

CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION  
WOODBRIDGE/BETHANY  
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH  
DECEMBER 26, 2021



“Open our hearts, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your Son.”

## OPENING HYMN: HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Verses



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing: "Glo - ry to the  
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -  
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of



1. new - born King; Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild,  
 2. last - ing Lord; Late in time, be - hold him come,  
 3. Righ - teous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



1. God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye  
 2. Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the  
 3. Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



1. na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies; With an -  
 2. God - head see! Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty! Pleased as  
 3. glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die, Born to



1. gel - ic hosts pro - claim: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 2. man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 3. raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain




Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

### A Reading from the Book of Sirach

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother. My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins a house raised in justice to you.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM



Bles - sed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

## A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS

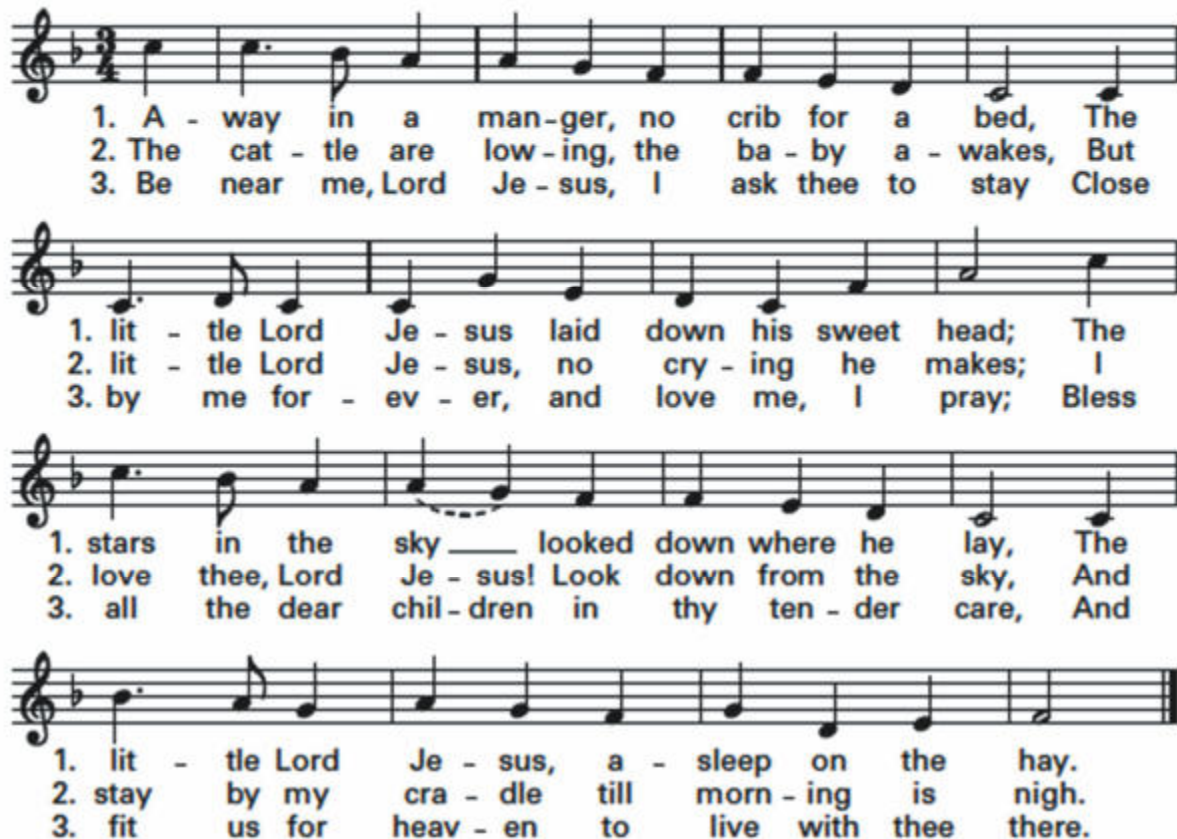
Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**THE WORD OF THE LORD.**

## A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "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. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD.**

## OFFERTORY HYMN: AWAY IN A MANGER



1. A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, The  
2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, But  
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay Close

1. lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head; The  
2. lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes; I  
3. by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray; Bless

1. stars in the sky — looked down where he lay, The  
2. love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky, And  
3. all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care, And

1. lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.  
2. stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
3. fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION


Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O Good Jesus, hear me. Within your wounds hide me. Permit me not to be separated from you. From the wicked foe, defend me. At the hour of my death, call me and bid me come to you That with your saints I may praise you for ever and ever. Amen.

## PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.


## CLOSING HYMN: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain




Go, tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry -  
where; Go, tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born.

Verses




1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When high a - bove the earth
3. And lo, when they had heard it, They all bowed down and prayed;
4. Down in a low - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was born,

to Refrain



1. Be - hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
2. Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
3. They trav - eled on to - geth - er To where the Babe was laid.
4. And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.


### Please Pray for the Sick



Ed Rish, Steven Rish, Danielle Esposito, Connie DiCarlo, Anna Adamovich, Sandra Overlock, Laura Luzzi, Pamela Willis, Mark Cefaloni, Patricia McDonnell, Janice Barone, Damian Horbury, Frank DeLucia, Nancy Cavallaro, Rob Sapitowicz, Paul Gawron, Michele Schioppo, Victoria Diana, Laura Daddio, Michael Cosenza, Barbara Tiedemann, Joseph Moore Sr., Joseph Moore Jr.

*Please contact the Parish Office to add or remove names from the Prayer List.*

### Please Pray for those serving in the Military



Pvt Nicholas Rickel, (Army), Dan Kelley (Army), Captain Alexander Carpenter (Army), Captain Patrick Carpenter Jr., Captain Benjamin Steven Santandreu (Army), SEA BEE Nicholas Listro, (Navy) Lieutenant John Philip Morrissey (Army) Lieutenant Matthew Hansen, Major Daniel Morrissey, (Air Force) Lieutenant Colonel Seth Krummrich (Army), Captain Samuel Hurchala, Lieutenant Sean Leary, Kevin Murphy, Danny Murphy, Pfc. J. Adams, Emily O'Hara, Jonathan Sanchez, Alice Mary, Eric Trivette, Meara O' Hara, Zachary Simpson, Jon Farwell, Sergeant Brian Streit, Ryan Rausch, Mary O'Connell, Andrew Gnidula, and LCPL Glenn Warner.



## FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR FATHER FORD

Everyone is invited to a farewell reception for Fr. Ford which will take place on Sunday, January 2 beginning at 10:30 A.M. in the church hall. Father will begin his new assignment as Chancellor for the Archdiocese of Hartford as well as Pastor of St. Peter Claver Church in West Hartford.

Please join us as thank him for his ministry at Assumption and our prayers as he begins a new assignment on January 5.



**WREATH  
DECORATING  
WINNERS**

The Guild wishes to thank all those who entered and voted in the 2021 OLOA outdoor decorating contest. The theme this year was wreaths and we heartily congratulate the following winners:

**ELAINE BALLERINI**  
First Place



**ROSALIE ROWLAND**  
Second Place



**MARY ELLEN FARONI**  
Third Place



**THANK YOU FOR MAKING  
THIS BLESSED SEASON  
ALL THE MORE BEAUTIFUL.**

The graphic features a background of red berries on the left and bottom. It includes three photographs of different wreaths: a green and red wreath, a white and blue wreath with a large silver bow, and a green wreath with a red bow and an American flag motif.

**SUNDAY**, December 26, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

8:00 A.M. +Rose Hurlihe

9:30 A.M. +Maureen O'Brien (Joan Murphy & the Murphy Family)

11:30 A.M. +Cynthia Schultz (husband, Charles)

**MONDAY**, December 27 St. John, Apostle, Evangelist

9:00 A.M. Open for Mass Intention

**TUESDAY**, December 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

9:00 A.M. +Salvatore Mangione (Falcigno Family)

**WEDNESDAY**, December 29 Fifth Day within Octave of the Nativity

9:00 A.M. Open for Mass Intention

**THURSDAY**, December 30 Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity

No Mass

**FRIDAY**, December 31 Seventh Day within Octave of the Nativity

9:00 A.M. Open for Mass Intention

**SATURDAY**, January 1 The Octave of the Nativity of Our Lord, Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

10:00 A.M. Open for Mass Intention

**SATURDAY**, January 1 Vigil, Epiphany of the Lord

5:00 P.M. People of the Parish

**SUNDAY**, January 2 Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 A.M. +Alphonse Falcigno (Stephen, Loredana, Stephen, and Sabrina Falcigno)

9:30 A.M. Open for Mass Intention

11:30 A.M. Open for Mass Intention



The Sanctuary Lamp burns at the Mother Church in memory of Francis P. Martino requested by Dorothy Martino and at the Center Road church in memory of Dorothy Martino requested by Anne and Frank Balzano.

Parish Giving:  
December 19, 2021  
Weekly: \$6,010.00  
Average Weekly Expenses: \$9,158.00  
Deficit: \$3,148.00

Church of Our Lady of the Assumption  
81 Center Road, Woodbridge, CT. 06525

203-387-7119; Fax: 203-387-4281

Pastor: Reverend Christopher M. Ford

Deacon John "Jack" Mordecai,

Deacon Victor Lembo

Deacon Mario DiRienzo, Senior Status

Director of Music

Dr. Keith Smolinski

Director of Adult Faith Formation  
and Evangelization

Sister Carolyn Severino, ASCJ

carsev2000@yahoo.com

Director of Faith Formation/Youth Ministry

Ms. Mary Ryan

oloareligiousdirector@gmail.com

Main Office 203-389-9863

Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday

9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Wednesday: 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Office is closed on Thursdays and Fridays

Parish Secretary

Anita Bellmore, 203-387-7119

parishsecretaryoloa@gmail.com

Website: [www.assumptionchurch.com](http://www.assumptionchurch.com)

Parish Trustees: Dolph Luciani, Karen T. Cusick

Pastoral Parish Council President:

Margaret Hamilton

Finance Council Convener: Dr. Bruce Marien

### MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKDAYS: 9:00 A.M. At the Mother Church  
(1700 Litchfield Tpke, Rt. 69, Woodbridge)

(NO MASS ON THURSDAYS)

SATURDAY: 8:30 A.M. (Center Road)

WEEKEND MASSES: SAT. VIGIL 5:00 P.M.,  
8:00 A.M. 9:30 A.M. 11:30 A.M. (Center Road)

CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 4:00 TO 4:45 P.M.  
OR BY APPOINTMENT

Knights of Columbus Trinity Council 5467  
2021 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Coats for Kids  
Sets A New Record Distributes 600 Coats



The Trinity Council 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Coats for Kids program set a new record for the sixth consecutive year. The program started in the summer and recently concluded with the final deliveries. This year the council distributed a record number of 600 new boys and girls winter coats, surpassing the 552 coats delivered in 2020. The coats were distributed to twenty-five schools, churches and service organizations, including one new group: Behavioral Wellness Health. Since the program started in 2015, the council has distributed 2,544 coats in seven years.

To achieve these results, the program received extraordinary financial support from Our Lady of the Assumption: Social Action Committee and the Ladies Guild, Knights of Columbus Trinity Council 5467, Cohen & Thomas, Commodore John Barry Assembly 097 (Woodbridge), Cretella, Fappiano and Monelli, PC, DiGennaro Service. LLC, Iovanne Funeral Home, Inc., Lake Zoar Beach Club, PEZ Candy, Inc. and the Woodbridge Police Union.

In addition, an incredible number of parishioners made generous donations. Thus far this year, the program has received \$13,362 in donations.

Thank you again for your generosity.  
Pat Early and Bob Ellis, Co-chairman

**THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD**  
**JANUARY 1, 2022**



On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Christ's Birth was made possible by Mary's fiat: "Be it done unto me according to Thy word."

Although it is not a holy day of obligation this year, we encourage parishioners to attend Mass at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, January 1, 2022. There will not be an 8:30 A.M. Mass that day.

*"Holy Mother of God, to you we consecrate this New Year. You, who know how to cherish things in your heart, care for us, bless our time, and teach us to find time for God and for others. With joy and confidence, we acclaim you: Holy Mother of God! Amen." (from homily of Pope Francis on the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, 2021)*

**WEEKDAY MASSES AT THE CENTER ROAD CHURCH**  
**NEXT WEEK**



Please note: All weekday Masses for the week of December 27 through December 31 will be celebrated at the Center Road church at 9:00 A.M.

No 8:30 A.M. Mass on January 1. One Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, January 1 at 10:00 A.M. at the Center Road church.

# WORD SEARCH

## MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

B T R P W D V Y Q T Q R Y S C O H  
U L U D O E K C W S P Z K C T R O  
M R E I T V E N E R A T E B F A L  
E W G S N E C A R G F O L L U F Y  
X W A N S T L P R U D E N T N H F  
V H Z O O E E U B A F U S R E O A  
C Y G I Y A D R F V D Y F Y V N M  
B E X T W O K V C H E Y C T A O I  
B Q R O G O S L Y E T J R M E R L  
Q B C V T G N V K R S I A O H Q Y  
N Q K E A U E M R M X S A X N U B  
V F F D I X M O T H E R O F G O D  
T Y S C F J Q P D E T L U R W K H  
N O I T P M U S S A C I J B S Z A  
C R G N Q J B S A V K W H P C V O  
M A X K B N V K C L I A T U T S J  
D D I M P O M S L R I P H D N I S

ASSUMPTION  
DEVOTION  
FULLOFGRACE  
HONOR  
MOTHEROFGOD  
VENERATE  
BLESSED  
FAITHFUL



HEAVEN  
HONOR  
PRUDENT  
CHASTE  
FIAT  
HOLYFAMILY  
INTERCESSOR  
PURE



## A MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP LEONARD P. BLAIR



We are all aware of the reports of devastation that resulted from the massive tornado that hit the state of Kentucky and other areas as well.

I would like to share with you the following notice from the USCCB which recommends that contributions be directed through *Catholic Charities USA in the event you would like to take up a special collection for this purpose.*

I join you in praying for all those who have died or are suffering as a result of this natural disaster. WASHINGTON - Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, have issued the following statement after tornadoes tore through multiple states in the South and Midwest late Friday into early Saturday morning.

In their statement, Archbishops Gomez and Coakley call for prayer and assistance for all those who were in the path of the storm:

“It is heartbreaking to see the destruction and devastation brought by the tornadoes that tore through the South and Midwest overnight. During this Advent season where we await in joyful anticipation for the birth of our Lord, we pray for those who have been injured, for those who have lost their lives, and for their grieving families and communities. May those who have been impacted by these storms find peace, comfort, and hope in our faith and in God's endless love. We also pray for the emergency responders and those who have begun the work of providing for the needs of the impacted in these communities in the recovery efforts. We entrust all our brothers and sisters in harm's way to our Blessed Mother, and we ask for her continued protection and for her intercession in comforting those who are suffering.

Catholics and all people of good will may help our brothers and sisters in their recovery by supporting the work of Catholic Charities USA at:

[www.catholiccharities.us/campaign/ccusa-disaster-relief/c353051](http://www.catholiccharities.us/campaign/ccusa-disaster-relief/c353051).

## MARY'S PIVOTAL ROLE IN HISTORY



Advent and Christmas are primordially Marian seasons, as the Church focuses on reflecting on the Blessed Mother's role in God's plan for our salvation. (CCC 488-493) As her children, we contemplate how much this young woman desired to do God's will. Moreover, she constantly teaches us about how Christ should be the most important person in our lives. Who we are, what we have, every blessing, every grace we have ever received, comes from him through her. (cf. CCC 968-970) These days, we joyfully celebrate the plan of salvation that the books of the Old Testament, in foretelling Jesus' birth, "gradually bring into clearer light the figure of a woman, the Mother of the Redeemer." (Lumen Gentium 55) In this divine plan, the Blessed Virgin was involved in many wonderful ways in the mysteries of Jesus' childhood and manifestations. First, by a virginal birth, Mary brought forth the Son (Lk 2:7), showed him to the shepherds (Lk 2:16-19) and the Magi (Mt 2:11) and presented him in the Temple as she offered him to the Lord. (Lk 2:22-39) Then, with tremendous challenges and uncertainty, she and Joseph took Jesus into exile in Egypt (Mt 2:13-15) and searched for him when he was lost. (Lk 2:45-46)

She led their busy life in their home of Nazareth. (Lk 2:51-52) Decisively, at the wedding feast in Cana, trusting entirely in her son's caring heart, Mary asked him for a favor on behalf of the bride and groom, and Jesus performed his first miracle, "and so revealed his glory." (Jn 2:11) Among our many spiritual writers, St. Augustine declared that Mary "conceived (Christ) in her heart before she conceived him in her womb" (Sermo 25, 7; PL 38, 937), praising her faith and obedience as our model in her spiritual relationship with Jesus. (CCC 144, 148, 494)

Mary's motherhood originates from her unique role and dignity, for "none like her was seen before and none thereafter." (cf. CCC 963) Likewise, the Virgin's power of unceasing intercession for God's people comes from her divine motherhood. (CCC 495, 2677) Therefore, like her, we are to seek out and treasure the things that are God's. We must never forget that Mary's pivotal role in salvation history continues to the present time. If we profess that we can pray for each other as members of the body of Christ (cf. 1 Thes 5:25; 2 Thes 1:11), we would surely want the prayers of her whom all generations call blessed. (Lk 1:48) She is the mother of Divine Providence, a mother who cares for her children, entrusted to her by Jesus on Good Friday.

Mary is the "beautiful dawn" preceding Christ the "glorious Day," for the Father willed that the Mother would precede the incarnate Son in the history of salvation. Therefore, as the announcement of the motherhood of Mary by the archangel Gabriel heralded and prepared for the Incarnation, Advent and Christmas provide us with the opportunity of deepening our understanding of Mary's maternal mediation for all of us.

*Merry Christmas to you all!*  
*Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt*  
*Auxiliary Bishop of Hartford*

## Pope Francis concludes the Year of St. Joseph

At the conclusion of the Angelus on December 8, 2021, Pope Francis concluded the Jubilee Year dedicated to Saint Joseph. He also announced that the Jubilee Year dedicated to Our Lady of Loreto would end in Loreto on December 10.

St. Joseph and his wife the Virgin Mary, the pontiff stressed, are "guides on the path of holiness." He thanked all those who have brought to life these years of celebrations dedicated to Joseph and Mary – the Holy Family – in 2021.

With a decree published on December 8, 2020, the Holy See had announced plans to dedicate 2021 to St. Joseph, protector of the Holy Family. To conclude this Year – during which all the dioceses of the world were called to pray to the adoptive father of Jesus – Pope Francis began a catechesis on St. Joseph at the end of November that he is expected to continue in the coming weeks.

### The Holy Family Prayer

**JESUS**, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

**MARY**, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

**JOSEPH**, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

**HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH**, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. **Amen.**

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