

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

December 27, 2015

Mary, Holy Mother of God Masses

9:30 am & 7:15 pm at St. John

8 am & 6 pm at St. Peter

***Reconciliation will be held
this Saturday from 3 to 3:30 pm
at St. John the Baptist.***

JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

MARY, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

HOLY FAMILY of NAZARETH, make our family one with You. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with You. *Amen*

Baby Bottles Due

Don't forget to return those Knights of Columbus baby bottles!

OFFERINGS

St. John: \$1,457

Holy Family: 322

St. Peter: 1,280

The Mercy of Joseph

Seasonal celebrations can be times of tension. Instead of joy, half-forgotten hurts can sometimes bubble up and cause friction. Joseph is a great example of how to act in these times of stress.

In biblical times, betrothal was the first stage of marriage. If she was unfaithful, her actions were considered adultery, and she could be stoned to death. When Joseph discovered that Mary was pregnant, he could have denounced her. Instead, he decided to quietly give her a decree of divorce and not shame her.

Joseph's decision to treat Mary with compassion and mercy opened him up to the Holy Spirit. An angel appeared to him telling him to take Mary as his wife, since Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The angel said Jesus shall be named Emmanuel, which means "God with us." Joseph took Mary into his home and faithfully protected her as his family.

Joseph's example and the decisions he made remind us to take a breath, to treat ourselves and one another with compassion and mercy. This opens us up to the grace of celebrating a new birth of Jesus in our hearts.

March for Life

The 42nd annual March for Life will be held in Washington, D.C. January 21-22. This event is open to all people of good will, especially parents, grandparents, middle school, high school, home school, and college students. Please call Betsy Gielskie at 746.2900 for details.

Resolutions for the New Year?

Have you made a resolution this year to give of your time and talent? You have come to the right place! All three Churches have a need for additional ministry members. Consider lecturing, singing, serving Eucharist, setting up the altar, \$ counting, or becoming an altar server assisting Father.... If you desire a more active role at Church, please let Father know or call the office.

Marriage Moments Susan Vogt

The feast is over, but the visiting and company may continue through the Christmas holidays. Although generally a happy time of family togetherness, Christmas can also be a time when stress causes short tempers ~ be mindful and merciful with your beloved.

Wanted: Deposit Bottles

Don't forget to drop your deposit bottles in Father Willis Hall or in St. Peter's conference room for the March for Life trip next month.

Family Perspective Bud Ozar

The Gospel contains this truth about parenting: "but His parents did not know." One of the reasons parenting is so difficult is because our children don't tell us everything. If the Holy Family had trouble with their teenager, why do we think it will be easier for us?

Adoration

During this Christmas season come by one of our Adorations and spend quiet time meditating on the gift of our Lord's birth:

Tuesdays, St. Peter ~ St. John, Thursdays

Parenting Pointers Susan Vogt

Consider making a "clean break" with the start of the new year. Ask if everyone in the family would be willing to clean one space: a drawer, a shelf, a toy box. Start with taking everything out, then put back only those items you really want. Give away or throw away the rest. (See Susan's January first blog, The Beauty of Empty, for ideas.)

