

JESUS SAID TO HIS PARENTS,  
“WHY WERE YOU  
LOOKING FOR ME?  
DID YOU NOT KNOW  
THAT I MUST BE IN  
MY FATHER’S HOUSE?”

LUKE 2:49

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH  
DECEMBER 26, 2021

FAMILY LIFE

It wasn't at all what Mary and Joseph expected their life to be like. Almost from the beginning, there were indications that something extraordinary was at work: Mary's angelic annunciation; Joseph's strange dream; the puzzling words of Simeon and Anna in the Temple. And now this: during Mary and Joseph's annual Passover journey to Jerusalem, the discovery that their son Jesus was lost—and even when he was found, they didn't totally recognize their twelve-year-old boy. Today's feast of the Holy Family reminds us of the perplexities and promise of family life. The mystery of “the Word made flesh” becomes very tangible indeed in the routines and foibles of family life—our Christmas gatherings were likely unmistakable reminders of that! From the pure flesh of a newborn child to the wizened flesh of a beloved grandmother, families are ground zero for glimpsing the wondrous mystery of the Incarnation.

DID YOU NOT KNOW?

A child's first words are usually a source of excitement and joy for family members. Today we hear the first words of Jesus in the Gospel according to Luke. And they are challenging ones. “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?” The words astounded, astonished, and great anxiety are used to describe Jesus' extended visit to the Temple. How familiar those emotions are to most parents! Had Jesus' parents forgotten the angel Gabriel's words or the prophecy of Simeon? In Luke's Gospel this passage foreshadows Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem where he will experience his own Passover and again be “lost” for three days. The story of Hannah in the first reading confirms the need and nature of trusting in God's activity in our lives. It seems clear that faithful attention to a family's spiritual life is no guarantee that life will be free from hardship.

EMMANUEL: GOD IS WITH US

Could Tolstoy have gotten it wrong when he wrote that all happy families are alike and that unhappy families are each unhappy in their own way? It seems that the opposite is equally true. Because happy families foster the unique talents and interests of each member, each person shines according to their own lights. A happy family's faith, goals, and challenges will be uniquely their own. Unhappy families, on the other hand, might look very similar in their woundedness, their fears and confrontations, and their tendency to give negative interpretations to another's actions.

It is tempting to conclude that family life today is more problematic than ever. It might be reassuring to learn that the feast of the Holy Family was added to the Church's universal calendar because of Pope Leo XIII's concern for the state of family life—one hundred years ago! During this season of Christmas when families are everywhere, we welcome Emmanuel—the God who has pitched his tent among us.

TODAY'S READINGS

- 1 Samuel 1:20–22, 24–28
- Psalms 84:2–3, 5–6, 9–10
- 1 John 3:1–2, 21–24
- Luke 2:41–52



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,  
MARY AND JOSEPH

DECEMBER 26, 2021

Pope Francis Intentions for the month of  
December: Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Sunday Dec. 26,** For all families in this community

**Wed. Dec. 29,** For the unborn and the conversion of their mothers

**Church Committee Members**

Chair - Joe Barcevac  
Vice-Chair - Bob Balog  
Secretary - Mira Pepper  
Finance - Steve Pepper  
Social Coordinator - Lourdes Blette

Sacred Heart Mission  
Catholic Church

205 James Canyon Hwy  
Cloudcroft, NM 88317  
[www.sacredheartcatholiccloudcroft.org](http://www.sacredheartcatholiccloudcroft.org)

Office hours: Monday–Wednesday  
(at Immaculate Conception Church )  
(575) 437-3291

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (closed 12-1:00 p.m.)  
Thursday and Friday 9:00-12:00 p.m.  
Pastor: Very Rev. Martin Cornejo  
Vicar: Fr. Emmanuel Stephen  
Deacon: Gary Perkins

**Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.**

Confessions prior to Mass

**Wednesday Mass: 9:30 a.m.**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
and Rosary: Wednesday 9:00 a.m.  
Anointing of the sick: On the  
First Wednesday of the month**

**Altar Servers** (John Conner 687-2144)

Dec. 26, Marisa & Dominic

**EMOHC** (Teresa Stevenson (281) 772-7450)

Dec. 26, John Stroope Jr.

**Reader** (Teresa Stevenson (281) 772-7450)

Dec. 26, Teresa Stevenson

**Ushers** (John Conner 687-2144)

Dec. 26,

*Please remember to notify Teresa Stevenson or John Conner if you are unable to serve as Scheduled, even if you have arranged for someone to take your place.*



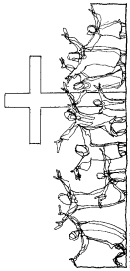
*New Year Prayer*

O God,  
your days are without beginning  
and without end.  
We dedicate this coming year to you.

Give us such prosperity as you know is good for us,  
and make us abound in doing whatever is pleasing to you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| our parish mission statement | We are a community that comes together to model Jesus to all peoples by addressing physical concerns and spiritual matters, and to do as Jesus did, giving everything to bring people into a closer relationship with God, in celebration. |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Open our hearts, O Lord,  
to listen to  
the words  
of your Son.  
**ALLELUIA!**



**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**  
**Sunday:** The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph  
**Monday:** St. John, Apostle and Evangelist  
**Tuesday:** The Holy Innocents  
**Wednesday:** Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord;  
St. Thomas Becket  
**Thursday:** Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord  
**Friday:** Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Sylvester I; New Year's Eve  
**Saturday:** The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; World Day of Prayer for Peace; First Friday, New Year's Day; First Saturday

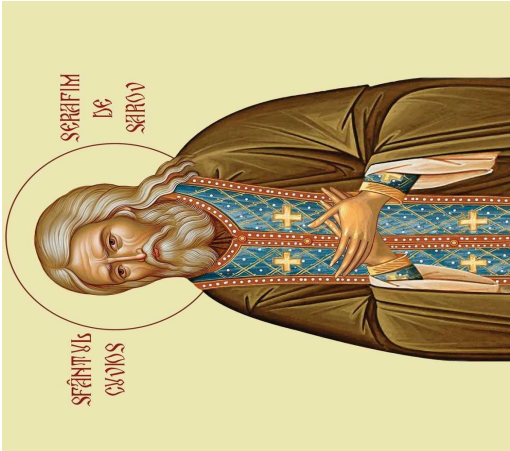


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**December 26,**

Today's second collection goes to the  
**United in Ministry.**

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**PLEASE PRAY for**  
Jennifer Madl, Velia Perea , Ceci Borunda  
Susan Walen , Leonor Rubalcava,  
Manry Family, Phyllis Madin,  
Joe Rogers, John Phillips,  
Margaret Bevins, Mike & Lourdes Blette,  
Brendan Cronander-Ford.



St. Sylvester I, Pope    Feast Day Dec. 31

We have a suggestion box for any new ideas or questions you may have for our church. The box is located on the table next to the kitchen.

To report abuse in New Mexico:

**If you suspect a child is in imminent danger from abuse, please call 911 immediately.**

To report *known* or *suspected* child abuse, contact:

Dial #SAFE (#7233) from a cell phone Or 1-855-333-SAFE (7233)

Elder Abuse Hotline: 1-866-654-3219    National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233

Roman Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces    Victims Assistance Coordinator (575)523-7577

Or Maria D Martin Safe Environment Clerk (575) 523-7577    [mmartin@rcdcl.org](mailto:mmartin@rcdcl.org)