



# Blessed Trinity

## Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*  
December 28, 2025 ▪ Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

## The Holy Family's marriage advice



Tom Hoopes -published 1/4/21

*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 Christmas-time 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.

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

*Continued on page 2*

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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.

**Originally published at [Aleteia.org](http://Aleteia.org), reprinted with permission**



## Mass Intentions

**Saturday, December 27, Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist**

8:00 a.m. Earl Beddoe and Lloyd Forteau (dec)

**Saturday, December 27, Vigil for Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

4:00 p.m. Gerald Hayman (dec)

**Sunday, December 28, Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

8:00 a.m. Helen Fegley Murray (dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Robert Smith Family (dec)

**Monday, December 29, Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas**

8:00 a.m. The Annarelli Family (liv & dec)

**Tuesday, December 30, Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas**

8:00 a.m. The Beddoe Family (liv & dec)

**Wednesday, December 31, Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas**

8:00 a.m. Dawn and Malaya Cullen (liv)

**Thursday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

9:00 a.m. Helene Logue (dec)

11:30 am Eugene Donohoe (liv)

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

8:00 a.m. The Dottino Family (liv & dec)

**Saturday, January 3, Christmas Weekday**

8:00 a.m. Florence Partin (dec)

**Saturday, January 3, Vigil for The Epiphany of the Lord**

4:00 p.m. Helene Logue (dec)

**Sunday, January 4, The Epiphany of the Lord**

8:00 a.m. Angelina Castagna (dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Louis Serrano (dec)





December 28, 2025

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

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

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

In his Angelus address on the Feast of the Holy Family in 2001, St. John Paul II shared this with those gathered: “If we aspire to a deeper understanding of Jesus’ life and mission, we must draw close to the mystery of the Holy Family of Nazareth to observe and listen.” Following in the footsteps of the Holy Family in today’s Scripture, we find ourselves in quiet Bethlehem, just after the departure of the Magi. The angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream, this time with a warning: “Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.” They trust in God and their response is immediate. It is easy for us to imagine the Holy Family as different from ourselves — holier and more spiritual. Certainly, that’s true. They were holy but they were also fully human, which means that what they attained is possible for each of us. Let us try to imitate them in this holiness.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

It’s easy to glamorize the life of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus, but in reality, the cross was with them long before the crucifixion. From the moment of the Annunciation, there would be trials, temptations, and sufferings. But each time, they respond with immediate obedience and deep trust. In doing so, they give us all a perfect example of what the Christian life should look like: a life motivated by love and always listening for the voice of God, ready to respond in an instant. As we accompany others on this journey of faith, we also must listen deeply to them in order to help them in discerning the Spirit’s movement in their lives. As we hone the spiritual muscle of attentive listening, we grow in our ability to respond to God and to God’s action in our lives, and to help others do the same.

### **REFLECT**

Most of us will never hear from an angel in the middle of the night telling us to walk hundreds of miles with our baby in tow. But every single one of us will be — has been — called. Let us pray to the Holy Family for an increase in the virtues of obedience and trust, so that we can respond to God’s call in our lives.





## Music Ministry

Advent Concert Photos are now posted on the Music Ministry Website! Please take a moment to view wonderful memories from the Inaugural event of the new *Trinity Presents* Concert Series! Those and other information can be found at [btspmusic.org](http://btspmusic.org)

## New Mass Settings begin Christmas Eve through Lent!

We will sing parts of the vibrant, and upbeat Mass of St. Ann by Ed Bolduc beginning Christmas Eve. Learn this Mass from the YouTube links posted on the Music Ministry Website at [btspmusic.org](http://btspmusic.org)

Also, the Music Ministry is actively recruiting instrumentalists, bell ringers, and singers for current and forming groups to minister at various Masses.

### Including:

Sanctuary Choir  
Blessed Bells  
Cantate Men's Choir  
Auditioned Schola Cantorum  
St. Patrick's Celebration Choir

Please email Lisa at [lss@btsp.org](mailto:lss@btsp.org) with questions or for more information.

## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDER- STANDING OF SCRIPTURE

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

When I was ten, my dad gathered our family around the table in small-town Vermont and told us we were moving to the big desert city of Phoenix, Arizona. We were leaving behind family, friends, and everything familiar. None of us knew what to expect.

But something beautiful happened. As we made the move together, our family grew closer. In retrospect, I'm amazed at my parents' courage to go on that adventure. Even as a kid I realized our family found, in that challenge, a deeper unity and mutual love.

In today's Gospel, Joseph is told: "**Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee...**" (Matthew 2:13, 20). First to Egypt, then later to Israel. The Holy Family is frequently challenged to move and change, to adapt to God's will for them, in order to find safety in the midst of threat. It's not just an idiosyncratic story about survival. It's a spiritual pattern for all of us. Every Christian family is called to be a kind of sanctuary, especially in a world full of noise, busyness, and fear.

May I make a practical application for us? The Lord's Day, Sunday, is perhaps the most practical way we imitate this dynamic we see in Joseph and his family. Sunday is not meant to be just like every other day, filled with errands and stress. It's meant to be a day set apart; a holy "escape" into rest, worship, joy, and peace. A day to rise, take your family, and flee, into God's presence.

— Father John Muir ©LPi



## Second Collection will be for St. Vincent de Paul

### Marriage Jubilee Mass



The Marriage Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving will take place at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle on Sunday, February 8 at 3:00 pm.

This event honors couples throughout the diocese who will celebrate their 25th or 50th anniversary as well as those celebrating 51 or more years of marriage during the 2026 calendar year.

Please RSVP by calling our parish office by Thursday January 15th.

### RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

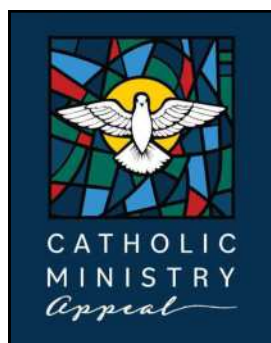
#### God's GPS Never Fails

I use GPS wherever I go, and it serves me well most of the time. However, sometimes it leads me to a place that does not exist. Then there are those times when I am about to turn, and the man inside my phone shouts out, "GPS signal lost!" or "Rerouting!" The problem is, when the area is unfamiliar to me, I have no choice but to listen. I could try to get where I am going by simple intuition or by pulling over to look at a paper map, but I don't trust my sense of direction. And I haven't bought a paper map in close to a decade!

Many people move through life without any direction. They find themselves constantly rerouting and wondering when they will ever get to a satisfying final destination. What they need is a compass and a companion for the journey. Yet they have no idea how to get either.

Prayer can serve as a compass, and it connects us to a companion for the journey. Stewardship living is impossible without prayer. If we count on our own will and believe we can become fruitful without daily contact with the Divine, we can find ourselves looking for directions more than moving toward a destination. God, through prayer, will help us see all we have as a gift. God, through prayer, will lead us away from materialism and selfishness and toward freedom and generosity. Even when we fall to sin, the path back is clearer. God's GPS signal is never really lost.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



Thank you for your prayerful giving!



### Scripture Classes

Blessed Trinity Scripture classes will resume on Tuesday, January 13 from 10:00-11:30 am. We will study "The Sacred Heart of Jesus." The books are \$12. Classes are held in Courtyard Hall.

For Further information call Barbara Townsend 727.867.3605"



### Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Following 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 to schedule an appointment.

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, December 28

Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses PC

### Monday, December 29

6:30 pm Life in the Spirit CYH

### Thursday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary

#### Holy Day of Obligation

No 8:00 am Mass

9:30 am Mass CH

11:30 am Mass CH

### Sunday, January 4

Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses PC

### Monday, January 5

6:30 pm Life in the Spirit CYH

### Tuesday, January 6

7:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting PC

### Wednesday, January 7

#### Adoration

5:30 pm Rosary CH

6:00 pm Eucharistic Exposition and Meditation CH

7:00 pm Benediction CH

### Thursday, January 8

4:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul Meeting CYH-1

5:00 pm Handbell practice MR

6:30 pm Choir Practice MR

### Sunday, January 11

Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses PC

## Key for Events

PC= Parish Center, MR=Music Room, CYH= Courtyard Hall, CH=Church,  
CYH-1= Courtyard Hall Classroom #1, CR=Choir Room, FF=Faith Formation Room,  
PL=Parking Lot



### Pastor

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

### Clergy Assistance

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM

Fr. Randall Roberts, OFM

Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM

Fr. Ken Breen, OdeM

Fr. Victor Bartolotta

Fr. Eric Peters

### Mass Schedule

#### Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 am

#### Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 pm

#### Sunday

8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:30 am

Follow the Sunday Mass on our website, [btsp.org](http://btsp.org)

### Confessions

Saturdays 2:45-3:45 pm

### Parish Office

Monday—Friday

9:00 am-12:00 pm and 1-4 pm

Closed for Lunch Noon to 1:00 pm

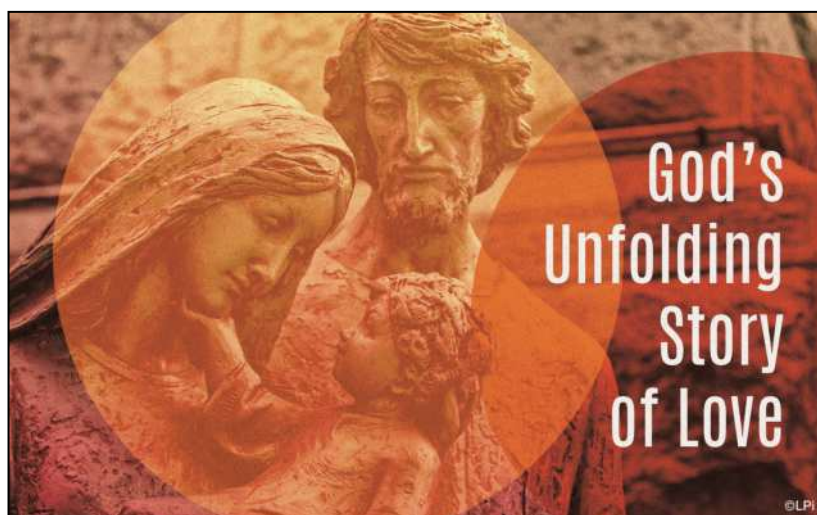
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 Vanderbeck, Cindy  
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## Anointing of the Sick



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

## Grief Support

At this time, individual/one-on-one *Grief Support* is available by calling Rachel at the church office. Group support meetings will take place when a group is formed. For more information call 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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