

# St. Stanislaus

*Parish Family*

**December 26, 2021**  
**The Holy  
Family**

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#### PARISH STAFF

Msgr. John J. Siekierski, Administrator  
Sister Gloria Jean Kozlowski, Director of  
Religious Education  
Angelica Agosto, School Principal  
Dora Castellanos, School Secretary  
Heladia Rivera, Church Secretary

#### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday**  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm (by appointment)  
**Office Closed:** Wednesday,  
Friday, Saturday & Sunday

#### TELEPHONE

Parish Office/Rector	398-2341
Convent	397-7059
School	398-1316

#### MASSES

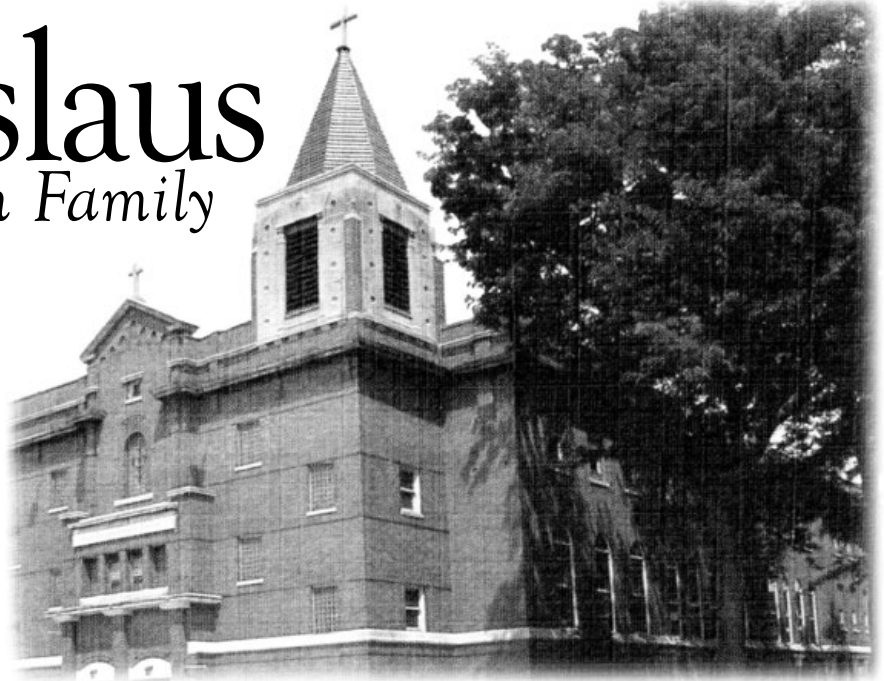
Saturday 4:30pm  
Sunday 8:30am

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

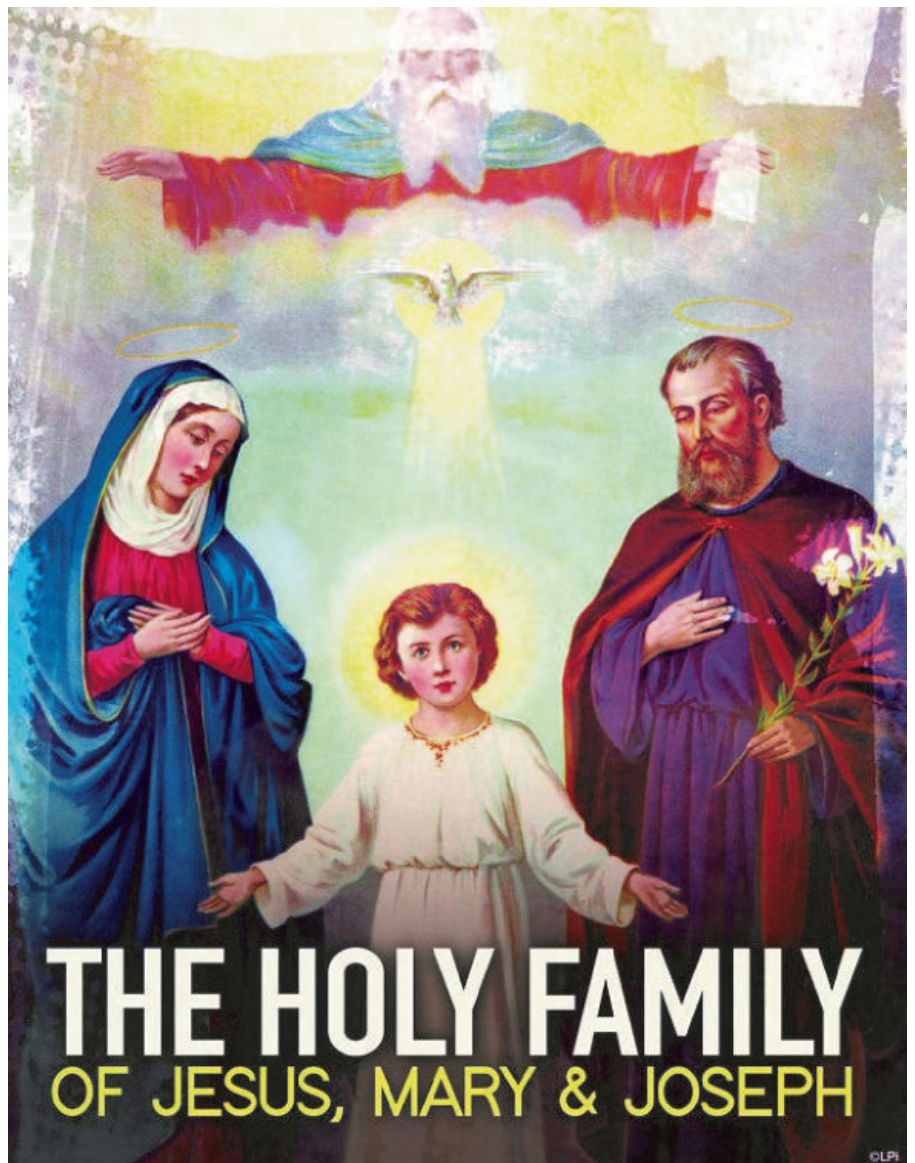
There are no weekday Masses or Word &  
Communion Services at this time.

#### CONFESSIONS

Saturdays from  
4:00pm-4:15pm  
and after the 4:30pm Mass.



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## Liturgical Notes for the Week

Yesterday we gathered here to celebrate Christmas—the Nativity of the Lord. Today on this Sunday we honor the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. It is the First day of Christmas this Sunday December 26th. In his remarks about this liturgical season which this year is the shortest it can be — Michael E. Novak wrote in the inside cover article of the *We Celebrate* book our church's annual celebration of Christmas Time marks one of the central mysteries of our faith: the Incarnation. This mystery of God becoming one with the human race in the person of Jesus Christ makes possible the salvation of the entire world. And it is during the Christmas season that we encounter in concentrated form the story of the Incarnation that will take the rest of the liturgical year — indeed the rest of our lives — to unpack. The author of *Living Liturgy* enriches our understanding of the meaning of this liturgical season. The season of Christmas is a single celebration, and the Church holds this celebration as second in importance only to the celebration of Triduum and Easter: After the annual celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the Church has no more ancient custom than celebrating the memorial of the Nativity of the Lord and of his first manifestations, and this takes place in Christmas Time. (UNLY, 32) These “first manifestations” include the celebrations of Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord. This connection to the celebration of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection is crucial as we prepare for Christmas. As we embark on this joyful celebration, we must ask ourselves: who is being born, into what? The answer, in part, is : we are. We are born, with Christ's birth, into salvation. This is the joy of Christmas. This is the triumphant celebration toward which all our Advent preparations have been inclining. And all our Advent preparations have been inclining. And this is reflected in the readings and prayers for Christmas. The prayer over the offerings from Mass during the Night on the solemnity itself asks that we humans “may be found in the likeness of Christ, in whom our nature is united” to God. The first twelve days of this sacred time have been memorialized in a seasonal song, know it? Know why it was written and sung then and what its message is for us now? Throughout the world these days of Christmastime have been kept and honored in many ways. Knowing about them may give some inspiration to what you can do on this first day and joyfully ever after throughout these gifted days of grace filled Christmas as we try to realize God's gifting us with His only-begotten Son who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of The Virgin Mary!

## The Twelve Days of Christmas (Vacation)

C. S. Lewis once said, “Joy is the serious business of heaven.” Our Advent waiting is over and the hectic commercial time of the season has ended. Post-Christmas let down is not for us! Now is the time to shelve our distractions. Abandon our “to do” lists, and get down to the serious business of heaven. The twelve days of Christmas are a time to fill our homes and neighborhood with joyful music, French Canadians collect gifts for the poor while caroling, Korean carolers carry candles in paper lanterns decorated with red crosses, Scandinavians perform ring dances around their Christmas tree, and in Ghana young and old dress up as angels and sing from house to house. Have a caroling party after Christmas day this year! Bring any portable instrument. Make a family caroling book, including your family's favorites, adding new favorites every year. Treat carolers afterwards with mulled cider, wine, or hot cocoa. Sing “Joy to the World” after dinner or “Silent Night” at bedtime. Go to concerts; listen to a favorite Christmas CD (or find a new favorite). Since the first Christmas when shepherds, angels, and kings came to visit the Holy Family, the Christmas season has been a time to share joy and love by visiting family and friends and welcoming guests into our homes. Filipino children visit godparents, kissing the hands of their elders. The Swiss visit neighbors for a *kaffee klatsch* and play *jass*, a favorite card game. Greek Americans are likely to have dinner party followed by card playing on the feast of St. Sylvester, December 31. In England, the Octave of Christmas— New Year's Day — is a time to visit one's godchild, giving a triangular shaped “God cake” (in honor of the Trinity) and blessing the child. Make time to visit grandparents, godparents, neighbors, and friends this season. Remember the elderly, shut-ins, and any acquaintance who needs a little extra love right now. Throw a caroling party, have a simple family dinner, or invite a neighbor for a cup of coffee and cookies. The Christmas season is a time to live our joy and share God's love. Our experience of God's love grows as it is shared.

## A Recipe for Holiday Stars

Traditionally, the twelve days of Christmas are a time for feasting, caroling, and visiting family and friends. Celebrate the season by baking Christmas cookies and breads. Make plates of cookies for neighbors. Try making Finnish *pulla*, sweet star-shaped breakfast bread:

- Dissolve 1 pkg. active dry yeast in 1/2 cup warm water.
- Stir in 2 cups milk (scalded and cooled to lukewarm), 1 cup sugar, 1 tsp. Cardamom, 4 beaten eggs, and about 2 cups flour (enough to make an elastic dough).
- Add 1/2 cup melted butter, beating, and 3-4 more cups flour (until the dough is stiff).
- Let rest 15 minutes. (sing some carols!)
- Knead on floured board and let rise in a greased bowl until double in bulk (about 1 hour).
- Punch down and let rise again until double (about 30 minutes).
- Chill overnight. In the morning, divide and roll dough into six ropes.
- Twist 2 ropes together on a baking sheet and shape into a 5-pointed star. (Makes 3 stars.)
- Glaze with beaten egg, sprinkle with sugar and sliced almonds (optional).
- Bake (400 degrees F) 20-25 minutes. *Enjoy!*

### Scripture Reflection

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe. In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness. Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.



## Financial Blessings

**YOUR GIFTS TO YOUR PARISH TWO WEEKS AGO IN THE COLLECTION AMOUNTED TO.....\$3,292.00**

Adult envelopes issued.....293 (December, 2021)  
 Adult envelopes used.....124/43% (December 12, 2021)  
 Food Pantry.....3 donations..... \$250.00  
*Thank You for your continued support! May God Bless You!*

**CONSIDERATION: Anything worth dying for is certainly worth living for. — Joseph Heller**

### Everyday Stewardship

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us. But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship. You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother? The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father? Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter? We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

### Inspiration For The Week

It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Our families can bring out the best and the worst in us. This is true of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our church, our society, and the like. In all of our family experiences, what stands out as our most challenging memory? Everything human can be found on the pages of family life. But there is also a Divine story to be discovered as well. When life gets difficult and perplexing, today's Feast of the Holy Family stands to remind us that it is not just by human effort that we tread treacherous waters. We have to remember and learn from the Divine effort too. We need this perspective if our love lessons are going to be learned completely and well. We are all works in progress and we all come from homes that are broken by imperfection. In whatever life brings us and in whatever family we find ourselves, may the promptings we feel toward faith and hope lead us to greater love.

**Monday, December 27 - St. John, Apostle & Evangelist**

**Tuesday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

**Wednesday, December 29 - St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr**

**Thursday, December 30**

**Friday, December 31 - St. Sylvester I, Pope  
New Year's Eve**

**Saturday, January 1 - Mary, the Holy Mother of God  
World Day of Peace  
New Year's Day**

4:30pm †Mary Brzek int. Zofia Milek  
†Stanley & Sophie Graski int. Daughter, Theresa Buzinski

**Sunday, January 2 - The Epiphany of the Lord**

8:30am †Julia Lelek int. Daniel & Kathy Lowry  
†Jozef Dlqa & Leslaw Dabrowski int. Teresa Radziwiecki  
Health & God's Blessings for our Parishioners

### Quote from Pope Francis

Let us fervently call upon Mary Most Holy, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, and St. Joseph her spouse. Let us ask them to enlighten, comfort and guide every family in the world, so that they may fulfill with dignity and peace the mission which God has entrusted to them.



### Why Do We Do That? Catholic Life Explained

**Question:** I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

**Answer:** If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back. This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

### Question Of The Week

#### First Reading:

Hannah, the mother of Samuel, and Samuel's father are portrayed as parents of deep prayer and great faith. How would you describe the faith of your mother or father?

#### Second Reading:

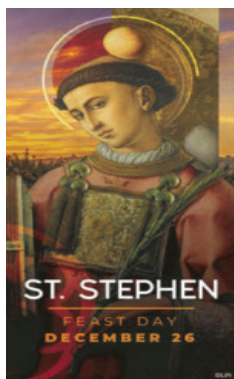
John teaches us that if we believe in Jesus and love one another, "we may be called children of God." How do you show gratitude for being part of this holy family?

#### Gospel:

Luke is the only Evangelist to preserve a story about Jesus from his youth. In this account, Mary and Joseph are filled with "great anxiety" as they searched for Jesus who they thought was lost. How do you seek God's help for the anxious moments in your family?



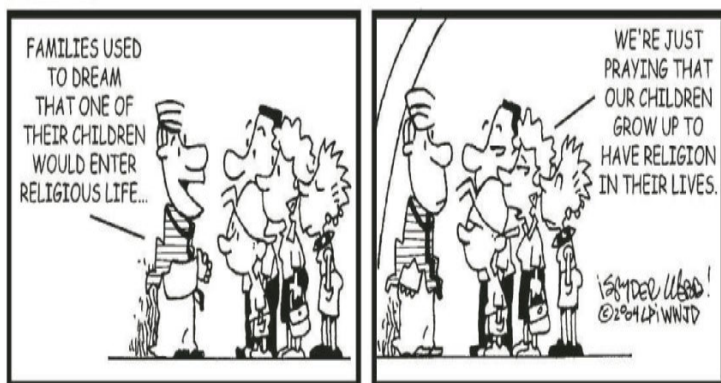
# Community Events



## St. Stephen Feast Day December 26

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin. Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death. Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.

HOLY FAMILY



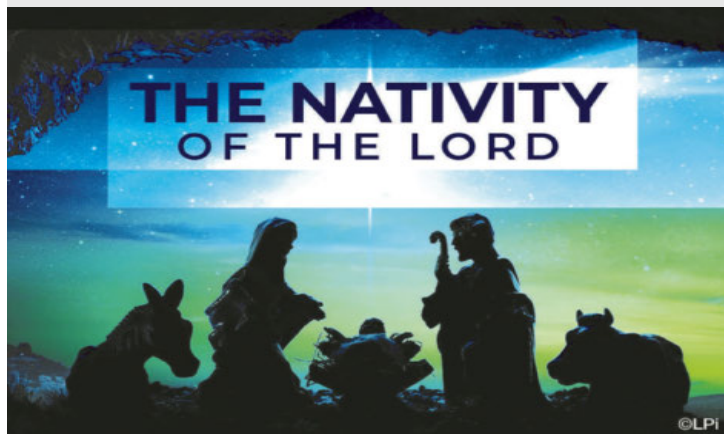
**PUZZLE**  
Help Mary and Joseph find Jesus.

**MISSION**  
Help visitors to your church feel welcomed. As a family or as a class, make cards for visitors, asking them to come back.



## Christmas Prayer for the Families

Loving God,  
 During this holy season of Christmas, we ask for your blessing on all families.  
 Let Mary's openness to your wondrous ways be an inspiration to place all trust in you.  
 Let Joseph's courage provide hope during times of anxiety and uncertainty.  
 Let Jesus' life ignite all families with a spirit of light and love.  
 May the grace that encircled the Holy Family widen to embrace all families. Amen.



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