsp.org.

Confessions will be held
Saturdays 2:45-3:45

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... Continued from cover

Third, you learn that dying is the only way to get to heaven

Another paradox of family life is the enhanced pain of losing family members. Jesus, Mary and Joseph saw this in a stark way in the Magi's gift of myrrh, a resin that is used to prepare bodies for burial. When Herod's massacre of the innocents came, it might have seemed that the gift was appropriate because they would have immediate need of it themselves.

At my son's wedding, the family of the bride had to leave behind a grandmother entering hospice. Marriage brings death closer than ever to us, as we feel the loss of two families' loved ones.

Ultimately heaven is the only acceptable answer to the mystery of death. Praying for souls' salvation has the power to let the pain of death lead to greater love rather than greater despair.

Fourth, you learn that to serve is Godlike; being served not so much.

Last, marriage puts us in a position where we must serve others and we place others in a position where they serve us. Serving brings harmony and happiness; expecting to be served breeds disharmony and strife.

This stands to reason. Look at how God behaves. We only stay in existence because God keeps us in existence. That's true metaphysically — we are contingent; God is not — but also in ordinary ways. His providence gives us what we need, his talents earn our salary, his hope keeps us alive.

So if God isn't too good to devote his very existence to serving you, you shouldn't be afraid to give your life to serving someone else.

Look at the action verbs ascribed to Mary and Joseph in the Gospels this Christmas. Mary "believed," said "be it done to me according to your word," "wrapped him" and "laid him" in the manger. Joseph "took Mary" "went up" to Bethlehem, "rose" from sleep, and "took the child and his mother" by night to Egypt.

If feelings of love die out in your marriage, do what they did and *act*. Feelings follow actions, not the other way around.

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Prayer for Priests & Future Priests

Eternal Father, We lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

12/31 • Benjamin Harris, Seminarian

01/01 • Pope Francis

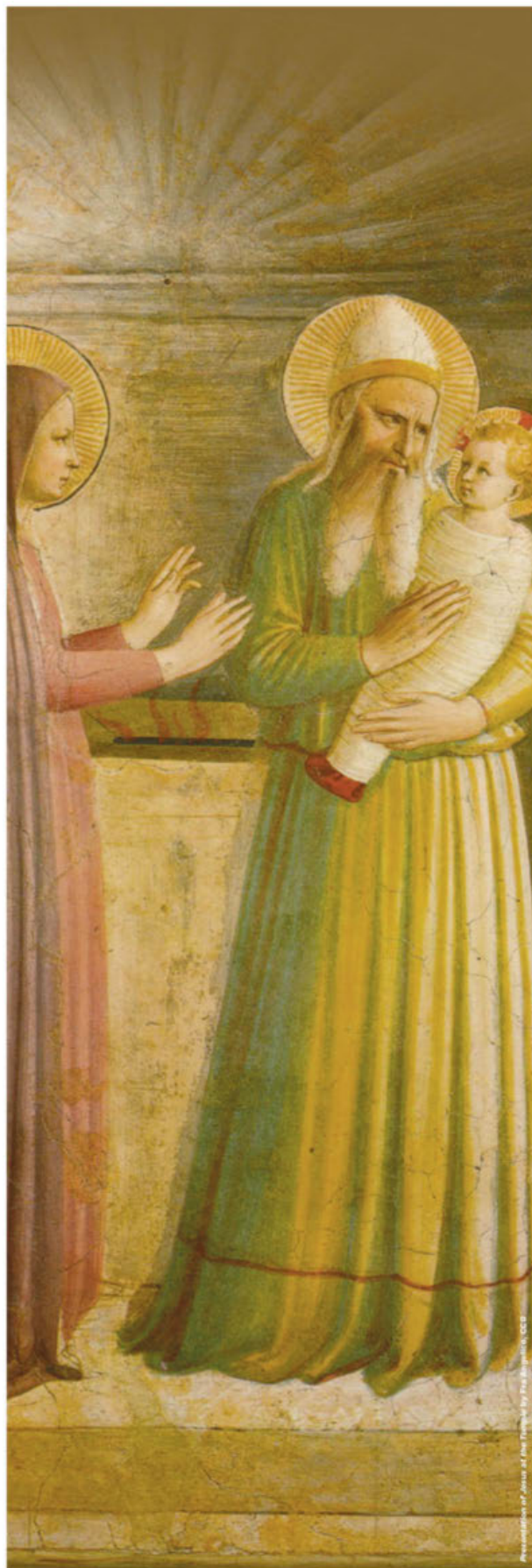
01/02 • Rev. Erwin Belgica

01/03 • For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life

01/04 • Msgr. Michael Carruthers

01/05 • Rev. Robert Cadrecha

01/06 • Rev. Michael Cormier



December 31, 2023

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Gen 15:1-6; 21:1-3 | Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 | Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

St. Teresa of Calcutta once said, “If we love, naturally we will try to do something. First in our own home, our next door neighbor, in the country we live, in the whole world.” In this quote we see a shift from the idyllic to a hard dose of reality: love means sacrifice and service. Perhaps it’s worth asking ourselves: Does our family always get our best self? None of us is perfect, so the honest answer is probably no. If it’s tempting to think, “well, the Holy Family was perfect, so what does this feast have to do with our family?” let’s remember we are celebrating the Feast of the HOLY Family, not the feast of the perfect family. Yes, they were *holy*. They embodied this in their faith and devotion in those expanding circles of which St. Teresa spoke. They gave to God first – in today’s Gospel we see the family travel to Jerusalem to present Jesus in the temple. They then returned to Nazareth where Jesus grew strong and was “filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.”

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

What does this feast mean for us today? It means that being a *holy* family is not unattainable. St. John Paul II once said: “The Redeemer of the world chose the family as the place for his birth and growth.” (2001) In other words, God’s will was fulfilled in the simplest and most ordinary of human circumstances when Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph in a stable. He sanctified what had been profaned by sin. Are our families perfect? No. But are we holy? That is our baptismal vocation and is within our reach each and every day. With the dawn of the new year, let’s make an effort to place Christ at the center of our lives. Let’s try to love our family members with all our heart, and bear witness in our actions and words. And finally, and most importantly, we must pray with and for one another.

PRAY Family prayer is powerful and transformative, uniting and equipping us to go out into the world each day and bear witness. Pray together: *Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer.*



Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm

Journeying Through Grief

“Grief is not a sign of weakness. It is a tribute to the loved one who died, and a healthy response to our heart ache.”

If you would like to be part of a Grief-Support “group” or you would prefer “one on one” support, please call Rachel between 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the parish office, 727-867-3663

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 30,

8:00 a.m. Carole Huff (dec)

Saturday, December 30, Vigil for Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

4:00 p.m. Merlene and Lionel Roberts
61st Wedding Anniversary (liv)

Sunday, December 31, Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00 a.m. Richard Kraynak (dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Richard Kraynak (dec)

Monday, January 1, Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

9:30 a.m. Wanda Harley (dec)

11:30 a.m. Jerry Holley (dec)

Tuesday, January 2, Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

8:00 a.m. Rocco Pasquinucci (dec)

Wednesday, January 3, Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, January 4, Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

8:00 a.m. John B. Lawrence (dec)

Friday, January 5, Memorial of Saint John Neumann, Bishop

8:00 a.m. Johnny Keefe (dec)

Saturday, January 6, Memorial of Saint André Bessette, Religious

8:00 a.m. Julie Amaral (dec)

Saturday, January 6, Vigil for The Epiphany of the Lord

4:00 p.m. Gary S. Ayers (liv)

Sunday, January 7, The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 a.m. Jack Courtney (dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Nicole Bistany (dec)

Blessed Trinity Scripture Classes

Blessed Trinity Scripture Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 9 from 10:00 am—11:30 am. They will continue with the series from Q Place, "Foundations for Faith."

Classes are held in Courtyard Hall and the books will be \$12. There are nine sessions. Bring a Bible. For further information and to confirm attendance, please call Barbara Townsend (727) 867-3605.



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Gift of Family

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people."

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son. — *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi*

The Marriage Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving will take place at the Cathedral of St. Jude on Sunday, February 11 at 3:00 pm. This event honors couples throughout the diocese who will celebrate their 25th anniversary as well as those celebrating 50 or more years of marriage during the 2024 calendar year. To RSVP, please call our parish office by Tuesday January 16.

Weekly Offering

Weekends of 12/10 and 12/17,
including online giving 12/4-12/17

Offertory	\$14,320
Other Donations	\$27,111
Restoring the Sacred	\$75,000
National Collections	\$ 694

"Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group

Monday evenings at 7:00 pm in
Courtyard Hall.

All are welcome!

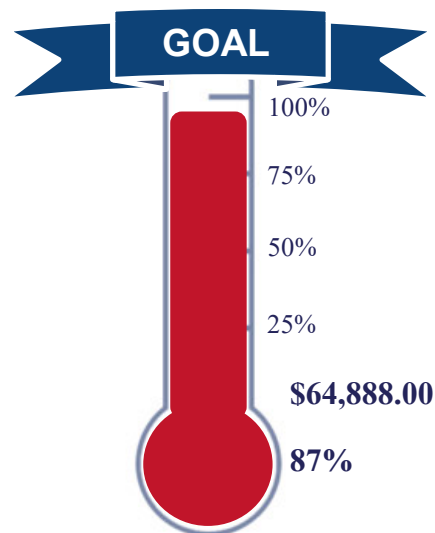
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Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 31		
9:00 and 10:30 am	Coffee and Donuts	PH
Monday, January 1, New Years Day		
Holy Mary Mother of God, Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year		
The parish office will be closed.		
Tuesday, January 2		
7:00 pm	Knights of Columbus Meeting	PH
Thursday, January 4		
6:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	MR
Saturday, January 6		
5:00 pm	Knights of Columbus Fish n' Chicken Fry	PH
Sunday, January 7, Epiphany of the Lord		
9:00 and 10:30am	Coffee and Donuts	PH
Monday, January 8		
7:00 pm	"Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group	CYH
Tuesday, January 9		
10:00-11:30 am	Scripture Class resumes	CYH
Thursday, January 11		
6:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	MR
Sunday, January 14		
8:30-11:00 am	K.O.C. Pancake Breakfast	PH
Monday, January 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day		
Parish office will be closed.		
7:00 pm	"Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group	CYH
Tuesday, January 16		
10:00-11:30 am	Scripture Class	CYH
Thursday, January 18		
6:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	MR
Monday, January 22		
7:00 pm	"Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group	CYH
Tuesday, January 23		
10:00-11:30 am	Scripture Class	CYH
Thursday, January 25		
6:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	MR
Friday, January 26		
BT Social Group Meets after the 8:00 am Mass@ Kahwa Coffee 400 45th Ave S, St. Petersburg 33705		
Saturday, January 27		
7:00 pm	Knights of Columbus Sock Hop Dance	PH
Sunday, January 28		
9:00 and 10:30am	Coffee and Donuts	PH
Monday, January 29		
7:00pm	"Life in the Spirit" Prayer group	CYH
Tuesday, January 30		
10:00-11:30am	Scripture Class	CYH

PH= Parish Hall, MR=Music Room, CYH= Courtyard Hall, CH=Church



Social Group

The Blessed Trinity Social Group is meeting regularly now. Please join us at the Kahwa coffee shop @ 400 45th Ave S, St. Petersburg, FL 33705 after the 8:00 am Mass on the Last Friday of each Month. Bring your ideas!

Please note our next meeting will be Friday, January 26th.

All are welcome!

Full-Time Cook Needed

The Missionaries of Africa Retirement Home in St. Petersburg, total of 8 men, needs a full-time cook Monday-Friday from 10:30 am to 6:30 pm. Health and pension benefits apply after a 3 month probation period. If you, or someone you know is interested, please send your resume to star30@verizon.net

Questions? Please contact Denise Starkey, 813-215-9535.

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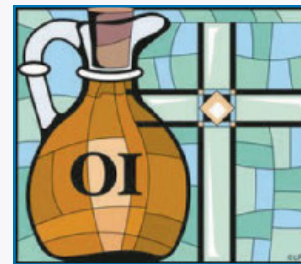
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Barr, Bill
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Cisek, Marilyn
Comeau, Teresa
Coston, Robert
Curtis, Sherlyl
Daniels, Joshua
DeZarn, Vickie
D'Azzo, Lina
Feltes, Chuck & Lauren
Ferrara, Antoinette
Fitzgerald, Dan
Gawlik, Frank
Gawlik, Sofia
Genreux, Carol
Grimberg, Carol
Hawkins, Barbara
Helbig, Len
Hoffman, Bette
Huff, Walt
Irvin, John

Joyal, Christina
Kindel, Helen
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Klima, Sue
Lanigan, John
Lashley, Diana
Lawler, Matthew
LeVan, George
Lewis, Cynthia
Maharne, Cecile
Manley, Jan
Manley, Paul
Matthews, Daniel
Mays, Susan
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Mesick, Phil & Nancy
Nagy, Matthew
Newcomb, Jeff
O'Connor, Mary
Oliphant, Sean
Parmigiani, Valerie
Powers, Jim
Preeper, Helen
Riley, Marie

Roberts,
Deacon Lionel
Romani, Angelo
Schulz, Ingrid
Shelby, Montez
Stankiewicz, Cy
Thompson, Susan E.
Vanderbeck, Cindy
Vanderbeck, Jay
Walsh, Thomas
Youngman, Ruth



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.

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Cecile Maharne



Questions about Medicare, Affordable Care Act, Medicaid. Call, email or visit my website for more information!

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