

Dear friends in Jesus Christ,

As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, one might ask the question-why should we celebrate this feast of the Holy Family today? What is the impact this so called Holy Family can bring to our families? Today's families and the family atmosphere is not at all matching the Holy Family that existed two thousand and twenty years ago, so why? We call our family as "family", but the family of Jesus, Joseph and Mary are called Holy Family. Yes, it is the holiness that differentiates our family from the family of Jesus, Joseph and Mary.

How can we make our family into a holy family? If we examine the lives of Joseph and Mary, we know that they both made so much sacrifice, to execute the plan of God in this world through their lives. Mary questioned Angel Gabriel, "how can I conceive a child when I have no relations with a man?" Joseph thought about stepping back from the marriage with Mary. They both were experiencing a tensed situation; a tension to do the will of God or that of their personal will. However, they finally decided to do the will of God and the rest is history. Yes, by saying 'YES' to the will of God always in their lives, they continued to progress in the grace of God. It is the same grace Joseph and Mary received from God by doing the will of God that the grace being transferred to Jesus to do His Father's will always until His death on a cross.

In today's world, how many parents really and sincerely strive to live in the grace of God, by doing God's will? Parents, it is only through you that the grace of God will be poured in to the lives of your children. Sorry to say, but it is the truth, if you feel that your child is not living a life worthy of God and His kingdom, I must say- it is your fault. Because, as children growing through your hands, you failed to show the example of doing the will of God that is more important than personal will and desires. Dear friends, before we make a big show with the sign: "America needs God," invite Jesus to your family and make your family a Holy Family and eventually you will find the presence of God in our country too. No doubt, the result of your faith and faithfulness is revealed in this world through your kids. The Gospel of Luke 6: 43-44 says; "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its fruit."

As we reflect about the Holy Family, do you think, Joseph and Mary did not have any problems or issues in their lives? They had their own problems and difficulties, but instead of adjusting each other, they accepted each other and that is the success of their life. As we said, they both had their own problems, but when they accepted the will of God,

they were given the grace to accept each other as he is and as she is. When God laid the foundation for each family through the sacrament of Marriage, His dream is nothing less than a Holy Family. But... how many couples can sincerely say, my family is living up to the dream of God? We can fulfill the dream of God only if we can accept the will of God in our lives. So, let us write it down deep within our hearts- "**Family that prays together lives together**". Because, our responsibility is not only to an individual person in the family but to a society and to the country at large, for it is the strong family that builds up strong community and country. Finally to all the parents- "*If you are not serious about teaching your children about God, the devil is serious about spoiling them.*" **God Bless you.**

Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center
Virtual Christmas Camp December 28th - 30th
7:00 - 9:00pm Free

For Christmas Camp this year we're taking it to Zoom! We will dive into the topic "Christ is Alive!" and what it means to be young people on fire for the Resurrected Christ. Christmas Camp is for students in 8th-12th. Register at [http://www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org/!](http://www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org/)

St. Charles - Happy Anniversary



George & Carol Rhodes - December 30

St. Sebastian - Happy Birthday

Trudy Tichenor - December 29
Peyton McMahon - December 30
Jennifer Ferguson - January 1
Tracy McMahon - January 2

St. Charles - Happy Birthday

Patty Humphrey - December 29
Stephanie Fee - January 2

Thanks to everyone for your generous contributions to Our Churches during this unfortunate time. God Bless & Be Safe.

Financial Report - December 20, 2020

St. Sebastian- Amount Needed: \$2,938.09 weekly	
Regular Collection	\$ 2,917.00 - 21.09
Emergency Fund	\$ 175.00
Retired Religious	\$ 5.00
Diocesan Good Works	\$ 5.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 205.00

Financial Report - December 20, 2020

St. Charles - Amount Needed: \$1,147.46 weekly	
Regular Collection	\$ 2,180.00 + 1,032.54
Emergency Fund	\$ 25.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 55.00

Mass Schedule
December 27 - January 3

Sunday - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Thomas & Bernice Hobbs
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles
Carlos Kassinger

Monday - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (Feast)

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Robert Vollman

Tuesday - Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Danny Edwards

Wednesday - Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Ruth Reed
-5:30pm - Mass at St. Charles
Stella Fogle

Thursday - Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord (New Years Eve)

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Wanda Green
-5:30pm - Mass at St. Charles
Catherine Demarest

Friday - Solemnity Mary Mother of God (New Years Day)

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Alvin Bickett

Saturday - Saint Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church (Memorial)

-4:00pm - Mass at St. Sebastian
Justin Durbin

Sunday - Epiphany of the Lord

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Merrit & Janice Hobbs
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles
Charlie Wedding

"Begin now to be what you will be hereafter."
- St. Jerome

Please pray for our Military

MMN1 Andrew Logsdon, SSgt. James (J.P.) Dye, John Randall Zaremba, Major Jack Kaina, Major Bradley Summers, Lance Corporal Marine Joseph Ryan Hunter, Lt. Col. Michael Rezebek. A.B. Phillip Wilson, Specialist 4 Chaz McKay, Sgt. Adam Dickey & Corpsman Aly Franklin

Guidelines for Resuming Parish Gatherings
Outside the Liturgy

- Limit the persons in attendance to no more than 25.
- Maintain physical distance of six feet minimum from those not living within the same household.
- Wear face covering over mouth and nose. Based on CDC recommendations, everyone over the age of two must wear a mask for the duration of any event or meeting held on parish property. Those unable to wear a face mask at the event, whether it be due to age (the CDC does not recommend those under the age of two to wear a mask), health condition, or preference, are asked to stay healthy at home.
- Conduct temperature and health checks for each participant.
- Ensure proper, frequent cleaning and sanitation of the gathering space, including restrooms.
- Encourage those at high risk to stay Healthy at Home.
- Maintain a record of all persons attending the event/meeting and their contact information.
- Follow State of Kentucky Healthy at Work Requirements for Restaurants and Bars for any form of food service. A summary follows:
 - o No indoor food or beverage consumption.
 - o Carryout and delivery encouraged.
 - o Outside tables or booths should be placed six (6) feet apart.
 - o Only those living within the same household should sit together.
 - o Use disposable napkins, tablecloths, utensils and condiments. Condiments must be single-use, disposable packages.
 - o If non-disposable linens (such as cloth napkins, tablecloths, wiping cloths) are used, they must be laundered between uses.
- Ensure that gloves are worn by employees/volunteers who clean or handle high-touch areas of the gathering space.
- Encourage volunteers and attendees to frequently wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer, provided by the event organizer.
- Use appropriate disinfectants to clean frequently touched surfaces and shared equipment.
- Use signage to alert attendees of required occupancy limits, six feet of physical distance and the facial covering requirements.
- Parishes should add a rider to rental contracts specifying that the renter is bound to abide by all government and diocesan restrictions that are in place at the time of the event.

Year of St. Joseph

On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis has released an Apostolic Letter about Saint Joseph and has declared a "Year of St. Joseph" which will be observed from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. The letter, *Patris corde* ("a Father's heart") is released on the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as patron of the Universal Church. For the full text if the letter, please visit http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html

Prayer List for members of our community:

Melanie Mayes, Jason Evans, Stella Ibrahims, Elaine West, Lisa Jackson, Howard Hillard, Brett McPherson, Stephanie Payne, Kathy Hudson, Evelyn Drury, Teresa Jones, Ethan Settle, Tom Schutte, Kim Staples, Katherine Roberts, Patricia Hardison, Tommy England, Dennis Millay, Todd Tichenor, Patricia Hayden, Jim Lebold, Jimmy Clayton, Candace Miller, Mary Jewell, Charlie May, David Abrams, Jackie Lee, Debbie Neal, James & Paula Tichenor, Tony Calvert, Mike Dant, Alice Durbin, Jim Logsdon, Betty Bickett, John Muster, Pat Calhoun, Kyle Hicks, Kathy Owen, James Lewis Dant, Gloria Farmer, Lisa Vaught, Louis Dant, Jacinta Tichenor, Sonny Renfrow, Laurine Sexton, & Brenda Payne