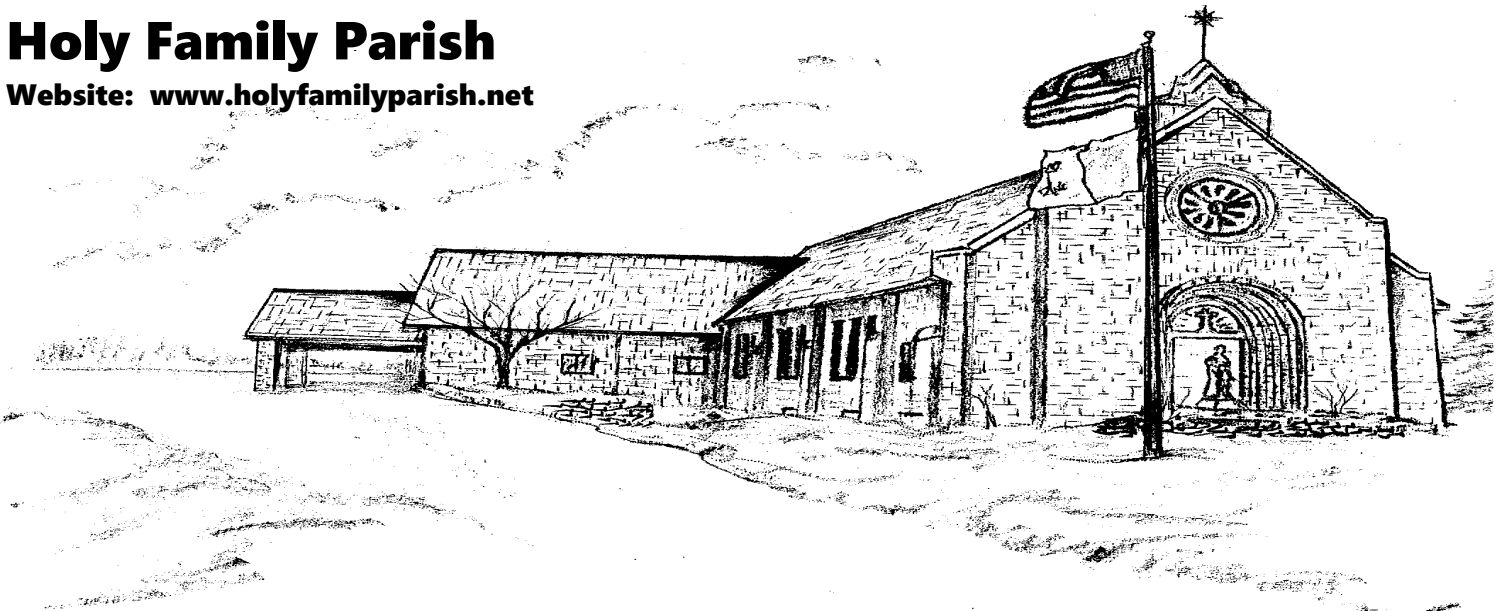


Holy Family Parish

Website: www.holyfamilyparish.net



Art Work by:
Theresa Piestch

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

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 21, 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

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

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

Sacrament of Baptism

Please notify the pastor during the pregnancy in order to schedule sacramental instruction, if necessary.

Faith Formation Coordinator

Kathy Kohtala 428-9431

Email: kkohtala@allsaintsgladstone.org

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday 3:00 to 3:45 P.M.

7:30 am – 7:50 am

before daily Mass or by appointment

Maintenance

906-786-1209

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

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

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

**Herb Iverson, Mike Gasperich, Jean Way, Shelly Polaczyk
Jan Carter, Sue Boudreau, Michael Theoret, Julie Bishop
Brenda Chouinard, Denise Seymour, Annette Russell
Kristin Cutcher, Eric VanDamme Steve Belongie, Sr.,
Christina Theoret Zion, Patty Delveaux**

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 YEAST OF THE KINGDOM ([Luke 13:20-21](#))

13:20-21 Again Jesus said, "To what will I compare the kingdom of God? It is like yeast, that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch of dough was leavened."

This is an illustration which Jesus took from his own home. In those days bread was baked at home. Leaven was a little piece of dough which had been kept over from the last baking and had fermented in the keeping. Leaven is regularly used in Jewish thought for influence, usually for bad influence, because the Jews identified fermentation with putrefaction. Jesus had seen Mary put a little bit of leaven in the dough and had seen the whole character of the dough changed because of it. "That," he said, "is how my kingdom comes."

There are two interpretations of this parable. From the first the following points emerge.

(i) The kingdom of heaven starts from the smallest beginnings. The leaven was very small but it changed the whole character of the dough. We well know how in any court, or committee, or board, one person can be a focus of trouble or a centre of peace. The kingdom of heaven starts from the dedicated lives of individual men and women. In the place where we work or live we may be the only professing Christians; if that be so, it is our task to be the leaven of the kingdom there.

(ii) The kingdom of heaven works unseen. We do not see the leaven working but all the time it is fulfilling its function. The kingdom is on the way. Anyone who knows a little history will be bound to see that. Seneca, than whom the Romans had no higher thinker, could write, "We strangle a mad dog; we slaughter a fierce ox; we plunge the knife into sickly cattle lest they taint the herd; children

who are born weakly and deformed we drown." In A.D. 60 that was the normal thing. Things like that cannot happen today because slowly, but inevitably, the kingdom is on the way.

(iii) The kingdom of heaven works from inside. As long as the leaven was outside the dough it was powerless to help; it had to get right inside. We will never change men from the outside. New houses, new conditions, better material things change only the surface. It is the task of Christianity to make new men; and once the new men are created a new world will surely follow. That is why the church is the most important institution in the world; it is the factory where men are produced.

(iv) The power of the kingdom comes from outside. The dough had no power to change itself. Neither have we. We have tried and failed. To change life we need a power outside and beyond us. We need the master of life, and he is forever waiting to give us the secret of victorious living.

The second interpretation of this parable insists that so far from working unseen the work of the leaven is manifest to all because it turns the dough into a bubbling, seething mass. On this basis, the leaven stands for the disturbing power of Christianity. In Thessalonica it was said of the Christians, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also" ([Acts 17:6](#)). True religion is never dope; never sends people comfortably to sleep; never makes them placidly accept the evils that should be striven against. Real Christianity is the most revolutionary thing in the world; it works revolution in the individual life and in society. "May God," said Unamuno the great Spanish mystic, "deny you peace and give you glory." The kingdom of heaven is the leaven which fills a man at one and the same time with the peace of God and with the divine discontent which will not rest until the evils of earth are swept away by the changing, revolutionizing power of God.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY

Mon.	Dec. 22 nd	8:00 A.M. -	Mass – For all of our special intentions
Tues.	Dec. 23 rd	<i>Saint John of Kanty, Priest</i>	
		8:00 A.M. -	Mass – Shelly Kern
Wed.	Dec. 24 th	5:00 P.M. -	Christmas Eve Mass – For all the People of our Parish
		8:00 P.M. -	Christmas Eve Mass – Dale Richer
		-----	Parish office closed
Thurs.	Dec. 25 th	9:00 A.M. -	Christmas Day Mass – Jill Young
		-----	Parish Office closed
Fri.	Dec. 26 th	8:00 A.M. -	Mass – Everell Verbrigghe
		-----	Parish Office closed
Sat.	Dec. 27 th	3:00 P.M. -	Confessions heard until 3:45 PM
		4:00 P.M. -	Mass – Peggy Verbrigghe
Sun.	Dec. 28 th	<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i>	
		8:00 A.M. -	Mass – Dale Richer
		10:00 AM -	Mass – For the people of our parish

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

74 envelopes returned for Sunday, Dec. 14th

Adults.....	\$3,104.00
Loose.....	182.77
General Maintenance.....	55.00
Fuel.....	40.00
Total.....	\$3,381.77

Budgeted weekly Income & Expense \$4,594.23

Short..... \$1,212.46

St. Vincent DePaul Society.....	30.00
Christmas Flowers.....	70.00
U.P. Catholic Services Appeal.....	515.00

New Meal Train

Brittany (Menard) & Allen Botwright

Please consider providing a meal for the Botwright Family as they adjust to becoming new parents in January! We hope to provide two meals per week for a total of 4 weeks. You can see available dates and sign up at <https://mealtrain.com/2wrmz5> or by contacting Heidi (399-5461).

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

***Merry Christmas &
New Year's Blessings
from
Father Sebastian & Staff***

SPIRIT LIFTERS

- Dec. 21st** - Christmas is a time to remember timeless stories from days of your, A time to ponder what's ahead, A time to open another door.
- Dec. 22nd** - Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.
H.W. Mabie
- Dec. 23rd** - Not what we give, But what we share, For the gift without the giver is bare. J. R. Cowell.
- Dec. 24th** - Christmas is the delight of loving and being loved in return, not for gifts tied with bows, but for gifts of the Spirit offered with an open heart every day of the year. Pearl Buck.
- Dec. 25th** - "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11
- Dec. 26th** - It's a little too much to save, And a little too much to dump. There's nothing to do but eat it, That makes the housewife plump.
- Dec. 27th** - The greatest thing in life is to be needed.

St. Vincent de Paul Corner

In today's Gospel, we hear that Jesus will be named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." The mystery of the birth of Jesus is supremely a mystery of love. May each Christmas find us more and more like him: more humble, more holy, more happy and more full of God.

Your gifts to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul helped those who are poor and suffering to find Emmanuel and they also came to know that "God is with us."

For more info contact Beverly Miller at 428-3610.

Save the Date

Join Holy Name School for their Drama Production: Letters from the Titanic on January 8, 9, and 10th. Purchase your tickets in advance and save. Please call the school office or go to holynamercrusaders.com for details.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Monday
1 Sm 1:24-28
Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday
Mal 3:1-4,23-24
Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday
Is 62:1-5
Acts 13:16-17,22-25
Mt 1:1-25

Thursday
Is 52:7-10
Heb 1:1-6
Jn 1:1-18

Friday
Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59
Mt 10:17-22

Saturday
1 Jn 1:1-4
Jn 20:1a,2-8

Sunday

Sir 3:2-6,12-14 Col 3:12-21 Mt 2:13-15,19-23

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 96 pledge cards back out of 166. To date we have \$34,067 in pledges. That leaves us with a balance of \$9,964.15 to achieve. If you misplaced your pledge card, contact the parish office. Thank you to all who have contributed so far!

CONCLUSION OF THE 2025 JUBILEE YEAR – PILGRIMS OF HOPE

On Dec. 28, 2025, Bishop John Doerfler will be officially concluding the 2025 Jubilee Year for the Diocese of Marquette. The Jubilee Year concluding Mass will take place at St. Peter Cathedral, Marquette, on Sunday, Dec. 28, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. ET. Bishop John invites you to attend this Mass