

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

As they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday, December 28, 5:00 p.m. Mass - For the benefit and intentions of Father Shroff and Family by Jane LeBreton

Sunday, December 29, 9:30 a.m. Mass - Pro - Populo

11:00 a.m. Mass – Thanksgiving for Jarell’s Birthday, opportunity to serve and settlement by the Edet’s Family

Nigerian Community Mass 1:30 p.m.

Monday, December 30, No Mass

Tuesday, December 31, 5:00 p.m. New Year’s Eve Mass – Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God

Pro - Populo

Wednesday, January 1, 10:30 a.m. New Year’s Day - Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God

Pro - Populo

Thursday, January 2, 8:30 a.m. In Thanksgiving to Jesus for the Health of Lisa ‘s Family by Lisa

First Friday, January 3, 8: 00 a.m. Mass + For the repose of the Soul of Cyril Benson by Karine Langley

Holy Hour Eucharistic Adoration from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 4, 5:00 p.m. Mass - Pro - Populo

Sunday, January 5, 9:30 a.m. Mass – Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

+ For the repose of the Soul of Cecil LeBreton by Jane LeBreton

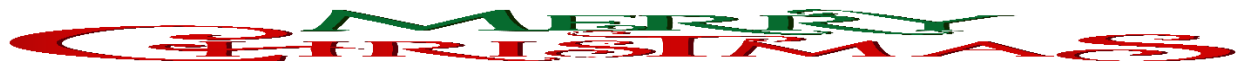
11:00 a.m. Mass + For Holy Souls in Purgatory by Karine Langley

THE HOLY FAMILY REFLECTION: Today’s gospel gives us a rare glimpse of the ‘hidden life’ of Jesus, the years he spent under the care of Mary and Joseph. Luke displays their fidelity to their Jewish faith, and he underlines the autonomy of the young Jesus in staying behind in Jerusalem. We encounter the mystery of the Son of God who has become man. He is fully human and subject to his parents, but from his earliest years Jesus is involved in his Father’s affairs. The Temple doctors are astounded at the learning of Jesus, and this prepares for the astonishment of the crowds once his public ministry begins. The story reaches its climax with the finding of Jesus by his parents. Luke stresses the anxiety of Mary, foreshadowing the three days of anguish when Jesus dies. His parents did not understand Jesus’ words, but Mary will ‘store these things in her heart’. She is the contemplative who receives the word and puts it into practice. Luke brings the stories of Jesus’ early life to an end by reminding us that Jesus grew in wisdom as the years passed. What does this story of Jesus’ adolescence really teach us? How is Luke preparing us for later events in the gospel story? Let us pray for patience with ourselves and with others as we seek to grow in wisdom. Let us pray for all our young people that they will be open to doing God’s will.

Collection – December 21, 22, 24 and 25, 2024: Envelopes: \$774.30., Loose: \$370.65; St. Vincent de Paul: \$240.00; Vigil Lights: \$85.80; Clergy Support: \$50.00; Christmas Collection: \$2, 289.05; Grand Totals: \$4,164.80.

FOR CHRISTMAS - He Comes to Us! The true miracle of Christmas is not the power of God to become man. It is not the mystery of divinity merged with humanity. No, it is something more wondrous, more astonishing – for we have a God that comes to us! Before the Incarnation, the world and its religions had seen God from a distance, something each of us must struggle to find. But Jesus’ birth gave us a God who is a seeker, one who runs to find His children, even in the lowest of habitations, a stable. Thus at Christmas we are all Elizabeth, amazed at the arrival of our Saviour right on our own doorsteps. This intimate blessing makes the Nativity the most precious of gifts, the mercy and love of a God who does not wait for our stumbling steps, but instead he comes... He comes to visit us.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! ...



2025 NEW SUNDAY MISSALS: HAVE ARRIVED! And You are welcome to purchase a copy or more of the new Sunday missal at the parish office for \$8.00 each.

SPIRITUAL BANQUET FOR JUBILEE YEAR: Get ready for the Jubilee Year 2025 with this series of spiritual reflections on Luke's Gospel at Sheng Shen (Holy Spirit) Chinese Parish, 1187 Michael Street North. Speaker: Bible scholar, Bishop Yvan Mathieu, Saturday, January 11, 10am-12pm.

DONATION ENVELOPES 2025: Donation envelopes are available to be pick - up in the church main entrance area. If you do not have a box of envelopes and would like one, please take a blank box and remember to record your name and box number on the sheet so you can receive and income tax receipt at the end of the year. Thank you!

PEACEMAKERS: We have a mission to make Christ and his love known in the world. We take Mary as the great example of how ordinary people can have an extraordinary effect when they consent to work as instruments of God's love. It is quite appropriate for her feast day to be set aside for prayers for peace, since those who bear witness to Christ are meant to be peacemakers, bearers of the promise of God's everlasting peace to our troubled world.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 - PILGRIMS OF HOPE: The Catholic Church worldwide will be celebrating a special Jubilee Year in 2025. This has been a tradition dating back to the year 1300 when Pope Boniface VIII announced the first Jubilee, which is also referred to as a "Holy Year". The frequency has changed over time, with a Jubilee year originally celebrated every 100 years, later every 50 years and, more recently, every 25 years or at the request of the Holy Father. The Jubilee Year includes many within the city of Rome and also local initiatives in dioceses around the world. The theme of the 2025 Jubilee will be "Pilgrims of Hope". In the words of Pope Francis: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision." The Holy Father will open the Jubilee Year on December 24, 2024, with the official opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica and continues until January 6, 2026, the Solemnity of the Epiphany, with the closing of the Holy Door.

The Jubilee Prayer: Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise forever. Amen.

