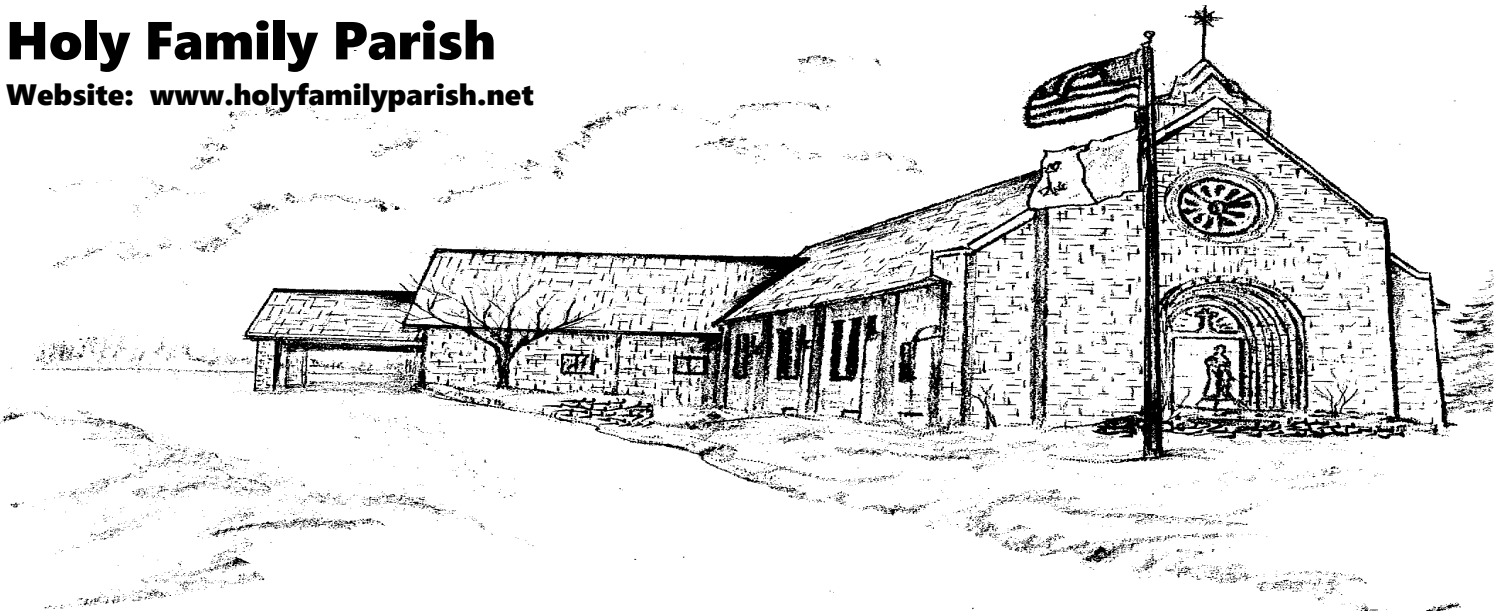


Holy Family Parish

Website: www.holyfamilyparish.net



Art Work by:
Theresa Piestch

Fr. Michael K. Ocran, kwekuocran@gmail.com

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

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 20, 2026

Pastor

(906) 792-4798

Deacon

Deacon: Robert Berbohm 786-9082

Email Address: deacon@holyfamilyparish.net

Parish Secretary

Pam Leisner (906) 786-1209 Ext. 1 (H) 399-3058

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

Faith Formation Coordinator

Lena Quinlan, Director

428-9431

Email: lquinlan@allsaintsgladstone.org

Maintenance

906-786-1209

Pastoral Council Members

Pam Marenger – President

Diane Danhoff

Harold Flagstadt

Tina Cryderman

Kevin Dubord

Pam Marenger – Liturgy Committee

Bob Berbohm – Evangelization Committee

Finance Council Members

Gerald Miron

Piper Desy

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 at point of death, or is having surgery and would like to celebrate this healing sacrament. Contact Fr. Michael at 906-792-4798

Please remember our sick in your prayers....*Rose Beauchamp
Herb Iverson, Mike Gasperich, Shelly Polaczyk, Ken Viau
Pete & Jean Way, Sue Boudreau, Mike, Mary Anne & Tom Theoret
Christina Theoret Zion, Brenda Chouinard, Frank Chenier
Kristin Cutcher, Eric VanDamme, Steve Belongie, Sr., Jan Carter
Dan & Linda Robitaille
Patick Brunette, Linda Benoit, Denise Seymour, Carissa & Weston*
If you have a family member or friends who are sick and in need of prayers, please call the parish office at 786-1209.

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20c-24,27; Mt20:1-16a

VIVERE CHRISTUS EST ET MORI LUCRUM—“**TO LIVE IS CHRIST, TO DIE IS GAIN**” (Phil 1:21)

Brothers and sisters, a week ago our scripture readings taught us to forgive one another and that our willingness to forgive leads us to experience God’s mercy and love. Today we are presented with another dimension of our call to be disciples of Jesus Christ: it is about God’s free gift of salvation which he bestows on those who accept Jesus, the Son of God. Paul accepts this free gift which leads him to proclaim in today’s second reading that “I long to depart this life and be with Christ.” Before then he says: “**VIVERE CHRISTUS EST ET MORI LUCRUM,**” I would like us to meditate on these statements of Paul this week.

These statements of Paul show the depth, the faith, the prayer he has in Jesus, the Messiah. At the time he wrote these words, Paul was imprisoned, therefore you may think that he wrote them because he was depressed. But no; it is out of a desire burning in his heart as Jeremiah says: the word of God is like a fire burning in his heart. Paul has that burning desire for Jesus Christ, the Savior and he has a strong conviction of faith in him. That is why he says “**For me Life is Christ, and Death is gain.**” His personal experience of the free gift of God rooted him in Christ. Because of this burning desire, elsewhere in his writings, Paul says: “**I consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**” (Phil 3:8). Dear friends, we can deduce from his sayings that Paul, at the time, lived and breathed Christ. Listen to him again: “**I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me**” (Gal 2:20).

How can this be, dear friends? How can death, which by definition is a loss of life, be a gain of life? Certainly, this is a clear contradiction, isn’t it? Brothers and sisters, rereading these statements of Paul in the context of faith, Paul is presenting to us the mystery of how God saves his people from death, the free gift He offers. Rather than simply reversing death, he makes death the Way to life by sending his Son, who could not die, to submit to death. He makes suffering and death means of lovingly submitting to God and of giving of life to others; he reveals the resurrection as the reward for this dying according to the pattern of Christ. Jesus, according to Paul’s statements, delivers a death blow to death by undergoing death himself. Therefore, those who believe in Jesus live the abundant life which is Jesus, their God and Savior. Therefore, suffering and death lead to life in even greater measure, a free gift from God.

This is the meaning of the parable in today’s gospel reading. It tells us that **SALVATION** is entirely God’s gift; no one who receives it earns it. Christ, whose life Paul lives in abundance, is eternal. Therefore, this life he gives is eternal life which is the Kingdom we all look forward to be members. Entrance into this eternal life (kingdom of heaven) is by God’s grace alone—free gift. This parable speaks especially to those who feel superior because of heritage or favored position, to those who feel superior because they have spent so much time with Christ, and to new believers as reassurance of God’s grace. The parable is not about rewards but about salvation which is a free gift from God; it is about grace which is God’s generosity towards his people. We shouldn’t begrudge those who turn to God in the last moments of life, because in reality, no one deserves eternal life. Instead of being jealous of what God has given to another person, focus on God’s gracious benefits to you, and be thankful for what you have.

Be like St. Paul and always strive to live the life of Christ in you as a person of deep faith. You must be configured to Christ and allow God to form you in the likeness of Christ so that you can also say: “**For me to live is Christ, and death is gain,**” or “**I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me,**” or “**I long to depart this life and be with Christ.**”

THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY

Mon.	Sept. 21 st	<i>Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist</i> 8:00 A.M. - NO Mass
Tues.	Sept. 22 nd	8:00 A.M. - NO Mass 6:00 P.M. - OCIA Class – Bible cont. Creed part 2 intro to CCC
Wed.	Sept. 23 rd	<i>Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest</i> 8:00 A.M. - NO Mass NO Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Help
Thurs.	Sept. 24 th	8:00 A.M. - NO Mass ----- Parish Office Closed
Fri.	Sept. 25 th	8:00 A.M. - Mass – For all Souls in purgatory ----- Parish Office closed
Sat.	Sept. 26 th	<i>Saint Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs</i> 3:00 P.M. – Confessions heard until 3:45 PM 4:00 P.M. - Mass – Phyllis Theoret
Sun.	Sept. 27 th	<i>Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – For the People of our Parish 10:00 AM - Mass – For the Sick & Troubled who seek Divine help Through the intercession of Blessed Frederick Ozanam

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

73 envelopes returned for Sept. 13, 2026

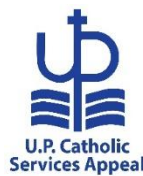
Adults.....	\$3,409.00
Loose.....	217.00
General Maintenance.....	40.00
Fuel.....	78.00
Total.....	\$3,744.00

Budgeted weekly Income & Expense	\$4,661.53
Short.....	\$ 917.53

St. Vincent DePaul Society.....	25.00
58 th U.P. Catholic Services Appeal.....	200.00
59 th U.P. Catholic Services Appeal.....	\$1,835.00

There are only two more Sundays before we start the Bucket Raffle. We are in need of more buckets. Please consider doing one, or if you don't want to do a basket, you can donate money and we will do the shopping for you!

OCIA - Topic for class on Sept. 22, We will continue our Journey by continuing to look at The Creed, Introduction to Bible and Introduction to Catechism.



Our parish goal for the year 2026 is \$44,279.54. To date we have received 43 cards back with a total pledge of \$18,150. That leaves us with a balance of \$26,129.54 with 133 cards still out. That is an average of \$422.09 per pledge. Please prayerfully consider helping us meet this year's goal..

PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO MASSES Monday thru Thursday. Fr. Michael will be attending the Priest Convocation. If there is an emergency, please call Pam at 399-3058.

The parish office will be closed on Thursday, Sept. 24th and Monday, September 28th.

SPIRIT LIFTERS

Sept. 20th - Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.
Matthew 5:9

Sept. 21st - Keep looking up; Remember there is only mud under your feet.

Sept. 22nd - Some folks carry their religion on their shoulder like a burden, instead of in their hearts like a song.

Sept. 23rd - Some husbands know all the answers. They've been listening for years.

Sept. 24th - When I get discouraged and want to give in, Remind me, Lord, That winners don't quit and quitters don't win.

Sept. 25th - While faith makes all things possible, It is love that makes all things easy.

Sept. 26th - You are young and useful at any age if you are still planning for tomorrow.

St. Vincent de Paul Corner

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us a parable to teaches us how great God is and how generous, and then he calls us to this same greatness and generosity.

As you put your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's envelope, know that you are putting your faith into action.

For more info contact Beverly Miller at 428-3610.

Escanaba Catholic Playgroup Family Picnic

Sunday, Sept. 20 • 3:30 PM Wells Township Park

Pack a picnic dinner and beverages and join us for an afternoon of fellowship and fun with other families. For questions, contact Heidi at 399-5461

Catholic & Non-Catholic, all are invited!

Adult Faith Formation (Bible Study):

Begins September 23rd, 6:00-7:00pm, @ Holy Name Multi Purpose each Wednesday.

St. Joseph & St. Patrick's parish will hold their annual **Soup/Chili challenge** on **Sat. Oct. 10th** after their 4 pm Mass. They are still looking for soup cookers for this event. Register your soup by Sept. 23rd for free by calling the parish office at 786-6244.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Monday

Eph 4:1-7,11-13
Mt 9:9-13

Tuesday

Prv 21:1-6,10-13
Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday

Prv 30:5-9
Lk 9:1-6

Thursday

Eccl 1:2-11
Lk 9:7-9

Friday

Eccl 3:1-11
Lk 9:18-22

Saturday

Eccl 11:9—12:8
Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday

Ez 18:25-28 Phil 2:1-11 Mt 21:28-32

ROSARY COAST TO COAST

Sunday, Oct. 4th at 4:00 PM

***St. Anne's Catholic Parish, 817 S. Lincoln Rd
Join us for praying for our country to return to God
and holiness. Contact Jerry & Darlene
Vandermissen for more info. at (906)466-2157.***

Holy Family Altar Society

Ladies met on Monday for the first 2 sessions of the new season. Attendance was split evenly between the 2:30 and 6:00 pm session. A few changes were suggested. Lunch from \$2 to \$1. Everybody bring something to share. No more circle obligations. 50/50 will be one drawing at the 6:00 PM meeting. It was voted to donate \$50 for the baskets for the bucket raffle. The Christmas meeting will be combined for a catered dinner and party. A bake sale will be held Nov. 14th & 15th. More about that later. Check the bulletin and watch for sign up sheets.

Everyone enjoyed the Ferrero Rocher chocolate and history of the chocolate. Did you know that it is named after the grotto, the Roche de Massabielle? Our next meeting will be Oct. 12th. Come at 2:30 or 6:00 pm or both. Emily Moreau is the contact for cards from Altar Society. Her number is 906-384-6595

Church Website Updates

Our website is now being updated with church events! Thank you Cindy LaMarche for stepping in as our volunteer events specialist - you are doing an amazing job!