

# Holy Family Parish

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



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

## Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 24, 2023

### Pastor

(906) 786-1209 Ext. 3

### 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: [kkohatala@allsaintsgladstone.org](mailto:kkohatala@allsaintsgladstone.org)

### Maintenance

906-786-1209

### Pastoral Council Members

Pam Marenger – President Diane Danhoff  
Wanda Chenier – Secretary Harold Flagstad  
Kevin Dubord Tina Cryderman  
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. Sebastian at (906) 440-4193

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

*Diane, Barb, Eric, Pat, Joan*

*Roger Tourangeau, Jan Carter, Jean Way*

*Amanda, Mike Mosher, Shelly Polaczyk, Doris Begalle*

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

## Life After Death

**Prayer for the Souls in Purgatory:** The practice of offering prayer for the Souls in Purgatory is as old as the Church itself, in the sense that it means assisting them with our prayers and good works. Already we have examined the constant Tradition of the Church in this respect; we have seen that prayer for the dead goes back even to the pre-Christian era. But, even apart from this, it is clearly reasonable to do all in our power to help these suffering members of the Mystical Body of Christ.

In the first place helping the Holy Souls promotes the honor and glory of God. He longs for them to come to Him; they were made for Him, and it is their destiny to live with Him in infinite bliss forever. Yet, because God is Justice, He cannot release them from their pain until full atonement must be made.

**Can the souls in Purgatory pray for us? Or should we pray to them?:** There are two views among the theologians regarding the above questions. Some are of opinion that the souls in Purgatory are capable of praying for us, though they are not able to pray for their release. But others say that the souls are unable to hear our prayers and pray for us. Those who are in Purgatory, though they are above us on account of their impeccability, yet they are below us as to the pains which suffer and in this respect they are not in a condition to pray for us and themselves. St. Thomas Aquinas holds this latter view. But St. Alphonsus Liguori, a Doctor of the Church, wrote the following in one of his books: *“The souls in Purgatory, being beloved by God and confirmed in grace, have absolutely no impediment to prevent them from praying for us. Still, the Church does not invoke them or implore their intercession, because ordinarily they have no knowledge of our prayers. But we may piously believe that God makes our prayers known to them.”* But the Church has not given us any doctrinal teaching on this subject. Of course, once the souls reach heaven they are counted among saints and have the intercessory power.

**Limbo:** Many of you remember the age old teaching of the Church that the unbaptized children who die go to a place which is called Limbo, a place where there is no suffering or pain. At the same time they are away from the presence of God. When we think about the innocence of children, who die due to various reasons, even by violence and abortion, we feel sad about their fate. We think that it is not justice from the part of the merciful God keep them away from Him for not something they committed. These days we don't hear much about this issue from any corner. But I know, many are curious about the current stand of the Church on this traditional teaching of the Church which ran through centuries.

The Church's **International Theological Commission** finally issued its long awaited report on the status of embryos, fetuses and the new born babies who die without having been baptized. The 41 page document is titled: **“The hope of salvation for infants who die without being baptized.”** It says that the study was made in part because of the pressing pastoral needs caused by the increase in the numbers of abortions and the growing number of children who die before being baptized.” Pope Benedict XVI has approved the report. The Rev. Luis Ladaria, a Jesuit who is the Secretary-General of the Commission said, “We can say we have many reasons to hope that there is salvation for these babies.” He said that we cannot know their fate with any certainty because Scripture is largely silent on this matter. The report itself said that there were serious theological and liturgical grounds for hope that unbaptized infants who die will be saved and brought into eternal happiness with God in Heaven. The Commission stressed that its conclusion should not be interpreted as questioning original sin, or used to negate the necessity of baptism or delay the conferral of the Sacrament. It urges that parents should have baptized children because this Sacrament is the way that salvation is revealed. **(Will be continued next week)**



*May you and your loved ones have a blessed Christmas.*



**THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY**

Sun.	Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>Christmas Eve</i></b> 5:00 P.M. - Mass – Joe Nolde 8:00 P.M. - Mass - For the People of our Parish
Mon.	Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>Christmas Day</i></b> 9:00 A.M. - Mass – For the Deceased of the Hughes & Neuens Families ----- Parish Office closed
Tues.	Dec. 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>St. Stephen, The First Martyr</i></b> 8:00 A.M. - NO Mass ----- Parish Office closed
Wed.	Dec. 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i></b> 8:00 A.M. - NO Mass NO Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Help 6:30 P.M. - NO CCD Classes
Thurs.	Dec. 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i></b> 8:00 A.M.- Mass – Special Intention <b>7:00 P.M. -</b> NO Smear League
Fri.	Dec. 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b><i>Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr</i></b> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – Duaine Chenier ----- Parish Office closed
Sat.	Dec. 30 <sup>th</sup>	3:00 P.M. - Confessions heard until 3:45 PM 4:00 P.M. - Mass – Dec. Members of the Schroeder/Wilson Families
Sun.	Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b><i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i></b> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – For the People of our parish 10:00 AM - Mass – Nancy Marenger

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER**

73 envelopes returned for Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>

Adult Offering.....	\$2,946.00
Loose.....	130.00
General Maintenance.....	95.00
Fuel.....	30.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$ 3,201.00</b>

<b>Budgeted weekly Income &amp; Expense...</b>	<b>\$4,389.42</b>
<b>Shortage.....</b>	<b>\$1,188.42</b>

St. Vincent DePaul Society.....	110.00
Flowers.....	50.00
Pasty Money.....	64.00

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**Our Christmas Mass schedule will be the same as in past years: 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM on Christmas Eve and a 9:00 AM Mass on Christmas Day.**

**January 1, 2024 is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation but the Mass will be at 9:00 AM**

**To date we have received \$32,760 in U.P. Catholic Services Appeal pledges. We are short of \$8,246.97 in reaching our goal of \$41,006.97. There are still 57 outstanding pledge cards.**

## SPIRIT LIFTERS

- Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** - 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. 25<sup>th</sup>** - "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11
- Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>** - 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. 27<sup>th</sup>** - The greatest thing in life is to be needed.
- Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>** - You can't change the past, but you ruin a perfectly good present by worrying about the future.
- Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>** - Beware of the high cost of low living.
- Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>** - It is better to look ahead and prepare than to look back and regret.

### St. Vincent DePaul Corner

Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest.

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought light into the darkness surrounding the heart of those living in poverty bringing them the real, lasting, and deep joy of Christmas.

For more information contact Beverly Miller at 428-3610.

### **THE U.P. CATHOLIC NEWSLETTER**

The U.P. Catholic newspaper has an electronic newsletter that is sent through Flocknote. Rather than a replacement for the print edition, the newsletter accompanies the newspaper. It is an easy way to find links to photo albums and videos, local stories and more. Visit <https://dioceseofmarquette.flocknote.com/TheUPCatholic> to sign up, fill in your name and email address, and you'll be all set.

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

### **Monday**

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

### **Wednesday**

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

### **Friday**

1 Jn 2:3-11  
Lk 2:22-35

### **Tuesday**

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

### **Thursday**

1 Jn 1:5—2:2  
Mt 2:13-18

### **Saturday**

1 Jn 2:12-17  
Lk 2:36-40

### **Sunday**

Sir 3:2-6,12-14  
Col 3:12-21      Lk 2:22-40

### **Director of Sacred Music for All Saints Parish**

The Director of Sacred Music will be our main organist and choir director, responsible for all aspects of the parish sacred music program, including planning and providing music for weekend Masses, holy days, funerals, weddings, some weekday Masses, and other liturgical events. The ideal candidate should be proficient in choral conducting, organ and piano, Catholic liturgy, and available for a full-time position with benefits. Please contact All Saints Catholic Church at 906-428-3199, or visit us anytime at our website, [allsaintsgladstone.org](http://allsaintsgladstone.org), for a full job description. Accepting resumes until January 2, 2024.

### **LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS FOR THE BISHOP BARAGA ASSOCIATION!**

We are bringing Lifetime Memberships back for a Membership Blitz until Dec. 31, 2023. Annual Members may purchase a Lifetime membership for \$50 (Domestic) and \$100 (International). Your membership may be purchased online at [www.bishopbaraga.org/store](http://www.bishopbaraga.org/store).

Already a Lifetime member? You can gift an annual membership to friends and family and there are NO LIMITS to the number of memberships you can gift! Please send contact information (name, mailing address, phone/email) to [lmckeen@bishopbaraga.org](mailto:lmckeen@bishopbaraga.org).