

Feast of the Holy Family Sunday

The feast of the Holy Family is usually observed on the Sunday immediately following our celebrations on the birth of Jesus at Christmas. It is a time when we can reflect on the quality of our own family life in the light of the Holy Family.

The family had gone to Jerusalem, according to their regular custom, to celebrate the Passover with thousands of other pilgrims. We are told that Jesus was just 12 years old, the age when he was regarded as entering adulthood and be required to observe all the requirements of the Mosaic Law. This partly explains his behaviour on this occasion. As the caravan of pilgrims (very likely the people of Nazareth went together with relatives and neighbours) was on its way home, Mary and Joseph suddenly realise that the Jesus is not with them. They probably searched for Him everywhere. Finally, the parents went to the Temple and were amazed to find their boy calmly sitting with the religious teachers and discussing with them. And he impressed them with his intelligence and the answers he was giving to their questions. They all then went back together to Nazareth where peaceful family life resumed as it had been. But this interlude was a presage of things to come. Their Son had a very special mission which went far beyond the life in Nazareth. Only later would the Mother understand. For now, she stored the memories in her heart.

Pope Francis' Prayer for Families

...I would like to ask you, dear families: Do you pray together from time to time as a family? (...) Praying the Our Father together, around the table, is not something extraordinary: it's easy. And praying the Rosary together, as a family, is very beautiful and a source of great strength!

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love, to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division: may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer.

Individual Blessings of Families

On the occasion of the Feast of the Holy Family there will be an opportunity for individual blessing for families. Following the Mass on Saturday at 5:00pm and on Sunday at 10:00am Fr. Marian Gil OMI will be praying in front of the altar over individual families for God's blessings upon them.

St. Teresa of Avila:

If Christ Jesus dwells in a man as his friend and noble leader, that man can endure all things, for Christ helps and strengthens us and never abandons us. He is a true friend.

January 1, 2019

**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
World Day of Peace**

The theme of the 52nd World Day of Peace — to be observed on January 1, 2019 —, and of the Pope's Message for the occasion is "Good Politics at the Service of Peace," announced the Vatican in Italian on November 6, 2018, a few days before the great celebrations for the centenary of the end of the 1914-1918 War. In this regard, it may be helpful to recall the "Beatitudes of the Politician", proposed by Vietnamese Cardinal François-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận, a faithful witness to the Gospel who died in 2002:

"Blessed be the politician with a lofty sense and deep understanding of his role.

Blessed be the politician who personally exemplifies credibility.

Blessed be the politician who works for the common good and not his or her own interest.

Blessed be the politician who remains consistent.

Blessed be the politician who works for unity.

Blessed be the politician who works to accomplish radical change.

Blessed be the politician who is capable of listening.

Blessed be the politician who is without fear.

Every election and re-election, and every stage of public life, is an opportunity to return to the original points of reference that inspire justice and law. One thing is certain: good politics is at the service of peace. It respects and promotes fundamental human rights, which are at the same time mutual obligations, enabling a bond of trust and gratitude to be forged between present and future generations."

Mass Intentions

December 31 – January 6, 2019

Monday, December 31, 2018 – 5:00 p.m.
Intention of Rokicki Family – Rokicki Family

Tuesday, January 1: 10:00 a.m.
Intention of Rokicki Family – Rokicki Family
Happy New Year

Wednesday, January 2: 8:30 a.m.
Intention of Rokicki Family – Rokicki Family

Thursday, January 3: 8:30 a.m.
Intention of Rokicki Family – Rokicki Family

Friday, January 4: 8:30 a.m.
Intention of Rokicki Family – Rokicki Family

Saturday, January 5: 9:00 a.m.
Intention of Rokicki Family – Rokicki Family

Saturday, January 5: 5:00 p.m.
+Norman Mueller – Helen Mueller & Family

Sunday, January 6: 10:00 a.m.
Mass for Members of St. Teresa Parish

Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar 2018

Monday, December 31 – Rev. Peter Meyer
Tuesday, January 1 – Rev. Jim Petrie
Wednesday, January 2 Holy Cross Fathers
Thursday, January 3 – Rev. Kevin Cull
Friday, January 4 – Rev. Stephen Gilbert
Saturday, January 5 – Rev. Marko Puljic
Sunday, January 6 – Epiphany of the Lord

Stewardship Report

December 16, 2018	
Sunday Envelopes.....	1,915.00
Loose.....	169.45
Building and Maintenance.....	10.00
Funeral - Forwell.....	150.00
Church Donation – Rabak.....	50.00
Church Donation - Sue's Calorie Club.....	50.00

New Sunday Missals for the New Liturgical year 2018/19 are available for purchase at the back of the church for \$5.

2019 Contribution Envelopes will be at the back of the church this weekend (know your Envelope #, they will be in numerical order).

Vocations

By Baptism we are God's holy family. Pray today for the grace to live faithfully your vocation as a single, married, ordained or consecrated person. If you think God is calling you to be a priest, call Fr. Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton: 905-528-7988, x2246.

C.W.L. MEMBERS, IT'S NOT TOO LATE! Ladies 16 and over, please renew your membership or join (we would love to have you join us). Membership fee is \$25 and can be put in the collection basket or drop off at the parish office. You can use the special envelope in your envelope box or put in plain envelope marked CWL. Include your name, address, phone number and email. Any questions, please contact Mary Helen Stroeder at 519 570 4375.



Catholic Women's League Warmth and Comfort Project - We have collected over 300 pairs of warm winter socks (brand new!) for the poor, the homeless and for those who live on the street. We are well on our way to making a mountain. Keep up the good work and, again, thank you for your generosity.

Christmas Party Wrap-up

MANY, MANY thanks to all who attended the parish Christmas dinner and party last weekend. The food was GREAT thanks to the many volunteers who helped to make and serve it (and clean up afterwards!) Art Thomas did a wonderful job of entertaining the children and getting us all in the Christmas spirit with Christmas carols and OF COURSE the visit by Santa was a highlight for the children. Thank you all so very, very much! **Merry Christmas everyone!**

St. David Catholic Secondary School - Grade 8 Parent and Student Information Night

Any students who live within the St. David Boundary and are planning to attend Grade 9 in September 2019 are invited on Thursday, January 10, 2019 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Please come with your parents to visit St. David and see all of the wonderful programs that we offer. Grade 8 students attending public school are also invited with their parents to this information session.

SVDP Donation Envelopes

Anyone donating to SVDP with their church envelopes in the 2019 envelope box, please make sure to write your name and address on the front if you would like a tax receipt. Thank you for your help.