

*Blessed Trinity Catholic Church*  
*958 E. Tuscola St., Frankenmuth, Michigan*  
*989-652-3259*

*Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*  
*December 29 & 30, 2018*

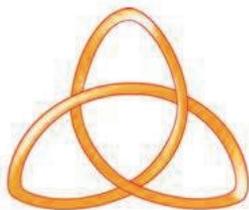
### *Parish Mission Statement*

*We, the members of  
Blessed Trinity Parish,  
share a common bond of love  
given to us through  
the Mystery of the Blessed Trinity.*

*As the loving Father does,  
we welcome and support everyone  
who enters our faith community.*

*As His Son exemplifies,  
we humbly strive to be a learning,  
giving, caring, and teaching parish  
eager to serve, evangelize,  
and give generously of ourselves  
to others.*

*As the Holy Spirit inspires  
and leads us, we are a faithful,  
prayer family that worships God  
through the many gifts and ministries  
with which the Lord has blessed us.*



## This Week in Our Parish

### Monday, December 31

Memorial of St. Sylvester I

New Year's Eve

5:00 p.m. Mass



### Tuesday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

New Year's Day

11:00 a.m. Mass

### Wednesday, January 2

Memorial of Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

Parish Offices Closed

### Thursday, January 3

Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

### Friday, January 4

Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

### Saturday, January 5

Memorial of St. John Neumann

4:00 p.m. Individual Reconciliation until 4:30 p.m.

5:00 p.m. Mass

### Sunday, January 6

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 a.m. Mass

11:00 a.m. Epiphany Children's Mass

## Holiday Mass Schedule

*Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
Mother of God ~ Holy Day of Obligation*

*Monday, December 31 ~ 5:00 p.m. Mass*

*Tuesday, January 1 ~ 11:00 a.m. Mass*

### *Feast of Epiphany*

*Saturday, January 5 ~ 5:00 p.m. Mass*

*Sunday, January 6 ~ 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Masses*

*(Children's Epiphany Celebration  
at 11:00 a.m. Mass)*

## General Information

- ◆ If you would like to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**, please call the parish office for more information.
- ◆ If you would like to have your **child baptized**, call the parish office for information. Baptisms are celebrated regularly, except during Lent.
- ◆ Adults who are interested in learning more about the **Catholic faith** are invited to call the parish office for more information.
- ◆ Are you planning a **wedding**? Please call the parish office before setting a wedding date. Six months are required for preparation.
- ◆ Would you or someone you know wish to celebrate the **Anointing of the Sick**? Please call the parish office to request an individual anointing.
- ◆ Please remember that when **entering a hospital**, you should register as a member of Blessed Trinity Parish. When **confined at home**, please contact our parish office.
- ◆ **New parishioners** are always welcome at Blessed Trinity. If you wish to join our community, please contact the parish office for an appointment to register.
- ◆ Text and pictures for the weekly **bulletin** is due by 12:00 noon on Mondays to: [lsnyder@blessedtrinityfrankenmuth.org](mailto:lsnyder@blessedtrinityfrankenmuth.org).

## Scripture Readings for January 5 & 6, 2019

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12



*Holiday Parish Hours: The BT staff looks forward to some time off to spend with our families during this holiday week. If you plan a visit or stop at the parish, please call ahead to make sure someone is here. Thank you!*

Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more.  
If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never have enough.

**Thoughts from our Pastoral Administrator**  
*Meditation for the New Year (Magnificat, vol. 20, no. 10)*

We, who have no right to God's mercy, call out to him day and night. Like the Canaanite woman who beseeched Jesus to free her daughter from the torment of a demon, we beg for some scrap of mercy. How the Lord delights in such obedience of faith. What at first seems like refusal on the Lord's part is in fact an invitation to great ardor.

Jesus blesses us with the changes to show him how much we rely on him and how little we can depend on ourselves. When we set our hearts on Christ, no matter how tumultuous the struggles of our lives, Jesus responds with the fullness of himself. We come before him, especially in the Blessed Sacrament, constant in prayer - to receive not a crumb, but the very Bread of Life. The Eucharist empowers us to pray always without losing heart.

Jesus comes to reveal to us the Father. But how little fear we have of God. How little respect we have for our fellow human beings. Like the prodigal son, we eagerly get so caught up in our own ambitions, our own gratifications, our own self-indulgence. Our wanton ways led us far away from the Father. And yet, the "happy fault" of Adam wins for us the gift of the Redeemer who reclaims us in our sin.

Through it all, the prodigal son's father keeps faithful, attentive vigil...watching on the road for a glimpse of his wayward child. His heart yearns for the slightest sign of the son's desire to return to his household. And then the father runs with all his might to meet his repentant son, to shower him with his mercy, and to restore him to his love.

Saint John Paul II wrote that "the father's fidelity to himself is totally concentrated upon the humanity of the lost son, upon his dignity." Our return to the Father in Jesus Christ reveals to us the depths of our dignity as human persons. That experience of priceless mercy inspires us to show unfailing Christian justice to all those we meet, especially the poor, the needy, the oppressed, and the marginalized.

Saint John Paul II reminded us that "man attains to the merciful love of God to the extent that he himself is interiorly transformed in the spirit of that love towards his neighbor." As we return from our wayward way because of the redemption won for us by the cross, may we keep vigil like the prodigal father, ready to run out to all those lost and disillusioned. May we be generous in enrobing them with the compassion that reconciles us to the Father.

Enjoy this time with your families. I wish you all a blessed New Year!

*Deacon Larry Deford*

*Ladies Bible Sharing*

Ladies Bible Sharing will begin on Tuesday, January 22 and run through April with the topic of 'Being Disciples of Jesus.' We meet on Tuesday mornings in room 7 at the parish from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. All parish ladies and friends are welcome; call Val Sulfaro at 652-5953 to reserve your spot!

**Pastoral Team**

**Pastoral Administrator**  
Deacon Larry Deford

**Sacramental Minister**  
Rev. Thomas J. Fleming

**Pastoral Minister**  
**Interim Director of Faith Formation**  
Karen Smith

**Coordinator of Faith Formation**  
Pamela Daily

**Director of Youth Ministry**  
Kathryn Cramer

**Director of Music**  
Alissa Hetzner

**Music Assistant**  
Steven Holovach

**Parish Secretary**  
Lori Snyder

**Bookkeeper**  
Carol Maurer

**Director of Maintenance**  
Frederick Fitch

**Maintenance Assistant**  
Philip Schmelzer

**Commissioned Lay Ministers**  
Michael Snyder, Veronica Horn,  
Virginia Little, Katherine Haney,  
Joseph Ricard, Pamela Daily,  
Jacqueline Gere

**Parish Contributions:** any contributions made to the parish received by December 31, 2018 will be recorded in 2018. Any contribution received after that date will be recorded in 2019. Thank you for your generosity!

*Faith Formation News*

Our grades 5 & 6 students celebrated a Jesse Tree Prayer Service on December 19. They learned what the word "genealogy" means, so they understand that the Jesse Tree celebration honors the ancestors of Jesus. Our tree is on display in the education classroom wing and you are invited to check it out. The children did a beautiful job coloring the cards!

Parents and students are reminded to attend an Epiphany dress rehearsal on Saturday, January 5 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The Epiphany Children's Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 6.

First Reconciliation will be celebrated on Saturday, January 12 at 11:00 a.m. with a social to follow. Parents are encouraged to also celebrate reconciliation that day after all the children have celebrated the sacrament. We all need to set an example of the importance of this sacrament in our lives.

Please also work with your child on how to go to confession and how to make an examination of conscience. There are outlines in workbooks that were sent home.

The above-mentioned workbooks should be returned to Pam Daily or Sandi Doherty by January 6 (to allow us the time to go over any areas that may need clarification).

*Pam Daily ~ Coordinator of Faith Formation  
pdaily@blessedtrinityfrankenmuth.org*

*Karen Smith ~ Pastoral Minister/Director of Faith Formation  
ksmith@blessedtrinityfrankenmuth.org*



*Our grades 5 & 6 students celebrated a Jesse Tree Prayer Service last week.*



*Youth Ministry News*

2019 is just a few days away and our BT youth look forward to a schedule of great events coming in the new year!



All grades 7-12 youth should have received a postcard with info about our "warm-up" for back-to-school. This event will be held on Sunday, January 6 at 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. The rest of the 2019 schedule will be shared at this gathering.

Our second semester is where the high school youth help in leading our grades 7 & 8 (and sometimes 6th grade) gatherings. We have a lot planned and I hope all will participate.

Our 6th grade Faith Formation class will resume on Wednesday, January 9. I'll have information for them at this class on coming events, including a pretzel bake at the Weiss Farm.

I'm still waiting for photos from many of our 2019 grads. Please contact me if you have questions!

**Seth Malmo - you weren't reading the bulletin. Is Seth Messing? If so, contact me for your gift card, Seth!**

2018 has been an incredible year, and I'm looking forward to more faith-building in 2019. WE ARE BT!!

*Kathy Cramer ~ Director of Youth Ministry  
kcramer@blessedtrinityfrankenmuth.org*

*~ End-of-Year Prayer ~*

Please heal the broken people.  
Make well the sick.  
Restore happiness to those in despair.  
Bring love to the lonely,  
food to the hungry,  
and peace to our world.  
Amen.

*The Holy Family*

Mary and Joseph are coming back from Jerusalem in a large caravan of relatives. After traveling for a full day they realize Jesus is missing. Imagine the scene. They are scared to death. Maybe they even argue a bit about what to do. Perhaps Joseph allows his fear to sound like anger as he questions Mary about when she has last seen Jesus.

They turn around and retrace their steps to and through Jerusalem. For three days they search for Jesus, concerned that he is afraid, alone, and lost. Instead, they find Jesus in the temple, sitting comfortably with the teachers. Their relief turns to the very human emotion of frustration, as Mary asks her son, "Why have you done this to us?" Jesus answers like any other twelve-year old: "I thought you'd know...."

Like all families, the Holy Family probably had times when their communication was less than perfect. Like all strong families, they probably said their "sorrys" and learned from their mistakes. I jokingly like to say that we don't hear about Jesus for the next eighteen years because he was grounded, but I'm just projecting a mother's frustration. More seriously, we know this was an important event for Mary, because she kept it forever in her heart.

All families have problems. Handling problems in a positive way, and not letting them dissolve family unity, is a trait of strong families. And so is good communication. Ask family members to talk about positive ways of solving problems.

*Judith Dunlap ~ Bringing Home the Gospel*

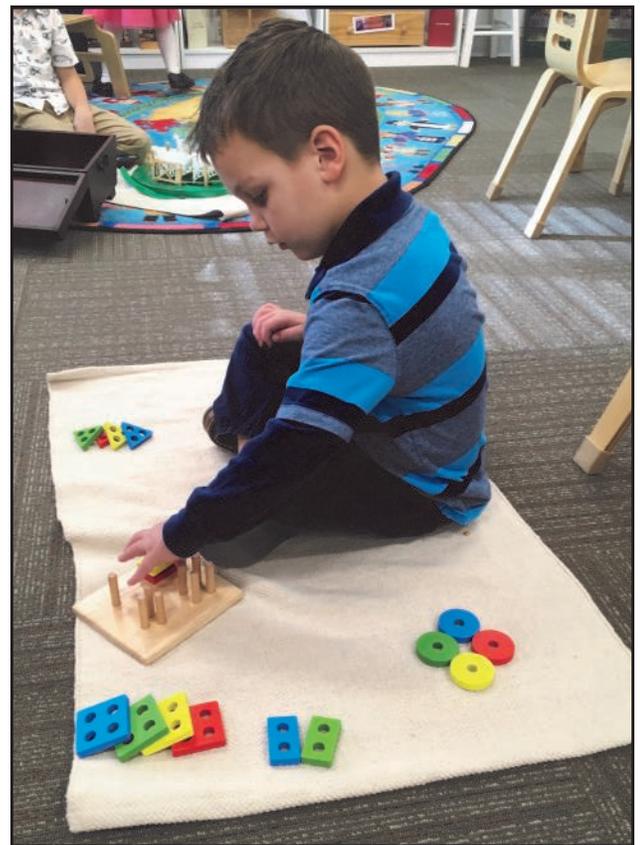


*Thank You!*

We thank everyone who helped make Blessed Trinity's Christmas liturgies the wonderful celebrations they were: altar servers, enhancing help, liturgical ministers, dancers, choir, handbell choir, cantors, and everyone who worked so hard to make it special! We are blessed and grateful for your dedication to our parish family!



*Parish children learn about their Catholic faith in the Atrium.*



Every once in awhile we are reminded to take a step back, look up and simply acknowledge the hand that guides our life.

Our sponsor of the week is:  
**Frankenmuth Florist  
 Greenhouse & Gifts**

To view this ad,  
 see the back of the bulletin.  
 Please patronize our sponsors.  
 They make the bulletin possible.

**Food Donations**

Please consider purchasing extra grocery items for local food pantries, which service families in our area. All items are needed including paper supplies, cleaning supplies, food items, and personal care items.

Please do not bring in perishable food items or items past their expiration date. Drop off your donations at BT during the week or when you come to weekend Mass.



**Need Prayers?**

Call the Parish Prayer Network with your prayer needs and concerns: Ginger Hall at 652-9519 or Nanci Lyon at 652-6532. You can also submit prayer requests on our parish website.

When you visit Blessed Trinity during the week or when you come to weekend Mass, be sure to write your prayer intentions in the Book of Life in the back of church.

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24<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**FISH FRIES**  
 FRANKENMUTH/BIRCH RUN  
**Knights of Columbus**  
 (1 mile North of Birch Run Road)



**Shrimp Dinners**  
**All-you-Can-Eat Cod Dinners**

**TAKE OUT OR EAT IN 11:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.**

• <b>October 5, 2018</b> Blood Drive 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. Free Dinner to Donors	• <b>January 4, 2019</b> Blood Drive 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. Free Dinner to Donors	• <b>March 15, 2019</b> Blood Drive 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. Free Dinner to Donors	• <b>April 5, 2019</b>
• <b>November 2, 2018</b> In Honor of Veterans Day Active Military & Veterans Eat Free	• <b>February 1, 2019</b>	• <b>March 22, 2019</b>	• <b>April 12, 2019</b>
• <b>December 7, 2018</b> SANTA VISITS 4:00—7:00	• <b>March 8, 2019</b>	• <b>March 29, 2019</b>	• <b>April 19, 2019</b>

**11105 Dixie Hwy, Birch Run, MI 48415 (989) 624-9860**

[www.kofcbirchrunmi.com](http://www.kofcbirchrunmi.com)

**Endowment Fund**

The Blessed Trinity Endowment Fund is an effective way for all of us to support for many generations to come, the ministries of our parish that are so important for planting and nourishing the seeds of faith.

The Endowment Fund was established in 2014 and is invested through the Frankenmuth Community Foundation by professional investment managers.

The Frankenmuth Community Foundation has announced its first ever "Giving 150% to our Community Campaign." This means every dollar you donate between now and January 15, 2019 will receive an additional 50% matching donation up to a maximum donation match of \$5,000.

Donations can be made to the Endowment Fund in a variety of ways including cash or assets, such as stocks and bonds, bequests from a will or trust, retirement plan gifts, qualified charitable distributions from IRA's (must be age 70 ½) or life insurance gifts.

More information is available by calling the parish office at 652-3259.

The Diocese of Saginaw encourages individuals to report clergy sexual abuse of minors and others - no matter when the abuse occurred. Individuals may contact local law enforcement authorities and/or they may report to the Diocese of Saginaw by calling the Victim Assistance Coordinator at 989-797-6682 or by emailing [jfulgenzi@dioceseofsaginaw.org](mailto:jfulgenzi@dioceseofsaginaw.org).

In addition, the Michigan Attorney General's Office can be contacted at its toll-free reporting hotline at (844) 324-3374 (M-F 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) or by email at [aginvestigations@michigan.gov](mailto:aginvestigations@michigan.gov). More information about the diocese's efforts to address abuse may be found at [saginaw.org](http://saginaw.org)

### *Faith-Based Fitness Classes*

Start the new year out by improving your balance, coordination, and happiness! Freeland's St. Agnes Catholic Church is holding faith-based fitness classes for people age 50+:

- ⇒ Yoga & Prayer ~ Monday evenings at 6:15 p.m.
- ⇒ Chair Yoga ~ Thursday mornings at 11:00 a.m.
- ⇒ Friday Fitness ~ Friday mornings at 11:00 a.m.

These classes are perfect for folks who have pain, illness, or want to improve their balance. Charge is just \$5.00 per person. Call Sarah with questions at 989-859-5659.

### *Worldwide Marriage Encounter*

Marriage Encounter weekends will be held on January 25-27 at Holiday Inn-Troy or on March 15-17 at St. Francis Retreat Center-Dewitt. Apply online at: [wwme.org](http://wwme.org).

### *Coming Events at the Center for Ministry*

- ◆ The Psalms (with Fr. Bill Taylor) will be held on Saturday, January 12 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon.
- ◆ "Go Deeper With God" Women's Silent Retreat will be held on Friday, February 1 - Sunday, February 3.
- ◆ Diocesan Pilgrimage to Mexico City with Fr. Christian Tabaras will take place on Saturday, February 23 - Thursday, February 28.
- ◆ Women's Day of Recollection: The Martha-Mary Balance of Daily Life will be held on Saturday, February 23 from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Call the Diocesan Center for Ministry at 797-6648 for more information about any of these events. All are welcome!

