



**Eastern Shore  
Medical Weight Loss**

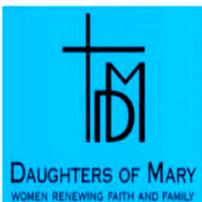
**251-625-4030**

**Physician Supervised  
FDA Approved Prescription Weight Loss**

*Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the beautiful Christmas decorations. A special thanks to Sallie Washington for your leadership and hard work on the Liturgy Committee.*



Our Lady of Lourdes Liturgy Committee



Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall  
Tuesday at 6PM



**Last Week's Collection**

**Regular & Holy Day Collection**  
12/20/2020 \$4,041.00

**Parish Project Collection**  
12/20/2020 \$25.00

**Prayer to the Holy Family**

O Jesus, only-begotten Son of the Eternal Father, well-beloved Son of the Blessed Virgin and foster Child of St. Joseph, we most fervently implore Thee, through Mary Thine ever-blessed Mother and St. Joseph Thy foster father, take our children under Thy special charge and enclose them in the love of Thy Sacred Heart. They are the children of Thy Father in Heaven, created after His own image; they are Thy possession, for Thou hast purchased them with Thy Precious Blood; they are temples of the Holy Ghost, who sanctified them in Baptism and implanted in their hearts the virtues of faith, hope and charity. O most loving Jesus, rule and guide them, that they may live according to the holy Catholic Faith, that they may not waver in their confidence in Thee and that they may ever remain faithful to Thy love.

O Mary, Blessed Mother of Jesus, grant to our children a place in thy pure maternal heart! Spread over them thy protecting mantle when danger threatens their innocence; keep them firm when they are about to stray from the path of virtue; and should they have the misfortune of falling into mortal sin, oh, then raise them up again, reconcile them with thy Divine Son and restore them to Sanctifying Grace.

And thou, O holy foster father St. Joseph, do not abandon our children! Protect them from the assaults of the wicked enemy and deliver them from all dangers of soul and body.

O dear parents of the holy Child Jesus! Intercede for us parents also, that we may bring up our children in the love and fear of God and one day attain with them the Beatific Vision.

**Amen**

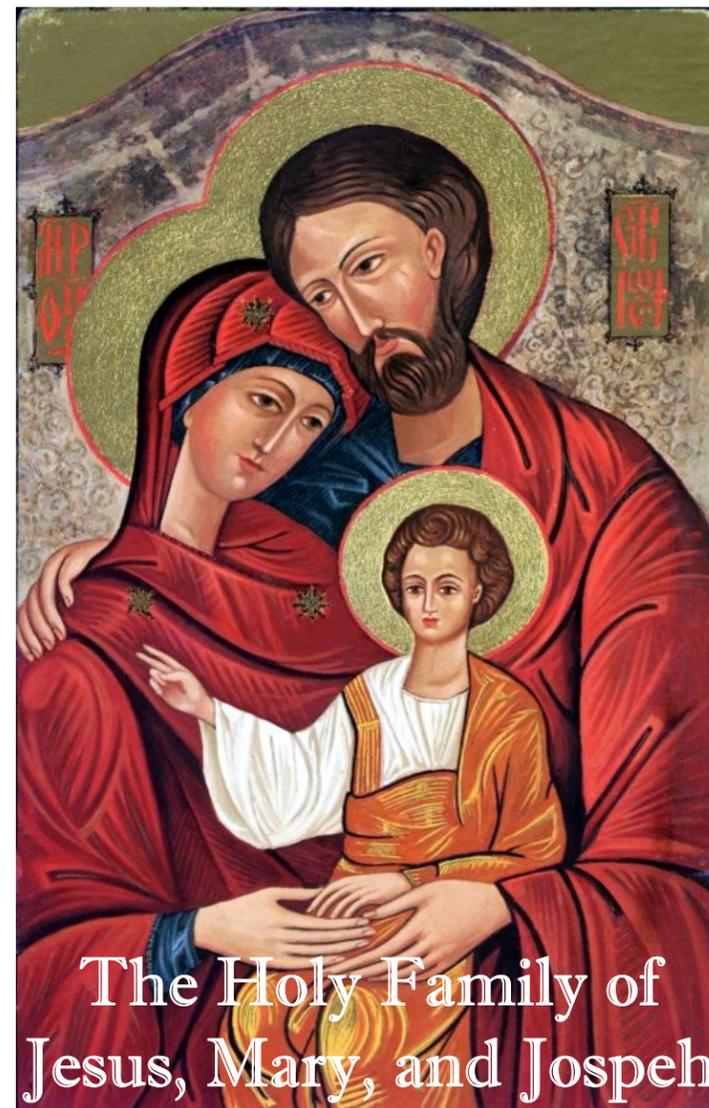


# OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Catholic Parish

REV. PRABHU AROCKIASAMY, PASTOR

ED CONNICK, DEACON



## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

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December 27  
2020

The Holy Family of  
Jesus, Mary,  
and Joseph

Cycle B  
Year 1

## MASS SCHEDULE

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY,  
MOTHER OF GOD  
(HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)**

**THURSDAY  
12/31/2020  
4:00 PM**

**FRIDAY  
01/01/2020  
9:00 AM**

**REGULAR  
WEEKDAYS  
TUESDAY-FRIDAY  
8 AM**

**ROSARY  
3:30 PM SATURDAY**

**SATURDAY  
VIGIL MASS  
4:00 PM**

**SUNDAY  
MASS  
8:30AM  
11:00AM**

**SACRAMENT OF  
RECONCILIATION  
SATURDAY  
3:15PM-3:45PM  
OR BY APPOINTMENT**

**FR. PRABHU  
CONTACT INFORMATION**

**PHONE  
719-242-4622**

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prabhuaroc1985@icloud.com**



# Bringing Home the Word

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (B)*  
December 27, 2020

## Family Peace

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

In his painting, *Rest on the Flight into Egypt* by Federico Flori, the artist captures details of the Holy Family's escape. Although they are refugees in a dramatic, stressful situation, he chooses to show the delightful communion among them. Mary sits comfortably in the center of the family, busily collecting water. Perhaps she will wash the cherries or the toddler's dirty hands. Her face, full of serenity and joy, is lost in thoughts that go beyond the work of the present. She is the model of so many mothers who, in spite of challenging

circumstances, focus their energy on loving their children and creating an oasis of peace.

Saint Joseph stands behind the Madonna and reaches up into the tree to pull off a branch for the child Jesus. His strong arm and hand extend straight down toward the child as they both grasp the wood from opposite ends—one giving and the other receiving. This simple domestic gesture of providing for the son is strongly symbolic of what so many husbands and fathers do on a daily basis. Alongside their wives, they care for their families with hard work.

Jesus is next to Mary and reaches out to Joseph. He receives love from both parents while returning that love with joy and gratitude.

The Holy Family reflects the divine family. One day the heavenly Father will also extend a piece of fruit—this time the bitter passion and the wood of the cross. Although it costs his human nature, Jesus accepts it, thanks in part to the strength he finds in Mary. +

*In spite of challenges, mothers focus their energy on their children and creating an oasis of peace.*

## A Word from Pope Francis

Instead of returning home with his family, he stayed in Jerusalem, in the Temple, causing great distress to Mary and Joseph who were unable to find him.... Returning home, Jesus surely remained close to them, as a sign of his complete affection and obedience. Moments like these become part of the pilgrimage of each family.

—Feast of the Holy Family, December 27, 2015



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Does my family know how to gracefully encounter trying times?
- What attitudes allowed the Holy Family to have peace amidst the crosses?

## Sunday Readings

**Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14 or Genesis 15:1–6; 21:1–3**

Those who honor their father will have joy in their own children, / and when they pray they are heard.

**Colossians 3:12–21 or Colossians 3:12–17 or Hebrews 11:8, 11–12, 17–19**

And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.

**Luke 2:22–40 or Luke 2:22, 39–40**

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.

# We Can Save Each Other

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSSR

There is something peculiar about the birth of Jesus, our Savior. God becomes small, a tiny infant-God. Think about it for a moment. Who really needs to be saved?

The kind innkeeper saves Jesus from being born in the street by providing a stall, straw, and a crib. The angels save him from the silence of night and lull him to sleep singing songs of “joy to the world.” The animals breathe warmth over the newborn Jesus, saving him from the cold. The star shines brightly overhead, saving Jesus from the darkness. Mary saves him from hunger. The kings come from afar to share their gifts, saving Jesus from the pain of need and poverty. An angel comes to Joseph in a dream, saving the Baby Jesus from jealous Herod's wrath.

## Jesus uses small things to make a big point.

Of all of the figures in the story, the only one who is helpless, vulnerable, frail, and in need of saving is Jesus. What's peculiar about the birth of our Lord is that we are given a Savior who needs to be saved! Everyone comes to his rescue, giving him what he needs.

Jesus always uses small things to make a big point—salt, a coin, a mustard seed, yeast, a lamp, wineskins, and a splinter—all small and seemingly insignificant



until Jesus wraps them up in a parable and delivers them as the centerpiece of a big message. God becomes small to make a big point. God gives us a Savior who needs to be saved to teach us what salvation means.

I remember standing in line at a corner store in East Harlem waiting to buy milk. A rough-looking teenager came up to me and said, “Pastor, my mother says, ‘Never buy milk here. It's always spoiled.’” I looked and, sure enough, the milk was past the expiration date. The young man saved me from spoiled milk and a return trip. Salvation can mean so many things. The parish food pantry...you saved me! A ride to

the doctor...you saved me! A few dollars when I was short...you're my salvation! We've all been there. I'll bet you've said it to someone who has been there for you in your time of need: “You're my only hope. You're my salvation. You saved me!”

And it's Jesus, tiny and frail in the manger, showing us how we can be salvation for each other. Our Savior is born needing to be saved, and in doing so, teaches us that we can be “salvation” for each other. +

## PRAYER

*Lord, Mary and Joseph helped you to grow in love and wisdom. Surround me with loving and caring people to help me to be a wise, loving, and caring person.*

—From *Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

## WEEKDAY READINGS

December 28–  
January 2

**Monday**, Holy Innocents:  
1 Jn 1:5–2:2 / Mt 2:13–18

**Tuesday**, Christmas Weekday:  
1 Jn 2:3–11 / Lk 2:22–35

**Wednesday**, Christmas Weekday:  
1 Jn 2:12–17 / Lk 2:36–40

**Thursday**, Christmas Weekday:  
1 Jn 2:18–21 / Jn 1:1–18

**Friday**, Solemnity of Mary:  
Nm 6:22–27 / Gal 4:4–7 / Lk 2:16–21

**Saturday**, Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen: 1 Jn 2:22–28 / Jn 1:19–28

Bringing Home  
the Word   
December 27, 2020

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## What Does the Holy Family Teach Us?

FATHER EDWARD LOONEY

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York houses a beautiful triptych of the Holy Family called the “Mérode Altarpiece,” painted by Robert Campin. The left of the three-paneled piece of art captures an open door of two bystanders peering into the main panel of the Annunciation, while the far-right panel depicts St. Joseph in his carpentry shop. This artistic masterpiece captures who the Christian is as they examine the life of the Holy Family and the extraordinary events surrounding their life and calling from God. Catching a glimpse of that home in Nazareth, where the Christ Child grew in age and wisdom into his adult years, we experience how the Holy Family informs family life in the third millennium. In the biblical stories of Jesus, Mary and Joseph we see their example of virtuous living.

### They Follow God's Lead

The Scriptures paint the early life of the Holy Family as God calls them to a special mission. With the angel Gabriel, we greet Mary and learn of her calling to become the Mother of God. Our introduction to St. Joseph consists of him deciding to divorce Mary quietly, believing she brought shame and dishonor upon him and his family. But an angel invites Joseph to change his mind and take Mary into his home, to become the guardian of Mary and Jesus, the husband of Mary and foster-father of Jesus.

In that home at Nazareth we meet a couple who shows an openness to allowing God to lead their life together. Mary surely had other plans for her life; as many believe, she took a vow of virginity at an early age, so becoming a physical mother was something she did not anticipate. Yet, she heard God's invitation, and knew that His plans were better for her life; therefore, she gives her fiat — that is, her “yes” to God.

St. Joseph opens his heart to the messenger sent by God and takes Mary into his home. This would not be the first or last time that St. Joseph followed God's lead in his life as he protected the Holy Family. After Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, they follow the prompting of an angel to flee into Egypt for safety and wait there until another angelic message leads them back home. The Holy Family is a great example for families everywhere to always be open to whatever God's will might be and to always be listening for God to speak. He might speak his will in prayer or through another person. By our own prayer and discernment, we too can follow God's lead for our life.

### A Teacher of Virtue

The home should be the principal place of catechesis. Unfortunately, many families today allow the Church to fill that role alone. The home of Nazareth, in addition to the local synagogue, would have been the place of instruction for the Christ Child. The Holy Family taught Jesus how to read, and at the start of his public ministry Jesus would read from the scroll and declare the passage to be fulfilled in their hearing (see Lk 4:21). Mary and Joseph would have taught the Christ Child how to pray, especially the Shema, and years later Jesus would teach his disciples how to pray with the Our Father. Joseph would have handed on his trade to his son, who later would die on the wood of a cross. Jesus had a great concern for the poor and the marginalized. In the home of Nazareth he learned generosity and kindness. The home of Nazareth reminds us that families have the responsibility of teaching their children the Faith and to model the virtues. Jesus had most excellent parents; Mary was without sin and Joseph is described as a just and prudent man. Parents today can learn from Joseph and Mary on how to teach their children.

### A Call to Chastity

The Catholic tradition upholds the belief that Mary remained ever-virgin. St. Joseph often is referred to as Mary's most chaste spouse, and in the Litany of St. Joseph is recognized as the chaste guardian of the Virgin. Perhaps this is yet another way the Holy Family provides an example to our modern world, often assaulted by sexual promiscuity and fleeting lustful thoughts. The chaste relationship of Joseph and Mary reminds all Christian faithful that, even in marriage, chastity is to be observed. The practice of natural family planning (NFP) is one way a couple observes chastity in their marriage. The fidelity of Joseph and Mary to each other also gives great example and encourages couples in their fidelity to one another, even in difficult circumstances. The chaste relationship between Joseph and Mary means they experienced intimacy in different ways through their common life together. Their purity of mind and heart of mutual love for each other and the Son of God is indeed worthy of imitation by all families.

### Devotion to the Holy Family

Devotion to the Holy Family of Nazareth emerges in times when the family becomes weakened because of political and societal pressures. In the medieval period, Jean Gerson, theologian at the Council of Constance (1414-18), encouraged devotion to the Holy Family, and Pope Leo XIII said that imitation of the Holy Family would be a means to revitalize and strengthen family life. In the third millennium the institution of the family once again suffers attacks politically and socially. Perhaps now is the time for us to knock on the door of the Holy Family's home in Nazareth and move from being an onlooker peering in to a guest in their home. From them we will learn many virtues for Christian family life and, through their inspiration, to practice them in our homes and among our own families.

*Fr. Looney is a priest of the diocese of Green Bay, WI. Follow him on Twitter at @FrEdwardLooney*

### Entrance: Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.

#### Refrain

**Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

Say what may the tidings be which inspire your heavenly song.

#### Refrain

### Kyrie

*Kyrie, eleison. Kyrie, eleison.*

*Christe, eleison. Christe, eleison.*

*Kyrie, eleison. Kyrie, eleison.*

### First Reading: Genesis 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying:

“Fear not, Abram!

I am your shield;

I will make your reward very great.”

But Abram said,

“O Lord GOD, what good will your gifts be, if I keep on being childless

and have as my heir the steward of my house, Eliezer?”

Abram continued,

“See, you have given me no offspring, and so one of my servants will be my heir.”

Then the word of the LORD came to him:

“No, that one shall not be your heir; your own issue shall be your heir.”

The Lord took Abram outside and said,

“Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.

Just so,” he added, “shall your descendants be.”

Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.

The LORD took note of Sarah as he had said he would;

he did for her as he had promised.

Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age,

at the set time that God had stated.

Abraham gave the name Isaac to this son of his whom Sarah bore him.

### Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5

**R: Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways!

For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored.

**R: Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table.

**R: Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord. The Lord bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

**R: Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

### Second Reading: Hebrews 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19

Brothers and sisters:

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place

that he was to receive as an inheritance;

he went out, not knowing where he was to go.

By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age

--and Sarah herself was sterile--

for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy.

So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead,

descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore.

By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac,

and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son,

of whom it was said,

“Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name.”

He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead,

and he received Isaac back as a symbol.

**Alleluia: Colossians 3:15a, 16a**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia**

Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia**

**Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40**

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and you yourself a sword will pierce—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.



I believe in one God,  
The Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
Of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
The Only Begotten Son of God,  
Born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God,  
Light from Light,  
True God from True God,  
Begotten, not made,  
Consubstantial with the Father,  
Through Him all things were made,  
For us men and for our salvation  
He came down from heaven,  
And by the Holy Spirit  
Was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
And became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
He suffered death and was buried,  
And rose again on the third day  
In accordance with the scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated  
At the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
To judge the living and the dead  
And His kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
The giver life, who proceeds from  
The Father and the Son,  
Who with the Father and the Son  
Is adored and glorified,  
Who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic  
And apostolic Church.  
I confess one baptism  
For the forgiveness of sins  
And I look forward to the resurrection  
Of the dead  
And the life of the world to come.  
**Amen.**

**Presentation Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see the lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by;  
Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hope and fears of all the years are met in thee to-night.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God, the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So, God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

**Communion Hymn: What Child Is This**

What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

**Refrain**

**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing!  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here the silent word is pleading.

**Refrain**

So, bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant king, to own Him;  
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.

**Refrain**

**Sending Forth: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all you nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time, behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"



Anita Barclay, Campbell Berger, Katherine Berger, Bethany Ann Boltz, Eddie Booth Sr., Logan Bowers, Clement Boney, Jerry Boyes, Patrick Webb Brownlie-Carey, Noli Causay, Teresa Coleman, Lee Cooley, Peter Cooley, Bob Cooper, Anita Cowart, Anne Davidson, Lemuel Dickinson, Daniel Dorriety, Marquitta Dukes, John Dumas, Dodie Dumas, Johnny Finch, Louise Frontz, Tim Frontz, Janet Gafford, Tony Golemon, Ginny Johnston, MaryAnn Keith, Dennis Keith, Liz Kilborn, Edward Kimbrough, Debora Klaus, Nancy Klooz, Steven Kuszynski, Shirley Lacy, Michael Langan, Alfred Leonard, Margie Lord, Rodney Lundy, Shirly McDonald, Mary McKeough, Patricia McRoy, Craig Miley, Archie Moore, Elaine Moore, Wally Neese, Kenny Nixon, Tiffany Neese, Darlene O'Rourke, James M. O'Rourke, Alex Paneda, Lita Paneda, Scott Peck, Glenda Pose, Ursula Quintana, Kaitlyn Reynolds, Dorothy Sanchez, Simon Schum, Cindy Snow, Tootie Spikes, Mandy Spotswood, Curtis Steiner, Rita Steiner, Todd Stringfellow, Barbara Thomas, Katelyn Tillman, Tyler Upton, Norma Villanueva, Anna Visperas, Rudy Visperas, Melanie Wacker, Albert Washington, Heather Washington, Darlene Watson, Lou Watt, Brad Wells, Bubba Williams, Bobby Zarate.

**Special Intentions**

Keith & Diana Holifield, Ken Kleinschrodt,  
Cheryl Stewart,