

## **The Feast of the Holy Family**

**DECEMBER 31st, 2017**

Today's readings focus on the concept of family. Family life that was ordained by God and lived by the Son of God, who lived in a holy family.

A holy family is one that follows the laws prescribed by God throughout the scriptures. Laws that insist on respect and concern for every member: the young and old, the sick and well, the parent and child.

In the gospel, Mary and Joseph follow the strict rules of their Jewish tradition. These ancient traditions are based on the belief that a child is a gift from God. And the rituals of thanksgiving emphasize that a child does not belong to us but to God, who loans the child to us.

To express this, Mary and Joseph make the Offering of the Poor, two pigeons. They are ordinary people, who don't have a penny to spare and who know that it is difficult making a living, making ends meet, but they are rich in love. Ordinary people become holy families through compassion, generosity, humility and patience for one another.

### ***FATHER RICARDO***

#### **FATHER RICARDO'S DESK:**

#### ***Ite, Missa Est***

*Go, the Mass is ended.* It is an old Catholic joke that the response: *Thanks be to God* is meant ironically. The end of Mass is our assurance that we can leave our worship and have the grace and confidence to go forward with our baptismal promise to spread the good news to everyone we meet. In fact, the ending of every Mass is a recommissioning for each of us. We are chosen people.

#### **MY DEEP GRATITUDE**

The great mystery of the Solemnity of Christmas found me with a fuller understanding of the meaning of the Incarnation. This year because of the lessons I have learned from living with you, life is a mixture of sorrow and joy. We approach the great gift of Christmas ambivalently, as we carry grief and exultation and lay them at the feet of Our Lord.

We are so grateful for the beautiful liturgies you enhanced. The music at midnight Mass was glorious. At all of the liturgies the ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and music ministers fostered a real awareness that we are serving the Lord and one another. The family, who year after year, decorate the church and the CCD teachers who worked so hard on the Pageant contributed so much to our sense of the importance of Christmas.

Thank you for a wonderful experience and for an overwhelming support of the parish with your generosity.

### **ANNUAL APPEAL** ***In Giving, We Receive***

The Bishop's Annual Appeal supports four causes: Catholic Charities agencies; seminarian education; retired priests; and inner-city schools. Every single gift changes lives. Every gift counts!.

### **LEGION OF MARY**

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue is available for you to take to your home for a week. The sign-up sheet is in the vestibule of the church.

### **GOOD NEWS FOR FR. RICARDO**

Father Ricardo has been given permission to visit his parents and enter Cuba. He will spend a few days with them in the New Year. Please remember him in your prayers for a safe and happy journey.

### **GOOD NEWS FOR OUR PARISH**

Father Lukas who was scheduled to go to Michigan has had his assignment rescinded due to immigration issues so he will be with us until all things are worked out with the Diocese.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

#### **PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES AND SHRINES IN SPAIN**

MAY 21-29, 2018. If you are interested, please call the parish office. We have a limited number of seats that are available.

The Diocese sent the following instruction: ***Because of the danger of the influenza A virus (H1N1) and our inability to predict what will happen, it would be prudent not to join hands at the Our Father. Please know that it is not necessary to shake hands during the Sign of Peace at Mass. A simple bow and greeting would suffice. Please remember that anyone who receives the Body of Christ receives the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ and is in no way deprived by not receiving the Precious Blood from the cup. If you feel sick or have been exposed to the virus and suspect you have been infected, you are under no obligation to attend Mass. Please use common sense. Wash hands frequently and dispose of tissues carefully.***

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS  
SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH. GOD BLESS YOU!**



December 24<sup>TH</sup> 2017 - Collection      \$ 3709.50

Christmas Collection                      12,549.00

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**SUNDAY      DECEMBER 31 -**  
 9:30am      +Rita Morton req. by Rumsey Family  
 11:00am      +Mark Verrico req. by Kimball Family  
**MONDAY      JANUARY 1, 2018**  
 8:45am      +Theresa Neubauer req. by Rita McGrath  
**TUESDAY      JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>**  
 8:45am      +Andrew Van Dyke req. by Brian and Susan  
                  Scheidle  
**WEDNESDAY      JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>**  
 8:45am      +Victor Massari req. by Tripodi Family  
**THURSDAY      JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
 8:45am      +John Marchese req. by Family  
**FRIDAY      JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
 8:45am      +Stephen Chmarney req. by Family  
**SATURDAY      JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>**  
 8:45am      +Nicholas Chciuk req. by Family  
 5:00pm      Intentions of Fr. Abuchi Nwosu req. by  
                  Karen Murphy  
**SUNDAY      JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>**  
 8:45      +Margaret & Richard Murphy and Cathy  
                  Dignan req. by Family  
 9:30am      +Andrew Van Dyke req. by The Rumsey family  
 11:00am      +Mark Verrico req. by Mission Antioch and  
                  Youth Group

**PLEASE REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR THE  
FOLLOWING:**

*Aidan Alvarez, Scott Anderson, Baby Grace Andrews,  
 "Baby", John Apgar, Artie, Ray Bonomini, Maddy  
 Brancato, Jerry Calcagno, Tina Contento, Mike Cordes,  
 Aibhlinn Coyle, Elizabeth Copeland, Patricia and Paul  
 Corbutt, Doug Crum, Nathanael Davenport, Jean Marie  
 Day, Alice DeLorenzo, Courtney Dignan, Eileen Donahue,  
 Katie Drago, Roseann Dundon, Jim Ecker, Barbara Etzel,  
 Debbie Fuentes, Kay Gallo, Mike Gallo, John Gonzalez,  
 Florence Guilfoyle, Barbara Hellwig, Christopher Hoehl,  
 Bob Hojer, Joanna Horn, Jean Jones, Melissa  
 Klimaszewski, Julianna Klinger, Carly Kosen, Rick  
 Reuter, Emily Lewis, Brian Linke, Henry Mancuso, Rose  
 Martis, Fran and Larry Marsh, James McAlary, Patty  
 McDermott, Kathy Nestico, Jennifer Oldham, Janis  
 O'Neill, Joan Quest, Maura Reagan, Mary Reynolds,  
 Linda Ross, Ron Shelly, Lou Pra Sisto, Father Patrick  
 Sullivan, Alexander Truong, Mary VanDyke, Pat and Jim  
 Van Gorder, Debbie Ventriglia, Russy Wright, Nick  
 Zayatz*



Tues	6:30pm 7-8pm	Rosary - Holy Hour
Wed.	7:30pm	- Choir Practice
Thur.	10:00am 6:30pm	- Legion of Mary - Hall - Legion of Mary - Chapel

**Jesus was born on Christmas  
 On a very holy night  
 And in the sky above Him  
 Shone the very brightest light,  
 All the heavenly angels  
 Sang a song to praise His name.  
 They told the lowly shepherds,  
 So, they left their sheep and came.  
 From the East the Wise Men roam  
 Bringing gifts to share.  
 Riches for the King of Kings  
 To show the Savior that they care.  
 Now, we celebrate His birthday  
 In our hearts and every day.  
 Jesus, in your humble manger,  
 Your true love is here to stay.**