



For many of us the image of the Holy Family is a trouble free one where nothing ever went wrong, where peace and harmony prevailed and where there was perfection in every way. The truth is otherwise, because like every family before or since, Joseph and Mary had their own share of difficulties and problems and knew the stresses and strains of family life. They experienced hardship when searching for shelter prior to Jesus' birth, then a frantic flight into Egypt to save their child from King Herod. They were refugees in a strange country with no money. Jesus went missing on the way home from their Passover visit to Jerusalem and they were desperate with worry until they tracked him down in the temple instructing the elders. Families are not perfect, but the family setting is where we experience great delights and also bitter disappointments with people whom we know and trust. It is where we first discover that others are there for us and we must be there for them, each giving and taking according to ability and regarding each other as gifts from God to be accepted and cherished.

Three Qualities that Will Help You Become More Like Mary and Joseph

If we as Catholics do not become more virtuous we will dwindle into irrelevance in one generation. You might think I'm dramatic, but if history is an indication of recurring patterns, then it is not a stretch of the imagination.

Luckily there is a time tested proven way that we can become more virtuous. Throughout history there has always been exceptional men and women who stood firm in their faith and inspired change. Only the historically savvy know who the Roman Emperor and Queen of Judea were 2000 year ago, but everyone knows who Mary and Joseph were. Why is it that we remember "nobodies" like Mary and Joseph, but don't have a clue about powerful political elites? It's simple; Joseph and Mary were virtuous people of God.

Forming Fruits of the Holy Spirit

In his letter to the Colossians, St. Paul lists five qualities of "God's chosen ones." Paul instructs the Colossians to put on "heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience" (v.13). Which one of these qualities do you need to develop? Heartfelt compassion is where I lack the most. Compassion comes from the Latin *cum passio* – to suffer with. True compassion is not just the ability to feel sorry for others, but it is the desire to accompany them in their suffering.

Forming a peaceful nature

In the same letter Paul instructs the Colossians to "let the peace of Christ control" their hearts. We have the tendency to allow a lot of things to control our hearts, but rarely is it the "peace of Christ." Virtuous men and women don't allow cultural "moods" or trends to toss them around. What are some habits that you can start to allow Christ's peace to rule your heart?

Forming a thankful mindset

Paul writes, "And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of Lord Jesus, *giving thanks* to God the Father through him." The third common practice to becoming virtuous is being thankful. This is challenging. A rewarding practice is to train ourselves to be thankful for every little thing in our day. Even be thankful for opportunities that teach us other qualities, like patience

Enduring the Heat

In Daniel 3, Daniel's three friends are thrown into a burning furnace by King Nebuchadnezzar for refusing to worship the king's false idol. Daniel's friends' faith in God miraculously helps them survive the furnace. Virtuous men and women do not "bow down" to the idols of "the times," but they remain peacefully resolute and stand firm in their love for God. I encourage you to make it a New Year's resolution to work on the above three practices.

In Christ,
Greg Garda, *Youth Minister*



Mass Intentions

Monday	New Year's Eve
Tuesday	New Year's Day
Wednesday	Soul of Angelina Paoletta Soul of Lin Tong Gam
Thursday	Departed Soul
Friday	Soul of Philip Kim

PRAYER REQUEST LINE

905 881-2786 ext. 250



ST. LUKE'S DECEMBER 2018 SCHEDULE

New Year's Eve – Monday, December 31st
5:00 p.m. Mass

** No morning mass

New Year's Day – Tuesday, January 1st
10:30 a.m., and 12:15 p.m.

** No Tuesday evening mass

REMINDER: MORNING MASS ON WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 2ND WILL BE AT 9:00 AM

TUNA CASSEROLES:

The Tuna Casseroles for the Good Shepherd Ministries are due on Sunday, December 30th.

Thank you for your continued support during 2018.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The many knitters who make up our Prayer Shawl Ministry would like to thank everyone who purchased their knitted items this year. St. Vincent De Paul, the Yellow Brick House and Good Shepherd will share the \$1800.00 that was raised.

“WARMTH & COMFORT DRIVE”

Thank you to everyone who has brought in socks to support CWL's **Warmth & Comfort Drive**. To date we have collected over 600 pairs of socks but are still short of our goal of 2019 pairs!

The drive runs to December 31st so let's see that number rise!

NEW YEAR'S EVE
DINNER DANCE



Time to start planning for your New Year's Eve celebration! We are continuing our tradition of having a high class served dinner and dance for a very affordable price. The evening begins with arrival at 7:00 and hors d'oeuvres served while you are settling in and socializing with your family and parish friends. Then at 8:00 you will be served at your table your choice of Prime Rib of Beef or Chicken with all the trimmings. Dancing follows to the music of the DJ Greg Benoit so bring your requests! Champagne and party favours are included in your ticket. There will be door prizes and a bar to purchase your drinks of choice. Tickets will be on sale this weekend so reserve your table early. The whole family is invited! Prices are: Adults \$45 Seniors \$30 Children 11 and under \$20. For further information contact Greg at greg.benoit@rogers.com or at 647-296-6851.

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTION

Next Friday, **January 4th** is the first Friday of the month so there will be a one hour Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 7:30 pm. All are invited to come and spend one hour with Jesus.



On behalf of myself, Fr. Wen and the parish staff we would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year!
God Bless,
Fr. Mark