



# ST. DENIS Parish

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**LOVE GOD    LOVE OTHERS    TRAIN DISCIPLES**

## Eucharistic Celebrations :

**Sunday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> - 9:00am – Norman Vallee (Marcel Dufault family)**

**Tuesday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> - 9:00am – Rhéa Poirier (Margaret deRocquigny)**

**Sunday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> - 9:00am – Émile Sibileau (Yvonne & Eugene Bazin)**

Sanctuary Lamp – this week: Lucille Dheilly.

God's Share : Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> - **\$210.00** (15) + **\$10.00** loose + **\$20.00** (dd) = **\$240.00**

God's Share : Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> - **\$1,085.00** (26) + **\$306.90** loose = **\$1,391.90**

## Ministries :

|                         | <u>December 30<sup>th</sup></u> | <u>January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019</u> | <u>January 6<sup>th</sup></u> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Readers:                | Marcel Dufault                  | Judith Robidoux                    | Annette Bernard               |
| Offerings & Collection: | Gérald Poirier & Guy Dedieu     | Eugene Bazin & Albert Furet        | Marcel Dequier family         |
| Communion:              | Marcel Dufault                  | Judith Robidoux                    | Yvonne Bazin                  |
| Counters:               | Maurice & prtnr.                | Annette & prtnr.                   | Lucille & prtnr.              |



### Readings for Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Numbers 6.22-27; Psalm 67.1-2, 4-5, 6-7 (R.1a)  
Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 2.16-21

### Readings for Sunday, January 6, 2019

Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13  
Ephesians 3.2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2.1-12

*Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*

*December 30<sup>th</sup> 2018*

*Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

*January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019*

## **Prayer Intention for January 2019**

1. *Evangelization:* That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

2. In this joyful time of the holidays, let us pray for all our parishioners who are going through difficult times: illness, cancer, accidents, mourning, loneliness, discouragement, loss of faith, etc.

3. Let us also pray for our devoted and much appreciated priest moderator, Father John.

**Many Thanks:** As we end the year 2018 and begin the new year 2019, hats off to the many volunteers who gave their time to the church at all the Christmas preparations. Also, thanks are extended to those who work continuously for the proper functioning of the parish. Without you, some tasks could not be or so well done.



## **Marriage Tip - December 30, 2018**

Welcome to a new year! Discover something new about your spouse today. Do you know his/her favorite website, in-law, scripture passage, etc.?

## **Stewardship Reflection - December 30, 2018 - Feast of the Holy Family**

*"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." 1 John 3:1*

During this season of giving, let us remember the most important gift we have received – being children of God. As God's children, it's important that we express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children and other family members and friends that you love them, frequently.

## **Souvenir Books of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

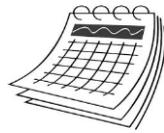
We have extra books for sale. There is a copy on the table at the back that you can see before you buy. Please do not remove them. If you wish to order, please use the order form and contact the parish office with your payment.

There are CDs available that were recorded for the 200th. You will find some on the tables. They are **FREE**. Help yourself.

# Happy New Year !

To all members of our Christian community,

On the first day of the New Year, we often *remove* our old calendars and *replace* them with new ones. This small, harmless ritual makes sense since it is both a reminder to look forward and make this New Year even better than the last.



#### A reminder

Let's take some time to review our old 2018 calendar before recycling it. We find appointments, birthdays, annual events: Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Easter, Christmas, etc ... Our old calendar reminds us of the moments we experienced, whether joyful or otherwise. Today's Gospel relates that Mary: *treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart*. Why did St. Luke record this? For this Evangelist, Mary is the model par excellence of our Christian faith. Our faith is based on the certainty that the Lord lives and accompanies us. Christ's Mother acknowledged God's presence and action throughout her life. In the same way, as we recall the events of 2018 and, in a moment of reflection, we may discover God's presence and thank Him for the joys we celebrated as well as the strength we received during difficult times.

#### A call to action



Let's take a look at our brand-new calendar without any notations or erasures. Each date on this calendar can be seen as a call to action. Each of the 365 days in our 2019 calendars brings a message from Our Lord: to trust Him and live in the light of His love. This blessing is expressed in the first reading of the New Year's liturgy: *May the Lord make his face shine upon you and give you peace*. It is an affirmation that even in our darkest days, the face of God, our Father, will bring us light and comfort.

Our new calendars are also a call for us to be a presence of tenderness, forgiveness and compassion for others. In other words, a presence that is God-filled. This is what is meant when Mary: *treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart*. Throughout her life, she treasured the events that followed the birth of her Son in a manger and the shepherds' presence and words of praise.

May we see the days in our 2019 calendar as calls to action... a unique gift that the Lord gives us and a mission entrusted to us.

Your Parish Life Coordinator

December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (C)*

## The Holy Family and our own families ...

The Gospel today relates a stressful family situation experienced by Jesus' parents. It describes their pilgrimage to Jerusalem and their young teenager who didn't return home with them. His parents assumed he was travelling with relatives. Instead he remained behind and his frantic parents finally found him in the Temple of Jerusalem where he was listening to the teachers and asking questions. When Jesus chose to remain in Jerusalem, his anxious parents struggled to understand his reasoning. After they found him, the family unit returned home and life continued as before.



When you think about it, this passage strikes home for many families. The word "family" is not often associated with *perfection* and very seldom with *holy*. Realistically speaking, our family experiences are often full of challenges and limitations. We may even feel that our infinitely perfect God must be far removed from our seemingly endless conflicts. Our flagrant lack of charity for other members of our families is often a sharp contrast to the calm that unites the Holy Trinity. God, in His perfection, may seem light years away from the skirmishes and reconciliations that permeate our lives.

And yet, we all belong to God's family. The Son of God became man by fitting into a real family – one that did not enjoy the best of circumstances. Remember that Jesus lived with Mary and Joseph in a tiny village that was far from the sophistication of Jerusalem. At the first opportunity, Jesus ran away for a brief stay in the Holy City. His cautious father, a carpenter, probably worked on the houses of the lower classes and obviously was not a scholar who could comment on Jewish law. Mary managed their ordinary family life with the resources available. Did these circumstances appeal to God? They pleased God so that his Son was born into this modest family. God, through Jesus, is close to humanity. This is our good fortune.

At this time when society often cannot provide us with models to emulate, the Holy Family reminds us that God adopted and included us in his divine family. He provided us with the example of a mother who had a child of mysterious birth, of a broad-minded adoptive father and of an offspring who challenged family members with his speeches and exploits. All of this can reassure us of the value of our own family. Despite whatever challenges we face, our families can still strive for *holiness!* Our families can embrace the greatest commandment: love of God and of our neighbors. The second reading today is explicit: *And this is his commandment: that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us*. We can see amazing results over time, results celebrated in this Sunday's psalm: *Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion*.

Alain Faucher, *ptr*

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli