

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

This weekend, the Holy Mother Church invites us to reflect about the Holy Family of Nazareth, Jesus, Mary and Joseph as a model for our families. We call them "The Holy Family" but that does not mean that they did not have problems in their lives. Just as every family has to face problems, the Holy Family had their own problems to face. There are many problems we can find as we read through the gospel.

- We can easily imagine how both Mary and Joseph must have been misunderstood when Mary conceived Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Even Mary herself had a very rough time, due to her early pregnancy, when Joseph was planning to divorce her before the angel intervened in a dream.
- The long and tiring journey Joseph and Mary had to make in order to give birth to Jesus in Bethlehem.
- The family had to flee to Egypt as refugees because Jesus' life was in danger due to Herod.
- Mary and Joseph suffered the awful experience of losing Jesus in the temple for three days when He was twelve years old.
- We do not hear about Joseph any more so we presume that before Jesus began His public ministry in Galilee Joseph had died - The Holy Family suffering the greatest pain of all families, the pain of separation through death.
- Simeon predicted in the Temple that a sword of sorrow would pierce Mary's soul, and we can imagine the pain that Mary has gone through.
- When Jesus returned to Nazareth one day His relatives came to take Him by force convinced that He was out of his mind. Not a very pleasant experience for any family (Mk.3:21).
- There was also the pain caused by the accusation made up about Jesus: "as glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners" etc. (Luke 7:34).
- And there was the growing hostility to Jesus by the Jewish authorities and that must have caused a huge pain to both Mary and Jesus.
- The saddest moment of all came when Mary watched her Son die on the cross.

So, we find there were so many difficult moments in the life of Holy the Family, but what kept The Holy Family together and sane throughout all of these trials and crosses? The answer is 'Love for each other and God'. Jesus' love for Mary and Mary's love for Jesus and both of their love for God the Father.

What holds our families together also in times of difficulty are love and forgiveness. It is love which triumphs in the end, even if for a while love may have to take the form of some honest talking. When discipline needs to be given, if it is not given in love it is reduced to abuse. If our families fail in any way, it is because of a lack of love on someone's part. Whenever our families are successful, it is because there are places of love.

I believe that the greatest threat today families' face is simply that we don't spend enough time together. We are so busy working, or socializing, or watching TV that we have less and less time for each other. Spending time together with the family is a way of showing our family that we love them. When we love our family we want to sacrifice ourselves by spending time with them, and at the same time we should realize that by not spending time with them we are depriving them of our love and actually hurting them.

Just as the Holy Family survived all its crises through love for each other and faith in God, let us pray during this Mass that our families will overcome all difficulties through love for each other and faith in God. **God Bless**

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.

Lazarus Retreat | Feb. 18-20, 2022 | Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center

We are pleased to announce a retreat opportunity for high school youth of the Diocese of Owensboro called the Lazarus Retreat. **The Lazarus Retreat will be held Friday, Feb. 18-Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022 at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center. The cost is \$50 and the deadline to sign up is Monday, Feb. 7, 2022.** Drop off will be at 5:00PM on Friday and pickup will be at 12:30PM on Sunday. The goal and theme of the retreat is an intentional invitation to our young people to life in Jesus Christ.

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

Financial Report – December 19, 2021

St. Sebastian- Amount Needed: \$2,883.56 weekly	
Regular Collection	\$ 3,410.00 + 526.44
Emergency Fund	\$ 245.00
Special Collections	\$ 30.00
Tornado Relief	\$ 270.00

Financial Report – December 19, 2021

St. Charles - Amount Needed: \$1,058.22 weekly	
Regular Collection	\$ 1,099.00 + 40.78
Cemetery Fund	\$ 500.00
Emergency Fund (New Doors)	\$ 1,000.00

Mass Schedule

December 26 – January 2

Sunday – Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian

Guy & Virginia Anderson

-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles

Rose Catherine Hardesty

Monday – St. John Apostle and Evangelist (Feast)

-8:30am - **NO MASS**

Tuesday – The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (Feast)

-8:30am - **NO MASS**

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

-8:30am - **NO MASS**

-6:30pm – **No Faith Formation**

Thursday – Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

-8:30pm - Mass at St. Sebastian

Mary Vollman

-5:30pm – Mass at St. Charles

Bill & Jacinta Garinger

Friday – Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

-8:30pm - Mass at St. Sebastian

Joe Bickett

Saturday – Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God

-3:00pm - Confession

-4:00pm - Mass at St. Sebastian

VJ Steele III

Sunday – The Epiphany of the Lord

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian

Thomas & Bernice Hobbs

-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles

Bill & Jacinta Garinger

Ministry Schedule

January 1, 2022

St. Sebastian

Lector: Jim Lebold

January 2, 2022

St. Sebastian

Euch. Min: Mike Vollman

Lector: Earlene Abney & David Scott

Money Counters: Lynne Scott & Mike Vollman

St. Charles

Euch. Min: Lee Edwards

Lector: Derek Miller & Geneva Bishop

Money Counters: Derek Miller & Rony Humphrey

CDC Recommendations for Covid-19 Pandemic

- All Vaccinated and Unvaccinated over the age of two are strongly recommended to wear a facemask properly.
- If you are feeling ill or concerned about exposure to the virus, be encouraged to remain home.
- Gathering spaces to be cleaned and sanitized regularly.
- Continue with proper hand washing and/or sanitizing.
- No social gatherings or meetings are permitted in the church buildings.
- Eucharistic Ministers should be masked and sanitize their hands after receiving the Eucharist.
- Please continue to be diligent.

Mark Your Calendars

St. Charles - January 9th After the mass

- February 13th After the mass

St. Sebastian - January 16th at 5:00pm

- February 20th at 5:00pm

Parishioners from each parish are kindly requested to attend the meeting scheduled for each parish without fail. Thank you

St. Charles - Anniversary



George & Carol Rhodes - December 30

St. Sebastian - Anniversary



Larry & Patricia Hardison - December 26

St. Charles - Happy Birthday



Patty Humphrey - December 29

St. Sebastian - Happy Birthday



Trudy Tichenor - December 29
Peyton McMahon - December 30

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, and Corpsman Aly Franklin.

Prayer List for Members of our Community

Melanie Mayes, Jason Evans, Lisa Jackson, Ethan Settle, Jimmy Clayton, Pat Calhoun, Sonny Renfrow, Kimberly Nowak, Todd Tichenor, Kimberly Stiles, Louis & Alice Weise, Callie Hayden, Tom Schutte, Evelyn Drury, Bill Abney, Debbie Dunn, Ben Dunn, Tommy England, Louis Dant, Becky Cheatham, Lisa Vaught, Lance Green, Neil Hayden, Serena Cooper and Jeff Husk.