

# Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph Parish

## Masses

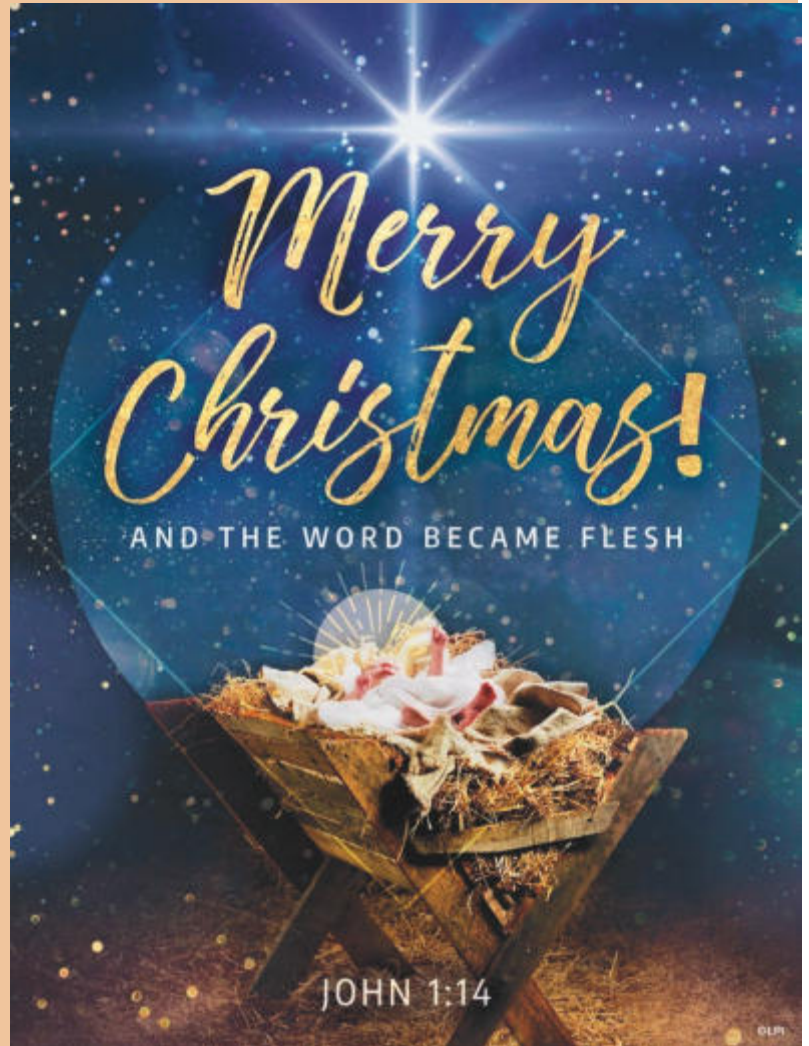
**Saint Joseph Church  
Mother Church of the Italian Community**  
Saturday evening.....4:00 p.m.  
Sunday morning....8:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.  
Weekday (Monday - Saturday) 8:00 a.m.

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church**  
Saturday evening.....4:00 p.m.  
Sunday morning.....10:30 a.m.  
Weekday ...(Monday – Friday) 9:00 a.m.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Saint Joseph Church**  
Saturday..... 3:00—3:40 p.m.

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church**  
Saturday..... 3:00—3:40 p.m.



## *Novena Schedule*

***Novena to St. Padre Pio***  
Tuesdays following the 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph's site.

***Novena to St. Peregrine***  
Wednesdays following the 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph's site.

***Novena to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel***  
Thursdays following the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Mt. Carmel site.

***Rosary For Life***  
Fridays at 8:15 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Site.



{MC} = Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church site  
 {SJ} = St. Joseph Church site

**Saturday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day**

11:00 a.m. {SJ} Gail Andres & Marjean Leissle by Leissle Family

Please note No 4:00 p.m. Masses today at either church site

**Sunday, December 26 ~ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

8:00 a.m. {SJ} All Parishioners  
 10:30 a.m. {MC} All Parishioners  
 11:00 a.m. {SJ} All Parishioners

**Monday, December 27 ~ St. John Apostle**

8:00 a.m. {SJ} Richard Kaleta by Kathrine  
 9:00 a.m. {MC} Ann Briglio by Sister Flo & Family

**Tuesday, December 28 ~ The Holy Innocents**

8:00a.m. {SJ} Vincenza & Pietro Luiero & Maria Rosa Naso by Children & Grandchildren  
 9:00 a.m. {MC} Vincent Anello by David & Joyce Serianni

**Wednesday, December 29 ~ St. Thomas Becket**

8:00 a.m. {SJ} Joseph Sparacio by Family  
 9:00 a.m. {MC} Jeffery Juran (Anniv Remb) by Family

**Thursday, December 30**

8:00 a.m. {SJ} Carol Schilling (Anniv Remb) by Joanne & Martha  
 9:00 a.m. {MC} Zongyao Qin (Anniv Remb) by Daughter Cindy & Joe Paonessa

**Friday, December 31~ St. Sylvester I**

8:00 a.m. {SJ} All Souls  
 9:00 a.m. {MC} All Souls

**Saturday, January 1 ~ Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

11:00 a.m. {SJ} Rev. John Graden, OSFS by Bob & Rae Pullo

**Vigil Mass**

4:00 p.m. {SJ} Frank Joseph Archie by Mom Mary Rose & Family  
 4:00 p.m. {MC} Stanley & Ruth Klizek by St. John de LaSalle Altar & Rosary Society

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

8:00 a.m. {SJ} Thomas Niver by Fr. Duane  
 10:30 a.m. {MC} Eva Felicetta by Brian & Kevin Chapados  
 11:00 a.m. {SJ} Julian Tomaszewski (Anniv Remb) by Wife Sophie & Family



**WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!**

We are blessed to have you join us this weekend! If you are visiting and looking for a church home, please consider joining our Catholic Community. To register in the parish or if you regularly attend Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, but have never registered, please call the rectory office at 282-1379 for more information.

**FR. STEW'S NEWS**

Dear Parishioners,

**“For unto us a child is born. A son is given! He will be called Wonder, Counselor, Prince of Peace!”**

At the very heart of Christmas is the story of the birth of a new baby. He was an innocent child like all children. He was not a child that people worried about what color skin he had or whether he was from a family that was rich or poor. They didn't care what political affiliation he might have in life and they didn't discuss what religion he would come to profess. They certainly didn't talk about his sexual orientation. He was above all a child. A child of God! A gift from God! A joy to a family!

We are all God's children and precious in his sight. He wants us to treat everyone with the same concern that we care for any baby. Just because we grow up it doesn't mean that we are not still someone's child. We know that children are fragile but we forget that adults are fragile also. They get hurt by our insensitivity, our callousness, our anger and our prejudices.

I have seen too many children die from drugs, alcohol and suicide. I have buried too many of them. I have seen adults who have no one who cares for them. We have had all this fear about someone coming into our country and killing us when we have killed more of ourselves than any of them.

When people say that religion is irrelevant or that the church is not important to them I want to ask them where they find hope. Where do they find real peace?

Christ came to proclaim mercy, compassion and hope. He promised us the gift of His grace through the sacraments to strengthen us in times of trouble. He is the Way when we are lost. He is promise! His Eucharist has the power to forgive and to lead us to eternal life.

Joy to the world is what he gives us.  
 Peace on earth, good will toward all!

May your Holidays be blessed and may Christ come to live in your hearts!

Fr. Stew



**MASS READINGS**

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14, Ps 128:1-5, Col 3:12-21, Lk 2:41-52  
 Family life is rooted in the unconditional love of God as witnessed by the Holy Family. Option: Hannah and Elkanah offer their son, Samuel, to God in the Lord's temple. Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the temple. He returns to Nazareth, obedient to them.

**OUR SYMPATHY**

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Parish wishes to extend our deepest sympathy to the families of Maria Clark, Joseph Martinnucci Jr., Vincenette Scrivani and James Teoli. May they rest in peace!



**SANCTUARY LIGHT  
 ST. JOSEPH CHURCH**

The Sanctuary Light will burn this week to the honor of God and in loving memory of Dolores Faiola by Family.

**Parish Clergy**

Rev. Duane R. Klizek ..... Pastor  
 Rev. Stewart M. Lindsay, OSFS ..... Senior Parochial Vicar  
 Br. John Ventresca, OSFS ..... In Residence  
 Sr. Marilyn Perkins, DCMinister to the Home Bound  
 Caroline Washburn .....Minister to the Home Bound

**Parish Website:** [www.holyfamilyrcchurch.org](http://www.holyfamilyrcchurch.org)

**Parish Office & St. Joseph Church site**  
 1413 Pine Avenue, Niagara Falls, New York 14301  
 (716) 282-1379 Fax: (716) 285-3704

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church site**  
 2499 Independence Ave, Niagara Falls, NY, 14301

**St. Joseph Cemetery**  
 3806 Pine Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14301  
 Business Office: 1413 Pine Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14301  
 (716) 282-1379 Fax: (716) 285-3704  
 Joseph Pastwik, Parish Administrator

**Catholic Academy of Niagara Falls**  
 1055 N. Military Road, Niagara Falls, NY 14304  
 (716)283-1455 Fax: 283-1355 Jeannine M. Fortunato, *Principal*

**Religious Education Program**  
 1413 Pine Avenue Niagara Falls, New York 14301  
 (716) 282-1190 Raffaella Pullo,  
 Director of Religious Education



**ST. PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP**

**Padre Pio Prayer Ministry**

Are you in need of prayers for yourself, a loved one or friend? The Padre Pio Prayer Ministry offers prayers for anyone's needs. Please call 297-6382, or 285-7141 to have your intentions added to the prayer chain.

**THE POWER OF PRAYER**

The Holy Family parish Prayer Line is an important prayer chain that helps those with special personal needs/concerns by providing powerful intercession by presenting needs to our Heavenly Father. If you are interested in serving as part of this Prayer Chain, please contact Jeanne at 297-8705. Add your prayers to those in need by joining our chain; help our fellow parishioners with their prayerful requests for intercession.

**CEMETERY NOTICE**

**St. Joseph Cemetery gates are open:**

**April 15 thru Sept. 30: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**October 1 thru April 14: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Mausoleum hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**SPRING BIBLE STUDY**

“We will begin a new Bible Class on the Epistle of St. James beginning Tuesday January 11, 2022. ‘It is a collection of teachings on how to meet the challenges in life with your Christian faith.’ We will be meeting at the Mt. Carmel Church site. Class will start at 6:30 p.m. The session will last one hour and 15 minutes. The course goes for 11 weeks. Register through the parish office. The cost will be \$35.00 if registered by January 3, 2022. After that date it will cost \$45 due to shipping costs.

**RECTORY OFFICE**

The Rectory Office will be closed on Monday December 27th and Friday December 31st



**We Wish You All**

A glad and peaceful  
 Greeting be  
 With all the friends and  
 May these and ever with  
 Joy be yours  
 With all the friends and  
 The sons of the sweet song,  
 The star's clear guiding light,  
 The Christ child in your  
 Heart's warm home,  
 To make this  
 Christmas bright.

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

**January 1 & 2**

**Lectors**

- 4:00 p.m. {MC} P. Montani
- 4:00 p.m. {SJ} B. Robinson
- 8:00 a.m. {SJ} T. Zacher
- 10:30 a.m. {MC} L. Lasher
- 11:00 a.m. {SJ} C. Longo


**Eucharist Ministers**

- 4:00 p.m. {MC} D. Laurie
- 4:00 p.m. {SJ} MR. Archie, K. Beltrano, C. Grant
- 8:00 a.m. {SJ} D. Catanese, R. Catanese, C. Overbeck
- 10:30 a.m. {MC} T. Marino
- 11:00 a.m. {SJ} A. Moran, R. Felicetti, T. Bove

**STEWARDSHIP IN FAITH**

December 13, 2020.....	\$ 5,702.00
December 12, 2021.....	\$ 6,857.00
Net difference .....	(+16.85%) (+\$1,155.00)

Every one of us is talented in some way. Stewardship encourages us to use any talent we have to benefit an individual, the Church or the community. Thank you for your generosity!



**NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE**

New Year's Day is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God traditionally a Holy Day of Obligation. This year, while remaining a Holy Day, there is no obligation for us to attend Mass. For those wishing to attend Mass on Saturday, January 1 it will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Church.



**COVID-19 UPDATE:  
MASK MANDATE REINSTATED  
FOR ALL COUNTIES  
DECEMBER 13, 2021**

On December 10, 2021, New York State announced a mask mandate for all indoor venues effective December 13, 2021 which will be reviewed January 15, 2022.

**Mask Mandate:**  
At this time, masks are mandated for all participants in liturgies held in Catholic churches and worship spaces located in the Diocese of Buffalo regardless of vaccination status.

Parishes in the diocese are not authorized to screen for vaccinations, and so this mandate will apply to all who enter our worship spaces.

As in the past, the only exception given to this will be for clergy and other liturgical ministers when they are fulfilling a significant speaking role. (They should maintain at least six feet of physical distance from others during these limited occasions.)

This guidance will be revisited as the state reviews its policy on or about January 15, 2022 or if subsequent directives are issued by the diocese.




**FAREWELL TO BROTHER JOHN**

Brother John Ventresca, OSFS moved this past week to the Oblate Retirement Home in Maryland. Brother John has been living here with Fr. Lindsay and Fr. Graden for the last twelve years. He has been working at the Embraced by God Center at Stella Niagara and raised money for the center by selling used books on line.

We wish him God's blessing and happiness in his new home. If you would like to send him a note his new address is:

Brother John Ventresca, OSFS  
P.O. Box 43  
Childs, Maryland 21916-0043

**CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY AT HOME**



**FAMILY PRAYER**

Tonight is the **Feast of the Holy Family**, perhaps at the evening meal or at bedtime (even if there are only two in your household), the following prayer may be recited together:

*Thank you, Lord, for each person in our family (name family members). We thank you for our home and for all other persons who are part of our life together.*

*Loving God, you have made us a family so that we can learn about Your love for us. Thank you for the times we are able to laugh and cry together, for giving us time to talk and listen to one another, and for all the ways we know we are loved. We ask pardon for times we have hurt one another. Help us to be a sign to others of Your unconditional love for us. Please give Your special protection and love to those who feel alone, especially children. Help us to remember that we are all family, and to share our blessings with others.*

*We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen*  
(Each family member might mention something to be thankful for.)

**A DOZEN WAYS TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES**

1. Tell a family you know that you appreciate something specific about them, e.g. the way they listen to each other, respect each other, help others, etc.
2. Pray for all families who are hurting because of lack of communication and misunderstanding within the family.
3. Ask someone you see today to share one special experience of their family as that person was growing up.
4. Decide one thing you can do to help one person in your own family today.
5. Set definite dates and times to do one of those no-cost family activities each week or month.
6. Encourage someone you know to share one reason it is fun to be a member of his/her family, and one reason it is hard to be.
7. Remind one person you meet today that he/she is a special gift from God to family and friends.
8. Give someone in your family five extra minutes of your TOTAL ATTENTION. (Be with that person without doing another task, e.g. washing dishes, reading the newspaper...).
9. Reflect on what is most life-giving about your own family.
10. Write. A thank-you note to someone in your family. Thank that person for the love which you have experienced from him/her. (For young children encourage them to draw a picture and share what it means to them).
11. Thank God for your own family.
12. Tell someone in your family, "I love you because.....".



*Let the Heavens Resound with Joy  
Our Savior is Born*



Cradled in  
**LOVE,**  
Wrapped in  
**PEACE,**  
Born to bring  
**HOPE.**



*Joy  
TO  
THE  
World*

**Merry Christmas**

*Rev. Duane Klizek  
Rev. Stewart Lindsay, OSFS and  
the entire staff at Holy Family Parish*



**RELIGIOUS NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

T'was the night before Christmas, and all through the town  
St. Joseph was searching, walking up roads and down;  
Our Lady was waiting, so meek and so mild,  
While Joseph was seeking a place for the Child;  
The children were nestled, each snug in their beds,  
The grown-ups wouldn't bother, there's no room they said;  
When even the innkeeper sent them away,  
Joseph was wondering, where they would stay;  
He thought of the caves in the side of the hills,  
Lets go there said Mary, it's silent and still;  
The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,  
Made pathways of light for their tired feet to go;  
And there in a cave, in a cradle of hay,  
Our Savior was born on that first Christmas Day!



*Merry  
CHRISTMAS*

***Santa's Helper  
Sam Giancola***

**THE TRADITION OF THE CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE  
Pope Francis**

We need to imagine ourselves in the little Italian town of Greccio, near Rieti. Saint Francis stopped there, most likely on his way back from Rome where on November 29, 1223, he had received the confirmation of his rule from Pope Honorius III. Francis had earlier visited the Holy land, and the caves in Greccio reminded him of the countryside of Bethlehem. It may also be that the Poor man of Assisi had been struck by the mosaics in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major depicting the birth of Jesus, close to the place where, according to an ancient tradition, the wooden panels of the manger are preserved.

Fifteen days before Christmas, Francis asked a local man named John to help him realize his desire "to bring to life the memory of that babe born in Bethlehem, to see as much as possible with my own bodily eyes the discomfort of his infant needs, how he lay in a manger and how, with an ox and an ass standing by, he was laid upon a bed of hay." His faithful friend went immediately to prepare all that the saint has asked. On December 25, friars in the area, who brought flowers and torches to light up that holy night. When Francis arrived he found a manger full of hay, an ox and a donkey. All those present experienced a new and indescribable joy in the presence of the Christmas scene. A priest then solemnly celebrated the Eucharist over the manger, showing the bond between the Incarnation of the Son of God and the Eucharist. At Greccio there were no statues, the Nativity scene was enacted and experienced by all who were present. This is how our tradition began: with everyone gathered in joy around the cave, with no distance between the original event and those sharing in its mystery. Thomas of Celano, the first biographer of Saint Francis, notes that this simple and moving scene was accompanied by the gift of a marvelous vision: one of those present saw the baby Jesus himself lying in the manger.



**THE BLESSED EVENT**

Mary pondered her cousin's words  
As she lay upon her bed.  
"Blessed are you, mother of my Lord,"  
Elizabeth has said.  
Mary recalled the dazzling light  
That flooded her humble room  
When Gabriel told her the Son of God  
Would grow in her virgin womb.  
'How can this be?' she wondered still,  
As light from the wondrous star  
Drew shepherds from nearby hills  
And wise men from afar.  
Her hour had come, and Joseph knelt.  
They heard bright angels sing.  
The time has come to celebrate  
The birthday of a King.  
~by Gene Olson

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