Family Peace

Federico Barocci captured the Holy Family escaping to Egypt. Although they are refugees in a dramatic, stressful situation, he chooses to show the delightful communion among them. Mary sits comfortably in the center of the family, busily collecting water. Perhaps she will wash the cherries or the toddler’s dirty hands. Her face, full of serenity and joy, is lost in thoughts that go beyond the work of the present. She is the model of so many mothers who, in spite of challenging circumstances, focus their energy on loving their children and creating an oasis of peace.

Saint Joseph stands behind the Madonna and reaches up into the tree to pull off a branch for the child Jesus. His strong arm and hand extend straight down toward the child as they both grasp the wood from opposite ends—one giving and the other receiving. This simple domestic gesture of providing for the son is strongly symbolic of what so many husbands and fathers do on a daily basis. Alongside their wives, they care for their families with hard work.

Jesus is next to Mary, and reaches out to Joseph. He receives love from both parents while returning that love with joy and gratitude.

The Holy Family reflects the divine family. One day the heavenly Father will also extend a piece of fruit—this time the bitter passion and the wood of the cross. Although it costs his human nature, Jesus accepts it, thanks in part to the strength he finds in Mary.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

Does my family know how to gracefully encounter trying times? What attitudes or actions allowed the Holy Family to have peace amidst the crosses?

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.

(Luke 2:40)
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
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PASTOR: Rev. Sebastian Devasya  E-mail: frsebastian@sacredheartblfd.org
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PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: Julia Harrison, M.A.A.T.  E-mail: julia@sacredheartblfd.org
PARISH SECRETARY: Diane Ott  E-mail: dianeott@sacredheartblfd.org
PARISH BOOKKEEPER: Kim Hickman  E-mail: khickman@sacredheartblfd.org
CONFESSIONS: Saturdays: 5:30pm–5:45pm ~ First Saturdays: 10:00-11:00am or by appointment
BAPTISM & MARRIAGE Contact Deacon Don Hammond at 304-327-5623.

**Bulletin Info Deadline is Wednesday at 4:00pm and Newsletter Info Deadline is by the 25th of each month at 4:00pm**

MASS SCHEDULE & EVENTS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30
5:30pm~Rosary
6:00pm~MASS~Michael Pendleton by Theresa Soulis

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31
8:30am ~ Rosary
9:00am ~ MASS–Deceased of Goodwin & Kearns Families
By Ron & Katie Goodwin

MONDAY, JANUARY 1
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
9:00am~MASS~Jean Malamisura by The Malamisura Family

Parish Offices Closed

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2
12 Noon~MASS~Sacred Heart Parish Family

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3
6:00pm~MASS~Sacred Heart Parish Family

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5
6:00~First Friday Mass & Adoration with Meager Meal

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6
10:00-11:00am~First Saturday Reconciliation
5:30pm ~ Rosary
6:00pm~MASS~Anthony Peretti by The Peretti Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7
8:30am ~ Rosary
9:00am ~ MASS ~Nancy Rasi by Angie Genovesi

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD

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Last Week’s Attendance:
Saturday, December 23 - 6pm ~ 67
Sunday, December 24 - 9am ~ 119
Sunday, December 24 – 4pm ~ 201
Sunday, December 24 – 7pm ~ 83
Monday, December 25 – 9am ~ 28

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:


Homebound Parishioners: Mary Albert, Leila and Hikmet Azzo, James Carey, Joann Cowan, Charlotte Devor, Anthony Disibbio, Bonnie & Sam Gattuso, Nancy Holbrook, Mary Claire Keenan, Jean Morris

Faith and Fellowship

Faith Formation 2017-2018

December 31 ~ NO Faith Formation – Holiday
January 7, 14, 21, 28 – Faith Formation Resume

The Knights of Columbus will be offering an Adult Faith Formation hour on the 4th Monday of each month from 7-8pm. The next Adult Faith Formation session will be held on January 22, 2018. Everyone in the parish is welcome to attend!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!
Pipe Stem Holy Spirit Seminar is schedule for the weekend of March 9th, 10th, & 11th, 2018. Watch for more information in the church bulletin in the coming weeks!

Flowers for the altar are donated by the Family of Sacred Heart!

December 30 George and Wendi Aiello
31 Fred and Deborah Butler
January 5 Charles and Barbara Lynch

Many Blessings to Father Sebastian on the 23rd Anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood on December 31st! We are blessed to have you with us!

THREADS OF LOVE
“Thank you for your thoughtfulness and many kindnesses.” ~ Mary Gianato

“Thank you for the gorgeous card and remembering me. It means so much! God Bless You!” ~ Eleanor Short

“Thank you for thinking of us at Christmas. The ornament with the prayer is lovely. Our thoughts and prayers for Blessings at Christmas and throughout the New Year are with each of you.” ~ Mary & Bob Bruch

“Thank you very much for the lovely Christmas Card and insert.” ~ Pat Kadar

“Thank you so much for the beautiful bookmark. It meant a lot! I still can’t thank you enough for the prayer shawl. I will always cherish it. Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays to all.” ~ Billy Steward

Thank you to everyone who helped and participated in any way to make our Christmas Liturgy celebrations so beautiful! Thank you, also, for the cards, calls, gifts, and goodies! Your kindness and generosity is appreciated! ~ Father Sebastian

A Married Couples retreat is being held at the Priestfield Retreat Center in Kearneysville, WV on March 16th, 17th, & 18th, 2018 and on March 23rd, 24th, & 25th, 2018. The retreat is being lead by Father Rick Kramer from the Office of Family Life in Washington, DC. If any married couple would like to attend, please contact Elaine Galeone at 410-252-5355.
Thank you to All who donated to the Christmas Flower Fund:

William and Toni Albert III
Linda Angelelli
Pete and Inez Bellini
Frank and Linda Brady
William and Betty Browning
Bob and Mary Bruch
Robert and Cathy Buzzo
John and Debbie Crist
Joy Formica (in memory of Harry Gene)
Angie Genovesi
Don and Loretta Hammond
Frances Harrison
Julia Harrison
Karl and Amy Keim
Randall and Karen Kidd
Daniel and Kathleen Kirk
Lewis and Barbara Lilly
Natalie Lijoi
Vicki Lijoi
Rocky and Sandra Malamisura
Frank and Carole Mamone
Carl and Linda Mariotti
Jimmie and Marilyn McCoy
Monty and Deborah Ramella
Jerry and Karen Rasi
Johnny and Gina Rasi
Michael and Debbie Rebuck
Gary and Polla Rumberg
Virginia Shumate
Theresa Soulis
Jay and Pat Valeyko
Stephen and Laura Ward
William and Christina Willis
First Friday Memorial Mass Intentions ~ January 5, 2018

Alfredo S. Andaya
Honorata S. Andaya
Pedro S. Andaya
Annette Battalino
Pedro V. Buenafe
Waldetrude B. Buenafe
Dr. Waldro Buenafe
Jose Buendia
Suzanne Canaday
Eugene Cassell
The Cseh Family
Frank & Mary Ferrante
The Ferrell Family
Mike & Pearl Formica
John & Betty Frassinelli
Mary & Sam Genovesi
Deceased members of the Goodwin & Kearns Family
The Howell & Kelly Families
Anthony & Michelina Iacullo
Deceased members of the Linkous & Catsonis Family
Jean Malamisura
Carl & Lena Mariotti
Lena Mariotti
Patricia Virginia McDermott
Harry McMahon
Deceased members of the Narkiewicz & Soulis Families
Deceased members of the Ott & Higgins Family
Felicitacion & Virgilio Pascasio
Anthony Peretti
Mary C. Romeo
Tony J. Romeo
Catherine Seyler
Joseph & Gladys Shoda
George Shumate
Ray & Mary Shumate
Stan Siko
Charles Lewis Stacy
Helen Stacy
Lewis Stacy
Patricia L. Stacy
Doris Stovall
Deceased members of St. Anne’s Altar Society
Francisco Tumbokon
Presentacion Tumbokon
Grace Iacullo Wetterman
Gene Wilson
Alex Zachwieja

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During the Month of December, the Sacred Heart Clothing Closet will be collecting the following winter accessories:

- Mittens / Gloves
- Hats/Toboggans
- Scarves

During the Month of January, the Sacred Heart Clothing Closet will be collecting the following winter accessories:

- Blankets

Helping to keep our neighbors warm!
Dear Father Sebastian,

December 31st

Congratulations Father Sebastian on the 23rd Anniversary of your Ordination! Sacred Heart Parish is so blessed to have you here with us! We honor you, support you, and pray for you always!
Dear Padre,

I worry that I’m cramming too much of my Catholic devotions down my children’s throats. Should they have more freedom to choose the faith on their own?

Many of us can connect our faith to our mothers. It was most likely their constancy, love, and devotion that gave us the first hints that faith is important in one’s life. When a woman chooses to be a mother, she commits to handing on to her children that which is most powerful and most profound in her own life. Over the years, the children will take what is given, sift through it, and finally add it in some way to their own personalities. But the gift first has to be given, and the commitment of motherhood is giving that gift.

Mary, the patron of the Church and of mothers around the world, is first represented in the Gospels as the one “who believed” (Luke 1:45). It was this deep capacity for faith that became the well that cradled and fed Jesus.

“Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child’s earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2226).

The sincerity and reverence of a mother’s faith can become a fountain of living water that will naturally overflow, and her children can choose to drink of it. Renew your commitment to handing on your faith to your children freely and without limits!

Source: Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask, © 2003 Liguori Publications, Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

A Word From Pope Francis

It is necessary to reaffirm the conviction that every family is the principal setting for the growth of each individual, since it is through the family that human beings become open to life and the natural need for relationships with others. Over and over again we see that family bonds are essential for the stability of relationships in society, for the work of education, and for integral human development, for they are inspired by love, responsible intergenerational solidarity, and mutual trust.

—Address, Food and Agricultural Organization, June 20, 2013