

ST. MARY

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
STAR CITY

3346 University Ave. Morgantown, WV 26505 • 304-599-3747

December 26, 2021 • Feast of the Holy Family

Mass Times: Saturday, 6:00pm, Sunday, 8:30am, 11:00am, en español a la 1:00pm
Daily Mass*: Mon.-Fri. 9:00am, Mon. 6:30pm, Wed. 12:00pm *please see schedule inside for any changes or cancellations. **Radio broadcast at 8:30am** on 1300AM WCLG & 92.1FM, and TuneIn channel Morgan 92.1



St. Mary Parish

Pastor

Rev. John P. McDonough
papajohnwv@msn.com

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Jose Mauricio Henriquez
mhenriquez@dwc.org

Rectory Phone: 304-225-0506

Parish Office

Address:

3346 University Ave
Morgantown, WV 26505

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9:30am-4:30pm
Closed Holy Days
& some Public Holidays

Office Staff

Brenda DeVito
Theresa DeMasters

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304-599-3747 / 304-599-1996

Email

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Website

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St. Ursula Food Pantry & Outreach

Sr. Rachel Blais, S.C.
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Phone

304-599-3822

Email

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St. Francis de Sales Central School

304-291-5070

Prayer Requests

Barbara Fedikovich 304-599-3910
Rena Cyphert 304-599-6642



Are you registered in the Parish?

Registering in a parish is a declaration of your desire to be part of a Catholic community and to make a commitment to the life of the parish family.

Clearly stating your Catholic commitment in all its dimensions brings many advantages, recognition, and responsibility.

At St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, our policy, is that you must be registered and participating in Sunday Mass regularly before a baptism can take place, or for the initial meeting with the pastor in the case

of marriage.

Regular attendance is also required for adults who are asked to be a godparent or sponsor at another parish, in order that a letter can be sent stating that they are a practicing Catholic and a registered member of a parish faith community.

Even though you may have attended Mass here for months, or even years, we would like for you to be registered.

Please pick up a registration form at the church or parish office, or register online at stmarystarcity.com
For more information, call the parish office at 304-599-3747.

Sacraments

Baptism: (Birth – Age 7) Parents are required to participate in a preparation program before the celebration of Baptism. Parents must be registered and attending Sunday Mass regularly. Please contact the parish office for information.

Reconciliation: 30 minutes prior to each daily Mass

Order of Christian Initiation: Children 7-14 years of age, and Children 15 years of age and older & Adults— *The Order of Christian Initiation*, RCIA, please contact Cynthia Friesen at 304-225-1163 or stmarystarcityfaithformation@gmail.com

Marriage: Engaged couples planning to marry at St. Mary Church should be practicing Catholics, participating in Sunday Eucharist regularly. Also, they must participate in a Marriage Preparation Program. Call the Parish Office for information. At least **six months notice** is required. *No date for a wedding will be set over the phone.*

Holy Communion to the Sick and Homebound: When a parishioner is confined to home or hospital because of illness or advanced age, call the Parish Office. We will be happy to make arrangements to bring Holy Communion.

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request and communally as scheduled

Bulletin Deadline:

Tuesday@Noon, email or written copy please,
no bulletin announcements will be taken over the phone

Email: stmaryschurch@comcast.net

Subject line: attn: Bulletin, and include topic of announcement

Spirituality of the Readings – There He Sat



Joseph, Mary, and Jesus did fine with the big holy days. Even with the reading of the Haggadah, especially with the Seder and its special foods, songs, and customs.

Jesus was twelve years old. The family had gone up to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover.*

As expected, Jesus, obedient, stayed with his parents. The savory and pungent odors sought him out, even though mixed with human and animal fragrances, and with the dust of Jerusalem, ancient even then.

Imagine reassembling the caravan and putting everything in order. The procession home was like a huge family, so you knew your child would be with friends or relatives when he was not by your side.

Road dust, camel sniffables, and so on, now dominated. It was a happy time, recalling the festivities, remembering the earliest acts of God on behalf of his people.

The sun began to sink and families came together for sleep. "Joseph, I think we should look for our son. He is probably talking with his friends as usual."

Little did she know.

No relative had seen him anywhere. Last sighted the day before.

In Jerusalem.

Mary's heart must have broken. What mother on earth cannot imagine it. Missing child. My child. Gone. They scoured the cramped city.

Day One, looking everywhere, no sign of him. They sleep an hour or so. Day Two, searching everywhere, asking everyone, following every trail. He was not there. Images of kidnapping, slavery, terrible accidents, and so many more hovered just beneath their consciousness. Somehow they trusted, but ...

Day Three. To the temple. This time finally daring in their panic to enter directly into the utterly private rooms where teachers and Rabbis debated major and minor points of scripture. No regular people allowed there, especially poor travelers.

But there he sat.

Perfectly at home for these three eternal days, the twelve year old, questioning teachers and answering them.

Imagine his parents. "Son, how could you? How could you?"

His answer was odd and we are told that Mary pondered it in her heart for years to come. "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Was this reply preposterous? Obviously he needed a good spanking if he believed that desertion of his parents was perfectly fine.

Yet think about it.

He had not come to earth in order to be Mary and Joseph's child. Just the opposite. Mary and Joseph came into earthly existence to prepare this boy for his role as the adult son of the Father of all things.

Every family's duty is to send their young children out from home when they are approaching adulthood. In this case, even at twelve years old, Jesus was showing how God interacts with the world.

A learning experience for the family, painful, good, and pointing toward the future Easter.

John Foley, SJ

* Passover lasted eight days, along with the customary celebrations. There was a great procession to Jerusalem, with many villages represented. They all watched out for each other's children.

Giving Summary

Sunday Offering—December 12
\$6,109.35

Online Giving
\$1,751.35

National Appeal Retirement Fund for Religious
\$4,101.35

Attendance: 409

At this time of year, through Epiphany, our bulletin publisher requires that we submit our bulletin to them in advance of the normal weekly schedule to accommodate holiday closures and shipping delays. Giving Summaries will be printed in the first available publication after the collection, but may appear delayed when compared to the date of the bulletin. Thank you for your understanding.

Recent/Upcoming Special Collections

12/25 Catholic Charities West Virginia

1/2 Kentucky Disaster Relief

For ease of accounting, **separate checks are preferred** for all donations to different collections and purposes, including special collections, Mass intentions, memorials, and donations to different funds e.g. Trust Fund for the Poor, Debt Reduction, etc. Thank you for your help!

 **DONATE TODAY**

GIVE ONLINE!
by clicking on the image on our website
www.stmarystarcity.com.

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

December 26, Feast of the Holy Family

No 6:00pm Saturday Mass

Sunday, 8:30am	For the People
Sunday, 11:00am	Kathryn V. Folio
Domingo, 1pm	Lisa Gonzales

Monday 12/27 St. John, Apostle, Evangelist

No 9:00am Daily Mass

6:30pm Don Morrison

Tuesday 12/28 The Holy Innocents

9:00am Timothy P. Saab

Wednesday 12/29 St. Thomas Becket

9:00am James Flenniken
12:00pm Intention of Celebrant

Thursday 12/30 Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas

9:00am Intention of Celebrant

Friday 12/31 Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas

No 9:00am Daily Mass

5:30pm James Flenniken

Saturday 1/1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

10:00am For the People

In the event of Closing of school due to inclement weather, there will be no Daily Mass or Prayer Service.

In the event of a funeral, morning Mass will be cancelled

January 2, Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, 6:00pm	Intention of Celebrant
Sunday, 8:30am	Helen Ferrari
Sunday, 11:00am	For the People
Domingo, 1pm	Por la familia Manuel Sánchez

Mass Schedule

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God



Friday, December 31st
5:30pm

Saturday, January 1st
10:00am



Until further notice, Bishop Brennan asks that all those in attendance at Mass **and any other meetings, social events, or other parish gatherings (including events with food)** wear a mask, other than young children under the age of 2.

Thank you for your cooperation in this act of Christian Charity.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY

Sunday, December 26—Feast of the Holy Family

No Religious Ed.

9:45-10:45am Choir—P/H

1:00pm NA Meeting

Monday, December 27

5:00-6:15pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7-9:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, December 28

6:30pm NA Meeting

Wednesday, December 29

7:00pm Catholic Homeschoolers Bible Study

Thursday, December 30

12:00pm AI-Anon—L/L

5:00pm Spanish Mass Music Rehearsal—L/L

Friday, December 31

Parish Office Closed

5:30pm Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary

Saturday, January 1—Solemnity of Mary

10:00am Mass

5:00-5:40pm Reconciliation

Sunday, January 2—Epiphany of the Lord

No Religious Ed.

9:45-10:45am Choir—P/H

RCIA

1:00pm NA Meeting



Eternal rest for James Flenniken, and condolences to his family and friends, especially his wife, Millie.



The Parish Office will be closed

Friday December 31,
New Year's Eve



Faith Formation

Morning Religious Ed Classes will resume on Sunday, January 9 at 9:30am.

Middle School class will meet at 6:00 pm on Sunday, January 9th, High School Class will meet on January 16th.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

30 minutes prior to each Daily Mass
Saturdays from 5-5:40pm as scheduled
(Mon-Fri: 8:30am, Mon: 5:45pm, Wed: 11:30am)
*times may change based on any changes to the weekly Mass schedule

If you, or any parishioner you know, are sick or homebound and would like a visit from Fr. John, please contact the Parish Office



Disaster Relief Collection

Most Rev. Mark Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, has approved a special collection to be held the weekend of January 1st and 2nd, 2022, in all parishes and missions throughout the diocese to support recovery efforts related to the recent natural disasters that have occurred in Kentucky, leaving severe damage and significant loss of life. Donations can also be made at your parish or on the diocesan website at dwc.org/disasterrelief.

Proceeds from this collection will support the humanitarian and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities agencies on the ground, working in the communities affected by the tornadoes.

Please remember in prayer all those who have lost their lives in the wake of these disasters, as well as all those who have been injured and lost their homes, cars, employment, and access to food and water, especially as we prepare for the Christmas Season.

As we hold the victims and first responders in our prayers during these critical days, let us also spend time in prayer and discernment as we prepare for this upcoming collection. Let us come together now to support our brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering this horrible loss.



Mass intentions are being accepted for 2022.

The suggested donation is \$20 for a weekend, \$10 for a weekday. Please call the Parish Office if interested, 304-599-3747.

Please note that any Masses cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances such as a global pandemic, inclement weather, or a funeral, will be moved to the next available 'like' date and time e.g., Daily Mass on Tuesday moved to another Tuesday, 8:30 Sunday Mass moved to another 8:30, as available.



We have Hearing Assistance Devices available for use during Mass. If you would like one, please ask an Usher.

NA Meetings St. Mary Church, Star City Tuesdays-6:30pm, Sundays-1pm
To find other meetings near you, visit <https://www.na.org/meetingsearch/>

Al-Anon (for those affected by someone else's drinking) meets every Thursday at noon at St. Mary Church. Information: call 1-888-425-2666 or WSO@al-anon.org



St. Ursula Food Pantry needs:

***Coffee, Tea, and Hot Chocolate**

Donate your favorite blend to share some warmth with others!

Baby & Toddler Program needs:

***Baby Wash & Shampoo**



Donations for St. Ursula Food Pantry and Outreach may be placed in the labeled bins in the church and narthex, or dropped off in the baskets in the CFC entry.



The Word Among Us

If you are looking for a daily resource with readings and reflections, Fr. John recommends "The Word Among Us"

You can subscribe at: <https://wau.org/subscribe/mass-edition/>

A version with reflections only is also available at a slightly lower cost <https://wau.org/subscribe>



Memorial Donations for Bread and the Tabernacle candle are now being accepted for the year 2022. The requested donation is \$40. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested. 304-599-3747.



Text the word "starcity" to 84576 or connect with us

online at: StMaryStarCity.flocknote.com

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish Presents:

Candlelight Lessons and Carols



Take a breath after the hustle and bustle of the Holidays and Sing your favorite Christmas carols one more time

Sunday, January 2, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

\$5 Donation, supports

Catholic Charities WV

Featuring Ed DeCosta and the Adult Choir of St. Luke parish under the direction of R.J. Nestor



Birthdays

**Wyatt Abbitt
 TamI Alexander
 Darrel Auch
 Sophia Barrera
 Luisa Battistella
 Lauren Boczek
 Charles Bolyard
 Susan Bordonada
 J.W. Boyle
 Marilyn Brewer
 Ricardo Buitrago
 Michael Burkhart
 Michael Burkhart, Jr.
 Socrates Ian Cahilig
 Genny Calvert
 Sophia Cass
 Alberta Clovis
 Mary Lynn Cocco
 Kelen Conley
 Donna Crenner
 Vitaly Cuff
 Heather Cyphert
 Abigail Danhires
 Caroline Danhires
 Brandon DeFebbo
 Kari DiVito
 Travis Drvar
 Angela Dubón Montano
 Cecelia Elchuck
 Dean Esguerra
 Daniel Esguerra
 Patrick Esposito
 Lucia Finomore
 Wanda Fizer
 Jeffrey Garavaglia
 Lucy Gizzi
 Ella Griffin
 Blessary Guerrero**

**Joseph Guerrero
 Ashley Gutta
 Nancy Gwilliam
 Kristy Hahn
 Alexandria Hamilton
 Soohee Han
 Christy Harris
 Isela Hernandez
 Evelia Hernandez
 Scarlett Hlopick
 Steven Holbert
 Peyton Holbert
 Robert Huggins
 Juan Gerardo Ibarra-Davila
 Jacek Jaczynski
 McKenzie Johns
 Connie Johns
 Benjamin Jordan
 Amy Joseph
 Danielle Keech
 Jacob Kirelawich
 Margaret Kirelawich
 Mary Ellen Koenn
 Melaine Kolimedje
 Laura Kurth
 Andy Laskody
 Beth Lefevre
 Joann LeGette
 Monique Leys
 Diana Lopez-Rodriguez
 Robert Lovio
 Adam Luchey
 Christine Lugo
 John Lynch
 Aneisha Mahalick
 Daniel Maloney
 William Maraney
 Eleanor Mays**

**Daniel McNeil
 Randy Meador
 Jorge Mendoza
 Angela Merinar
 Amy Miller
 James Obrad
 Joan Osogo
 Stephanie Panny
 Piolo Angelo Pascual
 Daniel Pastilong
 Hannah Pineault
 Sydney Porter
 Ronald Power
 Gloria Powroznik
 Savanna Powroznik
 James Prete
 Janessa Pyles
 Emmanuel Resendiz
 Abrianna Rowan
 Holly Sabatino
 Fintan Satterfield
 Nathan Schmitt
 Nicole Scotchel
 Kathy Scotchel
 Rachel Scudiere
 Luz Solis Macias
 Jackie Stemple
 Mary Sutherland
 Debra Tampoya
 Cavan Tarley
 Nelly Timmons
 Amanda Toth
 Dennis VanKirk
 Kathryn Vargo
 Beth Wyant**

Congratulations to those celebrating birthdays this month.

If you, or someone you know, is not listed here, or is listed in error, please notify the Parish Office so that we may update our census records.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2 Epiphany 8:30am Mass No Religious Ed. 11:00am Mass RCIA 1:00pm Misa en español 1pm NA Meeting No Youth</p>	<p>3 9:00am Daily Mass 5:00-6:15pm Adoration 5:45-6:15pm Reconciliation 6:30pm Daily Mass 7:00pm Retreat & Spiritual Life Cmte Mtg—L/L 7-9pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>4 8:30am Reconciliation 9:00am Daily Mass 6:30pm NA Meeting 6:30pm Knights of Columbus Mtg @K of C hall</p>	<p>5 8:30am Reconciliation 9:00am Daily Mass 12:00pm Daily Mass 6:30pm Evangelization Committee Mtg—L/L</p>	<p>6 8:30am Reconciliation 9:00am Daily Mass 12:00pm AI-Anon 5:00pm Spanish Mass Music Rehearsal—L/L</p>	<p>(December 31 Office Closed) 5:30pm Vigil Mass</p>	<p>1 Solemnity of Mary New Year's Day 10:00am Mass 5:00-5:40pm Reconciliation 6:00pm Mass</p>
<p>9 Baptism of the Lord 8:30am Mass 9:30am Religious Ed. 11:00am Mass RCIA 1:00pm Misa en español 1pm NA Meeting 6-8pm MS Youth</p>	<p>10 9:00am Daily Mass 5:00-6:15pm Adoration 5:45-6:15pm Reconciliation 6:30pm Daily Mass 7:00pm RCIA—L/L: Baptism & Confirmation 7-9pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>11 8:30am Reconciliation 9:00am Daily Mass 6:00pm Parish Finance Council Mtg.—L/L 6:30pm NA Meeting</p>	<p>12 8:30am Reconciliation 9:00am Daily Mass 12:00pm Daily Mass</p>	<p>13 8:30am Reconciliation 9:00am Daily Mass 12:00pm AI-Anon 5:00pm Spanish Mass Music Rehearsal—L/L</p>	<p>14 8:30am Reconciliation 9:00am Daily Mass</p>	<p>15 5:00-5:40pm Reconciliation 6:00pm Mass</p>
<p>16 8:30am Mass 9:30am Religious Ed. 11:00am Mass RCIA 1:00pm Misa en español 1pm NA Meeting 6-8pm HS Youth</p>	<p>17 MLK Jr. Day Office Closed 9:00am Daily Mass 5:00-6:15pm Adoration 5:45-6:15pm Reconciliation 6:30pm Daily Mass 7:00pm Parish Pastoral Council Mtg.—L/L 7-9pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>18 8:30am Reconciliation 9:00am Daily Mass 6:30pm NA Meeting</p>	<p>19 8:30am Reconciliation 9:00am Daily Mass 12:00pm Daily Mass 6:30pm Social Activities Cmte Mtg—L/L</p>	<p>20 8:30am Reconciliation 9:00am Daily Mass 12:00pm AI-Anon 5:00pm Spanish Mass Music Rehearsal—L/L</p>	<p>21 8:30am Reconciliation 9:00am Daily Mass</p>	<p>22 5:00-5:40pm Reconciliation 6:00pm Mass 11:00am Miller Baptism</p>
<p>23 8:30am Mass 9:30am Religious Ed. 11:00am Mass RCIA 1:00pm Misa en español 1pm NA Meeting 6-8pm MS Youth</p>	<p>24 9:00am Daily Mass 5:00-6:15pm Adoration 5:45-6:15pm Reconciliation 6:30pm Daily Mass 7:00pm RCIA—L/L: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick 7-9pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>25 8:30am Reconciliation 9:00am Daily Mass 6:30-8:00pm Angels in the Bible—L/L - 1 6:30pm NA Meeting</p>	<p>26 8:30am Reconciliation 9:00am Daily Mass 12:00pm Daily Mass</p>	<p>27 8:30am Reconciliation 9:00am Daily Mass 12:00pm AI-Anon 5:00pm Spanish Mass Music Rehearsal—L/L</p>	<p>28 8:30am Reconciliation 9:00am Daily Mass</p>	<p>29 5:00-5:40pm Reconciliation 6:00pm Mass</p>
<p>30 8:30am Mass 9:30am Religious Ed. 11:00am Mass RCIA 1:00pm Misa en español 1pm NA Meeting 6-8pm HS Youth</p>	<p>31 9:00am Daily Mass 5:00-6:15pm Adoration 5:45-6:15pm Reconciliation 6:30pm Daily Mass 7-9pm Boy Scouts</p>					



Aim your camera at the flowcode

Support our parish by
making a gift to the
Catholic Sharing Appeal

dwc.org/CSA

Did you know...?

Everything above 50% of our goal comes back to St. Mary Parish! With 56% of our goal already achieved, every penny given from now on will be given back to us.

The money that we receive from the CSA will go toward improving the HVAC system in the Christian Formation Center, so that all of our classrooms and offices can have functioning heat and air.

Safe Environment Reporting

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. In addition to civil authorities, to report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888-434-6237 or 304-233-0880. Please visit www.dwc.org under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.

Will or Estate Planning

Are you thinking of remembering St. Mary Church in your will or estate plans? A bequest through a Last Will and Testament is the simplest way of creating a lasting legacy of support for St. Mary Church. Bequests should be made out to:

"The Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, or his successors in office," with a specification of the purpose for which the bequest is to be used, e.g. "for the use of St. Mary Parish"

READINGS FOR THE WEEK **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

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Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service **ReportBishopAbuse.org (800) 276-1562**

The Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service has been established to receive reports of sexual abuse and related misconduct by bishops, and to relay those reports to proper Church authorities for investigation. Where a report includes a crime, such as the sexual abuse of a minor, it will also be reported to civil authorities. Otherwise, reports will be kept confidential. If you have any other kind of complaint about a bishop—such as parish assignments, church closings, or homily contents—please address those directly to your diocesan or eparchial bishop instead. Sexual abuse by a priest, deacon or a staff member or volunteer of the Church should be reported to the Office of Safe Environment for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. So, to be sure you get the help you need, phone numbers and addresses may be found at www.dwc.org under the accountability tab. If you are the victim of sexual abuse (or any other crime), please contact local law enforcement.

Sunday, Dec 26, 2021

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Bless the children

Holy families aren't necessarily picture-perfect. But they are faithful and consistent in their values and goals. Like Mary and Joseph and biblical parents before them, holy families consecrate their children early and often to the care of God. They do this by baptizing them and seeing to their sacramental preparation. They do this by praying for and with their little ones. They provide them a religious education and share faith-filled practices of compassion and charity. All the children in our lives look to us for love and acceptance, guidance and Christian example. Teach the children well.

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52 (17A); or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52 (17C). "Once the child is weaned, I will take him to appear before the LORD and to remain there forever."

Monday, Dec 27, 2021

FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

He lived to tell the tale

John the Apostle is credited with being the author of the Gospel of John. He is also believed to have been the "Beloved Disciple" of Jesus mentioned in that gospel and is presumed to have outlived the other apostles, perhaps being the only one to die of natural causes rather than martyrdom. Imagine being the last survivor, and the heartache he endured on losing his peers to violent deaths for their faith. Perhaps it was John's job to live to tell the story—"that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name"—as he says in his final line. Take John's mission to heart and embrace his good word today.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697). "Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed."

Tuesday, Dec 28, 2021

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

Children deserve protection

Nowadays when we think of Christmas pageants, we envision adorable children in bathrobes dressed as shepherds. But in the Middle Ages, religious pageants were a serious business. The whole community gathered to enact mystery plays that told the stories of birth, death, resurrection, and the lives of the saints. It's from such a mystery play that we get the haunting words and melody of "The Coventry Carol"—a song about King Herod's slaughter of the Holy Innocents that asks plaintively, "What may we do to preserve . . . this poor youngling for whom we sing?" Pray today for children who continue to suffer and face certain death without our help.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698). "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children."

Wednesday, Dec 29, 2021

FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF NATIVITY OF THE LORD; MEMORIAL OF THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR

Choose God

Everyone must at times make the choice of serving God or something less. Today we remember Saint Thomas Becket, bishop of Canterbury. Thomas was faced with such a dilemma

when his friend the king, Henry II, continuously tried to interfere with church matters. Allowing the king to interfere with the church would have allowed Thomas to be in the king's good graces. Instead, Thomas chose to serve God above anything and anyone else, even at the cost of martyrdom. "When is constancy required," Thomas writes, "except under persecution. Are not friends then proved? If they always yield, how can they ever succeed? They must, one time or other, make a stand."

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202). "And you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Thursday, Dec 30, 2021

SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Take your time to absorb Christmas

Today we continue as a church to honor the feast of our Savior's birth. It is day six in the octave of Christmas—the eight-day liturgical focus on the birth of Christ. The entrance of the Christ into human history is such a significant event that the church notes its magnitude by keeping our gaze on it through the specified readings, psalms, and prayers during these eight days. Take a moment today to allow the wonder of God-among-us to continue to sink in.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40 (203). "She gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem."

Friday, Dec 31, 2021

SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Out with the new, in with the old

The end of the year gives us pause to reflect on the past and change for the future. Typically, we find something new to embrace or resolve to do. But if it's true that there's really nothing new under the sun, then perhaps we should look to the old! This is exactly what the church does, as it moves into the new year, not with any newfound epiphany, but instead with a commitment to the very old-school value of peace. As we anticipate the World Day of Peace tomorrow, January 1, what are some deeply held and long-standing values that you would like to deepen during the coming year? How might you go old school?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18 (204). "In the beginning was the Word."

Saturday, Jan 01, 2022

OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD; SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD; WORLD DAY OF PEACE

Rocking with Mother Mary

People in every age have their particular way to celebrate the new year. These days we might change old eating habits to be healthier; get on track financially; spend more time with family. But maybe this year it could be about what young Catholics refer to as "rocking with Mary," that is, getting to know the mother of Jesus on a deeper level. Understanding her courage, strength, and faithfulness can help us realize our own potential as bearers of the Good News. On her feast day and in the days ahead, reflect on Mary and strive to imitate her in bringing Good News to the world.

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (18). "And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart."

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Lectionary: 17

Reading I

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28

In those days Hannah conceived, and at the end of her term bore a son whom she called Samuel, since she had asked the LORD for him.

The next time her husband Elkanah was going up

with the rest of his household to offer the customary sacrifice to the LORD and to fulfill his vows, Hannah did not go, explaining to her husband,

"Once the child is weaned, I will take him to appear before the LORD and to remain there forever;

I will offer him as a perpetual nazirite." Once Samuel was weaned, Hannah brought him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and presented him at the temple of the LORD in Shiloh.

After the boy's father had sacrificed the young bull, Hannah, his mother, approached Eli and said:

"Pardon, my lord!

As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood near you here, praying to the LORD.

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."

Hannah left Samuel there.

Reading II

1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us

that we may be called the children of God. And so we are.

The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him,

for we shall see him as he is.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask,

because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,

and love one another just as he commanded us.

Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.

Gospel—Lk 2:41-52

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover,

and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom.

After they had completed its days, as they were returning,

the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem,

but his parents did not know it.

Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day

and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances,

but not finding him,

they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple,

sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions,

and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him, they were astonished,

and his mother said to him,

"Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety."

And he said to them,

"Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

But they did not understand what he said to them.

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.



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