

**THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD  
&  
THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY  
DECEMBER 25 & 26, 2021**



*Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church*

516 East 13th Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503  
814.452.6606

[www.ststanserie.org](http://www.ststanserie.org)  
email: [ststaner@outlook.com](mailto:ststaner@outlook.com)

Fr. Jason Glover, S.T.L., Pastor  
Msgr. Daniel Magraw, Senior Associate  
Debbie Oldenski, Secretary  
Thaddeus Fryczynski, Director of Music

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30AM - 3:00 PM  
(Closed 12:00PM - 1:00PM, Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays)

**Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:**  
**Saturday at 4:00PM; Sunday at 9:00AM**  
**\* Daily Eucharist: Call the Parish Office**

*Holy Trinity Catholic Church*

2220 Reed Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503  
814.456.0671

[www.holytrinityrc.org](http://www.holytrinityrc.org)  
email: [parishoffice@holytrinityrc.org](mailto:parishoffice@holytrinityrc.org)

Fr. Jason Glover, S.T.L., Pastor  
Msgr. Daniel Magraw, Senior Associate  
Mary Ann Merski, Secretary  
Jeannie McGinley, Director of Music

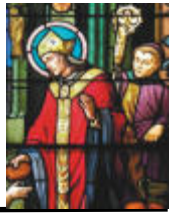
Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00AM - 4:00PM  
(Closed 12:00PM - 1:00PM, Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays)

**Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy:**  
**Saturday at 5:15PM; Sunday at 10:30AM**  
**\* Daily Eucharist: Call the Parish Office**



# Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

## Partners in Faith & Mission



December 26, 2021

### 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.

### Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-5/Col 3:12-21/Lk 2:41-52 [Holy Family]  
 Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1-8 [St. John]  
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2/Ps 124:2-8/Mt 2:13-18 [Holy Innocents]  
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-6/Lk 2:22-35 [St. Thomas Becket]  
 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-10/Lk 2:36-40  
 Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-13/Jn 1:1-18 [St. Sylvester]  
 Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21 [Mary, Mother of God]  
 Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12 [Epiphany]

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Sacramental preparation is required of the parents who desire to share the Catholic faith with their children and are held monthly throughout the City of Erie. Call the parish office to register to schedule your preparation. Godparents must be Confirmed and practicing Catholics with a letter of recommendation from their pastor to serve as a sacramental sponsor.

**Religious Education, First Holy Communion, and First Reconciliation** programs are hosted at Saint Luke's Church for all eastside Erie parishes. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.825.7105).

**Confirmation** preparation for all eastside Erie parishes is hosted at Saint Luke's Church. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.825.6920).

**Sacrament of Holy Orders:** God calls all people to holiness. Some men are called to fulfill this vocation as priests. If you are interested in the priesthood, or have questions about it, please contact a parish priest or our Diocesan Vocation Director, Scott Jabo, at 1.814.824.1181.

**Sacrament of Matrimony:** Before a date can be scheduled, a priest must be contacted at least six months in advance to complete the required documents.

**Sacrament of the Sick:** Communal celebrations of Anointing the Sick are scheduled periodically. The sacrament can also be requested by any parishioner who is seriously ill or in danger of death. *Please note:* Federal law no longer permits hospitals or nursing homes to contact churches when a parishioner is admitted. It is important that family members notify the parish office if a loved one needs a visit, desires to receive Holy Communion, or needs to be Anointed.

**Leave A Legacy:** Consider Saint Stanislaus and Holy Trinity as you meet with your attorney or financial planner regarding your estate planning. Remember the needs of your parish family and leave a legacy of faith for future generations with your generous remembrance.

**Bulletin Information Deadline:** Please submit information to be included in the weekend bulletin by noon the Monday prior. Holiday bulletin announcements must be received by the parish office two weeks in advance.

*Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity  
Partners in Faith & Mission*

**"PRAYER, CARE, AND CONCERN" MINISTRY**

Those who participate in this ministry express the care and concern of our entire parish community to those who are ill, hospitalized, homebound, or in nursing facilities, through birthday and holiday cards, visits, and prayers. To request prayers, or to participate in this ministry, contact Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606).

**"PRAYERLINE" MINISTRY**

These ministers devote themselves to prayer for any needs made known to them and any special intentions. To participate in this ministry, or to request prayers for a particular need, contact Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606 or Holy Trinity Office (814-456-0671).

**PCEP (Parish Catholic Education Program)**

Parishioners of Holy Trinity can receive a parish grant to assist with the cost of tuition for families who wish their primary or secondary school age children to have a Catholic education. To be eligible, families must participate in the program, attend Mass regularly, and be involved in the parish community. For more information, contact the parish office.

**LITURGICAL MINISTRIES**

Parishioners interested in serving our worshipping community as an altar server, lector, Eucharistic minister, or music minister, please let one of your priests know.

**"PRAYER SHAWL" MINISTRY**

The enjoyment of knitting, crocheting, and sewing are uniquely combined with prayer to offer a deeply personal and meaningful spiritual ministry. Shawls are prayerfully made and freely given away to those suffering bereavement, those recovering from illness, the elderly, homebound, and those in nursing facilities. To join us in this ministry, please contact Saint Stanislaus Office (814-452-6606).

**THE "ZABAWA COMMITTEE"**

Held on the parish grounds of Holy Trinity, Zabawa is the largest Polish heritage celebration in the region, drawing tens of thousands of people to our neighborhood. The Zabawa Committee organizes the festival through food preparation, donation solicitation, food and beverage service, and so on. The committee always welcomes any help they receive. If you would like to offer your time, and experience hands-on learning about these rich cultural traditions, contact Holy Trinity Office (814-456-0671).

**PROLIFE COMMUNITY**

This ministry advocates through for the protection of all human life from conception until natural death through prayer, education, and action.

**"PRAYER CANDLE" MAKING MINISTRY**

This ministry makes prayer candles from the church's left over bee's wax. They meet on Wednesdays, from 10AM - Noon in St. Stanislaus Parish Hall. No experience necessary.

**ST. STANISLAUS / HOLY TRINITY INITIAL PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM**

(please circle which parish)

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check:  New Registration  Change of Address  Change of Telephone Number

Change of E-mail  Moving out of Parish  Want Envelopes

*Place in offertory basket or mail to Parish Office. We will contact you to complete our Census Form.  
Welcome to our Parish Family!*

*A Community of Faith Built on Tradition, Where Everyone is Welcome*

# Saint Stanislaus Parish Community

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Dec. 27th - Private Intention  
 Tues., Dec. 28th - Gabriella Wlodarczyk (Family)  
 Wed., Dec. 29th - Joe Markiewicz (Richard Markiewicz)  
 Thurs., Dec. 30th - Living & Deceased Memembers of the Doleski Family  
 Fri., Dec. 31st, 4:00PM - Jean Wiertel Family  
 Sat., January 1st, 9:00AM - John Oldenski (Dorothy Fearn)  
 Sun., January 2nd, 9:00AM - For the People of St. Stanislaus (*Pro Populo*)



Our sanctuary candle burns **IN THANKSGIVING**, as gifted by Helen Z.

## CONGRATULATIONS

We share the joy of Nate & Kristyn Ross, parents of infant Wesley Ross, who was baptized into the Christian community last weekend, December 18th.

**QUESTION:** I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

**ANSWER:** If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back. This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

## 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

## CONGRATULATIONS

The winner of our Women's Society Holiday Lottery Raffle was **PATTI VALI**. She chose to take the \$1,000 in cash (as opposed to the \$1,000 in lottery scratch-offs). Kay Villa was the seller of the ticket.

Thanks to all who supported this raffle. Thanks, also, to the Women's Society for hosting the Christmas lunch. Much fun was had by all!

## WEEKLY OFFERING (DECEMBER 19, 2021)

	This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need	\$xx.00	\$xx.00
Amount Received	\$x.00	\$xx.00
Net over/under	(\$xx.00) (\$xx.00)	

Mass Attendance: 4:00PM = xx; 9:00AM = xx  
 Envelopes: xx/168



## CHRISTMAS NATIVITY REFLECTION

Our hearts are aglow with the joy of Christmas. Our senses are alive with the season, from the rich smells of evergreen and gingerbread to the feel of crisp air on our skin and the warmth of a loved one's embrace. At some point in the holiday hustle and bustle, take a few moments of quiet. In the silence, reflect on the other senses of the season. Imagine the cool damp of an animal stable, the earthly smell of hay and feed, and the crisp night air blowing softly. Imagine kneeling beside an exhausted, joyful mother and a relieved, protective father. Imagine an infant wrapped in cloth scraps held out to your open arms. Imagine holding the infant Jesus. As his eyes meet yours, welcome into your heart the greatest gift of Christmas.

# Holy Trinity Parish Community



12/26 - Richard Dressner  
 12/27 - Robert Pelkowski  
 12/28 - Mia Mangini



The sanctuary candle burns this week in memory of **THERESA & CHARLES BRANSINGTON**, as gifted by Linda & Ken.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Dec. 27th - All Souls  
 Tues., Dec. 28th - Anna Marie Neimeic (Nadine & Stephen Laufer)  
 Wed., Dec. 29th - Alice Dombrowski  
 Thurs., Dec. 30th - Ed Czulewicz Family (J. & D. Thiemann & Helen Cancilla)  
 Fri., Dec. 31st, 5:15PM - Special Intention  
 Sat., Jan. 1st, 5:15PM - For the People of Holy Trinity (Pro Populo)  
 Sun., Jan. 2nd, 10:30AM - Those Remembered in Christmas Flower Flyer

## FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

The Holy Family experienced many of the same joys and trials that all parents and children experience today. And, so, we can look to this Family for help in our own family lives and see in them a model of stewardship in family life. The Gospel passage from Luke starts by telling us something about Jesus' parents: "Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover, and when he was 12 years old, they went up according to festival custom." This Family took seriously the stewardship of their time. The "Holy Couple" carefully observed the traditions and practice of their Jewish faith and brought up their Son to do the same. They worshiped as a family, and with their faith community. And they did so faithfully. We can take their example to heart by making Sunday Mass attendance a priority for our families, by making prayer with our family a priority every day, by making sure that we regularly celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and by observing in our family life the feasts and fasts appropriate to the liturgical calendar. When we, as families, prioritize our Time with God and worship of Him we will be imitating the Holy Family. On this Feast of the Holy Family, let us reclaim the beauty and importance of family life. Let's commit to steward our families well in 2022, making time spent with God and practicing our faith the most important appointments on our family calendars.



## New Year Extravaganza BINGO All CASH prizes!!!

\* Instants      \* 50/50 Game

- Sunday, January 23, 2022
- Polish Falcons Club, 431 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St.
- 1:00pm, Doors Open at Noon
- \$25 Admission (1pk), \$5 each add'l pk.
- Kitchen Food Available
- Holiday Auction
- Door Prizes
- Call 814-456-5300 to reserve your seat!

Walk Ins Welcome

**All proceeds benefit Holy Trinity PCEP program  
 FUTURE DATES: March 13th & May 1**

## WEEKLY OFFERING FOR DECEMBER 19, 2021

Regular Offering: \$xx.00 (xx/134)

	THIS WEEK	JULY 1 TO DATE
Dream Goal:	\$3,000.00	\$xx.00
Budgeted:	\$2,365.00	\$xx.00
Total Offertory:	\$xx.00	\$xx.00
Net (over/under):	\$xx.00	\$xx.00

Attendance: 5:15PM = xx; 10:30AM = xx

## The Boy Jesus in the Temple

After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Luke 2:46 (NIV)  
 The puzzle is based on Luke 2:41-52

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Q L U T E M P L E R E T U R N
A C T L S A R P R V Q I E D M
E T F R E U M E A N U P H I O
U T E Y A P P A L R P T B R T
D D I A R V T L Z A E S L H H
P H Q H C A E A N E T N J K E
E Y M O H H R L N L D I T C R
J K P M I B E Q E S H A V S V
L U W E N K X R M D W B C E W
L Y L D G B W S S U D E B I S
P Z A F R I E N D S T E R Z C
W F E V C L G N J S X C O S Z
G W B B F J O M A R D I R P E
X W P V J O M E P F A T H E R
U E F V F C F O U N D Z X A W
    
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FRIENDS	ANSWERS	FOUND	AMAZED	TEACHERS
MOTHER	FEAST	SEARCHING	FATHER	RELATIVES
PARENTS	RETURN	TEMPLE	HOME	TRAVELED



*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly..."*

- Colossians 3:16

## News for Our Partnership

### NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

Friday, December 31st:  
4:00PM - St. Stanislaus  
5:15PM - Holy Trinity

Saturday, January 1st:  
9:00AM - St. Stanislaus  
10:30AM - Holy Trinity



Our Parish Offices will be **CLOSED** on  
**Friday, December 31st.**  
We will reopen on Monday, January 3rd.

### MANY THANKS

Fr. Jason and Msgr. Dan want to express their profound gratitude for all of your Christmas remembrances. Your generosity is overwhelming. While it may take some time to express our gratitude in a more personal manner, please know of our appreciation. Many prayers and blessings upon all of our parishioners and families this holiday season!

### CURSILLO

The Erie Cursillo Movement is currently planning and accepting candidate applications for a Men's Cursillo from February 11 to 13, 2022 and a Woman's Cursillo from April 29 to May 1, 2022. Applications can be found on the Cursillo Website at [www.ericursillo.org](http://www.ericursillo.org), calling the Cursillo office at 814-824-1119, or by asking someone you may know who has completed a Cursillo weekend who would be willing to serve as your sponsor.

**SORRY**  
**TEMPORARILY**  
**UNAVAILABLE**

Our parishes' weekly financial report of our offertory will be temporarily unavailable, or

delayed by a week. Due to the upcoming holidays, the bulletin deadlines occur sooner than the financial reports can be compiled. We will do our best to bring you this information as the bulletin deadlines allow.



Vocation of the Family Is to Support Each Other on the Road to Heaven In the Gospel we do not find speeches on the family but an event that is worth more than any word: God willed to be born and to grow up in a human family. In this way, He has consecrated the family as the first and ordinary way of His encounter with humanity. During His life in Nazareth, Jesus honored the Virgin Mary and righteous Joseph, being subject to their authority during the whole time of His infancy and adolescence (Luke 2:51-52). In this way, He made evident the primary value of the family in the education of a person. Jesus was introduced to the religious community by Mary and Joseph, frequenting the synagogue of Nazareth. With them He learned how to make the pilgrimage to Jerusalem, as narrated in the Gospel passage that the liturgy of the day proposes for our meditation. When He was 12 years old, He stayed behind in the temple, and His parents took three days to find Him. With that gesture, He led them to understand that He had to "attend to His Father's business," that is, to the mission that God had entrusted to Him (Luke 2:41-52). This Gospel episode reveals the most authentic and profound vocation of the family: that of supporting each one of its members on the path of discovery of God and of the plan he has ordained for them. Mary and Joseph educated Jesus above all by their example: From his parents, he learned all the beauty of the faith, of the love of God and of his law, as well as the exigencies of justice, which finds its fulfillment in love (Romans 13:10). From them He learned first of all that one must do God's will, and that the spiritual bond is worth more than that of blood. The Holy Family is truly the "prototype" of every Christian family that, united in the sacrament of marriage and nourished by the Word and the Eucharist, is called to carry out the marvelous vocation and mission of being a living cell not only of society but of the Church, sign and instrument of unity for the whole human race. Let us now invoke together the protection of Mary Most Holy and of St. Joseph for every family, especially for those in difficulty. May they be supported so that they will be able to resist the disintegrating impulses of a certain contemporary culture which undermines the very basis of the family institution. May they help Christian families throughout the world to be the living image of the love of God.

### THE 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

12/27) Sr. Maxine Kaminski & Regina Jaworski; 12/28) Dorothy & Mead Carlson, & Suzanne Sundy;  
12/29) Msgr. Bernie Urbaniak & Janis Leretsis; 12/30) Edie Luniewski; 12/31) Sr. Anita Benecki & Bobby Sulecki;  
1/1) Kathy Smith, Debbie Majewski, & Mary Speice

### PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

12/27) Fr. Chris Hamlett; 12/28) Fr. Joe Wardanski; 12/29) Bishop Trautman; 12/30) Fr. Mike DeMartinis; 12/31) All in Consecrated Life; 1/1) Fr. Jason Glover; 1/2) Msgr. Dan Magraw

## Sunday, Dec 26, 2021

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

### Bless the children

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52  
"I will take [the child] to appear before the LORD..."

Holy families aren't necessarily picture-perfect. But they are faithful and consistent in their values and goals. 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.

## Monday, Dec 27, 2021

FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

### He lived to tell the tale

1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8

"Then the other disciple also went in... and he saw and believed."

John is 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.

## Tuesday, Dec 28, 2021

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

### Children deserve protection

1 John 1:5 - 2:2; Matthew 2:13-18

"Rachel weeping for her children."

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.

## Wednesday, Dec 29, 2021

MEMORIAL OF THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR

### Choose God

1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35

"And you yourself a sword will pierce..."

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."

## Thursday, Dec 30, 2021

SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

### Take your time to absorb Christmas

1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40

"She gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem."

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.

## Friday, Dec 31, 2021

SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

### Out with the new, in with the old

1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18

"In the beginning was the Word."

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 longstanding values that you would like to deepen during the coming year? How might you go old school?

## Saturday, Jan 01, 2022

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

### Rocking with Mother Mary

Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart."

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.



#### Prayer for Families

God, Our Father, loving and merciful, bring together and keep all families in perfect unity of love and mutual support. Instill in each member the spirit of understanding and affection for each other.

Keep quarrels and bitterness from them and for their occasional failures instill forgiveness and peace.

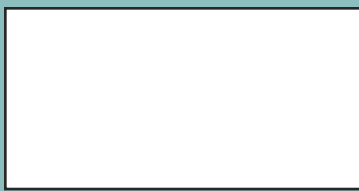
Mercy the mutual love and affection of parents set a good example.

Instill in children self-respect that they may respect others and grow in mature independence.

Make the mutual affection and respect of families a sign of Christian life here and hereafter, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

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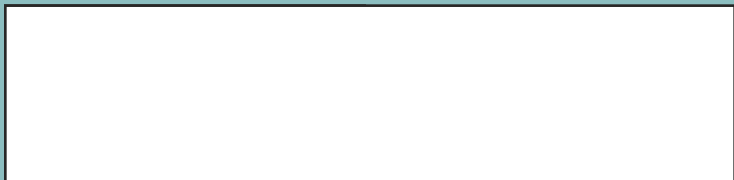
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