



“Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you.” 725 kilometers. That’s the distance on modern roads from Bethlehem to Cairo. Assuming one covered 40km a day on foot — ambitious for two young parents and their infant son — the journey would take well

over two weeks. Of course, the Holy Family didn’t have modern roads. They would travel through wilderness, fear bandits, run low on water, and cross the vast Sinai Peninsula in a reverse of their forefathers in Exodus. Here, in struggle and sacrifice, are the beginnings of the forging of the Holy Family. “Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod.” Large Jewish communities existed in most major cities of the ancient Mediterranean world, after the collapse of their kingdoms chronicled in the Old Testament, and Joseph could likely find work as a carpenter. All the same, today’s Gospel reminds us that the first formational years of Jesus as a babe-in-arms were spent in a strange land. The members of the Holy Family were foreigners, outsiders, immigrants. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. God took on our humanity. He is in solidarity with our own trials and difficulties. On the feast of the Holy Family, we honor the special place of the family within society. We are invited, too, to recall those families who share in the struggles of the Holy Family in a particular way. We pray for immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees. We pray for all parents who sacrifice their own well-being and comfort so their children may have a better life.

Readings for the Week of December 29th, 2019

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
 Monday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
 Wednesday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28
 Friday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 [3cd]/Jn 1:29-34
 Saturday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [3cd]/Jn 1:35-42
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Prayers for the Sick:



Merciful Jesus, onto your Compassionate Heart we recommend Emelda Harris, Morris St. Julien Sr., David Bernard Sr, Mary Jane Jacquet, Shavawna Flugence, Gustavia Thibeaux, Reginald Brown, Florena Landry, John Albert Ledet, Andre’ Serio, Roy Brown, Lisa Trahan, Barbara Leon, Charles Lee, Mayola Williams, Lorena & Lester Mouton, Mrs. Louvenia L Gibson, Hazel Allen, Edward Lawrence, Audrey Armelin, Rodney Dupuis, Bessie Johnson, Lorita Jeanbatiste, Rita Lewis, Florence Jacquet, Albert Sam Jacquet, Byron Knox, Keith Broussard, J. Breaux, B. Hampton Guidry and those in the following

nursing homes:

Maison de Lafayette: Dorothy Lavan

Camelot of Broussard: Sylvania Cormier



The next Baptismal class will be held on **Monday, February 3rd, 2020** at 7pm in the Bishop Perry Learning Center. The actual baptism will take place following the 5pm vigil mass on **Saturday, February 8th, 2020**. Parents are required to bring a copy of the baby’s birth certificate and a \$25 registration fee to the church office

Mass Intentions

Sat. 5:00 p.m.: Hilda Johnson, Alexson Mathieu, Audrey Mathieu, deceased members of the Mathieu & Mouton families, Christopher J Anderson, Wilbert & Thelma Jeanlouis, Harold Anderson Sr. & Ethel Mae Decuir, M/M Loadise & Margaret Trahan. Stoney Trahan Sr, deceased members of the Ball & Trahan families, Mary Lou Breaux, M/M Gladiola & Curtis Breaux, M/M Viola & George Sonnier Sr, Harrison Green, Cleveland Harris, Sr, M/M Haze & Arthur Roy Sr, deceased members of the Johnson, Walker & Alexander families, Mercedes St. Julien, Sister Joseph Charles, the Washington family, Mildred Davis, M/M Paul Joe, Lucius & Rosalie Joe, Clifton H. Daigre Jr, Antoine M. Cormier, Elmo Cormier and for all who celebrated a birthday in December. Special Intentions for all of our church Benefactors and donors and for the wellbeing and intentions of our church members.

Sun. 8:00 a.m.: For Everyone who celebrated a birthday in December. Special Intentions for all of our church Benefactors and Donors and for the wellbeing and intentions of our church members.

Sun. 10:00 a.m.: Joseph Leo Sias III, Christopher Anderson, deceased members of the Decuir & Anderson families, Anne Lasseigne, Wilfred Thompson, Agnes Broussard, M/M Harold & Velma Flugence and for all who celebrated a birthday in December Special Intentions for all of our church Benefactors and Donors and for the wellbeing and intentions of our church members.

God’s Housekeepers:

St. Joseph: Thanks to all of the ladies in **Group A** that cleaned the church on December 28th, 2019. The next group is **Group B:** Carolyn Domingue, Barbara Thomas and Laura Williams — January 4th, 2020.

St. Anthony — January, 2020: (Group A) Loucinda George, Mary Alice Cormier and Jeanette Mitchell

Your hard work and time dedicated is appreciated!

PSR (Parish School of Religion) Corner:

Classes are on Saturdays from 9am – 12 Noon

1st – 5th Grade

6th - 11th Grade

Jan 11, 2020
 Feb 8, 2020
 Mar 14, 2020
 Apr 18, 2020



Jan 4, 2020
 Feb 1, 2020
 Feb 29, 2020
 Mar 21, 2020
 Apr 4, 2020

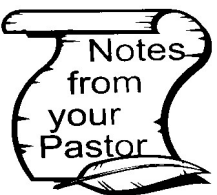
UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2019

- ◆ **New Years Day:** 7am and 6pm Novena with an offering at both liturgies.
- ◆ **50th ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY** for Fr. Thomas James: Sunday January 26th, 1:30pm at the Cathedral of St. John. Please RSVP to the Church Office by Dec 20th.
- ◆ **MLK AWARD CEREMONY:** Friday, January 17th at 7:00pm at the Cathedral of St. John.

Mass	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Ushers
SATURDAY January 4, 2020 5:00pm	Barbara Thomas Christella Spurlock	Linda Alfred Michael Rabon Harold Anderson Patty Derouen	Jayde Spurlock Jordan Spurlock	Charlotte Flugence Harold Johnson Curtis Sebille Jarrot Spurlock
SUNDAY January 5, 2020 8:00am			Jarvis Berard	Loucinda George
SUNDAY January 5, 2020 10:00am	Edward Decuir Victoria Decuir	Christine Decuir Brenda Washington Terry Flugence Tim Sharlow	Jordan Semien	Paul Kimble Alton Bernard John Bernard, Sr. Danny Flugence, Jr.

Please Note: Lectors, Ushers, Altar Servers and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion; by calling for a replacement when you are scheduled but cannot serve, you honor your commitment and help to ensure that there is no interruption for mass. Thanks!!

PASTORS CORNER



After celebrating with some of our family on Christmas, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. For most of us, the family is the first unit of people we experience. Some do not have the valuable experience. Let us all pause for a moment in gratitude for our family as we give thanks for the Holy Family, from this family came our Savior, the New Born King. Since the time of Our Savior's birth the family has developed, evolved and is evolving in many directions and we have and are experiencing a critical breakdown and structural change in our family and the quality of life in our families. There are many reasons for this. But there is one thing we know there is no place like home and family is a significant part of our life, it is where our human life comes from.

Today we would like to remember and offer a prayer for the Holy Family Sisters who like the Holy Family has gifted us with their teaching, caring for the poor, homeless, nursing homes and their care of the elderly. To them we say thank you!

Today each one of us can ask what we are doing for our family structure. Is our spiritual life breathing healthy relationships in our family? Are we a source of strength and stability when conflicts begins to the destroy fabric in our family. Is leadership a value that we provide so that others can follow, follow the leadership I provide? Let us commit to serve, dedicate, commit, sacrifice, and be the best person we can be in our family. This demands much of each of us, because it is challenging and difficult. So, let us pray that He gives us the grace to build who we are on a solid foundation of spiritual values like Mary and Joseph. As we approach the New Year let us all make a little difference somewhere at sometimes during this year. We enter the New Year with the same burdens, crosses, challenges but let our attitude change and that might be the difference.



TO ALL OF YOU FROM ALL OF US



To Everyone Who Celebrated a Birthday in December

The Web Site for St. Joseph/St. Anthony is: stjostant.org

<u>Our Giving</u>	
Dec 21st & Dec 22nd, 2019	
St. Joseph: (95 Envelopes out of 213)	\$2,303.00
St. Anthony: (17 Envelopes out of 84)	284.00
	\$2,587.00
<i>"No one shall appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each of you with as much as he can give, in proportion to the blessings which the Lord your God has bestowed upon you."</i>	