

Feast of the Holy Family  
Sunday, December 28, 2014



Sunday, December 28, Feast of Holy Family

- 5:00 +Collins and Duke Families  
8:30 + Clorinda De Maio  
10:00 (Sp) + Carmelo Montanez Rodriguez  
11:30 + John, Jean & Bobby Tramontozzi  
1:00 (Sp) Special Intention

Monday, December 29, Fifth Day within the  
Octave of Christmas

- 9:00 + John Guarracino, Fusco Family &  
Vince and Rosa Zingone  
12:15 + Mildred Blakely

Tuesday, December 30, Sixth Day within the  
Octave of Christmas

- 9:00 + Patricia Henn  
12:15 + Robert Stanton  
7:00 (Sp.) Special Intentions of Estela  
Andujar

Wednesday, December 31, Seventh Day within  
the Octave of Christmas

- 9:00 + Joseph Zane  
12:15 + Robert Stanton

Thursday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary

New Year's Eve

5:00 p.m. Vigil

New Year's Day

8:30 a.m.  
10:00 a.m. (Spanish)  
11:30 a.m.

Friday, January 2, Saints Basil and Gregory

- 9:00 + John Donoghue & Pat Conwell  
12:15 Intention of Christine Kilroe  
7:00(Sp) + Jose and Antonio Morel,  
Luciano Suarez & Maria Disla

Saturday, January 3, Christmas Weekday

- 12:15 + Joe Sinclair  
5:00 + Arthur and Annie Lennon

Sunday, January 4, Epiphany of the Lord

- 8:30 + Parishioners of St. John  
10:00 (Sp.) + Ramon Antonio Almanzar  
11:30 + Robert McCarthy  
1:00(Sp.) + Catalina & Candelaria Javier

**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THIS WEEK'S  
DONATIONS**

The Sanctuary Lamp burning in the Upper  
Church for the week of December 28 to  
January 3 in memory of:

**FR. MICHAEL KENNY, OAR,  
ROBERT J. and KEVIN G, KENNY**

The Sanctuary Lamp burning in the Lower  
Church for the week of December 28 to  
January 3 for:

**SPECIAL INTENTION**

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK.....**



Fr. Peter J. McCrann, SMM , Lindsey  
Guzman, Alice Ann O'Donohue Mason,  
Noreen Liddane,, Timothy Mahoney.

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*Feast of the Holy Family*

The Sunday after Christmas is *The Feast of  
the Holy Family*. It is an opportunity for us to  
recall that Jesus was born into a human family  
and shared in the joys and struggles of family life  
like all of us.

As we know family life is not easy  
especially in our contemporary society. May we  
continue to grow, with God's help and grace, as  
members of our own human families as well as  
members of God's family.

The *III Extraordinary General Assembly of  
the Synod of Bishops* in Rome this past Fall and the  
upcoming papal visit to Philadelphia to attend  
the 2015 World Meeting of Families highlights  
the Catholic Church's ongoing concern in  
addressing the challenges and complexities of  
modern day family life.

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*Prayer for the 2015 World Meeting of Families  
God and Father of us all,*

*in Jesus, your Son and our Savior,  
 you have made us your sons and daughters  
 in the family of the Church.  
 May your grace and love help our families  
 in every part of the world to be united to one another  
 in fidelity to the Gospel.  
 May the example of the Holy Family,  
 with the aid of your Holy Spirit,  
 guide all families, especially those most troubled,  
 To be home of communion and prayer  
 and to always seek your truth and live in you love.  
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
 Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, pray for us.*

### **January 1<sup>st</sup> Mass Schedule**

Thursday January 1<sup>st</sup> is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, a holy day of obligation. Masses will be celebrated:

Wednesday December 31<sup>st</sup>  
 5:00 pm Vigil Mass

Thursday January 1<sup>st</sup>  
 8:30 am (English)  
 10:00 am (Spanish)  
 11:30 am (English)

The parish office will close on Wednesday December 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 pm and will reopen on Monday January 5, 2015.

### **Many Thanks**

Your generosity to St. John's Church at Christmas and throughout this past year is greatly appreciated. Our parish is grateful for your financial support of our various pastoral activities, programs, building expenses, charitable outreach, and administrative costs. Many thanks and may God continue to bless us abundantly in the new year ahead.

### **Did You Know?**

"...And a partridge in a pear tree." These words conclude a well-known Christmas song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.

However most people are probably not familiar with the origin of this song which was written during the English penal times sometime between 1558 and 1829 as a catechism for young Catholics who were forbidden to practice their faith.

It was designed as **mnemonic**, a formula to be used as a way to remember. Each number represents a significant article of faith.

The song itself can be understood on 2 different levels:

- 1) a literal meaning of the words which would appear innocuous enough to the average person
- 2) the hidden meaning behind these words which expressed the religious beliefs of a people who could have lost their lives had their allegiance to the Catholic Faith had been known.

The symbols and numbers may be described in terms of the following:

1<sup>st</sup> Day: **A Partridge in a pear tree**

Jesus as a mother partridge who feigns injury to decoy predators away from her nestlings. The mother dies to protect her young.

2<sup>nd</sup> Day: **2 Turtle Doves**

The Old and New Testament

3<sup>rd</sup> Day: **3 French Hens**

The gifts of the Magi (gold, frankincense, myrrh)  
 The theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Love

4<sup>th</sup> Day: **4 Calling Birds**

The Evangelists: (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)

5<sup>th</sup> Day: **5 Gold Rings**

The Pentateuch (the first 5 books of the Bible: *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*)

6<sup>th</sup> Day: **6 Geese a-laying**

The six days of creation

7<sup>th</sup> Day: **7 Swans a-swimming**

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (*Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, Reverence for the Lord*)

8<sup>th</sup> Day: **8 Maids a-milking**

The eight beatitudes in Matthew's Gospel

9<sup>th</sup> Day: **9 Ladies Dancing**

The nine choirs of Angels

The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:22

10<sup>th</sup> Day: **10 Lords a-leaping**

The Ten Commandments

11<sup>th</sup> Day: **11 Pipers piping**

The eleven faithful apostles (minus Judas)

12<sup>th</sup> Day: **12 Drummer drumming**

The twelve Apostles

The twelve Tribes of Israel

The twelve articles of belief in the Apostles Creed

The 12 days of Christmas are the 12 days from Christmas Day (December 25<sup>th</sup>) to the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6<sup>th</sup>).

### **HIS WORD TODAY**

by Rev. William J. Reilly

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
 December 28, 2014**

**"...He (Simeon) took him in his arms and blessed God in these words: 'Now, Master, you**

**can dismiss your servant in peace; you have fulfilled your word. For my eyes have witnessed your saving deed displayed for all the people to see; a revealing light to the Gentiles, the glory of your people Israel.’ ... ‘The Lord sets a father in honor over his children; a mother’s authority he confirms over her sons.’”**

At the direction of Pope Francis a synod on the family has taken place in Rome. Reflections and reactions have been sought, as the church considers the gift, the needs and the hopes of families in an age when family life has radically changed.

Today we meet the Holy Family of Nazareth. Not unlike ourselves many difficulties and trials came their way. Living as refugees, itinerants, as working laborers, and finally facing trial and condemnation, we can identify with them with the challenges of today.

The prayer of Simeon, part of the night prayer of the church, can be ours as well, as we recognize the presence of the Christ among us during these holidays. It was the Spirit that moved Simeon to take Him in his arms and praise God. May we, as we bring this year to a close, express, as he did, our gratitude for the Lord’s presence in so many ways during this year. May we thank God for support in time of need. May we see the light of Christ in our lives and be that light for members of our family. May we take Him in our arms too.

May our fathers mirror the goodness of Joseph caring for and protecting their children. May our mothers bring the warmth, kindness and understanding of Mary, the heart of the home at Nazareth. May the Christ, born anew in our hearts allow us to live blessed by the presence of God’s grace in our lives. May all the virtues mentioned by Paul in Colossians 3, be manifest in our homes.

### **SU PALABRA HOY**

*por el Reverendo William J. Reilly*

**La Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José  
28 de diciembre de 2014**

**servidor muera en paz, como lo has prometido, porque mis ojos han visto la salvación que preparaste delante de todos los pueblos: luz para iluminar a las naciones paganas y gloria de tu pueblo Israel’ ... ‘el Señor quiere que el padre sea respetado por sus hijos y confirmó el derecho de la madre sobre ellos.’”**

Siguiendo las instrucciones del Papa Francisco, un sínodo sobre la familia se llevó a cabo en Roma. Las reflexiones y reacciones se han buscado, mientras la iglesia considera el don, las necesidades y las esperanzas de las familias en una época cuando la vida familiar ha cambiado radicalmente.

Hoy nos encontramos con la Sagrada Familia de Nazaret. Así como nosotros, muchas dificultades y pruebas les esperaban. Vivieron como refugiados, itinerantes, trabajando como obreros, y finalmente encararon juicio y condena; nos podemos identificar con ellos por los retos de hoy en día.

La oración de Simeón, parte de la oración nocturna de la iglesia, puede ser nuestra también, cuando reconocemos la presencia de Cristo entre nosotros durante estos días festivos. Fue el Espíritu que llevó a Simeón a tomarlo en sus brazos y alabar a Dios. Que podamos, ahora que el año se acaba, expresar como él lo hizo, nuestra gratitud por la presencia del Señor de tantas formas durante este año. Que podamos dar gracias a Dios por su apoyo en tiempos de necesidad. Que podamos ver la luz de Cristo en nuestras vidas y ser esa luz para miembros de nuestra familia. Que podamos tomarlo en nuestro brazos también.

Ojalá que nuestros padres reflejen la bondad de San José al cuidar y proteger a sus hijos. Ojalá que nuestras madres traigan el calor, amabilidad y comprensión de María, el corazón del hogar en Nazaret. Ojalá que el Cristo nacido de nuevo en nuestros corazones nos permita vivir bendecidos por la presencia de la gracia de Dios en nuestras vidas. Ojalá que todas las virtudes mencionadas en San Pablo en Colosenses 3 puedan manifestarse en nuestros hogares.

**“Simeón lo tomó en sus brazos y alabó a Dios, diciendo: ‘Ahora, Señor, puedes dejar que tu**