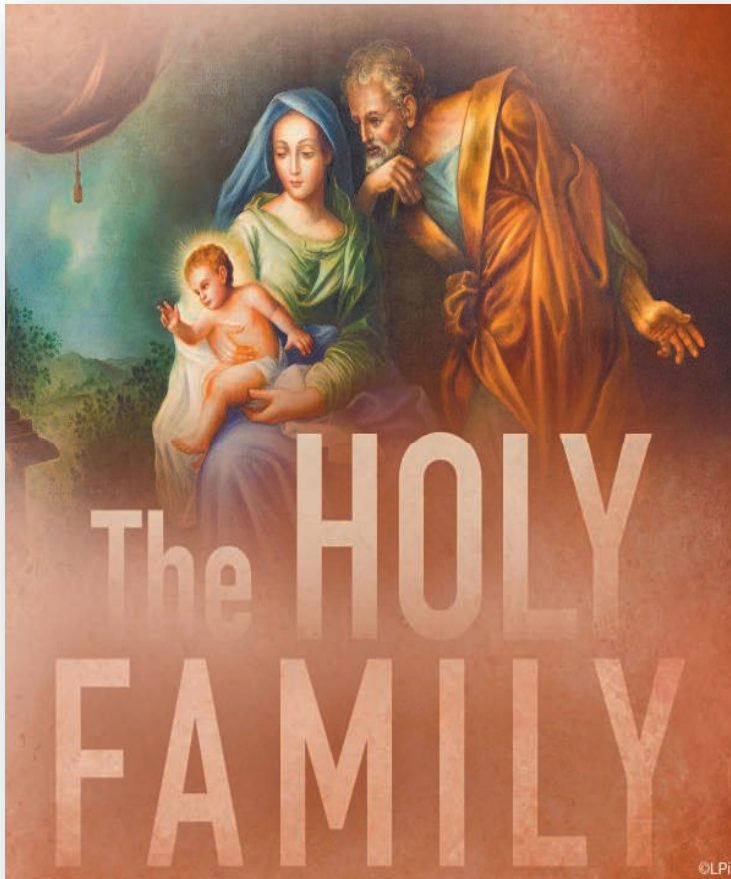




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December 31, 2017
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Mary and Joseph

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Parish Center - 490 Hall Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55107

651-224-9793

Fax 651.222.2688

Website: st-matts.org

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Sacraments

Please contact the Parish Office regarding Baptism, Marriage, First Communion and Confirmation information.

Bulletin

Announcements are due on Monday by 10:00 a.m. for the next Sunday's bulletin. *Items received after 10:00 a.m. will appear in the following week's bulletin.*

Readings for the Week of December 31, 2017

Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9, [7a, 8a] or Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29--3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 [3cd]/Jn 1:29-34

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [3cd]/Jn 1:35-42

Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2a]/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Liturgy Schedule

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:00 a.m.

Saturday - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 10:00 a.m.

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.

and by appointment

Prayer Line

Hope 651.457.0228 Cathy 651.455.5473

FAMILY—THEN & NOW



I have the opportunity to be at home with my family during the holiday season, I often find myself sitting at the dining room table with my mother, sisters, brothers and a few nieces and nephews sharing information and stories about other family members. More often than not, my mother will ask the whereabouts of one of her twenty-seven grandchildren or eight great grandchildren. Sometimes, a voice is heard, "She or he is with friends and is becoming more and more like a stranger to us every day!" As parents, as grandparents, as aunts and as uncles, we are concerned for our young family members, "Who are they?" "Where are they?" "What will become of them?"

Jesus was born into a typical Jewish family not a perfect family. We know very little about Jesus' domestic life but there are events in all the gospels about its reality and drama. Some of the family crises are pregnancy before marriage, an uncertain engagement, disturbing dreams, role confusion, early physical hardships, primitive housing conditions, untimely geographical moves, a lost child, the untimely death of a husband and father, the confusing behavior of a child, the disturbed reaction of relatives, the premature death of a child, and a mother's heartaches. While this list may not be complete, I think it creates a basis for a Christian family to look to the gospels for a common source of realism to handle the experiences of family life today.

For example, when I was growing up I remember my mother and father teaching my younger siblings how to walk. My father would hold a sister or brother up while on the other side of the room my mother would stretch out her arms encouraging their child to dare to walk to her. At first, there were tears with falling and trying to get up again. But after sometime, tears became giggles and laughter as walking became more natural.

Like my parents, like my sisters and brothers who are parents, Mary and Joseph had to give Jesus the courage to walk. When you teach a child to walk, then one day he or she may walk in a direction that you least expect or wish. You are giving them the freedom to walk away from you. Deep love does not hold on to them. It lets them go. The beauty and the pain of true love is that it frees another to love someone or something else.

When the child Jesus leaves his family circle and stays behind in the temple, he is being courageous. 'How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my father's house?' He had been formed by two brave people who prepared him for this. Mary had dared to say 'Yes' to the angel's invitation to be mother of Jesus, even though it would turn her life upside down. Joseph had been courageous enough to marry Mary even though she was pregnant from causes he could not understand. Consequently, they had raised a child who had the courage to one day do something that they could not then understand.

This training in courage did not take place from the inside to the outside. It began from the outside to the inside. Jesus first saw his parents living out their bravery. Then Mary and Joseph explained their bravery to their son who undoubtedly asked them questions. Then Jesus integrated what he saw and what he learned and put it into practice in his own life. Finally, what Jesus sees, what he learns, what he puts into practice becomes who he is.

I think it is interesting that I have nieces and nephews who have decided to let their children decide for themselves what religion they will practice. "It should be their choice!" are the words I sometimes hear. And yet I have to wonder how a child can make a choice if they are not given the experience, the information, and the example from which they can make a choice.

We know that Jesus escapes from the little world of his family, and then he comes back offering them the Kingdom. Jesus understanding of the Kingdom came from the family traditions Mary and Joseph gave him, the religion they taught him, the life he lived with them, and the freedom they gave him.

On this Feast of the Holy Family, at the beginning of a new year, we adults are encouraged to give all children deep, strong, roots and then to let them go with the confidence that God is with them as God is with us.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Through years of prayer, love, and sacrifice, religious Sisters, Brothers, and Priests have provided outstanding educational, medical, and pastoral ministry to people in our community as well as the world. Years of serving with little or no pay, without saving for their retirement, or paying for social security benefits have left many religious in need of our help as they grow older. On January 14, the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will take place. Envelopes are available on the tables at the back of the church. Make your check out to the Church of St. Matthew. Please be generous.

PLEASE REMEMBER

The Church of St. Matthew in a charitable will, trust, or gift annuity.

News and Events

THE BELLS AT ST. MATTHEW

We have open dates for the Bells at St. Matthew's. Commemorate a date of special importance, celebrate a wedding anniversary, birthday, remember a grandchild's birthday...the possibilities are up to you. Call the parish office to schedule your special day.

Because the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God on January 1, falls on Monday following the Feast of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph on Sunday, December 31, it is not a holy day of obligation this year. Mass will not be celebrated at the Church of St. Matthew. I encourage all of us to participate in the World Day of Prayer for Peace by spending our time in peace with family and friends.

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

After the New Year, St. Matthew would like to offer the Liturgy of the Word for Children to children ages 3 to 7 during the 10:00 am Sunday Mass. Children would go with a teacher to the chapel where age appropriate learning activities focused on the Sunday Gospel take place. Adults are needed to teach and older students (grades 6 and up) are needed as helpers. We hope to offer this from January to May. If there are enough volunteers and families with children who prefer the Saturday 4:00 pm Mass, the faith formation program can be offered at that time as well. If you would like to volunteer or want more information, contact Janelle Rohr by email (Janelle@st-matts.org) or by phone [651-457-3522](tel:651-457-3522).

COMMUNITY OF SAINTS NEWS

Save the Date! Our school benefit will be held on Saturday, February 3rd, in St. Matthew's Social Hall from 6-9pm. This year's theme is the "Souper" Bowl-the evening will include a food drive, local food tastings, appetizers, Mystery Bags, silent auction, games, and a WHOLE lot of fun! Look for ticket sales begin in the New Year! At this time, Cossetta, Cora's Wings, Boca Chica and Joseph's have all committed to providing food for the event! Yum!

THANK YOU NEIGHBOR



On December 16 and 17 St. Matthew's parish collected 423 pounds of non-perishable food items for our local food shelf Neighborhood House.

Your donations help to provide nutritious food to friends and neighbors who might otherwise be without food for themselves and their families. Our next collection dates are January 20 and 21, 2018. God bless and thank you for caring for our neighbors.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS 12-10-17-2017

Parish		School	\$ 50
Envelopes/Cash	\$ 8,214		
Electronic Giving	\$ 202		
Vigil Lights	\$ 33		
Holyday	\$ 72		
Fuel	\$ 20		
Christmas Environment	\$ 70		
Religious. Retirement	\$ 95		
Men's Club	\$ 480		
Rosary Reimburse.	\$ 67.25		
Other	\$ 129.46		
Total	9,382.71	Total	\$ 50
Thank You		Thank You	

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 30

4:00 pm Arthur Minus†

Sunday, December 31

10:00 am Our Parish

Wallace Borgant†

Monday, January 1

No Mass Today

Wednesday, January 3

8:00 am Living & deceased members of the Men's Club

Friday, January 5

8:00 am Tina Saucedo Baker, Special Intention

Saturday, January 6

4:00 pm Pam, Robert, Sr, & Lucille Stickler†

Sunday, January 7

10:00 am Our Parish

Michael Sampair†

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, December 30

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 31 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

10:00 am Mass

Monday, January 1 Solemnity of Mary

Tuesday, Jan. 2-Friday, Jan. 5

5:00 - 6:00 pm Loaves & Fishes SH

Wednesday, January 3

8:00 am - 5:30 pm St. Mary's Clinic PC

6:30 pm No Faith Formation Students

Teachers will meet in the Parish Center

8:00 pm Men's Club Board Meeting SH

Thursday, January 4

9:30 am Mass COS

Friday, January 5

Saturday, January 6

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, January 7

10:00 am Mass

11:00 am Coffee Sunday

Children's Corner

Baby Jesus Word Search

Christmas is a very joyous holiday for Christians all around the world. This holiday marks the celebration of the birth of God's son Jesus. It is celebrated by attending church and the giving of gifts to others, just as God gave us the gift of his Son, Jesus.

Directions:

Find all the words in the word list. Words are hidden in straight lines, going forwards, backwards and diagonally.



Word List

ANGEL
BABY
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
DONKEY
GIFT
GLORY
GOD
HEAVEN
HOLY
INNKEEPER
JESUS
JOSEPH
KING
MANGER
MARY
MERCY
PEACE
REST
SAVIOUR
SHEPHERDS
SON
STAR
VIRGIN
WISE MEN

O	B	B	G	E	P	O	S	S	O	N	R	Y	Y	O
C	P	I	E	I	V	H	V	G	V	E	X	B	S	O
T	Z	E	R	T	F	D	C	I	P	N	A	R	P	V
O	G	Z	A	T	H	T	O	E	R	B	Q	H	H	U
C	B	O	C	C	H	L	E	N	J	G	M	T	R	O
G	C	N	A	C	E	K	E	S	K	O	I	J	H	M
O	Q	F	I	E	N	N	N	H	A	E	S	N	I	A
D	R	S	P	N	E	E	J	L	E	V	Y	E	E	R
K	E	U	I	M	V	H	E	Y	M	I	Q	P	Y	
I	S	Y	E	A	R	G	R	C	U	J	H	O	E	H
N	T	S	E	E	N	O	R	Y	F	C	E	L	U	J
G	I	H	G	A	L	E	E	C	A	R	Z	S	C	R
W	A	N	H	G	M	Q	T	C	I	J	W	G	U	Z
I	A	H	O	L	Y	S	T	A	R	M	P	K	J	S
M	M	J	U	C	D	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S

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