

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends:

On the last Sunday of the year, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. The Church encourages us to look to the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph for inspiration, example and encouragement. They were a model family in which both parents worked hard, helped each other, understood and accepted each other, and took good care of their Child so that He might grow up not only in human knowledge but also as a Child of God. Jesus brought holiness to the family of Joseph and Mary as Jesus brings us holiness by embracing us in His family.

The Feast of the Holy Family reminds us that, as the basic unit of the universal Church, each family is called to holiness. In fact, Jesus Christ has instituted two Sacraments in His Church to make society holy – the Sacrament of priesthood and the Sacrament of marriage. Through the Sacrament of priesthood, Jesus sanctifies the priest as well as his parish. Similarly, by the Sacrament of marriage, Jesus sanctifies not only the spouses but also the entire family. The husband and wife attain holiness when they discharge their duties faithfully, trusting in God, and drawing on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit through personal and family prayer, meditative reading of the Bible, and devout participation in Holy Mass. Families become holy when Christ Jesus is present in them. Jesus becomes truly present in the parish Church through the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass. Similarly, Jesus becomes truly present in a family when all the members live in the Christian spirit of sacrifice. This happens when there is mutual understanding, mutual support and mutual respect. There must be proper care and respect given by children to their parents and grandparents, even after they have grown up and left home.

We need to make the family a confessional rather than a courtroom. A senior Judge of the Supreme Court recently congratulated the bride and groom in a marriage with a pertinent piece of advice: "See that you never convert your family into a courtroom; instead let it be a confessional. If the husband and wife start arguing like attorneys in an attempt to justify their behavior, their family becomes a court of law and nobody wins. On the other hand, if the husband and the wife -- as in a confessional -- are ready to admit their faults and try to correct them, the family becomes a Heavenly one."

I wish and pray that the good Lord may bless you with His peace, justice and love not only on this day but throughout the year. I wish you a very happy New Year 2018.

God Bless You!

Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CCD - Catholic Christian Disciples

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. For many of us, our families have played an important role in teaching us about our Catholic faith. In our Ableidinger family, we always went to Sunday Mass, we prayed before meals, our parents sent us to Saturday morning CCD classes. We learned from them the importance of practicing our faith on days of Adoration, on Rogation Days and Christmas and Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmation, etc.

Jesus, also learned about his faith from his parents. Jesus is taken to the temple to be presented to God. Mary completed her purification by offering two turtledoves or pigeons. Back in Nazareth Jesus' parents, Joseph and Mary, helped Jesus grow strong, and be filled with wisdom. This is a good Sunday for all of us to teach the faith to the next generation: to pray the Sign of the Cross, with reverence, the prayer before meals, the Sunday responses, other prayers, the Commandments and more. Do you have a special time to pray as a family?

+++ Classes resume: Wednesday, January 3rd

Gilman: Grades K - 5 : 3:40 - 5:00 p.m.

Grades 6 - 11 : 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

Sheldon: Grades K -11 : 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

+++ Catechist Meeting: January 5th from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Blessings and Peace in the New Year! ~ Sr. Marianna

OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 1,450.00
Loose	6 4.00
Total	1 ,514.00
Total from December 25, 2016	1,639.00
Building Fund	1 00.00
Christmas Flowers	1 0.00
Christmas	2,128.00
St. Stanislaus	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 590.00
Loose	6 4.00
Total	6 54.00
Total from December 25, 2016	1 ,338.25
Christmas Flowers	4 0.00
Christmas	1,216.00
St. John	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 1,278.00
Loose	7 3.00
Total	1 ,351.00
Total from December 25, 2016	2 ,862.00
Christmas	1 ,140.00
St. Michael	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 335.00
Loose	1 41.00
Total	4 76.00
Total from December 25, 2016	7 93.00
Christmas	554.00

(Totals include only the basic collection)

2017/2018 Catholic Services Appeal

Contributor Status Report as of 12/28/17

	Assessment	Received	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,179.00	\$ 4,570.00	\$ 6,609.00
St. John	\$ 8,721.00	\$ 2,440.00	\$ 6,281.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,249.00	\$ 2,665.00	\$ 2,584.00
St. Michael	\$ 2,509.00	\$ 1,970.00	\$ 539.00

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OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

(715) 452-5685 Bruce Burmeister

Burmeister Logging

30690 CTY HWY G
SHELDON, WI 54766

Buyer of standing timber and timberland

Contribution Envelopes for 2018 are available in the church entrances. If you did not find a box with your name on it, and you would like to have one, please contact the office.