

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph



Reflection

Today's readings have a strong and obvious theme of God's faithfulness. How does this relate to the Feast of the Holy Family? How does this help us understand our own families and our role in them?

I remember one day when my first child had just discovered that game all toddlers love while sitting in their high chair: dropping food and watching Mommy frantically clean up. Grace delighted in dropping bits one by one, even dropping them on me as I was bent over, cleaning up. I was getting frustrated; but later, while she was blessedly napping, I reflected on St. Teresa of Kolkata's words about the holiness of little things done with great love.

What is family life but a series of little things, mundane chores, done over and over? It is keeping faithful, staying with the routine: the lunches, drop offs, sign ups, forms, backpacks. The day-in and day-out of family life is not glamorous or exciting but it does call out from each of us a depth of faithfulness that finds its inspiration in God's faithfulness to Abraham, to Simeon, and to Anna. These holy ancestors only realized God's presence, the graces of the events, because their "eyes had seen [God's] salvation." Do we have eyes to see the graces in the ordinary, everyday life given to us?

Maureen Wicken
Vancouver, BC

©Living with Christ/Novalis/Bayard Presse Canada. Used with permission.

First Reading:
Genesis 15.1-6; 17.3b-5, 15-16; 21.1-7

Responsorial Psalm:
*The Lord is our God,
mindful of his covenant forever.*

Second Reading:
Hebrews 11.8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel:
Luke 2.22-40

– THIS WEEKEND –

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Scripture tells us practically nothing about the first years and the boyhood of the Child Jesus. All we know are the facts of the sojourn in Egypt, the return to Nazareth, and the incidents that occurred when the twelve-year-old boy accompanied his parents to Jerusalem. In her liturgy the Church hurries over this period of Christ's life with equal brevity. The general breakdown of the family, however, at the end of the past century and at the beginning of our own, prompted the popes, especially the far-sighted Leo XIII, to promote the observance of this feast with the hope that it might instill into Christian families something of the faithful love and the devoted attachment that characterize the family of Nazareth. The primary purpose of the Church in instituting and promoting this feast is to present the Holy Family as the model and exemplar of all Christian families.

Excerpted from *With Christ Through the Year*
Rev. Bernard Strasser, O.S.B.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Through the sacrament of baptism, the following children will be initiated into the Catholic faith and welcomed into our parish community. We congratulate their parents and Godparents.

Erica Marilyn Copland,
daughter of Margaret and Craig

Isabel Lianne Grygiel,
daughter of Katarzyna and Marek

Logan Robert Heatherington,
son of Patrycia and Robert

Marcus Julian Danescu,
son of Irena and Liviu

Milo Ted Misiak-Kus,
son of Karen and Mark

Tobiasz Matuszewski,
son of Malgorzata and Blazej

Wedding Anniversary Mass

Today at the 11 a.m. Mass, we pray for God's grace and blessing for the following couples celebrating their wedding anniversaries:

- 60th Eugenia and Tadeusz Szuber
- 53rd Elzbieta and Marian Zajac
- 49th Janina and Zenon Bogucki
- 40th Malgorzata and Miroslaw Ciesla
- 35th Zofia and Henryk Dabrowski
- 17th Malgorzata and Miroslaw Prochowski
- 12th Beata and Ryszard Kapustka

– COMING UP –

MONDAY, JANUARY 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Mass Schedule:

8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am, 1 pm, 2:30 pm, 7 pm
No confession / Parish office is closed

Of all the Marian feasts of the Church, this day dedicated to Mary, Mother of God, is the greatest. Drawing on scriptural and patristic sources, it celebrates Mary's role in the Incarnation and in redemption. In this way, her special relationship with her son is emphasized, and she is acknowledged as a model of the Church. This day is marked as a holy day of obligation in Canada.

ROSE 56 will lead the rosary this week.

Kolbe Seniors Club

Mass for all members of the Kolbe Seniors Club will be celebrated on **Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 10 a.m.** Following Mass, there will be a meeting at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre.

Happy Birthday Fr. Bogdan

This coming Friday, our pastor Fr. Bogdan will celebrate his birthday. As a parish community, we send our warmest wishes of peace and joy, an abundance of God's graces, the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the protection of Mary Immaculate. Let us keep Fr. Bogdan in our prayers and take a moment to wish him a happy birthday.

Upcoming Devotions

First Thursday of the month, January 4
Prayer for vocations at 6:30 p.m.

First Friday of the month, January 5
Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus after the 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Masses.
Confession starts at 6 p.m.

First Saturday of the month, January 6
Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary after the 8 a.m. Mass

First Sunday of the month, January 7
Holy Rosary Devotion at 7:15 a.m.

Oblate Retreat

From **January 8th to January 12th** all Oblates will be away at their annual retreat. Please pray for God's blessing and guidance for our priests during this time of retreat and renewal. There will be no morning Mass on those days.

– IN MEMORIAM –



The following parishioners passed away recently. Let us keep them in our prayers.

- ✠ Teresa Sobik, 104
- ✠ Helena Kobylinski, 96
- ✠ Kazimiera Folcik, 95
- ✠ o. Jan Szkodzinski OMI, 85
- ✠ Jan Krzyczewski, 83
- ✠ Jadwiga Meljon, 81
- ✠ Rafal Czarnocki, 77
- ✠ Jan Piszko, 76
- ✠ Leslaw Fuksa, 73
- ✠ Andrzej Bulgarski, 72
- ✠ Jan Kiel, 70
- ✠ Franciszek Turzanski, 68
- ✠ Richard Wojcik, 63
- ✠ Janusz Majkutewicz, 62
- ✠ Malgorzata Faltny, 57
- ✠ Piotr Choczynski, 39
- ✠ Paulina Opolski, 37

– OTHER NEWS –

QuoVadis Children's Foundation

Next weekend, after each mass, QuoVadis Children's Foundation will be collecting new pajamas, winter boots, and school supplies for underprivileged children ages 6-18 from the orphanage *Nasz Dom* in Miejsce Piastowe, Poland. Small monetary donations will be greatly appreciated as they will enable the shipping of parcels overseas. May God Bless you for your kindness and support.

Offertory Envelopes for 2024

Offertory envelopes for 2024 are arranged in alphabetical order in the parish hall on the right-hand side of the stage. Please pick them up and write your full name and address on the first envelope in your set. Also, please do not use envelopes from previous years.

Parish Registration Change of Address

Are you formally registered at the parish? Has your address changed?
Ours is an ethnic parish. Our parishioners are those who are of Polish descent and are formally registered at this church. Please note that we are not able to issue any references or letters of eligibility to non-parishioners. Registration forms and change of address forms can be found in the parish hallway. Please fill them out and place in the collection basket on Sunday.

– COMMUNITY NEWS –

Traditional Polish Caroling

The John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre is organizing a Christmas Carols Concert on **Saturday, January 6 at 3 p.m.** Guests include traditional carolers *Sokoly*; modern and jazz singers Bartosz Hadała, Marek Majewski, and Jarek Garbowski; and Polish Highlander Folk Group *Harnasie* and *Mali Harnasie*. This concert is free of charge. All are welcome.

Novi Singers – Christmas Concert Sunday, January 7, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Church
Novi Singers Toronto and Toronto Sinfonietta, under the musical direction of Maciej Jaskiewicz, are hosting a concert entitled "Christ is Born," featuring Joseph Zeidler's Shepard's Mass and classic Christmas carols, performed by Karolina Podolak, Novi Singers, and a Children's Choir. Suggested donation to cover the cost of the production is \$20.

Radio Maria Banquet

Radio Maria Christmas Banquet will be held on **Sunday, January 14, 2024**, at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre. Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. and banquet will begin at 1 p.m. The event includes a hot meal prepared by Jan Gromada, a lottery, caroling, and a Christmas concert by Kinga Mitrowska. Tickets at \$75 are available from:

- Health from Nature Store (416) 532-9805
- Something Special Store (905) 629-2347
- Joanna Szydłowska (905) 818-1040
- Joanna Strzezek (905) 845-3553

Pilgrimages

Guadalupe April 8 – 14, 2024
Medjugorje May 3 – 13, 2024
For more information please contact:
Marzena (647) 284-1631
Malgorzata (416) 859-8469

Anointing of the Sick

•A hospital chaplain – a Roman Catholic priest – is employed full-time at local hospitals and is on-call 24 hours a day. To arrange a **hospital visit**, please ask a nurse to call the priest on duty.
•Please contact the parish office if you or your loved one require a **home visit** from a priest.

– MASS INTENTIONS –

MONDAY January 1, 2024

- 8⁰⁰ ✠ Stefania, Jan, and Edward Kabara
- 9³⁰ ✠ Janina and Ed Wielgus – daughter Diana
- 11⁰⁰ ○ In thanksgiving for the gift of life of children and grandchildren, and for God's blessing and grace for the Stolarz family
- 13⁰⁰ ○ In thanksgiving on the 2nd wedding anniv. of Magdalena and Jimmy and for God's blessing for their family
- 14³⁰ ✠ Jozef Kozdra (8th anniv.) and from Wilkisz, Kozdra, Andruszkiewicz families
- 19⁰⁰ ✠ Janina Fiwek – children and families

TUESDAY January 2, 2024

- 8⁰⁰ ✠ Romuald, Wanda, Kazimierz Kulesza
- 10⁰⁰ ○ For members of Kolbe Seniors Club
- 19⁰⁰ ✠ Mieczyslaw Cisalowicz and Zofia Dul – son and family

WEDNESDAY January 3, 2024

- 8⁰⁰ ✠ Anna and Henryk Ojdowski
- ✠ Wojciech – Godmother and family
- 19⁰⁰ ○ Collective Mass Intentions

THURSDAY January 4, 2024

- 8⁰⁰ ✠ Helena Czubyryj
- In thanksgiving for the gift of motherhood, God's protection, and healthy labour for daughter Joanna – mother
- 19⁰⁰ ○ For God's blessing for all Priests and Religious

FRIDAY January 5, 2024

- 8⁰⁰ ○ For God's grace for Fr. Bogdan and Fr. Jan on their birthdays
- 10⁰⁰ ✠ Jan (1st anniv.) and Sabina Cwalinski – daughter
- 19⁰⁰ ✠ Jozef Lech (35th anniv.) – daughter Barbara and family

SATURDAY January 6, 2024

- 8⁰⁰ ○ For members of the Rosary Family and Knights of Mary Immaculate
- 17⁰⁰ ○ For God's blessing and health for Marta and Tomasz Sawarski on their 6th wedding anniv. – mother
- 19⁰⁰ ○ For health, conversion, guidance of the Holy Spirit and healing of relationships in Barbara's family

SUNDAY January 7, 2024

- 8⁰⁰ ○ For members of the Rosary Family and Knights of Mary Immaculate
- 9³⁰ ✠ Stanislaw Gdyczynski (5th anniv.) – wife and family
- 11⁰⁰ ○ For Parishioners and Benefactors
- 13⁰⁰ ✠ Edward Romasz (2nd anniv.) – wife
- 14³⁰ ✠ Edward, Kazimiera, Tadeusz Studzinski, grandparents, and family members – daughter and family
- 19⁰⁰ ✠ Marianna Basak (anniv.) – son Janusz and family

Please inform the parish office of any errors in the spelling of the above names.