



## Family Gifts

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

I asked some folks what they carried with them as their most treasured gift from their parents. One spoke of the gift of freedom. As an adult he always felt loved and welcomed by his parents. Although he was not always able to visit them as frequently as his life would allow, he was never made to feel guilty about it. It was an atmosphere unpressured by any "have-tos" whether it concerned choices for marriage or profession or simply for occasional family visits.

Another spoke of being taught by example that love in a family always extends to welcoming the stranger, caring for the unfortunate, opening one's home to those in pain. She learned to live that way because that was how her parents lived.

Yet another spoke of her father's gentleness and faithfulness as treasured gifts. And in truth she herself had become gentle and faithful, both with life and with God. Yet another took note of his parents' acceptance and openness to differing cultures and traditions and value systems. It was a way of living he now took to himself and his own family.

Not every family may seem as graced as these individuals remember their own families, and no doubt these families had flaws, too. Yet those qualities of a believer, enumerated by St. Paul in his Letter to the Colossians, make for good family life as well: "heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another. And over all these put on love" (Colossians 3:12-14). ●

### Reflect

***What gift from your family do you hope to pass to the next generation?***



The child grew and became strong,  
filled with wisdom; and the favor of  
God was upon him.

LUKE 2:40



**Holy Trinity**



**St. Thomas More**



**St. Patrick**

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**Adoration Room at STM**  
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**Website for the Three Churches**  
www.bureaucatholic.org  
and on Facebook at  
"Bureau Catholic Churches"

**Facebook for the Three Churches**  
Use Link on Home Page  
www.bureaucatholic.org

**Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164**



9:45 am - 11:00 am at Cherry Church Hall  
Sunday, December 31st - No Class / Christmas Break  
Sunday, January 7th - K thru 4th Grade & Confirmation Class  
Sunday, January 7th - Children's Mass for 7th Grade

**Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of January 1, 2024**

Monday	1/1	9:00 am	STM	+ Michael Bickett
Tuesday	1/2	9:00 am	STM	+ No Mass
Wednesday	1/3	5:30 pm	HT	+ Jerry Simkins
Thursday	1/4	9:00 am	HT	+ Peter Fiocchi
Friday	1/5	9:00 am	STM	+ Clifford Sondgeroth

**Mass Intentions for the weekend of January 6-7, 2024**

Saturday	1/6	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ Dorothy Orlandi
Sunday	1/7	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	+ Ivan & Gladys Hassler
		10:30 am	St Patrick	+ Janelle Beattie Geiger
		5:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ For the Parishioners



# HONORING THE HOLY FAMILY

On this, the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, we honor the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In honoring them, we also honor all families, big or small. And in honoring all families, we honor the family of God, the Church. But most especially, we focus in on the hidden, day-to-day life of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

What was it like to live day in and day out in the household of St. Joseph? What was it like to have Jesus for a son, Mary as a wife and mother, and Joseph as a father and husband? Their home would have certainly been a sacred place and a dwelling of true peace and unity. But it would have also been so much more.

The family home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph would have been, in numerous ways, just like any other home. They would have related together, talked, had fun, worked, eaten, dealt with problems, and encountered everything else that makes up daily family life. Of course, the virtues of Jesus and Mary were perfect, and St. Joseph was a truly "just man." Therefore, the overriding characteristic of their home would have been love.

But with that said, their family would not have been exempt from daily toil, hurt and challenges that face most families. For example, they would have encountered the death of loved ones, St. Joseph most likely passed away prior to Jesus' public ministry. They would have encountered misunderstanding and gossip from others. They would have had to fulfill all daily chores, earn a living, put food on the table, attend gatherings of family and friends and the like. They would have lived normal family life in every way.

This is significant because it reveals God's love for family life. The Father allowed His Divine Son to live this life and, as a result, elevated family life to a place within the Trinity. The holiness of the Holy Family reveals to us that every family is invited to share in God's divine life and to encounter ordinary daily life with grace and virtue. *(Excerpted from catholic-daily-reflections.com)*

## Big Cheers For Members Who....

- \*Gave to the toy drive.
- \* Decorated outside and inside of our churches to make them look beautiful.
- \*Volunteered their time, talent and treasure to support our fundraisers.
- \* Made church contributions for 2023.



Please note if you haven't already picked up your 2024 envelopes, they are in back of the churches. Let the office know if you do not see yours. Also, those wanting a 2023 contribution letter may contact the church office. Thank You & God Bless!

## Why is January 1st celebrated as New Year?

The first time January 1st came to be considered as the beginning of the new year was back in 45 BC. Before that, the Roman calendar began in March and consisted of 355 days. It was Roman dictator Julius Caesar who reformed the Calendar after coming to power. He instituted January 1st as the first day of the year, partly to honor the month's namesake: Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, whose two faces allowed him to look back into the past and forward into the future. However, large parts of Europe did not accept it till well into the mid-16th century. With the advent of Christianity, January 1st as the beginning of a new year was seen as pagan and December 25th, as the day of the birth of Jesus, was considered acceptable. It was only after Pope Gregory reformed the Julian calendar and standardized January 1st as the first day of a new year that it slowly became acceptable. The start of a new year is an excellent time to make positive changes, which is why many people write down their resolutions for the coming year.

*(Excerpted from hindustantimes.com)*

## LATEST OFFERING'S

### DEC 24TH WEEKEND

HT - \$ 1,309.00  
RETIRE \$50  
SP - \$ 1,255.00  
CATH SCHOOL - \$20  
STM - \$ 2,222.05



## CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE  
SAT. JAN 6TH  
10:30 - 11:15 AM AT  
ST THOMAS MORE  
IN THE HALL



# Dear Padre,

*How much should we support our adult children? We have a niece and a daughter who are both healthy, capable, and in their twenties. We have set boundaries and continue to give to them but they just can't seem to get their act together. Would it be unchristian to cut them off?*

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* describes in detail the duties of family members toward each other (CCC 2214–33). Parents are responsible to ensure that their children grow up in faith and to meet their basic needs. Children should show respect toward their parents and, as they grow older, assist them as needed. As children become adults, they should take on responsibility for themselves and parents are not to pressure them into choices of a profession or a spouse, while at the same time, “giving their children judicious advice....” (CCC 2230). At some point, children need to become responsible adults, which brings us to your point.

You seem to have done what is required as parents. At the same time, you would not want to abandon young adults if physical, mental, or emotional factors prevent them from assuming the responsibility of adulthood. If they are healthy, capable young people they should be able to progress in life without your financial assistance. To help them toward this goal, you may want to set very specific limits, perhaps with the help of a counselor, and then consistently follow those limits. ●



**Fr. John K. Schmidt, CSSR / DearPadre.org**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
January 1 Mary, Holy Mother of God Nm 6:22–27 Gal 4:4–7 Lk 2:16–21	January 2 Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church 1 Jn 2:22–28 Jn 1:19–28	January 3 Christmas Weekday 1 Jn 2:29–3:6 Jn 1:29–34	January 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious 1 Jn 3:7–10 Jn 1:35–42	January 5 St. John Neumann, Bishop 1 Jn 3:11–21 Jn 1:43–51	January 6 Christmas Weekday 1 Jn 5:5–13 Mk 1:7–11 or Lk 3:23–38 or 3:23, 31–34, 36, 38	January 7 Epiphany of the Lord Is 60:1–6 Eph 3:2–3a, 5–6 Mt 2:1–12

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Leading Catholic voices inspire the faithful with daily reflections & prayers for Advent and Lent. Including: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Dr. Mary Katharine Deeley, Sr. Dianne Bergant, Fr. Paul Turner, and more at [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*In imitation of the Holy Family, we are called to rediscover the educational value of the family unit: it requires being founded on the love that always regenerates relationships.... [I]f you quarrel within the family, do not end the day without making peace.... And do you know why? Because a cold war, day after day, is extremely dangerous.*

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 27, 2020

HOLY FAMILY WITH SAINTS ANNE AND JOHN THE BAPTIST (DETAIL), ANDREA MANTEGNA / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS