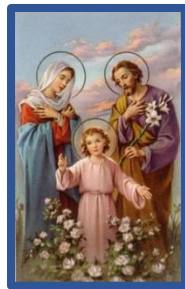


# Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

New Year's Eve

December 31, 2017



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## Following the Example of the Holy Family

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, the family that makes this Season possible. Our Holy Father Pope Francis has a great love for the family and has challenged us to strive for spiritual unity and for the strengthening of families by following the example of the Holy Family.

“Dear families, you know very well that the true joy which we experience in the family is not superficial; it does not come from material objects, from the fact that everything seems to be going well. True joy comes from a profound harmony between persons, something which we all feel in our hearts and which makes us experience the beauty of togetherness, of mutual support along life’s journey. But the basis of this feeling of deep joy is the presence of God, the presence of God in the family and his love, which is merciful, and respectful towards all.” ... “But if God’s love is lacking, the family loses its harmony, self-centeredness prevails and joy fades. But the family which experiences the joy of faith communicates it naturally. That family is the salt of the earth and the light of the world. It is the leaven of society as a whole. Dear families, always live in faith and simplicity, like the Holy Family of Nazareth.” –Pope Francis

The New Year of 2018 provides us with a great opportunity to meet the challenge presented to us by Pope Francis. It is the challenge to more effectively live our faith and set a good example for those we encounter in the course of our daily lives. We pray that families will embrace the call of Our Holy Father for spiritual unity as we begin the New Year.

May God’s grace, peace and love be with you and your family in 2018!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz".

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz  
Pastor



**MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS**

**MONDAY, January 1 – Solemnity of Mary**

*Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21*

9:00 AM Albert Schmitt

**TUESDAY, January 2**

*1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28*

7:00 AM Patricia Gotimer

12:00 PM Maria Fronzi

**WEDNESDAY, January 3**

*1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Jn 1:29-34*

7:00 AM Grace Nneji

12:00 PM Dorothy Cronin

**THURSDAY, January 4**

*1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42*

7:00 AM Dante Ligi

12:00 PM Joseph Quigley - 1st Anniversary

**FRIDAY, January 5**

*1 Jn 3:11-21/Jn 1:43-51*

7:00 AM George Katsulos

9:00 AM In Loving Memory of Helene V. Cally

12:00 PM Ryan Adams

**SATURDAY, January 6**

*1 Jn 5:5-13/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38*

8:00 AM Frances Oakley

4:30 PM Patrick Harris

**SUNDAY, January 7**

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

**Church**

7:30 AM Carol Napoli

9:15 AM Dr. Dora Maria Menezes

11:15 AM Parishioners of the Parish

**Hall**

10:30 AM Mildred Kwalwasser

12:00 PM Brien White

5:00 PM Pat Gotimer

**PLEASE NOTE!**

January 1<sup>st</sup> is the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God. **It IS NOT a Holy Day of Obligation.** We will follow our Holiday Mass Schedule with one Mass at 9am and the Parish Offices will be closed.

**BAPTISMS**

We welcome to the Family of God and our Parish Family **Ruby Jo Murchison** and **Beckett Daniel Rescigno** who were baptized in our Church last weekend.



**GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING**

Offertory numbers for December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> were not available at the time of printing due to Christmas schedules. These numbers will be reported in the new year.

**2017 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

PARISH GOAL	\$305,000
RAISED TO DATE	\$363,234
% OF GOAL	119.09%

**Contribution Tax Statements**

Contribution Tax Statements will be mailed out in January 2018 to all Parishioners who contributed to our Parish Offertory this year. All contributions must be received by December 31, 2017, in order to be acknowledged for 2017 tax status.

*Prayers for the Sick*

Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Olivia Avate, Fr. John Baran, Jean Mastandrea, Lee & Scott McCaughey, Jennie Palmieri, Pat Ruhl, Anna Sorgie, and Jane Ventrella.** For the sake of privacy, only immediate family members may add someone to our prayer list. Individuals will be removed monthly unless we are otherwise notified.



*Candle Intentions*

*A Church Altar Candle*

*is Burning in Loving Memory of Helene Victoria Cally*



**RCIA**

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - is meeting in the Barn on Tuesday evenings at 7pm: January 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>. This group is open to anyone who would like to receive the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation and/or Holy Eucharist. All are welcome to join and learn more about the Catholic Faith. For more info, call Pat Postiglione, 203-438-7335 or [ppostiglione@smcr.org](mailto:ppostiglione@smcr.org)

**Save the Date: The next D4L Retreat will take place March 2-4, 2018. Will you join us this year?**

### Religious Education



There will be no RE classes the week of New Year's. Classes resume January 7<sup>th</sup>. We wish all our Families a Happy New Year!

#### RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

Join us for our next Respect Life meeting Thursday morning, January 4<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM, in the Day Chapel. [www.smc.org/respect-life](http://www.smc.org/respect-life)



#### DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Religious freedom is a precious right. It is also a *necessary* right – necessary for all people and all societies if they are to flourish. Scholars have shown that when religious freedom for all is protected in law and valued in culture, it brings with it political stability, equality for women, economic growth, and social harmony. Let us pray that when the federal health care mandate is changed, religious freedom is safeguarded for all people.

#### REGISTER ▶

Registering at our Parish is an expression of your desire to be part of our Roman Catholic Family of Faith and a commitment to the life and support of our Parish. We invite and encourage you to officially register as a Parishioner. It's easy. Stop by or office or go to our website. We welcome you!

#### Love One Another as I have Loved You

In John 15:12, Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to others. If you know of someone going through a difficult time, talk to one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders, Mary Ann O'Grady – 203-438-5610 or Jack Hughes – 203-665-0054. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They help bring the healing power of Christ's love.

stephen  
MINISTRY.



#### PRE-BAPTISM CLASS

Pre-Baptism instruction is required for parents who have not had any within five years and wish to have their child baptized. Our next class will be held on Wednesday, Jan 10<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-8:30 pm in the

Barn. Please call our Parish Office to register.

20th ANNIVERSARY



Saint Mary School

RIDGEFIELD

#### Middle School Advisory

In grades 6-8, the students are divided into small groups and are assigned one of the middle school teachers as their group advisor. About every 6 weeks during the school year, each group meets with their advisor. These sessions provide an opportunity for relationship and community building to support adolescent students in the school setting. They are individualized by each advisor, and vary based on the needs of each group.

Students recently had the chance in Advisory to complete a survey regarding Student Life as part of our Strategic Planning Initiative. They discussed many aspects of Student Life at SMS, to include extracurricular activities, school traditions, athletics, service opportunities, Catholic Identity, and interpersonal relationships. Their input will be incorporated into our plan.

Saint Mary School is currently enrolling students in select grades of Preschool through Grade 8 for the 2017-2018 school year, as well as accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year. For more information, or to set up a tour, please contact Anna O'Rourke at (203) 438-7288, or visit [www.smsridgefield.org](http://www.smsridgefield.org).

#### FAITH FORMATION CORNER



#### NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: THE POPE FRANCIS LIST

1. Don't gossip.
2. Finish your meals.
3. Make time for others.
4. Choose the 'more humble' purchase.
5. Meet the poor 'in the flesh'.
6. Stop judging others.
7. Befriend those who disagree.
8. Make commitments, such as marriage.
9. Make it a habit to 'ask the Lord'.
10. Be happy.



**Does God Answer Prayers?** Yes! Scripture shows that God has answered countless prayers, and He continues to answer prayers today. Through the power of prayer, you can receive answers to your questions of the soul and receive the blessings God has in store for you. Answered prayers are one of the many ways God shows He loves you. Offer some time each day to the Lord (meet Him early before life's distractions get in the way) and see how your relationship with Him will develop and how your peace and joy will increase.



**CATHOLIC ACTION**

**VOLUNTEERS: LUNCH & BINGO**

Two or three volunteers needed to serve lunch. Commitment is appx 2x/month, weekdays of your choosing, Mon-Fri. Hours: 11:45am-1:00pm. ALSO needed: 2 Bingo Callers. Wednesdays 1-2:30. Commitment - 1 hour a month. Where: Congregate Housing, 51 Prospect Ridge. For more info or questions, contact Suzanne MacAvoy, 203 438-7056, [sdmacavoy@hotmail.com](mailto:sdmacavoy@hotmail.com)



**DONATE: FOOD PANTRY**

In the month of January, collected food goes to the Saint Joseph Parenting Center. Collection bins are in the Church and Hall. Thank you for your generosity!



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**



Our Adoration Chapel, the oldest one in Connecticut, is open 24/7. The entrance is near our Religious Ed Office. Stop by anytime or sign up for an hour:

**O** means permanent or substitute adorer urgently needed. **X** means **1 additional** adorer is needed.

**Blank boxes** mean **there are 2** or more adorers.

	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
12M-1am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1am-2am	X	O	X	X	O	X	X
2am-3am	X	X	X	O	X	X	X
3am-4am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4am-5am	X	X	X	X	X	X	O
5am-6am	X	X		X		X	X
6am-7am	X		X	X		X	X
7am-8am	X		X	X	X	X	X
8am-9am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
9am-10am	X	X			X	X	X
10am-11am	X	X		X		X	X
11am-12N	X	X	O	X	X		X
12N-1pm	X	X		X	X	X	X
1pm-2pm	O	X		O	X	X	O
2pm-3pm	X	X	X	X		X	X
3pm-4pm		X	X		X	X	X
4pm-5pm	X			X	X	X	X
5pm-6pm	X			X	X		X
6pm-7pm	X	X	X		X	X	O
7pm-8pm	X	X				X	X
8pm-9pm		X	X	X		X	X
9pm-10pm	O	X	X	X		X	X
10pm-11pm		X	X	X	X	X	X
11pm-12M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Happy New Year! Need help with your New Year's resolutions? Want to start the New Year off right with peace and guidance? Stop by our Adoration Chapel. To sign up for an hour, either call Bill or Monica Brown @ 914-533-2832 or go to our website. God bless you!

**EVERY Thursday evening, 7-9pm, in our Adoration Chapel, the Chaplet of Mercy, 7 Sorrows of Our Blessed Mother and 15 decades of the Rosary sung and prayed. Please join us!**



**ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY**

Take an opportunity to deepen your relationship with the Lord - along with 50 to 60 other like-minded men. How about spending a weekly hour and half experiencing our Men's Ministry on Saturday mornings from 6:30-8:00AM? Besides having a great and welcoming community, we also serve bagels, coffee & OJ each week to ease the pain of a **very worthwhile wakeup call.**

**10 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR CATHOLICS**  
 Find a patron saint...attend daily Mass...go to Confession monthly...read the Bible...get involved in your Parish...pray the Rosary...check out Catholic radio...read about your faith...spend time in front of the Blessed Sacrament

**MARQUETTE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**



The Knights kick off 2018 with heartfelt thanks for all of the support we have received this past year from the St. Mary Parish community. Aided by your assistance, our works of charity this past year included:

- Memorial Day Mass and flag placements at our Cemetery
- Catholic citizenship essay contests at our school
- Support for the Special Olympics and those with Intellectual Disabilities here in Ridgefield
- Open House social events at Keeler Tavern
- Financial support for international outreach activities in Latin America
- Conducting Holiday Food Drives for our local residents
- Hosting Parish Teaching Mass, Breakfast with Santa, Crèche Building and Christmas Caroling events

We appreciate being a part of such a vibrant Parish community and extend an open invitation to ALL families who are interested in exploring what Knighthood can offer.

Learn more at [www.KOFC.org](http://www.KOFC.org) or contact Phil Del Giudice, Grand Knight, at ([Compass\\_grp@yahoo.com](mailto:Compass_grp@yahoo.com)).

**PILGRIM VIRGIN**

This year is rapidly approaching the end of the Centennial of the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima. During this Christmas season, let us be reminded of Her message to us: *Do penance, amend your life, offend God no more and pray the rosary daily for world peace and the conversion of sinners.* Invite the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima Statue into your home. To schedule a visit call Elma Stoveken, 203-894-1341.



*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us. Pray that we may have peace, love, health and prosperity in our families. Thank you for your holy example.*

December 2018 Mass Intentions Open January 2, 2018