

Did you not know



I had to be in My FATHER'S HOUSE?

Blessed are they who dwell in Your house, O Lord.

Today the Church continues our celebration of the Incarnation by focusing our attention on the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. In the Gospel story, we hear of this very human family with its joys and disappointments. In the second reading, St. John reminds us that we are children of God. As such, we are all family to each other. Let us pray today for the grace to live as family with all our brothers and sisters in the world.

- Readings for the Week of December 27, 2009**
- Sunday:** **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**
Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128;
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24;
Lk 2:41-52
 - Monday:** **The Holy Innocents, martyrs**
1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Ps 124; Mt 2:13-18
 - Tuesday:** **Saint Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr**
1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96; Lk 2:22-35
 - Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96; Lk 2:36-40
 - Thursday:** **Saint Sylvester I, pope**
1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96; Jn 1:1-18
 - Friday:** **The Blessed Virgin Mary, The Mother of God**
Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
 - Saturday:** **Saints Basil the Great; Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors**
1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98; Jn 1:19-28
 - Sunday:** **The Epiphany of the Lord**
Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Daily readings: <http://www.usccb.org/nab/index.htm>



Holiday Schedule



Friday, January 1, 2010 is a Holy Day of Obligation for the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. There will be a **Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday 12/31** and **Holy Day Mass** will be celebrated on **Friday at 10:00 a.m.**

The **Parish Offices**, including Religious Education and Youth Ministry, will be **closed at Noon Thursday, Dec 31st.** We will **reopen Monday Jan 4th at 9:00 a.m.** Have a Blessed New Years Day!

The **Adoration Chapel at St. Michael's** is a beautiful, quiet place where you can come and sit with our Lord Jesus Christ in quiet adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from **9:00 a.m. to Midnight, 7 days a week.** There is an **open Adoration Chapel hour Sundays from 9-10 a.m.** Please call Mary Ann Longoria, 297-4109 if interested. We also need someone for **Thursday from 4-5 p.m.** and from **7-8 p.m.** Please contact Cheri McBurnett, 297-8874.

Mass 
Schedule

**DECEMBER 26
through
JANUARY 3, 2010**

SATURDAY	5:30 P.M.	Pres Obama & VP Biden Sherry Aaron
SUNDAY	8:00 A.M.	†James Seidler †Zoila V. Longoria
	9:30 A.M.	†J.R. Visperas
	11:00 A.M.	†Hattie Richter †Louis Russek †William Stevens †Brian Baker
TUESDAY	5:30 P.M.	Pres Obama & VP Biden
WEDNESDAY	8:30 A.M.	†Epifania Tellez †Betty Mildner
THURSDAY	5:30 P.M.	†Ben Mikrut
FRIDAY	10:00 A.M.	†Hattie Richter
SATURDAY	5:30 P.M.	†Pete & Bess Ermis †James Seidler †Darrell Lyster
SUNDAY	8:00 A.M.	†J.R. Visperas †Brian Baker
	9:30 A.M.	†Cathy Zack
	11:00 A.M.	†Gene & Tonie Christen

Sherry Aaron, Cierra Allen, Zera Bennet, Kenneth Blanchard, John Campbell, Robert Causbie, Doris Causbie, Kellie Chaney, Ted DiBlasi, Greg Dubec, Tom Elder, Ann Foster, Andrew Gore, Bevelyn Granger, Arthur Haas, Paige Haas, Joanna Haswell, Ralph Lewis, Florence Olenick, Jim Pawelek, Paulette Russek, Henry Sablatura, Tiffany Lynn Sanchez, Larry Savant, and Donna Schwertner.

Please pray for

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Today's liturgy not only offers us a glimpse into the life of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, but also gives us an opportunity to pray for our own families. Although private devotions to the Holy Family go back to about the seventeenth century, the feast did not enter the Church's calendar until 1921. One of the readings designated for the day comes from Colossians 3 wherein wives are exhorted to be subordinate to their husbands. A shortened version of this reading which omits that passage and is more in keeping with our modern idea of a woman's place in the family is permitted as an option.

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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH



Mary, Mother of God

January 1 is New Year's Day in our secular life, but in our liturgical life, it is the **solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God**. In the year 431, the Council of Ephesus declared that the Virgin Mary was Mother of God; in Greek, **Theotokos, "God-bearer."** Mary was celebrated under this title on the first of January until about the eighth century when the day was changed to mark the circumcision of the Lord. The reforms of the Vatican II returned the day to Mary, Mother of God but kept the Gospel reading which refers to Jesus' circumcision.

This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician.
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The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

- September 2009 106 home visits assisting 372 adults and children with 130 bags of food. Financial assistance for rent, utilities, etc, was \$ 4,252.51. Contributions \$2,877.88.
- October 2009 98 home visits assisting 368 adults and children, providing 141 bags of food, distributing \$3,719.73 for rent, utilities, etc. Contributions \$4,575.89.
- November 2009 97 home visits assisting 300 adults and children, providing 130 bags of food. Financial assistance for rent, utilities, etc. was \$4,315.33. Contributions \$2,911.36.

Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Have **you** considered answering the call to help serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?
For information, call Dennis Prinz at 979.236.1848



- The Knights of Columbus will host a **Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, January 10th** to benefit the 2010 Youth on a Mission. Please come by the Hall in the FLC after 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. Masses for breakfast!
- Young at Heart - All Senior Adult Parishioners** Reserve the dates on your calendar!
January 16 - "Physical Therapy and Acupuncture"
February 13 - "Fun Things to do in Lake Jackson"

All Senior Adults are invited to join in the fun **after the 5:30 PM Saturday Mass** in the Family Life Center Main Hall. Presentations, Food, Fun, and Fellowship.

Sign-ups will be coming in January!



Stewardship Opportunities at St. Michael's

- The **Altar Society** is **DESPERATELY** in need of "**Linen Ladies**" who are willing to **wash and iron small altar linens**. Frequency - Every 6 weeks. **Training provided**. Please consider volunteering for this worthwhile ministry and spend a little quiet time (1 - 2 hrs) with our Lord. Please call Kathy Moore, 297-8919.
- Come Join Us! **Those who have served on a Women's Christ Renews His Parish Team** and wish to share in spreading the joy that CRHP brings ... The current **Women's Outreach Team** is looking for more members to participate in an outreach to Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church in Houston, TX. Contact Genie Packard at 297-1888.
- The Women and Men of Christ Renews His Parish** both have **teams in formation** for St. Michaels. **Both groups are seeking a few additional team members**. If you have attended CRHP and would like the opportunity to deepen your faith, please contact David Konvicka, 297-0051 or Tricia Langner, 299-6176



Woman to Woman Retreat
February 19-21, 2010
Planning Meeting—Tuesday, January 5th
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
ROOM B-3
Questions? call Gwen 297-5564 or Binnie 297-9239

The Women of St. Michael's will meet on **Tuesday, Jan. 5th at 8:30 a.m. in the Church for Mass**, followed by a meeting in the **Angelina Room**. Our annual fun-filled **Live Auction** will be held benefiting **St. Vincent de Paul**. Make it, bake it, sew it, grow it, buy it, or bring that white elephant gift. Use your imagination and bring your pocketbook. Nursery available for children 4 and under. Please join us!

Evening group will meet **Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Angelina Room** and will have a **Live Auction** to benefit **St. Vincent de Paul**.



Ladies, please join us for a **Women of Faith 12 week Bible study** entitled "**Cultivating Contentment**" beginning on **Thursday, January 7th, 9:15 a.m-10:30 a.m.** in the "F" Wing. TLC for your little ones. **Please RSVP to Jeanne Schroll** at schrollj@hotmail.com or 297-5860. If you need to use the nursery, please indicate number/ages of your children. **Books are on order at Sonshine.**

Youth Ministry 7th – 12th Grade

DECEMBER

Dec 20 - Jan 3

NO CLASS - Christmas Holiday

JANUARY

Jan 10th **VOCATIONS presentation 6:30—8:30 p.m.**
Special Speaker from Steubenville!

Jan 17th **CLASS 6:30—8:30 p.m.**

Youth Ministry Vocation Awareness Night

Our Youth Ministry Program, grades 7th-12th will start up again after the holidays on **Sunday, January 10th** in the **Family Life Center from 6:30-8:30 pm.** Special guest speaker for the evening will be **Fr. Gregory Plow**, Coordinator of Households at Franciscan University of Steubenville. **Parents, friends and entire parish are welcome!**

2010 Vocation Awareness Contest:

- 1) How can I follow the commands of Jesus in my everyday life?
- 2) How can you encourage someone to dedicate their life to serving others?
- 3) Create a short slogan and/or artistic logo that will challenge young Catholics to think about considering the Priesthood or Religious life.

Assignment: Express your answer to any one of the above three topics in the form of **art, essay, or poetry.**

Grades 1st thru 12th – Cash Prizes in all Divisions
Deadline: Wednesday, January 13, 2010

New WEBSITE for VOCATIONS:
www.houstonvocations.com

Check out this new website for the **Office of Vocations** from the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Help us spread the word. We hope this site will inspire, inform, and offer the tools needed to discern God's call or support those on the journey. What you'll find: inspiring videos, Seminarian's vocation story, Fr. Dat's Blog, links to religious communities, current news & events, and lots of great photos!
Register for a chance to WIN an Ipod Touch!

YOUTH DOINGS...

DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

"Deeper" is a bible study for High School youth, including Prayer and Praise & Worship time, lead by our Youth Ministry Coordinator, Mike Marshall. **DEEPER** meets every **Wednesday night from 6:30 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.** in the **A-Wing**. All High School students are encouraged to attend. Bring a friend!



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

First Reading:

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Offering What We Have Received

If you took a toddler to church and left the child there for the pastor to raise, you might be accused of negligence. But when we hear that Hannah performs a similar action in the First Book of Samuel, we are to emulate the holiness of her family. Hannah had gone childless throughout her life, but Eli, the Old Testament priest at the temple in Shiloh, prophesied that she would conceive a son. Hannah promised she would give the son back to God. Eli's prophecy came true, and Hannah made good on her promise. She brought a bull, some flour, some wine—as well as her son—and gave them all to Eli. She later bore five more children. The first son, Samuel, eventually succeeded Eli as priest of the temple. Although Hannah's specific actions would seem strange today, the general intent of her spiritual life remains an admirable model. Hannah asked God for a particular petition. When God granted her heart's desire, Hannah returned thanks to God by offering in sacrifice some of what she treasured.

All our families strive to be holy. Not every mother has a son. Not every son becomes a priest. But every family can learn the basics of a friendship with God. If you want something, ask. If you receive it, give thanks. When you give thanks, do it with a sacrifice of something you treasure.

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 - A Child of Hope

Some pregnancies are not expected. They come as a surprise to parents, who find themselves faced with excitement over new life and trepidation over new responsibilities they had not planned for. Other pregnancies are hoped for. Those children come as an answer to a prayer. Parents still feel excitement and trepidation, but they are a little more prepared for the responsibilities that follow. Then there are adoptions. In these cases parents take extraordinary measures to obtain a child for their family. They understand the responsibility and they are anxious to have it, to share their love with a child. No adoption happens unexpectedly. The child is always hoped for and embraced. All of us are adopted children of God. God has taken extraordinary measures to bring us into the family. God sent Jesus to become like us, to suffer for us, and to die for us. The First Letter of John says, "See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are." God did not have to do this; God did it out of love. Today we celebrate the Holy Family. We celebrate two parents who accepted a pregnancy that was not expected. But John's letter reminds us that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are not the only members of the Holy Family. You are too. You are a child of God.

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church

100 Oak Drive South Lake Jackson, Texas 77566

Website: www.smlj.org

Pastor - Rev. Msgr. Leo Wleczyk, E. V.

Parochial Vicar - Rev. Marty Pham

Rectory & Parish Office: (979) 297-3041

Religious Education & Youth Ministry: (979) 297-3043

Sunday Liturgy

Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.;

Sunday 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance

Tuesday 5:00—5:30 p.m. and Saturday 4:00—5:00 p.m.

Adoration Chapel

Every day 9:00 a.m.—Midnight

Nursery

Available in the Family Life Center during the 9:30 a.m.
and 11:00 a.m. Masses

Baptism Preparation

Call Cindy Hakanson at 299-0690 for information

Visitation of Sick & Homebound

Please call the Parish Office to have someone visit.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

- ◆ Are you searching for a church to call your own?
- ◆ Do you struggle with questions about life – death - suffering - hope - forgiveness - love - God?
- ◆ Ever wonder why Catholics worship the way they do?
- ◆ Do you have questions about what we really believe?



Look no further. If you are not Catholic, but are curious about the Church, or have a friend or family member who may be interested, or perhaps have some misconceptions about the Church. **Inquiry is the place.** All are welcome. For more information call Tommie Holt at 979-265-4685.

- **Sponsors are needed for the current RCIA program.** A Sponsor gives support to their Candidate or Catechumen by **walking their journey** with them as a companion, personal prayer, and attending the RCIA sessions and Mass with them. The Sponsor becomes a witness to the confirmand's initiation into full Christian life and a role model by sharing their personal faith journey. Contact Orville Bellar, 297-1027.
- **Sponsors also needed for Rite of Christian Initiation for Teens (RCIT) program.** Those recently confirmed and other young adults might think about assisting a younger person on their journey. Classes meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. Contact Betty Betczynski, 285-9139.