



DECEMBER 26, 2021

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 5:30 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am
Weekday Masses at St. Matthew:
Tuesday and Friday: 7:45 am
1st Friday: 6:30 pm

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Patrick O'Loughlin
Pastor
pastor@stmarybythelake.org

John J. Stodola and Steven L. Kramer
Deacons

Heather Warner - ext. 102
Dir. of Formation/Pastoral Coordinator
hwarner@stmarybythelake.org

Jennifer Wiseman - ext. 101
Business Manager
jwiseman@stmarybythelake.org

PASTORAL COUNCIL

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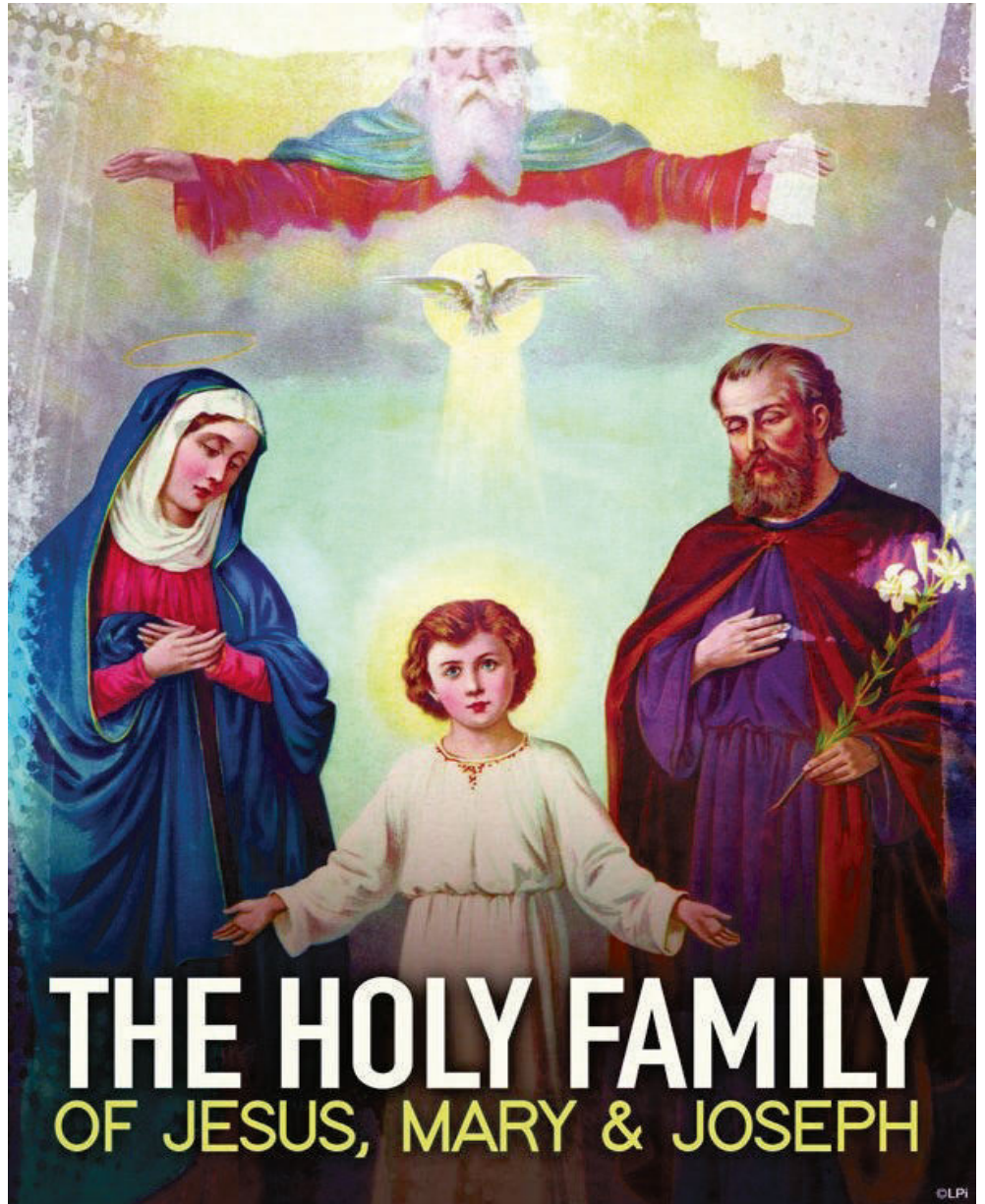
Mary Loendorf, Secretary
Jim Sisak, Treasurer

PARISH OFFICE

262-639-3616
parish@stmarybythelake.org

FACEBOOK

St. Mary by the Lake/pages



BAPTISMS: A class for both parents is required before the baptism of a child. Call the parish office.

MARRIAGES: Registered, practicing members, call the pastor at least six months in advance to make arrangements.

RECONCILIATION: Anytime by appointment

PARISH REGISTRATION: Forms are available in the vestibule or contact the parish office.

MASS Intentions

This Week

Saturday	12/25/2021	8:00am	Richard Granger
Saturday	12/25/2021	5:30pm	No Mass
Sunday	12/26/2021	8:30am	Mary Wagner

Next Week

Saturday	1/01/2022	5:30pm	No Mass
Sunday	1/2/2022	8:30am	Angie Vallin

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

Year end contribution envelopes for 2021 need to be in the parish office no later than Tuesday, December 28th.

Please note that if you give through WeShare, contributions take a few days to process. Please make sure that if you would like credit for 2021 that you give enough time to process.



MEAL PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to assist at our first hot meal program for the new year on Monday, January 3rd, at the Hospitality Center (located at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 614 Main Street). Our menu for this event:

- ◆ Taking financial donations for fried chicken - ordering from Infusino's *
- ◆ Hot potato dishes
- ◆ Institutional size cans of mixed vegetables
- ◆ Dinner rolls
- ◆ Desserts to go

Food can be dropped off at church parking lot from 3:30 until 3:45 pm or at the Hospitality Center after 4:00 pm. Volunteers are also needed to arrive at 4:00 to help serve at 4:30 pm. Please contact Karen if you can help at nkrecupero@gmail.com or (262) 497-9891.

* Envelopes for your financial contributions to the Meal Program can be found on the table in the vestibule. They may be returned to the Collection Basket or the Parish Office. Thank You.

FOOD PANTRY

The North Side Food Pantry that we support is in need of supplies. They are humbly asking us to "come thru again" with these specific items:



- Jelly/Jam
- Dry/instant potatoes
- Soup (no cream of)
- Laundry soap
- Dry pasta (shells, elbow, egg noodles)
- Saltine Crackers
- Spaghetti O's
- Pork & beans
- Pancake Syrup
- Pancake Mix
- Toilet Paper

Food may be dropped off in the blue barrel at the Parish Office on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. If you know anyone who needs food, please send them over to the Food Pantry.

Additional Food Barrel: In addition to the barrel being out on Tuesdays and Thursdays, there is now a barrel in the vestibule of church. You can now drop off food on weekends when you come to church.

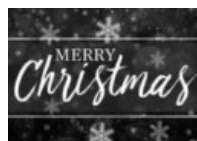
UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF THE BIBLE

Many Catholics want to read the Bible but get bogged down by the long stretches that seem not to make sense or get lost among the sea of Old Testament names and places. *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible*, an eight-part Bible study, helps you uncover the story woven throughout Scripture, so you can get the "big picture" of the Bible and understand what it's all about. *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* will help you pick up the Bible with confidence and understand how you fit into God's plan.

All are welcome to begin the *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* study at St. Mary by the Lake on January 12th at 1:00pm or 6:00pm. Participants will meet every week to view an engaging video presentation followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship. For more information or to register, visit www.stmarybythelake.org, or contact Heather Warner at 262-639-3616 or hwarner@stmarybythelake.org.

Christmas Message from our Director of Faith Formation

Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn king! Gloria in excelsis Deo!



May the Lord's nativity bring joy and peace in our hearts and may we always remember the reason for our celebration. The Lord has come and we are saved. Let us not stop from growing in our faith and allowing its fruits to manifest in the lives that we are all living. Let us express to all the world the joy that we have in our hearts because of the salvation that has been given to us. Like the shepherds who were the first messengers of the Lord's birth, let us be persevering in witnessing to others the love that God has for us - let us be messengers as well telling others through our words and actions about the salvation that Jesus Christ offers.

Merry Christmas and wishes of many blessings in the New Year!

~ Heather Warner

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

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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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.

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ADVENT PRAYER TREE

Our Advent Prayer tree has returned! For the duration of Advent and Christmas time, the tree in the vestibule will serve as our Prayer Tree. On the paper ornaments provided, you are invited to write a short note to God saying: thank you, sorry, asking for help, sharing your worries, prayers for others, etc.

When you add your intention to the tree, pray also for the intentions of others already on the tree. These intentions will be remembered at Mass.

HOLIDAY MASS TIMES

There is no evening Mass at either parish on Saturday, December 25th or Saturday, January 1st.

Mass for Holy Family will be celebrated Sunday, December 26:
8:30 am at St. Mary
10 am at St. Matthew

Mass for New Year's Eve will be celebrated Sunday, December 31:
4pm at St. Matthew

Mass for Epiphany will be celebrated Sunday, January 2:
8:30 am at St. Mary
10 am at St. Matthew

PARISH BOOK PROGRAM

Are you in need of a spiritual boost.... a "pick me up from the pew"? Check out St. Mary by the Lake READS our new Parish Book Program!

This Parish Book Program is designed to reconnect men, women, and families within our faith community - to help engage Catholics and reinvigorate parish life. According to research, each year only 1% of Catholics in America read a Catholic book.

Located in the vestibule of St. Mary by the Lake, is the St. Mary by the Lake READS cart, featuring complimentary copies of great Catholic books. The featured titles are carefully selected to meet people where they are and lead them to where God is calling them to be. Feel free to take a book, and then share it with a friend once you are done!

CALENDAR THANK YOU

Thank you to Maresh-Meredith & Acklam Funeral Home for their gift of 2022 calendars to all of our parishioners. Please pick one up in the vestibule.

PRAYERS & ASSISTANCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE TORNADOES

As you know, tornadoes recently tore through multiple states in the South and Midwest. Please pray for those who have been injured, for those who have lost their lives, and for their grieving families and communities. Catholics and all people of good will may help our brothers and sisters in their recovery by supporting the work of [Catholic Charities USA Disaster Relief](https://www.catholiccharities.us/campaign/ccusa-disaster-relief/c353051), which has been engaging as early responders and will remain in recovery support for the long-term. For more information on how you can donate, visit <https://www.catholiccharities.us/campaign/ccusa-disaster-relief/c353051>.

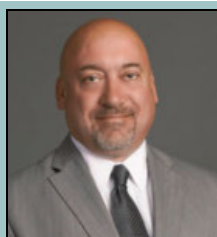
ARE YOU REGISTERED?

If you are not registered in our parish, please consider doing so. Also, please encourage your friends and family to register!

Registering is important because:

- If a parish doesn't know who is out there, how can it adequately serve the needs of all?
- When the services of the Church are needed - such as for a wedding, Baptism or funeral - it is easier if the person is registered.
- Registered parishioners receive helpful information about our parish including periodic mailings.

Registering is easy. Contact the parish office today!



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