

# Holy Family Parish



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

## Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 9, 2021

### 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.

7:30 am – 7:50 am

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  
Duane Marenger, Kambria, Barb  
Diane, Angie Cafmeyer, Dale*

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 Eucharist (Cont.)

**John 6: 34-58 (Cont.):** Last week we started with the Eucharistic Discourse of Jesus in John 6 which is the only passage where Jesus explains very clearly how important it is for us to eat and drink his Body and Blood for our eternal salvation. But in this discourse Jesus does not give us any clue as how he is going to give us his Body and Blood. Perhaps, the disciples were also confused and curious. But they had to wait almost a year to get the answer. Exactly speaking, only at the Last Supper (Passover Meal) Jesus showed them how he would give them his Body and Blood. In other words, Jesus converted the bread and wine into his Body and Blood at that evening. As the disciples remembered the Discourse of Jesus they could easily understand his words at the Last Supper. So nobody raised any question at all.

In this whole discourse we should notice one thing that Jesus never uses any sort of **figurative language** as he always did when he was speaking about a supernatural truth. For instance, in his kingdom parables we hear Jesus say, “The kingdom of God is like the sower who went out to sow... The kingdom of God is like a dragnet.... The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed etc. Here he does not say that the kingdom of God is a dragnet or mustard seed. But in this discourse he is very direct forward and literal in his saying. From the reactions of the people, it is very evident that they too understood it literally. Jesus says, “**I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger and whoever believes in me will never thirst**” (6:35). Here Jesus does not say: “I am like the bread of life; rather he confirms: “**I am the bread of life.**” In this long discourse Jesus goes step by step without any sort of metaphor and intensifies his saying. In verse 48 Jesus repeats his saying: “*I am the bread of life.*” In verse 51 Jesus emphatically says: “**I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.**” Jesus continues his discourse with more intensity. *In verse 53-54 Jesus says: “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food and my blood true drink.”* Here he uses the term ‘blood’ also. Once again, we don’t see any figurative language Jesus using here. *Jesus does not say, “I am like food or bread for you.”*

From the reactions of the Jews it is clear that they have taken the words of Jesus literally and that is why they quarreled and murmured among them exclaiming, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” The Jews could never imagine eating human flesh and drinking human blood. The Jews were even prohibited to drink the animal blood. Jesus knew how much his sayings scandalized the Jews. The disciples too understood it literally; that is why they commented, “**This saying is hard; who can accept it?**” But Jesus did not give any further explanation or interpretation at all, as he did in couple of parables. John concludes, “**As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him.**” But Jesus never made any attempt to pacify them and get them back; rather he remained firm in his saying.

From the Eucharistic discourse we get the full details about the nature of the Eucharist and the importance of it. It is clear from the words of Jesus that for our eternal life we have to eat and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus. Jesus concludes his saying, “**Whoever eats this bread will live forever.**” Even the fundamentalists who insist that the Bible should be understood literally hold the view that the Eucharistic discourse of Jesus should be understood metaphorically. From the very first century on the apostles and the Church Fathers understood the discourse of Jesus literally and they taught the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist with great emphasis. Catholics have never doubted the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist for 2000 years. We consider the Eucharist as the very source of our eternal life.

(We will continue next week).

## *Sixth Week of Easter*

### THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY



Mon.	May 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>Saint Damien de Veuster, Priest</i></b> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – For all of our special Intentions
Tues.	May 11 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 A.M. - Mass – For the Sick and Troubled
Wed.	May 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; Saint Pancras, Martyr</i></b> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – Mary Ann Marcella
Thurs.	May 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>Our Lady of Fatima</i></b> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – Scott & Tara Mosier
Fri.	May 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>Saint Matthias, Apostle</i></b> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – Marvin Nelson ----- Parish office closed ----- Christian Flagstadt's Ordination to the Diaconate
Sat.	May 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>Fr. Sebastian's 42<sup>nd</sup> Ordination Anniversary</i></b> 3:00 P.M. - Confessions heard until 3:45 PM 4:00 P.M. - Mass – Darlene Smith ( <i>1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.</i> )
Sun.	May 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>The Ascension of the Lord</i></b> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – Cameron Delveaux 10:00 AM - Mass - For the people of our parish

### STEWARDSHIP CORNER

74 envelopes were returned for Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Adults.....	\$3,101.00
Loose.....	97.00
General Maintenance.....	2,122.00
Fuel.....	232.00
Mass stipends.....	150.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$5,702.00</b>

**Budgeted weekly Income & Expense... \$3,786.83**  
**Overage..... \$1,915.17**

Priest Retirement Collection.....	105.00
St. Vincent DePaul Society.....	50.00

**RAFFLE TICKET NEWS.....** We are looking for sponsors for the printing of our Raffle Tickets for this year's harvest dinner which will be held on Sunday, **October 17, 2021**. Call the parish office for more details.



### *Help us CELEBRATE!*

Christian Flagstadt is being ordained a Deacon in Marquette at St. Peter's Cathedral on Friday, May 14, 2021.

Please come and help us celebrate on Saturday, May 15, 2021 at the Flat Rock Pavilion starting at 5:30 PM. Food and refreshments will be served. If you plan to attend, please sign up in the gathering space.

### *First Holy Communion*

*Aubrey VanDrese*

*Aubrey will receive our Lord for the first time this Sunday.*

*Welcome to the Table of the Lord!*



## SPIRIT LIFTERS

**May 9<sup>th</sup>** - There is nothing human so dependable, so irresistible, so unselfish as true mother love.

**May 10<sup>th</sup>** - The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom.

**May 11<sup>th</sup>** - You may have tangible wealth untold; Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold; Richer than I you can never be - I had a mother who read to me.

**May 12<sup>th</sup>** - Who we are, who we become, is determined by those who love us.

**May 13<sup>th</sup>** - You are young only once, but you can stay immature for life.

**May 14<sup>th</sup>** - Some things may come to us with rough wrappings, but there is gold inside.

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** - When God puts a burden upon you, He also puts His own arm under you.

The Escanaba Knights of Columbus wish to express our gratitude to all those who helped and attended our Silver Rose Prayer Service in honor of Life and devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe. A special thank you to Father Ferguson and the staff at St. Joseph & St. Patrick.

If we only "say" prayers then naturally you may not be praying. To pray means to be completely united to Jesus in such a way as to allow Him to pray in us, with us, for us, through us! This cleaving to each other, Jesus and I, is prayer. We are all called to pray like this. ~ Mother Teresa



Attention Senior Parents: We are planning on honoring Holy Family Church's 2021 Seniors in next week's bulletin. We are asking that you send in a Senior photo by dropping

it off at the parish office, mailing it or email it to: [secretary@holyfamilyparish.net](mailto:secretary@holyfamilyparish.net). Thank you

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

### **Monday**

Acts 16:11-15  
Jn 15:26-16:4a

### **Wednesday**

Acts 17:15,22-18:1  
Jn 16:12-15

### **Friday**

Acts 1:15-17,20-26  
Jn 15:9-17

### **Tuesday**

Acts 16:22-34  
Jn 16:5-11

### **Thursday**

Acts 18:1-8  
Jn 16:16-20

### **Saturday**

Acts 18:23-28  
Jn 16:23b-28

### **Sunday**

Acts 1:1-11  
Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13  
Mk 16:15-20



Mark Your Calendars: Our annual Harvest Dinner and Bazaar should be back on Sunday, October 17, 2021. Again this year we will be having the bucket raffle. It is the generosity of our parishioners that made this so successful in the past. If you would like to donate a basket, please contact the parish office or e-mail the parish at [secretary@holyfamilyparish.net](mailto:secretary@holyfamilyparish.net).

### **A Prayer for Mother's Day**

**Happy  
Mother's  
Day!**

On this special day set aside to honor mothers we ask for a special touch from the Lord for each and every one of them.

May each mother be granted a special blessing and may all of the work of her hands not be forgotten in Your sight.

Let her example to her children be a guiding force in their lives, and may wisdom be passed down to the next generation of mothers. Amen

**6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER; Cycle – B; May 9<sup>th</sup> 2021**  
**Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17**

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

The entire teaching of Jesus in St. John's gospel can be summarized in one great word that is **LOVE**. In John's gospel Jesus begins his public ministry with the message of love. He says, "**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**" (John 3:16). Whereas according to Matthew and Mark Jesus' public ministry started with the invitation to repentance. Jesus declared: "**This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.**" And in his farewell discourse, part of which we have just listened to, Jesus gives the disciples the commandment, "**Love another as I love you (Jn 15: 12)**". In John's gospel the word *love* occurs **21 times** and in his letters which contain only in 7 short chapters, *love* occurs **40 times**. So we have a rough idea as how important for John the virtue of love is. *Through the gospel and letters John shows us, how God loves the world; how God loves Jesus; how Jesus loves God and how Jesus loves man.* For three Sunday's in a row, John is our guide who leads us to the better understanding of Jesus' relationship with us. Through the imageries of sheep and shepherd and vine and branches Jesus showed us the depth of his union with us. In today's gospel Jesus is inviting his disciples to a personal friendship with him. Unlike the Rabbis of his time, Jesus calls his disciples '**friends**. Only in Christianity we find God becoming an ordinary man out of love for mankind; only in Christianity we see God dying to save the sinners; only in Christianity we see God coming down in search of sinners and only in Christianity we meet God who loves both the righteous and sinners equally. In his reflection on the blessing of being God's friend, the author Roland Faley affirms: "**Friendship is one of life's greatest gifts. Because friendship is more than mere mutual acceptance; to be a friend means we have been chosen by another. Being chosen means the other has taken initiative to choose me.**" That is why Jesus says in John 15, "*It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you.*"

John summarizes his gospel and the letters with two commandments of Jesus, '*Love of God and love of neighbor.*' They are the two sides of the same coin, in the sense that one without the other has no existence. In continuation of his letter chapter 4, John says, "**God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him. If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. This is the commandment we have from him:**

**whoever loves God must also love his brother.”** So it is clear from the writing of John that we have to see God in our brothers and sisters, though they may not be agreeable or pleasing to us. As John sees, if we have love in us God remains in us and if God remains in us we cannot hate our brother or sister.

Only John says, *“God is love.”* So it is clear that in the hearts where the evils of hatred, enmity, intolerance and unforgiving attitude exist, there God cannot live. It is true: **“When man loves man God is born in his heart; when man hates man God dies in his heart.”** If we observe the two commandments of Jesus, *‘Love your God with all your heart and soul and love your neighbor as you love yourself’* – we can simply ignore the rest of the commandments. For all other commandments then will fall automatically in place. If love is the basis of all our words and deeds, no one will be hurt by us. That is why St. Augustine says, ***“Once and for all a short rule is laid down for you. Love and do what you will. If you keep silence, do it out of love; if you cry out, do it out of love; if you refrain from punishing, do it out of love. Let the root of love be with you. From such a root nothing but good can come.”***

The very foundation of Christianity is *love*. Among world religious leaders only Jesus has spoken so much on love; his words and deeds were motivated by genuine love for mankind. Only Jesus could go beyond all human set boundaries and command his followers, **“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”** The Christians are also known all over the world for their charitable work among all caste and creed of people. Unfortunately, the greatest gift of love God has given us through his Son is receding fast from our individuals, families and communities. It is good that occasionally we read the passage from the 1Corinthians 13:1-13 where Paul gives the qualities of genuine love. Paul says, **“Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury; it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.”** If such love remains among the people, we don’t have to worry about terrorism, violence and abuses; if the couples keep such genuine love, no divorce is possible. St. Mother Theresa says, **“At the end of life, we are going to be judged on the basis of our love for one another.”** According to the Parable of the ‘Last Judgment’ we will be judged by God for what good or bad we have done to others.