

+ *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph* +
St. Remy Catholic Church ~ December 26, 2021



SCHEDULES, EVENTS & DAILY READINGS

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 26—JANUARY 2

- 26 Sun:** 7:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
9:00 a.m. Mary Ellen Monnin
11:00 a.m. Tom & Corrine Francis Family
- 27 Mon:** 8:15 a.m. Kermit & Audrey Monnin
- 28 Tues:** 8:15 a.m. Ronald Jones
9:00 a.m. No Confession
- 29 Wed:** 5:00 p.m. Confession (Father Fox)
6:15 p.m. Sherry Swartz
- 30 Thurs:** 8:15 a.m. For Vocations
3:00 p.m. Confession (Father Fox)
7:00 p.m. Confession (Father Fox)
- 31 Fri:** 8:15 a.m. Adrian, Bernice, Fred, & Ronald Paulus,
Mark McCalla, & Vic Siefing
5:00 p.m. Vigil for Mary, Mother of God—
Karen Coverstone
- 01 Sat:** **9:00 a.m. Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God—**
Urban & Elfrieda (Birthday) Borchers
(No Confession following Mass)
3:30 p.m. Confession (Father Fox)
5:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Members of the
Robert, Medge, & Danny Richard Family
- 02 Sun:** 7:30 a.m. Paul Goubeaux
9:00 a.m. Zachary Richard
10:30 a.m. Confession (Father Fox)
11:00 a.m. John Bensman

MINISTRY SCHEDULES FOR THE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 1-2

SERVERS

- 5:00 p.m. Evan Smith & Gabriel Fullenkamp
7:30 a.m. Jonas Magoto & Micah Grieshop
9:00 a.m. Michael Bell, Jared Poling, Benjamin York (Tim),
Matthew, Jacob, & Anthony Caldwell
11:00 a.m. Jacob & Eli Schmitmeyer

LECTORS

- 5:00 p.m. Bill Francis
7:30 a.m. Marci Langenkamp
9:00 a.m. Dave Peyton
11:00 a.m. Ann Delaet

DISTRIBUTORS

- 5:00 p.m. Nicole Doseck
7:30 a.m. Cindy Goubeaux
9:00 a.m. Mark Harris
11:00 a.m. Aaron Schmitmeyer

USHERS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

- 5:00 p.m. Ron Simon, Matt Shappie, Dan Hoying, Kurtis Black
7:30 a.m. Dan Magoto, Andy Armstrong, Dan Elsas,
Greg Borchers
9:00 a.m. Josh Francis, Felix Francis, Jeff Hoehne, Adam Hoehne
11:00 a.m. Larry Platfoot, AJ Borchers, Steven Schulze, Pat Burke

COLLECTION COUNTERS

Bart & Nicole Doseck, Michael Mayer



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION is held every Thursday, beginning at the conclusion of the 8:15 a.m. Mass, and ending with Benediction at 8:30 p.m.

WEEKLY RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

Tuesday: No Confession this week
Wednesday: 5:00—6:10 p.m.
Thursday: 3:00—4:00 p.m., 7:00—8:20 p.m.
Saturday: No morning Confession, 3:30—4:45 p.m.
Sunday: 10:30—10:50 a.m.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

- Knights of Columbus—3rd Monday of the month (January 17) at 8:00 p.m. in the parish office basement.
- Children's Adoration—will resume on January 6.
- Pastoral Advisory Council—4th Tuesday of every other month (January 25) at 7:00 p.m. in the parish office basement.
- St. Vincent de Paul Society—2nd Wednesday of the month (January 12) at 7:00 p.m. at the Russia Library.
- Catholic War Veterans—3rd Wednesday of the month (January 19) at 8:00 p.m. at the CWV Hall.
- Patriotic Rosary—will be prayed every Tuesday at 7:45 a.m., as well as on the 1st Friday of the month (January 7) following the 7:00 a.m. Mass.
- Blessing for Expectant Mothers—will take place in church following the 11:00 Mass on the first Sunday of the month.

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

This Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 Lk 2:41-52	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Monday:	1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a, 2-8	St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
Tuesday:	1 Jn 1:5—2:2 Mt 2:13-18	The Holy Innocents
Wednesday:	1 Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35	St. Thomas Becket
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:12-17 Lk 2:36-40	
Friday:	1 Jn 2:18-21 Jn 1:1-18	Pope St. Sylvester I
Saturday:	Nm 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Next Sunday:	Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12	Epiphany of the Lord

WHAT DOES FATHER FOX SAY?

There's a lot happening all at once. Last weekend I mentioned the upcoming worldwide synod, and the invitation for everyone to participate. There is a meeting coming up January 6 at St. Michaels, to which you are invited.

Two weeks ago, I wrote about the proposal circulating for additional athletic and classroom facilities at Russia School. Any decision we make as a community on this proposal, or any other alternatives that may be advanced, will have effects for decades to come on the facilities the parish uses for religious education, and the annual parish budget.

Buckle up, buttercup: it's "Beacons" all the time! Meanwhile, there is the huge project called "Beacons of Light," which involves St. Remy Parish becoming part of a "family" of parishes, led by one pastor, starting in July of 2022. This latter project will mean a tremendous amount of planning and coordinating over the next six months. You may not realize just how much of my time and energy Beacons of Light has absorbed far the past year. I want you to know, because there were other matters that got less attention than otherwise, and some parishioners surely noticed. Expect this to be even more the case in 2022.

There are huge decisions to be made in the next 6-18 months. Will I be the pastor of this family or will someone else be named pastor? What about Mass schedules, confession times, and where the priests will live? What office arrangements will be made for the staffs of seven parishes that must now begin to work together? What kind of satellite offices will there be? The parish bulletins will certainly need to change, to ensure everyone in all seven parishes has all the same information all the time. It will be necessary to bring together the various pastoral councils, finance committees and other commissions for joint planning. Starting July 1, any number of expenses will be shared, and so before July, some decisions must be made about what is a "fair" way to allocate shared expenses. There will be lots of questions and concerns and rumors. If this isn't handled right, there will be folks who don't hear about a meeting until it's over and will complain that they weren't consulted. It's certain some decisions will leave some people unhappy.

So, I want to give you a clear forecast of what to expect. That's why I am begging that you pay close attention to, and participate in, the decisions that lie ahead.

The true story of the Christmas Tree. The story begins with an obscure detail of Catholic liturgy unknown to most. Every saint, including figures from the Old Testament, are assigned a day on the calendar. This includes Adam and Eve, whose feast day is December 24 – Christmas Eve.

Now ride the "wayback machine" to the year AD 1200, to Germany. Then, as now, parishes organized plays and skits around holy days. We do one every Assumption; some places host live nativity scenes. In the 1200's, German parishes had a "mystery play" on December 24, telling Adam and Eve's story. They would have a "Paradise Tree," using a fir tree, which was readily available. The tree had to have fruit, right? So they used apples, as well as round pieces of bread. In those days, only apples would be readily available in late December. But why bread?

Remember, Genesis mentions two trees. We recall the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad, from which Adam and Eve ate, and then left Paradise to enter this world. But there was also the Tree of Life, from which they did not eat. That was waiting for them if they ever returned.

What these clever Germans figured out was that in Jesus, both trees become one. Jesus died on a "tree," that is, the Cross. And the Eucharist, which is Jesus' true Body and Blood, is the "fruit" of the Cross. Thus the tree that brought death becomes the Tree that gives everlasting life!

We know that sometime later, these "Paradise trees" began being set up in people's homes, and still later, decorated with ornaments, later candles, finally, electric lights.

So if anyone says the Christmas Tree is pagan, kindly inform them that it's 100% Biblical. Merry Christmas!

—Father Fox
StRemyPastor@gmail.com
(937)526-3437

LIVE YOUR FAITH



The family receiving the **TRAVELING VOCATION CHALICE** this Sunday is Joe and Katie Sapp. The family receiving it the week of January 2 is Bart and Nicole Doseck. Please pick up the chalice from the table inside the rectory door after Mass on Sunday, and return it to the same place the following Friday.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BRING THE TRAVELING VOCATION CHALICE AND RELATED MATERIALS INTO YOUR HOME? Please see the binder in the back of church to sign up. This is a great tool to encourage vocations in your home, as well as to pray for our priests and for more vocations.



ELIZABETH'S NEW LIFE CENTER IS SEEKING A DEVELOPMENT OFFICER in their Sidney location. This part-time position will be for 24 hours per week. For more information, please contact Kelley Parker at (937)991-0168.



GRIEF SHARE IS A WEEKLY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP that will be meeting every Tuesday from January 4-March 29 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Precious Blood church basement in Chickasaw. These sessions provide a place where you can find help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. All necessary materials are being donated by Hogenkamp Funeral Home. To register or acquire more information, contact Herb Wilker at hiwilker@mercy.com or (419)953-5398.



THE NEXT BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS will be held on Saturday, January 15 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the St. Joseph Village Centre (formerly called the Gathering Place). The next opportunity to take the class will be in April. Parents are required to attend a class before the Baptism of their child. Call Steven and Regina Schulze at (937)638-3642 to register or for more information.

Please note that the parish office will be closed from Friday, December 24 through Monday, January 3.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER



Universal Intention: Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God; may they be witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Mass Schedule for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God



Mass will be celebrated on Friday, December 31 by candlelight at 5:00 p.m. for the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, as well as at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 1. The 5:00 p.m. Mass on January 1 will be a vigil Mass for the Epiphany, which is Sunday, January 2.

Don't miss our annual
 **Valentine's Dinner** 
 for married and engaged couples
on Saturday, January 8
 at St. Remy Hall.

Doors will open at 6:00, dinner will be served at 6:30, and a talk titled "Top 10 Ways to a Better Marriage" will be presented by Alex Wallace, a counselor with Ruah Woods, following the meal.

Tickets are \$40 per couple and include the meal, drinks, and the speaker.

They are available on the church's website at stremychurch.com, on the church's Facebook page, or by calling or texting Jana Francis at (937)467-8485 or Carla Meyer at (937)638-3609. The deadline for purchasing tickets is Thursday, December 30. Spread the word!

SUNDAY AND HOLYDAY OFFERINGS **for Fiscal Year 2021 (7/1/21-6/30/22)**

July 1— Oct. 31 budgeted amount: \$138,782
 July 1— Oct. 31 offerings received: \$141,883

If you would like to make your offerings online, please go to stremychurch.com and click on "Online Giving."

Thank you for your generosity!

LIVE YOUR FAITH

Bulletin Sponsor of the Week



Looking for the right financial advisor? Contact this week's featured sponsor, **MIKE STUEVE.**

Mike works for the Edward Jones Company, whose motto is "Making sense of investing."

Check out the company's website at www.edwardjones.com or call Mike at his office in Troy at (937)440-9392 to see how he can help you to "make sense of investing."

We extend a sincere thank you to all of the businesses that advertise on the back cover of our bulletin. Their sponsorship covers the church's entire expenses in printing the bulletins each week. Please call on these businesses when you are looking for products and services.

Prayer to the Holy Family

Dear Lord, bless our family. Be so kind as to give us the unity, peace, and mutual love that You found in Your own family in the little town at Nazareth.

St. Joseph, pray for the head of our family. Obtain for him the strength, the wisdom, and the prudence he needs to support and direct those under his care.

Mother Mary, pray for the mother of our family. Help her to be pure and kind, gentle and self-sacrificing, for the more she resembles you, the better our family will be.

Lord Jesus, bless the children of our family. Help them to be obedient and devoted to their parents. Make them more and more like You. Let them grow, as You did, in wisdom and strength and grace before God and man.

Holy Family of Nazareth, by Your intercession, love, and holy example, make our family and home more and more like Yours, until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with You. Amen.

This and other beautiful prayers can be found at www.praycatholic.wordpress.com.

IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY AND NEED TO REACH FATHER FOX, please call the parish office at 526-3437. This is the best way to reach Father, day or night. If he isn't home, his home phone answering machine alerts his cell phone, so your message will get to him.

Please remember to pray for the people listed in the St. Remy Prayer Intentions Book located in the back of church.

TO ALL IN THE RUSSIA AREA: Would you have time to visit an elderly person who is lonely or send a birthday or get well card? Would you be happy to pick up groceries or run an errand for someone who can't drive? Could you spare some time to read to someone, play a game of cards, or simply stop by and check in on somebody? St. Remy's conference of St. Vincent de Paul is looking for a core of 4-5 men and women who would like to help us get a new branch of our ministry off the ground. It can involve as little or as much time as you like. Once we have ascertained interest, we will meet to get your input and provide additional direction to develop this ministry. Would you consider helping us by giving your time and resources to others? If so, please contact me at (937)658-4254 by January 15. Thanks for your consideration.

~Tom Doseck, President
St. Remy Chapter of St. Vincent de Paul

SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may all the members of our family make room for you in our heart and life: protect our families, keep us safe, provide for our material and spiritual needs and lead each one of us to the eternal vision of the Most Holy Trinity! Amen.

Catholics striving for Holiness

CCD & YOUTH MINISTRY



Don't miss the High School Christmas Party!

All high school students are invited to join us for dinner and games on Monday, December 27 from 6:00-8:30 at St. Remy Hall. Dinner will be included! Don't forget to wear your Christmas sweater!



Leadership Team

The High School Leadership Team will have their next "full group" meeting on Wednesday, January 5 from 8:00-9:30 p.m. at the St. Joseph Village Centre.



Come to "Rosary and Doughnuts" Before School

All high school students are invited to come to church to pray the Rosary together before school on Friday, January 14. Please meet in church at 7:15 a.m. Following the Rosary, we will head to the parish office basement for doughnuts and beverages. Don't miss this great way to start the day with your friends!



Events for Boys

- Knights of St. Michael (grades 1-3) will meet on Monday, January 10 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at school.
- Knights of Our Lady (grades 4-6) will meet on Monday, January 17 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at school.

National March for Life



Shelby County Right to Life is sending 2 buses to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. in January. The buses will leave Sidney on Thursday, January 20 at 7:30 p.m. and return on Saturday, January 22 around 5:00 a.m. The cost is \$85 per seat. Registration forms, payment information, and basic itinerary are available at www.shelbycountyrto.org; you may also email Anne Schmiesing at director@shelbycountyrto.org. Payment by check is preferred, and checks will be held until after the event, in case refunds are needed.

All passengers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult or a chaperoned group. We are looking for adults to fulfill the role of chaperone for students from our parish who may wish to go. If you are interested in this role, please contact Mark Travis at (419)953-0614.



Instagram

Attention All Parents and Students:

Be sure to stay up-to-date on everything that is happening with St. Remy Youth Group by following our instgram at [stremyyg](https://www.instagram.com/stremyyg).

The Holy Family of Nazareth

The following material was taken from "In Conversation with God" by Francis Fernandez.



“And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him” (Lk 2:39-40). The Messiah wanted to start his redemptive task in the bosom of a simple, ordinary family. The first thing that Jesus sanctified with his presence was a home. Nothing extraordinary happened during those years in Nazareth where Jesus spent the greater part of his life.

Joseph was the head of the family. He was a father according to the law, and it was he who supported Jesus and Mary with his work. It is he who received the message as to what name he must give the Child: *And you shall call his name Jesus*, and heard the words of those who wanted to protect the Child: *Rise, take the Child and his Mother and flee to Egypt* (Mt 2:13)...It was from Joseph that Jesus learned his trade, which was to be his means of earning a living. Jesus must often have shown his admiration and affection for him.

From Mary, Jesus learned certain turns of phrase, popular expressions full of wisdom which he was later to use in his preaching...When his mother mended their clothes, the Child used to watch her. If a garment was torn, she would look for a piece of cloth to match. Jesus, with a child’s curiosity, would ask her why she did not use a new piece of cloth. Our Lady explained to him that when new patches are washed, they pull on the old cloth and tear it; that was why she had to make a patch out of used cloth...The best clothes, the ones they wore on feast days, were kept in a chest. Mary took great care to place certain aromatic plants between them so as

to prevent moths from damaging them. Years later, these occurrences will appear in Jesus’ preaching. We never forget this teaching which is fundamental to ordinary life. Mary spent nearly every day of her life like millions of other women who look after their families, bring up their children, and take care of the house. Mary sanctifies the ordinary everyday things—what some people wrongly regard as unimportant and insignificant: everyday work, looking after those closest to you, visits with friends and relatives. What a blessed ordinariness that can be so full of love of God!

Between Joseph and Mary there existed a holy affection, a spirit of service, and a mutual desire for each other’s happiness. This is Jesus’ family: sacred, holy, exemplary, a model of human virtues, ready to carry out God’s will exactly. A Christian home must be an imitation of the house of Nazareth: a place where there is plenty of room for God so that He can be right at the center of the love that members of the family have for one another.

Is our home like this? Do we dedicate to it the time and attention that it deserves? Is Jesus its center? Do we live only for the others? These are some questions which we could ask in our prayer today, while we contemplate Jesus, Mary, and Joseph on the feast that the Church dedicates to them.

In the family, the parents, by word and example, are the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children. In the case of the Holy Family, this was achieved in a most singular manner. Jesus learned the meaning of the things around him from his parents. The Holy Family would have devoutly recited the traditional prayers which were said in every Jewish home. When we contemplate this scene, we should frequently consider the words of Blessed Paul VI, recalled for us by St. John Paul II: *Do you teach your children the Christian prayers? Do you prepare them, in conjunction with the priests, for the sacraments that they receive when they are young—Confession, Communion, and Confirmation? Do you encourage them, when they are sick, to think of Christ suffering, to invoke the aid of the Blessed Virgin and the saints? Do you say the family Rosary together?...Do you pray with your children, with the whole domestic community, at least sometimes? Our example of honesty in thought and action, joined to some common prayer, is a lesson for life and an act of worship of singular value. In this way you bring peace to your homes. Remember, it is thus that you build up the Church.*

The family is a school of virtues and the ordinary place for us to find God. Husbands and wives will achieve this aim by exercising the virtues of faith and hope, facing serenely all the great and small problems which confront any family, and will be persevering in the love and enthusiasm with which they fulfill their duties. They will forget about the unimportant little frictions that selfishness can magnify out of all proportion. They do lovingly all the small acts of service that make up their daily life together. The aim is this: to sanctify family life, while creating at the same time a true family atmosphere. In the Holy Family, every Christian home finds its most perfect exemplar; in it the Christian family can discover what it should do and how it should behave so as to bring about the sanctification and full human development of each one of its members. Nazareth is the school where we begin to understand Jesus’ life; it is the school where we begin to get to know his Gospel. Here we learn to observe, to listen, to meditate, to penetrate the mysterious depths of this simple, humble, and charming manifestation of the Son of God among men. Here we learn too, perhaps without realizing it, to imitate that life.

The family is the simplest and most basic form of society. It is the main school of all the social virtues. It is in the family that we learn to practice obedience, a concern for others, a sense of responsibility, understanding and mutual help, a loving coordination of essentially different characters. May Christ the Lord, the Universal King, the King of Families, be present in every Christian home as he was at Cana, bestowing light, joy, serenity, and strength. May the Virgin Mary, who is the Mother of the Church, also be the Mother of the “Church of the Home.” Thanks to her motherly aid, may each Christian family really become a “little Church” in which the mystery of the Church of Christ is mirrored and given new life. [May St. Joseph, spouse of the Immaculate Virgin and foster father of Jesus, be our guide, model, intercessor, and protector. As we follow his humble, obedient example, may each one of us become the person that God created us to be and help to bring about peace in our family and in our world.]

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