

CLOSING PRAYER:

~ **A Prayer for a Family** ~

Blessed are You,
eternal God,
King of the universe:
You have called us in Jesus
to be Your beloved people,
living pure and blameless lives
in Your sight.

Bless our family.
We ask for your grace.
Let your Spirit
guide our words and deeds,
so that our light may shine before all
and lead all who know us to give You praise.

May our home be filled
with the spirit of love,
with the obedience of faith,
and the strength of hope.
Make our lives happy
in Your service,
and bring us in Your love
to your eternal home.

Father all-holy,
we praise Your Name,
and ask this blessing
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

CAMPUS MINISTRY OFFICE:

The Campus Ministry Office is located in **Our Lady Chapel**.
phone: [440] 473-3560. e-mail: jbcsc@ix.netcom.com

Our Lady Chapel



Our Lady Chapel is a Roman Catholic community founded in the love of the Father, centered in Christ, and rooted in the Holy Cross tenets of building family and embracing diversity. We are united in our journey of faith through prayer and sacrament, and we seek growth through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in liturgy and outreach, while responding to the needs of humanity.

CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR — A HOLY DAY:

A reminder that **January 1st** is a **Holy Day of obligation** — the **Feast of the Motherhood of God** and **New Year’s Day**. In addition, our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI has asked all of us to pray intensely on January 1st for world peace. **It has been a long-standing tradition here at Our Lady Chapel that we begin our New Year’s Eve celebration by first coming to Mass at 5:30 PM before going out for the evening.** This affords us a great opportunity to begin the New Year with a time of prayer and worship of God. As noted in the Mass schedule of the Christmas Season, **there will be a vigil Mass on Monday, December 31st at 5:30 PM.** Please plan on joining us.



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS:

During this Christmas season, we would like to thank all those who have helped us by making memorial offerings. May our floral decorations and this season remind all of us of those special relationships which we hold close to our heart. Please keep the following people in your prayers: **In memory of Rita & Chuck Vaughn, Shirley Riley, Ronald Rasoletti, Robert Rasoletti, William Rasoletti, Julius Rasoletti, Susan Chorich, Carmello & Theresa Pastore, Joe & Mary Pastore, Sebastain & Barbara Pastore, Frances Judson, Joe DePilla, Mr. Pete, Sam Poliafico, Thomas Anthony, Louis & Louise De Santo, Joe Amato, Anthony Herbst, Joe & Josie Polo, Sandy & Maxine Moss, Michael & Frances Fiedor, Stanley Fiedor, Joseph Fiedor, Angeline Fiedor, Victoria Fiedor, Helen Fiedor, Sister Euphrasia, Joseph & Bridget Hostoffer, Margaret Hostoffer, Gertrude Hostoffer, John Hostoffer, Frank Hostoffer, Joseph Hostoffer Jr., Eleanor & Curtiss DeMarco, Helen & John Blazek, Antoinette & Frank Rezabek, John & Mary Blazek.** If you would like to make a memorial offering, please place it in an envelope marked “Memorial Offering, Christmas Decorations” and give to Father John or place it in the offering basket. God bless all of you.



“THANK YOU” FROM FATHER JOHN:

A very special “thanks” to all who sent cards, gifts, remembrances and “goodies” during this Christmas season. Your prayers, kindness and special messages were truly appreciated. Also, a big thank you to all who contributed their time and talents to make our Christmas liturgies so special — All those who helped to decorate the chapel last weekend; our Council Members, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers; Matt, and all the musicians and cantors; Ushers and Greeters; Brother Richard, Patty Szaniszló, and all our student and adult helpers — and especially each of you. Your presence brought a rich treasure to our lives. Thank you so much for your goodness. I continue to keep all of you in my prayers and Masses.



2013 CALENDARS:

Calendars for the year 2013 are available for your taking. Besides having space for you to write your family appointments, the calendar also contains information about Mass and Reconciliation times here at Our Lady Chapel. We wish to thank the Schulte-Mahon-Murphy Funeral Homes for their generous donation of these 2013 Calendars to us. Please feel free to take as many calendars as you would like. Thank you.



PRAYER REQUESTS:

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

- For Daniel Melaragno , grandson of College Guidance associate, Kathy Lynch, who is recovering from surgery.
- For William Velotta, grandfather of William [‘15], Kylie [‘16] and Gianna [‘20] who is ill.
- For Louis Kibling, who has been diagnosed with brain cancer.
- For Frank Fusaro, who is critically ill with cancer.
- For Ursula Wyras, mother of Janet Heryak, and Grandmother of Lillian [‘09], Rosa [‘12], and Edwin [‘17], who is recovering from surgery.
- For Patrick Hurst, who is experiencing complications with blood clots following surgery.
- For Joseph Morgan, who has been diagnosed with cancer.
- For Thomas Lanese [‘59], who is critically ill with cancer.
- For Brother John Terlisner, C.S.C., who is recovering from brain surgery.
- For Bill Collins who suffered a major stroke.
- For Marlene Zepkin who is recovering from cancer surgery.
- For Francis Bellitto who has cancer.
- For Jonathan Cooney who has cancer.
- For Margaret Keller, sister-in-law of Brother Richard, who is ill.
- For Ida Urbancic, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Evelyn Catanese, great-aunt of Alyssa Solano [‘15] who is critically ill.
- For Katie Bloom [‘11] who is undergoing treatment for Hodgkin’s Lymphoma.
- For James Keller, nephew of Brother Richard, who is recovering from surgery.
- For Tracy Stokes who is undergoing treatment for brain cancer.
- For Betty Herten, aunt of Hope [‘13] and James [‘15] Herten, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia.
- For Roe Teisl, wife of Director of Student Life, Tiho Teisl, mother of James [‘93], Michael [‘95], and Stephen [‘00] Teisl, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Jenny Hammond, daughter of Librarian, Lynn Hammond, who is ill.
- For Donald Bibbo who is ill.
- For Greg Sazima [‘79] who is undergoing treatment and surgery for bone cancer.
- For Frank Furlong, grandfather of Jennifer [‘13], Craig [‘17] and Sean [‘19] who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Ann Raymond, grandmother of Upper School Teacher, Adam Lesko [‘05] who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Mary Hovanscek, aunt of Benjamin [‘24], Nathan [‘26], and Evan [‘27] Lindley, who has been diagnosed with colon cancer.
- For Kathy Katona , who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.
- For Clara Joczzyk, friend of Brother Richard, who is seriously ill.
- For Eileen Belak, sister of Maintenance Director, Dan Kohn, and aunt of Matt [‘07], who is seriously ill with acute leukemia.
- For Dan Houlahan who is in rehabilitation following a brain aneurysm.
- For Nicholas Zanella , who is undergoing treatment for a rare medical condition.
- For Sister Barbara Johns, I.H.M., who is undergoing treatment for cancer.



PRAYER REQUESTS:

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

- For Ken Kotner who has been diagnosed with bone cancer.
- For Mary Branton who is ill.
- For Maria Straubhaar, grandmother of Timothy ['02], who is critically ill with cancer.
- For Father David Tyson, C.S.C., who is recovering from injuries sustained in a fall.
- For Joe Stec, who is undergoing treatment for a debilitating muscle disease.
- For Pat Bass who is undergoing treatment following a stroke.
- For Courtney Jacobs Polcar ['96] who is recovering from kidney transplant surgery, and for her brother Nick ['93] who was the donor.
- For Nick Merkel, husband of Math instructor, Mary, and father of Bart ['10], who injured in an accident.
- For Louise Alexander, sister of Queeny Healey, mother of Martha ['75], Mary ['75], Therese ['77], Patrick ['79] and Lee ['85], grandmother of MacKenzie ['11] and Brynn ['14] Alexander, and Genevive ['04], Colin ['05], and Mary Madeleine ['09] Ray, who is seriously ill.
- For David Black, father of Davey ['24], who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Emily Evans who is ill.
- For Edith Taft, who is critically ill following a stroke.
- For Sister Angela Plata, I.H.M., who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Dee Zechman who is undergoing treatment for bone cancer.
- For Ken Gabele, nephew of Brother Richard, who is recovering from cancer surgery.
- For Mellisa Meiers who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.
- For Judith Moran, mother of Peter ['88] and Kelly ['90] Moran, who is seriously ill.
- For Sister Jean Hoelke, S.N.D., aunt of chapel associate, Patty Szanislo, who is recovering from eye surgery.
- For Antoinette Daquila, grandmother of Alyssa Solano ['15], who is battling cancer.
- For Tim Keller, nephew of Brother Richard, who is recovering from back surgery.
- For people who have MS.
- For Roger Schaefer who was seriously injured in a fall.
- For Margaret Carlin, former kitchen staff person, who is undergoing treatment for colon cancer.
- For Gil Lowry Sr., father of upper school instructor, Cyndi Lowry, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Peter Settlemlire, brother of Bill ['79], Ted ['81], and Bob ['88] Settlemlire, who is critically ill following a brain aneurism.
- For Janine Yardy, daughter of Geraldine Mockler, who is seriously ill.
- For Father Denis St. Marie, who is undergoing treatment for a heart condition and for cancer.
- For Marie Lynch Julius who is seriously ill with cancer.
- For Don Zack, maintenance associate, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Brother Richard Keller, C.S.C. who is undergoing treatment for prostate cancer.
- For Mary McMullen, wife of Tom McMullen ['52], who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For those who have emotional illnesses.

REMEMBER:

“If I do not pray it takes about 24 hours for my world to come apart.” —unknown

FAITH EDUCATION:

To help you plan ahead, here are January dates from Faith Education — **January 6th, 13th and 27th** Our Sessions go from 8:45—9:45 AM each time we meet, with the hope that our children would then **participate in our 10:00 AM Family Mass**. We have a number of families who attend the chapel regularly who have children who attend non-Catholic schools. **If you have not registered your child for Faith Education, please do so as soon as possible.** Our **Faith Education Program** will help to fulfill your on-going religious education. Our program runs from grades K-8. Students in grades 9-12 are encouraged to participate in our Life Teen Program. Thank you for taking care of this important task.



SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

PLEASE NOTE: Father John is taking some time off this week. There will be **no weekday Masses on Tuesday-Friday** of this time. **Masses will take place over the weekend as usual.** Sorry for any inconvenience this causes.

Sunday, December 30: Feast of the Holy Family	10:00 AM
Monday, December 31: New Year's Eve	5:30 PM
Tuesday, January 1: Mary, the Mother of God	NO MASS
Wednesday, January 2:	NO MASS
Thursday, January 3:	NO MASS
Friday, January 4:	NO MASS
Saturday, January 5 Epiphany	5:00 PM
Sunday, January 6: Epiphany	10:00 AM

A GOOD LESSON FOR THE NEW YEAR:

The task of the first half of life is to create a proper “container” for one’s life, and to answer the first essential questions — “What makes me significant?”, “How can I support myself?”, and “Who will go with me?” As Mary Oliver puts it: “what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?” [*The Summer Day*]. The container is not an end in itself, but exists for the sake of your deeper and fullest life, which you largely do not know about yourself! Far too many people just keep doing repair work on the container itself and never “throw their nets into the deep” [John 21:6] to bring in the huge catch that awaits them. Problematically, the first task invests so much of our blood, sweat, eggs and sperm, tears and years that we often cannot imagine there is a second task, or that anything more could be expected of us. “The old wineskins are good enough” [Luke 5:39], we say, even though according to Jesus they often cannot hold the new wine. According to Jesus, if we do not get some new wineskins, “the wine and the wineskins will both be lost” [Luke 5:37].

REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S THEME:

Love, like faith, stands on something factual, and it asks for a leap into the actual. But we fear being snookered, duped, or fooled — we want to know the out-come before we do the in-go. How will we look, how good will things be? It seems easier to love someone and leap into the shared-future when we think we have enough data, experiences, and validation that this is going to turn out just fine. Nobody has enough data to render love a win-win deal.

The leap of marital commitment is a leap only to the starting line of a long-leap race together. The leaping is not over, but it is only an invitation to self-awareness and mutual acceptance. There is only enough factual to lead us to the beginning.

Faith invites the same leaping. We have enough data to say “yes”, and enough to doubt it all. Faith, as with love, is not a notion only, nor is it an emotion — it is a motion, a living of leaping from the “known” through the ever-present “now” toward the mysterious “then”. The major difference between the two is that in love, we can easily live in the illusion that we can control the in-gos and the out-comes.

This weekend, we celebrate the festival of the family. We are offered thoughts about being virtuous daughters and sons who honor God by honoring parents. We hear of putting on the virtues of love and humility. We hear of our being “Children of God”. In the Gospel [Luke 2:41-52], we will hear of parental love and concern and of childlike obedience. All this speaks of the Church’s reverence for the sacrament of family and the Sacrament of Marriage. There are some high ideals and virtues for the experience of the Christian family — for parents and children.

Mary, so full of grace, yet she did fret, worry and search for her lost little boy. Where was her faith and trust then? Jesus, on the other hand — so compassionate in His later years — seems to be disrespectful toward His parents. It can seem that mere survival of and within families is worth the name “holy”.

Many novels and biographies have been written about family life with its joys, tears, triumphs — and usually ending in gratitude for the struggle. I celebrated last year the baptism of my niece’s second child at which my siblings also attended. We agreed that what was being handed on to the future of our family was what we had — and not always gratefully — handed to us years ago. Those struggles which seemed “unjust”, “not fair!”, at the time, now seemed just right!

“It is not good for man to be alone” — The Book of Genesis begins the institution of the union of man and woman with these words of God [Genesis 1]. Since then, creation’s continuance has been the project and holiness of the human family. Biological creation of us is only the beginning of course. A mother gives many kinds of birth — and often to her daughters and sons. A married couple has the ordination and blest mission of continuing God’s creation of each other as well. The holiness of the “holy family” results from that family’s entering into the sacred process of creation.

Groucho Marx once joked that marriage is a great institution — if you like living in an institution. Well yes, it is definitely a kind of being committed. The covenant — which a man and woman make

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers

FOR THE DECEASED:

- For Anne Poklar, mother of Gilmour Trustee, Michael Poklar and Robert [’71], grandmother of Michelle [’91], Katherine [’01], Aaron [’02], and Amy [’05] Poklar.
- For Michael Minnaugh, father of Erin Minnaugh [’06]
- For sister Bernadette Sneeringer, C.S.C.
- For Tom Rohweder.
- For Bernice Gallo.
- For Harold Matthews, brother of Brother Jerome Matthews, C.S.C.
- For Katie Gerard.
- For Maria Milano.
- For Sister Dolora Marie Walker, C.S.C.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS:

- For an end to violence in our society.
- For those who struggle with family relationships.
- For all those looking for employment.
- For a greater respect for human life, from the moment of conception until natural death.
- For a family going through a difficult time.
- For all caregivers.
- For a special intention.
- For all service men and women serving our country, and for their families.

CLEAN OUT THOSE CLOSETS AND SERVE OTHERS:

Winter is here. It is another time to once again clean out the closets. Clothing that no longer fits, or which was replaced by new items, becomes great items for others. Always remember the words of Jesus: “The poor you shall always have with you” [Matthew 26:11]. Please continue to bring your *gently used* men’s, women’s and children’s clothing to the Lennon Board Room, or place it in the cedar chest which is located in the chapel narthex of the Chapel [just press the key button to open the chest]. We partner with Fatima Center to help provide clothing for general use. Also, **business work clothing for this season is especially needed. The Fatima Center helps men and women prepare for job interviews.** If you have some of these items, this would be a good time to send them along. Clothing for all seasons is accepted, but please try to keep in mind that storage facilities are limited at Fatima — so it would help if you could focus on winter items at this time. You may pick up a tax form when you drop off the clothing here at Our Lady Chapel — there are forms in the cedar chest. Clothing may be brought on the weekend, or during the week. Thank you. **If you have any questions, please contact Patty in the chapel office [440-473-3560].**

**A PROVERB:**

“Worry is interest paid on trouble before it comes due.”

—William R. Inge

THE FAMILY OF TODAY:

It's ironic that every third year, the gospel on the feast of the Holy Family is one of those rare infancy narrative passages [Luke 2:41-52] which presumes neither Joseph or Mary was privy to a special annunciation which explained to them exactly just who their son really was. As the late Raymond Brown mentions in his classic book *Birth of the Messiah*, this story is included in a gospel which has an annunciation; but the community which originally passed on this story about the lost Jesus seems to have known nothing about it. Luke simply included this source in his overall narrative to emphasize Jesus' gospel focus on Jerusalem.

Even as a child, I had difficulty taking this passage on face value. If Joseph and Mary know their son is God, why are they uptight about "losing" him? How exactly does one lose God? And besides, I couldn't imagine, after three days of being lost, asking my father: "Why were you looking for me?" I can only suspect what kind of sharp response he would have given me.

Brown always reminded his students that biblical annunciations are for us — the readers — not the actual participants. An annunciation is a literary device employed to inform readers about the real or deeper meaning of specific events — a meaning we usually don't uncover in our own lives until long after those original events have taken place. Historically, it's very possible that Jesus' parents didn't understand what their annunciations conveyed until after Jesus' death and resurrection. It was only then that the pieces of the Jesus puzzle finally came together. That means that they — like us — only discover the real personality of those around us — even our children — by constantly relating to them. There are no annunciation shortcuts.

That's why it's important to listen carefully to what the author of the Book of Sirach [3:2-14], as well as St. Paul [Colossians 3:12-21] have to say. Both authors are very concerned with how we actually relate to others. Each provides us with some "helpful hints" on how to bring this about.

Sirach especially zeroes in on how a child relates to his or her parents — especially when those parents become dependent on that child — "Take care of your parents when they are old, grieve them not as long as they live. Even if their mind fail, be considerate of them; revile them not all the days of their lives." The literal Hebrew reads: "Do not confront him in the fullness of your strength." In other words, though you're now more powerful than he is, still relate to him in a gentle way. Constantly reminding your parents about their weaknesses will accomplish little. It's interesting what we can still learn from and about our parents — even after dementia sets in. But patience is a prerequisite for such proper relating.

The disciple of Paul who wrote to the Church at Colossae couldn't agree more — though the author adds a lot of other important relationship characteristics — "heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, and over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection." As any parent or married couple can testify, relating is hard work.

Perhaps we should do more than just honor Joseph, Mary, and Jesus as we celebrate this feast. There are ways we can imitate them. Modern biblical scholarship has provided us with tools which better help us understand their historical situation. They succeeded as a family not because they were favored with special privileges, but because, amid all the normal uncertainties of life, they worked at being the people God expected them to be. Something we can also do — even if our mother isn't a virgin and our son, God.

—taken from the writings of Father Roger Karban, which appear on the internet



primarily to God through each other — is to being an instrument of God's continuing the creation of the spouse. The husband vows to God that he will assist God in bringing out all that will be the woman of his heart. He says to his wife that he will love her into more life, honor who she will become through life's journey of sickness, health, good and bad times, and ultimately present her to God in a sacred act of surrender in gratitude.

The wife commits herself to this same vocational ordination. Her husband will be more than he ever could be without God's gracing him through her. She will give her husband life, encouragement — and taming too — so that he will love himself more as his love for her will free her for grateful acceptance of herself in love.

When I was six years old, my mother had my father committed to a state hospital for his sickness of alcohol. She loved him beyond her convenience — and certainly his. Our family has several letters he wrote to her attempting to have her let him out early. She didn't, and he recovered himself — and us — because my mother assisted God in re-creating my father who lived a highly creative life himself. My mother made our family whole and holy.

Parenting in the holy family begins with "holy-Spousing". This creational covenant is initiated by God and follows God's pattern. It begins with awareness. The husband and wife assist each other in the process of finding out who they really are, and what is their truth. This process can take time, but we cannot accept what we do not know. God asks human beings to look around and become aware of creation and of themselves. Spouses do the same, but just as patiently and caringly as does God.

Acceptance will follow from awareness, and when the spouses assist God in self-acceptance, then generosity, generatively, and the holy family begin. There can be children before self-awareness and acceptance, and hopefully these children will facilitate the process.

It is not good for man or woman to live alone, but rather in relationships which will increase awareness, acceptance, and so deepen relationships as a result. Those getting married cannot give themselves totally to their spouses because they do not totally possess themselves. One cannot give what one does not have. They can vow to give the other more of the other, and when the other has enough of him/herself, generosity and holiness will flourish.

Scripture, like family-life, might be confused — and perhaps this reflection as well. But living in the institution of marriage reflects the love of God in Christ. Jesus came to give us life, and when we become aware of and accepting of this love, then what was handed on to us will be handed on within our individual families, and the human family as well.

—taken from the writings of Father Larry Gillick, S.J., which appear on the internet

JOIN US:

Gilmour Academy will be coordinating a trip for alumni, current GA families, and members of Our Lady Chapel to Paris, Switzerland and Munich during the summer of 2013! Explore the world with family and friends on this educational adventure. One of the many highlights on this tour will be visiting Le Mans, France where the seed of Holy Cross was first planted. Please contact **Jamie Kazel** at kazelj@gilmour.org or [440] 473-8119 for trip itinerary, pricing and registration.

**KNOW THIS:**

No person ever achieved worthwhile success who did not, at one time or other, find himself or herself with at least one foot hanging well over the brink of failure.

—Napoleon Hill

HOLY DOES NOT MEAN PERFECT:

Two thirds of families in the United States do not eat their meals together. Of the third who do, 50% are watching TV during the meal. The average child over 8 watches three and a half hours of TV daily — largely because the tired parents use the TV as a baby sitter at the end of a long day. “Things fall apart; the center cannot hold. Mere anarchy is loosed on the world.” When poet WB Yeats penned these lines, he might have been speaking of contemporary family life. The Feast of the Holy Family is not as old as one might think. Its origins are found only in the seventeenth century. In a Church, whose bloodline runs back two thousand years, three or four centuries are not a long time.

In the first sixteen centuries of our Church, solemn veneration of Mary, her husband, and her Son was a non-event. There was little need to offer the Holy Family as a model, for family life was largely in a healthy condition. But then came the Industrial Age, and the birth of cities. Serious problems appeared on the family horizon. Strategist that she is, the Church looked about for a counterforce. Cleverly she hit upon devotion to the Holy Family. Yet Mary, her husband, and her Son had to wait until 1921 before an official feast was created. It was then the threesome of Nazareth officially became the First Family of Christendom — west and east.

Family life today is a most difficult pursuit. One thinks of divorce, the scourge of alcohol and narcotics, the breakdown of discipline, and all the rest of the unhappy lot. We should pay attention to St. Paul’s letter to the Church at Colossae [3:12-21] in Asia Minor. Apparently word had reached Paul that Christian families in Colossae were falling apart. And so he notes the qualities that must be in a Christian home. Sit back and allow Paul’s magnificent words to seep into your spirit — “Bear with one another. Forgive one another. Over all these put on love. Christ’s peace must reign in your hearts. Be thankful. Wives, cherish your husbands. Husbands, love your wives. Children, obey your parents in everything.” What a home it would be were one to find all the qualities Paul enumerates! — they would be Hall of Fame material. People would fight to visit, and just hope that the family magic would rub off on them and their families. Why not allow it to be your home?

Arthur Tonne illustrates my point with a wonderful tale. George was becoming old and infirm. He had been a bachelor sailor most of his life. His nephew Bill invited him to move in with his family. George gladly accepted. Now Bill, who had never traveled, did so by listening to the many journeys of his uncle. George noticed there were times that Bill was fed up with family life — arguments with his wife, bills, kids’ sickness, etc. He told his uncle more than once: “I wish I was free to roam the world as you did.”

One evening over supper, the old sailor told the family of a map of buried treasure in his possession. Bill stored the information away. A year after that, George died. The nephew looked through his uncle’s few possessions for the map. Sure enough he found an envelope addressed to himself. It was the hoped for map. It took him but a moment to read it. It led to the very house in which he stood. The dead salt was telling him: “Your own home and your own family are your treasure. Don’t blow it. Enjoy them.”

Some of you may be saying: “Come out of the clouds, padre. How can we relate to the Holy Family? Joseph was a celibate. Mary was a virgin. Jesus is the Son of God.” We do Mary, Joseph, and Jesus a wrong if we fantasize their lives. Take the Christmas stable for openers. We picture it as



I remember my mother — a truly pious and good woman — occasionally lamenting how in her idealism, she dreamed of being the mother of the holy family — and she ended up getting stuck with us! Our families are never the romanticized stuff of our adolescent or pious dreams. Nor are they ever the idealized families of literature and movies — where people are still attractive, interesting, and worthy of our understanding and sympathy even when they are petty, selfish, jealous, unfaithful, and sinful. As we know, understanding and sympathy in the midst of the muck and grime of real family life is considerably harder to crank up. All of that notwithstanding, however, unless there is present the kind of abuse that violates the soul, family life remains a sacrament — sometimes indeed because of its imperfections rather than simply in spite of them.

It is in forming hearts that are big enough to love and forgive within imperfection that we ready ourselves for heaven.

For many of us, coming home from the hospital to join a family will be our first baptism, our family dwelling will be our primary church, our family table our primary place of Eucharist, our living room our first sanctuary, our marriage bed our deepest experience of Eucharist, and our reconciliation with each other after the pettiness and hurts of family life our ongoing sacrament of reconciliation. It is there that the flow of the life that originates within God, and finds its perfection there, will flow through us.

—taken from the writings of Father Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I., which appear on the internet

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: 1 John 2:18-21, John 1:1-18

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

Wednesday: 1 John 2:22-28, John 1:19-28


Thursday: 1 John 2:29-3:6, John 1:29-34

Friday: 1 John 3:7-10, John 1:35-42

Saturday: 1 John 3:11-21, John 1:43-51

Feast of the Epiphany: Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-6, Matthew 2:1-12

ALTAR SERVERS and LECTORS:

 We continue to be in need of servers and lectors. **Any student who is in the 3rd [and up] grade is invited to become an altar server; any student who is in the 5th [and up] grade is invited to become a lector.** These are both wonderful ministries — a great way to serve God and the faith community. If you would like to take advantage of these opportunities, **please give your name to Father John.** You do not have to attend Gilmour to be an altar server, lector, or to be involved in any other ministry at Our Lady Chapel. **Please call the chapel office [440-473-3560].**



PRESERVING YOUR LIFE:

Vigilance and prayer are the safeguards of chastity. You should pray often and fervently to be preserved from temptations against purity, and for the grace to overcome them. —St. John Baptist de la Salle

FAMILY LIFE AS SACRAMENT:

The catechism from which I drew my religious instruction as a child stated that a Christian sacrament was an “outward sign instituted by Jesus Christ to give us grace.” Later on, Father Edward Schillebeeckx, in his book entitled: *Christ, the Sacrament of the Encounter with God*, defined a sacrament in words to this effect: “A sacrament is anything that visibly or tangibly makes present or prolongs a saving action of God.” While both of those definitions are theologically very good, they are too abstract to, at times, give us a real sense of what precisely a sacrament is, and where a sacrament is sometimes found. Here is a more colloquial definition — one that simply defines a sacrament as “anything that gives skin to God.” What is meant by this?

There is a marvelous story told of a four year old girl who woke up one night frightened, convinced that there were monsters and spooks in her room. So she ran to her parents’ bedroom. Her mother, however, brought her back to her own room, put on a number of lights, showed the child that there was nothing to be afraid of, put her back to bed, calmed her, and finally left her with the words: “There is nothing to be afraid of. When I leave, you won’t be alone in the room. God will be here with you.” But the young girl replied: “I know that God will be here with me, but I need someone in the room who has some skin!”

There is wisdom, and theology, to her response. As human beings, we are creatures of the senses. We need something we can grasp tangibly — physically. Thus, a God who is everywhere is, at a certain point, nowhere. God, of course, already knows this, and that is why we have been given God’s presence physically in sacrament. Understood in this sense then, there are more than seven sacraments. Family life is — or at least it can be — a sacrament. Like the Eucharist, or any other sacrament, it too can give concrete flesh to God. How so?

Partly this can be understood by contrast. Jean-Paul Sartre once said: “the other is hell.” That, for a Christian and for every other major world religion, is the exact opposite of the truth. Hell is alienation, arrogant self-willed aloneness, the opposite of community, non-family. As John Shea so aptly puts it, hell is never a surprise waiting for a happy person, but the full-flowering of a life of arrogant alienation. Heaven is union with others, and thus, as long as we are somehow linked to a community and a family, we cannot go to hell.

Buckminster Fuller once said that God is not just a noun, but also a verb. That is true. God is not just a person, but also a certain flow of life — a flow of receptivity and gratitude between three persons. Inside of God there is a kind of family life going on, and Jesus has assured us that when we give and receive from each other within a family — when we break open our lives and hearts and joys and frustrations and egos and agendas and finances, and share these with each other, we are letting the life of God flow through us, and we are giving skin to the inner life of the Trinity. In that sense, **family life is a sacrament**, and, for many of us, **the most important sacrament of all** because it is the one that in fact touches our lives and transforms us the most deeply.

But all of this should not be unduly romanticized. To say that family life is a sacrament is not to say that it will not be fraught with pettiness, frustration, anger, jealousies, selfish concern, pathology — and even, at times, real sin. Our families are never the holy family!



something out of a glossy *House Beautiful* magazine. But be real. Stables are constructed not for families, but for livestock. That Christmas stable was crawling with dangerous vermin and foul odors. There were no pampers nor fresh water. Imagine the drafts. Mary and Joseph had to be sick with worry for the Infant’s health. And where would the next meal for the Baby come from?

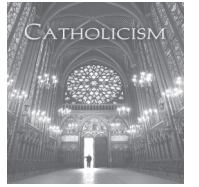
Consider, too, the teen years of Jesus. Most teens believe they know everything. Can you even speculate how difficult it had to be to raise one who did?

We celebrate today not the feast of the Perfect Family, but the feast of the Holy Family. Do you still find it difficult to relate with such a family?

—taken from the writings of Father James Gilhooley which appear on the internet

CATHOLICISM — A JOURNEY DEEP INTO FAITH:

Catholicism is a series of presentations/videos that has received rave reviews by all who have seen them. **Our series will meet next on Wednesday, January 9th, at 6:30 PM** when we will discuss the **mystical union of Christ and the Church**. We will continue to view various parts of the series on a monthly basis. **Each video will be followed by a group discussion and question period.** *Catholicism* presents a strong ecclesial dimension of the Catholic Faith — God’s revelation through Jesus Christ and His Church. **You do not have to see previous parts in order to join in this experience — each presentation is unique onto itself.** The series has been put together by Father Robert Barron, a priest in the archdiocese of Chicago. Each presentation centers on what Catholics believe and why, so all Catholics can come to a deeper understanding of the Catholic Faith. Not a video lecture, Church history or scripture study, this engaging and interesting formational program uses the art, architecture, literature, music and all the treasures of the Catholic tradition to illuminate the timeless teachings of the Church. *Catholicism* has received rave reviews by all who have seen it. **Light refreshments will be served at each of our sessions.** Please plan on joining us. Contact the chapel office if you have any questions.

**THE TASK OF RECONCILIATION:**

What is our task in this world as children of God and brothers and sisters of Jesus? Our task is reconciliation. Wherever we go, we see divisions among people — in families, communities, cities, countries, and continents. All these divisions are tragic reflections of our separation from God. The truth that all people belong together as members of one family under God is seldom visible. Our sacred task is to reveal that truth in the reality of everyday life. Why is that our task? Because God sent Christ to reconcile us with God, and to give us the task of reconciling people with one another. As people reconciled with God through Christ, we have been given the ministry of reconciliation [see 2 Corinthians 5:18]. So whatever we do, the main question is: Does what we do lead to reconciliation among people?

THE DIGNITY OF FAMILY:

Families are under threat today. And amid Western Society, the family’s treat is even greater than anywhere else. This weekend, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. Jesus, Mary and Joseph are called the Holy Family for two very good reasons — [1] because they followed God’s will in every particular way, and [2] because they strove at all times to love God, each other, and the people among whom they lived.

Families are under threat from within and without. Families frequently fall apart because of strong tensions between the members, but also from stress that comes from social pressures and changing norms

within society. Make no mistake about it, if families are destroyed, then society itself will inevitably perish. A glance at history will tell you that this is so — most famously in the case of the Roman Empire.

The changes that have taken place in our society in the last thirty years do pose a great threat to the family. For example, many young people — and many older ones also — do not see the need for marriage; living together has become the norm — marriage is not even considered as an option. Also, marriage has become devalued by widespread divorce. One has to wonder if marriage is even the norm within our society.

Yes, we as Christians are all called to respect the rights of others. Prejudice of any kind has no place — whether it be on grounds of race, religion, or sexual orientation. But in all cases, the dignity of family life needs to be upheld.

This is not to downgrade the single parent when we speak in favor of a two-parent family unit — in fact, it is important to recognize the difficulties that any single parent has. And within our community — and in society at large — we must do all we can to support them and give them the help that they need. This is a duty that all of us share.

The family is a unit based on love and mutual respect. It is not easy to live in a family, but it is primarily in the family that we grow as fully human beings.

In some families, there are great tensions which can be very destructive; sometimes there are abusive parents or siblings. And there are certainly sometimes circumstances in which it is surely better for parents to separate for the good of the family. No family is exempt from moments of tension, but it is regrettable that not all family environments are healthy. Domestic violence is a huge concern in today's society.

Yet despite these difficulties, we must remember and appreciate that the family is the most important social unit within society. Living in a family requires a high degree of self-sacrifice — especially from the parents. But we know that it is precisely this self-giving love that makes us fully human. Living for others is what being a Christian is all about. It is the way that Jesus showed us in the manner of his life, but most especially in the manner of his death.

In this Feast of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are set before us as an example worth following. They are worth following because they loved God and their neighbor — and by neighbor we mean first and foremost each other. They carried out God's wishes in every particular way.

Each of us knows in our hearts what God wants us to do. If we are unsure, then we only have to read the Gospels, the Ten Commandments, or the Beatitudes to find out. Jesus made it very clear what behavior is acceptable in God's eyes, and he did this for our own good. Sinful behavior is destructive — it destroys our very humanity. Trying to live the way God wants us to live is not at all easy, but it is the only sure way to happiness — it will not make us rich, but it will make us good.

And love — loving each other, loving our neighbors, loving ourselves — is all about goodness. It is impossible to be good without love. In fact, goodness overflows into love for those around us. We



meals.

You send your children to religious education for the basic outline of what you need to communicate to your children every day. Parents — not parishes — are the first teachers of their children in the ways of the faith. Some parents hold themselves back in this area because they feel unworthy to teach their children about God. They forget that God makes them worthy. Just as your authority as moms and dads gives you the grace to impart God's blessing on your children — would that more people did this every night — so also your authority as moms and dads gives you the grace to impart God's knowledge to your children. You do not have to be theologians to teach the faith. You just need to be united to God.

Many of you have raised your children. Some of these now have their own families. You are the matriarchs and patriarchs. You still need to point your children and grandchildren to the Lord. You can no longer determine what they are exposed to in their homes, but you can — and must — give them the example of union with God. Your children and your grandchildren still look to you to be holy families.

Many of you are married, but do not have children; others of us are called to the single life. We must center our spirituality in our homes. This is true for the priests and religious also. If we are united to God in our homes, then we will not be hypocrites when we fulfill the call of evangelization, bringing God's Presence to all around us.

Whether there are children at home or not, the center of our spiritual life must be our homes. That is why we need to give God our day when we wake up by praying morning prayer, and thank Him for our day when we go to bed in our night prayer. We need to keep our minds pure so we can speak to the Lord all day.

The heart of any parish is not this or that church. The heart of the universal church is not the Vatican. The heart of the church is the family.

Pray that your family — and all families — might be holy families.

—taken from the writings for Father Joseph Pellegrino, which appear on the internet.

ENVELOPES:

- When you need a **new supply** of envelopes, please feel free to take a supply of them from the table in the vestibule, or call Father John at the Campus Ministry Office [473-3560].
- When you **use** your envelope, please make sure that **your number** is on it. If you need to know your number, please call the Campus Ministry Office. Thanks.

WEEKLY OFFERING:

Baskets will be passed during the “Preparation Rite” and will be brought to the altar as part of the Offerings to help offset chapel daily operating expenses. When you choose to use the envelopes, your donations to Our Lady Chapel will be acknowledged so that you have a record for the IRS.

Total Offerings: Saturday [12/22/12]	-----	\$ 1,885.00
Total Offerings: Sunday [12/23/12]	-----	\$ 998.00
Total Offerings: Monday [12/24/12] [Children's]	-----	\$ 4,832.00
Total Offerings: Monday [12/24/12] [Traditional]	-----	\$ 1,552.00
Total Offerings: Tuesday [12/25/12]	-----	\$ 755.00

HOW TRUE:

It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are.

—E.E. Cumm

THE HEART OF THE CHURCH:

On the Sunday after Christmas, the Church always pauses to reflect upon the family. Most people, when they hear the title of the celebration — the Feast of the Holy Family — are inclined to just dismiss the possibility that their family could ever be like the Holy Family. We forget that Jesus' family was holy because they lived united to God. Still, many of you may be thinking that your own families are far from the ideal. Well, join the crowd.

Every family is far from the ideal because every family is made of unique individuals with their positive qualities and their negative quirks — or to put it simply, if you think your family is strange, you're right. You have crazy Uncle Fred whose behavior has to be interpreted to the younger children. And then there is nasty old Aunt Martha, who you would like to have sat next to the priest at your daughter's wedding reception, but the priest was smart enough to decline the invitation.

My family is strange too. I have a 30 year old cousin who after graduating college is still looking for work to use her special talent — she's a fire eater and flame thrower. Good old, cousin Patty — the Dragon Lady. Hey, at least she comes in handy at the family re-unions. She's in charge of lighting the charcoal!

If you think your family is strange, but so are you. My family is strange, and so am I. All families have their positive and negative aspects. The fact is that the very negatives become the opportunities of grace leading the rest of the family to God. This is what St. Paul is referring to in his letter to the Church at Colossae, when he tells them — and us — to “put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection” [Colossians 3:12-21]. The compassion that we have for the weakest member of the family — whether that be physically weak, psychologically weak, or morally weak — becomes our means to grow in union with God. The efforts that we make to accept each other's quirks are themselves acts of virtue.

Being a holy family means being a family separate for the Lord. To be holy means to be set distinct from all that is not holy. So for our families to be holy, we have to choose that which is often contrary to the choices made by other families. For example, we keep immoral material — TV programs, movies, video games, computer sites — out of our homes because we ask God to dwell there. At the same time we — actually you — have to be very careful of where your children are visiting or staying overnight because other families might allow immorality into their homes — or, simply, not supervise their own children. This could earn you a lot of criticism from others, but the integrity of your family is an infinitely greater value than its popularity.

Being a holy family demands that our homes be places of prayer. The Church — at least in our country — is still suffering from the misconception that worship takes place only on Saturdays or Sundays in the churches, and that religious instruction is the exclusive realm of parish programs. This is all wrong. We come to Church on Saturdays or Sundays to be united to Christ in Word and Sacrament, so that we can strengthen the union that takes place in our homes. Some families do this through the family rosary. Others have family prayer at bedtime. Most make it a point to have family prayer before



know that our creation was an act of love on God's part; therefore love is at the very center of our being, and the way to live our lives in a truly authentic way. And the best place to learn how to love is in the family — the child sees the love and devotion and the many sacrifices of the parents, and they form the model for their own parenting later in life.

Luke's Gospel [2:41-52] is most interesting. It only comes around once every three years, so we ought to pay it some attention. Luke is unique among the Evangelists in giving this story of Christ at the age of twelve. One could regard it as a Gospel-in-miniature. “Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover”. That is what the story is about — going up to Jerusalem for the Passover. It is clear that this was a frequent event — something that Jesus did with his family every year.

But yet, that is precisely what he did with his life — his whole life was a movement from Galilee to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. In that thirty-third year of his life, he went up to Jerusalem and made the Passover a definitive event for the whole world. He took the old Jewish feast which commemorated their salvation as a people through their rescue by God from Egypt, and he made it into a New Passover — the most definitive act of salvation of all time.

“Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors”. When Jesus is lost, his parents eventually find him in the Temple sitting among the doctors of the law. The Temple is his natural home — for he is the Eternal High Priest. Jesus is both the priest and the victim — he is the culmination of everything the Temple stood for. And shortly after his death on the cross, the Temple was destroyed never to be rebuilt.

And the three days that Jesus was lost has a relevance also — it prefigures the three days in the tomb — the three days between death and resurrection when Jesus was apparently lost only to rise in glory.

Jesus is found discussing the finer points of the law with the doctors in the Temple — something he was to spend a lot of time doing during his public ministry when they were also frequently amazed at his wisdom. Of course, it was precisely these disputations which were to cause the plotting against him.

“Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?” — here we have Jesus' first spoken words in the Gospel of Luke. They are a direct and very clear statement by Jesus that he is the Son of God. These words effectively bring the infancy narrative in Luke's Gospel to a conclusion. This account of the events of the birth and childhood of Christ lead up to the statement that he is the Son of God and that he must be busy about his Father's affairs — he must implement the will of his Father. He has a task to perform, and it is to bring salvation to the world.

“And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and others” — Jesus returns to Nazareth to live under the authority of his parents. Although, as it says, “they did not understand what he meant”, he lived his life in such a way that he won the admiration of all.

As Jesus spent these hidden years with his family in Nazareth Jesus grew in stature — by this we mean maturity — and in wisdom. In this way Jesus was prepared for his future ministry. Even the villagers who did not accept him when he took the scroll in the synagogue and effectively proclaimed himself the Messiah still were forced to acknowledge his graciousness — “they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips”.

And on this Feast of the Holy Family, we are drawn to conclude that what applies to Jesus also applies to us — that the family is the ideal place to grow into maturity, the ideal place to acquire wisdom and graciousness, the ideal place to prepare for our vocation in life.

Long may this be so!

—taken from the writings of Father Alex McAllister, S.D.S., which appear on the internet.

HOW ARE NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS TIED TO OUR FAITH?

In his letter to the Church at Ephesus, Paul writes: “put on the new self, created in God’s way in righteousness and holiness of truth” [Ephesians 4:24]. Made any New Year’s resolutions? Broken any New Year’s resolutions? Ever wonder how the annual New Year’s resolution might be tied into our faith walk as Christians?

Saint Paul’s words to the people living in Ephesus — the Ephesians for those of you scoring at home — are pretty cool. This is one of those verses in scripture that may be short, but that say a LOT.

Paul is encouraging ALL those who call themselves CHRISTians to live in righteousness and holiness, and to “put on a new self” — basically, to “put on” Christ, so that all who look at us, will see Him. It’s about changing our outlook, our impatient ways, and our prideful, stubborn and selfish behavior.

Every year, millions of people make New Year’s resolutions — that most stick to for less than a week — in an effort to better themselves — like exercising more, or eating better. But very few of us make resolutions that will help our spiritual lives. So, I’ll start.....

This year, God, in an effort to show you how much you mean to me:

- I will make Mass on Saturday or Sunday a priority, instead of something I “fit in”.
- I will tell my parents how much I love them more often, instead of always telling them what a hurry I am in.
- I will drive like someone concerned about the safety of those with and around me, instead of as someone trying to take the checkered flag.
- I will be thankful that I can afford the food in the supermarket, instead of complaining about the stupid shopping cart that won’t roll straight.
- I will pray more when things are going well, instead of only when things are not.
- I will talk to others during dinner, instead of turning on the television.
- I will let my little brother or sister win once or twice, instead of always destroying them and their self-esteem.
- I will sit closer to the front during Mass, instead of in the back where I am more easily distracted.
- I will read your WORD more on my own, instead of waiting for it to be read to me.
- I will say “Hi” to You in the morning in prayer, instead of waiting until the end of the day to think about You.
- I will try to live each day as if it were my last — because it just might be.



I don’t know what You have in store for me this year, Lord, but I’m ALL Yours. —The Bible Geek

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Father John will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with you on **every Saturday** between **3:30 – 4:00 PM**. Confessions are also available “by appointment.” The Reconciliation Room is located in the small chapel directly across from Father John’s Office.



LIFE TEEN:

Life Teen Youth Group meets **EVERY SUNDAY at 11:30 AM**. All who are in grades 9--12 are invited to join us and get to know what the Life Teen is all about. The meetings will take place in the **Lennon Board Room** following the **10:00 AM Mass**. [Of course, we stop to get our donuts first]. Life Teen is open to all **high school aged young people**. Come and try us out. We have a great deal of fun together and we grow in our faith at the same time. **Come even if you are unable to make the Mass**. Please continue to remember all our teens and young people in your prayers.



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP — THE EDGE:

Our Middle School Youth Group — **THE EDGE** — meets next on **Sunday, January 13th from 11:30 AM — 3:00 PM**. There is always food, friendship, and fun. Following a light lunch, we are going **BOWLING**. If you haven’t come in a while, or if you have never “tried us out”, this would be a good time to join us. All who are in grades 6-8 are invited to join us. Come and find out what **the EDGE** is all about. If you have not joined us before, that’s OK. **Just call the office and let us know that you are going to be coming**. We ask you to do this because there will be food involved. Our **EDGE** Youth Group has a Faith-Service-Social component, and we need your help. Join in on an exciting happening. **Call the Chapel Office at 440-473-3560**. Come to learn what the **EDGE** is all about. Join us for a fun filled faith experience. All are welcome. If you cannot make our meeting on January 13th, plan on joining us on Sunday, January 27th when we will meet again.



SUPPORT OUR LIFETEEN PROJECT — JANUARY 19-20:

Because of the Christmas season, when everyone “overwhelms” pantries with donations, we are going to have our next collection in January. Our Teens have undertaken a project to keep the pantry filled with wholesome foods at the Ronald McDonald House. As you know, the Ronald McDonald House is the residential facility in University Circle for families with children in the hospital, or who reside at Ronald McDonald House while their child is receiving outpatient treatment. Very often, a family can miss meals because of the hospital schedule. We will keep the pantry filled with foods that will enable them to “have a meal on the run” when they return. **Every 3rd Weekend of the month, we will collect food items for the pantry, which our teens will then take down to Ronald McDonald House and place in their pantry.** Here is what we need: **Cereal, Jelly, Peanut Butter, Spaghetti Sauce, Mayonnaise, Canned tuna and chicken, Paper Plates** [no Styrofoam, please], and **Paper Bowls**. We do not need commercial size products — just the regular sizes that you buy for your family. Just place the items in the narthex of the chapel — right by the “registration table”, and we will take them from there. We hope you will join us in this wonderful outreach to families who are going through tough times.



TRUST THE RIVER:

Faith is the ability to trust the river, to trust the flow. It is a process that we don’t have to change, coerce, or improve — just allow to flow. It takes immense confidence in God — especially when we’re hurting and want to push or even create the river — to just allow the river to flow through us.