

*JMJ*

Dear Parishioners,

Today is Holy Family Sunday. We can still identify ourselves with the shepherds of Bethlehem who hastened to the grotto as soon as they had received the Angel's announcement and found "Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in the manger". Let us too pause to contemplate this scene and reflect on its meaning. The first witnesses of Christ's birth, the shepherds, found themselves not only before the Infant Jesus but also a small family: mother, father and newborn son. God had chosen to reveal himself by being born into a human family and the human family thus became an icon of God! God is the Trinity, he is a communion of love; so is the family despite all the differences that exist between the Mystery of God and his human creature, an expression that reflects the unfathomable Mystery of God as Love. In marriage the man and the woman, created in God's image, become "one flesh", that is a communion of love that generates new life. The human family, in a certain sense, is an icon of the Trinity because of its interpersonal love and the fruitfulness of this love.

Today's Liturgy presents the famous Gospel episode of the 12-year-old Jesus who stays behind in the Temple in Jerusalem unbeknown to His parents who, surprised and anxious, discover Him three days later conversing with the teachers. Jesus answers his Mother who asks for an explanation that he must "be in His Father's house" that is God's house. In this episode the boy Jesus appears to us full of zeal for God and for the Temple. Let us ask ourselves: from whom did Jesus learn love for his Father's affairs? As Son he certainly had an intimate knowledge of His Father, of God, and a profound and permanent relationship with Him but, in his own culture He had of course learned prayers and love for the Temple and for the Institutions of Israel from His parents. We may therefore say that Jesus' decision to stay on at the Temple was above all the result of his close relationship with the Father, but it was also a result of the education He had received from Mary and Joseph. Here we can glimpse the authentic meaning of Christian education: it is the fruit of a collaboration between educators and God that must always be sought. The Christian family is aware that children are a gift and a project of God. Therefore it cannot consider that it possesses them; rather, in serving God's plan through them, the family is called to educate them in the greatest freedom, which is precisely that of saying "yes" to God in order to do his will. The Virgin Mary is the perfect example of this "yes". Let us entrust all families to her, praying in particular for their precious educational mission.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Father Newcomb*

***The second collection next weekend will be for Catholic Communications and University. Please give it your prayerful consideration.***



We will have our Spiritual Adoption program starting in January 2018. The Rosary Rally took its place in October. We will end our program in October 2018. We will have our Baby Shower in May of 2018. Sign-ups will be the weekend of Jan. 13/14th. For more info. contact: Nancy Smith 845-856-4610



We will have a bus to Washington, DC on January 19th for the March for Life. Call Nancy for more information. There will be a donation box in the Narthex.

**Save The Date!**  
**Court Madonna No # 114**  
**Catholic Daughters of the Americas**  
**Tricky Tray**  
**Date: Sunday, January 14th, 2018**  
**Place: Most Sacred Heart Hall**  
**48 Ball Street**  
**Doors open at 12 Noon ~ Drawing begins at 2pm**  
**Tickets are 25 for \$1!**  
**For more information contact:**  
**Debbie DiToto, Regent 845-856-8996 or**  
**Barbara Drew, Chairperson 845-856-2624**  
**All proceeds to benefit Community Charities**

*The Mass for the Solemnity of Mary will be celebrated on Monday, January 1st in the Church at 9am*

**In observance of New Years' the parish office will be closed on Monday, January 1st.**

Our parish high school group **S.M.A.R.T.** is having a Christmas Pageant. All children of the parish are welcome to participate. Practice will be today, December 17th from 12:30 until 1:30 in the hall with a run through on January 7th during the religious education classes. Anyone will costumes for angels, wise men etc. are asked to bring them to the practice.

The pageant will be on **Sunday, January 7 at 4pm.** Coffee, water, and cookies will be served after.

We are happy to announce that we have access to **Formed** for another year! You can create your own account **FREE** of charge at [Formed.org](http://Formed.org) and use our parish access code **WXXVJT** to gain access to multiple programs, movies, ebooks, and audios.

Join Cardinal Dolan as we enhance the Culture of Life through knowledge...Notre Dame Vita Institute: NYC on Sat., January 6, 2018 The Sheen Center for Thought and Culture 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Vigil Mass at The Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral

FREE - OPEN TO ALL Advanced Registration Required - Limited Seating. Call Sr. Virginia Joy **646.689.2613** or Sr. Pia Jude **646.476.0931**

**Spiritual Direction Information Session** at The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, 70 Carmelite Drive, Middletown, NY will beheld on Thursday, January 18, 2018, 12:00noon-3:00pm (snow date is Wednesday, January 24, 2018). Light lunch will be served. Cost is \$20pp. Session will be presented by JoAnn Atlas and Fran Fay, both Certified Spiritual Directors. Call Carol Bezak, Shrine Director 343-1879

Due to early printing deadline, the collection for December 23/24 and the Christmas collection will be recorded next week.

**ANNOUNCED MASSES**

- Monday, January 1 (Solemnity of Mary)**  
9:00am Joseph Cox, by Mary Wohlscheid  
Int. Hannelore Kucher, by Toni Marion
- Tuesday, January 2 (Basil the Great; Gregory Nazianzen, bishops and doctors)**  
9:00am Eleanor Kowal, by Bill and Catherine Simons  
Healing Int: John McDonough, by the McDonough fam.
- Wednesday, January 3 (Most Holy Name of Jesus)**  
9:00am Helen Latini, by Ron and Bev Walker
- Thursday, January 4(Elizabeth Seton, religious)**  
9:00am Ralph Marino, by Deacon Rich and Joanne Marino
- Friday, January 5**  
11:30am William Quinn, by wife Amelia
- Saturday, January 6**  
4:00pm Fritz Klostermeier, by Irene Klostermeier
- Sunday, January 7**  
8:30am Joseph Piccolo, Jr., by John and Carol Tunney  
11:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's



*The Sanctuary Lamp will burn brightly this week in the Church, in memory of Margaret "Magee" Hoey, by Diane Stierle and Suzanne Ryerson.*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Joann Wilcox, Jackie Mundy, Theresa Fuller, Donald Wolff, Sue Fitzsimmons, Barbara Straub, Robert Cinerar, Sandy Osbourne, Theresa Kavanagh, John McKean, William Lincoln, Jeanine Lincoln, Michael Barnes, Elizabeth Brennan, Walter Szpakowicz, Frances Brennan, Andrea Fedoruk, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Mercedes Rodriguez, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Thomas Davies, Pat Arnold, William Gaide, Sue Arnold, Steve Wilkinson, William Thomas, Maureen Hildebrandt, Charles Hildebrandt, Aedan Roach, James Roach, Robin Radzikowski, Dotty Lynch, Jesse G Smith, Charlie Gard, Marge Evans, Kaitlyn Smith, Jerome Smith, Joseph Fritts, Patricia Meinhold, Susan Upton, Devin Upton, Kathy Drane, Wayne DeMarco, Danielle Devore, Jennifer Utz, Jacqueline Hamilton, Tonya Cannon, Ryan O'Connor, Peter Billman, Helen Andreano, Tito Rivera, Maryann Gasko, Chris Marion III, Carson Fuller, Neil Stasilli, Luis Medina, and Debi Cotugno.

**Liturgical Ministers for January 6/7, 2018**

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	D. LEGATO	C. WITTINE	J. AND J. LEGATO
8:30AM	M. LATINI	T. CALVARIO, S. RIORDAN, J. TAYLOR	E. AND A. TRUJILLO
11:30AM	M. ESLING	B. DENNINGTON, H. MARINARO	DJ PERRIN, A. EPPS, S. MASCI