

**DECEMBER 26, 2010
THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY-The Holy Family is the name given to the family unit of Jesus: The Divine Son of God Jesus, his mother Mary, and his foster-father Joseph. We know very little about the life of the Holy Family through the Canonical Scriptures. They speak of the early years of the Holy Family, including the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, the flight into Egypt, and the finding of Jesus in the temple. While the exact details of the day-to-day life of the Holy Family may be unknown, we can still learn a lot from the stories we do have. Devotion to the Holy Family is a recent development, but one that naturally grows out of a love for Jesus and his family. The cult of the Holy Family grew in popularity in the 17th century, and several religious congregations have been founded under this title. On October 26, 1921 the Congregation of Rites (under Pope Benedict XV) inserted the Feast of the Holy Family into the Latin Rite general calendar. Until then it had been celebrated regionally. Popes before and including Benedict XV (especially Leo XIII) promoted the feast as a way to counter the breakdown of the family unit. Today the Church celebrates the Feast on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Day (Known as the Feast of Mary Mother of God in the Catholic Church). If both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Sundays, no Sunday exists between the two dates, so the Church celebrates the Holy Family Feast on December 30th. If the feast falls on the 30th, attendance is not obligatory. Up until 1969, the Holy Family feast was kept on the first Sunday after [the Epiphany](#). It was transferred to its current date in 1969. The Feast of the Holy Family is not just about the Holy Family, but about our own families too. The main purpose of the Feast is to present the Holy Family as the model for all Christian families, and for domestic life in general. Our family life becomes sanctified when we live the life of the Church within our homes. This is called the "domestic church" or the "church in miniature." Just how does one live out the Church in the family? The best way is by making Christ and his Church the center of family and individual life. Ways to do this include: reading scripture regularly, praying daily, attending Mass at least on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, imitating the actions of the Holy Family, and so forth, all done together as a family unit. In addition to cultivating positive actions, the Church understands that various actions and behaviors are contrary to God's Divine plan for the family, and these should be avoided. The Holy Family feast is a good time to remember the family unit and pray for our human and spiritual families. We also may take this feast to reflect on the value and sanctity of the family unit, and to evaluate our own family life. What ways may it be improved? What would Jesus, Mary, and Joseph do? Finally, we can use this feast to ask ourselves what are we doing to promote the family within our own cultures, neighborhoods, and communities.

LIVING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

Shortly after birth this newborn child is caught in controversy and difficulties – a foreshadowing of his whole life. Today's gospel account clearly lays out for us that the kingdom of this world is already, at Jesus' birth, at odds with the kingdom of God. Already we see the death/resurrection conflict of the mystery that defines Jesus' life and our own life as baptized disciples. Our motivation for seeking holiness as a family and caring for, forgiving, loving, teaching, and admonishing one another is that God always does this for us. We are not asked to extend to each other what God hasn't already extended to us. Our dying to self is modeled first by Jesus; the new life of holiness is his gift to us.

**MASS SCHEDULE FOR NEW YEAR'S –
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE
MOTHER OF GOD –**

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve 6:00 p.m.

Jan. 1 - New Year's Day 9:30 a.m.

The 6:00 p.m. Mass on New Year's Eve and the 9:30 a.m. Mass on New Year's Day are the Holy Day Masses. This is not a Holy Day of Obligation. The 5:30 Mass is the regular 5:30 p.m. Saturday Mass and celebrates the Epiphany of the Lord

BAPTISM CLASS

Baptisms can be scheduled on most Sundays at noon or during any of our masses. To schedule a baptism or to register for a baptism class, call the parish office. If this is your first child, you are required to attend a class before a baptism can be scheduled. The next baptism class is scheduled for January 6, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the parish office building.

MASS INTENTIONS – December 27–January 2

December 27	8:30 a.m.	Helen Bacon
December 29	8:30 a.m.	Clara Mrozinski
December 31	8:30 a.m.	Earl J. Saxton
	6:00 p.m.	Carol Hill
January 1	9:30 a.m.	Edward T. Chippie
	5:30 p.m.	Nancy Garcia
January 2	8:30 a.m.	Joseph Szabo
	10:30 a.m.	Cynthia Herrick

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes resume on Tuesday, January 4, 2011 and Sunday, January 9th 2011.

REPLICA OF OUR CHURCH FOR SALE

You can still buy a Cat's Meow replicate of St. Margaret of Scotland Church. The cost is \$15. Call the parish office to reserve one.

FOOD CLOSET

Thank you for your generous donations to satisfy the needs of the Food Closet. As a result of your continued generosity, the Food Closet only needs two items: pancake mix and dishwashing detergent. Thank you for continuing to help feed and care for God's poor.

BIRTHRIGHT BOTTLES FOR BABIES

Birthright of Wilmington & Newark is so grateful for your kind support of "Bottles for Babies" during Respect Life Month. St. Margaret of Scotland raised \$1,712.00. Thank you for sharing in our work of serving mothers and their babies!

MENS SPIRITUAL RETREAT AT MALVERN

For over 84 years, individuals have prayed on the sacred grounds of Malvern Retreat House, St. Joseph's-in-the-Hills. Well over one million people have participated in the retreat experience here since 1922 with approximately 15,000 men, women, married couples and youth per year now making the journey to this countryside sanctuary

Located on 125 acres of wooded countryside, the Malvern Retreat House is a place where people can discern, strengthen and renew their personal relationship with Jesus Christ. St. Margaret of Scotland is forming a men's contingent to attend the Holy Spirit Weekend on January 28th – 30th, 2011. If interested, contact Deacon Tommy Watts at (302) 834-5408 or tommywatts@comcast.

FESTIVAL OF HOUSEHOLDS OF FAITH

Where is Jesus in your home? Whether you are a young household or a mature household, all are welcome. Festival of Households of Faith provides your household with an opportunity to improve your relationships with each other and with your children. There will be babysitting for toddlers. Saturday, January 29th at St. Mark's High School from 1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 per household. The purpose of the day is to provide an opportunity for diverse households to come together in learning, prayer and celebration around the domestic church. The festival will include a workshop session where couples, families or individuals will be able to select from a wide range of topics. The day will end with a liturgy celebrated by Bishop Malooly. Register online at www.cdown.org/reled or call 302-573-3130.

HOLY ANGELS YOUTH DANCES

The next dance (Youth New Year's Dance) for 6th – 8th grade students is on Saturday, January 8th from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. More information will follow.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

At a convenient time over the coming weeks, could you notify your parishioners in the parish bulletin that the hospital ministry at Christiana and Wilmington is in need of additional ministers of communion to serve the patients there? Persons who are interested should call Fr. Leonard Klein at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 764-0357.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Merry Christmas! Be blessed with God's love on this wondrous day, in your daily life and in your marriage. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is February 11-13 in Rehoboth Beach, DE. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: www.wwme-demd.org or to register for the weekend, please call Jack and Bridget O'Connell @ 302-653-1434.

OLDIES DANCE - The "Geator with the Heater", Jerry Blavat is coming back to St. Elizabeth's on Friday, January 14, 2011 from 7:00 p.m. to midnight at St. E's Grant Hall. Cost is \$40 per person for Beef & Beer with wine and soda included. Cash bar available. Call Mania 598-0682 or Roseann 743-1108 for tickets.

VOCATIONS

Parents: we don't know much about the hidden life of Jesus as He grew up under the loving care of Joseph and Mary. What we do know is that both Joseph and Mary trusted firmly in God's promises. Do you have a daughter or son that God might be calling to priesthood or religious life? If so, how are you modeling trust in God for them? Watching a child discern and respond to any kind of vocation is always an act of faith. If you think your daughter or son might have a religious vocation and would like to speak about it, please call or write Fr. Joe Cocucci, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations 302-573-3113, jcocucci@cdow.org. Be sure to visit our website: www.CalledByTheLord.com!

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

For more information on Catholic social teaching, or if you would like to find out how you can help spread the word, contact Andy Zampini at Catholic Charities at 302-655-9624 or azampini@ccwilm.org.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities provides an array of services such as various counseling opportunities (marriage and relationship, drugs and alcohol addictions) as well as support groups and programs. More information is available through Catholic Charities 655-9624.

ESCAPE TO IRELAND

Join Msgr. Joseph Rebman and The Dialog April 4-13, 2011 to experience the beauty of Ireland. Ten day pilgrimage featuring Dublin, Waterford, Killarney, Adare, Bunratty, Galway, Connemara and Knock. \$2,579 per person/double occupancy; round trip from Philadelphia. For more information and a brochure, call Kathy Novello at (302) 573-3109 or knovello@thedialog.org.

WELCOMING PRAYER WEEKEND

January 28-30, 2011 - This weekend will help participants enter more deeply into letting go of the thoughts and feelings which support the false self system and spend more time noticing what is happening in the body and practicing the prayer. An established centering prayer practice is required. Suggested donation is \$195. The presenter Therese has been practicing Centering Prayer for 17 years and she's been teaching it for 14 years. She is presently the New Jersey Coordinator for Contemplative Outreach Ltd. Therese holds a Master of Arts in Theology with a concentration in Spirituality from Fordham University. Check our website www.jesushousecenter.org for registration form.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Seasons Hospice & Palliative Care has been providing services in Delaware for two years. Our Mission: Honoring Life – Offering Hope. Hospice volunteers both give and receive many benefits when they join our program. Volunteer selection begins with an application and an interview. Potential volunteers are identified for patient care/and or office activities. Our Orientation and training for volunteers includes the philosophy of hospice, communication skills, patient care and volunteer rights. A hospice volunteer is a special and necessary member of the Hospice Team. For more info on becoming a volunteer call Anya Ward (302) 533-3809 or send an email to award@seasons.org.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Christmas is the celebration of God assuming a human nature. Our own human nature, however, often exposes family conflicts during this season. Accept the human foibles of your spouse and relatives. Overlook what you can.

PARENTING POINTERS

It's over; but it's just begun. Christmas that is. The shopping and unwrapping are probably over but the 12 days of Christmas are just beginning. Why not play a family game each of these 12 days even if one of them is just sharing jokes and riddles. A different person could choose each day.

DAY OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Jesus House is offering a Day of Prayer and Reflection on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 from 9:30 a.m. -- 3 p.m. The theme for the day is "**Write to Heal**" led by writer and journaling facilitator, Joan Leof. Write to Heal is a process where Ms. Leof helps participants to use writing therapeutically. Cost: \$40 which includes lunch. There will be Mass at 12:15 p.m. Call or e-mail Edie at (302) 995-6859 edie2501@comcast.net.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEEDS YOUR HELP TO WARM UP WINTER

Catholic Charities is now collecting new and "gently used" coats, blankets, and other bedding at each of its office locations through February 2011, as the harsh economy continues to trouble our most vulnerable neighbors. Catholic Charities will distribute donated goods through its food distribution programs at Bayard House, Casa San Francisco, and Seton Center, and through its voucher programs at the Seton Center and Wilmington Thrift Centers. Donors can bring their coats and blankets to any of the following Catholic Charities locations and receive a tax deduction receipt: Main Office, 2601 W 4th Street, Wilmington

19805 302-655-9624

Bayard House, 300 Bayard Avenue,

Wilmington 19805, 302-654-1184

Thrift Store, 1320 E. 23rd Street 19802,

Wilmington, 302-764-2717

Marydale Retirement Village, 135 Jeandell Drive, Newark 19713, 302-368-2784.

ALLIANCE OF THE TWO HEARTS

The Alliance of the Two Hearts "Communion of Reparation All Night Vigil" is held on the First Friday and Saturday of each month. Please join us December 31 at St. Hedwig Church, 408 S. Harrison Street, Wilmington from 8:30 p.m. – 2:30 a.m. Includes First Friday and First Saturday Masses, Confession, Rosary, and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. For more information call Irene Harach at 302-738-1285.

READINGS – December 26 – January 2

December 26 – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 Mt 2:2:13-15 KWAANZA BEGINS

December 27 – 1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a, 2-8

December 28 – 1 Jn 1:5 2:2 Mt 2:13-18

December 29 – 1 Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35

December 30 – 1 Jn 2:12-17 Lk 2:36-40

December 31 – 1 Jn 2:18-21 Jn 1:1-18

January 1 – Nm 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21

January 2 – EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

