

DECEMBER 30, 2018

“How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul yearns and pines for the courts of the LORD. My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Happy they who dwell in your house! Continually they praise you.”

Psalm 84



Dear Parishioners and Friends;

This weekend we celebrate the **Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph** with the story of young Jesus in the Temple. The Feast of the Holy Family has its origin due to Pope Leo XII in 1893. Pope Leo wanted to highlight the importance of the Christian family and use the Holy Family as a model for all families to follow. While the church is described as the "Family of God" the real roots of the larger church depend on the health and well-being of the individual human family, including our own.

We must not forget that Jesus was born into a human family too. Although Mary and Joseph could not offer the newborn Jesus much material wealth, the surrounding poverty of a stable, what Mary and Joseph did offer Jesus was the greatest gift of warmth and parental love. Mary and Joseph had their share of trials and tribulations through the years, but drew on their faith in God's will for them. The Holy Family shows us an example of how to live together in peace.

Families come in many different shapes and sizes, but the Holy Family is still a model for us all. On this day we thank God for the gift of our own family, each unique in their own way. We ask that Jesus come and be the center and source of divine, eternal love in our family.

May God bless you!
Fr. Gonyo

* * * * *

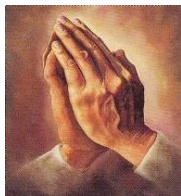
From the Desk of Marie Marton . . .

Every Monday night, Vincenzo, who was all of three years old, would follow his big sister to her first grade, faith formation class. He would just sit during the course of the class. For at least one hour, he would hide behind his mother and refuse to say one word to me. This occurred every Monday night over the course of the school year.

The next school year, as he was following his big sister to her second grade classroom. I called out to him and said, "Vincenzo, I think you grew a foot!" He stopped. He looked down to the floor and replied: "Nope, I stills only got 2." After I successfully kept from rolling on the ground in laughter and tears (and, believe me, that was not easy), I realized that we all may have such different impressions of the same truths and facts.

The same is apparent in today's Gospel reading. Mary and Joseph had one impression of the facts: the son for whom they were responsible—the Son of God at that! ... was missing in a dangerous city. Their hearts were in the grip of fear - as would any parent's heart be at losing track of a child. When they finally found Jesus teaching in the Temple, their thoughts were those of relief and joy. Jesus was just as surprised that they did not think to look to the Temple first, since He was only fulfilling the purpose for which He was sent to earth. His presence in the Temple was so obvious to Him. He was, indeed, very astonished that it was not obvious to them that He "must be about His father's business." Ultimately, Jesus returned home and they lived as any normal family until Jesus began His earthly mission in earnest. But, Mary and Joseph also were impacted by His impression of the situation, since the Gospel does state that Mary "kept all these words in her heart."

Do we limit ourselves to our own impressions? When I asked Vincenzo if he grew a foot, I meant did he grow 12 inches. And that was a true impression. When Vincenzo heard me state he grew a foot, he thought I meant an actual foot-complete with toes and a heel. He never even considered that it meant he was taller. Maybe, there is something to learn from this. Perhaps at this time of year when we are considering New Year's resolutions, it might be helpful to ask our loved ones to constructively and lovingly tell us their thought and sense of who we are. Certainly, it can be difficult to see what is right in front of us about ourselves. Perhaps it is time to ask those whom we trust to helpfully tell us what they see and hints on things we could change or work on for the upcoming year. What could we best change to become a more mature member of God's family and to "grow a foot" in God's eyes?



EUCCHARIST INTENTIONS

Among the intentions for those who gather for the Eucharist this week will be



ST. RITA SCHOOL Spirit of Learning Corner Here's What's Happening . . .

Mass Schedule for the Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God
(A Holy Day of Obligation)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2018 - Mass of Anticipation
NO 8:15am MORNING MASS

5:00PM SHIRL MINTZ – Patty & Joan Janiak

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2019 - Holy Day Mass
9:00AM SANTO PECORA – The Pecora Family

+ The halls of St. Rita School has been very quiet this week as students, faculty, and staff are enjoying the Christmas and New Year's break. When students return on January 2, the school will be back in full swing and the finalist for the National Spelling Bee will compete that night. Mrs. Bansbach's 3rd grade class will begin to prepare for their leading our monthly school liturgy on Wednesday, January 9. Teachers, staff, and PAC members will all be preparing for St. Rita's School Prospective Family Night. If you know anyone interesting in attending St. Rita School please have them join us on Wednesday, January 16 for an informational session and a tour.

+ As a religious community, it is our mission to help others find Christ in their lives and to assist them on their journey to Heaven. As parents, Godparents, and grandparents we work hard to pave the path for our children and to teach them the importance of being Christ-like. We work tirelessly to raise good, respectful, kind, honest, and joy-filled children that will touch the hearts and lives of others as they grow. When they are in our presence, we can help demonstrate love, kindness, and empathy; yet, when separated from us we question if they continue to make these good choices, remember to be kind, and remember to show God's love to others. When they leave for school or a friend's house, we are releasing them and praying for their souls to continue to be nourished. Some of the greatest gifts we can give our children is the gift of faith, the gift of values and morals, and the gift of a strong work ethic. We never want to question whether what we are doing for our children is the right choice; yet, so often we criticize our choices for them and the path we pave for them. However, when we choose St. Rita School as a gift for our children we are choosing a high level of education, a Christ and Christian valued lifestyle, and the assurance that when our child is not in our presence, they are still being taught the importance of the family, church, kindness, and empathy. Our motto is JOY - Jesus, Others, and Yourself. St. Rita's not only educates the mind, it educates the soul and helps to bring these students closer to Heaven. Please consider choosing this gift of JOY for your family.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2019

8:15AM PHIL TRAVIS – Paul & Carol Lurz
11:00AM MASS AT BAYWINDE – Sage Harbor

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2019

8:15AM MARIE DEVOGELAERE – Ann Tiberio

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 2019

8:15AM JAMES WHEELER – Don & Karin Hauza

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2019

11:15AM FUNERAL MASS FOR MARY McMASTER
5:00PM ELMER MAURER – Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019

7:30AM MARGARET FARNUNG - Husband & Family
9:00AM DIANE YOUNG – John & Martha O'Connor
10:30AM MARY DIMONTE – Joe Buscaglia

* * * * * ✝ * * * * *

This week our Tabernacle Light will burn for the deceased members of the Mintz and Wynne families.

* * * * *

St. Rita School . . .

Where Faith and Knowledge Meet!



PROSPECTIVE FAMILY INFORMATION NIGHT

Wednesday, January 16 – meet in Church at 7:00 pm
Tours will be given & Babysitting will be provided

We offer PK3 & PK4 (half & full day options) as well as Kindergarten through Grade 5. Also, a Before School Care Program which is available at 7:00am and After School Care until 6:00pm. We follow the New York State Education Standards and are Middle States Accredited. Tuition Assistance is available. Check out our Website at: <http://stritawebster.org/school>



COMPANIONS IN GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday, January 17
at 7:00pm in Room 1

All who have experienced the loss of a friend or loved one through death are invited to attend. All are welcome!

* * * * *

The Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, December 31 and Tuesday, January 1 for the New Year's Holiday

PLANS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 30, 2018

SUNDAY 12/30 No Breakfast Club - Happy New Year!

WEDNESDAY 1/2

8:45am Pray the Rosary – Church
 8:45am Reconciliation Available in Church
 2:30-3:15pm SRS Children Choir Rehearsal – Rm 3
 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal – Rm 3

THURSDAY 1/3

9:00-10:30am WEROC Women's Group – Rm 1
 9:00-10:30pm Men's Basketball – Gym

SATURDAY 1/5

8:15-8:45am Pray the Rosary – Church
 3:30-4:30pm Reconciliation Available in Church

PARISH SUPPORT

Due to the Christmas Holiday
 our Parish Support and Christmas Totals
 will be published next week.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!
 We all grow spiritually when we share

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL UPDATE:

(As of December 21, 2018)

Catholic Ministries Appeal Goal	\$160,859
Pledges Received to Date	\$126,647
Balance	\$ 34,212

of Gifts: 475 Households

BIBLE READINGS:

- 30 Sun **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**
 Sir 3:2-6,12-14 Ps 128:1-5 Col 3:12-21
 Lk 2:41-52
- 31 Mon **St. Sylvester I** 1 Jn 2:18-21 Ps 96:1-2,11-13
 Jn 1:1-18
- 1 Tues **Mary, the Holy Mother of God** Nm 6:22-27
 Ps 67:2-3,5-6,8 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21
- 2 Wed **Sts. Basil and Gregory Nazianzen** 1 Jn 2:
 22-28 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 1:19-28
- 3 Thu **The Most Holy Name of Jesus** 1 Jn 2:29-3:6
 Ps 98:1-6 Jn 1:29-34
- 4 Fri **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton** 1 Jn 3:7-10 Ps 98:
 1,7-9 Jn 1:35-42
- 5 Sat **St. John Neumann** 1 Jn 3:11-21 Ps 100:1-5
 Jn 1:43-51
- 6 Sun **The Epiphany of the Lord** Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:
 1-2,7-8,10-13 Eph 3:2-3a,5-6 Mt 2:1-12

* * * * *

**ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULED
 NEXT Weekend ~ January 5 & 6**

Saturday, 5:00pm:

Julia Collins, Brianna Andrews, Elizabeth Schillaci

Sunday, 7:30am:

Justin Coumou, Maggie Childs, Evan Tomcik

Sunday, 9:00am:

Family Mass Servers

Sunday, 10:30am:

Julia, Emma and Anna Spagnola, Agostino Bosco

* * * * *

CARE FOR GOD'S HOUSE:

Week of December 16 Parish Staff

LINENS: Week of December 23 Marianne Dunham

* * * * *



FIESTA NEWS

SAVE THE DATES!

Our 65th Annual St. Rita Fiesta
 will be held on:

Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1, 2018!

* * * * *

**2019 ~ MARCH FOR LIFE
 FRIDAY, JANUARY 18**

We are now taking reservations for the **2019 "March for Life" Bus Trip** to Washington, DC. The bus leaves on Thursday, January 17th at 9:00pm from Holy Spirit Church. All are welcome! If you would like to attend please fill out a reservation request form on our website at <http://march4life.gmsander.info>. The cost is \$40.00 per person. Financial assistance is available. For more information, visit the web site, or call Gerry Sander at 585-503-3256 or email committeeeforlife@yahoo.com.



JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST !!

All are Welcome to join us each Sunday morning from 8:30-11:00am in the Parish Center for a warm delicious breakfast!

Order off our full menu offering eggs (anyway), bacon, sausage, pancakes, etc. So sit back and let our Breakfast Volunteers serve you on Sunday mornings September through May!

NEXT SUNDAY (January 6th): Team 1's special is:

The # One – (1 egg, 1 pancake, 1 slice of bacon, 1 sausage link) and a bottomless cup of coffee. This ministry accepts donations only which are greatly appreciated!

* * * * *

FOOD COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND



On the first Sunday of each month, parishioners are asked to bring in food for the needy in our area. Food may be left in the greeting area of Church. Also needed are paper towels, toilet paper, pan spray and condiments. Please remember to bring your nonperishable foods to church with you next weekend.