

St. Patrick Catholic Community

324 Nicolet Blvd., Menasha WI 54952

Mission Statement:

'Joyfully serving God and our neighbor with open hearts and helping hands.'

Discover! Follow! Worship! & Share Jesus!

Phone: 725-8381 **Fax:** 725-5544

E-Mail: stpatmen@gmail.com

Web Site:

www.stpatricksmenasha.org

Mass Times:

Sunday: 8:30 & 10:30am

Reconciliation: between Sunday masses except on Holidays

Parish Office Hours: The office is open by appointment only until further notice.

PARISH STAFF

Pastoral Leader (x102):.....
Mary F. Krueger920-419-6990
marykrueger@stpatricksmenasha.org

Priest Celebrant:.....
..... Fr. Jim Hablewitz

Priest Moderator:
.....Fr. Robert Kollath

Deacon:Kurt Grube
..... deaconkurtgrube@gmail.com

Faith Formation/Youth Ministry (x107):Natalie Carney
.....ncarney@stpatricksmenasha.org

Discipleship/Communications Coordinator (x103):... Erin Goyette
.....egoyette@stpatricksmenasha.org

Musician:Seth Duprey
.....sdupreymusic@gmail.com

Secretary (x101):...Jeanne Hesprich
.....jhesprich@stpatricksmenasha.org

Bookkeeper (x112):.... Scott Richter
..... srichter@stpatricksmenasha.org

Maintenance:.....
.....stpatmen@gmail.com

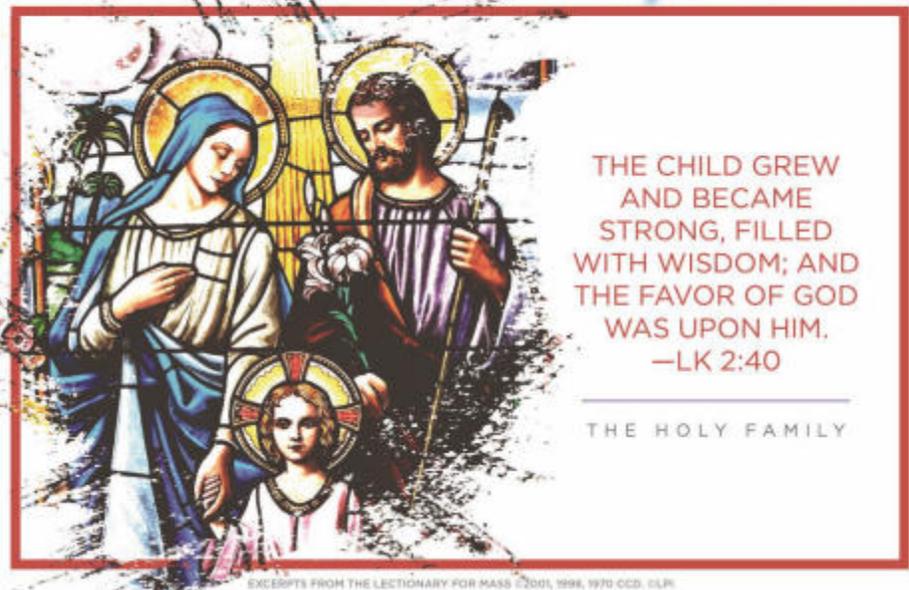
PARISH TRUSTEES

Kristen Bergstrom
..... kbergstrom@new.rr.com

Deb Galeazzi
.....jjgal14@aol.com

Consider St. Patrick's in your Will and Estate Plans.

December 27, 2020



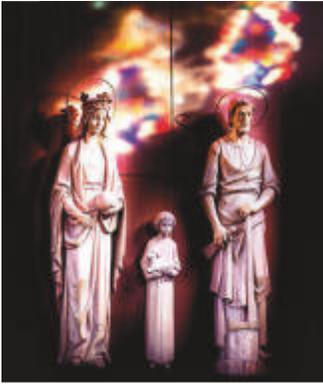
Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Friday, January 1, 2021

9:00am Mass



From the desk of



**Mary Krueger,
Pastoral Leader**

Merry Christmas, St. Patrick Family!

It's only the 3rd day of Christmas! Remember, Catholics celebrate the Christmas season until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (usually the second Sunday of January). While retail stores are discounting Christmas decorations and putting up Valentine's Day displays, we are barely getting started on our Christmas celebrations! Hopefully, we have taken Advent seriously as a time of prayerful anticipation, reflection, and repentance.

Today is the Feast Day of the Holy Family, but it's also the feast day of *all* of our families. Why? Because the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is the patron and model for all Christian families. When I was in grade school, the sisters (SSND) would have us put the letters "JMJ" at the bottom of all of our homework and test sheets. It was meant as a blessing and to keep the names of Jesus, Mary and Joseph ever present in our minds.

The Church invites us to look to the example of the Holy Family. Of course, you might say, "Well, that's great! Joseph was celibate, Mary is the Immaculate Virgin, and Jesus is the Son of God! That's an *ideal* family, a *perfect* family. *My family is not! We aren't like them!*" The family home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph would have been, in many ways, just like any other home. They would have related together, talked, had fun, disagreed, worked, eaten, dealt with problems, and encountered everything else that makes up daily family life.

But the Holy Family was *not* exempt from the harsh realities of life, from troubles and problems that many of our families face today. They were poor ... Jesus was born in a stable. They went into exile ... because cruel and ruthless Herod wanted to kill the Christ Child. They conquered their struggles through their strong faith. The real test of faith is obedience to God's will, and this is very clear in the life of the Holy Family. Mary's faith enabled her to say "yes!" to God's plan. Joseph's faith made him strong to protect and provide for his family. Jesus had faith in His Father's will and in his parents to care for him.

Our American society is standing on shaky ground. Family life is severely hurting. This is the bitter fruit of the Culture of Death brought about by the plague of divorce, abortion, contraception, same sex "marriage", sexual promiscuity and depravity and many other anti-life programs. And as Pope Saint John Paul II warned, "As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live."

Whatever situation we are in now, the example of the Holy Family can give us hope and inspiration in the struggles our families face. We too can be successful if we put our faith in God *who is with us*, and if we are always ready *to obey His will*.

Saint Paul in his letter to the Colossians (3:12-14) reminds us to deal with each other out of kindness and patience, to forgive and respect each other continually, and not to let our pride and selfishness erode our love for one another. In conclusion, *the only sure formula for a happy and strong family is God:*

"And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus ..."

If you don't feel that your family is walking in the footsteps of the Holy family, friends, start now ... but start small!

Begin by dedicating your family to the Holy Family.

Teach your children how to pray the rosary. Start with one decade!

Pray for all families and for our country to uphold the sanctity of marriage which is under attack.

Read JP II's Apostolic Exhortation *Familiaris Consortio* (On Christian Marriage).

Read more about Pope Leo XIII who instituted the Feast of the Holy Family.

Moms and Dads ... at the end of your lives, your greatest accomplishment will be children who have a deep love and unwavering faith in God!

Merry Christmas,
~Mary K.

"... put on love, that is, the bond of perfection." (Col. 3:14)



Sunday December 27, 2020 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Psalms 128:1-5 or Psalms 105:1-6, 8-9; Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40



Today, we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Just as the Holy Family is holy, we are also called to be holy. This holiness is achievable by living as disciples of Christ.

St. Paul calls us to put on “heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience... as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.” Let us “give thanks to God the Father” by being good stewards of His love and mercy to all our family members.

Today's Gospel says a lot about trust and surrender to our Lord. When Simeon and Anna prophesized about what was to come, Jesus' parents were “amazed at what was said about him.” We can imagine that two parents would be taken back by these words! Yet, the Holy Family surrendered their lives to God and had unwavering faith and trust in His plan.

God's plan will fulfill our hearts more than we could have ever imagined. Like the Holy Family, we just need to trust, surrender and be attentive to God's voice.

— *Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship Consultants*

REFLECT & RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading: The story of Abram and Sarah and their struggle to have a family centers on Abram's faith in the Lord. When have you needed to rely on faith when it comes to your family?

Second Reading: The author of Hebrews holds up Abraham as a model for the faith. When have you had to unconditionally trust in the Lord?

Gospel Reading: Only Luke records the presentation in the Temple of the baby Jesus. Simeon reveals to Mary and Joseph insights into Jesus and his destiny. How do you imagine Mary and Joseph understood Simeon's words? ©LPi



Why are the Readings & Prayers Not Being Projected During Mass?

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine owns the copyright to the New American Bible, Revised Edition, which is the translation that is approved for use at Mass, and the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition, which contains all of the prayers used for Mass. The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, as the owner of these copyrights, has chosen to withhold permission to project excerpts of these texts at liturgical services. Therefore, we will no longer be projecting readings or prayers at Mass. We apologize for any inconvenience.

2021 Calendars are available in the Gathering Area after masses or stop by the Parish Center Monday-Thursday from 9am-4pm starting Monday, January 4, 2021 at the bottom of the ramp —Self-Serve!

Thank You

to all who baked and donated cookies for the Christmas Community Table!

You have brought great joy to those in need. God Bless you all!



We encourage parishioners who attend mass to help disburse the books by taking books not only for themselves but also for family and friends who are sheltering at home. If you have not picked up your book, you can still get one in the Gathering Area after mass or stop by the Parish Center Monday-Thursday from 9am-4pm starting Monday, January 4, 2021. The books will be at the bottom of the ramp —Self-Serve.

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