**Sacrament of the Sick**

Anointing of the Sick should be given if an individual is gravely ill or near death. If possible, the Sacrament should also be administered for serious illness, before major surgery or when one is initially hospitalized.

**Sacrament of Holy Matrimony**

Diocesan policy requires 12 months of preparation for Marriage. Contact the parish as soon as possible after engagement. **No venue reservations or other arrangements should be made prior to consultation with the pastor.**

**Sacrament of Penance**

Wednesday ~ 6:00 – 6:45PM; or by appointment.

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Parents must be registered members of the parish and attend a Baptism preparation class prior to the Baptism if this is your first child baptized. Requirements for godparents are established by the Catholic Church. Please call the parish office for Information and to register your child for Baptism.

**Parish Registration**

All Catholics should be registered in their local parish. Please contact the parish office to obtain registration forms, or if you are uncertain of the parish where you should register.



**Parish Staff & Ministries Directory**

[**stignatiusofloyola@hbgdiocese.org**](mailto:stignatiusofloyola@hbgdiocese.org) **| Office: 717-677-8012**

**Financial Manager** ~ Richard Deardorff ~ 717- 677-8012 or 717-420-3464 (cell)

rdeardorff@hbgdiocese.org

**Director of Religious Education** ~ **Deacon Steve Huete** ~ [shuete@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:shuete@hbgdiocese.org)

**Parish Secretary** ~ Kristen DiDio ~ kdidio@hbgdiocese.org

**Buildings & Grounds** ~ Donnie Althoff ~ 717-677-8012

**Music Ministry** ~ Phil Mobley ~ 717-677-8012

**Parish Council Members**

Phil Mobley – *Chair* 571-236-7580 pmmobley@gmail.com

Bicky Redman – *Vice Chair* 677-8592feetintheair7@gmail.com

Joanne Riedel - *Secretary* 398-2021 sterj221@aol.com

Kathi Allwein 677-8984 [allweint@comcast.net](mailto:allweint@comcast.net)

Charlie Baker 677-9536 dcbake@embarqmqil.com

Kathy Dietsch 352-4558 kdiet2@juno.com

Dr. BobTernes [rjtmd46@gmail.com](mailto:rjtmd46@gmail.com)

**Finance Council Members**

Richard Deardorff (*Ex Officio*)

Greg Ernst - *Chair*

Christy Hemler - *Secretary*

Ali Morris

Terri Pendlelton

Bill Pulig



**Altar Flowers**

**OCIA**

***Order of Christian Initiation for Adults***

Contact Fr. Dominic

**Soup Kitchen**

Please send donations

directly to the

“Gettysburg Soup Kitchen”

**Website Development**

Kristen DiDio

**Life After Loss**

Dodie Huete

**Prayer Chain**

**CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE**

**Picnic Co-Chairs**

Wally Kane

Mark Schur

**Pro-Life Ministry**

Jeanette Backus

**Knights of Columbus**

SK Bob Ternes

- Grand Knight



**CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE**

**Bereavement Ministry**

Ginny Bittle / Dodie Huete

**Catholic Communications/EWTN**

Anna Kane

**Cemetery**

**CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE**

**THEOSIS Ministry**

Kathy Dietsch 717-352-4558

Bicky Redman 717-677-8592





Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Program

*www.YouthProtectionHBG.com*

Abuse Reporting Contact Information:

**First – Call the toll-free PA Child Abuse Hotline at 800-932-0313**

**Then – Call the Diocesan toll-free hotline at 800-626-1608**

**“If one member suffers,**

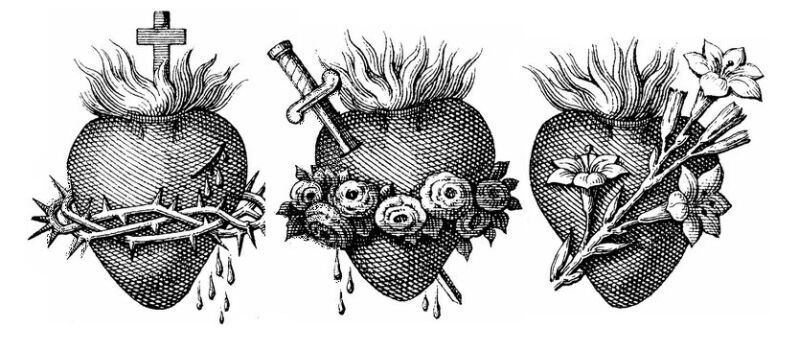
**all suffer together with it.” (*1 Cor* 12:26)**

**St. Ignatius Loyola RC Church**

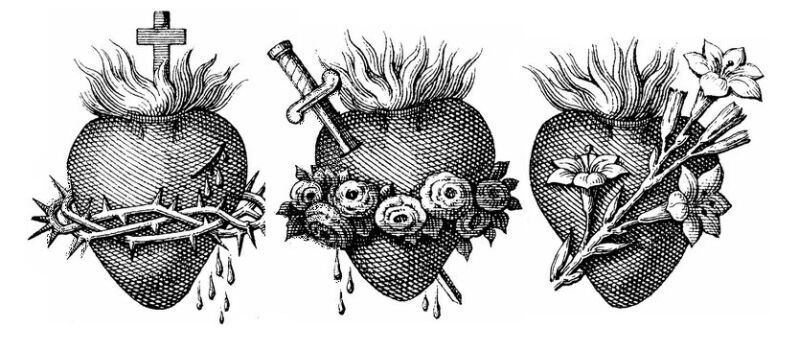
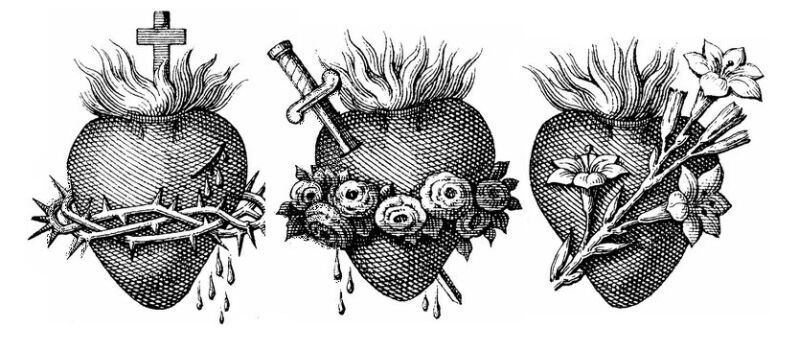
**1095 Church Road, Orrtanna, Pennsylvania 17353**

[**www.stignatiusofloyola.org**](http://www.stignatiusofloyola.org) **| Office: 717-677-8012**

December 31, 2023: THE HOLY FAMILY





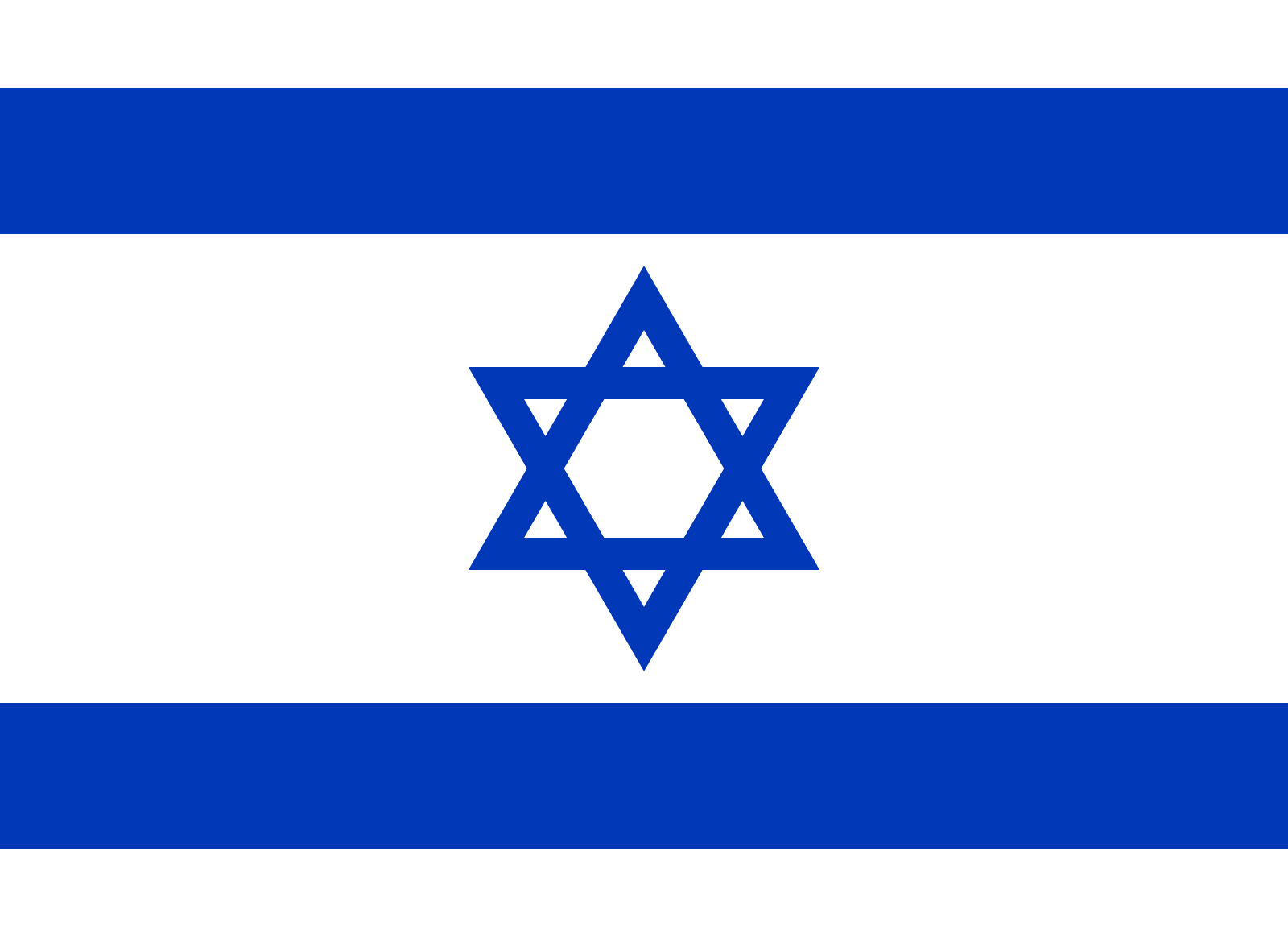




**“The Most Holy Theotokas”**

**Jan. 1, 2024 - Solemnity of MARY, The MOTHER OF GOD**



**May the Blessed Hearts of the Holy Family**

**open hearts to make PEACE in the Holy Land!**

Most Rev. Timothy C. Senior, *Bishop of Harrisburg*

Rev. Dominic M. DiBiccaro, *Pastor*

Deacon Steve Huete, *Pastoral Associate*

***Mass Schedule, Intentions, and Events***

**Please Pray for these in need:**

Jeanie Kline & the Kline Family, Dick & Deb Deardorff, Corona Naylor, Chris & Mary Rebscher, John Baker, Ginny Hoctor, Janet Hodge, Brenda Wolf, Sr. Thelma Steiger HSF, Sr. Miriam Ukeritis CSJ , Peter Hackney, Lucas Christiansen, Dale Kaplan, Jerry Smith, Wade Sprankle, Dulcie Perry, Ron Formosa, Gavin Crumbacker, Anna Kane, Sherry Dennis & Family, Remi Peters, Terry Ahn, K. Grance, Lori McFadden & Family, Mike & Lisa Poole, Mervin Weikert, Chastity Rudisill, Mary Ellen Wilson, Terry & Bernie Cabana, Ed & Aggie Sherensky & Family, Bob Raffensberger, Jerry & Ginny Miller, Adeline Lienard, Kaylee Henry, Nancy Wuller, Dr. Mike Colli, Mrs. Kelly Kump, Gabriel Singer, Sharon McCormley, Ron Thumma, Joe Wisotzkey, Leo Hockensmith, Erika McKissick, Jean "Heather" O'Shea, Scott Moore & Sally Moore, Mary Wyatt, Amy Weatherup, Sophia Joy Ernst, Deacon Richard Wentzel, Deacon Frank Enderle, Paul & Carolyn Topper, Kathleen Thompson, Rachel Wonders, Amy Edwards, Jean O’Connor, Jen Baldwin, Ursula Kaley, Deb Bennet, Larry Endy, Laura Lee, Marwa Abdelrahman, Donna Singley, Tim McGinn, Jane Kump, Peggy Neiderer, Chris Kimple, Robert Riquet, Gene & Jo-Ann McDannell, Bob Doxzen, Kimberly Mears, Gabriella Angello, Paul Angello, Mark & Kate Morrow, Mark Morris, Linda Fogleman, Paul Knight, George & Barbara Erstila, Jeff Carpenter, Lana & Nelson Harmon, Diane Slothour, Sue McDannell, Larry Schneider, Joe & Lisa Grasel, Ange Pena, Julie Barnhart, the Shaffer Family, Heather & Emma Dickerson, Brad Peabody, Paul Ward, Aiden Tyler Schneider, Dorothy Vega, Karrie McCall & daughter, George Shahid, Denise Navlyt, Drew Schneider & Family, Ida Bloomfield, Janie Singley, Mary Beth Greenstreet, Rick Benedict, Jan Patla, Kathey Fogleman, Sam Sheffler, Kate Hemmis, Bill & Mary Lou Graham, Andy Graham, Joanna Hodges, John Varones, Joan O’Sullivan, Martha Klinger, Lisa Dionne Lauretti, Jim Gleason, Sue Gustafson, Joe & Michelle Cleary, Kim Johnson, Helen Mills, Kathy Haber, Haley Detman, Joe Durovey, Bev Smith, Donald Sheppard, Linda Mumaugh, Alison Haring, Janet Hartman, Edward Johnson, Angela Galeone, Juliete Lang, Chris MacBeth, Harry Graham, Donald Howard, Armond Binni, Elizabeth Stansky, Pat Johnson, Chris Morris, Faud Doaney, Patrick Glass, Helen Lagasse, Nancy Kewisnek, Bill & Maureen Collins, Rosemary McGilloway, Anji Eisenhart, Monica Manner, Denny Borbonus, Dr. Paul Scarlata, Mary Hawthorne, Ed Washington, JoshKempinski, NancyBaltzey, Spencer Propts, Karlton Smith & Cheryl Sobun, James & Marylyn Sobun, Marlene Webster, Yvette Stoklosa, Andy Consiglio, Bill & Michelle Cloonan, Nelson Salem, Bill & Deb McClintock, **nursing home residents & shut-ins, the victims of war, violence, disease, disaster, & all private intentions.**

***Also in your prayers, please remember all our men***

***& women currently serving in our Armed Forces:***

**Lt. Col. Nathan Jeffcoat – US Marine Corps**

**Lt. Joseph Cleary – US Navy**

**Michael C. Kenney IV – US Coast Guard**

**Lt. Joshua Kimple – US Army**

**Lt. Sarah Fogleman, M.D. – US Navy**

**A1C Ian Bellinger ‒ PA Air National Guard**

**PRAYER CHAIN: Contact the Office**

***for the Week of December 30 to January 7, 2024***

SATURDAY, Dec. 30 – Vigil THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY

***Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 / Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 / Lk 2:22-40*** & JOSEPH

**5:00PM + Dominic “Buddy” DiBiccaro**

**SUNDAY, Dec. 31 – THE HOLY FAMILY**

***Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40***

**8:00AM ⁓ People of the Parish**

**10:30AM +.Pope Benedict XVI**

**NO VIGIL MASS for Mary, Mother of God**

**(obligation is lifted this year)**

**MONDAY, January 1, 2024**

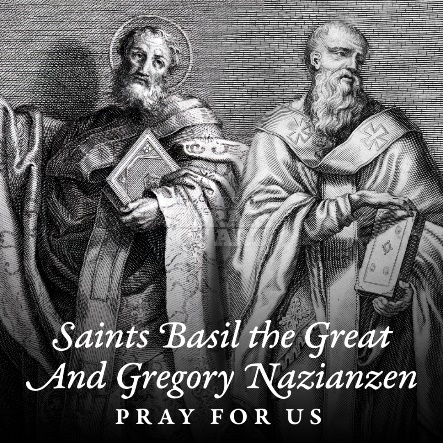
**SOLEMNITY of MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

***Nm 6:22-27 / Gal 4:4-7 / Lk 2:16-21***

**10:00AM ⁓ People of the Parish**

**Parish Office CLOSED**

**Tuesday, January 2 – *Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzus,***

***1 Jn 2:22-28 / Jn 1:19-28 Bishops &***

**8AM – 3PM ~ Office Open *Doctors of***

**10:00AM + Rev. John Acri *the Church***

**Wednesday, January 3 – *The Most Holy Name***

***1***  ***Jn 2:29—3:6 / Jn 1:29-34***  ***of Jesus***

**8AM – 3PM ~ Office Open**

**7:00PM + Jack Ryff**

6 – 6:45 Confessions; 7:40 Adoration; 8PM Benediction



Thursday, January 4 – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,

***1*** ***Jn 3:7-10 / Jn 1:35-42*** Religious

**8AM – 3PM ~ Office Open**

**10:00AM + James Shorb**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| https://external-content.duckduckgo.com/iu/?u=https%3A%2F%2Fi.ytimg.com%2Fvi%2FnrFIsnhU6VU%2Fhqdefault.jpg&f=1&nofb=1&ipt=623aeea2b07b3d0781e4fe6432c0ec94bea1fa48a5782943734901e3c0fca443&ipo=imagesFriday, January 5 – St. John Neumann,  ***1*** ***Jn 3:11-21 / Jn 1:43-51*** Bishop  **10:00AM + Anna Mera-Vellejos**  **Parish Office CLOSED** | THE LORD |  |



**SATURDAY, January 6 - *St. André Bessette, Religious***

***MORNING:*** ***1 Jn 5:5-13 / Mk 1:7-11***

SATURDAY, Jan. 6– Vigil of THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

***Is 60:1-6 / Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 / Mt 2:1-12***

**Happy 55th Wedding Anniversary to**

**Chip & Kaye Boyer**

**Love! From your children & grandchildren**

**5:00PM + Spec. Int. Richard & Kaye Boyer**



**SUNDAY, Jan. 7 – EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

***Is 60:1-6 / Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 / Mt 2:1-12***

**8:00AM + Renee Brady**

**10:30AM ⁓ People of the Parish**

**Sanctuary Candle offered for JANUARY: For Richard & Deb Deardorff and Family**



# Our True Home: Scott Hahn Reflects

# on the Feast of the Holy Family

Why did Jesus choose to become a baby born of a mother and father and to spend all but His last years living in an ordinary human family? In part, to reveal God’s Plan to make all people live as one “holy family” in His Church (see [2 Corinthians 6:16–18](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/2%20Cor%206.16%E2%80%9318)).

In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, God reveals our true home. We’re to live as His Children, “chosen ones, holy and beloved,” as the First Reading puts it. The family advice we hear in today’s readings — for mothers, fathers, and children — is all solid and practical. Happy homes are the fruit of our faithfulness to the LORD, we sing in today’s Psalm. But the Liturgy is inviting us to see more, to see how, through our family obligations and relationships, our families become heralds of the Family of God that He wants to create on earth.

Jesus shows us this in today’s Gospel. His obedience to His earthly parents flows directly from His obedience to the Will of His heavenly Father. Joseph and Mary aren’t identified by name, but three times are called His “parents” and are referred to separately as His “mother” and “father.” The emphasis is all on their familial ties to Jesus. But these ties are emphasized only so that Jesus, in the first words He speaks in Luke’s Gospel, can point us beyond that earthly relationship to the Fatherhood of God.

In what Jesus calls “My Father’s House,” every family finds its true meaning and purpose (see [Ephesians 3:15](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Eph%203.15)). The Temple we read about in the Gospel today is God’s House, His Dwelling (see [Luke 19:46](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Luke%2019.46)). But it’s also an image of the Family of God, the Church (see [Ephesians 2:19–22](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Eph%202.19%E2%80%9322); [Hebrews 3:3–6](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Heb%203.3%E2%80%936); [10:21](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Hebrews%2010.21)).

In our families we’re to build up this household, this family, this *living temple* of God until He reveals His new dwelling among us and says of every person: “I shall be his God and he will be My son” (see [Revelation 21:3](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Rev%2021.3), [7](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Revelation%2021.7)).

Readings: [*Sirach 3:2–6*](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Sirach%203.2%E2%80%936)*,* [*12–14*](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Sirach%203.12%E2%80%9314)*;* [*Psalm 128:1–2*](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Ps%20128.1%E2%80%932)*,* [*3*](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Psalm%20128.3)*,* [*4–5*](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Psalm%20128.4%E2%80%935)*;*[*Colossians 3:12–21*](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Col%203.12%E2%80%9321)*;* [*Luke 2:22–40*](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Luke%202.22%E2%80%9340)

Readings: [*Numbers 6:22–27*](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Num%206.22%E2%80%9327)*;* [*Psalm 67:2–3*](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Ps%2067.2%E2%80%933)*,* [*5–6*](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Psalm%2067.5%E2%80%936)*,* [*8*](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Psalm%2067.8)*;* [*Galatians 4:4–7*](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Gal%204.4%E2%80%937)*;* [*Luke 2:16–21*](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Luke%202.16%E2%80%9321)

**Sunday Collection Summary for Dec. 23 & 24**

**and the Holy Day of Christmas**

**Weekend Collections**

Regular Offering (4th Sun. of Advent) $ 2,677.00

Immaculate Conception $ 20.00

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God $ 25.00

Thanksgiving $ 20.00

**TOTAL OFFERINGS $ 7,773.00**

**‒ WEEKLY BUDGETARY NEEDS** **$ 4,494.00**

+Overage or (Shortfall) for the week +$ 3,279.00

Christmas $ 5,051.00

Christmas (previous weeks) $ 1,195.00

**TOTAL CHRISTMAS $ 6,246.00**

‒ Christmas Budgeted Offering $ 6,000.00

+Overage/(Shortfall) for the Holy Day +$ 246.00

**Other Income**

Candles/Living Faith $ 153.50

Cemetery Annual Care $ 20.00

Christmas Flowers $ 160.00

Individual Contributions $ 5,000.00

**Total Other Offerings** **$ 5,333.50**

**Diocesan Second Collections**

Church in Eastern Europe & Africa $ 15.00

Retirement for Religious $ 5.00

**Total Diocesan Offerings $ 20.00**

# Scott Hahn Reflects on Mary, The Mother of God

On this Holy Day, we give thanks to Mary, the Mother of God [the Holy *Theotokas* in Greek]. Her response to the Angel, born of a humble heart, brought us life and salvation in the Child conceived in her womb.

From before all ages, God had destined her for this decisive role in salvation history. She was to be the woman who in the fullness of time would bear God’s only Son, as Paul tells us in today’s Epistle.

In times past, God spoke to His chosen people, the Isra-elites, through Prophets (see [Hebrews 1:1–2](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Heb%201.1%E2%80%932)), and imparted His blessings upon them through His priests, as we hear in today’s First Reading.

But now, He has sent His Son to reveal His glory and His Kingdom, to make His way of salvation known to all nations, as we sing in today’s Psalm. In the Infant lying in the manger, God has shone His Face upon us (see [John 14:8–9](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/John%2014.8%E2%80%939)).

Jesus is made a child of Isra-el, an heir of God’s Covenant with Abraham, by His circumcision in today’s Gospel (see [Genesis 17:1–14](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Gen%2017.1%E2%80%9314)). And we have been made adopted sons and daughters by Baptism, which is the “circumcision” of Christ, the true circumcision (see [Colossians 2:11](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Col%202.11); [Philippians 3:3](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Phil%203.3)).

As Children of God, St. Paul says today, we are heirs of the Father’s blessings, which He promised to bestow on all peoples through the descendants of Abraham (see [Genesis 12:3](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Gen%2012.3); [22:18](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Genesis%2022.18); [Galatians 3:14](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Gal%203.14)). This is the Blessing that Aaron imparted to Isra-el, the people descended from Abraham. And this blessing comes to us through Mary and the Child.

This is the good news of great joy that the shepherds make known in Bethlehem today (see [Luke 2:10](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Luke%202.10)). Like the shepherds, we too should make haste today to find Jesus with Mary and Joseph, to glorify God for His blessings. And like Mary, we should keep His word and reflect upon it, letting it dwell richly in our hearts ([Colossians 3:16](https://biblia.com/bible/rsvce/Col%203.16)).



**Kenneth Swartz, Dominic DeToma, The Swartz family & DeToma family.**

**From: Lena Swartz**

**Deceased members of the Smith & MacBeth Families.**

**From: Donald & Diane MacBeth**

**Clara Redding, Mary Redding, George Lambert, Ted Fanwell, Louise Deardorff, Dennis Plunkert, Rosy Plunkert, Ken Mcdannell, & Betty MacBeth.**

**From: Brian & Pam Redding**

**Barbara & Darrel Gillin, Vicki & Freeman Showers, Jeff & Michelle Cramer; Marie, Calvin & Nita Cook, Catherine & Robert Wonders, Dorothy & Kenneth Gillin.**

**From: Mr. & Mrs. Cramer**

**Family & Friends**

**From: Winifred Schulteis**

**Mr. & Mrs. L. Blaine Sanders Sr., Mr & Mrs. Kermit E. Singley sr., Mr. Rick Gochenauer, & Mr. Mark A. Sanders Sr.**

**From: Mr. & Mrs. John Sanders**

**JoAnn Gallagher**

**From: Daniel Gallagher**

**Deceased members of the Finamore & Dunchak Families.**

**From: Irene Finamore**

**John & Betty Ernst, & James & Esther Delaney.**

**From: Greg & Peggy Ernst**

**The Kane family, Strasbaugh family, Beidel family, Staver family.**

**From: Angie Kane**

**Jerry Breier & Don Peron**

**From: Marilyn Peron**

**The Schur & Hartman Families**

**From: Mark & Penny Schur**

**Frank & Lois Bavetz**

**From: Christopher & Julie Monzi**

**Lloyd Coffman Sr., Pauline Coffman, Randy Coffman, Lloyd Coffman Jr., Jessie Carbaugh, Bobby Ellis, Barb Fissel, & Merle Bucher.**

**From: Mr. & Mrs. Charles Baker**



**William & Janette Rowe**

**From: Barbara Lee Molloy**

**Deceased members of the Kolleogy & Kime families.**

**From: Lou & Rhonda Kolleogy**

**Richard Hovelmann**

**From: Janice Meligakes**

**Betty Steinberger & Millie Morrison**

**From: Richard Steinberger**

**Anthony & Anna Gatto, Claude & Mary Mobley**

**From: Philip & Lynne Mobley**

**Bill Rollins, Bill Sr. & Dot Rollins, & Joseph Miller Family.**

**From: Kathleen Rollins**

**In memory of the deceased members of the Allwein &**

**McCleaf Families.**

**From: Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Allwein**

**George & Alice Bowling, Children; Robert, Elaine, & Wayne. Robert Kayhoe Jr., & Victor & Anna Re.**

**From: Arthur & Marie Re**

**Joseph Siko & Roberta Schwartz**

**From: Donnaleigh Siko**

**Dave & Jo Demichei**

**From: Diane Ebersole**

**Sam & Elsie Tarquino, Raymond & Maxine Minnich, Joseph & Rose Sperduto, & Robert Joseph Morris.**

**From: Mat & Ali Morris**

**James Cornell, The Cornell Family, The Kwisnek Family,**

**& the Borbanus Family.**

**From: Beth Cornell**

**Marian & Edward Grady**

**From: Marilyn Snyder**

**Timothy & Andrew Heller, Joseph & Sara Keller, Robert & Geneva Heller.**

**From: Martha Heller**

**The Vega & Rendina families**

**From: Dorothy Vega**

**Walter & Elizabeth Prucnal, Walterene Prucnal,**

**Joe & Nora Merrill.**

**From: Cynthia Merrill**

**Ron Grance, Effie & Don Heffner, Hedwig & Theodore Grance.**

**From: Catherine Grance**

**Mr. & Mrs. Dale Baker, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Michael Baker.**

**From: John Baker**

****

**Jim & Delores Gilbert**

**From: All of their loving Children**

**Bernenda, Franklin Walter & Family, Margarette, Paul McDannell & Family,**

**Mary & John McKenrick, Bill Denderlan, Paul Larson, & Dean Speelman.**

**From: Carol & Bernie McDannell**

**Deceased members of John I Hall Family, Paul & Rosellen Martz, Johnny Hall.**

**From: Paul & Mary Ellen Hall**

**Mr. & Mrs. John A. Stossel, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Irr, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Pawloski, Mr. & Mrs. Josseph O’Rourke, & Mr. James Head.**

**From: Mr. & Mrs. John Stossel**

**Trish-Ann Weishaar**

**From: Ron Weishaar**

**Mary E. & John J. Wendland, Thomas, Pauline & Stanley Lesinski, Mary E. & Peter wendland, Irene & Christian Rebscher Jr.**

**From: Christian & Mary Rebscher III**



**OTHER DONORS:**

**Jim & Ginny Bittle Christian A. Rebscher Donny Althoff**

**Michelle Dominguez Patricia Johnson Bicky Redman**

**Mr. & Mrs. Formosa Ken Cole Cheryl Sobun & Karlton Smith**

**Mr. & Mrs. Collins Dean Martz Kathy & Steve Kane**

**Joan Mears Dennis Kump Bob & Linda Hockensmith**

**Christine McCarty Richard & Kaye Boyer The Dabney’s**







# The Different Meanings of Christmas Flowers

During Christmastime, we are often reminded of seasons past spent with those we love. Christmas flowers are the perfect selection for creating a beautifully personalized piece for the holiday season. Each flower and plant selection has a [symbolic](https://mobilememorialgardens.com/memorials-monuments/) meaning that is as beautiful as the plant itself.

**Poinsettia**

Poinsettias are synonymous with the Christmas season. The vibrant leaves of the Poinsettia are known as bracts and come in shades of red, white and pink. Most people believe the star shape of the bract represents the Star of Bethlehem which guided the Wise Men to Jesus. A Poinsettia’s red leaves signify the Blood of Christ and its white leaves symbolize the purity of the Son of God.

Another legend of the Poinsettia tells the story of a young Mexican girl who brought Poinsettias to a church altar on Christmas Eve. She was too poor to buy a gift and felt ashamed of her plants. She placed her bouquet of weeds at the foot of the church’s nativity scene, when suddenly the bracts of the Poinsettia began to bloom, revealing a bright red shade. The congregation considered this a miracle and from then on referred to Poinsettias as "Flores de Noche Buena" or "Flowers of the Holy Night".

**Holly**

The red and green shades of the holly plant represent the two most popular colors of the holiday season. A Holly plant’s pointed green leaves are said to symbolize the crown of thorns worn by Jesus, while the red berries signify the Blood that He shed.

**Christmas Rose**

The Christmas Rose is associated with Jesus’ Birth and the story of a young shepherdess named Madelon. Madelon was saddened that she did not have a gift to offer Baby Jesus and, as she wept, an Angel appeared. While consoling Madelon, the Angel swept away snow to reveal a collection of white flowers with pink tips. This cluster of flowers would be Madelon’s gift to the newborn Christ-Child and thus, the tradition of the Christmas Rose was born.

**Mistletoe**

The story of this traditional Christmas flower dates back to the pagan druids of ancient Britain who used this plant during their winter celebrations. Because of its ability to stay green for periods of time without being rooted, the druids believed Mistletoe possessed magical powers that brought good luck and warded off evil spirits.