27 December 2020
Feast of the Holy Family

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH

Christmas

Nothing is as it once was.
Not for us, not for Mary and Joseph that first Christmas.

Their lives were changed forever because of the birth.
The world was changed, everything was changed on earth.
No one could see it at first.
It was just a child born poor and cold at worst.
But in heaven angels sang
And we're told God smiled and bells rang.

Nothing is as it once was after that night.
But we know that only in hindsight.
The grace of God works slowly in human history.
It's what we call a mystery.
How women and men take the long road home to God
Inevitably we're told no matter how flawed.

And that is what we know today, the flaws.
There is no quick and easy way out, no vaccine Santa Claus.
Our lives magnified by this infection,
We spend so much time alone, apart, distant, and full of introspection.
Where is God in all this?
Where is God in all this?

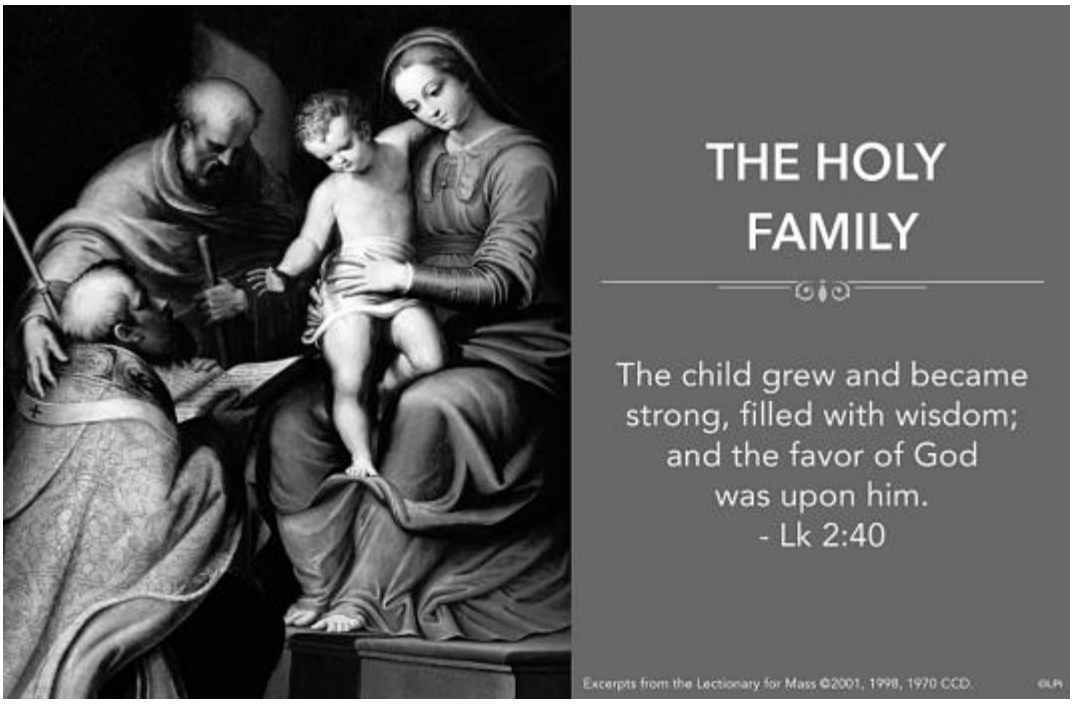
That is what they asked when they could not see,
That first Christmas, that was their plea.
And you and I if we are honest with what we bring,
We ask the same thing.
Where is God in all of this?
Where is God in all of this?

And the heavens are quiet.
The angels are silent.
We are on the long road home
With only hope for God's welcome.
For nothing is as it once was,
This Christmas.

(Christmas Homily by Fr. George R. Szews)

Glory to God

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. • We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. • Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. • For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. • I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

For Sunday's readings go to usccb.org/bible/readings

At this time we are unable to come to mass to receive Jesus in a physical way, use this prayer to receive Jesus spiritually.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.

ONLINE MASSES
Mass-online.org
saintjohnsabbey.org/
catholictv.org/masses/catholictv-mass
EWTN TV and other local masses on TV
"St Joseph Prescott" on YouTube
The Diocese of Lacrosse https://diolc.org

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 27, 2020

SUN **12/27**	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
MON **12/28**	1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
TUE **12/29**	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
WED **12/30**	1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
THR **12/31**	1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
FRI **1/1**	Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
SAT **1/2**	1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28
SUN **1/3**	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/ Mt 2:1-12

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 27, 2020

Sunday:	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Monday:	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Tuesday:	St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
Thursday:	St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve
Friday:	Mary, The Holy Mother of God; New Year's Day; World Day of Peace
Saturday:	Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
Sunday:	The Epiphany of the Lord; National Migration Week

LIVE THE LITURGY
Inspiration for the week

While families come in all shapes and sizes and no two are the same, they all need a common focus and grounding. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with a proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. In additional to all of these things, the axis of every family has to be centered on faith. It is here that we can learn about the virtues and discover the windows to God Himself in His gifts of faith, hope, and love. We can learn, modeling our experience after the Holy Family, how to use these as anchors in our lives so that we can live out the other virtues with greater integrity. Because our human families struggle with weakness and sin, we have to come back to the Holy Family often for inspiration and guidance. In the bond of love that they shared, they clung to the anchor of God Himself and endured challenges far greater than many we will ever face.

The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

PRAYER CORNER

Please keep the following in your prayer.

Norm Killian; Shirley Skwira (Sylvia Faltiesek's cousin); Anita Casey (Darla Ironside's Sister-Inlaw): Jessica Sabelko (Steve & Cindy's Daughter -in-Law), Laura Kemmerer; Denise Cornell (Sylvia Falteisek's daughter); Jana Morrow (Walt & Carol Matzek's Daughter); Eileen Chase (Rich Niebur's mom); Kelly Niebur (wife of Ryan); Joe Riley; Jackie Unser; Dorothy Yanisch; Bill Casperson (Nancy Peterson's brother); Robert Hei (Shirley Hei's Son); Dwight Hollen; Jerry Rosga; Kristi Meier; Evan Horn; LaVerne Cobian; Richard Cornell; Joanne Cobian; Dick Baker; Leroy Tobias; Casie Johnson; Rick Cobian; Richard Hulne; Mike Meier; Jerry Killian; Michael "Chip" O'Brien; Steve McGree; Leslie Cobian; Marv Lindseth; Matt Wolf; Greg Anger; Julie Murchinson; Rose Skramstad (Mother of Lisa Seifert) Jayden & Harley Bethel; Gracie Magnan (daughter of Peter & Jessie); George Johnson and all the parishioners who are homebound or in the nursing home.

To add a name to the prayer corner, call 715-262-5310. Names will remain on the list for one month, unless the parish office is notified otherwise.

STAYING IN TOUCH

In order to keep our community informed during this difficult time, Rev. Szews' homilies are posted on the website each Thursday. Parish updates are available each week on the website and by email. If you have not been receiving the emails from the parish over the past month please email us so we can add you to the list. ParishOffice@StJosephPrescott.com Please reach out to any elderly neighbors you may have to see if there is anything that could be done to help them during this time.

Contact Information

PARISH STAFF

Rev. George R. Szews .....Pastor
Rev. Mr. Gerald Rynda.....Deacon
Chris Magee.....School Principal
Carol Mercord .....Director of Religious Education
Rita Johnson .....Parish Secretary
Ann Schwebach .....Finance Secretary
Crystal McCarthy..... School Administrative Assistant
Howie Kittleson .....Building & Grounds Manager
Don Sabelko ..... Cemetery Sexton

PHONE

Rev. George R. Szews - Emergencies Only.....715-262-2520
Parish Office 715-262-5310
St. Joseph's School.....715-262-5912, Fax 715-262-5901
Religious Education.....715-262-3514
Don Sabelko, Cemetery Sexton.....715-262-3123

OFFICE HOURS

Closed. Responding to emails and voice mails.

DEVOTIONS

Perpetual Help Novena

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

A class for new and expecting parents is held quarterly. Parents must be registered as parish members prior to attending the class. Call the parish office for more information. Baptisms are not celebrated during the Lenten season.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Couples planning marriage should contact the parish office at least six months in advance. Marriages are not celebrated during the Lenten season.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Contact the Parish Office to make an appointment with the pastor.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

Holy Communion is brought to the sick and homebound every Wednesday. Those who are seriously ill or anticipating surgery should contact the parish office to arrange for the Anointing of the Sick.

PARISH BULLETIN

Items for the weekly bulletin must be in the parish office by Friday at 12:30pm. (i.e. 9 days before the bulletin date)

PARISH WEBSITE…… ….. WWW.STJOSEPHPRESCOTT.COM
PARISH EMAIL..... .....parishoffice@stjosephprescott.com
Fr. Szews EMAIL .....gszews@stjosephprescott.com
Finance EMAIL.....finance@stjosephprescott.com

St. Joseph Parish School

Christmas break begins for the school on December 23rd and will run through January 3rd. School will resume on Monday, January 4th. The school office will be closed these dates as well.
As we near the end of Advent and reflect back during these final days of 2020, we are very thankful to have remained in school from September through December. We continue to appreciate our partnership with parishioners and stakeholders in carrying out the mission and work of our school. Thank you for your time, talent, treasure, and continual support. We are committed to bringing the best possible Catholic education to our parish and community children, and we could not do this without you. Thanks again for all you do to support the operation and efforts of our school.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a restful winter break!

— Mr. Magee, School Principal

December 24th	4PM Full
December 25th	9AM
December 26th	4PM
December 29th	No Mass
December 31st	4PM
January 2nd	4PM

Please be sure to email the office to register for mass. ParishOffice@StJosephPrescott.com

Financial News

Due to early publication deadline, the financial information will be updated next week.

If you would like to set up automatic contributions to the parish, please contact the office to have a form sent out to you, 715-262-5310 or email us at ParishOffice@StJosephPrescott.com.
There is also a copy of the form on the website under Church-Shortcuts. Thank you for the continued support of our parish.

YEAR-END DONATION REMINDER

As the end of the calendar year approaches, we want to remind our parishioners that charitable contributions must be applied to the year in which they are received. We kindly ask that you make your tax-deductible check payable to St. Joseph Parish and write the purpose of the check on the memo line (Capital Campaign, Adult env, Christmas, etc). Donations can be put in the box outside the church office or mailed. Thank you for your continued generosity to the Church.

MASS INTENTIONS

8:15 AM Tuesday 29 December
Alvin Langer by Kevin and Terre` Langer
4:00 PM Thursday 31 December
Phyllis Most by Mary Beeler

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

"They took him to the temple, and they named him Jesus.

Mary and Joseph were wise parents. In their wisdom they prepared Jesus for the journey he would take. On this Feast of the Holy Family, what future do you imagine for your children? How will you prepare them with faith and hope to stand the struggles that we all face now and what they will face in the future? Happy Christmas Season. Stay well and healthy. Pick up day for Grade 8 new material starting Jan. 17, 2021 will be on January 5th from 4 to 6 pm at the gym door at St Joseph. If you cannot come, then please let me know when you can pick up this material for your child. **Carol - 651-208-4449**

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