

**December 27, 2015**  
**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (year C)**

**From The Desk of Msgr. Corrigan:**

Why would the Holy Family be today classified as “refugees”?

Did you know that in 1847, the year before our parish was founded, that St. Mary’s Street was called South Street? That South Broadway was called Albany Post Road because it was the route the stagecoach used to get from New York City to Albany. That Getty Square was named after the Getty House which was a favorite resting stop for the passengers on the stagecoach? That before our church was opened on December 25, 1848; our parishioners rented a large room in the Getty House for the celebration of Mass on Sundays? That three prominent non-Catholic residents of the Village of Yonkers contributed generously to the building of our first church? These donations were not entirely altruistic. They owned the real estate around the church and knew that Irish laborers would soon be buying their newly built houses. That the new St. Mary’s church had a roof but no ceiling, benches not pews, and no windows? Two hot bellied wood stoves tried to heat the congregation. Electric lights had not yet been invented. They probably used gas lights or candles. Frozen though they might have been, they were overcome with joy at this their first Christmas at St. Mary’s one hundred and sixty-seven years ago.



**COLLECTION:**

The collection for last Sunday, December 20, 2015 was \$3,464.00



**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph:**

As we continue our Christmas season celebrations, today’s feast of the Holy Family is a relatively new one, instituted at the end of the nineteenth century to respond to changing conditions in family life. Families today can take comfort in knowing that the Holy Family bore its share of hardships as well. Perhaps our prayer today can be for families of all kinds that they might grow in love and in faith through all of their experiences together.

**In the first reading, 1 Samuel 1:20-22:**

A wise man offers sound advice about what can transform any family into an inspiration for others to follow.

**Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 84:**

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

**In the second reading, 1 John 3:1-2:** John reminds us of God’s love for us, making us children of god. We become a holy family by doing God’s will and caring for one another.

**In the Gospel, Luck 2:41-52:** the adolescent Jesus shows up in the temple. He astounds the teachers, but not Mary and Joseph.



**Religious Education News:**

There will be no Religious Education Classes next Saturday December 26<sup>th</sup> or January 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Christmas Recess. Classes will resume on January 9, 2016.



**One goal for each day: to convey the tenderness of Christ to those who are most in need.**

