

**December**

**26**

**Mass Schedule**

Saturday Vigil 4PM  
 Sunday 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM  
 Weekdays 8 AM  
 Saturday Morning 9AM

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Thursday 12 Noon

**Reconciliation**

Saturday 9:30 Am, 3:15-3:45 PM

**Anointing of the Sick & Homebound Visitation**

Please call the Rectory at 856-456-0052 if anyone is homebound, in the hospital, critically ill or wishes to receive the Eucharist or the Anointing of the Sick.

**Faith Formation**

Director of Christian Initiation for Adults:  
 Director of Youth Religious Education: Elizabeth Mariani  
 Directory of Music: Joe Gorman

**Queen of Ireland Gift Shop**

Hours: Mon-Fri 9AM-2PM and after all Masses on Sundays.  
 Kathy Arensmeyer, Director

**Baptisms and Marriages**

**Baptism:** See inside bulletin for exact detailed information.

**Marriages:** Arrangements must be made 1 year prior to marriage date. Please call the Rectory.

**Policy for Certificates of Eligibility:** In order to receive a certificate, **You** (Not your mother or father) must be a practicing Catholic, registered in the parish. If married, you must be married in the church. You must attend Mass regularly. Use of weekly offering envelopes will tell us you are attending regularly.

**Trustees:** Elaine & John McNutt

**The Roman Catholic Parish of Saint Mary**

426 MONMOUTH STREET, GLOUCESTER CITY, N.J. 08030

[www.stmarysgloucestercity.org](http://www.stmarysgloucestercity.org)/[www.facebook.com/SaintMary'sChurchGloucesterCity](http://www.facebook.com/SaintMary'sChurchGloucesterCity)/Email: [stmaryrectory@comcast.net](mailto:stmaryrectory@comcast.net)

Phone: 856-456-0052~Fax856-456-1837

Rev Msgr William A Hodge	Pastor
Rev David J Klein	In-Residence
Kevin C Heil	Deacon
Charles Reed	Sacristan
Ronnie Battersby	Financial Secretary
Dan Spencer	Admin

**Organizations Meeting Schedules:**

**Knights of Columbus:** John McNutt, Grand Knight  
 856-287-2547

**Catholic Daughters of America:** Elaine McNutt 856-981-6382

**Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians:** Maread Gallagher, President

**Legion of Mary:** Wednesdays  
 9:15 AM

**Adoration:** Thursdays 12 PM

**Religious Education:** Wednesdays 3:40 PM & Thursdays 3:40 PM

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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

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

# LITURGICAL LIFE

## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

**Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture**

### First Reading

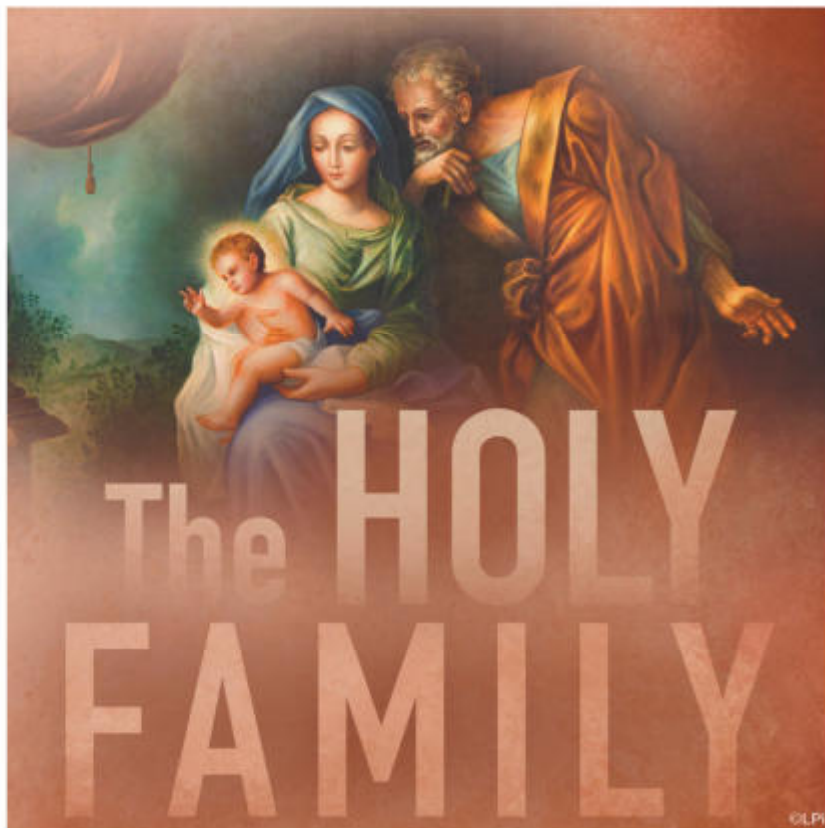
Hannah, the mother of Samuel, and Samuel's father are portrayed as parents of deep prayer and great faith. How would you describe the faith of your mother or father?

### 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 Reading

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?



HOLY FAMILY



### Baptisms and Marriages

**Baptism:** Held the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month following the 11:30 Mass. Class is held the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7PM in the Rectory. You **CANNOT** attend class until eligibility slips are received. Parents and Godparents must attend class.

**Marriages:** Arrangements must be made 1 year prior to marriage date. Please call the Rectory.

**Policy for Certificates of Eligibility:** In order to receive a certificate, **You** (Not your mother or father) must be a practicing Catholic, registered in the parish. If married, you must be married in the church. You must attend Mass regularly. Use of weekly offering envelopes will tell us you are attending regularly.

### Attention:

#### To all prospective Godparents:

The Rectory requires a minimum of **6 weeks** notice to verify and provide certificates of eligibility. Please be mindful of the Baptismal date when asking for the certificate of eligibility.



If you would like to make an online donation, you can do so by visiting our website: [www.stmarysgloucestercity.org](http://www.stmarysgloucestercity.org) and follow the direction under the Giving Tab.

By contributing electronically, the parish will have the benefit of stable monthly contributions and achieve a significant reduction in administrative costs.

Keep in mind that you can always use your credit card to receive rewards. If you need assistance contact the Rectory.

### Collection

12/05		12/12		12/19		12/26		/
Parish Offerings	4495	Parish Offering	4646	Parish Offering		Parish Offering		Parish Offering
Special Collection	2755	Parish Improvement	4511	Parish Improvement		Parish Improvement		Parish Improvement
<b>Total</b>	<b>7250</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>9120</b>	Campaign for Human		Thanksgiving Gift		Pro Life
				<b>Total</b>		<b>Total</b>		<b>Total</b>

Anyone who may be contributing to House of Charity via Employee Giving/Payroll Deduction thru United Way, United Way funds come in thru a bulk batch donation and if the acknowledgement is not sent to the diocese office it's not credited to any parish/individual. Please contact the Coordinator Carole Lackore at 856-583-6156 or [carole.lackore@camdendiocese.org](mailto:carole.lackore@camdendiocese.org)

**All Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers:** please email Sarah Murphy @ [cupcakeeva04@yahoo.com](mailto:cupcakeeva04@yahoo.com) with your name, phone number, email address and mass preferences in order for her to make a current contact list.

**Going forward Masses will be limited to 3 recipients per Mass as per the Bishop's Office.**

We have been notified by several parishioners and have received multiple envelope returns this month, we are in contact with the printing company, FJ Remey from Mineola NY where they are mailed from and our local post office. We are mailing the ones we received back to the parishioners. In the meantime, please use a plain envelope with your name and address written on it, so you receive proper credit. Sorry for any inconvenience.

We would like our sick and shut-ins to receive Holy Communion frequently. If any of our Eucharistic Ministers would like to bring the Blessed Sacrament to any of their confined neighbors or family members please call the staff at Mary's House 856-456-0052. Ask them to write down your name and phone number down to pass along to Monsignor Hodge. Also, ask the communicant if he or she would like Monsignor to come to hear their Confession and/or give them the Sacrament of the Sick. We want our elderly, our sick and our home-bound to know they are an integral member of the parish whose prayers are most powerful.

Lucky Calendars for 2022 are here. Sign will be posted soon for captains and sellers. Dawn Burkhardt is our chairperson once again and we are grateful for her. Please make sure you fill out tickets completely as it makes it so much easier when printing the checks. Thank you for your support.

St Mary's is pleased to offer both **Masses** and **Bell Ringing**. We offer a beautiful card for the living and deceased memorializing the ringing of our magnificent Bells of St Mary. The donation for the Ringing is the same as announced Mass: **\$15**. St Mary's is pleased to now offer the ability to sponsor **Altar Flowers**. The cost is **\$50** per spray with upgrades available upon request.

**The Candles for the week of December 26, 2021 for the following Intentions**

**BLESSED MOTHER ALTAR CANDLE** is burning for **Anna Delahunty (D) (Birth Rem)** R/b Late Thomas J O'Donnell Jr & Family

**ST. JOSEPH ALTAR CANDLE** is burning for **Jason Allison (D)** R/b Kaitlyn

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** is burning for **Intentions of Vito, Merryfield & Myers Families** R/b Family

**Saint Francis of Assisi Candle** is burning for **Troupe Family** R/b Family

**Saint Anthony of Padua** is burning for **Gabriel Vito** R/b Family

**St Patrick** is burning for

**The Divine Child Jesus** is burning for **Ints of Rastelli, Barton & Wilcox Families** R/b Family

**Altar Flowers** are in Memory of

**Saturday December 25, 2021** **The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Bells: In Memory of Michael Wagner Sr** R/b Anne Delengowski & Children

**9:00 AM** M/M William Harvey, Frances Canning & Marie Quinn (Christmas Rem) R/b Family, Saunders & Pine Families & Matthew Moran (Christmas Rem) R/b Family, Thomas & Catherine Morrison (Christmas Rem) R/b Margie, Joe & Family, Damian & Gerard Gallagher (Christmas Rem) R/b Mared & Family, James (D) & Quinton (D) Families (Christmas Rem) R/b James Family

**11:00 AM** Richards & Goheen Families (Christmas Rem) R/b Family, Nellie Barr (D) R/b Michele Baglivo, Irv Brown Jr, Irv & Esther Brown, Ralph & Laura Longano R/b Charlotte Brown & Family

**Sunday December 26, 2021** **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Bells: In Memory of David Sitarine** /b Anne Delengowski & Children

**7:30 AM** Int Denny/McHugh Children (L) R/b Herbert Family, Marge Saunders (D) R/b Kathy (Murphy) Kinnarney, Marie Shodder (D) (Birth Rem) & Emanuel (D) (Christmas Rem) R/b Family

**9:30 AM** Lewis Camillo (D) (Birth Rem) R/b Daughter Cathy, Joseph W Piechowski (D) R/b Olive M Driscoll, Intentions of Atkinson, Howey & Britton Families R/b Family

**11:30 AM** Helen F Tricocci (D) R/b Lisa & Ronald Munn, Thomas Danaher R/b Edward & Late Janet Crabtree, Deceased Members of James Family R/b Mike & Theresa Smollock

**Monday December 27, 2021** **Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist Bells: In Memory of Rosemary Frances** R/b Children & Grandchildren

**8:00 AM** Joe Piechowski (D) R/b Martin & Joanne O'Connor

**Tuesday December 28, 2021** **The Holy Innocents, Martyrs Bells: In Memory of Thomas J O'Donnell Jr (D)** R/b Michael, Denise & Family

**8:00 AM** William C Hammacher (D) (40th Ann Rem) R/b Marge & Don Dantonio

**Wednesday December 29, 2021** **Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr Bells: In Memory of Anna Delahunty (D) (Birth Rem)** R/b Late Thomas J O'Donnell Jr & Family

**8:00 AM** Deceased Members of Dantonio Family R/b Marge & Don, Anna Delahunty (D) (Birth Rem) R/b Late Thomas J O'Donnell Jr & Family, Elizabeth O'Connell (D) (Birth Rem) R/b Margie, Joe & Family

**Thursday December 30, 2021** **Bells: In Memory of William Hutchinson (D) (1st Ann Rem)** R/b Anne Delengowski & Children

**8:00 AM** People of the Parish

**Friday December 31, 2021** **Saint Sylvester I, Pope Bells: In Appreciation for Living & Deceased Members of the Saints & Singers**

**8:00 AM** Henry (D) & Claire Murphy (D) R/b Family, Mary (D) & Bill Kalt (D) R/b Family

**Saturday January 1, 2022** **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

**9:00 AM** Charles Bruccoliere (D) R/b Wife & Family

**11:00 AM** Elena Burns (D) (Ann Rem) R/b Dominick & Family

**Sunday January 2, 2022** **Epiphany of the Lord**

**7:30 AM** Int Denny/McHugh Children (L) R/b Herbert Family

**9:30 AM** Thomas J O'Donnell Jr (D) R/b Phil & Sandie Schnell

**11:30 AM** Marge Saunders (D) R/b Charlotte & Family, Marion Rowan (D) R/b The Murphy Family, Lynne Jergensen & Family (L) (Healing Int) R/b Charlotte & Family

**Please keep in Your Prayers**

**Our Sick:** Annetta & Hugo Adorno, Florence Underwood, Martin Roach, Thomas Kain, Claire Dunn, Olive Driscoll, Caroline Dougherty, Justin Locker, Billy Gormley, Bob Glassman, Bob Ludwick, Eva Christ, Maryann Liebrand, John Risely, John Greene III, Denise Glassman, Grace Cooney, Barbara Burns, Eleanor Kain, Dominic Abate, Donna Musick, Charlene Riley, Carol Samsanavicius, Frank Angeloni Sr, George Springer, Grace Piscopio, Jack Heiser, James E Miller, Jillian DePoder, Cindy Dolson, Joe Flinn, John Battersby, Annette Pecina, Samantha Boulden, Johnny McDevitt, Jordan Neff, Joseph Carlino Sr, Ronnie Convey, Kelli Cline-Perrone, Marion Hakanson, Linda & Tom Ryan, Jack Sutcliffe, Linda White Locker, Lynne Jergensen, Diane Sutcliffe, Marie “Franny” Spencer, Marion Scalzo, Mary Lou & Bill Adams, Mike Murphy, Nicholas Mecchione, Elise Cowgill, Ed Hlopak, Mike Battersby, Rich Notis, Judy McGrath, Selma Toal, Sr Nora Foley, Lindsey Sobelewski Eller, Theresa Gorman, Carolyn Foyle, Nick Pinolini, Troy Lail, Vickie Virden, Wayne Bradlock, William Kelly, William Livengood, Winifred Settler, Richard & Pat Schwartz, Tom Pierman, Kelly Gartland, Frances Bregler, Susan Stano, Clare Kearney, Richard Dolson, Jon Sciarra, Chrissy Barron, Bill Ritchie, Marge Laarkamp, Connie Klein, Jill Mosco, Georgette Carter, Sally Ludwick, Ms Cerelle, Dolores “Ducky” Whilleson, Bob Stone, Bill Ritchie Jr, **Sue Green, Nancy McKeown, Joseph C Perry Sr**

**Our Military:** Colin Ward, Marine; Johnathan T Brown, Navy; John (Jak) Sullivan, US Air Force; Jacqueline Myers-Barton, US Army; AJ Parent, US Coast Guard, Sean Patrick Ward, US Army, Christopher James Grieco, US Air Force

## **Our Deceased:**

### **Our Recently Baptized:**

**Prayer for the Spread of Perpetual Adoration**

Heavenly Father, increase our faith in the Real Presence of Your Son Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

We are obliged to adore Him, to give Him thanks and to make reparation for sins.

We need your peace in our hearts and among nations.

We need conversion from our sins and the mercy of Your forgiveness.

### **New Parishioners**

We warmly welcome new parishioners and visitors. Let us know how we may be of service to you. You may register at the Rectory: Monday-Friday 9AM-3PM.

**A reminder we are still cleaning the Church after each Mass due to the Covid Virus.**

**A big thank you to those who are spraying the disinfectant. We appreciate your help.**

**We also thank those wiping the pews and doors.**

**If everyone could help us by leaving kneelers down at the end of Mass that will let the cleaner know someone was in the pew.**

**If you are able to bring disinfectant wipes with you and wipe down your pew after Mass that would be great. You can then leave the kneeler up.**

***In case of a cardiac emergency in church, please keep in mind that there is an AED located behind the pillar near the St Joseph’s Altar. In case of a relevant emergency, someone should call 911 while someone else who is trained should use the AED.***

Dear St Mary's Parishioners,

My Granddaughter, 2nd Lt US Army Alexa Long was deployed to Lithuania, South West corner of the Baltic Seam North of Poland and east of Russia about 4.5 months ago. Her tour of duty is for 9 months. However, in her letters Alexa mentions how her soldiers would appreciate a *care package* from home. I am sharing a copy of her letter with you written to her mother, Colleen. It is self-explanatory.

Alexa attended St Mary's Grammar School in Gloucester City, NJ and graduated from Gloucester City High School and completed her ROTC training at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. After graduation she was inducted into the US Army. I am asking you to respond as soon as possible to her request for her soldiers. Please do not sit on the request as time is of the essence. All organizations and individuals are responsible for the cost of gifts and postage. Pray for her team of young soldiers who are serving our country.

Thank you from her Grandmother, Olive Driscoll

*If anyone is looking for an opportunity to do something for others for the holidays, my Soldiers would greatly appreciate some care packages. There are 21 Soldiers, 17 males and 4 females, most in their 20's. Snacks, non-perishables cooking ingredients, hygiene products, or stuff to do during their downtime are somethings they'd like, especially American products. Mail can take about a month to reach us. Thank you in advance to anyone who sends something, my Soldiers will really appreciate it. Mailing address is:*

Alexa Long

70th MCT

APO AE 09015

## Announcements

**1. THE NEW BOOK CLUB READING IS AVAILABLE IN SAINT JOSEPH'S SACRISTY. THE DONATION IS ONLY \$3.00. THE BOOK WILL BE DISCUSSED ON THE LAST THURSDAY IN JANUARY.**

Dear Family and Friends,

My good friend Jim Noonan has just finished an 8 year-long project, a royal biography which is so rich in history, fun fact, glamor and drama. In fact, if you liked Downtown Abbey you will love Alix & Minnie: A Royal Trilogy. This 3 book series is the next Downtown Abbey, in fact, we hope it will go to film one day soon. In the meanwhile, for all interested in great books...please go to Amazon and type in either James Charles Noonan or Alix & Minnie to find all three...the story of 2 sisters who rose out of obscurity to the mightiest thrones in Europe between 1853-1929- with intense drama in their extended families. I love the series and hope you will too, and that you will spread the word far and wide!!!

And it is a perfect gift!

Thank you, Monsignor Hodge

# WORSHIP & MEDITATION



## 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

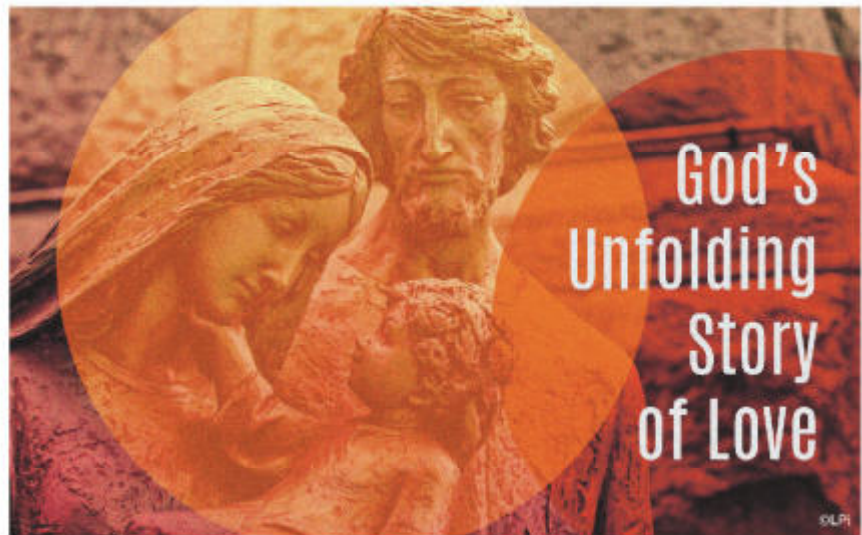
See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.  
And so we are. (1 Jn 3:1)



## 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. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.*



## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

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.



## LITURGICAL LIFE

# RESPONDING *to the Call*

### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

#### Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

##### 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

### PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

**Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!**



### WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

#### Question:

I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

#### Answer:

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

## 16 Weeks - End of Month 4

# "I had a dream today!"

Thank you for praying for me. I'm bigger and stronger now. I'm about 6 inches long and I weigh 4 ounces. When mommy goes to the doctor, she can even listen to my heartbeat! I hope that one day I will run and play with friends like you.



### Prayer to Mary, Mother of the Life Within

O Mary, Mother of the Life Within,  
all life we entrust to you;  
The life of every expectant mother  
and the child within her womb:  
The life of every human body,  
the life of every human soul;  
The life of every newborn child  
and the life of all grown old.  
You held the Lord to your own heart  
and drew Him so close in.  
So draw us now in all our needs,  
O Mother of the Life Within.  
Amen



REMs (rapid eye movements) have been observed at this age – a sign of dreaming. Keep praying so she can fulfill her dreams.

This information on the developing baby was taken from: *Abortion: Questions and Answers*, Dr. and Mrs. John C. Wilke, © 1985, Hayes Publishing Company, Inc., Cincinnati, OH. Illustrations(c)L.Brenegan 2001 – may not be reprinted without express permission of the artist.

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