



SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PARISH

51 MARKETPLACE IRVINE, CA 92602 · 949-551-8601 · [WWW.STMIRVINE.ORG](http://www.stmirvine.org)



Welcoming all, we, the Spirit-filled parish of St. Thomas More, value our Roman Catholic faith by celebrating the sacraments, breaking open the Scriptures, and joyfully offering ourselves in service to others. Under the inspiration of our patron saint, we seek to build a caring community that embraces the values he modeled of friendship, integrity and courageous love of God.

Pastor

Parochial Vicar
Parochial Vicar Emeritus
Weekend Assistants

Deacons

Rev. John E. Janze

Rev. Kiet Ta
Rev. William Krekelberg
Rev. Joseph Horn, O Praem
Rev. Joseph Justice
Deacon Tony & Mrs. Mary Patronite
Deacon Stan & Mrs. Fran Necikowski
Deacon Tin & Mrs. UyenLan Nguyen
Deacon Leonard & Mrs. Nancy Sun
Deacon John & Mrs. Michelle Selig

Office Information:

Office: 949-551-8601
After hours emergency: 949-228-2127
Fax: 949-551-5879
Religious Education: 949-551-8029
Youth Ministry: 949-551-8602

Office Hours by Phone:

The parish office is closed to the public, and answering the phones during the following times: Monday-Saturday: 9:00am-2:00pm

Back in March, in-person Masses were suspended and Bishop Vann provided a dispensation from attending live Mass though we were still expected to keep holy the Sabbath. Now that outdoor, in-person Masses have resumed, the Bishop's dispensation has been narrowed. If you are over 65, or if you have an underlying health condition, or if you are truly afraid of catching the virus, you are not obligated but always welcome to attend Mass in person. If you think you are sick, especially if you think you may have COVID-19, or think you have been exposed, please join us on livestream. Please know that we have all possible safety measures in place and look forward to seeing you all back at St. Thomas More. Please visit our website at www.stmirvine.org for the most current information.

For spiritual advisement, please contact the priest to schedule an appointment.

Daily Mass:

Monday – Saturday

8:00 AM

Vigil Mass Times

4:00 PM Vietnamese/English

6:00 PM English

Sunday Mass Times

8:00 AM English

10:00 AM English

12:00 PM Spanish/English

5:00 PM English

Morning Prayer: Wed & Fri 7:30am-7:50am

Adoration: Every Friday 9:00am to 10:00am

Saturday "Drive-Up" Confessions:

12:00pm to 2:00pm

**All Masses will be outdoors.
We will continue to livestream all Masses.**

December 27, 2020



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Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass © 2011, 1998, 1997, 1989, 1970, CCB.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

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

Luke 2:40

MASS INTENTIONS

Please call the front desk to request a Mass Intention

Thursday 12/24	8:00am	Jessie Cris Cuevas
	4:00pm	†Anita Oesterreich
	6:00pm	Stephanie Miller
	6:00pm	Haes Shake
Friday 12/25	8:00am	Julie Hoying
	10:00am	Norbertine Community
	Noon	Ricky Malvaez
Saturday 12/26	8:00am	Baby Johanna Harris
	8:00am	Steve Cory
	8:00am	†Louie Piazza
	4:00pm	Fr. Nicolaus Thai
	6:00pm	Pro Populo
Sunday 12/27	8:00am	Dr. Billeci Family
	10:00am	†Salvador Salonga
	5:00pm	Teri Mostero
Monday 12/28	8:00am	Ron Mostero
Tuesday 12/29	8:00am	Catherine & Stephen Mooney
Wednesday 12/30	8:00am	†Yolanda Atondo
Thursday 12/31	8:00am 5:00pm	†Phung "Vincente" Nguyen Pro Populo



Welcome!
We are glad you are here.



- All Masses will be held outdoors until further notice. Please dress warmly and bring your own chair to sit on.
- The Blessed Sacrament Chapel is open for private, individual prayer Mon-Fri from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Please remember to keep a six foot physical distance, sanitize upon entrance/exit and wear a mask.
- The church will not be open for prayer or any other ministry gathering.
- The parish office remains closed to the public until further notice.
- A team of ushers will be available at each Mass to ensure a smooth transition to attending Mass, while following physical distancing and safety guidelines. Please follow their directions.
- Those over age 65 and/or with underlying health issues, as well as those who are sick, are encouraged to consider not returning to Mass just yet. Join us on livestream.
- The sign of peace and distribution of the Precious Blood is currently suspended.
- For those who wish to receive the Eucharist on the tongue, please wait until after others have received communion.
- Please bring your own mask and hand sanitizer. They will be available if needed.
- People will be instructed to not engage in any physical touch, such as greeting each other.
- Signs and other instructions will encourage normal safe practices necessary to avoid the spread (e.g. cough or sneeze into a shirtsleeve, handkerchief, or tissue; avoid touching the eyes, nose, and mouth).
- Thank you for your patience, understanding and support during this time. Please refer to our social media often for updates.
- For a complete description of our safety protocol, visit our website at www.stmirvine.org

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt:13-18
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40
 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
 Friday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7;
 Lk 2:16-21
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
 Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13;
 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12


Baptisms
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Welcome to God's Family

Kaden Buettner
 Liam Hemedez
 Pierce Pittman
 Ava Ryan
 Olivia Ryan

My Dear People,

Today's theme on the Readings: WE ARE GOD'S HOLY FAMILY

The scriptures of Israel are filled with many stories of barren couples who were miraculously granted the gift of children by God. Surely the best known among these is the first reading from today, from which Luke took inspiration when he recounted the miraculous birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah and Elizabeth, and the more miraculous birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph. In each instance, we are given examples or role models of those who trusted in God. More than examples of those who trust, they are models of self-surrender. They abandoned their own presuppositions and prejudices about the workings of the world and turned their lives over to belief in a God who can make life grow where none ought to; a God who can turn death around into a new and unimagined life; a God who can, today, take a tiny child of humble parents in an insignificant town and make him into a light for all the world. This is what we, as God's holy family, are called to do each day: to trust not in ourselves and the way we think things should be, but to open ourselves and surrender ourselves in faith to a God of endless promise.

In Christ,
Father John

Collections and Expenses

12-7-2020 to 12-13-2020

	Collection	E-Giving	Total
Sunday Collection	\$14,098	\$15,201	\$29,299
Believe & Grow	\$5,050	\$2,513	\$7,563
BGT- Phase 2	\$1,870	\$3,203	\$5,073
Building Fund	\$670	\$161	\$831
Other Income	\$3,180	\$7,704	\$10,884

Regular Expenses \$59,219

We appreciate your continued financial support of the parish during these challenging times. If you would like to give, please click on the e-giving link in the top corner of the STM website to set up or update your e-giving. If you have questions, please call the office. All donations to the *Believe & Grow Together Campaign* will be used exclusively to pay for the construction costs to build the new Parish church. Moreover, Building Fund donations can be used to pay for the construction costs to build the new Parish church and for the maintenance and repairs of the existing Parish buildings and property. **Thank you for your generosity!**

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." -Proverbs 3:5-6

Happy New Year!

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Those who honor their parents will be greatly blessed and will atone for sins (Sirach 3:2-6,12-14) or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3.

Psalms — Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways (Psalm 128) or Psalm 105.

Second Reading — Be thankful; do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17]) or Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19.

Gospel — The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom (Luke 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



Our gift to you!

2021 Calendars are available for pick up at Mass or in the office lobby from 9am to 2pm Monday-Saturday.



PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING



- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Stacey Allen | Mike Harvey | Ramon Navarro, Jr. |
| Richy Altuna | Shirley Hecker | Karen Norton |
| Mary Amato | John Heffernan | Nam Van Nguyen |
| Mike Anderson | Robert Henry | Thuy-Lieu Nguyen |
| Renee Andrade | Annette Hills | Pamela Ocampo |
| Judy Anselmo | Margaret Hills | Kyle Osbourne |
| Alicia Arrellano | Clara Honea | Agnes Pamintuan |
| Jesus Barragan | Dominador Hontucan | Den Tony & Mary Patronite |
| Blanca Bermudez | Fr. Joseph Horn | Regina Park |
| Maria Botello | Sue House | Norma Jeanne Parrish |
| Michele Bradley | Linda Hughes | Mary Jane Parsons |
| Bill Burk | Angela Jack | Gabby Paz |
| Lisa Busch | Elsa Jatwani | Charlie Perrea |
| Mary & Joe Bush | Theresa Johnston | Ngocle Phung |
| Baby Zane Cabazon | Sharon Jones | Frank Quevedo |
| Linda Carter | Doris Jordan | Zachary Quick |
| Ellen Chang | Quinn Kelly | Norma Quyang |
| Cyrus Charna | Jim Kendall | Fr. Jim Reis |
| Marietta Charbonneau | Houman Khaghani | Paula Reno |
| Hui-Mei Chen | Jett Knight | Lorraine Reyes |
| Clara Connor | Ty Vivian Knisely | Ponciano Reyes |
| Alexandra Conti | Elizabeth Kulas | Sheila Russo |
| Petra Cordova | Richard Kulas | Terry Rute |
| Ellie Dainko | Deborah Kurilchyk | Anita Ruwaldt |
| Henry Damigella | Larry Lathrum | Jackson & Gerri Scharff |
| Jim Danaher | Damian Ledesma | Michelle Suh |
| Rick Denham | Todd Leeds | Tara Summers |
| Diana & Liberato DeVeyra | Jack Light | Liz Thomas |
| Larry Doan | Minerva Lopez | Gail Tierney |
| Chela Echenique | Aida Lopez-Tan | Maria To |
| Meynard Encarnacion | Cari Maas | Xuan Tran |
| Jacob Espinoza | Gloria MacCormack | Denise Trujillo |
| Howard Frankel, MD | Andrea Maciel | Jack Troung |
| John Frisch | Betty Mackintosh | Kimberly Truong |
| Cynthia Fox | Mercedes Mantilla | David Valentine |
| Mike Garibay | Cherry Marinas | Daniel Villareal |
| Lillian Gibson | Cavan McGaffney | Jim Vessey |
| Jose Gonzales, Jr. | Kathleen McKinley | Hanh Vu |
| Hermie Gonzalez | Anne McNally | Dr. Greg Walgenbach |
| Marisela Gonzalez | Connie Mellott | Alicia Walters |
| Lois Gorman | Durvalina Menezes | John Weber |
| Daniel Graham | Vicky Miramontes | Bill Westlund |
| Alice Green | Stephanie Mispagel | Jim Wood |
| Emma Hager | Linda Moore | Matthew Winans |
| Tina Halberg | Agnes Motley | Mike Winchester |
| Phyllis Hammond | Marie Moya | Linda Yipp |
| Baby Johanna Harris | Susan Navarrete | |

Please call the office when it is time to remove a name.



stmirvineym.org



Liked by rp_enriquez and 58 others

Bible Studies will continue to meet on Mondays at 7pm through the month of December and through early January. If you would like to attend the bible studies, please email Confirmation@Stmirvine.org and we will send you the ZOOM Link.

Core Team meetings will start back up in the new year. Thank you to all the core team who have continued to minister to teens throughout the pandemic.

Virtual Life Nights will return next January. A big thank you to all the teens who have participated in the last few months



Liked by that_girl_sarahi and 109 others

Confirmation Classes will be on break from December 17 - January 5th.

Confirmation 1 Classes Dates Are

- Wednesday, January 6 at 7pm
- Wednesday, January 20 at 7pm
- Wednesday, February 3 at 7pm

Confirmation 2 Classes Dates Are

- Wednesday, December 16 at 7pm
- Wednesday, January 13 at 7pm
- Wednesday, February 27 at 7pm

R.E.P. CORNER



REP Registration News

We are still accepting registrations for the 2020/2021 REP year!

Please visit: rep.stmirvine.org

right away to register your students for a fun & spiritual year!

Please contact the REP Office at (949) 551-8029 or rep@stmirvine.org with any questions.



Volunteers Needed for 2020/2021



We are recruiting teachers, substitute teachers and parent volunteers for the upcoming school year. For more info on sharing the love of our faith with the young people of our parish, please contact the REP office at (949) 551-8029 or rep@stmirvine.org.

The Library Corner

The Feast of the Holy Family

The St Thomas More Parish Library staff would like to wish all our parishioners a Happy Holy Family Sunday. The Library will be closed until further notice.

Today is the feast of the Holy Family, but also every family's feast day, since the Holy Family is the patron and model of all Christian families. As Catholics, we know that the sacrament of marriage establishes a family. Every Christian marriage intends to begin a family, have children and show mutual respect. This celebration demonstrates Christ's humility and obedience with respect to the Fourth Commandment.



Pope Francis proclaims “Year of St Joseph”



With the Apostolic Letter “*Patris corde*” (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from, 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021. Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX’s declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special “Year of St Joseph,” beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021.

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

Source: Vatican News

THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZED SGT. BOB AS A 2020 VETERAN OF DISTINCTION FOR HIS SERVICE TO BOTH HIS COUNTRY AND THE VETERAN COMMUNITY

CONGRATULATIONS SGT. BOB !!

November 2, 2020

Dear Robert Kohler:

Congratulations on your being recognized and honored by Assemblymember Linda Peterson as a 2020 Veteran of Distinction. We hope this recognition will be a source of pride and inspiration for you and your family.

Thank you for your service to our country. We are proud to have you as a member of our community.

Yours truly, Assemblymember Linda Peterson

Assemblymember Linda Peterson
1000 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95833
Tel: 916.227.3000
Fax: 916.227.3000
Email: linda.peterson@leg.ca.gov

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE
Assembly
CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION
Robert Kohler
100 Assembly District, 2020 Veteran of Distinction
On behalf of the California State Assembly, we proudly recognize you for your long and dedicated service to our country and the veteran community. We are proud to have you as a member of our community.

Presented 02/11/2021

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YOUR
DESCENDANTS
SHALL BE
AS MANY AS
THE STARS

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FEAST OF FAITH Processions




Why does the liturgy begin with a procession?

It is not just a practical matter of getting the ministers of the liturgy from the sacristy to the sanctuary. The procession is a powerful sign of who we are as Christian people. We are not static, staying in one place. We are going somewhere. Our procession leads us to the altar, sign of Christ's presence in our midst. We move, we process, because we recognize our need for what Christ is preparing for us at that table. We go forward eagerly, because we are hungry for that heavenly food. This procession is an orderly one: servers, deacon, priest presider. Each is set apart by distinctive vesture: albs for the altar servers, dalmatic for the deacon, chasuble for the priest. The procession is an image of the hierarchical structure of the Church. On a deeper level it is an image of unity in diversity. We are all on a journey to the heavenly city, but each of us is clothed with different gifts. We all receive the call to service, but not in the same way. Only by coming together in all our wonderful variety can we achieve the work of the kingdom.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

saint snippets



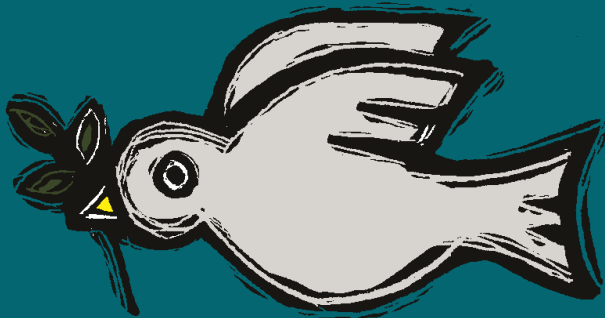
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
—Luke 1:46-47

Mary, Mother of God
A young virgin chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus, true God and true man. On the cross, Jesus gave Mary to us to be our mother as well.

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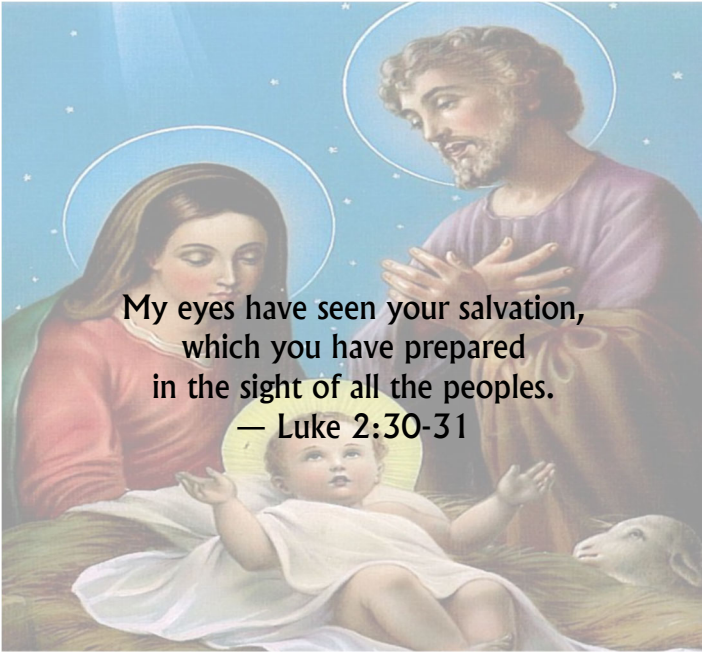
January 1

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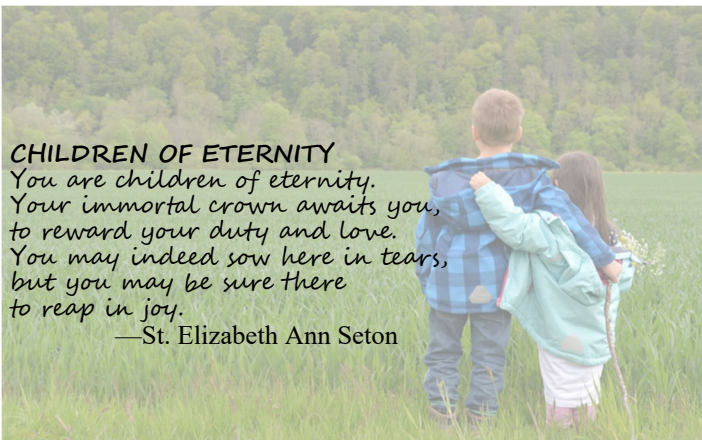
PRAY FOR PEACE

© Annika Nelson



My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all the peoples.
— Luke 2:30-31

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Monday: The Holy Innocents
Tuesday: Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Thomas Becket
Wednesday: Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
Thursday: Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Sylvester I; New Year's Eve
Friday: The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; Mary, the Holy Mother of God; World Day of Prayer for Peace; New Year's Day; First Friday
Saturday: Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen; First Saturday



CHILDREN OF ETERNITY
 You are children of eternity.
 Your immortal crown awaits you,
 to reward your duty and love.
 You may indeed sow here in tears,
 but you may be sure there
 to reap in joy.
 —St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Letters from Heaven

Start with the letter in the shaded square. Draw a path from letter to letter to complete the Biblical statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

Simeon said to the mother of baby Jesus,
 “Behold, this child is destined
 for the fall and rise ...”

A	M	F	O
R	N	I	I
A	S	Y	N
	E	L	

O _ _ _ _ _ .”

Answer: *of many in Israel*

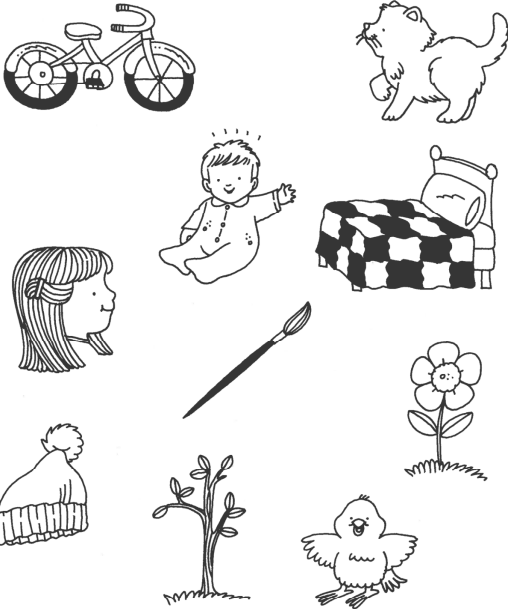
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Ways to Give to STM:

- Secure e-giving on our website: www.stmirvine.org
- In basket after Mass 
- Mail your check or drop it off in our parish lobby (lobby open Mon-Sat from 9am to 2pm) 
- Use your smartphone via GivePlus app (Vanco) 
- Donate stock, life insurance or retirement plans 
- Employer Matching Gifts
- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the eligible purchases to STM! Use this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/33-0711481> 

The scriptures tell us that Mary and Joseph took Jesus home to the town of Nazareth, where he grew and became strong and wise. Circle all the living things below that can grow!



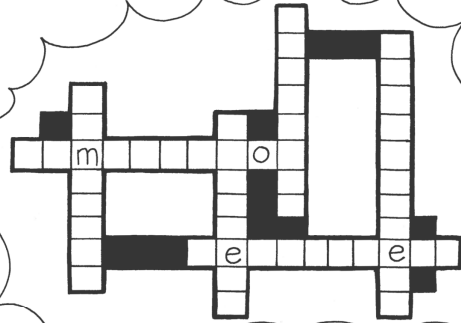
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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

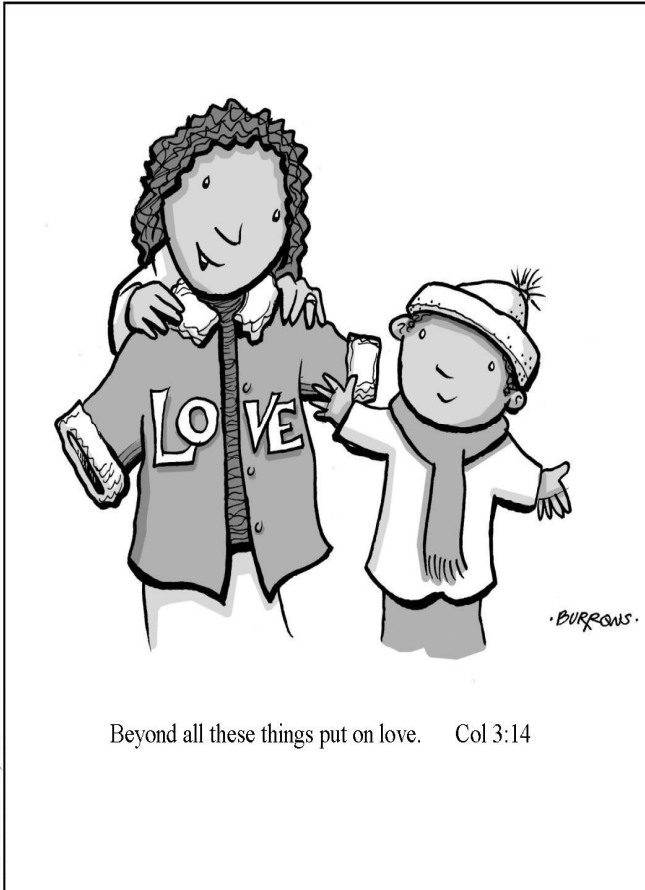
As children of God, we want people to see certain traits in us. Some of the qualities we should strive to practice are listed here. Work to fit them in the crossword. Some letters have been written in to help you.

patience gentleness humility
 kindness compassion forgiveness



The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



Beyond all these things put on love. Col 3:14

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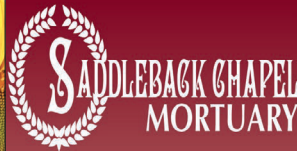
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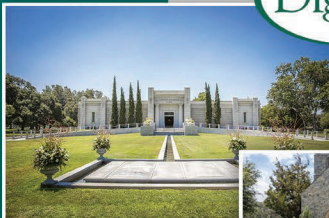
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THE CHILD GREW
AND BECAME STRONG,
FILLED WITH WISDOM;
AND THE FAVOR OF GOD
WAS UPON HIM.

LUKE 2:40



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

DECEMBER 27, 2020

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FAMILY

On this feast of the Holy Family, we want to offer all families blessings. “Family” may have a lot of different connotations these days. In the United States, the “father, mother, child” family is less common now, and large Catholic families are not as common as they once were. The concept of family is more fluid with many forms of blended families due to second marriages, multigenerational households, and other living arrangements. In a recent survey by the Pew research center, four in ten babies are born to single mothers. Other children are being raised by grandparents or foster parents. In today’s Genesis story, Abraham was ready to concede to another form of family, making the child of one of his servants his heir. The reading from Hebrews reiterates the story of Genesis, and “your descendants will be more numerous than the stars.” The Gospel relates the story of the presentation in the temple.

POWER IN PRESCRIBED RITUALS

Joseph and Mary presented Jesus in the temple at eight days old, as was prescribed by Mosaic law. For many Catholic families, baptismal gowns were handed down through generations, and a baptism was a time of great celebration. Sadly, in our culture, baptisms continue to decline. There are many reasons for this: fewer practicing Catholics, more interfaith marriages, more secular weddings, fewer weddings by clergy, and problems or misunderstandings that turn people away. Many have left the church altogether because of the way they were treated. For some the parish is not a welcoming place. For others baptism has become just a ritual they go through for the sake of the grandparents.

EXAMPLES IN OUR ELDERS

When someone does present a child for baptism, it can become too easy for others to pass judgment because the parents don’t know the rubrics well, or aren’t dressed better, or “why is that single mother having her baby baptized during Mass?” Notice that the Gospel says nothing about the priests of the temple and how they received Jesus. Rather it talks about Simeon and Anna. They are worth a study in themselves. Simeon is a devout man who is there waiting for a particular sign, and it is fulfilled when he see the Christ Child. Anna is just in the temple praying, as is her custom. After the presentation of Jesus, she does what she does best—she goes back to praying in the temple. Perhaps these readings teach us how we as a faith community can see the sacredness in those families presenting their children for baptism, and welcome them as did Anna and Simeon. May we all learn from their wisdom!

TODAY’S READINGS

Genesis 15:1–6; 21:1–3
Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 8–9
Hebrews 11:8, 11–12, 17–19
Luke 2:22–40 [22, 39–40]

