



HOLY CROSS COMMUNITY

Stonington & North Stonington, Connecticut

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021

THE HOLY FAMILY



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. - Lk 2:51-52

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

"I prayed 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)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2021

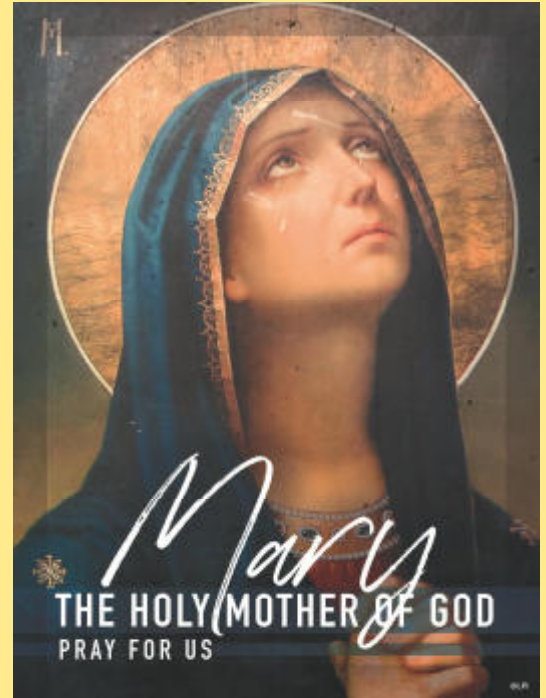
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
Wednesday: 1 Jn 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

LIVE-STREAM MASS FROM THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. PATRICK

The 9:00am Sunday Mass is live-streamed from the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich on their webpage:
www.cathedralofsaintpatrick.org/Resources/Live-Stream

THE OFFICE OF FAITH EVENTS

Receive information weekly for seminars, faith enrichment, and youth events, as well as Catholic Family Services programs. Email the Office of Faith Events today at faithevents@norwichdiocese.net to be put on the events email list.



REFLECT

FIRST READING

Hannah, the mother of Samuel, and Samuel's father are portrayed as parents of deep prayer and great faith. How would you describe the faith of your mother or father?

SECOND READING

John teaches us that if we believe in Jesus and love one another, "we may be called children of God." How do you show gratitude for being part of this holy family?

GOSPEL

Luke is the only Evangelist to preserve a story about Jesus from his youth. In this account, Mary and Joseph are filled with "great anxiety" as they searched for Jesus who they thought was lost. How do you seek God's help for the anxious moments in your family?

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MASS INTENTIONS

DECEMBER 25—SATURDAY: CHRISTMAS, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

- 12:00 am St. Michael (Midnight Mass): Parishioners
 12:00 am St. Patrick (Midnight Mass): Parishioners
 7:00 am St. Michael: † June Rathbun and Louise Sutherland
Requested by family
 9:00 am St. Mary: † Maria Gonsalves
Requested by her family
 10:00 am St. Patrick: Parishioners
 11:00 am St. Michael—High Mass (*Latin*): † Karen & Alexander
 Cunningham
Requested by the Cunningham family

DECEMBER 26—THE HOLY FAMILY

- 7:00 am St. Michael: † Jim and Rita Santos
Requested by a friend
 8:00 am St. Mary: † Virginia (9th Anniversary) & Miguel Ponte
Requested by their son and grandson
 8:30 am St. Michael: † James R. Crowley
Requested by his wife and children
 St. Patrick: † Roger Panciera
Requested by his wife
 10:00 am St. Michael: Parishioners
 10:15 am St. Patrick: Intentions of Susan Conroy
Requested by Chaz
 11:45 am St. Michael—High Mass (*Latin*): † Joseph and Kevin
 McGuire
Requested by their family

DECEMBER 27—MONDAY: ST. JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

- 7:00 am St. Michael: † Roland Samson
Requested by his sister
 8:00 am St. Mary: † Frank Gonsalves
Requested by his family
 12:05pm St. Patrick: † TBD

DECEMBER 28—TUESDAY: THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

- 7:00 am St. Michael: † Jim Clepper
Requested by his family
 8:00 am St. Mary: † Antone and Maria Costa Henry
Requested by Tony and Maria Henry
 12:05 pm St. Patrick: Intentions of Kyle Rittenhouse

DECEMBER 29—WEDNESDAY: ST. THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP & MARTYR

- 7:00 am St. Michael: † Frank Haberek
Requested by a friend
 8:00 am St. Mary: † Antone and Josephine Narcizzi
Requested by Tony and Maria Henry
 12:05 pm St. Patrick: † Robert F. Boyle
Requested by his family

DECEMBER 30—THURSDAY: WEEKDAY

- 7:00 am St. Michael: Special Intentions

DECEMBER 31—FRIDAY: WEEKDAY

- 7:00 am St. Michael: † Irene Allen
Requested by a friend
 8:00 am St. Mary: † TBD
 12:05 pm St. Patrick: † Sarah Wade
Requested by the Holder family

JANUARY 1—SATURDAY: NEW YEAR'S DAY/ MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

- 7:00 am St. Michael: † Jose B. Tavares & Jose and Marie
 Vicente and Son
Requested by Liduina and children
 12:05 pm St. Patrick: † John J. Reilly

JANUARY 1—VIGIL: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

- 4:00 pm St. Michael: † Jorge and George Cintron & Edwin
 Medes
Requested by family
 5:00 pm St. Patrick: Intentions of the Chinnici Family
Requested by the Holder family
 St. Thomas More: † TBD
 5:30 pm St. Mary: † Kevin Thibdeau
Requested by the Bovino family

JANUARY 2—THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

- 7:00 am St. Michael: † TBD
 8:00 am St. Mary: † TBD
 8:30 am St. Michael: Parishioners
 St. Patrick: Parishioners
 10:00 am St. Michael: † Jose Vicente
Requested by the Phillips family
 10:15 am St. Patrick: † John Feeny
Requested by Paul and Clare Sartor
 11:45 am St. Michael—High Mass (*Latin*): † John and Margaret
 West
Requested by their family

Saint Mary
STONINGTON

95 MAIN STREET

Sunday Mass

5:30 pm (Saturday), 8:00 am

Weekday

8:00 am Monday—Friday
except Thursday



Saint Michael
PAWCATUCK

60 LIBERTY STREET

Sunday Mass

4:00 pm (Sat.), 7:00 am,
8:30 am, 10:00 am, 11:45 am
(Traditional Latin Mass)

Weekday Mass

7:00 am Monday—Saturday

Confessions

3:00—3:45 pm Saturday



Saint Thomas More
NORTH STONINGTON

87 MYSTIC ROAD

Sunday Mass

5:00 pm (Saturday)



Parish Office and Mailing Address:

60 Liberty Street

Pawcatuck, CT 06379

860-599-5580 phone • 860-599-8079 fax

stmichaelpawcatuck.com

Very Rev. Dennis M. Perkins, Pastor

frperkins@stmichaelpawcatuck.com

Anita Kapolowicz, Secretary

akapolowicz@stmichaelpawcatuck.com

Amy Bennett, Bookkeeper

abennett@stmichaelpawcatuck.com

Cheryl Banker, Director of Music

Crystal Wilcox, Director of Religious Education

cwilcox@stmichaelpawcatuck.com

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Barbara Arenth, Keelin Arseneault, Dale Barile,
Jason and Margaret Bennet, Michael Botello,
The Botello Family, Lauren Brant, Michael Brennen,
Ginger Colman, Gwen Coughlin, Russell Coupland,
Robbie Damask, Douglas Delaney, Tom Dowling,
Alfred Fratoni, John Fratoni, Barbara Fuller,
Karen Hess, John Hesse, Margaret Hickey,
Francesca Kinnecom, Martha Kowack, Paul Kowack,
Helen Lauterio, Ledyard Lewis, Sean Madden,
George McCullen, Joseph Pacheco, Nancy Pampel,
Brenda Pavo, Michael Quick, Raoul Roy, Judy Schiller,
Aborn Smith, III, Barbara Smith, Brandon Smith,
Haley Smith, Jerome Ward, Margaret Ward

Please pray for those who serve our country.

STEWARDSHIP

ST. MARY • ST. MICHAEL • ST. THOMAS MORE

Offertory information for December 19th was not available at the time of publication.

St. Mary • St. Michael • St. Thomas More

December 12, 2021

Weekly Offertory _____	\$	10,298.00
EFT _____	\$	975.43
Mortgage _____	\$	3,965.00
Immaculate Conception _____	\$	1,182.00
Christmas Flowers _____	\$	180.00
St. Bernard High School _____	\$	15.00
All Saints Day _____	\$	5.00

Many thanks for your generous support.

Electronic Funds Transfer

For your convenience, the churches of St. Mary, St. Michael and St. Thomas More offer the option of Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) for your weekly offering. For more info, contact Amy at abennett@stmichaelpawcatuck.com.



Keep up to date with parish information through Flocknote.

To register simply text MILO to 84576 or contact Anita in the parish office at akapolowicz@stmichaelpawcatuck.com or 860-599-5580.

WEEKDAY MASSES/CONFESSIONS

The weekday Mass schedule is as follows:

St. Mary's Monday—Friday (except Thurs.) 8:00 am
 St. Michael's Monday—Saturday 7:00 am

Confessions will be heard on Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45 pm
 in St. Michael Church.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus, Nina Council #43, will meet on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 6:00 pm in St. Mary Church Hall. Please call Grand Knight Kevin Batzle at 860-861-2679 or Deputy Grand Knight Jim O'Boyle at 860-535-2222 for further information.

ALL ARE INVITED TO USE THE ST. MARY PRAYER TREE

All are invited to use the Prayer Tree in the rear of St. Mary Church in Our Lady of Fatima's room. The petitions are emailed weekly to a large group of parishioners who pray for the intentions.

SEASONS OF HOPE GRIEF SUPPORT

If you are searching for hope and peace after losing a loved one, we invite you to participate in the Seasons of Hope six-week support group. This is a safe and nurturing place for you to join with others who share your faith in Christ to give voice to your unique journey of grief, and to find comfort and spiritual renewal. We will meet Saturdays January 8 th to Feb 12 th 8:30-10am at St. Pius X Church, 44 Elm Street, Westerly RI. For more information or to register, please contact Linda Cunningham at 401-714-9824.

WOMEN'S FAITH SHARING

All women are welcome to join us in faith sharing on the first and the third Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 pm in St. Michael's Church Hall. Bring a friend and join us in sharing our faith. Any questions, contact Sandy Calabro at 860-235-7401 or Cathy Holdridge at 860-334-4068.



Christmas and New Year's Day Mass Schedule

Friday, December 24th, Christmas Eve (Vigil)

4:00pm	St. Mary
4:00pm	St. Michael
4:00pm	St. Thomas More

Saturday, December 25th, Christmas Day

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)

Midnight/12:00am	St. Michael
7:00am	St. Michael
9:00am	St. Mary
11:00am	St. Michael

(Traditional Latin Mass)

No Evening Masses

Saturday, January 1st, New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

(Since the Solemnity falls on a Saturday, the obligation has been lifted)

7:00am	St. Michael
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Vigil Masses

4:00pm	St. Michael
5:00pm	St. Thomas More
5:30pm	St. Mary

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

January 7, 2022 • 8:30 am—12:00 pm • St. Mary's

"To converse with You, O King of glory, no third person is needed, You are always ready in the Sacrament of the Altar to give audience to all."

—St. Teresa of Avila



Saint Michael the Archangel Church
 Pawcatuck CT



Saint Patrick Church

32 East Main Street, Mystic, CT 06355

Office: 860-536-1800

stpatrickmystic.org

Sunday Mass:

5:00 pm (Sat. Vigil), 8:30 am and 10:15 am

Weekday Mass:

12:05 pm Monday — Friday except Thursday

Confessions:

4:00 pm — 4:45 pm Saturdays

5:00 pm — 6:00 pm First Tuesday of month

Rev. Kevin M. Reilly, Pastor

Kim McGowan, Parish Secretary

secretary@saintpatrickmystic.org

Richard Georgetti, RCIA Coordinator

Elizabeth Limkemann, Organist

Richard Schumacher, Choir Director



Christmas and New Year's Day Mass Schedule

Friday, December 24th, Christmas Eve

5:00pm (Vigil), & 12:00 Midnight

Saturday, December 25th, Christmas Day

(Holy Day of Obligation)

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

10:00am

Saturday, January 1st, New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

12:05pm

ST. PATRICK OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The St. Patrick Outreach Committee would love donations of breakfast bars/drinks and hand warmers for the month of December. These will be for both Catholic Charities and Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. Items may be dropped off in the church center. If locked, please leave them by the basket towards the entrance of the church. Thank you for your donations and continued support!

STEWARDSHIP

December 26th collection totals will be printed in the January 2nd bulletin.

December 12, 2021

Offertory _____	\$	6,692.52
EFT _____	\$	1,354.20
Immaculate Conception _____	\$	1,432.00
Campaign Paid to Date _____	\$3,021,832.68	
Pledge Total _____	\$3,368,415.46	

We are grateful for your generous support!

Please consider using Online Giving for both weekly contributions and *Forward in Faith Campaign* pledge payments. To set up your account, please visit www.stpatrickmystic.org.

2021 ACA UPDATE

As of November 29, 2021, **Saint Patrick Parish, Mystic** has donated \$75,222.28 or 73.85 percent of its goal, and 19.11 percent of our parishioners have donated. We are striving for as close to 100 percent participation as possible. THERE IS STILL TIME TO DONATE! Our campaign year ends December 31, 2021. With your donation, our ACA supported ministries do the work of Christ every day.

If you have not made your contribution to the 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal, "One Faith, One Family", or would like to make an additional gift, donation envelopes are still available within the church or you can contact the Development Office at (860) 886-1928 or go online to www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org. **Thank you to everyone for your support!**

HAVE A BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON!

Dear Holy Cross Community,

By the time you read this, the students have shopped at St. Nick's Closet with the help of all our parent volunteers, we have celebrated the Service of Lessons and Carols and enjoyed the Kindergarten class presenting the Nativity, and have left for a much needed Christmas break. Despite the ups and downs and the continuing restrictions of the pandemic, we have enjoyed a very successful first half of the year, and we are looking forward to regrouping and coming back in 2022.

Once again, we appreciate your support and hope that each of you and your families enjoyed family time and the wonders of this blessed season. All of us at St. Michael School wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Doris Messina



Kindergarteners (above) and 8th graders (left), along with all of St. Michael's students, faculty and staff, wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!



Saint Michael SCHOOL

at
WEST BROAD

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stmichaelschoolct.com

Doris S. Messina, Principal

dmessina@stmichaelschoolct.com

Amy Babcock, Vice Principal

ababcock@stmichaelschoolct.com

Beth Lawrence, Secretary

blawrence@stmichaelschoolct.com

**For information or to arrange a visit, please contact:
Doris Messina, Principal—860-599-1084**

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For more information or to arrange a visit, please contact: Doris Messina, Principal, at 860-599-1084.



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LIVE THE LITURGY

It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Our families can bring out the best and the worst in us. This is true of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our church, our society, and the like. In all of our family experiences, what stands out as our most challenging memory? Everything human can be found on the pages of family life. But there is also a Divine story to be discovered as well. When life gets difficult and perplexing, today's Feast of the Holy Family stands to remind us that it is not just by human effort that we tread treacherous waters. We have to remember and learn from the Divine effort too. We need this perspective if our love lessons are going to be learned completely and well. We are all works in progress and we all come from homes that are broken by imperfection. In whatever life brings us and in whatever family we find ourselves, may the promptings we feel toward faith and hope lead us to greater love.

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SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. Stephen | Feast Day December 26

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.

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EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

All in the Family

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

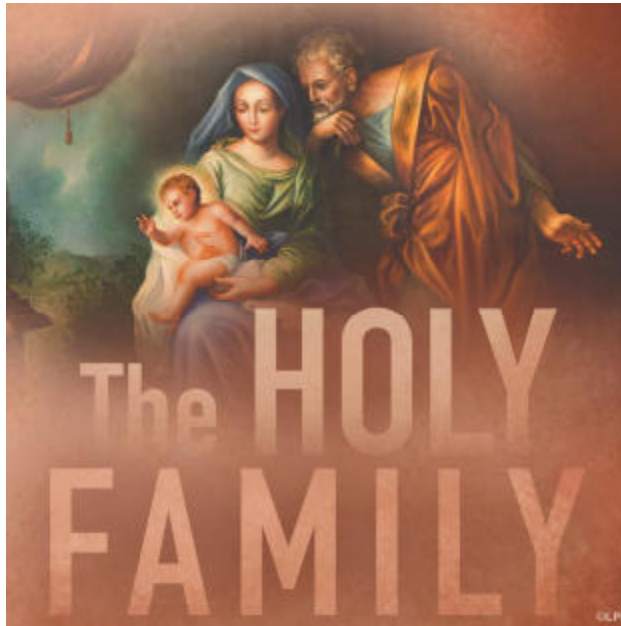
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GOSPEL MEDITATION

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.

@LPi

Not finding [Jesus], 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. —Lk 2:45-47

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Joshua 24:15

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