

# CHURCH of the RESURRECTION NEWS

Nr. 52 (3422) December 24-26th, 2021

CHRISTMAS - THE HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - C



God established the family in the marriage of Adam and Eve. The first reading teaches us the importance God places on the family. Loving and honoring our parents, especially when they are old, yields a long life, blessings, and forgiveness of our sins.

As God's chosen and beloved ones, we too, must reflect on this awesome love in our lives. Paul almost runs out of words – compassion, kindness, humility, and gentleness – to stress the love we should have for one another. It was God who chose our parents, siblings and children for us. Our family, created by God, must reflect His love.

Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. As we do so, our Gospel invites us to consider Joseph's protection of Jesus in the face of danger. Just as in the announcement of Jesus' birth, an angel appears to Joseph in a dream. The angel warns him of Herod's plans to harm Jesus. Joseph follows the command of the angel and takes Joseph and Mary to Egypt, returning only after receiving word in another dream that it was safe to do so.

This feast is part of the Christmas season, so we should look at today's Gospel in the context of what Scripture tells us about Jesus' birth. Today's reading is found in the Gospel of Matthew, following the story of the visit of the Magi. Recall that Matthew's story about the birth of Jesus makes Joseph the primary character. Among Matthew's themes in this infancy narrative is Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about the messiah. Indeed, the story of the Holy Family's flight to Egypt recalls the story of Moses in the Book of Exodus.

The Holy Family's escape to Egypt reminds us of the struggles and sacrifices that are required as preparation for God's salvation.

†R.R.

*"Jesus, thank you for my family.*

*Help us learn how to respect and love each other even more." (TWAU)*



**2022 January 1st  
NEW YEAR**

**9 a.m. Mass (in EN)**

**11 a.m. Mass (in LT)**

**Sunday Masses**

**online -**

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**broadcasts**

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Prisikelimo Parapija,

Tevai Pranciskonai

***Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.***

## December 25th Masses

**9 AM** †Aldona Podsidecki (G.D.Bonner)

**11 AM** living and deceased parishioners  
for living and deceased family and friends

(G,J)

for Kobelskis' and Kodis' deceased family  
members (children)

†Ieva and Vincas Jonuska & Elena and  
Jurgis Krakauskas (Januszko family)

†Fr.Kazimieras Kaknevičius (B.V.Bireta)

†Jonas Dirmantas (O.Dirmantas)

†Veronika, Benediktas, Antanas and  
Vytautas Navickas (I.F.Zilinskas)

request grace of health for parish priests

(NN)

## December 26th Masses

**9 AM** †Elena Pacaitis (10th anniv)

(V.M.Navickas)

**11 AM** for living and deceased parishioners  
in thanksgiving - for †Fr. E.Jurgutis, OFM &  
†Fr. P.Sarpnickas, OFM (Stanevicius family)

†Eugenijus Siciunas (wife)

†Kazimieras Grigaravicius (family)

†Ruta and Paulius Stankus (R.Buksaitis)

†Balbina and Juozas Tamulionis

(D.A.Nausedas)

†Fr.Kazimieras Kaknevičius (D.S.Peterson)

†Maria and Bronius Matusевичius & Irena and  
Anicetas Zalagenas (I.Matus)

for Burauskas' and Samulevičius' deceased  
family members (T.V.Samonis)

**3 PM** "Vilnius Manor" for "Vilnius Manor"

residents and working personal

**Office hours during  
the Holidays**

**December 27-28**

**CLOSED**

**December 29-30**

**OPEN**

**December 31**

**CLOSED**

**January 3, 2022**

**CLOSED**



**ALLELUIA...  
ALLELUIA... ALLELUIA...**  
Resurrection Parish's **ALL**  
singers and musicians  
wish all Parishioners  
a **Blessed Christmas and Happy 2022...**

**THIS WEEK'S HOLY MASSES**

**MONDAY** (December 27): 7 p.m. †Angeline Lumsden (Neimanas family);

**TUESDAY** (December 28): 7 p.m. living and deceased benefactors; †Valentinas and Marija Indris (R.Indris);

**WEDNESDAY** (December 29): 10 a.m. "Labdara" for Nursing Home living and deceased residents and workers; 7 p.m. †Grazina Koganas (Remigija);

**THURSDAY** (December 30): 7 p.m. †Liudas and Markus Matukas (G.Matukas); request grace of health for M.V.M.M. (M.V.Neverauskas); for Vanagas' and Kazlauskas' deceased family members (A.S.Vanagas);

**FRIDAY**: (December 31): 9 p.m. in thanksgiving (GJ);

**SATURDAY (January 1- New Year)**: 9 a.m. in thanksgiving - for Olivia Torres (F.Torres); 11 a.m. living and deceased parishioners; †Maria and Bronius Mausevicius (family); for Living Rosary living and deceased members (I.Matus); †Terese Zimmnickaite (Prakapu family); †Irena and Henrikas Matusaitis (family); Lord's blessings for Garsva and Johnson families (family);

**SUNDAY** (January 2): 9 a.m. †Rimas Strimaitis (family); 11 a.m. living and deceased parishioners; †Eugenijus Siciunas (wife); †Inocentas Jurcevicius (A.Jurcevicius); for Beresnevicius' and Jurkus' living and deceased family members (B.Tamosiunas); †Jonas Baltakys - celebrating 100th birthday (family); †Ilona Smalenskas (V.Puzeris); †Ona (8th anniv.) and Zigmas (11th anniv.) Girdauskas (family).

**Capital Fund - \$ 324,979**

**THANK YOU...**

**"For it is in giving that we receive".** Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

**Collections of December 19th**

55 envelopes - \$ 4,940

No envelopes - \$ 58.58

Direct deposit - \$ 1,275

eTransfer - \$ 620

eTransfer (Mass intention) - \$ 130

For soup kitchens in Lithuania - \$ 6,270

**THANK you for your generosity**



**This is the parish home for all of us – so welcome home!**

Dear Parishioners, contrary to our greatest hopes, COVID 19 remains part of our reality. We are glad to see increasing attendance at Sunday Masses, and we would like to thank you in advance for your continued patience and perseverance in maintaining the health and safety protocols that remain in place. Please: \*wear a mask (covering mouth and nose) while you are in the church building; \*sanitize your hands upon entering; \*register with the volunteers so that in the unfortunate event of a COVID case we will be able to contact you promptly; \*practice physical distancing while waiting to register, taking seats, and in line for communion; \*follow guidance from the ushers for seating; sit only in marked seats; \*stay at home if you are experiencing cold symptoms.

As difficult as it may be to resist, we also ask that you not congregate in the narthex after Mass. It's wonderful that we can worship as a community, and we hope that soon we will be able to meet for fellowship and coffee in the hall. To ensure that happens as soon as possible, let's say our hellos outdoors for the time being.

**Live streaming of Mass from our parish is continuing Sundays in English at 9 AM and in Lithuanian at 11 AM**, as well the Mass from St. Michael's Cathedral is streamed.

**Blessings and let's unite in prayer wherever we are.**

Camp "KRETINGA"

wishes everyone

**a Blessed Christmas and Happy 2022 New Year!**

**Camp "Kretinga" 2022:**

**English speaking July 3rd - 17th;**

**Lithuanian speaking July 17th – 31st**



**"Ausra" Sports Club**

wishes you and yours all the very best during this Christmas Season.



**THANK YOU** to ALL who contribute to the **FOOD DRIVE** and we wish you **Lord's blessings ... Merry Christmas and Happy 2022!**

*Labdara* - The Parish Committee for Charitable Causes

**Resurrection Parish's Cafeteria Staff wish you**

**a Blessed Christmas**

**and a New Year filled with success, joy and health.**



### **Pope at Angelus: Christmas invites us to offer help and joy**



At the Sunday Angelus on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis recalls how Mary "arose and went with haste" to visit and assist her relative Elizabeth. In a similar way, he says we can reach out in generosity towards others and bring the joy of Jesus, as Mary did with Elizabeth. Pope Francis greeted pilgrims in Saint Peter's Square on this Fourth Sunday of Advent and encouraged them to "arise and to go in haste towards Christmas." He was referring to the day's Gospel reading which recounts when Mary went to visit Elizabeth, who was also pregnant, as a response to an inner impulse calling her to be close and help her. He said in this way Mary gave Elizabeth "the joy of Jesus, the joy she carried in her heart and in her womb", proclaimed in her Magnificat.

**Arise and go in haste** - The Pope then reflected on two dimensions of this calling: "to arise" and "to go in haste". The verb "to arise" reflects how Mary took the initiative to move forward and not get bogged down with worries surrounding her unexpected pregnancy that risked exposing her to misunderstanding or even punishment, or also the difficulties ahead on how to manage and fully comprehend this incredible experience. These challenges did not overcome or paralyze her; the Pope observed, and she put her trust in God and boldly went to reach out to her relative Elizabeth to accompany and help her who was advanced in years and with child.

**Reach out to others** - The Pope said we too should try to step out of our own sphere of challenges, problems, negative thoughts, and reach out to others to be of help, just as Mary did. We could visit with an elderly person, the lonely, call someone, or offer any other act of charity. He noted, God is great and always there to help us if "we reach out to Him".

**Living and expressing joy** - The second phrase, "to go in haste", the Pope said means living our daily lives with joy, "looking ahead with confidence," despite the temptation to do otherwise or be immobile. Mary proceeded with a "step" of one whose "whose heart and life are full of God, full of his joy", the Pope noted, and so also should we ask ourselves how our own "step" is, and whether we move forward with hope, energy and perseverance. If we get dragged down by melancholy, he pointed out, we will not bring God to anyone. The Pope encouraged everyone to be positive, despite our daily difficulties, and even cultivate a healthy sense of humour, adding that the first act of charity we can do is to offer "a serene and smiling face", to bring the "joy of Jesus, as Mary did with Elizabeth."

In conclusion, he prayed that the Blessed Mother may help us "to arise and to go in haste towards Christmas!"

**The LORD has proclaimed to the ends of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your savior comes! See, his reward is with him, his recompense before him." They shall be called "The Holy People," "The Redeemed of the LORD." And you shall be called "Cared For," "A City Not Forsaken" (Is 62:11-12).**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**To all Lithuanians and those of Lithuanian descent scattered around the world I greet you with a Holy Christmas!**



At Mass on Christmas Day morning we hear the hopeful words of the prophet Isaiah, after the fulfilled prophecy of the birth of the Savior in Bethlehem, "See, your Savior comes!" We also read about the Lord's redeemed people as well as about His "City not forsaken." These words remind us that God never forgets us and His mercy is eternal. However, we must never forget God. That link between us and Him needs to be fostered daily.

That bond is especially important now, during the pandemic as new variants spread and leave painful footprints of their passage. To unite communities whose members have been scattered or separated from one another is a difficult challenge for the Church, which has always proclaimed unity and reconciliation through Jesus Christ. The celebration of the birth of Christ brings an opportunity to return to the church and find spiritual shelter for those who have distanced themselves. During the Christmas season we are all invited to worship the Lord as a family and to celebrate our unique Lithuanian traditions.

Just as we decorate and light our homes for Christmas with our shiniest of ornaments, so too we are called to reveal to others the best parts of ourselves. Let us bear witness to the miracle of the birth of Jesus so that it is not just in the moment but stays with us throughout the year. Now is not the time to close ourselves off to others or to set boundaries; with the help of the Light of Jesus let us live in unity.

**I wish you all a joyous Christmas; may you be blessed with strength and hope for the New Year.**

Monsignor Edmond J. Putrimas; Lithuanian Bishops Conference Delegate for the Apostolate of Lithuanians Living Abroad

**"And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child."**

*/Lk 2, 15- 17/*

Today, these words, spoken by the shepherds on the Holy Night, in a way, newly reveal to us the Christmas celebration. The Peaceful Night invites us to start out on a permanent, life-long journey to discover the Saviour's Light in the form of a newborn baby, to pray with Him when choosing a path in life, and through Him, share ourselves with our fellow neighbours, thus opening the door to the heart, that is the home of mercy...

**Blessings of the Newborn Lord descend upon you.**

**Your Franciscan Fathers and all the ordained Clergy serving our Parish extend Christmas greetings to all our parishioners on the occasion of Christ's birth.**



THE PARISH IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE  
CONTENT OF THE ADS

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Writing Cheques payable to **Resurrection Parish** in the MEMO write the charitable purpose: **Donation to Parish or Mass.**

Writing Cheques payable to **Franciscan Fathers** in the MEMO write the charitable purpose: **Capital Fund, Renovation fund, Monastery, Sielovada, Soup kitchen, Camp "Kretinga", Oncology centre Klaipeda, Franciscan Fathers projects in Lithuania.**

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*Wishing you a  
Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year*

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*We wish you a very Merry Christmas  
and a peaceful New Year!*

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AND BOARD OF RCU CREDIT UNION!

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**Associate Pastors: Fr. Aurelijus Kazimieras Kasparavicius, OFM**

**Parish economist: Fr. Raimundas Bukauskas, OFM**

**Serving Priests: Fr. Augustinas Simanavicius, OFM**

*Msr. Edmundas Putrimas*

**Deacon: Dr. Kazimieras Ambrozaitis**

**Parish office administrator: Gitana Judvytyte**

**Office hours:**

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