



The Holy Family

OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

December 26, 2021

After three days Jesus' parents found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

Luke 2:46

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A child's first words are usually a source of excitement and joy for family members. Today we hear the first words of Jesus in the Gospel according to Luke. And they are challenging ones. "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" The words astounded, astonished, and great anxiety are used to describe Jesus' extended visit to the Temple. How familiar those emotions are to most parents! Had Jesus' parents forgotten the angel Gabriel's words or the prophecy of Simeon? In Luke's Gospel this passage foreshadows Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem where he will experience his own Passover and again be "lost" for three days. The story of Hannah in the first reading confirms the need and nature of trusting in God's activity in our lives. It seems clear that faithful attention to a family's spiritual life is no guarantee that life will be free from hardship.

EMMANUEL: GOD IS WITH US

Could Tolstoy have gotten it wrong when he wrote that all happy families are alike and that unhappy families are each

unhappy in their own way? It seems that the opposite is equally true. Because happy families foster the unique talents and interests of each member, each person shines according to their own lights. A happy family's faith, goals, and challenges will be uniquely their own. Unhappy families, on the other hand, might look very similar in their woundedness, their fears and confrontations, and their tendency to give negative interpretations to another's actions.

It is tempting to conclude that family life today is more problematic than ever. It might be reassuring to learn that the feast of the Holy Family was added to the Church's universal calendar because of Pope Leo XIII's concern for the state of family life—one hundred years ago! During this season of Christmas when families are everywhere, we welcome Emmanuel—the God who has pitched his tent among us.

Today's Readings: 1 Sam 1:20–22, 24–28; Ps 84:2–3, 5–6, 9–10; 1 Jn 3:1–2, 21–24; Lk 2:41–52

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PASTOR: Rev. Michael T. "Mike" Snider

Celebration of the Sacraments:

Mass: Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM
Tues - Fri: 9:00 AM

Reconciliation:

Saturday & Sunday:
45 minutes before Mass

Marriage or Baptism:

Contact the parish office six
(6) months prior to the
anticipated date 903-769-3235

Welcome Visitors!

*We hope that you have enjoyed celebrating Mass with us
and felt welcomed in our church as your "home away from home."*

*Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years,
you are invited to join our parish family. Please come again!*

Holy Spirit

Catholic Church

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Fr. Mike Snider

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holy.spirit2@yahoo.com

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

We remember in our prayers all the sick, especially the following:

Sven Sterner. Kathy Gravatt. Nancy Rasca. Jess Corrigan Jr. Clifford & Frances Jo Moore. Fran & Kathleen Fleming. Naomi Alfred. Dave Cormier. Thomas Holzmann. Jim Hickey. Michael Allen. Joe Fazzio. Ron Emma. Kate Serres. Belinda Flowers. Dona Jordan. Jaye Anderson. Georgette March. Kyle Fabitz. Greg Mooney. Garry Fetsch. Karee Haney. Bollinger Family. Charlie Parker. Tammy Johnson. Carolyn Simmons. Dianne & Gary Lautt. Wanda & George Duke. Doris & Jo Hoffman. Jo Ann Crowell. Ann Richardson. Jacob Stephens. Mary Margaret Ellison. John Kominis. Esther Coronel. Elise Sugg. Joann Rayl. Avery Boultinghouse. Wanda & Mike Stephens. Geri O'Neil. We list the names of our sick Parishioners. Friends and Relatives for one month.

Please pray for the men and women active military service from our parish community:

Dawn Quinn, US Army PFC (Granddaughter of Bob & Jean Quinn). Reid Patrick Hope, US Marine (Nephew of Mike & Wanda Stephens). 1LT Joseph Chandler, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jernigan) Seaman Logan Adkinson (great grandson of Fr. Mike). Jay Guajardo, Navy Rescue School (Great Nephew of Lex & Liza Forster). Senior Airman, Natalie York (Daughter of Steve & Julie York). Pvt First Class Randall Scheaffer US Army (Grandson of Carlos & Pat Gallardo). Lt. Col. William P Shea. (Nephew of Deacon Sam and Nancy Mullen). Lt. "JG" Gary Buchanan; Capt. Blake Gaughan; 2nd Lt. Will Corrigan (Great Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan). Paul Moreno E4 AMT 3rd Class (Grandson of Kathy & Dale Boman). Staff Sergeant Daniel Hodan. U.S. Army (Grandson of Ron & Barbara Eamma). Warrant Officer Michael Hauck (Son of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & brother of Cathy Ellis) & Seaman Rainer Hauck (Grandson of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & nephew of Jeff & Cathy Ellis).

Mass—Intentions

Sat. 12/25 9:00am Christmas Mass. Art Martin+ (M/M Kelly)
Sun 12/26 Zac Gibson (M/M Bonicard)
Tue 12/28
Wed 12/29
Thurs 12/30
Fri. 12/31
Sat. 1/01 Parishioners of Holy Spirit

➔ **No 9:00am Mass or Adoration**

PARISH SUPPORT

Average weekly amounts for the month of October, 2021

Expenditures **\$ 3,882**

Regular and debt & maintenance collections **\$ 3,562**

Attendance **12/18 Saturday** **12/19 Sunday**

Will have the attendance number the following weekend

Pope's Intention for December:



Catechists. Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reflection question:

How can I imitate the Holy Family this week?

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Hannah gives her son Samuel back to the LORD, leaving him in the temple at Shiloh: "As long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD" (1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28) or Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14.

Psalm: Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord (Psalm 84) or Psalm 128.

Second Reading: We are children of God when we believe in the name of God's Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us (1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24) or Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17].

Gospel: Joseph and Mary find the lost Jesus in the temple in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking questions (Luke 2:41-52).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
 O God, who were pleased to give us
 the shining example of the Holy Family,
 graciously grant that we may imitate them
 in practicing the virtues of family life
 and in the bonds of charity,
 and so, in the joy of your house,
 delight one day in eternal rewards.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 God, for ever and ever.

FAMILY LIFE

Christmas celebrates the Incarnation, the "en-flesh-ment" of God as a human person. In Jesus, God is bodily present in the human story. Today we honor the Holy Family, helping us to see that God is active in daily family life. God is near at hand, amidst the tensions, joys, and uncertainties of family life. As our Gospel passage describes, even with family miscommunications and with limited understanding of Jesus' mission, the Holy Family persevered in their life together. Like many family conflicts, there was no immediate or clear resolution of the issues raised by Jesus and by Mary. God's intentions for the family, and for Jesus, were still unfolding. They continued to stay connected with each other and with God. Within the turbulence of family life, they trusted God to actively sustain and guide them into an uncertain future. We are invited to follow their example.

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We are still looking to find a **Director of Religious Education (DRE)** for our **parish**. If you are interested and have questions, please call the office at 903-769-3235 for more information.



And, we are still looking for an **organist for our parish**. If you are interested; you know of someone, or have ideas please call the office at 903-769-3235.



We are in **desperate need** of Ushers and Lectors for Saturdays & Sundays. Please call the church office 903-769-3235 and leave a message.

DECEMBER NEWS & EVENTS

Tues., Dec. 21st—Fri., Dec. 24th: *No 9:00am Mass or Adoration.* Church Office closed all week. If an emergency call Fr. Mike's Cell # 903-490-3883. Diocese of Tyler Closed 12/23—12/24 & 12/31.

Fri., Dec. 24th: *4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass.*

Sat., Dec. 25th: *9:00am Christmas Mass. NO 5:00pm Mass*

Sun., Dec. 26th: *9:00am Mass. No coffee & donuts*

Mon. Dec. 27th: Fr. Mike's 13th Ordination Anniversary

Tues., Dec. 28th—Fri., Dec. 31st: *No 9:00am Mass or Adoration. Diocese of Tyler Closed Friday, Dec. 31st.*

JANUARY NEWS & EVENTS

Sat., Jan. 1st: 5:00pm Mass

Sun., Jan. 2nd: 9:00am Mass No coffee & donuts

Sat., Jan. 8th: 9:00am Patriotic Mass & Rosary

Christmas Schedule

Fri., Dec. 24th: *3:30pm Christmas Music
4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass*

Sat., Dec. 25th: *Holy Day of Obligation
9:00am Christmas Mass*

December Second Collections:

24th & 25th: "Retired & Infirm Priest of the Diocese".

Cenacle of Life: Cenacle of Life devotion each **Wed. from 3:00—4:00pm**. Please join us in church as we pray two rosaries for an end to abortion, euthanasia and all sins against the sanctity of human life. **Questions call Vicki Hauck 817-637-9382**

Legion of Mary—Pilgrim Statue: Our Lady of Fatima Statue is now ready to visit your home. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you may contact: **Marge Clymer, 903-216-7953 or Jane Bidlack, 903-569-7749**. If scheduling permits, the Statue may be kept for two weeks.

SAVE THE DATE

**DIOCESAN WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY MASS**



FEBRUARY 12, 2022

CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
TYLER, TEXAS

2:00 PM

MORE INFORMATION TO COME

The Welcome Committee will again be representing Holy Spirit in this year's **Christmas Golf Cart parade** at Holly Lake Ranch on **Saturday, December 18th** beginning at 4:45pm. If you would like to participate please contact Anna Parker at 903.833.7019 or parkerbiz52@yahoo.com.

On behalf of our "Food Ministry Team" we wish all a very MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Your donations through this year helped feed many needy families in our community. Thank you for your continued support.

If you have questions or concerns please call or text **Robert Mailliard at 503-559-6022**.

**MANY BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS FOR
THIS PROJECT**

Article for the Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal. 22 December 2021 Edition
(Submission date: 17 December 2021) Submitted by Randy Munoz.

So, what is the story behind the good king Wenceslas? In an online article written by Susanne Dietze, *Who is Good King Wenceslas?* (<https://www.hhhistory.com/search?q=wenceslas>), we are able to answer a few questions.

Many of us have heard "Good King Wenceslas," a Christmas carol which tells of a king and his page braving harsh winter weather to assist a peasant on the Feast of Saint Stephen (December 26). But who is King Wenceslas, and how did this song become a beloved holiday carol when it has nothing to do with Christmas? The tale of this kind-hearted king stems from a story about the historical Saint Wenceslaus I, Duke of Bohemia in Czech (907–935). (Wenceslaus, or Wenceslas as he is called in the song, is a version of the Czech "Venceslav.") Wenceslaus's family had not been Christians for long. His paternal grandparents Bořivoj I of Bohemia and Ludmila converted after learning about Christianity from Saints Cyril and Methodius. Their son, Wenceslaus's father Vratislaus I (c. 888-921), was a Christian but he married his wife, Drahomíra, not for her faith, but to establish ties with the Polabian Slavs, as she was the daughter of the tribal chief. Drahomíra was baptized at the time of their marriage, but does not seem to have been truly converted. Their children Wenceslaus and his brother Boleslav were raised as Christians, however. When Wenceslaus was thirteen years old, in 921, his father died. He was too young to rule alone, so his paternal grandmother Ludmila became his regent--but not for long. Wenceslaus's mother Drahomíra arranged to have Ludmila killed, and the poor queen was said to have been strangled by her own veil in September of 921. Drahomíra became regent and at once, took action against Christians. Many were killed. Once Wenceslaus turned eighteen, he gathered the remaining Christian nobles and rose against his mother. They were successful in their campaign, and he sent his mother into exile in Budeč. To prevent fighting between Wenceslaus and his brother Boleslav, the nobles split the country between them. Wenceslaus ruled through a series of military conflicts, and also founded a rotunda devoted to St. Vitus at Prague Castle (now St. Vitus Cathedral). In 935, however, Boleslav followed his mother's example and determined to kill his political rival, even though it was his own brother. After inviting Wenceslaus to celebrate the Feast of Saint Cosmas together, three of Boleslav's friends, Tira, Česta, and Hněvsa, stabbed Wenceslaus. As the duke fell, Boleslav ran him through with a lance. Shortly after Wenceslaus' murder, he was viewed as a martyr, killed for his Christian faith. Within twenty years or so, four biographies circulated about Wenceslaus, which included stories of Wenceslaus' noble deeds and compassion. These accounts influenced the High Middle Ages idea of a rex justus, or righteous king, a ruler of piety and courage.

Holy Roman Emperor Otto I (962–973) posthumously conferred the title of king onto Wenceslaus, who was eventually sainted with a Feast Day of September 28 (a national holiday in Czech since 2000). Wenceslaus has been admired, celebrated, and venerated for more than a thousand years, but the carol we hear during the holidays has only been around since 1853.

English hymnwriter John Mason Neale wrote the lyrics to "Good King Wenceslas" (set to a centuries-old tune), and the song first appeared in *Carols for Christmas-Tide*, 1853. In the church calendar, Christmas lasts for Twelve Days (Dec 25-January 5) so even though the song has nothing to do with Christmas, per se, it is set on St. Stephen's Day, December 26, which makes it appropriate for Christmastide. The legend that inspired the song about Wenceslaus may not be true, but the legacy of compassion and generosity is perfect for Christmas and the whole year through.

Good King Wenceslas looked out
on the feast of Stephen,
when the snow lay round about,
deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shown the moon that night,
though the frost was cruel,
when a poor man came in sight,
gathering winter fuel.

Hither, page, and stand by me.
If thou know it telling:
yonder peasant, who is he?

Where and what his dwelling?
Sire, he lives a good league hence,
underneath the mountain,
right against the forest fence
by Saint Agnes fountain.

Bring me flesh, and bring me wine.
Bring me pine logs hither.
Thou and I will see him dine
when we bear the thither.

Page and monarch, forth they went,
forth they went together
through the rude wind's wild lament
and the bitter weather.

Sire, the night is darker now,
and the wind blows stronger.
Fails my heart, I know not how.
I can go no longer.
Ark my footsteps my good page,
tread thou in them boldly:
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
freeze thy blood less coldly.

In his master's step he trod,
where the snow lay dented.
Heat was in the very sod
which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
wealth or rank possessing,
ye who now will bless the poor
shall yourselves find blessing



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