

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF SAINT GERARD MAJELLA
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

DECEMBER 29, 2024



HAPPY FEAST OF THE
HOLY FAMILY
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

MASS SCHEDULE
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 AM
Saturday 4:30 PM
Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 AM

ADORATION
Friday 9:00 am - Noon

RECONCILIATION:
Saturday 3:45 pm - 4:15 pm
Also, by Appointment

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Thursday, 9:30am — 4:30pm

PASTOR: FR. BRIAN BUFFORD
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DEACON: TIM SCHLUETER
502-807-3230

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CHURCH WEBSITE:
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706-401-4175

From the Pastor's Desk

Merry Christmas!

Today we celebrate Christmas – we celebrate the birth of Jesus. This is the event in which God comes to live a human life – the event of the Incarnation. The Bible presents the birth of Jesus as the coming of a new creation. This theme resonates throughout the Christmas readings, most forcefully in the reading from John's Gospel.

Christmas raises one of the major questions in the world today: Are we created? The greatest evidence that the world is created is us – human beings. John's Gospel says, "All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race." The high point of creation is the creation of human beings, spiritual beings capable of the same love as God. We are created in God's image Who is interpersonal love, a Trinity of three divine Persons.

Christianity says that God runs a creative risk in multiplying His image in other spiritual beings in giving us freedom. Every parent knows this because every child is an act of love, but giving life also means giving freedom. That child may grow up to love his parents or reject them.

We have the power to use our freedom as God does, to love as God does, but we also have the capacity to turn our freedom into a destructive force. The fact that we call Jesus our Savior, the fact that we need to be saved is because our capacity for freedom can take a tragic turn. John's Gospel says that Jesus has come to help us to become what God created us to be.

On Christmas, the Church invites us to be like God, to take a creative risk. Make an effort this year to learn what Christianity teaches, take the risk to live by faith in Jesus Christ. To those who accept it, He offers power to become children of God. May God bless us all during this holy time of the year and may the love of Jesus grow in our hearts.

Peace,

Fr. Brian

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28,

4:30 PM

SERVERS, LECTORS &

EMs TBD

USHERS:

Don Hays

Kieron Gleeson

SUNDAY, DEC. 29, 9 AM

THOMAS & VERONICA

WELCH+ (Mary Ann Cooper)

SERVERS, LECTORS &

EMs TBD

SUNDAY, DEC. 29, 11 AM

SERVERS, LECTORS &

EMs TBD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 9 AM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 9 AM

Bruce Tripp (Healing)

(Gloria Kelley)

**May the Lord
renew your
spirit and fill
you with His
peace in the
coming year.**

Please Pray for Our Sick Parishioners:

Scotty Auten, Trudy Arrington, Asher Barhite, David Bensley, Nancy Brabner, Candace Carne, Mason Cobble, Larry Cooper, Al & Carol Corkum, Jimmy Dwyer, Nancy Jane Edwards, Cynthia Fulton, Matthew Gaudet, Daniel Hamby, Megan Hoette, Anne Janecjii, Phyllis Lampert, Laura McClung, Elizabeth McWilliams, Linda Meeks, Emilie Meyer, Sandy Murphy, Dale & Jane Osterling, John Pitner, Bill, Jeff & Rose Pugliano, Nicholas Richardson, Kathy Samilo, Mary Ann Shanahan, Jim Staub, Helen Telford, Lilia Thompson, Ross Vecchio Sr. & Jr., Trey Wright Family & baby Nalayva Rose Marie.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Wednesday, January 1, Happy New Year!**
- **Wednesday, January 8, Knights of Columbus Business Meeting, 7 pm.**
- **THERE WILL BE NO SENIOR MINISTRY MEETING ON JANUARY 8th.**
- **Sunday, January 12, Pancake Breakfast, 9 am – Noon in the PLC.**
- **Tuesday, January 14, Ladies Guild Meeting & Finance Committee Meeting at 6 pm.**
- **Wednesday, January 15, Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Planning Meeting at 7 pm.**

Knights of Columbus

Any male 18 or older and a practicing Catholic can become a Knight. If you are interested, please contact Kieron Gleeson at 423-240-1798 or kierongleeson@gmail.com

**We are Here to Listen and Take Action!
You Matter. You are Family.
Archdiocesan 24 hr. Abuse Reporting
Hotline
1-888-437-0764**

Weekly Offerings

**12/22 Offertory Received: \$5,191
(Online Giving): \$530
Weekly Offertory Goal: \$6,000
Christmas \$150**

St. Vincent de Paul

All the members of our parish St. Vincent de Paul Ministry wish you a Blessed and Joyful Christmas and New Year. May the Christ Child and His Blessed Mother be with you and those you love.

Our next food pantry day will be Jan. 18th from 10am - Noon.

HELP LINE: 678-892-6163.

SVdP meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7 pm.

Women in Prayer

We have prayer shawls available for anyone who needs one. Please contact Irene or Linda, and if you have any prayer requests.

Contact Irene Staub at istaub1014@aol.com or Linda Swope at rlswope374@comcast.net.

The Pope's January Prayer Intention:

For the right to an education.
Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is normally celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas. This feast developed at the beginning of the 19th century in Canada and then spread to the entire Church in 1920. At first, it was celebrated on the Sunday after Epiphany. It is a Feast that seeks to portray the Holy Family of Nazareth as the "true model of life" from which our families can draw inspiration and know where to find help and comfort.

When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my son."...When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Rise, take the child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." He rose, took the child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee. He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoke through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazorean" (Mt 2:13-15, 19-23)

The Holy Spirit speaks to today's families. To live the gospel of the family is not easy today. Those who want to defend life from the moment of conception are criticized or attacked. Yet in the Gospel we find the way to live a beautiful life on the personal and familial level, a way that is certainly challenging, but attractive and all-embracing. It is a way that still deserves to be trusted and undertaken after the example and through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth itself. There are happy and sad, serene and difficult moments in every family. This is life. To live the "gospel of the family" does not exempt us from experiencing difficulties and tension, of encountering moments of pleasant fortitude and painful weakness. Families who are wounded and marked by weakness, failure, difficulty...can rise again if they learn how to draw from the font of the Gospel. There, they can rediscover new possibilities of starting over.



THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



LOVE

That we may love God and our neighbors. Giving selflessly and willing to sacrifice on another's behalf.

PEACE

That we may experience tranquility in our souls rather than being caught up in anxiety for the future.

JOY

That we may have inner contentment that comes from being close to God, and undisturbed by negative things of life.

PATIENCE

That we may bear the imperfections of others, through knowledge of our own imperfections and our need for God's mercy and forgiveness.



KINDNESS

That we may express warm and friendly disposition towards others and give them above and beyond what we owe them.

FAITHFULNESS

That we may often keep our promises, observe our vows, perform our duties, and being true to our words.

GENEROSITY

That we may be unselfish and willing to share with those who are in need, our resources and time.

SELF-CONTROL

That we may be in control of ourselves rather than being controlled by events or other people, and having courage to reject evil and choose good.

Ermen Okaka



PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY

O Jesus, we offer our family to you - our trials and joys - that our home like yours may ever be the shrine of peace, hope, love and faith. Dear Jesus, protect and bless all of us.

O Mary, loving Mother of Jesus and our mother, pray to Jesus for our family, for all the families of the world, to bless couples with your love, parents with your wisdom, and children with your trust.

O Joseph, Holy Guardian of Jesus and Mary, assist us by your prayers in all our necessities of life. Watch over our home, guard us in our work, cherish us in our relationships, and protect us in our later years, till we all be united with Jesus, Mary and you for all eternity. Amen.