

# The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 31, 2017

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## GOD'S WORD HAS BEEN FULFILLED

In this joyous Christmas time, it is fitting that we turn our attention from all the angels and shepherds and kings to take a look at the more intimate picture of the Holy Family in their ordinary life. They come with Jesus to consecrate him to the Lord, as is written in the law, and they come upon Simeon and Anna, prophets of the Lord, who have amazing things to say about this child and Mary, his mother. One can wonder what Mary must have thought when Simeon told her that "you yourself a sword will pierce." We interpret that in hindsight she would suffer greatly at the crucifixion of her beloved son. But what must she have thought at the possible literal interpretation of this prophecy? And yet she was, as always, obedient to God and accepting of God's word for her.

## TWO PROPHETS

Simeon and Anna recognized in this infant the Messiah of God. Both were "righteous and devout" and prayed in the temple constantly. Simeon spoke at length to Mary and Joseph about this child, and Anna proclaimed to all the salvation of Israel in Jesus. Throughout the centuries, God had made use of many prophets to proclaim the coming of Jesus, as Jesus explained to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus after his death and resurrection. But people, being hard-hearted and somewhat clueless, did not recognize these prophecies as referring to the Messiah and later, to Jesus. Many in his time heeded the words of the prophets and believed, but many walked away. To those who believed, he gave the words of eternal life. They believed that "the one who had made the promise was trustworthy." These loving parents would protect and raise this miraculous child, and he "grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him."

Today's Readings: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40

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## LA PALABRA DE DIOS SE HA CUMPLIDO

En este jubiloso Tiempo de Navidad, es apropiado que cambiemos nuestra atención hacia todos los ángeles, pastores y reyes a observar más íntimamente la imagen de la Sagrada Familia en su vida ordinaria. Ellos vienen con Jesús para consagrarlo al Señor, así como está escrito en la Ley, y se encuentran con Simeón y Ana, profetas del Señor, ellos tienen palabras maravillosas que decir acerca del niño y María, su madre. Uno podría preguntarse lo que María debió de haber pensado cuando Simeón le dijo "y a ti, una espada te atravesará el alma". Podemos interpretar en retrospectiva que ella sufriría extremadamente al pie de la cruz, mientras su amado hijo agonizaba clavado en la cruz. Pero, ¿qué es lo que ella debió de haber pensado en una interpretación literal de esta profecía? Y todavía, ella estaba, como siempre, obediente a Dios y aceptando la palabra de Dios dirigida hacia ella.

## DOS PROFETAS

Simeón y Ana reconocieron en este bebé al Mesías de Dios. Ambos eran justos y devotos y en el templo oraban frecuentemente. Simeón habló a María y a José extensamente acerca de este niño, y Ana proclamó a todas las personas la salvación de Israel por medio de Jesús. A través de los siglos, Dios se ha servido de muchos profetas para proclamar la venida de Jesús, así como Jesús explicó a los dos discípulos en el camino de Emaús después de su muerte y resurrección. Pero las personas, siendo de corazón duro y algo despistadas, no reconocieron esas profecías que se referían al Mesías y posteriormente a Jesús. Muchos en su tiempo pusieron atención a los profetas y creyeron, pero muchos se alejaron. Para aquellos que creyeron, él dio las palabras de vida eterna. Ellos creyeron "que Dios habría de ser fiel a la promesa". Estos padres cariñosos protegerían y criarían a este niño milagroso, y él "iba creciendo y fortaleciéndose, se llenaba de sabiduría y la gracia de Dios estaba con él".

Lecturas de hoy: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Sal 105 (104):1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lc 2:22-40

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## Please Pray for the Sick

### Prayer List Updates



Alejandro De Leon	Laura Reyes Gutierrez	Alfredo Moreno
Delia Riojas	Mary Garza	Delia Lopez
Petra Chavez	Jose A. Ponce, Jr.	Abigail Rodriguez
Joe & Cecilia Espinosa	Elisa Casanova	Rose Loa Gallegos
Pablo Rodriguez	Alexander Hernandez	Roxanne & Linus Joseph
Dolores Gonzalez	Pedro Caballero	David Colbath
Joe Moreno	Eric Nave	Victims of First Baptist
Clara Perez	Sofia Olivarez	Church of Sutherland
Rick Contreras	Deacon Jesus Rodriguez	Springs, Texas
Brandon Rivas	Rosalinda Rodriguez	Lisa Marie Rodriguez
Liz Quintero	Connie Cardenas	Linda Davila
Justin Rey Martinez	Rosalinda Esparza	Christine Rosales
Antonio Aguero	Cynthia Sandoval	Yvonne Neilon
Elvia Diaz	Ismael Montañez	Ricky Lopez
M/M Margarito Compean	Estella De La Vega	Yamil Traspaña
Roberta Bobbie Garza	Diana Calderon	John Ruiz
Frances Ramirez	Susan Perez	Evelyn Parra
Alex Tapia	Guadalupe Huerta	Coach Lisa Robertson
Norma Morgan	Arleen Soliz	

We thank God for the healing of so many sick parishioners. Please be courteous and call the Parish Office if your loved one is no longer suffering or sick. Thank you.

## CONTRIBUTION REPORT THIS WEEK

DECEMBER 23 - 24, 2017

5:00 PM	-\$ 860.00	(110)
8:00 AM	-\$ 481.50	(098)
10:00 AM	-\$2,424.00	(333)
6:00 PM	-\$ 887.00	(216)
Midnite Mass	-\$1,738.00	
School Mass	-\$ 95.45	
Christmas Day Mass	-\$ 276.00	
Christmas Envelopes	-\$1,645.00	
Good Samaritans	-\$ 411.25	
Assumption Seminary	-\$ 108.00	2nd Collection
2017 Gift of Giving	-\$ 205.75	
Mail In	-\$ 305.00	
<b>TOTAL COLLECTED</b>	<b>-\$9,436.95</b>	

## 2017 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions 12/23 - 24, 2017	\$ 205.75
<b>RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,430.21</b>

## Mass Intentions for the Week

### Saturday, December 30

5:00 p.m. † Mary Jane Felan - Friends

### Sunday, December 31

8:00 a.m. † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño

† Cesar S. Lopez - Wife & Family

10:00 a.m. † Aurelia Garai - Family

† Ryan Sanchez - Family

12:00 p.m. † Yvonne Forde - Tillie Hernandez

### Monday, January 1 - SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Holy Day of Obligation

10:00 a.m. † Deacon Cena - Family

† Viviana Reyes - Garcia Family

† Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family

In Thanksgiving Jose & Jesus Castillo Families

### Tuesday, January 2

12:00 p.m.

For Health Coach Lisa Robertson

### Wednesday, January 3

12:00 p.m. † David Solis

### Thursday, January 4

12:00 p.m. † Aurelio Banda

### Friday, January 5

12:00 p.m. Isaias de Ecuador

### Saturday, January 6

5:00 p.m. † Frances Soikowski - Family

† George Hernandez - Wife & Family

† Ninfa Villanueva - Share the Word

### Sunday, January 7 - EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8:00 a.m. † Telesfora Martinez - Rose Rodriguez

† Eloy Alvarado - Family

† Cesar S. Lopez - Micaela Vargas

10:00 a.m. † Lionel Medina, Sr. - Family

† Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family

12:00 p.m. † Jo Ann Medina - Family

## *In Loving Memory*

We pray for the souls of our dearly departed who have passed from our parish community:

† Aurelio Banda

### Sanctuary Light

† Frances Soikowski



## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners:

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each one of you a Happy New Year 2018!

May the year 2018 allow us to be the agents of love, hope, compassion, understanding, healing and mercy. May our kind gesture, either spiritual or material, embody the spirit of the year 2018 rooted on Christmas' spirit which allows us to be joyful in anticipation of the second coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. We are ultimately grateful to God for sharing his only begotten son Jesus Christ and for the new year 2018.

I thank all of you who participated in the preparation of Christmas. My appreciation goes to the entire decoration team, the choirs, lectors, extraordinary ministers, altar servers, hospitality, my office staff, our school, our children and all of you who attended and participated actively in all the activities and celebrations for Christmas.

On a personal note, I am thankful for the tokens of appreciation afforded me such as Christmas gifts and most importantly the love of the newborn Savior. May the spirit of Christmas carry us through in the year 2018.

I am grateful to all of you who donated more than a \$1 every weekend for the purpose of assisting individuals and families in need of receiving a Christmas celebration. Our community has generously raised \$15,330.21 and served 30 families which leaves us a balance of \$5,430.21. Thank you for inspiring me and in providing for those in need. I am extremely proud of my parish community and will always be honored to be your Pastor. I hope we continue to be as generous as we have been these past two years by continuing to donate toward **Christmas Gift of Giving**.

I congratulate all the Youth ACTS for a successful ACTS retreat held this past weekend. We pray for them and hope this unique experience has impacted them to become disciples of the Lord. I encourage each one of them to get involved in our community. Please serve your God in any capacity. We have been blessed with life, talents, resources and relationships to be used for the glory of God.

Our sanctuary has been greatly improved by the addition of a new wooden crucifix ordered from Italy that is placed in the center of the altar against the wall above the Tabernacle. Two new stands have been added, the Tabernacle is placed on one and the other upon which reposes the statute of St. John Berchmans. A special sanctuary lamp has been suspended beside the tabernacle. The crucifix, that previously hung above the altar, has been placed in the chapel. We, as parishioners, are requested to respect and care for our sanctuary especially by handling religious items that inspire us to get close to God with the ultimate of care.

May God bless you always,

Father Fidèle Okitembo Dikete, Pastor  
fr.fidèle@stjohnberchmans.com

# Announcements

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## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** - Those who honor their parents will be greatly blessed and will atone for sins (Sirach 3:2-14)

**Psalm** - Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways (Psalm 128)

**Second Reading** - Be thankful; do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:12-21)

**Gospel** - The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom (Luke 2:22-40). The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Tue: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28

Wed: 1 Jn 2:29 - 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34

Thu: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42

Fri: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 1:43-51

Sat: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11

Sun: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-13; Eph 3:2-6; Mt 2:1-12

## Events of the Week ~ Dec. 31 - January 7, 2017

### Sunday, December 31 - NO CCD CLASSES

7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy - Church

8:00 a.m. **Spanish Mass** - Church

10:00 a.m. **Mass** - Church

12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Church

### Monday, January 1 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 a.m. **Mass** - Church

### Tuesday, January 2

12:00 Noon **Mass** - Chapel

7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group

### Wednesday, January 3

9:15 a.m. Rosary Makers - Offsite

12:00 Noon **Mass** - Chapel

6:30 p.m. Baptism Meeting - Room 22

### Thursday, January 4

12:00 Noon **Mass** - Chapel

6:30 p.m. Ultreya English - Room 22

### Friday, January 5

12:00 Noon **Mass** - Chapel

### Saturday, January 6

5:00 p.m. **Mass** - Church

### Sunday, January 7 - CCD CLASSES RESUME

7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy - Church

8:00 a.m. **Spanish Mass** - Church

10:00 a.m. **Mass** - Church

12:00 noon **Mass** - Church

2:00 p.m. KOC Bingo - Cafeteria



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2017**  
**9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**



Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, January 1, 2018** in observance of New Year's Day.

We will re-open, as usual, on **Tuesday, January 2, 2018** at 9:00 a.m.

Have a safe celebration!



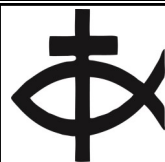
**REMINDER:** Due to our Christmas Break there will be no Religious Education classes on **Sunday, December 31st.**

Classes will resume on **Sunday, January 7, 2018.**

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sun: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph  
Mon: Mary, the Holy Mother of God;  
The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord;  
World Day of Prayer for Peace;  
New Year's Day

Tue: Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen  
Wed: The Most Holy Name of Jesus  
Thu: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton  
Fri: St. John Neumann; First Friday  
Sat: St. André Bessette; First Saturday



**ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS**  
ACTS Core will be seeking new CORE members.

**Qualifications:** Must be an active parishioner and have served on two ACTS teams. **Term will begin in February 2018.**

If interested, please contact Richard Sustaita, ACTS Core Facilitator at 210.413.0065.



## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

All requests must be sent by email to [osantoyo1104@gmail.com](mailto:osantoyo1104@gmail.com) and will be finalized for approval by Father Fidele. We ask that you submit your requests at least two (2) weeks in advance for placement in the bulletin.



## NEW TO OUR PARISH AND WANT TO REGISTER AS A NEW PARISHIONER?

If you are interested in registering as a new parishioner at St. John Berchmans Church, please contact our Parish Office at 210434-3247 to fill out a registration form.

# Announcements



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## THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

God has given us the holy family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as a model to imitate for our families. Every family encounters difficult situation. It was no different for the Holy Family. Right from the beginning there were many difficult situation that they ha to overcome: the virginal conception of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit in Mary, Joseph having to accept his reality and take in the child and the mother to guard and protect them, the journey into Bethlehem, and the birth of Jesus in a dark, cold smelly stable. Think about how difficult it must have been for Mary and Joseph to bring their Son into the world in such conditions.

If our families are to imitate the holy family, then we must always remember that God is looking upon us and our families with love. We need to trust that He is going to protect our families, and guide our families because He is faithful to His Promises.

So today, as we approach this altar to receive the body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus, let us invite Jesus to become flesh in our hearts especially in those places where we carry the wounds of our life, and the wounds that come from our families and allow God to be made there, to heal us and bring us into the family that we are called to be in, the most Holy Family of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Whenever a priest celebrates Mass, he has at least two intentions.

The first intention is to celebrate Mass according to what the Church does. The second is to apply the grace of that Mass towards a specific need, or whether it be a person(s) living or deceased, baptized or not, or a special need or occasion.

Parishioners who are interested in requesting a mass said for the 2018 year are encouraged to come by or contact our parish office at 210.434.3247. There is a \$5.00 donation for each mass intention. Thank you!



## WORLD DAY OF PEACE IS JANUARY 1, 2018

Pope Francis' message for the celebration of the 2018 World Day of Peace was for Migrant and Refugees: All men and women in search of peace.

The message is offering heartfelt good wishes for peace and inviting people of good will to embrace those fleeing war, hunger and persecution.

The message also poses the question, why so many migrants and refugees? Pope Francis answers this by considering the many conflicts forcing people to leave their homelands, but he notes also the desire for a better life.

The Holy Father notes that some people consider the growth in migration as a threat. But, "for my part, he says, I ask you to view it with confidence, an opportunity to build peace."

## BEARERS OF THE WORD

The Church has placed a number of notable feast days immediately after Christmas. The feasts of Stephen, John the Evangelist, and the Holy Innocents form a summary of the life lived in Christ, the Word made flesh. What do these have to do with the feast of the Holy Family, which crowns the Octave of Christmas? These feasts remind us that suffering will occur in fulfilling the mission of Christ, and that we are all called to be bearers of this Word whose birth we celebrate.

We also see this manifested in the lives of Joseph and Mary, both of whom took social and religious risks in obedience to the will of God, and both of whom were open to the word of God sent to them from on high. In these ways they prefigured the life of Jesus himself.

Most likely, few of us found ourselves at Mass this past Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, but the essence of these feasts and the essence of the holiness of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus remain central, a holiness we celebrate today. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Do I display the attributes described in today's reading when relating to my own family? As we are all brothers and sisters in Christ, do I show these qualities in my relations with friends, coworkers, strangers?