

St. John the Evangelist Church

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May the
Spirit of God
Lead You Through
the New Year



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

I would like to wish to all of you and your families a blessed and peaceful Christmas. The First Reading, from the First Book of Samuel, presents the episode in which Hannah offers to the Lord her son Samuel out of gratitude since the Lord allowed her to conceive when she was barren. Every child that we have is a gift from God and we need to bring them up in faith, hope and charity. The Second Reading, from the First Letter of John, offers us the consoling words that we are children of God. God has a wonderful plan for us, which is, to act like children of God. God is going to make it possible to love like Christ loves us. The Gospel, from St. Luke, gives us the account of the child Jesus lost and found in the Temple of Jerusalem. Joseph and Mary go with the child Jesus to celebrate Passover. On their return, they realize that He is not with them. They find him among the doctors talking and discussing with them. In this event, they must realize that Jesus has the mission appointed by His Heavenly Father of giving his life for our sins. With wonder and amazement, Mary and Joseph welcome this mission given to Christ and they raise Him up following God's commandments. Since an early age, Jesus was obedient to his parents and that helped all through his life especially at the moment of offering his life.

In this year of 2024, we have experienced many blessings and challenges as well. There is war and conflict over the world and people are struggling financially. All of this has caused a lot of stress and anxiety. Yet, it is important to realize that God has been guiding us and supporting us in our difficulties and that He has been giving us so many graces. This should fill us with hope and trust for the new year that is going to start soon. God will certainly accompany us and guide us throughout the year. Let us trust in His providential guidance and mercy!

Have a blessed New Year in the Lord!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Homily on Christmas (December 26, 2021) Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth. God chose a humble and simple family through which to come into our midst. Let us contemplate in amazement the beauty of this mystery, emphasizing two concrete aspects for our families. The first: the family is the story from which we originate. Each one of us has our own story. None of us was born magically, with a magic wand. We all have our own story and the family is the story from which we originate. The Gospel of today's liturgy reminds us that even Jesus is the son of a family story. We see him traveling to Jerusalem with Mary and Joseph for the Passover; then he makes his mommy and daddy worried when they do not find him; found again, he returns home with them (cf. Lk 2:41-51). It is beautiful to see Jesus

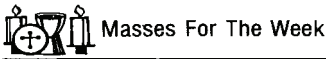
inserted into the warp of familial affections which were born and grew in the caresses and concerns of his parents. This is important for us as well: we come from a story composed of bonds of love, and the person we are today was born not so much out of the material goods that we make use of, but from the love that we have received, from the love in the heart of the family. We may not have been born into an exceptional family, one without problems, but this is our story – everyone must think: this is my story – these are our roots: if we cut them off, life dries up! God did not make us to be lone rangers, but to walk together. Let us thank him and pray to him for our families. God thinks about us and wants us to be together: grateful, united, capable of preserving our roots. We need to think about this, about our own story.

The second aspect: we need to learn each day how to be a family. In the Gospel, we see that even in the Holy Family things did not all go well: there were unexpected problems, anxiety, suffering. The Holy Family on holy cards does not exist. Mary and Joseph lose Jesus and search for him anxiously, only to find him three days later. And when, seated among the teachers in the Temple, he responds that he had to be about his Father's business, they do not understand. They need time to learn to know their son. So it is with us too: each day, a family needs to learn how to listen to each other to understand each other, to walk together, to face conflicts and difficulties. It is a daily challenge and it is overcome with the right attitude, through simple actions, caring for the details of our relationships. And this too helps us a lot in order to talk within the family, talk at table, dialogue between parents and children, dialogue among siblings. It helps us experience our family roots that come from our grandparents. Dialogue with the grandparents!

And how is this done? Let us look to Mary, who in today's Gospel says to Jesus: "Your father and I have been searching for you" (v. 48). Your father and I; it does not say, I and your father. Before the "I", comes "you"! Let us learn this: before the "I" comes "you". In my language there is an adjective for the people who put the "I" before the "you": "Me, myself and I, for myself and my own good". People who are like this – first "I" and then "you". No, in the Holy Family, first "you" and then "I". To protect harmony in the family, the dictatorship of the "I" needs to be fought. When the "I" inflates. It is dangerous when, instead of listening to each other, we blame each other for mistakes; when, rather than showing care for each other, we are fixated on our own needs; when instead of dialoguing, we isolate ourselves with our mobile phones – it is sad at dinner in a family when everyone is on their own cell phones without speaking to each other, everyone speaking on their own phones; when we mutually accuse each other, always repeating the same phrases, restaging an old scene in which each person wants to be right and that always ends in cold silence, that silence you can cut with a knife, cold, after a family discussion. This is horrible, really horrible! I repeat a piece of advice: in the evening, when everything is over, always make peace. Never go to bed without making peace, otherwise there will be a "cold war" the next day! And this is dangerous because it initiates a series of scolding, a series of resentments. How many times, unfortunately, conflicts originate and grow within the domestic walls due to prolonged periods of silence and from unchecked selfishness! Sometimes it even ends up in physical and moral violence. This lacerates harmony and kills the family. Let us convert ourselves from "I" to "you". What must be more important in a family is "you". And please, each day, let us pray a little bit together – if you can make the effort – to ask God for the gift of peace. And let us all commit ourselves – parents, children, Church, society – to sustain, defend and safeguard the family which is our treasure!

May the Virgin Mary, the spouse of Joseph, the mamma of Jesus, protect our families.

DECEMBER 29, 2024



Sat Dec 28- 5:00pm

+Janez Donko
req. by His Wife & Family

Mon Dec 30 –8:20am

+Bonnie Kay Latour
req. by Margaret Lance

Tues Dec 31 – 8:20am

+All Souls in Purgatory
req. by Joe & Joy

Tues Dec 31 – 5pm

VIGIL OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
NO INTENTIONS
Adoration to follow for 1 hour

Wed Jan 1 – SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

9am, 11am, 2pm Spanish
NO INTENTIONS

Thur Jan 2– 8:20am

In Thanksgiving
req. by Aqathe Descartes

Fri Jan 3– 8:20am

+Sonja Hanley
req. by Keith & Marilyn MacDonald

Knights of Columbus, St John the Evangelist Council, meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from Sept to June. Next Meeting is Wednesday Jan 8th, 2025 at 8PM at the Knights Hall at 133 Brock St North. For further information call or email Bryan Childerhouse bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com or call 416-508-9877

CWL 2025 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Calling all CWL members and ladies of the parish to renew or join the Catholic Women's League at St. John the Evangelist after masses on Saturday, January 18th and Sunday, January 19th. This one-stop women's organization focuses on faith, service and social justice. Become active and involved in your area of interest. Your place is among us. If you have any questions, please contact Lynne Childerhouse at 905-431-6582 or lchilderhouse@hotmail.com.

OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2024

8:20AM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2024

5PM VIGIL MASS

ADORATION 6PM TO 7PM

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 1, 2025

SOLEMNITY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

9AM, 11AM, 2PM SPANISH

FIRST COMMUNION



PARENTS MEETING

Tuesday January 21st, 2025 7:00pm
in the Church

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Preparation Classes

Saturday January 25th

Saturday March 1st

Saturday March 29th

Please refer to the Sacrament schedule for session times

The Jubilee officially begins on December 24, 2024

The Jubilee Prayer 2025

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both
humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. Amen
Franciscus

Office closed noon on Dec 31st and re-opens Jan 2nd. Happy New Year!

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