

St. Agnes Catholic Church

Terrier & Cherry Rd. Intersection, Sarcoxie, MO
Dec. 26, 2021 Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

St. Agnes Catholic Church
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MASSES FOR DEC 26 – JAN 2

Saint Agnes

Sunday	10:30 a.m.	+Louis Fenske
Tuesday	8:30 a.m.	Louise Bellm
Thursday	8:30 a.m.	Justice & Peace
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	St. Agnes Parish Family
Sunday	10:30 a.m.	St. Agnes Parish Family

St. Mary's

Mon.	8:15 a.m. Rosary Service
Wed.	8:15 a.m.
Fri.	6:00 p.m.
Sun.	8:30 a.m.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK:

Tuesday, December 28	Feast of The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Friday, December 31	Vigil Mass at St. Mary's at 6:00 p.m
Saturday, January 1	Solemnity of Mary Mother of God
Sunday, January 2	New Year's Day Mass at St. Agnes 10:00 a.m.
	Solemnity of the Epiphany of The Lord

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tuesday, January 4	Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
	The Rosary for Life will be prayed at 8:00 a.m., before 8:30 a.m. Mass

YOUR GIFT TO THE CHURCH: \$ 516.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

READERS

<u>January 2</u>	Kathy Eck
9	Cheryl (K) Elbert
16	Sandy Thorn
23	Doug Pickering

January 2

9
16
23

MONEY COUNTERS

Cheryl (K) Elbert & Jane Kutz
James Campbell & Doug Pickering
Ron Wagner & Steve Schmitt
Cheryl (K) Elbert & Jane Kutz

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS Sharon Wolfe, Margie Mettlach, Marie Jasumback, Jim and Veda Perrin, Marion Tomlinson Williams, Monta Heidlage, Louise Bellm, and all the sick and shut-ins of our parish.

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTION TAX LETTER: If you would like a copy of your contributions for the 2021 year, please print your name on the sign-up sheet in the back of church

JANUARY BIRTHDAY'S: Thomas Adamson, Brenda Campbell, Jared Campbell, John Campbell, Kathy Eck, John Jennett, Lawrence Katzfey, Deloris Nimsick, Michael Nimsick, & Bryan Wagner.

AFTER YOU COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS, consider sharing them with the Church. As the spirit of gratitude to God permeates our lives at this time of year, please prayerfully consider including our parish in your giving. Your generosity helps to give others the most precious of gifts—the love of God, and the sacraments and ministries of the Church. By writing a check to St. Agnes Church by Dec. 31, you can reduce the sting of income taxes if you itemize. Your gifts provide the necessary support for all our parish does. Thank you!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O God, thank you for the many material and spiritual blessings you have lavished on us. May we learn to enjoy them to delight in them and to appreciate them fully without being possessed by them. May the gifts we've been given lead us ever closer to you, our hope and our true happiness. Amen.

Solemnity of the Holy Family

Sirach 3:2-6,12-14 or
1 Sam 1:20-22,24-28
Ps 128:1-5 or
Ps 84:2-3,5-6,9-10
Colossians 3:12-21 or
1 John 3:1-2,21-24
Luke 2:41-52

Monday December 27 St. John the Apostle

1 John 1:1-4
Ps 97:1-2,5-6,11-12
John 20:1a,2-8

Tuesday December 28 Holy Innocents

1 John 1:5 -- 2:2
Ps 124:2-5,7b-8
Matthew 2:13-18

Wednesday December 29

1 John 2:3-11
Ps 96:1-3,5b-6
Luke 2:22-35

Thursday December 30

1 John 2:12-17
Ps 96:7-10
Luke 2:36-40

Friday December 31

1 John 2:18-21
Ps 96:1-2,11-13
John 1:1-18

Saturday January 1 Mary, Mother of God

Numbers 6:22-27
Ps 67:2-3,5-6,8
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

Saint John Paul II wrote about today's Gospel story in his encyclical on the Rosary, *Rosarium Virginis* (paragraph #20). This scripture, he pointed out, reveals that Jesus was already wholly dedicated to his Father's affairs. And it shows "the radical nature of the Gospel, in which even the closest of human relationships are challenged by the absolute demands of the Kingdom." Which relationships? Family relationships!

Today, we are like Mary and Joseph in their moment of failing to understand the words of Jesus. His teachings challenge us to accept a more difficult life, a life of doing good to our enemies, taking a stand against injustices, standing up for Christian values, getting persecuted for it, turning the cheek and going the extra mile, a life of courageously adhering to the ways of God.

Our preference, when it's inconvenient or unpleasant to be so holy, is to rationalize and make excuses for any behavior that the world says is good and right but which

contradicts the Church's scripture-based teachings. However, if we are sincere about following Christ, we are willing to do what is difficult. And it's usually in the doing that we begin to understand the benefits of becoming more like Christ.



Without this understanding, however, we have to trust that the words of Jesus are truth. Like Mary and Joseph, we need to ponder in our hearts what we do not understand and at the same time move forward in holy living. Then we discover the joy

that comes from a life that's lived wholly in Christ.

On this Feast of the Holy Family, let us pray that Mary and Joseph will help us hear Jesus whenever our troubles or temptations get so distracting that we lose sight of him. Let us learn to recognize that Jesus is always present with us in his Holy Spirit, helping us, guiding us, and mercifully loving us, especially in the challenges we face.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What teaching of the Church have you rationalized away so that you don't have to obey it? Or what teaching in scripture?
2. Assume your disobedience is due to not understanding what is really being taught. What will you do to learn more about it?
3. What is it about the relationships between Jesus, Mary and Joseph that appeals to you?
4. What has this taught you about God's Kingdom?