



*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*  
*St. Mary's Catholic Church*  
*Hamburg, Iowa December 27, 2020*

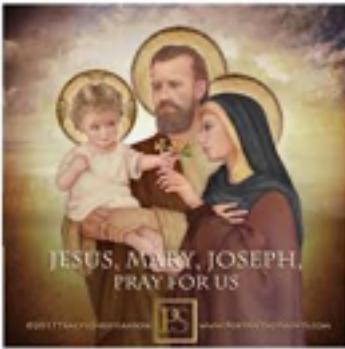
We continue to celebrate this festive season of Christmas by honoring the Holy Family. Jesus' mother, Mary, and his foster father, Joseph, each trusted in the Lord when they accepted the unique start to their family. Though their family faced dangers from the start, they remained united in love, which Saint Paul calls the bond of perfection. May our families share these bonds of love, enabling us to face the hardships and sorrows of life.

## Cycle B -- Reflections on the Readings

### Feast of the Holy Family

Theme: **“The Family that prays together lives together”**

Sirach 3:2-6,12-14; Psalm 128; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40



God is not just a noun but also a verb; God is not just a person but also a certain flow of life, between three divine persons of the Trinity. Inside God there is a kind of family life going on. So, he created human beings as he is, as a family. When within family we give and receive from each other, when within the family we break open our lives and hearts, joys and frustrations and finances, we are letting the life of God flow through us, and we are giving skin to the inner life of the Trinity.

Family is the basic cell of society because it is the cradle of life and love. It is basic because all that is accomplished by the family in favor of the person, is also service rendered to the society.

#### **Intrinsic link between family and community**

Family life and community life go together. Family life is not just the intimate; private relationship we sometimes imagine. The joys and sorrows, the successes and failures of family relate directly to the achievements and disasters of society at large. Today's Scripture sees the smaller unit of family as having a vital impact on the larger unit of community. The activity within the home transcends the environs of family to embrace all humankind.

#### **Love binds others and brings them to perfection.**

Our second reading from Colossians presents general principles for life in Christ and specific applications for the Christian home. To Page 3.....

Love is the quality that binds all the others together and brings them to perfection. Christians are members of the one body that is Christ himself (see 1 Corinthians 12:12-31) and that applies to the Christian home as well.

In the Gospel, Luke presents Mary and Joseph as the latter-day Hannah and Elkanah, who presented their son Samuel in the Temple in Shiloh (see 1 Samuel 1 and 2). Luke singles out Mary as the one who will suffer pain when Israel fails to respond. Mary's destiny is bound with the destiny of her people.

### **Walking in the footsteps of the Holy Family**

Celebrating the Holy Family is important for all of us, as we live in a world that is becoming increasingly selfish, self-seeking, and self-centered. The ideals and values of Christians marriage and family life are becoming more and more difficult for the men and women of our age. Our secular society often considers the pains and sacrifices that go with marriage and family an unnecessary burden that must be rejected. The men and women of our generation often want to have their pleasures, and they are often not ready to make any serious sacrifices for the sake of the spouse or the child. They often not ready to forgive the spouse for hurts done them. They often expect too much from their spouse, while they themselves are not ready to give much.

We live in a time where trial marriages and divorce have become an everyday occurrence; a generation where the unfortunate phenomenon of single parenthood is becoming prevalent; it is within the context of an exaggerated secularism, where traditional family values are disapproved along with their spiritual and moral counterparts that we reflect upon the Holy Family.

### **Task of Christian Family and Marriage**

For whereas the world runs away from suffering and pain, the Christian has the cross as the means of his or her salvation, for we know that nothing good comes easy. Christian marriage is a task, an enormous task. It may be a bed of roses, but it must be recognized that roses have thorns.

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The attempt by many people to enjoy the rose and yet reject the thorns is the root of the crisis in marriage and family life in our age. Christian marriage is a life of love. It takes time to grow and mature. It entails sacrifice raising children, and the sacrifice involved in forgiving an offending spouse and child.

In imitation of the Holy Family, a Christian family ought to be a praying family. Daily family prayer will send forth its members to their daily task with cheerful hearts; it will give them strength to meet the discouragements. Prayer must be the very core of the life of a family.

Let us pray for the family to be a model in our society and community. It is our first school and domestic church where we acquire knowledge. Let us imitate the Holy Family to be a model for others. Shalom!

### **Motivation for the week**

President Xi Jing Ping of China said:

As a small child, I was very selfish, always grabbing the best for myself.

Slowly, everyone left me, and I had no friends. I didn't think it was my fault and I criticized others.

But my father gave me 3 sentences to help me in life.

One day, my father cooked 2 bowls of noodles and put them on the table. One had an egg on top while the other bowl had none on top.

Then he asked me to choose a bowl of noodles.

Because eggs were hard to come by those days, I chose the bowl with egg!

I was congratulating myself on my wise choice/decision and decided to wallop the egg. To my surprise, I saw that my father's bowl of noodles had two eggs at the bottom beneath the noodles!

With much regret, I scolded myself for being too hasty in my decision.

My father smiled and taught me to remember that *what your eyes see may not be true.*

He added that, *If you make a habit of taking advantage of people, you will end up losing.*

The next day, my father again cooked 2 bowls of noodles: one bowl with an egg on top and the other bowl with no egg on top.

Again, he asked me to choose the bowl I wanted.

This time, I felt smarter so I chose the bowl without any egg on top.

Hmmmmmm to my surprise, there was not even a single egg at the bottom of the bowl!

Again, my father smiled and said to me, My child, you must not always rely on experiences because sometimes, life can cheat you or play tricks on you.

*Never be too annoyed or sad, with situations, just treat experience as learning a lesson that cannot be gotten from any textbooks.*

The third day, my father again cooked 2 bowls of noodles, one bowl with an egg on top and the other with no egg on top.

He asked me to choose the bowl I wanted.

But this time, I told my father, Dad, you choose first. You are the head of the family and you contribute the most to the family.

My father was very happy, and he chose for me.

He chose the bowl with one egg on top. But as I ate my bowl of noodles, to my surprise, there were two eggs at the bottom of the bowl.

My father smiled at me with love in his eyes. *He said, my child, you must remember that when you think for the good of others, good things will always naturally happen to you.*

I always remember these 3 sentences of my father.

Xi Jing Ping

**Moral lesson:**

As we continue the remaining journey of 2020, think for the good of others. Don't be selfish, put others first and your joy will be completed. Don't run after post, position, wealth, fame etc and bruise others to get it. God Bless you as you wish others well.

## New Year Message

We entered the year 2020 with enthusiasm, hope and aspiration. Many were the dreams that we had and were in full gear towards execution. However, things turned upside down with fire and hurricane destroying some parts of the states. Like the stoics, we endured this with hope for a brighter future.

When things were getting better to set sail, our peaceful world was invaded with the novel coronavirus. This covid-19 was beyond our strength. Someone said, “why don’t we uninstall the year 2020?” Now with vaccine in circulation, there is hope for the future.

I believe many of us might have had a fair share of the year 2020. This year snatched us of our love ones. Separated us from journeying with the sick, suffering and dying. It created a new way of life called “social distancing.” Families and friends became more isolated in order to navigate through the pandemic.

The dream of witnessing student’s graduation and celebrate as families was thrown into disarray. Some of us have not been able to attend mass or visit others due to this pandemic. I do not want to sound pessimistic with the year 2020. It has challenge and toughen us to swim against the turbulent water. Like the washing machine, 2020 spins and crushes us yet we come out clean.

Despite all these setbacks and bottlenecks, we join the Psalm in echoing “Not to us Lord, not to us but to your name give glory because of your faithfulness and love (Psalm 115: 1). Indeed! Lord! Your grace and mercy have brought us this far.

As we wrap up the year 2020, let us take stock of our lives. Many were the plans we made. Perhaps things have not gone the way you wanted. However, we must thank God for making us what we are now and bringing us to the threshold of another year.

Let us count our Blessings and not our troubles and problems. Sufferings and health issues are part of life. However, we trust God for unfailing health and strength. May the coming year find you aglow with the chance of testing your courage and Continued.....

moving ahead to that goal which may seem far away.

We have had enough of 2020, let us free our mind from the fetters of the past and negative thinking which holds us from our true purpose.

As we open a new page, do not stop at the first page but continue to the end. 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. Bob Marley says, “he who fights and run away lives to fight another day.” Keep fighting and never give up. Without darkness the star cannot shine.

Beloved, keep moving ahead in life regardless of the seeming overwhelming problems that may arise. Live each day as it comes. Many of life’s greatest opportunities come into our lives disguised as problems.

One of the hardest things in life is to let go of old hurts. Holding people’s faults against them often creates a tightly packed wall. Without forgiveness, life is governed by an endless cycle of resentment and retaliation. Let us begin the year 2021 with vigor and renew energy and free mind. Please do not begin this new year with a heavy heart, anger, and revenge.

Look at the PAST with GRATITUDE

Live the PRESENT with ENTHUSIASM

LOOK forward to the FUTURE with CONFIDENCE

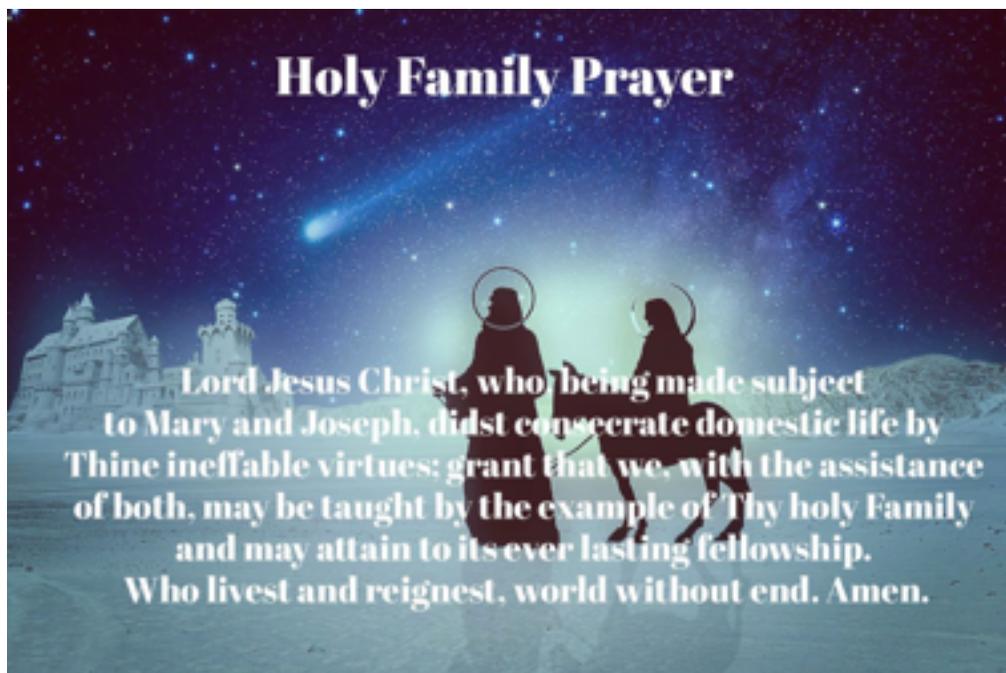
*May the year 2021 bring us closer to our inner nature as social being who needs one another. May your dream and aspiration for the new year be achieved in Jesus name.*

*Happy and prosperous new year!*

*Fr. Raphael*

We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on the first Sunday after Christmas! This feast day is a reminder to us of the example Mary and Joseph set for all of us in welcoming Jesus into their lives. The Holy Family serves as a model for us all in which to live in faith and simplicity. Add an additional prayer to your family routine today and brainstorm ways you might help each other grow in faith throughout this New Year.

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 27, 2020 The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation Friday, January 1st is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. "Mary is more blessed in receiving the faith of Christ, than in conceiving the flesh of Christ." St. Augustine, On Holy Virginity, 3





## THANK YOU!!

*Thanks to everyone who shared their time and talents in helping with the Christmas preparations last week!*

*The birth of Jesus is such a important time for us to celebrate and share in prayer. We especially thank Ethan Roberts, who so graciously built the manger for us. And also, the elf who donated all of the wreaths! All of you who were able to stay and help with the decorations, Your unselfishness to share time and talents does not go unnoticed!!*

*We appreciate all of you and wish you a wonderful 2021!*

*THANKS!! You're the best!!*



## *St. Mary's Schedule.....*

**Dec. 31 — New Years Eve Vigil — Shenandoah 6 P.M. — Hamburg 7:30 P.M.**

**Jan 1 — New Year -Hamburg-8:30 A.M. Shenandoah — 10:30 A.M.**



**Some of the flowers on the alter were donated  
in memory of :**

Tim and Lois Whelan      George and Berniece Petree  
Dean Harris                      Ky Wakefield

**By**

Tim & Donna Whelan & family, Theresa Harris &  
family and Annie Wakefield

Thanks to everyone for their contributions towards flowers.

### **Readings for the week December 27, 2020**

**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

# ST. MARYS HAPPENINGS

## PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

CHRIS HINES  
JOSH SIMMONS  
JACOB ANDERSON  
DERRICK HUBARD  
STEVEN ANDERSON



12-22—Joseph Roberts

12-23—Emily Welch

12-31 —Garett Phillips

*Your Contributions  
Dec. 20, 2020*

**Tithes—\$2810.00**

**Plate—\$21.00**

*Thank You!!*



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



Greg Andersen  
Grady Secht  
Reese Kemp  
LeRoy Herscheid  
Noah Howe  
Mary Lou Miller  
Dottie Dankof  
Isacc Durr  
Todd Quick  
Verona Mitchell  
Joel Loggins  
Kenneth Russell  
Bill Long  
Henry Johnsen  
Lawrence DuBois  
Pat Sheldon  
Joe Kirk  
Tim Konecny  
Esther McCowan  
Shawn Collins  
Drake Travis  
Martha Gude  
Bill & Gloria Green  
Larry Dalton  
Glen Whitehead  
Zayne Osborn  
Cathy Mason  
Anna Weber  
Alan Briggs  
Chuck Mitchell  
Dee Ann Crews  
Deb Haughton  
Robert Haughton  
Maurie Maher



<b>2020</b>	<b>December 27</b> The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph 8:30	<b>December 31</b> New Years Vigil 7:30 P.M.	<b>January 1</b> Solemnity of Mary 8:30	<b>January 3</b> Epiphany of the Lord 8:30	<b>January 10</b> Baptism of the Lord 8:30
<b>Lector</b>	Dave Dowling	Rick Jamison	Joe Travis	Linda Dewhirst	Kathleen Lorimor
<b>Mass Setup</b>	Rosie	Rosie	Rosie	Rosie	Rosie
<b>Cantor</b>	Kim & Evan		Cora Hirner	Beth Phillips	Cara Goodman
<b>Accompanist</b>	Donna Whelan		Kate Roberts	Nancy Pitts	Donna Whelan
<b>Wash Linens</b>	Annie Wakefield	Annie Wakefield	Ruthie Paper	Ruthie Paper	Ruthie Paper
<b>PASTOR</b>		<b>PASTORAL ASSISTANT</b>		<b>BOOKKEEPER</b>	
Fr. Raphael Assamah 712-246-1718 Shen(office) 712-246-8876 (c) e-mail <a href="mailto:max.assamah@yahoo.com">max.assamah@yahoo.com</a>		Cheryl Phillips 712.382.2668 (h) 712-350-0169 (c) <a href="mailto:cheryljphil@gmail.com">cheryljphil@gmail.com</a>		Anne Hendrickson Bookkeeper 712.382.2432 (h) 712.350.0368 (c)	
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 Happy New Year

















