I must be in my Father’s house
The story of Hannah and her son Samuel in today’s reading from 1 Samuel was especially important for Luke’s Gospel. The passage describes the presentation of young Samuel to the priest Eli as part of the story of the faith of Hannah. Hannah had been in great suffering, as she had long desired to have a son, and saw this as central to her vocation and identity. Hannah’s deep honesty with God during her distress, together with her confident persistence in prayer, reveals her as a model of faith. Luke links Hannah to Mary through the Magnificat song in Luke 1, which mirrors Hannah’s joyous song in 1 Samuel 2. Luke links young Samuel to Jesus, through the presentation in the Temple in Luke 2.

Luke is suggesting that God is up to something big. Just as Samuel initiated a turning point in Israel’s history, Jesus is about to open a new chapter in human history. Their stories are rooted in the remarkable faith of their mothers, Hannah and Mary.

**WEAVING THE STORY**

Today’s passage from Luke is the only story about Jesus in the Gospels that occurs between Jesus’ infancy and his adult ministry. Luke uses the story to weave these elements together. This story, like all the infancy passages, emphasizes that Jesus was born Son of God. Jesus’ first spoken words in Luke concludes with “I must be in my Father’s house.” God is his Father, and Jesus speaks as God’s Son.

Luke connects the future ministry of Jesus with the scene at the temple with the teachers. Jesus’ listeners are astounded at his wisdom. This anticipates similar scenes as an adult. Luke also subtly hints at Jesus’ resurrection, with details such as the question “why were you looking for me?” similar to “why do you seek the living one among the dead?” Luke invites us to see his Gospel as an integrated whole, weaving together Jesus’ birth, life, death, and resurrection.

Today’s Readings: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 or Sir 3:2–6, 12-14; Ps 84:2–3, 5–6, 9–10 or Ps 128:1–2, 3, 4–5; 1 Jn 3:1–2, 21–24 or Col 3:12–21 [12–17]; Lk 2:41–52
**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Dec. 21 - Jan. 2 - Church office closed
Jan. 16 - Parish Council meeting 6:30
Jan. 17 - Screening of “Recovery Boy” 1:00 P.M. Church Basement
Jan. 23 - Monthly cooking series: Viet Nam 11A.M - 1 P.M. Church Basement
Jan. 26 - World Youth Day

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**WEEKLY SCHEDULES:**

**Lectors/ Eucharistic Ministers:**
- 12/31 4:00 p.m. Danny Prado / Libby Magnone
- 1/1 10:00 a.m. C. King / J. Klug
- 1/5 4:00 p.m. Alice Wise / Mark Klug
- 1/6 8:00 a.m. Rose Hess / John Hess
- 1/6 10:00 a.m. C. McDonald / L. Yoho

**Altar Servers:**
- 12/31 4:00 p.m. Swift
- 1/1 10:00 a.m. Volunteer
- 1/5 4:00 p.m. Kent family
- 1/6 8:00 a.m. Laberdeee
- 1/6 10:00 a.m. Swift / Targosky

**Gift Bearers:**
- 1/5 4:00 p.m. John & Loretta Niemiec
- 1/6 8:00 a.m. Pete & Judy Mysliwiec
- 1/5 10:00 a.m. Carolyn Gordon

**Sacristory Cleaners: Week of December 31, 2018**
Latrisha Whitelatch & Charlotta Durbin

**Greeters:**
- 1/5 4:00 p.m. Phil Remke
- 1/6 8:00 a.m. Roger Frame
- 1/6 10:00 a.m. Rosemary Patrone / Susan Board

**Bingo January 4, 2019**
Raffle: Rick Targosky
Kitchen: Pam Ryan

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**COLLECTION: December 16, 2018**

- Envelopes - $ 4,224.00
- Loose Offering - $ 1,634.00
- Religious Retirement - $ 85.00
- Electronic Giving - $ 35.00
- Building Fund - $ 85.00
- Memorial Offerings - $ 2,075
- Pennies for God - $ 12.70
- Attendance - 314

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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
December 30, 2018
Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed.
— 1 John 3:2a

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If you missed seeing the documentary *Moundsville: An American Story* at the Strand last week, you can now view it on the internet at [https://vimeo.com/ondemand/moundsville](https://vimeo.com/ondemand/moundsville) DVD’s are also available.
PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS:

Prayer Request: Gerry Mele, Joe Church, Gregory “Shad” Fromhart, Don McCormick, Maggie Yeater, Gina Hoops, Dianne Hill, Miriam Kulavik, Rodney Kerekes, Kimberly Peffley, Bobby Kleinedler, Chris Colby, Richard Timko; Home-bound: Semon & Phyllis Prado, Doris Murphy, Bob Tetrick; Nursing Home: Gary Dobbs, Patricia Schmidt, Helen Remke, Thelma Gitlin, Barbara Meyer, Elizabeth Potts, Marilyn Neidhardt, Joe & Helen Cuchta

We are so grateful to those who find the time to help out around the church—especially during this often cold and wet time of year. Many hours were spent making our church merry and bright by this skilled and devoted group of Christmas decorators: Tex and Teresa Reynolds, Cindy Gunto, Sue Church, Theresa Meyer, Kitty Pazyk, Kathleen Naegele, Roger Frame, Tony Novel, Denise & Denny Phillips, Libby Magnone, Mark Hitt, Linda Miller Daунel Gump, Joanne Ray, Susan Board, Dave Papula, John Harrigan, Mark & Gina Hedrick.

Parishioners who helped deliver flowers to our shut-in Community this Christmas season:
Phil Remke, Tex & Theresa Reynolds, Mark Hitt, Ruth Bertand, Julie Anderson, Paula Conners, Jane Klug, Kitty Pazyk, Carolyn Gordon.
May the joy of the Christmas Season be with you all through the year.
—Libby, Loretta and Mary

New Year wishes from around the parish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Wish</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Julie Anderson</td>
<td>For all my family to be healthy and my loved ones in heaven to hear my prayers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Bertrand</td>
<td>My wish is for our Lord and Savior to watch over and protect all and hear all the prayers of all of us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Church</td>
<td>That the Democrats and Republicans will sit down and work things out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veronica Diola &amp; Rosemary Patrone</td>
<td>We want to go back home!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celeste Evans</td>
<td>Peace on earth. We need it!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly, Heidi &amp; Hallie Fecat</td>
<td>For granny to be healthy and not fall (Heidi adds: that she and her sisters will always be best friends)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Gunto</td>
<td>To be a blessing in the lives of my friends, family and parish and for peace on earth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Hariigan</td>
<td>I hope for a cure for cancer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gina Hedrick</td>
<td>Time goes by so quickly…we wish that the coming year is one that allows us to find balance, a sense of peace, and contentment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma &amp; Allen King</td>
<td>We want to spend more time going on vacation with our family!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Klug</td>
<td>That all people find God in their hearts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan Lemasters</td>
<td>My wish is for Peace and joy that only God can give</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susie Lunau</td>
<td>For peace on earth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Helen Marling</td>
<td>For our family and friends to have a happy, healthy year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terry McDonald</td>
<td>That St. Francis will have a holy hour once a month (all night)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theresa Meyer</td>
<td>The safety of my family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike from Wheeling Linen</td>
<td>I hope this new year brings health and peace to families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Naegele</td>
<td>I hope this year brings safe travelling for all those who like to travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryant Persinger</td>
<td>My wish for the new year is not to have anything to do!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicki Regiec</td>
<td>I wish for more volunteers to work the Bingo kitchen!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Swift</td>
<td>I wish to be a better, wiser human being… and to bake more cookies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Trader</td>
<td>That God will give us strength and courage to conquer the challenges we encounter every day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sara Walters</td>
<td>My prayer for the new year is for the well-being of my family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maggie Yeater</td>
<td>My wish for the new year is: that in 2019 we do not need a prayer request list. That SFX parishioners are healthy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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