

On this Sunday after Christmas we celebrate Jesus' human family. Appropriate to the season, we usually visualize the Holy Family as they appear in the typical nativity scene: the baby Jesus lying in the manger, surrounded by his doting parents. But Joseph, Mary, and Jesus lived together for many years, through Jesus' infancy, childhood, adolescence, and maybe even into adulthood. As we celebrate this Feast of the Holy Family, let us reflect on how they can be a model for our own families.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

—We ask your prayers for *Hattie White*, the grandmother of *Wayne Rose*, who died recently. Notes may be sent to Wayne & Silvie at 15555 Woodstone Circle, Bristol, VA 24202.

—Your prayers are asked for *Hedwig Meussen*, the mother of *Brigitte Koserski*, who died recently in Germany. Notes may be sent to Brigitte & Peter at 367 Sinking Springs Rd., Bristol, TN 37620.

Please take Note:

- **NO Adult Faith Formation** groups will meet this week except for Wednesday Scripture Study at 1 p.m. and Prayer Group at 2:45 p.m. *Merry Christmas!*
- Parish Office closed: January 1 (New Year's Day).
- **NO Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and No Confessions** this Tuesday (*Solemnity of Mary*)
Tuesday Adoration will resume on **January 8**.
- **NO RCIA** this week, RCIA resumes on **January 9**.
- **SMARE (Sunday Morning Adult Religious Education)** class resumes next Sunday, **Jan. 6**, 9:45am in the Great Room for "**Apostolic Fathers-Part 2**".

Holy Day Masses (Solemnity of Mary): Mon., Dec. 31 at 5:30p & Tues., Jan. 1 at 10a (*incense at the 10 a.m. Mass*)

Weekday Masses this week: Wed. at 8:30a (chapel); Thursday at 6 p.m.; Friday at ***8:30 a.m.**

NO BINGO: Dec. 29 & 31, Jan. 1 (*resumes Sat., Jan. 5*)

FINANCE COUNCIL & PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Meetings this Thursday, January 3 in the school Library:

Finance: 7 AM

PPC: 7 PM

From the Pastor's Desk

I am often approached by people who are saddened by the fact that their adult children have left the Church. They ask me what can be done to make their children come back to the Church. They get even more frustrated when I tell them there is basically nothing they can do. Ok, I am not saying they should do nothing to bring them back, but I am saying no one will ever be able to make anyone come back to the Church. It is a choice they have to make for themselves. We can pray for them and encourage them. We can share our own faith experiences with them, but in the end, they are going to have to decide for themselves that they want to be active in the Church.

One thing I often do not say, because it is usually not received well by people who are already upset about their children's choices, is that this is an issue that should have been addressed earlier. I am writing this now, because a recent issue of *The Catholic Virginian*, printed an article about a study that concluded basically the same thing. The study concluded that the median age for people to stop identifying as Catholic is 13. If we want to stop young adults from leaving the Church, we should worry about them more when they are 13. I would argue that we should actually start much earlier than that.

This is a subject I have been studying myself for a long time. I have a few thoughts to offer about this. If we want our youth to take the faith seriously, we need to begin teaching them as soon as they are old enough to understand. This should always be upheld as an important part of their lives. Religious education classes are important, even at a very young age, because they teach the importance of coming together to celebrate our faith as a community. Children are often more perceptive than we give them credit for. If they see that participation in religious education is not upheld as a priority, the lesson is that practicing the faith is not that important either.

Also, it is important for families to practice the faith together. Children not only learn from what we teach them, they often learn even more from what they observe. If the people they respect the most are not practicing the faith, again, the lesson is that it is just not that important. I would invite all families reading this to spend some time praying together as a family, and talk to your children about how important your faith is to you, and why attending Mass together as a family is such a great thing for everyone.



In Loving Memory of:

Lynn Marie Murphy (daughter) & **Isabelle Murphy** (wife)
Given by John Murphy

Veronica Taylor (JoAnn's mother)
Given by JoAnn & Mike Shepard

John Paloian (husband) & **Thomas Paloian Sr.** (son), and
deceased members of the:

Paloian, Gionet and Cholakian families
Given by Joyce Paloian

Robert L. Rhymer (Joann's father) and
Patricia Fleenor (Scott's mother)
Given by Joann & Scott Fleenor

Raymond Bush, Jr.
Given by Karen, Jeff, Mike and Family

Deceased members of the **Karban, Dudek, Oliver families**
Given by Mary and Frank Karban and family

Deceased members of the **Donald Ward &
the Rozelma Wagner families**
Given by Carolyn Ward

Mary Pat Flanagan
Given by John Flanagan and Mary and Jim

George Sommer
Given by Susan M. Harmer-Sommer

**James & Audrey Wilson,
Charles & Elizabeth Bouton and Mark Bouton**
Given by Kate & Wayne Bouton

"Our Parents"
Given by Lucy & Herb Jensen

The **Nordone Family:**
**Nicholas Sr., Clotilda, Anthony, Nicholas Jr., & Joseph
Vito Cericola** (husband) and his parents:
Vito Sr. & Anna

Lee Culbertson (a most wonderful son-in-law)
Given by Paula Cericola

Deceased members of the **deMartino & Sheppard families**
and **Ken Evans**
Given by Patricia Sheppard

Deceased members of the **Perry and Pasion families**
Given by Jerry & Frances Perry

Frank Hanson (husband)
Given by Mary Anne Hanson

Tonette Davidson (mother)
Given by Aleta Smith and Victoria Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph G Greany, Sr. (parents)
Given by Bill Greany



Poinsettias

In Loving Memory of:

Deceased family members
Given by Agnes Cavanaugh

Deceased members of the:
Dorula, Blasher and Lester families
Given by Cathy Dorula

Susan Johnson
Given by Kenneth Johnson

Deceased members of the **Keirstead and Bassett families**
Given by Sallyann Bassett

Richard E. Green (husband) and **Michael Green** (son) and
Brenda Johnson Sandos
Given by Jo Green

Shane Christopher Grayson (Carol's infant son) and
Antoinetta & Joseph Nechvil (Marietta Gangwer's parents)
Given by Carol Reynolds

Mr. & Mrs. Ray C. Swossards and Chad Newton
Given by Patti Boatright

C.M. & Hazel Boatright and Sandra Boatright
Given by Mike Boatright

Deceased members of the **Heffner and Dutcher families**
Given by Miriam, Jody & Julie Dutcher

Neal Jewell
Given by Lucyann Jewell

Deceased members of the **Sullivan and Tilley families**
Given by Maureen & Jim Tilley

Julian "Dave" Pryputniewicz
Given by loving New York & Tennessee families

John Burns (husband) and
Mr. & Mrs. Jose Rodriguez (parents)
Given by Carmen Burns

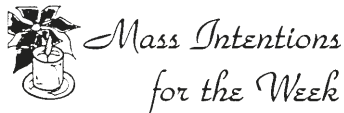
Victoria Alvarez de Morales and Larry Gray and for
deceased members of the:
Sandretto & Burriss families, especially their parents
Given by Bill & Rose Marie Burriss

Deceased family members
Given by the Tebeau family

Todd Fayler, Molly Moore, Fran and Jack MacFarlane
Given by Pam & Ed Balaban

Raymond Rice (loving husband)
Given by Cassie Rice

Charles & Rita Mansfield (parents)
Given by Rosie Mansfield



Saturday, December 29 (*Vigil: Feast of the Holy Family*)

5:30 p.m. Special Intention for Agnes Hurt

Sunday, December 30 (*Feast of the Holy Family*)

8:30 a.m. †Fred Eaton

11:30 a.m. †Bob Landsberg

2:00 p.m. Parishioners (*Spanish Mass*)

Monday, December 31 (*Vigil: Solemnity of Mary*)

5:30 p.m. †Dan Dutcher

Tuesday, January 1 (*Solemnity of Mary Holy Day*)

10:00 a.m. In thanksgiving for St. Anne's Parishioners

Wednesday, January 2

8:30 a.m. no intention yet scheduled

Thursday, January 3

6:00 p.m. †Susan Mellett

Friday, January 4

*8:30 a.m. Spec. Int. for Fr. Chris Hess (birthday)

Saturday, January 5 (*Vigil: Epiphany*)

5:30 p.m. †Maria & †Markus Reich

Sunday, January 6 (*Epiphany*)

8:30 a.m. †Gary Hinch

11:30 a.m. †Special Intention (Debra Rodham)

2:00 p.m. Parishioners

***Please note:** the time for our Friday weekday Mass is now 8:30 a.m. (instead of 7:30a).

COLLECTIONS: Due to the early publisher's deadline, the collection results for Dec. 22/23 were not available for this bulletin.

Upcoming 2nd Collections in January:

January 6th—St. Anne's School

January 20th—Respect Life

Scripture for Solemnity of Mary (Dec. 31/Jan. 1)

Numbers 6:22-27 *The Lord bless and keep you!*

Galatians 4:4-7 *We too are the sons and daughters of God.*

Luke 2:16-21 *Mary reflected on all these things in her heart.*

Scripture Readings for Next Sunday (Jan. 5/6)

EPIPHANY of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6

The glory of the Lord shines on all people.

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

The Gentiles are coheirs of the promise.

Matthew 2:1-12

The magi come with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

INCENSE: We will be using incense at the 10 a.m. Mass on January 1, and at ALL Masses except the 8:30 a.m. Mass on the weekends of Dec. 29/30 (Holy Family), Jan. 5/6 (Epiphany) and Jan. 12/13 (Baptism of the Lord).

Senior High Youth Ministry (Grades 9-12)

- **Sun., Dec. 30** —NO SHYM
 - Happy New Year!
- **Sun., Jan. 6**—Youth Group (BYC 6pm-8pm)
 - Epiphany Party
- **Sun., Jan. 13**—Youth Group (BYC 6pm-8pm)
 - More Than Meets the Eye
 - Confirmation Class
- **Sun., Jan. 20**—Youth Group (BYC 6pm-8pm)
 - Prayer Service / Respect Life

Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC) February 8-10, 2019

The Diocesan Youth Conference is a weekend event held each year to gather high school youth (Gr. 9-12) from all 145 parishes in the Richmond Diocese. The Conference is highly energetic, engaging, and an awesome opportunity for our teens to gather as a larger Church community and celebrate the amazing richness of our Catholic Christian faith. Registration is now \$190: includes travel, lodging, and meals. To register, contact Laura at lauracochrane@stannes-bristol.org or 276-492-3095.

Registration Deadline: January 6!

Lighthouse Catholic Media CDs

CD of the week:

"Mary, the Indispensable Mother of God"

Tim Staples explains the incredible impact that the Church's understanding of Mary has on our spiritual lives, and the profound way that Marian doctrines and dogmas safeguard what we believe about her son. Using penetrating insights and humor, Tim shows how correct knowledge of our humble Mother reveals our own identity in Christ, and empowers us to say "Yes" to God! Find this CD and many more titles at the CD display in the commons. A \$3 .00 donation per CD is appreciated and allows us to re-stock with new CDs. Thank you!

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS—January 12

Our next Baptismal Preparation Class is scheduled for **Saturday, January 12, 2pm-4pm in the Great Room.** If you have a child under the age of 7 who needs baptism or you are expecting the birth of your child soon, please plan to attend. The nursery will be provided for siblings, if needed. **To register,** please call Sydney Farnum at 276-669-8200 ext. 32 or email sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org **no later than Wednesday, January 9.**

Pray for Vocations!

Are you called to serve the family of the Lord and share the Father's love as a priest? Contact the Vocations Office (Father Michael Boehling or Father Brian Capuano) at 804-359-5661 or vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

Donations for Poinsettias
In Loving Memory of:



Deacon Harry Hall

Given by Richard Davis

**Genarro Costagliola, Jerry Costagliola,
Josephine Costagliola and Sidney O'Dell**

Given by The Costagliola's and The DiBartolo's

Donald J. Miles and Jeffery A. Miles

Given by Chris & Bearl Jenkins

Dan Thomas and Marilyn Thomas (grandparents)

Given by Joe and Claire Kreutzer

Mike Parkulo (husband) and **Dolores Benedetto** (sister)

Given by Joan Parkulo and family

Sych Cyzick Yaromey and Pennington families

Given by Andy Cyzick

Happy New Year!

**May you have a Happy, Safe
and Blessed New Year!!**

HOLY DAY of Obligation

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Masses: Dec. 31 at **5:30 p.m.** & Jan. 1 at **10 a.m.**

(Incense will be used at the 10 a.m. Mass)



Donations for flowers were given

In HONOR of:

Fr. Chris and Staff;

Chris Neal & Choir

Given by Pam & Ed Balaban

Pauline Price, Mildred Radler, Paula Cericola

Jeff & Patricia Green Johnson

Given by Jo Green

Chris Neal

Given by Pam Costagliola, Angela Costagliola
and Jozie Costagliola DiBartolo

Members of the ***deMartino and Sheppard families***

Given by Patricia Sheppard

All ***Patients at the Hospice House*** and their ***Caregivers***

Given by Cathy Dorula