

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

30 DECEMBER 2018

Readings for Sunday, December 30: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52.

Family life is rooted in the unconditional love of God as witnessed by the Holy Family. Hannah and Elkanah offer their son, Samuel, to God in the Lord's temple. Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the temple. He returns to Nazareth, obedient to them.

Readings for Sunday, January 6: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12.

St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Special Day of Prayer is Monday.
Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament: Monday after 9:00 A.M. Mass to 4:00 PM in the Chapel.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Date</u>	<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
31 Dec. MON. 4:00 PM	Valentino Rulli	Phyllis Villano
1 Jan. TUE. 9:00 AM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
2 Jan. WED. 9:00 AM	Michael Vitacco	Tony & Theresa
3 Jan. THU. 9:00 AM	Dennis Wright	Jack & Margie Bucciaglia and family
4 Jan. FRI. 9:00 AM	Regina Klein	Boyle Family
5 Jan. SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
6 Jan. SUN. 9:00 AM	Those Enrolled in St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Memorial Fund	



ETERNAL REST grant unto them, O Lord. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING of the parish especially those in homes and hospitals.

REMEMBER OUR TROOPS: Pray that God will bless and protect our young men and women in the military.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY MEETING on Thursday, December 3 at 6:45 PM in the social hall. Hostesses: Marie Hildebrand and Ginger Scheidt.

MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER MATT CUBBLER - January 3 at 7:30 PM in the social hall. A public speaker who captivates his audience through his personal story of struggle and triumph. His accomplishments include: Army Intelligence Analyst, Police Officer, Entrepreneur, and Author of "A Brother's Love: A Memoir." Everyone is invited to attend this inspirational and educational program.

HOAGIE VOUCHERS will go on sale in January after all Masses. 8" hoagie vouchers from Valentino's in Stowe will be \$7.00. When you redeem your voucher at Valentino's, you will have your choice of Italian, Ham and Cheese or Turkey Hoagie. Vouchers will not expire until March 31, 2019 so you can begin using them in January and come back for more until the end of January.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - January 5/6:

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Melanie Warzeski
 Extraordinary Ministers - Vincent Tamarro, Mara Tamarro, Helen George, Terry Donnelly, John Nester, Shelly Stockmal
 Altar Server - Maeve Donnelly
 Greeters - Patty Wade and Monica Bauer

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Sylvia Marcheskie
 Extraordinary Ministers - Jack Bucciaglia, Tony Vitacco, Chris Gerasimowicz, Gary Huster, Debbie Huster
 Altar Server - Domenic Gerasimowicz
 Greeters - Jack and Lori Carr

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

Psychologists have isolated about 12 characteristics that happy and successful families share, while most unhappy families are unhappy or dysfunctional in their own unique and individual ways. I want to talk about only one quality that helps marriages and families to be successful and happy and that is holiness, since this is the Feast of the Holy Family. This does not mean that holy families are isolated from the ordinary problems of daily life. Holy people have as many problems to deal with in daily life as anyone else but they usually have a good support system to fall back on and that is God, who helps them deal with difficulties. The word holy in Sacred Scripture does not mean pietistic but fulfilling one's state in life. Each of us is called to do something with our lives and we are called to be holy.

The Holy Family had their share of problems. If you read the early chapters of St. Matthew and St. Luke's gospels you might get the impression their lives were full of problems. What panic Joseph and Mary must have felt when they were not able to find Jesus for three days. I am sure many parents who have been at a mall and have lost a child for ten minutes can relate to that gospel.

The Holy Family was holy because God's will was first in their lives. St. Luke wants us to know this. He pointed out many instances where Mary and Joseph always did what God wanted of them, whether through the message of an angel or by their fidelity to the Jewish law. For example, Luke tells us the Holy Family would go to the Temple every year to celebrate the feast of Passover. That trip from Galilee to Jerusalem was not like taking a drive from Stowe to Lancaster on a Sunday afternoon. Even though Jerusalem was only about 70 miles from Galilee, it would have taken a few days; most people had to travel on foot because they didn't have any other means of transportation. They also had to travel in groups because travel was dangerous. They could have easily met robbers or wild animals along the way.

The willingness to do what God wants brings with it the development of many values such as honesty, fidelity, responsibility, and virtues such as Paul mentions: heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiving one another and putting up with one another, and above all love, which binds them all together and makes them perfect. These values and virtues help people have good and solid relationships. When I say if we are a holy family our family will more likely be happy and successful, I'm not just making up things or proposing theories that I believe are good ideas. A number of statistical studies have shown that regular church goers live happier and more successful lives and have happier and more successful marriages. A few years ago the rate of divorce, for example, was twice as high among non-church goers as it was among church goers.

We just celebrated Christmas and it was a joy to see so many families at Church on Christmas Eve and Christmas day. We gathered in our homes or traveled to other homes to be with family on this special day when we welcomed Jesus again to our world. Whether we have good days or bad days, we can always fall back on our family because they will love us unconditionally. This is what the Holy Family is all about. Jesus came into our world because He loves each one of us unconditionally and wants us to love Him back but He will never force us to love him. It is our choice.

Going back to my main theme of family, do you want to be a healthy family? If you can keep two rules uppermost in your family relationships (keep God first and love one another), you have most of the battle won. Continue to enjoy your family especially during this season of great joy and may 2019 be filled with much love, hope and joy.

Monday evening is New Year's Eve. Many have their own traditions. Some will go out to dinner or parties. Others will stay home with their children. Others will reflect on the past year. Everyone will look to 2019 with hope for a brighter year. Others will pray for good health for their families. Many will gather and watch the fireworks. Many will watch the crystal ball and count down as 2019 comes in at Times Square and around the world. People will put aside their differences and the world will come together at that moment. It's a time to be with those we love and wish the best for every person and look with great hope as we usher in another year.

Happy New Year to each of you!

Fr. Hickey

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 31 at 4:00 PM

Tuesday, January 1 at 9:00 AM

A Happy, Healthy New Year to all!

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR DECEMBER 16, 2018.....	\$4,252
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$4,147
Parish Giving -	\$105
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$748)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$125,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$100,458
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,018
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$24,542)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$982)

DECEMBER 17, 2017

Deposit.....	\$4,113
2017-2018 Deficit to Date.....	(\$23,211)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$1,331)

Due to an early print schedule, figures from the December 23 collection will be printed in the January 6 bulletin.



Raffle Drawing

PARISH LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET based on the PA Pick 3 Evening Number. Winning ticket number must be the exact number drawn for the PA Pick 3 Evening Number. Tickets are \$5.00 each and are sold on a monthly basis. The prize for the winning ticket is \$50.00 on weekdays and \$100.00 on Sundays and one specially-designated weekday. Tickets are available after the Masses on weekends and at the parish office on weekdays. **This is our major fund raiser for the parish. We encourage each family to purchase at least one ticket each month. Your support is greatly appreciated.**

LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

- December 10 - #069 - unsold
- December 11 - #028 - unsold
- December 12 - #104 - unsold
- December 13 - #088 - unsold
- December 14 - #995 - unsold
- December 15 - #501 - unsold
- December 16 - #800 - unsold

MASS ATTENDANCE for December 15/16:

4:00 PM Mass - 194
 9:00 AM Mass - 151
 Total Attendance - 345
 Mass Attendance for December 16/17, 2017 - 391



OUR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS GIVING

TREE will be in the vestibule of church until Sunday, January 6. We are collecting items for Birthright of Pottstown. Items most needed are: size 0 to 3 diapers (especially size 3); Wipes...we never have enough of

these; Hand sanitizer for diaper bags; Shampoo, baby wash, diaper cream...no powder please; Size Newborn through 18 months infant cloths for boys and girls (especially 0 to 3 months and 18 months); Receiving blankets and changing pads; Bibs; Bottles; Hooded bath towels and crib sheets; small infant toys for ages newborn to 3 months; Maternity clothing, especially extra large sizes; Maternity leggings. Help us decorate our Giving Tree by placing an ornament on the tree for each gift you give. Ornaments are in the box next to the Giving Tree. Thank you for your generosity!

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed on Monday, December 31 and Tuesday, January 1.

"Souper" Bowl Sale

1 Qt. Italian Wedding Soup - \$8.00
 Amount _____ Total _____

1 Qt. Pulled Chicken BBQ - \$10.00
 Amount _____ Total _____

1 Qt. Halusky and 1 lb. Kielbasa - \$8.00
 Amount _____ Total _____

Name _____

Phone _____

For pick up after Masses on February 2 and February 3.

Order by January 27.