

CLOSING PRAYER:

~ **A Prayer for the Family** ~

**Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,
in you we contemplate
the splendor of true love,
to you we turn with trust.**

**Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families, too,
may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic Churches.**

**Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again
experience violence, rejection, and division.
May all who have been hurt or scandalized
find ready comfort and healing.**

**Holy family of Nazareth,
make us once again
more mindful of the sacredness
and inviolability of the family,
and its beauty in God's plan.**

**Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer.
Amen.**

—Pope Francis

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.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY:

Every year right after Christmas, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. There is a reason for this. It's easy to think that the "incarnation" means God took on a human body. But there is much more to it than that. In Jesus, God unites himself to an entire human nature. He fully enters into human experience, with all its peaks and valleys. And a part of that human experience — peaks and valleys include — is family. We forget that Jesus spent over 90% of his years in the obscure nitty-gritty of family life. Though little of those years are recorded, what we do know is significant. First of all, despite the cuddly image of our nativity scenes, the original Christmas was anything but cozy. A woman nine months pregnant rides 75 miles on the back of a donkey over bumpy, dusty roads so she can have her baby in a stable full of dirty, smelly animals. Quickly after the birth they have to pick up and flee for their lives, seeking asylum in a foreign land. A few years later, the now adolescent son goes missing for several days, and there ensues a conversation characterized by no little emotion. Joseph is a saint; Mary is without sin; Jesus is God incarnate — yet there are still challenges, difficulties, tense moments, and opportunities for misunderstanding. Welcome to real family life.

—excerpt from an article by Marcellino D'Ambrosio which appears on the internet

**CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR — BEGIN WITH MASS:**

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 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. **January 1st** is also a **Holy Day of obligation** — the **Feast of the Motherhood of God and New Year's Day**. In addition, our Holy Father, Pope Francis has asked all of us to pray intensely on January 1st for world peace. As noted in the Mass schedule of the Christmas Season, **there will be a vigil Mass on Thursday, December 31st at 5:30 PM.** Please plan on joining us.

**2016 CALENDARS:**

Calendars for the year 2016 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 2016 Calendars to us. Please feel free to take as many calendars as you would like. Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:**

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 Jean Sulowski, Rasoletti Family, Eleanor & Curtiss DeMarco, Blazek and Rezabek Families, Loy and Polack Families, Trzaska, Wieslaw and Sokolowski Families.** 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.

**THE DIVINE HEART:**

"The Divine Heart is an ocean full of all good things, wherein poor souls can cast all their needs; it is an ocean full of joy to drown all our sadness, an ocean of humility to drown our folly, an ocean of mercy to those in distress, an ocean of love in which to submerge our poverty."

—St. Margaret Mary

PRAYER REQUESTS:

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

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

- For Julius Sekas who is recovering from injuries sustained in an accident.
- For Jurgi Stuopys who is recovering from surgery.
- For Toni Balciuna who is recovering from surgery.
- For Brother James Kane, C.S.C., who is recovering from open heart surgery.
- For Christina Parrilla, sister of Brother Carlos Parrilla, C.S.C., who is recovering from kidney transplant surgery
- For Brother Francis Affeletey, C.S.C., who is recovering from surgery following an accident.
- For Carol Yost who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Owen Timura, an 8 year old, who has been diagnosed with lymphoma
- For Jackie Goler who has been diagnosed with lymphoma
- For Jay Cusick who has been diagnosed with cancer.
- For Eddie Keating, brother of Kelly ['83] and Karen ['86], who is recovering from brain surgery.
- For Vickie Norris, kitchen employee, who is recovering from emergency heart surgery.
- For Kate Wilson, Niece of Brother Ken Kane, C.S.C., who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Justin Tarr who is critically ill with brain cancer.
- For Bun Riley, who is preparing for surgery.
- For Joseph Frantz ['75], brother of Mark ['65], David ['66], Roger ['69], and Peter ['78] Frantz, who is critically ill.
- For Cindy Bernet who is recovering from cancer surgery.
- For Jim Spicer who is undergoing treatment for brain and lung cancer.
- For John O'Brian who has been diagnosed with a serious form of cancer.
- For Andy Sims who is recovering from spinal surgery.
- For Bill Slattery ['77] who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For John Burkey, uncle of Rachel Burkey, member of music ministry, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Annie Trivassos who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Nicholas Zanella., who is undergoing medical treatment
- For Jan Botek, wife of Fred, mother of Fred ['85], grandmother of Matthew ['14], Jonathan ['17] and Daniel ['21] Botek, who is undergoing treatment for dementia.
- For Teddy Prusock, nephew of Lower School associate, Nina Prusock, who is undergoing neurological testing.
- For Jimmy Vickers, father of Lower School teacher, Caroline Holtz, who is seriously ill.
- For Brother James Gulnac, C.S.C., who is under hospice care for cancer.
- For Kay Yunker, aunt of Mary Schmidt, great-aunt of Maggie ['12] Schmidt who is under the care of hospice.

AMAZON.COM:

Please remember that when you want to buy something from Amazon.com, you need to first go to www.ourladychapel.org and click on the Amazon logo at the bottom of the home page! Because of this simple step — and at no cost to the purchaser — Our Lady Chapel receives a percentage of all purchases that are made from Amazon.com. Ever since we have begun this program, we have consistently been receiving significant checks from Amazon that are being credited to help pay for chapel expenses. This affinity program remains in effect throughout the year, so we ask everyone to continue to remember to start your purchases at Amazon on the Our Lady Chapel home page! Thank you.

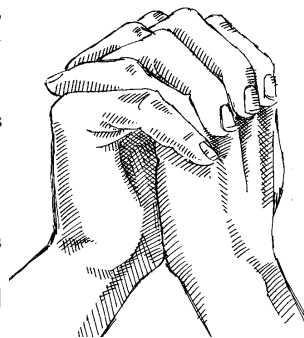


PRAYER REQUESTS:

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

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

- For Vince Jones, cousin of Brother Thomas Chady, C.S.C., who is under hospice care.
- For Terri Haliday who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Mark LaCasse, brother of Upper School Associate, Linda Wheeler, uncle of Molly [*06] Wheeler, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Charlie Grover who is recovering from spinal surgery.
- For Molly McKenna who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Charles Babbush, father of Jeffrey [*83] who is critically ill.
- For Ali Priest, who is undergoing treatment for a rare muscular disease.
- For Debbie Cappioni and Alice Bruce, great aunts of Patrick [*22], Daniel [*26], and former Gilmour student, Morgan Miklus, who are undergoing medical testing.
- For Thelma Bingaman, who is recovering from injuries sustained in a fall.
- For Peggy Hurley, relative of James [*10] and Connor [*13] Hurley, who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.
- For Sue Nyberg, godmother of Katie Leavitt, who is seriously ill with cancer.
- For Andrea Trivisonno who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Ryan Berger [*15], brother of Cameron [*17] who is recovering from injuries sustained in an accident.
- For Drew Franco, son of Brian [*90], nephew of Jeff [*88] and Kristin [*94] Kirkpatrick, who is struggling with a seizure disorder.
- For Michael Palumbo, father of Michael [*14], Marisa [*15], and former Gilmour student, Christian, who is undergoing medical treatment
- For Todd Deranek, relative of Hayden [*28] and Hadley [*29] Bashein, who was seriously injured in an accident.
- For Maureen Kenner, aunt of Katherine [*09] and David Hasler [*13], who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Colleen Lowman, grandmother of Rachel Burkey, member of music ministry, who is seriously ill.
- For Dennis Kavran, father of Dennis [*86] and Jennifer [*95], grandfather of Adam [*14] and Madeleine [*16] Miller, who is undergoing further treatment for cancer.
- For Donna Farkas who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Lexi Pappadakes, who is undergoing treatment for complications from surgery..
- For Rosemarie Lemieux who is ill.
- For Robert Heltzel [*65], father of Jennifer [*91] and Kathleen [*93] Heltzel, who is undergoing medical treatment
- For Matt Barry [*13], brother of Tim [*12], who continues treatment for cancer.
- For Maria Ricci, friend of Linda McGraw, who is ill.
- For Jeff Warner, brother of Denise Calabrese, who is undergoing treatment resulting from a stroke and seizure.
- For Janice Feenstra, sister of Lisa Habe, aunt of Jack [*19] and Will [*20] Habe who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Phylis McGinley, grandmother of Middle school Head of School, Elizabeth Edmondson, great-grandmother of Mollie [*21] and Abigail [*23] Edmondson, who is seriously ill.
- For Mary Kampman, mother of Mark [*81], Matthew [*85], Dean [*86], and Douglas [*88] who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Karen Wanders, mother of upper school Head of School, Jonathan Wanders, who continues in treatment and rehabilitation
- For Betty Herten, aunt of Hope [*13] and James [*15] Herten, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia.



THANK YOU:

A special note of “thanks” goes out to all of you who participated in our **Giving Tree** and our **Adopt a Family** programs. Many families, in addition to literally hundreds of gifts for children from the giving tree were gathered again this year. Thank you and God bless each of you for sharing your life with someone else. A special thank you to **Patty Szaniszlo, Tina Newton** and **Sister Bea** for all their hard work in coordinating these projects. Again, thanks to all who participated. As usual, your generosity in reaching out to others has been marvelous. Thank you. You are special.



SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday, December 27: Feast of the Holy Family	10:00 AM
Monday, December 28: The Holy Innocents	NO MASS
Tuesday, December 29:	NO MASS
Wednesday, December 30:	NO MASS
Thursday, December 31: New Year's Eve	5:30 PM
Friday, January 1: Mary, Mother of God	NO MASS
Saturday, January 2: Feast of the Epiphany	5:00 PM
Sunday, January 3: Feast of the Epiphany	10:00 AM

UPCOMING CHAPEL ACTIVITIES:

December 31 -----	New Year's Eve Mass	5:30 PM
January 7 -----	Lower School Mass LS Parent Reception in LBR	9:30 AM Following Mass
January 9 -----	Life Teen Game Night	6:30 PM—8:30 PM
January 10 -----	Faith Education Session #13 Chapel Christmas decorations removed EDGE Meeting	8:45 AM - 9:45 AM 11:30 AM 11:30 am—1:00 PM
January 14 -----	Freshman Class Mass	9:45 AM
January 17 -----	Holy Cross Brother's Gathering	3:00 PM
January 19 -----	Our Lady Chapel Council Meeting	6:15 PM

REFLECTION ON THE THEME FOR THE WEEK:

Most Medical-School students, when reading about sicknesses and ailments, begin wondering if they have or have had whatever it is that they are studying. The term “Dysfunctional Family” is commonly used to describe various deficiencies within family life. Most of us, hearing the term “Dysfunctional Family,” begin wondering whether we were or are members of such a group. The process moves from wondering to “probabbling” to certainty. The problem is that we are not exactly sure what a “dysfunctional family” looks like. What we do know is that our family of origin was not perfect, and that we weren’t given everything we wanted for Christmas, birthdays — and every other day of our lives. The major dysfunction for all of us began when we discovered that our parents were not gods and goddesses, and our siblings were not little angels.

The author of the Book of Sirach [3:2-6,12-14] outlines how daughters and sons can atone for sins by reverencing their parents. Being in a family is the situation where human sinfulness is displayed in life-size Technicolor. Family life is also a very holy experience. St. Paul reminds us of this when he writes to the Church at Rome — “Where sin abounds, there does grace more abound” [see Romans 6]. Sirach is instructing siblings on how their relationships with the parents are part of their relationship with God.

I once asked a group of married couples: “Other than your spouses, what has been the biggest disappointment in your living the sacrament of marriage?” After they stopped laughing, they all said that they did not know that raising children was going to be so hard — “It’s a lot of work!” It is a lot of work raising expectations and levels of compassion and trust. Parent-child relationships are directly related to our relationship with God.

Paul’s letter to the Church at Colossae gives us a long and detailed prayer, which Paul writes concerning his wishes for those trying to live together. He prays about “functional” loving and living. In listening to the many virtues and practices listed, we just might find where any “dysfunction” in our living together might be rooted. It is unfortunate that this list of virtues is often passed over so quickly — each virtue deserves some slow mediation and resolution. What also leads spouses to begin dysfunctioning is the sentence about wives being subordinate to their husbands. If that bothers you or your spouse, then you haven’t heard or read the spirit of what Paul — or the Holy Spirit — are saying. Family is the place to follow the example of Jesus by being willing to surrender to our being human and our needing forgiveness from the humans with whom we live or have lived.



Joseph and Mary are shown as having great reverence for God’s laws concerning birth, family rituals, as well as the annual pilgrimage up to Jerusalem [Luke 2:41-52]. The annual pilgrimage served as a great example of how the life of family and our relationship with God are connected.

But on this particular pilgrimage, a great deal of family dysfunction occurred. Three times every year a pious Jewish family would make their way to Jerusalem — for Pentecost and the feast of Booths, both harvest celebrations, and for Passover. As Luke’s Gospel unfolds, the Holy Family is journeying to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover — they are fulfilling the Law and customs around which their families live their private and communal lives. While on their way back home, Jesus begins breaking away.

After a three-day journey, it is discovered that Jesus, the twelve-year-old, is not among the returning caravan. His parents return searching for him and find him still in the temple discussing things of the law with the “teachers.” After a short discussion between his parents and himself, Jesus returns to the family and the keeping of the Laws and customs of the family.

There is something different in the air — Jesus expresses an intensification of the response to God which is built upon the Law, but the “Father’s business” will be lived out and preached during the rest of

PRAYER REQUESTS:

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

FOR THE DECEASED:

- For Carol Plowman, niece of Brother James Spooner, C.S.C.
- For Joseph Jarc.
- For Noel Ilg.
- For Sister Anne Mary Tholt, O.S.U.
- For John Debick, grandfather of DJ [‘09] and Matt [‘11] Debick
- For Jennifer Maginot.
- For Father Larry LaVasseur, C.S.C.
- For Bob Gecik, step-father of Deanne Carlson [‘95]
- For Sister Romanus Smith, C.S.C.
- For Roswitha Wyrwas, aunt of Janet Heryak, great aunt of Lillian [‘09], Rosa [‘12], and Edwin [‘17], Heryak.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS:

- For all those who are estranged during this Christmas season.
- For Jaylynn Wilcox, a 12 year old girl, missing since November 17.
- For an end to violence in our society.
- For the families who are grieving the loss of loved ones.
- For an end to human trafficking..
- For the unemployed.
- For those who struggle with family relationships.
- For a greater respect for human life, from the moment of conception until natural death.
- For all caregivers.
- For a special intention.
- For all service men and women serving our country, and for their families.

CHAPEL 20th ANNIVERSARY NOTE CARDS:

Note Cards of the Vatican Treasure — Our Lady Of Gilmour — are also available for purchase. The card has a beautiful photo of Our Lady of Gilmour — taken by John Reid — on the front. The inside is blank for your message, and the back of the card has a description of the Vatican Treasure and it was brought to the Chapel, along with appropriate credits. **The Cards sell in packets of 5 for \$10.** The Cards are located in the chapel office and are available by contacting **Patty Szaniszlo at (440) 473-3560 or at szaniszlop@gilmour.org.**

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:**

We are currently discerning a new group of Eucharistic Ministers who would undergo training within the next month. If you feel that the Lord is calling you to this ministry, we would be delighted to include you in that ministry here at Our Lady Chapel. Both adults and teens [must be going into Senior year of High School] are welcome to participate in this very special ministry. We are need of ministers for both our Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. **Contact Father John or the chapel office [440-473-3560] if you feel called to this ministry.** We are always in need of Eucharistic Ministers.



THE HOLY FAMILY 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 which presumes neither Joseph or Mary was privy to a special annunciation, explaining just who their son really was [Luke 2:41-52]. As the late Raymond Brown mentions in his classic book *Birth of the Messiah*, though this incident is included in a gospel which has an annunciation, 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 story at 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 our Sirach and Colossians readings. 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 [3:2-6,12-14] 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 father and mother 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 life.” The literal Hebrew reads: “Do not confront them in the fullness of your strength” — in other words, though you're now more powerful than they are, still relate to them 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 apostle Paul couldn't agree more when he writes to the Church at Colossae — though he 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” [Colossians 3:12-21]. 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



his public life, leading to his death and resurrection. Jesus will confront these “elders” again eighteen years hence, and call them to a more personal response to God. He will be leaving his family of birth to extend the Covenant of life to the entire family of humankind. That will come later, but for now, Luke gives us a glimpse of how Jesus, Mary and Joseph lived their faith and love.

The couple and their child return home and by their living according to God's law, the child grew strong and full of wisdom. So we have a picture of a holy family. They received from God, they returned thanks to the Giver; they were faithful to their lives.

It seems that child or children make the couple into a family. Mary and Joseph were not known as the Holy Couple. But what makes the family Holy? That is not as easy to define. But Mary gives us a hint. Her trip back to Jerusalem and the trip home from the temple describes a circle of her heart's concern. The child, her husband, the temple, the sky and her child encompassed the elements of her holy family. A circle has no point of priority. Did she love God in the temple more than her child in her house or her husband by her side? Loving God makes the human and family circle all one act, so that loving her husband is loving God. Loving the sky and earth is loving God as well. Joseph's circle of love is completed as well by his being husband, father, and worker with wood of the earth and providing a space for growth of the child.

From the announcement by the angel to Mary and then to Joseph this couple was going to live in a Christ-centered tension — from the finding of Jesus in the temple to the finding of Jesus at the foot of the cross, from the flight into Egypt to his leaving home, mystery, uncertainty and letting go created a salvific tension. Holiness has something to do with how we allow grace to enter our very human tensions and what we do with them. It is too easy to say: “belief is relief”. Tensions may not be dissolved — they received for what they are — invitations.

Flights, journeys, wonderings, confusion — this family is holy, not only because of the presence of the historical Jesus, but the living gracefulness of their family vocation of mystery. The growing child the husband by her side, the temple and its laws and customs, the world around them were all elements of tension and Mary and Joseph kept walking, journeying, fleeing and trusting. How do you spell “holiness?” — you don't; you live it!

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

FAITH EDUCATION — JANUARY 10:

Faith Education for this year continues. Our Sessions go from **8:45—9:45 AM**, with the hope that our children would then **participate in our 10:00 AM Family Mass**. **Register your family for classes by contacting Patty in the Chapel Office [440-473-3560]**. If you have any questions, please call Patty in the chapel office. Thank you for taking care of this important responsibility. **Dates for January and February: January 10-24-31 and February 7-21-28.**

**BRINGING UP THE OFFERTORY GIFTS:**

Would you and your family or group like to bring up the gifts at the offertory at Mass? In the past, our Council people have invited people to bring up the gifts, and we have found that many — if not most — of you like to be asked. But in using this method, we may be leaving people out, especially if it is done as a “last minute item”. So, we are posting a sign-up sheet on the Easel in the narthex of the chapel. **If you or your family or group would like to bring up the gifts on a certain Saturday or Sunday — or if you are open to doing this at any time — please call the chapel office [440-473-3560]**. We look forward to opening this beautiful experience to all in our community.



CARRYING THE BURDENS OF FAMILY LIFE:

Family involves anxiety and burden, but we have a brilliant future. The Feast of the Holy Family comes on the heels of Christmas. One of the key themes of the Christmas season is this passage — “To those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God” [John 1:12]. God wants to give us power. God wants us to make a new beginning. It’s easier than you think. If you accept Jesus, he will give you a strength that you never imagined. He will enable you to become a son or daughter of God.

One of the most important powers that God bestowed upon us was when God created us for family. That’s why he makes us so diverse — male, female; young, old; clever, slow; healthy, weak. We need each other and that need drives us to form families. But family comes not only from need, but also from fulfillment. We find fulfillment in family. Today, family faces a huge threat — the threat of false individualism. This is the feeling that I can make it on my own. A certain self-reliance is good, but if a person carries it too far, the results are disastrous. Young people, sometimes, rebel and cut themselves off. But we older people can also assert a false independence — “I don’t want to be a burden to my children,” we say. To illustrate false individualism let me use my own example.

As a diocesan priest, I have a priest’s pension and social security — “I can make it on my own.” For sure, those things are good — and I am grateful for them. But how much better for me to think this way: I am father of my parish family. I will do all I can to stay healthy to serve you. Yet if I become weak and confused — I mean more confused than I am now — you would take care of me.

There are two reasons why no one should say: “I don’t want to be a burden.” First, it isn’t a matter of choice. No one wants to be a burden, but we are or may be a lot bigger one in the future. The person who thinks that he or she can escape being a burden — we all are burdens at various times in our lives on others. Second — and this is the real point — family is about bearing burdens. Oftentimes there is the burden of an “unplanned pregnancy” [at least unplanned for you — God plans every pregnancy], or the burden of a special needs child, or an older child who goes off the rails, or those who arrive a “second childhood” — the burden of total dependence. Family means to bear one another’s burden.

We see that in the Holy Family. You know, Mary and Joseph had a special child. We get a glimpse of that in Luke’s Gospel [2:45-52] as we recall that mysterious episode about Jesus disappearing for three days — and then finding him in the Temple. “Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.” Great anxiety — does not every family experience times of terrible anguish? Some are experiencing it right now. We need to pray for each other — and turn to the Holy Family. Anguish and burden come with family — nuclear families, extended family, and parish family. How often we are tempted to pull away. But the reality is that if you accept the burden of family, you will experience true freedom — and the joy only God can give.

This brings us back to where we started this reflection — “To those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God”. Jesus lives in his “Father’s house.” He wants to take us there. And, you know, there’s no better place. Outside it is cold, dark, and miserable. In the Father’s house we have light, warmth, and nourishment. On Thursday evening we begin the New Year. Come to God’s house to receive the New Year by joining your brothers and sisters around God’s altar at Mass. Through him we come to the Father’s House — our true home, the family that will not break apart, the family that will endure.

For sure, family now involves anxiety and burden, but we have a brilliant future. Just as the Feast of the Holy Family comes on the heels of Christmas, so many other feasts come one after the other as the mystery of salvation continues to unfold — Epiphany [the Feast of the Three Kings], the Baptism of Jesus, the Wedding Feast at Cana — and many more.

The theme of any New Year is “a new beginning.” By accepting Jesus, you and I become children of God. As St. John tells us: “See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we might be called children of God. And so we are.”

—taken from the writings of Father Phil Bloom., which appear on the

asphyxiating pollution, but because it — akin to humanity — has its own rights. A teaching too rarely affirmed.

Finally, not least, what is implied in understanding the cosmic dimension of Christ and what that means in terms of our relationship to mother-earth and the universe is the non-negotiable fact that the quest for community and consummation within God’s Kingdom — our journey towards heaven — is a quest that calls us not just to a proper relationship with God and with each other, but also to a proper relationship with physical creation.

We are humans with bodies living on the earth; we are not disembodied angels living in heaven. Christ came to save our bodies along with our souls; and he came, as well, to save the physical ground upon which we walk since he was the very pattern upon which and through which the physical world was created.

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: 1 John 1:5-2:2, Matthew 2:13-18

Tuesday: 1 John 2:3-11, Luke 2:22-35

Wednesday: 1 John 2:12-17, Luke 2:36-40

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

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

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

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

DRESSES FOR HONDURAS:

One of the nurses in our Gilmour Clinic is involved in a **dressmaking project** for the children of Honduras. They have devised a method of making sundresses out of common pillowcases, and then adorning them with other items for decoration. And that is where you come in. **If you have any old buttons, ribbon, ric-rac, lace or other sewing trim,** please bring them in. The group would like to collect these items to help decorate the dresses they are working on. This is an on-going project; the dresses will be sent to Honduras every time there is a mission trip. The next trip is scheduled for March of 2016. There is a **basket in the narthex of the Chapel** to collect any donations you may have. Thank you for your help!

**PRAY THE ROSARY:**

Please join us as we **pray the Rosary every Saturday at 4:25 PM** in the Eucharistic Chapel. In the words of Pope John Paul II: “The Rosary of the Virgin Mary is a prayer loved by countless Saints and encouraged by the Magisterium. Simple yet profound, it still remains, at the dawn of the third millennium, a prayer of great significance. It has the depth of the Gospel message in its entirety. Through the Rosary, the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer.” Please join us.

**HOW TRUE:**

If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!

—St. Catherine of Sienna

CHRIST AND NATURE:

Numerous groups and individuals today are challenging us in regards to our relationship to mother-earth. From Green Peace, from various environmental groups, from various Christian and other religious groups, and from various individual voices, comes the challenge to be less-blind, less-unthinking, and less-reckless in terms of how we relate to the earth. Every day our newscasts point out how, without much in the way of serious reflection, we are polluting the planet, strip-mining its resources, creating mega-landfills, pouring carbon dangerously into the atmosphere, causing the disappearance of thousands of species, creating bad air and bad water, and thinning the ozone layer. And so the cry goes out — live more simply, use fewer resources, lessen your carbon footprint, and try to recycle whatever you've used as much as you can.

That challenge, of course, is very good and very important. The air we breathe out is the air we will eventually inhale, and so we need to be very careful about what we exhale. This planet is our home, and we need to ensure that, long-term, it can provide us with the sustenance and comfort of a home.

But, true as this is, there's still another, very important reason, why we need to treat mother-earth with more caution and respect — namely, Christ, himself, is vitally bound-up with nature, and his reasons for coming to earth also include the intention of redeeming the physical universe. What's implied here?

Let me begin with an anecdote which captures, in essence, what's at stake. The scientist-theologian, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, in conversation with a Vatican official who was confused by his writings and doctrinally-suspicious of them, was once asked: "What are you trying to do in your writings?" Teilhard's response: "I am trying to write a Christology that is wide enough to incorporate the full Christ, because Christ is not just an anthropological event — he is also a cosmic phenomenon." Simply translated, Teilhard is saying that Christ didn't just come to save people, but he also came to save the planet, of which people are only one part.

In saying that, Teilhard has solid scriptural backing. Looking at the scriptures, we find that they affirm that Christ didn't just come to save people — he came to save the world. For example, Paul's letter to the Church at Colossae records an ancient Christian hymn which affirms both that Christ was already a vital force inside the original creation — "that all things were made through him" — and that Christ is also the end point of all history, human and cosmic [Colossians 1:15-20]. In his letter to the Church at Ephesus, Paul makes the same point [Ephesians 1:3-10], while in his letter to the Church at Rome, Paul is even more explicit in affirming that physical creation — mother-earth and our physical universe — are "groaning" as they too wait for redemption by Christ [Romans 8:19-22]. Among other things, these sacred writings affirm that the physical world is part of God's plan for eventual heavenly life.

A number of very clear principles come out of all of this. First, nature — not just humanity — is being redeemed by Christ. The world is not just a stage upon which human history plays out — it has intrinsic meaning and value beyond what it means for us as humans. Physical nature is, in effect, brother and sister with us in the journey towards the divinely-intended end of history. Christ also came to redeem the earth — not just those of us who are living on it. Physical creation too will enter in the final synthesis of history — that is, heaven.

Second, this means that nature has intrinsic rights — not just the rights we find convenient to accord it. What this means is that defacing or abusing nature is not just a legal and environmental issue, it's a moral issue. We are violating someone's — something's — intrinsic rights. Thus when we, mindlessly, throw a coke-can into a ditch, we are not just breaking a law, we are also, at some deep level, defacing Christ. We need to respect nature, not so that it doesn't recoil on us and give us back our own

**HELPING EACH OTHER TO GROW IN FAMILY:**

Luke's Gospel for this Feast of the Holy Family gives us a glimpse of the family life of Jesus and his parents Joseph and Mary [Luke 2:45-52]. Each year the family made the obligatory journey from Nazareth to Jerusalem for the week-long celebration of Passover. When Jesus was twelve — about ready to assume the religious responsibilities of a Jewish adult — he traveled with his parents to Jerusalem for the feast. But he did not return with them — choosing instead to stay and participate in the weekly informal discussions held by the Sanhedrin in the Temple. After a day's journey, Joseph and Mary, realizing Jesus was not with their relatives or friends, returned to Jerusalem and found their son in the open discussion, impressing the teachers with his questions and answers. Expressing her displeasure, Mary said: "Son, why have you done this to us?" Jesus answered: "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Mary and Joseph did not really understand what he meant, but his mother kept pondering the whole event. For his part, Jesus returned to Nazareth and was obedient to his parents, growing in "wisdom and age and favor before God and people."

All of us are called to live this story throughout our lives. A collegian who sees it as a rite of passage story concludes that she is still too dependent on her parents and has to take some concrete steps to achieve a healthy interdependence. A mother who is overly protective of her teenage son changes course and dedicates herself to helping him use his growing freedom wisely. A husband who wants his family life to be totally peaceful recognizes that conflict is inevitable, that it can occur without anyone really being at fault, and that it can be a stimulus for greater family harmony. A wife who grew up with an abusive father, realizes that she must forgive her father if she is to be a more loving spouse and mother. A young couple just starting their own family commit themselves to handing on the faith and values they both received in their wonderful families of origin.

How do you respond to Luke's Gospel? What difference does it make in your life?

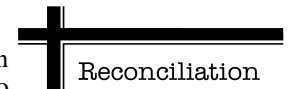
—taken from the writings of Father Jim Bacik which appear on the internet

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS:

Each week, we are making available a **Children's Worship Bulletin**. There are **two editions**: [3-6] and [7-12]. They are available on the table as you leave. The Bulletin focuses on the readings for the week. These are wonderful tools for your children to learn more about the scripture readings for the week. We hope you will take them for your families or your grandchildren. Thanks.

**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

**THE FULLNESS OF TIME:**

Jesus came in the fullness of time. He will come again in the fullness of time. Wherever Jesus, the Christ, is the time is brought to its fullness. We often experience our time as empty. We hope that tomorrow, next week, next month or next year the real things will happen. But sometimes we experience the fullness of time. That is when it seems that time stands still — that past, present, and future become one; that everything is present where we are; and that God, we, and all that is have come together in total unity. This is the experience of God's time — "When the completion of the time came [that is: in the fullness of time], God sent his Son, born of a woman" [Galatians 4:4]. And in the fullness of time God will "bring everything together under Christ, as head, everything in the heavens and everything on earth" [Ephesians 1:10]. It is in the fullness of time that we meet God.

—Henri Nouwen

THE VALUE OF FAMILY LIFE:

In Luke's Gospel [2:45-52], we hear a lovely story from the hidden life of Jesus as a boy. It is about his visit to Jerusalem when he was twelve years old — how he got lost on the return journey, and how his parents eventually found him discussing the scriptures with the doctors in the Temple. This is an example of the kind of literature we call "seeing the man in the boy". Through this story about the boy Jesus, we get an insight into the kind of man he was eventually going to turn out to be. We observe from his discussions in the Temple at such a young age that Jesus is destined to become a great teacher of his people and an expert in the Hebrew Scriptures.

The finding of Jesus in the temple is a very human story — one that we can all easily identify with. It is even a bit embarrassing for Mary and Joseph who failed to notice that Jesus was missing from the caravan. We can understand their deep anxiety at not finding him for three days. This is something that every parent dreads — hearing as we do from time to time on the news about missing children and their sometimes extremely gruesome fate.

In those days Palestine had a relatively small population living mostly in rural areas and it was probably much safer. Nevertheless, Mary and Joseph would have been desperately worried. Besides their natural concern for the son whom they deeply loved, you have also to take into account their awareness of the fact that God had entrusted this child to them born to be the Savior of the World. That's a pretty awesome responsibility, and whether they said anything about it or not, they must have been deeply anxious.

The boy Jesus is, however, quite unconcerned. He is in the most natural place of all — in the Temple of Jerusalem. As the Son of God he would surely regard the Temple as his true home on earth. And what is he doing? He is discussing the scriptures with the Doctors of the Law, and, at his young age, showing remarkable insight and wisdom — so much so that he astounded them all with his intelligence and perception.

Prodigy or not, his parents scold Jesus for the anxiety he caused them. Of course, the precocious child tells them that they should have known he was about his father's business. But he submits to their authority and meekly returns home to live his life with them in Nazareth where he was to grow into maturity as an adult.

Although our tendency is to think of the Holy Family as some sort of idealized family unit, we must realize that its members faced the same pressures as we do. They went through the same crises and had the same worries as we ourselves. This story of a lost child helps us to realize that their family was not so different from our own family.

As we celebrate this beautiful feast, we must ask ourselves about our own family groupings. We must ask ourselves if we as individuals are pulling our weight in the family or whether we are expecting others to take up the slack. Sometimes we are not very good at showing affection to each other. Frequently we let our tempers get out of hand. Often enough we find ourselves giving in to selfishness and failing to treat the members of our own families with the respect that we should.

It is good that this Feast of the Holy Family comes right after Christmas; for Christmas is the most family-oriented feast of all. We give presents and gifts at Christmas, but perhaps it is only on this Feast of the Holy Family that we come to realize that there are many other things that we fail to give to our loved ones.

So often in the family we want the other members to understand our moods and give us a bit of slack from time to time. Yet we fail to do this very thing ourselves. We frequently neglect to appreciate the mood swings that others experience — we often take them for granted and don't make any allowances for their feelings and difficulties. Maybe what we all need is to show a bit more patience, a bit more



A third action a family can and must embrace to be holy, separate for the Lord, is **to seek out his presence in others** — particularly those who need special care. What did Jesus do during those three years of his public ministry? He healed the sick; he cared for people. The blind, the deaf, the lame, the poor, the repented thieves masquerading as tax collectors, and the women who sold themselves for money, all were healed by Jesus. The family that seeks to reach out to the presence of the Lord in those who are suffering will come to a deeper appreciation of the presence of the Lord in the home — or, to put it simply, they will be holy.

Children love to bring gifts to put around the Advent giving tree because they are love to share what they have with others. One mother said that she ended up late for Mass because her daughter demanded that they stop at Walmart to get something for the children at the local children's Hospital. As much as that mother was astounded by her child's generosity, that child has learned from her mother and father what it is to be a holy family.

In Luke's Gospel [2:41-52] Mary and Joseph violated one of Fr. Joe's rules for families in Church — they didn't leave with as many kids as they brought. Twelve year old Jesus was left in the Temple — and they only had one to look out for! The story of the Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple is told by Luke to re-enforce that Jesus was the Son of the Eternal Father. Still, Mary and Joseph did appear to fail parenting 101. Actually, their mistake was quickly remedied. As Jesus said, they should have realized that he had to be about his father's business and should have checked the Temple first. Perhaps, all parents can relate this incident to some of the mistakes that you might make in your parenting and realize that it is impossible to be perfect parents. Those advertisements for foster parents that say that you do not have to be perfect to care for a child applies to all families. No family is ideal. Not the family you are part of now, nor the family you might form in the future. The family is made up of human beings. We humans have times when we are weak. So many of our families realize this and go to confession not just for the spiritual strength of each individual, but for the spiritual strength of the entire family.

It is impossible for us to be perfect, but if we nurture the presence of the Lord in our families through prayer, if we are vigilant fighting against the attacks on the integrity of our families, and if we reach out to the Lord in others, we will be holy families — set aside for the Lord. And we will win for the Kingdom of God each battle that is waged in our homes.

—taken from the writings of Father Joseph Pellegrino which appear on the internet

CLEAN OUT THOSE CLOSETS AND SERVE OTHERS:

Winter is here — another time to once again clean out the closets. Clothing that no longer fits, or has been replaced by new items, can become 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 [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].**

**ONLY ONE THING IS NECESSARY:**

"It does not require a lot of time to be a saint. It only requires love."

—Fulton Sheen

THE HOLY FAMILY — THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY:

The Church places the Feast of the Holy Family on the Sunday after Christmas to help us focus in on Jesus’ early life. Mary and Joseph had the authority of parents over Jesus; Jesus listened to them — though, as we see in Luke’s Gospel [2:41-52], Jesus’ true father was the Eternal Father in heaven. We read in scripture that Joseph took leadership in the family — even getting them up in the middle of the night to take his family and flee to Egypt. We know that Mary cared for her child because he needed her to grow into the Word that the Eternal Father had sent into the World to become. We know that Mary was present for her Son throughout his life, supporting him even as her Son was dying on the cross. We are certain that this family was indeed holy — separate for the Lord.

How about our families — the families you are part of right now? And, for the single and the young, what about the families that you might be forming in the future? Are they, or will they be holy families? The Kingdom of God needs holy families. The family is the main vehicle for the living of the faith. Yes, we have many other experiences of faith in the world, and yes, people can be people of great faith even when the faith of their own families is weak or non-existent. God’s grace is not limited by our failings. All of us have had the opportunity to grow closer to the Lord in situations outside of our families. But the main vehicle for His Grace is the Christian family.

The Christian family is called to be holy, separate, set aside for the Lord. That means that the Christian family has got to be different than families where the Lord is an afterthought, if any thought at all. The Christian family must be the battlefield where evil is defeated now, and through the children, in the future.

How can families be holy? What must families do to be set aside for the Lord?

First all, **families need to keep the presence of the Lord alive in their homes by nurturing the presence of the Lord in each individual in the family.** Children need opportunities to pray in their own way. For most families these opportunities are before meals and at bedtime. That’s great. Moms and Dads also need the opportunity to pray — only their schedule is a lot more crowded. The best time for prayer might be the first thing in the morning, before the children get up — but sometimes that is impossible. One parent has to leave for work very early in the morning. Or perhaps the Mom spent the night caring with a baby who would not sleep, or, perhaps, caring for a sick child. For many the easiest time to pray is at night, first as a couple who like Tobias and Sarah recognize the presence of the Lord in their marriage, then over their babies, then with their little children as they say night prayers, continuing to pray for them when they sleep. When the children get older and need their privacy, or when they move on in life, Mom and Dad should still pray for them every night. Young people, when you think about marriage, look for someone with whom you can pray for your children.

Secondly, **families need to keep the presence of the Lord alive in their homes by protecting their homes from anything that would lessen his presence.** Obviously, there is plenty of bad stuff available on TV and internet that we cannot allow into our homes and into our lives. We need to be careful about the subtle ways that evil compromises the integrity of our family. One of evil’s main weapons is to bend our minds to accept immorality as part of life. In so many sitcoms the character with moral values is portrayed as right wing, mean, and hateful, while the characters who live blatantly immoral lives are presented as warm and loving. These shows wear us down into accepting immorality as a viable option in life. We need to be careful what we allow into our homes. We need to be vigilant as to what our children are encouraged to bring into our homes from other places. There is a war to be won. We must fight it in our families. Our motto must be: “As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord” [Joshua 24:17].



forgiveness, a bit more understanding. If we do these things, then our homes will become warmer and friendlier and more nourishing for us all.

The Church throughout its history has constantly proclaimed the value of the family as the basic unit of our society. It promotes, perhaps today more than ever, the need for united traditional families. In these days of family splits and breakdowns, it remains ever more vital to uphold the values of family life.

However, we should not take its defense of the traditional family to think that the Church looks down on people belonging to families which have split up and reconfigured in unorthodox ways. This would be an error because the Church values each human person and defends all families whatever their circumstances or however they are formed.

The basic family bond is a bond of love and the Church promotes love above everything else. The Church speaks up for the family and it is right that it does so. It proclaims the traditional values of love and honor and respect around which our families can build their lives. The Church believes that a strong upbringing in a good family is the best thing that can provide a sound basis for a solid and honorable adulthood. So let us hope and pray that our society does what it can to uphold the values that will enable families to truly flourish in the modern world.

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

ATTENDANCE:

If you attend Mass regularly here at Our Lady Chapel, it would be helpful if you filled out a form [name, address, phone number, children, etc.] indicating this fact, if you have not already done so. Such information not only helps us to know who is attending Our Lady Chapel; it also is of great assistance to us in record keeping [for our friend, the IRS] of any contributions which you may make.

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 [12/19/15] ----- \$ 435.00
Total Offerings: Sunday [12/20/15] ----- \$ 1,103.00

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].**

YOUR LIFE:

Your life is your story. Write well. Edit often.

—JK Rowling

WELCOME HOME — YOUR FAMILY, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:

When we were little, my mom used to skip down the aisles and sing in the grocery store. My reaction? — “Um, who is that lady and why is she skipping in the aisles? We are definitely not related!” This scene is real; every family has its own version. Families are quirky. Everyone has that weird uncle, or stories of friends and relatives in quirky situations — right?

Ok fine, maybe you don’t have a weird uncle, but you definitely have a friend who does.

The Catholic Church teaches that the family is the “domestic church.” What does this mean? It’s just a fancy way of saying that human families mirror a family that is bigger than them. Families should be a place of life, love, and community — as well as a place to grow in holiness.

Families are a little interesting — maybe a little crazy — a lot of fun, and hopefully full of love. Growing up, I moved a lot. One thing I learned about moving every three years was that home wasn’t about a place — home was where my family was. Even though my family is a little quirky, I know that I grew up in a family full of life, love, and community. But I also know something else — my family is nowhere near perfect — and neither am I.

While we know the ideal of how families should function as the “domestic church”, we also know the reality that human families fail. Parents fail sometimes in their role as parents, and brothers and sisters hurt us. No family is perfect or excused from human weakness. We come from all types of families, loud, crazy, large, small, and broken. Maybe you don’t feel like you have much of a family at home; maybe you feel like your family doesn’t understand you; or maybe you are the only one practicing faith at home.



The Catholic Church is also a family — in fact the Catholic Church is one big family. We are all adopted sons and daughters of God, we all have the same God as Father [see Galatians 4:6-7] — which means that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ!

When I was in college, I had the amazing opportunity to study abroad. Part of my trip included a visit to Rome, where I was able to gather with thousands of other Catholics in Saint Peter’s Square outside of the Vatican to pray with Pope Benedict XVI. I don’t think that I have ever had a more profound experience of understanding how as Catholics we really are one big family. Upon seeing and praying with our spiritual Father at the time, Pope Benedict, I was drawn to tears of joy. I was with thousands of Catholics; we all spoke different languages, but we all prayed through the same Holy Spirit. I looked at the woman next to me; she spoke Spanish and I spoke English. We couldn’t communicate, but we were both crying with tears of joy. And then, what I knew about the Catholic Church as family became a reality. We just looked at each other through our tears, and knew we were sisters in Christ.

This is one of the many beauties of being Catholics. Our home is in the Catholic Church. Sometimes our human families fail. Members of the Catholic Church aren’t perfect either, but through grace and the sacraments we strive to be best we can be here on earth. Here are a few things to remember as we think both about our own families and our family in the Church:

- Even though our families can be challenging — and maybe even a little embarrassing! — these are the people whom God has given us to love and help lead to heaven. We are called to do our best to love and be an example of Christ to those in our families!
- You really are part of one big family. The Catholic Church is universal — it stretches across the entire world! You have brothers and sisters in Christ everywhere!
- You always have a home in the Catholic Church. Whether or not you feel at home in your earthly homes, the Church is always there to embrace you with open arms.
- Get to know your parish! Community is essential for feeling at home. Join a Bible study,

get to know the teens in youth group, other families at your parish, and even the elderly!

- Most importantly, grow in your relationship with God. Pray to know God more as Father, and Mary as your Mother. Get to know the saints in heaven — they are part of our family too!

Brothers and sisters in Christ, thank you for being part of my family. I am praying for you!

—taken from the writings of Michelle Neitzke, an associate of the Bible Geek

LIFE TEEN:

LifeTeen is taking a Christmas break. But please join us on Saturday evening, January 9th — our famous “game night”. Festivities begin at 6:30 PM. Food will be provided, but bring snacks and/or a desert. Come and try us out. Life Teen generally meets right after Sunday Mass — from 11:30 AM—1:00 PM in the **Lennon Board Room**. Life Teen is open to **all high school aged young people**. **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. We have a great deal of fun together and we grow in our faith at the same time. **Respond to your texts and/or emails, or call the chapel office [440-473-3560] to be notified.** We will be taking a break until after the New Year. **If you can’t join us on January 9th, our next meeting will be on Sunday, January 24th.** Please join us for a wonderful experience. Also please continue to remember all our teens and young people in your prayers.



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP — THE EDGE:

EDGE is taking a Christmas break. But please join us on Sunday, January 10th when we will be sharing meaningful Christmas experiences. Lunch will be provided. Come and try us out. 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 look forward to your participation. All are welcome. **If you can’t join us on January 10th, our next meeting will be on Saturday, January 30th when we will have the EDGE version of “game night” — it’s a blast.** Please join us for a wonderful experience.



SERVING THE LORD IN THE POOR:

For the past year, our teens have been volunteering at **Our Savior Lutheran Church Food Pantry** [located right across the street from the chapel]. The Pantry is open on the **third Saturday of every month from 11:00 AM – 1:30 or 2:00 PM**. Our Savior Lutheran’s Food Pantry was formed to serve those in emergency situations and/or with on-going need in the cities of Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Highland Heights and Gates Mills. The Food Pantry respects social and cultural diversity and upholds the worth and dignity of those it serves. All those in the area with need will be served equally, as supplies allow. The food pantry is a member of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. During the course of the past year, the food pantry at Our Savior Lutheran Church served an average of 141 households each time. Our teens have loved this ministry and have been very faithful to it. **We would now like to open this ministry up to our entire Chapel Community. If you would like to help on any given third Saturday, please call Patty at the chapel office [440-473-3560] to let us know that you are going to volunteer, or email Elina Gurney at gurney.oh@gmail.com.** Come as a family or by yourself.



THIS IS BEAUTIFUL:

Somewhere we know that without silence, words lose their meaning; and without listening, speaking no longer heals; and without distance, closeness cannot cure.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen