

St. Anthony, Holy Family and St. Patrick Parishes

Watertown, New York

Christmas Weekend

December 25/26, 2021



850 Arsenal St.

Website: www.catholicwatertown.org
Email: sarah@catholicwatertown.org



129 Winthrop St.

Website: www.holyfamilywatertown.org
E-mail: hfchurch@twcny.rr.com



123 S. Massey St.

Website: www.catholicwatertown.org
Email: sarah@catholicwatertown.org

Mass Schedule

Holy Family - HF St. Anthony's - SA St. Patrick's - SP Precious Blood Monastery - M

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:00pm (SP)
5:15pm (HF)
Sunday 8:00am (SA)
9:00am (SP)
10:00am (SA)
11:00am (HF, M)
5:15pm (HF)

*Spanish Language Mass at SA the
3rd Sunday of every month at 2:00pm*

Weekday Masses

7:00am (SA)
11:00am and Saturday (M)
Noon (HF) Monday & Friday
Noon (SP) Tuesday-Thursday

Reconciliation

Daily 6:45am (SA)
11:45am (HF, SP)
Saturday 3:00pm to 3:30pm (SP)
4:00pm to 5:00pm (HF)

Adoration

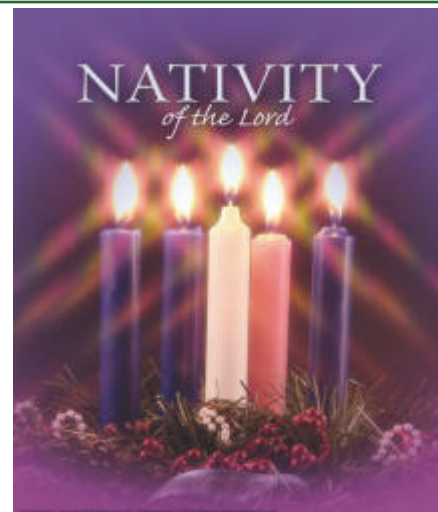
Tuesday 3-6pm (SA)
Thursday 12:30-8pm (SP)
Friday 12:30-2pm (HF)
Sunday 4-5pm (M)

DEC. 25 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas)

Readings: Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

What do we think of when we think of Christmas? Many of us will picture the manger scene, the star, the angels, the shepherds, the animals in the stall, and baby Jesus in the manger with Mary and Joseph looking on. The readings of the Midnight Mass focus on the Christ Child and the familiar Christmas story. But the reading for the Mass for Christmas Day reminds us that this baby from the beginning, from before Creation, is the almighty Son of God. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And yet this God made his dwelling among us. This God, whom the universe cannot contain, comes to us and dwells among us so we can see his glory. We can see him! We can be in relationship with him! He is the light that shines in the darkness, letting us know that we are not alone. Through the Son, we have access to the Father. All the ends of the Earth have seen the salvation by our God. Let us praise him and adore him, allow ourselves to be loved by him and then go to share his light and love with all whom we meet.

Have a blessed Christmas.





Sunday December 26

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:00 SA Sr. Rose Marzano by Family
9:00 SP Lisa Mae Tufo by Family
11:00 HF Intentions of Fr. Matt Conger
5:15 HF Patti, David, & Jeffrey Stabins by Family

Monday December 27

St. John, Apostle, Evangelist

7:00 SA Mary Butterfield by Sue & Tom Chellis
Noon HF Joe Baytos by Joe & Toni Leone

Tuesday December 28

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

7:00 SA Vita Messina by Mary Jane Derrigo
Noon SP Intentions Rolondo Guererro by Buskey Family

Wednesday December 29

Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

7:00 SA Intentions of Martha Donaldson
by Al & Judy Maloney
Noon SP Karen Richardson
by Dcn Kevin & Kathy Mastellon

Thursday December 30

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

7:00 SA Rev. Kevin Tibbles
by Young Adult Group of Watertown
Noon SP Enid Stewart by Godson, Rolando Guerrero

Friday December 31

Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

5:30 SP Miguel & Geronima Guerrero
by Godson, Rolando Guerrero

Saturday January 1

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

8:00 SA People of Our Churches
4:00 SP For Intentions listed on Parish Census forms
5:15 HF For Vocations to Priesthood, Diaconate
& Religious Life

Sunday January 2

The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 SA Georgia Kolb by Ted & Family
9:00 SP Patrick Coleman
by Luann & Brian McCauliffe
10:00 SA Ida Alteri by Mike & Penny Clark
11:00 HF Louis DeVille by wife, Maria
5:15 HF People of Our Churches

At the Monastery of the Sisters of the Precious Blood

Sun Dec 26 Bill Donaldson by Al & Judy Maloney
Mon Dec 27 In honor of St. Joseph for the Holy Souls
by Debbie Cavallario
Tues Dec 28 Oral & Irene Briceland by Family
Wed Dec 29 Intentions of Mark Wolff, Jr. by his Father
Thurs Dec 30 Bob & Sally Purcell by Family
Fri Dec 31 Intentions of Mark Wolff, Jr. by his Father
Sat Jan 1 Intentions of the Sisters
Sun Jan 2 Religious Vocations

Daily Mass 11:00am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Sunday 4:00pm-5:00pm

HYMN OF THE WEEK

to the tune of *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

To the name of our salvation
Honor, worship let us pay,
Which for many a generation
Deep in God's foreknowledge lay;
Saints of every race and nation
Sing aloud that name today.

Jesus is the name we treasure,
More than words can ever tell;
Name of grace beyond all measure,
Ear and heart delighting well;
This our refuge and our treasure,
Conquering sin and death and hell.

Jesus - name of all our praising
In this world to which you came,
Here we sing of love amazing,
And your saving power proclaim;
Hearts and voices heavenward raising:
All our hope is in your name.



*The Sanctuary Lamps in our Churches show
Jesus' presence in the Tabernacle
and our prayers for*

*the intentions of the people of
St. Anthony's Church
Holy Family Church
St. Patrick's Church*



*St. Anthony's Flowers
Holy Family Flowers
St. Patrick's Flowers*

**For the intentions listed on
our Christmas Flower envelopes**

**Make 2022
YOUR YEAR!**

Mary, The Holy Mother of God (Saturday, January 1
 is NOT a holy day of obligation)
 New Year's Eve (Friday) 5:30 pm (SP)
 New Year's Day (Saturday) 10:00 am (SA)



Anticipated Masses for Sunday Jan 2, 2022.
 will be at 4:00pm (SP) and 5:15pm (HF)
January 2, 2022 (Sunday)
 8:00am (SA), 9:00am (SP) 10:00am (SA),
 11:00am (HF) & 5:15pm (HF)



Christmas 2021

*"While they were there, the time came
 for her to have her child,
 And she gave birth to her firstborn son.
 She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes
 and laid him in a manger,
 Because there was no room for them in the inn."
 (Luke 2:6-7)*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

At our Christmas Vigil Mass, we will hear St. Luke tell us that God was born in a manger because there was no room for Him in the inn. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior this year, it is fitting that we ask ourselves: Is there room for God in my heart?

Today, there is so little room in our hearts for many—the unborn, the poor, those suffering from mental illness, the migrant, the victim of unjust discrimination, the elderly, the addict, the lonely, the imprisoned, indigenous peoples, the abused, the terror-stricken refugee. So many women, men and children are hurting. They are members of our families. They are us!

We enter this Advent Season, preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, grateful for blessings received, but also keenly aware of our Christian duty to be the hands and tender heart of Christ to those who currently warrant scarce attention from us. This Christmas, let us resolve, inspired by our own time spent with Jesus, to see His Face in our sisters and brothers who we too often neglect. We yearn to make room in our hearts and in our lives for the hurting. Their human dignity demands it. Our Christian dignity impels us.

We pray that the beautiful acts of generosity that characterize the Christmas Season, will be transformed from seasonal gestures of charity to lifelong acts of justice and mercy. Such personal transformation will give tangible evidence that we are *Christ-led, Christ-fed, and Hope-filled*. We can do great things in Christ Jesus, the Savior whose birth we celebrate with such joy and gratitude. Our God's unconditional love and boundless mercy became flesh and bones in the Person of Jesus Christ so that we might extend God's compassion and love.

May the Christ Child bring you and your loved ones the Gift of Love, the Blessing of Hope and the Promise of Peace. A blessed Christmas and joy-filled New Year!

Faithfully yours in Christ,
 Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
 Bishop of Ogdenburg

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK ..

I want to thank all those who had a hand in decorating our Churches so beautifully for the Christmas season. Not only do the decorations enhance our worship but they contribute to the spirit of joy we celebrate at the birth of our Lord. I am grateful to all our musicians and singers who helped us embrace the solemnity of this time of year. Many thanks to our deacons and sacristans, our readers and eucharistic ministers, our ushers and altar servers who helped us ponder the wonder of God's love.



I have always been fascinated by the Twelve Days of Christmas and how they help us keep the "spirit of Christmas." The background for the 12 day carol is familiar for some but still amazing.

From 1558-1829, Roman Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote the carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their Church. Each element in the carol has code words for a religious reality which the children could remember.

CAROL
 Partridge in a pear tree
 Two turtle doves
 Three French hens
 Four calling birds
 Five golden rings
 Six geese a-laying
 Seven swans a-swimming
 Eight maids a-milking
 Nine ladies dancing
 Ten lords a-leaping
 Eleven pipers
 Twelve drummers

SYMBOL
 Jesus Christ
 Old and New Testaments
 Faith, hope and love
 Four Gospels
 The Torah
 Six days of creation
 Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit
 Eight Beatitudes
 Nine Fruits of Holy Spirit
 Ten Commandments
 Eleven faithful disciples
 Twelve points of belief
 in the Apostles Creed

Fr. Mickey



**You pay your bills online-
Why not make your donation
Electronically, too?**

www.catholicwatertown.org for SA & SP donors
www.HolyFamilyWatertown.org for HF donors
*On-line giving is the easy way
to support your Church*

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Pastoral Center

123 South Massey St., Watertown, NY 13601
Holy Family, St. Anthony's, St. Patrick's
and Glenwood Cemetery
(315) 782-1190

Meet Our Staff

PASTOR Rev. John M. Demo
Residence (315-782-2468)

PAROCHIAL VICAR Rev. Matthew Conger

IN RESIDENCE Rev. Msgr. Paul E. Whitmore
HF Rectory Rev. Leo A. Wiley

DEACONS Deacon Mike Allan
Deacon Guy Javarone
Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Deacon Edward Miller (Ret)
Deacon Donald Wilder

Hospital Chaplain Sr. Jessintha Xavier, SCC

Pastoral Associates Patrick Bates
Sr. Angelica Rebello, SCC

Business Administrator Carol Brown

Parish Secretary Sarah Barden Schantz
Christine Alteri

Cemetery Superintendent Kenneth Booth

Buildings and Grounds James Bombard

Christian Formation Director Sr. Angelica Rebello, SCC

RCIA Directors Kathy Allan
Anthony Marra

Parish Council: Pastor, Clergy, selected staff and the following lay members: John Alteri, William Bamann, T.G. Kolb, Amy Rathbun, Maureen VanWormer and Gary West

Parish Trustees: Bishop, Vicar General, Pastor and these lay trustees appointed for one year terms by the Pastor: Carol Fontana & Frank Gorri (SA), Nathan Holloway & Mary Ann Bartelson (SP), Jennifer Draper & Scott Garrabrant (HF)

Ministry Schedule

	Lector	Extraordinary Minister of Eucharist
<i>New Year's Eve Masses 12/31/21</i>		
5:30 pm SP	Judith Pearson	Patrick Pearson
<i>New Year's Day Masses 1/1/22</i>		
10:00 am SA	Vincent Paragon	Stacy Cavellier
<i>Anticipated Masses for Sunday 1/2/22</i>		
4:00 pm SP	Philip Marra	Joyce Wilder
5:15 pm HF	Gary West	Sister Angelica Rebello, SCC
<i>Sunday Masses 1/2/22</i>		
8:00 am SA	Debbie Cavellario	Bette Hartzell
9:00 am SP	Kyle Aunell	Raymond Weston
10:00 am SA	Beverly Williams	
11:00 am HF	Jude Seymour	Patricia Fanning (Volunteer needed)
5:15 PM HF	Keith Caughlin	Rita Brancheau Timmie White

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

BAPTISM: The next Baptism preparation class will be Monday, Jan. 10 at 7:00 pm at Holy Family Church. Please call the office (315 782-1190) to register for this class. Baptisms are generally scheduled on Sunday at the Worship site of your choice.



WEDDINGS: Arrangements should be made six months in advance by calling for an appointment with a priest or deacon.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confession/Penance - see front page for complete schedule of times and location. In unique situations, call the Parish office.



SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Upon Request - Please call the Parish Office or speak to one of the Priests or Deacons. If you are planning on having any surgery we will be happy to anoint you.

Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday, December 26, 2021

“He gave power to become children of God.”

If you think you may be called to share the Father’s love as a priest, deacon, sister or brother, contact Fr. Christopher Carrara, Vocation Director, ccarrara@rcdony.org, ext. 1340 or Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, the Diocesan Vocation Coordinator at (315)393-2920, ext. 1345 elyng@rcdony.org. See us also at www.myvocation.net.

PROMISE TO PROTECT



PLEDGE TO HEAL

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-569-0612 evenings; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy; ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a complaint of suspected sexual abuse or related misconduct by the bishops, contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at 800-276-1562

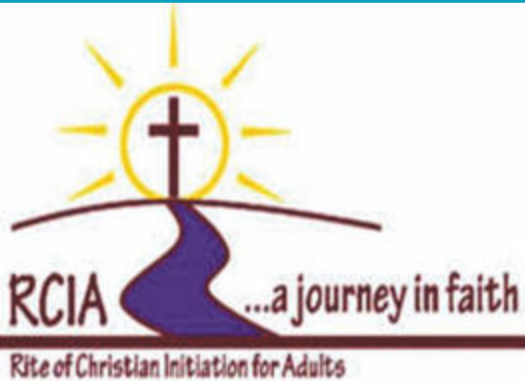
Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

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

Rosary for Life each Wednesday after the 12 Noon Mass at St. Patrick's offered to promote the Sanctity and Protection of all human life from conception to natural death.

December

24	Christmas Eve Masses: 4:00 pm (SA & SP) 6:00 pm & 11:00 pm HF		
25	Christmas Day Masses 8:00 am (SA); 9:00 am (SP) 10:00 am (HF)		
26	Sunday Mass Schedule 8:00 am (SA) 9:00 am (SP) 11:00 am (HF) & 5:15 pm (HF) No anticipated Masses on Christmas Day for Sunday		
31	Mass at 5:30 pm (SP)		
January 2022			
1	Mass at 10 :00 am (SA); Anticipated Sunday Masses 4:00 pm (SP) & 5:15 pm (HF)		
2	8:00 am (SA), 9:00 am (SP), 10:00 am (SA) 11:00 am (HF) & 5:15 pm (HF)		
5	Evening Prayer	5:15 pm	St. Patrick's
7	First Friday Adoration	8 am to 8 pm	Holy Family
9	Faith Formation Class K-8	10:00 am	733 S. Massey St
9	Confirmation Class Year one	12:00 pm	733 S, Massey St
10	Baptismal Prep Class	7:00 pm	Holy Family



Learn about the Catholic Church

Sunday Morning 10am - 11:30 am

St. Patrick's Church - Pastoral Center

For more information, contact
Tony Marra 315 767-5108 or
Kathy Allan 315 777-0649

SCRIPTURE & MEDITATION

(Magnificat - December 2021)

"The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him" (Luke 2:33)

The feast of the Holy Family reminds us that Jesus lived a real human life among real people of flesh and blood. The Son of God became the obedient son of a foster father and a mother who, together, accepted him and walked obediently in God's mysterious ways like the faith-filled family extolled in Psalm 128. But their Child's children, destined for the heavenly Jerusalem, fill the whole world!



The 4:00 pm Mass from St. Patrick's is live streamed. The live stream is recorded and available all weekend at the same Facebook address.
[https:// www.facebook.com/ StPatrickWatertownNY](https://www.facebook.com/StPatrickWatertownNY)

December 26, 2021

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Feast of the Holy Family

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 | Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 | Lk 2:41-52

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Some of my fondest childhood memories are of my dad leading my three sisters and me in song as we made the hour-long drive to visit my grandparents every other weekend. Granted, our silly car songs don't qualify as "singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs," as Paul advised the Colossians, but I do think they reveal that my dad took to heart Paul's advice about family and faith. Paul writes that in putting on holiness, kindness, gentleness, and forgiving one another, we "put on love, that is, the bond of perfection." Whatever we do, in word or deed, we ought to do in the name of the Lord Jesus. Fathers, mothers, and children are to love one another, seeking and choosing the good for one another, and helping each other along life's journey – on long car trips as well as in a lifetime of situations. On this feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we honor their perfect holiness and love, and pray that God may continue to perfect us in holiness and love within our own families, that we may bear good fruit for the Kingdom.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Three Days? Mary and Joseph couldn't find Jesus for three days! Any parent who has had a child missing for a few seconds understands the anxiety Mary and Joseph experienced in three long days of searching for Jesus. In the end, though, all is well – they find him, and the peace of Christ casts out their fears. It is a remarkable scene: Jesus' parents are *astonished* to see him teaching in the temple, and Jesus is curious as to why they were looking for him – did they not know where he would be? This event marks a sort of milestone in their lives together, as Jesus has hinted at his future public ministry, and his parents have experienced that first bit of soul-piercing that Mary will later fully undergo. For each of them, love is what directed their actions. Joseph and Mary put aside everything to search for their son; Jesus put aside everything to serve his Father; and they joined together in humble obedience to God's will for them. The Holy Family models a way of living for us to imitate, and to witness to others in that imitation.

SERVE/STUDY Perhaps you have some down time in this coming week between Christmas and New Year's. As a family, choose an activity that allows you to think outside yourselves and serve others. Or make a plan to read the Scripture for each day of the upcoming week; everyone can choose a favorite verse to memorize each day. You may be surprised how often these verses enter your mind throughout the week.



**The Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**
Sunday, December 26, 2021

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:41-52
The boy Jesus is found in the Temple.

Family Connection

Today's Gospel describes a time of anxiety in the life of Jesus' family. We can imagine their panic and worry as they discovered that Jesus was not with the caravan returning to Nazareth. The Holy Family journeyed with family members and friends because traveling alone was dangerous. When they found Jesus at the Temple, Jesus spoke like a typical adolescent, unsympathetic to his parents' concern. Yet his words teach an important lesson about reducing anxiety in our family life. In essence, Jesus says, "If you had remembered who I am, you would have known where to find me." In their panic, Mary and Joseph had forgotten what had been told to them before Jesus' birth, that their son was the Son of God. Knowing a person well helps reduce our anxieties for them because we can better predict how they will behave, and we know their capacity to handle the challenges life might present to them.

As you gather as a family, have fun playing the game "How well do you know me?" Take turns trying to stump one another by asking family members questions about yourself, such as "What is my favorite memory of a family vacation?" "Given a choice, what dinner menu would I pick?" "If I could travel anywhere in the world, where would I go?" One member of the family might prepare and read the questions aloud as each person writes down the answers. Family members then take turns guessing the answers, playing this game as a quiz show. Observe that one thing about families is that we learn to know each other well.



DID YOU KNOW...

Christmas Beatitudes

Christmas has arrived! It is, indeed, a season filled with blessings. Christ is our special gift from God. Jay Marshall, author of *The Beatitudes of Christmas*, tells us that through experience some of the greatest blessings come through the most difficult challenges. Some of the hardest moments in life, in retrospect, prove to be the most beneficial. The love and goodwill at Christmas lift our spirits and restore our hope that God can direct our future, that He can find a way to touch our hearts each year.



We also know that there are some who may not experience joy and peace at Christmas. May we be the ones to change this so that Christmas may be more beautiful for everyone. Mr. Marshall suggests that this may come by reading, reflecting on and following as well as we can, these Christmas Beatitudes. Then, "perhaps, with the grace of God, the gift of Christ and the spirit of the Beatitudes, [this] Christmas can be the most meaningful and transformational yet."

Christmas Beatitudes Jay W. Marshall

- ◆ May God allow us to become poor in spirit until we are prepared for the kingdom to be ours.
- ◆ May our hearts be filled with mourning so that our complete joy may come through God's comfort.
- ◆ May we become meek, so that we can appreciate and properly enjoy our inheritance.
- ◆ May our hunger and thirst for God reach almost unbearable levels before we are filled.
- ◆ May God help us give the gift of mercy this year, so that we too may receive it in our time of need.
- ◆ May our hearts be pure, cleansed of the unnecessary Christmas clutter so that we can catch a glimpse of our Lord.
- ◆ May peacemaking become more than a cliché as we become children of God.
- ◆ May we all be persecuted, at least in small increments, so that our faith proves worthy of the kingdom we have been promised.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Judy Pearson



The
HOLY FAMILY
of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

“Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us” (Lk 2:15)

“In the 2019 apostolic letter *Admirabile Signum*, the Holy Father (Pope Francis) explores the meaning and importance of the Nativity scene, examining each element and its significance. It offers a contemplative experience of a Christian icon that has become so familiar — helping to restore the wonder and awe that can come from contemplating it anew.”

Here in our Watertown churches, on the Third Sunday of Advent, parishioners were invited to bring the Baby Jesus from their family crèche to Mass for the annual blessing of the Bambinelli. If you didn't remember to bring yours, the bulletin from that Sunday included a Blessing to be used at home as a family, perhaps as part of the Advent Wreath lighting at dinner. Get a copy on our parish website.

“Why does the Christmas crèche arouse such wonder and move us so deeply?” Pope Francis asks. “First, because it shows God's tender love: the Creator of the universe lowered himself to take up our littleness. The gift of life, in all its mystery, becomes all the more wondrous as we realize that the Son of Mary is the source and sustenance of all life. In Jesus, the Father has given us a brother who comes to seek us out whenever we are confused or lost, a loyal friend ever at our side. He gave us his Son who forgives us and frees us from our sins.”

Mrs. Crowe adds “As we enter into the joyful season of Christmas, we would do well to gaze more at our Nativity scenes, wondering at the vision that was involved in our loving Father's design and execution. We would do well to look at them through the eyes of a child, imagining the lives of those characters so remarkable and yet still so human. And rightly so. The story they tell is of Jesus Christ entering the world so that we might live forever with him. It is the story of our salvation. What could be better to wonder at than that?”

We couldn't agree more. The DIY kits handed out to young families on the Second Sunday of Advent were meant to introduce these little ones to the story of the Nativity, God's love for us and ultimately to the story of our salvation.

This Christmas Weekend on Sunday we also celebrate the patronal Feast of the Holy Family. A simple google search tells us that “The Holy Family is the name given to the family unit of Jesus: The Divine Son of God Jesus, his mother the Virgin Mary, and his foster-father Joseph.”

“The Feast of the Holy Family is not just about the Holy Family, but about our own families too. The main purpose of the Feast is to present the Holy Family as the model for all Christian families, and for domestic life in general. Our family life becomes sanctified when we live the life of the Church within our homes. This is called the "domestic church" or the "church in miniature." St. John Chrysostom urged all Christians to make each home a "family church," and in doing so, this sanctifies the family unit. Just how does one live out the Church in the family? The best way is by making Christ the center of family and individual life. Ways to do this include: reading scripture regularly, praying daily, attending Mass at least on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, imitating the actions of the Holy Family, going to confession frequently, and so forth, all done together as a family unit.”

“The Holy Family feast is a good time to remember the family unit and pray for our human and spiritual families. We also may take this feast to reflect on the value and sanctity of the family unit, and to evaluate our own family life. What ways may it be improved? What would Jesus, Mary, and Joseph do? Finally, we can use this feast to ask ourselves what are we doing to promote the family within our own cultures, neighborhoods, and communities.”

With excerpts from

<https://prayerist.com/holyfamily>

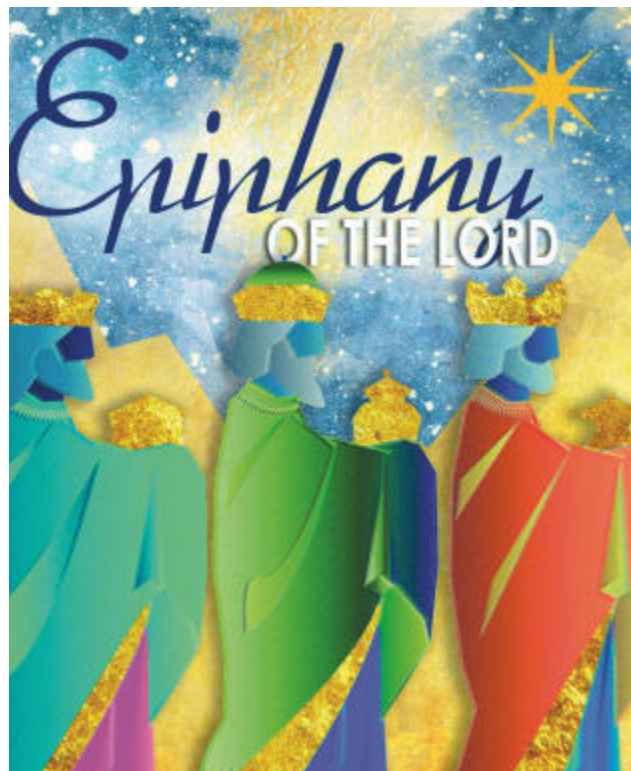
Our Sunday Visitor.com article

With the eyes of a child, gaze upon the Nativity

by Gretchen Crowe

A link to the Pope's Apostolic Letter can be found on our parish website: www.catholicwatertown.org

Next Sunday, January 2, 2022 the church celebrates the Feast of the *Epiphany of the Lord*. No, wait! Isn't that January 6th? Yes, but ... in the United States the church designates the Sunday between January 2 and January 8 as the *Epiphany of the Lord*.



Almost time to 'chalk' the doors!

20+C+M+B+22

*Christus Mansionem Benedicat
May Christ bless this house*

We will observe 'the chalking of the doors' on the Epiphany of the Lord. At Mass, Fr. Mickey and Fr. Matt will chalk the church entryway doors-- and you're invited to take the prayers and a piece of blessed chalk home to mark the same inscription on the lintel above your front door:

20+C+M+B+22

The letters have two meanings: They represent the initials of the Magi—Caspar, Malchior, and Balthasar who came to visit Jesus in His first home--and they abbreviate the Latin phrase *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*-- May Christ bless this house.

The '+' signs represent the cross, the '20' at the beginning and the '22' at the end mark the year. Together, they are a reminder to keep Christ as the center of our lives and our relationships and are a request for Christ to bless your home—and all who live, work and visit there.



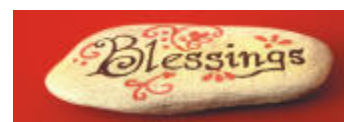
Editor's Correction:

The winner of the Holy Family 50/50 raffle is **Beverly Blair**.



She took home **\$522.00**

Congratulations to Beverly and thanks to all who participated in the raffle.

BLESSING PRAYERS FOR USE AT THE TABLE
(Magnificat -December 2021)

BEFORE THE MEAL:

*Loving Father,
you bless us in every way,
especially with the love of the Mother of your Son.
United in a special way with
the Blessed Virgin Mary,
our souls magnify you.
We thank you for all good things,
especially this meal, through Christ our Lord. Amen*

GRACE AFTER THE MEAL

*Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior,
for he has filled the hungry with good things.
Bless those who have provided for us in any way,
and fill all those who live in want.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Thank you

to all the parishioners from our three churches who took tags from the Angel Trees.



Your generosity will surely bring smiles to dozens of families this Christmas.

The 2022 Mass book is open for the months of January and February.

Call the office if you would like to book a Mass in that time frame ONLY.

Please keep this in mind. Due to the volume of Mass requests, you may book only two weekend Masses a year.

Memorial Alternatives

As always, Altar flowers may be ordered to remember loved one in a special way at Mass. They are a lovely alternative if the weekend Mass date you would like is not available.

You may also sponsor the Sanctuary Candle in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one for a week, starting on the Sunday it is published.

Another option is to give a donation to the parish in memory of a deceased family member or friend. This allows special items to be purchased or projects accomplished in a loved one's name. A memorial donation announcement which resembles a Mass card is prepared so the friends and family of the deceased will know of your thoughtfulness.

Please see Sarah or Christine in the Pastoral Center Office to reserve Mass dates or any other memorials at St. Anthony's, St. Patrick's, Holy Family and the Precious Blood Monastery.



Thank you

to everyone who donated to Watertown Urban Mission through the annual ADVENT GIVING CALENDAR Project.

"To Jesus through Mary"



The Legion of Mary is an association of Catholics who strive to live out their faith through a program of prayer and good works. "To Jesus through Mary" is our motto. We pray the rosary at every meeting.

Wednesdays from 10-11:30am at Holy Family Church.



Outreach to Homebound Parishioners

This month Christmas cards have been hand delivered or mailed to residents of Samaritan Summit Village, Samaritan Keep Home, Ives Hill Lodge and to those living in their own homes who are unable to get to church for whatever reason and are on the Communion call list.

If you didn't get a card or if you know of a loved one who fits this category who didn't get one, please call the office, 315 782-1190 so lists can be updated. Thank you.

Are you a new parishioner or visiting for the first time?

Welcome! Please introduce yourself to one of the priests or deacons. We invite you to become an active participant of our parish community and welcome you. Please visit our website www.catholicwatertown.org. Under the **About** tab, select **Parish Registration**. We look forward to having you as a part of our parish Community!



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