

December 29, 2024

FEAST OF THE

Holy Family

A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION



Several years ago I happened upon the following reflection, it seems appropriate for you to consider in these final, often harried days prior to Christmas. In 1 Corinthians 13:13 we read, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." A modern day author has revised this passage with a Christmas Theme.

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny ornaments, but do not show love to my family, I am just another decorator.

If I slave in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love for my family, I am just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, sing carols in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend myriad holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to give tender kisses. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love does not envy another's home that has decorated Christmas china and table linens. Love does not yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love does not give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving those who cannot. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, and golf clubs will rust. But giving the gift of love will endure.

Merry Christmas! (Author Unknown)

Life is a gift, unwrap your present.

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

31530 Beechwood Garden City MI 48135
(734) 427-1533 Thomastheapostle.org

SCAN
TO DONATE



This N That

The answer to this week's question provided by Christopher Check of Catholic Answers.

How long does Christmas last?

New Year's Day promises two certainties: college football bowl games and Christmas trees on the curb. To Catholics, of course, January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. It's a Holy Day of Obligation, and the final day of the Octave of Christmas.

The Church, however, is so generous with joy. She does not end our celebration of the Incarnation with the conclusion of the Octave of Christmas. She extends it to the Epiphany. Twelfth Night, as our English brethren call it, is an event Catholics in America should celebrate with more enthusiasm (think: roaring bonfires, grilled meat, lots of singing, red wine, brown ale) and might very well do if it were observed here on the liturgical calendar on January 6, as it is in England, Australia, and Canada, to say nothing of Vatican City.

But the celebrating doesn't stop there! After Epiphany, the revelry continues until the Baptism of the Lord, the first Sunday after January 6 (usually). And if you want to be really traditional, you can celebrate what the faithful called "Christmastide" before the liturgical reforms that followed the Second Vatican Council. In the old rite, Christmastide lasted for forty days to correspond with the forty days of Lent, and the forty days from Easter to Ascension Thursday.

A forty-day party? *Glory in Excelsis!*

Christmastide ends on February 2, the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, also called Candlemass Day. On this day, the faithful take candles that they will use throughout the year in their homes to Mass to have them blessed.

For further information or answers to your own Catholic questions, visit Catholic.com.

Ministries Center/SVDP (734) 425-9771



The pantry needs help with our ongoing weekly service to the community. We are most in need of: cans chili, beef stew, tuna; rice-a-roni; dry spaghetti; peanut butter; strawberry or grape jelly; oatmeal; dish soap; laundry soap; bar soap; toilet paper; paper towels. Thank you. Any and all donations are always appreciated!

The food pantry is open every Thursday from 10am-12pm in the Ministries Building. If you would like to receive items from the pantry, please call (734) 425-9771.

Scripture Readings for the Week of December 29, 2024

Sunday, December 29, 2024

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

Monday, December 30, 2024

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

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

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

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

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

Thursday, January 2, 2025

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

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

Friday, January 3, 2025

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

Saturday, January 4, 2025

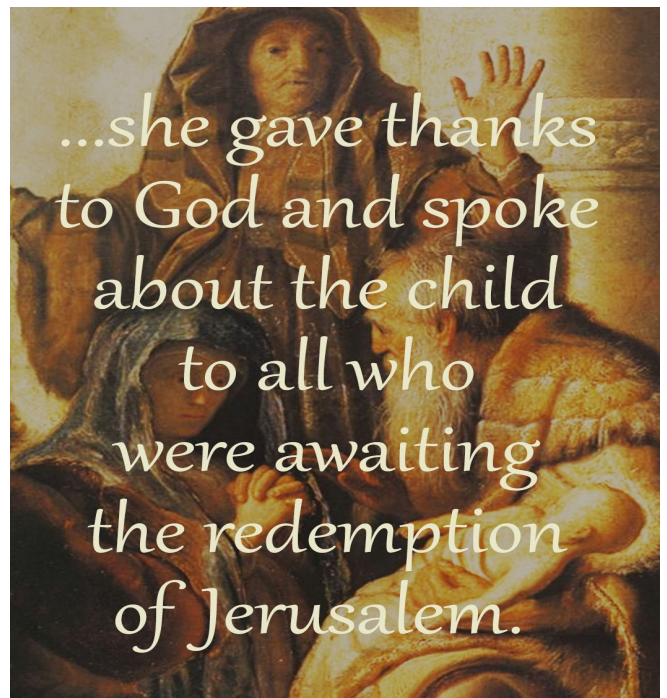
Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

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

Sunday, January 5, 2025

The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12



Nankin Family of Parishes



Mass Schedule

St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy (734) 425-4421
8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland

St. Mary, Wayne (734) 721-8745
34530 Michigan Avenue, Wayne

St. Richard (734) 729-2240
35851 Cherry Hill Road, Westland

St. Thomas the Apostle (734) 427-1533
31530 Beechwood Street, Garden City

Monday	9:00 am	St. Mary, Wayne
	12:00 pm	St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy, Westland (followed by Eucharistic Adoration)
Tuesday	9:00 am	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
	9:00 am	St. Richard, Westland
Wednesday	12:00 pm	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
Thursday	9:00 am	St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy, Westland
Friday	9:00 am	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
	9:00 am	St. Mary, Wayne
Saturday	4:00 pm	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
	4:00 pm	St. Mary, Wayne
	5:30 pm	St. Mary Cause of Our Joy, Westland
Sunday	8:30 am	St. Mary, Wayne
	9:00 am	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
		St. Mary Cause of Our Joy, Westland
	10:00 am	St. Richard, Westland
	11:00 am	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
		St. Mary Cause of Our Joy, Westland
	11:30 am	St. Mary, Wayne
	2:00 pm	St. Mary, Wayne (SPANISH)

Confessions (also by appointment)

Tuesday		St. Richard, Westland (after 9 am Mass)
Saturday	3:00 pm	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
	3:00 pm	St. Mary, Wayne
	6:30 pm	St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy, Westland

Perpetual Help Devotion

Every Tuesday after 9:00 AM Mass

Eucharistic Adoration (one hour)

First Friday of Each Month after 9:00 AM Mass



Holiday Masses

Mary, Mother of God Masses

December 31 at 4:00 PM

January 1 at 12:00 PM

Epiphany Masses

January 4 at 4:00 PM

January 5 at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

A smart, serious explanation of Christianity for skeptics, seekers, and nonbelievers!

Recent decades have witnessed a surge of the religiously unaffiliated, especially among young people. Many former believers have turned their backs on Christianity and no longer accept its teachings. But what are those teachings? And are they the same as what so many people reject?

In **The Creed**, a new film series blending documentary footage and dynamic talks, **Bishop Robert Barron** guides viewers into the depths of the Nicene Creed, a fourth-century statement of faith that has profoundly influenced Eastern and Western spirituality, theology, and liturgy.

This program is free. We will study the CREED explained by Bp Barron for six weeks, and **the workbook (no charge) is available online.**

The first in-person session will be:

- St. Mary on Sunday, January 19, at 12:40 pm,
- St. Richard on Tuesday, January 21, at 10 am
- St. Mary Cause of Our Joy, Thursday, January 23, at 10 am

The First on-line Session will be:

- Online on Sunday, January 19, at 6.30 pm,
- Online on Thursday, January 23, at 6.30 pm.

Please scan the QR code or register at the parish office.

For more information, please feel free to contact Paul Zdzieblowski at (734)721-8745 X129 or e-mail.pastoralassociate@stmarywayne.org



Worship Schedule		January 4 & 5, 2025	
MINISTERS	SAT 4:00 PM	SUN 9:00 AM	SUN 11:00 AM
CELEBRANT	FATHER LAWRENCE ZURAWSKI	FATHER LAWRENCE ZURAWSKI	FATHER LAWRENCE ZURAWSKI
ALTAR SERVERS	JERRY KOWALCZYK	JOHN GALDES	ADAEZE ENWERE CHIAMAKA ENWERE DAVID GERSTENBRAND
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST	CORDELIA CHUKWUDI CANDY HENRY VIKKI WOROSZ	TEDDY LUTHER GLORY MCGAHAN PATRICIA RYAN	DENISE BIELSKI JOHN SANREGRET JOE SMITH
LECTORS	FRANK TOFIL	DAN LOBB	MIKE WELDON
SACRISTAN	CAROL STEC	MARGARITA LOPEZ	LAURIE EICHSTEDT
MASS INTENTIONS	+ VITO VITALE + HELEN OLKOWSKI + GIRRARD ZALNO	DAVID MOLINIA	PARISHIONERS OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Offertory collection is reported monthly.
 Thank you for your support and may God bless you!
 Please remember St. Thomas the Apostle when writing your will.

ARE YOU REGISTERED AT ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE?

If you have been looking for a new parish we would appreciate you considering St. Thomas the Apostle as your parish. Stop by the Parish Center and fill out a registration form or download one from our website www.thomastheapostle.org.

You can stop by the office, or put it in the collection basket at Mass. Young adults over 18 should be registered on their own registration form.




Weekday Masses
 December 30, 2024-January 3, 2025

Tuesday, December 31
 4:00 pm.....CHURCH
 + GAETANO SERRA
 + NICHOLAS MENSOR

Wednesday, January 1
 12:00 PM.....CHURCH
 + DONNA DARNELL

Friday, January 3
 9:00 am.....CHURCH
 PARISHIONERS OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Bulletin Editor
Sandy.Mulcahy@thomastheapostle.org

Bulletin article deadline is Monday before the issue date by 8:00 a.m. During holidays, articles must be submitted two Mondays before issue. All articles and submissions are subject to approval and editing.

Please Pray For...

Alaska, Shirley
Baranowski, Sue
Batherson, Barbara
Baumgardner, Patty
Block, Karen
Bringold, Bonnie
Burgess, Evie
Burke-Misener, Jennifer
Burke, Larry
Burris, Nikita and Family
Calley, Julie
Carbajal-Christopher, June
Carpenter, Mike
Cepko Family
Chop, Nancy Grabel
Cockrum, Tommy
D'Angelo, Rebecca
Daugherty, Kenny

Decaminada, Mona
DeGrande, Colleen
Dempsey, Sgt Joseph
Dempsey, Michele
Dewey, Thomas
Dial, Philip
Durkin Jr., Gerald Lee
Eichstedt, Laurie
Feiler, Alex Horne
Fichtner, Leanne
Fornasiero, Joseph
Gozowsky, David
Grefae, Carolyn Sue
Hagen, Jenifer
Hamblin, Angelina
Harte, John
Hubbard, Carl
Kapanke, Dolores
Kathan, Joann
Kathan, Thomas

Keesee, Cheryl
LeVoir, Lorraine
LeVoir, Sherry
Lobb, Cindy
Lobb, Jeri
Lowe, Jonathan
Malish, Rosemary
O'Connell, Evan
Paczas, Karen
Pastula, Shirley
Prosser, Cindy
Sanak, Francene
Sanregret, John
Smith, Mary
Smitt, Deb
Soine, Dianna
Sommariva, Bob
Stempniak, Barbara
Stites, Keith
Sutherland, Eleanor

Tsaprazis, Pete
Turcotte, Joshua
Walker, Ian
Whitfield, Cathy
Wildauer, Mark
Zarzycki, Stanley



Prayer list requests can be made only with the knowledge and permission of the person being added. Please do not add anybody without their permission. To add, keep a person on the prayer list, or to remove a name, please call the parish office at (734) 427-1533. Thank you!

Pray for the First Saturday Memorial Association from July 2024-June 30, 2025

Deceased Members of Ajlouny & Blaty Families
Deceased & Live Members of The Batherson Family
Loving Memory of Thomas Bencic
Loving Memory of Aunt Loretta Brandt
Deceased and Live Members of Butka & Wojtkowiak families
In Loving Memory of Walter & Mary Burdis
Loving Memory of Sgt. Bryan K. Burgess
Loving Memory of Coach Dave Cain
Loving Memory of Gorny & Kushnir Families
In Memory of Donald Grant
Loving Memory of Jessie & Chester Gugala
In Loving Memory of Robert & Ann Hoelscher
In Loving Memory of My Wife Joanne Whom I Will Always Miss
Kapanke-Omilian Family
Deceased Members of the Kattula Family
Deceased Members of LaMar and Dryja Families
The Malish and Porembiak Families

In Loving Memory for Reynold Mirabitor Sr.
In Loving Memory of Audrey Mocadlo
Loving Memory of Jerry Moynahan
Angel Dr. Dominic J. Noonan
In Loving Memory of Ben and Phyllis Ornatowski
Deceased members of Pattock & Stuecken families
In loving memory of Anthony and Rosemary Pawlak
Angel Danny P. Pepera
My loving wife of 66 years, Mary J. Pepera
Prouty Family
In loving memory of Frances J. Read
In Memory of Richard and Eleanore Reed
Memory of Kathy Rodgers
In Loving Memory of Thomas Stempniak
Deceased Members of the Sturm & Preba Families
Deceased Members of the Szuba & Balawajder Families
In Loving Memory of Edwin L. Wendrick

Pray for those Serving in the Military

Ainsworth, Sgt. Raymond
Angelovic, Adrian
Angelovic, George
Ardinger, Stephanie
Baumgardner, AJ
Becker, Justin
Bregand, David
Brozek, Timothy
Burris, Peter
Campbell, Mary
Canfield, Chaz
Chokr, Jamel
Cinka, Jonathan
Coatsworth, Michael
Comment, Scott

DiCicco, Bill
Dwyer, Tyler
Ellsworth, Justin
Fisher, Bob
Gentilia, Anthony
Hunter, Cassidy
Julien, Nick
Kapelanski, Isaac
Kashou, Christopher
Laichalk, Robert
Logan, Jonathon
Logan, Sean Patrick
Logan, Jeff
Lowe, Jonathan
Masiarak, Luke

McHale, Sgt. Shawn
McCarville, William E.
McGahan, Wade
McGaw, Douglas
Meadows, Erin
Moody, Samantha
Murray, Daniel
Nguyen, Staff Sgt. Truong
Ohannesian, Brandon
Pastula, Michael Thomas
Porcaro, Jeff
Preba, Danny
Rosa, Brian J.
Rousseau, Philip

Sheko, Destiny
Smith, David
Smith, Sgt. Leven
Smitt, David
Spiczka, Cathy
Spiczka, Greg
Sparrow, Justin
Spohr, Raymond
Squires, Zachary
Szerszen, Michael
Waldo, Michael
Waldon, Nathan
Webb, Brian
Wiertella, Jonathan
Witt, Christopher



Missy Taylor

Director of Religious Formation / Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

RELIGIOUS FORMATION



I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours the very best in the New Year. I pray that Mary, Mother of our Blessed Savior, will continue to hear our prayers and intercede for us. May 2025 be a year of peace, prosperity and a renewed

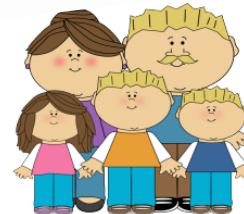
opportunity for us to show His love with our service to others, especially those most in need.
MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL IN THE NEW YEAR!!



The Feast of The Holy Family



We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on the Sunday after Christmas.



The reason for this feast day is to honor the Holy Family. We look at the Holy Family as a model for all Christian families to follow.

CALENDAR UPDATES

Please check out our upcoming month for several important dates in Religious Formation:

- Monday, Dec. 30** NO CLASSES
- Monday, Jan. 6** Formation classes resume @6:00PM
- Monday, Jan. 13** Formation classes AND First Eucharist Parent Meeting in Library
- Monday, Jan. 20** NO CLASSES, MLK Day
- Monday, Jan. 27** Formation classes @ 6pm
- Sunday, Feb. 2** Children's Mass (Grades 4-5 @ 11am)



ROSARY ALTAR SODALITY Super Bowl 2025 Square Fundraiser

Find us selling the squares in the Father Prus Hall after all masses from January 5-26
(Sheets can be picked up Feb. 1/2)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

PHONE (734)425-5550
mtaylor@thomastheapostle.org