

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

◆ December 28, 2014 ◆

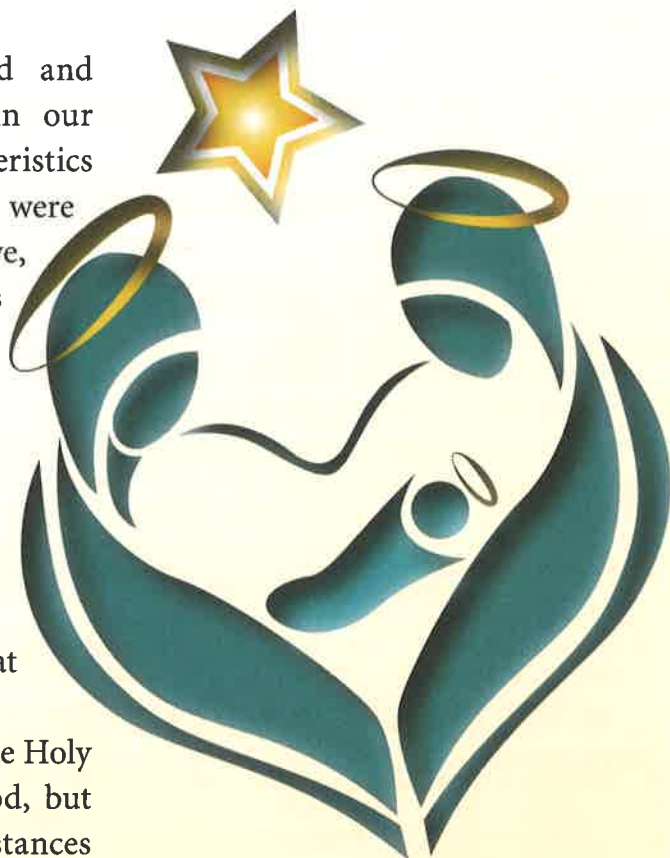
When we were married, my husband and I gradually worked out and grew in our relationship. Four of the characteristics St. Paul mentions in today's reading from Colossians were particularly helpful for us: patience, forgiveness, love, and gratitude. They helped us overcome the challenges of building a life together, and each of our children gave us ample opportunity to practice them over and over again.

By God's grace and with hard work, we've been together more than thirty years. Sometimes I think, "How did we do it?" We did it together, and we did it with God, and I'm so grateful for my husband and for two wonderful daughters who come back home at Christmas and call just to say hello.

So it makes sense that we dedicate one Sunday to the Holy Family. We don't know a lot about Jesus' childhood, but today's gospel tells us that, as unusual as the circumstances were, Mary and Joseph worked with each other and with God to do the right thing for Jesus. They followed the prescribed law, they listened carefully to the prophecies and rejoicing of Anna and Simeon, and they raised God's Son to adulthood—when he showed the world who he was.

Even after that, Mary was with him, loving and grieving for him even at the end. What parent would have done less?

The Holy Family undoubtedly practiced love, patience, forgiveness, and gratitude with one another, even as the Lord taught us to do. We honor them by doing the same.



Today's Readings

Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or
Gn 15:1–6; 21:1–3
Col 3:12–21 or
3:12–17 or
Heb 11:8, 11–12, 17–19
Lk 2:22–40 or
2:22, 39–40

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FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY - DECEMBER 28, 2014

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	MARY BUTLER	THU	9:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
SUN	7:30 AM	FLORENCE & ORLANDO LEBRESCO		11:00 AM	MARION KARWOSKI
	9:00 AM	DOROTHY PETUSKY	FRI	7:30 AM	JAMES RICHARD ABEL
	11:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS	SAT	5:15 PM	ROSE & JIM FONATANA
MON	7:30 AM	ANNETTE BRENNAN	SUN	7:30 AM	JOHN BRADLEY
TUE	7:00 PM	ALICE & JOHN HOFFMASTER		9:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
WED	5:15 PM	MICHAEL BASCELLI		11:00 AM	CHARLES M. O'SHEA, JR.

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Paul Powaski

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Porambo **5:15pm** McNamara **7:30am** Schwendt **9:00am** Grieco **11:00am** Nanni

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMENTATOR</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
SAT	5:15pm	Mike Austrevich	Jennifer Stuart	Carson Endy, Chris and Lindsay Surkosky
SUN	7:30am	Adelina Kieffer	Dennis Piontek	Tucker Di Piazza, Ethan Kraycik, Colby Mullins
	9:00am	Isabelita Santos	Pat Fessler	Amanda and Lauren Marley, Danielle Passifione
	11:00am	Rhonda Ouimet	Jim Keaveney	Kathryn Krueger, Sadie Mangan, Sidney Wolf

The second collection next week is for Church Building & Parish Maintenance

NEW YEAR'S MASSES

NEW YEARS EVE

Wednesday, December 31

5:15pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Thursday, January 1

9:00am, 11:00am

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Joe & Betty Cuccaro, Cecelia Potts, Marco Fiato, Bryan Fiato, John Kakas, William Kuehler, Maryanne Prentice, John LeFosse, Tracy Seasholtz, Aaron Gulla, John Iezzi, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Andrew Martin, Alice Smyk, Barbara Pease, Yolanda Marino, Robert Mariani, Marie Snyder, Irene Wade, Loretta Kozlowski, Patricia Reigel, Patricia Winkel, Ann Kretzman, Ann Schlott, Patricia McDermott, Maryanna Niemczyk, Linda D'Alessandro, Michael Kovach, Lannie Knapp, Mary Pender, Geri Barth, Jo Ann Hofer, Ron D'Augustine, Paul Milshaw, Roger Villano, John Glacken Sr., Jacob Lovera, Tanya Bell, Ronald Readinger and Tom Hafer

Please welcome our new parishioners: Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Stankovich

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS: Monsignor McCann and Deacon Paul Hiryak visit our hospitalized parishioners regularly. If you or a member of your family is hospitalized, call the parish office at 610-582-2411.

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Sat 1/3 4-5pm Confessions

WHAT'S HAPPENING

PARISH OFFICE NOTICE

Our parish office will be closed through January 1st in observance of Christmas and the New Year.

TRANSFER GRANTS: Any public, private, or charter school student who transfers into Immaculate Conception Academy, grades 1 through 7, will receive a Bishop's Tuition Transfer Grant of \$1,500 over two school years (\$1,000 for the first year; \$500 for the second). Call Shannon at 610-404-8645.

Youth Group News - The Senior High School Youth Group will meet Friday, January 9th at 7pm. The Junior High School Youth Group will meet on Friday, February 6th at 7pm. Students of the parish are welcome to attend and bring a friend. Join us for an evening of fun, food prayer and praise.

Save the Date:

**Berks Catholic H.S. Open House/Registration
Sunday, January 25, 2014 2pm-4pm
For info, call Admissions at 610-374-8361, x244.
Financial Aid and Transfer Grants are available**

2015 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CALENDARS are now available in the narthex. We are most grateful to the Dengler Funeral Home for providing these beautiful religious art calendars to our parishioners.

Berks Encore – Birdsboro needs **Meals & Wheels** delivery help (drivers & runners) for routes in Birdsboro (Wednesdays), Douglassville (3rd Monday each month) and Exeter (4th Thursday each month). For more information, contact Patty Barker at 610-582-1603.

World Meeting of Families-Philadelphia 2015 — **Registration Open!** Mark your family calendar for the 8th World Meeting of Families! Philadelphia is proud to welcome families from around the world to this event on September 22-27, 2015. Registration is now open. Families can look forward to speakers, celebrations, activities for kids, and prayer, all of which will bring renewal and transformation for you, your loved ones, and the world. Visit the official World Meeting of Families website at: WorldMeeting2015.org to learn more.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend! The Annual March for Life will be held January 22, 2015 in Washington, DC. Our parish will be sponsoring a bus to the March for Life. Watch the bulletin for additional details.

Calling all young adults! **City Lights: Comedy Night** will take place at St. Joseph the Worker Parish Center, 1879 Applewood Drive, Orefield, from 8-11pm on January 10, 2015. Join us for an evening of food and fun, an opportunity to meet Bishop Barres, and music and laughter provided by comedy duo Dave & Brian. The event is \$10 per person which includes appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages (cash bar available, bring ID). The attire is classy casual (no jeans, t-shirts or sneakers). Pre-registration is required by visiting allentowndiocese.org/citylights.

Life Ad Donation Coupon

Benefits Mary's Shelter and Mary's Home

Be counted when we publish the Anti-Abortion/Pro-Life ad in the Reading Eagle on January 22, 2015. **Deadline for donation is**

December 30th. \$6/person, \$12/couple or family

Place this coupon with donation (check made payable to "Life Ad") into your Sunday Mass collection or mail to: Mrs. Elizabeth Effinger - 1848 W. Schuylkill Road, Douglassville, PA 19518-9101

Parish: _____

Name: _____

Phone#: _____ Amount: _____

SCRIP FACTS

Do you realize that you can reduce your child's tuition at Immaculate Conception Academy, Berks Catholic High School or CCD just by buying SCRIP to use at stores and restaurants that you go to anyway?

It's as easy as...

- 1. Bring a check/cash to any weekend Mass or parish office during business hours to buy SCRIP.**
- 2. Choose the SCRIP you need; basically you are buying a gift certificate. You have just credited yourself 2.5% of the SCRIP purchase price toward school tuition or CCD tuition and made a donation to ICC. And it didn't cost you a penny more than what you would have spent anyway! You'll be surprised at how quickly this can add up! You could literally save hundreds of dollars for the following year!**
- 3. Use the SCRIP at the store or restaurant for your purchase. Pay your Kohl's bill or Boscov's bill (at the East store only) with SCRIP. SCRIP also makes a great gift at holidays, birthdays or anytime!!**
- 4. Meanwhile, ICC keeps a tab on how much credit you have earned. The credit year for school tuition is June 1 through May 31 and is deducted from tuition for the following school year. For CCD, the credit year is March 1 through the end of February for the following year. If you don't designate a family to receive your savings, the church receives the donation.**

SCRIP is available for Boscov's, Redner's, Applebee's, Giant, Red Lobster/Olive Garden/ Bahama Breeze/Smokey Bones/LongHorn Steak House/ Seasons 52, Kohl's and Flynn & O'Hara in many different denominations.

SCRIP is available at the parish office or at each weekend Mass. For more information, call Rita at 610-582-2411.



December 28, 2014

dear Padre

Monday
DECEMBER 29
*Octave of
Christmas*
1 Jn 2:3-11
Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday
DECEMBER 30
*Octave of
Christmas*
1 Jn 2:12-17
Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday
DECEMBER 31
*Octave of
Christmas*
1 Jn 2:18-21
Jn 1:1-18

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

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

Saturday
JANUARY 3
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:29-3:6
Jn 1:29-34

Sunday
JANUARY 4
*Epiphany of
the Lord*
Is 60:1-6
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6
Mt 2:1-12

How do I teach my children about the works of mercy?

Q I've been trying to teach my children about the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Any suggestions?

It's easy to teach young children about the works of mercy as long as you keep it simple and call their attention to what they're doing.

When they set the table and pour drinks, tell them they're feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty. When they bring homework to a sick classmate, they're visiting the sick. If they go to a funeral, they're helping bury the dead.

When they make up with their siblings after a fight, they bear wrongs patiently and forgive all injuries. Siblings who help each other with their homework are instructing the "ignorant."

Children who soothe someone who's been hurt comfort the sorrowful. Praying for anyone, living or dead, is a spiritual work of mercy.

Listening when someone confides in them is counseling the doubtful. Talking a friend or sibling out of doing something wrong is admonishing the sinner.

As your children get older, volunteer as a family with organizations that build homes for low-income families and help the children of prisoners.

Performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, whether for each other or with each other, will bring you closer as a family as well as closer to God.

FR. RICK POTTS, CSSR
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Experience the Holy Land from your kitchen!

Cook up a savory experience of food and faith with free recipes from *Around the Table With the Catholic Foodie: Middle Eastern Cuisine*. Visit Liguori.org/Catholicfoodie by February 28 to get your free recipes and a coupon for 30% off this full-color book of recipes and stories from the author's Holy Land pilgrimage. Enjoy!