

TODAY IS THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

DECEMBER 27, 2009

**Scripture Readings for Today****1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Colossians 3:12-21**Gospel:** Luke 2:41-52**Scripture Readings for January 3<sup>rd</sup>****1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Isaiah 60:1-6**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6**Gospel:** Matthew 2:1-12

The first reading today provides a challenging blueprint for our family relationships. How do I measure up?

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*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

Acts 20:35

Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. It is easy to understand why Jesus, Mary and Joseph are THE Holy Family. St. Paul tells us to "Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved." Each of our families is thus called to be a Holy Family. It would be nice if the environment we call our sinful world made it easy to be a Holy Family. Yet, we all know 'to be holy', is something we must work to be. That's all Jesus wants us to do. All of us are invited. We accomplish a Holy Family when we are obedient to the Father, and when we model our lives after Mary, our heavenly Mother. Also, all family members need to pray daily to Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph. This will help our families become living temples of God. In doing so we will be blessed all the days of our lives; and be ready to meet our Lord when we are called home – our true home in heaven with Jesus, Mary and St. Joseph.

Deacon Jack




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**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS** of our deceased parishioners.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS**, especially those in hospitals: Annamarie Devanny.

**PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** for all those recovering from surgeries and illness and for: Joseph Kruger, Preston Scibek, Rob Coxe, Mary Strunck, Robert Scheile, Alice Bates, Jane McManus, Patrick Daschbach, Catherine Applegarth, Cecilia French, Francis Vizzini, Milton & Timothy Getka, Beth Szczybor, Therese Lipscombe, Quinn Degenhard, Brother James Kelly, Bernard Maddox, Edward Flannagan, Kyla Zeilinger, Jo Keyes, Teddy Skinner, Bill Herman, James DeMatteo, Margaret Peter, Mary Barber, Florence Fink, Lillian Goldwine, Lorraine Keough, Kathleen Ricker, Helen Bopp, Frances Amann, Genevieve Randle, Evana Feeney, Heather LaMartina, Ann Finnel, Dottie Lappe, Concetta Fowler, Sandy Miller, Margaret Blinke.

**PRAYERS FOR OUR SERVICE PEOPLE:** We ask you to remember the parishioners, family & friends serving in the military: **USMC** – Cpl. Joseph Bytella, LCpl. Sean Fitzpatrick, LCpl Alex Webb, LCpl. John J. Cohee, Jr., Sgt. David Burton; **NAT'L GUARD** – Pfc. Ryan Kamauff, David Parker, Spc. Paul Ascosi; **NAVY** – Harrison Seward, David Roussey, Daniel Gately; **ARMY** – SSG Patrick Flanagan, Sgt. Alex Kuziel, James Lowe, Andy Giotis, Andy Deponai, Timothy Muhl, Sgt. Joshua Callow, Spc. Stephen Grenfell, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Stephen Winter, Capt. Sheldon Broedel.

## Mass Intentions



### MASSES FOR DEC. 28 – JAN. 3<sup>RD</sup>

MONDAY 12/28	6:30 a.m. – Anna Oberlander 8:00 a.m. – Louis Kiszner
TUESDAY 12/29	6:30 a.m. – Eleanor Meyd 8:00 a.m. – John A. Meyer
WED. 12/30	6:30 a.m. – Charles Payne 8:00 a.m. – Ken Smith
THURS. 12/31	6:30 a.m. – Ints. of Stephen Gregorius 8:00 a.m. – Charles Harris 7:00 p.m. – Charlotte Kvech
FRIDAY 1/1	8:00 a.m. – Regina Schott 10:00a.m – Thomas & Alice Runkles
SAT. 1/2	8:00 a.m. – Stephen J. Meyer 5:00 p.m. – Sam La Martina
SUNDAY 1/3	7:30 a.m. – For the Parishioners 9:00 a.m. – Charles Payne 10:30 a.m – Gary Matthews 12:00 p.m. – Cathy Parsons

### DAILY READINGS

<b>Monday</b> 12/28	<b><i>Feast of the Holy Innocents</i></b> <b>Reading:</b> 1 John 1:5 - 2:2 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 2:13-18
<b>Tuesday</b> 12/29	<b><i>Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas</i></b> <b>Reading:</b> 1 John 2:3 - 11 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 2:22-35
<b>Wed.</b> 12/30	<b><i>Sixth day in the Octave of Christmas</i></b> <b>Reading:</b> 1 John 2:12-17 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 2:36-40
<b>Thurs.</b> 12/31	<b><i>Seventh day in the Octave of Christmas</i></b> <b>Reading:</b> 1 John 2:18-21 <b>Gospel:</b> John 1:1-18
<b>Friday</b> 1/1	<b><i>Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i></b> <b>Reading:</b> Numbers 6:22-27 <b>Reading:</b> Galatians 4:4-7 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 2:16-21
<b>Sat.</b> 1/2	<b><i>St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen</i></b> <b>Reading:</b> 1 John 2:22-28 <b>Gospel:</b> John 1:19-28

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS:** There will be no Religious Ed. Classes Sunday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>. Classes will resume Sunday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**CONFESSIONS** will be held this Thursday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, at 4:30 p.m. in preparation for First Friday.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2010, NEW YEAR'S DAY IS THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, A HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION.** Masses will be held Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM and Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

**PARISH OFFICE** – The parish office will be closed Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**HOLY HOUR** will be held this Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, from 7 to 8 p.m. After Holy Hour, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed until 8 a.m. Saturday. Parishioners are needed to rest with Jesus. A sign-up sheet can be found in the front of the Church.



**PARISH CALENDARS** are available on the windowsills in Church. Please take one per family.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Bob Hoffman, winner of the shopping spree raffle. The Men's Club thanks everyone who supported this successful fundraiser. Proceeds benefit the parish youth athletic program.

**LONGABERGER BASKET BINGO** sponsored by St. Agnes Men's Club will be held on **Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**, 2010 in the Activity Center. **Save the date!**



**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** on our Altars are also in memory of Earl J. Brushwiler, Mary & Henry Watts, Judith & Frank Watts and Msgr. Francis Fortenbaugh.

**BUILDING FUND COLLECTION** – Next weekend, our second collection will be for our building fund. Thank you so much for your continued generosity!

**REDISCOVERY WEEKEND FOR MARRIAGE** Retrouvaille Weekend: **January 15-17**, 2010 for marriages in difficulty. Helps hurting couples heal. Call 410-647-0350 and please visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com) for more info.

**ST. AGNES SCHOOL NEWS!**

*Your St. Agnes School Administration,  
Faculty, Staff, and Students wish you a  
Happy 2010!*

May your new year be filled with blessings and  
peace for you and your families.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** We congratulate **Geoffrey Calderone** who was the winner of the National Geography Bee School Competition. He earned first place over 60 other students. Geoffrey will take the written test from the National Geographic Society to qualify for the State Finals. Thanks to everyone who competed!

**New Student Registration** will be held on February 19th for Nursery – Grade 7. Please call the School Office at 410-747-4070 for more information. Remember we are offering a traditional Nursery Class and Pre-School program as well as full day sessions for those parents who need this type of program.

**Dates To Remember:**

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| <b>1/4</b>  | School Reopens  |
| <b>1/11</b> | First Reconciliation/ 7:00pm                            |
| <b>1/12</b> | Home School Association meeting 7:00 pm.                |
| <b>1/13</b> | Re-registration papers go home.                         |
| <b>1/15</b> | 12:30 Dismissal/ Teachers' meeting                      |
| <b>1/18</b> | School Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day            |
| <b>1/21</b> | Feast of St. Agnes Liturgy 9:00 am.<br>All are welcome! |

**BEREAVEMENT OUTREACH NETWORK** is offering a Six-week Bereavement seminar designed especially for adults of all ages grieving the death of a loved one. The group will meet at Charlestown on Thursday afternoons from Jan. 28 through March 4 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required. There is no fee. Contact Fred Schneider at 410.735.5569 to register.

**MARRIED COUPLES RETREAT** will be held at the Priestfield Retreat Center, WV, on the weekends of Feb. 26, March 5, March 12, March 19, March 26, and April 30. These retreats have been held for over 35 years and couples who attend come away feeling spiritually refreshed and enlightened. For more info, call Elaine @ 410-252-5355.

**JANUARY 1**

By Paul Turner



January 1 is New Year's Day to most of the world, but in the Catholic Church it is also the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. This is a relatively new title for the day. Older Catholics will remember that we used to call January 1 the Feast of the Circumcision.

Circumcision may not seem like much to have a feast about. But the day commemorated an event in the life of Jesus, just as we have days for his conception, birth, and presentation in the temple, baptism, transfiguration, death and resurrection. Luke specifically mentions the circumcision of Jesus (2:21). It took place, according to the custom, on the eighth day after his birth. That is why the feast commemorating the event fell on the eighth day of Christmas. It just happened to be New Year's Day. The same passage from Luke says Jesus then received his name.

That is why the old calendar celebrated the Most Holy Name of Jesus on the Sunday between the feasts of the Circumcision and the Epiphany. (If no Sunday intervened, the feast occurred on Jan. 2.

In present times the Gospel passage for January 1 still refers to the circumcision, but the new title for the feast seems to have another verse in mind, Luke 2:19. There we hear that Mary treasured all the things that happened and the words that were said and pondered them in her heart. On the octave day of the birth of Jesus, we celebrate Mary, who bore him.

On January 1 we are also expected to pray for world peace. In the United States, this day is a holy day of obligation unless it falls on a Monday or a Saturday.

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**MEMORY VERSE****Colossians 3:13**

Bear with one another and forgive whatever grievance you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you.