HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, & JOSEPH SUNDAY

DECEMBER 31, 2017

For the Church, each New Year ends and begins in celebration of family. The last Sunday of the year is today’s feast of the Holy Family. January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. As God chooses to reveal his divine love to us, the best and clearest expressions are found within family. God is Father, Son and Spirit, with the Spirit being the living bond of love between Father and Son. God institutes family relationships as the ordinary school for making saints. Having said this once in a homily, a parish member commented to me after Mass that his family did indeed test him and his patience. As we conversed, he conceded that family pushes us because they know us best and most intimately. In this pushing, we grow and become better people as we test and push back, creating a dynamic in the family that produces insights, growth and shared closeness.

Family is a safe haven and a challenging storm. Family is where we can be accepted just as we are, but always pulled or pushed along to become better and stronger. Family knows us at our weakest and lends us strength for those times. Family tells us where we belong, even if we don’t sometimes wish to know.

Several of my family members have recently done their DNA ancestry and shared those results with me. The sense of belonging I strongly recall is when I first met my dad’s ancestral family in Belgium in 1992. Being among these distant relatives and seeing a street sign in a rural village bearing our family name helped me to realize that I belong in this world. As Jesus became a human being, he also embraced that family’s history so strongly that he was and is still called, “the Son of David.” Family is so important in our history of salvation that Mary is not spoken of as an unwed mother, but as the betrothed of Joseph.

Family ties can define, enfold, wrap us and fill us with that sense of belonging. May this new year be a time of discovery for each of us as we together call God, “Father.”

Father Joe Forcelle, pastor
MASSES THIS WEEK
January 1-7

Mon. No Mass ( Fr. Joe’s day off)
   8:30am SL-Tyndall +John F. Lee
   8:30am SL-Tyndall +John F. Lee
   3:00pm SMH-Tyndall +Mark Dee
   6:00pm SL-Tyndall +Stephanie McDermott
   8:30am SV-Springfield +Tearakay Goglin
   10:30am SV-Springfield +Brown
   10:30am SV-Springfield +Helen Koupal

WE ARE IN NEED OF MASS INTENTIONS FOR 2018!!!

FIRST FRIDAY MASS
Friday’s Mass on January 5th will be celebrated at 3:00pm at St. Michael’s Hospital.

2018 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES
The 2018 contribution envelopes will be in the connection entrance of St. Leo and the main entry of St. Vincent. If you cannot find your box or if you have never had envelopes but wish to use them, please call the parish office.

LIFE TOUCH PICTURES
For all parishioners who didn’t order any pictures from Life Touch, your 8 x 10 picture is at the rectory office that you can pick up Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Thanks for participating in our pictorial directory.

MONEY COUNTERS AT ST. LEO
December 31st:  Don & Joyce Sykora, Randy & Lisa Weier
January 7th:  Charlotte & John Cihak
January 14th: Howard & Mary Hajek
January 21st: Dennis Kniffen, Marian Peschl, Pamela Novak, Bobbi Zimmerman
January 28th: Wayne Schuurmans, Jeff VanGerpen, George & Denise Mudder

DAILY BIBLE READING
January 1-7

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Mon. Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21
Tues. 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28
Wed. 1 John 2:29 -3:6; John 1:29-34
Thurs. 1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42
Fri. 1 John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51
Sat. 1 John 5:5-13; Mark 1:7-11
or Luke 3:23-38

The Epiphany of the Lord Readings

Sun. Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6;
Matthew 2:1-12

2018 CALENDARS
We have the 2018 calendars for both parishes in and they are at the entry way of both churches. Please help yourself to one or two.

MEALS ON WHEELS
St. Vincent de Paul Church is scheduled to deliver “Meals on Wheels” to the homebound in Springfield January 2-5 and 8-12, 2018. Meals will be ready to be picked up at the Springfield Community Center around 11:20am each morning. If you are available to help with this ministry please sign up in the church lobby. Thank you for being a part of this outreach ministry.

ENCOUNTERING GOD THROUGH SCRIPTURE
Catholic Conversations with Dr Chris Burgwald
Encountering the Lord is such an important part of building our relationship with God. So often in our longings to hear him we forget that he has already spoken to us. Find out how you can encounter God through Scripture at the Cathedral of St. Joseph from 9:30am to 3:30pm on January 13th, 2018. It’s free and lunch is provided! Register at http://www.sfcatholic.org/catholicconversations.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - January 6-7

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<tr>
<th>Mass Times</th>
<th>Eucharistic Min.</th>
<th>Gift Bearers</th>
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<td><strong>Saturday at St. Leo</strong></td>
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<td>Jan. 6 5:30pm</td>
<td>Ron Zimmerman</td>
<td>Volunteers needed</td>
<td>Karsten Kozak</td>
<td>Gary LaCompte</td>
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<td>Diane Heisinger</td>
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<td>Jan. 7 8:30am</td>
<td>Ed Kniffen</td>
<td>Volunteers needed</td>
<td>Cole Kniffen</td>
<td>Mike Schmidt</td>
<td>Ed</td>
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<td>Scott &amp; JoLynn</td>
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<td>Joshua Schmidt</td>
<td>David Vavrusska</td>
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<td>Weber</td>
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<td>Landon Schmidt</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday at St. Vincent</strong></td>
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<td>Jan. 7 10:30am</td>
<td>Mary Hurd</td>
<td>A.J. &amp; Nancy</td>
<td>Alexis Tjeerdema</td>
<td>A.J. Soukup</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Clarence Stratman</td>
<td>Soukup Family</td>
<td>Nevaeh Myers</td>
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<td>Ken Varilek</td>
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<td>Elijah Eastman</td>
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**VIGIL FOR PEACE**

Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery in Yankton, SD is hosting an hour vigil in prayer on **Sunday, December 31, from 7:00pm to 8:00pm**.

Pope Francis has asked us to pray especially for migrants and immigrants seeking peace on New Year’s Eve. The Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery gather in Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel for an hour vigil in prayer for peace in our world, city, home, and heart. You are welcome to join us in offering this time of prayer and silence.

Cost: Free. Contact: Switchboard 605-668-6000 or email shmpublicrelations@mtmc.edu with questions. We also have an event on Facebook if you wish to share: https://www.facebook.com/events/135782893799836/.

**CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT THE BISHOP’S HOUSE**

You are invited to stop by The Bishop’s House for a Christmas open house, **Sunday, December 31 from 1:00-5:00pm**, and following the morning Masses at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. The Bishop’s House is located at 423 N. Duluth Ave, Sioux Falls and has been home to the last five bishops of the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls, including current bishop, Most Reverend Paul J. Swain. The 1890s era home was built by the Tuthill family and was purchased by the diocese in the early 1950s.

**COFFEE & CANVAS**

Sacred Heart Monastery Saturday, January 20, 2018 9:00am - 11:00am; For: Young Adults 18+

A blanket of snow covering the ground is a perfect excuse to grab a cozy cup of coffee or cocoa and a paintbrush. The theme will incorporate the winter season and scriptures. A short introduction and meditation will start the class. Cost: $20 (provide at time of class) Contact: PR by January 15 for planning purposes: Call 605-668-6000 or Email at shmpublicrelations@mtmc.edu for questions.

**GRIEVING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE**

Catholic Family Services is offering a One Day Retreat for Grieving the Loss of a Loved One on **Saturday January 13, 2018 from 10:30am to 3:30pm at St. Lawrence Parish in Milbank, SD**. Directed by Dr. Marcie Moran. This retreat is for adults who have lost a loved one and are trying to understand and reconcile their grief. This program is non-denominational and is offered free of charge. To register, call St. Lawrence Parish at 605-432-9122.

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**COMING EVENTS**

**SL ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING**

St. Leo’s Altar Society meeting will be on **January 7 after Mass.** Ladies, please put this date on your calendars.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

The Bon Homme Knight’s of Columbus will have their monthly meeting **Monday, January 8 at 7:30pm.** The night will start with their Annual Mountain Oyster Feed at 6:00pm.

**SL PC MEETING**

St. Leo’s Parish Council will be meeting on **January 9th at 7:00pm.** Please come if there is anything about the church that you wish to discuss.

**SV PC MEETING**

St. Vincent’s Parish Council will be meeting on **January 14 after 10:30am Mass.** Please come if there is anything about the church that you wish to discuss.

**SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCH**

Springfield Dakota Senior Meals is hosting a Soup and Sandwich Lunch on **Sunday, January 14, 11:00am to 1:00pm** at Springfield Community Center. Serving: soups, sandwiches, rolls, taverns, chili dogs, hot dogs & beverages. Proceeds will go toward the Dakota Senior Meals Program.

**SOUP KITCHEN**

St. Leo Altar Society will sponsored their Annual Soup Kitchen on **Sunday, January 21, 10:30am to 1:30pm** at the FCMC. Serving: chili, vegetable beef and chicken noodle soups (homemade noodles) and chicken salad sandwiches & taverns plus pies, desserts and beverages.

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE**

The gospel today shows Mary and Joseph weren’t ‘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.

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**The Most Holy Family**

“The Lord sets a father in honor over his children; A mother’s authority he confirms over her sons. He who honors his father atones for sins; He stores up riches who reveres his mother.”

**Sinach 3:2.6.12.14**

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**by Bud Ozar**

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**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

* January 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 .... K-12th grade meet for class at 7:00pm, FCMC.
* Martha’s Kitchen open at 6:00pm. All are welcome to come in for a meal.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10TH**
Parents & 2nd graders will be meeting @ 7pm for their 1st Penance Workshop.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17TH**
Celebration of 1st Penance for 2nd grade students @ 7pm in the church. All parents are asked to be there with their child.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28TH**
**HS Fundraiser: Sunday Morning Breakfast**
The HS youth have the opportunity to serve our parish guests. Those youth signed-up to help serve, please bring a dozen rolls, donuts, breakfast pastries, serve our guests, and clean up. Be ready to serve after the 8:30am Mass at St. Leo the Great Church.

**GRIEVING THE LOSS OF A SPOUSE**
Catholic Family Services invites you to join six Tuesdays from **6:30pm to 8:30pm, January 9 to February 13, 2018** at Catholic Family Services, 523 N Duluth, Sioux Falls. Directed by Dr. Marcie Moran. This program is for adults who have lost a spouse and are trying to cope with the pain of separation and loss. Role change and loneliness are secondary losses which can complicate the grieving process. The program will offer assistance in coping with this change and making healthy readjustments. Non-denominational. Cost — Donation. Call 988-3775 or 1-800-700-7867 to register.

**CATHOLIC CONVERSATIONS**
You and your parish are invited to a very special edition of Catholic Conversations. Please join us for a day of reflection at the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish Hall from **9:30am to 3:30pm on Saturday, January 13, 2018**. Dr. Chris Burgwald, Renee Leach and Missy Baumberger will be presenting on encountering God through Scripture. This is a free event! Because lunch will be provided, registration is required. Register at http://www.sf catholic.org/catholicconversations.

**MARCH FOR LIFE**
There is going to be a Pilgrimage going to Washington, DC for the “March for Life”, **January 17-21, 2018**. SDSU’s Jacks for Life Club will be joining this pilgrimage. Bitzy Mitzel, Public Relations for Jacks for Life Club, is asking for support from our parishioners at St. Leo’s, BH KC, and anyone else that would like to help with this cause. Donations made out to Jacks for Life and mailed to: Jacks for Life, 122 9th Street, Brookings, SD 57006. See letter on bulletin boards.