

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception
Our Lady of Fatima Parish
134 South Washington Street—Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
570-823-4168

**THE THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH
DECEMBER 26, 2021**



THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

**SIRACH 3:2-6, 12-14
1 JOHN 3:1-2, 21-24
LUKE 2:41-52**

**FATHER,
LET YOUR KINDNESS
TAKE LASTING ROOT**

(gospel reading)

**WITHIN OUR HOMES,
*(responsorial psalm)***

**THAT EVERYTHING
THAT IS DONE THERE
MAY BE DONE**

NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

**ISAIAH 60:1-6
EPHESIANS 3:2-3, 5-6
MATTHEW 2:1-12**

IN THE NAME OF JESUS,

(second reading)

**AND WE MAY GROW
IN WISDOM AND GRACE
BEFORE YOU.**

(gospel reading)

**CELEBRATION OF
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
ST. MARY'S CHURCH
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
(NEW YEAR'S DAY)**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2021

4:00 PM Vigil Mass with Cantor

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2022

11AM Mass with Cantor

NO VIGIL MASS FOR SUNDAY

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022

10AM Mass

12:10PM Mass

7:00PM Mass

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
(NEW YEAR'S DAY)**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2021-St. Nicholas

5:15 PM Vigil Mass

7:00PM Mass (Spanish)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2022-St. Nicholas

10AM Mass

NO VIGIL MASS FOR SUNDAY

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022-St. Nicholas

8AM Mass

10AM Mass

12:15PM Mass

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

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.



Sacrificial Giving

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH
God's Plan For Giving

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INCREASED OFFERINGS

The weekly collection will be listed in next
Sunday's Bulletin.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS-- *How Can I Help Our Lady of Fatima Parish*

- ***Pray regularly for the Priests, and the Parish Community.
- ***Put seriously into practice the Lord's command to love God and our neighbors. So much falls into place when we do so.
- ***Work cooperatively with the Parish and others toward achieving the common good.
- ***Recognize always that this parish and all it is belongs to the Lord, not to us.
- ***Welcome strangers into our midst and encourage them to return.
- ***Make it a point to speak to other parishioners whom you would not ordinarily greet.
- ***Give regularly to the support of our parish and also to other worthy works. Increase what you give as you are able.
- ***Give with a cheerful heart, not because you feel you must.
- ***Support extra and special events whenever you can.
- ***Volunteer to join a ministry or parish group.
- ***Try to remember that what you see around you is given by God, and has been nurtured by many generations of priests and laity. Isn't it worth protecting and working for?
- ***When a parishioner is ill, why not drop him/her a card or call to inquire about him/her.
- ***When a parishioner isn't seen for a while, mention this to Father Verespy, or one of the priests. But if friends and fellow parishioners also phoned and expressed their hope to see this person again, think what an effect it would have!



I NEED A SPONSOR CARD !

To serve as a sponsor for Baptism, Confirmation or Marriage, a person needs a Certificate of Eligibility from his/her Pastor testifying to the fact that the person is a practicing Catholic. Active membership is determined by: regular attendance at Mass, registration at the parish for at least six months, use of your parish envelopes (only accurate way to know your attendance) and participation in parish activities. Certificates cannot be issued unless you are previously registered with the Parish.



PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

Please check one:

I am new in the parish & wish to register

Change of Address

Moving out of Parish

Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to the Parish Office: 134 S. Washington

MISSION STATEMENT

WE, THE CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, ARE CALLED TO A FOUR*FOLD MISSION:

- **TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST;**
- **TO WORSHIP GOD IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH;**
- **TO BE TRANSFORMED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE;**
- **TO BRING GOD'S JUSTICE AND PEACE TO OTHERS THROUGH SERVICE.**

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

Masses For The Week

MONDAY– DECEMBER 27(ST. JOHN)

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Ben Ambrose*
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Joseph Linker*

TUESDAY– 28 (THE HOLY INNOCENTS)

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Edward J. Ell*
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Karen Hess*

WEDNESDAY– DECEMBER 29 (5th DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD/ ST. THOMAS BECKET)

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Thomas Keating*
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Cynthia Uytioco*

THURSDAY– 30 (6th DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD)

St. Nicholas 6:30AM *Patricia Lynch*
St. Nicholas 8:00AM *Lucy Matiska*
St. Mary's 12:10PM *Veronica Ciavarella*

FRIDAY— 31 (7th DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD)

St. Nicholas 6:30AM NO MASS
St. Nicholas 8:00AM NO MASS
St. Mary's 12:10PM NO MASS
St. Mary's 4:00PM Mass
St. Nicholas 5:15PM *Henrietta Shovlin*
St. Nicholas 7:00PM Mass (Spanish)

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

SATURDAY– JANUARY 1, 2022

St. Nicholas 10:00AM *Dorothy Drugan*
St. Mary's 11:00AM Mass

NO VIGIL MASSES

SUNDAY– JANUARY 2

St. Nicholas 8:00AM *Frank, Sr. & Sophie Kowalski*
St. Mary's 10:00AM Mass
St. Nicholas 10:00AM *Conrad Kotlowski, Sr.*
St. Mary's 12:10PM Mass
St. Nicholas 12:15PM *Living & Deceased
of the Parish (Spanish Mass)*
St. Mary's 7:00PM Mass



Thank You
Thank You
Thank You
Thank You

Thank You
Thank You
Thank You
Thank You
Thank You

Thank You
Thank You
Thank You

*Our parish family
brought gifts
galore
to the Giving
Tree.
They made
countless
children happy
in so many
families.
Thank You ALL!*

2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT REQUEST

Please make your requests by filling out this form below and returning it. Thank you.

Envelope Number _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

Please drop this Form into the offertory basket or mail to the Parish Office: 134 S. Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

NEW CALENDARS

2022 Calendars are available in the vestibule tables this weekend.

Please pick up your calendar while supplies last.



PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

We stand before you,
Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
Make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
No partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
And not stray from the way of truth and what is right.
All this we ask of you,
Who are at work in every place and time,
In the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.
Amen.

Please check the Diocesan Website to take a survey concerning the Synod. Your input is very important.
Dioceseofscranton.org

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