



# THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you  
who is Christ and Lord." - Lk 2:11

## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:30 pm,  
Sunday \*10:00 am (\*also Live-streamed)  
and Sunday 12:30 pm  
Tues., Wed. & Thur., 8:00 am

### Office Hours

Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Many issues can be taken care of with a phone call, 248-624-1421.

### Registration

For many reasons it is important to be formally registered as a parishioner. Contact the rectory for friendly help. Ext. 341

### Baptism

To begin the preparation process for Baptism please call Deacon Bob Dreyer at 624-1421, ext. 345. Baptisms are normally scheduled the first and third Sundays of the month.

### Marriage

To celebrate a valid marriage Catholics must have the help of a priest or deacon. Call at least six months in advance.

### Funeral

Please contact the parish office to make arrangements.

### Ministry To The Sick

We are happy to visit the sick and provide anointing. Please contact the Parish Office at 624-1421.

### RECTORY

Email: [Rectory1@stwilliam.com](mailto:Rectory1@stwilliam.com)  
531 Common Street (248) 624-1421

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Michael G. Savickas	Ext. 346
<b>Deacons</b>	Rev. Mr. Bob Dreyer	Ext. 345
	Rev. Mr. John Liddle	
<b>Baptisms</b>	Dcn. Bob Dreyer	Ext. 345
<b>Business Office</b>		Ext. 341
<b>Business Manager</b>	Mrs. Deborah Diviny	Ext. 349
<b>Christian Service:</b>	Mrs. Karen Sommers	
	248-624-8870	Ext. 344
<b>Maintenance:</b>	(248) 669-5522	
Supervisor	Mr. Dave Colby	Ext. 312

### EDUCATION CENTER

135 O'Flaherty Street

<b>Office of Faith Formation</b>		(248) 624-1371
Dir. of Rel. Ed.	Dcn. Michael McCrandall	Ext. 307
Dir. Of Initiation	Mrs. Nancy Thomas	Ext. 306
Youth Ministry	Mrs. Karen Trojniak	Ext. 308
Music Ministry Dir.	Mr. Bill Richart	Ext. 310
Administrative Asst.	Mrs. Lisa Geoffrey	Ext. 342
<b>School Office</b>		(248) 669-4440
Principal	Mrs. Betsy Gabrish	Ext. 303
Secretary		Ext. 302
<b>CYO Sports</b>		
Athletic Director		ad@saintwilliam.net

Since Sunday Masses have been reduced to the public, contributions have greatly declined.

If you are in a position to help, automatic giving can be easily arranged online. Go to [Faithdirect.net](http://Faithdirect.net), or follow the link from our website, [www.stwilliam.com](http://www.stwilliam.com).



### Offeritory Report

(The fiscal year begins July 1)

	Collected	Budgeted*	Over/(Under)
As of Nov., 2020	<b>*\$335,143</b>	\$416,665	<b>(\$81,522)</b>

\*This does NOT represent *needed* income, but only the amount we expected would actually come in.

Note: For clarity and accuracy, this report now shows reconciled month-end balances.

## The "One-Hour Challenge!"

To have a *happy, peaceful life*, it is important that we have our lives in order, with our grateful response to God for his gifts being our top priority. That is how a disciple responds in the areas of *prayer, family, finance, and service*.

If you need help to put balance in your life, take the "one-hour challenge": Each week, spend at least...

- One hour in prayer and worship.
- One hour, special, focused on your family or other important relationship.
- One hour's wage (if you have a job) for the Lord. No job? Then give what seems right for you.
- One hour in service. (Helping another, or working for some cause.)

It's important to be *specific* in what steps to take in order to ensure that each "hour" actually happens!

May God bless you!

# St. William Parish Community



Walled Lake, Michigan 48390

December 27, 2020

[www.stwilliam.com](http://www.stwilliam.com)



**Merry Christmas!** Or, as the British might say it, “Happy Christmas”. (That always sounds strange to my ears, but I guess it makes sense. After all, we say “happy birthday”, and we’re celebrating Jesus’ birthday!)

Most of the time, people tend to have rather fond recollections of their holiday times, particularly of the things they remember as children. For some people though, the memories of family and friends of Christmas Past are less than happy. Personal or familial troubles are especially poignant at Christmastime. We all wish that any such troubles could be avoided. We want to repress any sad memories.

You might spend some special time praying for any family that you know is experiencing difficulties during this holy season. (It might even be your own.) Perhaps, in your prayer, you might reflect on the *Holy Family*, and how they were able to stay peaceful even though they experienced stresses that could have torn them apart. Ask the help of Jesus, and especially ask the intercession of Mary and her husband, Joseph.

Every year during Christmastime the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. (As it is this year, the feast is usually on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year’s Day.) I wonder if the Church deliberately focuses on the Holy Family between Christmas and New Year’s Day precisely because the holidays are when families gather. The example of the Holy Family of Nazareth is a beacon of hope to a world that in many places today is experiencing a degradation of family life. The Good News is that we can have the same kind of joy as the Holy Family—even in the midst of external difficulties—by following the same pattern as the Holy Family did: *to share life, in joy and thanksgiving, with Jesus at the center.*

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Living out Christmas in the New Year



How do we live out the message of Christmas in the New Year, rather than pack it away with the ornaments?

Each year, the Octave Day of Christmas falls on the first day of the

New Year, on which we also celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God.

Her open heart and courageous “yes” to God show us how to live year-round—with hearts open to the Lord, following where He leads. We are called to place our trust in Him, to enter compassionately into the suffering of others, and to love one another as Christ loves us. Like Our Blessed Mother welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance.

One way to live out the message of Christmas and follow Our Lady’s example is to join 9 Days for Life, a novena for the protection of human life, taking place Thursday, January 21 – Friday, January 29. Each day’s intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life.

Join today at [9daysforlife.com](http://9daysforlife.com)!

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Parish Mission: *“To live the Good News so joyfully, that we can’t help but proclaim it!”*

(Continued from page 3)

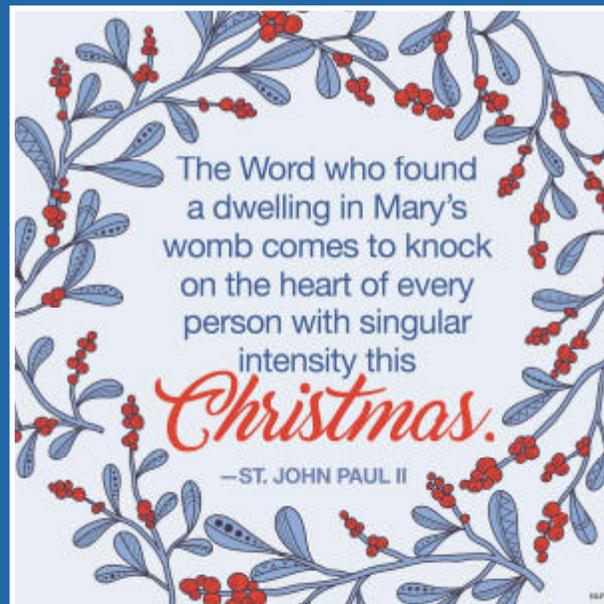
I have a suggestion for nurturing whatever family relationships we have (and for expanding the joy of Christmas): **plan on doing some fun activity as a family** within the next couple of days—that's if you are blessed to be living in the same household. (Given the limitations that COVID has placed on our lives, you might have to postpone activities with extended family or acquaintances.) Taking time to enjoy your family can actually make your family holier, even if the activity isn't overtly "religious"—although it doesn't hurt to consciously bring the Lord into it. For example, you can always at least **start the activity with a prayer**, even if it's a game, a special meal, or watching a movie together. A prayer of thanks helps focus us as we share life.

There are other ways, though, that **are** overtly "religious" and will help you reclaim your family's identity in relationship to God. Here are some excerpts from the Archbishop's letter, *Unleash the Gospel*, that specifically focus on family (*Action Step 1.3*):

1. Reclaim Sunday: attend Mass as a family and intentionally spend time with one another, including sharing a meal together. (*My comment: even if you aren't able to always attend in person due to COVID, join us in worship via the livestream or recording!*)
2. Commit to forming your family in the love and power of sacred Scripture by placing it at the center of your family life.
3. Create time for regular family meals without distraction to reclaim its sacred nature.
4. Commit to developing family prayer time...Seek out simple ways to pray that fit your family, giving primacy to the family rosary, Scripture reflection, especially the Sunday readings, and devotions. (*My comment: Combine 3 and 4 by adding a short reading from Scripture to the Grace Before Meals—and maybe asking others to add their prayer intention or thanksgiving before the meal starts.*)
5. Reclaim the sacrament of reconciliation as a lived reality in your home; heal wounds and brokenness in your family through sacrifice, forgiveness, mercy and love.
6. Parents: be the primary witnesses of the faith to your family.

May God bless you and your "holy family" throughout this Holy Holiday Season.

In Jesus,  
Fr. Michael



## Full of Joy

Last year we waited much too long to buy our Christmas trees. We usually have one in the living room and then one by the large window in our room that sits at the front of the house. Essentially, there is one for us to see and then one for all the neighbors walking their dogs in the December cold. If you wait too long to buy a fresh tree you might just not find a tree. But last year I found one tree lot I had not bought from in the past. Luckily, they had some great trees. The price was a little higher than I was used to, but a tree would be mine no matter what.

What I found interesting at the lot was a group of about nine young people sitting around a fire, laughing and drinking coffee. I wondered, "All of these people for a tree lot late at night and this late in the season?" What I found out was that these weren't paid workers. These were recovering drug and alcohol addicts. This was their rehab's tree lot, and this was their service and group therapy. I spoke to a couple of them and found they were the nicest people around. They were full of joy for the new life they had found and thankful for the people who helped bring them through the trial of their lives. Suddenly, that tree they sold me seemed more beautiful and majestic than it had when I first drove up.

This Christmas may the Lord that slept in a manger provide for your rest. May the God that gives many gifts to all of us bless you abundantly. And may the Prince of Peace help you to find true gratitude for the gift of life. May you and yours feel the joy of the season, like a group of recovering addicts around a campfire on a cold December night.

– Tracy Earl Welliver, ©LPi



## St. Vincent de Paul Society

### Holy Family

Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. During our New Year may our families "grow in wisdom and have the favor of God upon them."

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought light into the darkness surrounding the heart of those living in poverty bringing them the real, lasting, and deep joy of Christmas.



## Right to Life – Lifespan

### Happy New Year

Right to Life-LIFESPAN's New Year's wish for all of us is a country free of discord, a nation that recognizes the worth of all human life, and every blessing possible for each of you.

## A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

### Christmas

This Christmas remember your task as a parent is the same as Mary's: We must not let our doubts, fears and unfulfilled expectations get in the way of our loving ACCEPTANCE of our children.

# Important Mass Information

## Christmas Masses

### Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm

Sunday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am

(No 12:30 pm Mass)

### Feast of Mary, Holy Mother of God (New Year's)

Thursday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 4:30 pm

Friday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 am

### Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4:30 pm

Sunday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>, \*10:00 am

\*will also be livestreamed

(No 12:30 pm Mass)



## USCCB *Word of Life*

*"Like Our Blessed Mother welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance."*

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

"Living Out Christmas in the New Year"

## Gospel Meditation

### Nativity of the Lord

If the salutation, "Merry Christmas," is more than just the expected greeting we use today, then what is the "more" really all about? Today is a sacred day and the birth of Christ has changed not only history but how human beings perceive and relate with God. God has become one with humanity in the Person of Jesus Christ. All of these truths remain just pious sentiments unless they take flesh in the heart and soul of each one of us. We need to absorb and immerse ourselves in what is meant by these truths so that we can be changed by them. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!

A woman once recounted her journey with poverty and how she went from "doing" for the poor to "being with" the poor. It's transforming and life changing. It's easy to simply give alms to those in need, and yet another thing to be with them in their poverty and become poor ourselves. A change of the axis from vertical to horizon puts a whole new twist on things. Our souls understand the experience in ways that our minds simply cannot. Christmas requires this same change of axis.

It is one thing to sing out the words, "Joy to the World," and quite another to experience that joy ourselves. Many have not experienced the full impact of



that first Holy Night because they choose to keep the manger at a distance rather than make a home with the Holy One who resides there. The birth of Christ levels the playing field of life and we have to allow ourselves to be leveled. There is no way to truly be human unless we understand that God is with us and blesses every fiber of the human experience. We cannot be truly human unless we listen to the words of the Word Made Flesh and work so that justice and peace can be realized by all, and God's sacred earth cared for and nurtured.

The axis of Christmas begins to shift when we realize it's not about, "I and me," but, "we and us," and there's an order and purpose to how God fashions and sustains things. The world hasn't really given Christ a full shot yet to understand that Truth has been born in our midst. We pick and choose what suits us in the message and leave the rest behind.

What needs to change about you so that Christ can truly be born in you?

©LPi

## Why do we do that?

### Catholic Life Explained

#### Rosaries as Decorations

**Question:** I've seen people hang rosaries over the rear-view mirrors in their cars and a few of them wear them around their necks. Is it OK to do that?

**Answer:**

The practice of hanging a rosary or a religious medal off of the rearview mirror of one's car is a fairly popular custom across many cultures. While there is no particular rule approving or condemning this practice, we should also be mindful of the respect and reverence due to religious objects and devotional items (i.e. sacramentals).

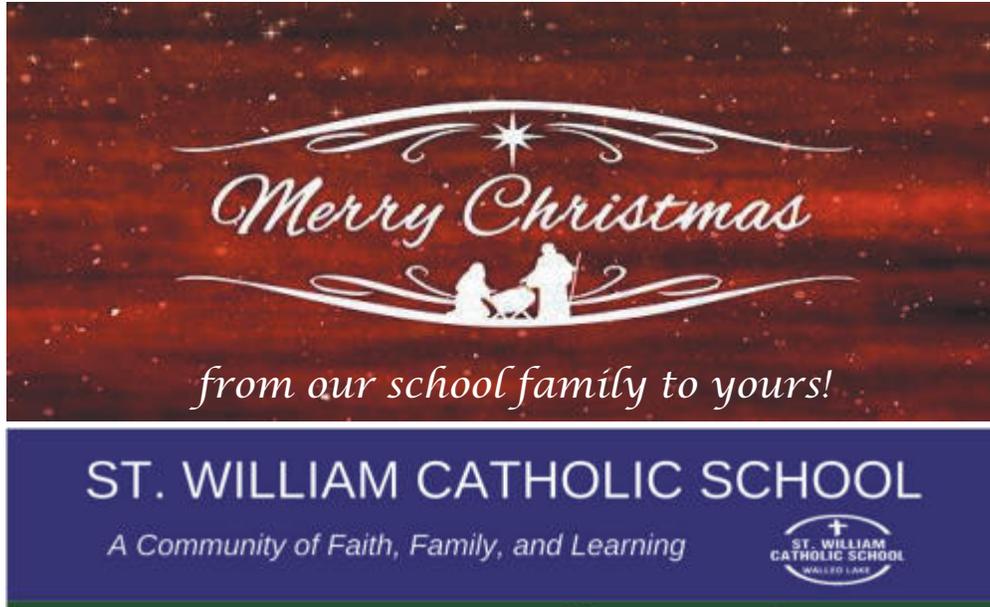
An important point to consider would be the reason why one chooses to place a rosary or religious medal in our cars. Is it a reminder of the protection and intercession of Mary and the saints? Does it encourage us to be mindful of God's presence, even in such a mundane task as driving? Is it an outward expression of our more private devotions?

One advantage of having a rosary or religious medal in our cars is that it can also serve as a reminder to pray when we travel, asking for protection for ourselves and for other motorists or commuters. Certainly, invoking the protection and prayers of the saints is a wonderful practice for families, helping to reinforce our belief in the communion of saints and the care and concern we owe to one another.



### OUR MISSION

“We exist to provide a school environment in which Christ is encountered and Discipleship is fostered through the teaching and practice of Catholic Tradition, values and doctrine, while challenging each student to academic excellence.”



## Open Houses for Preschool - 8th grade!

- **January 30, 2021** - OPEN HOUSE - 10am - 12pm - Catholic Schools Week - *Virtual* - Facebook Live on our school page
- **February 27, 2021** - OPEN HOUSE - 9am - 12pm - Activity Center - Small group - based on Covid mandates - sign up required - 2 sessions.
- **March 20, 2021** - OPEN HOUSE - 9am - 12pm - Activity Center - Small group - based on Covid mandates - sign up required - 2 sessions.

**\*Check our website for updates and sign up information at:  
[stwilliam-school.com/registration-tuition/](http://stwilliam-school.com/registration-tuition/)**

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(248) 669-4440

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## Mass Intentions:

**Tuesday, Dec. 29**

**8:00 am**

**Members of St. William Parish (L&D)**

**Wednesday, Dec. 30**

**8:00 am**

**Members of St. William Parish (L&D)**

**Thursday, Dec. 31**

**4:30 pm**

**Chester & Antoinette Tabaczka (D) family; Charlie Kupovits (D, B. Day) Amie; Carol Lyons (D) St. William Parish; Adair-Poling families (L&D); St. Vincent de Paul Organization (SI) Collias family**

**Friday, Jan. 1**

**10:00 am**

**Dave Kozora (D) wife; Pham, Ngoc & Hoang families (D); Carol Klank (D) St. William Parish; Members of the RAS Confraternity (L&D); Agnes Bushaw (SI, 106 B. Day) Rose Campeau**

**Saturday, Jan. 2**

**4:30 pm**

**Kathy Shantz (D) family**

**Sunday, Jan. 3**

**10:00 am**

**Members of St. William Parish (L&D)**

## Readings for the week

**Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

**Monday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

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

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

**Friday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28

**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

## Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

All-powerful and ever-lasting God, your Son accepted our sufferings to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness. Hear the prayers we offer for our sick brothers and sisters. May all who suffer pain, illness, or disease realize that they have been chosen to be saints and know that they are joined to Christ in his suffering for the salvation of the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ♦ Agnes Bushaw              | ♦ Mary Beth Walsh        |
| ♦ Andrew Hailo              | ♦ Mary Kay Dreyer        |
| ♦ Baby Henrik               | ♦ Neil Anderson          |
| ♦ Colleen Wolf              | ♦ Nellie & Isaias Rascon |
| ♦ Dennis Goodwin            | ♦ Norma Kirk             |
| ♦ Dennis Ryan               | ♦ Pam Flanigan           |
| ♦ DeWitt Meadows            | ♦ Sharon Ryan            |
| ♦ Dustin Bachman            | ♦ Shawnee Spedden        |
| ♦ Fr. Christopher Rozdilski | ♦ Steven Geoffrey        |
| ♦ Gloria Utsler             | ♦ Steven Kiryakoza, III  |
| ♦ Jack Moores               |                          |
| ♦ Jeanie Kassa              | <b>Residents of:</b>     |
| ♦ Joann Babcock             | ♦ Bloomfield Villa       |
| ♦ Joe Schuld                | ♦ Brookdale              |
| ♦ John Benedict             | ♦ First & Main           |
| ♦ Julie Toddy               | ♦ Henry Ford             |
| ♦ Karla Meadows-LaForge     | ♦ Maple Manor            |
| ♦ Kelly Benedict            | ♦ Novi Lakes             |
| ♦ Kendall Smith             | ♦ Serenity               |
| ♦ Mack Barnes               | ♦ Sunrise Senior Ctr.    |
| ♦ Marty Lada                | ♦ Waltonwood             |

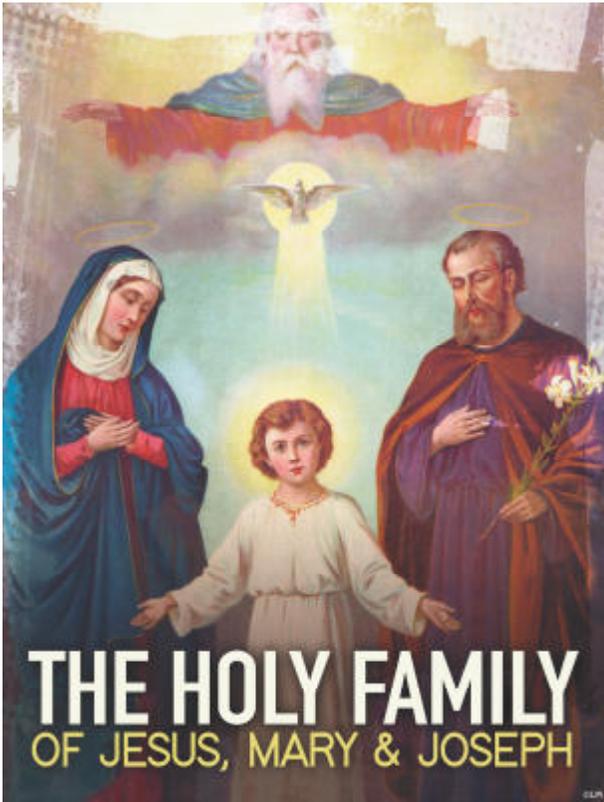


*Happy are those who have died in the Lord;  
let them rest from their labors for their good  
deeds go with them—Rev. 14:13*

Christopher Moersch

## Intercessory Prayers

Intercessory prayer boxes have been placed in the tower entrances. Our Intercessory Prayer Teams will lift your intentions up in prayer for two weeks. You may also email your prayer requests by clicking the link on our website, [www.stwilliam.com](http://www.stwilliam.com). All prayer requests are kept confidential.



## Live the Liturgy

While families come in all shapes and sizes and no two are the same, they all need a common focus and grounding. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with a proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. In addition to all of these things, the axis of every family has to be centered on faith. It is here that we can learn about the virtues and discover the windows to God Himself in His gifts of faith, hope, and love. We can learn, modeling our experience after the Holy Family, how to use these as anchors in our lives so that we can live out the other virtues with greater integrity. Because our human families struggle with weakness and sin, we have to come back to the Holy Family often for inspiration and guidance. In the bond of love that they shared, they clung to the anchor of God Himself and endured challenges far greater than many we will ever face.

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## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death. Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God. Many of



life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world. At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general. Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons

our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

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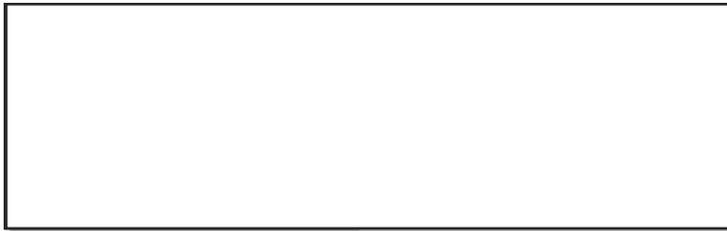
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