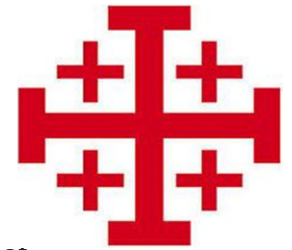


# PASTOR'S CORNER



## MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

In the Church's Universal Calendar, January 3 is the Memorial celebration of the Most Holy Name of Jesus. This observance was newly included in the Universal Calendar of the recently revised third edition of the Roman Missal of the Catholic Church. However, for those parishioners of Holy Name Parish, January 3 is a Solemnity because it is the title of our church. In light of this fact, I have canceled the 8:00 a.m. morning Mass and scheduled a Mass at 6:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 3, in hopes that many more will be able to participate. Our celebration, thanks to those who have answered the request to minister at Mass will be celebrated as a Solemnity should, with accompanied music, Communion under both species, incense, and more. I hope many of you will take the opportunity to come gather in this most important parish celebration. Next year, with more planning, we can hopefully include a dinner following the Mass.

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

As we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, we gather as a faith community on the first Sunday of 2017. A new calendar year often brings about resolutions to make changes in one's life. The other day on a newscast I heard, it was reported that a survey found the number one resolution of those participating in the survey was to lose weight. Other resolutions receiving high choices were begin exercising and stop smoking. While all of these are certainly good resolutions and I would do well to pursue two out of three of these activities, they only serve one aspect of our life, namely our physical nature.

As Catholics we believe our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and we should take care of them. Even after death we reverence the body because we know at the time of the final judgment our bodies will be reunited with our souls. However, what about resolutions for our spiritual nature? Have we made any New Year's Resolutions that include the strengthening of our relationship with Almighty God?

We are relational people. It is important for us to develop and maintain healthy relationships in our lives, with our spouses, children, parents, sons and daughters, friends, co-workers, fellow parishioners, and others. The same must be true of our relationship with Jesus.

Daily prayer offered to our Lord is essential if we desire a meaningful relationship. This prayer needs to be more than our prayers before and after meals and the simple reciting of prayers we learned as a child. While the aforementioned prayers are important and should never be discounted, our prayer life needs to grow and mature in the same way the physical and social part of our being. Our prayer should include a balance of the four kinds of prayer: petition, adoration, contrition, and thanksgiving. We need to make sure that we also allow for some quiet time in our prayer when we give God the chance to talk to us. It is difficult to hear God if we are doing all the talking.

I would encourage prayer in the morning and the evening. Try to schedule it so that it takes place at the same time each day. We are generally creatures of habit. While we never want the prayer to become routine it is helpful if the time is regular.

Add some spiritual resolutions to the other resolutions you have made for the New Year and I will guarantee a much more rewarding and grace-filled 2017.