



# The Parish of Good Shepherd & St. Joseph

December 27th, 2020

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

## Church of the Good Shepherd - Rhinebeck

Weekend Mass: Saturday: 5:00 p.m. and Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30am. & 11:15am

Daily Mass: Monday through Saturday (Except Tuesday): 9:00 a.m.

*Good Shepherd Church is fully accessible for the disabled.*

## St. Joseph Church - Rhinecliff

Sunday: Temporarily transferred to Good Shepherd

### CONFESSIONS

Monday through Friday: 8:30a.m.—8:55a.m. (except Tuesday)

Saturday: 4:00p.m.- 4:55p.m.

### SPECIAL DEVOTIONS

Eucharistic Adoration every Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

(September through June)

### DEVOTIONS TO OUR LADY

Miraculous Medal Novena immediately following 9:00 a.m. Mass on Monday

Daily Rosary at 8:30 a.m. (except Tuesday)

### BAPTISMS

Baptisms are conducted on weekends. Parents who have not previously attended instruction in the sacrament must do so prior to the child's Baptism.

### MARRIAGES

Those seeking to marry must meet with the Pastor at least 6 months prior to the proposed wedding date to allow time for pre-marriage program attendance, gathering of appropriate documents, and securing any dispensation from ecclesial authorities.

### RECTORY OFFICE

3 Mulberry Street, Rhinebeck, NY 12572

Phone: 845.876.4583 Fax: 845.876.7884

Email: [goodshep1@frontiernet.net](mailto:goodshep1@frontiernet.net) Website: [www.gsrhinebeck.com](http://www.gsrhinebeck.com)

#### PASTOR

Rev. Douglas Crawford

#### ASSISTANT TO THE PASTOR

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#### PARISH SECRETARY

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#### OPERATIONS MANAGER

Mr. Timothy Williams

#### MUSIC DIRECTOR

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#### CATECHETICAL PROGRAM

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[Education@stchrisredhook.org](mailto:Education@stchrisredhook.org) 845-758-5506

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**EnCourage**

EnCourage is a Catholic Apostolate for those who have family members with same-sex attraction. EnCourage provides the faithful with information about the Church's teachings as well as spiritual support. Visit: [www.encyourage.com](http://www.encyourage.com)

**PARISHIONER UPDATE**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Change of Address  Moving out of Parish  
 Home Visit Requested  Need Envelopes

Please fill out and cut form. Return it through the Collection Basket or by mail to the Rectory Office. New registrants are invited to visit the Rectory during office hours to receive the registration form and information on parish activities.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Saturday</b><br>9:00 A.M.<br>5:00 P.M.                     | <b>December 26 Saint Stephen, Martyr</b><br>Edward Higgins † req by Brendan Sullivan<br>Jose' Rincon † req by the Rincon Family  |
| <b>The Octave of Nativity of the Lord</b>                     |  |
| <b>Sunday</b><br>8:00 A.M.<br><br>11:15 A.M.<br><br>9:30 A.M. | <b>December 27 The Holy Family</b><br>Rose & Sheldon Burroughs †<br>req by Bernadette Plesniak<br>Raymond, Gary & Barry Lutz †<br>req by Betty Lutz<br>John & Ave Clark † req by Maria Clark |
| <b>Monday</b><br>9:00 A.M.                                    | <b>December 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</b><br>Carmella Roberts † req by Ed Roberts   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>  | <b>December 29 Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop</b><br>No Mass  |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br>9:00 A.M.                                 | <b>December 30 Sixth Day within the Octave</b><br>Maria Miglino Ceglie † req by the Ceglie Family  |
| <b>Thursday</b><br>9:00 A.M.<br>5:00 P.M.<br>VIGIL            | <b>December 31 Seventh Day within the Octave</b><br>Pro Populo<br>Anne Bocchino † req by Maureen Gates   |
| <b>Friday</b><br>9:00 A.M.<br>11:15 A.M.                      | <b>January 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</b><br>Anthony Roberts, Sr. † Ed Roberts<br>John S. Hackett † req by Ann LeHane  |
| <b>Saturday</b><br><br>9:00 A.M.<br>5:00 P.M.                 | <b>January 2 Saints Basil the Great &amp; Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops &amp; Doctors .</b><br>Pro Populo<br>Anna Varlaro req by Laurie Walters   |
| <b>Sunday</b><br>8:00 A.M.<br>11:15 A.M.<br>9:30 A.M.         | <b>January 3 Epiphany of the Lord</b><br>Pro Populo<br>John Heller † req by Carlo & Bette Scagnelli<br>Sophie Tomaszewski req by Barbara Ruger   |



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 and**

**Fr. Edward Brogan**

req by Thom Christopher

# New Year Resolutions

by Robert Royal, Ph.D.

Happy New Year! Yes, we're still living in *annus horribilis* MMXX, but recently we began a new *liturgical* year, another cycle of feast and fasts, commemorations and celebrations, designed to help us remember that life in the world is not – as seems to have settled in on the secular level – just “one damned thing after another.”

I wrote [here](#) [earlier](#) [in](#) [the](#) [year](#) that, in Christian perspective, God permits scourges like plagues, widespread rioting, political upheavals in order to bring some good out of them, usually as a sharp reminder that we ought to change our lives. He

isn't vindictive; he's just administering a kind of slap in the face to our hysteria, intended to bring us to our senses. That's almost the whole of the Old Testament in a nutshell.

We ought to have spent these past, severely trying, months figuring out what we, individually and in common, were supposed to get out of this non-ordinary time, and to live accordingly. If we didn't, that's on us.

When you are faced with the truth that you are not in control of your life, that the usual institutions and authorities aren't either, that you need to look elsewhere than you have been for the way forward, at the very least it should bring you to a bedrock humility and recognition of reality.

So in the same way, though not in the same spirit, with which we take stock of the past year on January 1, and formulate resolutions for the future, herewith some reflections as we go through Advent and anticipate the birth of the One Person that we really can count on, even in the most unsettling times.

The first, last, and most important of all resolutions is to resolve not to expect too much from our own efforts. In the secular dispensation, people resolve on January 1 to lose weight, or change jobs, or mend some relationship. We know how those wishes usually turn out before long.

And that's a good thing, rightly understood, because even though we have to have right intentions and to work at making them real, such things rarely lie in our immediate power. To fail and to know, without giving up or whining, that we fail for good reason – relying on a fallible human being, namely ourselves – and need to ask for help

from Elsewhere, is already a great step forward.

A priest I've known for a long time wrote to say this weekend that, as he prayed the Advent prayers “Come Lord Jesus,” he was surprised at how fervently this year, after decades of ministry, he found himself saying those words. The

good get better by trials, and if 2020 did nothing else than increase the intensity with which we make that prayer, it can count as a good year.

Which brings us to another resolution: whether the old translation in the Our Father “lead us not into tempta-

tion” is correct (it looks that way in Greek, though maybe “put us to the test” captures the meaning better – the pope's preferred “let us not fall into temptation” is far afield) even Jesus went through trials. And much as all living things dislike suffering – and for us as rational beings suffering isn't only physical but connected with disorder, isolation, lack of meaning – suffering seems to be part of the divine economy. Pray for a tranquil life, if you want, and seek to live one. But do not expect your life, any life, to spare you from multiple tests.

As Americans, we naturally believe in the pursuit of happiness, which typically means prosperity. No foul there, properly understood. Yet we have the witness of Scripture in the other direction too: “People who have wealth but lack understanding are like the beasts that perish.” (Ps. 49:20) Some of us seem quite content to be beasts. A Christian should know better; even the gentiles and lesser breeds without the law knew “better to be Socrates dissatisfied than a fool satisfied.”

And another thing: when you ask, don't do so as if God needed your advice about what would be good – or bad – for you. The Lord's Prayer says a lot about wanting what God wants followed by a few petitions about daily bread, forgiveness, perseverance.

Most of what we think we want would only sink us further in vanity, self-absorption, and neglect of the most needful things. You have to be really dense to think you know better than the Creator what should and should not happen in His world.



Just now he seems to think that world should not continue along the ways it had been going earlier. There's a lot of talk at present about a "Great Reset" once the virus is tamed. Unfortunately, that "reset" looks a lot like the old authoritarian settings on an international scale, an even more radical attempt to control the climate, control population, control economic activity, control religious worship, above all control others who resist the controls envisioned by the Great Reset.

It's as if they have learned nothing from 2020 about the foolishness of thinking human beings can master the world. Let's be grateful for the scientists and entrepreneurs who produced vaccines in record time, but realistic as well. It doesn't take much imagination to see that worse things could happen that no amount of human control can avoid.

We need public order, to be sure, but an order that understands human liberty and the reason why it exists. The people who are most certain that they know what the rest of us should be doing are the ones least to be trusted with our future. Some would like us to build a new Tower of Babel, which they believe will reach to a kind of earthly paradise. We've seen for the past century and more what happens when these utopian schemes get going. It's inevitable. Drive for mastery insults the Master.

So have a Blessed Advent. Make good resolutions and stay with them.

And Come Lord Jesus.

*Reprinted with permission/Crisis Magazine*

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

"The family is privileged setting where every person learns to give and receive love... The family is an intermediate institution between individuals and society, and nothing can completely take its place...The family is a necessary good for peoples, an indispensable foundation for society, and a great and lifelong treasure for couples. It is a unique good for children, who are meant to be the fruit of the love, of the total and generous self-giving of their parents...The family is also a school that enables men and women to grow to the full measure of their humanity...O God, who in the Holy Family left us a perfect model of family life lived in faith and obedience to your will, help us to be examples of faith and love for your commandments"

—Pope Benedict XVI

## Pondering the Holy Family

There is a certain flavor to the days after a child is born into a home. Gratefulness that all went well, a deep relief from anxiety, a new happiness, and a more tender love hover over the household. All this must have been true of the very first Christian family who ever lived, only much more so. Of the young girl and Mother it is told that she didn't need any help, neither for herself nor for her little

child. She was able to take care of him alone right away. *And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him up in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger.* We can imagine Joseph going into Bethlehem every day, partly to buy fresh food, and partly to watch how the census was going. In forty days he would have to present Mother and Child in the Temple...He told Mary that the shepherds couldn't get over the things they had heard and seen in that unforgettable night. And had told their friends and neighbors. *And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.* What did Mary do about this? She kept all these things, *pondering them in her heart...*"To ponder" is just another word for "to meditate on" or simply "to think about". With a special effort, some of us might set aside fifteen minutes a day out of a sense of duty to ponder upon divine things. This time of meditation can turn into a real bother, and we may spend it looking at the watch. At the slightest provocation we gladly omit it...But with Mary it seems to be second nature. Already, as a child in the Temple, she must have been meditating on the law of the Lord all the days of her life, as it says in Psalm 118. The splendor of the house of God, the starry sky at night, the countryside of Judea, the Word of God as it was read to her from ancient scrolls by her teachers—everything was one big meditation book for her, telling of the grandeur and also of the mercy of God. She never grew tired of pondering on all those things in her heart...

When God in his eternal wisdom resolved to redeem mankind, he had infinite ways in which to do it. There were shapes and forms we can think of, such as sending the Messiah as an angel in great power and glory, or as a mighty king on horseback, then there are many more possibilities which we in our limited mind can't even conceive. But no, Almighty God chose none of those ways, but instead, sent his only Son as a little child into a family.

—*Maria von Trapp*

*Maria von Trapp* († 1987), with her children and stepchildren the Trapp Family Singers, inspired the musical and film *The Sound of Music*.





## New Years Mass Schedule.

New Year's Eve December 31—5pm

New Year's Day January 1—  
9am & 11:15am

*All Masses will be said at  
Good Shepherd Church*

### Important Announcement:

Beginning Sunday,  
December 20th,  
the 9:30 Mass  
will be celebrated at  
Good Shepherd.  
St. Joseph Church will have  
scaffolding erected in anticipation  
of its being painted in late  
December into January.



### *The Gift of Family*

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people."

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

### **Pray for the Sick**



**Mary C. Kelly  
Edward Menti  
Scott Schaffer**

*Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need. Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in your healing presence. Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illness, make broken bodies whole and free downcast spirits. May these special people find lasting health and deliverance, and so join us in thanking you for all your gifts. We ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who believed. Amen.*

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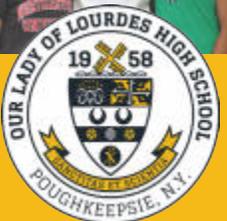
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