



Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus

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Feast of the Holy Family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus (A) *Obedience Constitutes a Christian Family*



Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128:1-2,3,4-5; Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

The Feast of the Holy Family, observed on the Sunday after Christmas, reminds us that Christmas is for the family and that salvation begins within it. It is God's will that it be a medium of salvation!

The family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus offers a beautiful model of an ideal Christian family. Joseph, the perfect husband and father, is God-fearing, righteous, a silent worker, a good provider, and a protector. His protective nature is evident in the Gospel of Matthew (2:13-14), where he heeds the angel's warning and flees to Egypt with Mary and Jesus to escape King Herod. Mary, the ideal wife and mother, is prayerful, simple, kind-hearted, attentive, and a good listener. Her attentiveness is evident in how she treasures and ponders the events of Jesus' early life in her heart, as mentioned in the Gospel of Luke (2:19). Jesus, the perfect child, is obedient, respectful, and gracious.

However, their family was not exempt from challenges. The Scriptures record many trials they endured. Mary and Joseph faced misunderstanding and skepticism from their community when Mary conceived through the Holy Spirit. Jesus was born in an animal shelter because there was no room for them. They fled to Egypt as refugees to protect Jesus and endured the pain of losing their son for three days. Eventually, Joseph presumably passed away, leaving Mary to endure the sorrow of her son's public ministry and to witness his crucifixion. Despite many distressing times in this family's life, their obedience to God kept them together and sustained them through their trials.

Obedience to God defines the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This is a profound way to understand family. When asked, "How do you become a family?" the answer is often a blood relationship or love for one another. Few say we become a family through faithful surrender to the will of the Father. This is the core of the Holy Family, a family formed by their obedience to God. Mary, when offered to be the mother of God's child and told by the angel that she would have a child from God, said yes. She obeyed. Joseph, when he found Mary already with child, decided to divorce her in secret. But after an angel appeared in a dream and clarified that the child was the fruit of the Holy Spirit, Joseph obeyed and took Mary as his wife.

Mary obeyed God, and Joseph obeyed God. In faithful surrender, they took each other and Jesus, God's gift to them, as their child. Jesus grew up with two parents whose relationship and foundation were rooted in obedience to God.

This is the family of Jesus, and we are all invited to be part of it. In the Gospels, our Lord declares that those who obey the word of God are his family (cf. Mk. 3:31-35, Matt. 12:46-50, Lk. 8:19-21). When we obey God, we form the Church and help deliver the world. If families are obedient to God, they can build a stable nation. Such families strengthen the nation. Statistics show that nations with higher family stability have better social health and lower crime rates. This shows how a family's strength and obedience to God can benefit a nation's well-being.

That is why the holiness of a family and their obedience to God serve not only their own sanctification but also the sanctification of other families. Every family that seeks



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holiness by obeying God's will has a place as leaven, transforming the wider family, society, and the nation.

Let our obedience to God be the principle of our family ties. A real family, the foundation of society, is one that obeys God's law and will. What act of obedience can your family undertake this week? This question invites us to move beyond reflection to action, strengthening each family's bond and contributing to the broader community.

Fr. Manny Hewe, Pastor



PILGRIMS OF HOPE:

Family, the Home of Forgiveness

It's important to acknowledge that no family is perfect. We all have imperfections that should humble us. We do not have perfect parents; we are not perfect ourselves. We do not marry perfect people, nor do we have perfect children. We have complaints about each other and often feel disappointed for different reasons.

However, we do not give up or do nothing. There is a way to find emotional relief amid these imperfections. Forgiveness is the key to this transformation. Healthy marriages and families cannot thrive without forgiveness. It is the key to family joy, emotional well-being, and spiritual health, regardless of the offense or the offender. It heals the one who forgives and brings peace and harmony to the entire family.

Forgiveness heals the soul, restores peace to the spirit, and brings hope to the heart. No sin is too great to be forgiven (cf. Rom. 3:23). Those who do not forgive are physically, emotionally, and spiritually ill. They are deprived of peace in their souls and cannot enjoy true communion with God (cf. Matt. 6:14-15). Forgiveness is a healing balm, a soothing salve for the wounds of the heart.

Unforgiveness is a toxic poison that can turn a family into a battleground of conflict and a fortress of evil. Holding onto the pain of unforgiveness is self-destructive. Embracing forgiveness aligns us with God's love and grace, transforming our families into sanctuaries of peace. The family must be a place of forgiveness, a place of life rather than death; a paradise rather than a hell; a place of healing rather than disease; a refuge of understanding rather than guilt.

A family should be a place of support, not of gossip and slander. It must be welcoming, not rejecting. Shame on those who speak evil of others. We are a family, not enemies. Supporting one another is the foundation of every family. When a family member faces a challenge, we all need loving support. That support makes a family a true sanctuary, a place of safety and love.

Fr. MAH



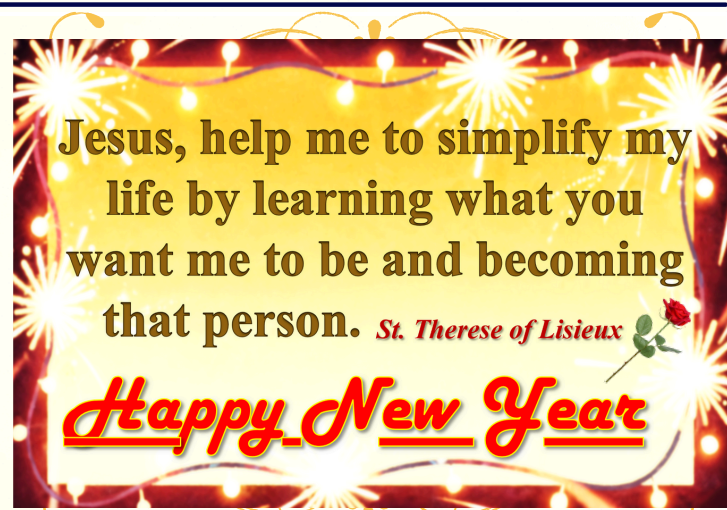
The OCIA will be taking a break during this Advent & Christmas season.

We will resume our faith formation sessions on Tuesday, January 13th, 2026.

Thank you for all your support, and we ask that you keep our catechumen in your prayers as they continue their journey to be fully initiated in the Catholic faith.



For more information, please contact the parish office @ (808)521-1700.



Weekly Offering Report

For December 15, 2025 - December 21, 2025



SAINT THERESA SCHOOL
CONTACT INFORMATION
 Office Phone: 808-536-4703



St.TheresaSchool@Beavers808
 Sttheresaschool808
 Website: www.stshi.org

Weekly Collections Online Giving

Misa de Gallo Mass Offering from Dec. 16 - 19	\$ 6,064.00	
SUNDAY Mass Offering	\$ 10,486.00	\$ 607.08

*** Looking for convenient, safe and secure way of giving to our church? We have online giving feature in our website, just click on the link and go through the easy-to-follow steps to go about it. We also have a Giving Kiosk beside the statue of St. Damien. Please have a look at these methods for your church contributions. We thank you for your continued support in fulfilling the mission of the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa. ***

We will provide a complete report on the donations and updated expenses for the church fence and security project as soon as they are available. In the meantime, we would like to encourage you to reflect and pray to consider donating more towards the church fence and security project the construction of which is in progress. Please continue to pray with us for the completion of this important project for the safety and security of our church and school.

Parish Savings with the Diocese as of November 30, 2025 **\$ 25,098.87**
Outstanding Parish Loan with the Diocese as of November 30, 2025 **FULLY PAID**
Outstanding PV Loan with the Diocese as of November 30, 2025 **\$ 283,904.02**

Second Collections:

January 1 for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
 January 10-11 for the Repairs & Maintenance
 January 24-25 for the Church in Latin America and Black & Indian Mission
Mahalo for your generosity.



December 31st and January 1st Schedule

Dec. 31	Wed	6:30 am	Daily Mass
		5:00 pm	Vietnamese Mass New Year's Eve Mass
		*Novena to OMPH, Confession and Eucharistic Adoration is cancelled	
		7:00 pm	New Year's Eve Mass - Solemnity of Mary Mother of God
Jan 1 -Thurs New Year's Day		9:00 am	Mass - Solemnity of Mary Mother of God
		1:00 pm	Vietnamese Mass- Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

SCHOOL OFFICE STAFF AND FACULTY MEMBERS

- Principal/Music 1-8 - Conception (Bernie) Gora
- Vice Principal/Math 8 & Discovery - Lauren Ramirez-Asaeda
- Executive Administrative Assistant/LA 6 - Faith Leasiolagi
- Admission Clerk/Office Assistant - Stephanie Lou Odayog
- Dean of Discipline/Athletic Director/4 & 5 Health/Art - Francine Caetano-Fontanilla
- Preschool Director/Teacher - Magdalena Collins
- PK-8 PE & MS Health - Jayven Bumanglag
- Preschool Aide - Elaine Jane Gonzalez
- Kindergarten Aide & Resource Teacher - Lenie Macadangdang
- Kindergarten Teacher - Leilani Tanaka
- PK, Kindergarten Religion & Liturgy Coordinator - Sr. Ana Fua Dela Cruz, SPC
- 1st Grade - Marvin Macadangdang
- 2nd Grade/Sacramental Prep - Faith Afu
- Creative Music K-3 - Johnelle Silva
- 3rd Grade Teacher - Sibel Mestanova
- 4th Grade Teacher - Laura Gabriel
- 5th Grade Teacher - Taiena Finau
- Middle School Social Studies & Math 6 - Alyssa Yabes
- 7 & 8 Language Arts/7 & 8 Home Economics - Dr. Frances Wong
- Middle School Religion - Shaun Agtarap
- Math 7 - Christian Raquepo
- Middle School Japanese/7 & 8 Arts/ Marketing - Tiani Quon
- MS Science - Peter Park
- Permanent Sub - Bernadette Lopez
- Maintenance - Edwin Kaaihue
- Custodian - Romeo John Cabarrubias

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

New Year's Eve Mass
December 31, 2025
- Wednesday -

7:00 PM

New Year's Day
January 01, 2026
- Thursday -

Mass at 9:00 AM



"How lovely is Your
dwelling place, O
Lord God of Hosts."
Psalm 84:1



PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
(Closed during Lunch break from 12:00 - 1:00 pm)

Saturdays
from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
Sundays
from 7:30 am - 11:30 am

MASS SCHEDULES

Sunday Mass

6:30 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am & 6:00 pm

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm

Daily Mass

Mon – Thurs: 6:30 am

Fri – Sat: 8:00 am

Vietnamese Mass (VHM)

Daily Mass:

Mon. Tues. & Thur. at 5:30 pm

Saturday Vigil at 7:00 pm

Sundays at 3:30 pm

Holy Hour/Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession

Wednesdays

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena at 6:00 pm

Holy Hour/Benediction & Confessions at 6:15 pm

(First Wednesdays of the month with Bishop)

PASTORAL TEAM & PARISH STAFF

Fr. Manuel Hewe

Pastor

Sr. Mercedita Estrella, SPC

Dir. of R.E. & Pastoral Associate

Tyra Lamb

Safe Environment Liaison

Pinky Mendoza

Office Coordinator

Jennifer Asuncion

Office Secretary

Francis Leasiolagi

Deacon

Jonathan Lam

VHM Deacon

Bernie Gora

Director of Music

Ray Lamb

Deacon

Roy Matsuo

Retired Deacon

Marlowe Sabater

Deacon

Fr. Anthony Tran

VHM Chaplain

Ryan and Ashley Agcaoili

Coordinators of Youth Ministry

Grace Young

Communications Coordinator

Earl Morita

Church Grounds Maintenance

Samy Ratum

Facilities Custodian

Noraliza Tapeç

On-Call Church Custodian

Felipe Tan

Accountant

Joan Mabag

Custodian

Daily Mass Readings

www.usccb.org

December 29, 2025

*The Fifth Day in the Octave of
Christmas*

1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35

December 30, 2025

*The Sixth Day in the Octave of
Christmas*

1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40

December 31, 2025

*The Seventh Day in the Octave of
Christmas*

1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18

January 1, 2026

*Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother
of God*

*The Octave Day of the Nativity of
the Lord*

Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7;
Luke 2:16-21

January 2, 2026

*Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and
Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and
Doctors of the Church*

1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28

January 3, 2026

Christmas Weekday

1 John 2:29-3:6; John 1:29-34

January 4, 2026

The Epiphany of the Lord

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