

St. Julie Billiart, Dartmouth - Diocese of Fall River

Sunday and Daily Mass Schedule

December 25th – January 2nd Dec 25 9:00am The Nativity of the Lord (Wh)

Sun. Dec 26
7:30am
9:00am
11:00am
7:30am
Peast of the Holy Family (Wh)
John Aguiar & Thomas Doyle
Ruth DiMarzio
Pamela Ferreira

Mon. Dec 27 9:00am St. John; Apostle (Wh) Maria Melo

11:00am

Sat.

Tues. Dec 28 9:00am The Holy Innocents (Rd)
Joseph Foisy

Wed. Dec 29
9:00am
Christmas Octave Day (Wh)
Seth Daigle & Rachel and Edwin
Michaud

Thurs. Dec 30
9:00am

Christmas Octave Day (Wh)
Izaura Pimentel

Fri. Dec 31 Christmas Octave Day (Wh)

9:00am Floriano Pimentel
Fri. Dec 31 Mary, Mother of God (Vigil) (Wh)

4:30pm Pro Populo
Sat. Jan 01 Mary, Mother of God (Wh)

9:00am Mary, Mother of God (Wh)
Manuel Augusto & Family

Sat. Jan 01 Epiphany of the Lord (Vigil) (Wh)
4:30pm Regina Cochran

Sun. Jan 02 Epiphany of the Lord (Wh)
7:30am Elizabeth Beaton

7:30am Elizabeth Beato 9:00am John Saraiva 11:00am *Pro Populo*

Pro Populo means a Holy Mass "for the people". It indicates the obligation for priests to celebrate one Sunday or Holy Day Mass for their parishioners.

Please Pray For:

All the Souls in Purgatory and for parishioners who are ill at home or in nursing home or hospital and especially also for: Lilly Harris, Jenna D., Connie Bernado, Dan D., John Costa, Jaime Pimentel, Joaquina Robinson, Helen W., Delmar C., Fran, Donald Baxter, Jane & Chauncey G., Kathy & Marianna M., Eric, Kateri, Anne Belmonte, Brian D., Louise R., Dan D., Margaret K., Bob, Frank C., Janice Sharp, Melissa M., Maria S., Bill H., Lucille Dussault, Tom & Matthew, Grace Gonsalves, Margaret K., Joe Barbero, and Elizabeth Beaton.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

January - Maintenance Collection (all month)
- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

January 9 - Parish Assessment

January 16 - Catholic Communications

THE PASTOR'S COLUMN

The Light of Christmas

If you love Christmas, it's good to be a Catholic, because the Catholic Church celebrates Christmas for eight days. In the Church, the Christmas season continues after Christmas Day, because the Church believes the birth of Christ deserves an octave of celebration.

One of the spiritual themes in our celebration of Christmas is that of light. In the prayers for Midnight Mass, the Church prays that the sacred night of Christ's birth is "radiant with the splendor of the true light." And in one of the prayers for Mass on Christmas Day, we pray that, "as we are bathed in the new radiance of [the] incarnate Word, the light of faith, which illumines our minds, may also shine through in our deeds."

The birth of Christ brought light into the world. Christ was the fulfillment of the ancient prophecy of Isaiah, who said, "Your light will come Jerusalem. The Lord will dawn on you in radiant beauty" (cf. Is 60:1-3). We know that light shone in the world on the night that Christ was born, as the angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds in the fields and the "the glory of the Lord shone around them" (Lk 2:9). It must have been a glorious sight, when the shepherds saw the "multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests" (Lk 2:13-14).

But the more important light that Christ brought into the world is the truth of His teachings. These teachings show us how to live. They show us how to find the more abundant life that Christ came to bring us (cf. Jn 10:10). Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (Jn 8:12).

If we live as Christ taught, we find the light of life. The moral teachings of Christ make our lives brighter, because they guide us away from what would bring darkness into our lives. For example, Christ taught us to be honest and honorable (cf. Mt 5:37), and if we follow this teaching, we are spared from the darkness of deception and fear. As we pray at Christmas, we need to allow the light of Christ to illumine our minds and to shine through in our deeds. In other words, we need to accept the teachings of Christ as the truth and then put them into action in our lives, beginning with our daily decisions and choices. If we do this, we will discover that our lives become more radiant, because they will reflect the ultimate truth of our existence. When we live as Christ taught us, we discover the meaning and purpose of our lives, and then the light of Christmas becomes visible for all to see. I wish all of you and your families a blessed Octave of Christmas!

ON THE COVER - BY STEVEN N. GUILLOTTE

"Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. (Lk 2:48-50)

There are solid families, broken families, "dysfunctional" families, and caring families, and some families that have been, over time, all of the above; but how many families do you know that are *holy* families? Rather, how many families do you know that make it their daily effort to be holy? In point of fact you may know some families right in this parish which pursue holiness; you may live in such a family. You may be already aware that a family is made holy in the same way the Church is made holy: not by the imperfect people who comprise it, but by Christ who pervades it.

Such is the story of the Holy Family of Nazareth. No doubt, Joseph was a holy and righteous man (Mt 1:19); no doubt, Mary was a holy and blessed virgin; but without Jesus Christ we would not have *the* Holy Family. It is the same with churches: without Jesus Christ we would have no "Holy (Apostolic) Church" as we declare in our Nicene Creed at Holy Mass (which by the way is made "Holy" by the Eucharistic sacrifice of Jesus Christ).

Holiness does not always require complete understanding, as today's Gospel quotation above indicates. Whatever the Blessed Virgin Mary "did not understand" she would always contemplate in her heart (Lk 2:51) thus refining and polishing her holiness. We might call the Holy Family instead the Wondrous Family since as we see in our quotation from Sacred Scripture, even anxious and fearful moments achieve wonderful revelations. For in "Finding Jesus in the Temple", that mysterious narrative about the divine twelve year old, the world receives the first installment of the eventual full unveiling of the Holy Trinity, as Jesus here relates to his parents that God is Father and Son (with the disclosure of the Holy Spirit still to come)!

To celebrate this Sunday's **Feast of The Holy Family** we display on our parish bulletin cover a work by the Venetian master, **Paulo Veronese**, entitled *Christ among the Doctors* (1560). This is a wide painting so we are able to show only a portion of it. Veronese places Jesus "on high" to show that he is the heavenly Word, the source of the books of the depicted doctors. This is a classical High Renaissance work which portrays the Jewish temple court as a Greek "agora" with columns and colonnades (not seen here); that is, a place of assembly and debate. The figure of Jesus is seen pointing toward heaven with his right hand, while gesturing horizontally with his left, thus indicating His Incarnation and divine visitation to earth. In the background we see Mary and Joseph inquiring about their missing son.

Veronese uses a clever artistic gesture by painting Mary pointing in the direction of her divine Son. It is as if we have fast forwarded from the Temple in Jerusalem to the Wedding at Cana where Mary tells the wine servants, "listen to Him" (Jn 2:5). Even today she speaks to us in this way - to each and every one our parish families - for only by listening to Christ over and against the voice of the world can our families become "holy families".

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

In Person: Mon - Fri 9:45am - 4:00pm Otherwise staff are in the office and available by telephone or email between these same hours Monday through Friday to assist you.

HANDY CONTACTS

Religious Education: 508-990-0287 Facilities Management:: 508-441-1145 St. Vincent de Paul Society: SVdP@saintjulies.org Bulletin Editor: sng@saintjulies.org

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Fr. David Pignato, Pastor

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Mr. Joe Martino. Rel. Education: Grades 6-9

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Kathy & Gene Kosinski, Rel. Education: Grades 1-5 [Kathy@saintjulies.org]

Mrs. Rhonda Senra, Parish Office Assistant [Rhonda@saintjulies.org.]

Mr. Joe Martino, Parish Maintenance

[]oe@saintjulies.org]

Mr. Steven Guillotte, Business Manager & Pastoral Assistant [sng@saintjulies.org]

HOLY MASS

Sunday 7:30am, 9:00am & 11:00am Saturday Vigil 4:30pm Monday-Saturday 9:00am *Holy Days* 9:00am & 6:00pm

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday 5:00-6:00pm Saturday 8:00-9:00am Saturday 3:30-4:30pm Any Time by Appointment

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesday 10:00am-6:00pm Saturday 10:00am-3:00pm

Parishes Finances November 2021			
<u>Income</u>			
 	Parish Operations	Diocesan Assessment	<u>Total</u>
Income	\$64,857.15	\$2,705.00	\$67,562.15
Expenses	\$39,549.94	\$4,756.73	<u>\$44,306.67</u>
Difference	\$25,307.21	-\$2,051.73	\$23,255.48

PRAYERFUL CHRISTMAS ADORATION: The highest form of interior prayer is *Adoration*. Like the Magi and the shepherds you may adore Our Lord at our Nativity scene. Even higher prayer is that of Eucharistic Adoration where the **Real Presence** of Jesus is there upon the altar. *Adore the Lord in this Holy Season!*

HOLIDAY PARISH OFFICE CLOSING: The parish office will be closed on **Friday 31 December** and will reopen Monday 3 January. We will still celebrate Holy Mass on the 31st at 9:00 am as usual.

Mass Intentions: We will open the Mass Book for the period of July through December 2022 on Wednesday 12 January after the 9 am Mass. At that time, parishioners will be able to schedule 3 Mass intentions (i.e. 1 weekend and 2 weekday). Those coming to the parish office that morning will be the first to schedule Masses that day. After this we will take Mass intentions over the telephone and by email. Once a few weeks have passed we will evaluate the total Mass intentions scheduled and make you aware of the availability of more Masses.

This Weekend's Readings and Gospel: in the *Credo hymnal* are on page 1050 through page 1054 (for the Feast of the Holy Family).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2021

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8 Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-

Wednesday:1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Thursday:1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40 Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18 Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Next Sunday: 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

MORNING OUTDOOR MAINTENANCE: As the winter weather crawls toward us, we want to make parishioners aware that on weekdays we will not open the church before 8:00 am. We are gratified that people come to the church early to pray, yet we are also cautious for everyone's safety in a season when the parking lot and walkways need treatments for melting ice and clearing snow. Because of the pitch of the north side parking lot we have the constant challenge of ice reappearing overnight from snow that melts during the day from the embankments. An 8 am church opening time gives our facility director time to treat the walkways in the morning. As always, please be safe and use caution in coming to church when it is snowing and please consider that the snow plow will usually not arrive at the church until the storm/snow is over for each particular inclement event.

HAND KNIT SCARVES: We are collecting hand knit/crocheted scarves, hats, and mittens for the local homeless in a collection basket in the church entrance. We will periodically remove these items from the church entrance to deliver them to those in need. The collection will continue until January 30, 2022. Thank you for sharing your craftsmanship with the poor.

(EARLY) BULLETINS ONLINE: When perusing the parish bulletin online, please observe the dates listed especially near holidays. Our publisher posts these bulletins usually on the day we submit them and we have many *early* submission dates before holidays. At times you might be "viewing the most recent bulletin" which is a bulletin one or two weeks ahead of the coming weekend - Thank you.

Parish Ladies Guild

THE SUNSHINE VOLUNTEER: through January 1st is Joanne Kowalczyk whom you can contact at 508-997-7310 if you would like us to send a note or card of encouragement to someone who has lost a loved one.

RUMMAGE SALE: We are using Facebook's Marketplace to sell items online. We are in need of higher value items (no clothes) in new or like-new condition. If you have any items to donate please first contact Robin at 508-994-8908 to see if it is something we could use.

JEWELRY DONATIONS: are being accepted and sold on "Poshmark" online. We thank you for donations of Costume, Fine, Vintage or Broken. Call Isabel 508-992-5464 for pickup. Please do not drop off items at the parish.

Happy New Year from SVDP

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society had a stellar year of charity in 2021 and thanks you for your great support in food and finances, and for your many offerings to the parish Holy Day collections which assist their work. May the Lord bless you and your families in 2022!

BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS: Thank you to all who came out and gave blood on Saturday 11 December. We **collected 36 blood units** improving on the 28 units we collected in October. This is a great pro-life effort as we come together to give the gift that saves and sustains many lives. We will let you know of the next blood drive date at the parish.

Of Troubles & Grace by Steven N Guillotte

The word "family" comes from the Latin, famulus, meaning "a devoted attendant or servant". This is very enlightening when one takes into consideration the words of Christ, "the greatest among you must be your servant" (Mt 23:11).

While the father and mother of any family are naturally in a place of authority over the children, the best mothers and fathers are those who devotedly attend to their children. In turn, the best sons and daughters are those who attend devotedly to their parents, just as the best brothers and sisters are the ones most dedicated and caring toward their siblings.

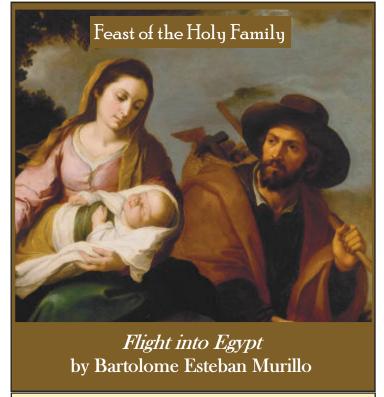
God created the family to be a domicile of loving intimacy. If each family in any society or nation began to attend to their own members, first and foremost, with the natural affection which is proper within the family, then the society or nation constituted by those families, would immediately progress in prosperity.

Still, this natural affection would not be enough to advance and sustain the family. The biblical narratives of Adam & Eve and Cain & Abel illustrate many spiritual meanings, but one cannot overlook one of the most important meanings: families invite temptations into the home, but leave the Lord God standing on the door step, and are so bound to experience disunity and suffering.

This is not to say that natural reason and mutual respect do not go along way. Even an agnostic family that applies reason and respect to all of its members may thrive for a time by way of these virtues. However, no household on earth is completely sealed against the evils of temptation and discord. This is because every human soul which walks on earth steps in the solicitations of the world, the flesh, and the devil and tracks these back onto the family carpet. Just now, we see clearly how reason has turned into irrationality, and respect has turned into disrespect in so many souls and in so many families, and therefore also in so many societies and nations.

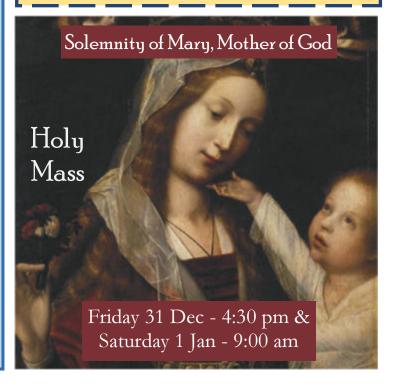
Neither souls nor families can subsist happily and prosperously without grace. Yet, even the gift of God's grace needs reason and effort "when troubles come not [as] single spies but in battalions" (Claudius, Hamlet Act IV, Scene V). And troubles do come.

However, when troubles arrive, those who rely on the powers of faith and reason, and who continue to praise God through grace, will turn their crosses into trees of life. This is most certain for both souls and families.



God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. (Sir 3:2)

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON: begins for Catholics on Christmas Day at "Christ's Mass". It continues for several weekends in the celebration of three consecutive feasts: The Holy Family (this weekend), Epiphany (next weekend) and then The Baptism of the Lord Jesus. The world stops celebrating Christmas on December 26th, but we have just begun and will continue 'til January 9th.



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