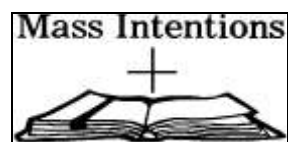


Recognizable Offering \$6,358.00
Loose Cash \$335.00
Total Weekly Offering 6,693.00
Mass Attendance Dec 19/20 333



Dec 28– Jan 3
Monday Allen R. Scarleski(+)
Tuesday Lisa Moore's Family(liv)
Wednesday Barbara Kirschten(liv)
Thursday The Robison Family(liv)
Friday Barbara Kirschten(liv)
Saturday Peggy Pilgrim(liv)
Sunday Jean & Gary Jordan (liv)(8:00 a.m.)
..... St. Peter Parishioners (10:30 a.m.)

Weekly Calendar of Events

12/28/15 thru 1/1/16 Parish Office will be **CLOSED**
12/27 No Faith Formation
No HS/MS Meetings
12/30 Legion of Mary - 8:30 a.m.
12/31 NO ADORATION, resumes 1/7/16
1/1/15 Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God
Mass - 9:00 a.m. **Holy Day of Obligation**
1/3/15 Faith Formation - 9:15 a.m.
M.S & H.S. Youth Meetings - 6:00 p.m.

Women's Study Group will start the new year semester on Thursday, January 7. We will be studying women in the Bible. We welcome new and returning members. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, you can contact Nanette Bell at (850)543-0901. We meet on Thursday mornings 9:30 - 11:30.

Dynamic Catholic presents



Featuring Dan Dematte & Aaron Richards
Saturday, February 6
9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Hosted by St. Peter Parish

Don't miss YOUR Holiness Revolution Event experience!! Draw closer to God, deepen your understanding of his plan for your life, and gain a renewed passion to live that plan out. Buy your ticket for this great event now. Tickets are \$20 and include free stuff like a journal, book and more! Stop by the office or call Dynamic Catholic (859-980-7900) for tickets. They are also available through our website.

Added Incentive: Sell five tickets and get one FREE!

Help is needed to promote this event after the holidays. Please call Joni, 830-2875, to volunteer.

January 3, 2016

dear Padre



Atheism vs. agnosticism

Q What is the difference between atheism and agnosticism?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines **atheism** as the rejection or denial of the existence of God and warns against numerous phenomena that can be categorized as atheistic, such as materialism and humanism and some movements that champion economic or social liberation (CCC 2123–2125). **Agnosticism**, somewhat conversely, makes no judgment about God's existence—instead, it says it's impossible to prove or deny. The *Catechism* identifies this viewpoint as expressing "indifferentism...and a sluggish moral conscience" (CCC 2128). Both viewpoints are sins against the First Commandment. Some people believe that religious thought and practice no longer meets the needs of contemporary humanity. On the other side stand faith communities

who fear modern culture and life will erode or eradicate the basics of faith and morality. Both stances are extreme and inaccurate, and striving for mutual respect and reverence seems more valid. Vatican II's *Gaudium et Spes* (19) says, "those who willfully shut out God from their hearts and try to dodge religious questions are not following the dictates of their consciences, and hence are not free of blame; yet believers themselves frequently bear some responsibility... To the extent that they neglect their own training in the faith, or teach erroneous doctrine, or are deficient in their religious, moral or social life, they must be said to conceal rather than reveal the authentic face of God and religion."

FR. TOM SANTA, CSSR
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



Join your children in adding regular prayer moments to your family's days together. Gather over breakfast or on the way to school for a brief morning offering. Bless your meals and end your busy days with quiet bedtime prayers that recall the day and seek God's protection through the night.

—From *Family, the Church, and the Real World*, a Redemptorist Pastoral Publication

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Monday
JANUARY 4
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,
Religious
1 Jn 3:22—4:6
Mt 4:12–17, 23–25

Tuesday
JANUARY 5
St. John Neumann,
Bishop
1 Jn 4:7–10
Mk 6:34–44

Wednesday
JANUARY 6
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:11–18
Mk 6:45–52

Thursday
JANUARY 7
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 4:19—5:4
Lk 4:14–22

Friday
JANUARY 8
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:5–13
Lk 5:12–16

Saturday
JANUARY 9
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:14–21
Jn 3:22–30

Sunday
JANUARY 10
Baptism of the Lord
Is 42:1–4, 6–7
or Is 40:1–5, 9–11
Acts 10:34–38
or Ti 2:11–14; 3:4–7
Lk 3:15–16, 21–22

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The Epiphany of the Lord ABC 1

Isaiah 60:1-6

Caravans of Camels

About those camels, we're not too sure about them. Yes, every nativity scene shows the magi seated on stately dromedaries, or leading their beasts of burden by bit and rein. But, quite honestly, the story of the Magi never tells us how they got there. They could have traveled on foot, in chariot, on horseback, elephants, or by camel—but we just don't know.

The reason we keep putting them on camels in our art is because of Isaiah's prophecy. He predicted that caravans of camels would fill Jerusalem, and that people from the East would come bearing gold and frankincense. "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!" he proclaims. "Your light has come."

In Matthew's story, the magi realize that Jerusalem's light has come. They follow the star and bring their gifts of gold and frankincense. Myrrh, too. By telling about these gifts, Matthew turns our attention back to Isaiah. Reading that prophecy, we realize that the light Isaiah mentioned is the Light of the World, Jesus Christ.

When we see the magi seated on camels, we are remembering Isaiah. When we remember Isaiah, we remember the light that came to shatter the darkness of our world. Those camels carry hope.

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The Epiphany of the Lord ABC 2

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Secret Plan

The birth of Jesus became the worst kept secret in the history of the world. All along, people knew God had a plan. God had told everyone from Adam and Eve, to Abraham and Sara, to Moses and Miriam, to David and Bathsheba, to Hosea and Gomer, to Mary and Joseph that there was a plan. Nobody fully understood it. Nobody knew how God would bring the plan to fulfillment. But they all believed. They had seen God work mighty deeds in their lives, and they believed that one day the promise of redemption would be fulfilled.

Jesus was God's secret. When Jesus was born in humble surroundings outside of royalty and pageantry, only a handful of people even began to realize what God had done.

But the secret got out. Angels appeared in the sky. Shepherds showed up. And Magi traveled from a faraway land. Everyone was finding out God's two great surprises: Jesus was born as the promised Messiah, and he came not just for his own race, but for all the people of the world.

The Letter to the Ephesians says, God's mystery "was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit." Jesus was born, and he came to save each of us, no matter what family we came from, what we believed, or how we behaved. The mystery of God's love is open now to the whole world. That is the epiphany, the revelation of God's secret.

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Liturgical Roles*

Weekend of Jan 2/3

5:00 p.m.

Altar Servers: Paul Gagnon III

Extraordinary Ministers: Michael Klickovich, Carrie Gagnon, Shareen Ketchem, Louise Perreault, Ron Berthelette

Lectors: Paul Gagnon II, Mary Pinsoneault

Ushers: Bob Flanagan, Mickey Shawbitz, Rachel Metruck

Greeter: Joni Flanagan

Sacristan: Doug Hoover

Elijah Cup: Ron Berthelette

8:00 a.m.

Altar Servers: Jared Dunn, Alina Schorzman

Extraordinary Ministers: Jean Jordan, Eden Carter, Joe Davison, James Johansen, Paul Johansen

Lectors: Patty Dornitz, Paul Landry

Ushers: Tina Henderson, Gary Jordan, Dan Cauley, Kathy Cauley

Greeter: Deidre Henderson

Sacristan: Maria Bridges

Elijah Cup: Eden Carter

Coffee and Donuts: Steve Berthelette, L.P. Henley

10:30 a.m.

Altar Servers: Devony Ross, Karly Casey, Gannon Casey

Extraordinary Ministers: Rick Grecco, Alicia Grecco, Penny Sweeney, Melody Grogan, Jean Schlitt

Lectors: Carolyn Alaniz, Dawn Ciccarello

Ushers: Ray Schlitt, Stewart Grogan, Cord Grogan, Brian Prescott

Greeter: Terri Turnbull

Sacristan: Bill Roth

Elijah Cup: Mike and Petey Brennan

Coffee and Donuts: Barry and Alicia Graham

Saint Peter Parish Prayer Chain: For prayer needs, please contact Susi Evers at 664-9165 or email her at saintpeterparishprayerchain@gmail.com

Hospitalized Parishioners: If you or a family member are hospitalized, please call the Parish Office, otherwise we have no way of knowing who in our parish is there.

In Your Daily Prayers, Please Remember our parishioners who are deployed and:

Monday Johanna Adam*, Charles Cummings*, Steve Lange, Mike and Jeanne Trueting, Jon and Julie Bourg

Tuesday Lynn Graham*, Thomas Holdsworth, Bobby Stockbridge*, Ashley Marie Code, Mary Eichler

Wednesday Gordon Pritchard*, James Smith*, Steve Powell*, Ken and Bette Dellner*, Caroline Frederick, Pam Holt, Barbara Kirschten*, Wilda Mayhew*

Thursday Gene and Pam Bauchwitz*, Robert Welniak, Frank Crowder*, Theresa Stegall, Connie Jordan, Lucille Kesler, Clare Van Zelfden

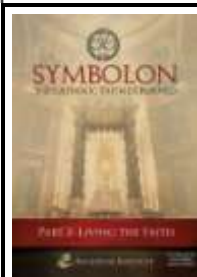
Friday Lloyd Biehl*, Doug Babiak*, Sharon Lewis, Shannon Anderson, Betty Kever, Vera Thornburg*

Saturday Peter Adam*, Mary Anyel*, Joel & Leo Grieves*, Dan Brenton*, Harriett Warren

Sunday Theresa Fowler* Mary Beth Downer, Greg Babiak, Tony Kelly, Jeff Harp

*Indicates our parishioners.

[Please call the church office if you or a family member can be removed from this prayer list.](#)



ADULT FAITH STUDY OPPORTUNITIES The *SYMBOLON* series resumes on Sunday, Jan. 10; 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., and Monday, Jan. 11; 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., in Classroom 4. You do NOT have to have attended the first part of the series to join this one. A Wednesday night group is forming to study *The Bible and the Virgin Mary* beginning Jan. 20; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., in Classroom 1 (Youth Room). If you would like to preview either one, both are available-online, through the parish's FORMED subscription.



BLOOD DRIVE AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST

We are ringing in the new year with a fabulous pancake breakfast and blood drive on Sunday, January 10th from 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. The Knights enjoy making the parish center sizzle with the delicious smells of bacon and sweet maple syrup to top off the fluffy pancakes. The breakfast is free but donations are welcome. Bring your whole family after one of the Masses to enjoy a breakfast out. Let's keep encouraging our friends to join us in the blood mobile. It only takes about 30 minutes of your time to give a pint of blood and it is so appreciated by our community.



We celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph today. This feast was instituted a little more than 100 years ago because at that time, just as today, the concept of family was under attack. Pope Leo XIII, who served from 1878 to 1903, felt that in Europe, in particular, the family was in crisis.

The Gospels do not tell us much about the Holy Family in the years from **Jesus' birth to the beginning of His public ministry. We are aware that they fled to Egypt, returned to Nazareth, and today's Gospel reading tells us of the twelve-year-old Jesus accompanying His parents to Jerusalem.** Today we honor that Holy Family, and we understand that they are a model for us as a Christian family. However, there is also an understanding that we need to be aware that we are part of a bigger family, our faith community as a Church and as a parish.

Just as a family unit cannot function properly without each member playing a part, that is true of our local parish family as well. Each of us needs to play a role and to contribute as a member of that family. That is what stewardship is all about. We must be stewards for our personal families to function, and we must also be good stewards for our parish family to be effective.



Living God's Word

The feast of the Holy Family gives us pause to ponder the phenomenon of family. If we can duplicate the love Mary and Joseph and Jesus had for each other, there's no telling what the positive and rich effects might be.

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The story of the Magi — the wise men — as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, makes several facts very clear. We often focus on the gifts that were brought as examples of stewardship, and, in truth, this story was certainly one of the inspirations for the giving that occurs at Christmas. However, as is often the case, there is a deeper and more meaningful message found here. When they found the child Jesus, they opened their **treasures and they gave "Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."** They did not present the gifts to His parents; they presented them directly to Him. The baby Jesus had no real need for these gifts, and we assume that Mary and Joseph used them in Christ's behalf, to support Him.

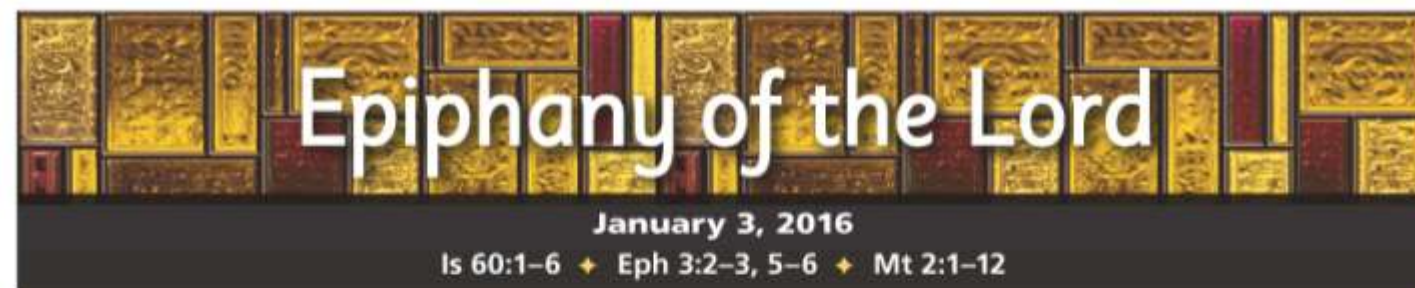
That is what we do when we give to the Church. Although our gifts need to be viewed by us as gifts to God, we also must have a trust, which includes the understanding that those who will use the gifts will use them wisely and justly. The Magi trusted that their gifts would be used in a

way that was beneficial. We need to have that same kind of trust. Most of all, we need to understand the importance of giving, of being good stewards.

Living God's Word

We can pray that the divisions and hatreds will be resolved through the wisdom that is the gift of God. We pray for an increase of wise men and women who are attuned to the signs of God drawing them to join together in worship and live together in peace. The ultimate destination of all people is to arrive in the presence of God.

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Several years ago, our family's longtime neighbor died. She had no children. My mom had helped her in her later years, so we weren't surprised when she received some money from the estate. What was shocking was that a check arrived at *my* house as well. I hadn't done anything to deserve this money; I had always been polite and kind to our neighbor and had visited her sometimes, but I was amazed at her generosity. Without knowing it, I had become an heir to this lovely woman.

On this Solemnity of the Epiphany, we celebrate our own unexpected inheritance—the quite undeserved gift of Jesus. Saint Paul writes that the Gentiles are "co-heirs" to this great gift, but what have we done to deserve such grace? Our culture tells us how much we "deserve" (clothes and so on).

But in the simplest of places—the tiniest of towns, this little hamlet of Bethlehem—comes a gift we could never do enough to deserve. The Magi recognized this—they prostrated themselves in homage and were changed by their encounter with Jesus. They "went home a different way"—not just physically but spiritually.

As the Christmas season winds down and the long-awaited gifts are unwrapped and put away, maybe we can look at the gift of Jesus with Epiphany eyes. May we welcome Jesus today like an unexpected inheritance check—with delighted hearts, humble spirits, and grateful souls.

JANEL ESKER
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

"Find the courage to be liberated from our illusions, our presumptions, our 'lights,' and to seek this courage in the humility of faith and in this way to encounter the Light, Lumen, like the holy wise men."

Homily on
Epiphany of the Lord,
January 6, 2015



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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
C (Opt.) 1
1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Offering What We Have Received

If you took a toddler to church and left the child there for the pastor to raise, you might be accused of negligence. But when we hear that Hannah performs a similar action in the First Book of Samuel, we are to emulate the holiness of her family.

Hannah had gone childless throughout her life, but Eli, the Old Testament priest at the temple in Shiloh, prophesied that she would conceive a son. Hannah promised she would give the son back to God. Eli's prophecy came true, and Hannah made good on her promise. She brought a bull, some flour, some wine—as well as her son—and gave them all to Eli. She later bore five more children. The first son, Samuel, eventually succeeded Eli as priest of the temple.

Although Hannah's specific actions would seem strange today, the general intent of her spiritual life remains an admirable model. Hannah asked God for a particular petition. When God granted her heart's desire, Hannah returned thanks to God by offering in sacrifice some of what she treasured.

All our families strive to be holy. Not every mother has a son. Not every son becomes a priest. But every family can learn the basics of a friendship with God. If you want something, ask. If you receive it, give thanks. When you give thanks, do it with a sacrifice of something you treasure.

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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
C (Opt.) 2
1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

A Child of Hope

Some pregnancies are not expected. They come as a surprise to parents, who find themselves faced with excitement over new life and trepidation over new responsibilities they had not planned for.

Other pregnancies are hoped for. Those children come as an answer to a prayer. Parents still feel excitement and trepidation, but they are a little more prepared for the responsibilities that follow.

Then there are adoptions. In these cases parents take extraordinary measures to obtain a child for their family. They understand the responsibility and they are anxious to have it, to share their love with a child. No adoption happens unexpectedly. The child is always hoped for and embraced.

All of us are adopted children of God. God has taken extraordinary measures to bring us into the family. God sent Jesus to become like us, to suffer for us, and to die for us. The First Letter of John says, "See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are." God did not have to do this; God did it out of love.

Today we celebrate the Holy Family. We celebrate two parents who accepted a pregnancy that was not expected. But John's letter reminds us that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are not the only members of the Holy Family. You are too. You are a child of God.

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December 27, 2015



dear Padre

Did Mary experience labor pains or not?

P I was taught that Mary didn't have labor pains when she gave birth to Jesus because she didn't have original sin. My son's theology teacher says that's not true. Which is it?

The Church hasn't made a dogmatic statement on this question, so there's lots of debate around it. Although the Church teaches that Christ's birth was a virgin birth, the details of the delivery are open to speculation.

Early Church teachings suggest that Mary did not experience labor pains. In the mid-thirteenth century, St. Thomas Aquinas said Mary had no pain when she gave birth (*Summa Theologica*, part III, 35.6). In the sixteenth century, the Council of Trent said the same thing (*Catechism of the Council of Trent*, Article III).

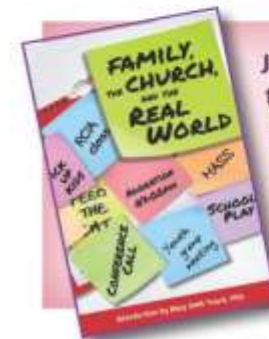
Much of this discussion is rooted in Genesis, when God says to Eve, "in pain you shall bring forth children" (3:16). If labor pains are punishment for

original sin and Mary was born without it, she should have been spared. In fact, regardless of her state, God could have granted her this special privilege.

However, some theologians dispute this logic. First, if baptism "erases original sin" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 405), shouldn't all baptized women be free from labor pains? Secondly, equating labor pains with sinfulness implies that women with difficult labors are more sinful than those with easier ones. This clearly does not agree with Catholic teaching.

Painful or not, Mary accepted her role in bringing Christ to us. This we know.

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Join your children in adding regular prayer moments to your family's days together. Gather over breakfast or on the way to school for a brief morning offering. Bless your meals and end your busy days with quiet bedtime prayers that recall the day and seek God's protection through the night.

—From *Family, the Church, and the Real World*, a Redemptorist Pastoral Publication

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Monday
DECEMBER 28
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
1 Jn 1:5—2:2
Mt 2:13—18

Tuesday
DECEMBER 29
Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2:3—11
Lk 2:22—35

Wednesday
DECEMBER 30
Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2:12—17
Lk 2:36—40

Thursday
DECEMBER 31
Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2:18—21
Jn 1:1—18

Friday
JANUARY 1
Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Nm 6:22—27
Gal 4:4—7
Lk 2:16—21

Saturday
JANUARY 2
Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
1 Jn 2:22—28
Jn 1:19—28

Sunday
JANUARY 3
Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1—6
Eph 3:2—3, 5—6
Mt 2:1—12

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Liturgical Roles†

Weekend of Jan 9/10

5:00 p.m.

Altar Servers: Erin Van Dorn, Kevin Van Dorn
 Extraordinary Ministers: Doug Hoover, Dan Brenton, Patty Shawbitz, Mary Van Dorn, Ken Olson
 Lectors: Eric Van Dorn, Ruth Sykes
 Ushers: Mickey Shawbitz, Bob Flanagan, Joni Flanagan
 Greeter: Keith Lee
 Sacristan: Joe Davison
 Elijah Cup: The Van Dorn Family

8:00 a.m.

Altar Servers: Jared Dunn, Alina Schorzman
 Extraordinary Ministers: Gene Valentine, Bobby Stockbridge, Nancy Brandewie, Bruce Brandewie, Kathy Stockbridge
 Lectors: Cindy Day, Mark Day
 Ushers: Gary Jordan, Tina Henderson, Dan Cauley, Kathy Cauley
 Greeter: Deidre Henderson
 Sacristan: Jean Jordan
 Elijah Cup: Bruce and Nancy Brandewie

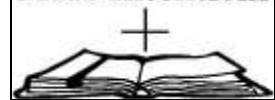
10:30 a.m.

Altar Servers: Alexandra Manion, Karly Casey, Joseph Sweeney, Christopher Manion
 Extraordinary Ministers: Kathleen Garcia, Pat Casey, Becky Bittakis, Elaine Tennyson, Melody Grogan
 Lectors: Pete and Nadine Kuhns
 Ushers: Stewart Grogan, Cord Grogan, Brian Prescott, Jim Wise
 Greeter: Donna Fetter
 Sacristan: Mike Brennan
 Elijah Cup: Elaine Tennyson

Weekly Calendar of Events

- 1/3 Faith Formation - 9:15 a.m.
M.S & H.S. Youth Meetings - 6:00 p.m.
- 1/5 Bunco - 9:30 a.m.
- 1/6 Legion of Mary - 8:30 a.m.
- 1/7 ADORATION - 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- 1/10 Blood Drive & Pancake Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.
Faith Formation - 9:15 a.m.
Confirmation Class - 4:00 p.m.
M.S & H.S. Youth Meetings - 6:00 p.m.
SYMBOLON - 6:00 p.m.

Mass Intentions



Jan 4—Jan 10

Monday Communion Service
 Tuesday Communion Service
 Wednesday Communion Service
 Thursday Communion Service
 Friday Communion Service
 Saturday St. Peter Parishioners
 Sunday **Maureen O'Neill(+)(8:00 a.m.)**
 **Barbara Kirschten(liv)(10:30 a.m.)**

In celebration of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, The Legion of Mary invites you to join in the recitation of the Rosary at the statue of our Blessed Mother on Wednesday, Jan 1st following the 9:00 a.m. Mass. What better way to begin the New Year than to dedicate a **“strand of holy roses” to the Mother of all in request of Her guidance and protection?**

AROUND TOWN MINISTRY gathering will be held on **Sunday, January 17th**, in the parish center from 9-10 a.m. Help yourself to a donut and coffee and join your fellow ministry members as we plan for community outreach events from January through May. We will meet in the classroom next to the kitchen. If you are not currently involved in this ministry and would like to attend to get more information, you are welcome to come.

Stay Connected...**If you haven't registered on Flocknote, it's easy. Flocknote is the tool the parish uses to email and text from various ministries.** Just text stp to 84576 or go online to flocknote.com/peter to sign up with the groups that interest you.

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 27, 2015
 Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 ♦ Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 ♦ Lk 2:41-52

An old joke portrays an Irish couple with several children listening to the priest extolling the obedience of Jesus and the patience of Mary and Joseph and exhorting his congregation to be just like them. When the Mass was ended, the couple turned to each other and one muttered to the other, “Sure to heaven, they were patient—they and their one.” The joke highlights one struggle for many parents: keeping patience while children learn the lessons of life. It’s a job that may seem easier with one than with many.



Today, though, the Holy Family offers an example that applies to all families, whether large or small. Since Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph knew that one day he was going to have to follow his own path. They couldn't choose it for him; they could only prepare him as best they could. After they found him in the Temple and he told them, “I must be in my Father's house” (which can also be translated as “I must be about my Father's work”), they knew he was growing into adulthood and that his time was coming. However, Jesus returned with them because it was not yet time for him to leave, and he remains obedient to them as he always is to his heavenly Father.

All of us who are parents know that we cannot dictate what our children can or should be. We can only help them discern what God has called them to be. In the meantime, we give them the best foundation we can give by praying with them, talking to them, and modeling our own response to God's call.



A Word From Pope Francis
“We need simplicity to pray as a family: simplicity is necessary! ... Christian families are missionary families...in their doing everyday things, as they bring to everything the salt and the leaven of faith!”
 —*Humily for the Family Day, October 27, 2013*

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

