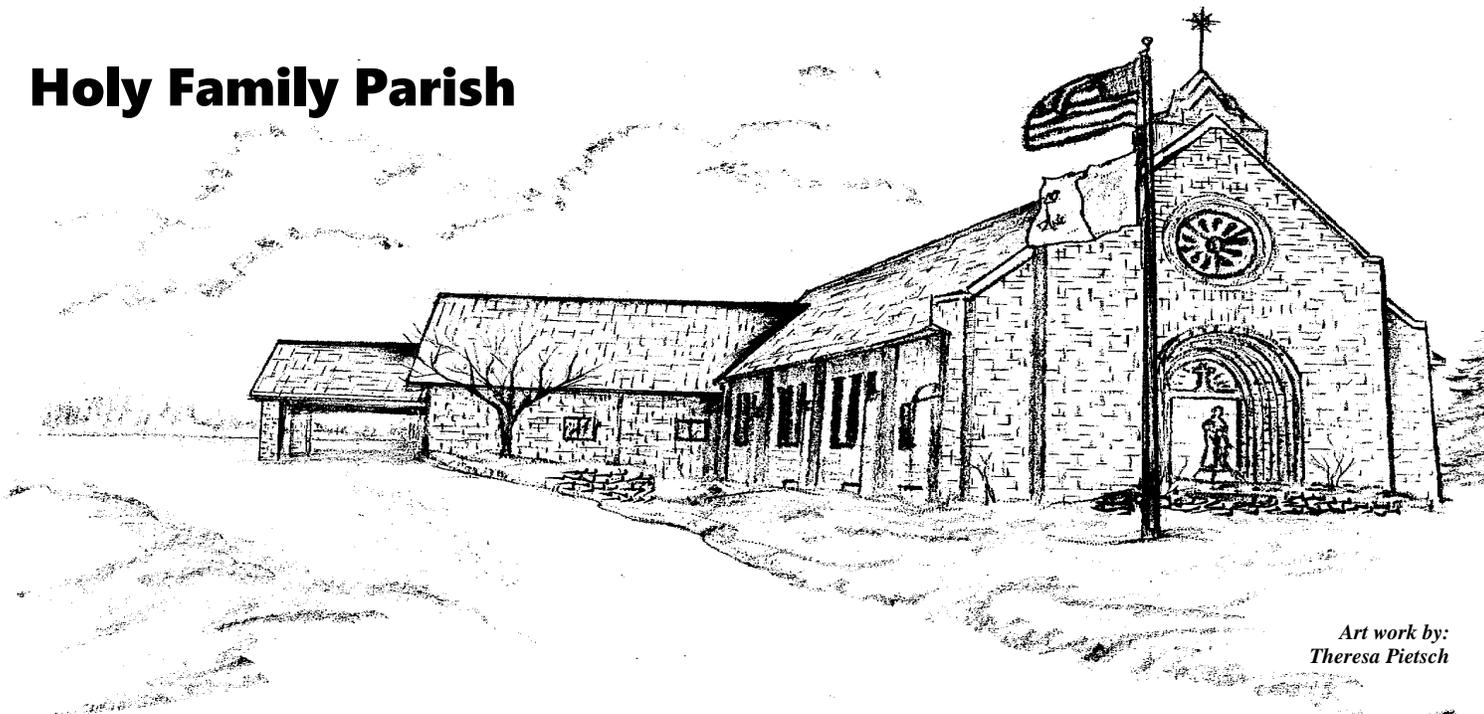


Holy Family Parish



Art work by:
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4011 Co. 416-20th Road, Gladstone, MI 49837

First Sunday of Advent – November 29, 2020

Pastor

(906) 786-1209 Ext. 3

Parish Secretary

Pam Leisner (906) 786-1209 Ext. 1 (H) 789-1710

Office hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 am to 3 pm

Bulletin articles should be submitted

by Noon on Wednesdays

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Faith Formation Coordinator

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Maintenance

Mike Rabitoy 786-1209

Pastoral Council Members

Pam Marenger – President Diane Danhoff
Wanda Chenier – Secretary Harold Flagstadt
Kevin Dubord Tina Cryderman
Pam Marenger – Liturgy Committee
Bob Berbohm – Evangelization Committee

Finance Council Members

Gerald Miron Piper Desy Bill Smith
Mary Kay Nolde Frank Chenier

Sacrament of Marriage

Notice of six months is required

REQUIREMENT FOR SACRAMENTS

The basic requirement for the sacraments of First Communion, Confirmation and Marriage is that you be a practicing Catholic. One parent must be a practicing Catholic to present a child for Baptism

Sacrament of Baptism

Please notify the pastor during the pregnancy in order to schedule sacramental instruction, if necessary.

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday 3:00 to 3:45 P.M.

7:15 am – 7:45 am and 5:15 pm – 5:45 pm
before daily Mass or by appointment

Sacrament of the Sick

The sacrament is for anyone you know who has any continuing or serious illness, or is having surgery and would like to celebrate this healing sacrament.

Please remember our sick in your prayers.....

Brevyn Willford, Lincoln Noel

Bob Gascon, Don Anderson

Attention parishioners. We will start with our prayer list back in the weekly bulletin. If you have a family member or friends who are sick and in need of prayers, please call the parish office at 786-1209. This will be the new corner for the names. The Mass intentions are now listed in the weekly calendar.

CATECHETICAL CORNER

The Church (History cont.)

Threat from within and Outside: In the previous article we have seen the beginning of the dispute between the Western Church and the Eastern Church over the issue of the Nicene Creed. To add more fuel to the burning situation, Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne as Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire on Christmas Day, A.D. 800. How could the Pope not only allow but also crown a French barbarian king to the throne of the Roman Empire?. In 1054, the final break between Rome and the Patriarch of Constantinople took place.

The rise of Islam and the Crusades: In the 7th century, Islam was founded and began a century –long period of conquest in the Christian world. Within a century, Islamic warriors had taken over much of Christian Asia Minor, North Africa, and Spain, only halted by Christian military resistance at Constantinople in 717 and southern France in 732. An uneasy peace with numerous clashes prevailed for the next several centuries.

The first Crusade, launched by Pope Urban II in 1095, was a response to the plea from the Byzantine Empire (the former Eastern Roman Empire) for help against Muslim conquest of Christian holy places and attacks on Byzantine soil. However, after initial success, the later Crusades had less honorable aims, becoming more and more materialistic. By the end of the 13th century, the Muslims have driven the Crusaders out of the Holy Land.

The High Middle Ages; Golden Age: From approximately the 11th through the 14th centuries, Europe experienced its greatest period of unity and the formation of a true culture of Christianity. This period is termed the “high middle ages” (that is, a portion of the period from about the 5th to the 14th centuries), and saw as well the rise of the great learning, the establishment of universities, and a greater development in trade. This is the period of St. Francis Assisi and St. Dominic, founders of two of the Church’s greatest religious orders, and the period of the greatest philosopher and theologian the Church has ever produced, St. Thomas Aquinas.

A much-needed reform of the papacy began with the establishment of the Cluny monastery in France in 910. This monastery, free from feudal control, became the model for monasteries during that time; by the mid-12th century there were over 300 monasteries modeled on Cluny. Monks from these houses began taking leadership roles in the Church, including the papacy. This led to the actions of several popes to establish the Church’s autonomy from secular influence. The most notable example is Pope Gregory VII (11073-1085). Pope Gregory, himself from a reformed monastery, sought to free the Church from the influence of the Emperor Henry IV. Although Pope Gregory lost his own battle, dying in exile in Rome, his ideas remained, and the Church eventually won the war. Pope Innocent did spiritual battle with King Philip Augustus of France and later King John of England, in both cases coming out the victor. In the early 14th century the papacy moved to Avignon, France, where it remained for about seventy years, heavily influenced by French monarchs. The pope eventually returned to Rome, but there were rival claims to the papacy and by 1415 three men, each from a different ‘chain of succession, claimed to be pope. Only with the Council of Constance in Switzerland in 1417 was the situation sorted out, but the damage that had been done lasted for centuries.

(The study will continue next week).

First Week of Advent

THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY

| | | |
|--------|-----------------------|--|
| Mon. | Nov. 30 th | <i>Saint Andrew, Apostle</i> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – For all of your Special Intentions |
| Tues. | Dec. 1 st | 6:00 P.M. - Mass –Larry Chouinard |
| Wed. | Dec. 2 nd | 8:00 A.M. - Mass – Lillian Kitza |
| Thurs. | Dec. 3 rd | <i>Saint Francis Xavier, Priest</i> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – Amy Chenier Kositzke |
| Fri. | Dec. 4 th | <i>Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – Lester Ness, Jr. ----- Parish office closed |
| Sat. | Dec. 5 th | 3:00 P.M. - Confessions heard until 3:45 PM 4:00 P.M. - Mass – Jim Gascon |
| Sun. | Dec. 6 th | <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – For the People of our Parish 10:00 AM - Mass –Pete & Willa DeMay |

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

80 envelopes were returned Sunday, November 22nd

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Adults..... | \$3,578.00 |
| Loose..... | 93.00 |
| General Maintenance..... | 65.00 |
| Fuel..... | 135.00 |
| Mass Stipends..... | 345.00 |
| Christmas flowers..... | 20.00 |
| Total..... | \$4,236.00 |

Budgeted weekly Income & Expense... \$3,786.83
Overage..... \$ 449.17

St. Vincent DePaul Society..... 95.00

Many thanks to the parishioners who have donated \$9,092.50 towards the new P.A. system so far.

The St. Vincent DePaul Society will be distributing Christmas Baskets on December 10th & 11th from the Ruth Butler Building.

U.P. Catholic Services Appeal Update

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Parish Goal..... | \$40,139.00 |
| Pledged to date..... | \$30,905.00 |
| Still needed..... | \$ 9,234.00 |

Thank you to the 130 parishioners who have sent in their pledges, with 77 cards outstanding. Please, if you have not yet returned your pledge card, do so as soon as possible. We would like to have 100% participation.

Meijer's Double Match Days in their ongoing fall campaign will be Tues., Dec. 1, and Sat., Dec. 12. For every \$10 Simply Give card purchased on these dates, Meijer will provide St. Vincent de Paul Pantry in Escanaba a contribution of \$20, bringing the total to \$30 for a single customer purchase. Each purchase resulting from Double Match Days will be matched by Meijer up to a maximum amount of \$10,000 for the campaign.

SPIRIT LIFTERS

- Nov. 29th** - I used to censure everyone, I was a Pharisee; Until, quite unexpectedly, I got a glimpse of me.
- Nov. 30th** - God doesn't do for us what He has given us power to do for ourselves.
- Dec. 1st** - Prayer is not an attitude attained, but an attitude maintained.
- Dec. 2nd** - What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part, Yet what can I give Him; give my heart.
- Dec. 3rd** - You cannot possess a richer treasure than that of the loyalty of a friend.
- Dec. 4th** - Lord, protect me and keep me close to your heart.
- Dec. 5th** - When a happy person enters the room, it's as if another candle had been lighted.

BE MY DISCIPLES

Families registered in our religious education program...
be on the watch for another
"surprise box"
which will be used for the
December 2nd lesson.
Don't open it
until our lesson!



Parents, your boxes can be picked up in the gathering area of church anytime before Wednesday, Dec. 2nd

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

- | | |
|---|---|
| Monday Rom 10:9-18 Mt 4:18-22 | Tuesday Is 11:1-10 Lk 10:21-24 |
| Wednesday Is 25:6-10a Mt 15:29-37 | Thursday Is 26:1-6 Mt 7:21, 24-27 |
| Friday Is 29:17-24 Mt 9:27-31 | Saturday Is 30:19-21,23-26 Mt 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8 |
| Sunday Is 40:1-5,9-11 2Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8 | |

Life of Saints

Nov. 30th - ST. ANDREW, apostle - - The church, built on the Apostles, has from its beginning honored the Twelve. Probably at one time, each month had an Apostle's feast. Andrew of Bethsaida (on the Lake of Galilee) was Peter's brother. Tradition recalls his crucifixion in Greece on an X shared cross (St. Andrew's cross).

Dec. 3rd - ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, priest - - This saint's story is one of heroic adventure. Born at Xavier (Navarre), Spain, in 1506, Francis was one of the first Jesuits. Though suffering from sciatica, he was ordered to preach the Gospel in the unknown Far East. For eleven years, in suffering and prayer, he brought the Gospel to India, Ceylon, and Japan. He died at the gates of China in 1552, at age 46, and was canonized a saint in 1662.

Be kind to each other. It is better to commit faults with gentleness than to work miracles with unkindness.
~Mother Teresa



FIRST SUNDY OF ADVENT; Cycle – B; Nov. 29th 2020
Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; 1Cor. 1:3-9; Mark 13: 33-37

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

For the world, December marks the end of another year. But for the Church it is the beginning of a new liturgical year. As we know our liturgical year is divided into three cycles known as A, B, C and on this advent we move from cycle A to B. In every liturgical cycle the Church **unfolds the entire mystery of salvation through the Scripture readings**. And also, a particular Evangelist is selected in the gospel at Mass. For example, in cycle A most of the time we were listening to the gospel of Matthew on Sundays and this year we will hear mostly from **Mark**. Though the Evangelist John is not given a particular cycle, he will appear mainly during the Lenten and Easter season.

Christmas is the most joyful celebration in the Church. Perhaps you will think that the Apostles and the early Christians started the celebration of Christmas. In fact, the celebration of the birth of Christ started in Rome only in the middle of the 4th century. Soon a period of preparation was attached to this celebration so the faithful may prepare well spiritually. In France Bishop Perpetuus of Tours issued a regulation asking the faithful to fast three days in every week from Nov. 11 through Dec. 25th adding strict penitential character to it. This practice spread to different countries, varying the starting date of the preparatory period. Rome introduced the period of preparation only in the 6th century and it was decided that it should be from Dec.1 to 25 and as it was the expectation of a joyful event, no penitential character was attached to it. Eventually all the Churches accepted this regulation. The Advent falls either on the last Sunday of November or the first Sunday of December.

The name Advent was originally used to denote the coming of Christ in history, (his birth) and it was the commemoration of the birthday of Jesus. So naturally, on the First Sunday of Advent, we would like to hear something about the birth of Jesus. But every year in three liturgical cycles the first Sunday of Advent brings us some sort of fear and warning. For, instead of speaking about the birth of Jesus, it reminds us of the end of the world and the Day of Judgment at the second coming of Jesus. Of course, for the people of Israel the coming of the Messiah in history was very important. They waited for centuries to see the day of the Messiah. But for us this is the past event which already took place but at the same time a joyful memory which we celebrate in this season.

Besides this coming of Jesus in history, we await the coming of Jesus in threefold ways. *First of all we always look forward to see him coming into our day today lives; secondly we all believe of his coming into our lives on the last day of our individual life on earth; thirdly, as we hear from today's gospel there is a final coming of Jesus towards the end of the age, which we call the Second Coming of Jesus.* For us, the first two types of coming are important in our lives. You and I may not see the Second Coming of Jesus at the end of the world. For us the most important and critical coming of Jesus is in our life at the last day of our life on earth. So more than worrying about the Second Coming of Jesus at the end of the age, we should be prepared for his coming in our life at the end of our life.

If we believe in the first coming of Jesus in the history, it is a lot easier for us to recognize his coming into our day today life in different ways. And also only those who can appreciate and experience the coming of Jesus in their daily lives can easily welcome Jesus on the last day of their journey on earth. Friends, we live in a world totally governed by secularism and materialism, where Jesus has no place in it. The world teaches us that we are better without Jesus. So naturally people attribute their achievement and gain to manmade things. Such people will never see the face of Jesus in anyone and in anything they do. But if we have real faith and trust in Jesus, no doubt, we will meet him in our sisters and brothers and in everything we do. Mother Theresa often said that she could see the face of Jesus in every dying person she picked from the street. During this critical situation which the world undergoes these days, many see only the absence of Jesus in our lives. But he is there always for those who seek him. The Psalmist prays in Ps. 145:18 and 19, **“You, Lord are near to all who call upon you; you satisfy the desire of those who fear you; you hear their cry and save them.”** So in our distress let us call upon him. Unfortunately, this year also thousands will celebrate Christmas without Jesus having a part in it. But as believers, let us celebrate Christmas with Jesus and also let us see the face of Jesus in the poor and the needy and extend our helping hands towards them. If we have a little goodwill, we can make a smiling face of Jesus in somebody, a family on this Christmas too.