



From Pope Benedict's homily on the Feast of the Holy Family, 2007 ...

Today, we are celebrating the Feast of the Holy Family. As we follow the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, let us

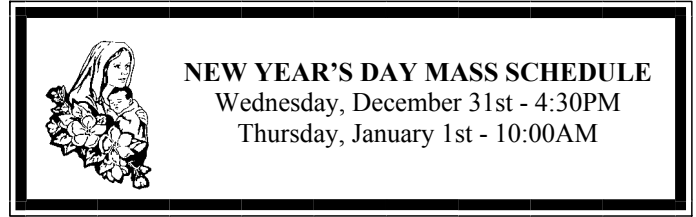
fix our gaze on Jesus, Mary and Joseph and adore the mystery of a God who chose to be born of a woman, the Blessed Virgin, and to enter this world in the way common to all humankind. By so doing he sanctified the reality of the family, filling it with divine grace and fully revealing its vocation and mission. The Second Vatican Council dedicated much attention to the family. Married partners, it said, must be witnesses of faith to each other and to their children (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, n. 35). The Christian family thus shares in the Church's prophetic vocation: with its way of living it "proclaims aloud both the present power of the Kingdom of God and the hope of the blessed life" (ibid.). Then, as my venerable Predecessor John Paul II tirelessly repeated, the good of the person and of society is closely connected to the "healthy state" of the family (cf. *Gaudium et Spes*, n. 47). The Church, therefore, is committed to defending and to fostering "the dignity and supremely sacred value of the married state" (ibid.).

In contemplating the mystery of the Son of God who came into the world surrounded by the love of Mary and Joseph, I ask Christian families to experience the loving presence of the Lord in their lives. I likewise encourage them, drawing inspiration from Christ's love for humanity, to bear witness to the world of the beauty of human love, marriage and the family. Founded on the indissoluble union between a man and a woman, the family constitutes the privileged context in which human life is welcomed and protected from its beginning to its natural end. Thus, parents have the right and the fundamental obligation to raise their children in the faith and values which give dignity to human life. It is worthwhile working for the family and marriage because it is worthwhile working for the human being, God's most precious creature. I have a special word for children, so that they may love and pray for their fathers and mothers and their siblings; to young people, so that encouraged by their parents' love, they may follow generously their own vocation to marriage, priestly or religious life; to the elderly and the sick, so that they may find needed help and understanding. And you, dear spouses, may you always count on God's grace so that your love may be increasingly fruitful and faithful every day. I entrust the outcome of this celebration to the hands of Mary, who "with her 'yes' she opened the door of our world to God" (*Spe Salvi*, n. 49). Many thanks and happy holidays!

I offer a warm welcome to the English-speaking visitors gathered for this Angelus prayer. Today, in the heart of the Christmas Season, the Church celebrates the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. May the mystery of God's love, made incarnate in the Child Jesus and reflected in the home of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth, dwell in your hearts and in your families throughout the coming year. Upon all of you I invoke an abundance of Christmas joy and peace!

Please remember in your prayers our departed:

†John Scalzitti, brother of Nelda Hart.



**ALTAR BREAD AND WINE
SPONSORSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE**

From the beginning of our Church, bread and wine have been brought forward by the people for the celebration of the Eucharist. Many even brought bread and wine from home. It was customary to think of every gift to the Church and the poor as a gift to God and to designate it as an offering. As an observant Jew, Jesus used bread and wine to commemorate the Passover meal with His disciples. Thus, the most sacred food for the Jewish Passover Meal has become the very essence of our Eucharistic meal.

A parishioner saw this at other Churches and thought it would be a good idea to start here at Sacred Heart and Pastoral Council agreed. We are now accepting sponsorships/offering for the altar bread and wine used at the weekend Mass. It is the same idea as someone sponsoring the Sanctuary Candle. Every weekend would be available. You could use the offering as a memorial or remembrance or special intention, just like a Mass or the Sanctuary Candle. If you are interested in sponsoring the Altar Bread and Wine, stop by the Parish Office or put an envelope marked "Altar Bread and Wine" in the collection basket. Please remember to put the person who it is in memory or honor of and who it is from so we can publish the names in the bulletin. The cost is \$25 and thank you for your continued prayers and support.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS - Gifts were given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. McCallion, Gramma and Grampa Fahey, Gram and Gramps Mattes, Parents of Mary V. Hughes, Art Bergamasco, Mary and Joseph Petruso, Sam Barzano, Mary Pettinato, Sam Pettinato, Dec'd of the Ignazio and Giovanna Totleben Family, Rose Olson, Warner Olson, George Steimer, Louise Steimer, Donald Seifert, Dec'd of the Dom Colao Family, and Dec'd of the Faro Phillip Family. Gifts were also received from Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mangold, Mrs. Robert T. Whiteman, Mrs. Michael W. Sebal, and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Adiatori.





Monday, December 29th - St. Thomas Becket

8:30 - Rosemary Maloney - Louise Cutri

Tuesday, December 30th

8:30 - Frank Klein - Ann and Steve Scutella

Wednesday, December 31st - Pope Sylvester I

8:30 - Loretta Alberstadt - Family

Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God

4:30 - Pat and Frank Klein - Tom Yeager

6:30 - Wedding of Sarah Lindgren and Michael Musone

Thursday, January 1st - Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God

10:00 - Betty Murphy - Jean Ager

Friday, January 2nd - St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen

First Friday

8:30 - Julia and Eli Berarducci - Family

Saturday, January 3rd - The Holy Name of Jesus - First Saturday

4:30 - Bill Shewan - Family

Sunday, January 4th - The Epiphany of the Lord

9:30 - Suzanna Bihler - Family

11:30 - For the Parishioners of Sacred Heart Church

Priest Schedule for January 3rd and 4th

Saturday, 4:30PM - Fr. Detisch

Sunday, 9:30AM and 11:30AM - Fr. Detisch

The Sanctuary Candle is burning in memory of †**Carmella** and **Sam Criscione** by the Family.

The Altar Bread and Wine are given in memory of the Dec'd of the †**Fleming** and †**Henriksen Families** by the Family.

Scripture Readings for Next Week

Isaiah 60: 1-6 Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6 Matthew 2: 1-12



MARCH FOR LIFE BUS TRIP - Attend the

annual March for Life in Washington, DC on January 22nd. Buses will leave Erie Wednesday evening, January 21st at 11:00PM and return about 1:00AM, January 23rd. Some sponsorships are available for students and families on tight budgets. Reservations should be made as soon as possible. Send \$40.00 per seat to People for Life, Inc., Post Office Box 1126, Erie, PA 16512. For more information, please call 882-1333 or visit www.peopleforlife.org.

It might be cold outside, but it is heartwarming in Sacred Heart Parish. Each year we are amazed at the outpouring of generosity shown towards Sacred Heart families who need the most help during Christmas. Knowing that you are helping someone else must warm your heart, it certainly does ours. The best to you and your family in 2009. The Christmas Angels.



COFFEE & DONUTS WILL NOT BE HELD ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH, 2009; BUT WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST.

Monday - Boy Scout Meeting at 6:00PM in the audi.

Tuesday - The **Rosary** will be prayed at 2:00PM in church.

Friday - Church Cleaning **Team #8** (Charlene Michael's team) is scheduled for Friday, January 2nd.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS - As the

New Year is upon us let us focus on the prayer that Luke's Gospel teaches us. This is one of my favorite prayers to end the day with so I believe it works well for an end to the year. "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel". We must reflect on our past days to better our relationship with God, we can only draw closer to Him by realizing the past mistakes and fixing them today. The next Sacred Heart youth group will meet on January 8th from 7pm-8:30pm. If you would like to make our NET retreat January 22nd, please e-mail me at catholicconnection@gmail.com.



Peace. Jesse



St. Peter Cathedral School will be holding its annual **Open House** on Sunday, January 25th from Noon until 2:30PM. Any families with children entering preschool through 8th grade are welcome to attend. Visit our website at www.cathedralcenter.org.

ATTENTION LADIES OF THE ALTAR SOCIETY

It's time for our annual "**Birthday Bash**" and everyone is invited to come celebrate all birthdays on Wednesday, January 14th, at 7:00PM in the audi. (The Board will meet at 6:00PM.)



After recitation of the rosary, a brief business meeting will be held. Our annual spaghetti dinner is sure to be on the agenda, so your participation would be greatly appreciated.

Feel free to bring a friend along. I'm sure she has a birthday she wants to celebrate.

THE ERIE MARCH and MOTORCADE FOR LIFE will take place on Saturday, January 10th to mark the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision. Marchers should gather at the Perry Square Gazebo by 10:50AM. The March and Motorcade will begin at 11:00AM and take about an hour. It will conclude with a brief Memorial Service at the Gazebo. Be a voice for the voiceless and a witness for Life! For more information, call 882-1333 or visit www.peopleforlife.org.

*May the Peace
of the
Holy Family
be with you
always.*

