

# The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

## December 27, 2009

*“He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them, and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.” Luke 2: 51-52*

### **We Are All Gifts from God!**

Returning thanks is not something we do at our Eucharistic liturgy, but something embedded in the daily life of our family.

Hannah reminds us that every child is a gift from God. As parents, we not only give thanks to God for the gift of our children, but we must also give them back to God. Our return gift is not usually a one-time event as it is for Hannah, but a daily handing over of our children to God so that they can grow in body and spirit toward maturity. Mary and Joseph experience the awakening in their child Jesus to his life's direction. On the brink of adulthood, at 12, the Jewish boy celebrates his *bar mitzvah* (becoming “one to whom the commandments apply.”) Jesus takes responsibility for his vocation as a teacher of God's ways. Although Mary and Joseph do not quite understand what Jesus is up to, their love for him makes room for the path that will eventually take him from home and family to his death not far from the same Jerusalem temple.

John's letter recalls, that, while we might now be parents ourselves, we still remain children of God. We are all gifts from God, begotten in love and called to give back that love, not only to God, but to one another.

Following this path, we will become like our Father in heaven.

Steve Mueller - *Living with Christ*

### **Scripture Readings for the Week**

Monday: 1 Jn 1: 5 - 2: 2; Mt 2: 13-18  
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2: 3-11; Lk 2: 22-35  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2: 12-17 Luke 2: 36-40  
Thursday: 1 Jn 2: 18-21; Jn 1: 1-18  
Friday: Nm 6: 22-27; Gal 4: 4-7; Lk 2: 16-21  
Saturday: 1 Jn 2: 22-28; Jn 1: 19-28  
Sunday: Is 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6  
Mt 2: 1-12

### **Pray for the Deceased**

Regina Braeutigam

### **Pot of Gold Winners**

(\$25) Genevieve Smith, Mary Watson, Eleanor DeVor, Carolyn Toth, Andy Bodi, Scott Eschweiler



### **Coffee & Donuts - Canceled**

We will not have coffee & donuts this Sunday - Doughnut Pantry is closed for the Christmas holiday.



### **Mass Schedule**

**New Year's - is a Holy Day of Obligation**

Thursday, Dec. 31st - 5:15 PM Mass

Friday, January 1st - 10:00 AM Mass

### **Mass Intentions**

Sunday, December 27 - Holy Family

9:00 AM For the People of the Parish

11:00 AM Jeanette Ianni (Joe Ianni)

Monday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents

5:15 PM Edgar VanHuffel (Rita Loksa)

Tuesday, December 29 - St. Thomas Becket

8:00 AM John F. Kelly (Beverly Kelly)

Wednesday, Dec. 30 - 6th day: Octave of Christmas

5:15 PM Martha Cutler (Frank Cutler)

Thursday, Dec. 31 - 7th day: Octave of Christmas

5:15 PM Catherine Prendergast (Mary Alice Novak)

Friday, January 1 - Virgin Mary, Mother of God

10:00 AM New Year's Day Mass

Saturday, January 2 - St. Basil & St Gregory the Great

8:00 AM

5:15 PM Brendan J. Healy (Pat Hesland)

### **Please Note.....**

The rectory office will be closed on Monday, Dec. 28th, and will open on Tuesday, Dec. 29th at 8:30 AM.

## Family Blessing

Loving God,  
we ask you to bless our family  
and the life we share together.  
Help us to work with one another,  
sharing our gifts and talents  
to make our family grow in faith, love  
and service.  
Help us to pray together joyfully,  
giving of our time and of ourselves  
to make our family happy.  
Help us to love one another  
and always to be eager to show that love.  
In joys and sorrows,  
in good times and in bad,  
may we give strength to one another.  
As we strive to follow the example of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph,  
may we respect everyone's human dignity  
in all our daily relationships.  
Finally, may we all one day share together  
in the everlasting happiness of your  
heavenly family.

## Retrouvaille Weekend - January 2010

Someone once said "marriages may be made in heaven, but they sure take a lot of work on earth." Have you become so distracted by outside pressures that you have neglected your spouse? Retrouvaille (Help Our Marriage) can help you put your marriage back on track. The next Cleveland Retrouvaille weekend will be held on January 22nd - 24th at the Cleveland Hilton Inn Beachwood. A registration fee of \$50 is requested to confirm a reservation. For information concerning the program, or to register, contact Al or Diane Miskinis at 330-665-3506 or 800-470-2230. You may also learn about Retrouvaille on the web at [www.helpourmarriage.com](http://www.helpourmarriage.com).

## Divorce Recovery for Catholics

St. Christopher Catholic Church in Rocky River is sponsoring a 10 week series of support group meetings beginning Monday, January 18th and ending March 22nd, 2010, designed to assist Catholics who are recently separated or divorced. Divorce is never easy and leaves individuals feeling alone, hurt and confused. Sessions are designed to provide a caring, confidential atmosphere to share with others who understand your experience and help you find support and encouragement. Pre-registration is necessary. To register call Gayle Cilimburg at 44-331-4255.

## Finance Corner:

Collection for weekend of December 20 - \$ 8214.31  
Envelopes used: 206  
Weekly budget to meet December 2009 expenses -  
\$9,096.00

Thank you for your continued support and generosity for the parish.

## St. Vincent de Paul Society

Donate your used car, van or pickup truck to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Diocese of Cleveland, and avoid the hassles and headaches of trading it in or selling it yourself. Your vehicle will be sold and proceeds used by the St. Vincent de Paul Society in their charitable programs that assist the needy and suffering throughout the Diocese. You may also be eligible for an income tax deduction. For more information call 216-696-6525 ex. 3150, or 1-800-869-6525 ext. 3150, or check out our website at [www.svdpcle.org](http://www.svdpcle.org)

## Mid-Winter Blast – Lakewood Dept. of Human Services – Division of Aging:

It may be cold and blowing outside, but we will be warm and dry indoors. We will enjoy some hot cocoa with pastries, some chili for lunch, and a nice fire in the fireplace. What could be more fun on a cold morning than playing board games around the fire with friends? After lunch, we'll be treated to a performance by our very own Gold Coast Follies. Join us Tuesday, January 19th from 10 AM to 1 PM in the Women's Pavilion at Lakewood Park. Cost is \$4 and reservations must be made by calling 521-1515 by January 12th.

## Pre-Cana Day

The Lakewood/West Cleveland Pre-Cana Team will be offering a Pre-Cana Day on March 20, 2010 from 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM at St. Luke Parish. Pre-Cana is a great way to prepare for a lifelong marriage. Pre-Cana is a day long "date" that helps fulfill a part of the Diocesan marriage preparation requirements. This will be the only Pre-Cana held in Lakewood for the 2010 calendar year. The cost of the day is \$80.00 and includes 3 meals. Please register as soon as possible, space is limited. Please contact Holly for more information at 216-521-1842, or [jzappala@cox.net](mailto:jzappala@cox.net)

*To exist is to change, to change is to mature,  
To mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly.*