

## ST. ELIZABETH CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Mass intentions  
for Dec. 26, 2021**  
*Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

**Saturday, 5 p.m.** —  
People of the Parish

**Sunday, 9 a.m.** —  
† Sam & Betty Jo Barker  
*By: Barker family*

† Frankie Carr  
*By: Mary Carr*

**Wednesday** — No Mass

### Tax Reminders

**Charity Donation Deadline for 2021** — Donations to St. Elizabeth Church must be received (or postmarked) no later than Friday, Dec. 31, to deduct them on your 2021 tax return. Send mailed donations to:

St. Elizabeth Church  
P.O. Box 7  
Elizabethton, TN 37644

**Charity Donation Letter** — If you would like a letter for your tax return summarizing your 2021 donations to St. Elizabeth, please drop a note in the weekend collection with your name and the words “tax letter” on it.

### Synod Survey

Pope Francis wants your input on the topic of “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission.” Please complete the Diocese of Knoxville synod survey found at:

<https://synodsurvey.org>

All, including non-Catholics, are encouraged to complete the anonymous survey. (Be sure to hit the “submit” button when finished.)

Dec. 26, 2021

*Holy Family  
of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28  
Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10  
1 John 3:1-2, 21-24  
Luke 2:41-52

**I Prayed  
For This  
Child  
and  
The Lord  
Answered  
My Request**



### HANNAH'S CHILD

The priest-prophet Samuel was a pivotal figure in the history of Israel, guiding the country from a loose confederation of tribes to a kingdom. He appointed the first two kings of Israel, Saul and David. Samuel's own life is miraculous. His mother, Hannah, had been sterile. She came to the shrine where the Ark of the Covenant was kept and prayed for a child, promising that she would dedicate her son to the Lord if she conceived. In gratitude for the birth, she calls her son Samuel, which means “his name is God.” Then she consecrates the boy to a nazirite vow, like that made for Samson. Samuel's hair will never be cut, and he will take no strong drink. Finally, she surrenders her son to be a servant at the shrine.

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### Weekly readings

#### Monday

*St. John*  
1 John 1:1-4  
John 20:1a, 2-8

#### Tuesday

*Holy Innocents*  
1 John 1:5—2:2  
Matthew 2:13-18

#### Wednesday

1 John 2:3-11  
Luke 2:22-35

#### Thursday

1 John 2:12-17  
Luke 2:36-40

#### Friday

1 John 2:18-21  
John 1:1-18

#### Saturday

*Mary, Mother of God*  
Numbers 6:22-27  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 2:16-21

#### Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13  
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6  
Matthew 2:1-12

### Thanks for your support and generosity

In-person Offertory  
Dec. 19, 2021

Regular, \$2,121  
Kentucky tornado  
victims, \$4,675  
Christmas flowers, \$775  
Retired religious, \$40  
Development, \$10  
Backpack Buddies, \$9.30

## Sacred Monograms

The Church has used sacred monograms as symbols of Christianity since the early days.

**JMJ**

One of them, MJM, is particularly appropriate this weekend as we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Perhaps the most well-known sacred monogram is the Chi-Rho (pronounced “KIE-row”). It is a monogram for Christ, using the first two Greek letters found in that title — chi for “CH” and rho for “R.” (The full Greek spelling is ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ.) This monogram also helps explain the origin of “Xmas” for Christmas. Because Chi-Rho is a monogram for Jesus Christ, it is also called a Christogram.



Another Christogram is IHS or IHC, the first three letters of the name and title of Jesus Christ in Greek letters. (When the lower-case letter “sigma” is used at the end of a word, it is “ς” which resembles our “C.”)



Written as HIS, the Christogram stands for “Jesus our Savior” in Greek (“Iesus Hemeteros Soter”). In Latin, HIS represents “Jesus Savior of Humankind” (“Iesus Hominum Salvator”).

Another popular Christogram is ICHTHYS, pronounced “ICK-these.” The word ICHTHYS is formed with the initial Greek letters of Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior (“Iesus Christos Theou Yos Soter”). This acronym is also the Greek word for “fish.”

Ichthys became a secret symbol for followers of Jesus after his death, when the Roman Empire persecuted early Christians. It is said that if two strangers met and one thought the other might be Christian, he would draw a curved line to represent the upper half of a fish. If the other person was a Christian, he could then draw the lower half of the fish.



—From *The Catholic Source Book*  
and *Christ Our Life, We Worship* from Loyola Press

### Saintly Wisdom

“The Holy Family is the beginning of countless other holy families.”  
— *St. John Paul II* —

### Parish Life

**Mass Changes** — No Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday — nor on Saturday for Holy Mary, Mother of God (not a holy day this year).

**PSR Classes Canceled** — Classes for the Parish School of Religion will not meet this weekend and Jan. 2. Classes resume Sunday, Jan. 9.

**Lectors** — Anyone who would like to read at one of the weekend Masses may contact Coleen Schneider at [coleenschneider@gmail.com](mailto:coleenschneider@gmail.com) or 423-202-6387.

**Calendars** — Remember to pick up a 2022 calendar in the vestibule — one per family please.

**Bereavement** — Betty June Moth, grandmother of parishioner Nick Johnson, died last week. Please keep her family in your prayers.

**Thank you!** — Thank you to all who made the Christmas celebrations at St. Elizabeth special this week — the lay ministers, musicians and choral members, Christmas play participants and decorators of the church. Your contributions to the church have been a blessing.

**Angel Tree Thank You** — Thank you to those who contributed wrapped gifts and money to the Angel Tree program this year. Donna Townsend reports that contributions from the parish as well as from teachers and staff at Harold McCormick School made Christmas possible for 91 underprivileged children at the school. Thank you!

**If You Are Sick** — During the flu season, we are reminded to stay home from Mass if we experience any flu-like symptoms. If attending Mass with a cough or sneezing, please consider wearing a mask to protect others at Mass. Thank you.