

DISCIPLES CALLED TO WITNESS

St John the Evangelist Parish / St. Mary Parish

Bellaire - Neffs - Shadyside - Powhatan Point

www.bnspatholic.org

Mission Statement : Inspired by the Holy Spirit and our Lord Jesus Christ, we strive to grow in faith, love and service to God and our neighbors.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

DECEMBER 29TH, 2024

St John Church (SJ) - 415 37th St, Bellaire, OH 43906

St. Mary Church (SM) - 240 E 40th St, Shadyside, OH 43947

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 4:00 PM - SM Saturday 5:30 PM - SJ

Sunday 11:00 AM - SM Sunday 9:30 AM - SJ

WEEKDAY MASS

6:00 p.m. (Mon.) SJ 8:00 a.m. (Wed. & Fri.) – SJ 8:00 a.m. (Tues. & Thurs.) - SM 8:00 a.m.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. - SM

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - SJ

Monday: 5:00p.m. - 5:45p.m. - SJ

Tuesday & Thursday: 7:30 -7:45a.m. - SM

Wednesday & Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 7:45a.m. - SJ

CENTRAL OFFICE

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Email: office@bnspatholic.org

Office Hours: M,W,F -

8:00am- 12:00pm / 1:00pm-4:00pm

Fr. Daniel Heusel, Pastor (SJ), Pastor (SM)

Cell: (740) 298-4158

Email: dheusel@diosteub.org

Mrs. Tonya Grimm, Secretary

(740) 676-0051

Email: stjohns3745@comcast.net

St. Mary Central Grade School, Martins Ferry

(740) 633-5424

Mrs. Theresa Young, Principal



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THE HOLY FAMILY

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. - Lk 2:51-52

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Collect of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



MESSAGE SERIES

All of us come from families that are diversified by size and other factors, but share many commonalities, including our strong emotions when it comes to different familial relationships and experiences. In this series, we will look at our family relationships – both in the past, present, and future - and will explore three principles of every happy family: successful families accept the messiness of family life with grace and flexibility; are marked by mutual respect; and are committed to a larger purpose beyond themselves.

Week One: A Higher Purpose (The Gift of Children)

Scripture: Luke 2:49

When God sent his Son, he sent him into a family. This is an image of what God wants to accomplish. He is gathering his family together through the Church. He is our Father and wants us to share in his inheritance. While God is forming a family, our family experiences are full of mixed emotions. Families are messy. In this message, we will look at how important our families are in establishing a relationship with God and how God uses them for our good whether they are good, bad or indifferent. The gift of children reminds us of our higher purpose—being dedicated to God and sharing in His family

Fr. Dan's Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 28th, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

4:00p.m. (SM) + Marlene Seita (Family)
5:30p.m. (SJ) + Richard Cope 1 year anniversary
Deceased (Wife ~ Betty & Family)

Sunday, December 29th, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

9:30a.m. (SJ) + Patricia Matthews (Glenn & Carolyn Vasey)
11:00a.m.(SM) + For the People of St. Mary's & St. John's

Monday, December 30th, 6th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

6:00p.m. (SJ) + Paul & Anna Marie Malek (Family)

Tuesday, December 31st, 7th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00a.m.(SM) + Paul Hercules (John & Bubba Kapral)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD—A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Tuesday, December 31, Vigil Mass

5:15p.m. (SM) + Ed & Irene Snyder (Family)

Wednesday, January 1st, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God / New Year's Day! / The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord /

9:30a.m. (SJ) + For the People of St. John's & St. Mary's

11:00a.m. (Sm) + Paul Rosen (Family)

Thursday, January 2nd, St, Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

8:00a.m. (SM)+ Cindy Haswell (Bill & Estel Bommer)

Friday, January 3rd, Holy Name of Jesus

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Ellen Oboy (Carolyn Woodland)

Saturday, January 4th, The Epiphany of the Lord

4:00p.m. (SM) + "Ricky" M. St. John (Mary Ann Kiss)

5:30p.m. (SJ) + John Sharpe Jr. (Florence Timko)

Sunday, January 5th, The Epiphany of the Lord

9:30a.m. (SJ) + Mary Catherine Nixon (Bob & Andrea Koteles)

11:00a.m.(SM) + For the People of St. Mary's & St. John's



Lord, bless and protect those serving our country, especially: Lt.

Col. Brian Zeno, Airmen 1st Class Curtis McElfresh, Sgt. Christopher Wetzell, Lance Corporal Zachary Knowlton, Staff Sgt. Wm. Kayne Melko, HTF Kory Melko, Sgt.

Joshua Hall, Staff Sgt. Aaron Loeffler, Tech Sgt. Craig DeBeni, Major Trey Vasey, Capt. Tom Dyer, Staff Sgt. Josh Pempek, Mitchell Rataiczak, Master Sgt. Chris Dipold, Sgt. Ryan James, Sgt. Dylan Frizzi, Sgt. Jake Foster and Pvt William Clegg, Petty Officer Alex Rader, Pvt. Colton T. Selmon, 1st Lt. DJ Olexa, Staff Sgt. Kelsey (Ryncarz) Turner, Senior Airman Cameron Opic, PFC D'eondre Burney, Petty Officer Jared Keiser, Petty Officer Brody P. Halenar, Major Alex Beveridge, Lance Cpl. Keenan Cook

Offertory Collection

For the Weekend of December 21/22

St. John's: Adult (101env) \$3,629, Loose \$352, Christmas (7env) \$155, Imm. Conception (1env) \$10, Solemnity of Mary (2env) \$30, Christmas Flowers (6env) \$95, Religious Retirement (1env) \$35, Grade School (2env) \$45, Building Fund (1env) \$10, Candles \$131

St. Mary's: Adult (48env) \$1,190, Loose \$228.25, Christmas (2env) \$30, Christmas Flowers (1env) \$20, Building Fund (6env) \$200, Candles \$88

PRAYER LIST

Please Note: *This prayer list is an important part of our love for our brothers and sisters in need. Names will be included on this list for four weeks at a time. After four weeks a person's name will be removed but can be added again the next week simply by calling the office. Please pray for the following:* Vicky Oboy, Lindy & Don Freed, Jax McCort, Dominic Alexander, Lou Ann Kinder, Fr. Sam Saprano, Mgrs. Gene Mullett, Fr. Tom Petronek, Dorothy Kresak, Jeff & Mandy Fahey, Quentin Scott Coyne, Magan Nichole Sechrest, Jeremy Chirpas, Tyce Hughes, Isaac Salva, Baby Everett Sommers, Lucy Kowalski, John Bires Jr., Shannon Koher, Ed and Rose Grammar, Susan Gray, Jackie (Donahue) Woods, Joe Boston Jr., Camden Brown, Peggy Kotson, Tom Galinski, Susan Vasey, Bob, Bill & Tom, "Chic" & Debbie Henderson, Kay Bambeck, Mary Kay Hanasky, Ann Hodges, Zachary Oboy, Tom & Margie Merryman, Craig Blacker, Patrick Strain and granddaughter, Halen, Jim Garczyk, Natalie McFeley, John Hanasky, Beverly Kolenich Beau Boston, Sharon Leonard, Rosalind Fitch, Trey Nelms, Michelle (Tamborileo) Glover, Joey Sabinsky, Brian B., Jaime Ellis, Roger Peters, Mary Siglar, Anthony De Genova, Jerry & Phyllis, Adam Ruskowski, Jeff Doneson, Joe Budrevich, Rudy Bresiger, Cathy Ciulles, Warren Wright, Rich Price, Marilyn Marling, Jay Morgan, Kathy Kavmirski, Sherri Rader, Sandy (Donahue) Bass, Kyrie Vincent, Kevin Roseberry, Janice Arno, Andrew Zaborek, Kim Scott, Joyce Mellott, Cookie Busack, Gwen Brown, Bobby Roth, Peg Stipetich, Sarah Stipetich, Rhonda Tipton, Rebecca Brown, Mary DeGenova, Megan Kristin Sechrest, Lori Runyan, Monroe DeLuca, Albert DeBlasis, Mary Jo Garner, Camden Thomas, Julie Sharpe, Jill Brinker,



Weekend of January 4/5

St. John's :


Jan. 4th EM: K. Ball Lector : T. Bonfini

Jan. 5th EM: J. Coup Lector : A. Busic

St. Mary's :

Jan. 4th EM: T. Mowery Lector: E. Kalinowski


Jan. 5th EM: M. Brown Lector: A. Schamp



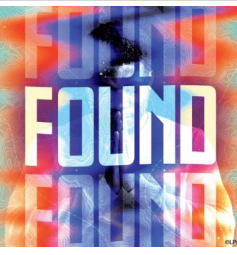
Merry Christmas!
I hope you didn't take down the tree and your Christmas lights, the party has just gotten started! We are still in the middle of the Octave of Christmas and our Christmas season will last through Sunday, January 12. I'm excited about our new message series "The Secrets of Every Happy Family." Guess what? God wants each of us to know and share the secret! No matter what our family looks like (whether our biological family or our church family) God's love can transform us!

THIS WEEK
Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
 5th Day of Christmas
 No Faith Formation
Monday: 6th Day of Christmas
Tuesday: 7th Day of Christmas/New Years Eve
 No Eucharist Adoration
 5:15p.m. (SM) Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary
Wednesday: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God/Happy New Year 2025!
 9:30a.m. Mass for Solemnity of Mary (SJ)
 11:00a.m. Mass for Solemnity of Mary (SM)
 12:00pm Holy Hour for Peace (SM)
Thursday: 5:30pm Holy Hour of Reparation (SJ)
 7:00pm OCIA (SJH)
Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord
 9:30-10:45 Family Faith Formation (SM)

Readings for the week of December 29, 2024
Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
Monday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/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/Jn 1:19-28
Friday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34
Saturday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12




REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE
First Reading: In gratitude to the Lord, Hannah returned the gift of her son, Samuel. *Is there a gift from the Lord for which you are particularly grateful?*
Second Reading: As children of God, John teaches us that believers should love one another and believe in the name of Jesus. *In addition to faith and love, what else do you think unites us as children of God?*
Gospel: Luke presents an anxious experience that Mary and Joseph had as parents raising the young boy, Jesus. *Do you recall a time when your parents were worried or anxious about you?* ©LPi



GOSPEL MEDITATION
The Holy Family
 As a first-time pastor in a parish, I received a phone call one afternoon from a young married couple, "Father, our 2-year-old son drowned in our pool this morning. We are at the hospital. Please help us." I sped over. The little boy was gone, his body cold, slightly blue, laid out on a bed. His parents were distraught and in shock. For the next few years, I walked with the couple along their difficult and painful road. They openly shared with me how they were often tempted to blame and accuse each other for the loss. And yet, by God's grace, their love for each grew stronger and deeper as the years went by.

The Holy Family was not without its pain and loss, either. Luke tells us, after losing their twelve-year-old son, Joseph and Mary "after three days found him in the temple area, sitting among the teachers..." (Luke 2:46). We don't know specifically what those three days were like for them except for what Mary says: "Your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." The three days of his absence foreshadow his death and burial. His finding in the temple is a kind of resurrection for his family. They had to learn, again and again, that their family was becoming a place where death and resurrection was not only accepted but welcomed and celebrated. But surely they deeply felt the dangerous agony of their loss — just like every couple who has lost a child.

What losses in your experience of family still cause you anxiety? In what ways has God's presence seemingly vanished in your family? Will you keep searching for Jesus? Remember, he will rise and be found. Your family may be suffering, but when he is found, it will be stronger than ever before. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
Mass Schedule:
 December 31—5:15pm (St. Mary's)
 January 1—9:30am (St. John's)
 11:00am (St. Mary's)



OUR SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE BEGINS JANUARY 1!
 Join us on a 33 Day Spiritual Journey to consecrate ourselves to Jesus in the Eucharist. Pick up a free copy of 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory (our Christmas gift to you) and get ready to start on January 1!
 Scan the QR code to sign up for daily encouragement and to join the community of fellow parishioners making the journey together! Our consecration date will be Sunday, February 2 at the Sunday Masses.



THIS WEEK ON
FORMED

Week of December 29, 2024



New Year's Resolutions | The Augustine Institute Show
What's your resolution this year? Dr. Tim Gray welcomes Dr. Scott Hefeffinger, Assistant Professor of Theology in the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, to celebrate one year of the Augustine Institute Show!



Christmas | Sacred Art
Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they look at the painting Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. This famous painting reveals the Christ Child as the light that has come into the world and also depicts the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the shepherds to be models of adoration to our humble Lord who came as a helpless baby.



O Holy Night, The King is Born: What Christmas Is About
Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation of the birth of God's Son! Witness the moving submission of Mary, Joseph, and others as they make way for our Savior.

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An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and *spiritus paraens*



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MASSTIMES.ORG

Travelling? Never miss a weekend mass by finding mass times near your destination. Just go to masstimes.org and enter the city, state or zip code of the place you'll be visiting. And bring Fr. Dan back a bulletin!

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS AND THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Epiphany of the Lord / January 5, 2025

First Reading:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

Second Reading:

It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Eph 3:5-6)

Gospel:

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)

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CCC 528, 724: the Epiphany

CCC 280, 529, 748, 1165, 2466, 2715: Christ the light of the nations

CCC 60, 442, 674, 755, 767, 774-776, 781, 831: the Church, sacrament of human unity



BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE Sanctuary of Life

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. Though he was conceived of a virgin, Jesus nevertheless lived as a son in a human family -- a family which points the way for the rest of us.

The family is the sanctuary of life. There can be no life without family, and there can be no family without life. The family, above all, is where life is to be welcomed, no matter how fragile or inconvenient it may be.

One of the many reasons why the St. John Paul II, in "The Gospel of Life" encyclical, identifies abortion and euthanasia as pre-eminent issues is because these crimes are committed by one family member upon another.

May the Holy Family lead us to a Culture of Life!

PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY Prayer for Family

Dear God,
Help my family to be holy, too! Amen.



(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Where is Jesus?

Every mother who has ever lost sight of her child in a crowd, even for a few seconds, knows the panic.

I think of Mary living with that level of anxiety for three straight days. I doubt she slept, but I'm sure Joseph forced her to lie down at night, imploring her to think of her health, to rest while he kept on searching the streets of Jerusalem. I imagine her lying there, eyes open and staring at the ceiling. Mary, full of grace. Mary, spotless of sin. Weeping in the dark, whispering, "Where is he?"

It's an experience that we all have at one point or another. Running through the world, desperate and confused, just trying to find God and failing so miserably that we wonder if He's purposefully eluding us.

If Mary couldn't even find Him, do we stand a chance?

Why didn't Mary think to look in the temple? She had wisdom beyond anyone else who ever lived, at least when it came to Jesus. But I think God purposefully dropped a veil over her reasoning for these three days, so that He could show us it's okay to lose our way.

He isn't eluding us. In fact, He's trying to make it easy. He's staying put, in one place, the very place we should know to look. But the streets of our life are so crowded and loud, so full of distraction.

The Christmas season is about God revealing to us who and what and where He is. He has told us. The question is, have we listened? ©LPi



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.

— Lk 2:51-52

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EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

All in the Family

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK



For three days, Mary and Joseph search and worry before finding Jesus in the temple. "Didn't you know where I was?" he says to them, in so many words. We, too, look for Jesus. We, too, know where to find him. Let us never forget and never despair. ©LPi



ST. JOHN'S AND ST. MARY'S DISCOVERY TOOL

POWERED BY MINISTRY ARCHITECTS VOLUNTEER ACCELERATOR

We offer to all our parishioners a short but powerful survey— what are calling our Discovery Tool! In just a few minutes, you'll have your results and a better sense of how your interests and gifts align with the service opportunities and ministries of our church. When we understand more about our God-given talents and what brings us joy and a sense of purpose, we are better equipped to walk in love -- serving God, our parish, and our community as Jesus calls us to do. Scan the QR code to find the link to the survey, or on our website - bnspcatholic.org

**SAINT OF THE WEEK –
EXAMPLES OF OUR FAITH**

St. Gianna Beretta Molla | April 28



Biography

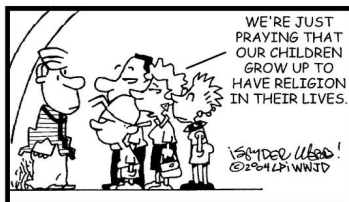
St. Gianna Beretta Molla (1922-1962) was born in northern Italy, near Milan. Her parents were both Third Order Franciscans and she was the tenth of 13 children. At just 12 years old Gianna became a member of Catholic Action, a movement which advocated for a more intense spiritual life for Catholic laity. She would continue as a member and leader of the movement her whole life.

In 1942, both of Gianna’s parents died, only four months apart. Despite the loss, she continued to be active joining the St. Vincent de Paul Society, serving the elderly and sick. In 1949 Gianna completed her degrees in Medicine and Surgery from the University of Pavia. She opened her own medical office in 1950. Two years later she earned a specialty in pediatrics. While medicine was her calling, she also enjoyed skiing and mountaineering, the theater, the opera, and concerts.

She and Pietro Molla fell in love and were married in September 1955, fulfilling Gianna’s vocation. Their first child, Pierluigi, was born the next year. By 1959 they had been blessed with two more children, Maria Zita, and Laura. Gianna was pregnant with her fourth child in 1961 when unusual pains revealed a uterine tumor. She elected to have a surgical procedure to remove the tumor but continued the pregnancy. This was incredibly risky for her at the time, but she insisted that whatever happened to her, the child should be saved. Gianna carried the baby to term, and Gianna Emanuela was born by C-section in April 1962. One week later the saint succumbed to septic peritonitis, giving her life for her daughter’s.

Gianna is the first woman doctor and working mom to be canonized. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II on April 24, 1994, and officially canonized on May 16, 2004. St. Gianna Beretta Molla, pray for us! © LPi

HOLY FAMILY



WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED Jesus’ Grandparents

Question:

July 26 is the feast of Joachim and Anna. Who are they and what do we know about them?

Answer:

Joachim and Anna are the parents of Mary, the mother of Jesus, yet there is absolutely no biblical reference to them whatsoever. So where do we get their names, and what is their story?

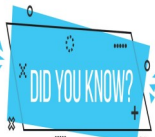
Their names are found in an apocryphal (hidden) gospel known as "The Infancy Gospel of James." Apocryphal, or hidden gospels, consist of accounts of Jesus' life that were ultimately not accepted as inspired works, and thus were not included in the Bible. However, they sometimes captured the Christian imagination, spilling into the devotional dimension of the community.

James' infancy gospel begins with the parents of Mary and their desire for a child. In their prayer and petitions to God, they are heard and given the blessings of a child, whom they named Mary. While we have no idea who Mary's parents really were, the fact that we celebrate the feast of Joachim and Anna indicates that the bond of family love is important in the Christian life.

Long before Grandparents' Day was established, the church had a feast that honored the presumed grandparents of Jesus. While their names are part of non-inspired apocryphal legends, the fact of the Savior's human ancestry is not. Christ, the incarnate Word, dwelt among us in the flesh in a human family. In honoring the grandparents of Jesus we really proclaim our faith in the Incarnation — God becoming human! ©LPi



CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN



Question: According to tradition, who were Balthasar, Melchior, and Casper?

Answer: The three kings who visited baby Jesus. ©LPi

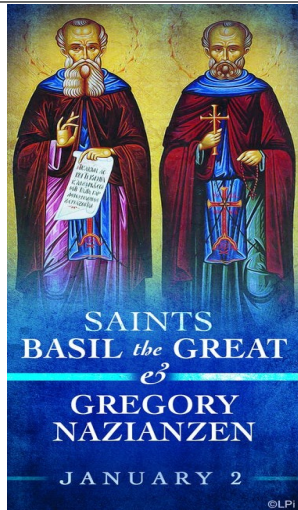
When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” – Lk 1:41-42

SAINT OF THE WEEK – EXAMPLES OF OUR FAITH

St. Basil the Great | January 2

Biography

St. Basil the Great (329 – January 1, 379) shares his feast day with his lifelong friend St. Gregory of Nazianzen. These accomplished men fought against heresies that threatened the foundations of the early Church, shaping doctrines around Christ’s divinity and the nature of the Holy Trinity.



St. Basil was born at Caesarea of Cappadocia, to a family already deeply rooted in Christianity, going back to the time of widespread persecution in the 1st and 2nd centuries. Following in the footsteps of his father, Basil studied in Caesarea as well as Constantinople and Athens, training in the law and rhetoric. He became a popular teacher. However, his sister persuaded him to give up academia for monastic life. Before inviting St. Gregory to start an order with him, St. Basil traveled through Egypt, Palestine and Syria visiting monasteries, learning everything he could and formulating his own ideas about monastic rule. His rule is still followed today, and he is known as the Father of Eastern Monasticism.

His time in the monastery was relatively short, it was only five years before he was called to play a greater role in the Church. Ordained as a priest, by around 370 he was made bishop of Caesaria. It was in this role that he fought against the heresy of Arianism which denied the divinity of Christ, even defying an emperor! He also fought against other early Trinitarian heresies. But these important doctrinal stands were not what defined Basil. He was passionate about caring for the poor and sick, pastoral care, and fighting against institutionalized prostitution. He would preach twice a day to large crowds, and opened a complex with a hospital, orphanage, and shelter for the poor. In addition to influential monastic rules, sermons, and doctrinal treatises, more than 300 of his letters still exist. St. Basil the Great, pray for us!

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Everyday Stewardship

Stewardship in the Family

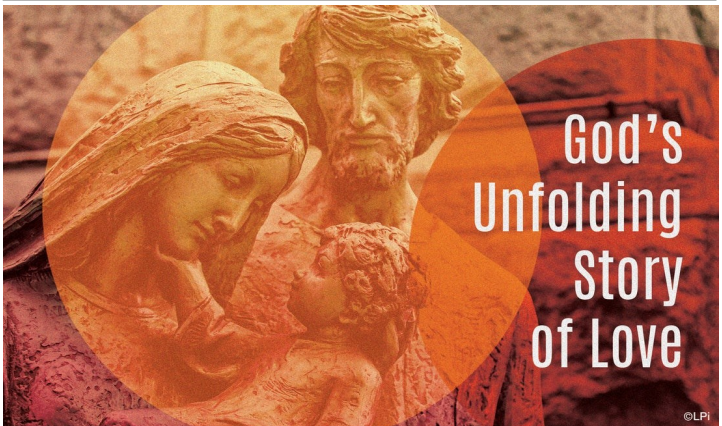
Do you practice good stewardship with your family? Stewardship is about more than offerings to a church or charity. It is about continually giving of ourselves in a way that gives glory to God. Sharing our gifts with those in our immediate family honors God and is evidence of your gratitude for these people in your life.

How can we effectively accomplish this? One way is to reflect on how the 6 characteristics of an Everyday Steward are present in our family relationships. Are we mindful when we are with our family members? Do we focus on them and their needs rather than our phone or TV? Do we hold up our family in prayer? Their concerns should be our concerns. Do we find ways to show how grateful we are for having them in our lives?

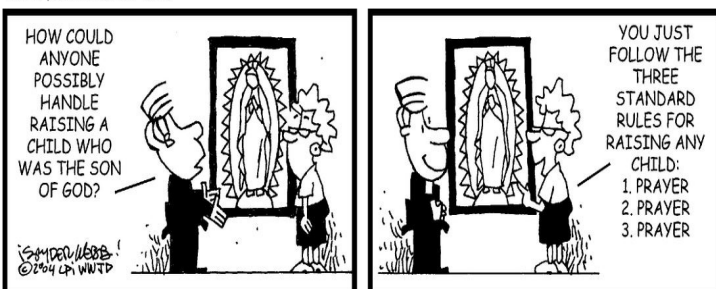
When we find ourselves lacking in gratitude, we should reflect on what life would be like without them. Do we help one another without being asked because we have a gracious heart? It is easy to take for granted those we see all the time. Hospitality is not just for the stranger or guest. Are we committed to a life of stewardship that not only serves as a good example, but also helps our relatives thrive? Using our gifts without wisdom might mean we have little to give to those we love. Finally, do we hold each other accountable for our decisions and shortcomings?

We are on the journey of life together, and no one exists in the Body of Christ alone. Stewardship is about the entirety of our lives. Our faith life is not reserved to Mass on a Sunday. It all begins and ends with those we love.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



MARY, MOTHER OF GOD



Please help us reach our 2024 D/PSC Campaign Goals
St. John Parish Goal: \$36,097 Total Received to Date : \$30,137.

St. Mary Parish Goal: \$19,038 Total Received to Date: \$19,235. Pledge cards/envelopes are available at the entrances to the church and also in the parish office.



**Eucharistic Adoration,
Hourly Pro-Life Rosary &
Chaplet of Mercy @ 3:00**



Friday, January 24th
8:00 am – 5:00 pm
St. Michael Church

Please join us to pray in conjunction with the March for Life in Washington, D.C. as we pray for the protection of the unborn and healing of those who have had abortions. *All are welcome!*

Council of Catholic Women

The CCW would like to thank everyone who attended our Christmas Party! Every woman of our parishes is a member of the CCW—there is no application to join, or yearly dues—you are all in! We have adopted 3 seminarians to remember in our thoughts and prayers. At our Christmas party we collected over \$300.00 and will be sending the seminarians a Christmas Card with a check included. Below you will find their names and information. Please feel free to reach out to them! I'm sure they all would love some cookies and sweets!

Maximillion Kolbe Gan
Pontifical College Josephinum
7625 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43235-1499

Ryan Budd
Christ Our Light Parish
701 Gomber Ave
Cambridge, OH 43725-1848

Christopher McGurn
Saint Vincent Seminary
300 Fraser Purchase Road
Latrobe, PA 15650



"...IN THIS WORLD I CANNOT SEE
THE MOST HIGH SON OF GOD WITH
MY OWN EYES, EXCEPT FOR HIS
MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD."
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



Every Tuesday
9:00am—5:00pm,
St. Mary's Church
Benediction begins at 4:50pm
Come and be in His Presence!



**The Seven
Essential
Elements of
Parish Life**

Evangelization – The ways in which a parish continues to spread the Good News of Jesus, especially (though not

exclusively) through personal and communal sharing of faith. (66)

Worship – The communal witness to the sovereignty of God, the abiding presence of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the Church, particularly in the Sunday Eucharist and other sacramental and liturgical rites. (70)

Word – Those things that pertain to the ongoing process of spiritual maturation and growth of individuals and as a community of faith. “The deepening of faith results from echoing God’s word, which takes place in a variety of ways and in multiple contexts within the life of the Church.” The word “catechesis” denotes the process of handing on the faith. (73)

Community – The element of parish life which “draws parishioners together in mutual support, activity, celebration and growth. It is the unity that results when members become involved with one another in all aspects of the pastoral mission.” A parish is a place where everyone belongs. Inclusivity and mutuality are hallmarks of community. (76)

Service – The mission to which Christ calls the Church clearly includes works of charity and justice. “We cannot be truly ‘Catholic’ unless we hear and heed the Church’s call to serve those in need and work for justice and peace.” *Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Ministry of the Parish*, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1993. (79)

Stewardship – We are called to make the most responsible use of our gifts and resources. “Stewardship, for believers, involves the sharing of individual time, talents, and treasure, as well as the commitment of communal resources (temporal, financial, human, etc.) in service to the community of faith.” (83)

Leadership – “Effective parish pastoral councils require a shared leadership among clergy and laity which calls forth the gifts of visioning, planning, empowering, and evaluating. These gifts are placed at the service of the community for the fulfillment of the pastoral mission.” (87)

Eucharist at the Center – “The communal celebration of Sunday Eucharist (which includes the Saturday evening Vigil) is both the source and summit of the seven essential elements of parish life.” (90)

From *Revisioning the Parish Pastoral Council*, by Mary Ann Gubish and Susan Jenny, S.C. with Arlene McGannon, Paulist Press, 2001.

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