

## December 26<sup>th</sup> - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

**Saturday, December 25**

8:00am *Christmas Day*  
10:00am † *Cathy & Simon Lauzon*  
12:00pm  
4:30pm

**Sunday, December 26**

8:00am *St. John Parishioners*  
10:00am † *Maurice Brennan*  
12:00pm † *Edith Catalina Martinez*

**Monday, December 27**

9:00am

**Tuesday, December 28**

9:00am † *Pauly Kirkes*

**Wednesday, December 29**

9:00am † *Jose Ernesto Fuentes*

**Thursday, December 30**

9:00am *David Steinbruner & family (safe travels)*

**Friday, December 31**

9:00am

**Saturday, January 1**

8:00am  
4:30pm



### Parish Office Closed

In observance of New Year the Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>**. We will re-open on Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Have a blessed and happy New Year



Solemnity of Mary,  
Mother of God

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

December 13<sup>th</sup> - December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Weekend Offering.....\$ 2,146.00  
Religious Retirement.....\$ 1,160.00

### From the Desk of the Pastor ....

The Holy Scriptures today seek to teach behaviors that manifest tenderness, concern, self-giving, sincerity, patience, forgiveness, mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, responsibility and generosity. The first two readings counsel us into cultivating good habits in order to live a virtuous life, grow incrementally holy and faithful.

However, very little is written about the family life of Jesus. Joseph speaks no words, asks no questions, and gives no sage advice. The New Testament identifies St. Joseph as a carpenter. St. Matthew presents him as one attentive to God's will for him. St. Luke tells us that Mary sought and followed God's Will for her. Both of them are dependent on God's providence and protection. The Simple house of Jesus and Mary and Joseph was certainly a household of living, and radiant faith.

Mary and Joseph live out their marriage vows in fidelity to God's will. They travel far into Egypt at the angel's direction; they go to the temple to present Jesus according to the custom of their ancestors in obedience to the Law of Moses. They make the long pilgrimage to Jerusalem for Passover, where they lose and then find the young Jesus discussing with the learned teachers of the law in the Temple.

A faith filled family filled with awe and wonder, ponders at the marvels God has done. The dawning of our salvation has come through Jesus, our God incarnate. This wondrous Hope of Israel's salvation fulfilled in Jesus is entrusted to the loving and tender care of Mary and Joseph for our redemption. He is raised in the household of Joseph and Mary to learn the propensities of human nature and recognize human frailties. He would experience human vulnerabilities and temptations to disobedience and sin. However, at the same time, He would be inspired watching Mary's and Joseph's commitment to their vows and fidelity to God.

## PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

### The Church is open for Masses

**Weekday masses at 9:00am Monday through Saturday**

**Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30pm and Sunday Masses at 8am & 10am in English and 12 noon en español**

The church is open for personal prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Sundays from 7:30am to 1:00pm. We pray the rosary at 9:30am in English and at 11:30am in Spanish. Come and join us in praying the rosary.

The Parish thanks the Knights of Columbus, Council 615 and our liturgical ministers who generously offer their time, talent and treasure in faithful stewardship every weekend, keeping watch in the church and taking care of the church.

### Opportunities for Participation in Pope Francis's Synod Coming in the New Year!

Pope Francis invites the whole Church to participate in the preparatory process for the upcoming Synod of Bishops on Synodality. This unprecedented opportunity will facilitate discussion and reflection to help shape the Church's understanding of herself and her mission of evangelization and forming disciples. **The Archdiocese of San Francisco will kick-off the local synodal process in January** by asking every Catholic to participate in the Disciple Maker Index survey. The process will continue in February and March with engagement sessions offered throughout the Archdiocese. The Disciple Maker Index survey is a nationally recognized survey administered at parishes around the United States and Canada since 2013 by The Catholic Leadership Institute. The results from this survey will provide baseline feedback from which content for engagement sessions will be developed.

More details will be available through the Archdiocesan website beginning in January - <http://www.sfarch.org/synod>.

Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. As we do so, our Gospel invites us to consider Joseph's protection of Jesus in the face of danger. Just as in the announcement of Jesus' birth, an angel appears to Joseph in a dream. The angel warns him of Herod's plans to harm Jesus. Joseph follows the command of the angel and takes Joseph and Mary to Egypt, returning only after receiving word in another dream that it was safe to do so.

It should also be noted that today's reading omits the verses that recount Herod's order of the massacre of the infant boys in and around Bethlehem. We mark this event on the Feast of the Holy Innocents on December 28.

These events remind us of the difficult reality of Jesus' birth. While the story of the Magi's visit will be recalled in our liturgy on the Feast of the Epiphany, our Christmas celebration is made more sober by the recollection that not everyone received Christ's birth with joy or obedience. Herod's jealousy and malice contrast with Joseph's obedience to the words of the angel. The Holy Family's escape to Egypt and the massacre that Jesus is saved from remind us of the struggles and sacrifices that are required as preparation for God's salvation.

"Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the *fruit of your womb*. And how does this happen to me, that *the mother of my Lord* should come to me?" Mary's role as mother of God places her in a unique position in God's redemptive plan.