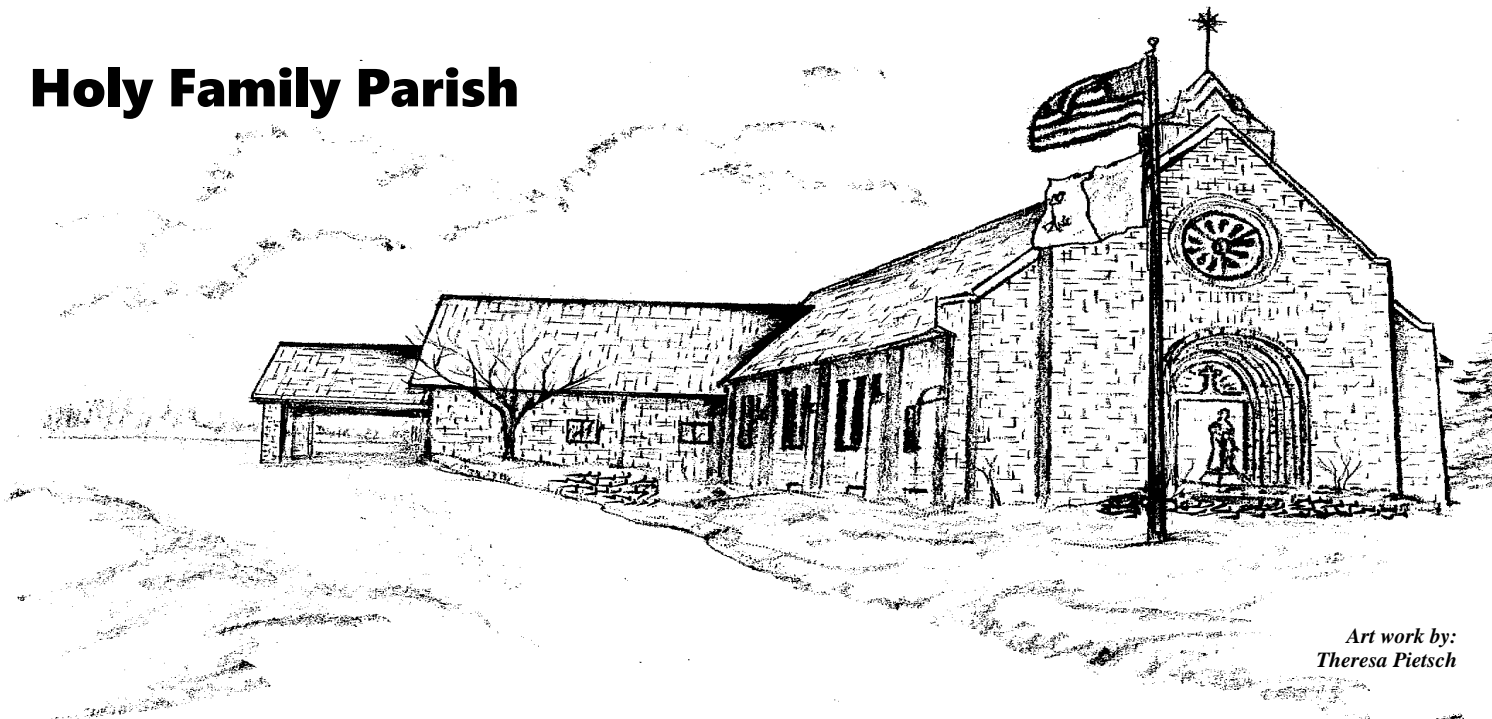


# Holy Family Parish



Art work by:  
Theresa Pietsch

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4011 Co. 416-20<sup>th</sup> Road, Gladstone, MI 49837

## Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 20, 2020

### Pastor

(906) 786-1209 Ext. 3

### Deacon

Deacon: Robert Berbohm 786-9082

### 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*

E-mail Address: [secretary@holyfamilyparish.net](mailto:secretary@holyfamilyparish.net)

Website: [www.holyfamilyparish.net](http://www.holyfamilyparish.net)

### Faith Formation Coordinator

Chris Olesak 428-9431

Email: [colesak@allsaintsgladstone.org](mailto:colesak@allsaintsgladstone.org)

### 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.....

**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

### The Structure of the Church

Among the Christian denominations and even among the world religions, Catholic Church is the only denomination which has the **hierarchical** order of authorities. In the ecclesiastical sense of the term, 'hierarchy' commonly means the body of clergy men who exercise authority within the Catholic Church who are placed according to the rank they hold. In Catholic Church authority rests chiefly with the Pope and Bishops and the priests and deacons share some of their authority as their associates.

### POPE

Jesus Christ entrusted the Evangelization work with the apostles. But long before he had left the world he decided to appoint St. Peter to be the head of the Church, he would establish. In other words, we can say that Jesus founded the Church on Peter the great rock. Looking at Simon Peter, Jesus said, “**And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it**” (Mt 16:18). After the resurrection, before he had ascended to heaven, Jesus confirmed his decision of appointing Peter to be the head of the Church. In John chapter 21, Jesus asks Peter repeatedly, “**Feed my lambs; feed my sheep; feed my sheep.**” In the early Church the other apostles and the Christian community recognized Peter to be the head. Peter never bore the *title* of "Pope", which came into use three centuries later, but Catholics traditionally recognize him as the first Pope and all others came after Peter as his successors.

What most obviously distinguishes the Catholic Church from other Christian bodies is the link between its members and the Pope. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, quoting the Second Vatican Council's document Lumen Gentium, states: "The *Pope*, Bishop of Rome and Peter's successor, 'is the perpetual and visible source and foundation of the unity both of the bishops and of the whole company of the faithful.' The Pope is referred to as the Vicar of Christ and the Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church. He may sometimes also use the less formal title of "Servant of the Servants of God". Applying to him the term "absolute" would, however, give a false impression: he is not free to issue decrees at whim. Instead, his charge forces on him awareness that he, even more than other bishops, is "tied", bound, by an obligation of strictest fidelity to the teaching transmitted down the centuries in increasingly developed form within the Church (though he himself is the final arbiter of what constitutes fidelity to those teachings).

Pope is also known to be the Bishop of Rome. In Catholic theology, the bishop who is the successor of Saint Peter in the episcopal see of Rome is viewed as the head of the College of Bishops, as Saint Peter was the chief of the Apostles; and communion with him is considered essential for the existence of the College of Bishops. He has direct authority, not an authority mediated through other bishops, over the whole Church. The title of Pope (derived from a word, known in Greek as "Father" is the most common title for the Bishop of Rome, and, in the traditional Latin abbreviation *PP* has been used in his official signature, e.g., "Benedictus PP XVI". The honorary title prefixed to his name is "His Holiness".

Papal primacy/Infallibility, which is referred to also as the Petrine authority or function, involves Papal Infallibility, but only "when, in the exercise of his office as Shepherd and Teacher of all Christians, in virtue of his supreme apostolic authority, he defines a doctrine concerning faith or morals to be held by the whole Church" The Catechism of the Catholic Church says: "The Roman Pontiff, head of the college of bishops, enjoys this *infallibility* in virtue of his office, when, as supreme pastor and teacher of all the faithful—who confirms his brethren in the faith—he proclaims by a definitive act a doctrine pertaining to **faith or morals...** The infallibility promised to the Church is also present in the body of bishops when, together with Peter's successor, they exercise the supreme Magisterium, above all in an Ecumenical Council."

(We will continue the study next week).

***Fourth Week of Advent***

**THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY**

Mon.	Dec. 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b><i>Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i></b> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – For all of your Special Intentions
Tues.	Dec. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>6:00 P.M.</b> - Mass – Marion Sodergren
Wed.	Dec. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b><i>St. John of Kanty, Priest</i></b> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – James Gross
Thurs.	Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	----- Parish Office closed 8:00 A.M. - NO Mass <b>5:00 P.M.</b> - For the people of our parish <b>8:00 P.M.</b> - Cameron Delveaux
Fri.	Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9:00 A.M.</b> - Mass – Dec. members of the Hughes & Neuens Family ----- Parish office closed
Sat.	Dec. 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>Saint Stephen, The First Martyr</i></b> 3:00 P.M. - Confessions heard until 3:45 PM 4:00 P.M. - Mass – Francis Beauchamp
Sun.	Dec. 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i></b> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – Walter Marcella 10:00 AM - Mass – For the People of our Parish

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER**

71 envelopes were returned Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

Adults.....	\$3,705.00
Immaculate Conception.....	403.00
Loose.....	215.00
General Maintenance.....	17.00
Fuel.....	83.00
The Word Among Us.....	40.00
Reimbursement for Flags.....	100.00
Roof Fund.....	100.00
Christmas flowers.....	160.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$4,823.00</b>

**Budgeted weekly Income & Expense... \$3,786.83**  
**Overage..... \$1,036.17**

St. Vincent DePaul Society..... 25.00

Thank you for the generous donations that are still coming in towards the Sound System.

**U.P. Catholic Services Appeal Update**

Parish Goal.....	\$40,139.00
Pledged to date.....	\$32,125.00
<b>Still needed.....</b>	<b>\$ 8,014.00</b>

Thanks to the 139 parishioners who sent in their pledges, with 68 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.



**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 Adoration from 6:00 to 6:30 followed by benediction and the 6:30 PM Mass on December 31<sup>st</sup> and a 9:00 AM on New Year's Day.

## SPIRIT LIFTERS

**Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>** - Before your gifts are all wrapped up and gayly ribbon tied, Please remember to tuck a lot of love inside.

**Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>** - Christmas is a time to remember timeless stories from days of your, A time to ponder what's ahead, A time to open another door.

**Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love. H.W. Mabie

**Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>**- Not what we give, But what we share, For the gift without the giver is bare. J. R. Cowell.

**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas is the delight of loving and being loved in return, not for gifts tied with bows, but for gifts of the Spirit offered with an open heart every day of the year. Pearl Buck.

**Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>** - "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

**Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>** - It's a little too much to save, And a little too much to dump. There's nothing to do but eat it, That makes the housewife plump.

### Celebrating the Wisdom of Bishop Baraga

Celebrating the Wisdom of Bishop Baraga About four o'clock in the morning, Baraga could be found kneeling on the cold, frozen ground, deeply engrossed in prayer. To talk thus to his Master rekindled his every burning missionary Zeal into a lambent flame.



*Many thanks to Steve & Carol Belongie for purchasing our two new flags outside!*

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

**Monday**  
Sg 2:8-14 or Sep 3:14-18a  
Lk 1:39-45

**Tuesday**  
1 Sm 1:24-28  
Lk 1:46-56

**Wednesday**  
Mal 3:1-4,23-24  
Lk 1:57-66

**Thursday**  
Is 62:1-5  
Acts 13:16-17,22-25  
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

**Friday**  
Is 52:7-10  
Heb 1:1-6  
Jn 1:1-18

**Saturday**  
Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59  
Mt 10:17-22

**Sunday**  
Sir 3:2-6,12-14 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17  
Lk 2:41-52

### **SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

Looking for financial assistance with your college education? Applications are now being accepted for the 2021 Bibianne Bessette Scholarship Fund. The scholarships aid graduating high school seniors who are pursuing a college or vocational education at an accredited degree granting institution. Consideration is based on academic achievement. Applicants must complete the on-line application found at [www.dioceseofmarquette.org/bbscholarshipink](http://www.dioceseofmarquette.org/bbscholarshipink) and either mail an Official Transcript and ACT/SAT scores (via postal mail) to: Bessette Scholarship Fund, Diocese of Marquette, 1004 Harbor Hills Drive, Marquette, MI 49855 or email transcripts to Irene McCauley at [imccauley@dioceseofmarquette.org](mailto:imccauley@dioceseofmarquette.org) Applications must be received no later than March 15, 2021.

**Brantley Nicholas Pinar**, son of Nick & Traci Pinar, was reborn of water and the Holy Spirit and welcomed into our community of faith last Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> May God send His holy angels to guide and watch over Brantley as he begins his journey of faith with us.



One thing I ask of you: Never be afraid of giving. There is a deep joy in giving, since what we receive is much more than what we give. ~Mother Teresa

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT; Cycle – B; Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> 2020**  
**2 Samuel 7:1- 5, 8b-12; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38**

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

We have just listened to a thought provoking reading from the second Book of Samuel. In order to understand it fully, we need to understand the context of it. The situation goes back to King David who ruled Israel almost 1000 years before Christ. While Moses was leading the people of Israel in the desert God gave the people a special sign of his presence among them in the form of the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark was always carried on two long poles and moved ahead of the people when they marched. While people camped in one place the Ark also was placed in a tent among the people. Even when they reached the Promised Land, the Ark remained in the tent with the people. Eventually, the kingship was established among Israel and Saul was appointed to be the first King. When God took away the Kingship from Saul, David, the shepherd boy, was anointed by God. David built a beautiful palace for him and his family. But the Ark of the Covenant still remained in the tent.

In today's reading we see David harboring a little guilt feeling because, he was living in a luxurious palace while Yahweh, the Lord, stayed in the tent. So he expresses to Prophet Nathan his desire to build a Temple for God and Nathan too supported the idea. But God discarded this plan totally. Please listen to the words of God to David through Nathan, **“Thus says the Lord: Should you build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day to the present, but I have been going about in a tent under cloth.”** The words show that God does not prefer to dwell in a big structure rather among His people. David wanted to contain the Omnipresent and Almighty God in a manmade structure, thinking that God would be comfortable there.

God preferred to dwell in the tent for the very reason that he could be a lot closer to the ordinary people. God knew that living among the ordinary people in their level would help people to approach him with ease and comforts. Prophet Isaiah prophesied long before the birth of Jesus, **“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”** which means **“God is with us.”** And Matthew repeats this prophecy in his gospel, while narrating the birth of Jesus. **As Matthew views, Jesus is going to be Emmanuel, that is, God is with us; not in a manmade structure.** Finally when Jesus was born, he didn't choose the palace of Herod rather a manger, which always remained among the ordinary people. That is the very reason, the first visitors of

Jesus happened to be the shepherds. Even his parents didn't belong to the elite class in the society. Jesus grew as an ordinary carpenter. During his public ministry he moved from town to town, village to village; lived with the ordinary people; ate with the sinners; chose the outcast to be his disciples. He didn't have a house of his own to stay. Jesus says, "*Foxes have dens and the birds of the sky have nests, but the Son Man has nowhere to rest his head.*" If God preferred to remain isolated in some place, he would not have come down from heaven as 'Emmanuel.' Only in Christianity we find God taking the form of an ordinary human being and coming down to live among the people. When we celebrate Christmas we are joyful for the very fact that God is with us always. In other words, '*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*' He prefers to stay with us, in our hearts and in our houses rather than in a big structure.

Unfortunately, many Christians feel comfortable to shut down Jesus in a structure and come and pay him homage once a week or whenever it is convenient for them. They don't want him to get involved with their married life, family life or personal life. Of course, we cannot deny the truth that Jesus is present in our communal worship and liturgical celebrations, in the Eucharist and in the Word of God we proclaim at every Mass. But our worship in common should help us to keep Jesus in our hearts. Above all Jesus prefers to dwell among us. Our hearts are the best Temple we can open for him. When we go out of this house of God, after our communal worship, let us not leave Jesus here and go, rather let us take him with us and keep him with us. Today if many of us are stressed out, don't feel happy or don't have peace of mind and peace in our families, it is because Jesus is absent in their lives; they left Jesus in the manmade structure and walked out alone. Jesus is that true light of our life and families and wherever he is shining, no darkness can prevail. He prefers to be the Emmanuel, God is with us.