

“Out of Egypt I
called my son.”

MATTHEW 2:15





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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH DECEMBER 29, 2019

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

Mass of Anticipation for The Feast of the Holy Family
 4:00PM Carolyn Perretta—2nd Anniversary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

9:00 AM Gene & Mary Verri—Memorial

10:30AM Janet Fayle—11th Anniversary

5:00PM John Bucci—Birthday Remembrance

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

7:30AM John Gardner—Memorial

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31 NEW YEARS EVE

Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

7:30AM Fr. John J. McElroy—Memorial

The Mass of Anticipation for Mary, Mother of God

4:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1 NEW YEARS DAY

The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

8:30AM Angela Valicenti—Memorial

12:00PM Judge Joseph J. Rodgers, Jr.—Memorial

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

7:30AM John "Jack" Donnelly—1st Anniversary

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

Christmas Weekday/Holy Name of Jesus

7:30AM Special Intention

9:00AM Francis X. Ferris—Month's Mind

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

8:30AM Barbara Sanartano—Memorial

Mass of Anticipation for the Epiphany of the Lord

4:00PM Lorraine Kane—Memorial

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

The Epiphany of the Lord

7:30 AM Patricia Hagerty—Memorial

9:00 AM Michelle Santagata—Memorial

10:30AM John "Jack" Donnelly—1st Anniversary

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church





Dear Parishioners:

We continue to celebrate the miracle of Christmas, centered on the birth of Christ. I hope and pray you had a joyful celebration of the Savior's birth with family and friends. Christmas reminds us of the beauty and holiness of the Holy Family as we witness Mary and Joseph adore the Christ Child.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. The importance of their example of faith and love is essential for all families. As Saint John Paul II said, the Holy Family is "*the prototype and example for all Christian families.*"

Today many laws and cultural trends seem to undermine the family. Therefore, families, most especially Catholic families, must model themselves on the Holy Family living as domestic churches, to counter these anti-family forces. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI urged families to "*resist the disintegrating forces of a certain contemporary culture which undermines the very foundations of the family institution.*"

The Holy Family serves as a model first and foremost, because their lives were centered around Jesus, the living Son of God. Every family is called to center their lives around Jesus the Lord. The family that does this grows in holiness and faith. The family that does not simply will not grow in holiness.

Secondly, all the members of the Holy Family strived to do God's will in their lives. In fact, the Holy Family was holy because they always sought to do God's will, not their own. Every family that desires

to be holy is called to do the same echoing the Blessed Mother's "*Thy Will Be Done!*"

Mother Mary gave her "Yes" to God at the Annunciation; Joseph obeyed God by caring for Mary and Jesus. St. Luke recounts that Jesus at age 12 "was obedient to" Mary and Joseph. And as Jesus advanced in "wisdom and age and favor before God and man" He was always obedient, even to death on the cross.

To be Christ-centered, families must inspire one another to become holy. We need to encourage each other to do God's will by doing God's will ourselves always with faith and joy. Every family, no matter its size or experience should help each other to do this by offering a witness to their faith in their daily living.

In the Holy Family, Joseph teaches husbands and fathers, whose primary role is to love and serve their wives and children in all things by providing, sacrificing and inspiring them with examples of strong faith, deep love and great joy.

The Blessed Mother is a great model and intercessor for wives and mothers in how to make their homes true schools of sanctity. Like Mary, wives and mothers must be on fire for the faith and make their love for God contagious, especially for their children.

The Holy Family was holy because they prayed. From the earliest days, the Holy Family went regularly to the Temple. They celebrated the major feasts. His parents taught Jesus Hebrew, like all Jews, by

reading and learning the sacred Scriptures.

Because families are little churches in the large Church, the celebration of Holy Mass — the greatest prayer — always needs to be the heart and center of the Catholic family. Prayer must be the basic structure of family life, particularly daily prayer, rosary and grace at meal times. Also, faithful attendance as a family at Sunday Mass, even before sporting events, and frequent Confession of sins must be part of any faithful Catholic family.

As a model for all families, the Holy Family truly loved each other, sacrificing for each other, bearing one another's burdens and always forgiving. So turn to the Holy Family this weekend in faith and love and learn from them.

We thank Deborah Caparco Runshe and Betsy Caparco Harris of the Hill Funeral Home for once again sponsoring the beautiful parish calendars for 2020. Please take one home with you this weekend. Also, if you know of a shut-in or neighbor who needs a calendar, please take one for them as well.

On behalf of Fr. Barrow, Fr. Connors, and our good Sisters, I wish you many blessings for the New Year! Join us for Mass on New Years Day, there is no better way to begin 2020! It's a holy day of obligation and the schedule of Masses is in the bulletin. Happy New Year! God Bless. Go Pats!

Father Healey



Why do we give gifts at Christmas Time?

Charlie Brown: "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" Linus van Pelt:

"Sure Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about... And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this [shall be] a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men... That is what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown."

During the Advent season Americans will spend billions of dollars on Christmas gifts. A plethora of electronics, clothing, and knick-knacks will make it under the spruce, pine, or fir tree during this season. It is an interesting tradition that we take for granted (would it be a good Christmas if there were no presents under the tree?). It is a tradition that may be traced to the account of the three Magi in the Gospel of Matthew who brought their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh (each representing a different facet of Christ as savior). It is no doubt great to give and receive gifts; to anxiously watch as a gift you gave is opened and (hopefully) the expression of joy comes upon the face of the receiver.

It is a wonderful opportunity to be selfless and to show love for another. It was always difficult for me to go to bed as a child on Christmas Eve. There is, however, the danger of gift giving for the wrong reasons. There could be the thought that if there are not enough gifts under the tree then the person (or parent) has failed to provide. In some cases a gift can substitute for expressing true affection and gratitude toward another. Or it can contribute to an unhealthy attachment to things in this life, rather than the healthy use of them. One of the more dangerous attitudes surrounding gift giving is entitlement (i.e. "I deserve this gift.").

A gift is something given freely and undeservedly. Gift giving is based on God's own gift to us of salvation, when He came down from heaven as Linus so beautifully quoted above. So that when we give gifts to each other, we imitate God's act of free and undeserved love toward us on that night He came down to earth.

Weekly Collection

December 15, 2019

Weekly.....	\$10,000.00
EFT.....	\$2,988.00
	Total=\$12,988.00

Outreach.....	\$1,847.00
Annual (to date).....	\$90,437

If you have been away on vacation or visiting another parish, we kindly ask you to please make up your missed budget envelopes. We depend solely upon your weekly support to meet our weekly parish expenses.

**Thank You for Your Support!
May God Bless Your Generosity!**

Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.

**Second Collections
Next Week: Building & Grounds**



The OLM Parish Office will close on New Year's Eve, December 31st at Noon and reopen on Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 8:00AM.

God Bless You In The New Year



Religious Education
NEWS

• All RE Classes resume next weekend, January 5, 2020! Grades 1-5: 10:00am-11:00am
Grades 6-8: 6:00pm-7:00pm!
Happy New Year!



Outreach
Update

- **OLM Bereavement Group** meets Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 4:00PM in Mercy House. All those experiencing grief or loss are welcome to join us for prayer, discussion and support.
- For more information about OLM Outreach, please contact OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or by email at outreach@olmparish.org

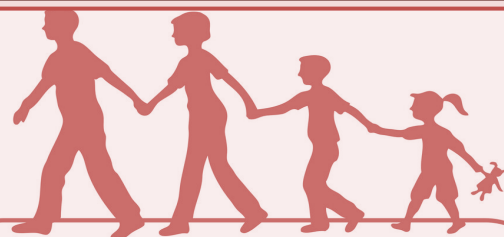


Upcoming Dates To Remember:

- **Thursday, January 2, 2020:** School resumes! Christmas Break Ends! Welcome back!
- **Friday, January 3, 2020:** First Friday Mass at 9:00AM. All parishioners are welcome to join us!

www.olmschool.org

Striving to be Saints & Scholars!



OLM YOUNG FAMILIES

OLM Young Families Meeting
Thursday, January 2, 2020
5:30—7:00PM, OLM School Gym

All young families are most welcome to come to our first meeting of the OLM Young Families group. OLM Young Families is a group dedicated to providing a place for families to come together, learn about important topics of the faith and family life, and a time to come together to support one another.

Pizza served for dinner! Babysitting available!

For more information or just to learn more about our group contact Coordinator Kate Jelinek at: Kate_Jelinek@hotmail.com



First Friday
Eucharistic Adoration
Friday, January 3, 2020

Exposition following 9AM
First Friday Mass

Adoration All Day
Benediction at 6:00PM



THE MEN OF
ST. JOSEPH

Monthly Meeting
Saturday, January 4, 2020 at 7:00AM
OLM Rectory Meeting Room

All Adult Catholic Men are invited to join us for our meeting as we discuss our faith. For more information about this group, contact Fr. Barrow at associate@olmparish.org or 884-4968.

Mary, Mother of God



January 1 is New Years Day in our secular life, but in our liturgical life, it is the solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God.

In the year 431, the Council of Ephesus declared that the Virgin Mary was Mother of God; in Greek, *Theotokos*, “God-bearer.”

Mary was celebrated under this title on the first of January until about the eighth century when the day was changed to mark the circumcision of the Lord.

The reforms of the Vatican II returned the day to Mary, Mother of God but kept the Gospel reading which refers to Jesus’ circumcision.



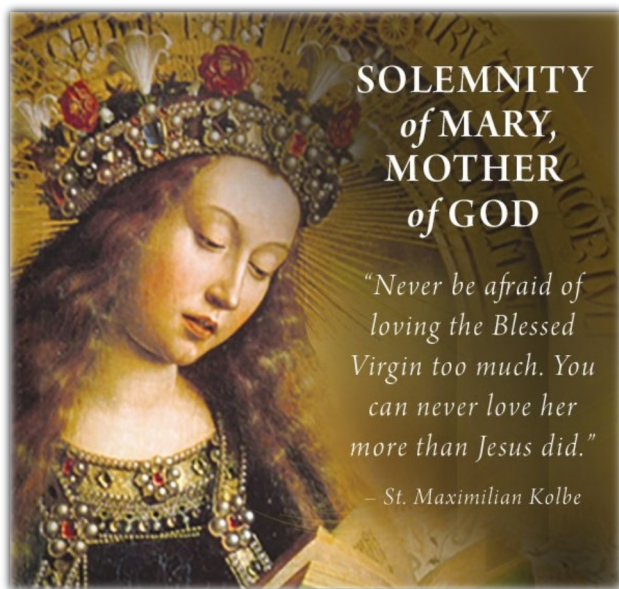
This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.

Congratulations To The Newly Baptized

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Michelino Leo Paolino,
and his parents Michelino & Daniela.

“Dearly beloved, this child has been reborn in baptism. He is now called the child of God, for so indeed he is.” –
The Rite of Baptism



**SOLEMNITY
of MARY,
MOTHER
of GOD**

“Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did.”

– St. Maximilian Kolbe

**The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
A Holy Day of Obligation**

Mass Schedule at OLM

New Year’s Eve, December 31, 2019

Mass of Anticipation at 4:00PM

New Year’s Day, January 1, 2020

Holy Day Masses at 8:30AM & 12:00PM