



4100 Lyell Road
Rochester, New York 14606
www.theparishoftheholymfamily.org
email: pothf@outlook.com

Mission Statement:

The Parish of the Holy Family is devoted to sharing the kingdom of God: making disciples through word, worship, fellowship, service, and love.

Weekday Mass Times :

Monday thru Friday 9:00AM

Vietnamese Mass :

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
6:00PM

Weekend Mass Times:

Saturday	4:00PM
Sunday	9:00AM
	5:00PM

Vietnamese Mass:

Saturday	8:00AM
Sunday	11:30AM

Office Phone Number:

(585) 247-4322
(585) 429-5111 (fax)

Office Hours:

Monday, thru Friday 9AM-3PM
(or by appointment)

Website:

www.theparishoftheholymfamily.org

Confession– Saturday 9-10AM
or BY APPOINTMENT: 247-4322

If you are seeking the following
Sacraments, please call the office.

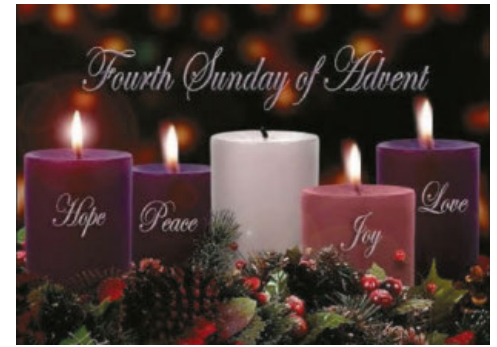
Baptism
Marriage
RCIA
Reconciliation

The Parish of the Holy Family

Growing in Faith Together

Fourth Sunday of ADVENT

December 24, 2023



Christmas 2023

*Indeed our challenges in so many areas of life continue. People of
good will long for unity where there is division, hope where there
is despair and peace where there is discord.*

How much we all need the joy of Christmas!

*As we celebrate the birth of Our Savior, Jesus Christ,
I wish you the peace and happiness of Christmas and
I pray that the Child born in Bethlehem will bless you and
your loved ones throughout the New Year and always!*

*You and all dear to you will be remembered in the
Holy Sacrifice of the Mass during the Christmas season.*

*With sincere gratitude for your prayers, I remain
Devotedly yours in Christ,*

+ Salvatore R. Matano

*The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano
Bishop of Rochester*

Daily Mass Intentions

Saturday/Sunday, December 23/24

8:00AM-FM +Vietnamese Parishioners

4:00PM- +Rosa & Pasquale Tata by Family
+Rebecca Crowley
by Grandparents Maria & Angelo Ciresi
+Giuseppe Fazio by Wife & Family

7:30PM-FM +Vietnamese Parishioners

Sunday 9:00AM-+All Parishioners

Christmas EVE MASSES 12/24

4PM +All Parishioners

7PM-FM +Vietnamese Parishioners

9:30PM +All Parishioners

12AM-Midnight Mass +All Parishioners

Preacher: Fr. Steve 4PM, 9AM, Christmas EVE 4PM, 9:30PM, 12:00AM

Fr. Martin Saturday 7:30PM, Christmas EVE 7PM

Monday, December 25-Christmas Day –Office Closed

9:00AM- +All Parishioners

11:30AM-FM +Vietnamese Parishioners

Tuesday, December 26– Office Closed

9:00AM +Bryan Phillips by Christine DiCamillo
+Lena Scarfone by Rochelle
+Judy Stone by Barbara Entress

6:00PM-FM +Vietnamese Parishioners

Wednesday, December 27-

9:00AM- +Ray Contrino by The Men's Club
+Lucy Gwaqto by Micki & Lee
+Domenico & Gennaro Sciano by Family

Thursday, December 28–

9:00AM- +Birthday Anthony Martini by Sister, Peggy Brown
+Kathleen Girard by Family
+Sam Guzzetta by Mike & Mary Chiappone

6:00PM-FM +Vietnamese Parishioners

Friday, December 29

9:00AM- +Ray Contrino by Aunt Jean Dana
+Jack Smith by Audrey & Children

6:00PM-FM +Vietnamese Parishioners

Saturday/Sunday, December 30/31

8:00AM-FM +Vietnamese Parishioners

4:00PM- +Chester Ciciotti by Wife Joyce
+Vera Pray by Marg & Jim Commercial
+Jack Risewick by Jack & Carol Patterson

9:00AM- +Giuseppe Martino & Deceased Members of Abiuso & Martino Families by Gae Abiuso
+Francis & Emily Holahan by Linda & Dan
+Margaret Ioannone Nethery by Rick & Fran Campoli

11:30AM-FM +Vietnamese Parishioners

5:00PM +All Parishioners



Sanctuary Lamp

In Loving Memory of
+MATHEW SAN FILIPPO-ANNIVERSARY+
by Mom, Lena

In Loving Memory of
+KATHLEEN GIRARD+
by Family

In Loving Memory of
+BETTY, CHUCK & JIM ALLISON+

Pastor - Fr. Steven Lape

Ext. 101 fr.steven.lape@dor.org

Parochial Vicar ~ Fr. Martin Truong

Ext. 143 fr.martin.truong@dor.org

Deacon

Deacon Binh-Yen Nguyen 247-4322
Binh-Yen.Nguyen@dor.org

Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry

Rose Dunning Ext. 104 Rose.Dunning@dor.org

Regional Finance Director-

Christopher Frontale
Christopher.Frontale@dor.org

Music Rebecca Kemp

Ext. 137 Rebecca.Kemp@dor.org

Peggy Brown, Part-time Secretary & Cemetery Coordinator

Ext. 100 Peggy.Brown@dor.org

Susan Hosie, Bookkeeper

Ext. 108 Sue.Hosie@dor.org

Paul Lobene, Admin. Assistant

Ext. 107 Paul.Lobene@dor.org

Kelly Winkworth Admin. Assistant

Ext. 109 Kelly.Winkworth@dor.org

Parish Staff



Parish Council Members

Tom Basset
(585)-426-3110 / tatma5@aol.com

Robert Capellazzi (585) 738-8846
RPCapellazzi@rochester.rr.com

Joanne Sleight (585) 738-6779
josl8@frontiernet.net

Paula Arthmann/pma36@live.com

Joseph Nguyen
jnguyen6551@gmail.com

Kelly Winkworth
kelly.winkworth@gmail.com

Pam Allison
pallison789@gmail.com

Mitch Hetko (585) 747-4639
mitchh1@aol.com

Eddie Gartz (585) 957-3743
snapusa1@gmail.com



Our SEMINARIANS Need Your PRAYERS



James Muscatella
Holy Family
Gates, NY



David Catalise
Our Lady of Peace
Geneva, NY



George Bastedo IV
Saint Joseph the Worker
Cynth, NY



Joseph Maurer
Saint Thomas the Apostle
Irondequoit, NY



HOLY GHOST CEMETERY

Holiday Decorations may be placed at the cemetery between the dates of **November 1, 2023 & April 1, 2024.**

Please be sure to remove all decorations by **April 1.**

Thank you for your cooperation.



CATHOLIC REVIEWS FOR FILMS

With movie viewing a popular holiday - activity, it's wise to check ahead to see what the content in these films is, since they may be problematic according to our

high Christian faith standards. Check the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) website for movie reviews (especially for current releases), film recommendations (especially family releases), morality ratings, and descriptions of problematic content (profanity, sex, violence, and other issues) to help you be more knowledgeable in your choices before going out to the movies. Just go to its website, which is www.usccb.org/movies, and find out what you're getting into before walking into a film that may be less than suitable for what you want.

Mount Carmel House

As we approach the Holidays and the New Year now might be the time to consider volunteering at Mt Carmel Comfort care home. The home is actively seeking volunteers to care for and support those on life's final journey home to the Lord. Training is provided. Please reach out to Heather with any questions.

Heathermtcarmelhouse@gmail.com



PRO-LIFE REFLECTION

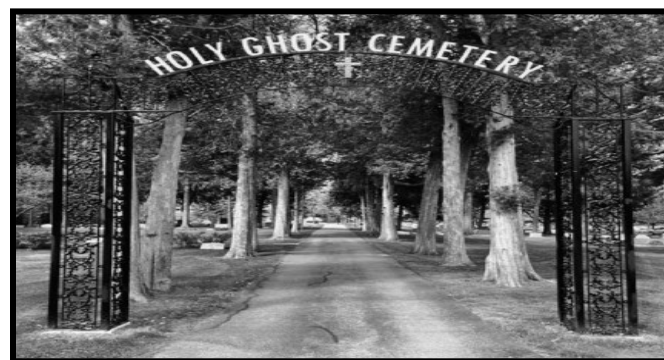
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

—Jn 1:14

Reflection: Christmas, for which we are preparing, is simply not the feast of the birth of Christ; it is the feast of His becoming human, the reality called the Incarnation.

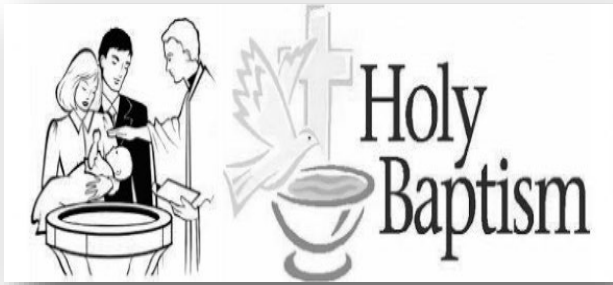
Jesus was an embryo, a fetus. Life in the womb, which was already sacred because it comes from God, is now made even more holy and worthy of our every sacrifice.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You lived for nine months within the body of the Virgin Mary. Give success to the efforts of all who believe in Your Incarnation to protect every life in the womb.



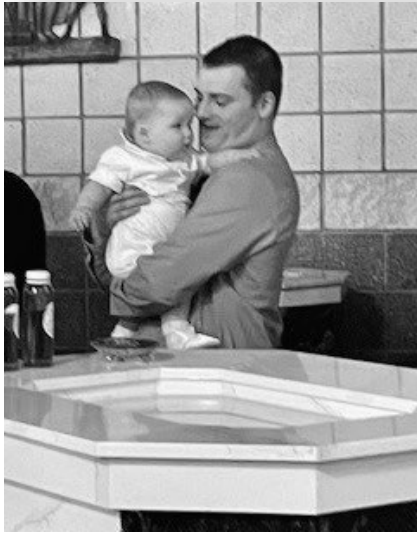
Our new Cremation Garden is now open for sales of cremation plots and/or niches.

This new section of our cemetery is located behind the shrine of Mary and will feature an above-ground octagonal columbarium with 96 niches. Each plot or niche will hold two standard-size cremation urns. Please stop by the Parish Office to see the map of the garden showing all the plots, and to get a price list to assist you in selecting a family plot or niche. **Call Peggy at the office 247-4322.**



*Welcomed into our community
through the waters of Baptism*

Dominic Anthony Ussia, son of Brandi Jenkins & Anthony Ussia
Godfather Dean Ussia and
Christian Witnesses: Jenna & Jacob Coluzzi





SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



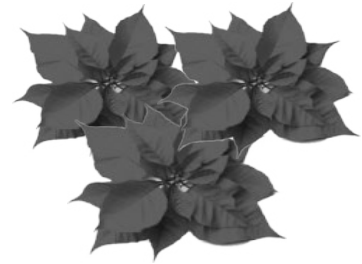
The word 'Baptism' comes from a Greek word that means to 'plunge' or 'immerse'. To 'plunge' someone in water represents the person dying, being buried and resurrecting with Christ as a 'new creature'. (CCC 1214)

Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission (CCC 1213).

*CCC - Catechism of the Catholic Church



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



Salvatore & Michelena Alongi; Ernest Hitzfield from Hitzfield Family
Cosmo A. Plantone; Rino Pappano from the Plantones
James Brunshidle from Rochelle Brunshidle
Carl Aschettino, Ann Lobene & John Lobene from Children
Andrew & Margaret DiBitetto; Catalina White; Nicholas & Frances Arioli from Andrea L. White
Virginia, Sam Lina & Angelo from Arturo Centi
Living & Deceased Frascatore Family; Relatives & Friends from Micki & Lee Frascatore
Ed Sokolski & Maria Fargo from Diane D. Sokolski
Eleanor Rust from John Rust
Theresa & Frank Allkofer
Allen & Doreen Judd from Dianne Chwojdak
Joe & Eileen Curcio; Ray & Clara Tranella
Joseph & Barbara Smorol; Leo & Ann Entress
Florence DiLaura; Hap Klug; Theresa & Antonio Principi from Anita
Hanscom Family
Speciale Family from Bessie Speciale
Dom & Gloria Palozzi from Lucille & David
Munding & King Families
Hoang Nguyen
Manh Dinh Ngo
Carl & Bertha Altamura from Rich & Judie Vleck & Family
Packard & Miller Families
Jim Robinson
Patsy & Josephine Monachino from Joseph & Maria Bonfiglio
Norman J. Werner Family
Jean, Deb & Sharon
Giuseppe Abiuso; Deceased Abiuso & Martino Families from Felicia Abiuso
Domenick & Donnini Families from Jeanette Domenick
Louis J. Galetto from Wife
Raymond, Lucille, & Sr. Mary Louise Brien from Dolores Brien
Realì & Zellmer Families from Lou & Kay Realì
August, Cecelia & Cindy Mascara from Debby & Mark Tarwacki
Jerry Martin
Carboni, Bachmann & Leggieri Families from Elizabeth Carboni
Maria & Angelo DeSousa by Maria DeSousa
Living & Deceased Family from Pam Allison
Falbo & Jermyn Families
Parents Frank & Leah Martin; John & Lucille Dwyer from Frank & Carol Martin
Bernie Heydens from Wife Ginny
DiGiore & Nasca Families
Theresa Cosway & Rose Johnson by Robert & Jan Cosway
Robert Harster
Jim & Dorothy Papineau; Dave & Frieda Boscoe from Steve & Debby
Rebecca Crowley from Maria & Angelo Ciresi
Louie & Jason Colunio from wife & Mother
Joseph D'Arpino from Maria D'Arpino
George Behrens

Raymond & Lucille Brien, Sr. Mary Louise Brien, Ray Contrino & Sam & Amelia Contrino from Linda Contrino
Dominic, Celia & Robert Benincasa; Paul & Edith Campanaro from Paul & Marie Campanaro
Antonio Rosato
Gerald & Pauline Bayeur
DeFeo & Preziosi Families
Ward, Weber & Worden Families
Danny & Julie Sichak from Mom & Dad
Angelo M. DeSousa; John M. Fernandes from John & Maria DeSousa
Emily, Elmer, Peter Wagner & Tom Smith
Family Members from John & Zora Marshall
Antonio Cifarelli & Cifarelli & Tata Families
Sadie & Vincent Delly; Joseph Cortese from Barbara Cortese
Eleanor & Frank Kozlowski from Nancy Kozlowski
Volpicelli, Smith, Winthrop & Spencer Families from Kathy & Ray Winthrop
Parishioners who have passed this year from Judy Coolidge-Fill
Kathleen Girard from Joseph Girard & Family
Richard & Jeffrey Taylor from Nancy Allen
Patricia, Len, relatives & friends from Leonard Walleck
Salvatore Inglima from Wife, Maria
Brunette, Guerra & Pastorella Families from Tony & Angela Brunette
William C. Healy from Wife, Lorraine

In Honor of:
My sister, Jennifer Alwardt from Nancy Allen

Gift from:
Hoang Nguyen

Lord, hold our troops in Your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen.

Dominic Bushen, Army	Shawn Bunton, Army National Guard
James Calamita, Army	Vincent Le, Marines
Anthony Calamita, Army	Daniel Davis, Army
Martin DeBock, Army	Timothy Vara, Navy
Russell Montante Jr., Air Force	Aimee Muscato-Bateman, Army
Michael Rigoni, Navy	Michael Shott, Army
Ethan Stott, Army	Evan Stott, Navy
Jason Bosch, Navy	Andrew Zani, Army
Christopher Decker, Navy	Anthony Gionta, Army
Quinn Calder, Army	Ryan Principi, Air Force
Jason Mickelson, Navy	



If you have someone in the Military, please send their name to Paul Lobene at:
Paul.Lobene@dor.org and they will be added to our list.



Every
Donation
Makes A
Difference

Thank you for your generosity!



Food Cupboard hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
10 a.m. to Noon
by appointment



History of the Vogel Scholarship

The Vogel Scholarship has a long history beginning at the former Holy Ghost Church.

The Church and School were built on land donated by Leonard and Euphemia Vogel. Their granddaughters, Elizabeth and Lucy Vogel, established the Vogel Scholarship Fund. It is through their generosity that we are able to offer these scholarships to our students.

All registered parishioners of the Parish of the Holy Family who have children in Grades K through 12 who attend a parochial school are eligible to submit an application annually for each child. An announcement of the application availability and time frame appears in the weekly bulletin in the Fall.

The Vogel Scholarship fund is governed by the Pastor and a committee. After all applications have been received, the committee meets to determine the students' eligibility for the awards. Parents of the award recipients are notified in the Spring. All award payments are made directly to the schools.

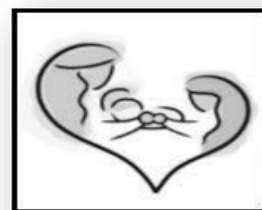
It is the wish of the Vogel Family and the desire of the Parish to assist as many children as possible through this fund.



A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

God of Love, Our World is wrought with war and violence, as brother turns on brother, and the innocent awake to gunfire and bombs.

May Your compassion and healing move hearts and bring a new day to Ukraine. Fortify your children to resist aggression and instead become instruments of peace. We ask this in the name of the One who is the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. —



WEEKLY EVENTS

December 24 thru December 31

Sunday- December 24

Monday- December 25 –Office Closed
1PM VCC Gathering-PLC

Tuesday- December 26 –Office Closed

Wednesday- December 27

Thursday- December 28

Friday- December 29

Saturday December 30

Sunday- December 31 New Years Eve



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Junior and Senior High

January

January 7th 10:00 am.-11:30 am Parish Life center

January 21st 10:00 am.-11:30 am Parish Life center

January 28th 10:00 am.-11:30 am Parish Life center



February 4th 10:00 am.-11:30 am Parish Life center

February 11th 10:00 am.-11:30 am Parish Life center

February 18th 10:00 am.-11:30 am Parish Life center

Faith Formation





**Attendance/Financial
December 9/10**

Budget: \$12,000	Total: \$11,600
Variance: (400)	YTD Actual: \$295, 026
YTD Budget:\$288,000	YTD Variance: \$7,026
Attendance: 1048! Immaculate Conception Mass \$2,828.00	

**2024 SAVEAROUND
ROCHESTER Books**



Makes a perfect Christmas Gift!

Books are \$25. For every book sold, \$10 comes back to our Parish! Books are now available for sale after Mass, and also available in the Parish Office.



REGISTRATION REQUEST FORM

It is always a great joy to welcome new members to our Community. Are you interested in becoming a member of the Parish of the Holy Family Community or would you like further information on our Parish? Please cut out this coupon and put it in the collection.

We will then have a member of our Welcoming Committee contact you to complete the Registration Form and/or share information with you.

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Best time to contact:

AM _____ PM _____



Everyone can use more prayer. Anyone, regardless of age, can request a prayer for any purpose-spiritual, physical, emotional health, loss of a loved one, or family problems.

To activate the Prayer Tree, call the parish office at 247-4322 with the person's first name and a brief description of their need. Soon, many people will be praying for your concern. *Anyone who would like to be a part of this ministry can call the parish office.*



Have you seen the screens at Mass and are interested in learning more about how it is done? We are looking for new members to join the A/V Media Ministry team to assist at all three weekend Masses. No prior experience is required. Full training will be provided. If you are interested, please email paul.lobene@dor.org.

Chúng ta đang tiến dần tới Mùa Giáng Sinh. Lời Chúa của Chúa nhật thứ bốn Mùa Vọng giới thiệu với chúng ta một nhân vật quan trọng mà Thiên Chúa đã mời gọi cộng tác để thực hiện mầu nhiệm Nhập Thể, đó là Đức Trinh nữ Maria, quê ở Nagiarét. Với Đức Trinh nữ Maria, lời hứa ban Đấng Thiên sai không còn mơ hồ xa xôi hay mệnh mang bằng bạc, nhưng đã quy về một con người cụ thể. Từ trời cao, Chúa sai Thiên Sứ của Ngài xuống gặp gỡ và ngỏ lời với một thôn nữ khiêm hạ. **“Đức Chúa ở cùng Bà”**, đây vừa là lời chào, vừa là lời khẳng định một chân lý sâu xa: Thiên Chúa hiện diện trong tâm hồn những người công chính và Ngài ban cho họ được ân sủng dồi dào. Thiên Chúa hiện diện giữa Dân Người. Đó là giáo huấn từ thời Cựu ước. Sự hiện diện của Chúa làm cho dân Do Thái trở thành dân riêng của Ngài và đây cũng là điểm làm nên sự khác biệt giữa dân được tuyển lựa và các dân tộc khác. Sự hiện diện của Chúa không lệ thuộc vào không gian và thời gian. Bài sách thánh thứ nhất kể lại suy tư của vua Đavít. Vì lòng tôn kính dành cho Chúa, ông muốn xây cho Ngài một ngôi nhà. Ông nghĩ thật là bất kính nếu ông ở lâu son gác tía, trong khi Chúa lại ngự nơi lều tạm.



Nếu xây lâu đài là ý định của các bậc quân vương, thì ý của Chúa lại khác. Qua ngôn sứ Nathan, Chúa đã mời gọi vua Đavít nhìn lại lịch sử đã qua, để thấy Chúa luôn hiện diện giữa thăng trầm của đời ông cũng như trong lịch sử dân tộc. Ngài luôn bên vực và giúp ông chiến thắng trong các cuộc giao tranh, củng cố ngai vàng của ông và tạo cho ông nổi danh giữa thiên hạ. Chúa muốn ông nhận ra sự hiện diện của Ngài suốt bề dày lịch sử, từ thời xa xưa. Ngài không có nhu cầu nhà ở, không cần một lâu son gác tía. Điều Ngài muốn nơi con người, đó là hãy trung tín với Ngài mọi nơi mọi lúc. Nếu bền chí đi theo giáo huấn của Ngài, Đavít sẽ được Chúa chúc lành. Ngài sẽ cho ông dòng giống trường tồn. Qua lối chơi chữ rất tài tình, ngôn sứ Nathan đã diễn tả ân sủng của Chúa qua hình thức “nhà” mà Ngài sẽ xây cho Đavít, để đổi lại với “nhà” mà ông muốn xây cho Chúa. “Nhà” mà Chúa sẽ ban cho Đavít là vương quốc vững bền, khôn ngoan lỗi lạc và phú quý giàu sang. Những điều này là bằng chứng cho sự hiện diện và ơn chúc lành của Chúa. **“Đức Chúa ở với ngài!”**. Đó là lời khẳng định và là lời chúc phúc của ngôn sứ Nathan với vua Đavít. Đó cũng là lời Sứ thần Gabrien nói với Trinh nữ Maria. Tuy vậy, nếu sự hiện diện của Chúa giữa Dân Ngài từ trước tới nay chỉ thể hiện qua sự quan phòng che chở, thì nay Thiên Chúa lại hiện diện một cách thức hoàn toàn mới mẻ. Sứ thần Gabrien đã giải thích điều đó: “Này đây Bà sẽ thụ thai, sinh hạ một con trai và đặt tên là Giêsu. Người sẽ nên cao cả và sẽ được gọi là Con Đấng Tối cao. Đức Chúa là Thiên Chúa sẽ ban cho Người ngai vàng vua Đavít, tổ tiên Người. Người sẽ trị vì nhà Giacóp đến muôn đời, và triều đại của Người sẽ vô cùng vô tận”. Vâng, từ nay Thiên Chúa không còn ở chốn cao xanh xa vời vợi, nhưng Ngài đã hạ cố ghé thăm và ở lại với loài người. Ngôi Lời linh thiêng đã trở thành con người bằng xương bằng thịt để cư ngụ giữa chúng ta. Sau này, Chúa Giêsu tuyên bố: “Ai thấy Thầy là thấy Chúa Cha”. Tác giả thư Do Thái cũng khẳng định: “Người là phản ánh vinh quang, là hình ảnh trung thực của bản thể Thiên Chúa” (Dt 1,3). Như thế, qua Chúa Giêsu, con người được gặp gỡ Thiên Chúa, tâm sự với Ngài. Những ai tin vào Chúa Giêsu sẽ cảm nhận sự hiện diện của Thiên Chúa một cách mới mẻ, gần gũi.

Chúa Giêsu đã đến trần gian. Thiên Chúa hiện diện giữa nhân loại. Đó là một trong những nội dung quan trọng của sứ điệp Giáng Sinh. Từ nay, chấm dứt những nghi lễ của Cựu ước, vì Chúa Giêsu là Thượng Tế vĩnh cửu. Người đã hiến dâng chính mạng sống mình làm giá cứu chuộc cho con người. Thánh Phaolô diễn giải điều này, để khẳng định, những ai tin vào Chúa Giêsu, thì không phải tuân thủ những ràng buộc của luật tế tự Cựu ước (Bài đọc II). Nếu trong ngày truyền tin, Sứ thần đã chào kính Đức Maria: **“Đức Chúa ở cùng Bà”**, thì hôm nay, chúng ta cũng chào nhau trong phụng vụ: **“Chúa ở cùng anh chị em”**. Vâng, Chúa đang ở cùng chúng ta. Hãy xác tín vào sự hiện diện của Ngài. Hãy chạy đến với Chúa để xin Ngài ban ơn trợ lực cho chúng ta trên bước đường đời. Thế giới hôm nay đang vắng bóng tình thương. Thay vào đó là sự hận thù ghen ghét và bạo lực giết chóc. Cùng với Đức Trinh nữ Maria, chúng ta hãy khiêm tốn thưa với Chúa lời xin vâng, qua đó chúng ta đón nhận và cộng tác với Ngài, để “Nước Cha trị đến, ý Cha thể hiện dưới đất cũng như trên trời”.

TGM Giuse Vũ Văn Thiên

December 31, 2023 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Sunday

First Reading: Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3/ Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 / Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

"Faith is first of all a personal adherence of man to God. At the same time, and inseparably, it is a free assent to the whole truth that God has revealed...It is right and just to entrust oneself wholly to God and to believe absolutely what he says." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 150).

Next week, we celebrate Holy Family Sunday. The Christmas story, the coming of Jesus the Son of God to Earth to secure our redemption, is at the very least a testament of faith. As descendants of Abraham and Sarah, Jesus, Mary and Joseph have a rich heritage of faith. The Scriptures say, speaking of Abraham, "He did not doubt **God's promise** in unbelief; rather, he was **empowered by faith** and gave glory to God and was **fully convinced** that **what he [God] had promised he [God] was also able to do.**" (Romans 4:20, 21) These four elements, the promises of God, being empowered by faith, being fully convinced, and God's ability to do what he promised, make up the core of living by faith.

The predictions that a Messiah would come to Israel required lasting faith, because there was not immediate fulfillment. It involved continuing to believe that the promise *came from God* and that God would at some point provide a Messiah. The Holy Family demonstrated faith throughout the entire incarnation process. Mary exercised faith by believing that she was not delusional, but that a real angel brought her a real message from the real God. It took faith to say, "Yes!" to God's will, especially in the face of possible social and religious ostracism, by agreeing to bare an out-of-wedlock child. Joseph needed deep faith to accept these bizarre circumstances as coming from God's hand. Then once the child was born, it took faith to accept the homage of the shepherds, the magi, Simeon, Anna, and others. It took faith to ponder these things and raise this ordinary, yet extraordinary Christ child. Imagine how much faith it took.

"The Virgin Mary most perfectly embodies the obedience of faith. By faith, Mary welcomes the tidings and promise brought by the angel Gabriel, believing that 'with God, nothing will be impossible' and so giving assent replied: 'Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be [done] to me according to your word'...It is for this faith that all generation have called Mary blessed.

"Throughout her life and until her last ordeal when Jesus her son died on the cross, Mary's faith never wavered. She never ceased to believe in the fulfillment of God's word. ..."(Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 148, 149).

Today, as descendants by faith of the Holy Family, it requires us to live by faith if we are to also be holy families for Christ. We, too, are faced with the questions, "Will we listen and learn the promises of God? Will we *really believe* that they are from God?" and "Will we believe that they are true and right, and authoritative in our lives for today?" Like the examples of Abraham and Sarah, and Joseph and Mary, in next week's readings, many of these promises fly in the face of human reasoning and require us to abandon a "seeing is believing" approach to life. Likewise, as seen in next week's Scriptures, believing faith has a sure reward for which we also can wait expectantly.

This Holy Family, by their faith, cooperated wonderfully in God's plan of redemption, and are in fact a model we should emulate. And perhaps the greatest lesson to emulate is that they were intimately acquainted with the person and promises of God, as we should be also.

Fall-Winter Recipes- Parmesan Risotto
Ingredients:



- 1 container (32 oz) Chicken Culinary Stock
- 3 Tbsp Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 1/4 white onion, peeled, finely minced (about 1/2 cup)
- 1 cup Arborio Rice
- 1 Tbsp Wegmans Unsalted Butter
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3 Tbsp Shredded Parmigiano Reggiano



- Heat stock in saucepan on MED-LOW to simmer; reduce to LOW. Allow to simmer as you proceed with recipe.
- Heat olive oil in braising pan on MED. Add onion; cook 5 min.
- Add rice to braising pan; stir to coat all grains well with oil. Cook 2 min.
- Add 1 cup warm stock to rice. Cook, stirring constantly, until almost all liquid is absorbed, about 5 min.
- Add remaining stock, one ladleful at a time, stirring constantly, about 25 min. Add next ladleful only after almost all liquid is absorbed.



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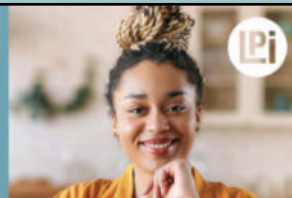
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