
The Holy Family *Jesus, Mary & Joseph*

DECEMBER 29, 2024



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

FOCUS: *Let the peace of Christ control your hearts.*

Our readings today point to the importance of reverencing one another with respect and charity. We are to honor our parents and let the peace of Christ control our hearts. We are to put on love and strive always to live with gratitude.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

In today's first reading, Sirach writes of the proper relationship between parents and children. In the second reading, Paul instructs the community on how to conduct themselves



as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved. In the Gospel, Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem as Mary and Joseph made their way home. They found him in the temple, and he said: "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Danielle Brooks Foreman, James Buell, Annemarie Willard and Rosa Larreina

10 a.m.: Donna Vandermark, Frank Roe, Richard Laurenzi and Jessica Lancellotti

CHRISTMAS ISN'T JUST ONE DAY

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, January 12 this year.

During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him.

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

*Dear Lord, please give me ...
A few friends who understand me
and remain my friends;
Work to do that has real value,
without which the world
would be the poorer;
A mind unafraid to travel, even though
the trail be not blazed;
An understanding heart;
A sense of humor;
Time for quiet, silent meditation;
A feeling of the presence of God;
The patience to wait for the coming
of these things,
With the wisdom to recognize them
when they come.*

- Anonymous

AFF MEETING THIS WEEKEND

The Adult Faith Formation Committee will meet after the 10 a.m. Mass this **Sunday, December 29**, to discuss ideas for 2025. Everyone is welcome to share suggestions about faith-enriching programs.

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

The winter **Scripture Discussion** will once again use a study guide from the Ignatius series, known for its historical, cultural and theological insights that help bridge the biblical world to our own.

Beginning **January 13**, the group will discuss "The Ignatius Study Bible: The Letters of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians, Timothy and Titus." The Zoom meetings take place from 10-11:15 a.m. Mondays.

Former members and new members are welcome. Contact Gail Van Tassel at 845-457-3432 or gailvantassel@yahoo.com to join and to get the book.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Regular Sunday Collection

December 16-22 – \$ 7,027.32

Envelopes: \$ 2,584.00 – Online: \$ 4,443.32

THANK YOU!

HELP US HELP THE HOMELESS

Once again, our Youth Ministry will be collecting and packing items for homeless men and women to take with them as they leave the Middletown Warming Station.



Bags will be assembled on **Friday, January 24**. The Warming Station requests that they all contain the same items; please do not deviate from the list as the goal is to fill 100 bags with the following:

Small hand sanitizers	Small bottles of water
Snacks without peanuts	Gloves
Packets of tissues	Socks
Lip balms	Hats
Hand warmers	Toothbrushes
Travel-size toothpaste	

A collection box can be found in the hall.

SPREAD THE WARMTH

The **Greater Middletown Interfaith Council's Warming Station** at 8-10 Mulberry Street has just begun its 17th year of providing a safe space for homeless men and women each night through the winter months

Clients receive a hot meal upon their arrival. If you are able to assist with food, visit the website TakeThemAMeal.com (type in "The Warming Station" for recipient's last name, and the password is "Meal").



There you will find details and a sign-up schedule. In particular, comfort foods such as hearty soups, stews and casseroles – enough to generously feed 30 – are requested.

Volunteers – either for two-hour shifts or overnight – are also needed. Volunteers must first attend an hourlong training session. Options begin at 7 p.m. on either January 7th, 13th or 22nd. For more information, contact Marilyn at 845-346-6110 or midduce@hvc.rr.com

Donations are also welcome. Checks should be made payable to GMIC, with "Warming Station" noted in the memo line and mailed to: Middletown Warming Station, P.O. Box 609, Middletown 10940.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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TIME TO STOCK THE SHELVES



Next Sunday is January 5, the first Sunday of the month, which is also known as **Food Pantry Sunday**. Although we gratefully accept

donations any day of the week, the designation of Food Pantry Sunday brings the issue of food insecurity to the forefront.

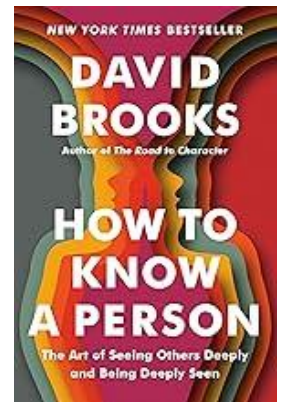
Even with the distribution of holiday food baskets in November and December, more than 75 people were served in each of those months. In October, more than 150 (people spread among 44 families) received food through our pantry. It is expected that the higher number will be the norm in the New Year because the phone keeps ringing with new requests for assistance.

While our affiliation with the Food Bank allows us to acquire many no- or low-cost items including meat, fish, poultry and vegetables, there is always a need for pantry staples. Donations of **unexpired** and non-perishable foods are much appreciated – and quickly distributed.

Right now, we are particularly low on **peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix and syrup, tuna, mayo, tea, coffee, crackers, granola bars, cereal, pasta and sauce**. Monetary donations are also welcome and can even be made on WeShare. Thank you.

BOOK CLUB'S NEXT CHAPTER

The **Book Club** resumes via Zoom at 10 a.m. on **Thursday, January 9**, with a discussion of the first three chapters of "How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen" by David Brooks (Amazon \$13.58). As the author says: "There is one skill that lies at the heart of any healthy person, family, school, community organization or society: The ability to see someone else deeply and make them feel seen – to accurately know another person, to let them feel valued, heard and understood."



Yet, most of us fall short in this arena.

So Brooks draws from the fields of psychology and neuroscience – and from the worlds of theater, philosophy, history and education – to present a welcoming, hopeful and integrated approach to human connection.

New members are always welcome. Contact the office or Deacon Carl (carlloc@yahoo.com) for details and the Zoom link.

LAST WEEKEND'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. – 85
10 a.m. – 184

