

## **FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

**DECEMBER 31, 2023**

*My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all the peoples.*

— *Luke 2:30-31*

### **WE ARE GOD'S HOLY FAMILY**

The scriptures of Israel are filled with many stories of barren couples who were miraculously granted the gift of children by God. Surely the best known among these is the first reading from today, from which Luke took inspiration when he recounted the miraculous birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah and Elizabeth, and the more miraculous birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph. In each instance, we are given examples or role models of those who trusted in God. More than examples of those who trust, they are models of self-surrender. They abandoned their own presuppositions and prejudices about the workings of the world and turned their lives over to belief in a God who can make life grow where none ought to; a God who can turn death around into a new and unimagined life; a God who can, today, take a tiny child of humble parents in an insignificant town and make him into a light for all the world. This is what we, as God's holy family, are called to do each day: to trust not in ourselves and the way we think things should be, but to open ourselves and surrender ourselves in faith to a God of endless promise.

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### **TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — Those who honor their parents will be greatly blessed and will atone for sins (Sirach 3:2-6,12-14) or *Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3*.

**Psalm** — Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways (Psalm 128) or *Psalm 105*.

**Second Reading** — Be thankful; do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17]) or *Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19*.

**Gospel** — The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom (Luke 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]).

### **NEW YEAR PAGE**

We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on there ourselves. The book is called **"OPPORTUNITY"** and its first chapter is: **"NEW YEAR'S DAY."**

### **~~~~~PRAYER CORNER~~~~~**

#### **A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR**

*Come, Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Risen Christ, be with us today and always. Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter. Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier. May this new year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us, a time of welcoming your graces and gifts, a time for forgiving freely and unconditionally, a time for growing in virtue and goodness. Come, Holy Spirit, be with us today and always. Amen.*

### **SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Monday:** Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

**Tuesday:** Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

**Wednesday:** The Most Holy Name of Jesus

**Thursday:** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

**Friday:** St. John Neumann

### **MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday:** Pat "Al" Carroll 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary †

**Tuesday:** For a Special Intention.

**Wednesday:** In honor Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Joseph for all the sick and for all the holy souls in purgatory.

High

Jimmy Gorman

Bryan Jude Carroll

**Thursday:** For a Special Intention.

**Friday:** In thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for a favor received.

### **CATHOLIC APPEAL OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

The Catholic Appeal of South Carolina (CASC) is the primary source of funding for many critical ministries. We are impacting the lives of our brothers and sisters both spiritually and physically – but there is still much to do. We must continue to fund programs focused on charitable works, outreach, education, and evangelization. Every gift to the CASC allows us to continue to fulfill the mission that has been entrusted to us. Your participation is highly appreciated and let us reach our goal (\$19,882.00) by fulfilling the pledge and generous contribution. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

### **JOKE OF THE WEEK**

A guy goes to see his grandmother on New Year's Day and takes one of his friends with him. While he's talking to his grandmother, his friend starts eating the peanuts that are on the coffee table, and finishes them off.

As they're leaving, the friend says, Thanks for the peanuts." The grandmother says, "Yeah, since I lost my dentures, I can only suck the chocolate off 'em."

## OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$6,334.00	\$3,343.00
Number of Families contributing	113	79
Total Pledge for 2023	\$160,375.00	\$163,292.00
Pledged to Date (49 Weeks)	\$159,748.00	\$159,748.00
Received to Date	\$137,879.00	\$107,442.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$21,869.00	\$52,306.00

### LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$310.00	\$11,127.00

Twenty ladies contributed last week.

### PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$50.00	\$69,665.00

Two people made a P.L.C. contribution last week.

### BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$71,565.00

### CATHOLIC APPEAL OF SOUTH CAROLINA (BAA)

Amount given to date	2023 GOAL
\$7,649.00	\$19,882.00

POOR BOX totaled \$50.00.

7 CHILDREN contributed \$49.00.

### FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. The Family of Maul's Jim and Bridget Ann in loving memory of him on the 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death;
2. and a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

### Happy New Year

from Father Prasad, Fr. Cherian & Fr. Raj

*Heartfelt thanks to God for the completion of a Year and the start of a new year. May this New Year 2024 bring you great blessing and joy.*

### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will be closed this Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of the New Year Holiday. And will reopen Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### OUR LADY OF PEACE SCHOOL CHOICE GRANT

- up to 6,000 of state funds through Educational Savings Accounts (ESA) will be available to eligible students for the 2024-2025 school year
- Application window is January 15 – March 15
- Notification of award no later than April 30
- 1<sup>st</sup> Steps 4K students automatically qualify with a completed application
- Medicare qualified students automatically qualify with a completed application

In person Information Meeting and Q&A Session will take place after the New Year at St. Edward's Parish. The time and date will be published as soon as it is determined.

THANK YOU to a parish member for a \$100 donation in thanks to St. Expedite. and to another parish member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite.

2024 CHURCH ENVELOPES are in the Atrium of the Church. If you don't find your envelopes, please contact the Church office immediately.

### A NEW YEAR IS LIKE A BLANK BOOK

- and the pen is in your hands. It is your chance to write a beautiful story for yourself.
- Every end marks a new beginning. Keep your spirits and determination unshaken, and you shall always walk the glory road. With courage, faith and great effort, you shall achieve everything you desire.
- You're supposed to let go of the past and start off new. You're supposed to forgive all those who have hurt you and be open to new relationships, with open arms. That is why it is called the 'New' year.

### READERS

Sat. Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 P.M.

Leah & Dayna

Sun. Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 A.M.

Lauren Ashley & Jimmy

New Year's Day, 10:00 A.M. Jimmy Joseph

*New Year's Day falls on a Monday this year and it is not a Holy Day of Obligation.*

Sat. Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 P.M.

Paris & Mary Martha

Sun. Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 A.M.

Lauren Ashley & Jimmy

### READERS – WEEKDAYS

Monday	- Dayna
Tuesday	- Paris
Wednesday	- Gracelynn
Thursday	- Josie
Friday	- Lauren Ashley

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAYS

Monday	- Theresa Hun
Tuesday	- Jack's Mary Rita
Wednesday	- Julie Ann
Thursday	- Cathy Carroll
Friday	- Rosie Cat

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

<u>Saturday 4:00 P.M.</u>	<u>December 30<sup>th</sup></u>
Right	Theresa Hun
Left	Cathy Carroll

### Sunday 10:00 A.M

December 31<sup>st</sup>  
Ned's Rose Marie

January 7<sup>th</sup>  
Ned's Rose Marie