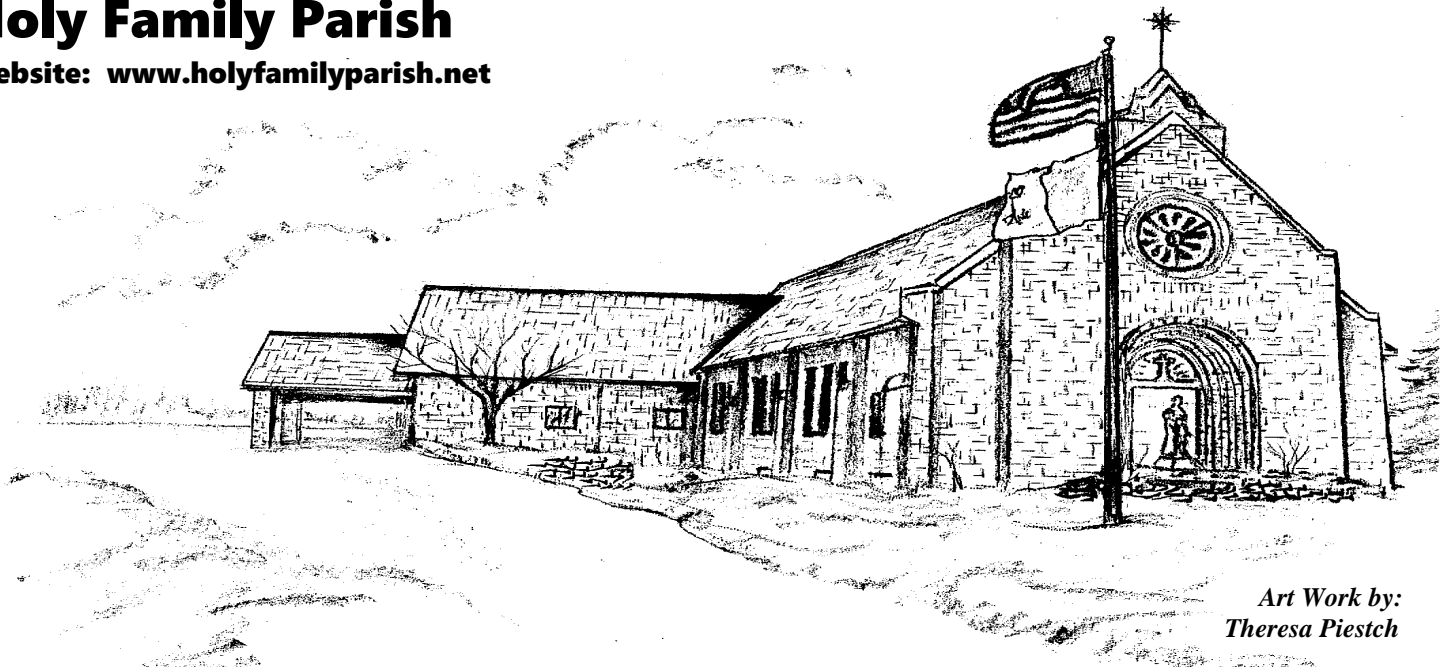


Holy Family Parish

Website: www.holyfamilyparish.net



Fr. Sebastian K. Chacko, pastor@holyfamilyparish.net

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

Third Sunday of Advent – December 11, 2022

Pastor

(906) 786-1209 Ext. 3

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

Chris Olesak 428-9431

Email: colesak@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.....

Torvinen Family, Diane, Barb, Eric, Pat, Betty Lou, Joan Shelly Polaczyk, Jan Carter, Becky, Jean Way Roger Tourangeau, Amanda, Duane, Dan Chouinard

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

Sacramental

Statues (Cont.): It is true that the First Commandment of God seems to forbid the Jews to make any image. *“Thou shall not have strange gods before me. Thou shall not make to thyself a graven thing, nor the likeness of anything...”* But it is clear that the emphasis is in the first and last clauses – “no strange gods,” “thou shall not adore them.” If we take the religious history of the Jews, we know that this prohibition was not absolutely followed by the Jews either. For we see all sorts of images in their Temple like the golden cherubim, the carved garlands of fruit and flowers and trees etc. We see the bronze serpent in the desert and looking at it, the people of Israel saved their lives from the snake bite. Again the basins of the king’s throne were supported by two carved lions.

The first Christians undoubtedly used images. In fact, the Catacombs are the cradle of all Christian art. When the persecutions eased, the art of the Catacombs found its way into the Churches and thus arose present-day practice of honoring images. It is quite wrong to suggest that the early Church was in the slightest way prejudiced against the use of images or pictures. They were there and they were taken for granted as being helpful toward spiritual perfection. On the other hand, it is impossible to believe that the heroic men and women of that time who died amid most terrible tortures rather than indulge in the idolatry of the Romans, practiced idolatry themselves. Pope St. Gregory the Great, writing to an Iconoclast Bishop (i.e. one who stood against the images in the Church), expressed the true Catholic sentiments most admirably: *“Not without reason has antiquity allowed the stories of Saints to be painted in holy places. And we indeed entirely praise thee for not allowing them to be adored, but we blame thee for breaking them. For it is one thing to adore an image, it is quite another to learn from the appearances of a picture what we must adore.”*

The statues in the Catholic Churches, then, are given a relative honor; that is, they are honored, **not for what they are in themselves, but because of whom they represent.** It is also clear from the history of some Saints that Jesus himself ordered them to make his image. For instance, St. Margaret Mary, to whom Jesus revealed his Sacred Heart, told us that he wanted an image of his Heart to be enthroned in every home; our Lady asked St. Catherine of Laboure to have a medal struck according to the design that was revealed to her. This has since been known as “the Miraculous Medal,” and through which many wonders are wrought. In our own time, Jesus appeared to a simple nun, Sr. Faustina, in Poland and asked her to paint a picture by an artist the way Jesus appeared to her and venerate it; as a result we have the Divine Mercy Picture of Jesus in the Churches.

Relics: It is the practice in the Catholic Church that the churches or the members keep the relics of martyrs and venerate them. The practice of venerating the relics can be traced back at least to the second century. After St. Polycarp had been burned at the stake, his disciples “took up his bones, which were more valuable than precious stones and finer than refined gold, and laid them in a suitable place, where the Lord allows us to assemble in gladness and joy to celebrate the birthday of his martyrdom.” St. Jerome explained this practice: *“We do not worship, we do not adore, we do not bow down before the creature rather than the Creator, but we just honor the relics of the martyrs and adore Him whose martyrs they are.”*

Instances of same spirit is common in the museum world where the artifacts of great men and women are preserved with care and respect and people always would like to see them. The similar spirit may have prompted Christians to preserve the relics of the great Saints who lived a heroic life of virtues. We must not forget that throughout the history of the Church many wonderful miracles have been wrought through the use of relics, thus proving that their veneration is approved by God.

The Sacramental is not equal to the Sacraments themselves, but they help us to grow in our spiritual life. Some are of material nature and tangible while others are only expressions.

(To be continued next week).

THIS WEEK AT HOLY FAMILY

Mon.	Dec. 12 th	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> 8:00 A.M. – Mass – For all of our special intentions
Tues.	Dec. 13 th	<i>Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i> 8:00 A.M. - Mass - Oliver Chenier 5:00 P.M. - St. Vincent DePaul Society meets 6:30 P.M. - Communal Penance Service ----- Parish office closed
Wed.	Dec. 14 th	<i>Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the church</i> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – John Marcella (10 th Anniv.) Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Help 6:30 P.M. - CCD Classes for all grades
Thurs.	Dec. 15 th	8:00 A.M. - Mass – Joyce Viau (1 st Anniv.) 7:30 P.M. - Smear League
Fri.	Dec. 16 th	8:00 A.M.- Mass – Marjorie VanDamme ----- Parish Office closed
Sat.	Dec. 17 th	3:00 P.M. - Confessions heard until 3:45 P.M. 4:00 P.M. - Mass – Bob and Jack Gascon
Sun.	Dec. 18 th	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 8:00 A.M. - Mass – For the people of our parish 10:00 AM - Mass – Gilbert VanDrese 11:00 AM - Decorating the church and light lunch

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

92 envelopes were returned for Sunday, Dec. 4th

Adult Offering.....	\$4,154.00
Loose.....	79.00
General Maintenance.....	275.00
Fuel.....	360.00
Mass Stipends.....	20.00
Total.....	\$4,888.00

Budgeted weekly Income & Expense... \$3,980.50
Overage..... \$ 907.50

St. Vincent DePaul donations.....	\$ 133.00
The Word Among Us Subscriptions....	60.00
Christmas Flowers.....	419.00

**Become a
 Knight before Christmas
 FREE MEMBERSHIP
 Now through December 31st**



Calling all Catholic men 18 and older. Now is a great time to join the Knights of Columbus. Scan the QR code, enter your information and use the FREE code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY for a FREE membership as an online member. The Knights are a Catholic fraternal organization that actively supports the teachings and values of the Catholic Church. Whether you have 2 hours a year or 2 hours a month, show your support for our faith and sign up.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS....Next Sunday after the 10:00 am Mass we will have a light lunch and then decorate the church for the Christmas Season.

SPIRIT LIFTERS

- Dec. 11th** - When God measures a man, He puts the tape around the heart instead of the head.
- Dec. 12th** - Every speaker has a mouth, An arrangement rather neat. Sometimes it's filled with wisdom, Sometimes it's filled with feet.
- Dec. 13th** - 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.
- 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.

St. Vincent DePaul 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 information contact Beverly Miller at 428-3610.

The Rock-Perkins Area Cantata Choir present:

*A Worshipful Christmas
Celebration Cantata
"My Christmas Prayer"*

On Sunday December 18th at 4:00 pm at Faith Lutheran Church, Rock and again at 7:00 pm at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Perkins. Fellowship and refreshments will follow each performance. Free-will offering gratefully accepted to help with music cost.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

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

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

Wednesday
Is 45:6c-8,18,21c-25
Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday
Is 54:1-10
Lk 7:24-30

Friday
Is 56:1-3a,6-8
Jn 5:33-36

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

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

THERE WILL BE ANOTHER MAILING FROM THE DIOCESE TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE NOT CONTRIBUTED. We still have 97 outstanding cards

Please drop off your pledge card at the parish or mail it to the parish at 4011 County 416-20th Road. We need 100% participation to make our goal. Thanking you in advance

Our goal for this year is \$39,676

To date we have 106 returned cards with pledges of \$31,425. Leaving a balance of \$8,521. *There are still A LOT of OUTSTANDING PLEDGE CARDS. Please return as soon as possible.*

UPDATE ON DAN CHOUINARD AND HOW YOU CAN HELP IF YOU WOULD LIKE

Dan recently suffered a stroke and is currently in St. Vincent hospital in Green Bay. He has a very long road ahead of him and could use prayers. He'll be in the hospital for at least 4 weeks and it will be several months of recovery after that. He is self-employed and won't be working so your financial support is very much needed and greatly appreciated by the family. There is a donation account set up at Peninsula Federal Credit Union in his name. If anyone would like to help just go to PFCU and deposit in Dan Chouinard's account. Thank you to all as he and his family needs our support and prayers.