



26 December 2021
Feast of the Holy Family

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH

So My Soul Is Thirsting



She sings with an exuberance and naivete which could only be born in the heart of a child. I watch her each Sunday as she finds a spot as close to the choir as possible. Her family files in after her. She seems undisturbed by younger siblings who do not have the same wonder and enthusiasm for Mass singing as she does. They poke and prod, crawl past her in quick escape from an occasional slip of parental

supervision. It doesn't bother or deter her.

On this late Advent Sunday I catch her eye as she sings the psalm response from memory. She smiles but does not stop singing...As the deer that longs for running water, so my soul is thirsting, so my soul is thirsting, so my soul is thirsting for my God. I wonder if she understands the ache which prompted the psalmist so many centuries ago to put these words to music. I wonder if she could possibly realize all the anguish my friend Mike put into these words and music as he wrote them at a time when composition came to him with uninspired difficulty and grim determination; when God—as God often seems to some of us—is a theoretical proposition rather than comforting companion....so my soul is thirsting, so my soul is thirsting....

I smile and nod to her. I mean to be encouraging not just of her singing but of that particular yearning we humans seem to have for a God whose rumored love came once in swaddling clothes...so my soul is thirsting, so my soul is thirsting...She sings more loudly, a fact which annoys her younger brother. He clamps his hands over his ears and shakes his head. He knows I am watching. I lift my eyebrows and cock my head side-wise with a small grimace. He laughs. It is all a game to him. I wonder, and hope at the same time, when it will dawn on him that whether there is a God who loves us or not, and whether we believe in that God or not really does change everything. He is young and there is time for this realization—but not so much...so my soul is thirsting, so my soul is thirsting...It is the hankering for God which first tells us that believing in God, loving God, does not come easily and without cost and exists in us only because we have hearts which are meant to be broken. Hearts which have never been broken will never understand Christmas...so my soul is thirsting, so my soul is thirsting, so my soul is thirsting for you my God...GRS.

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.

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.

Music for Mass

✠ Entrance: *Angels We Have Heard on High (#430)* Lavon Bayler

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>3) Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore, on bended knee,
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.</p> | <p>4) See him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.</p> |
|--|---|

Readings can be found at #1007

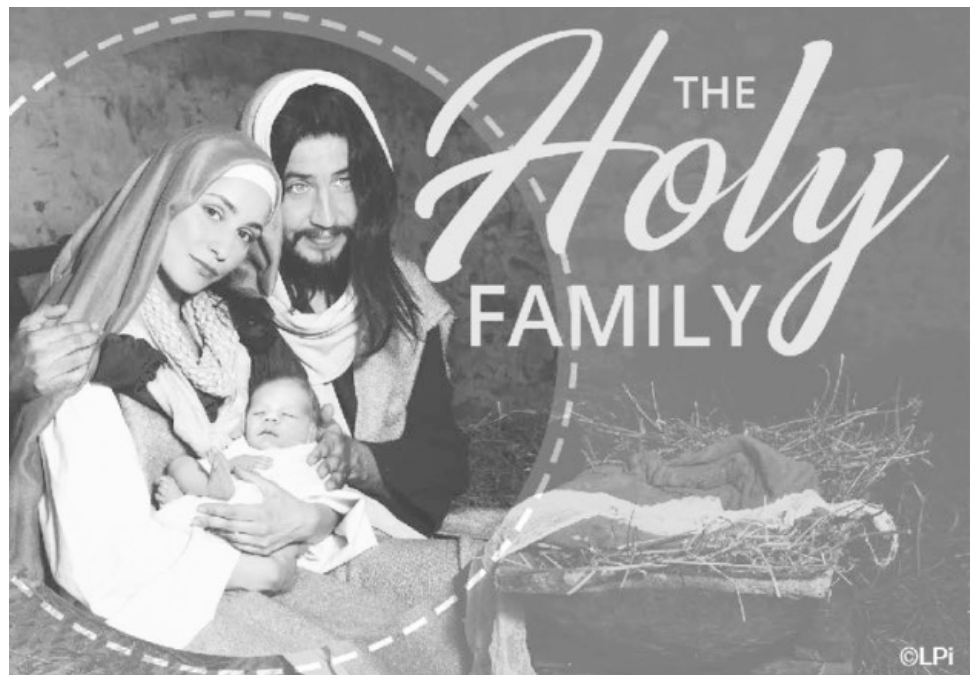
✠ Responsorial Psalm: *All the Ends of the Earth* Nick Poss

All the ends of the earth have seen the glory of the Lord.
All the ends of the earth have seen the pow'r of God.

© 1999, Nick Poss

✠ Preparation: *Once in Royal David's City (#455)* Alexander

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1) Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.</p> | <p>2) Isaiah 'twas fortold it,
The Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.</p> |
|--|--|



MASS INTENTIONS

- 8:00 AM Sunday 26 December
Parishioners
- 10:00 AM Sunday 26 December
Randy Most by Beth & Jerry Voss
- 8:15 AM Tuesday 28 December
Rose Tronnier by Tom & Margaret Driscoll
- 8:15 AM Wednesday 29 December
Joan Kimball by Mary Beeler
- 8:15 AM Thursday 30 December
Deceased & Living members of the Bob Bjork
family by Robert & Annette Bjork
- 4:00 PM Friday 31 December
Rose Tronnier by Geri Langer
- 4:00 PM Saturday 1 January
Lois Ruhr by Ron & Anita Sterud
- 8:00 AM Sunday 2 January
Parishioners
- 10:00 AM Sunday 2 January
Dorothy Most by Beth & Jerry Voss

BREAD AND WINE

Our Eucharist bread and wine for the month of December has been donated IMO Eugene & Verna Mae Johnson by their children.

PRAYER CORNER

Please keep the following in your prayer.

Norm Killian; Anita Casey (Darla Ironside's Sister-Inlaw); Jessica Sabelko, 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); Jackie Unser; Bill Casperson (Nancy Peterson's brother); Robert Hei (Shirley Hei's Son); Dwight Hollen; Kristi Meier; Evan Horn; LaVeme Cobian; Richard Cornell; Dick Baker; Casie Johnson; Richard Hulne; Mike Meier; Jerry Killian; Michael "Chip" O'Brien; Leslie Cobian; Marv Lindseth; Julie Murchinson; Gracie Magnan (daughter of Peter & Jessie); George Johnson; Shirley Hei; Betty Armstrong; Jerry Hoss (brother of Janet Cleary); Bernie Wisniewski; Roberta Bradford (Shirley Dehning Granddaughter); Butch Carroll (Roxie's Husband); Boyd Huppert; Theresa Hei; Sharon Heikkila; Alice Mercord; John Mercord 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.*



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sundays during the 10am Mass we have classes for 4-, & 5-year-old children downstairs. Register anytime. (Stories of God's Love") No class December 26 and January 2

December 15, 22 & 29- NO CLASSES

January 5th Classes 1-10, Grade 10 in gym for Pro-life Speaker.

January 12th Classes for Grades 1-9 with grades 7-9 in the gym for pro-life speaker

Any questions: Call or email Carol at 715-262-3514 or 651-208-4449 or carolmercord@stjosephprescott.com

"THE REAL JESUS:

Who is He....and How Can We Know?"

Mark your calendars: Wednesday, January 26, 2022, Supper 5PM, presentation to follow. Presented by Fr. Mark Peirce.

More information to follow.



Prayers are kindly requested for parishioner Robert Magee who passed away 8 December 2021. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

Prayers are kindly requested for parishioner Darlene Pedersen who passed away 6 December 2021. We extend our sympathy to her family and friends.

Prayers are kindly requested for parishioner Robert Mercord who passed away 10 December 2021. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

St. Joseph Parish School

Christmas break begins for the school on December 23rd and will run through January 2nd. School will resume on Monday, January 3rd. 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 2021, we are very thankful to have again 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 couldn't 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*

NEW LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

We will soon begin to schedule liturgical roles for the months of January, February and March. Please go online and block dates that you are not available by 26 December. We will be looking for Volunteers in all the ministries, but will need to wait on the new priest to know for sure what will be needed on a weekly basis. Thank you for sharing your Time and Talent with us!

LITURGICAL SCHEDULES

Friday, 31 Dec. • 4:00 pm

Jane Budworth	Lector 1
Walt Matzek	Lector 2
Thomas Rynda	Server
OPEN	Server
Gary Hovel	Usher
Dave Hovel	Usher

Sunday, 2 Jan • 8:00 am

Jenny Brazzale	Lector 1
Ed Mertz	Lector 2
Ashley Keller	Server
OPEN	Server
Jim Hovel	Usher
Dave Murphy	Usher

Saturday, 1 Jan. • 4:00 pm

Carolyn Wisniewski	Lector 1
Shirley Hayes	Lector 2
Jackson Matzek	Server
Bennett Jackson	Server
Roger Klegin	Usher
Ron Sterud	Usher
Jace Myers	Video

Sunday, 2 Jan • 10:00 am

Jill Boros	Lector 1
Tricia Shearen	Lector 2
Jack Groskopf	Server
Justin Knott	Server
Roger Boros	Usher
Chad Lubich	Usher

Money Counters

First National Bank
Monday, 3 January • 9:00 am
Janet Kennedy
Rich & Sue Matzek

Lector 1 • 1st reading
Lector 2 • 2nd reading
& petitions

Contact Information

PARISH STAFF

Rev. George R. Szews	Pastor
Rev. Mr. Gerald T. Rynda	Deacon
Chris Magee	School Principal
Carol Mercord	Director of Religious Education
Rita Johnson	Parish Administrative Assistant
Ann Schwebach	Finance and Benefits
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 Monday & Friday; 9:00 am-3:00 pm Tuesday to Thursday

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	finance@stjosephprescott.com

✠ Communion: The Table of Emmanuel

Tony Alonso



As we taste the bread of heav - en and the
cup of love out - poured, we pro - claim your birth, Em -
man - u - el, Child of Mar - y, Christ the Lord.

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✠ Communion: O Come, O Come, Emanuel # (439)

John Neale

✠ Closing: Go Tell it on the Mountain (#428)

John W. Work

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!

- 1) While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens There shone a holy light.
- 2) The shepherds feared and trembled When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth.

© Mrs. John W. Work, III

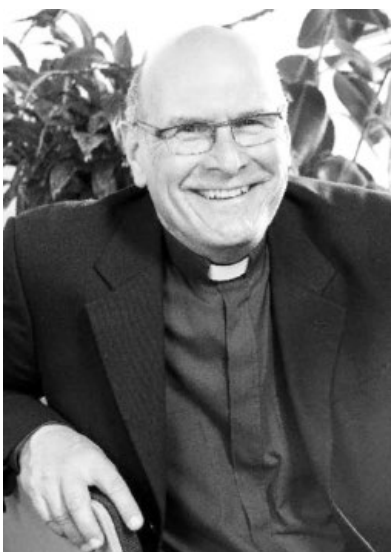
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Retirement Party For Rev George Szews

Please join us after the
4 PM New Years Eve Mass

Together let us celebrate
43 years of Religious Life
and 8 years of friendship &
leadership to St Joseph Parish.

Hors d'oeuvres and
refreshments will be served
in the Gathering Space




As you begin year-end tax planning, take advantage of the charitable tax deduction for gifts made before December 31 and consider the variety of gift options available to you. Your gift to our parish can make a great difference to us and help you as well.

As always, work closely with your tax and legal advisors to determine how any particular strategy will affect your overall tax situation. Please contact Ann Schwebach at the Parish Office at 715-262-5310 by December 31 to advise the parish of your gift of stock so that it will qualify as a donation in 2021. The Parish Office will coordinate with your financial advisor or broker to ensure the gift is properly received. If you choose to make a cash donation, please prepare your check and mail it so that your envelope is postmarked or received by the Parish Office by December 31 to qualify as a gift in the year 2021. Contributions received in the offertory plate at Mass on January 1st will be treated as 2022 gifts. Thank you for your donation/s to Saint Joseph Parish throughout this past year. Your continued support is sincerely appreciated.

FINANCIAL NEWS

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

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• Meats
• Deli
• Floral



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