



## Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

Mass: 9:00 am – Sunday  
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei  
(902) 535-2053



December 29, 2024

### Feast of the Holy Family

The **First Reading** is from the *Book of Sirach 3:2-6; 12-14*. Although all the emphasis, in these verses of holy Scripture just read to us, seems to be on the obligation of children to their parents, there is a profound lesson here for parents too. "Like father like son" is an old and a true saying very often. If the parents fail to do what is right and just in the sight of God they can hardly complain if their children turn out disobedient to God and to them. The young learn more from example than from precept. If parents give their children the example of a life of obedience to the laws of God, and their country—the children will in turn carry out their duties to God, to their parents and to their fellowman. There have been and there will be exceptions, of course, to this rule but they are exceptions: the vast majority follow the pattern laid down for them by their parents. Today, on the feast-day of the only perfect family that ever lived on this earth, I would ask all parents to examine themselves and see how they are fulfilling this grave responsibility—which God has placed on them. Are they preparing their children by word and example, especially by example, to be worthy citizens of heaven where they will be their parents' crown and glory?

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter from St. Paul to the Colossians 3:12-21*. Nothing but a return to the gospel of Christ and to the virtues that gospel demand of us can bring sanity back to the world. Where God is forgotten there is no happiness for man. Where the peace of Christ does not reign there is nothing but strife and hostility among men. Where there is no faith and hope in a future life, the present world is already hell. Let us bring in our own family circle to bring sanity back to our world. Let us have the true peace of Christ in our hearts and in our home, each one carrying out the task God has allotted to him.

The **Gospel** is from *Luke 2:41-52*. The Church has appointed this Sunday within the octave of Christmas as the Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth. She wants all Christian families to try to model their lives on this, the holiest of families that ever lived on earth. No family can ever hope to be as perfect as this one was, but every family must strive to imitate it if only from afar.

In Joseph, the father of the family has his model. Patiently and humbly he worked at his carpenter's bench to provide the necessities of life for his wife and for the child Jesus. He could not always give them all he would wish for them but he did what he could gladly and humbly. To his neighbors he was just another carpenter, unknown to the world, of no importance in their eyes, yet his name will be known and revered until the end of time. Fathers, many (if not most) of you, too, are living a life of obscurity — a life of monotonous toil — a daily struggle to provide bread for your family. If you carry out faithfully the task God has given you, if you provide for and protect the wife and family God has committed to your care you will make the headlines in the world to come, your names will be written in the Book of Life.

Mothers of families, in Mary you have the perfect example you should strive to follow. She was a dutiful, faithful wife and an ideal and loving mother. How often she must have regretted that her beloved spouse had to struggle so hard to earn their meagre, daily bread. How great must have been her grief that she could not give her beloved Child more comfort in his infancy and youth. She had days of sorrow and anxiety, sorrow which culminated at the foot of the cross on Calvary, but she accepted it all as God's will for the salvation of the world. You too have your days of anxiety and your years perhaps of worry — worries which will not end till you draw your last breath. But think of your Model, turn to Mary for courage and for help. She can and will get you the strength to keep going on the hard road of motherhood.

Like her, you too have a great task to perform for God. You have the eternal salvation of your family in your hands. Their future in this world and in the more important world — the next — will depend largely on how you behave as mother of the family. Your greatest joy in heaven, after the beatific vision, will be, please God, that you will be surrounded by your family which, aided by God's grace, you did so much to bring there.

Children: your duty in the family is to love, honor and obey your parents. And your model is none other than Jesus of Nazareth who, though he was God, made himself subject to Joseph and Mary. He who was God, has set you an example which you must follow. Your obedience will never be as perfect as his but it can and should be as perfect as you can make it. Be a comfort and a consolation to your parents. Remember always what they have done for you in your infancy when you could not help yourself. Remember what they have done and are still doing for you in order to fit you to take your place in this life and in the next.

Show your thankfulness and appreciation by doing what they tell you. You may not see the reason for all their restrictions and all their commands but it is because they have your welfare at heart and because they truly love you that such commands and restrictions are placed on you. It is only later on in life that you will fully understand the true love they had for you and the great sacrifices they made for you so that you would be worthy of them and worthy of your heavenly father who gave you to them. Show your appreciation now while you have them.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

**Collection:  
December 22, 2024**

Envelopes	\$230.00
Loose	\$65.00
	\$295.00

**Christmas Day  
December 25, 2024**

Envelopes	\$870.00
Loose	\$220.00
Heat	\$50.00
Cemetery	\$50.00
Donations	\$1,500.00
	\$2,690.00

**Notices:**

**1: Envelopes for 2025:** Due to a computer email glitch our order for the 2025 envelopes was not received in time for the envelopes to be delivered in 2024. We will receive them early in January. You can just use a regular envelope with your number on until we receive the new ones, or use an unused one from 2024.

**2: Church Decorating:** Thank you to all who came and helped decorate the church. A special thank you to the MacNeil family for the beautiful wreaths, and Elaine for the special wreath.

**3: JUBILEE YEAR 2025** The Jubilee Year 2025 will commence on Sunday, December 29, 2024. The theme is Spes Non Confundit (Pilgrims of Hope). Pope Francis decreed that diocesan bishops celebrate Mass in their Cathedrals. It may happen that there will be Holy Doors in St. Ninian's and throughout several churches in the diocese. A jubilee Prayer will be made available and, scripture workshops, youth ministry and other activities are encouraged.

**4: Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup>** will be the last Sunday in the main church. After mass on January 5<sup>th</sup>, we will move into the Guadalupe Chapel (Vestry) for the rest of the winter.

**5: Christmas/New Year's Schedule of Masses** This year the celebration of the solemn feasts: Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) and Mary, Holy Mother of God (New Year's Day) will simply be according to the regular weekend schedule

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024**

St. John the Baptist, River Bourgeois – 4:00pm

St. Peter the Apostle, St. Peter's - 5:30pm

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024**

Sacred Heart, Johnstown – 9:00 am

Holy Guardian Angels, L'Ardoise – 11:00am

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

**Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024**

St. John the Baptist, River Bourgeois – 4:00pm

St. Peter the Apostle, St. Peter's - 5:30pm

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

**World Day of Peace Wednesday, January 1, 2024**

Sacred Heart, Johnstown – 9:00 am

Holy Guardian Angels, L'Ardoise – 11:00am