

December 25th, 2021



The Nativity of The Lord

St. Benedict Catholic Church

May you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of His love at Christmas and always.— Fr. Ryszard (pastor)

The Holy Family

December 26th, 2021



Mary Mother of God—January 1st
Not a Holy Day of Obligation— no masses

Epiphany of The Lord
Saturday, January 1st: 5:00pm
Sunday, January 2nd: 8:30am & 10:30am

Mass Intentions

For The Week of The Holy Family
December 24th — January 2nd, 2021

Friday, December 24 Late Advent Weekday
5:00pm Vigil Christmas Spiritual Bouquet

Saturday, December 25 The Nativity of the Lord
8:30am Christmas Spiritual Bouquet
10:30am Parishioners of St. Benedict
NO 5:00pm NO Vigil Mass for Sunday, Dec. 26

Sunday, December 26
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
8:30am Parishioners of St. Benedict
10:30am ♥Michael Zenisky and
♥Amber Rae Josephson
by Norma Morciglio

Monday, December 27 St. John, Apostle
8:00am †Louis and Agnes Salvador
by John and Shirley Kornfeind

Tuesday, December 28
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
8:00am Parishioners of St. Benedict

Wednesday, December 29 St. Thomas Becket
8:00am †Christy Galmish by Noreen

Thursday, December 30
Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of The Lord
8:00am Parishioners of St. Benedict

Friday, December 31 St. Sylvester I, Pope
8:00am †Mary Josephine Hammer
by Pete and Marylou Magrino

Saturday, January 1
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
5:00pm Parishioners of St. Benedict

Sunday, January 2 Epiphany of the Lord
8:30am †Jane Rettick by Loving Husband
10:30am †William Kreuzsch
by Bob and Bonnie Verlato

Pray for our People...

Our Sick...

Clarence Redd, Michael Bottichio, Gordon Gould, Irene Cmar, Michael Grivois, Julia Covert, Maria Canale, Steven Doyle, Don Miller, Ann Darling, Dan Clymer, Marvin Long, Kevin Terrell, Linda Fusco, Chris Grivois, Annetta Wiczorek, Ralph Esposito, Doug Sheppard, Agnes and Michael Ross, George Williams, Frank Polash, Barbara and Fred Born, Eugene Janusz, Una Lewis, Ron and Mary Guadagnini, Joan Turcotte, Randy Sailor, Dayden Floyd, Tiffany Nickel, Diane Clemmer, Cole Eskay, Michael Celentano, Bill Obermeier, Roman Jakubowski, JoAnn Dunton, Vincent Smith, Smirna and Ed Velez, Doug Raney, Luella Eggenberger, Barbara Brackin, Sigmund Sobiesiak, Elliana Deane, Angelina Jesselli, Michael Hembree, Alma Stephens, Matthew McCown, Lindsay Longo, Mary Jane Eggleston, John Kilduff, Ann Boakes, Isaac Black, Josh Rodgers, Elizabeth Trepanier, Fr. Mike Lydon, Lorraine Fricke, Paul Fulton, Carolyn Darling-Sullivan, Louise Williams, Judy and Atlas Pierce, Fawn Aungst, Lydia Ehrman, Brandy Heasley, Hank Stankiewicz, Gail Rosenow,* Father Greg Andrews, Joel Scime, Robert and Theresa Costello

Active Duty...

Those protecting us at home and afar..
Anna Bily, Chandra Walton, Steve Sunstrom, Sean Ross, Ian Ross, Christopher Dergosits, Kevin Knudsen, Billy Keating, Cody Albritton, Lucas Zobel, Dadrian Ruiz, Michael Turcotte, Matthew and Michael Zarek, John Kelley, Ron Casasanta Jr., Butch Tonnessen, Boyer Kornfeind, Matthew Baker, Chris Grillo, Dakota Giles, Tim Dottillis, Todd Vanderbogart, Garrett Gibson, Gage Gibson, Richard J. Surowiec, Robert J. Milan Jr., Blake Leibach, and Dylan Ludec

Our Deceased...

The Lord has chosen to call **Jennine Torelli, Charles Hoffmann, Steve Tomasic, Paul Bosvert, and Gary Rosenow** to come back home with him. May they rest in the arms of God. As we pray for them, we extend our heartfelt sympathies to their family and friends.

Send your prayer request to our prayer warriors through
Anne at aschukne@tampabay.rr.com

CHRISTMAS READINGS – December 25th

Reading 1 — [IS 9:1-6](#)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for flames. For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM — R. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

READING 2 — [TI 2:11-14](#)

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

ALLELUIA — R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

GOSPEL — [LK 2:1-14](#)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

THE HOLY FAMILY READINGS – December 26th

Reading 1 — [1 SM 1:22, 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM — R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

READING 2 — [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.

ALLELUIA — R. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Birth of Jesus

While Mary was still engaged to Joseph, she miraculously became pregnant through the Holy Spirit, as foretold to her by the angel. When Mary told Joseph she was pregnant, he had every right to feel disgraced. He knew the child was not his own, and Mary's apparent unfaithfulness carried a grave social stigma. Joseph not only had the right to divorce Mary, under Jewish law she could be put to death by stoning.

Although Joseph's initial reaction was to break the engagement, the appropriate thing for a righteous man to do, he treated Mary with extreme kindness. He did not want to cause her further shame, so he decided to act quietly. But God sent an angel to Joseph in a dream to verify Mary's story and reassure him that his marriage to her was God's will. The angel explained that the child within Mary was conceived by the Holy Spirit, that his name would be Jesus and that he was the Messiah, God with us. When Joseph woke from his dream, he willingly obeyed God and took Mary home to be his wife, in spite of the public humiliation he would face. Perhaps this noble quality is one of the reasons God chose him to be the Messiah's earthly father.

Joseph too must have wondered in awe as he remembered the words found in Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

At that time, Caesar Augustus decreed that a census be taken, and every person in the entire Roman world had to go to his own town to register. Joseph, being of the line of David, was required to go to Bethlehem to register with Mary. While in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to Jesus. Probably due to the census, the inn was too crowded, and Mary gave birth in a crude stable. She wrapped the baby in cloths and placed him in a manger.

Out in the fields, an angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds who were tending their flocks of sheep by night. The angel announced that the Savior had been born in the town of David. Suddenly a great host of heavenly beings appeared with the angels and began singing praises to God. As the angelic beings departed, the shepherds decided to travel to Bethlehem and see the Christ-child.

There they found Mary, Joseph and the baby, in the stable. After their visit, they began to spread the word about this amazing child and everything the angel had said about him. They went on their way still praising and glorifying God. But Mary kept quiet, treasuring their words and pondering them in her heart. It must have been beyond her ability to grasp, that sleeping in her arms—the tender child she had just borne—was the Savior of the world.

After Jesus' birth, Herod was king of Judea. At this time wise men (Magi) from the east saw a star, they came in search, knowing the star signified the birth of the king of the Jews. The wise men came to the Jewish rulers in Jerusalem and asked where the Christ was to be born. The rulers explained, "In Bethlehem in Judea," referring to Micah 5:2. Herod secretly met with the Magi and asked them to report back after they had found the child. Herod told the Magi that he too wanted to go and worship the babe. But secretly Herod was plotting to kill the child. So the wise men continued to follow the star in search of the new born king and found Jesus with his mother in Bethlehem. (Most likely Jesus was already two years of age by this time.)

They bowed and worshipped him, offering treasures of gold, incense and myrrh. When they left, they did not return to Herod. They had been warned in a dream of his plot to destroy the child.



**KNIGHTS
BEEF STEW DINNER**

The Knights of Columbus Beef Stew Dinner will be served after the 5:00pm Mass. With proceeds shared with several charities including the new kitchen. Bring a BIG appetite and plan to attend this post-holiday feast!

Saturday, January 15th

- ◆ Beef Stew Dinner
- ◆ Salad
- ◆ Cornbread
- ◆ Desserts
- ◆ Variety of Beverages

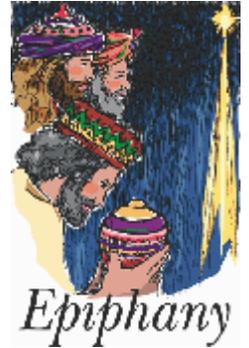
\$9.00
Per Person

A sign-up sheet is posted at the main door of the church for attendance planning.

Blessing of the Doors

The Blessings of the doors a specific blessing for the home that is traditionally done each year on the Solemnity of the Epiphany that is done on the front door of the house and uses symbols drawn with blessed chalk.

Blessed chalk and instructions booklets will be at the doors next Sunday, January 2nd. The chalk is to take home and is used to mark the year and the initials of the three Magi over the door of the house (e.g.: **20 + C + M + B + 22**) to remind all who enter and leave through the main door that they also must be ready to leave all, if necessary, and follow Christ.



Happy 100th Birthday
Theresa Anderson



Join us for a....

Pancake Breakfast

Following

8:30 & 10:30 Mass

The St. Benedict Men's Club is hosting their Pancake Breakfast following the morning masses. The Men's Club enjoys hosting pancake breakfasts for the members of the parish. We have a good time and the food is excellent.

Please join us,
you will not be disappointed!



Sunday,
January 9th

The Gift of Family

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people."

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation? As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.



Solemnity of Mary

Not a Holy Day of Obligation



January 1 is the oldest celebration of Mary in the Catholic Church. The custom of honoring the Virgin on the first day of the New Year originates in the sixth century, when her celebration was tied to the octave day of Christmas, the eighth day after December 25. In doing so, ancient preachers would remind their congregations about the role that Mary played in the history of salvation. Jesus was born of a woman, and so, as Eucharistic Prayer 4 states, "Made incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, he shared our human nature in all things but sin." The human nature of Christ is rooted in his being born like us. As we round out the Christmas celebration with its Octave Day on January 1, we venerate the woman who gave birth to him.

Mass of Angels

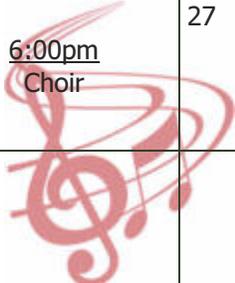
The Parish of St. Scholastica invites all the parishes to participate in our annual *Mass of Angels* on Tuesday, December 28th, 2021, the Feast of the Holy Innocents. This special Mass at 9:30 a.m., followed by the Rosary after the mass. This is in memory of all children, any age, born or unborn, who have left this world to be with the Lord. You may sign the child's name in the book and light a candle in commemoration. Light refreshments in the hall this year. Please join us. Contact Rosalie Matt with any questions, 746-7143 or romatt@tampabay.rr.com.

A Evening of Prayer & Discernment Be A Part of History in the Making

At this time in our Church's History, our Holy Father is asking the faithful to come together to discern our Church's future. Our Northern Deanery, here in Citrus County, will be participating with an Evening of Prayer & Discernment. All are invited to gather on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 7 pm in the OLF Parish Hall in Inverness for learning, praying, listening and sharing. We will focus on key questions that can inspire and empower us to be active participants in the mission of the Church. Please RSVP at (352) 726-1670 by January 6th.



JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January Choir Mass 5:00pm 						1
2 SJP Collection Coffee & Donuts NO Religious Ed CCW Corporate Mass	3 <u>10:00am</u> Rosary Making 	4 <u>6:30pm</u> Men's Club Meeting <u>7:00pm</u> Al-anon	5 <u>6:00pm</u> Choir 	6	7	8
9 Maintenance Collection Men's Club Pancake Breakfast 	10 <u>10:00am</u> Rosary Making	11 <u>7:00pm</u> Al-anon	12 <u>6:00pm</u> Choir	13 <u>10:30am</u> CCW Meeting 	14	15 <u>6:00pm</u> KofC Beef Stew Dinner 
16 Coffee & Donuts NO Religious Ed	17 Parish office Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day 	18 <u>7:00pm</u> Al-anon	19 <u>6:00pm</u> Choir <u>7:00pm</u> Knights of Columbus Meeting 	20	21	22
23 Coffee & Donuts 	24 <u>10:00am</u> Rosary Making	25	26 <u>6:00pm</u> Choir 	27	28	29
30 Coffee & Donuts KofC Corporate Communion	31 <u>10:00am</u> Rosary Making					

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