

## *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

December 30, 2007

Over all other virtues put on love,  
that is, the bond of perfection.

- Colossians 3:14

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

There are no Religious Education classes on December 30th.

Classes will resume on Sunday January 6, 2008.

May you and your families have the joy of the season and all the blessing of the New Year!

#### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

“Octave” comes from the Latin word for “eight,” and since eight is one step beyond seven, the number of days in a week, it has long been seen as a symbol of perfection, completion, and new beginnings. Early Christians called Sunday the “eighth day,” since it was the day after the Sabbath and a day of resurrected life, the Lord’s Day. By the seventh century, people regarded the eight days after Easter Sunday as one great day, an octave, one glorious feast when people were forbidden to fast or kneel. In the seventh century, Pentecost acquired an Octave, too. Christmas didn’t claim the honor of a continuous feast, but it did get an Octave Day. January 1 is the oldest Marian feast, the Octave of Christmas. It was originally a feast of the motherhood of Mary, although for centuries until 1969 it was called the Feast of the Circumcision. Our reformed calendar follows the earlier tradition of celebrating Mary as Mother of God.

Today’s Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is a modern one, instituted in 1921. Strains on family life then, with the world emerging from the first “Great War,” were enormous. From its inception, this feast was clearly intended to inspire people with an image of family harmony even amid difficulties.

In 1969 the Feast of the Holy Family was moved to its present position, the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas. When Christmas falls on a Sunday, this feast is bumped to December 30, but is not a holy day. The Gospels chosen in 1969 all depict stressful times in the life of the family of Jesus: the Presentation (with the warning of future sorrow), the flight into Egypt, and Mary and Joseph’s frantic search for their son in Jerusalem. The feast’s former place in the calendar is taken now by the Baptism of the Lord.

#### TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

Election of new trustees will take place after 10:30 mass on Jan. 6th. There are 5 trustees which exercise functions required by Civil Law though the Parish Council is advisory board to the pastor by church law. Trustees are: Pastor (President & Treasurer), Bishop and Chancellor and 2 lay trustees, one of whom is secretary. Present Trustees are Honorable Justice Joseph Walsh & Jean Cates. All are welcome to attend the meeting.

### **PASTOR'S NOTES**

Outside Ourselves

Marriage and raising children breaks us out of our self-centeredness. We cannot remain happy as a married person and a parent if we refuse to give up our position as being the center of the universe. This is so because being a parent constantly forces a person to leave their own small world of selfish interests and reach out in love and care to another human being. From the middle of the night feedings, to the personal hygiene of your child (including above all, the changing of diapers wherever and whenever), through to the wiping off of faces covered with baby food to all the millions of things you are called upon to do to help your child grow, you are constantly being called out of your selfish self. It doesn’t end when our kids no longer need us for all of the survival stuff. As they grow and become more and more independent, we still carry them in our hearts. Many parents still lose sleep over their adult children.

But what about the children? Family relationships are meant to flow in both directions. Children, who receive so much from their parents, are asked to return respect and kindness to their fathers and mothers. We know that in this day and age, this can become a serious problem. Because we’re living so much longer than in previous eras, many people have parents who need some kind of support for many, many years.

Belonging to a holy family requires the same thing, whether we are a child or a parent, or both a child and a parent—we need to love, and we need to make that love visible to one another. In the words of the opening prayer, “...help us to live as the holy family, united in respect and love.” A happy and blessed New Year from the priests and staff at St. Joseph’s. No office hours on the holiday.

*Happy New Year!*  
*Offices will be closed*





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**MISSION STATEMENT:** WE, the Roman Catholic Community of St. Joseph on the Brandywine, founded in 1841, profess our belief in the teachings of the Church founded on the Apostles Peter and Paul. We proclaim that it is our mission to increase God's presence in the world by following Jesus and being faithful to the Gospel. Our missions calls us to:

**JOIN** in active, conscious participation in prayer and worship.

**TEACH** the way of Christ to youth and adults, imparting a sense of duty and purpose in life.

**DEMONSTRATE** our love for each other by reaching out to our neighbors.

**WELCOME** and bring together all parishioners to promote a spirit of Christian community.

**PRACTICE** good stewardship of the resources we hold in trust. Each of us has a unique gift to share and, in all we do, we must rely on the grace of God, knowing that without God, we can do nothing.

Saturday (Dec. 29)

5:00 p.m. Rachael Lucille Alisa by Henrietta Romanowski

Sunday (Dec. 30)

7:30 a.m. Parishioners

9:00 a.m. Matthew & Margaret Pierce Regina Titus

10:30 a.m. Robert & Mary Spittle by Pat & Cathi Ramone

Monday (Dec. 31) *New Year's Eve*

7:00 a.m. William Carr by John & Mary Helen

5:00 p.m. Jane Ramsey Brown by Ellis & Gigi Ramsey

Tuesday (Jan 1) *Holy Day Feast of Mary Mother of God*

7:30 a.m. Angela Graves by Napolentano family

9:00 a.m. Brenda Yates by Aline & Ed Lynch

10:30 a.m. Open intention

Wednesday (Jan 2)

7:00 a.m. Elizabeth Abraham by Msgr. Rebman

12:05 p.m. Phoebe Carabello by Ann Holland

Thursday (Jan 3)

7:00 a.m. Open intention

12:05 p.m. Sanda Rajan by Patricia Mihalko

Friday (Jan 4)

7:00 a.m. Deceased members of Collins family by Margaret Seitz

12:05 p.m. Sanda Rajan by Patricia Mihalko

Saturday (Jan 5)

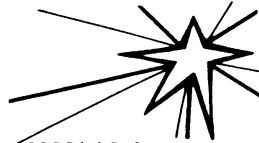
8:00 a.m. Sanda Rajan by Patricia Mihalko

5:00 p.m. James & Helen Grant & James S. Grant, Jr., requested by his family

*In the Shadow of the Church...*

*A Modern Cemetery with a Traditional Setting...*

The Cemetery Committee wishes to remind you of the opportunity to purchase Rights of Burial if you have not already done so. Obtaining your final resting place before the actual need arises is most beneficial to all concerned. Please call the rectory to arrange an appointment with one of our sales consultants.



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Our cemeteries are beautiful with winter flowers this time of year! However, we will begin to remove holiday decorations the week of February 4th to enable spring preparations. If you'd like to retain your keepsakes, please remove them by then.

Ring in the New Year with Emmanuel Dining Room (EDR)

Why not make volunteering for EDR one of your New Year resolutions? We need volunteers to come to the Family Center on Friday, January 11, at 8 a.m. to help prepare the food. Won't you join us? Call Jeanne Harkin, 610-388-1845, or Ann Hapka, 610-388-1362, if you have questions. Join us and learn about the true spirit of the New Year.



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*A Warm Welcome*

*Little Sisters of the Poor!*

The Little Sisters of the Poor will visit with us on January 13th to tell us of their work with the elderly at the Jeanne Jugan Residence on Salem Church Road in Newark. Please give the sisters your attention and also a generous donation for their work! The Friendship coffee will follow 9 and 10:30 masses with refreshments. Come join us! Thank you

Going to the Hospital? Let us know so we can visit. Because of the Privacy Act, the hospital cannot announce your presence without your permission. If you'd like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick prior to surgery or a hospital visit, call the office at 658-7017.