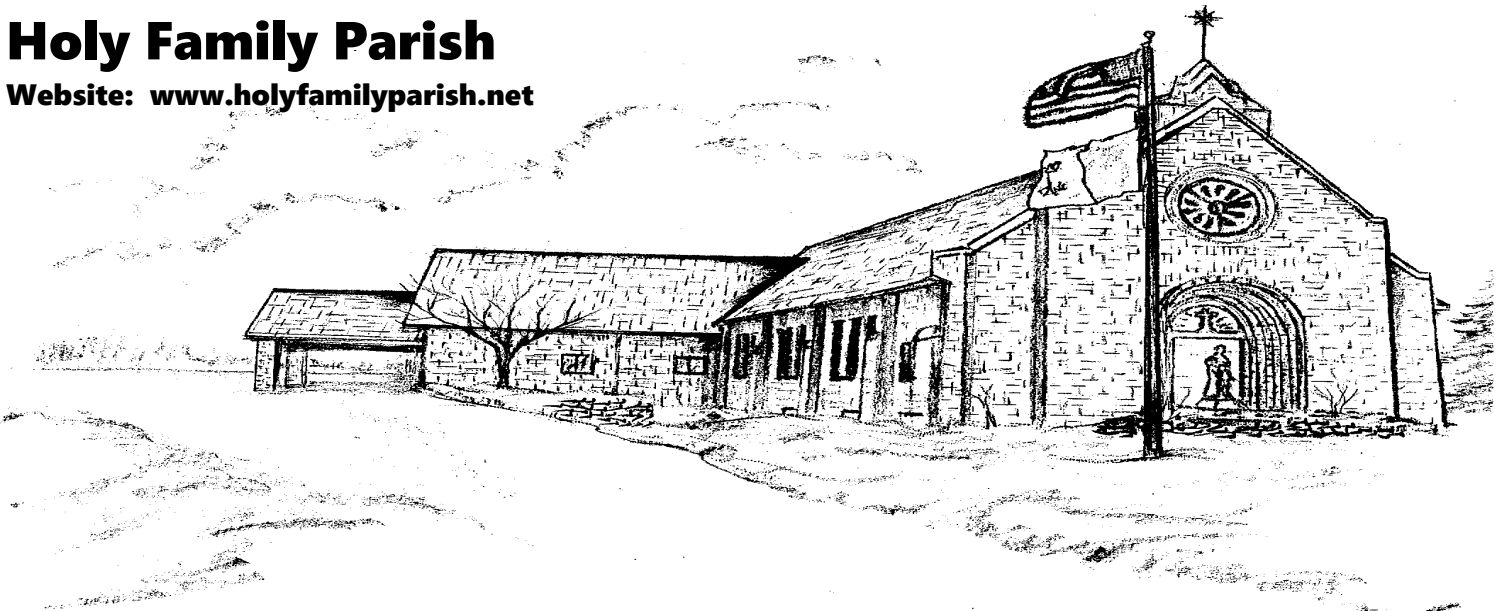


Holy Family Parish

Website: www.holyfamilyparish.net



Art Work by:
Theresa Piestch

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

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

Third Sunday of Advent – December 14, 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

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

Kathy Kohtala 428-9431

Email: 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

THE KINGDOM OF GOD: ([Luke 13:18-19](#))

13:18-19: So Jesus said to them, "To what is the kingdom of God like, and to what will I compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden; and when it was fully grown, it became a large bush and birds of the sky dwelt in its branches."

This is an illustration which Jesus used more than once, and for different purposes. In the east mustard is not a garden herb but a field plant. It does literally grow to be a bush. A height of seven or eight feet is common, and a traveler tells how once he came across a mustard plant which was twelve feet high, and which overtopped a horse and its rider. It is common to see a cloud of birds around such trees, for they love the little black mustard seeds.

Matthew ([Matthew 13:31-32](#)) also relates this parable but with a different emphasis. His version is, Jesus put another parable before them, saying. "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but, when it has grown, it is the greatest of shrubs, and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

The point of the parable in Matthew and in Luke is quite different. Matthew stresses the **smallness of the seed** which Luke never even mentions; and Matthew's point is that the greatest things can start from the smallest beginnings and so does the kingdom of heaven. Luke's version leads up to the birds making nests in the branches. In the east the regular symbol of a great empire was a mighty tree; and the subject nations who found shelter and protection within it were typified by birds in the branches (compare [Ezekiel 31:6](#); [Ezekiel 17:23](#)). As we have seen more than once, Luke is the Universalist who dreamed of a world for Christ; and his point is that the kingdom of God will grow into a vast empire in which all kinds of men and nations will come together and will find the

shelter and the protection of God. There is much in Luke's conception that we would do well to learn.

(i) There is room in the kingdom for a wide variety of beliefs. No man and no church has a monopoly of all truth. To think ourselves right and everyone else wrong can lead to nothing but trouble and bitterness and strife. So long as all men's beliefs are stemmed in Christ they are all facets of God's truth.

(ii) There is room in the kingdom for a wide variety of experiences. We do infinite harm when we try to standardize Christian experience and insist that all men must come to Christ in the same way. One man may have a sudden shattering experience and be able to point to the day and the hour, even the very minute, when God invaded his life. Another man's heart may open to Christ naturally and without crisis, as the petal of the lint-bell opens to the sun. Both experiences come from God and both men belong to God.

(iii) There is room in the kingdom for a wide variety of ways of worship. One man finds touch with God in an elaborate ritual and a splendid liturgy; another finds him in the bare simplicities. There is no right or wrong here. It is the glory of the church that within its fellowship somewhere a man will find the worship that brings him to God. Let him find it, but let him not think his way the only way and criticize another's.

(iv) There is room in the kingdom for all kinds of people. The world has its labels and its distinctions and its barriers. But in the kingdom there is no distinction between rich and poor, small and great, famous and unknown. The church is the only place in the world where distinctions have no legitimate place.

(v) There is room in the kingdom for all nations. In the world today are many national barriers; but none of them has any standing with God. In [Revelation 21:16](#) we are given the dimensions of the Holy City. It is a square each of whose sides is 12,000 furlongs. 12,000 furlongs is 1,500 miles; and the area of a square whose sides are 1,500 miles is 2,250,000 square miles! There is room in the city of God for all the world and more.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY

Mon.	Dec. 15 th	8:00 A.M. -	Mass – For all of our special intentions
Tues.	Dec. 16 th	8:00 A.M. -	Mass – Max Whitney
Wed.	Dec. 17 th	8:00 A.M. -	Mass – For all the souls in purgatory Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Help
Thurs.	Dec. 18 th	8:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M. -	Mass – Walter Marcella (10 th Anniv.) Smear League
Fri.	Dec. 19 th	8:00 A.M. - -----	Mass – Joyce Viau (4 th Anniv.) Parish Office closed
Sat.	Dec. 20 th	3:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. -	Confessions heard until 3:45 PM Mass – Cameron Delveaux
Sun.	Dec. 21 st	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	
		8:00 A.M. -	Mass – For the people of our parish
		10:00 AM -	Mass – Bill Smith
		11:00 AM -	Lunch and then decorating the church for Christmas

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

87 envelopes returned for Sunday, Dec. 7th

Adults.....	\$4,757.00
Loose.....	205.00
Immaculate Conception.....	878.00
General Maintenance.....	250.00
Fuel.....	400.00
Total.....	\$6,490.00

Budgeted weekly Income & Expense \$4,594.23

Over..... \$1,895.77

St. Vincent DePaul Society.....	430.00
The Word Among Us.....	250.00
Christmas Flowers.....	377.00
U.P. Catholic Services Appeal.....	950.00

AREA PENANCE SERVICES

St. Joe/St. Pat – Escanaba – Dec. 16th at 6:00 PM

All Saints – Gladstone – Dec. 18th at 6:00 PM

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AT HOLY FAMILY

Christmas Eve Masses 5:00 PM & 8:00 PM

Christmas Day Mass is at 9:00 AM

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

December 31st at 4:00 PM

January 1, 2026 is at 9:00 AM

Going Deeper Retreat

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

SPIRIT LIFTERS

- Dec. 14th** - Help me never to judge another until I have walked a day in his steps.
- Dec. 15th** - CHEER UP! Birds also have bills, but they keep on singing.
- Dec. 16th** - A fault-mender is better than a fault-finder.
- Dec. 17th** - A partnership with God is motherhood.
- Dec. 18th** - Christmas is a time for children, No matter what their age. Spirit is the only ticket, And heart the only gauge.
- Dec. 19th** - There is no right way to do the wrong thing.
- Dec. 20th** - Before your gifts are all wrapped up and gayly ribbon tied, Please remember to tuck a lot of love inside.

St. Vincent de Paul Corner

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that the good news can be seen, touched felt and heard through the lives of God's people. We are now charged to take up the ministry of Jesus's, but we can't just ask people to take our word for it; our actions must speak for us.

Since Christmas is a time of love and gift giving, please share in Jesus ministry by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who are poor can know the good news of Jesus.

For more info contact Beverly Miller at 428-3610.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Monday

Nm 24:2-7,15-17a
Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday

Zep 3:1-2,9-13
Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday

Gn 49:2,8-10
Mt 1:1-17

Thursday

Jer 23:5-8
Mt 1:18-25

Friday

Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a
Lk 1:5-25

Saturday

Is 7:10-14
Lk 1:26-38

Sunday

Is 7:10-14 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24

Sirvientes de Cristo is seeking faith-filled volunteers for a mission trip to Honduras on June 15 to July 1, 2026. Projects include organizing a medical clinic and a religious program for children. For more information, please contact Laura Hallfrisch at (906) 389-7253 or Julie Bishop at (906) 280-1315.

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 21st – Sunday, January 25th, 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 1st. Visit 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 93 pledge cards back out of 166. To date we have \$34,067 in pledges. That leaves us with a balance of \$10,454.15 to achieve. If you misplaced your pledge card, contact the parish office.

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

