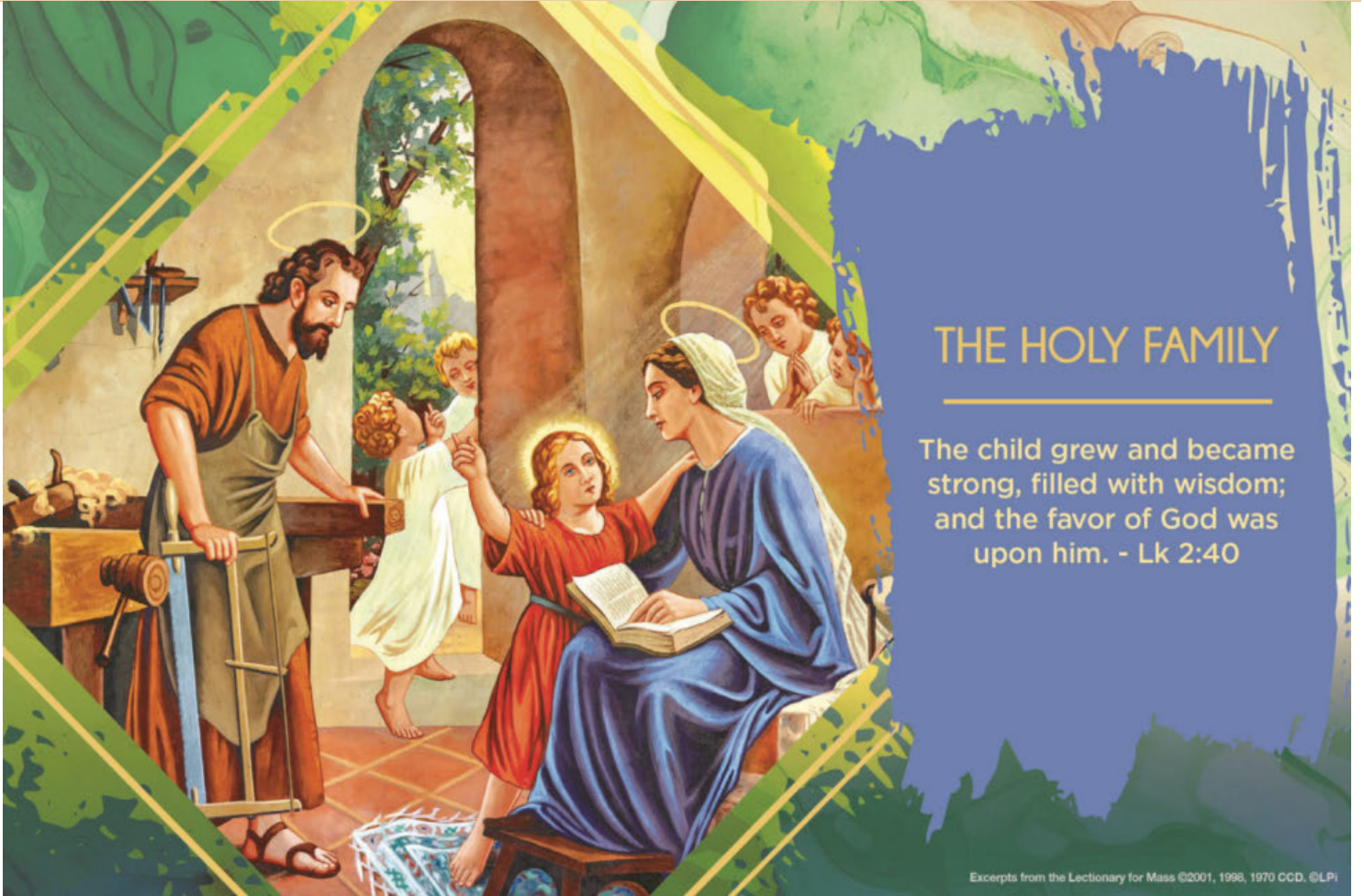


DECEMBER 31, 2023
SAINT CECILIA CHURCH, FONDA NY
SACRED HEART CHURCH, TRIBES HILL NY

Deacon Joseph Cechnicki, Parish Life Coordinator
Father Juanito Asprec, Parochial Vicar
Father Nathaniel Resila, Parochial Vicar



THE HOLY FAMILY

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

~Weddings-Baptisms-Funerals~

~Please contact the parish office~

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SAINT CECILIA CHURCH

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Sandi McCaslin, Administrative Assistant

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Sandi McCaslin, Administrative Assistant

Office hours:

Monday & Wednesday, 9am to 2pm



† Altar wine at **Sacred Heart** for the month of **January** has been donated in loving memory of **Louie & Ann Stellato** at the request of **Tony & Lorrie Stellato**

† Altar hosts at **Sacred Heart** for the month of **January** has been donated in loving memory of **Peter & Virginia Szykowski** at the request of **Lorrie & Tony Stellato**.



MASS SCHEDULE

Sat. Dec 30, 4:00 pm (SH) - †In loving memory of **Donald Thum**, requested by his wife **Loretto**, his son **DJ**, daughter **Chrissy**, and his grandchildren.

Sun. Dec 31, 8:30 am (SC) - † In loving memory of **Bailey Alexandria Field**, requested by **Mom, Dad and Sammy**.

Mon. Jan 1, 10:00 am (SC) - For the sick, infirm, and bereaved of **St. Cecilia's**, requested by **St. Cecilia's Christian Service**.

Tue. Jan. 2 thru Sun. Jan. 7, 2023

Tue. Jan 2, 8:00 am (SH) - No intention requested.

Wed. Jan 3, 8:00 am (SC) - No intention requested.

Thurs. Jan 4, 8:00 am (SH) - For the people of the parish.

Fri. Jan 5, 8:00 am (SC) - For the people of the parish.

Sat. Jan 6, 4:00 pm (SH) - 1.) †For the angels adorning our memorial tree, given by their family and loved ones.

2.) Blessings on the 65th

Anniversary of **Bob & Betty Donohue**, requested by **Lorrie & Tony Stellato**.

Sun. Jan 7, 8:30 am (SC) - 1.) † In memory of **Teresa Campochiaro**, requested by **Joey Ford & family**.

2.) † In memory of **George**

Spannbauer Jr., requested by **Pat & George Galeazza**.

Mass Intentions: Mass Intentions are needed for both parishes. Having a Mass celebrated for a person or a specific request has a long history in the Catholic Church. Requesting a Mass is not only a sign of your own faith and flourishing, but of your heart for those who these Masses are intended.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 31, 2023 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

~Father John Muir

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Lector/Eucharistic Ministers

Dec 30 (SH)	Katherine Downing Kathy Avery	Jan 6 (SH)	
Dec 31 (SC)	Dianne Kierpiec Dave Marcais	Jan 7 (SC)	James Wray Ken Stuff

Counters Schedule

Jan 2 (SH)	Barb Bilins Kathy Avery	Jan 9 (SH)	Noreen Brownell Deb Swarczewski
Jan 2 (SC)	Bette Papa Sandy Hayes	Jan 9 (SC)	Lorna Quinn Ann Mahon

Food Pantry

Jan 3 (SH)	Jamie Lemiszki John Nigro	
Jan 24 (SC)	Dianne Kierpiec Kathleen Harris Ann Mahon	

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - January 1

Mary's divine motherhood broadens the Christmas spotlight. Mary has an important role to play in the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. She consents to God's invitation conveyed by the angel (Luke 1:26-38). Elizabeth proclaims: "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the *fruit of your womb*. And how does this happen to me, that *the mother of my Lord* should come to me?" (Luke 1:42-43, emphasis added). Mary's role as mother of God places her in a unique position in God's redemptive plan.

Without naming Mary, Paul asserts that "God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law" (Galatians 4:4). Paul's further statement that "God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out 'Abba, Father!'" helps us realize that Mary is mother to all the brothers and sisters of Jesus.

Some theologians also insist that Mary's motherhood of Jesus is an important element in God's creative plan. God's "first" thought in creating was Jesus. Jesus, the incarnate Word, is the one who could give God perfect love and worship on behalf of all creation. As Jesus was "first" in God's mind, Mary was "second" insofar as she was chosen from all eternity to be his mother.

The precise title "Mother of God" goes back at least to the third or fourth century. In the Greek form *Theotokos* (God-bearer), it became the touchstone of the Church's teaching about the Incarnation. The Council of Ephesus in 431 insisted that the holy Fathers were right in calling the holy virgin *Theotokos*. At the end of this particular session, crowds of people marched through the street shouting: "Praised be the *Theotokos*!" The tradition reaches to our own day. In its chapter on Mary's role in the Church, Vatican II's *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* calls Mary "Mother of God" 12 times.

Other themes come together at today's celebration. It is the Octave of Christmas: Our remembrance of Mary's divine motherhood injects a further note of Christmas joy. It is a day of prayer for world peace: Mary is the mother of the Prince of Peace. It is the first day of a new year: Mary continues to bring new life to her children—who are also God's children.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memorial Contributions: Along with the Sanctuary Lamp and flowers for the altar you can now sponsor the altar wine and hosts in memory of a loved one. Wine and hosts will be \$20 each per month. You can stop by your parish office or even put the information in the collection basket for your chosen sponsorship.

Wintery Gathering: With the Ice Cream Social being quite successful, Sacred Heart is thinking a social during the winter months might be in order. A toasty gathering in February may take a bit of the chill off.

Blue Envelopes for Saint Mary's Institute: Please consider a contribution to continue to provide academic excellence with an emphasis on Catholic values. St. Mary's is the only Catholic school in Fulton & Montgomery Counties. St Mary's Blue Envelopes are located in the

The Music Ministry of Historic St Mary's Church is excited to announce the start of a Church Children's choir! Any children from first to eighth grade are encouraged to join. Projected date for first rehearsal is early February 2024. More information will be forthcoming to all churches in the next few weeks. Please contact Michela Riccio, Music Director of St Mary's Church, with any questions
518-705-9468 michelaalbertariccio@gmail.com

Sacrament of Reconciliation: To acknowledge the need for the future as a network of parishes in the Amsterdam area, the sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated each Saturday at St. Mary's Church in Amsterdam with Fr. Juanito, Fr. Nate and Fr. Bob available to hear confessions. Confessions will be heard from 3:00pm to 3:30pm each Saturday and all the parishioners are welcome to take advantage of this opportunity. The network includes St. Cecilia's from Fonda, Sacred Heart from Tribes Hill, St. Stephen's from Hagaman and St. Mary's, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, and St. Stanislaus' from Amsterdam.

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Upcoming Second Collections: Jan 6/7 - Fuel/Heat

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<i>DEC 23 & 24, 2023—WEEKEND TOTALS:</i>		
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WEEKLY COLLECTION	722.00	706.00
CHRISTMAS	1505.00	1058.00
OTHER	85.00	143.00
<hr/>		
PARISH TOTAL	2312.00	1907.00

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