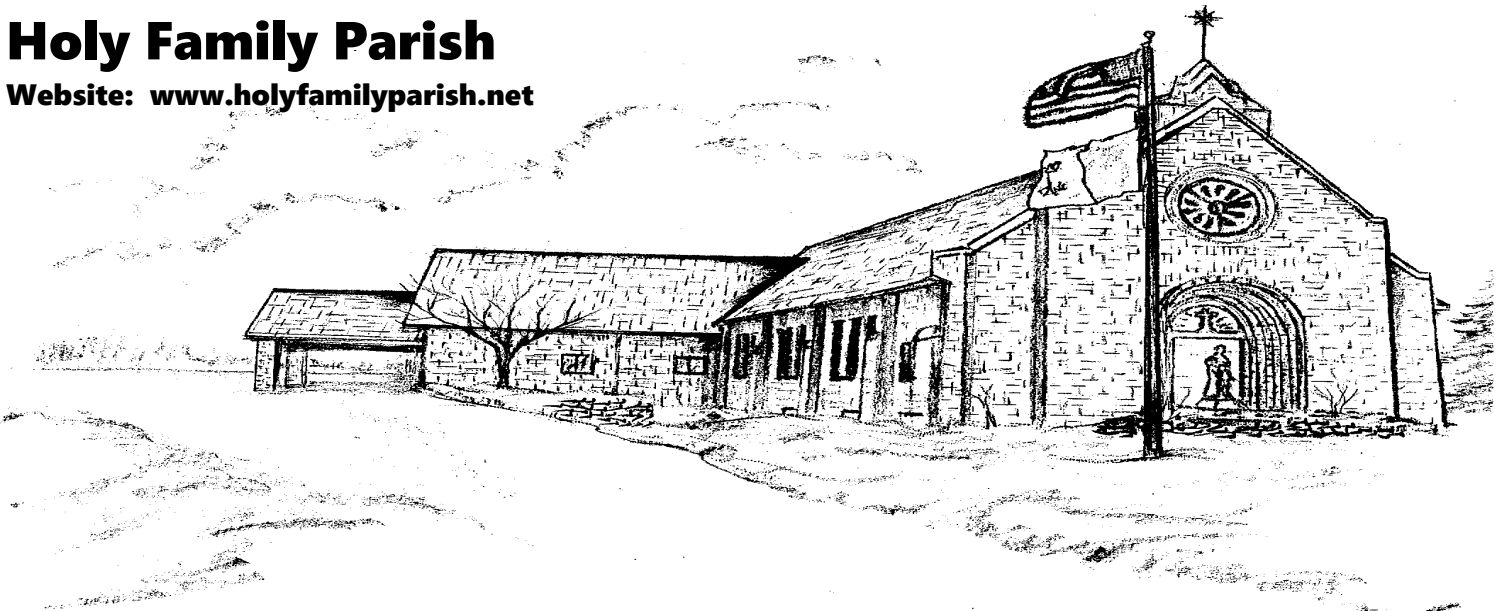


# Holy Family Parish

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



Art Work by:  
Theresa Piestch

Fr. Sebastian K. Chacko, [skavumkal@yahoo.com](mailto:skavumkal@yahoo.com)

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

## Second Sunday of Advent – December 7, 2025

### Pastor

(906) 786-1209 Ext. 3 or (906) 440-4193

### Sacrament of Marriage

Notice of six months is required

### Deacon

Deacon: Robert Berbohm 786-9082

Email Address: [deacon@holyfamilyparish.net](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@holyfamilyparish.net)

### Faith Formation Coordinator

Kathy Kohtala 428-9431

Email: [kkohtala@allsaintsgladstone.org](mailto:kkohtala@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

### 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. Sebastian at (906) 440-4193

Please remember our sick in your prayers.....

**Herb Iverson, Mike Gasperich, Jean Way, Shelly Polaczyk**

**Jan Carter, Sue Boudreau, Michael Theoret**

**Brenda Chouinard, Denise Seymour, Annette Russell**

**Kristin Cutcher, Eric VanDamme, Julie Bishop**

**Steve Belongie, Sr., Christina Theoret Zion**

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.

# THE BIBLE STUDY

## The Gospel of Luke

### GOSPEL OF THE OTHER CHANCE AND THREAT OF THE LAST CHANCE (Luke 13:6-9)

Here is a parable at one and the same time lit by grace and close packed with warnings.

(i) The fig-tree occupied a specially favored position. It was not unusual to see fig-trees, thorn-trees and apple-trees in vineyards. The soil was so shallow and poor that trees were grown wherever there was soil to grow them; but as we read in the parable, the fig-tree had a more than average care; and it had not proved worthy of it. Repeatedly, directly and by implication, Jesus reminded men that they would be judged according to the opportunities they had.

(ii) The parable teaches that uselessness invites disaster. It has been claimed that the whole process of evolution in this world is to produce useful things, and that what is useful will go on from strength to strength, while what is useless will be eliminated. **The most searching question we can be asked is, "Of what use were you in this world?"**

(iii) Further, the parable teaches that nothing which only gives out can survive. The fig-tree was drawing strength and sustenance from the soil; and in return was producing nothing. That was precisely its sin. In the last analysis, there are two kinds of people in this world--those who give out more than they put in, and those who put in more than they give out.

In one sense we are all in debt to life. We came into it at the peril of someone else's life; and we would never have survived without the care of those who loved us. We have inherited a Christian civilization and a freedom which we did not create. There is laid on us the duty of handing things on better than we found them.

"Die when I may," said Abraham Lincoln, "I want it said of me that I plucked a weed and planted a flower wherever I thought a flower would grow."

If we take that pledge we will fulfill the obligation of putting into life at least as much as we take out.

(iv) The parable tells us of the gospel of the second chance. A fig-tree normally takes three years to reach maturity. If it is not fruiting by that time it is not likely to fruit at all. But this fig-tree was given another chance. It is always Jesus' way to give a man chance after chance. Peter and Mark and Paul would all gladly have witnessed to that. God is infinitely kind to the man who falls and rises again.

(v) But the parable also makes it quite clear that there is a final chance. If we refuse chance after chance, if God's appeal and challenge come again and again in vain, the day finally comes, not when God has shut us out, but when we by deliberate choice have shut ourselves out. God save us from that!

### MERCY MORE THAN LAW (Luke 13:10-17)

This is the last time we ever hear of Jesus being in a synagogue. It is clear that by this time the authorities were watching his every action and waiting to pounce upon him whenever they got the chance. Jesus healed a woman who for eighteen years had not been able to straighten her bent body; and then the president of the synagogue intervened. He had not even the courage to speak directly to Jesus. He addressed his protest to the waiting people, although it was meant for Jesus. Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; technically healing was work; and, therefore he had broken the Sabbath. But he answered his opponents out of their own law. The Rabbis abhorred cruelty to dumb animals and, even on the Sabbath, it was perfectly legal to untie beasts from their stalls and water them. Jesus demanded, "If you can untie an ox from a stall and water him on the Sabbath day, surely it is right in the sight of God to set free this poor woman from her infirmity."

The president of the synagogue and those like him were people who loved systems more than people. They were more concerned that their own petty little laws should be observed than that a woman should be helped.

In Christianity the individual comes before the system. It is true to say that without Christianity there can be no such thing as democracy, because Christianity alone guarantees and defends the value of the ordinary, individual man. If ever Christian principles are banished from political and economic life there is nothing left to keep at bay the totalitarian state where the individual is lost in the system, and exists, not for his own sake, but only for the sake of the system.

Strangely enough, this worship of systems commonly invades the Church. There are many church people--it would be a mistake to call them Christian people--who are more concerned with the method of church government than they are with the worship of God and the service of men. It is all too tragically true that more trouble and strife arise in Churches over legalistic details of procedure than over any other thing. Jesus' action in this matter makes it clear that it is not God's will that any human being should suffer one moment longer than is absolutely necessary.

### THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY

Mon.	Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Holy Day</i></b> <b>8:00 A.M. - Mass</b> – For all of our special intentions 1:00 P.M. - St. Vincent dePaul Society meets <b>6:00 P.M. - Mass</b> – For the people of our parish ----- Parish Office closed
Tues.	Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtloatzin</i></b> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – For the intentions of Stella Nieman
Wed.	Dec. 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>Our Lady of Loreto</i></b> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – Cecile Terrien Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Help
Thurs.	Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>Saint Damasus I, Pope</i></b> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – Linda Roberts 7:00 P.M. - Smear League
Fri.	Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i></b> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – Oliver Chenier ----- Parish Office closed <b>6:30 P.M. - Penance Service here</b>
Sat.	Dec. 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i></b> 3:00 P.M. - Confessions heard until 3:45 PM 4:00 P.M. - Mass – Glenn King
Sun.	Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>Third Sunday of Advent</i></b> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – For the people of our parish 10:00 AM - Mass – Bert & Cecile Meyette

### STEWARDSHIP CORNER

**61 envelopes returned for Sunday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>**

Adults.....	\$2,449.00
Loose.....	146.00
General Maintenance.....	35.00
Fuel.....	20.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$2,650.00</b>

**Budgeted weekly Income & Expense      \$4,594.23**

**Short.....      \$1,944.23**

St. Vincent DePaul Society.....	438.00
Votive Lights.....	260.00
Christmas Flowers.....	20.00

***This Monday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> is a Holy Day of Obligation – the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our mass schedule is 8:00 AM & 6:00 PM.***

### AREA PENANCE SERVICES

St. Elizabeth – Bark River – Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM  
Holy Family – here - Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM  
St. Joe/St. Pat – Escanaba – Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM  
All Saints – Gladstone – Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

### **Going Deeper Retreat**

High school students who desire to deepen their relationship with Christ are invited to Going Deeper: **Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026** at Fortune Lake Camp, Crystal Falls. Visit [yoopecatholic.org/deeper](http://yoopecatholic.org/deeper) for more info and to register.

## **SPIRIT LIFTERS**

- Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>** - Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could, some blunder and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; you shall begin it well and serenely.
- Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>** - So much of what is great has sprung from the closeness of family ties.
- Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>** - Belief in God is acceptance of the basic principles that the universe makes sense, that there is behind it an ultimate purpose.
- Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>** - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>** - When God measures a man, He puts the tape around the heart instead of the head.
- Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>** - Every speaker has a mouth, An arrangement rather neat. Sometimes it's filled with wisdom, Sometimes it's filled with feet.
- Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>** - 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.

### **St. Vincent de Paul Corner**

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." This is what Advent is all about, for we are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

For more info contact Beverly Miller at 428-3610.

***Mark your calendars....*** We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> after the 10 am Mass. We will start with a lunch and then decorate. More hands the faster the work gets done!!!

## **THIS WEEK'S READINGS**

### **Monday**

Gn 3:9-15,20  
Eph 1:3-6,11-12  
Lk 1:26-38

### **Wednesday**

Is 40:25-31  
Mt 11:28-30

### **Friday**

Zec 2:14-17  
Lk 1:26-38

### **Tuesday**

Is 40:1-11  
Mt 18:12-14

### **Thursday**

Is 41:13-20  
Mt 11:11-15

### **Saturday**

Sir 48:1-4,9-11  
Mt 17:9a,10-13

### **Sunday**

Is 35:1-6a,10    Jas 5:7-10    Mt 11:2-11

### **St. Anthony/St. Thomas Annual Dinner Bazaar 2025**

Sunday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> from 11 to 2 pm at St. Thomas Parish Hall, Escanaba. Baked Ham, pigs in a blanket, meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, hot vegetables, coleslaw, salads, pie and beverage. Dinner is \$15 for 16 years and up; ages 6-15 \$7; and 5 and under are free with an adult.

### **March for Life 2026**

Join Fr. Ryan Ford and pilgrims from the U.P. on a bus trip to the National March for Life in Washington D.C. **Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> – Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026.** Pilgrimage includes lodging, sightseeing, rally and march on the National Mall, and attendance at the Cardinal O'Connor Conference on Life. Registration is due with \$50 deposit by January 1<sup>st</sup>. Visit [yoopercatholic.org/march](http://yoopercatholic.org/march) for more information.

**The annual (UPCSA) is underway.** Holy Family Parish has a parish goal of \$44,521.15. We have received 90 pledge cards back out of 166. To date we have \$33,087.00 in pledges. That leaves us with a balance of \$11,434.15 to achieve. If you misplaced your pledge card, contact the parish office.