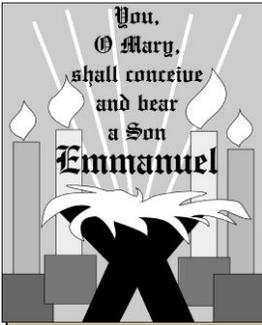


DECEMBER 31, 2017

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

Scripture Meditation: Genesis 15:1-6; Hebrews 11:8, 11-12,17-19; Luke 2:22-40

Today is the perfect day to reflect on the past year's blessings and set our hopes on those to come. This is a day to be amazed at God's blessings – and to know that even better things have yet to come! "Thank you Lord for being with us this years, and stay close to us in the New Year as well!" Printed with the permission of The Word Among Us 2017



CELEBRATION OF MASSES THIS WEEK

Table with columns for Day, Date, Time, and Priest/Event. Includes entries for Dec 30-31 and Jan 1-7 with various mass times and officiants.



PRAYER CORNER: Your prayers are requested for the sick and the suffering. Please pray for the good health of: Fr. Andy, Msgr. Cuneo, James Bepko, Mike Dunn, Ceil Elias, Millie Elias, TJ Recupido

HNJ Faith Formation Program: Dec. 31~ No Religious Education classes Jan. 7 ~ Students (No Confirmation Class)



Monday, January 1, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Because the solemnity falls on a Monday, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation. However, all our parish family is invited to celebrate and honor our Blessed Mother at Mass on Monday at 8:00 AM or 10:00 AM.

Fr. Andy thanks you for your prayers and well wishes as he continues to recover at CareOne in NJ. If you would like to send him a card, please send to: LTACH – CareOne at Trinitas Regional Medical Center 225 Williamson ST., Elizabeth, NJ 07202 Rev. Andrew Marus

Sanctuary Candles for the Month of January are given in Loving Memory of Michael Rubbo, by Vincenza Parravano

St. Joseph's Altar Candle is given in Loving memory of Anna and William Lashinsky, by Mary Ann Salvaggio



Our sympathy and assurance of prayers is extended to the families of: Mary VanGrowski and Helen Guman, who were buried from our church.

Our Parish Nurses will be available next weekend, Jan. 6 & 7, to take blood pressure readings and answer any medical concerns. The nurses will be in the Church Vestibule/ Confessional Room following all the weekend Masses.

YOUTH CHOIR NEWS: The next rehearsal for the Youth Choir will be on Wednesday, January 10, at 5:15 PM to 6:30 PM in the Church Choir Loft.

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, January 1, and Tuesday, January 2.



The Holy Name of Jesus Men's Society's next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18, at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall.

Holy Name of Jesus Men's Society presents a PASTA DINNER – Saturday, January 20, from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall. Menu includes: Pasta, Meatballs, Salad, Bread, Butter, Dessert, Coffee and Soda. Free Will offerings gratefully accepted. For more info contact Larry Wells at lawman56@optonline.net or 203-375-2836

Calling all men of the parish – the Knights of Columbus, Council 2370 – of Holy Name of



Jesus Church – invite you to consider joining. *The Knights of Columbus is not just a fraternity in name. It is a brotherhood of Catholic men who each play a part in improving the world around them, one community at a time. If you are interested in helping those in need, serving your parish and growing in your faith - please contact Stephen Mieczkowski at 203-378-9521. Monthly meetings are held at Holy Name of Jesus Parish Hall. Upcoming events include a Valentine's Day Dinner Dance in February. www.kofc.org*

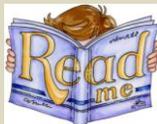
Knights of Columbus Museum – Peace on Earth – Crèches of the World – will be on display until February 19, 2018. *The exhibit has crèches from around the world, celebrating the diversity of cultures that created them and the history of Christianity in their regions. Neapolitan diorama, Polish szopki, stone sculptures from Zimbabwe and Hummel figurines are on display, along with crèches from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Loyola University, Chicago and St. Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal Quebec. **The museum also features its annual Christmas Tree Festival of two dozen Christmas Trees with handmade ornaments and trim made by Connecticut elementary schoolchildren.** The display continues through January 28 and visitors are invited to vote for the "People's Choice" tree. 1 State St. New Haven kofcmuseum.org 203-752-4182 Free Admission & parking – Gift Shop – Open daily 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.*

Stormy Weather: If Stratford Schools are "delayed" or closed because of Snow, our HNJ 7:30 AM Weekday Morning Mass will be cancelled.



School Delays and Closings are Announced on Radio station (WICC) and TV (Local Channel 8) or the Stratford School website www.stratfordk12.org

Thank you to our Bulletin Sponsors, local business men and women, who have faithfully advertised in our parish bulletin for many years. We also welcome our new sponsors. Please check the back of the bulletin, and when you have need of their services, let them know you found them in the HNJ bulletin!



Evangelization Corner: *Today's feast reminds us that Jesus lived a real human life among real people. The Son of God became the obedient son of a foster father and a mother who, together, accepted him and walked obediently in God's mysterious ways.*

National Migration Week 2018 (January 7-13)

For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. The theme for National Migration Week 2018, "Many Journeys, One Family," draws attention to the fact that each of our families have a migration story, some recent and others in the distant past. Regardless of where we are and where we came from, we remain part of the human family and are called to live in solidarity with one another. Unfortunately, in our contemporary culture we often fail to encounter migrants as persons, and instead look at them as unknown others, if we even notice them at all. We do not take the time to engage migrants in a meaningful way, as fellow children of God, but remain aloof to their presence and suspicious or fearful of them. During National Migration Week, let us all take the opportunity to engage migrants as community members, neighbors, and friends.

Good and gracious God, we thank you for the gift of families. We are grateful for all of the joy and love that they bring into our lives, and we ask that you provide special protection for all families, particularly those who face hardships as they move in search of a better life. Show mercy to those who travel in danger, and lead them to a place of safety and peace. Comfort those who are alone and afraid because their families have been torn apart by violence and injustice. As we reflect upon the difficult journey that the Holy Family faced as refugees in Egypt, help us to remember the suffering of all migrant families. Through the intercession of Mary our Mother, and St. Joseph the Worker, her spouse, we pray that all migrants may be reunited with their loved ones and find the meaningful work they seek. Open our hearts so that we may provide hospitality for all who come in search of refuge. Give us the courage to welcome every stranger as Christ in our midst. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen. USCCB.com

Defending Our Religious Liberty :Religious freedom is a precious right. It is also a *necessary* right – necessary for all people and all societies if they are to flourish. Scholars have shown that when religious freedom for all is protected in law and valued in culture, it brings with it political stability, equality for women, economic growth, and social harmony. Let us pray that when the federal health care mandate is changed, religious freedom is safeguarded for all people.

Financial Support of our Parish-Week of Dec. 25, 2017 will be published in next weekend's bulletin.