

**Welcome to
OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL CHURCH**



**12175 Stringfellow Road, Bokeelia, FL 33922
(239) 283-0456**

Rev. Jacek Mazur, Pastor

Fr.Jacek@olmm.org

Rev. Mr. William “Bill” Beck, Deacon

deaconbill@comcast.net

Parish Secretary—Donna Wallis

donna.wallis@olmm.org

Bookkeeper—Diane Gleason

diane.gleason@olmm.org

Parish Office Hours

9:00 am—1:00 pm Monday—Friday

www.miraculousmedalch.org

Email: office@olmm.org

Knights of Columbus—Contact Luis Ramos (239) 560-6380

Baptisms—Parents must meet with the Pastor for instructions and a date for the ceremony*

Marriages—Couples must see the Pastor at least six months before the intended wedding date*

Visits to the Sick—Please call the Parish Office

Religious Education—Sundays, Sept.–May from 9:30 to 11 am. Pre-K through secondary grades

RCIA— (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) - Please contact the Pastor for more information

New Parishioners—Registration forms are located in the entrance of the Church, at the Parish Office and on our website

Bereavement Support Group—No meetings scheduled at this time

***Registered parishioners only**

MASS SCHEDULE

- ◆ **Daily Mass** Monday—Friday 8:30 am
- ◆ **Saturday Vigil** 4:30 pm—Year Round
- ◆ **Sunday Masses**
 - September through May 8:30 am & 10:30 am
 - June through August 9:30 am
- ◆ **Spanish Mass** 5:00 pm Sunday—Year Round
- ◆ **Holy Days of Obligation** 8:30 am & 6:00 pm
+++++
- ◆ **Confessions** Fridays after the 8:30 am Mass, Saturdays 3:30 to 4:30 pm or by appointment
- ◆ **Rosary** A half hour prior to daily Mass. Wednesdays the Rosary is dedicated for the protection of our area against disasters. Rosary begins 45 minutes before the first Sunday Mass
- ◆ **Miraculous Medal Novena** Monday following the 8:30 am Mass
- ◆ **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** First Friday of every month beginning at 9:00 am concluding with a brief prayer service and Benediction at Noon
- ◆ **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** First Fridays after the opening of Adoration

DECEMBER 30, 2018—THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



Mass Intentions for the Week

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

- Mon. Dec 31** +Betty Miller
8:30 am Requested by Pete & Bonnie LaVigne
6:00 pm **John Butler**
Requested by John Honc
- Tues. Jan 1** +Marie Caro
9:30 am Requested by Gaetan & Gail DiGangi
- Weds. Jan 2** **Members of the Parish**
8:30 am
- Thrs. Jan 3** +Richard Mastria
8:30 am Requested by Tim Bresnahan and
Joan & Vincent Bresnahan
- Fri. Jan 4** **Charlie DiBlasi**
8:30 am Requested by Toni Anfinen
- Sat. Jan 5** +Fred Schoenbaechler
4:30 pm Requested by Marie Schoenbaechler
- Sun. Jan 6** +Wally Bermingham
8:30 am Requested by Elaine & Steve Delaplane
10:30 am +Sheila Gill
Requested by Newton College Class of '60

This Week

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Monday, Dec 31, 2018

- **St. Sylvester I**
- **Solemnity of Mary / New Year's Eve Vigil Masses at 4:00 pm (Sp) and 6:00 pm (Eng)**
- **Wine & Cheese—7 pm PLC**

Tuesday, Jan 1, 2019 NEW YEAR'S DAY

- **Mass at 9:30 am (Eng)**

Wednesday, Jan 2, 2019

- **St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen**
- **NO Choir Practice**

Thursday, Jan 3, 2019

- **The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

Friday, Jan 4, 2019—FIRST FRIDAY

- **Adoration from 9 am—Noon**
- **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**

Saturday, Jan 5, 2019

- **St. John Neumann**

Vigil Mass at 4:30 pm

- **Masses at 8:30 & 10:30 am and 5:00 pm (Spanish)**

- **Religious Education 9:30 am to 11:15 am**

- **NO Coffee Social**



ADORATION



Weekly Collections

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WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 15-16, 2018

ATTENDANCE – 493

OFFERTORY—\$4,489.00

SECOND COLLECTION—\$ N/A

POOR BOX—\$435.55

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church is sustained by the generosity of our parishioners through their selfless offering of time, talent and treasure. Thank you and God Bless!



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PRAY THE ROSARY DAILY

**THE BEST CATHOLIC CONTENT
ALL IN ONE PLACE**

FORMED.org
THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

Go to:

Miraculousmedalch.formed.org



Rose Adams, Tony Ambrose, Carmen & Nilsa Aponte, Joe Arcuri, Glenn Armani, Helen Armani, Nora Baker, Barbara Basgall, Jacob Basilotto, Patricia Benson, Peter & Peggy Bercik, Angela Biondello, Ami Blachowiak, Patricia Blackwell, Rev. Jim Bok, OFM & Mary Gate of Heaven Parish, Negril; Katy Boylan, Peggy Brick, Dolores Brown, Betty Bulifant, Tom Cabot, Chuck Cabot, Patricia Clemens, Mario Corso, Steve DiCristo, Larry DiOrio, Wendy Edwards, Aiden Foley, Connor Foley, Michael Fontaine, Justin Fiesta, Suzie Goldberg, Carmelle Goodridge, Leo & Judy Hage, Harry Haskins, Shawn Heeter, Pete & Alice Herber, Pat Herbert, Eddie Holloway, Sally Hooper, George & Betty Hoyt, Carol Humme, JoAnn Ippolito, Ev-erette & Nancy James, Stephanie Jefferson, Diane Jezek, Stan Jock, Arlis Kelly, Jim Kirk, Ken & Ginny Kloiber, Eddie Knowlton, Kent Krabill, Zal Kutar, John Lambrecht, Larry Larson, Ginny LeClaire, Margaret Lines, Anne Lintner, Edward Lodema, Eric Marinelli, Catherine Mazzola, Jim & Joan McCaffrey, Cindy McClure, Kenneth McCurdy, Jim McDonnell, Patty McGlone, Rick McKenna, Jr., Gloria McKeown, Connor McKinnon, Gema Moreno, Regina Mulherin, Rosario Munoz, Ruth Nayard, Elizabeth Nomorosa, Bernadette Nyka, Danny O'Herron, Jack O'Neill, Max & Mila Perez, Tyler Peryea, John Pitale, Pal Polster, Shirley Porter, Joe & Catherine Porthouse, Greg Printy, Kristin Ramsey, Tina Reichenwallner, Elly Rode, Jimmy Rosso, John & Janet Rovaldi, Heather Sallstrom Sanchez, Malte Sallstrom, Clarence Schuetz, Paul Sepczynski, Donnie Sheetz, Ann Speitel, Colleen Sullivan, Julianne Thorstenson, Pat Tweed, Gus Ventimiglia, Virginia Waggle, Robert Wallace, Pink Wesorick, Mary Wilcox, Norman Willebrandt, Glenna Wolshlager

"Everyone who breathes, high and low, educated and uneducated, young and old, man and woman, has a mission, has a work. God sees every one of us. He creates each of us for a purpose."—St. John Neumann

???QUESTION OF THE WEEK???

What can I do for my parents/siblings/spouse/children to make my family more holy, more like the ideal that God calls us to?



The new 2019 offertory envelopes are here! They are located in the rear of the church and are in alphabetical order. If you requested envelopes, please pick them up. If you would like to start using envelopes, please contact the Parish Office. **Thank you!**

**2018
Catholic
Faith
Appeal**



OLMM 2018 CFA STATUS

Parish Goal \$ 85,000.00
 Pledged \$ 88,218.95
 Total Paid \$ 86,554.75
Balance Due \$ (1,554.75)
 a/o 12/14/18

THANK YOU!

✠SAINTS/FEASTS OF THE WEEK✠

Dec 31-St. Sylvester I-Saint Sylvester was born in Rome around the year 250. At a young age, he was put under the care of a priest to be formed in the practice of religion and sacred literature. He enjoyed providing shelter to Christians passing through the city, and would take them with him, wash their feet, serve them at table and give them all the care he needed in the name of Christ. One of the Christians that Sylvester hosted was Timothy of Antioch, an illustrious confessor of the faith. When he arrived in Rome, no one dared to receive him, but Sylvester considered it an honor. -*Catholic News Agency*

Jan 2-St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen-On this day, the Roman Catholic Church honors the memory of two friends from an area of what is now Turkey that was called Cappadocia. These men began their friendship while away at school and later became bishops who were the backbone of Catholic Orthodoxy during a period of doctrinal struggle and confusion. Gregory presided over the 2nd ecumenical council, held at Constantinople, whose great achievement was the completion of the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed that the Catholic Church recites each Sunday and the definition of the divinity of the Holy Spirit. These Cappadocian Fathers, both Doctors of the Church, proved to be some of the most influential Christian teachers of all time, honored by both East and West, Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic. Gregory here shares some memories of his friendship with Basil. -*Crossroadsinitiative.com*

Jan 3-The Most Holy Name of Jesus-Historically, this special feast reverencing Jesus' name is closely associated with the Feasting of the Circumcision of Jesus. According to Jewish law, on the 8th day after his birth a male child was circumcised, received his name, and became a full member of God's covenant people. This is what happened to Jesus, in fulfillment of the Law, as we read in Luke 2:21: "And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb." -*TheCatholicCompany.com*

Jan 4-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton-The first American-born citizen of the United States to be given the title of "Saint," St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is one of the keystones of the American Catholic Church and is the founder of Sisters of Charity. She is the patron saint of the Catholic School and of Loss of Parents.

Jan 5-St. John Neumann-A member of the Redemptorists, St. John Neumann was its first member to take his vows in the United States. He was gifted with exceptional organization abilities and used them to spread the Good News.

"Live simply so that others may simply live."

-*St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

Alice Ambrose, Sal Anastasio, Ed Anderson, Pat Auge, Mary Lou Beck, Wally Bermingham, Roger Bolduc, Al Doerman, Jo Ann Grabenstetter, Gerry Green, Mary Hagan, Daniel Higgins, Helen Holfelner, Lil Honc, Dave Humme, Ed Hughes, Pat Jock, James Kennedy, Betty Licari, Sandra Marcil, Kathryn McGuineas, Vincenzo Miceli, Sr., Leo Miller, Wes Morris, Maureen Murphy, Jim O'Neill, Volker Oelze, Mark Rodgers, Fred "Fritz" Schoenbaechler, Jeanette Smith, Muriel Urrico, Melanie Voris, Victor Zawadski

"Eternal rest grant unto them Oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they Rest in Peace."

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Lord Jesus, you have chosen your priests from among us and sent them out to proclaim your word and act in your name. For so great a gift to your Church, we give you praise and thanksgiving. We ask you to fill them with the fire of your love, that their ministry may reveal your presence in the Church. Since they are earthen vessels, we pray that your power shines out through their weakness. In their afflictions let them never be crushed, in their doubts never despair, in temptation never be destroyed, and in persecution never abandoned. Inspire them through prayer to live each day the mystery of your dying and rising. In times of weakness send them your Spirit and help them to praise your Heavenly Father and pray for poor sinners. By your same Holy Spirit put your word on their lips and your love in their hearts, to bring good news to the poor and healing to the brokenhearted. And may the gift of Mary, your Mother, to the disciple whom you loved, be your gift to every priest. Grant that she who formed you in her human image, may form them in your divine image, by the power of your spirit, to the glory of God the Father, **Amen.**

Saint Teresa of Calcutta Vocation Society

SOLEMNITY OF MARY/NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

December 31, 2018

New Year's Eve—4:00 pm (Spanish)
 & 6:00 pm (English)

Wine & Cheese—7 pm PLC

January 1, 2019

New Year's Day—9:30 am (English)

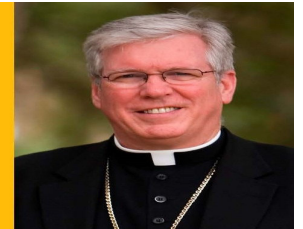
SAVE THE DATE – FEBRUARY 9, 2019

Take time out of your busy life to discover your Spiritual Gifts.
 Additional information to come!

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DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

FEB 2, 2019

MEN'S CONFERENCE IRON SHARPENS IRON!



MARY HEALY is Professor of Sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. Her work promoting Biblical Studies have greatly assisted the faithful in hearing the Word of God and living by it, with greater understanding and passionate zeal.



DCN. RALPH POYO models discipleship of Jesus with a truly relational style of evangelization. He helps Parishes become "self-evangelizing" Parishes by focusing on relational ministry and personal one-on-one encounters to build up the local Church.



HECTOR MOLINA has been speaking for over 25 years and has keynoted over 100 Diocesan events (in English and Spanish) from North America to Australia. As part of Casting Nets Ministries, he truly embodies what it means to be a "fisher of men."



TO REGISTER!

ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR

✓ www.dioceseofvenice.org/offices/daily-resources/calendar/

☎ 941-484-9543

✉ evangelization@dioceseofvenice.org



LOCATION

Bishop Verot High School
5598 Sunrise Drive
Fort Myers

DATE

February 2, 2019

TIME

9 AM - 3 PM

COST

PRE-REGISTRATION
Adults \$20 | Students \$5.
AT THE DOOR
Adults \$30 | Students \$10.

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REBOOT

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SPEAKER, AUTHOR, AND TV HOST

CHRIS STEFANICK



WEDNESDAY
February 20, 2019
7-9:30 PM

St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church
1922 SW 20th Ave.
Cape Coral, FL 33991

Tickets: \$22

Contact Bonnie LaVigne
or the Parish Office for
Tickets

INFO/ PURCHASE TICKETS:
239.283.0525
RealLifeCatholic.com/reboot

real life
catholic

RUMMAGE SALE



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WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR THE RUMMAGE SALE

That time of year has arrived ...to clean out your storage, de-clutter your home, go through your drawers and bring it down to the Parish Life Center during regular office hours. We will not have pick-up service available until January. **PLEASE:** No electronics, TVs, VCRs, DVD players, computers, printers, etc., mattresses or china cabinets. **THANK YOU!**



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

Catholic Mass for Widows & Widowers

TIME

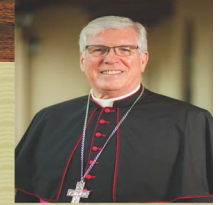
Mass 3:00 p.m.
Reception to follow

DATE

Sunday
Jan. 20, 2019

LOCATION

Epiphany Cathedral
310 Sarasota St., Venice



No cost to attend.

Registration is needed for dinner.

Register at www.dioceseofvenice.org/calendar

Contact

ardy@dioceseofvenice.org
elsmore@dioceseofvenice.org
941-484-9543

There will be photo display if you wish to send a picture of you and your deceased spouse. Mail to:
DIOCESE OF VENICE, 1000 PINEBROOK ROAD
VENICE, FL. 34285 ATTN: FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

Sarasota
21st Annual

PRAYER Walk

FOR



Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Mass at 8:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

St. Martha Church,
200 North Orange Ave., Sarasota
Free parking & refreshments

Shuttle bus to prayer vigil
at Planned Parenthood
Round trips between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Co-sponsored by St. Martha Catholic Church
and the Diocese of Venice
Respect Life Department
www.dioceseofvenice.org/respectlife
For information call 941-441-1101



Respect
LIFE



OLMM LADIES' GUILD ANNUAL CARD PARTY

Friday, January 25, 2019
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Parish Life Center

Please join us for our annual Card Party. Tickets are \$20 and will be on sale from January 5th through January 20th. **ONLY 200 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD!** A delicious lunch will be served along with snacks and beverages throughout the day. We'll have fabulous door prizes and wonderful raffle items too! Tickets will be available after January 5th.

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30 de diciembre de 2018 • La Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José

La historia de Ana y su hijo Samuel en la lectura de hoy, tomada de 1 Samuel, fue especialmente importante para el Evangelio de Lucas. Este pasaje describe la presentación del joven Samuel al sacerdote Elí como parte de la historia de la fe de Ana. Ella había estado sufriendo mucho, pues durante mucho tiempo deseaba tener un hijo, y consideraba esto algo importante en su vocación e identidad. La honestidad intensa de Ana para con Dios durante su angustia, junto con su confianza persistente en la oración, la pone de manifiesto como un modelo de fe. Lucas relaciona a Ana con María por medio del canto del Magnificat en Lucas 1, el cual refleja el canto alegre de Ana en 1 Samuel 2. Lucas relaciona al joven Samuel con Jesús, por medio de la presentación en el Templo en Lucas 2.

Lucas sugiere que Dios está tramando algo grande. Así como Samuel inició un momento crucial en la historia de Israel, Jesús está por abrir un capítulo nuevo en la historia de la humanidad. Sus historias están enraizadas en la fe extraordinaria de sus madres, Ana y María.

único de los cuatro evangelios que narra la infancia de Jesús y comenta lo que pasó entre esta y su ministerio ya de adulto. Lucas utiliza esta historia para tejer juntos estas partes.

Esta historia enfatiza que Jesús nació siendo el Hijo de Dios. Las primeras palabras que Jesús dice, en el Evangelio de Lucas, concluyen diciendo “¿No sabían que debo ocuparme de las cosas de mi Padre?” Dios es su Padre y Jesús habla como el Hijo de Dios.

Lucas enlaza el futuro ministerio de Jesús con la escena en el Templo con los doctores de la Ley. Quienes escuchan a Jesús quedan admirados por su inteligencia. Esto anticipa escenas similares cuando sea adulto. Lucas también insinúa sutilmente la resurrección de Jesús, con detalles como la pregunta “¿Por qué me andan buscando?”, parecido a “¿Por qué buscan entre los muertos al que está vivo?” Lucas nos invita a ver su Evangelio como un todo integrado, tejiendo juntos el nacimiento, la vida, la muerte y la resurrección de Jesús.

Lecturas de hoy: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 o Eclo 3:2-6, 12-14; Sal 84 (83):2-3, 5-6, 9-10 o Sal 128 (127):1-2, 3, 4-5; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 o Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Lc 2:41-52

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TEJIENDO LA HISTORIA

Hoy leemos un pasaje del Evangelio de Lucas, el cual es el

TELEVISED MASS TO THE HOMEBOUND

WFTX-TV FOX 4 – Sundays at 10:30 am

The Mass is also available on the Diocese of Venice website, www.dioceseofvenice.org/tvmas.

Donations may be sent to: TV Mass, 1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285 For questions call 941-486-4714

PARISH CALENDAR

- December 31-New Year's Eve/Wine & Cheese
- January 1-Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- January 8-Ladies' Guild Monthly Gathering
- January 19-Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
- January 25-Ladies' Guild Card Party
- February 5-Ladies' Guild Monthly Gathering
- February 16-Rummage Sale
- March 5-Ladies Guild Monthly Gathering
- March 6-Ash Wednesday
- March 19-Ladies' Guild Spring Luncheon /Fashion Show

DIocese OF Venice IN Florida

FEB 16, 2019

Women's Conference



JENNIFER FULWILER is the host of the Jennifer Fulwiler Show, which airs daily on the national SiriusXM network. She is the author of *Something Other than God*, as well as her new book, *One Beautiful Dream*, a humorous memoir which was a #1 bestseller at Barnes & Noble and in the Top 25 of all books on Amazon.



LEAH DARROW, drawing from her experience on *American's Next Top Model* and her work in fashion, exposes the lies that women encounter today regarding their self-worth. Through her engaging talks, listeners are drawn to the appreciation of their own real beauty.



MOTHER ADELA GALINDO is the foundress of the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Her faithful witness and sincere presentations evidence her great love for the Mother of God, which becomes infectious to all who hear her.

TO REGISTER!

ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR
www.dioceseofvenice.org/offices/daily_resources/estender/

941-484-9543

evangelization@dioceseofvenice.org



LOCATION
Bishop Verot High School
5598 Sunrise Drive
Fort Myers

DATE
February 16, 2019
TIME
9 AM – 3 PM

COST
PRE-REGISTRATION
Adults \$20 | Students \$5.
AT THE DOOR
Adults \$30 | Students \$10.

SPONSORED BY THE DIOCESE OF VENICE.

DECEMBER 30, 2018 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

— 1 John 3:2a

Amados, somos de Dios niños ahora lo que seremos tiene aún no ha sido revelado.

— 1 Juan 3:2a



HOME IS WHERE THE FAMILY IS

The idea, dream, and reality of family is so strong and durable that we use it to describe all that is best about human gatherings. We speak of the family of nations, of our church and parish families. The greatest compliment we can pay a friend or gracious host is to say that we feel at home with them, we feel part of the family.

Families are the first crucibles in which love is tested and tempered. Jesus himself was one of three people who lived in the shadow of each other. This family, like our own, did not always “get it right,” but they always tried to. These three “amateurs” were on holiday, and one of them got lost. Two were worried sick and took great measures to find the third, a boy after all, who was seeking the meaning of his calling. He found his vocation—to do his Father’s work—but he also returned home with his parents. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Hannah conceived, and at the end of her term bore a son whom she called Samuel (1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28) or *Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14*.

Psalms — Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord (Psalm 84) or *Psalm 128*.

Second Reading — See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God (1 John 3:1-2, 21-24) or *Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17]*.

Gospel — The boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. They found him in the temple, in the midst of the teachers (Luke 2:41-52).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Tues: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Weds: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34

Friday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42

Saturday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 1:43-51

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

HOPE
AFTER ABORTION

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Project Rachel
Coordinator

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project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.org
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Respect Life Office
100 Pinebrook Road
Venice, FL 33585
941-441-1101
www.dioceseofvenice.org/respectlife

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Today’s feast is new as feasts go, and it sets us this year in a very modern crisis. Amid conflicting schedules and commitments, a young man, testing the limits, has strayed from his parents and gone off to the big city. Mary and Joseph search frantically, only to find the child Jesus in the temple, conversing with the elders and scholars of the law, who are amazed at his wisdom.

In the time of Jesus, the temple was the religious center of Jewish ritual. Outside of Jerusalem, people gathered in the synagogues, centers of learning, for daily prayer and study. Still, everyone longed to journey to the temple to participate in the offerings, and to fulfill certain obligations of the law that could only be done there. On this feast, we catch a glimpse of the family of Jesus: parents dealing with the normal stresses of raising a child, and yet completely grounded in the ways of faith and tradition.

There has always been an appreciation in Christianity for the value of pilgrimage—the journey to holy places that is a symbol of our life’s journey to God, and a sense of connection to important events in our family history. During the Christmas season, many of us undertake pilgrimages to the family homestead for festival meals, to the parishes where we were formed in the faith, or perhaps even to a beautiful manger scene or festival of lights. There are few better days than this in our calendar for spending time with the family, especially on a short pilgrimage to a favorite place. Just make sure that no one gets left behind!—

James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

“If I had to advise parents, I should tell them to take great care about the people with whom their children associate . . . Much harm may result from bad company, and we are inclined by nature to follow what is worse than what is better.”

— St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



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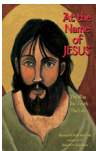
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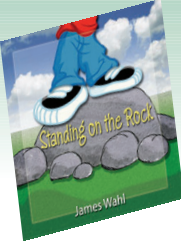
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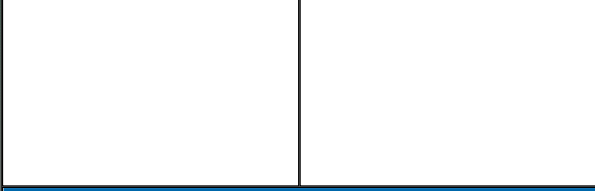
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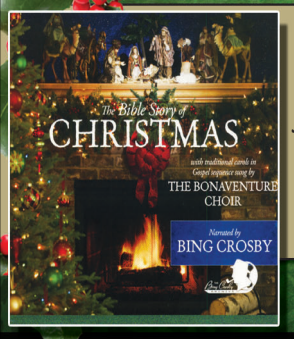
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