

**Glory to God
in the highest
and on earth
peace to
those on
whom his
favor rests.**

Luke 2:14 - Christmas 2020

ST. STEPHEN CHURCH

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MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, December 27th – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

9:00 a.m. **Helen Joan Bisker**
by Janet Ruberto



TUESDAY, December 29th

8:30 a.m. **STACY SNIDER-BARNES** by Janice Rayle

THURSDAY, December 31st – NEW YEAR'S EVE

8:30 a.m. **CHUCK DAUBNER** by Brother, John

FRIDAY, January 1st – NEW YEAR'S DAY

9:00 a.m. **FOR WORLD PEACE**

Happy New Year
2021

SUNDAY, January 3rd –

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

9:00 a.m. **JOSEPHINE PARIDON**
by Lola Scott-Lucarello



THEME: BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO FEAR THE LORD AND WALK IN HIS WAYS.

On this Feast of the Holy Family, we celebrate God's Incarnation into a human family who loved, protected and taught Him. They were holy because they were perfect in obedience and virtue; blessed because they feared the Lord and walked in His ways. We, too, may strive to attain this holiness, in our imitation of the Holy Family's example and through the grace of Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In today's first reading, God promises Abram an heir, even though Abram is very old. Before too long Sarah, his wife, bears him a son. In the second reading, the author of Hebrews tells the story of Abraham (Abram) as an example of true faith in God. In the Gospel, Joseph and Mary take Jesus to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. The devout and righteous Simeon beheld the child Jesus, and prayed to the Lord that he as the Lord's servant might now be dismissed for he had seen the salvation that had been promised. Simeon also foretold the destiny of Jesus and the suffering Mary would undergo.



ETERNAL FLAME INTENTIONS ~

WEEK OF DECEMBER 27th

IN MEMORY OF ELLA LUHANEY by DeLucia Family
IN MEMORY OF MARIA ABRAHAM by Family

SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTION

IN MEMORY OF ALICIA LENDVAY by NCWC

PLEASE KNOW THE DISPENSATION IS STILL IN EFFECT FOR ANYONE WHO IS NOT COMFORTABLE RETURNING TO MASS AT THIS TIME.

Not everyone can, nor should, return to Mass. Those of us who are present in reduced numbers will pray for the whole community and the necessarily absent.

MASKS ARE REQUIRED BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL.

PARISH NEWS

www.ststephenchurchniles.com



PRAYER LIST

We would like to offer everyone the opportunity to pray for our fellow parishioners and friends who are ill or in need of prayer for any reason. If you would like to add someone to the list, please call the rectory and leave a message and we will add the requested person. Please remember the following in your prayers: **Carrie Copeland, Kurt Eckenrode, Angela Marzullo, Louise Kerns, Nancy Snider, Fred Bianco, Don Donnelly, Nancy Jayne, Chuck Jorza, Marguerite Kovach, Alida Lendvay, Frank Burke, Marilyn (Tock) Schneider, Patricia McMahon, Barbara Dohar, Will Scheidegger, David Holmes, Adelbert Durig, Mary Beth Havasi, Janice Hudzik Nemick, Janet Kandrac, Sue Kopetsky, Jim Ogden, John Walsh, Dale Havaich, John Wilson, Julie Abraham, Kathy DeCristofaro, Mitzi Malvasi, Lou Lukz, John Hallock, Jennifer Cable, Mary Jane Ravella, Michelle Howard, Jo Medovich, Keith Burke, Rick Hart, Gerri Kohn, doctors, nurses, first responders and all who have been affected in any way by the Coronavirus, especially those who have no one to pray for them.**

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

Attendance 12/13...85



PARISH GOAL: \$4,700.00 per Sunday

**DUE TO EARLY PUBLICATION
THIS INFORMATION IS
UNAVAILABLE**

The above figures include \$5,844.00 that we received through mail in donations.
THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF YOUR PARISH!



Ministries

MINISTRY SCHEDULE SERVING MASS ~ January 3rd

Eucharistic Minister of Bread	Patrick Wilson
Lector	Lisa Abraham
Altar Server	TBD
Sacristan	Jeff Burke
Greeters	Anna Marie & Bob Granny

**PARISH OFFICE
IS CLOSED**

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL MONDAY, JANUARY 4. THE PHONE WILL BE MONITORED DURING THAT TIME.

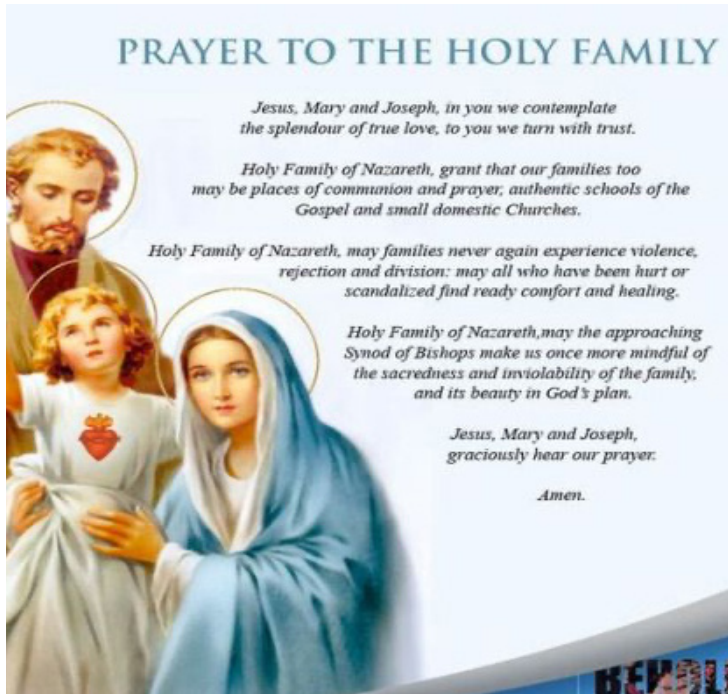
ADDITIONAL FLOWER MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF: Angelo DeLucia
By Laurie DeLucia

IN MEMORY OF: John & Ellen Jayne Hart
Colin Hart
Robert Hart
Our Grandparents
By Rick Hart and Lisa Abraham

STEWARDSHIP – Feast of the Holy Family

Today's special feast celebrates Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the family of perfect Christian stewardship. This isn't to say that their lives were perfect; they knew struggle, poverty, and oppression. One important difference is that in every blessing and struggle, they saw the hand of God. They realized all of the blessings that God has given them and gave their lives entirely back to Him. We are called to do the same!

**A Family Perspective Holy Family Sunday by Bud Ozar**

The gospel today shows Mary and Joseph were not “perfect” parents. If you have ever been “amazed” and “astonished” at what came out of your child’s mouth, then you are in good company. If there were times you “didn’t understand” your children or felt “anxious” about their behavior, so did Mary and Joseph. Parenting is tough but it is also the stuff of holiness.

PARISH CALENDARS

Have arrived and are available by the doors this weekend. We sincerely thank HOLETON-YUHASZ Funeral Home and Shaker Law Offices for sponsoring our 2021 calendar.

GIFTS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS

Our Parish Council Angels have been busy this week delivering 2020 Christmas kits to our homebound parishioners, which included masks, hand sanitizer, hand cream, toilet paper, candy canes, a prayer book, a prayer card for our current seminarians and a St. Stephen Parish calendar. We thank them for taking time out of their busy schedules to make sure our homebound friends are not forgotten.



We hope you received your letter and will respond immediately with the best phone number to use to reach your family. Many people have dropped their land lines and only use cell phone service. If any other information has changed since our last census, please use the form to update that also. Thank you all for your cooperation.

The **March for Life** in Washington D.C. is expected to proceed as scheduled on Friday, January 29, and this year's theme is “Together Strong, Life Unites!” HOWEVER, the COVID-19 guidelines authored by the Department of Pastoral and Educational Services of the Diocese of Youngstown stipulate that “overnight and offsite trips (activities not on parish grounds) are prohibited until further notice.” EWTN will be televising the March for Life including the Pre-Rally Concert, the Rally Program as well as the March itself. For more information go to <https://marchforlife.org/national-march-for-life/>.

Masses for Life – There will be three Masses for Life in the Diocese of Youngstown in January. Each will include the special Blessing of Children in the Womb.

- Friday, January 29 at 12:10 p.m. at St. Columba Cathedral, 154 W. Wood Street, Youngstown, followed by a local “March for Life” at 1:00 p.m. sponsored by Right to Life of Mahoning County, which will include a prayerful vigil at the Thomas D. Lambros Federal Building at 125 Market Street, Youngstown. For more information call 330-799-6160.
- Sunday, January 31 at 4:00 p.m. at St. Columba Cathedral, 154 W. Wood Street, Youngstown

For more information contact dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451, ext. 272.

Feast of the Holy Family – December 27, 2020

“By faith Abraham obeyed.” If you should be called to serve the Lord as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, pray for a deep faith and obey Him in love. Contact Father Scott Kopp at 330-744-8451 or email: skopp@youngstowndiocese.org.

Walking with Moms in Need

Pregnant and parenting moms in need are in our parishes and our neighborhoods. As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes need to be “islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference.” Everyone in a parish community should know where to refer a pregnant woman in need.

This year, as the Church celebrates the 25th anniversary of *Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life)* by Pope St. John Paul II, we are invited to assess, expand, and communicate resources to pregnant moms and families in need. This nationwide effort entitled “Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service” is sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

To learn more about how your parish can take part in this effort contact our diocesan Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family at dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451, ext. 272 or visit www.walkingwithmoms.com.

A Prayer for Pregnant Mothers

O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust.

Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties.

Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need.

Help us become instruments of God's love and compassion.

Mary, Mother of the Church, graciously help us build a culture of life and a civilization of love, together with all people of good will, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen.

*Cf. *Evangelium vitae* 105 © Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City. Adapted with permission. All rights reserved.

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