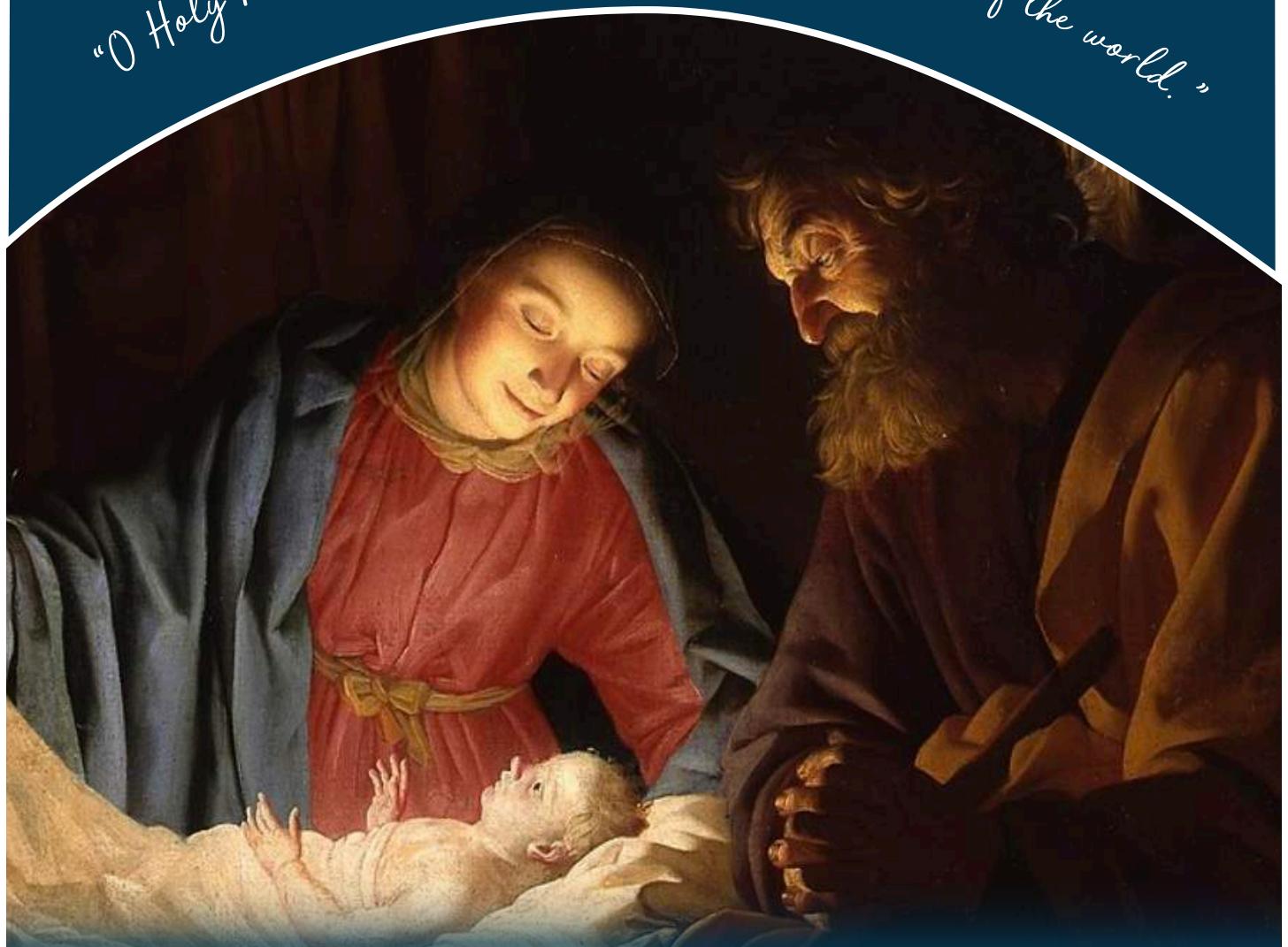


Ss PETER & PAUL

DECEMBER 31, 2023 | THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

"O Holy Family, bless and protect all the families of the world."



Sunday Reflection

Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth. Mary, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love.

Parish info

CONTACT DETAILS

404 Hudson Street, Hoboken NJ 07030

✉ spphoboken.com

☎ 201.659.2276 Fax: 201-353-2333



WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

5:00 pm Vigil Mass

SUNDAY

8:30 am | 10:00 am | 12:00 pm

DAILY LITURGIES

Monday ▶ Friday

Mass 12:10 pm

CHURCH OPENING HOURS

(Weather Permitting)

Monday thru Friday	11 am → 1:30 pm
Saturday	3:30 pm → 6 pm
Sunday	8 am → 1 pm

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday: 10 am - 4 pm

Saturday | Sunday: closed

Call for other urgent arrangements.

This Week's Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 30

5:00 pm People of the Parish

Sunday, December 31 New Year's Eve

8:30 am † The O'Toole-Donston Family

10:00 am † Mary Burke Fine

12:00 pm † Feast of the Holy Family

Monday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God/New Year's Day

12:10 pm In Thanksgiving to the Priests who
Served at our Parish

Tuesday, January 2

12:10 pm † Special Intention to St. Joseph

Wednesday, January 3

12:10 pm † Special Intention to St. Lucy

Thursday, January 4

12:10 pm † Micah Varughese

Friday, January 5

12:10 pm † Special Intention to The Blessed Mother

Saturday, January 6

5:00 pm † In Loving Memory of John O'Toole

Sunday, January 7

8:30 am † In Loving Memory of Florentina
B. Spille

10:00 am Family Mass / People of the Parish

12:00 pm Dorothy Costello for Good Health

Baptism Ministry

See Dates & Details on Parish Website

Staff Contact: Stephanie Panzariello

Ministry Assistant:
Nic Vasil

Marriage Ministry

See requirements & details on Parish Website

Staff Contact: Gina Andreano

Ministry Assistant:
Sheila Mulcahy

Confession

Confessions are
by appointment.

Contact the Parish Office.

Please consider helping us to defray the expense of these necessary items by donating: Hosts,
Altar Flowers, Sanctuary Tabernacle Candle, Altar Wine.

The requested donation for each is \$25.00.

This Week, the Altar Flowers are provided
*In Thanksgiving for
Donors to the Christmas Flowers!*

This Week, the Altar Hosts are donated
*For the Peaceful Repose of the Soul of
Fr. Patrick F. Magee*

This Week, the Sacramental Wine is donated
*For the Peaceful Repose of the Soul of
Vincent Scarneccia*

The Sanctuary Tabernacle Candle is donated
*In Loving Memory of
The Deceased Members of the Andreano Family*

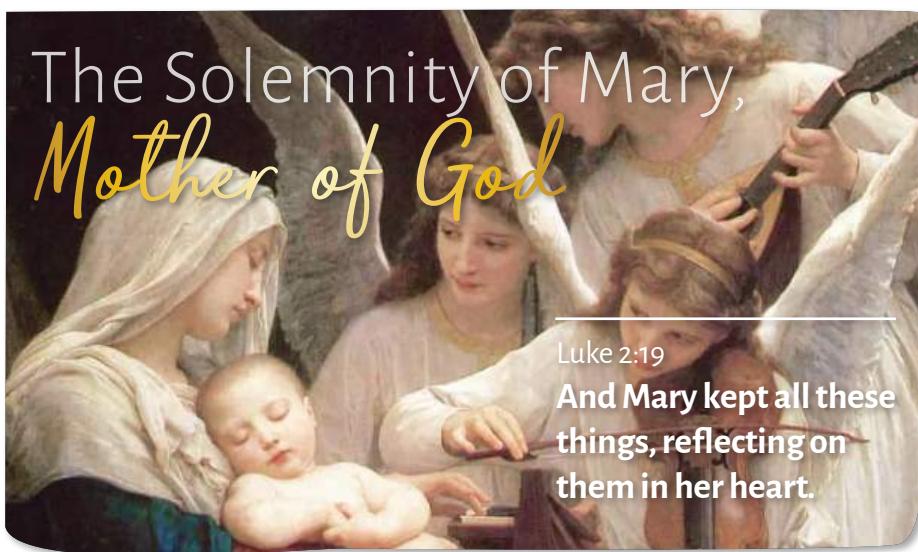
God bless your generosity.



The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Luke 2:19

**And Mary kept all these
things, reflecting on
them in her heart.**



Today, January 1, we complete our octave celebration of Christmas Day. It's an often overlooked liturgical fact that we celebrate Christmas Day for eight straight days. We do this also with Easter Day, which concludes with the great celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday.

On this, the eighth day of the Octave of Christmas, we turn our focus to the unique and beautiful fact that God chose to enter our world through a human mother. Mary is called the "Mother of God" for the simple fact that her Son is God. She was not the mother of her Son's flesh alone, nor the mother only of His human nature. This is because the Person of Jesus, the Son of God, is one Person. And that one Person took on flesh within the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Though becoming the Mother of God was a pure gift from Heaven and not something that Mother Mary merited on her own, there was one particular quality that she had that made her uniquely qualified to fulfill this role. That quality was her immaculate nature.

First, **Mother Mary was preserved from all sin when she was conceived within the womb of her mother, Saint Anne.** This special grace was a grace that was imparted to her from the future life, death and resurrection of her Son. It was the grace of salvation, but God chose to take that gift of grace and transcend time to impart it to her at the moment of her conception, thus making her the perfect and pure instrument necessary to bring forth God into the world.

Second, **Mother Mary remained faithful to this gift of grace throughout her life, never choosing to sin, never wavering, never turning from God.** She remained immaculate throughout her life. Interestingly, it is this choice of hers, to forever remain obedient to the will of God in every way, that makes her more fully the Mother of God than the simple act of bearing Him within her womb. Her act of perfect unity with the will of God throughout her life makes her, also, the perfect mother of divine grace and mercy and perpetually the spiritual Mother of God, continually and perfectly bringing Him into our world.

Reflect, today, upon these most solemn mysteries of our faith. This eighth day of the Octave of Christmas is a solemn celebration, a celebration worthy of our pondering. The Scripture above reveals not only how our blessed Mother approached this mystery but also how we are to approach it. She "kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." Ponder these mysteries, also, in your own heart and allow the grace of this holy celebration to fill you with joy and gratitude.

Dearest Mother Mary, you were graced with a grace beyond any other. You were preserved from all sin and remained perfectly obedient to the will of God throughout your life. As a result, you became the perfect instrument of the Savior of the World by becoming His mother, the Mother of God. Pray for me that I may ponder this great mystery of our faith this day and ever more deeply rejoice in the incomprehensible beauty of your motherly soul. Mother Mary, the Mother of God, pray for us. Jesus, I trust in You.

Source: mycatholic.life

2024 MASS BOOK

**The requested Donation
for intentions is as follows:**

Hosts: **\$25**

Sacramental Wine: **\$25**

Flowers: **\$25**

Sanctuary Candle: **\$25**

Mass: **\$10**

**Check or Money Order made
payable to Ss Peter and Paul.**

In order to give everyone a chance at their requested Mass(es), please have your list prepared in advance - 10 per request. We will do our best to honor your request or provide you with the closest available date.

Additional Collection THIS MONTH

January 14 Heating Collection



*Supports the maintenance
of the heating system of
the Church and Parish
complex.*

January 21 Archdiocesan Assessment



*This collection supports our
parishes monthly assessment,
payable to the Archdiocese.*

January 28 Communicating God's Word



*This diocesan collection
supports the spreading of
God's Word and worldwide
Evangelization through Media
and other Catholic News
services.*

Announcements

The Parish Office **will be closed on**
Monday, January 1, 2024. Regular office
hours will resume on Tuesday, January 2.

Join Us **Next Sunday, January 7**
for our Monthly Family Mass
at 10am!



What Was God Thinking

Sending Jesus to Earth

as a Helpless Baby?

When the Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, decided to come into the world, He chose to be born into a family, to arrive as a helpless baby. How beautiful is that! How strange is that?

Had He asked me for my suggestions (and we can all be very thankful that He did not!) on how to make the most important entrance in the history of the whole universe, I would have suggested quite a different strategy, something people couldn't ignore, something they would never forget, something majestic, even a bit flashy, something really big! After all, one of the perks of being omnipotent is that you can do whatever you want.

How about arriving in a fiery chariot (pretty impressive, no? – and Biblical as well!), surrounded by all the heavenly hosts? How about an approach with lots of thunder and lightning, maybe an earthquake (not a serious one), you know, a splashy entrance, sure to catch everyone's attention? Flying in from heaven onto the stage of human history seems to fit the bill; it certainly worked for Liberace in Las Vegas.

But, if celestial pyrotechnics were deemed to showy, then why not simply (well, at least with a few heavenly trumpets, please) emerge from the Holy of Holies in the Temple of Jerusalem? Or, if we're going for an even subtler approach, just hide out inside the Holy of Holies (it was, after all, His home!) until the one day of the year when the High Priest was permitted to enter? What a surprise – “Look who I've found!”

And if He still insisted on actually being born – which seems kind of inconvenient and inefficient – then why not be born to the Emperor in Rome? The Palace of the Caesars, even if it didn't have indoor plumbing, would still be a lot more comfortable than being born in the trough out of which animals eat their slop! And, if the idea of this coming into the world is that people get to know you, well, being the Emperor's kid would have lots of advantages.

Clearly, the Lord had other plans, and His turned out to be fairly memorable, now that we think about it. Far grander than the vain, melodramatic approach the wisdom of this world might have proposed, the drama of His birth, of actually being born, that is, of choosing to be helpless and small proclaims in a truly unforgettable way the depth of His love, not only in become one of us (as if that weren't enough!) but also of giving us the great dignity of being able to hold Him and take care of Him. This we recall at Christmas and hopefully every day. But His being born into a family – the far-reaching significance of this graceful gesture we often overlook. Why inside a family? There are other ways of being born and, as we've seen, of making an entrance into the world.

*He chose to be born into a family,
because that is what He
was already used to.*

He came from a family. We usually speak of the relationship, the inner life of the Persons of the Holy Trinity in terms of a communion of persons, and not as a family. And some of the great theological expressions, inadequate as all human expression will be, do manage to touch on the beauty of this most mysterious inner life – for example, perichoresis (the Greek is nicer than the Latinate term, circumcession, which might be a bit confusing), which refers to the intimacy, the in-dwelling of the Divine Persons in each other, Their interpenetration and co-inherence, and has, delightfully, the light echo of the Greek word “to dance”, so that one might imagine the great, eternal dance of joy of the Divine Persons. Nevertheless, the idea of family, as the life-giving and -sustaining unity that is the basis of everything, is not a bad expression for the communion of love which the Trinity is.

And so, belonging to this, the peerless family of the Trinity – the Father loving the Son, the Son loving the Father, and the Spirit, that very love so real it is a Person – it does not surprise us that the Word, now made flesh, desired to live in a human family. And thereby He transformed the natural dignity of the human family to a greater one:

strengthening, ennobling, elevating the human family to share even in the inner life of The Family, which is the Trinity, to which we are all invited.

Of course, the Holy Family, with the matchless examples of humility and gentleness, which Mary and Joseph show forth in a preeminent way, becomes a real and much-needed guide to how we can live in our own families; their example together with this Feast, which holds them and their life of sacrifice and faithfulness up for our edification, become the guiding light of our life in our families. But there's more. The Feast of the Holy Family points not only to the beginning of our understanding of what a family is and our sharing in this grace (that is, our own particular families); not only does it lift our gaze to the ultimate end, to the grand invitation and most sublime honor (that is, sharing in the Family of the Trinity), but it gives us the means to perfect the former and arrive at the latter by showing us the deep nature of the Church, which is the Family of the Children of God.

How sad that, so often, the Church is seen as an institution (which, of course, is necessary to exist in this world and carry out its mission) and not primarily (or perhaps even at all) as a Family. We call each other (hopefully) brothers and sisters, we have nuns as sisters, friars as brothers, priests as "Fathers" (a magnificent joy for priests!), Mary as our Mother and God as our Father—yet, sometimes, those terms become so familiar that we forget the reality which they express—that we are one family: big, fractious at times, suffering, rejoicing, but, in the end, a family.

So, I have to admit, the Lord's cleverness in choosing to be born and to be born into a family is far more dramatic, more profound, than any plan we might have imagined.

With this Feast of the Holy Family, just a few days after the Birth of Christ...

we see not only what our own families can become by following the example of the Holy Family, not only to that Great Family of the Church we already belong, but also to what inexpressible intimacy and glory we are called in being invited into the Divine Dance of the Greatest Family, the Trinity.

Source: aleteia.org | Canony of St. Leopold

A Huge Thank You!

Since the printing of our last bulletin, we have received additional gift cards for the causes we supported on our Giving Tree!

...an additional \$1255 for the Homeless Vets

...an additional \$1195 for the Parishioner Families in Need

...an additional \$325 for St Matthew's Lunchtime Ministry

...an additional \$1250 for Mercy House



Thanks to the INCREDIBLE generosity of our parishioners and friends, this is by far our most successful year yet...***the total amount of gift cards received adds up to \$9,800!!!***

A *Christmas* Tradition!



The Backarich Family stops for a picture with **Msgr. Michael** in front of JP's expertly constructed Lego Nativity in the Church Vestibule!



Christmas Carols *(in the Lower Church!)*

On Sunday, December 17th, we held our 4th Annual Christmas Carols...A change in plans was necessary due to the weather forecast...and the Lower Church was transformed into a Christmas wonderland to host our guests. Despite the rain, we had a wonderful turnout, full of parishioners and friends, who popped in to listen to familiar Christmas classics. Directed by **Brian Walters**, our **SPP Music Ministry** put on a spectacular show and brought joy to all who attended. Hot Cocoa and cookies were a welcome treat! Our Parish staff were assisted by Confirmation candidates, who were on hand to help where needed as part of their Encounter Hours. It was a wonderfully fun afternoon and truly brought the Christmas Spirit to all!



A special thank you to **Maryann Kostecka, Ashley Casorio & Brianna Kostecka** for generously donating the hot chocolate and to **Brooke Spano** for her donation of cookies and other treats!







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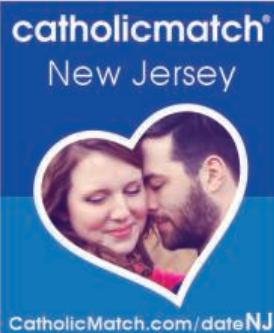
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