

• December 28, 2025 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph •

**St. Theresa of the Child Jesus
Roman Catholic Church**

**1408 Easton Road
Hellertown, PA 18055**

**Rev. John Anthony Hutta II,
Parochial Administrator**

**Rev. Dr. John A. Krivak,
Pastor Emeritus**

Deacon David K. Rohner

Mass Schedule

**Monday through Friday, 8:00am
Saturday (Vigil Mass), 5:00 pm
Sunday, 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am**

Eucharistic Adoration

**Tuesdays, 6:00pm - 7:00pm
First Fridays, 12:00pm - 3:00pm**

Confession

**Saturdays, 4:00pm - 4:30pm
First Fridays, 12:00pm - 1:00pm**



Matthew 2:13

**Rise, take the child and
his mother, flee to Egypt.**



January 1: The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God A Holy Day of Obligation

In celebrating the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, we are honoring not only Mary, who was chosen to bear God Incarnate, but we are also honoring our Lord, who is fully God and fully man.

To call her by her title "Mother of God" is the highest honor we can give to Mary. Just as on the Feast of the Nativity we recognize Jesus as the "Prince of Peace," on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God we recognize Mary as the "Queen of Peace."

Holy Day Mass Schedule

**Wednesday, December 31, 4:00pm (Vigil Mass)
Thursday, January 1, 9:00am**

+December 28, 2025 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph +

Calendar:

December 28 - January 4

Sunday, December 28

No meetings or events scheduled.

Monday, December 29

No meetings or events scheduled.

Tuesday, December 30

Rectory closes at noon.

Eucharistic Adoration,
6:00pm - 7:00pm; no Confession.

Wednesday, December 31

Rectory closed.

No PREP

Thursday, January 1:

A Holy Day of Obligation

Rectory closed.

Choir practice, Church,
7:00pm - 8:30pm

Friday, January 2

Rectory closed.

Eucharistic Adoration,
12:00pm - 3:00pm;
confessions heard from
12:00pm - 1:00pm

Saturday, January 3

No Bingo

No meetings or events scheduled.

Sunday, January 4

Ladies Guild Soup Sale after all
Masses, Friendship Hall

Breakfast Social after all
Masses, Friendship Hall

Mass Intentions:

December 28 - January 4

Sunday, December 28 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

5:00pm (Sat.) - Herbert Stelzer (Pat & Tom Wiley)

8:00am - Betty and Robert J. Boyle (Tamala Boyle)

9:30am - Sr. Janice Owen, I.H.M. (Very Rev. Jerome A. Tauber)

11:00am - Joseph & Catherine Prazko (Tom & Joanna Long)

Monday, December 29 - St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

8:00am - Special Intention (Cecelia Christman and family)

Tuesday, December 30 - Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00am - Elizabeth Raub (Mother, Salli)

Wednesday, December 31 - St. Sylvester I, Pope

8:00am - Olimpia Sousa (Maria Ernestina Mendez)

4:00pm Vigil - Joseph Kranjecz (Daughter, Dolly)

Thursday, January 1 - The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God - HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

9:00am - Tom Long (Loretta Ulincy)

Friday, January 2 - Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

8:00am - People of the Parish

Saturday, January 3 - The Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:00am - Gilbert Smith (Smith family)

Sunday, January 4 - The Epiphany of the Lord

5:00pm (Sat.) - Becca Leon (Mom, Mary)

8:00am - People of the Parish

9:30am - Andrew Mosko (Family)

11:00am - Tom Long (Jack & Minga Ferencin)



DECEMBER 28, 2025: The Feast of the Holy Family - This feast day honors Jesus, the Blessed Mother, and St. Joseph as the holiest of families, and therefore a model for all Christian families. They were holy because they placed God at the center of their family life, they loved and sacrificed for one another, and they radiated that love to others.

Liturgical Ministers Schedule, January 1, 2026 Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (A Holy Day of Obligation)

<u>MASS TIME</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>EEM</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVER</u>
4:00 pm Vigil (Wed.)	Lisa Holub	Deacon Dave	Lay Brothers
9:00am Thursday	Denise Goodrich	Deacon Dave	Bill Ripper

Liturgical Ministers Schedule, January 4, 2026 - Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

5:00pm Saturday	Dave Smith	Deacon Dave	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
8:00am Sunday	Chris Roth	Deacon Dave	Tabor Siblings
9:30am Sunday	Joani Dornblaser	Deacon Dave	Tomic Siblings
11:00am Sunday	Matt Kirby	Deacon Dave	Ivo Kirby

May you continue to grow in appreciation and love for each member of your family, whether you live with them or not.

Merry Fourth Day of Christmas! As the joy of Christmas continues to unfold, the Church invites us today to contemplate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. In doing so, we are not escaping into an idealized or sentimental image of family life; rather, we are looking honestly and prayerfully at what family is truly called to be in God's plan.

Family life is essential to every society. When family life is weakened or devalued, communities begin to unravel. Yet family is more than blood ties or shared DNA. It is not merely a natural or biological reality. Family is a vocation—a daily work of love that requires effort, sacrifice, patience, forgiveness, and grace. Mutual support, care, and self-giving love are the hallmarks of a true family. God does not leave us without guidance. He gives us concrete examples of what family life looks like when it is rooted in faith. Above all, He gives us the Holy Family.

The Word of God and the Life of the Family - Today's readings form a beautiful tapestry of family life lived in fidelity to God. • Sirach reflects on the Fourth Commandment: "Honor your father and your mother." Parents are entrusted with a sacred role that comes directly from God. They are called to reflect the love of God the Father—patient, faithful, and merciful. Children, in turn, are called to honor, respect, and care for their parents, even into their old age. This is not always easy, but it is holy work. For many of us, caring for aging parents becomes a most profound way of living out our faith.

- Psalm 128 praises the blessings that flow from a family rooted in reverence for the Lord. It reminds us that trust in God bears fruit not only in our personal lives but in our homes.

- St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians gives us one of the most powerful descriptions of Christian family life. He begins by reminding us who we truly are: "God's chosen ones, holy and beloved." Before we are spouses, parents, children, siblings, or grandparents, we are members of God's family. Because of that identity, Paul urges us to clothe ourselves with:

Heartfelt mercy • Kindness • Humility • Meekness • Patience

Notice that every one of these virtues is outward-looking. They are not about self-importance or control but about loving the other more than oneself. Paul challenges us to "bear with one another." This means more than tolerating one another. It means carrying one another—helping shoulder burdens, offering support in weakness, and sometimes stepping in so another does not have to carry the weight alone.

Forgiveness, Love, and Peace - Forgiveness is at the heart of every healthy family. We forgive because God has first forgiven us in Christ. That forgiveness must be spoken, not assumed. Love does not mean never having to say you're sorry; rather, love demands humility, repentance, and reconciliation. Paul then speaks of love—aggape—as the bond that holds everything together. This self-giving, unconditional love is what makes families whole. Without it, even the best intentions fall apart. Peace, or shalom, is another essential mark of family life. Peace does not mean the absence of disagreement. It means choosing understanding over resentment, reconciliation over division, and unity over pride. Gratitude, too, is essential. How often do we truly thank our family members—not just for gifts or favors, but for who they are? Perhaps one concrete way to live today's feast is to express that gratitude intentionally, even in writing.

The Word of Christ at Home - Paul's instruction to "let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly" is a call for families to be rooted in Scripture—not as an abstract idea, but as a living reality. When the Word of Christ shapes our thoughts, words, and actions, it transforms our homes. Families are also called to celebrate together—praying, singing, and rejoicing in God's goodness. These shared moments build communion and create memories that bind hearts together.

Whatever we say or do, Paul reminds us, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus. A simple question can guide us daily: What would Jesus do? When we live with that awareness, our family life becomes an act of worship.

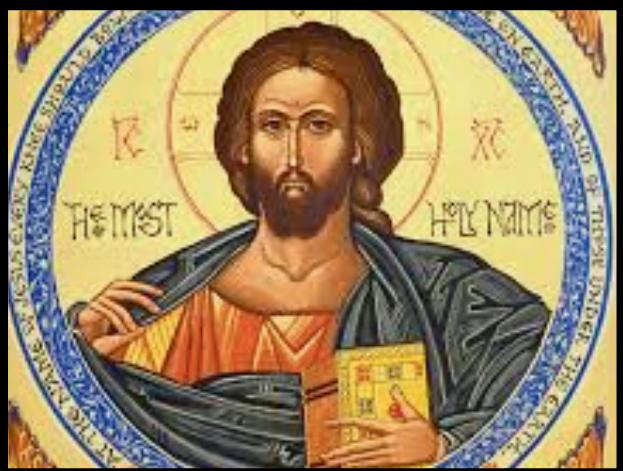
Roles Rooted in Mutual Love - Paul's words about spouses and children are best understood through the lens of mutual love and service. Marriage is meant to reflect Christ's love for the Church—a love marked by sacrifice, fidelity, and tenderness. Parenthood and childhood, too, are relationships grounded in listening, respect, and care, not domination or discouragement. Obedience, at its root, means to listen. Children listen and respond in love; parents guide without crushing the spirit of their children. When love and respect guide the family, obedience becomes life-giving rather than burdensome.

The Holy Family: A Real Family - The Gospel reminds us that the Holy Family was not spared hardship. They fled as refugees into Egypt, trusting God amid fear and uncertainty. Holiness does not mean a life without struggle. It means faithfulness within struggle. The Triune God Himself is a communion of love. The Son of God chose to be born into a human family. In doing so, God forever sanctified family life and called every family to be a living sign of His love in the world.

A Question for Prayer and Action - As we celebrate this Feast of the Holy Family, let us ask ourselves:

- How can the life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph strengthen my relationships with my family?
- Do I recognize that holiness includes struggle, patience, and perseverance?
- What concrete action can I take today to build peace, forgiveness, gratitude, and love in my family or community?

May the Holy Family bless our homes, heal our wounds, and teach us to love as God loves—faithfully, generously, and without fear.



The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. "In the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth" (Phil 2:10). Christ's name is chosen in heaven, and the Angel Gabriel announces it when he informs the Blessed Virgin of the incarnation: "Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus." The name itself means, "savior." It is in Jesus' name that we pray to the Father with assurance of being heard. In His name the Church administers all sacraments, offers prayers and blesses homes, the fields, and the sick. In the name of Jesus, evil spirits are cast out, and the Church assures us that whoever calls upon Jesus' name will be saved. Finally, at the end of our earthly lives, it is in Jesus' name that Church asks "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord."

Devotional Candles for the Week of December 28

Sanctuary Candle

Lidia D'Agostino

(offered by Monticola family)

St. Theresa Candle

Anthony J. Piraino

(offered by Deacon Maurice & Judy Kelly)

BVM Candle

Mary Lou and Alfred Schlert

(offered by Terri & Bill Zakocs)

St. Joseph Candle

Sally Strawn

(offered by Gene & Barbara Brett)



St. Theresa Memorial Enrollment

Sally Chaffier

(enrolled by Steve & Rose Moser)

The **St. Theresa Good Samaritan Society** offers short term assistance to residents of Hellertown and Lower Saucon Township. If you or someone you know needs help, the society can be reached confidentially at 610-509-5863.

Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted. Please make checks payable to St. Theresa Church, with "FBO Good Samaritan Society" in the memo line.



Come on a Diocesan Pilgrimage to the **National Shrine of Divine Mercy**, Stockbridge, Massachusetts and the **National Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs**, Fultonville, New York

Join Bishop Schlert and Father Allen Hoffa **Wednesday, April 15 - Thursday, April 16** for a two-day pilgrimage. Double occupancy cost of \$249/pp includes hotel and tax, round trip motor coach transfers, breakfast at hotel, boxed lunch on both travel days, Mass at the National Shrine of Divine Mercy, and Mass at Our Lady of Martyrs. Space is limited! Call 570-342-5790 today to secure your spot.

Rectory Hours for the New Year Holiday

In observance of the New Year holiday, the rectory will close at 12:00pm on Tuesday, December 30 and will remain closed through Friday, January 2.

The rectory will reopen on Monday, January 5.



Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday, December 30

6:00pm - 7:00pm

(No confessions heard.)

First Friday, January 2

12:00pm - 3:00pm

Confessions will be heard
12:00pm - 1:00pm

THIS WEEKEND!

A Christmas Open House

will be held at the Rectory on
Sunday, December 28 after all Masses.

Come celebrate the joys of the holy season
with Father Hutta, Deacon Dave, and the members of the
rectory staff. Cookies and hot beverages will be served.

Celebrating the Epiphany of the Lord

The **Feast of the Epiphany** celebrates the arrival of the three Magi who came to worship the Child Jesus shortly after His birth. Traditionally celebrated on January 6 but sometimes moved to Sunday, Epiphany will be observed on Sunday, January 4, 2025. It is a long-standing custom for Catholics to bless their homes on the Epiphany. **Blessed chalk will be made available to parishioners for this purpose.**

After the family has gathered, the head of the household reads aloud John 1:1–18. All then recite the Our Father, after which the Collect for the Epiphany (below) is read aloud:

“O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory.”

Using blessed chalk, the head of the household then marks the lintel of the main door of the house with the inscription 20+C+M+B+25. The letters C, M, and B are the initials of the Magi, whose names are Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase “Christus mansionem benedicat,” meaning, “May Christ bless the house.” The crosses represent the protection of the Precious Blood of Christ and the holiness of the Magi, who were sanctified by their adoration of the Infant Jesus. As the lintel is inscribed, the following prayer is said:

“The Three Wise Men ...

C Caspar ...

M Melchior ...

B and Balthasar, followed the star of God’s Son who became Man ...

20 Two-thousand ...

25 and twenty-five years ago ...

+ May Christ ...

+ bless our home ...

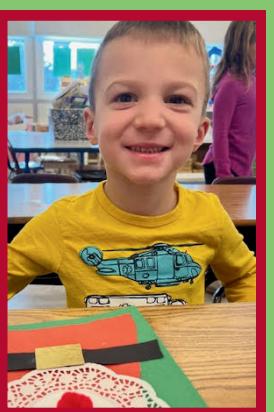
+ and remain with us ...

+ through the new year ...

*Almighty God, incline Thine ear. Bless us and all who are gathered here.
Send Thy holy angel who will defend us, and fill with grace all who dwell here. Amen.”*



ST. THERESA PRESCHOOL GETS READY FOR CHRISTMAS





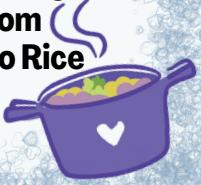
Ladies Guild Annual Soup Sale

Sunday, January 4
Friendship Hall

The soup sale begins at 8:30am and ending when the soup runs out. Arrive early for best selection.

Cost is \$10 per quart of frozen soup. Stock up on any or all of the following delicious varieties:

**Vegetarian Vegetable - Cabbage
Broccoli Cheddar - Tortellini
Minestrone - Chorizo Kale
Corn Chowder - Italian Wedding
Lentil - Potato
Stuffed Pepper- Beef Barley
Chicken Rice - Mushroom
Butternut Squash - Tomato Rice**



The collection total for December 13/14 is \$5631. Thank you for your generosity!

HAVE YOU PRAYED THE ROSARY TODAY?
**Make it a resolution
to pray the rosary daily.**

**PRAY WITH
OUR HOLY
FATHER,**

**POPE LEO
XIV**



Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific monthly intention. You are invited to join with Catholic Christians worldwide in praying for these intentions. *The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for January 2026 is "For prayer with the Word of God," asking for an increased focus on the Bible as a source of sustenance and hope.*

Come to a
Breakfast Social
after all Masses on
Sunday, January 4
in Friendship Hall.

All are welcome to come and enjoy FREE bagels, donuts, goodies, coffee, tea, and juice. Afterwards, pick up some delicious soup from the Ladies Guild Soup Sale, which will be taking place in Friendship Hall at the same time.

**Start the New Year with
good food and fellowship!**



Catholic Recipe: St. Sylvester Punch

This New Year's Eve punch is a tradition in Austria, where the last day of the year is dedicated to holy Pope St. Sylvester, whose feast day we celebrate on December 31. St. Sylvester baptized Constantine the Great, thereby bringing about the dawning, not only of the New Year but of a new era. For this reason, the night before the New Year is called Sylvesterabend (Eve of St. Sylvester). The Sylvesterabend celebrations are similar to American New Year's Eve parties.

INGREDIENTS

One 750 milliliter bottle red burgundy
Equal amount of hot tea
12 whole cloves
Rind of one lemon, cut in slivers
2 tablespoons sugar
2 cinnamon sticks

DIRECTIONS

Pour the liquid into a pot and add the cloves, lemon rind, sugar, and cinnamon. Heat over low heat but do not allow to boil. Add the tea just before serving. Serve hot.

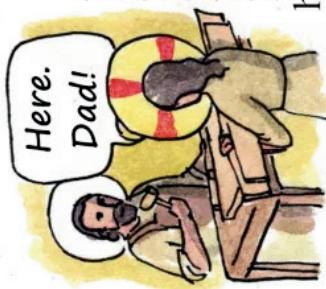
"Let us look to the Holy Family of Nazareth as an example for all Christian and human families. Each member of the family has to become, in a special way, the servant of the others."

-Pope St. John Paul II

The Holy Family

The Kids' Bulletin

Sunday December 28th, 2025
Feast of the Holy Family



Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph. When God sent His Son Jesus into the world He wanted Him to come in a humble and quiet way. He wanted Jesus to have a mother and an earthly father and be raised in a happy home.

God brings us into the world in families too. He wants us to have good and loving mothers and fathers to look after us and teach us. Our Lady and Saint Joseph are great examples for parents. They loved Jesus and kept Him safe and let Him grow and learn.



Jesus is an example to children, too! Love your father and mother, obey them and pray for them. Today is a good time to think of how your family can become more like the Holy Family, living in peace, joy and love. Can you think of a way to be more obedient, loving or generous with your family?



Matt. 2:13-15

Use the number code to see what the prophet predicted about the Child Jesus.

11 15 14 11 5 4 6 16 12 14 7
2 1 8 8 4 3 9 16 13 11 10

A	C	D	E	F	G	I	L	M	N	O	P	S	T	U	Y
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

Answer to inside page: HOLY FAMILY
Answer to front page: Our family called my son.
www.thekidsbulletin.com

Saint Thomas Becket

December 29

Fill in the Blanks



SAINT THOMAS HAD LIVED A SECULAR (NOT VERY RELIGIOUS) LIFESTYLE UNTIL HE BECAME AN ARCHBISHOP. THEN HE UNDERSTOOD THAT HIS JOB WAS TO CARE OF SOULS, AND HE DIDN'T LET HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH THE KING GET IN THE WAY. GOD WANTS US TO HAVE GOOD FRIENDS, BUT REMEMBER HE IS OUR BEST FRIEND!

Use the words from the list to fill in the blanks and use the circled letters to fill in the blanks at the bottom.

The angel of the Lord appeared to

_____ in a dream and said,
“Rise, take the child and his _____
flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell _____.
_____ is going to search for the child to
destroy him.”

Joseph rose and took the _____
mother by _____ and departed for Egypt.
He _____ there until the death of Herod,
that what the _____ had said through the
prophet might be _____
Out of _____ I called my son.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Matt. 2:13-15

FULFILLED
MOTHER
STAYED
JOSEPH
HEROD
YOU
CHILD
LORD
NIGHT
EGYPT



RECTORY OFFICE: 610-838-7045

EMAIL: sttheresacj@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.sttheresaotcj.org

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

EMAIL: PREPsttheresacj@gmail.com

PREP OFFICE: 610-838-1020

ST. THERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS PRESCHOOL

DIRECTOR: Mrs. Mary J. Morsbach

PRESCHOOL OFFICE: 610-838-8161

secretary@stsprehellertown.com

DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE

DIOCESAN COORDINATOR: Ms. Wendy Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC

VICTIM ASSISTANCE HOTLINE: 1-800-791-9209

EMAIL: victimsassistance@allentowndiocese.org

DIOCESAN SAFE ENVIRONMENT

DIOCESAN COORDINATOR: Pamela J. Russo, MSW, MS

TELEPHONE: 610-871-5200, ext. 2204

EMAIL: prusso@allentowndiocese.org

CATHOLIC BISHOP ABUSE REPORTING SERVICE

If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please visit www.ReportBishopAbuse.org OR call 800-276-1562.

CONFESIONS

Saturdays, 4:00pm - 4:30pm; First Fridays, 12:00pm - 1:00pm.

DEVOTIONS

FIRST FRIDAYS: 7:30am recitation of prayers to the Sacred Heart followed by 8:00am Mass. Confessions are heard after Mass.

FIRST SATURDAYS: 7:30am rosary recitation followed by 8:00am Mass. Confessions are heard after Mass.

EUCARISTIC ADORATION: Tuesdays, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

ROSARY will be prayed every weekday in the church immediately following the 8:00am Mass.

ENROLLMENTS AND CANDLES

ST. THERESA MEMORIAL ENROLLMENT: For deceased loved ones, a monthly Mass is offered. Suggested offering \$25.

LITTLE FLOWER SOCIETY ENROLLMENT: To commemorate a special occasion, enrollees are remembered in a monthly Mass. Suggested offering \$15.

The Sanctuary, St. Joseph, Blessed Virgin Mary, and St. Theresa candles may be lighted for the deceased and for the intentions of the living. Suggested offering \$10.

HOSPITAL VISITS: On being admitted to any area hospital, please notify the Rectory Office and provide the hospital with our parish code, which is #177. Pastoral services cannot be obtained without the patient's explicit authorization.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: To arrange for the Anointing of the Sick, please call 610-838-7045, day or night.

COMMUNION CALLS: To arrange for Holy Communion to be brought to the ill or homebound, please contact Bob Martin. Call (732)589-1168 or email Gman3700@aol.com.

WEDDINGS: Engaged couples should make arrangements at least one year in advance of their wedding date. A marriage preparation program must be completed at least six months before the wedding.

BAPTISMS: Parents who desire baptism for their child(ren) are asked to call the rectory at 610-838-7045.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION for ADULTS

Please call the rectory: 610-838-7045.

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ST. MONICA MINISTRY - Celeste Behe (stmonicaministry27@gmail.com)

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