

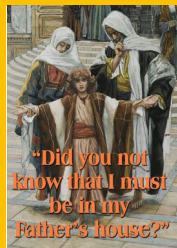
December 29, 2024

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

MASS INTENTIONS

Live-stream All Masses on the West Sac OLG YouTube Channel

Table with columns for Day, Date, Time, and Intention. Includes entries for Sunday (Dec 28-29), Monday (Dec 30), Tuesday (Dec 31), Wednesday (Jan 01-02), Thursday (Jan 02), Friday (Jan 03), and Saturday (Jan 04).



WHY?

“But they did not understand what he said to them.” Mary and Joseph have just experienced every parent's worst nightmare: their son was missing for THREE DAYS, as they searched and asked and retraced the steps of their journey. Imagine their relief when they returned to the Temple and saw him at last. Surely they ran to him with joy and exasperation, only to hear his answer, “Why were you looking for me?” Why? WHY?!

Of course they did not understand what he said to them. Their hearts had gone through the wringer of fear and anxiety, their imaginations had probably thought of worse case scenarios, their minds could not understand why he would separate himself from the ones who loved him and had supplied his every need in every moment of his life up until then. And he seems to give a dismissive answer, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” Like a sword to the hearts of Joseph and Mary, his response does not seem to take their anxieties into account.

This is hard to understand, so hard that Mary must store it away to ponder later, as we are told she “kept all these things in her heart.” But he returns to their home in Nazareth, and is obedient to them.

This Holy Family did not have a schedule given to them from Heaven. Yes, they were holy; yes, Jesus was the Incarnate Son of God; yes, Mary was sinless; yes, Joseph was a just man. They were good Jews, subject to the Jewish Law and open to the will of the Father. But they did not know where the will of the Father would take them. It took them to Bethlehem when they should have been preparing at home for the birth of Jesus. It took them to Egypt for several years to flee the murderous rage of Herod when they wanted to return home with their infant. It took them back to Nazareth at last, where they raised a child they knew to be the Messiah. And it took them over a painful journey of three days to find him in the Temple.

What did this require of them? The same thing that it requires of us: loving trust. They are the model for us of a life of love and trust, obedience and patience, great faith and hope and humility, knowing the will of the Father is always for our good, even when it is difficult.

Let us pray for the grace to continue to submit ourselves to the will of the Father, especially when it is hard to understand, when it seems something else would be better, when it costs us. It is then that our trust is deepened and our love grows.

(Kathryn Mulderink)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary



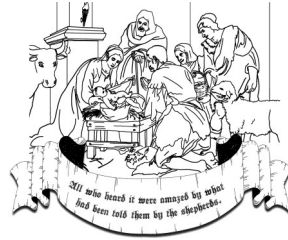
Mother of God

Wednesday • Jan 1st • Holy Day •

1/1 - Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God 9 AM Mass.

1/3 - First Friday 8:30 AM Mass; and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:00 PM

1/4 - First Saturday 8:30 AM Mass



The Parish Office is CLOSED on Tuesday, December 31, and Wednesday, January 1, in observance of New Year’s Day.

Father Mathew, Deacon Dave and Staff wish you God’s rich blessings of love and joy now and in the new year!



The Our Lady of Grace Music Ministry is looking for new pianist and guitarists who can sing and play music for Mass. Liturgical training will be provided but some proficiency with your instrument is required. Any interested musicians or referrals, please email liturgy@westsacolg.org or contact the Parish Office for more information.



December 29, 2024

Your Mission, Should You Choose to Accept It...

At the end of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus gathered his disciples and gave them the Great Commission: go and make disciples of all nations. Families have a particular role to play: go and make disciples of your spouse and all your children! Admittedly, the mission of the family is not for the fainthearted. It entails sacrifice and sometimes heartache, but all of that is meant to bring spouses closer together and further along the path to holiness. When husbands and wives accept the challenge of married life, their lives build a community of love and radiate that love to the world.

The foundation of the family is love. St John Paul II even called families “schools of love.” In families, husbands and wives marry in love, then see their love deepen through the myriad good times and challenges of a lifetime of marriage, as long as they are willing to accept the challenge. Spouses have the unique mission of helping each other get to Heaven!

Accepting the added challenge of welcoming children deepens our understanding of our own giftedness and dependence on God. Parents are tasked with teaching their children how to be human. What a concept! Through the family, the school of love, children learn most importantly that they are beloved children of God intended to be with him forever in Heaven. Our world today is full of noise and distraction; young people often feel purposeless, unmoored. The mission of the family is needed now more than ever!

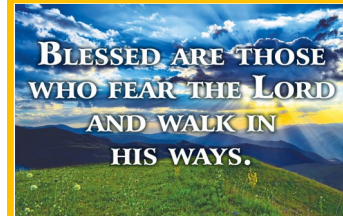
This mission, making disciples in our own families, radiates well beyond the walls of our homes. Families, filled with the love of Jesus and love for each other, invite others to experience love and understand their own purpose. Should you choose to accept it, the mission will change you and transform the world!

“Spouses, in virtue of the Sacrament, are invested with a true and proper mission, so that starting with the simple ordinary things of life, they may make visible the love with which Christ loves His Church.” (Pope Francis, April 2, 2014, n. 2)



www.radiatelove.info

A STEWARD MAKES GOD’S LOVE VISIBLE BY IMITATING JESUS.



SERVICE

Weekly Budget Goal: \$4,271.00 Thank you for sharing your blessings with our Church!

END-OF-THE-CALENDAR-YEAR CONTRIBUTION - Many individuals will make charitable contributions late in the calendar year to take advantage of tax benefits. In order to do so, checks must be dated and envelopes postmarked on or before December 31, 2024. If you are in the position to make end-of-year contributions, please consider our parish as a beneficiary of your support. As always, thank you for your loving support!



May God bless us in his mercy.

PRAYER

Pray for the sick, especially in our parish: Sonja Craighton, Michael Vilhauer, Shirley Chiang, Pacing McFeely, Millie Centers, Stan Holland.

Remember to pray for those in the Armed Forces. Pray for the needy.

FORMATION

Children’s Faith Formation (CFF) Classes resume on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 5:30 PM at the church.

Adult Bible Study meet on Tuesdays, except on the first of the month. Please contact Ana Ramirez-Palmer for information.

Baptism Class on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 7 PM. Please call the Parish Office (916) 371-4814 to sign up.

HOSPITALITY

THANK YOU to our ministers and volunteers of our faith community who have assisted in the preparation of the Advent Penance Service & priest dinner, Giving Tree, Christmas Novena & fellowship (Simbang Gabi), put up Christmas lights and tree, those who organized and volunteered for the children’s pageant, decorated the church and school, individuals who served in our children’s choir, and liturgical celebrations at Christmas. May God bless you for offering your time, talent and treasure for the glory of God during Advent and Christmas season.

