



## Belonging to Two Families

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**A**dolescence can bring family life into an upheaval for both parents and adolescents alike. At its heart, adolescence is an urge for independence, a silent instinct to be part of the larger world. It is a calling sewn by God's Spirit into the very fabric of being human. At its best, family life can be the staging ground for that movement outward.

Hannah recognized this when she believed that her young son Samuel was chosen for a specific role in life. It moved her to bring Samuel to the temple to be raised there in growing service to the community. Ultimately Samuel became a charismatic leader of the Hebrew people who would anoint both Saul and David as king. That same calling seemed to take time

to unfold in the awareness of Joseph and Mary who wondered why Jesus stayed behind in the temple. "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" asked Jesus of them (Luke 2:49). All of us are meant to live more than a life of satisfaction for ourselves or even the fulfillment of our parents' dreams.

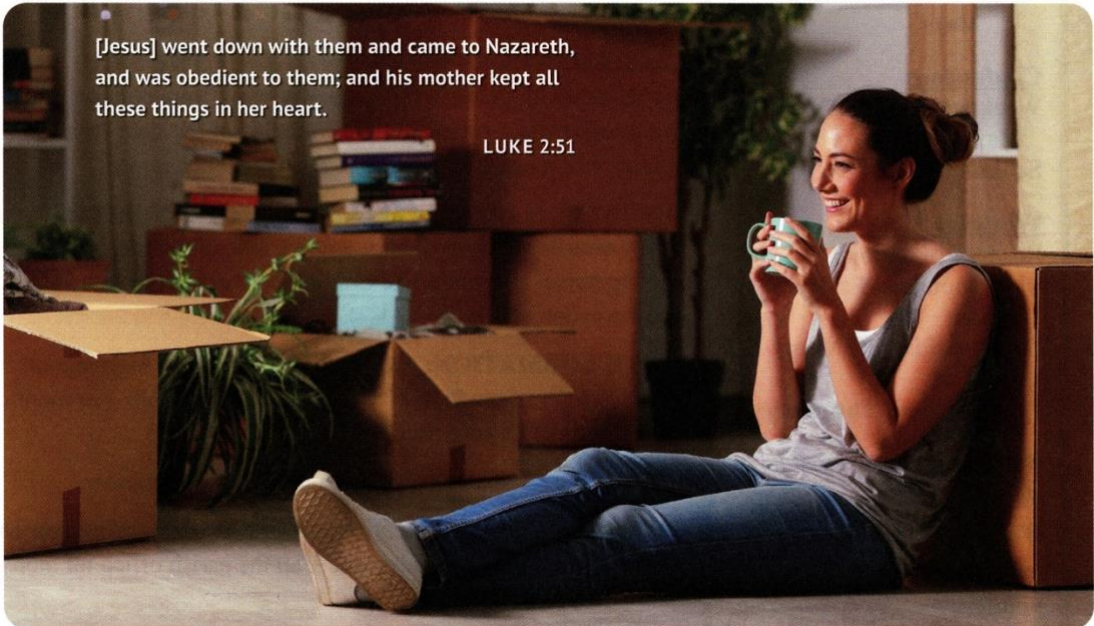
We may find ourselves asking a young person what they want to be when they grow up. A more valuable question might be what they think God wants them to be. While the Spirit of God does not usually ask us to be something contrary to our inclinations, the call of service to the needs of the human family is an added piece to the puzzle of what someone's life might look like. ●

### Reflect

***How has the call to serve God and God's people shown itself in your life?***

[Jesus] went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

LUKE 2:51



**Saint Benedict Catholic Church**

**336-272-0303**

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**Website: [stbenedictgreensboro.net](http://stbenedictgreensboro.net)**

**Email: [Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org](mailto:Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org)**

**Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-2:00pm on Wednesday and Friday**

**PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: As the Roman Catholic Mother Church of Greensboro, St. Benedict's Parish mission, responding faithfully to Christ's call, is to bring all people closer to God through liturgy, fellowship, service, outreach, and works of charity.**

**Rev. James Duong, Pastor**

**Lynne McGrath, Secretary & Faith Formation Coordinator**

**Weekend Mass**

**Sat.** Miraculous Medal

Novena at 4:45pm

Mass at 5:00pm

**Sun.** Mass at 8am & 11am

Chaplet of Divine

Mercy after 11am

Mass

**Confessions**

Weekdays before 12:15

Mass

Saturday 4 - 4:30pm

**Weekday Mass**

Rosary at 11:45am

Mass Monday - Friday

12:15pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

after Mass

**NO MASS on Thursday**

***Bulletin requests must be in***

***the Parish Office by noon***

***Wednesday, ten (10) days in***

***advance of the weekend of***

***publication.***

**PARISH REGISTRATION:** Welcome all new families and individuals. Membership is a condition for the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at St. Benedict, and for the parish to issue a sponsorship certificate for those asked to be sacramental sponsors. You must be a registered, contributing member for at least three (3) months before a certificate will be given. Registration forms are available in the parish office.

**SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** If you are seriously ill, going in for surgery or weak from old age, you may receive the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. Please contact Fr. Duong if you desire to receive this sacrament.

**HOSPITAL & NURSING HOME & SHUT-IN VISITS:** If you or any members of your family are sick and, in the hospital, or a nursing home, and you'd like Communion brought to them, please call the parish office.

**FAITH FORMATION:** All classes from pre-K to high school are on Sundays from **9:15-10:30am** in the parish hall. For more information call Lynne McGrath.

**RCIA:** Please call the parish office for more information.

**MARRIAGES:** Arrangements must be made with a priest/deacon at least six (6) months in advance. Call the parish office for more information.

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**

**DECEMBER 29, 2024**

For all families:

That the courage to be examples of love and holiness in our world will guide parents and children throughout each day.

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**INTENTIONS**

12/28	Saturday	5:00pm	+	George & Robin VanPelt
12/29	Sunday	8:00am		For the Parishioners
		11:00am		The McGrath Family
12/30	Monday	12:15pm		Room at the Inn
12/31	Tuesday	12:15pm		The Tighe Family
	Mary, Mother of God vigil	6:00pm		For the Parishioners
1/1	Mary, Mother of God	12:00pm		Intention of Father Duc
1/2	Thursday	NO MASS		
1/3	Friday	12:15pm		Intention of Father Duc
1/4	Saturday	5:00pm	+	George & Robin VanPelt
			+	Mary Otherski
1/5	Sunday	8:00am		Intention of Father Duc
		11:00am		For the Parishioners

**Keeping Our Military in Our Prayers**

Kharll Skycer Villarin  
Sgt. W.R. Williams III  
Maj. Russel Henderson  
Sgt. Bryanna Spade  
Sgt. Kyle Spade  
April Ducote  
Aaron Gaither  
Phillip Kiniery  
Christopher Simmons  
Kris Guffey  
Jennifer Kmiecinski

**Sick and Shut-In**

Please remember our brothers and sisters in your prayers and at Mass: Carol Camp, Lynn Clay, Richard Collings, Virgil Dotson, Martha Eakes, Tracy Edwards, Bonnie McIntyre, Barbara Parsons, George Pickett, Dan Popik, Cam Reitzel, Luke & Heather Robinson, Manny & Laura Rodrigues, Kim Snyder, Vivian Speetjens, Marvin Tomlin Jr., Teresa Thu Tran, Frank Williams, Beth Wilson, Brian Wilson, Deborah Wilson, Jean Wilson

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

Weekly Offertory ....	\$ 3,198.00
Religious Retirement Fund ....	\$ 2,020.00

**THANK YOU!**

## MINISTER SCHEDULE: JANUARY 4 and 5

<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>E.M.</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>	<u>CANTOR</u>
5 pm	Kim Garcia	Geoff Stephany	Emily, Gloria	Lori Hodges
8 pm	Julia Ray	Trudy Menzzentto	Raul, Mary, Jose	
11 am	TBD	TBD	Ava	Choir

## REFLECTION



For the times we are afraid to welcome life:  
May the Lord lift our hearts with confidence in  
His loving care and provide for every need.

### LEAVE A LEGACY

One way to support St. Benedict's through your IRA is to name us as a partial or sole beneficiary. Retirement funds inherited by your heirs can be subject to heavy income tax. However, those consequences are avoided when the funds go directly to a charity like St. Benedict's.

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

How can I help my family be more reflective of the Holy Family? What difficulties stand out in our family life?



# PARISH NEWS

*A Note From The  
Pastor...*

*"I would like to say thanks to all parishioners and visitors for joining me and St. Benedict community to celebrate Christmas. Your FAITH, HOPE, JOY, and GRATITUDE have made St. Benedict's Parish a place of 'God's presence among us'. Again, a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!"*

**SOLEMNITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD:** This year, 2025, the Solemnity of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, falls on Wednesday, Jan.1. **It is a holy day of obligation.** A Vigil Mass will be at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday Dec.31, and Mass of the Day will be at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday Jan.1.

**FIRST FRIDAY** is this week, January 3. We will have the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Benediction and Adoration following the 12:15 Mass. All are welcome.

**MAINTENANCE FUND** Next weekend, January 6 and 7, we will have a second collection for our maintenance fund. Thank you for your generous support.

## **CHRISTMAS SEASON:**



We celebrate the birth of Jesus three ways: in history, of course, two thousand years ago, but also into our hearts and into the world. God, manifested for millennia through creation and covenant, is now made manifest in the ultimate way: as flesh, as human, as one of us. God's love and commitment to the human race had led to this most precious gift, this gift of self. Glory to God indeed! The Christmas season extends from Evening Prayer I of Christmas through the Baptism of the Lord, Sunday, January 12, 2025.

**THANK YOU** to all those who helped prepare for, and participated in, St. Benedict's Christmas celebrations: catechists, those who cleaned and decorated the church and parish hall, the choir, altar servers, lectors, floral providers and all those who made this Christmas season special for our parish community. May the peace of the Christ Child remain in our hearts throughout the year.



**FINAL WEEK - GIFT GIVING CHRISTMAS TREE** Saint Benedict parish is partnering with World Relief Triad to 'welcome the stranger' by helping with home setups, collecting household items needed during the resettlement process, and other efforts with local refugees. Again, we are dedicating our Giving Tree to collecting needed items as they start their new life in America. Please prayerfully consider donating one or more items and placing them at the back of the church or at the office by December 31.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Sunday Dec. 29 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
- Wednesday Jan. 1 **NEW YEAR**  
The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (**a holy day of obligation**)
- A vigil Mass at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31
  - Mass of the day at 12:00 p.m.

This week we say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to:

Cindy Nutt (12/29), Brendan Hodges (12/29), Laura Peterson (12/29), James Victory (12/29), Janet Flynn (12/30), Dennis Duquette (12/30), Norah Robinson (1/1), Thomas Barber (1/1), Michael O'Neill (1/1), Maria Garcia (1/3), Donna Estes (1/3), Alex Lara-Espitia (1/3)



## Faith Formation



*Sunday School 2024-2025 for those age 3 through high school is from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. every Sunday in the parish hall.*

**\*\*\* There will be no Faith Formation on December 29. Classes will resume on January 5.**





December 29, 2024

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 | Col 3:12-21 | Lk 2:41-52

### **GROW AS A DISCIPLE** | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. These are the attributes Paul instructs the Colossians in today's reading to "put on" or to "clothe" themselves with. It's quite a list, isn't it? Paul goes on to talk about the virtues of the Christian family, which is fitting for today's Feast of the Holy Family. It is reasonable to expect, then, that the Gospel passage would follow through by expounding on the virtues of *the perfect family*: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Instead, in Luke's Gospel, we have the only story in all of Scripture of Jesus' childhood. The only one that shows the specific interactions of them as a family – it tells the story of Jesus at age 12 who stays in Jerusalem without Mary and Joseph knowing and who are unable to find him for days. Prayerfully reflecting on this unique glimpse of the Holy Family working through misunderstandings, fear, and hurt helps us relate even more to the true humanness of Jesus and the Holy Family.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

In the Holy Family, we see a model of relationship in human form. We are part of a holy family as well: we are children of God. And like Mary and Joseph, our family is enriched and strengthened when we are attentive to the presence of Jesus in our lives. Luke writes: "[Mary] kept all these things in her heart." Like Mary, let us strive to hold Jesus' words and commandments in our hearts so we can focus on God's divine plan for our lives. In the next line of Paul's letter offering us the "tools" for loving relationships (compassion ... patience) he adds, "bearing with one another and forgiving one another." In other words: love. We must put Jesus, who is love, at the center of our relationships and do everything in his name. Then our family, and our lives, will be holy indeed.

### **SING**

*Mary, mother of faithful love;  
Joseph, gentle and humble man of God;  
Jesus, Son of Mary,  
Bless, guide and protect the families you created.*

# Dear Padre,

## If Jesus was a Jew, why are we Catholic and not Jewish?

Jesus was a first-century Jew, as were his first disciples. They continued their Jewish practices after Jesus' resurrection, but they believed and proclaimed that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah, the fulfillment of Judaism. Such claims inevitably led to clashes with Jewish authorities, as when St. Stephen, the first martyr, was charged with blasphemy and stoned to death in Jerusalem in the year 36 (Acts 6–7).



ST PETER PREACHING BY MAASQUINO / JOHNSO / SHUTTERSTOCK

Nevertheless, Jesus' followers initially saw themselves as reformers of Judaism—not founders of a new religion. The Acts of the Apostles traces the first thirty years of this community of believers, from Jesus' ascension in Jerusalem to Paul's imprisonment in Rome. It details the beginnings of their separation from Judaism, as when the Jewish disciples wanted to impose certain practices of Mosaic Law on the Gentile disciples—circumcision, for example (Acts 15:11). Acts and the epistles also chronicle the expansion outside of Jerusalem to the Mediterranean region, where, for example, in Antioch, the disciples of Jesus were called Christians for the first time (Acts 11:26). The first written reference to “Catholic Church” is from St. Ignatius of Antioch around the year 107. Catholic means “universal.” “The Church is catholic: she proclaims the fullness of the faith.... She is sent out to all peoples. She speaks to all men. She encompasses all times” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 868). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 30	December 31	January 1	January 2	January 3	January 4	January 5
Octave of Christmas	Octave of Christmas	Mary, Holy Mother of God	Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church	Christmas Weekday	St. Elizabeth Religious	Epiphany of the Lord
1 Jn 2:12–17 Lk 2:36–40	1 Jn 2:18–21 Jn 1:1–18	Nm 6:22–27 Gal 4:4–7 Lk 2:16–21	1 Jn 2:22–28 Jn 1:19–28	1 Jn 2:29–3:6 Jn 1:29–34	1 Jn 3:7–10 Jn 1:35–42	Is 60:1–6 Eph 3:2–3a, 5–6 Mt 2:1–12



ILCO LILIA AMARAL / SHUTTERSTOCK

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Every day, families have to learn to listen and understand one another, to walk together, to face conflicts and difficulties.... And this too helps...talk within the family, talk at table, dialogue between parents and children, dialogue among siblings. It helps us experience our family roots that come from our grandparents. Dialogue with the grandparents!*

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 26, 2021



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