



SAINT MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

DECEMBER 27, 2020

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



THE MANGER SCENE AT ST. MARGARET

In 2012 generous benefactors made possible the purchase of new figures for our Nativity scene. They were fabricated in Italy. The stable and painted backdrop have been used for decades at our church. Think of the generations of parishioners who have gazed upon this beautiful display and the generations to come who will contemplate this scene of the first Christmas here at St. Margaret.

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday 4:30 p.m. & Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Monday thru Friday at 6:30 a.m.

Holy Days and holidays as published in Sunday Bulletin

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:45 to 4:15 p.m.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 28

6:30 a.m. Guadalupe Garza +

Tuesday, December 29

6:30 a.m. Beau Bowman +

Wednesday, December 30

6:30 a.m. Tom & Ginger Purcell "Happy Anniversary"

Thursday, December 31

6:30 a.m. Rosalie Buckley +

5:30 p.m. Eugene Buckley +

Friday, January 1, 2021

9:00 a.m. People of the Parish

Saturday, January 2

4:30 p.m. George Thornburgh +

Sunday, January 3

8:00 a.m. People of the Parish

10:00 a.m. Joseph Severtsen +

To mark a special occasion or to remember a beloved family member or friend, living or deceased, with a Mass intention please call the Parish Office at 314-776-0363. The bishops of Missouri ask the faithful to make a \$10 offering for each Mass if they are able.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive." - Colossians 3:13

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share give the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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frotoole@stmargaretstl.org

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Saint Louis, MO 63110

Office: 314-776-0363

Staff Directory Available At:

www.stmargaretstl.org/Staff

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

For emergency assistance call: 314-772-2219

PARISH/School WEBSITE: www.stmargaretstl.org

PARISH EMAIL: parishoffice@stmargaretstl.org

BULLETIN ARTICLE DEADLINE:

Monday, 2:00 p.m.

E-mail submissions to:

communications@stmargaretstl.org

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Congratulations to *December* raffle winners:

Joe Kochanski - \$25

Ron Frerker - \$50

Mary Robbins - \$100

Thank you for supporting our monthly Raffle fundraiser!

CREATE A LASTING MEMORY

Secure your name in St. Margaret of Scotland history by purchasing a personalized engraved brick paver to be placed in our Commemorative Court, located in front of the church. A personalized engraved paver is a perfect way to celebrate a child's baptism, commemorate a marriage or anniversary; or celebrate the life of a loved one. Pavers come in two sizes: 4"x8" (\$250) and 12"x12" (\$750), and they can be purchased on WeShare at <https://stmargaretstl.weshareonline.org/> or by calling the rectory at 314-776-0363.

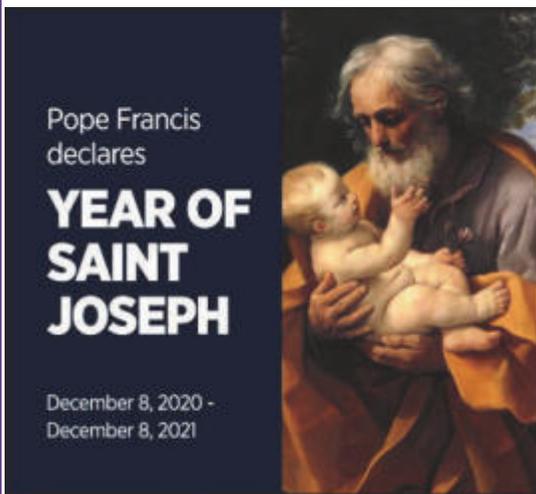




BY FR. MATT O'TOOLE

Earlier this month, Pope Francis issued an apostolic letter entitled “With a Father’s Heart” (*Patris Corde*, in Latin) on the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as patron of the universal Church. The Holy Father wrote this letter against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of ordinary people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble St. Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

Two virtues of St. Joseph which the pope highlights and that I appreciated in particular are Joseph’s acceptance of God’s will and his creativity in responding to adversity. From the stories of Joseph recorded in the gospels, we find a man confronted with situations not of his making but nevertheless requiring his response. His intended, Mary, he learns is with Child before they have taken up a home together. Later, Caesar’s order of a census obliges Joseph to pull up stakes and with his heavily pregnant wife make the inconvenient trek to Bethlehem to be counted. Even though Joseph may not understand God’s bigger picture, he allows God to enlighten his judgment. As an *accepting* father, Joseph embraces what comes to his life with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments.



The Holy Father writes that in our lives, “We need to set aside all anger and disappointment, and to embrace the way things are, even when they do not turn out as we wish. Not with mere resignation but with hope and courage.” Without being passively resigned but showing courage and firm resolve, Joseph demonstrates the posture of Christian realism that rejects nothing that comes to in this world. “Joseph’s attitude encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak.”

Acceptance of one’s personal history leads to a second model of virtue that Joseph provides: creative courage. “In the face of difficulty, we can either give up and walk away, or somehow engage with it. At times, difficulties bring out resources we did not even think we had.” Joseph demonstrates this when finding no lodging in Bethlehem for his pregnant wife, he took a stable and as best he could made it a welcoming home for the Son of God to enter the world. Likewise, when King Herod was out to destroy the Child, Joseph wasted no time by rising in the middle of the night to prepare his family to flee to Egypt. So often we can feel overwhelmed by others who impose their designs on us and maybe even feel abandoned by God in the process. But God always has a way of saving us so long as we show the same creative courage as the carpenter of Nazareth.

There are many other spiritual gems to be mined from reading *Patris Corde*. You can find the full text online at www.vatican.va (look under “Apostolic Letters”). With the issuance of *Patris Corde*, Pope Francis inaugurated a special “Year of St. Joseph” in the Catholic Church which will run through December 8, 2021. In this coming year, may we all go to Joseph for the example of living our faith and his intercession to God for the things we seek.

St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church – pray for us!

Rev. Matthew O'Toole

HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY

Gathering Hymn

The Snow Lay on the Ground

Traditional Carol

The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,
when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.
Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.

'Twas Mary, daughter pure, came to the crèche,
and brought into this world the Word made flesh.
She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem; the ass and oxen shared the roof with them.

REFRAIN Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.

St. Joseph, too, was near to tend the Child, to guard him, and protect his mother mild.
The angels hovered round and sang this song: Venite adoremus Dominum.

And thus that manger poor became a throne, for he whom Mary bore was God the Son.
Oh come, then, let us join the heavenly host, to praise the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

REFRAIN Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.

Gloria

H. Hughes, A. Hommerding

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

First Reading

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons.
Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them.
When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother.
Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard.
Whoever reveres his father will live a long life;
he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.
My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives.
Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life;
kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins -
a house raised in justice to you.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 128

Marty Haugen

Sung: Blest are those who love you, happy those who follow you,
Blest are those who seek you, O God.

Recited: Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Brothers and sisters: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age - and Sarah herself was sterile - for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy. So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore. By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name." He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead, and he received Isaac back as a symbol.

Gospel Acclamation

Paul Hillebrand, Gesu Bambino

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 2:22, 39-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Preparation of the Gifts

Sing Alleluia

Francis Patrick O'Brien

Great is the joy of Mary, his mother. Great is the joy of Joseph by her side.

Great is the joy of all those in darkness. Here lies the Savior so soon to die and rise.

REFRAIN Sing alleluia, sing alleluia. Welcome the Savior, the promise of new life.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia. All of creation, sing this night.

Hope for the poor, release for the captive, Love for the outcast, light for weary eyes;
Word that brings life, embracing humanity, Jesus, companion, be born into our lives.

REFRAIN Sing alleluia, sing alleluia. Welcome the Savior, the promise of new life.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia. All of creation, sing this night.

Mass Setting

The Glendalough Mass, Liam Lawton

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Save us, Savior of the world, save us, Savior of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free, you have set us free.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; ... grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

Carol at the Manger

Marty Haugen

Holy Child within the manger, Long ago yet ever near;
Come as friend to ev'ry stranger, Come as hope for ev'ry fear.
As you lived to heal the broken, Greet the outcast, free the bound,
As you taught us love unspoken, teach us now where you are found.

Once again we tell the story – how your love for us was shown,
When the image of your glory wore an image like our own.
Come, enlighten with your wisdom, come and fill us with your grace.
May the fire of your compassion kindle every land and race.

Holy Child within the manger, lead us ever in your way,
so we see in every stranger how you come to us today.
In our lives and in our living give us strength to live as you,
That our hearts might be forgiving and our spirits strong and true

Recessional Hymn

Come, Sing a Home and Family

Text: A. Hommerding, Tune: Mozart

Come, sing a home and family in Nazareth of old,
Whose humble grace a noble place in Christian life now holds:
A maiden's holy, vibrant faith, which said, "Let it be done!"
A dreamer who risked life and limb protecting God's own Son.

At Mary's table, Jesus learned to bless, give thanks, and eat,
To welcome all as honored guests by washing weary feet.
Her sweeping floors and lighting lamps, her kneading bread with leav'n,
Her journeys to the well foretold to Christ the reign of heav'n.

By Joseph's side young Jesus learned to work and read and pray,
The law and love of God above placed in his heart to stay.
While cradled by the carpenter, the boy came to discern
That prodigal, forgiving arms await a child's return.

Whatever form our fam'ly takes, the gospel way we seek;
To feed the hungry, heal the sick, lift up the poor and weak.
In daily life and simple tasks our song must never cease
Of dreaming worker, maiden bold, and child of lasting peace.

GROWING IN FAITH

The Feast of the Holy Family

The day for us to celebrate the sacredness of God's earthly family: Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. We honor Mary and Joseph for setting aside earthly concerns to answer God's call to build a family in which Our Lord could grow, learn, and be safe. Throughout this Christmas season we offer thanks to God every day for the gift of His Son, and today we pause to reflect on the special considerations God made to send Jesus to a loving family as part of that gift. We are grateful for all they have done and for the example they are for us.



BY RUTH PERA
COORDINATOR OF
FAITH FORMATION

The Feast of the Holy Family - or - *The Feast of the Family, which is Holy*

If there was ever a year to stop and praise God for the gift of our families, this is it. Frustration, gratitude, awe, exhaustion...I have experienced all of these feelings and more to the nth degree regarding my family this year. But also, if holiness is a way to describe one's closeness to God, then I have seen more than ever this year how the opportunity to be part of a family is an experience of holiness. Each family is different, brought together by God in a myriad of ways: through marriage, blood relatives, biological or adopted children, choice; families live in the same houses and sometimes they also don't. But no matter how a family has been brought together, when the family members choose to rely on and commit to one another in love, they become places where we experience God's love and where we are refined into holier versions of ourselves, and that is a gift to be celebrated.



Today, I celebrate each of your holy families. Thank you for being a part of our holy Saint Margaret's family. I pray that God brings you many, many blessings in 2021.

I don't want to gloss over the difficult relationships that exist within some families, or ignore the pain that some experience at the hands of their families. I see you, and I am sorry. I pray that God has sent you a family of a different composition within which you can experience the depth of His love.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Are you planning your weekly menus? Chances are some of your pantry supplies like brownie mixes and fruit snacks have the Box Tops for education coupon on their packaging. Don't forget to check your Hefty, Ziplock and Kleenex brand items as well. Each coupon you clip and submit to our school is worth 10 cents for our educational programs. Just gather them up and put them in the Sunday collection at Mass or drop them off at the Rectory. Learn more at: www.BoxTops4Education.com



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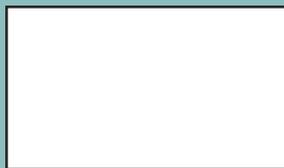
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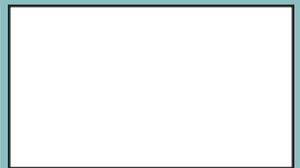
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