

**THE HOLY FAMILY
OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH**

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all the peoples. ~ **Luke2:30-31**



WE ARE GOD'S HOLY FAMILY

The scriptures of Israel are filled with many stories of barren couples who were miraculously granted the gift of children by God. Surely the best known among these is the first reading from today, from which Luke took inspiration when he recounted the miraculous birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah and Elizabeth, and the more miraculous birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph. In each instance, we are given examples or role models of those who trusted in God. More than examples of those who trust, they are models of self-surrender. They abandoned their own presuppositions and prejudices about the workings of the world and turned their lives over to belief in a God who can make life grow where none ought to; a God who can turn death around into a new and unimagined life; a God who can, today, take a tiny child of humble parents in an insignificant town and make him into a light for all the world. This is what we, as God's holy family, are called to do each day: to trust not in ourselves and the way we think things should be, but to open ourselves and surrender ourselves in faith to a God of endless promise



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading – Those who honor their parents will be greatly blessed and will atone for sins (**Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14**), or **Genesis 15:1-6;21:1-3**

Psalm~ Blesses are those who fear the Lord and walk in his way (**Psalm 128**) or **Psalm105**.

Second Reading ~ Be thankful: do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus (**Colossians 3:12-21[12-17]**) or **Hebrews 11:8, 11-12,17-119**.

SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

Edith Bolder Holmesdale Care Center	
Jeanette Hamilton Evans	Home
Inell Hunter	Home
Carlos Nix	Home
Lavel McCullough	Home
Rosa Birch	Home
Sandra Cloyd	Home
Kevin Brown	Home
Jackie Countee	Home
Sharon Shackelford-Allen	Home
Earnestine Nard	Home
Earl Greene	Home
Michael Mize	Home
Chaunceyetta Mize	Home
Margaret Jones	Home
Flora Waddell	Home
Delores Bazy	Home
Deacon Greene	Home
Vera Brown	Home
Ovell Thomas	Home
Joann James	Home
Dorothy Wyatt	Home
Terese Spears Chambers	Home
Alvin Brooks	Home
Cathy Johnson	Home
Mary Ann Grayson	Home
Herman Lovett	Home
Mabel & Donald Parson	Home
Ramonda Doakes	Home
Annie Lovett	Home
Marjorie Green	Home
Carolyn Jones	Homestead Assisted Living

FAMILY MEMBERS: *Please inform our Pastor, Fr. Tom, when a loved-one is home bound or has been hospitalized. Call 816-471-3696 or email: stmonica1616kc@hotmail.com*



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Must wear mask at all times-- to attend

SUNDAY:

8:00 a.m. (Live)

10:00 a.m. (Live & Recorded)

WEDNESDAY

9:00 a.m. MASS (Live)

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting will resume in January

GOSPEL ~ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom

(Luke 2L22-40 [22:-40, 39-40])



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt:13-18
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
- Friday:** Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
- Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
- Sunday:** Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12



SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:** The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
- Monday:** The Holy Innocents
- Tuesday:** Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Thomas Becket
- Wednesday:** Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
- Thursday:** Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Sylvester I; New Year's Eve
- Friday:** The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; Mary, the Holy Mother of God; World Day of Prayer for Peace; New Year's Day; First Friday
- Saturday:** Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen; First Saturday

FEAST OF FAITH



Processions

Why does the liturgy begin with a procession? It is not just a practical matter of getting the ministers of the liturgy from the sacristy to the sanctuary. The procession is a powerful sign of who we are as Christian people. We are not static, staying in one place. We are going somewhere. Our procession leads us to the altar, sign of Christ's presence in our midst. We move, we process, because we recognize our need for what Christ is preparing for us at that table. We go forward eagerly, because we are hungry for that heavenly food.

This procession is an orderly one: servers, deacon, priest presider. Each is set apart by distinctive vesture: albs for the altar servers, dalmatic for the deacon, chasuble for the priest. The procession is an image of the hierarchical structure of the Church. On a deeper level it is an image of unity in diversity. We are all on a journey to the heavenly city, but each of us is clothed with different gifts. We all receive the call to service, but not in the same way. Only by coming together in all our wonderful variety can we achieve the work of the kingdom.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



January 1, 2021
Celebrate Mass
9:00 a.m.

REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

On Christmas we celebrate God becoming human, when the face of creation was changed. We ponder that great mystery of the Incarnation: Jesus is true God and truly human. The divine has entered into communion with the human in the body and soul of Jesus of Nazareth.

Christmas is not a single day, however, but an entire season. Today, the Sunday after Christmas, we ponder the Holy Family. What difference does this mystery of the Incarnation make for families? Jesus came to bring together the children of Israel into a new family, a family united not by blood but by faith in him. So in today's Gospel we see some of the first members of that family.

Luke's Gospel has been called the Gospel of Jesus as the compassion of God, the Gospel of prayer, the Gospel of the Holy Spirit; we can also think of it as the Gospel of family. He first introduces us to Mary's cousin, Elizabeth, and Elizabeth's husband, Zechariah, parents of John the Baptist. Then we meet Mary and Joseph.

Today we meet two other family members, Simeon and Anna, not related by blood, but only by faith in the promises of the God of Israel. Each sees in the child Jesus the glory of Israel and the light for the Gentiles.

Christmas reminds us that by baptism into Christ we are now part of God's family. As God's family, "God's chosen ones," as Paul reminded the Colossians (3:62), we are to put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another.

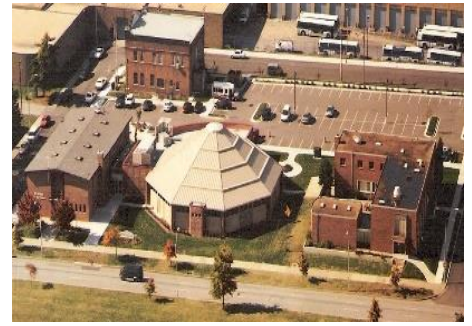
—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.
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LIVING GOD'S WORD

It may be that our fear is that all of those creaks and clatters and clicks are the sounds of our lives being rearranged for us without our having any say in the rearranging. Who knows if we'll be able to live with ourselves when the new light dawns? Nevertheless, in the dark of our lives our God comes and does the rearranging our God does.

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FORWARD IN FAITH



The Stewardship Committee extends a heartfelt thank you to all the St. Monica parishioners for the success of our 110 Anniversary Celebration and Virtual Silent Auction. The Committee worked with precision as a team, under the capable leadership of Mrs. Shirley Thaw, with expert guidance on the auction from Mrs. Angela Curry. Kim Urenda's technical assistance, and Dwight's performance as the announcer contributed to raising a total amount that exceeded our goal! Our success would not have been possible without your support. You donated and bid on many of the 56 available items.

During the process, we added St. Monica Twitter and Instagram accounts to expand our reach on social media. We expect the addition will attract new members as the downtown and 18th and Vine areas expand housing opportunities near the church.

Thank you again and look forward to future events to work on together as our parish moves "**Forward in Faith.**"

Our goal is, to raise **\$150,000** by

October 2020. So far, we have received **\$47,411.20**, and **\$102,588.50**, still to go. The goal is huge,

but God is faithful.

God bless you all.

Bulletin Deadline Wednesday / NOON