



**DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

**FEAST OF THE  
HOLY FAMILY**

**MASS TIMES:**

**DAILY:** Mon - Sat - 8:30am

**SAT:** 4pm

**SUN:** 9am, 11am

1pm at Vistancia Elementary  
School

**CONFESIONS:**

**SAT:** 9:30am - 10:30am

**TUE:** 9:30am & 5pm

**ADORATION:**

**THURS:** 9am - 6pm, 12pm

Benediction, Transfer to Chapel

**Chapel Hours:** 8am - 4pm

**ANOINTINGS:**

After Office Hours Call:

(623) 546-2767

**OFFICE HOURS:**

The Office will be closed from  
December 24<sup>th</sup> to January 4<sup>th</sup>



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Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by being prayerful and active  
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Instructing all in the Truth of the Catholic Faith  
Upholding the dignity of human life by nourishing it from  
conception and strengthening it to the end  
Following the Way of Jesus in our Worship and Living

OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DEC, 24<sup>TH</sup> TO JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>



**MASS  
INTENTIONS:**

**WEEKLY  
READINGS:**



**Sunday, December 28th**

9:00am For the Relatives, Friends, Deceased and Living members of Maryanne Frison  
 11:00am † For the Souls of William & Celeste Shovelski  
 1:00pm † For the Soul of Francis McElroy

**Monday, December 29th**

8:30am † For the Soul of Andrew Salata

**Tuesday, December 30th**

8:30am † For the Soul of John Tamborino

**Wednesday, December 31st**

8:30am For the Special Intentions of Dan Little  
 4:00pm † For the Souls of Thomas Dooley and Family

**Thursday, December 1st**

9:00am For the Special Intentions of The Langenbach & Carroll Families  
 4:00pm † For the Soul of Peter Sheldon

**Friday, December 2nd**

8:30am For the Recently Deceased Members of Our Parish and Their Families

**Saturday, December 3rd**

8:30am † For the Soul of Bob Kelling  
 4:00pm For the Parishioners

**Sunday, December 4th**

9:00am † For the Soul of Jay Chibe  
 11:00am † For the Souls of Daniel Michael Voorhies  
 1:00pm

**Sunday, December 28th**

**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**  
 Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

**Monday, December 29th**

1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

**Tuesday, December 30th**

1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-8a; 8b-9, 10; Lk 2:36-40

**Wednesday, December 31st**

1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13; Jn 1:1-18

**Thursday, December 1st**

**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**  
 Num 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

**Friday, December 2nd**

**Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church**

1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28

**Saturday, December 3rd**

1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34

**Sunday, December 4th**

**The Epiphany of the Lord**

Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Mt 2:1-12



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## STAFF DIRECTORY:

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**Fr. Sheunesu Bowora**

sbowora@ololscw.org | 623-546-2767

#### Parochial Vicar

**Fr. Ishaya Samaila**

isamaila@ololscw.org

#### Deacon

**Dcn. Larry Grey**

lgrey@dphx.org | 602-531-4989

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**Interested in one of our Parish  
Ministry Groups?**

**Have questions about them or an event?**

**Our Lady of Lourdes Women's Guild:**  
June Unrein - june.unrein@gmail.com

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas Ct. 2278:**  
Judy Penman - judypenman124@gmail.com

**Saint Vincent de Paul:**  
Sam Pechkurow - spechkurow@aol.com

**The Knights of Columbus:**  
Ed Hoover - edhooveraz@gmail.com





*Christmas at*  
**OUR LADY OF  
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***Christmas Eve***  
2025 DEC 24

**4PM & 6PM IN CHURCH**  
**4:15PM IN MADONNA HALL**  
NO DAILY MASS      NO CONFESSIONS

***Christmas Day***  
2025 DEC 25

**9AM & 11AM IN CHURCH**  
**1PM AT VISTANCIA MISSION**  
NO DAILY MASS      NO CONFESSIONS

***Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God***

2025 DEC 31  
2026 JAN 1

**4PM IN CHURCH**  
NO DAILY MASS      NO CONFESSIONS  
**9AM & 11AM IN CHURCH**

***Feast of the Epiphany***

2026 JAN 3  
2026 JAN 4

**4PM IN CHURCH**  
REGULAR SCHEDULE  
**9AM & 11AM IN CHURCH**  
**1PM AT VISTANCIA MISSION**

***Feast of the Baptism of the Lord***

2026 JAN 7  
2026 JAN 8

**4PM IN CHURCH**  
REGULAR SCHEDULE  
**9AM & 11AM IN CHURCH**  
**1PM AT VISTANCIA MISSION**

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# HAND CARVED IN BETHLEHEM

**PLEASE STOP BY THE TABLES OF RELIGIOUS WARES (Nativity set, rosaries, statues, crucifixes, charms, etc.) AFTER ALL THE MASSES THE WEEKEND OF (December 20 & 21).**

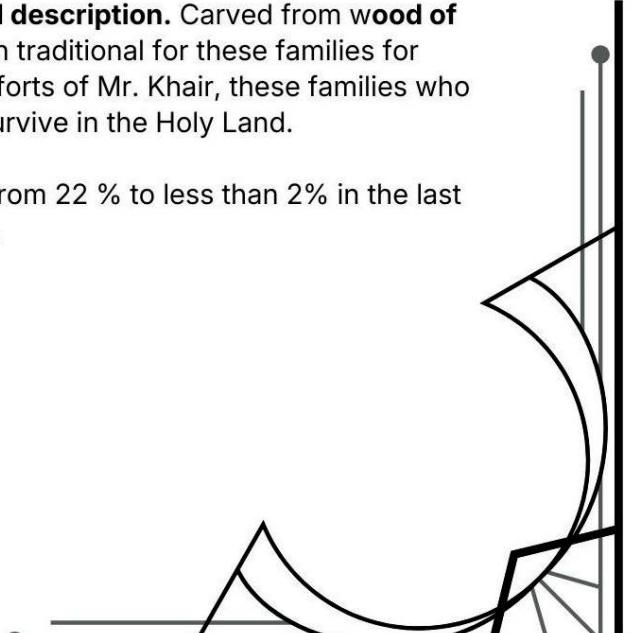


Ayman Khair is representing Christian families from the Holy Land. These families have been dependent upon sales of their hand carved religious articles to tourists of the Holy Land. Due to the conflict in the Middle East and the War tourism has been stopped completely.

It is very important to support them at this critical time since they have no income and there is no tourism at all. In order to survive, they have turned to Christian communities in the United States to purchase their articles.

**These hand carved religious articles are beyond description.** Carved from wood of the sacred Olive tree, this workmanship has been traditional for these families for hundreds of years. It is hoped that through the efforts of Mr. Khair, these families who have little income will be able to stay living and survive in the Holy Land.

Sadly enough, the Christian population dropped from 22 % to less than 2% in the last 20 years. Thank you in advance for your support.



## THE HOLY FAMILY AND THE CALL TO FAITHFUL FAMILY LIFE

By Joey Langenbach

The Feast of the Holy Family, celebrated on December 28, invites reflection on the home of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The Church places this family before the faithful as a real household shaped by faith, obedience, and trust in God. Scripture presents a life marked by ordinary duties, real hardship, and steady devotion. This feast highlights how holiness grows within daily family life.

The Gospel according to Luke describes Jesus growing in wisdom and grace under the care of Mary and Joseph. Family life in Nazareth centers on love expressed through responsibility and sacrifice. Mary listens to God and keeps His word close to her heart. Joseph leads through action rather than speech. Matthew's Gospel shows Joseph protecting his family during danger and uncertainty through obedience to God's direction. Catholic teaching consistently presents this household as a guide for Christian families. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches parents serve as the first teachers of faith within the home, forming a domestic church grounded in prayer and example.

The Holy Family faces trials familiar to many families today. Scripture records flight into Egypt, financial strain, and concern for safety. Faith guides each decision. Trust in God shapes responses to fear and instability. The Church lifts up this family to show faithful living does not depend on comfort or perfection. Faithful living grows through perseverance, forgiveness, and daily commitment.

This feast speaks directly to modern family life. Prayer strengthens relationships. Shared meals build connection. Sunday Mass anchors the week. Children learn faith through example rather than instruction alone. Patience during stress reflects trust in God's plan. Through steady acts of love, family life becomes a place where Christ remains present.

The Feast of the Holy Family affirms the value of family life rooted in faith. Every home shapes future disciples. Ordinary choices carry lasting impact. The Holy Family of Nazareth continues to intercede for families, calling each household toward unity, fidelity, and love grounded in truth.



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Our Lady of Lourdes

# OCIA Announcement

Class Times

**OCIA Dates:**  
 January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
 January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
 January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
 January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

All Classes will be after the 9am Mass in the Fr. McGivney Room

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is for those who are considering joining the Catholic Church or simply want to learn more.

**All Are Welcome**

## MALTA WORLD DAY OF THE SICK HEALING MASS

Saturday, Feb 14, 2026  
 1:00pm

**Location:**  
**OUR LADY OF LOURDES**  
**19002 N 128TH AVE.**  
**SUN CITY WEST, AZ 85375**

**Celebrants:**  
**BISHOP NEVARES**



**Itinerary of the day:**  
 12:00 pm - Rosary in the Grotto  
 12:15 pm - Confessions  
 1:00 pm - Mass  
 2:30 pm - Distribution of Lourdes Water

In last week's bulletin, we shared this newsletter provided by the Diocese of Phoenix Office of Mental Health Ministry. Caregivers play an indispensable role in our communities. They are the foundation of their own families and the families to whom they provide support. The role of caregiving often is intensified during the holiday season accompanied by their day-to-day responsibilities. May we honor the dignity of their work and hold all caregivers in prayer especially during these holy seasons of Advent and Christmas. Blessings to all of you and your families.

Angela Cotta, Director of Pastoral Care

# The Caregiver's Companion

A Newsletter for Caregivers

Evelyn E. Fink, Editor, 602-882-5197, [dr.eve.az@gmail.com](mailto:dr.eve.az@gmail.com)

DECEMBER 2025

## Surviving the Holidays:

As the signs of the holidays start popping up (neighbors' outdoor decorations, Christmas tree stands, Black Friday advertisements, and many more), family caregivers may start feeling overwhelmed and stressed even before December arrives. Managing the holidays while caring for another person places a heavy burden upon caregivers. What can caregivers do to survive the hustle and bustle of the holidays?

A good place to start is to ask oneself, "Just how much energy do I have to participate in all the busy-ness of the holidays?" Some caregivers who are already feeling stressed may realize that they have very little extra energy to focus on the holidays. Other caregivers may find that they are energized by the excitement that the holidays bring, and this excitement may help them manage the holidays comfortably.

In the case of the former, caregivers should conduct an honest assessment of their energy levels. From this assessment they can determine and make plans that are appropriate for the time and energy they have to spare. Once they have done this, they can inform family members and friends so that their expectations can be adjusted.

One approach to surviving the holidays is to think about gifting. Caregivers are constantly giving to their care receivers all through the year. In addition they are also giving their family members the gift of not having to be the main or sole caregiver. This is a huge gift of which many family members may be

totally ignorant and unappreciative. Perhaps December should become the month that family/friends give their time and energy to help family caregivers.

For this gift to happen, caregivers may need to take the initiative. While sharing with their family members and friends the status of their time and energy levels, caregivers can suggest that a wonderful gift for both of them (care receiver and caregiver alike) would be the gift of respite time (breaks for the caregiver). Caregivers can specify what they need. Some possible examples follow:

1. Take the care receiver to lunch or bring lunch to the care receiver.
2. Take the care receiver to doctor and/or physical therapy appointments.
3. Perform household tasks/chores and/or take in vehicle for maintenance/repair appointments.
4. Go shopping, pick up groceries, conduct other errands.
5. Come and spend some time visiting with the care receiver doing some of their favorite activities (going through photo albums, listening to music, working puzzles, watching movies, etc.)
6. Help put up holiday decorations inside the house and outside.



7. Handle the preparations for family gatherings and/or host family gatherings.
8. Help send out holiday cards and purchase holiday gifts.
9. Take the loved one to some holiday activities (concerts, plays, Santa visits, etc.)
10. After the holidays, help take down and store holiday decorations.

The purpose of assessing energy level, developing a list of respite time tasks, and sharing with family members and friends is to open up time for family caregivers to take a break. This is how one survives the holidays – looking after one's needs and engaging in self-care.

Some caregivers are blessed with family and friends who will respond positively to providing gifts of respite time. Unfortunately, some caregivers may find that they do not have such support. In those cases, they may need to utilize community resources such as adult day care centers or contact organizations such as The Alzheimer's Association about receiving respite support. To take care of themselves, caregivers need to find the courage to admit they need support and then ask for it.

As you move through the next few weeks, may you receive gifts of time that will allow you some peaceful, calm moments to enjoy the spirit of the holidays and renew your strength and energy.

To read more about reducing holiday stress, click on these links:

<https://www.caregiver.org/resource/caregiving-and-holidays-stress-success/>

<https://www.aarp.org/caregiving/life-balance/info-2018/holiday-stress-tips.html>

## RESOURCES:

**AARP** support line: 877-333-5885, to connect with caregiving community visit website at <https://www.aarp.org/caregiving/>

**Alzheimer's Foundation of America** national helpline: 866-232-8484, for telephone-based support group meetings, visit <https://alzfdn.org/caregiving-resources/2860-2/>

**American Heart Association:** 800-242-8721 for questions about heart conditions and caregiving, visit [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)

**Cancer Support Community Helpline:** 1-888-793-9355 or to chat live at [www.cancersupportcommunity.org](http://www.cancersupportcommunity.org)

**Caregiver Action Network Help Desk:** 855-227-3640, for support groups visit <https://caregiveraction.org/forum>

**Family Caregiver Alliance** dedicated to helping family caregivers take care of those with physical and cognitive impairments. Visit their website at <https://www.caregiver.org>

**Help Desk:** 855-227-3640, for support groups visit <https://caregiveraction.org/forum>

**The Caregiver Space** for articles on various aspects of caregiving and general and specific online caregiver support groups visit [www.thecaregiverspace.org](http://www.thecaregiverspace.org)



As we celebrate the joy of the Christmas season, the Ushers of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish & Mission extend our heartfelt thanks to you and your loved ones for being part of our parish family. It is a privilege to welcome you, assist you, and help foster a reverent and inviting environment at each Mass, and we are grateful for the warmth, kindness, and faith you share with our community. During this holy season, we give thanks for the gift of Jesus, born for us in humility and love, and we pray that His peace fills your hearts, His light guides your days, and His presence blesses your homes. From all of us in the Usher Ministry, we wish you a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with faith, hope, and joy.



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**THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 12-2**

Remaining 2026 Dates

2/5, 3/5, 4/9, 5/7, 6/4, 7/2, 8/6, 9/3, 10/1, 11/5, 12/3

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Valley View Community Food Bank

"Knights of Columbus Council 11809 is a Catholic Men's Fraternal organization and is not sponsored by the Phoenix Diocese nor Our Lady of Lourdes Parish."



**GENERAL MEETING**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**9-9:30 SIGN IN AND SOCIAL TIME**

**9:30 BUSINESS MEETING**

**Raffle and Bake Sale results**

**Jan 10<sup>th</sup> Core Chair Exercise Class**

**Butterfly Museum Trip details**

**Bring a Guest!**

**Build Your Core Chair Exercise Class**

**Saturday, Jan. 10th**

**Class size is limited.**

**To sign up: Pat Michel (412) 613-0419**

**A BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON**

**TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS!**

For more information about Guild events: Pres. June Unrein (785) 418-0003

# 1st Saturday Devotion

Celebrated in Honor of Our Lady of  
Fatima

**Every First Saturday  
of the Month after  
8:30 Mass**

BOOKLETS PROVIDED



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHOIR  
*invites you to*  
COME JOIN OUR CHOIR FAMILY



Rehearsals are on  
Thursdays from  
3:30-5:30 p.m.

Ability to read  
music is not  
required!

For further information contact:  
Mark Mackeben  
mmackeben@ololscw.org

## Miraculous Medal Novena

Please join us to pray the  
Miraculous Medal  
Novena every Monday  
after the 8:30am Mass.

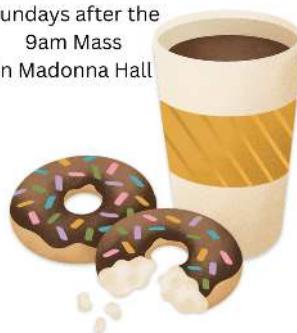
These prayers take  
approx. 15 min; no need  
to sign up, just come in  
and join us. We have  
prayer booklets to follow.



## Divine Mercy Devotion

Every Thursday following  
the 8:30am Mass

Benedette's brew  
Sundays after the  
9am Mass  
in Madonna Hall



Candles available in the Office  
\$3 per candle





## STEWARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

From Gratitude Flows Generosity

### A Formula for Holy Families

*“Brothers and sister: Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another..”*

The Holy Family faced much rejection, persecution and peril from their earliest days. We sometimes find degrees of that within our own families. St. Paul gives us a winning formula for families who are called to be holy. Put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and forgiveness. Imagine!

### Petition:

That our families may be modeled after the virtues of the Holy Family who withstood great difficulty from the earliest days....

### Stewardship: Grace In Action

This Christmas Season, we are invited to ask ourselves:

- **How am I stewarding compassion in my family?**  
Do I notice suffering, or rush past it?
- **Where is God calling me to greater patience or humility?**  
Especially when it is hardest to give.
- **Is there forgiveness that needs to be offered or received?**  
Healing begins when generosity of heart replaces resentment.

### These choices may seem small, but they shape holy families and strengthen the Church itself.

The virtues St. Paul names are not beyond our reach. They are garments we are invited to “put on” each day through conscious stewardship of our lives and relationships. When we choose compassion over criticism, patience over frustration, forgiveness over pride, we mirror the love of the Holy Family.

**\*Due to the Holidays,  
Please expect Weekly Contributions  
in future Bulletins\***

### A Practical Stewardship Commitment

As we pray, “That our families may be modeled after the virtues of the Holy Family...”, let us respond with intention:

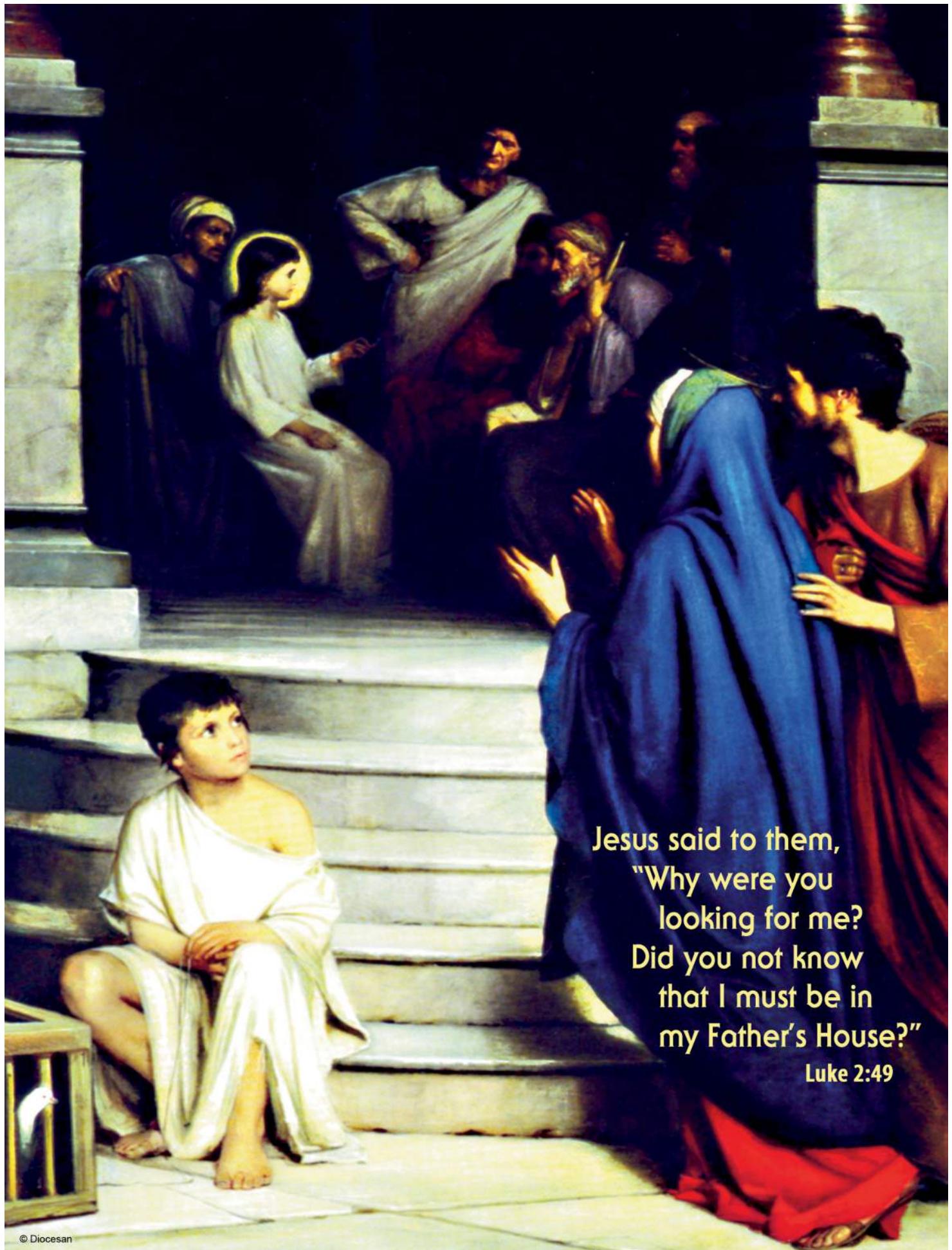
- **Steward your time** by being truly present — listening without distraction, praying together, or sharing a meal with purpose.
- **Steward your words** by choosing kindness and gentleness, even in moments of tension.
- **Steward your heart** by practicing forgiveness, remembering that mercy given freely is mercy multiplied.

Let us commit today to steward our families with care, generosity, and faith — trusting that God will use our daily sacrifices to build homes of holiness, hope, and enduring love.



For any questions on how to give to our Parish, email:

James Salas - [jsalasololscw.org](mailto:jsalasololscw.org)



**Jesus said to them,  
"Why were you  
looking for me?  
Did you not know  
that I must be in  
my Father's House?"**

**Luke 2:49**