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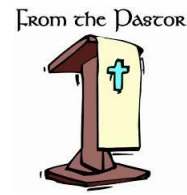
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FROM THE PASTOR
 The devotion to the Holy Family was born in Bethlehem, together with the Baby Jesus. The shepherds went to adore the Child and, at the same time, they gave honor to His family. Later, in a similar way, the three wise men came from the East to adore and give honor to the newborn King with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that would be safeguarded by His family.

We can go further to affirm that in a certain sense Christ, Himself, was the first devotee of His family. He showed His devotion to His mother and foster father by submitting Himself, with infinite humility, to the duty of filial obedience towards them. This is what St Bernard of Clairvaux said in this regard, *‘God, to whom angels submit themselves and who principalities and powers obey, was subject to Mary; and not only to Mary but Joseph also for Mary’s sake [....]. God obeyed a human creature; this is humility without precedent. A human creature commands God; it is sublime beyond measure.’ (First Homily on the ‘Missus Est’).*

Today’s celebration demonstrates Christ’s humility and obedience with respect to the fourth commandment, whilst also highlighting the loving care that His parents exercised in His keeping. The servant of God, Pope John Paul II, in 1989, entitled his Apostolic Exhortation, *‘Redemptoris Custos’* (Guardian of the Redeemer) which was dedicated to the person and the mission of Saint Joseph in the life of Christ and of the Church. After exactly a century, he resumed the teaching of Pope Leo XIII, for who Saint Joseph *‘shines among all mankind by the most august dignity, since by divine will, he was the guardian of the Son of God and reputed as His father among men’* (Encyclical *Quamquam Pluries* [1889] n. 3). Pope Leo XIII continued, *‘...Joseph became the guardian, the administrator, and the legal defender of the divine house whose chief he was.[...] It is, then, natural and worthy that as the Blessed Joseph ministered to all the needs of the family at Nazareth and girt it about with his protection, he should now cover with the cloak of his heavenly patronage and defend the Church of Jesus Christ.’* Not many years before, blessed Pope Pius IX had proclaimed Saint Joseph, ‘Patron of the Catholic Church’ (1870).

Almost intuitively, one can recognize that the mysterious, exemplary guardianship enacted by Joseph was conducted firstly, in a yet more intimate way, by Mary. Consequently, the liturgical feast of the Holy Family speaks to us of the fond and loving care that we must render to the Body of Christ. We can understand this in a mystical sense, as guardians of the Church, and also in the Eucharistic sense. Mary and Joseph took great care of Jesus’ physical body. Following their example, we can and must take great care of His Mystical Body, the Church, and the Eucharist which He has entrusted to us. If Mary was, in some way, *‘the first tabernacle in history’* (John Paul II *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, n. 55) then we the Tabernacle in which Our Lord chose to reside in person, in His Real Presence, was also entrusted to us. We can learn from Mary and Joseph! What would they ever have overlooked in the care of Jesus’ physical body? Is there something, therefore, that we can withhold for the right and adoring care of His Eucharistic Body? No amount of attention, no sane act of love and adoring respect will ever be too much! On the contrary, our adoration and respect will always be inferior to the great gift that comes to us in the Holy Eucharist.

Looking at the Holy Family, we see the love, the protection, and the diligent care that they gave to the Redeemer. We cannot fail to feel uneasiness, perhaps a shameful thought, for the times in which we have not rendered the appropriate care and attention to the Blessed Eucharist. We can only ask for forgiveness and do penance for all the sacrilegious acts and the lack of respect that are committed in front of the Blessed Eucharist. We can only ask the Lord, through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, for a greater love for their Son Incarnate, who has decided to remain here on earth with us every day until the end of time. —From the Congregation for the Clergy





Pilgrimage to Rome – Fr. Brian is organizing a pilgrimage to Rome, and spots are filling up **FAST!!!** The dates of this 11-day pilgrimage are October 26 – November 5, 2026. Not only will you visit Rome, but you will also venture to Orvieto, Assisi, and Siena. To reserve your spot, go to selectinternationaltours.com and use the Trip Code: 26MI10ITBL. Don’t delay, though – there are only 11 spots left!!!

ST. PAUL NEWS:

Angelus Knights of Columbus FREE Youth Trapshoot for grades 5 – 12th. This event will be held on Sunday, January 4, 2026, at 1pm. At the K of C Hall, Angelus.



Our Tithes from Last Week
 Oakley: \$8,727.00 Angelus: \$596.00

We welcome all our guests to our parishes. If you have moved here, we encourage you to register on our website. 
 Follow us on  St. Joseph Catholic Church and School
  @stjosephoakley

DAILY SCHEDULE

Sat	27 – 5pm Mass + George & Carol Albers Family
Sun	28 – 8:00am Mass (Angelus) + Harold & Alfreda Stephens 10:30am Mass - Parishioners
Mon	29 – NO MASS
Tues	30 – 7am Mass + Dean Heier 9:30am Bible Study in the rectory
Wed	31 – 5pm Mass + Charles Anderson
Thur	01 – 9 am (Angelus) + Kathleen Tubbs
Fri	02 – 7am Mass + Pauline Zimmerman
Sat	03 – 5pm Mass + Living and Deceased members of the John Geist Family
Sun	04 – 8:00am Mass (Angelus) + Jeff Davis 10:30am Mass – Parishioners 1pm Angelus Youth Trapshoot

Confessions are available 30 minutes before weekend Masses, by appointment, or as indicated on the schedule.

ST. JOSEPH PARISH COUNCIL

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Mr. Clem Fellhoelter- Chair	Mr. Mark Rueschhoff
Mrs. Kristy Fellhoelter - Vice Chair	Mrs. Kim Robben

Saturday Jan 3 rd 5pm	Servers	Volunteers	Sunday Jan 4 th 10:30 am	Servers	Brynn H, Parker K, & Faith K.
	Lector	Micheline Huffman		Lector	Brad Joseph
	Gifts	Curt & Lila Thompson		Gifts	Drew & Valerie Krier
	Hospitality	Bob & Sherri Kuhlman		Hospitality	Gant & Brynn Kuhlman

Sunday, Jan 4 th 8 am	Servers	Johnathan Ostmeyer
	Lectors	Nancy Schwarz & Doug Robben
	Gifts	Jeff & Amanda Ostmeyer
	Ushers	Bernard Dickman, Bob, Lee, and Clem Fellhoelter