

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

Today's gospel says: "Out of Egypt, I called my Son". This tiny verse has a huge meaning. Briefly put, Jesus is following the same itinerary of the Jewish people. It means that Jesus, as the Hebrews did, went to Egypt (they were slaves in Egypt) and will come back (as did his "ancestors"). The symbolism here is clear. Jesus is the one who will bring (His own) out of the darkness of sin and leads us all into His kingdom ("I am going to prepare a place for you"). There are lot of references to the Old Testament: They entered into Egypt (Joseph story); out of Egypt (Book of Exodus); the holy family here (reference to the Book of Zephaniah). The family in this case helps Jesus in this mission of His. We cannot miss to mention that the hardships, problems, and difficulties that the Holy Family is going through is clearly an indication that our families in this world will go through tough times. God knows what families go through today: death, anger, separations, divorce, fights, etc. This Solemnity is the call to pray for our family and to pray for all families.

MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

**Dear Parishioners,
People of God in Dalton,
Lake Winola,
Nicholson and beyond,
The Parish staff and I wish you Merry
Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

**May we pass to our children, grandchildren,
nieces, and nephews our spiritual values.
May His birth bring us true life and love.
May our family live in peace, joy, happiness,
health, prosperity, and harmony.
May our prayers be answered here & everywhere.
May every Parishioner and every family, rich,
poor, old, young, sick, lonely receive God's
mercy and love.
May we have an increase in our faith.
May everything work well for us this upcoming
year and beyond.
May our loved ones be protected.
May God precede us here and everywhere
that we intend to go and be there with us.
May good health and success be ours.
May He remove our hearts of stone and give us
a heart of flesh.
And May His blessings be upon us.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Fr. Arbo**

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

A sincere thank you to all parishioners of our 3 churches who came together to decorate our churches for the Christmas celebrations. In its unique way, each church is wonderfully decorated. If you can't visit each church, you can check the parish Website or our Facebook page to see all Christmas pictures.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS THANK YOU

The knights of Columbus council #6611 would like to thank all who supported their Poinsettia sale. Enjoy those beautiful flowers.

SML ADOPT A FAMILY THANK YOU

The bikes and dinosaurs and warm winter hats, gloves and blankets are under the tree along with an electric bill credit and Weis and Amazon gift card and kitchen supplies, and an assortment of holiday treats...all because you helped place them there! Thank you so very much for your shopping, time and donations to continue St Mary of the Lake Adopt a Family community outreach! All of you will hold a special place in my Christmas prayers thank you for making this happen. God bless! Love, Mary Lou

SP ANGEL TREE THANK YOU

Thank you to all who participated in our Angel Tree project. Gifts were provided for 75 children of 20 families. Thanks to all who donated turkeys or hams for their food baskets done in conjunction with Nicholson Women's Club. A special thank you to Amber and Jake Martin. May God's blessings pour upon you.

OLA ADVENT GIVING TREE THANK YOU

THANK YOU to all who shopped, wrapped and shared their time to make a wonderful Christmas for 12 area children. May you also have a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

2025 MAKE-UP ENVELOPES

Anyone wishing to add to their 2025 contributions may do so on or before January 5, 2026. Before the end of January 2026 Contribution Statements will be available for all registered parishioners. These statements may be used for tax purposes. Contact the office at 570-563-1622 if you need a statement.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS / LECTORS SCHEDULE

January 3 & 4

Eucharistic Ministers

4 pm (OLA) Barbara Williamson
9:00am (SML) Danny Williams Jr.
11 am (SP) Chris Stutzman

Musicians

4 pm (OLA) Maria Fay
9:00am (SML) Danny Williams
11 am (SP) Maria Fay

Lectors

4 pm (OLA) Judy Zipay
9:00am (SML) Don Ames
11 am (SP) Nicole & Greg

Altar Servers

4 pm (OLA) Jace Biglin
11am (SP) Corinne Flynn
Shadow – Nolan Matulevich

HOLIDAY OFFICE INFORMATION

Dec 31 & Jan 1 – Church offices are closed

SP/OLA FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Julie Harvatine - jwharv03@gmail.com.

1/4/2026 - no class

1/11/2026 - Class

1/18/2026 - No class

1/25/2026 - Class

1/31/2026 - 4PM Mass at OLA for 6th grade students

SML FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Kerry Pieretti - redlightgreen343@gmail.com

Happy New Year!

Jan. 4, 2026 - Class

Jan. 11, 2026 - Class

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE

Thank you to all Parishioners who sent cards, wishes, and goodies to the Parish Office. Also, a profound thank you to all decorated our churches on the last Sunday before Christmas; each church is beautiful in its own way; thank you to all those who pray daily for our Parishes so that everything goes well.

WELCOME

With great joy we welcome this weekend in all our Parishes Fr. John Terry. Fr. Terry just retired from being a Pastor at Our Lady of Hope in Wilkes Barre. Father is now a resident of St Joseph Vila in Dunmore and will celebrate the weekend' liturgy in our Parishes. Let's welcome Father John Terry and make him feel welcome.

MASS INTENTIONS

Wednesday (December 31) The Vigil of The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

4:00 pm (SP) Health & Blessings for Fr. Arbo

By Liz Dempsey

6:00pm (SML) Yvonne Snyder

By Pat Wall & Shelley

Thursday (January 1) The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

8:00 am (OLA) Richard Ruckowski

By Cathy & Duane Valence

Saturday (January 3) The Vigil of The Epiphany of The Lord

4:00 pm (OLA) Joseph & Betty Andreski

By Tony & Rita Sandy

Sunday January 4) The Vigil of The Epiphany of The Lord

9:00 am (SML) Mrs. Susan Migliori

By Ann Marie Gorko

11:00 am (SP) Deceased Members of the Marrazzo & Riccardo Families

By John & Pat Marrazzo

The Sanctuary Candle at SP

Burning this week for Veronica Hay

By John & Pat Marrazzo

The Sanctuary Candle at OLA

Burning for Catherine Motyka

By Janet Motyka

WEEKLY OFFERINGS (COLLECTIONS)

SP Weekly \$ 1,345.00 Loose \$ 189.00

OLA Weekly \$ 1,666.00 Loose \$ 62.00

SML Weekly \$ 1,575.00 Loose \$ 166.00

May the Lord reward your generosity. .

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

There was a funeral at SML this past week for Susan Migliori. Please pray for the repose of her soul and the consolation of her loved ones.

OUR SAINTS AND THE EUCHARIST

Saint Angela of Foligno (great mystic, nicknamed Mistress of theologians): she lived on the Eucharist alone for 12 years.