



St. Nicholas' Parish News



Sunday 26th December 2021
Feast of the Holy Family
St. Stephen's Day

Fr. Derek Leonard P.P. 087 6261287
Fr. John O'Byrne 085 7491268
Fr. Gerard O'Leary 087 9378685
Salesian Sisters: 061 348510



Mass Times

WEEKDAY 9.45am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, St Munchin's College Chapel
All are welcome to join us for mass at 10am in St Mary's on Thursday and Friday.

WEEKEND Sat.6pm, Sun.10.30am, St Nicholas' Church 12 noon, St Munchin's College Chapel

Parish Website: www.saintnicholasparish.ie

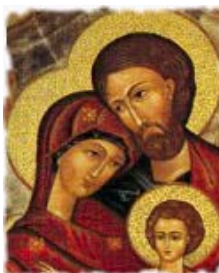
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Feast of the Holy Family

Today is the feast day of the Holy Family, but also every family's feast day, since the Holy Family is the patron and model of all Christian families. Today should be a huge family feast, since it is devoted entirely to the Holy Family as a model for the Christian family life. As Rev. Edward Sutfin states:

"The children must learn to see in their father the foster-father St. Joseph, and the Blessed Mother as the perfect model for their own mother. The lesson to be learned is both practical and theoretical, in that the children must learn how to obey and to love their parents in thought, word and action, just as Christ was obedient to Mary and Joseph. Helping mother in the kitchen and in the house work, and helping father in his odd jobs about the home thus take on a new significance by being performed in a Christ-like spirit." (True Christmas Spirit, ©1955, St. Meinrad Archabbey, Inc.)



Prayer for when you can't receive communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate
the splendor of true love;
to you we turn with trust.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too
may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic churches.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again experience
violence, rejection and division;
may all who have been hurt or scandalized
find ready comfort and healing.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
make us once more mindful
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,
and its beauty in God's plan.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer.
Amen.
Pope Francis *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love)



PARISH NEWSLETTER

We encourage local groups to avail of the newsletter to promote upcoming events, pray for the sick etc.

We also welcome local **GOOD NEWS** stories or messages you want to share.

Items for the newsletter can be given to Maura 086 0429952 or Grace 086 8296193

E-mail: Stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com





Parish Office Opening

hours Tues 2pm—4pm. Thurs 9.30am—1.30pm for anyone who may need to book Masses get certificates or any other church related enquiries. Entrance to the office is through the Adoration Chapel opposite the priest's house.

Phone: 061-341300

Baptism



Baptism time will be on 1st & 3rd Saturday at 4.30pm and on the 2nd & 4th Sunday at 1:00pm.

Contact the church office 061-341300

Remembering those who are Sick



Let us continue to pray for those who are ill at this time, those preparing for and awaiting results of tests, those in hospital. Continue to pray for Brian, Paddy, Vera, Ailish, Frank, Ger, Bernadette, Fiona, Niamh, Jesse, Eoin, Mary, William, Méabh, Anna, Amy, Agnes, Dympna, Muirinn, Orla, Carmel, Ruby, Michelle, Aoife, John, Michael, Ralph, Karen, Pat, Martina and Ciara.

Lord Jesus, you are the true friend of all those who suffer anguish and pain in spirit, mind or body. Please share with them now the gift of your consoling love.

If you know of anybody needing prayers etc, please let Maura/Grace know by E-mail: stnicholasnewsletter@gmail.com or Tel. Maura 086 0429952 / Grace 086 8296193



Feast of St. Stephen

Saint Stephen is the first martyr of the Church, and is the patron of stonemasons, masons, bricklayers, deacons, headaches, and horses.

The deacon Stephen, stoned in Jerusalem two years after the death of Christ, has always been the object of very special veneration by the faithful. He is the first martyr. The account in the Acts of the Apostles relating his arrest and the accusations brought against him emphasize the parallel with our Saviour's trial;

he was stoned outside the city wall and died, like his Master, praying for his executioners.

The place of St Stephen's martyrdom is traditionally identified as being close to the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem, where today there is a church dedicated to the martyred deacon. Christians immediately felt a great devotion to St Stephen, a devotion that only grew when his relics were re-discovered in the early part of the 5th century.

As the first witness to Christ he confronted his opponents with quiet courage and the promise made by Jesus (Mark 13.11) was fulfilled: "...disputing with Stephen they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit that spoke."

St. Stephen was the first to follow in the steps of Christ with martyrdom: like the divine Master, he died forgiving and praying for his executioners (cf. Acts 7:60). During the first four centuries of Christianity all the saints venerated by the Church were martyrs.



Legend of the Christmas Spider

A long time ago in Germany, a mother was cleaning for Christmas. Spiders fled up to the attic to escape the broom. On quiet Christmas Eve, the spiders slowly came down for a peek. "Oh, what a beautiful tree!"

In excitement, they scurried up and out along each branch. They were filled with happiness as they climbed amongst the glittering beauty. But alas! By the time they were done, the tree was shrouded in their dusty grey web.

When Santa came with gifts for the children and saw the tree covered with spider webs, he smiled because he saw how happy the spiders were, but knew how heartbroken the mother would be if she saw it covered in dusty webs. So he turned the webs to strands of silver and the tree was even more beautiful than before.

That's the story of tinsel on trees and why every tree should have a Christmas Spider in it's branches.

New Year Wishes

This New Year, may your right hand always be stretched out in friendship, never in want.

- May this New Year bring newly found prosperity, love, happiness and delight in your life.
- May the dawning of this New Year, fill your heart with new hopes, open up new horizons and bring for you promises of brighter tomorrows.
- As the new year blossoms, may the journey of your life be fragrant with new opportunities, your days be bright with new hopes and your heart be happy with love!

