

THE HOLY FAMILY

OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH



**Mass Intentions
for the Week**

Saturday, December 25th, Nativity of the Lord

9:30 a.m. -

Sunday, December 26th, Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

9:30 a.m. - Philip & Catherine Santore, req. by Rich & Esther Ezold

Monday, December 27th, St. John

8:00 a.m. - William, Stella & William Candella, req. by family

Tuesday, December 28th, Feast of the Holy Innocents

8:00 a.m. -

Wednesday, December 29th, 5th Day of the Octave of Nativity of the Lord

8:00 a.m. - NO MASS

Thursday, December 30th, 6th Day of the Octave of Nativity of the Lord

8:00 a.m. -

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

8:00 a.m. -

Saturday, January 1st, Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

4:00 p.m. -

Sunday, January 2nd, Epiphany of the Lord

9:30 a.m. -

Sanctuary Lamp
Sunday, December 26, 2021
In Memory of
Catherine Santore

In remembrance of those who died,

May they rest in peace.

Weekend of December 19, 2021

Weekly Collection \$
 Online Collection \$

One Collection This Week
 Weekly Collection

January 1, 2022
 Solemnity of Mary

January 2, 2022
 Two Collections Next Week
 Weekly Collection
 Monthly Collection

**Feast of the Holy Family of
 Jesus, Mary & Joseph
 December 26, 2021**

Though today's readings refer to obedience only once, obedience is a thread woven through all the Scriptures for this Feast of the Holy Family. To modern ears, the word *obedience* grates a bit. Isn't that jus for children? Doesn't it suggest a subservient state unworthy of adults?

The Bible understands obedience as humankind's fundamental attitude toward God. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word *shema* means both "hear" and "obey"; it signifies an attitude of listening with readiness to act on what one hears. As the covenant people were called to hear and heed God's Word, so also the people called on God to listen and respond to their prayer.

Hannah, long barren, pleaded with God for a son, and the first reading tells us that God was listening. Samuel was heard and obeyed in gratitude, offering him as Nazirite, set apart for sacred purposes. Numerous psalms, like today's responsorial psalm, give praise for the many ways God listens and responds to our prayer.

In the second reading, Christians are called to keep the divine command to "believe in...his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded." The author of this letter echoes the perspective of the Gospel according to John, which presents Jesus as divine Word made flesh. Jesus Christ not only speaks but is God's Word made visible, calling us to hear and obey.

Luke presents a breathtaking scene: a twelve-year-old Jesus whom the Evangelist has already described as "a savior...who is Christ and Lord", listening to Mary and Joseph, "obedient to them." Though he remained in the Temple because he heard and obeyed his heavenly Father, he behaved the same toward earthly parents. He grew in wisdom and age—and in obedience.

Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

Sunday: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52 or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52
Monday: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8
Tuesday: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18
Wednesday: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35
Thursday: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40
Friday: 1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18
Saturday: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (1b)

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. What we learn from this feast is that Jesus, who is the Son of God and the Son of Mary, shows us the importance of family and family life by becoming a member of a human family in a home in Nazareth with Mary and Joseph.

Usually, when we think of family, what comes to our mind is our blood relatives; parents, siblings, grandparents, cousins etc., in short, people with whom we share a common ancestry with; either through blood lines and or through other genetic or DNA similarities. But on this Feast of the Holy Family, we as Christians are reminded that we are not only a part of and share in an earthy family, a human family via our blood relationships and/or DNA with others, but also by virtue of our baptism we have become members of and sharers in the family of God, we have become members of a spiritual family through Jesus Christ who is our head. Through the shed blood of Christ, one might say that there is a common spiritual ancestral blood that flows through all of us who are baptized.

Because He gave His life and shed His blood for her, the church becomes both bride and mother. “Bride” in the sense that she is always faithful to the faith entrusted to her by Jesus her spouse but also she is called “mother” because is it through her that we have all received not only the truth of the faith but also the gift of new birth and spiritual life through the sacrament of baptism and wherein we are nourished and sustained spiritually throughout our spiritual life by the word of God and the sacraments. Thus, we do speak and refer to the Church as a family, the Family of God.

Sometimes I think as individuals we can easily forget that we are the family of God. At times, instead of being united as one church, professing one faith, one hope, one baptism, as St. Paul states, we sometimes have a tendency to go off in our own direction, doing our own thing, having little or no regard for the betterment of the believing family and community of faith as a whole. In many ways, the church on earth is not so much different than our earthly families here on earth. We have to learn how to love and forgive each other, when to say “yes” and when to say “no.” We have to realize that everything cannot always be our way or the way that we want it to be, we have to learn to compromise. We have to learn how to give and how to receive graciously. We have to be patient with one another, bear with one another, to forgive one another as St. Paul reminds us. Just as it takes effort and commitment on the part of each member of a family to be a family and to make family life work, so it is the same with members of any parish, the church, it takes the effort and commitment of each and every parishioner to make a parish flourish and grow to be living examples of faith and love.

As we celebrate this Feast of the Holy Family, let us all be mindful of the fact that we are all God’s children, members of God’s Family. The following prayer is a prayer that Fr. John P. Rohan, of happy memory, used for many years reminding us just of that fact. It speaks of us as Church as a family.

GOD MADE US A FAMILY

**We need one another
We love one another
We forgive one another
We work together
We play together
We worship together**

**Together we use God’s word
Together we grow in Christ
Together we love all people
Together we serve our God
Together we hope for heaven**

**These are our hopes and ideals
Help us attain them, O God
Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord!**

Cont'd

This Saturday, as we usher in 2022, the start of a New Year may we all work together to continue to build up the family of the Parish Church of St. Michael here in historic Wooster Square, always remembering that we are members of God's Family.

As we enter into this New Year, may 2022 bring us new hope and peace looking ahead to a better future as we continue to move forward making strides against this pandemic.

Note: because January 1st, The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God falls on a Saturday, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

On behalf of myself, Terecita Berrios Rivera our parish secretary, Kathy Mansi our organist and Paul DeNegre our custodian, we would like to wish all the parishioners of St. Michael Church and their families a very Blessed and Peace filled Happy New Year!

Fr. Roy

THANK YOU

A heartfelt Thank you to Jean Quartiano and Margaret Mary Cummings who have volunteered their time to Decorate Our Beautiful Church This Christmas Season.

The Parish office will be closed on Monday, December 27th in observance of Christmas and reopen on Tuesday, December 28, 2021.

Closed on Monday, January 3, 2022 and reopen on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

MASS BOOK

**The Mass Book for 2022 is now open
Masses can be booked from
Jan 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2022.**

Come to the rectory from 9:00am – 12:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday, or call the Rectory at 203-562-7178 to book your masses.

All Masses must be paid in full at the time of booking.

On Line Giving

Realizing that the Coronavirus has affected us in many ways, even financially, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the parishioners of St. Michael's Church who have remembered St. Michael financially by mailing or dropping off your weekly envelopes. We now offer on-line giving through our website, StMichaelWoosterSquare.org, under the Parish Life tab.

Thank you from the Residents of Leeway

Thank you to all who supported the giving tree this year! Your generosity has really helped residents of Leeway who are less fortunate than us. The knowledge that their Holiday season has been improved by our efforts is truly heartwarming and humbling. Thank you for all you've done to make the Giving Tree a success once again!

Please accept our sincerest wishes to you and your loved ones for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Question of the Week

How can I apply the lessons from scripture to the various families I belong to: my immediate family, my extended family, my parish family, my family at school or work, the entire human family?

Please mail me/us a registration form for Saint Michael Church

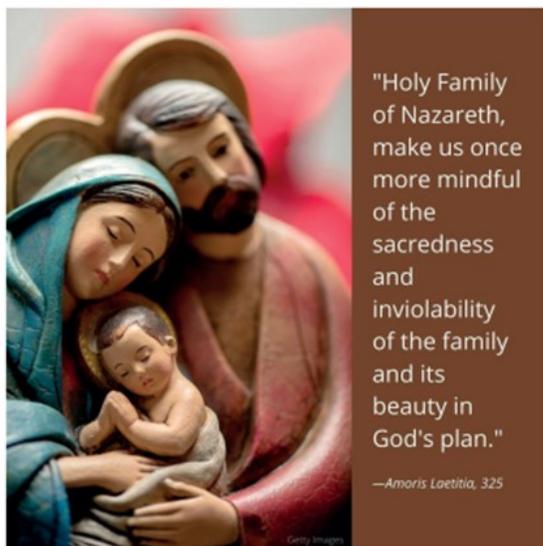
Name _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

**Send this request to:
Saint Michael Church Office:
29 Wooster Place
New Haven, CT 06511
Or place in offertory basket.**

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph
DECEMBER 26, 2021



We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on the - first Sunday after Christmas! This feast day is a reminder to us of the example Mary and Joseph set for all of us in welcoming Jesus into their lives. The Holy Family serves as a model for us all in which to live in faith and simplicity.

Prayer for Family Commitment Dear God our Father, you have called all Christian families to be a sign of your love to the world.

Help us to be generous with the gifts of life and love that you have showered on our family. May we share them so that our homes become true signs of unitive and fruitful love.

Let us never forget to thank you each day for all that sustains us and to look to Christ, who comes to us in the events of family life, in the sacraments of the Church, and in service to the poor.

In all of this, our family becomes a living expression of your Church, a hallowed home of life and love. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may all of us—spouses, parents, and children—share, as members of his Body, in Jesus' mission to build a civilization of love. Father, we ask this in Jesus' name in union with the Holy Spirit. Amen.