

OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

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Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

On this sacred final Sunday of the year, we joyously celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, a day when we unite in offering the members of our own families upon the altar to receive God's abundant blessings. This cherished occasion serves as a poignant reminder that we are not only part of a human family but also integral members of God's divine family, the Church. Within both these families, we are entrusted with both privileges and responsibilities, collaboratively working towards our salvation with love and peace as our guiding lights.

As we gather today, we reflect on God's promise to Abraham, the revered patriarch of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, foretelling a lineage as vast as the stars. This promise materialized with the birth of Isaac to Abraham and Sarah, showcasing the power of faith in God's unfolding plan. In the letter to the Hebrews, Abraham's unwavering trust in God is further illuminated, from his daring journey to an unknown land to the miraculous birth of Isaac and even his obedient willingness to sacrifice his only son.

The Gospel narrative unfolds with Joseph, the head of the Holy Family, faithfully adhering to God's law by presenting Mary and the infant Jesus in the Temple. This Feast of the Holy Family invites us to draw inspiration and encouragement from the exemplary lives of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Their model family worked harmoniously, showing mutual understanding, acceptance, and dedicated care for their child, fostering both human growth and spiritual development.

The Church, in designating this Sunday after Christmas as the Feast of the Holy Family, beckons us to contemplate the virtues embodied by Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The Catechism of the Catholic Church emphasizes the pivotal role of parents in the education of their children, urging the creation of homes marked by tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and selfless service—a fertile ground for virtue and true freedom.

Marriage is hailed as a sacrament of holiness, and the Feast of the Holy Family underscores the universal call to holiness within each family. Through the sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony, Jesus sanctifies both individuals and their families. The pursuit of holiness requires faithful discharge of duties, trust in God, and a reliance on the Holy Spirit through prayer, meditative reading of the Bible, and active participation in the Holy Mass.

A family becomes truly holy when Christ is present in its members' lives. This presence is felt

through mutual understanding, support, and respect, coupled with ongoing care and reverence for parents and grandparents. Rather than transforming the family into a courtroom where disputes persist, let it be a confessional—a space for humility, repentance, forgiveness, and heavenly harmony.

For those who carry the scars of an abusive or challenging upbringing, the path to healing involves love, repentance, and forgiveness from both parents and children. Acknowledging faults and seeking forgiveness fosters reconciliation and paves the way for a more heavenly familial bond.

On this Feast of the Holy Family, let all parents reflect on the profound responsibility entrusted to them by God. Children are indeed a divine gift, bringing joy to youthful years and serving as companions in the twilight of life. As we enter the New Year, let us pray for the grace to care for one another within our families, our parish, and the broader universal Church. May God's blessings shower upon all our families in the coming year, fostering love, unity, and holiness.

2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES



Offertory Envelopes for the year 2024 are conveniently placed on the table at the rear of the church. Upon collecting your 2024 envelopes, please complete the card sticking out from the

box, furnishing your full name, address, telephone number, and email address and leave it in the container provided. Take a moment to inscribe your name and address on the envelopes for the initial weeks of 2024, offering an additional way to verify your contact details. We encourage you to include the donation amount on your envelope, providing valuable assistance to the counters.

If you currently do not use donation envelopes, we urge you to consider adopting them or explore the option of enrolling in a monthly-preauthorized giving plan. Both approaches contribute to the financial stability of your parish while ensuring you receive a beneficial tax receipt annually. Your ongoing support is deeply appreciated.

Thank you!

New Year's Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 31st

New Year's Eve Mass 5pm

Monday, January 1st

New Year's Day Masses 9am & 11am

Heartfelt Gratitude for a Blessed Christmas Celebration

As we gather our thoughts in the aftermath of the joyous Christmas celebrations, we are filled with immense gratitude and warmth for the remarkable efforts of each and every one of you. Our Christmas festivities were truly special, and it is thanks to the dedication, passion, and generosity of our extraordinary community.

To the readers who eloquently shared the sacred words, the Eucharistic ministers who served with reverence, the ushers who welcomed all with open hearts, and the music ministry that lifted our spirits through heavenly melodies – your contributions were the soulful heartbeat of our celebrations.

A special thank you to the altar servers who assisted in creating a seamless and sacred environment, and to those who generously donated the beautiful flowers that adorned our sacred space, adding a touch of divine beauty to our Christmas festivities.

The vibrant spirit of Christmas was further brought to life by the meticulous efforts of those who helped in decorating the church, turning it into a festive haven that reflected the joy of the season. The children's pageant and Christmas concert were heartwarming showcases of talent and dedication, and we appreciate the time and energy invested by everyone involved.

To our parishioners who attended the Christmas Masses, your presence enriched our communal worship, and your participation was a testament to the strength and unity of our faith community. We are grateful for your commitment to sharing in the joy of Christ's birth.

A heartfelt thank you extends to all those who generously supported the church during this Christmas season. Your contributions, both in time and resources, make a significant impact and enable us to continue our mission of spreading love, compassion, and faith.

In essence, it is the collective effort of each and every one of you that makes our church community a haven of love and fellowship. Together, we created memories that will linger in our hearts throughout the year. May the spirit of Christmas continue to resonate in our hearts, guiding us towards a new year filled with hope, love, and shared blessings.

With sincere gratitude and warm wishes,
Fr. Biju Kannampuzha



Mass Intentions

Saturday Dec 30th 5 pm

†Rex Robert Albuquerque Requested by Kathy Koch
†Deceased Members of Zaleski Family Requested by S & Z Zaleski
Special Intention of the Music Ministry

Sunday Dec 31st

†Ester Lopez Requested by Lopez Family **9 am**

†Jeffery Natividad Requested by Lopez Family

Special Intention for Maya Requested by Mom **11 am**

Special Intention of the Music Ministry

New Year's Eve 5 pm

9 am

Monday Jan 1st New Year's Day &

11 am

Tuesday Jan 2nd 2024 9 am

Special Intention of Fernandes Family Requested by Melanie Fernandes

Wednesday Jan 3rd 2024 9 am

†Cecilia Plut Requested by Plut Family

†Jan Cichy, †Maria Cwierz, †Maria Stasiak, †Josephine Cobb

Thursday Jan 4th 2024 9 am

†Jack Carolan Requested by Paul White

†Barry Nowoselski & †Jim Leon

First Friday Jan 5th 2024* 9 am

†Ester Lopez Requested by Melanie De Castro

†Manuel Arango & †Irene Bialas



Sanctuary Candles

Sacred Heart

† Dino Snidero
(Mary Snidero)

Sanctuary

†Ester Lopez & Deceased Members
of Lopez Family
(Imelda Lopez & Family)

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

January 5th 2024

First Fridays have traditionally been associated with the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. To appropriately observe First Fridays there will be Eucharistic adoration following the 9:00 am Mass until 10:15 a.m. closing with Benediction.



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