



**HOME IS WHERE THE FAMILY IS** The idea, dream, and reality of family is so strong and durable that we use it to describe all that is best about human gatherings. We speak of the family of nations, of our church and parish families. The greatest compliment we can pay a friend or gracious host is to say that we feel at home with them, we feel part of the family. Families are the first crucibles in which love is tested and tempered. Jesus himself was one of three people who lived in the shadow of each other. This family, like our own, did not always “get it right,” but they always tried to. These three “amateurs” were on holiday, and one of them got lost. Two were worried sick and took great measures to find the third, a boy after all, who was seeking the meaning of his calling. He found his vocation—to do his Father’s work—but he also returned home with his parents. © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

**FAMILY PERSPECTIVE** Today’s gospel contains a truth about parenting: “But his parents did not know.” One of the reasons why parenting sometimes is so difficult is because our teens deliberately don’t always tell us everything. If the Holy Family had trouble with their teenager, why do we think it will be easier for us?



**CELEBRATE YOUR FAMILY  
~ THE BEST GIFT OF ALL ~**

The great gift of Christmas is Jesus Christ. The Christmas Season is a time when we think about Christ coming to us within a family. Jesus was born into a family, comes to us in our daily lives in a family and will be with us throughout our lives. The Season of Christmas is a wonderful time to be aware of the presence of God in our ordinary family life, no matter what the make up of the family is. Thus customs of Christmas help us to be aware of how Christ is present in family life. Abundant grace and blessings belong to family life. Families have a unique and important role in the life of the Church. The Twelve Days of Christmas last from Christmas Day until January 6<sup>th</sup>. It is time to welcome Christ into our home and into our world.



O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises,  
thank You for the gift of a new year.

May it be a time of grace for me,  
a time to grow in faith and love,  
a time to renew my commitment  
to following Your Son, Jesus.

May it be a year of blessing for me,  
a time to cherish my family and friends,  
a time to renew my efforts at work,  
a time to embrace my faith more fully.

Walk with me, please, in every day  
and every hour of this New Year  
that the light of Christ might  
shine through me, in spite of  
my weaknesses and failings.

Above all, may I remember this year  
that I am a pilgrim on the  
sacred path to You. AMEN



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**FROM THE PRIESTS AND STAFF  
OF BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH**

The Parish Office will be closed on  
Wednesday, December 31 and Thursday, January 1  
to allow our staff to enjoy a much needed break!!

We will reopen on Friday, January 2.

2004...2004...2004...2004...2004...2004...2004...2004...2004

**USHER’S ANNUAL NEW YEAR’S EVE PARTY** will be held in Geiger Hall from 9PM to 2AM. Music by Dynamic Sounds & Digital Thunder Mobile DJs. Tickets are \$25 per person / \$40 per couple or something new this year a \$109 package – includes room for two at Bel-Aire Hotel & hot breakfast, shuttle service from Bel-Aire to party and back and two tickets. Beer, mixers, party hats and noise makers included. For reservations call 455-7537.

**NEW YEAR’S EVE EXPOSITION** There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on New Year’s Eve in the chapel at the priest’s residence from 7:30-10:00PM. Please enter the chapel through the doors on Greengarden. On the eve of a New Year we have much to be thankful for – so take some time and spend it before the Lord in prayer. Pray also for peace in our world.

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY** January 1<sup>st</sup> is an opportunity for us to attend Mass to honor Mary and pray for World Peace. This is a Holyday of Obligation ~ our Mass Schedule is:

Wednesday, December 31 at 5:15PM

Thursday, January 1 at 8:00 & 10:00

**GIVING TREE WRAP UP**

**PERHAPS...**

- You helped make the Giving Tree tags...
- You took a tag and purchased a gift or two or three...
- Your whole class or organization adopted a family from the tree..
- You helped carry gifts to the temporary storage place...
- You helped sort the gifts into the proper piles and bagged them...
- You helped carry the gifts to the cars of the recipients...
- You helped deliver gifts to the Neighborhood Art House...

**Then please know that you are appreciated and thanked for your generosity! You have recognized the face of God in the need of others and you are BLESSED! Thank you to all who once again made the “Giving Tree” a tremendous success!!**

**LAKE SHORE VISITOR** If you would like to subscribe to the Lake Shore Visitor or renew your current subscription, please use your blue envelope that was in your Dec/Jan packet. The price is still only \$20. Please return the envelope in the collection basket or to the Parish Office.



**BIBLE STUDY** Classes will resume on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in the School Library with Fr. Mike.

## The Feast of the Holy Family

**ADDITIONAL FLOWER DONATIONS** In Memory of Our Loved Ones from Mr. & Mrs. Edward Pacy, In Memory of Reusch & Casey Families and James Moore from Mrs. Annabell Reusch, In Memory of Samick and Schilling Families from Mr. & Mrs. Robert Samick and In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Emory Susol from Betty J. Baer.

**LECTOR AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTER** training will begin in January. Eucharistic Ministers will train on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, Lectors will train on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>. Both training sessions will be held at 7PM in the Church. If you are interested in serving your Parish as A Eucharistic Minister or Lector, please call the Parish Office to sign up. This is open to all High School students who were Confirmed last year and to those in this year's Confirmation class.

**FIRST FRIDAY** is this Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Adoration after the 8:00AM Mass followed by Benediction at Noon. Start your New Year off by spending some time in quiet prayer.

### OUR PARISH FAMILY

Please pray for all of the sick and shut-in of our Parish Family.

Baptized into the Christian Community  
through the waters of Baptism:

**ALYSSA PAIGE KUJAWINSKI**

Daughter of Michael and Dawn [Coverdale] Kujawinski

**WHY DRINK FROM THE CUP?** This question continues to be asked, reflecting an uneasiness for some laypeople about resuming a practice unknown in the Roman Catholic Church for more than 600 years. Today's opportunity to receive the sacramental Blood as well as Body of Christ lets us equally honor two invitations: "Eat my Body. Drink my Blood." In the gospels, drinking from the cup is a sign of courageous discipleship. "Can you drink the cup that I will drink?" Jesus challenges. In the Garden of Gethsemane the same image expresses the ordeal awaiting Jesus. Not surprisingly, then, Communion from the cup implied for the early Christians an openness to martyrdom, a willingness to lay down one's life. In the earliest generations of the Church, the "breaking of the bread" suggested oneness because communicants shared a single loaf. Although separate wafers have clearly weakened that image, the shared cup resonates today with comparable implications in our world, drinking from the same vessel is a dramatic expression of intimacy and connection—a rare practice even at a family table, a powerful statement in liturgy. Our Catholic tradition is deeply rooted in signs. The General Instruction at the front of the Roman Missal advised that the faithful should be guided to desire Communion under both species because "Holy Communion has a more complete form as a sign when it is received under both kinds." *Reception from the cup is definitely an option, not a requirement.* Children's participation cannot be presumed without parent's approval. Recovering alcoholics' sensitivities must be respected. And reasonable concern would make all of us refrain from the cup at times when our poor health might put others at risk. Our short answer to anyone who asks, "Do I have to receive from the cup?" is certainly NO; it is not required. As a concerned friend or parent, however we might gently add, "But do you realize what you are missing?"

**THE SANCTUARY CANDLE** will burn this week before the Blessed Sacrament in honor of Joseph Santone from John & Lana Celeski and Rena Rarick.



### Monday, December 29 – St. Thomas Becket

7:00 +Catherine M. Brandt / Klein Estate

8:00 +Lawrence Wagner / Mom – Mary Forester [Birthday]

### Tuesday, December 30 – Sixth Day in Octave of Christmas

7:00 +Daniel Tessauro / Don & Rinda Pulice

8:00 +Henry L. Sokolowski / Family [Anniversary]

### Wednesday, December 31 – Seventh Day

in Octave of Christmas

7:00 NO MASS

8:00 +William Wolford / Jim Zink

5:15 \*People of the Parish

7:30 – 10:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel

### Thursday, January 1 – Mary, Mother of God

8:00 +Margaret Somjai / Mr. & Mrs. William Masek

10:00 +Anna Carbone / Zurn Family

### Friday, January 2 – St. Basil the Great and

St. Gregory Nazianzen

7:00 \*Terri Colner / Brockman Family

8:00 +Lou Ingaldi / Mark & Kathleen Chulick

### Saturday, January 3 – Vigil: Epiphany

5:15 +Norman White / Wife and Family [Birthday]

### Sunday, January 4 – Epiphany of the Lord

7:30 \*People of the Parish

9:00 +John Marcoline / Millie Fatica [Anniversary]

11:00 +Daniel Tessauro / Tessauro Family

7:30 +Tom Reynolds / Curcio Family

### SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT

Due to the Holiday deadline with our bulletin publisher, our Sacrificial Giving Report will be in next Sunday's bulletin.

### 31 CLUB VOCATIONS – MASS REMINDERS

Monday 12/29 – Helen Felice, John Ungvarsky, Julia Parana

Tuesday 12/30 – Gerry Ward, Terry Shannon

Wednesday 12/31 – Joan Shea

Thursday 1/1 – Marilyn Balliett

Friday 1/2 – Lee Zarembo, Susan Shannon

Saturday 1/3 – Jackie Presutti, Holly Konopka

Sunday 1/4 – Carl Braeger

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

Thursday: Num 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Jn 1:29-34

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12