

December 26, 2021



AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH
AND MADE HIS DWELLING AMONG US.
- JN 1:14

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



CHURCH OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT

2119 Stillwater Ave E St. Paul, MN 55119 651-738-0677 church@blessedsacramentsp.org
Mass Times: Saturday Anticipatory: 4 pm Sunday: 8:30 am & 11:00 am Daily, T-F 8:30am

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

The Holy Family of Nazareth – a true model for all the families.

My beloved parishioners of Blessed Sacrament church,

This year we are in a unique position as we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth on the very next day of Christmas. We had a rather longer Advent season, too, this year before the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord. While the rest of the world is winding down their Christmas celebrations, for us, the Christmas season continues well into January. As we celebrate this beautiful feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth today, let us offer all the members of our own families, both living and the deceased, on the altar for God's blessings. This is the hundredth anniversary of introducing this feast in the liturgical calendar of the Church. Pope Benedict XV introduced this feast in 1921. By celebrating the Sunday following Christmas as the Feast of the Holy Family, the Church encourages us to look to the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph for inspiration, example and encouragement. This is a model family in which both parents worked hard, helped each other, understood and accepted each other, and took good care of their Child so that He might grow up not only in human knowledge but also as a Child of God. Jesus brought holiness to the family of Joseph and Mary as Jesus brings holiness to us, by embracing us in His family. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (2223) gives the following advice to parents: **"Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and unselfish service are the rule."** "Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children." Remember the famous saying, "The family that prays together, stays together." Unfortunately, its opposite is equally true. In the picture of the holy family, we see Christ in the center. In our own families, who is at the center of our families? Christ must be at the center, His grace and His peace must reign in our hearts at all times. The feast of the Holy Family reminds us that as the basic unit of the universal Church, and the society, each family is called to holiness.

It is true that we are bidding goodbye to another year that was affected by the pandemic. At the same time, we also can see a few silver rays of hope in the midst of these thick darkened clouds. Let us also try to see different positive aspects that have happened because of this pandemic. One of the blessings that we have experienced during this time was the opportunity for more family time. Whether we liked it or not, this pandemic has kept us together at home much more than usual and enabled us with different family dynamics. It also helped the entire world to slow down from being crazily busy, running from one task to another without any break. Now, we are almost coming back to normal, of course with a few more restrictions. Let us hope and pray that soon, we will be able to see an end to this pandemic and get back to normal life.

I consider this is my final reflection I would write in the parish bulletin as your pastor. On this final Sunday of year and my assignment here as the pastor of this wonderful parish, I would like to thank each one of you as dynamic, caring and loving members of this amazing parish community, church of the Blessed Sacrament, for your tremendous support and love. I would like to thank and compliment in a special way, all those who have been working hard day and night to make our parish vibrant and friendly. My appreciation goes to the staff, volunteers and the leadership team.

Each one of you try to share your time, talent, and treasure in different ways for the benefit of this community. Everything you do or say for this community is the expression of your love, care and concern for this wonderful parish. It all adds beauty and greatness to the life of this community. All these are the ways how we bring Jesus into the lives of our brothers and sisters, just like the Holy Family of Nazareth did. Surely, it was an honor for me to be your pastor for the last forty-two months. I enjoyed every single day of my ministry here with you. Your care, support and love are so inspiring and uplifting. I learned a lot from every one of you. I am sincerely grateful to you for everything you have been to me and to this parish community. Your prayer ministry for the pastor is indeed a great source of spiritual power for me. Please accept my apologies if I have hurt anybody with my harsh words or reactions. I am also sorry if didn't grow up to your expectation and disappointed you at some circumstances. Let us keep our friendship and remain united in prayer. May I request your continued prayers as I assure you the same. Please welcome Fr. Jimmy Puttanickal as your new pastor and continue to offer your generous support.

Wish you all a Blessed and Merry Christmas season! May the upcoming New Year, 2022, be an occasion for us to deepen our family relations rooted in prayer and sacraments. Wish you and your family a Blessed and Happy New Year 2022.

Fr. Benny Mekkatt CFIC

The Nativity of the Lord

"He so loved us that for our sake He was made man in time, through Whom all times were made; was in the world less in years than His servants, though older than the world itself in His eternity; was made man, Who made man; was created of a mother, whom He created; was carried by hands which He formed; nursed at the breasts which He had filled; cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word without Whom all human eloquence is mute (St. Augustine, Sermon 188)." The miracle of what happens at Christmas is truly an awesome mystery. Revealed in the silent ordinariness of life is God's intimate love for humanity and all that he made. The Word, existing for all time, comes and dwells among us. God kisses us. We can seek and soar with playful delight as a joy never known before fills our heart.

Joy is best expressed through dance. There is just something truly wonderful about the self-abandon a beautiful melodic dance reveals. If we are able to let go and really be free, it celebrates life in a way few other experiences really can. With the birth of Jesus Christ, God takes the Divine Dance to a deeper and more tangible level. We can now not only see what we believe but believe what we see! This most perfect dance is a call to beauty, innocence, truth, purpose, hope, faith, and love. Today we know, beyond doubt, that we are a necessary part of God's beautifully choreographed masterpiece of life and not just a random happening without real intent or purpose. We are loved, treasured, and blessed.

Accepting the truth of God's birth in time we also accept an invitation to dance with God. We can let go of what tethers us to anxious concerns and superficial securities. Throw caution to the wind and go with God. We have been blessed with talents, gifts, and life eternal. Follow the rhythm of the dance with joy and listen to what the Word who became flesh tells us about what the next steps can be. Today, heaven remains the same, but earth has been profoundly changed.

LPI

FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

EFT Contributing

We have recently added three more parishioners who will make their contributions electronically to the parish. This is a very easy process to consider. You no longer need to spend money on writing checks or mailing in your contributions. Thank you to those who elect to give this way.

Contribution Bins

During this busy and hectic holiday season please remember to think of those less fortunate and remember our food collection bin and our bin for donations to the veterans . These two parish efforts will continue throughout the year to help those in our community who may need our assistance. Please consider making donations to these efforts as often as you're able to. Expect blessings!

SOCIAL CONCERNS FOR DECEMBER

CFIC Children's Mission

All during the month of December, we will be promoting the CFIC Children's Mission. We will be dedicating a second collection on the 3rd weekend of the month for this program.



Please go to CFICNORTHAMERICANDELEGATION.COM to learn more about this rewarding program or to become a regular donor. We thank you on behalf of the children. Expect blessings!

Help make a difference

Shop for gifts using AmazonSmile to support us, at no cost
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ADORATION CHAPEL NEWS

"The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on earth. Each moment that you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with Him and make your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in Heaven, and will help bring about everlasting peace on earth," – St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

We are still working at expanding our hours of Adoration. Please check the website for schedule. Please contact us if you feel called to devote an hour a week to spend with the Lord. We are always in need of prayer partners. Please call Kathy at 651-247-5185 or the parish office, if you are interested.



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PARISH ADMINISTRATION 651-738-0677
Rev. Benny Mekkatt, Pastor ext. 11
John Florin, Business Administrator ext. 10
Joy Hoffman, Administrative Coordinator ext. 12
Deacon Jerry Saladin.....952-607-9636
PASTORAL MINISTRY 651-738-0677
Carol McKenna,ext. 15
FAITH FORMATION & SAFE ENVIRONMENT 651-738-0677
Connie Hill, Director ext. 14
MUSIC
Jan Meulemans, Director.....651-307-7865
PRAYER LINE
Please call Carol McKenna.....612-594-1290
CHURCH EMAIL: Church@blessedsacramentsp.org
PARISH COUNCIL: parishcouncil@blessedsacramentsp.org

BAPTISM - Participation in the Baptism preparation program is a prerequisite for Baptism. Schedule with the Parish Office.
RECONCILIATION– Saturday 3:00-3:45pm; after 8:30 am Mass on Friday or by appointment on other days
MATRIMONY- Make arrangements with the pastor at least six months before the date.
ANOINTING OF THE SICK - Please call the parish office if you or a family member is going to be hospitalized. Also, if you are home-bound and wish to receive the Eucharist or a friendly visit, please call the parish office.
LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE- Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

- Blessed Sacrament Adoration, M-F, Please see signage for hours.
- The Rosary is said just prior to all weekend Masses.

Sunday, December 26
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
 Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21/Lk 2:41-52
 8:30am † Al Bierwerth
 11am Parish Mass

Monday, December 27
Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist
 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday, December 28
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Mt 2:13-18
 † Edward & Lorene Bauer

Wednesday, December 29
Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord/St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr
 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
 † Rev. Thomas F. A. O'Brien

Thursday, December 30
Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
 1 Jn 2:2-17/Lk 2:36-40
 † Barbara Luna

Friday, December 31
Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord/Saint Sylvester I, Pope
 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18
 8:30am † Rev. Dennis Dempsey
 Midnight Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother Parish Mass

Saturday, January 1
Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord/Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Not a Holy Day of Obligation for 2022)
 Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
 4 pm Hoffman Families

Sunday, January 2
Epiphany of the Lord
 Is 60:1-6/EPH 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
 8:30am Parish Mass
 11am † Dan Dunn

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

December 27 -January 2

- Sun, Dec 26: No Coffee & Donuts/No Faith Formation
Mon, Dec 27: Parish Offices Closed.
6:30-7:30 Movement & Christian Meditation
Wed, Dec 29: Young at Heart after Mass
Fri, Dec 31: 8:30am Mass
Parish Offices Closed
11:00pm Holy Hour
Followed by Midnight Mass
Sat, Jan 1: NO Healing Mass
4pm Anticipatory Mass for Epiphany
Sun, Jan 2: 9:30-10:45am Coffee & Donuts

FINANCE

Gifts of Treasure

December 18/19, 2021

No Information available at time of publication.



The Philomena House
Grow Healthier,
Grow Happier,
Grow Together.
PhilomenaHouse.org **HELPING HOMELESS,
PREGNANT MOTHERS**

Philomena House is looking for a volunteer marketing committee! The committee would coordinate and execute a variety of tasks related to marketing (google ads, donor communications, email initiatives, etc.) to support Philomena House, a maternity home in St. Paul caring for pregnant, homeless women. No previous experience required but is preferred. Philomena House is looking for committee members that are detail-oriented, self-starters, resourceful, and passionate about the pro-life cause. If interested, please contact Nancy at 651-373-1205 and visit philomenahouse.org for more information on our mission.



Divine Mercy Cenacle

By obedience you give great glory to me and gain much merit for yourself. 28

Prayer cards are on the table to take. Look for a new message from St. Faustina's Diary weekly.

Families, here are some ideas to continue Faith Formation at home. Confirmation candidates can work on their Saint report. Children preparing for First Reconciliation can study the question-and-answer sheet of "Things to know" for reconciliation. All students can practice memorizing prayers. Families can read and pray with the daily Gospel. Best yet, attend daily Mass on those days off school. Remember: Jesus comes to us in History, Mystery, and Majesty! Visit our website for more ideas: <https://blessedsacramentsp.org/faith-formation>

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

FAITH FORMATION: PEEK AT THE WEEK

HAPPY FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY!

"The story of the Holy Family is the story of life not always turning out the way you expected. It's the story of a teenage mother, conceiving a child before she was married. It's the story of an anxious father, confronting scandal, planning on divorce. It's the story of a family forced to become refugees, living as immigrants in the land that once held their ancestors as slaves. As we heard in today's gospel, it's the story of a missing child, and days of anxious searching by his parents."

Read the full article at <https://aleteia.org/blogs/aleteia-blog/this-family-shares-our-burdens-homily-for-december-27-2015-feast-of-the-holy-family/>

This family was holy; but it was also human. They endured suffering with grace and trust. They did things most of us don't; they listened to angels and dreamed. We need these reminders. Especially now.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, pray for us that we may follow your model of holiness and give ourselves fully to God.

NO CLASS DECEMBER 26 AND JANUARY 2



Celebrate
the Feasts
of the
Holy Family
and
Epiphany
at home

Parents: take home a Holy Family
gift bag after Mass on December 26



*Thank you,
Father Benny,
for your loving care
and gentle heart!
You will be missed!
We promise to keep you
in our prayers!
With great affection,
Your Staff*

If you would like to leave a note of thanks or a card
for Father Benny.

there is a Farewell table in the Gathering Space.



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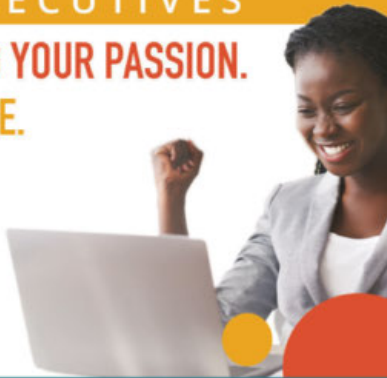
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