

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH December 30, 2007

*"Brothers and sisters:
Put on, as God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved,
heartfelt compassion, kindness,
humility, gentleness, and patience,
bearing with one another
and forgiving one another,
if one has a grievance against another;
as the Lord has forgiven you,
so must you also do.
And over all these put on love,
that is, the bond of perfection."
-- Colossians 3: 12-13 --*

THE HOLY FAMILY

On this Sunday between Christmas and New Year's, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. This celebration reminds us of the importance of the family. By faith and Baptism, we have all been called to membership in God's family. The more fully we live as God's family, the more clearly we show God's love to the world in which we live.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

We want to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a very blessed and happy New Year! May the Year 2008 be a grace-filled year with many opportunities for growth in love. May God's love guide and protect each day of the year.

Father McGarry
Father Hornick
Father Altavilla

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, **January 1, 2008**, is the **Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God**, a **holyday of obligation**. Our Mass schedule for the holyday is as follows:

Monday, December 31:

4:00 P.M. Mass at the Church of Saint Benedict

5:00 P.M. Mass at Our Lady of the Snows Church

Tuesday, January 1:

7:00 A.M. Mass at Our Lady of the Snows Church

8:00 A.M. Mass at the Church of Saint Benedict

11:00 A.M. Mass at the church of Saint Benedict

11:15 A.M. Mass at Our Lady of the Snows Church

HIGH SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our religious education program for high school students involves a **released time program** in which students are released from high school for religion classes. We encourage all high school students in our parish who attend public high school to consider participating in our once-a-month classes. To register for this class, please contact **Steve Wallo, our parish Youth Minister**. Permission forms must be signed by parents; students are transported by bus to the class and

back to the school. Please consider participating. Check with **Steve Wallo** for the schedule.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Because of the holiday schedule, this bulletin had to be prepared earlier than usual. Thank you for your sacrificial gifts to the church. As soon as possible, we will list the offerings for Christmas and the weekends of this holiday season. Thank you for all that you do for our parish. Your generous sharing of your treasure with your church family. Your generosity makes possible the day-to-day life of our parish community with its many ministries. **Thank You!** (We need to average **\$15,900.00** weekly in order to make ends meet and take care of our beautiful buildings and properties and maintain our many ministries.)

WINTER WEATHER

Because we have come to depend on your regular generosity in order to make ends meet, please, if at all possible, consider making up your weekly offering the following week whenever the bad winter weather prevents you from getting to Mass on a weekend. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

A REMEMBRANCE IN YOUR WILL

If you are able, a remembrance for your parish in your will is a wonderful way to provide for the future well-being of your parish community. Thank you for considering this very special way of sharing with your parish family.

BAPTISM CLASS FOR PARENTS

The next **Baptism Class for parents** will be on **Sunday evening, January 27, 2008, at 6:30 P.M.** A Baptism class is required for all parents of children being baptized. If parents have already attended one of these classes, they are not required to attend one before the Baptism of another baby. Parents may attend these classes at any time before the Baptism. Parents may choose to attend the class before the birth of their baby if this is more convenient. Godparents are more than welcome to attend. Please call the parish office (586-1741) to register.

BAPTISM

ALORAH ELIZABETH HOSKER, daughter of Timothy and Crystal Starr Hosker and ROLON JUSTIN RICHARD, son of Rolon and Christine Leo Richard will be born into Jesus' life and welcomed into the family of the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend. We congratulate her and her parents.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The Resurrection Choir

This Choir sings at funerals. For further information, please call Jennie at the parish office.

Cantors

If you would like more information about our cantor Program, please call Jennie at the Parish Office.

Choir

Please call Jennie at 586-1741.

2007 DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Thank you to all who have made a pledge or gift to this year's Diocesan Annual Appeal. Your Generosity will help the Church at the diocesan level to accomplish much good in the name of all of us. To date, members of our parish have pledged **\$71,873.00** to this year's Diocesan Annual Appeal. This represents **70%** of our parish goal of **\$103,300.00** and the participation of **628** families or individuals in our parish. **If you have not already made a pledge or a gift, it is not too late.** You can make a pledge and pay it in five monthly payments beginning in January 2008. Thank you for whatever you are able to do. **Thank you** again for all that you do for the Church in our parish and our diocese.

MENDED HEARTS

"Anyone with heart related ailments and their families are cordially invited to attend a meeting of MENDED HEARTS, in the large conference room, 2nd floor Mercy Hospital, Scranton, PA. Tom Walsh, Mercy Hospital Chef, will be the guest speaker. He will be demonstrating how to prepare a heart healthy dessert. Applications for membership will be available, at the meeting, for those wishing to become members of this organization. The public is welcome. For additional information please contact Jack Walsh at 340-4842

NEW IN THE PARISH?

If you are new in the parish and have not yet registered, you are invited to become a registered member of our parish community. You can stop at the parish office or you can call the office (586-1741) and ask to have a census form sent to you. When the census form is completed, you can drop it in the collection basket any weekend or send it or bring it to the parish office. **We are happy to have you as a member of our parish community.**

WEEKLY BULLETIN ON PARISH WEB PAGE

See our parish web page at www.OLSSB.com for our weekly parish bulletin. You can locate the bulletin by pressing Bulletin on the main page. The bulletin will be placed there each week a few days before the weekend. The bulletins of previous weeks will remain on the website for several months or longer.

BULLETIN BRIEFS

I appeal to political leaders not to allow children to be considered as a form of illness, nor to abolish in practice your legal system's acknowledgment that abortion is wrong. I say this out of a concern for humanity. But that is only one side of this disturbing problem. The other is the need to do everything possible to make European countries once again open to welcoming children. Encourage young married couples to establish new families and to become mothers and fathers! You will not only assist them, but you will benefit society as a whole.

***** YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS *****

We are asking your help with your email address if you have one. If you have not yet done so, please consider sending it to the parish office (ols2@epix.net) or writing it on the front of one of your church envelopes. Certain mailings and financial reports and letters can be sent by e-mail. This can result in a substantial savings in terms of labor and postage (especially with the increase this year of the postage rates) if we can send a large portion of these by e-mail. Thank you for considering this request.

VIRTUS PROGRAM

To remain in compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of God's Children and Young People* set by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, all volunteers who work 20 hours or more with children **MUST** have the one time Virtus Training. If you have not attended training please check the diocesan websites for future training sessions at www.dioceseofscranton.org then click on Departments and Resources, then click on *Virtus: Protecting God's Children*.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday

7:00 A.M. John P. Rousseau Doreen Rousseau
12:10 P.M. John Petroshek Lee Electric Supply
4:00 P.M. Ernest Columbo Gary Bank
5:00 P.M. Timothy Dougher Rogers Family

Tuesday,

7:00 A.M. OLS All members of the parish
8:00 A.M. CSB Bruney Nowakowski Wife/Family
11:00 A.M. CSB Thomas Keeler Family
11:15 A.M. OLS John Mysko Chris/Sharon Calvey

Wednesday

7:00 A.M. Eugene Gavin Jack/Deirdre
Gilligan/Family
12:10 P.M. Anna/John Banick M/M Joseph Mosier

Thursday

7:00 A.M. Stanley Campbell Wife
12:10 P.M. Suzanne Mastri James Tedesco

Friday

7:00 A.M. Robyn Jackson Evelyn
12:10 P.M. Mary Kracoski Ammerman Family

Saturday

4:00 P.M. Michael Paolucci, Sr. Terri Backus
5:00 P.M. Joseph Sewack Tom/Patti Berquist
6:30 P.M. Paul Yadouga Stanley/Leona Bozenko

Sunday

7:00 A.M. For all members of the parish
8:00 A.M. Kevin Brown Maureen Kearney
9:30 A.M. Gilbert Carozzi M/M David Lewandoski
11:00 A.M. Frank Savo, Jr. Ellen Zelek
11:15 A.M. Catherine Monahan George/Kathy/Michael
12:20 P.M. Cyril Franko Michael/Margie Stanik

A PRAYER PLEASE- Your prayers are requested for all the sick and deceased members of our parish and community and especially William McCall.

COMMUNITY NEWS

WE THANK those who brought Sugar this weekend. If you can, please bring Canned Soup next weekend. Your generosity will not go unnoticed by a grateful Lord.

ST. GREGORY'S TO HOST NOTRE DAME CHORALE CONCERT.. As part of their Winter Tour, the University of Notre Dame Chorale, a singing group of about 35 students, will give a free concert at The Church of St. Gregory in Clarks Green on Monday, January 7, 2008, at 7 P.M. The concert is being presented by the Notre Dame Club of Scranton, and will be open to the public. We are looking for families who would be willing to house two students for the night of the concert. If you are able to open your home to these young people, please call Bill and Judy Burkavage at 587-1876. Thank you!

LITURGY COMMITTEE NOTES

Did you know?

The feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is celebrated on the Sunday falling within the octave of Christmas. It is a relatively new feast – added to the Church's calendar in the early part of the last century. During a season fostering the centrality of family, this feast emphasizes the unity and love so evident in Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The orations of the Mass emphasize the core meaning of this Feast: "We want to live as Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, in peace with you and one another." Yes! We want to live in the same kind of relationship with God that the Holy Family has with God. We want our families to be united in peace and in love. (Written by Steve LaRue; Sourcebook 2008)

The Liturgy Committee would like to wish everyone a very happy, holy and healthy New Year.

Weekly Inspiration: 12/30/07 Feast of the Holy Family

Lord, let us live as Jesus, Mary and Joseph in peace with you and one another.

Weekly Inspiration: 1/01/2008 Mary, Mother of God

Mary, our mother, lead us to your son, Jesus.

Readings for 1/1/08 – Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21.

Songs for 1/1/08 – Gathering Hymn: "O, Come All Ye Faithful" #207; Communion Song: "Blest are They" #409 Closing Song: "Let There Be Peace on Earth" #459

Readings for 1/6/08 – Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Songs for 1/6/08 – Gathering Hymn: "We Three Kings" #229; Communion Song: "The First Noel" #228; Closing Song: "Go Tell It On the Mountain" #217

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NEIGHBORHOOD PARISHES VOLUNTEER POSITION

Please accept the call to help with our Neighborhood Parish (NP) program. We are constantly increasing the number of neighborhoods as we move toward the goal of placing all parishioners in a small group with 10-15 other families who live in the same natural, geographic area.

The NP program cannot function without NP representatives, couples or individuals who fulfill the program goals of welcoming, contacting, and inviting every member of our very large parish to a parish social function each year. This is a very important position, and our staff is ready to make it easy and enjoyable. With four years of experience, we share ideas; we provide networking; and we offer social events for members of NPs.

If you are not currently in a NP, please consider calling Kate or Carol at the Parish Center to find out more about the satisfying role of Neighborhood Parish Representative (NPR). If you are new to the parish and are looking for ways to become involved, this would be a perfect way to get to know your neighbors and provide a valuable service to Our Lady of the Snows.

CHURCH CLEANERS FOR ST. BENEDICT'S

We are in need of some additional people to help clean St. Benedict's Church. This involves approximately two hours, once a month. If you are interested or need more information, please call Carol at the Parish Office.

USHERS

We are looking for men or women who attend the 11:15A.M. Mass at Our Lady of the Snows Church to become ushers. If you are interested or need further information, please speak to one of the priests or call Carol at the Parish Center.

If you know a parishioner who is ill or homebound and needs a visit, communion, or help, please fill out the card below and drop at the parish center or in the basket.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____
() sick () homebound () in hospital
() nursing home
() would like communion
() would like a visit

() needs Sacrament of the sick

() needs other assistance

FAMILY MINISTRY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next bereavement session will be **on Sunday January 13th at 2:00pm** in The Gathering Room. For more information call Nettie at 586-1741. .
Bereavement Support for Parents: Please call Sue Brier at 586-2162.

CONVERSATION CORNER

It is not easy to be a true Christian. It is not a matter of declaring that Jesus is our Lord. It is a matter of living according to Jesus' example. We want our world to be just and fair and we are upset because it isn't. However, as Christians, we are called to change ourselves, not the world. We are to bear with each other, to forgive again and again, and most of all to love not just our friends but enemies too. The more Christ-like we become, the more peaceful our spirit will be.

FOR BETTER FOR WORSE

It's easy to say that communication is the most important aspect of any relationship and in a marriage it is the ultimate issue. Communication is not a one-time fix, it evolves over time and it takes continuous work and consideration. Some of the keys to success for us include a) feelings and perceptions are reality, b) mutual respect for each other as a person, c) try not to act defensively, and d) hear each other out—listen, thank about it and then respond. *Mike Vinup*

MOTHERS GROUP

The Mother's group will meet on the **1st and 3rd Friday 10:00-11:30am beginning in January at the home of Annie James.** . All mothers are welcome to join us for a morning of socializing, faith sharing, For more information or for directions call Annie James at 586-6199.

Can You Help Us? Can We Help You?

Prayers. If you or someone you know is in need of prayers, or if you wish to become a prayer partner in our prayer chain. **Transportation** to mass, grocery store, doctor's appt. **Home visit Communion visit/ Respite care. Temporary help providing meals** during recovery from surgery, family member being hospitalized, new baby, etc. **If you are in need of any of these services, or if you can help out please call Nettie @ 586-1741.**

LAZARUS MINISTRY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

The Lazarus Ministry is a group of volunteers to prepare a meal for the bereaved family in The Gathering Room (lower level of the Church) after the funeral of their loved one.

We can use volunteers to help with the cooking, setting up of the tables, serving the meal, and cleaning up

afterwards. Please consider helping out in any way possible. For more information or to sign up call Nettie at 586-1741 or June Burns at 586-2048.

Only you can help...please read on.

Side By Side is a network of people in our parish who have experienced a difficult situation or "cross" in their life, (cancer, amputation, mastectomy, miscarriage, SIDS, Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimer's Disease, death of a child, caring for an elderly parent, unwed pregnancy, child on drugs, etc.) Are you willing to simply talk to someone who is going through a similar situation? Are you willing to help another by sending a card, or making a phone call telling someone you understand? Then your help is needed in the **Side By Side Ministry.** The Apostle Paul implores us to "Bear one another's burdens", and there is no one who can bear another's burden as well as someone who has been there himself/herself .All information is held in confidence. For more information about this ministry or to help out please call Nettie Goldate, Director of Family Ministry @ 586-1741.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CLUSTER LEADERS AND PARENTS: PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT IS THIRTY (30) HOURS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PER YEAR.

Cluster Leaders please make sure you make up cancelled sessions, and parents please take your

CLUSTER GROUPS : PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PARISH'S... A NIGHT AT THE RACES!!!

Gift Baskets, gift certificates, lottery tickets, and the selling of tickets will be greatly appreciated. All baskets and certificates will be given out as a raffle and door prizes, please have your group's donation in by January 25th. All horse sales ticket stubs and money must be in on January 28th.

child's attendance seriously in our religious education program.

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WINTER WEATHER CANCELLATION PROCEDURE FOR SUNDAY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM
During inclement weather on Sunday mornings, please check our website at www.OLSSB.com or call the rectory at 586-1741 and press #5 on the menu for the holiday schedule. Also watch WBRE TV

Channel 3. Announcements will be made by 8:30am in case of class cancellation.

Give some basketball lessons, help a friend in your dance class with their routine, help a friend practice piano, violin, etc.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

No class the week of Dec. 23rd-January 6th.
Classes resumes the week of January 13, 2008.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Please submit your confirmation name and sponsor's name if you have not already done so. Also sponsors need a sponsor card from their parish (not if they are a member of Our Lady of the Snows/Church of St. Benedict). This information is due to later than January 31st.

CONFIRMATION RETREATS:

Confirmation candidates **MUST** attend **one** of the following retreats.

February 2nd (For students last names beginning A-K)

or **February 23rd** (students last names beginning L-Z)

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR. MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE HOURS

30 HOURS TOTAL (15 Parish-15 community)
All service projects and hours must be submitted by **March 27, 2008.**

Please call Nettie at the the parish office and submit your name to be called for upcoming parish projects. If you are in need of hours.

1. Call Steve Wallo for future parish and community service projects at 586-1741 or check a Youth Ministry Corner in Bulletin
2. Waverly Elementary PTA can use help 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm at the school. Call Mary at 575-1691 for more information.
3. Call Patty Rowland @ 587-5572 or Mary Jo Loboda @ 563-0912 for collection of items needed for Haiti Project.
4. Rake leaves for your neighbors.
5. St. Francis Soup Kitchen call 342-5556
6. Cleaning of the Church call Carol at 586-1741
7. Do light housekeeping for an elderly relative or friend.
8. Volunteer to walk a neighbor's dog after school or on weekends.
9. Volunteer your time babysitting so a parent can Christmas shop, or do other Christmas preparations, baking, wrapping etc.
10. Tutor a younger student or peer in an subject/area in which you excel. (DO NOT DO THEIR HOMEWORK-HELP THEM UNDERSTAND HOW TO DO THEIR HOMEWORK

YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER

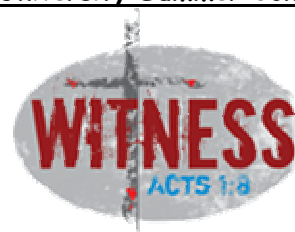
The youth ministry at Our Lady of the Snows is all encompassing. We have several different Teams based on different youth interests. Any high school youth can join any of these teams at any time. We hold a general planning meeting on every **Wednesday night from 7:00PM until 8:00PM.**

A Jr. High Youth program the meets weekly is available for any youth in grades 7 and 8. **Team meetings are Sunday from 1:00PM until 2:00PM.** Please call ahead if you're a new student who wishes to join.

Scheduled Events for 2007-2008

January TBA Bus to Nowhere
February 2nd & 23rd 8th Grade Confirmation Retreats
February 28th – March 2nd ... Vermont Ski Weekend
March 14th Living Way of the Cross
June 14th – 15th Relay for Life
June 18th Light the Fire Youth Rally
June 23rd – 27th Vacation Bible School
June 29th – July 5th West Virginia Mission Trip
July 11th – 13th Franciscan Youth Conference

Franciscan University Summer Conference 2008



Spots are now available for the 2008 summer conference in Steubenville, OH. Last year was the first year for thirteen OLS students to experience what this conference has to offer. Every one of those students can't wait to return this year! We have spots for 20 students this time around. They will definitely go fast!

Every year the Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH reaches out to 36,000 teens. This year, we'll be a part of it. It will be a three day weekend, July 11th – 13th 2008. Cost usually runs about \$225 for the weekend (transportation, meals, registration, tee shirts) Fund raising is done to bring down the cost (i.e. Luminary sales).

Open to those entering 9th grade to recent 12 grade graduates.

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8.

2008 Vermont Ski Weekend Trip

February 28th through March 4th is skiing time and it's time to book your spot! Flyers, reservation forms, and brochures will be available soon in the Youth Office. This trip is open to all high school students and those in 7th and 8th grade if an older sibling or parent is going.

-3 day ski pass

-5 meals

-3 nights at the Round Hearth at Stowe Mt.

-Round Trip Transportation

-Loads of Fun

Approximate Price: \$330.00

\$100 reserves your spot. Get your deposit in as soon as possible for this awesome trip!

If you are interested in more information, call Steve at the Church: 586-1741. **Forms are available for download under the Youth section of OLSSB.com**

Ski for Lupus

The 11th Annual ski for lupus event is being held on January 13th 2008 at Elk Mountain. Tickets are only **\$20** and are for 12:30 – 4:30PM or 4:30 – 10:00PM.

Please call 570-558-2008 for tickets. Buy them by January 11th 2008!

High School Religious Ed Program

This program is open to all High School students in the Abington Heights School District. PA's Time Release Law allows students to be released from school for up to 33 hours a year for Religious Education experiences.

Students who sign up for the program have the choice of leaving school for 3 hours on a scheduled date once a month and are bused to Fatima Center for the program. Lunch is provided. **If you did not get one and would like to sign up for this program, forms are available online at OLSSB.com under the Youth section. If you'd like a paper copy, you can call the Parish Office.**

Odds and Ends

- **Young Adult Ministry** – new ministry for college age and those just starting out in their careers. Open to married and single, college years until 30's. A planning team for this ministry is in the formation stages: We have several on the team already. If you'd like to be a part of it, contact Steve.
- For all the latest information, call Steve at the Youth Office: 586-1741 or join our weekly e-mail list by sending an e-mail to WalloInc@aol.com

Anyone who has a family member or friend that is active military, please call the Parish Office and give us his/her name, rank and complete mailing address and if possible, when his/her tour will end. This information will be periodically published in your Parish Bulletin so parishioners can send them care packages (including food, letters, books, etc.) Thank you.

1st Lt. Donnie M. Fricks

Capt. Greg Corrales

Mitt Team 2

BTT 4323

Limit 73746

Unit 40676

FPO AE 09509-3746

TPO AP 96426-0676

Matthew McCarty

Joseph Komensky

CMR 405

CSTC-A-Capt-F

Box 5779

APO AE 09356

APOAE 09034

Lt. Michael D. Dovilla,

USN Nathaniel Schrier

MNC-1 CJTF Troy

Alpha Co. 1/504 PIR

Unit #42007, J2

2nd BCT, 82 ABN DIV

APO AE 09342

Unit #41556, FOB Loyalty

APO AE 09390-1556

Richard Grenfell

CTC

Camp Phoenix

APO AE 09320

Jenkins, Anthony

PVT2

HHC I CD DSTBDSS

APO AEO9344