

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

December 30, 2018

O Holy Night



**The Solemnity of Mary,
Holy Mother of God Vigil
is Monday, December 31st
at 5:30pm**

**New Years Day is The Solemnity of
Mary, Holy Mother of God (Holy
Day of Obligation) Tuesday at
10:00am**

REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday	9:00 AM
Wednesday	6:00 PM
Thursday	9:00 AM
Friday Adoration	
Saturday	5:30 PM
Sunday	9:00 AM 11:00 AM

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday PM	4:30-5:15 pm
Tuesday & Thursday	8:30-8:50 am
Wednesday	5:30-5:50

BAPTISMS: Parents should be registered parishioners or active for 6 months prior to baptism. Please call the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK
following Masses every 3rd Sunday
Anytime by Appointment

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday, 9:30am—4:30pm

Pastoral Administrator:

FATHER RICHARD WISE
frwise2@gmail.com

Secretary: DIANNE DAVIS
Email: sgmsecretary3049@gmail.com

WEBSITE:
www.saintgerardmajella.net

3049 LAFAYETTE ROAD
FORT OGLETHORPE, GA 30742
Phone: 706-861-9410

**A Prayer for the Feast of the Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

God the Father, draw us into Your arms, that we might know how cherished we are as members of Your family. May our homes and our hearts be living examples of Your desire to gather all people into Your family now and forever. Amen.

The Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The devotion to the Holy Family was born in Bethlehem, together with the Baby Jesus. The shepherds went to adore the Child and, at the same time, they gave honor to His family. Later, in a similar way, the three wise men came from the East to adore and give honor to the newborn King with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that would be safeguarded by His family.



We can go further to affirm that in a certain sense Christ, Himself, was the first devotee of His family. He showed His devotion to His mother and foster father by submitting Himself, with infinite humility, to the duty of filial obedience towards them. This is what St Bernard of Clairvaux said in this regard, *'God, to whom angels submit themselves and who principalities and powers obey, was subject to Mary; and not only to Mary but Joseph*

also for Mary's sake . God obeyed a human creature; this is humility without precedent. A human creature commands God; it is sublime beyond measure.'

Almost intuitively, one can recognize that the mysterious, exemplary, guardianship enacted by Joseph was conducted firstly, in a yet more intimate way, by Mary. Consequently, the liturgical feast of the Holy Family speaks to us of the fond and loving care that we must render to the Body of Christ. We can understand this in a mystical sense, as guardians of the Church, and also in the Eucharistic sense. Mary and Joseph took great care of Jesus' physical body. Following their example, we can and must take great care of His Mystical Body, the Church, and the Eucharist which He has entrusted to us. If Mary was, in some way, *'the first tabernacle in history'* (John Paul II *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, n. 55) then we the Tabernacle in which Our Lord chose to reside in person, in His Real Presence, was also entrusted to us. We can learn from Mary and Joseph! What would they ever have overlooked in the care of Jesus' physical body? Is there something, therefore, that we can withhold for the right and adoring care of His Eucharistic Body? No amount of attention, no sane act of love and adoring respect will ever be too much! On the contrary, our adoration and respect will always be inferior to the great gift that comes to us in the Holy Eucharist.

Looking at the Holy Family, we see the love, the protection, and the diligent care that they gave to the Redeemer. We can not fail to feel uneasiness, perhaps a shameful thought, for the times in which we have not rendered the appropriate care and attention to the Blessed Eucharist. We can only ask for forgiveness and do penance for all the sacrilegious acts and the lack of respect that are committed in front of the Blessed Eucharist. We can only ask the Lord, through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, for a greater love for their Son Incarnate, who has decided to remain here on earth with us every day until the end of time.

Ministry Meetings & Events

Sundays: *Prison Ministry* 6:30-8:30PM
Women in Prayer Breakfast - Saturday
January 5, 2019 in the PLC 9:00 am
Finance Council Tuesday Jan. 8th 7:00
Ladies Guild Tuesday Jan. 15th 7:00 pm
Parish Council Wed. Jan. 16th 7:00 pm

Knights of Columbus

Sunday, January 6, St. Katharine Drexel
Round Table after 11:00am Mass.

Wed., January 9, Meeting at 7:00 pm.

Sunday, January 13, Pancake Breakfast
after 9:00 and 11:00 mass.

Charity: Crisis Pregnancy Support

All who are interested in joining the **Knights of Columbus** please contact **Grand Knight, Bob Watson at 423-290-5112.**

Pray for Our Sick Parishioners

Please keep in your personal prayers the following members of our parish who are in need of healing: Jude Bendzel, Linda & Virginia Black, Faye Blevins, Carol Bonito, Martha Bourne, Betty Cabeen, Candace Carne, Anita Davis, Lisa & Rusty DePrima, Cynthia Devine, Glenda Duncan, Barbara & John Facey, Janice Fortune, Henry Gaudet, Matthew Gaudet, Jean Hawkins, Gerald Hoffman, Anne Janecji, Pamela Kantor, Richard Klingler, Myrtle Martin, Sara Mason, Georgina Match, Linda Meeks, Bill Medford, Jane Mercier, Jane Osterling, Lillian Pierce, John Pitner, Angelena Quaranto, Kathy Samilo, Frances Spataro, Louise Stinnett, Dolores Sutton, Jeremiah Word.

Weekly Offerings

December 23 Offertory Received \$3295

Christmas \$2292.00

Weekly Offertory Goal \$4000

Mass Intentions: Please Pray For:
Sun. 12/30 9:00 am **Clinton Louis Gard+**

It is our tradition to offer Intentions for the sick, or our deceased members. Please stop by the Parish Office to schedule a Mass Intention.

Seniors

Our next scheduled meeting will be in February. In January we will try to plan a social. If any questions or suggestions, please contact **Gloria Kelley at 423-304-6057.**

Saint Vincent dePaul

We wish you all a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

“Jesus said to them I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst” John 6:35

Any questions about becoming a member please call **Donna Shipley** at 423-718-6951 and leave a message.

Our Helpline # is: 678-892-6163

The January Word Among Us Mass and Daily Meditations are here. Please take one for **\$1.00**. The **Sunday St. Joseph Missals** are here also. Take one and leave \$3.

The Holy Family

Marriage is too often conceived as the sacrament which unites a man and a woman to form a couple. In reality, marriage establishes a family, and its purpose is to increase the number of the elect, through the bodily and spiritual fecundity of the Christian spouses.

1. Every marriage intends children. Although Mary and Joseph were not united in a carnal way, their marriage is a true marriage: an indissoluble, exclusive union, wholly subordinated to the child. Mary and Joseph are united only in order to bring Jesus into the world, to protect and raise him. They have only one child, but he contains the whole of mankind, even as Isaac, an only child, fulfilled the promise made to Abraham of a countless progeny.
2. The purpose of every marriage is to establish a Christian family. The Holy Family observed the religious laws of Israel; it went in pilgrimage to Jerusalem every year with other Jewish families (Lk. 2:41). Jesus saddens and amazes his father and his mother because to their will and company he prefers "to be in his Father's house". Thus it may happen that God's will obliges the family to make disconcerting sacrifices. Yet every Christian family must live in harmony and in prayer, which are the pledges of joy and union.
3. "He remained obedient to them." Jesus is God. And through the fullness of grace Mary stood above Joseph. Nevertheless — if we except the event in the Temple — Joseph remained the head of the family; he took the initiative (as when the Holy Family fled to Egypt), and in Nazareth Jesus obeyed his parents.

Women In Prayer

If you have any prayer requests, please contact **Irene Staub** at 706-375-4934 (Home), 423-902-6630(Cell), or istaub1014@aol.com or **Linda Swope** at 706-861-9762 (Home) or rlswope374@comcast.net.

We have **prayer shawls** available for anyone who needs one. **Please contact Irene or Linda.**

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for such a warm Parish Family Celebration of Christmas, and for all the all the wonderful cards and gifts . The 6pm Family Mass was just beautiful. The warm glow of the St. Gerard Family coming together for the Feast of the Incarnation of God made Man, Jesus. The Parish Family crossing several generations covered so many levels of faith. Our 10:30pm Mass was a deep expression of mature faith. It was well polished and you could feel the grain of faith. The 10:00am Mass on Sunday was a joy of a brightly decorated church.

As a priest I draw my support from the community I serve. In all of the parishes I have served, there has been much warmth , but this is the first time in 40 years I have not been invited out for Christmas dinner. That is something we need to work on for next year.

Fr. Richard Wise

There is a lady living in LaFayette that needs a ride to church. She can come to the **Saturday 5:30pm or 11:00am Mass on Sunday**. If you are willing to help her get back and forth to church, please call: Dianne Davis 706-861-9410.