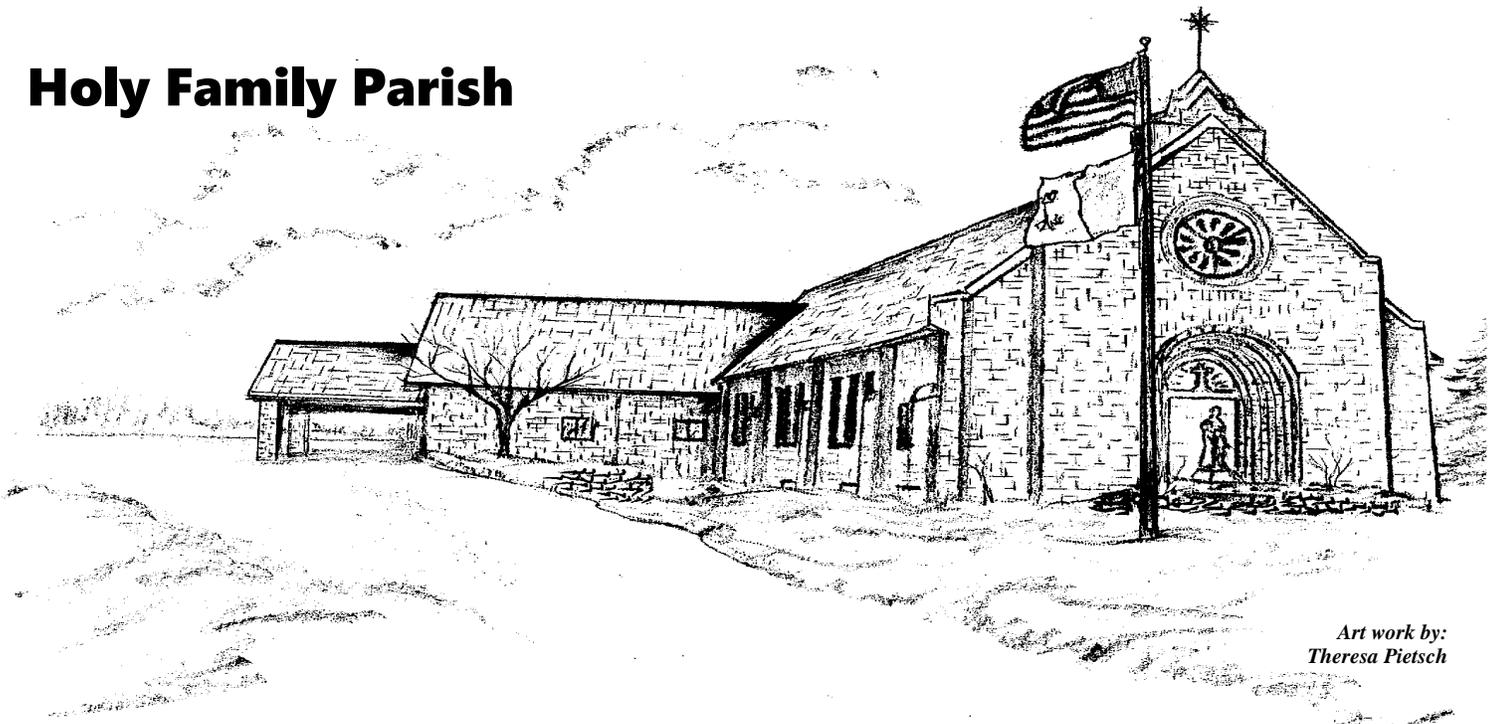


Holy Family Parish



Fr. Sebastian K. Chacko, skavumkal@yahoo.com

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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – December 27, 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

Website: www.holyfamilyparish.net

Faith Formation Coordinator

Chris Olesak 428-9431

Email: 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

Structure of the Church (Cont.)

The Residence of Pope: Pope resides in Vatican City, an independent state within the city of Rome, set up by the 1929 Lateran Pacts between the Holy See and Italy. The state of Vatican is confined to only 108 acres of land. Ambassadors are accredited not to Vatican City State but to the Holy See, which was a subject of international law even before the state was instituted. The body of officials that assist the Pope in governance of the Church as a whole is known as the Roman Curia. The term "Holy See" (i.e. of Rome) is generally used only of Pope and curia, because the Code of Canon Law, which concerns governance of the Latin Church as a whole and not internal affairs of the see (diocese) of Rome itself, necessarily uses the term in this technical sense.

In exercising supreme, full, and immediate power in the universal Church, the Roman pontiff makes use of the departments of the Roman Curia which, therefore, perform their duties in his name and with his authority for the good of the churches and in the service of the sacred pastors.

Election of Pope: The pope was originally chosen by those senior clergymen resident in and near Rome. In 1059 the electorate was restricted to the Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church, and the individual votes of all Cardinal Electors were made equal in 1179. The electors are now limited to those who have not reached 80 on the day before the death or resignation of a pope. Since the pope is Bishop of Rome, only those who can be ordained a bishop can be elected. The last to be elected when not yet a bishop was Pope Gregory XVI in 1831, and the last to be elected when not even a priest was Pope Leo X in 1513, and the last to be elected when not a cardinal was Pope Urban VI in 1378. If someone who is not a bishop is elected, he must be given Episcopal ordination before the election is announced to the people. In the modern age, perhaps, we may not see any one is elected to be the Pope other than one of the Cardinals.

Patriarchs and Major Archbishops: The heads of some autonomous (in Latin, *sui iuris*) particular Churches consisting of several Churches (dioceses) have the title Patriarch or Major Archbishop. The Pope himself was also called the Patriarch of the West, a title no longer in use, to indicate his relationship with the Latin Church. But there are a few Eastern Churches headed by either Patriarchs or Major Archbishops. They are elected by the synod of bishops of their particular Church. The office of the Major Archbishop was established only in 1963 for those Eastern Churches which have developed in size and stability to allow full self-governance if historical, ecumenical, or political conditions do not allow their elevation to a Patriarchate. **At present there are six Patriarchs and four Major Archbishops in the Catholic Church.** They are the heads of the college of bishops in their respective Churches. At the same time they are not equal to the Roman Pontiff who has got jurisdiction over the universal Church. The following table will give you an idea about all the Patriarchs and Major Archbishops of some of the Eastern Catholic Churches:

<u>See</u>	<u>Bishop</u>	<u>Election</u>
<u>Alexandria of the Copts</u>	<u>Patriarch Ibrahim Isaac Sidrak</u>	2013
<u>Antioch, Alexandria & Jerusalem of the Greek Melkites</u>	<u>Patriarch Gregory III Laham</u>	2000
<u>Antioch of the Syrians</u>	<u>Patriarch Mar Ignatius Joseph III Yonan</u>	2009
<u>Antioch of the Maronites</u>	<u>Patriarch Bechara Boutros Cardinal al-Rahi</u>	2011
<u>Babylon of the Chaldeans</u>	<u>Patriarch Louis Raphaël I Sako</u>	2013
<u>Cilicia of the Armenians</u>	<u>Patriarch Nersès Bédros XIX Tarmouni</u>	1999
<u>Kiev-Galicia</u>	<u>Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk</u>	2011
<u>Ernakulam-Angamaly</u>	<u>Major Archbishop George Cardinal Alencherry</u>	2011
<u>Trivandrum</u>	<u>Major Archbishop Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos</u>	2007
<u>Făgăraș and Alba Iulia</u>	<u>Major Archbishop Lucian Cardinal Mureșan</u>	2005

(We will continue next week)

The Octave of Christmas

THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY

Mon.	Dec. 28 th	<i>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – For all of your Special Intentions
Tues.	Dec. 29 th	<i>Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr</i> 6:00 P.M. - Mass – Lester Ness, Jr.
Wed.	Dec. 30 th	8:00 A.M. - Mass – Joe Gareau <i>1st Anniversary</i>
Thurs.	Dec. 31 st	<i>Saint Sylvester I, Pope</i> 6:00 P.M. - Adoration until 6:30 PM with Benediction 6:30 P.M. - Mass – Tom & Dorothy Srock – Vigil Mass
Fri.	Jan. 1 st	<i>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</i> 9:00 A.M. - Mass – For the People of our Parish – Holy Day of Obligation ----- Parish office closed
Sat.	Jan. 2 nd	<i>St. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the church</i> 3:00 P.M. - Confessions heard until 3:45 PM 4:00 P.M. - Mass – Amy Chenier Kositzke <i>11th Anniversary</i>
Sun.	Jan. 3 rd	<i>Epiphany of the Lord</i> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – For the People of our Parish 10:00 AM - Mass – Darlene Kelloneimi

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

85 envelopes were returned Sunday, December 20th

Adults.....	\$3,624.00
Loose.....	40.00
General Maintenance.....	35.00
Fuel.....	40.00
Mass Stipends.....	200.00
Seminary Fund.....	20.00
Roof Fund.....	25.00
Christmas flowers.....	40.00
Total.....	\$4,024.00

Budgeted weekly Income & Expense... \$3,786.83
Overage..... 237.17

St. Vincent DePaul Society..... 85.00

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
Still needed.....\$ 8,014.00

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.

Thank you

Thank you to all who helped decorate our church so beautifully for our Christmas season. Also to all who donated towards the Christmas flowers.

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 31st and a 9:00 AM on New Year's Day.

SPIRIT LIFTERS

- Dec. 27th** - The greatest thing in life is to be needed.
- Dec. 28th** - You can't change the past, but you ruin a perfectly good present by worrying about the future.
- Dec. 29th** - Beware of the high cost of low living.
- Dec. 30th** - It is better to look ahead and prepare than to look back and regret.
- Dec. 31st** - And as the Old Year slips away, He kindly with him takes The pages we have blurred and marred With failures and mistakes. The blighted hopes and needless bears are gone beyond recall. And ours once more the fair, clean page the New Year brings to all.
- Jan. 1st** - God bless thy year - the rough, the smooth, the bright, the dear - GOD BLESS THY YEAR!
- Jan. 2nd** - This year is the one in which you promised to do so much last year.

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/bbscholarshiplink 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 Applications must be received no later than March 15, 2021.

Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing. ~Mother Teresa

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Monday

1 Jn 1:5-2:2
Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday

1 Jn 2:12-17
Lk 2:36-40

Friday

Nm 6:22-27
Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday

1 Jn 2:3-11
Lk 2:22-35

Thursday

1 Jn 2:18-21
Jn 1:1-18

Saturday

1 Jn 2:22-28
Jn 1:19-28

Sunday

Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3a,5-6 Mt 2:1-12

MISSION COMBINED COLLECTION - JANUARY 9TH-10TH, 2021

Black & Indian Missions

The Black and Indian Mission Collection exists to help local African American and Native American diocesan communities throughout the United States spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and respond to real and pressing needs. This collection advances causes important to native and African American Catholics.

Catholic Home Missions

"Home Missions" is the name for dioceses and parishes in the United States, including its territories and former territories, which cannot provide basic pastoral services to Catholics without outside help. Basic pastoral services include Mass and sacraments, religious education, and ministry training for priests, deacons, religious sisters and lay people.

Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa

While the Church in Africa is growing, many still lack access to basic resources and pastoral care. Many suffer due to high rates of poverty and unemployment, illiteracy, and poor education. The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa supports pastoral projects that foster lasting peace and reconciliation in a continent often marked by division and tension.

Propagation of the Faith

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith is vital to the missionaries serving in 1,150 dioceses throughout Asia, Africa, parts of Latin America and Europe, and on the Islands of the Pacific. Your generosity makes it possible for local priests, religious, and catechists to reach out to communities, families and children in desperate need, bringing the light of Christ to the darkest of circumstances covering more than half the globe.

CHRISTMAS; 2020; Cycle – B

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Once, a European Zoologist went to African jungles to study the behavior and life style of a rare species of monkeys. He got excited to see a good group of them and he tried to lure them with the food they like. But the monkeys didn't give him any attention; rather they were scared over his presence and fled from him. He tried the same for a few days and the result was disappointing. One day as he was thinking about a way to attract the monkeys, suddenly a great insight struck his mind. He knew that unless he would become like one of them the monkeys would not have trust in him. The next day he started walking like a monkey and making noise like one of them. Slowly, the monkeys gave attention to him and eventually they became friendly with him. Yes, when he approached them as a great Zoologist, he failed. But when he came down to their level of life they felt free with him and accepted him as one of them. The mystery of Incarnation can be explained through this short story.

In the Old Testament time we see God appearing to people of Israel on Mount Sinai in fire, smoke and thunder. People were really scared to come in the presence of God and so they asked Moses to speak to God for them. The fear complex towards God followed them through their life. Perhaps God realized that unless He could become like one of them, His own people would not feel free to approach him. According to Paul's letter to the Philippians God made a big sacrifice to take the form of a human being to come down and become like them. We read in the same letter chapter 2: 6&7, **“Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness.”** So in order to be with us he became one like us; not only that, he became the most humble and poor human being, so that he could be able to identify with the least in the society, the sinners, tax collectors, prostitutes and the outcast. As the Prophets foretold that the Messiah would be the King of Israel, naturally people thought that he would be born in the place of Herod. That is why even the Magi came first to the palace of Herod seeking the birth of the King. If he was born in the palace he would have moved with only the elite class in the society, like the Pharisees and scribes and the ordinary folk would have been sidelined. He moved with the most ordinary people in their villages and cities; he accepted the hospitality of Matthew and Zacchaeus the tax collectors who were condemned as public sinners; he allowed a sinful woman to anoint his head with perfume and touch his feet; he freed a prostitute woman from stoning to death.

Naturally, he was not very pleasing to the elite class, the scribes and Pharisees. **The great mystery of Incarnation is that, our God has assumed the human body and came down to the level of the most ordinary human being.**

According to Luke, the first announcement of the birth of Jesus was given to the poor shepherds in the vicinity. The angel announced to the shepherds, **“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of joy that will be for all people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is the Messiah the Lord.”** First of all they didn't need to be afraid of the great majesty of God; for he was as poor as they themselves were. Secondly, it was good news of great joy, not fear.

What is the attraction of this night/day. Are we simply celebrating the birthday of a religious leader who died more than 2000 years ago? Normally, people don't celebrate the birthday of a deceased person. The people may remember the death anniversary of somebody important. But we the Christians celebrate the birthday of Jesus with great joy and festivity for the very reason that God became man like one of us and dwelt among us. Above all he brought the great love and compassion of God to all righteous and unrighteous. Why even many non-Christians are attracted to Jesus? The reason is very simple that he is a God who loves us as we are, with all our weaknesses and strength. Today, the world is looking for a compassionate God who is not just waiting to punish the human beings in their failure; rather to redeem them from their fall. Only Jesus Christ has shown that love and mercy.

When we speak about the Christmas gifts, we may think that this custom of exchanging and giving gifts started only recently as the outcome of the big commercialization of the Christmas. But you are wrong. The first Christmas gift was given away over 2000 years ago when somebody packed the most precious gift and forwarded it to some ones whom he loved. Who was that one who sent the first Christmas gift? It was God the Father who gave us the first Christmas gift. He didn't have to go to Wal-Mart or any other malls shopping for Chinese goods; rather **he packed his only Son**, the most precious treasure and sent him to us as Christmas gift. I don't think for all these centuries anyone ever gave a gift as precious as that and no one will ever give away such expensive gift to anyone. But our heavenly Father did that. Why did he take such drastic step? We get the answer from the gospel of John 3:16&18 ***“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.”*** Let us believe strongly that he is Emmanuel, God is with us always, in our good times and bad, in our sinful state and righteous stage.

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF MARY AND JOSEPH
Sirach 3: 2-6; Colossians 3: 12-21; Luke 2: 22-40

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

A few years ago, a study was undertaken to find the U.S. city which would have the lowest incidence of cancer and heart disease. The winner was Rosetto, Pennsylvania. Soon experts descended upon the city expecting to see a town populated by non-smokers, people who ate the correct food, took regular exercise and kept close track of their cholesterol. To their great surprise, however, the researchers discovered that none of the above was true. They found instead that the city's good health was tied to the close family bonds that prevailed within the community. This suggests that there is much to be said for a close and loving family relationship.

Every year, on the following Sunday of Christmas, the Church brings our attention to the life of the Holy Family of Nazareth. In our natural attitude we are tempted to look at the Holy Family as an ideal we cannot realize in our families of the 21st century. But Mary and Joseph had their struggles. The trust which is fundamental to the married life was challenged by Mary's untimely pregnancy; Joseph must have felt very incompetent when he failed to find a decent place for his wife for the child birth; the flight to Egypt and subsequent sojourn in the foreign land may have jeopardized his trade as a carpenter. Perhaps, when the Holy Family came back to Nazareth, their house had been vandalized and things were stolen. But their faith in the Lord and mutual love and unbreakable bond kept their family life intact.

Of course, the challenges of the modern families are quite different from the Holy Family. But still the family of Mary and Joseph is a model family to the fact that both parents worked hard to maintain the family, helped each other, understood and accepted each other, and took good care of their only child. Unlike in the past, the family values are challenged and questioned in the modern age. The bad media has a big role to play in this regard. Secondly, the struggle of survival forces both husbands and wives to work more than one job. As a result they don't get enough time for each other as well as the children get less time and care from the parents. In a way the children are deprived of parents' love in their younger days. They grow in the daycare centers or with Nannies without experiencing the love and care of the parents. Here is the true story of a little boy whose father was a busy business man. Every morning while he was leaving, the son asked him, "Dad when

are you coming back?” The reply always remained the same, “When I come back we will have time together.” But the dad always reached home while the boy was asleep. On Sundays he was immersed in papers and computer. The years passed, the son took over the business and dad became rather home bound. Then the question came from the dad, “Son when are you coming back. The answer, “when I come back we will have some time together.” But it never happened.

Today the worst threats to humanity are not terrorism, biological weapons or chemical weapons rather the non-commitment, self-contentedness, individualism, non-availability to each other and absence of God in the family. As the family is the very foundation of nation, the collapse of the families will shake the very foundation of the nation. A happy family life is the dream of every couple. But it does not fall from the sky. In order to achieve a happy life the couple should work hard on that. The father, mother and children have specific role to play to make the family life happy and ideal. Above all they need the help of the Holy Family.

The author A. Baker, in his book “A Dozen for the Spouses” gives the couple a dozen tips to make their family life happy and intact.

- 1. Be generous to the desires of your partner.**
- 2. Criticize rarely and with love.**
- 3. If you must neglect someone never let it be him/her.**
- 4. Make your mate shine with encouraging words.**
- 5. A compliment a day is more important than a vitamin pill a day.**
- 6. Meet like Adam and Eve for the first time, with a sign of affection.**
- 7. Never both be angry.**
- 8. When you're wrong say you're sorry and settle before sundown.**
- 9. Never, never, throw up past mistakes.**
- 10. Pray together and be aware of your oneness in Christ.**
- 11. Never ask or give what God forbids.**
- 12. It takes two to quarrel. Subtract one. And don't yell unless the house is burning.**

Once, a senior Judge of the Supreme Court congratulated a couple at the wedding with this piece of advice, “See that you never convert your family into a court room; instead let it be a confessional. If the husband and wife start arguing like attorneys, in an attempt to justify their behavior, their family becomes a court of law and nobody wins. On the other hand, if the husband and the wife - as in a confessional -are ready to admit their faults and try to correct them, the family becomes a heaven.”

