

Holy Family Parish



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

Third Sunday of Advent – December 13, 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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Faith Formation Coordinator

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Maintenance

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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.....

**Bob Gascon, Brevyn Willford, Lincoln Noel
Don Anderson, Duane & Nancy Marenger**

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 “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 consequences for the faithful were dire. The Age of Enlightenment led to the famous French Revolution in the late 1790s which ended in the late 1790s with the ascent of Napoleon Bonaparte in power. This period also was a blow to the Church in Europe which also led to the rise of some sort of Paganism.

At the Vatican I Council in 1870, the relationship of faith and reason was affirmed. The Council explained that, although the truth obtained through faith is inaccessible to reason alone, it is no less rational because of it. The person of faith does not put his or her reason aside. Rather, the light of faith purifies reason and enables the believer to use reason to make sense out of divine Revelation.

At the turn of the 20th century, a new heresy called modernism appeared that was synthesis of many previous heresies. Pope Pius X (1903-1914) was an ardent defender of the Church’s teaching in the face of modernism. His successors would find themselves occupied with the problems of two world wars and the political ideologies of Communism and Fascism that came between and after them. Pope Pius XI (1922-1939) sought to confirm the rights of Catholics under Fascist governments in Italy and Germany. Pope Pius XII (1939-1958) sought to stop World War II and saved thousands of Jews from the genocidal evil of the Nazi regime in Germany.

Vatican II to the Present

In order to adapt itself to the quickly-changing times and more successfully proclaim the Gospel, the Church held its twenty-first Ecumenical Council in 1962-1965, known as Vatican II. In many ways, Vatican II was the fruit of the renewal that had already begun in the areas of liturgy and biblical studies. In the wake of the Council, the Church has sought to implement its reforms and become more effective in proclaiming the Gospel to the modern world. Pope John XXIII called the Council; Pope Paul VI closed it and implemented many of its reforms. Pope John Paul II emphasized the theological, social, and political importance of human dignity and made Vatican II the rallying point of his papacy as he led the Church into the third millennium of the Christianity. Pope Benedict XVI has made Christian unity, combating the relativism of the secular culture and re-evangelization of nations once authentically Christian. For over 2000 years the Church sailed through the rough sea, but survived up to this day. For, she was founded by Jesus on the rock of Peter and the power of the netherworld will not prevail over her.

With this episode we conclude the brief history of the Church. In order to get the full picture of the growth of the Church, her ups and downs, success and failure you need to go for further readings. Starting in next week we will see the structure of the Church.

(We will continue next week).

Third Week of Advent

THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY

Mon.	Dec. 14 th	<i>Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the church</i> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – For all of your Special Intentions
Tues.	Dec. 15 th	6:00 P.M. - Mass – Marion Sodergren
Wed.	Dec. 16 th	8:00 A.M. - Mass – Lillian Kitz 6:30 P.M. - Live Stream CCD
Thurs.	Dec. 17 th	8:00 A.M. - Mass – Gloria Gereau
Fri.	Dec. 18 th	8:00 A.M. - Mass – Joe Gareau 6:00 P.M. - Confessions will be heard until 7:00 PM ----- Parish office closed
Sat.	Dec. 19 th	3:00 P.M. - Confessions heard until 3:45 PM 4:00 P.M. - Mass – Jack Gascon
Sun.	Dec. 20 th	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – Walter Marcella 10:00 AM - Mass – For the People of our Parish

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

73 envelopes were returned Sunday, December 6th

Adults.....	\$4,035.00
Loose.....	80.00
General Maintenance.....	156.00
Fuel.....	228.00
The Word Among Us.....	370.00
Christmas flowers.....	368.00
Total.....	\$5,237.00

Budgeted weekly Income & Expense... \$3,786.83
Overage..... \$1,450.17

St. Vincent DePaul Society..... 72.00

U.P. Catholic Services Appeal Update

Parish Goal.....\$40,139.00
 Pledged to date.....\$31,975.00
Still needed.....\$ 8,164.00

Thanks to the 137 parishioners who sent in their pledges, with 70 cards outstanding. If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. We would like to have 100% participation.

Our prayers and sympathies to the family and friends of **Lela Dubord**. Lela's Mass of Christian Burial was on Friday, Dec. 11th. May her soul and all the souls of the faithfully departed rest in the gentle peace of our Lord.



Don't forget to use your Christmas Flower envelope to donate in the memory of a loved one. If you misplaced your Christmas flower offering envelope you can just use a plain envelope marked flowers.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Our Christmas Mass schedule will be a 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM on Christmas Eve and a 9:00 AM Mass on Christmas Day.

Our New Year's Mass schedule will be a 6:30 PM Mass on December 31st and a 9:00 AM on New Year's Day.

SPIRIT LIFTERS

Dec. 13th - God grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and Wisdom to know the difference.

Dec. 14th - Help me never to judge another until I have walked a day in his steps.

Dec. 15th - CHEER UP! Birds also have bills, but they keep on singing.

Dec. 16th - A fault-mender is better than a fault-finder.

Dec. 17th - A partnership with God is motherhood.

Dec. 18th - Christmas is a time for children, No matter what their age. Spirit is the only ticket, And heart the only gauge.

Dec. 19th - There is no right way to do the wrong thing.



Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 20th. That will be the day we will be decorating the church for the Christmas season. We will start after the 10:00 Mass. If you have a few hours to spare, please come and help. The more hands the faster we get done!

Celebrating the Wisdom of Bishop Baraga

Bishop Baraga ordered me to sleep in the only bed available in the parsonage, while he himself slept on the floor with only a mat under him and a cloak for his cover. The bishop refused even a pillow. "You must spare yourself," he would say; "I am old and accustom to such things. I am your bishop; you must obey." Fr. Chebul.

Last call for anyone wishing to subscribe to the **WORD AMONG US**". If you would like to the subscription is \$20 for the year. Call the parish office to put your name on the list.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Monday
Nm 24:2-7,15-17a
Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday
Zep 3:1-2,9-13
Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday
Is 45:6b-18,21c-25
Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday
Gn 49:2,8-10
Mt 1:1-17

Friday
Jer 23:5-8
Mt 1:18-25

Saturday
Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a
Lk 1:5-25

Sunday
2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16
Ron 16:25-27
Lk 1:26-38

Life of Saints

Dec. 14th - ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS, priest and doctor - - Born (1542) near Avila in Spain, John ended a difficult adolescence by entering the Carmelites in 1563. Shortly after priestly ordination he started collaborating with the remarkable Teresa of Avila in reforming the Carmelites. The renewal brought him many trials. He wrote in masterful fashion about the spiritual life and mystical union with God. He died in 1591 and was canonized a saint in 1726.

Let us not be afraid to be humble, small, helpless, to prove our love for God. The cup of water you give the sick, the way you lift a dying man, the way you feed a baby, the way you teach a dull child, the way you give medicine to someone suffering of leprosy, the joy with which you smile at your own home – all this is God's love in the world today.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT; Dec. 13th 2020; Cycle - B
Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 18-28

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Among the most neglected of all our Christian obligations is *the obligation to rejoice*. Just as the Word of God commands us to believe and to love, so does it command us to rejoice? The 3rd Sunday of Advent is known as “***Gaudete in Domino semper***” means - ***Rejoice in the Lord always***. It is a command taken from Paul’s letter to the 1Thessalonians 5:16 which we have just listened to. *It is a positive command which we have to keep at all times and in all circumstances, in our good time and bad time*. Paul asks his community, “**Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ.**” To remain unhappy is lot easier and we find daily 10 reasons to be sad; whereas to rejoice in all situations is a hard decision which we have to make.

Though we are unhappy over many things, it is the inborn nature in every human being to seek happiness and pleasure in everything he/she does. Even a little baby can recognize the thing or person that delights him/her. Very often people are very confused about the real source of Joy. Some think that the more material goods and money they have happier they become. In that case all the millionaires are the happiest people. So they try to amass as many things as possible and participate in many events and activities which may give them temporary pleasure. Soon enough they feel bored and unhappy. Some seek their joy in earthly recognition and power. As soon as they lose their position or power, they are disappointed. Many people don’t enjoy what they have; rather are sad about what they don’t have. Very often you and I belong to this category of people. We see only *the half empty glass, not half filled*. So it is clear that the source of real joy is not something material; rather it is spiritual. **The source of genuine joy is God Himself. I should rejoice that I am the son or daughter of a loving God; I should rejoice that Jesus has called me to be his disciple; I should rejoice, for Jesus loves me with all my shortcomings.**

Last Sunday we heard the prophecy of Isaiah in the Babylonian exilic situation. This Sunday’s reading is too from Isaiah in the post-exilic time in the home land. When the people came back with high expectations, they didn’t find anything there which they had left behind and they were disheartened and unhappy. So Isaiah gives them the joyful news that he is anointed by the Lord to bring the glad tidings of freedom to them from all bondages. Here Isaiah means mainly the spiritual joy and freedom which he can give them. Finally he concludes saying, “**I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my heart.**” He does not say that he is joyful

because he got the freedom and came back. He is not unhappy either to see the desolate land. He rejoices in the presence of God who chose him. This is the same attitude we find in Mary. After the annunciation of the angel about the birth of Jesus, Mary says in her Magnificat, **“My spirit finds joy in God my savior.”** She does not say that she rejoices over her divine motherhood.

Today’s readings show us the fact that the true joy comes from the fact that we are chosen by God and the trust we have in the Lord that he will be with us in good and bad situations. Humanly speaking the apostles didn’t have any reason to be happy during their missionary endeavor. For often they were persecuted, flogged and driven out of their places. **But they rejoiced in the Lord.** The very fact that the Lord was with them gave them the joy even when they were persecuted. Despite the oppositions and persecutions, St. Paul could ask with great joy and pride, *“Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish or distress, or persecution or hunger or nakedness or danger or sword. Yet in all this we are more than conquerors because of him who loved us.”* (Rom. 8: 35, 37). For Paul the experience of Christ’s presence with him was the source of his joy and courage.

We may spend thousands of dollars on luxury items and comforts; though our houses are filled, hearts will remain empty; if God is not with us the real joy will be far away from us. But the person who has absolute trust in the Lord will rejoice even in the absence of material goods and physical comforts. ***Mother Theresa comments on joy in these words, “Joy is -being with God in Christ, loving as he loves, helping as he helps, giving as he gives, serving as he serves, rescuing as he rescues, being with Him 24 hours.”*** So, in short, if we have a place for Christ in our hearts and Christ is given a place in our homes we will have the real joy and no one will be able to take it away from us; lack of material affluence or good health. Yes, with Christ we are conquerors and without him we are losers.