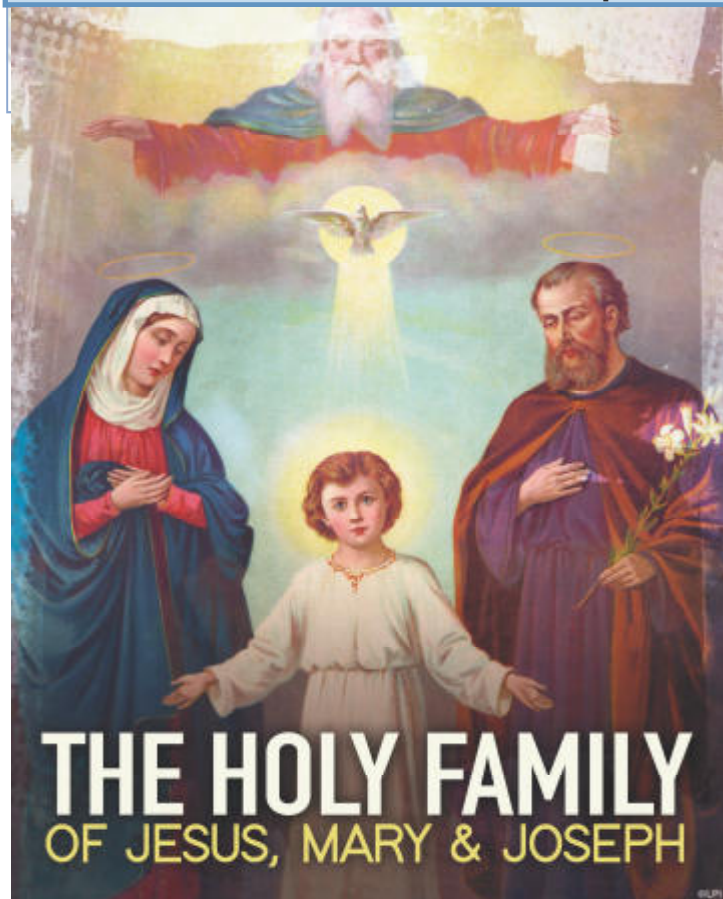


DECEMBER 26, 2021 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH



# ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

59 Main St. High Bridge, NJ 088829 | (908) 638-6211 | [www.sjchb.org](http://www.sjchb.org) | [parishoffice@sjchb.org](mailto:parishoffice@sjchb.org)



Our Parish is served by:

Reverend James A. Kyrpczak

Deacon Tom McGovern

Deacon Steve Fortier

**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.



## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5 pm  
Sunday 8 am, 9:30 am & 11 am

## WEEKDAYS

Monday-Thursday: 8 am

## CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday 4 to 4:45 pm  
First Sunday after the 11 am Mass  
& By Appointment

## BAPTISM

Celebrated on the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday. Contact the Parish Office.

*"Blessed are  
those who  
fear the  
Lord and  
walk in His  
ways."*

*Psalm 128*

## ADORATION

Holy Hour for Life, 3rd Thursday  
of the month & First Friday.

## ROSARY

Prayed every 2nd Wednesday & 5th  
Sunday of the Month

## PARISH REGISTRATION

Pick up a form in the Church vesti-  
bule or visit our website to join.

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday  
9:30am to 4 pm



## MASS INTENTIONS (LS-live stream)

### Saturday, December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30 AM †Poor Souls in Purgatory (LS)  
11:00 AM †Edward & Jean Schmidt

### Sunday, December 26 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

8:00 AM People of the Parish  
9:30 AM †Jill Szabo (LS)  
11:00 AM (L) Barbara Shea &  
†Thomas Shea

### Monday, December 27 St. John

8:00 AM No Mass

### Tuesday, December 28 The Holy Innocents

8:00 AM No Mass

### Wednesday, December 29 Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00 AM No Mass

### Thursday, December 30 Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00 AM No Mass

### Saturday/Sunday, January 1/2, 2022 SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

5:00 PM †Penny Dietrich  
8:00 AM †Catherine Nodes  
9:30 AM Protection of Babies in the Womb & Their  
Families (LS)  
11:00 AM People of the Parish

## LECTOR SCHEDULE

### Saturday: Dec. 25

9:30am:

11am:



### Saturday: Jan.1

5pm: Dave K.

### Sunday: Dec. 26

8am:

9:30am:

11am:



### Sunday: Jan.2

8am:

9:30am:

11am:



## OFFERTORY COLLECTION

<b>December 11/12</b>	\$2,386.-
Feast of The Immaculate Conception	\$225.-
Online Giving 12/6-12/12	\$2,092.-
Retired Religious	\$570.-
Many thanks to all who help support St. Joseph Church!	



"I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old familiar carols play  
And wild and sweet, the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men."

## GOSPEL MEDITATION



### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the *"light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families."* While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

May the Holy Family pray for us and guide us, Amen.

**This Christmas Season is from Dec. 24th until January 9th! Don't take down your tree yet!**

## PARISH STAFF

**Mrs. MaryJean Fiore**, Parish Secretary. Ext.1  
[parishoffice@sjchb.org](mailto:parishoffice@sjchb.org)

**Mrs. Shari Schultz**, PCL Faith Formation, Ext.2  
[sharischultz@sjchb.org](mailto:sharischultz@sjchb.org)

**Dr. Al Cresi**, Director of Sacred Music

**Mrs. Louise Mueller**, Parish Bookkeeper, Ext. 4  
[parishbkkpr@sjchb.org](mailto:parishbkkpr@sjchb.org)

# MERRY CHRISTMAS



**MASS INTENTIONS** Would you like to have a Mass said for the repose of the soul of a deceased loved one or for someone living, or for a special intention? Please contact the Parish Office at 908-638-6211. The offering is \$10. Mass cards are available and can be mailed for your convenience.

**FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY** If you would like to donate flowers for our sanctuary, please contact the Parish Office. You can donate in memory of a loved one or for someone living. Arrangements will be made with a local florist, no hassle on your part.

**UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION** Start the new year updating your information on our website. Maybe your cell number has changed or address? Visit [www.sjchb.org](http://www.sjchb.org) and complete the form & the Parish Office will update their records.

**ST. JOSEPH SNOW REMOVAL TEAM NEEDS YOU!** If you can help shovel/spread ice melt around the Church when it snows, please see **Father James** or email the Parish Office at [parishoffice@sjchb.org](mailto:parishoffice@sjchb.org) **THANK YOU!**

**IT'S THE NEW YEAR** As part of your New Year's Resolution, why not sign up for 1 hour a month to sit with Our Lord at **Adoration?** **St. Alphonsus Liguori** said, "**A Holy Hour will give you more strength during life and more consolation at the hour of your death and eternity.**"

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Eileen at (908) 482-0802. You choose the hour, between 3pm and 7pm, every First Friday of the month.

**Thank you** to those who faithfully volunteer and give of their time to be with Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Without you, we could not have Adoration!

**BIBLE STUDY** There is **NO Bible Study** on 12/21, 12/28 and 1/4. Join Andrew Rispoli on **Tuesday, January 11th** for a **Christmas/New Year's Eve Celebration** at **7:30pm** in the Church Hall. Bring your favorite scripture to discuss. Dessert will be Pot Luck!

**K-CLUB NEWS Congratulations** to our Week 20 Winners! Thank you for supporting the Knights of Columbus, Council #10627. Our next K-Club will start up in February 2022! **Good luck to everyone and Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the Knights.**

69	Dave Blasic	\$ 400.00	1st
13	Dennis Baucom	\$ 175.00	2nd
77	Carol Mowrey	\$ 175.00	3rd
38	Christine Wilkinson	\$ 100.00	4th
16	Carl Krzywiec	\$ 100.00	5th
87	Peter Sandrian	\$ 100.00	6th
56	Robert Aretz	\$ 50.00	7th
110	John Zuba	\$ 50.00	8th
53	George Mehaffey	\$ 50.00	9th
32	Brendan McCloskey	\$ 50.00	10th



The **Sanctuary Lamp** burns constantly to proclaim the *Real Presence* of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in the Tabernacle.

For the month of December the flame will burn:

**In Loving Memory of Richard Trumpka  
From The Mosier Family**

**SANCTUARY LAMP** You may have the Sanctuary Lamp burn in memory of a loved one or for the intention of someone living or for a special celebration. Contact the Parish Office if you are interested. The offering is \$10 per week.

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** O Glorious **St. John**, (feast day Dec. 27) you were so loved by Jesus that you merited to rest your head upon His breast, obtain for us an ardent love for Jesus & Mary and heal those who have asked for our prayers.



**We pray for:** Cathy Bush, Morgan, William Honachefsky, Vincent Scarponi, Mark Mueller, Joseph, Stephanie Hoelper, John Hayth, Barbara Shea, Michael Tingolie Sr., Lyzah Hennig, Jacob Cole, Colin, Christopher, Helen D., Jesse Westcott, Holly McCallum-Young, Kaitlin, Bernadette R., Barbara Shea, Irene Sebold, Carole & Paul Mueller, Holly Z., Joanna Faraldi, Terry P. & those who have no one to pray for them & for those who will be alone for ChristmaS & the New Year.

**RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR  
ORDINARY MOMENTS  
The Light of the Moon**



If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "**It's a Wonderful Life.**"

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?"

That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "**Upon you the LORD shines,**" writes Isaiah, "**and over you appears His glory.**" Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is

**God** that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

Remember, the Magi didn't chart their own course, they merely followed the star.

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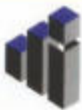
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