He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

- Lk 2:51-52
### Mass Times; Intentions and Readings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mass Times</th>
<th>Intentions and Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, Dec. 26th</strong></td>
<td>8:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M., 5:00 P.M.</td>
<td>For: The Parishioners of St. Michael, St. Joseph, Sacred Heart</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, Dec. 27th</strong></td>
<td>7:00 A.M. (L)</td>
<td>For: Karyn Poche, Evelyn &amp; Allen Deroche Sr., Nathan Louque, “Kenny” Abreo Jr., L.J. Hymel Sr., Souls in Purgatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, Dec. 28th</strong></td>
<td>7:00 A.M. (L)</td>
<td>For: Enola &amp; Florent Faucheux</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, Dec. 30th</strong></td>
<td>7:00 A.M. (L)</td>
<td>For: Charlie &amp; Lil Duhe</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, Dec. 31st</strong></td>
<td>4:00 P.M. (G)</td>
<td>For: Richard &amp; Charmaine Zeringue, Lawrence &amp; Delia Lambert, L.J. Hymel Sr., Allie M. Bourgeois, Souls in Purgatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, January 1st</strong></td>
<td>8:00 A.M. (C)</td>
<td>Not a Holy Day of Obligation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:00 P.M. (P)</td>
<td>For: Norman (Tom) Zeringue &amp; Ethel Zeringue, Ruby Ordeneaux, Clifford &amp; Pete LeBlanc, Kathleen Mire Andermann, Hendricks E. Veron Jr., JoAnn &amp; Tim McFarl, Norman Zeringue Sr., Dennis Paul Matheme, Jerry Louque, Roland “Shawee” Roussel &amp; Rosemary L. Roussel &amp; Family, Roman &amp; Ella Lambert &amp; Family, Souls in Purgatory</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 P.M. (G)</td>
<td>For: M/M Sam Gondolfo &amp; Daughters, M/M Anthony Calcagno Sr., M/Joseph Gondolfo, Kenny Pham, James O’Neal Steil Sr., Staci Champagne Lambert, Souls in Purgatory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Reconciliation

**Before 7:00 A.M. Mass**

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 126:1-2, 3, 4-5 (cf. 1)/Col 3:12-21 or Mt 12:17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:23-24, 24-28/8:42-3, 5-6, 9-10 (cf. 5a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

**Before 7:00 A.M. Mass**

1 Jn 1:4-5/Pl 6:2-9, 10/7/1 Jn 1:18-21

**Pastoral Office Closed**

1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:1-7, 8-9, 10/11a/Lk 2:36-40

**Not a Holy Day of Obligation**

Nm 6:22-23/Ps 62:3-5, 6, 8/2a/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 216-21
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Traveling Chalice & Statue of Our Lady of Fatima
Host family: Dec. 29th – Jan. 5th
Interested in becoming a host family? Call: Cheryl Louque, 225-206-2329
Our Lady of Fatima Statue with Rosary
Host family Dec. 26th-Jan. 1st
Mary Ann Cummins (St. Michael); Marie Keller (St. Mary) Call: Geraldine Hoover, 225-562-7129
Prayer Line: Praying for parishioners needs:
To join this ministry or add someone to the prayer list contact: Nancy Cashio, 225-869-8124; Geraldine Hoover, 225-562-7129; Etra Ruiz, 225-869-8425 or Mary St. Pierre, 225-869-9820.

THE WORD
First Reading:
“I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD.”
(1 Sm 1:27-28)
Psalms:
Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)
Second Reading:
See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are.
(1 Jn 3:1)
Gospel:
After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.
(Lk 2:46)

Sacraments & Services

BAPTISM:
You must be registered parishioners to request baptism in one of the cluster churches. Baptisms are celebrated on the 1st Sun.-St. Michael, 2nd Sun.-St. Joseph & 3rd Sun.-Sacred Heart. Parents & Godparents are required to attend baptismal prep seminar, or complete on-line course now offered. REGISTER at least two weeks before the seminar by calling Missy Laurent (869-5751).

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Children):
If you are interested in becoming a Catholic, contact Ernie or Lisa Sieber @ 266-0509, or Fr. Vincent Dufresne for more information about the RCIA process.

MATRIMONY:
Couples planning a wedding are asked to contact Deacon Alfred Adams at 562-3255 at least six months prior to their planned wedding date. No tentative wedding date can be confirmed before initial meeting with the priest.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK:
For emergency sick calls, please contact the Pastoral Center for a priest. If it is after hours follow the phone prompts to contact a priest.

RECONCILIATION:
Reconciliation available in churches before 7:00 A.M. daily Mass: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and weekend Masses as scheduled.

CHRISTIAN BURIAL:
Please contact the Pastoral Center as soon as possible prior to making funeral arrangements.

Apostleship of Prayer
Intentions of Pope Francis

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention monthly. You are invited to answer the Holy Father’s request and to join with many worldwide in praying for this intention each month.

For:
People Who Suffer from Depression
We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

Sunday: For Francis, our Pope, Michael, our Bishop, Vincent, our Pastor, Alfred & Sam, our deacons, that they may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit.
Monday: Spirit of meekness and humility.
Tuesday: Spirit of Faith.
Wednesday: Spirit of Charity.
Friday: Peace within our country.
Saturday: Love of chastity & the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Expectant Mothers Prayer Corner

Please pray for all expectant mothers especially those listed:

Traci Hymel
Michaela M. Sisson
Kristin Sweeney
Ashley Montz
Emily Duebler
Elisabeth Laurent
Hailey P. Waguespack

Lord Jesus, we thank you for your protection of these mothers-to-be and their babies. Thank you for keeping their babies safe and secure in their mother’s womb and in your love. Thank you for strengthening these precious babies, keeping them healthy, and preparing them for the plans you have set before them. For as long as their pregnancy lasts, we pray that you will be doing the mighty and marvelous work that only you can do, creating life and bringing beauty into the world through your creations. Amen.

In Loving Remembrance

Mercedes Torres
September 25, 1965-November 12, 2021
A Mass of Christian burial was held in her honor at St. Michael Church on Saturday, December 11, 2021.

Brent Louque
August 11, 1958-December 06, 2021
A Mass of Christian burial was held in his honor at Sacred Heart Church on Saturday, December 11, 2021 with burial in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Myrrh Haydel Poche’
January 7, 1933-December 10, 2021
A Mass of Christian burial was held in her honor at St. Joseph Church on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 with burial in St. Joseph Cemetery.

May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.
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.

A Call To Reflect & Respond

First Reading:
Hannah, the mother of Samuel, and Samuel’s father are portrayed as parents of deep prayer and great faith. **Describe the faith of your mother or father?**

Second Reading:
John teaches us that if we believe in Jesus and love one another, “we may be called children of God.” **How do you show gratitude for being part of this holy family?**

Gospel:
Luke is the only Evangelist to preserve a story about Jesus from his youth. In this account, Mary and Joseph are filled with “great anxiety” as they searched for Jesus who they thought was lost. **How do you seek God’s help for the anxious moments in your family?**
SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. Stephen, First Martyr
-December 26-

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin. Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death. Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.

READ THE GOSPEL AND COMPLETE A PUZZLE!

SHARING THE GOSPEL
When Jesus traveled to Jerusalem as a 12-year-old young man, he felt completely at home in the Temple. He enjoyed talking to the teachers about his Father in heaven. His questions and his answers showed how much he loved God.

PRAYER
Dear God, help me to feel at home in my church like Jesus did.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK
Help visitors to your church feel welcomed. As a family or as a class, make cards for visitors, asking them to come back.

SPC Christmas Break
Monday, December 20th - Monday, January 3rd
Classes Resume on Tuesday, January 4th
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the Faculty & Staff of SPC.
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.

By Baptism we are God's holy family today. Pray for the grace to live faithfully your vocation as a single, married, ordained or consecrated person. If God is calling you, call or email Father Joshua Johnson at (225) 336-8778, jjohnson@diobr.org, or visit www.diobr.org/vocations.

Donations

Dec. 12, 2021

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>(SM)</th>
<th>(SJ)</th>
<th>(SH)</th>
</tr>
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<td>Offertory</td>
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<td>Immaculate Conception</td>
<td>$283.00</td>
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The first reading today provides a challenging blueprint for the good stewardship of our family relationships. How do I measure up?