

Weekly Schedule & Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 29th, 2024

8:00 am — Sunday Mass — Colfax
10:00 am — Sunday Mass — St. John

Monday, December 30th, 2024

No Daily Mass—Colfax

Tuesday, December 31st, 2024

8:00 am — Daily Mass — Colfax

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

9:00 am — The Solemnity of Mary —Holy Day of Obligation — Colfax
11:00 am — The Solemnity of Mary —Holy Day of Obligation — St. John
12:00 pm — The Solemnity of Mary —Holy Day of Obligation — LaCrosse

Thursday, January 2nd, 2025

8:00 am — Daily Mass — Colfax
No Eucharistic Adoration — Colfax
8:30 am — Reconciliation — Colfax

Friday, January 3rd, 2025

8:00 am — Daily Mass — Colfax

Saturday, January 4th, 2025

4:30 pm — Rosary recited — Colfax
4:30 pm to 4:50 pm — Reconciliation — Colfax
5:00 pm — Vigil Mass — LaCrosse
5:00 pm — Vigil Mass — Colfax

Sunday, January 5th, 2025

8:00 am — Sunday Mass — Colfax
9:00 am — Religious Education — Colfax

Mass Intentions:

Mon. Dec. 30 8:00 am — No Daily Mass
Tue. Dec. 31 8:00 am — † John J. McNerny requested by P. Simmons
5:00 pm — LaCrosse: For All Mothers
Wed. Jan. 01 9:00 am — For All Mothers
11:00 am — St. John: For All Mothers
Thur. Jan. 02 8:00 am — Lynda Hiller requested by L. Hiller
Fri. Jan. 03 8:00 am — † Jim Bruya requested by D. & H. Appel
Sat. Jan. 04 5:00 pm — LaCrosse: † John Burke requested by L. Hiller
5:00 pm — † Pat & Mary Ann Danaher requested by T. & H. Danaher
Sun. Jan. 05 8:00 am — † Noreen M. Fitzgerald requested by D. McDonald
10:00 am — St. John: † Florence Sherfey requested by the Sherfey Family

Lectors:

Saturday, January 04, 5:00 pm — Chris Thompson / Sunday, January 05, 8:00 am — Robyn Johnson

Pastor

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St. Patrick Parish Colfax

WITH MISSION TO: ST. JOSEPH PARISH, LACROSSE
& OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH, ST. JOHN

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December 29th, 2024

The Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Scripture Readings

Sunday | The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14 / Psalm 128

1st Ltr to St. John 3:1-2, 21-24 / Luke 2:41-52

Responsorial Psalm

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Donate online

Please feel free to set up a one-time or recurring donation to St. Patrick Parish. Please scan this QR Code to



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Saturday Vigil — LaCrosse at 5:00 PM
Saturday Vigil — Colfax at 5:00 PM
Sunday — Colfax at 8:00 AM
Sunday — St. John at 10:00 AM

DAILY MASS — COLFAX

Tuesday through Friday: 8:00 AM — Colfax

RECONCILIATION

4:30 pm to 4:50 pm Saturdays before Mass—Colfax
8:30 am after Thursday Daily Mass—Colfax
5:00 pm to 6:00 pm Thursdays—Colfax
Or by appointment, contact (509) 397-3921

PARISH OFFICE HOURS — COLFAX

Tuesdays & Fridays - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ADORATION SCHEDULE — COLFAX

Thursday after 8:00 AM Mass until 6:00 PM

SACRAMENTS

Call the Parish Office to prepare for the sacraments of baptism, wedding, first communion and confirmation.

LOCATIONS

St. Patrick Parish — 1018 S. Main St. Colfax, WA 99111
St. Joseph Parish—2nd & Star Lacrosse, WA 99143
Our Lady of Perpetual Help —325 W. Liberty St. John, WA 99171

Reflection

On the last Sunday of the year 2024, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. On this day we offer our own families and all the members of our community on the altar to seek blessing from the Holy Family. It reminds us that as the basic unit of the universal Church, each family is called to holiness. The Holy Family tells us about the Divine Son of God Jesus, his mother Mary, and his foster-father Joseph. We know very little about the life of the Holy Family through the Scriptures. They speak of the early years of the Holy Family, including the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, the flight into Egypt, the finding of Jesus in the temple, and their life at Nazareth. Mary and Joseph experience the awakening in their child Jesus his life's direction. Already now Jesus assumes the responsibility God has placed onto him. Even though they do not fully grasp its implication, they go back with him to Nazareth and they stand as the example.

Devotion to the Holy Family is a recent development, but one that has grown out of a love for Jesus and his family. The cult of the Holy Family grew in popularity in the 17th century, and several religious congregations have been founded under this title. The Holy Family also became portrayed in popular art of the period. On October 26, 1921, the Congregation of Rites under Pope Benedict XV inserted the Feast of the Holy Family into the Church's general calendar. Earlier Popes particularly Leo XIII promoted the feast as a way to counter the breakdown of the family unit. The feast was kept as a special day to consider the dignity of the family and to show our respect to the persons of the earthly trinity. From its early days, the Church placed special emphasis on the importance of Family as a key unit in the structure of the Church.

Every human family is in God's plan. From the time of creation, God did not want a man to be alone but he created the human race as a family. He intended that the Son of God, who is like us "in all things but sin" was born into a human family. This communion of persons on earth is a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit, is the human institution that best reflects the life of the Holy Trinity. The Son of God had emptied himself to assume the condition of a powerless and totally dependent infant to be like us in every way. He came into the world which is his own creation but his own people ignored him. The family constitutes in fact the privileged and protective environment into which God wills all of his children to be born and to grow. His plan for his only-begotten Son was no different.

In our First Reading from the Book of Sirach tells us about the obligation of parents towards their children. It reminds us of the first parents who were created in the image and likeness of God. The reading reflects the close bond that exists between God and man and must reflect in the esteem children shows towards their parents. The young ought to learn from the precepts received from God. If the parents give their children the example of a life of obedience to the Law of God of their country, the children in turn will carry out their duties to God, to their parents and to their fellow human beings. There have been and will be exceptions but the majority carry out the prescription laid down to them by their parents.

The Second Reading of today reminds us of the centrality of love. Because God loves us, we are the children of God. In addition to our own family, we also belong to God's family: we are all brothers and sisters to each other because of our common Father and we share his life. There is then an obligation for all of us to care for each other. Married couples and parents should not be

left on their own. St John tells us of our relationship with God which is a total commitment to Jesus Christ and his Way, and at the same time a call to love one another. These things are precious and irreplaceable. We are called the children of God and hence members of one family. We were reminded of the great love that the Father has given us.

Luke intends to show us that Mary and Joseph was a typical pious Jewish couple, who went about their business doing all that was required and expected of good observant Jews. The fact that they were poor can be deduced from the detail that their sacrificial offering was the lowest required: a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons. The ordinary offering would be a lamb but exceptions were made for those who could not afford it. The Gospel tells us of the silent offering of the three persons of themselves to God, as a family. After this, they returned to Nazareth to live a life of obscurity and poverty for the next thirty years. They were probably often short of necessities of life, the earnings of Joseph as a village carpenter may not have been high. They willingly accepted the simple ordinary life in a remote village, living in harmony, observing the laws prescribed.

The Gospel of today tells us how Jesus is lost in the Temple during their obligatory visit. Only parents who have had a child go missing in a big and strange city can really appreciate the agony the parents of this only child must have experienced. And it was three whole days before they eventually found him again. For parents in such a situation that must have seemed like an eternity. Jerusalem was full of strangers and there were undoubtedly people around who could be dangerous. This narrative tells us of the close bond of the family and at the same time the underlying mission of Jesus. What was important for Mary and Joseph was to find the child that was lost. For Mary, the words of Simeon were still fresh in her heart reminding her of the sword. The child Jesus had enemies trying to kill him and she had the task of protecting him. This pictures the very human side of the Holy Family.

The Feast is not just about the Holy Family, but about our own families too. The main purpose is to present the Holy Family as the model for all Christian families, and for domestic life in general. Our family life becomes sanctified when we live the life of the Church within our homes. This is called the "domestic church" or the "church in miniature." St. John Chrysostom urged all Christians to make each home a "family church," and in doing so, we sanctify the family unit. The best way is by making Christ and his Church the centre of family and individual life. St. Paul gives us some advice on family life in Colossians, Chapter 3: Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love.

The feast of the Holy Family is a good time to remember the family unit and pray for our human and spiritual families, and to reflect on the value and sanctity of the family unit and to evaluate our own family life. Finally, we can use this feast to ask ourselves what we are doing to promote the family within our own cultures, neighborhoods, and communities. Let us contemplate ever anew the silence and love of the Holy Family, the model of all Christian family life.

May God bless all our families.

Fr. J. Jeyabalan HGN (Jey)

Events Around the Parish

Thank you—Reconciliation Service & sung evening Vespers: Thank you Fr. Jey and Fr. Theo for your time and dedication to our Parish communities, especially providing the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confession and Reconciliation last Sunday evening. A special thank you to the Trice family for their musical gifts and leading us in the sung Vespers as well.

Thank you—Christmas Mass: Thank you to all who made the Christmas Mass's and services a beautiful and Christ filled event. Thank you to all the people who decorated the Church, the beautiful voices in the choir, the children who participated in the Christmas Vigil Mass, and to all our parishioners in our Parish communities.

Wednesday January 1, 2025: The Solemnity of Mary—Holy Day of Obligation: Masses will be celebrated in Colfax at 9:00 am, 11:00 am in St. John, and 12:00 pm in LaCrosse. "Mary, the all-holy, ever-virgin, Mother of God, is the masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullness of time. For the first time in the plan of salvation and because his Spirit had prepared her, the Father found the dwelling place where his Son and his Spirit could dwell among men. In this sense the Church's Tradition has often read the most beautiful texts on wisdom in relation to Mary. Mary is acclaimed and represented in the liturgy as the "Seat of Wisdom." - CCC 721.

Upcoming Events:

- * **Jan 1 — The Solemnity of Mary**
A Holy Day of Obligation:
9:00 am — Colfax
11:00 am — St. John
12:00 pm — LaCrosse
- * Jan 5 — 9:00 am—Religious Education—Colfax
- * Jan 8 — 9:30 am—Bible Study Resumes—Colfax



**2024 PREPARES
Open Your Heart**

Knights of Columbus Sausage: The Knights of Columbus still have extra smoked link sausage and bulk available. Please contact Bob Lothspeich at 509-595-1795 to purchase.

Faith Formation: Happy New Year and have a great break! Parent and K-12 student classes will reconvene on January 5, 2025.

Volunteers are needed for assisting in transport for Fr. Jey: If you would be able to volunteer to help our Fr. Jey with transportation please contact the parish office, 509-397-3921.

*If you want to bring happiness to
the whole world, Go home and
love your family*

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

