

From Deacon Dick

A New Journey To Christmas

"... And Joseph went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:1-7)

This is such a familiar story that we might overlook its practical application in our own lives. Why not set aside some time today to read this passage slowly and to reflect on where you find yourself in it?

Here's one possibility. This story invites us to go on a new journey to Christmas which is precisely what Joseph and Mary did. Just as COVID has greatly disrupted our lives, so too were they dislodged from their places of familiarity and security. They were forced to travel a new Bethlehem where they met Jesus for the first time.

How open are we to meeting Jesus again for the first time? For example, have you ever noticed that people tend to sit in the same pews each time they come to worship? And yet, the Church teaches that, rather than gathering primarily as individuals, we *assemble principally as community* to offer our *communal prayer* to God. We gather around the Tables of the Word and Eucharist where all are equally beloved.

So during this Christmas Season, may we journey to a new place (that is, to a different pew.) Like Joseph and Mary, you may meet Christ in a new way! So I invite you to take a trip from your Galilee ... from your pew of familiarity and security ... and sit in a new Bethlehem where you will experience the birth of Jesus once again in your new neighbor!

On behalf of Fr. James Kane and Fr. Tony Chiaramonte and with the prayers and hopes of the staffs of St. Clare's and Christ Our Light, may your Christmas Season be filled with Peace, Love, and Joy!



WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

SUN 12/26	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/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, 9-10/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
MON 12/27	1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
TUE 12/28	1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18
WED 12/29	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
THR 12/30	1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40
FRI 12/31	1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18
SAT 01/01	Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
SUN 01/02	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

QUESTION FOR THE WEEK

Adult: How would you have reacted if you were Mary and Joseph finding Jesus in the Temple?

Children: What do you think it was like for Jesus to be in the Temple for three days without his parents?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord, teach me your Bible stories so that I can teach them to others.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Draw yourself or Jesus talking to the teachers in your church.

DECEMBER 28

Tuesday 9:00 AM

Margaret LaFleur (3rd Anniv Remb); req., Family Sante Nevasini; (Anniv Remb), req., wife, Alba & Family Nicholas Morrell; req., wife, Frances & Family



Fred Mastrianni; (Anniv Remb), req., Marie & Fred Mastrianni David Scaringe; (Anniv Remb), req., Mom & Dad Ralph Smith; req., wife, Pina and daughter, Michelle Angeline & George Abraham; req., daughter Judy Abraham Carmella Ponticello; reg., granddaughter, Judy Abraham

JANUARY 1 & 2

Saturday 10:00 AM

Joe Dilwith; (5th Anniv Remb), req., wife, Linda Joseph L., Fitzgerald, Jr.; (Anniv Remb), req., son, Pat

Sunday 10:00 AM

Deceased Members Sole Family; reg., Family Bill Oliver; req., sisters, Barbara & Kim

PARISH GIVING ~ SHARING GIFTS WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN

Weekly Offertory for December 4/5 and 11/12, 2021

Weekly Budget		\$ 14,901.96
Weekly Actual—Mail-Ins & Offertory		\$ 18,786.00
Overage/Shortfall	(+)	\$ 3,884.04

YTD (July 2020-Present) Offertory

YTD Budget	\$178,823.53
YTD Actual	<u>\$168,470.00</u>
YTD Overage/Shortage	(-) \$ (10,353.53)
	N/ 16/ /1

Thank you for your generosity. Your gifts are greatly appreciated!!

Upcoming Collections:

Solemnity of Mary ~ January 1

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING

"I praved for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD." (1 Sm 1:27-28)

PSALM

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)

SECOND READING

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are. (1 Jn 3:1)



GOSPEL

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (Lk 2:46)

SANCTUARY LAMP ~ IS LIT THIS WEEK FOR Michael Keane; reg., wife, Mary Keane



The Sanctuary Lamp in the Chapel is a beautiful way to remember a loved one. Please contact the parish office at 518-459-6635 if you would like to make arrangements to remember a loved one in this special way.

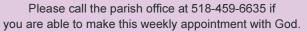


"O COME, LET US ADORE HIM"

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION ~ WEDNESDAYS 9:30 AM-8:30 PM

"Our Holy Hours of Eucharistic Adoration make us more sensitive to the needs of our fellow man." (St. John Paul II)

We presently have a need for Adorers at all Hours on Wednesdays.





Holiday Hours

The church and parish office will be closed on Monday, December 27. Seniors will not meet on this Monday. In celebration of the New Year, the parish office and church will be closed on Friday , December 31.



The Rosary Society Christmas Raffle Congratulations to Cristina Trichilo, winner of both the Christmas Raffle Basket of Cheer and Gift Card Tree.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021 / THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH





CATECHISTS NEEDED

If you would like to help in this ministry Kari would love to chat with you. No experience required—you just need a love for the Lord and a willingness to share. Come by the office or email Kari.kurtz@rcda.org

NOT SURE YOU CAN BE A CATECHIST?? Let's Debunk the myths!!

- I'm not that holy...I'm just a regular person—That's what we want!
- I don't if I have the time to teach—We are meeting 13 times between October and May
- I don't have any formal training to teach you don't need it! The best way to teach faith is just through conversations.
- I'm not ready to be in person with Covid— The younger grades are meeting via zoom..





12 Days of Christmas

WEEKLEY EVENTS CALENDAR

Day	Date	Event	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
Sun.	26-Dec	Mass - The Holy Family	10:00 AM	Church
Mon.	27-Dec	Holiday: Church & Parish Office Closed		
		COL Seniors Will Not meet		
Tue.	28-Dec	Mass	9:00 AM	Church
Wed.	29-Dec	Eucharistic Adoration	9:30 PM-8:30 PM	Chapel
		Rosary	6:15 PM	Chapel
		BLD Music Group	7:30 PM	CR 1
Thur.	30-Dec	Boy Scout Troop 1022 Mtg	6:00 PM-8:30 PM	Hall
Fri.	31-Dec	Holiday: Church & Parish Office Closed		
		Vigil Mass: Solemnity of Mary	4:00 PM	Church
Sat.	1-Jan	Mass: Solemnity of Mary	10:00 AM	Church
Sun.	2-Jan	Mass - Epiphany of the Lord	10:00 AM	Church



Pastoral Associate for Parish Services Church of St. Clare, Albany, NY

General areas of responsibility include preparation of the weekly bulletin, creation of worship aids, maintenance of parish records and databases, and serving as a liaison to parish ministries and outside vendors.

Required skills include a pastoral approach to people across the entire age spectrum, the ability to multi-task with attention to detail, and a demonstrated proficiency with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and Publisher).

Interested candidate should submit a resume, a letter of interest, and references to: <u>Richard.thiesen@rcda.org</u>.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Solemnity of Mary Vigil Solemnity of Mary Mass Epiphany of the Lord Baptism of the Lord

y Vigil Friday, December 31 ~ 4:00 PM Mass Saturday, January 1 ~ 10:00 AM Lord Sunday, January 2 ~ 10:00 AM Lord Sunday, January 9 ~ 10:00 AM

How will you spend your Christmastide so that others will see that you celebrate our Lord's Birthday... Remember there are 12 days of Christmas that ends with the Baptism of the Lord...

WELCOME, WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE!!

Whether you are interested in joining this parish, becoming a Catholic, or a visitor we WELCOME YOU and invite you to complete a registration form that can be found on the table in our gathering space, found online at www.ChristOurLightChurch.org or by contacting the parish office at 518-459-6635 so we may begin to know you.

STAY CONNECTED ~ Download myParish App and connect with Christ Our Light like never before! Everything in the *app* has one goal in mind; help Catholics orient their daily life towards Christ. Explore the *app* to see why *myParish* has become the leading *app* for Catholic parishes.





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