



Holy Trinity

The Catholic Community in Fairview Heights

Most Reverend Michael G. McGovern, Bishop

"Forming Faith through Communal Worship, Offering Service through Ministries, and Growing through Stewardship."

Welcome!

Pastor

The Very Reverend James M. Nall, JCL
frjim@holytrinityil.org

Deacons

Rev. Mr. Art Hampton
Rev. Mr. Tom Powers

Parish Office

(618) 628-8825
office@holytrinityil.org
www.holytrinityil.org

Business Manager

Yvonne Siebert

Office Manager

Angi Klohr

Holy Trinity School

(618) 628-7395
www.htcs.org

Mrs. Kristy Frawley, Principal

MASS SCHEDULES

Holy Trinity

Regular Mass Schedule

Saturday Evenings: 4:00pm
Sunday: 7:30am, 10:30am
Wednesday & Friday 8:10am
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturdays 3:00 - 3:30pm

St. Stephen

901 S. Main, Caseyville, IL

Regular Mass Schedule

Sunday 9am English
12:00pm Spanish
Mon -Tue-Thu 8:00am
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation Sundays 8-8:30am



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021

THE HOLY FAMILY

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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www.holytrinityil.org

505 Fountains Parkway, Fairview Heights, IL 62208



OFFERTORY	12/12/21
Our Weekly Needs	\$14,462
Total Contributions	\$10,643
WE NEED your support	\$3,819

Additional Ministries

School Support	\$ 105
School Annual Fund	\$ 25
Sister Parish	\$30
St. Vincent dePaul	\$ 250
Retired priests	\$ 596
Diocesan Needy	\$ 70
Christmas Flowers	\$ 158
Christmas	\$ 60
Immaculate Conception	\$ 309
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 20
Total Additional Ministries	\$ 1623

Parish Construction Loan

Our weekly needs	\$11,888
Your contributions	\$ 2,950
WE NEED your support	\$ 8,938

**WELCOME TO
HOLY TRINITY**

we're glad you're here

New to our parish? We pray that you may find warmth, encouragement and spiritual growth in our parish and look forward to getting to know you in the weeks and months ahead. May God bless you and your family!

You can register on-line through our website at www.holytrinityil.org anytime



Saturday, December 25th
9am Christmas Day Mass

Sunday, December 26th
Feast of the Holy Family
7:30am Mass
10:30am Mass

Wednesday, December 29th
9am Wednesday Breakfast Club
9am Quilting

Thursday, December 30th
6:15pm Yoga

Friday, December 31st
Vigil for the Feast of Mary Mother of God
Parish office closed
5pm Mass

Saturday, January 1st
4pm Mass

Sunday, January 2nd
Feast of the Epiphany
7:30am Mass
10:30am Mass

Monday, January 3rd
Parish office closed

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2021

- Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
- Monday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
- Friday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
- Saturday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2021

- Sunday:** The Holy Family
- Monday:** St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
- Tuesday:** The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
- Wednesday:** St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
- Friday:** St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve
- Saturday:** New Year's Day; Mary, The Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace
- Next Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

LIVE THE LITURGY

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.



Dear Parishioners,

Merry Christmas! We have now entered the Christmas Season, which runs until the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus on 9 January 2022. With Christmas falling on a Saturday, this Sunday is the Feast of the Holy Family. This is a great feast to celebrate at this time of the year. It is a reminder that all families are called to holiness. Holiness is characterized by respect, mutuality, compassion, forgiveness, support, love—the list goes on. But to be holy is found in the word FAMILY itself—Forget About Me I Love You. Whether our families are biological or extended or social groups or church, we are called to holiness. Since 1 January is the Feast of Mary, Mother of God, and it falls on Saturday, the obligation to attend Mass is suspended. There will be no morning Mass on the 1st. However, there will be Mass celebrated on 31 December at 5:00 pm, to also give thanks for the past year and ask God's blessing on the new year.

Peace,

Fr. Jim



ALL IN THE FAMILY

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

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?

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.



FROM DEACON ART

A prayer for parents: Lord, grant us children, who will be strong enough to know when they are weak, who will be unbending in defeat, yet humble and gentle in victory. Grant us children, whose wishes will not take the place of their deeds; children who will know you and know themselves. Lead them, we pray you, not in the path of ease and comfort, but rather in the path of difficulties and challenges. Grant us children, whose hearts will be clear, and whose goals will be high; children who will master themselves before seeking to master others. And after all these things, add, we pray, a sense of humor, so that they can be serious, yet never take themselves too seriously. Then we, their parents, will dare whisper, we have not lived in vain. ~General Douglas MacArthur

Upcoming Masses and Special Services

New Year's Eve Dec 31st 5:00pm
New Year's Day Jan 1st 4pm
Epiphany Jan 2nd 7:30am & 10:30

Mass Intentions

SAT 12/25 4pm For our parish

SUN 12/26 7:30am Bergkoetter/Behrmann Families

10:30am Richard Hearn
David Hearn
David Abell

WED 12/29 8:10am Mary Sue Newell

FRI 12/31 5pm James Klauck

SAT 1/01 4am Laura Bigham
James Klauck
Edward Dofflow

SUN 1/02 7:30am Deceased members of St. Ann's
Wilfred & Tony Schuetzenhofer

10:30am Laura Bigham
Margaret & Tony Schmitt
David Abell

Remember your loved ones or a special intention by offering a Mass. Masses are a \$10 donation each and available in the church office

Vocations Corner

Today's Gospel tells of Jesus starting the work of His "vocation". He begins His teaching at the age of 12. Our vocation starts (maybe even earlier than age 12) as an indwelling, with the quiet whisper of God's pull on our heart. It's often personal and difficult to describe to others and often takes much prayer and discernment to see clearly. St. Francis de Sales reflected on this individual nature of our call, "We all have a vocation. We believe that God has placed us in this life to fill a special need that no one else can accomplish."



May you and your families be blessed this Christmas season and all year long! Fr. Jim & the Parish Staff

Heavenly Father, we pray for . . .

- Tom Elfrink Erin Ruiz Dan Noel
Norma Rensing Bill Trent Paul Anderson
Margaret Hampton Sue Schey Jean Ann Brophy
Chrissie Cissell Patrick Guest Sharon Davidson
Linda Anderson Ben Waymeier Beth Rehg
Maria & Hubert Link Virginia Clementi
Fern Clementi

We also pray for their loved ones and caregivers. May they never lose sight of the love of God. Call the parish office to submit a name for the list

Winter Adult Bible Study Begins Sunday, January 13th 8 week session meets from 9 -10:15am.

Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother is an extraordinary pilgrimage that reveals Mary's unique role in God's kingdom and in our lives. Filmed on location in the Holy Land, this study will place you in the midst of the powerful drama of her earthly life, taking you through her joys ... and her sorrows. You will learn how she works in our lives today, drawing us ever closer to her divine Son. Seeing Mary in this way will change you forever. Mary will become a part of your daily life, and in your daily life, you will become more like Christ.



GOSPEL MEDITATION

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.

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Our Second Grade learned about the Swedish customs of celebrating the Feast Day of St. Lucia, and then shared it with the whole school! The girls made wreaths of candles to wear on their heads as St. Lucia did when she brought food to the poor under the cover of darkness. The Swedish tradition is to celebrate St. Lucia's compassionate and generous spirit by delivering treats to family, as our Second Grade students shared treats with each Classroom here at Holy Trinity.



St Lucia's Day is sometimes called the Festival of Lights. The boys made traditional star hats to bring hope and light on one of the longest nights of the year. It was so wonderful to see the Christmas spirit spreading throughout the school as our Second Grade processed through the classrooms!



Congrats to all who made their First Reconciliation on December 11! Your HTCS family is so proud of your work and preparation for making this Sacrament!

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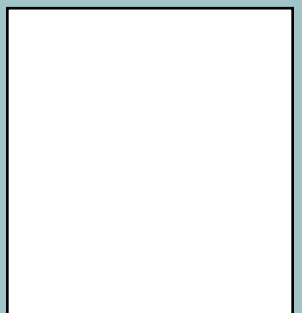
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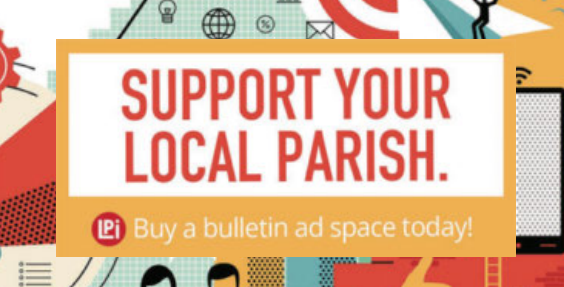
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