

The Pastor's Corner

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE...?

Many would make the case for *It's a Wonderful Life* being one of the most important Christmas movies ever produced. It has so many beautiful elements that make it something of a powerful movie, even tying in that sense of "Christmas" throughout the entire movie, especially when George Bailey has his crisis moment, and he has to wonder if his life was worth it at all.

One of my favorite things about the film, in addition to these others, is that, when it comes to the portrayal of George and Mary Bailey's family, it was a very "real" family. They have a story of how they came to be where they were. They have the things they are known for. They have plans, and plans change. Their lives are filled with blessings. Their lives are also filled with many sorrows as well. They never had all that much money, and yet, they seemed to have an abundance of something money will never buy: happiness. No matter what, they still cling tightly to one another, even in the midst of the flaws and the "humanity" of their family.

Today, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This family is certainly unlike any family that came before it, and even to this day. The image we have of them is of perfection- a husband, wife, and child, all living together in harmony (even in the midst of episodes such as the one in the Gospel today!). They shine out as exemplars and models as to what family life is like, centered around Christ.

We should not think that this "Holy Family" is something that is unattainable for us living in "reality." Certainly, we have our unique challenges and difficulties when it comes to living out life as a family, but that does not mean we should not strive after centering around Christ in each of our homes and families. As we do, perhaps we will find, whether we are the Baileys, the Smiths, or whoever we might be, we are becoming quite holy ourselves, even in our own "real" families!

-Fr. Belken

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

MASS SCHEDULE

- 4:00PM NEW YEAR'S EVE AT ST. LAWRENCE
- 8:00AM NEW YEAR'S DAY AT ST. LAWRENCE
- 10:00AM NEW YEAR'S DAY AT ST. DENIS

Please remember this is a Holy Day of Obligation!

May God, through Mary, Bless our New Year!

Readings for Next Sunday

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 5, 2024

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 Lk

Matthew 2:1-12

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH · DECEMBER 29, 2024



Saint Lawrence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Rev. Daniel Belken, Pastor
Billy Ray Johnson - Parish Office Manager

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
December 29-January 4, 2024
www.stlnh.org
E-Mail address: Office@stlnh.org

Mass Schedule

Sat. Dec 28 4PM	Parish Family	Thu. Jan 2 7AM	Herb & Virginia Essner
Sun. Dec 29 8:30AM	Paul Stuckey	Fri. Jan 3 7AM	Lorena Beussink
Mon. Dec 30	No Mass	Sat. Jan 4 4PM	Patrick Shelton
Tue. Dec 31 4PM	Lefty & Ida Seyer	Sun. Jan 5 8:30AM	Parrish Family
Wed. Jan 1 8AM	Shelby & Charlene Steger		

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION. DEC 29-Jill Pinkston, **JAN 5**-Carol Klipfel, **JAN 12**-Dorothy Deason, **JAN 19**-Margaret Heuring, **JAN 26**-Coonie Essner.

SUNDAY COLLECTION:

December 22, 2024: Loose \$251, Envelopes \$4055, Total: \$4306.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3rd, CHURCH CLEANING. Chairman: **Doug & Ann Menz**
Justin & Tara Modglin, Becky Moore, Jarrett Moore, Jewell & Pat Moore.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3rd, ADORATION. St. Lawrence Church, 7:30-10:30AM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12th, ST. JOSEPH'S MEN'S CLUB ANNUAL BREAKFAST. In the Parish Center from 8-11:30AM. Homemade sausage, pancakes, eggs and more. Adults: \$10, Children (6-12): \$5, under 5 eat free. All are welcome!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18th, St. LAWRENCE MEN'S SODALITY EUCHRE TOURNAMENT. In the Parish Center, doors open at 5PM. Play begins at 6:30PM, \$15 donation. Free chili & chicken noodle soup. For more information, contact the church office at 573-545-3317.

2025 ENVELOPES. 2025 collection envelopes are available for pickup in the back of church. Please check and make sure that you pick up the correct envelopes and if not please return them with the rest of the envelopes.

MEN'S CLUB BUTCHERING. Signup sheet is in the foyer of church for sausage and headcheese from St. Joe's Sodality annual butchering. Men mark your calendars; the sausage & headcheese will be made on January 11th.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS. Would you like to remember someone at Christmas and help decorate the church? To do so, you may put \$10 in a plain envelope or your collection envelope, write who it is given in memory of, and who it is given by. One name per family, per donation please.

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS. The rectory parish office will be open on Tuesday the 31st during normal working hours but closed on Wednesday the 1st. Office hours are still 8AM-3PM.

Lector & Communion Distributor:	Tue. Dec 31 4PM	Shannon Schumer
Organist/Cantor:	Tue. Dec 31 4PM	Bernice Kern/Kari Bickings
Gift Bearers:	Tue. Dec 31 4PM	Volunteers
Servers:	Tue. Dec 31 4PM	Volunteers
Ushers:	Tue. Dec 31 4PM	Volunteers

Lector & Communion Distributor:	Wed. Jan 1 8AM	Frank Glueck
Organist/Cantor:	Wed. Jan 1 8AM	Linda Essner/Mary B. Glastetter
Gift Bearers:	Wed. Jan 1 8AM	Volunteers
Servers:	Wed. Jan 1 8AM	Volunteers
Ushers:	Wed. Jan 1 8AM	Volunteers

Lector & Communion Distributor:	Sat. Jan 4 4PM	Diane Ashcraft
Organist/Cantor:	Sat. Jan 4 4PM	Cheryl Kern/Jamie Essner
Gift Bearers:	Sat. Jan 4 4PM	Mr/Mrs. Shayn Mabury
Servers:	Sat. Jan 4 4PM	Oliver Beck/Paxton Back/Isabel Crook
Ushers:	Sat. Jan 4 4PM	Allen Green/Richard Green/Steve Griffith/Randall Grojean

Lector & Communion Distributor:	Sun. Jan 5 8:30AM	Sally O'Brien
Organist/Cantor:	Sun. Jan 5 8:30AM	Cheryl Kern/Kari Bickings
Gift Bearers:	Sun. Jan 5 8:30AM	Mr/Mrs. Ethan Maddox
Servers:	Sun. Jan 5 8:30AM	Kynli Dunne/Leeland Duenne/Berkley Dirnberger/Willow Bickings
Ushers:	Sun. Jan 5 8:30AM	Chris Grojean/Mike Hamm/John David Harper/Kenny Heisserer

PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE IF YOU'RE WILLING TO VOLUNTEER FOR LECTOR OR ALTAR SERVERS AT 8AM NEW YEAR'S EVE AND NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS.

THANK YOU. Thank you to all who helped in any way to prepare and carry out the St. Lawrence Christmas Church Tour and Live Nativity. So many of you helped decorate both churches, lighted the shrubbery, prepared the grotto, filled sweet treat bags, greeted our guests, changed light bulbs at the last minute, provided beautiful Christmas music throughout the evening, opened a warming station with hot chocolate, wassail, and s'mores; and presented a beautiful live nativity. Blessings to all who braved the bitter cold and wind. This Scott County event is a wonderful way to spread Christmas cheer and show our pride for St. Lawrence Parish. Thank you and Happy New Year.

ST. ANNE'S SODALITY FACEBOOK PAGE. If you do social media and Facebook. Please look up St. Anne's Ladies Sodality New Hamburg page and become a follower. It's another great communication tool within the parish for getting correct information about the church and happenings that are going on.