



St. Mary's Catholic Church

*Hamburg, Iowa
December 29, 2019*

Bulletins are online at—<http://www.parishesonline.com/find/st-mary-church-51640>

One might think that the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is too remote, too special, too holy to be an effective model for our families. But just like our families, they enjoyed times of great joy but also suffered through terrible hardships. The delight of a newborn baby was accompanied by the fear that led them to flee to a foreign land. Today let us pray that the faith and love shown by the Holy Family may sustain us through both our joys and our struggles.



Cycle A -- Reflections on the Readings

Feast of the Holy Family

Sirach 3:2-6,12-14; Psalm 128; Colossians 3:12-21;

Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

Theme: Parents must give roots and wings to their children

It was a busy day in Costa Mesa, a Californian home. But then with ten children and one on the way, every day was a bit hectic for Davida. On this particular day, however, she was having trouble doing even the routine chores-all because of one little boy.

Len, who was three at that time, was on her heels no matter where she went. Whenever she stopped to do something and turned back around, she would trip over him. Several times, she patiently suggested fun activities to keep him occupied. "wouldn't you like to play on the swing set?" she asked him.

But he simply smiled an innocent smile and said, "Oh, that's all right, Mommy. I'd rather be in here with you." Then he continued to bounce happily along behind her. After stepping on his toes for the fifth time, she began to lose her patience and insisted that he go outside and play with other children. When she angrily asked him why he was acting this way, he looked up at her with sweet green eyes and said, "well, Mummy, in the school my teacher told me to walk in Jesus' footsteps. But I can't see him, so I'm walking in yours."

She gathered him in her arms and held him close. Tears of love and humility spilled over from the prayer that grew in her heart-prayer of thanks for the simple, yet beautiful perspective of a three-year-old boy.

Today, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. The church sets before us the Holy Family, as the model for the Christian families. Jesus is the greatest person who walk on this earth. Everyone marvels at His ethical teachings. Where did Jesus learn His lessons? For the most part, He learnt them from His parents. He spent thirty years in Nazareth with His parents.

Today's Gospel reading from St. Matthew shows the family of Jesus to be clearly rooted in fidelity to God's Word. Joseph accepts the command to leave Israel and then return again at a later date. Joseph places the accent on obligations first.

Jesus must be the cohesive center of family life. Jesus is a model for family members who have obligations first and then rights. The symbol of the cross must function as the domestic code, because in that symbol we die to self in order to live for Christ in others.

On this feast of the Holy Family, I would like to ask all Parents and guardians to examine themselves and see how they are fulfilling this grave responsibility which God has place on you.

Are you preparing your children by word and example, to be worthy citizens of heaven? Many of us can and indeed do build houses, but none of us can on our own build a home. We need the Divine input to build a home. We need the love of God and the fear of God.

This saying is true, "If we live in a family where there is love, we learn to love others;

If we live in a family where there is honesty and fairness, we learn to love truth and justice."

Let us be good example for our family by word and deed. Shalom!

The Kite without a thread



Once a father and son went to the kite flying festival. The young son became very happy seeing the sky filled with colorful kites. He too asked his father to get him a kite and a thread with a roller so he can fly a kite too. So, the father went to the shop at the park where the festival was being held. He purchased kites and a roll of thread for his son.

His son started to fly a kite. Soon, his kite reached high up in the sky. After a while, the son said, "Father, It seems that the thread is holding up a kite from flying higher, If we break it, It will be free and will go flying even higher. Can we break it?" So, the father cut the thread from a roller. The kite started to go a little higher. That made a son very happy.

But then, slowly, the kite started to come down. And, soon it fell down on the terrace of the unknown building. The young son was surprised to see this. He had cut the kite loose of its thread so it can fly higher, but instead, it fell down. He asked his father, "Father, I thought that after cutting off the thread, the kite can freely fly higher. But why did it fall down?"

The Father explained, "Son, At the height of life that we live in, we often think that some things we are tied with and they are preventing us from going further higher. The thread was not holding the kite from going higher, but it was helping it stay higher when the wind slowed down and when the wind picked up, you helped the kite go up higher in a proper direction through the thread. And when we cut the thread, it fell down without the support you were providing to the kite through the thread".

The son realized his mistake.

Moral: Sometimes we feel that we can progress quickly and reach to the newer heights in our life if we were not tied up with our family, our home. But, we fail to realize that our family, our loved ones help us survive the tough time in our lives with their support and encourage us to reach higher heights in our life. They are not holding us, but are supporting us. Never let go of them.



NEW YEAR MESSAGE!

We all launched the year 2019 on a good note despite the early severe winter. We manage to sail through the bitter cold and rainy weather. Just when things were getting better for us, the devastating flood set in around March. The advent of the flood set our foot on the reverse direction and brought almost everything to standstill. Those who were not directly affected became part indirectly. There are still many who are recuperating from the flood.

We all have stories to tell during these past months. One thing I have observed and learnt is your resilient and fraternal support, couple with strong Faith in God.

In few days, another blank page will be opened for us in 2020. In the words of the psalmist, "Not to us Lord, not to us but to your name give glory because of your faithfulness and love" (Ps. 115: 1).

As we advance towards the coming New Year, let us resolve to do things "NEW." While it is easy to transfer old attitude and behaviors from 2019 to fill the blank page given us, I will encourage you to **edit, audit, process and plan** what you want in your blank page for 2020. May the New year find you aglow with the chance of testing your courage and moving ahead to that goal which may seem far away.

Release your mind from the shackles of the past and negative thinking which holds you from your true purpose. Seek to remain positive despite the storms of life. Never belittle yourself and think you are incapable of doing better. While all the fingers are not the same, remember you are unique and special in the sight of God.

Bob Marley once said, "he who fights and runs away, live to fight another time." As we open a new page, face your challenges HEAD ON: the only way we grow to greatness is by meeting challenges and successfully overcoming the problems that arise from them. Meet them face to face and determine to conquer them. Train your mind to accept the fact that every set-back, every step forward, is a means of growing into success.

Experience show many of life's greatest opportunities come into our lives disguised as problems. Whatever you may be now, you have not completed your journey. There is "no end" to the creative road of life other than the end you make for yourself. We all fail ourselves at times, but those who "rise above" and learn from the experience of defeat, are rewarded. So, don't throw in the towel.

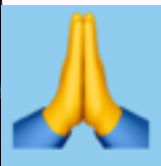
Never carry your disappointments and frustrations to the New Year. Leave them at the feet of Jesus. Build a strong spiritual relationship with God in the coming year.

May the year 2020 bring us all the blessing and vitality from God!
Happy New Year!

Fr. Raphael

A Prayer for the New Year

Come, Holy Spirit,
Spirit of the Risen Christ, be with us today and always.
Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter.
Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier.
May this new year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us,
A time of welcoming your graces and gifts,
A time for forgiving freely and unconditionally,
A time for growing in virtue and goodness.
Come, Holy Spirit,
Be with us today and always. Amen.



A Year of Time

Steven B. Cloud



...Though even thinking on the subject of time may prove discomfoting, it is not a bad idea—especially at the beginning of a new year.

As we look into 2020 we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds. And all is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchased it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to us as a part of life.

The gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak—every man, woman and child has the same twenty-four hours every day.

Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no way to slow it down, turn it off, or adjust it. Time marches on.

And you cannot bring back time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever. If yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year's block of time, but we really have no guarantee that we will experience any of it.

Obviously, time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it on ourselves. Or, as good stewards, we can invest it in the kingdom of God.

The new year is full of time. As the seconds tick away, will you be tossing time out the window, or will you make every minute count?

Angels Watching Over Me



When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." Matthew 2:13 (NIV)

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- ___ 1. A heavenly servant of God
A. angel B. mother C. Herod D. father
- ___ 2. To see images and hear voices in your mind while sleeping
A. escape B. dream C. angel D. night
- ___ 3. The king of Judea who tried to kill baby Jesus
A. Joseph B. Matthew C. John D. Herod
- ___ 4. To cause someone to die
A. kill B. hurt C. dream D. escape
- ___ 5. To run away from someone or something; break loose; get free
A. sleep B. dream C. angel D. escape
- ___ 6. A person from the time of birth until he or she is fully grown
A. teenager B. child C. adult D. baby
- ___ 7. A female parent
A. father B. sister C. mother D. brother
- ___ 8. The part of every twenty-four hour period when it is dark
A. morning B. night C. afternoon D. dawn

Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the warm birthday wishes, cards, flowers & gifts. A special thank you to Fr. Raphael for his birthday blessing. I appreciate all of you so much.

Sincerely, Marvel Travis

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

(Holy day of Obligation)

Mass @ Hamburg will
be at 6 p.m.

Shenandoah will be at
Noon

St. Mary's events.....

Dec. 29—Renewal & Blessing Mass

Jan. 1—Mass @ 6 p.m.



Readings for the week of 12–29–19

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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

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

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

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

Friday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 [3cd]/Jn 1:29-34

Saturday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [3cd]/Jn 1:35-42

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

ST. MARYS HAPPENINGS

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

CHRIS HINES

JOSH SIMMONS

JACOB ANDERSON

JUSTIN PHILLIPS

DERRICK HUBARD

STEVEN ANDERSON

COLBY MCGINLEY



12-22—Joseph Roberts

12-23—Emily Welch

12-31—Garett Phillips

1-2—Mary Burkhiser

1-9-- Quentin Laumann



Greg Andersen
Grady Secht

Reese Kemp

James Dowling

LeRoy Herscheid

Noah Howe

Mary Lou Miller

Dottie Dankof

Isacc Durr

Robert & Nancy Dalton

Todd Quick

Verona Mitchell

Joel Loggins

Kenneth Russell

Bill Long

Henry Johnsen

Lawrence DuBois

Angie Witter-Childers

Pat Sheldon

Joe Kirk

Tim Konecny

Esther McCowan

Shawn Collins

Drake Travis

Martha Gude

Gloria Green

Larry Dalton

Vickie Graham

Glen Whitehead

Ronda Shirley

Zayne Osborn

Marty Weston

*Your
Contributions
Dec 22, 2019*

Tithes-\$1120.00

Plate-\$154.00

Coffee-\$43.00

Thank You!!!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

12-4-Jim & Cheryl Owen

12-7-Henry & Helen Martin

12-13-Dean & Shelly Mount

12-26-Dan & Lori Goodman

12-27-Marty & Ruth Paper

12-29-Jeff & Lisa Phillips

2019	December 29 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 8:30	January 5 The Epiphany of the Lord 8:30	January 12 The Baptism of the Lord 8:30	January 19 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30	January 26 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30
Greeters and Ushers	Tim & Donna Whelan	Jim & Cheryl Owen	Rick & Teresa Jamison	Terry & Kim Travis	Marty & Carolyn Maher
Eucharist Ministers	Robbi Travis Annie Wakefield	Denny & Joella Travis	Joe & Robbi Travis	Dan Goodman Vince Hilton	Annie Wakefield Robbi Travis
Servers	Max & Gabriel Casey	Mia & Addy Foster	Amelia Moody Tate Mount	Mia Foster Kylie Foster	Cora Moody Evan Laumann
Lector	Michael Gallagher	Cara Goodman	Jed Whitehead	Dave Dowling	Cara Goodman
Mass Setup	Joe	Rosie	Joe	Rosie	Joe
Cantor	Beth/Liliah	Children's Choir	Kate/Cara Cora H/Cora M	Beth/Liliah	Children's Choir
Accompanist	Nancy	Kate	Cale/Nichole Joseph/Emily	Nancy	Kate
Coffee and Donuts	Tim & Donna Whelan	Jeff & Lisa Phillips	Youth Biscuits and Gravy	Robert & Mary Burkhiser	Jim & Cheryl Owen
Wash Linens	Marilyn Gude	Annie Wakefield	Annie Wakefield	Annie Wakefield	Annie Wakefield
PASTOR		PASTORAL ASSISTANT	BOOKKEEPER		DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION
Fr. Raphael Assamah 712-246-1718 712-246-8876 (c) e-mail max.assamah@yahoo.com		Cheryl Phillips 712.382.2668 (h) 712-350-0169 (c) cherylphil@gmail.com	Anne Hendrickson Bookkeeper 712.382.2432 (h) 712.350.0368 (c)		Scott Mayberry 712.374.3300(h) 712.370.3247(c)

