

December 26, 2021 & January 2, 2022

Merry Christmas!

AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH



JOHN 1:14

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

515 South Albert Street Saint Paul, MN 55116 | (651) 698-3353 | holy-spirit.org

MASS INTENTIONS

December 26, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:30 a.m. Archbishop Hebda
10:30 a.m. Victims of tornadoes in Kentucky

December 27, St. John

December 28, The Holy Innocents

7:30 a.m. Single parents

December 29, St. Thomas Becket

7:30 a.m. Bishop-elect Williams

December 30 (Parish Office Closed)

7:30 a.m. The Neighborhood House

December 31, Pope St. Sylvester I (Parish Office Closed)

7:30 a.m. Deacon Lane

January 1, Epiphany of the Lord

4:30 p.m. Ambrose Joseph Keating†
Monsignor Bernard Keating†

January 2, Epiphany of the Lord & St. Basil the Great

8:30 a.m. Retired Religious
10:30 a.m. Deacon Dick Barrett†

January 3, The Most Holy Name of Jesus

January 4, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

7:30 a.m. Those searching for employment

January 5, St. John Neumann

7:30 a.m. Teachers & educators

January 6, St. André Bessette

7:30 a.m. Healthcare workers

January 7, St. Raymond of Peñafort

7:30 a.m. Those discerning a religious vocation

January 8, St. Angela of Foligno

4:30 p.m. Healthcare workers

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



God,
you became human through the obedience
of a simple young woman named Mary.
Mary is our model of faith.
May we be faithful to your word as Mary was.
Give us the courage to face each day
with the yes that Mary gave to you.
We ask this through the incarnate God,
who comes to us again during this Christmas season.
Amen.

YEAR-END GIVING

To process year-end donations, please note these details to properly reflect donations on your 2021 giving record:

- Mailed contributions must be postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2021.
- Online contributions made using your bank account must be completed by 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 29.
- Gifts made via credit card must be completed by 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 31.

Many employers have matching programs where your gift can be amplified. Please consider reviewing if this is an option.

Gifts of Appreciated Securities (Stocks): The stock market continues to remain strong. As a result, there may be financial advantages of donating via means other than traditional cash donations. This is easy to do! Make sure to consult with your financial advisor before making any financial decisions.

Required Minimum Distribution Funds (RMDs/QCDs): Individuals who are required to take distributions from their pre-tax retirement plans before the end of the year can donate some or all the required distribution to Holy Spirit.

We are grateful for your continued generosity year after year! You may give your donation to the parish office or put it in the drop box by the gym entrance until Friday, Dec. 31. If you need assistance, email Fr. Haugan at haugand@holy-spirit.org.

THANK YOU, HOLY SPIRIT!

Thank you Holy Spirit parishioners, for your wonderful support and love through my years of formation as a Permanent Deacon. I have been truly blessed by all of you and Fr. Dan being in my life. May God Bless you all and may His love rain upon you and remain with you forever. Peace be with you all.

- Deacon Mike

NIGHT OF SPIRIT

- April 30, 2022 -

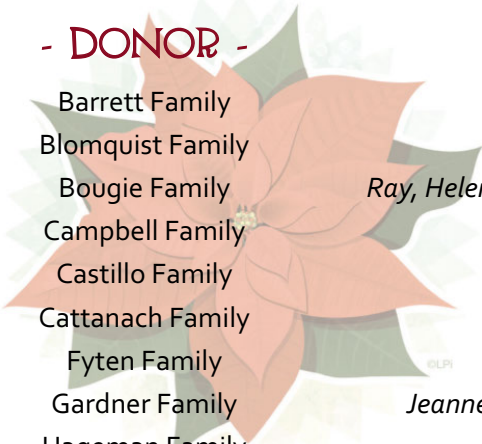
Join Holy Spirit for an evening of community, fun, and fundraising!

- More details coming in January! -

*Tickets • Theme • Donations
Group Party Hosting Opportunities
Sponsorship Opportunities*

- CHRISTMAS FLOWERS -

- DONOR -



Barrett Family
Blomquist Family
Bougie Family
Campbell Family
Castillo Family
Cattanach Family
Fyten Family
Gardner Family
Hageman Family
Hamel Family
Huyen Family
Jacobson Family
Koenig Family
Koltes Family
Lane Family
Moffat Family


Monogue Family
Neitz & Curtis-Neitz
Family
Palma Family
Paul Family

Pitzen Family
Schmitz Family
Speltz Family
Whaley Family

- IN MEMORY OF -

*Helen & Carl Erb
Thomas Wolter
Ray, Helen & Nicole Bougie and Ray & Agnes Lauer
Deceased Family Members
David Pedersen
Edward & Ann Theirl
Mary Frances Palmer
Jeanne LaLonde Mastor & Dr. John LaLonde
Fr. Denny Dempsey
Mike & Gerry Murray and Bob & Mary Hamel
Kathleen Ryan Huyen
Bill Klatt
Joseph & Audrey Koenig
Olivia Rose Goulet
Tracy Lane
Joe & Marcella Bauer, Garner & Bernice Moffat, and
Marian Milliren
Mark Monogue
Clarence & Eleanor Neitz
Tom & Kathy Palma
Deceased members of the Paul, Macarenhas, D'Cruz, D'Costa,
Pinto, D'Souza, D'Mello, Routa, Figueiredo, Rapose, Master,
Dias, Rodericks & Modl families
Jack & Marie Pitzen
Ervin & Kevin Schmitz
Emerson, Margene & John Mistelske
Helen Whaley*

- DONOR -



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- The Holy Family: 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.

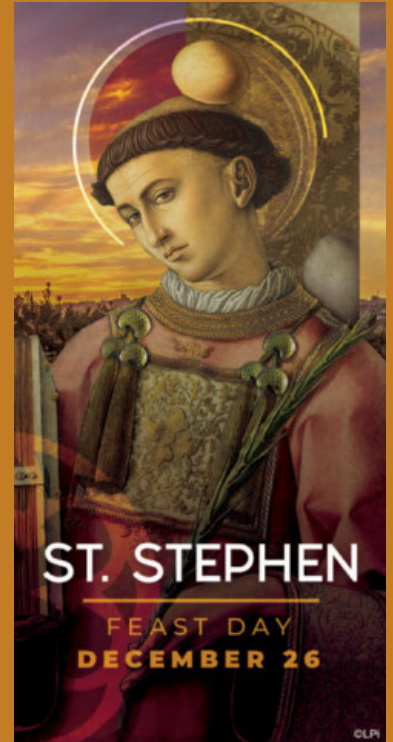
In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of 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.



St. Stephen | Feast Day December 26

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.



Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.





St. Elizabeth Ann Seton | January 4



The patron saint of Catholic schools, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (August 28, 1774 – January 4, 1821) was born in New York City to a prominent family of the Episcopal faith. When she turned 19, she married a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. He later died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving her a young widow. After discovering the Catholic faith in Italy, where her husband had died, she returned to New York and converted to Catholicism in 1805.

After several years struggling as a single mother, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, which started a chain reaction of Catholic-based education in the United States that continues today.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized September 14, 1975 in St. Peter's Square by Pope Paul VI and was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of "saint."

- Epiphany: Gospel Meditation -

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction. "Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light

that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.



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