

St. Mary's Church—Evans Mills, NY
 8408 South Main Street, Evans Mills, NY 13637
Rectory & St. Mary's Parish Office Phone: 315- 629-4678
Website Address for all Parishes: www.rivercatholics.org

Pastor: Father Vicente Jazmines **E-mail address:** vfjazmines@hotmail.com

St. Paul's Church, 208 LeRay Street, Black River, NY 13612 - Rectory & St. Paul's Office Phone 315-773-5672

Marriage: arrangements must be made a few months in advance **Baptism:** by appointment
Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confessions: By Appointment

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sat. Dec. 26	4:00 pm	SM	For Jim Bertrand by the Wagoner Family
Sun. Dec. 27	9:00 am	SM	For Richard & Charlotte Hall by their Sons & Family
Sun., Dec. 27	11:00 am	SP	For the People of the Parishes
Mon. Dec. 28	8:00 am	SM	NO MASS
Tues. Dec. 29	8:00 am	SP	NO MASS
Wed. Dec. 30	8:00 am	SM	NO MASS
Thurs., Dec. 31	4:00 pm	SM	For Amelia Nuzzo by Brigitte Schulz
Fri., Jan. 1	9:00 am	SP	For Michael Fulmer by Francis Dunbar
Sat., Jan. 2	4:00 pm	SM	For the People of the Parishes
Sun., Jan. 3	9:00 am	SM	For Sofia Sousa by the Perkins Family
Sun., Jan. 3	11:00 am	SP	For Geno Martini by Sharon & Stephen Maloney

Please keep Father Vicente in your prayers as he recovers from the Coronavirus. Thank you to Father DeLuca for covering the Masses in Father Vicente's absence.

The Dove-Peace

The dove appeared sporadically in the Old Testament, and probably most remembered in relation to the Great Flood. During the last days of the flood, Noah sent out a raven to search for dry land, but it failed in its mission, so Noah sent a dove in the raven's place. On several occasions, the dove returned to the ark, signifying that the waters had not yet receded. Finally, on a separate flight, it returned with a freshly picked olive leaf and after another 7 days, did not return at all, indicating to Noah that dry land was ahead. Thus the dove began to be noted as the harbinger of peace and the symbol of hope and new life.

The dove is also seen in the sacrificial system of the Mosaic Law as doves and turtledoves, because of their perceived purity, were the only birds considered acceptable sacrifices. They were often purchased and used by those who could not afford more expensive offerings, as in the Purification of a woman after birth. A lamb was the required sacrifice for those who could afford it; Mary & Joseph, being poor, gave turtledoves.

In the Old Testament, the dove ...as a symbol of purity, gentleness and grace... is shown in these phrases:

"Ah, you are beautiful, my beloved, ah, you are beautiful; your eyes are doves!" (Sng 1:18G)

"When you lie down among the sheepfolds, You are like the wings of a dove covered with silver, And its pinions with glistening gold." (Ps 68:13)

"I say, 'If only I had wings like a dove that I might fly away and find rest.'" (Ps 55:7)

At Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, descended upon Him indicating Jesus' divinity. The Holy Spirit was a symbolic fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy leading to Pentecost.

"Today, the dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit, the fulfillment of Scripture through the life and ministry of Jesus, and the peace, purity and propitiation for sin that comes in relationship with God." (Quotes and information based on writings by Joel Ryan, Teacher at Life Pacific University, San Dimas, CA.)

Judy Pearson



Please Pray for the Sick & Homebound, Especially:
 Josh Allen; Mary Ann Bach; Amanda Burnard; Don Briant; Susanne & John Bush; Randy Butler; Bernadette Call; Aubree and Joyce Dogan Jim Decker, Phyllis Dobson; Madeline Drake; Steven Garceau; Karen Hall; Suzanne Hall; Nicholas Heldt; Dillon Hesse; Terrie Kirk, Barbara Lawler; Doug Lawler; Jacqueline May, Leslie McKeever; Jill McMahon; Deborah Nichols; Laurie Pickert; Monine Rodriguez; Addison Rounds; Dante DeVoos; Jeanne Watson, Alice Wood; Alice Young.

Feast of the Holy Family- December 27, 2020

Jesus was born into a Holy Family, not a storybook family. Today, pray for married couples and for parents, who strive to remain faithful to their commitments in a changing and challenging world. If you are considering a vocation to religious life, diaconate or priesthood, talk to Father Vicente Jazmines or Fr. Christopher Carrara, ccarrara@rcdony.org or Cathy Russell, the Diocesan Vocation Coordinator at (315)393-2920, ext. 1450/ crussell@rcdony.org. See us also on Facebook or at www.myvocation.net.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP: As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family today, why not invite them to be our guides in this coming new year? They who lived a very simple life in Nazareth would have discovered many ways to use only what they needed. In our present consumer driven culture, it can be a real challenge to discern between what I need and what I want. The answer to this question can have a profound effect on how sustainable this planet will be for the health and well-being of future generations. Environmental stewardship or sustainability covers every aspect of our lives, i. e. food, energy use, transportation, water, etc.

Suggestion: Spend some time reflecting with St. Joseph and see if there are any changes you can make to simplify in the coming new year that will benefit not only you but the whole the family of God.

Mark Your Calendar

New Years Mass Schedule:

Dec. 31st 4 PM SM

Jan. 1st 9 AM SP

Jan. 8 6:30 PM SM Exposition & Benediction

Jan. 9 3:30—6:30 PM K of C Take out Spaghetti Dinner

NO DAILY MASSES ARE SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME.

Collection 12/20/20 \$ 570.00

Weekly Expenses \$1,760.00

December 27: THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH Feast *Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/ Lk 2:22-40* Family life is a journey of faith, and a connection between what has been and was is to come. In our Gospel today we see the Holy Family observing the tradition of faith to have Jesus presented in the Temple. On the day of his circumcision which was the sign of old covenant, Simeon declares to Mary that Jesus will be sign that will be contradicted. Jesus will usher in the New Covenant of grace at the Resurrection. Together we pray our responsorial psalm: the Lord remembers his covenant forever. Through baptism each one of us enters into this New Covenant and we become children of God. We enter into the journey of faith and are called to build up the Kingdom of God by making Jesus known among the nations.

We want to assure you that the church is cleaned/sanitized after every Mass. We want to have you back safely at church. **Of course attending Mass is best and most proper, but while we cooperate and continue to slow the spread of coronavirus, you can participate via television, internet and radio. Bishop LaValley has extended the dispensation for Sunday Mass. Here are some options for you, if you choose to not attend Mass at your Parish at this time.**

- EWTN: Mass is aired at 12am, 8am, 12pm and 7pm on Spectrum channel 460, DirectTV channel 370, Dish Network channel 261 and is available via streaming at <https://video.ewtn.com/>
 - CatholicTV Network: Internet live streaming at <https://www.watchthemass.com/>.

CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS AND AUXILIARY: Recruiting members The Department of New York Catholic War Veterans (CWV) and Auxiliary are launching a campaign to recruit membership in our organizations. The organizations success depends on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The CWV and Auxiliary belong to the people they serve and the communities we live in. Join us in camaraderie and in service for our Church and our Catholic way of life.

Requirements: Specific "wartime" service is not required to become a member. Any baptized Catholic serving in the Armed Forces or discharged under honorable conditions for a period of 90 days or longer, including time served in the Reserves and National Guard, is eligible for membership in the CVW. The Catholic War Veteran's Auxiliary is open to any baptized Catholic man or woman related within 2 degrees to a veteran or currently serving member of the Armed Forces. The veteran or serviceman or servicewoman can be of any faith. Active duty men and women will have the dues waived until separated from active service.

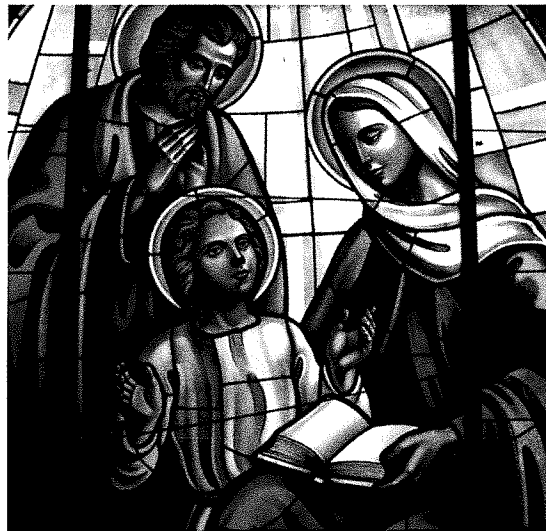
For further information and membership application visit our web site cwv.org or contact John O'Shea at 516-316-4221 or joshea112@hotmail.com.

Dear Padre,

Why does the Church celebrate the Holy Family? Jesus doesn't seem to be much of a family person. Scripture show him ignoring—even rejecting—Mary and Joseph.

As Jesus grows in age and wisdom, it becomes clear that he hasn't come to build up his own little family but to create a worldwide family of disciples. This family would claim God as the father of everyone in the family, with Jesus and all others as brothers and sisters. All who followed him would be as dear to Jesus as his mother or his foster father. As Jesus said: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you" (John 15:9).

The roles of Mary and Joseph in this new family of Jesus were not to be only earthbound parents but, more importantly, to be examples of how to follow God's purpose. Both Mary and Joseph accepted God's path for them, even though they didn't know where the path would take them.



HOLY FAMILY / IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHEDRAL, EAST TIMOR / WIKICOMMONS

In the new family of God, we are people who seek out and follow God's purpose in our lives. We are to say yes with Mary; we are to imitate Joseph in following God's direction. Jesus said this quite plainly: "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother" (Mark 3:35). The will of God becomes the cornerstone of Jesus' new, universal family of humankind. Every Christian family, then, has a double task in raising their children: teaching and inspiring them to love and believe in Jesus and to always seek God's will.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSsR | Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Instead of returning home with his family, he stayed in Jerusalem, in the Temple, causing great distress to Mary and Joseph who were unable to find him....Returning home, Jesus surely remained close to them, as a sign of his complete affection and obedience. Moments like these become part of the pilgrimage of each family.

—FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, DECEMBER 27, 2015

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Calendar

Monday
DECEMBER 28
Holy Innocents, Martyrs
1 Jn 1:5—2:2
Mt 2:13—18

Tuesday
DECEMBER 29
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:3—11
Lk 2:22—35

Wednesday
DECEMBER 30
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:12—17
Lk 2:36—40

Thursday
DECEMBER 31
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:18—21
Jn 1:1—18

Friday
JANUARY 1
Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
Nm 6:22—27
Gal 4:4—7
Lk 2:16—21

Saturday
JANUARY 2
Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
1 Jn 2:22—28
Jn 1:19—28

Sunday
JANUARY 3
Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1—6
Eph 3:2—3a, 5—6
Mt 2:1—12

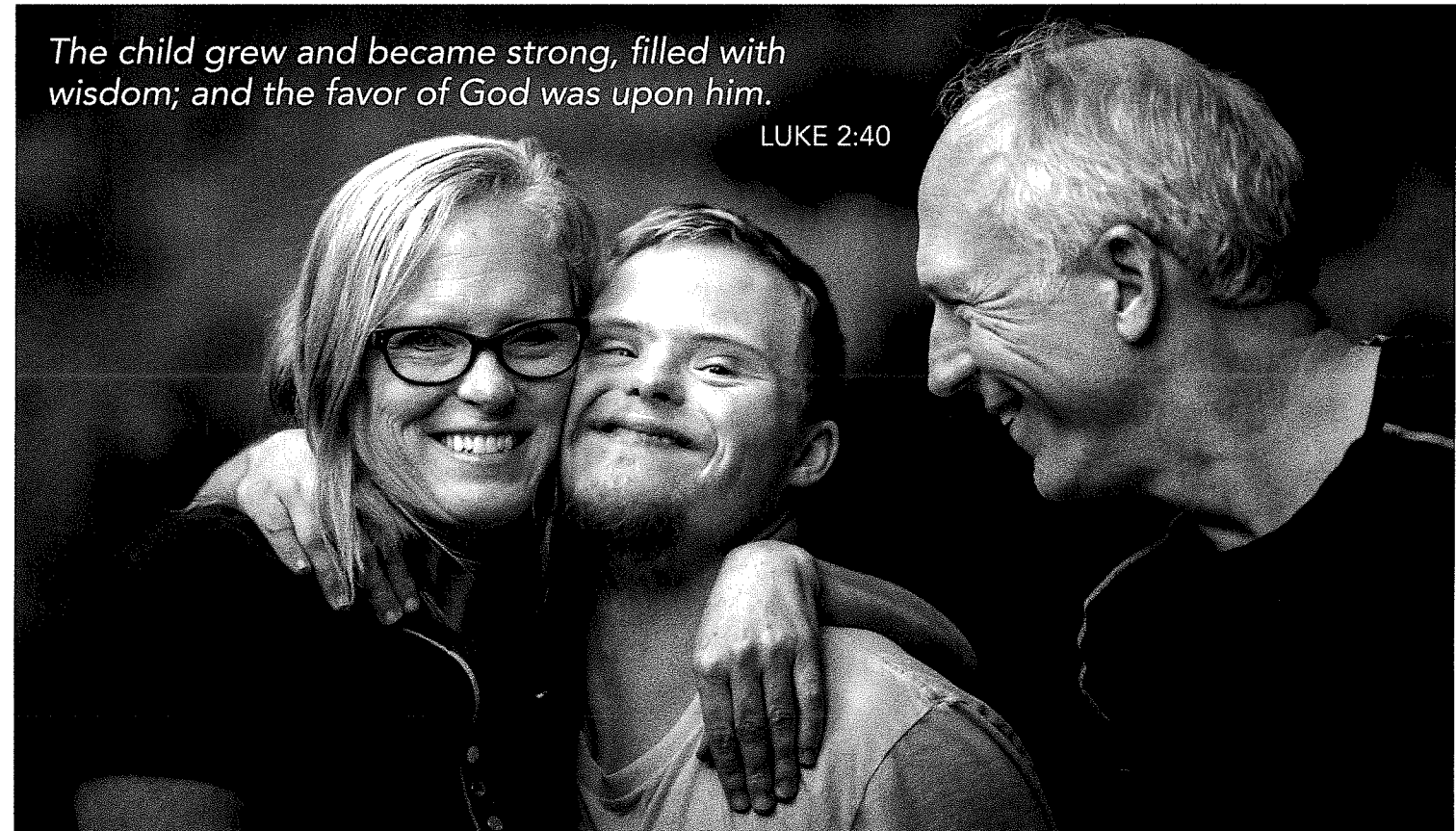
Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 27, 2020

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (B)
Sir 3:2—6, 12—14 or Gn 15:1—6; 21:1—3
Col 3:12—21 or 3:12—17
or Heb 11:8, 11—12, 17—19
Lk 2:22—40 or 2:22, 39—40

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

LUKE 2:40



NATHAN ANDERSON / UNSPLASH

Family Values

Some of the most popular television programs depict family interactions. Unfortunately, many of these families are dysfunctional, and those that are not often appear to be vapid, boring, even unrealistic. Today's readings offer examples of genuine family values and the kind of relationships for which most people yearn.

Sirach describes the tender care that bonds parents and children. First it is the parents who care for the children. Over the years the roles reverse and adult children care for elderly parents. The family is the basic community, where one first learns the hard lessons of unselfishness and forgiveness. The psalm response also describes a model family. The husband will experience success in his work and enjoy the blessings of family life with his wife and their children. Paul provides a list of values to which family members should

commit themselves: "compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another" (Colossians 3:12—13). Finally, the Gospel reading provides a glimpse into the lives of the Holy Family. Here they are: a refugee family with Joseph as the protector.

In a way, these are all "holy families." Prayer is important in the first reading; fear of the Lord is rewarded in the psalm; Paul calls the people "God's chosen ones" (Colossians 3:12). This feast is not meant to be only a look into the past at the Holy Family. It is an opportunity for us to look into the present and do our part to make our own families holy.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- * What already makes your family holy?
- * What might make it holier?