

**Families and the Gospel ~** Luke 2:22-40  
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.

The **Tyrone FFA** (Future Farmers of America) is seeking new to gently used books. If you have any books that you could donate, you can place them in the box located near the St. Nicholas Tree in the gathering space.

On Monday, **January 15, 2024**, the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a bowling and pizza party at the Bavarian hall for K-12 students from the St. Joseph and St. Matthew Parishes as well as a guest from 1-3 pm. Please sign-up in the gathering space.

**Upcoming 2024 Diaconate class:** Saint Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles taught by Deacon Michael Russo via Zoom. Dates: January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and February 6, 2024 from 6 – 8:30 pm. Registration form can be found on the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown website [www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry](http://www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry). Deadline to register is this week.

**All Saints Parish in Boswell** (Somerset County) will host their annual singing of Polish Christmas Carols (known as Koledy or Pastoralki) on **Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm** at the church (325 Quemahoning Street, Boswell, PA). The hymns will be sung by their Polish Choir. Following the singing of hymns by the parish’s Polish choir, there will be benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and refreshments. Koledy helps to capture some of the finest sentiments, values, and emotions of the Polish religious, national, and artistic heritage. Polish Christmas customs are very rich; whether you are Polish or not, please come and experience the time-honored hymns celebrating the birth of Christ. For more information please call the parish office at 814-629-5551.

**CHURCH CHRISTMAS UNDECORATING** will take place on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am, right after the 10:30 Mass.

**THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL RESPECT LIFE MARCH** - Sunday January 14, 2024, 12:00 NOON - Prayer Service at St. Matthew Church in Tyrone, followed by the 1.25 mile walk to Oak Grove Cemetery to the grave of Baby Agnes Doe, for another short prayer service. A hot luncheon will be served in the parish hall after the march.

**Sanctuary Candle** for the week of December 31<sup>th</sup> is in memory of Frank Smiach requested by the Zakrzwski family.

The **Knights of Columbus** are selling raffle tickets for baskets of cheer. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 tickets for \$5.00. Proceeds benefit Saint Matthew School. Drawing: Saturday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>

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*The Family of Humankind Spaces*



Simeon took the child in his arms and blessed God.”  
Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

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*“...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive.” - Colossians 3:13*

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can’t give what we don’t have. We need to receive God’s mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God’s mercy and forgiveness. Then, share the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

**SAINT MATTHEW  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**1105 Cameron Avenue**  
**Tyrone, PA 16686**

**Pastor:** Reverend Father Michael Pleva  
**Phone:** (814) 684-1480 (Parish Office & Rectory)  
**Fax:** (814) 684-7969  
**Website:** [www.stmatthewtyrone.org](http://www.stmatthewtyrone.org)  
**Email:** [stmatthewtyrone@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewtyrone@gmail.com)

**Parish Office Staff:**  
Financial & Administrative Assistant: **Deborah Zakrzwski**

**Office Hours:**  
**Monday** 8:30 am to 12:00 pm  
**Wednesday & Friday** 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

**Director of Religious Education:** Lauren Wright  
Call: (814) 312-0969 or email: [lwright@dioceseaj.org](mailto:lwright@dioceseaj.org)

**Director of Music:** Leslie Estep  
Call: (814) 684-4899 or email: [lime458@verizon.net](mailto:lime458@verizon.net)

**Elementary to High School Classes: (Grades K-11):**  
**Sunday mornings 9:00 am to 10:15 am (weekly during the school year)**

**OCIA:** Susan Burkholder (814) 684-0352  
**Ministry to the Homebound:** Paula Lambert (814) 932-0651

Pastoral Council - Jason Terosky (814) 883-0077  
Finance Council - Dennis Rozick (814) 684-5511  
Cemetery Committee - Shirley Hall (814) 931-0657

**Saint Matthew Catholic School**  
**“serving our community since 1869”**  
**Principal:** Pauline Wiley  
**School Phone:** (814) 684-3510  
**School web-site:** [www.stmatthew-school.org](http://www.stmatthew-school.org)

**We welcome all visitors. If you live in the area, please call the Parish Office to register and become an active member of our parish family.**  
*If you would like to have a MASS celebrated for the deceased members of your family, or friends, or for special intentions, please stop by or call the parish office.*



**December 31, 2023**  
*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph*  
**Weekend Mass Schedule:** Saturday at 5:30 pm  
Sunday at 7:30 am  
Sunday at 10:30 am  
**Weekday Mass Schedule:** Wed., Thurs. & Friday at 8:00 am  
**Holy Day of Obligation Mass Schedule:** 9:00 am & TBD  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturday at 12:30 pm  
or anytime upon request.  
*Please remember if these times do not allow you to attend Mass you can do so at **Saint Joseph Church** in Bellwood either on **Saturday at 4:00 pm** or **Sunday at 9:00 am** and the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is celebrated on Saturday at 3:30 pm.*

**Mass Schedule & Intentions**  
**December. 30, 2023 – January 7, 2024**  
**Sat. 5:30 pm** Engelman Family-Francine & Colin Hughes  
**Sun. 7:30 am** Fran Wertz – Rick & Ann Knab family  
**Sun. 10:30 am** For the People

**Solemnity of Mary (not a Holy Day of Obligation),**  
Monday, January 1, 2024 @ 10:30 am -  
Bertha and John Yenter Jr. - Estate

**Tues. 6:00 pm** St. Joseph – Bellwood  
**Wed. 8:00 am** Sara Castagnola - CDA  
**Thurs. 8:00 am** John H. Sultage – JR & Susie Gurekovich  
**Fri. 8:00 am** Joseph D. Ashcroft – Deborah A. Paisley  
**Sat. 5:30 pm** Maddy MacNeil - Family  
**Sun. 7:30 am** John Sultage – Mike & Becky Rozick  
**Sun. 10:30 am** Rose Castagnola & Rose Caruso - CDA

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

Solemnity of Mary – Monday, January 1, 2024

EM- S Burkholder, R Long, D Zakrzwski  
R1 and 2: S McNelis  
C – Teresa Jeffries  
Altar Servers - 1 or 2 needed

Weekdays J Ieraci

Lectors – January 6/7, 2024

Sat. 5:30 pm R Bunch, S Burkholder, T Jeffries  
Sun. 7:30 am A Lynn, S McNelis  
Sun. 10:30am M Welker, R Morse, L Wright

Extraordinary Ministers Eucharist Jan. 6/7, 2024

Sat. 5:30 pm † K Raffetto, M Raffetto, T Scordo  
Sun. 7:30 am † M Rozick, B Rozick, L Grove  
Sun. 10:30am † D Castagnola, S Thomas, J Terosky

Altar Servers: January 6/7, 2024

Sat. 5:30 pm H Narehood, B Ciampoli  
Sun. 7:30 am TBD  
Sun. 10:30 am B Wright, E Hewitt

<b><u>Financial Report – December 24, 2023</u></b>			
Regular Weekly (Sunday) Collection	\$5,408	\$24(children)	
Weekly (Sunday) Collection Goal	\$5,700		
<b><u>Beginning July 1, 2023 and Ending June 30, 2024</u></b>			
Year to date Sunday Collection Income	\$133,780		
Year to date Sunday Collection Goal	\$149,200		
<b>Yearly Collection Goal</b> for Sundays	\$296,400		
<b>2023</b> Year to date Bingo Net Income	\$	39,891	
Second Collection	\$	301	
SMS Catholic School Envelopes	\$	187	
Religious Education Envelopes	\$	0	
Good Samaritan	\$	0	
<b>2023 Catholic Ministries Drive</b> <i><b>TARGET</b></i>	<b>\$</b>	<b>30,406</b>	
CMD Donations for 2023 (180%)	\$	54,666	

**Virtual Trip for Jesus’s Birth** – The goal of 5,885 miles was surpassed and a total of 6,120 miles completed. Amount collected \$1,600.00. Local charities that will benefit are: Tyrone Food Bank, Catholic Charities, St. Matthew Catholic School, St. Vincent DePaul - Sr. Paul’s Soup Kitchen. Thank you for your hard work and generosity. The infant Jesus likes your gifts.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR ILL AND HOMEBOUND**

Elizabeth Adler, Sandy Ashcroft, Margaret Baker, Clinton Bisenger, Matt Bland, Lauren Bochart, Carol Brantner, Larry Brisbin, Jaxon Brown, Michael Brown, Anna and Charles Cannistraci, Sue Chambers, Jordan Coffman, Nancy Damico, Sharon Dannaway, Ryan DelBaggio, Harrison DeVore, Sharon Dick, Cheryl Diebold, Ed Dionis, Nate Dorman, Sergio Echeverria, Dorothy Fleming, Jack Futrick, Catherine Garland, Barb Gaval, T.C. Gheer, Perry Glace, Bob Grimarm, Mike Gurekovich, Dan Hahn, Sharon Hahn, Bill Hall, Shirley Hall, Dorothy & Jim Heaton, John Herist, Peggy Hickman, Bill Hunter, Peg Irvin, Carl Isenberg, Kitty Johnston, Steve Johnson, Dennis Kasic, Brian Kelley, Alexis Kensinger, Michael Long, Jerry Lynn Jr., Bob Macie, Mel & Carter MacMillin, Shawn Marie, Suzan Martindale, Colette McCaffrey, Tucker McCloskey, Mike & Sue McKean, Erik McMulloch, Michael McNelis, Donald Miller, Frank & Pam Moore, Donna Miller, Sarah Miller, Tracy Miller, Helen Molnar, Robert Molnar, Ailani Myers, Alberta Naylor, Peggy Nelson, Patty Norris, Lawrence Papi, Adam Perry, LeeAnn Spangler Price, Halee Ridgeway, Shannon Riley, Gary Ritchey, Joel Rivera, Leonard & Donna Romano, Lucille Romano, Suzanne Ross, Delores Schreffler, Sue Scordo, MaryJane Shank, John Scott, Harry Sickler, Dorothy Smyder, Evelyn Stever, Mike Stack, Chris Stoner, Mark Turiano, Dale VanHorne, Ethan Vila, Patty Walsh, Mary Ward, Stephanie Wage, Frank White, Bob White, Sam Whitesill, Rachel Harshman Wiggins, Kimberly Hovis-Williams, Liam Wirtner, George Wolfe, Roberta Woomer, Crystal Wright, Ann Yaniello, Esther Zane.

**Healing Mass:** Holy Spirit Ministry will hold a special Healing Mass on **Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 7 pm, at St. Michael Church, Hollidaysburg.** This powerful night of hope and healing is for all who are suffering physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Fr. Brad Baldwin TOR will be the main celebrant. Praise and worship will precede the Mass at 6:30 pm and prayer ministry will follow the Mass. If you are suffering physically, or from an addiction, or hurting or struggling in any way, come and experience the healing power of Jesus and be set free! All are welcome!

***Bishop Mark*** announces a plenary indulgence is available to Catholics who visit Franciscan parishes between now and February 2<sup>nd</sup> in celebration of the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Nativity scene in Greccio, Italy, by Saint Francis of Assisi.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May you and all your loved ones have a New Year filled with God’s abundant blessings of peace, joy and love.

*Father Michael & parish staff*

**Stewardship Reflection**

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They are a model for all families! And just as the Holy Family is holy, our families too are called to be holy. This may seem like a daunting task at times! Yet, as Christian stewards we know that this holiness is achievable by living as disciples of Christ.

Our Gospel today, says a great deal about trust and surrender to our Lord – two trademark words of a steward. As the Holy Family brought the infant Jesus to the temple, they encountered two key individuals, Simeon and Anna. Upon seeing the Infant, both praised the Lord, rejoiced in the coming of their Savior and prophesized about what was to come. It says, “the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him.” We can imagine that two parents would be taken aback by these words! Yet, through all of this, the Holy Family surrendered their lives to God and had unwavering faith and trust in His plan. Thankfully, they did, because the fulfillment of this plan meant the salvation for man!

Believe it or not, God has a plan for our lives too. Often times, we get in the way of what He has in store for us. Although our plan might be ‘good’, God’s plan is great and will fulfill our hearts more than we could ever have imagined. Like the Holy Family, we just need to trust, surrender and be attentive to God’s voice.

As we celebrate this Christmas season with joy and gladness for our Savior, let us deepen our commitment to Him through the love and service we give our family members, and the trust and surrender we place in God to take care of us each day.

**Feast of the Holy Family** - Scripture tells us practically nothing about the first years and the boyhood of the Child *Jesus*. All we know are the facts of the sojourn in Egypt, the return to Nazareth,

and the incidents that occurred when the 12 yr. old boy accompanied his parents to Jerusalem. In her liturgy the Church hurries over this period of Christ’s life with equal brevity. The general breakdown of the family, prompted the popes, especially the Pope Leo XIII, to promote the observance of this feast with the hope that it might instill into Christian families something of the faithful love and the devoted attachment that characterize the family of Nazareth. The primary purpose of the Church in instituting and promoting this feast is to present the Holy Family as the model and exemplar of all Christian families.

**THE CHRISTMAS SEASON CONTINUES** with today’s **Feast of the Holy Family**, January 1<sup>st</sup> **Feast of Mary Mother of God**, and next Sunday’s celebration of **Epiphany**. We are only in the midst of the “12 days of Christmas” so keep the spirit of the 2-week Christmas SEASON alive! ***Contrary to the commercialism that surrounds us and ends on Christmas, Dec. 25th, let us Christians keep singing carols, exchanging gifts with family and friends, lighting indoor and outdoor decorations, and wishing peace and good will to all!***

**THANK YOU** to all who purchased Christmas Flowers and wreaths. *Your intentions are posted on the bulletin boards in the vestibule and on the parish website.* We once again say “Thank you” to Rozick’s greenhouse for the lovely flowers, wreaths in the gathering space, and greens at the entrance doors.

***As we make New Year resolutions for 2024, let us begin in the spirit of Mary, pondering and reflecting on God’s Word for our lives.***

**A NEW YEAR’S PRAYER**

Good and gracious God,  
you make all things new  
you bring hope alive in our hearts  
and cause our spirits to be born again.  
Thank you for this New Year  
for all the potential it holds.  
Come and kindle in us a mighty  
flame of your love so that in our time,  
many will see the wonders of God  
and live forever to praise  
your glorious name. Amen