

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends:

Family is the oldest of all societies and the only natural one. God who made the stars and built the world also made man and woman and built the family. It is the family that provides us with a home. Without family, all humanity is homeless. Home is where we live and love together through many changing years; where we share each other's gladness and weep each other's tears. It is in order to make us realize what a precious gift of God is family and to highlight its mission to be the basic unit of the Church and society, that Jesus was born into a family and today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family.

Our families will serve as the vital cells of the Church and society, if each member in the family plays his or her role as befits each one's status in it. Parents are entrusted with the responsibility of caring for and training of children. A child is not a vase to be filled but a fire to be lit and the lighter is in the parent's hands. Training has to begin early in life, for, if you want a garden of good fruits, you get the tree young. The best way to train a child is through parental example. The religion of a child depends on what his parents are and not what they say.

Today we are celebrating the Feast of the Holy Family in which Christ was the center of focus. Therefore, Christian virtues need to flourish in our families. A family is a Christian family if Christ is at its center. Where Christ reigns, love abounds. Husband, wife and children form the world's greatest team. Whether this team wins or loses depends largely on the love that binds them. Where love is, joy is shared and sorrow eased.

We need to learn lessons from the Holy Family: 1. 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. 2. We need to make the family a confessional rather than a courtroom. A senior Judge of the Supreme Court 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."

May God bless all our families in the New Year!

Happy and grace filled New Year.

God Bless You!

Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCD: Catholic Christian Discipleship

Today's Gospel reminds us how important it is that children respect and obey their parents. Jesus respected and obeyed his parents when he returned with them to Nazareth. This helped make his family strong. When children find it difficult to honor and respect their parents, ask Jesus to help them.

Every home is to be a model of the Holy Family. It is good to have a picture or statue of the Holy Family in the home and to pray that Jesus, Mary and Joseph watch over and bless your home. Every Parish is a family. We strive to have everyone participate in Family Sunday, the first Sunday of the month. When I was the director at Holy Family Parish in New Mexico, the priests were Sons of the Holy Family from Spain, and it was always a big feast day!

Happy Feast of the Holy Family! ~ Sr. Marianna

OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 980.00
Loose	114.00
Total	1,094.00
Total from December 24, 2017	1,514.00
Building Fund	70.00
Christmas	1,396.00
St. Stanislaus	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 380.00
Loose	262.00
Total	642.00
Total from December 24, 2017	654.00
Building Fund	50.00
Christmas	1,069.50
St. John	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 436.20
Loose	112.00
Total	548.20
Total from December 24, 2017	1,351.00
Christmas	716.00
St. Michael	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 370.00
Loose	107.00
Total	477.00
Total from December 24, 2017	476.00
Building Fund	61.00
Christmas	761.00
<i>(Totals include only the basic collection)</i>	

Called to Become Saints

Catholic Services Appeal 2018-2019

Our annual Catholic Services Appeal has begun throughout the Diocese. The "fair share" responsibility for the coming year is listed below. As of December 1st, we have collected:

2018/2019 Catholic Services Appeal

	Assessment	Received	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,393.00	\$5,650.00	\$5,743.00
St. John	\$ 9,158.00	\$3,880.00	\$5,278.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,234.00	\$2,695.00	\$2,539.00
St. Michael	\$ 2,789.00	\$1,345.00	\$1,444.00

OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

BROADWAY THEATRE

Hwy 64 west side of Medford

For Movies & Showtimes visit

medfordmovies.com or call 715.748.5556

CLIP THIS COUPON - Purchase any size popcorn & get matching soda for \$1