

Holy Family Parish



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4011 Co. 416-20th Road, Gladstone, MI 49837

Second Sunday of Advent – December 6, 2020

Pastor

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Deacon

Deacon: Robert Berbohm 786-9082

Parish Secretary

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Office hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 am to 3 pm

Bulletin articles should be submitted

by Noon on Wednesdays

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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.)

The Protestant Revolt and the Council of Trent

A whole variety of factors in the Church came together in 1517 when the Augustinian monk Martin Luther nailed his “Ninety-five Theses” (a list of criticisms of Church practices in his day) to the Church door in Wittenburg, Germany. Initially intended only as a challenge to debate, Luther’s Theses became a rallying point for people discontented with the Church and its problems at the time. Luther and others quickly broke away from the Catholic Church, leading away from the Church many million in German-speaking states, France, Switzerland, England, Scotland, the Netherlands, and Scandinavia.

The separation of Martin Luther from the Church was a major blow to the growth of Church in Europe. Though Luther didn’t have any intention to separate from the Church, rather open the way for a debate, finally ended up in total separation. In a way, this separation helped the Church authorities to open their eyes and see some of the abuses existed in the Church and reform the Church. In response to the doctrinal challenges of the reformers, and the genuine need for reform of corrupt practices by members of the Church, the Church **convened the Council of Trent (1545-1563)**, which reaffirmed the doctrines of the Church with great clarity. With the assistance from a new Order of priests called the **Society of Jesus (the Jesuits)**, the Church launched the Counter-Reformation, which sought to re-claim the peoples and nations that had separated themselves from the Church. Although only a portion of Europe was restored to the Church, the Counter-Reformation succeeded in renewing the Church as a whole and removed many of the abuses and problems that had made the Protestant revolt possible.

Simultaneously with the problems in Europe, the Church was growing tremendously in the New World. Missionaries were sent to preach the Gospel. On December 9th 1531 Our Lady appeared to a Mexican peasant Juan Diego which resulted in the mass conversion of people to Christianity in Mexico. In a way it is true that when the mass of Catholics left the Church in Europe, Our Lady brought many back to the Church. This was a period of great missionary expeditions all throughout the continents. They not only preached but also worked to improve the manner in which both natives and those people enslaved and transported from Africa were treated, and to alleviate their burdens. The many Church condemnations of slavery, sadly, had little effect on its general practice in the New World. Nevertheless, great numbers of the oppressed population converted and entered the Church. Missionary efforts, most notably by Jesuits, were also carried out in the Far East India, *(St. Francis Xavier reached the coastal city of Western India in 1541 and converted many. But it is notable that in A.D. 52 St. Thomas reached the Sothern state of India, Kerala, and started the evangelization.* The blood of many martyrs was spilt in order to establish the Church in these lands. In the early years of the 17th century the Jesuits missionaries landed in Americas and started evangelizing the Natives. For the first, time a Jesuit missionary Fr. Jacques Marquette touched the Upper Peninsula and he built the first Church in Sault Ste. Marie in 1668.

The “Enlightenment,” Vatican I, and the Early 20th Century

The next major challenge to the Church did not come from kings and rulers but from philosophers. With the dawn of the “Age of Reason,” also called the “Enlightenment,” faith was ridiculed. The “enlightened” philosopher could not be a person of faith because religion and science, faith and reason were viewed as incompatible opposites. The Age of Enlightenment led to the French Revolution. The French Revolution was a watershed event in modern European history that began in 1789 and ended in the late 1790s with the ascent of Napoleon Bonaparte. This was also a blow to the Church in Europe which also led to the rise of some sort of Paganism.

(We will continue next week).

Second Week of Advent

THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY

Mon.	Dec. 7 th	<i>Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – For all of your Special Intentions
Tues.	Dec. 8 th	<i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Holy Day of Obligation</i> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – Walter Marcella 6:30 P.M. - Mass – For the People of the Parish
Wed.	Dec. 9 th	<i>Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin</i> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – Vernon Wilson, Sr.
Thurs.	Dec. 10 th	8:00 A.M. - Mass – Ken Beauchamp
Fri.	Dec. 11 th	<i>Saint Damasus I, Pope</i> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – Bill Masters ----- Parish office closed
Sat.	Dec. 12 th	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> 3:00 P.M. - Confessions heard until 3:45 PM 4:00 P.M. - Mass – John Wiecech
Sun.	Dec. 13 th	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – Robert Plimpton 10:00 AM - Mass – For the People of our Parish

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

66 envelopes were returned Sunday, November 29th

Adults.....	\$3,242.00
Loose.....	35.00
General Maintenance.....	15.00
Fuel.....	20.00
Votive Lights.....	249.00
Roof Fund.....	25.00
Seminary Fund.....	20.00
Christmas flowers.....	20.00
Total.....	\$3,626.00

Budgeted weekly Income & Expense... \$3,786.83
Shortage..... \$ 160.83

St. Vincent DePaul Society..... 304.00

A HUGH thank you to everyone who has donated towards the new P.A. System. We have a total of \$9,307.50 from parishioners and \$3,000 recently received from a couple from lower Michigan. Friends of Fr. Sebastian. THANK YOU!!!!

U.P. Catholic Services Appeal Update

Parish Goal.....	\$40,139.00
Pledged to date.....	\$31,705.00
Still needed.....	\$ 8,434.00

Thank you to the 135 parishioners who have sent in their pledges, with 72 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 Sat., Dec. 12. For every \$10 Simply Give card purchased on this date, 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

- Dec. 6th** - God will not look you over for medals, degrees, or diplomas, but for scars.
- Dec. 7th** - Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could, some blunder and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; you shall begin it well and serenely.
- Dec. 8th** - So much of what is great has sprung from the closeness of family ties.
- Dec. 9th** - Belief in God is acceptance of the basic principles that the universe makes sense, that there is behind it an ultimate purpose.
- Dec. 10th** - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33
- Dec. 11th** - When God measures a man, He puts the tape around the heart instead of the head.
- Dec. 12th** - Every speaker has a mouth, An arrangement rather neat. Sometimes it's filled with wisdom, Sometimes it's filled with feet.

THANK YOU

St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank the members of Holy Family for your donations and purchased Christmas gifts from the Giving Tree again this year. Your generosity will provide many blessings to those that often go without basic essentials throughout most of the year.

Please note that the Adult Faith Formation class is planning to resume on Wednesday, December 9, at St. Joseph & St. Patrick Parish Hall from 6 to 7 pm.

Celebrating the Wisdom of Bishop Baraga

The ice was thin and soon the travelers, horses and sleigh were in an impromptu cold bath, not at all desirable; by great exertion the whole party was saved, Bishop Baraga and his companions having an additional covering in a coat of ice. Detroit Catholic Vindicator, 1856

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Monday

Is 35:1-10
Lk 5:17-26

Wednesday

Is 40:25-31
Mt 11:28-30

Friday

Is 48:17-19
Mt 11:16-19

Tuesday

Gn 3:9-15,20
Eph 1:3-6,11-12
Lk 1:26-38

Thursday

Is 41:13-20
Mt 11:11-15

Saturday

Zec 2:14-17 or
Rv 11:19a;
12:1-6a,10ab
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Sunday

Is 61:1-2a,10-11 1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8,19-28

Life of Saints

Dec. 11th - ST. DAMASUS I, pope - - Damasus (305-384), of Spanish descent, was born in Rome. He became archivist of the church and preserved records of the still recent persecutions. Elected Pope in 366, he was devoted to the Christian martyrs whose bodies lay buried in the catacombs. Damasus encouraged the biblicist St. Jerome, struggled against anti-Popes and guided the church through a period of difficult growth.

Dec. 12th - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE - - The North American continent is honored by the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe near Mexico City. On December 9, 1531, the Blessed Mother appeared to a simple Indian convert, Juan Diego. In a miraculous manner her picture was impressed upon his cloak. Our Lady of Guadalupe is Patroness of the Americas.

The *Season of Advent* is like springtime in nature, when everything is renewed and so is fresh and healthy. Advent is also meant to do this to us – to refresh us and make us healthy, to be able to receive Jesus in whatever from He may come to us. ~Mother Teresa

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT; Cycle - B; Dec. 6th 2020
Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11; 1Peter 3: 8-14; Mark 1: 1-8

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Our preparation for Christmas will remain incomplete if we fail to reflect on the Good News announced by John the Baptist who was the forerunner of the Messiah. The central figure in today's Word of God is John and he is presented as one who is preparing the way of the Lord. His role was to present the Messiah to the long waiting people.

Last Sunday the Evangelist Mark warned us against the Second Coming of the Lord at the end of the age. This Sunday both the first reading and the gospel bring us the Good News in different ways. In today's first reading Prophet Deutero (second) -Isaiah who was in Babylonian exile with Israel, brought the glad tidings of freedom to the people. To the disheartened people, Isaiah made a stunning prophecy that Yahweh who punished them with exile would come down with vengeance and lead his people back to their homeland. Yahweh, the King himself, was going to lead this exodus and the roads should be prepared according to the dignity of the King's procession. In this context Isaiah was that voice crying in the desert asking people to prepare the way for the King. And the same prophecy was materialized during the time of Isaiah and people got freedom from the exile and came back. Once the people settled down, eventually the prophetic era came to an end and people were yearning to see and hear another prophet and eventually the Messiah.

When John the Baptist appeared in the Palestinian desert with fiery prophetic speech, people got excited seeing their desire being fulfilled after waiting for more than 450 years. The Evangelists could see in John the same voice predicted by Isaiah literally being fulfilled in John. When John came to the scene people were filled with different reactions. Many thought that he was Elijah the Prophet who returned to prepare the way for the Messiah. It was the common belief among the Jews that before the arrival of the Messiah, Prophet Elijah should return to prepare the way for him. John had the appearance of Elijah in his dress and speech. Many were under the impression that the Baptist was the Messiah. The expectations and excitement of the people were high rocketing. But John the Baptist never ignored his role. *To the question of people: "Who are you?"* He said, "I am 'the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the Prophet said.'" (John 1:19-23). He claimed to be a mere messenger of God.

As a messenger of God, he gave hope to the people who lost all hope; he gave courage to the people who were scared; he promised the forgiveness of sins through the Messiah. We are not John the Baptist or prophets, but as the disciples of the Messiah we too have the same role of John to play, that **we should proclaim to the world that the Savior is among us. Today's world is waiting to hear the cry, 'Do not be afraid, the Savior is born for us and he is Emmanuel, God is with us.'** We Christians have that Good News with us and it is our duty to give the same to the world. Today we live in a world of chaos. No one feels secure anymore, the physical insecurity, economic instability, unhealthy materialism and secularism and violence which are attacking humanity from all sides. More and more people go away from God and seek their security and comforts in the material world and the result is utter disappointment. Only we Christians can give full hope to the world. **We know where the source of the way, the truth and life is.** Only we know where we can find the true light which will dispel the darkness from the hearts of people. Without Jesus Christ our life is incomplete. He is the only Savior of the world and only he could promise his followers that he will be with them till the end of the age. **In the Acts of the Apostles 4:12 we read St. Peter declaring before the Jewish Sanhedrin, "There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved."** *Yes, there is only one name by which we can be saved; there is only one name by which we can do everything in the world; there is only one name by which we are protected; there is only one name which is the answer to every problem, and that is the name of Jesus Chris, Amen!*