

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

DECEMBER 30, 2018

Dear Parishioners, Visitors & Friends,

Many thanks for your generous gifts, cards and prayers, given to all of us this Christmas. May this season find you abounding in love, rejoicing in hope, and secure in God's peace. I pray that God's richest blessings continue with you and yours through the coming year.

...Fr. John Mink & Fr. Richard Jasper

The St. Ann "APP": Associate Pastor's Perspective - *Saturday Night Live* recently aired a skit in which two parents sit together on the living room sofa, sharing wine and reminiscing about how perfect Christmas Day was with their children and invited guests. Except it wasn't, not really. When, for example, the wife says that she so admired her husband's skill in assembling with ease many of the Christmas toys the night before, a flashback is shown in which a very frustrated father is seen kicking a playhouse that he just couldn't seem to make stand on its own. And when both parents say how wonderful their children were in opening gifts, a flashback shows the siblings fighting and trying to destroy each other's presents. So much for the modern-day holy family, right?

Well, let's not be too quick to judge. Today's Feast is a celebration of the Holy Family, not "the Perfect Family." And while it is true that Our Lord and Our Blessed Mother were born without sin, that does not mean that they didn't get frustrated in the workshop, tired doing the household chores, or fearful at the temporary loss of a child (as seen in today's Gospel). Holiness does not mean that Jesus, Mary and Joseph spent their days walking around like the statues displayed in our churches with glowing haloes around their heads. Rather, they simply spent the ordinariness of everyday life responding to the grace of God the Father in all they did, sharing love and compassion, patience and forgiveness with one another and the world around them. That's the definition of true holiness, and it is to this that each of us is called.

At the end of the *SNL* skit, the voiceover stated something quite profound as it relates to the struggles of living family life in today's world: "Even when it's the worst, it's the best." When seen through the eyes of faith, we can say that this is, in fact, true. **Happy Feast of the Holy Family to all our St. Ann's families.**



St. Ann's 2018 Christmas Mass Schedule



December 31	9am	Daily Mass ONLY
December 31	5pm	VIGIL Mass
January 1st	9:30am	New Year's Day Mass

The Rectory Office will be closed December 31st & January 1st for New Year's.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE- *Thank you to everyone who participated in our Annual Giving Tree program. Your gifts and acts of kindness will make Christmas brighter for so many in need.*

BIG THANK YOU – *to everyone who gave of their time and talent decorating our church for Christmas. We appreciate all that you did - it looks amazing! Thank you again from all of us at St. Ann's!*

Election of Trustees – Each parish in the Diocese of Wilmington is incorporated within and by the laws of the State in which it is located. St. Ann is incorporated in the State of Delaware. The by-laws of the Corporation and the statutes of the Diocese of Wilmington provide for five trustees; the Bishop of the Diocese, and the Pastor, and a priest so designated by the Bishop, (these days it is the Chancellor of the Diocese) and two (2) lay persons are to be elected each January by duly registered members of the parish in the meeting called by the President (the Pastor). That meeting is scheduled for next Sunday - January 6th, following the 11:30am Mass in the Parish Hall. Our current lay trustees are Charles Klous and David O'Connor.

Mass Intentions

Saturday December 29

8:00 A.M. John Fleming

5:00 P.M. M/M Francis & Stella Smith

Sunday December 30

7:30 A.M. Parishioners

9:30 A.M. Anna Donnelly

11:30 A.M. Christopher Connors

Monday December 31

9:00 A.M. Mary Dailey

5:00 P.M. John Balan

Tuesday January 1 New Year's Day

9:30 A.M. Jerome Nolan

Wednesday January 2

6:30 A.M. Alice McGonigle

8:00 A.M. Georgina Sheing & Henry Salacki

Thursday January 3

6:30 A.M. Connie Weidner

8:00 A.M. Paul DiSabatino

Friday January 4

6:30 A.M. Gerry Eckrich

8:00 A.M. Leo Cunningham

Saturday January 5

8:00 A.M. Geraldine Louise Duffy

5:00 P.M. Timothy Ryan

Sunday January 6

7:30 A.M. Parishioners

9:30 A.M. Joe Cunningham

11:30 A.M. Nicholas R. Rafferty, Sr.

Pray for the sick, shut-ins and elderly of our Parish.

Charitable Contributions - are one of the many gifts that remain for end of the year giving. For the computer savvy, our Electronic Giving Program is a convenient way to give. Our website stannwilmington.com has info on how to give this way. Our Company Matching Gift Program, Memorial Gifts, and Wills, annuities, trusts and stocks, or a contribution to St. Ann School Annual Fund or the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Ann Parish are other ways to further the mission of our faith. All gifts received by December 31, 2018 will be credited for the April 15, 2019 tax year. Thank you for your generosity during the holidays.

Men's Morning Group: Please join us for Scripture discussion and prayer after the 8 a.m. mass each Wednesday. **The group will not meet on 1/2/19.** For more information, please email the rectory or richcsisca@comcast.net.

Becoming Catholic: Interested in learning more about joining the Church? Were you baptized as child but have not yet celebrated the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist? RCIA classes have already begun and continue to meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. It's not too late to join us ... and we have quite a lively group of seekers! For more information, please contact Jane at the rectory (654-5519) or email Father Jasper at rjasper@stannwilmington.com.

High-School Faith-Sharing: At our last session, our group gathered to celebrate and learn more about the Mass. **Our next session will be held in late January 2019.** Feel free to invite a friend or two; the group is open to any high-school-aged teenager, regardless of the school one attends. For more information or to let us know you are planning on coming, please email the rectory at: www.stannwilmington.com.



5th Grade is spreading the holiday spirit while making learning fun! The students are currently composing persuasive essays. Each child is writing a persuasive essay on why they should be hired as an elf at the North Pole. They are brainstorming with graphic organizers and supporting their opinion and reasoning with lots of evidence. One student believes she should be hired at the North Pole because she can use her special gift of singing that God gave her, and she can teach all of the other elves new Christmas carols! Another student wrote that he can use his creativity to wrap presents in a very unique and special way that has never been done before. 5th grade is full of some hardworking elves! Merry Christmas to all!

St. Ann School Alumni Social – The St. Ann School Alumni Committee would like to invite all St. Ann alumni to a meet and greet on Saturday, January 26th at The Dead Presidents Bar (618 N. Union St) starting at 6:30pm. Please come join us and spread the news. Alumni of all ages are welcome!

SPONSORS/GODPARENTS - The next Baptism PREP class will be Thursday, January 10th at 7pm in St. Ann's School. To register, please email stannschurch@stannwilmington.com. or call 654-5519.

Hospital Visitations – Catholic priest chaplains are assigned by the diocese to provide daily pastoral care in the 3 local hospitals: St. Francis, Wilmington and Christiana. This includes anointing of the sick and Holy Communion. Assisting them is a team of lay ministers to bring Holy Communion. On admission you will be asked your religion & parish. In addition to this care, if your stay will be extended and wish a visit from your parish priest, please call us and we will be happy to comply.

Religious Vocations We have so much to learn from the Holy Family: Mary allows God’s will to change her life; Joseph pays close attention to and follows the prompting of the angel; Jesus says to the Father “not my will, but Thine be done.” What is the Father’s will for you? Are you taking steps to find out? If you think God might be calling you to live out a religious vocation, call or write Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly/Religious Vocations- vocations@cdow.org or 573-3113.

Ride Need to Mass – If you attend either the 9:30am or 11:30am mass, we have a request from someone in the Luther Towers area (N. Franklin St) who needs a ride. If you can help, please contact the rectory at 654-5519. Thank you!

The Chapel of Divine Mercy is open with the Blessed Sacrament exposed the following hours: **6am to 10pm Monday through Friday & Sunday, 6am to 9pm Saturday.** Email www.adorationchapel.org or call Chris at 584-1422 or Nan at 656-8438 to offer an hour of time.

ST. ANN’S PRAYER LINE – to place a name or special request on the prayer line call Joe or Shirley Ackerman at 384-7513 or email joeshirl7@comcast.net.

BULLETIN ADVERTISERS – *Have you taken a look at the patrons listed on the back on the bulletin? It’s because of their support that we can provide this bulletin at no cost to our parish. Please visit these businesses and don’t forget to tell them where you saw their ad!*

ST. ANN CHURCH & SCHOOL - THE WIZARD OF OZ –Over 40 young people are set to entertain you for the 3rd Musical at St. Ann’s. Save the date for performances on Friday April 5th and Saturday April 6th. See you in Oz!!!!



Visit our website www.stannwilmington.com and select the parish registration button. You can either print the form and drop off to the rectory or fill out online and email it back.

Two history books to celebrate the diocesan 150th anniversary are now available through St. Ann’s - “Rejoicing in the Lord,” for \$40 and “Family of Faith” for \$18 have been published to help commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington. To purchase, fill out an order form and return with payment to the rectory. For info, call 654-5519 or email jmatyger@stannwilmington.com

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for Padua’s Musical Theater Program – Friday, January 11th from 5:30pm-8:30-pm. The cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for students, ages 5 and under \$5. For more info email lkowalski#paduaacademy.org.

Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage – Is your marriage hurting? Do you feel helpless? Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you to learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track. The next program is February 8-10th at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. **Additional weekends will be held in April and August.** For more info visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 1-800-470-2230. All inquiries are confidential.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| 12/31 | New Year’s Eve: Daily Mass at 9am and Vigil at 5pm |
| 1/1 | New Year’s Day: Mass at 9:30am |
| 1/2 | School reopens |
| 1/2 | 7pm Choir |

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