

### **Public Masses Cancelled**

Due to the province wide lockdown, the public Masses are canceled until further notice.

Father Joe will say Mass every day and will remember you all in his daily Mass at this time of lockdown.

### **THANK YOU**

A BIG THANK YOU to all volunteers who are helping at the parish: The Volunteers who have decorated the church, the Lectors, the Eucharistic Ministers, the Gift Bearers, the Sacristans, the Altar Servers, the Children's Liturgy Teachers, the Choir members, the Guitarists, the Organists, Ushers, the people who are cleaning the church, the altar cleaners and women that wash the linens every week, our weekly helpers that go to the Nursing Home and Birmingham Centre and the collection counters and the schedule markers.

Thank you also to any volunteer that I may have missed mentioning.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your prayerful participation as well as your financial support to this parish all throughout the year.

This is your parish so please continue to support and let us all grow together as a faith community.

Once again, Thank you so much to you all.

Pope Francis announced:

**From Dec 8, 2020- Dec 8, 2021 is a Year of St. Joseph**

### **Pope's Monthly Prayer Intentions: DECEMBER**

#### **For a life of prayer**

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

#### **Prayer to St. Joseph:**

**"O Saint Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most Loving of Fathers."**

### **Holy Family- Dec 27, 2020**



#### **Sunday's Readings**

##### **First Reading**

*Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3*

##### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 105:1-6,8-9*

##### **Second Reading**

*Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19*

##### **Gospel Reading**

*Luke 2:22-40*

#### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. This celebration is assigned to the Sunday within the octave of Christmas

Today's Gospel describes the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple and shows Joseph and Mary as devout Jews, following the prescriptions of the Law of Moses. In Jerusalem, Luke reports that Mary and Joseph encounter two devout Jews, Simeon and Anna, who recognize the infant Jesus as the fulfillment of Israel's hope for redemption. In Simeon's words we find a prediction of Mary's witnessing of Jesus' death on the cross.

Today's celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family highlights the importance of family in our religious life. We know that Mary and Joseph's faithfulness to God enabled them to cooperate in God's plan for our salvation by accepting the responsibility to raise God's Son, Jesus. From his parents, Jesus learned how to be a faithful believer in his Jewish tradition. Simeon's prophecy about Mary's sorrow alerts us to the importance of a family's commitment to one another, a commitment that is expressed in both good times and bad.

Gather as a family and recall times when your family showed its commitment to one another in good times and in bad. Recall times when your immediate family was supported by members of your extended family. Note that today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, and we see in the family of Jesus an example for our own family life.

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#### **First Reading**

*Numbers 6:22-27*

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 67:2-3,5,6,8*

#### **Second Reading**

*Galatians 4:4-7*

#### **Gospel Reading**

*Luke 2:16-21*

#### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

In today's Solemnity, this reading also helps us focus on Mary as the Mother of God. The reading tells us at least three things about Mary as a mother. First, Mary is described as a reflective person, keeping the reports of the shepherds in her heart. Second, we are reminded of how obedient Mary was to God when she named the baby *Jesus* as the angel Gabriel had directed. Third, this reading shows Mary and Joseph faithfully observing their Jewish tradition by having Jesus circumcised. Mary's faithfulness to God is evident in all three of these things. Her reflection upon the events in her life indicates that she was a person of prayer. This prayer made possible her obedience to God and God's will, even if the outcome was not clear. Finally, her faithfulness to a community of faith grounded her relationship with God and enabled her to participate in God's plan of salvation. Because of Mary's faithfulness to God, she was able to receive the gift of God's Son and accept her role in God's plan for salvation. By doing so, she models for us the path of discipleship and is also called Mother of the Church. Our call to discipleship also includes these three aspects. First, discipleship means prayer and reflection on the events of our lives that we might see God's presence and work in our lives. Second, discipleship means obedience to God and God's will. Third, discipleship includes fidelity to a community of faith.

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#### **Liturgical Calendar:**

**Mon Dec 28- Holy Innocents**

**Tue Dec 29- St. Thomas Becket**

**Thurs Dec 31- St. Sylvester I**

**Jan 1- Mary, Mother of God**

**Jan 2- St. Basil & St. Gregory**

### **Prayer to the Immaculata**

O Immaculata, Queen of Heaven and Earth, refuge of sinner and most Loving Mother, God has willed to entrust the entire order of mercy on to you. I, (State your name), a repentant sinner, cast myself at your feet, humbly imploring you to take me with all that I am and have, wholly to yourself as your possession and property. Please make of me, of all my powers of soul and body, of my whole life, death and eternity, whatever most pleases you.

### **Parish office closed**

Due to the province wide lockdown, the Parish office will be closed until further notice. We will still work from home. We are happy to help you in any of your spiritual needs. Please contact us if you need us by phone or email.

### **New Year Wishing**

**May the faith of God be with you and your family;  
May the peace of God surround you and your family;  
and may you and your family be blessed each day.  
We wish you a Happy New Year 2021.**

"O Saint Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires."

"O Saint Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most Loving of Fathers."

"O Saint Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss his fine head for me and ask him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath."

"Saint Joseph, Patron of departed souls – pray for me. (Mention your intention) Amen."

**Humankind is a great, an immense family...  
This is proved by what we feel in our hearts  
at Christmas.  
- St. John XXIII**