Feast of the Holy Family

The Feast of the Holy Family is a Roman Catholic religious festival falling on the first Sunday after Christmas. Although major feast days dedicated to each member of the Holy Family—Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—also exist, the Feast of the Holy Family commemorates their life together, and the celebration focuses on religious family life. Because of the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt, a feast for the Holy Family has been observed by the Coptic Church from early times. In Western Christianity, however, a cult of veneration for the Holy Family as a group, rather than as individuals, did not arise until the 17th century and was not officially recognized until the feast day was formally instituted in 1921 under Pope Benedict XV. Originally celebrated on the Sunday after Epiphany (January 6), the Feast of the Holy Family was moved to the Sunday after Christmas in 1969, bringing it within the Christmas season.

The Greatest Feast During the Twelve Days of Christmas

During the Twelve Days of Christmas, the Catholic Church celebrates many important feasts, including the feasts of Saint Stephen, the first martyr (December 26), whose martyrdom is recorded in Acts 6-7; Saint John the Apostle (December 27), who wrote the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation, as well as three epistles; the Holy Innocents (December 29), the children who were slaughtered at the order of King Herod, when he was trying to kill the Christ Child; and the Holy Family (normally celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas, and on December 30, when Christmas falls on a Sunday).

None, however, is as important as the feast celebrated on the octave of Christmas, January 1: the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.

In the early centuries of the Church, once Christmas began to be celebrated as its own feast on December 25 (having originally been celebrated with the Feast of the Epiphany, on January 6), the Octave (eighth day) of Christmas, January 1, took on a special meaning.

In the East, and throughout much of the West, it became common to celebrate a feast of Mary, the Mother of God, on this day. This feast was never established in the universal calendar of the Church, however, and a separate feast, celebrating the Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ (which would have taken place a week after His birth), eventually took hold of January 1.

With the revision of the liturgical calendar at the time of the introduction of the Novus Ordo, the Feast of the Circumcision was set aside, and the ancient practice of dedicating January 1 to the Mother of God was revived - this time, as a universal feast.
Sunday Reflection

Prayer for our family

God our Father,
Your son Jesus shared with Mary and Joseph the life of an earthly home. As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, bless our homes as well. Make them places of love, joy and peace. Teach us to help and care for one another as Jesus’ family did.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

Remember the sick of the Parish


and the Deceased

Frank Vande Ligt.

Anniversaries of Death remembered this week

Steve Kaytor, Delmy Rodriguez, Salvador Villalta, Tony Sanchez & Teresita & Cornelio Alvarenga.

Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction

We are having 12 Hour Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, January 5. Adoration will begin after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Basil’s and will close with Benediction at 9:00 p.m.
The sign up sheets are in the main church entrances. We need at least 2 people every hour, 4 people signed up helps Fr. Kevin’s blood pressure.
Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets for our Christmas basket draw, we raised $398 for the Environment Ministry for Christmas decorations. Congratulations to Andrea Koester who won the basket.

**Liturgical Workshop** - Fr. Kevin will be offering a workshop on Liturgy Monday evenings running from January 8th to February 12th. The workshop will be based on the manual, “At the Supper of the Lamb”. The workshop will look at the elements of the Mass and our role in the Mass. A signup sheet is in the office. There are only 3 spots left.

**That Man Is You!** The next session of TMIY is set to begin January 12 @ CCH East, starting with breakfast at 6:00 am. We look forward to another challenging opportunity to grow in our faith lives. That Man is You! honestly addresses the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern culture, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers. The program harmonizes current social and medical science with the teachings of the Church and the wisdom of the saints to develop the vision of man fully alive. It is particularly indebted to the teachings of the Second Vatican Council and Pope John Paul II.

**The Case for Jesus** - You are invited to find out what recent discoveries in New Testament scholarship are revealing about the person of Jesus. The program will run from January 11th to March 22nd in the Upper Meeting Room at Assumption Church, Thursday afternoons from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm or evenings from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. For more information contact Oscar Tavernini: (403) 329-1052.

**Diocesan Pastoral Care Course** - St. Martha’s Parish in will be hosting a Diocesan Pastoral Care Course on Saturday, January 20th and Saturday, January 27th from 9:30am - 3:30pm. This course will introduce you to the basic visiting skills required for Pastoral Care Ministry in the health care facilities or parish. Registration fee: $30, payable at the door. For more information and to register, call St. Martha’s 403- 381-8884, or Email Mary: mandg_gruber@hotmail.com

**St. Francis Xavier's Relic Pilgrimage in Calgary** - St. Francis Xavier’s incorrupt forearm, a sacred first class relic, is making a rare visit to Canada. It will be in Calgary for only a short time.

- January 21, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church
- January 22, 2018 at St. Michael’s Church

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to venerate the relic. For details on the timetable, visit: cco.ca/relic

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### Mass Intentions

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Jan. 2</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Raquel Barrantes (dec.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Jan. 3</td>
<td>12:05 p.m.</td>
<td>Mary Prevesich (dec.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Jan. 4</td>
<td>12:05 p.m.</td>
<td>Claro Nebrao Sr. (dec.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Jan. 5</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Steve Kaytor (dec.)</td>
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</tbody>
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**Stewardship Reflection**

**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

“God has brought laughter for me.” (Genesis 21.6)

Christian discipleship is an adventure. We can never know what God has in mind with the gifts He has given us. Yet, like Abraham, we obey in faith so that we too may laugh like Sarah in the abundant and surprising blessings God bestows upon His faithful.

**Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God**

The shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. (Luke 2:20)

The shepherds proclaimed the good news of the Messiah's birth. What miracles have you seen this Christmas season? How can you proclaim the good news?

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**Martha Retreat Centre**

Programs at Martha Retreat Centre, 1130 Scenic Dr.
Tel: 403-328-3422, email: marthare@telusplanet.net

**Centering Prayer** resumes on Tuesday, January 9 at 1:30 pm

**Blessings**, four Thursdays, 7-9 pm, Jan 11-Feb 1. A DVD with Fr. Rolheiser suggests it is the role of older folk to bless the young. What and how do we do this? Couples and single men and women of all ages are invited to join in these evenings of music, Sunday scriptures, life stories and reflection.

**Book Study: Why Do We Suffer?** Five Tuesdays 7-9 pm, Jan. 23 to Feb 27. In this book study, Daniel Harrington sj, invites us to reflect on and discuss passages in Scripture in which we read about the issue of suffering and how these insights can be related to our own today. Please register early so books can be ordered.

**Acceptance, Enjoyment, Enthusiasm**, Saturday, Jan. 13, 9am-4pm.
This retreat will involve learning the fundamentals of meditation and building practices to support living in a mindful, successful life.
**This Week in Our Churches**

**Sunday, December 31**
- 7:30 a.m. Sunday Eucharist (St. Basil’s)
- 9:00 a.m. Sunday Eucharist (Assumption)
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Eucharist (St. Basil’s)

**Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God**
- 6:00 p.m. Mass (St. Basil’s)

**Monday, January 1**
- 9:00 a.m. Mass (Assumption)
- 12:00 p.m. Mass (St. Basil’s)

**Tuesday, January 2**
- 9:00 a.m. Rosary (Assumption)
- 7:00 p.m. Mass (Assumption)

**Wednesday, January 3**
- 12:05 p.m. Mass (St. Basil’s)
- 12:50 p.m. Adoration for Vocations (St. Basil’s)
- 7:00 p.m. Vande Ligt Vigil (Assumption)
- 8:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting (Assumption hall)

**Thursday, January 4**
- 10:00 a.m. Vande Ligt Funeral (Assumption)
- 11:00 a.m. Confessions (Assumption)
- 12:05 p.m. Mass (Assumption)
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (St. Basil’s)

**Friday, January 5**
- 9:00 a.m. Mass (St. Basil’s)

*Followed by 12 hour Eucharistic Adoration*

**Saturday, January 6**
- 3:30 p.m. Confessions (Assumption)
- 5:00 p.m. Sunday Eucharist (Assumption)

**Sunday, January 7**
- 7:30 a.m. Sunday Eucharist (St. Basil’s)
- 9:00 a.m. Sunday Eucharist (Assumption)
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday Eucharist (St. Basil’s)
- 4:30 p.m. Confessions (St. Basil’s)
- 6:00 p.m. Sunday Eucharist (St. Basil’s)
- 7:00 p.m. Arise (St. Basil’s hall)

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**Fr. Kevin’s Cluttered Desk**

The end of a year, the beginning of a new year. A time to look back and see the blessings we have received and look forward to the blessings coming our way. The challenge in all of this is the challenge of seeking and seeing the good and not focusing on bad things. Jesus came so that our joy might be complete, but do we take the time to seek the joy of living in the love of God?

I have learned not to ask a lot of people about their Christmas or what they might have received. With young people it is often, “Well I was hoping for . . . but I only got . . .” My brother and I were commenting on the black socks we always got from Gramma for Christmas and how as you get older black socks are not such a horrible gift. Everyone needs black socks. I guess Gramma might have known what she was doing. Still, as children, we were always hoping for something else. One of the true signs of spiritual maturity is being able to see the good and celebrate the good in all things.

But in truth this is a hard one to get to. This maturity demands a letting go of wants and a strong awareness of what one really needs. This time of year there is always a mad rush to buy because we really do need all these things. But do we? I was struck by an observation while standing in a line up after Christmas. Person 1: “We just love our new 65 inch TV.” Person 2, “Really why?” Person 1: “Oh it’s just awesome and such a clear picture and we only spent $$$ on it, it was a steal.” Person 2: “Did you pay cash?” Person 1: “No, we just put it on the card.” Person 2: “Well I hope you love it lots, because it will never love you as much as the credit card company does.” I think they are friends, or were. The other conversation was after the midnight Mass. Person 1: “No, we don’t give gifts to each other anymore, all mom wants is to have us all together at Christmas dinner.” Person 2: “Really, you don’t exchange gifts? Wow!” I think person 2 missed the part about family just getting together.

There is an old saying: don’t gather at my grave for I am not there, rather gather at my table while I am still here. When you count your blessings of the past and look to the blessings of the future, count the people God has placed in your path to walk with you and lighten your load.

Peace Fr. Kevin

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**Holy Spirit Catholic Schools** are taking registrations for new students beginning on January 8, 2018. Early Learning programming is available for children 3 and 4 years of age and Kindergarten is available for children 5 year of age on, or before, December 31, 2018. To register for the 2018/2019 year, contact your neighbourhood school. Please remember to bring your child’s birth certificate. For information about school programs, visit the division website at www.holyspirit.ab.ca.

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**Christmas Flower Donations**

In memory of:

- Peter & Irmina Baier
- Blaszko family
- Silvio & Vittoria Cattoni
- Donato family
- Kevin Emelson
- Bill Feher
- Katherine & George Feher
- Anita Halasz
- Anthony John Helps
- Albert Iachetta
- Lil Kempenaar
- Andy Krajewski
- Rosella Krajewski
- Bill Krampl
- Nick A & Mary-Ann Lastuka
- Moscowianca family
- Antoni Nowik
- Pahlo family
- Rose & Andrew Prokop
- Mike Prokop
- Evelyn Prokop
- Kay & Marien Rabski
- Bill Sauve
- Stanley Shaw
- Skretting family
- Win & Gerry Tobin
- Tutera family
- Conrad Van Buuren
- Zahn family
- Zajac family
- Holy Souls in Purgatory
- Anonymous