Welcome to Holy Family! Reserved seating is available in the front pew and at the cross-aisle for those who are mobility impaired. A handicap-accessible restroom can be found on this level off the west side vestibule adjoining the adoration chapel. Proceed downstairs from the Narthex for the main restrooms. Please speak to an usher if you need any kind of assistance.

PRELUDE TO MASS
9:00 Christmas Concerto (Concerto grosso ‘Fatto per la Notte di Natale’) A. Corelli
11:00 In the Bleak Midwinter H. Darke

INTROIT (9:00) Gregorian chant, mode V
Deus in loco sancto suo: Deus, qui inhabitare facit unanimes in domo: ipse dabit virtutem et fortitudinem plebi suæ: et fugiant, qui odorunt eum, a facie eius. Ps. Exsurgat Deus, et dissipentur inimici eius: et fugiant, qui oderunt eum, a facie eius. Ps 68: 6, 7, 36 & 2

PROCESIONAL HYMN Collegeville Hymnal 225 O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELES

GREETING Celebrant: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
                    ® Amen.
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.  ® And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT
Celebrant: Brethren, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.  
                    ® I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, 
                    And, striking their breast, they say: through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;  
                    Then they continue: therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.
Celebrant: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

KYRIE Mass Setting XII (‘Missa de Angelis’) - Lumen Christi Missal, p. 873

GLORIA Mass Setting XII - Lumen Christi Missal, p. 873
5:00 & 11:00 Mass No. 2 in G Maj., D. 167 - F. Schubert

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD
Lumen Christi Missal - Page 60

FIRST READING Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
RESPONSORIAL PSALM
Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
Cantor, then all; thereafter: all

Ps 128:1
Blessed are those who fear the Lord,
who walk in his ways. T. Marier

SECOND READING
Colossians 3:12-21

GOSPEL
Luke 2:22-40

Deacon: The Lord be with you.
ром: And with your spirit.
ром: Glory to you, O Lord.
At the conclusion of the Gospel:
ром: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

NICENE CREED
I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
(All bow while saying:)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
his suffering death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST
OFFERTORY HYMN (5:00)
198 O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS (REDNER)

COLLEGEVILLE HYMNAL

OFFERTORY CHANT (9:00)
In te speravi, Domine: dixi: Tu es Deus meus, in manibus tuis
tempora mea.
In you have I put my trust, O Lord; I said: “You are my God,
my destiny is in your hands.”
Ps 31:15, 16

OFFERTORY MOTETS
9:00 Joy to the World
G. F. Handel, arr. M. Llewellyn

11:00 O magnum mysterium
T. L. de Victoria
O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that the animals
should see the new-born Lord lying in a manger. Blessed is the
Virgin whose womb deserved to bear the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia.
Christmas, Matins responsory

INVITATION TO PRAYER
Celebrant: Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may
be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
ром: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name, for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.

SANCTUS
Mass Setting XII - Lumen Christi Missal, p. 874

MYSTERY OF FAITH

GREAT AMEN

SIGN OF PEACE
Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
ром: And with your spirit.

AGNUS DEI
Mass Setting XII - Lumen Christi Missal, p. 875

HOLY COMMUNION
We invite actively practicing Catholics who are properly
dispersed to come forward to receive Holy Communion. Our
brothers and sisters of other faiths are invited to approach with
arms crossed over the chest to receive a blessing. At Holy Family
we receive the combination of the Body and Blood of Christ on
the tongue. If you prefer to receive just the Body of Christ in your
hand, please have your hands clearly out before you approach.
COMMUNION ANTIPHON
Gregorian chant, mode I
Fili, quid fecisti nobis sic? Ego et pater tuus dolentes quærebamus te. Et quid est quod me quærebatis? Nesciebatis quia in his quæ Patris mei sunt, oportet me esse?
My son, why have you treated us so? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you. How is it that you were seeking me? Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?
Lk 2:48, 49

COMMUNION MOTETS
9:00 Of the Father's Love Begotten Chant, arr. P. Wohlgemuth
O Little Town of Bethlehem L. Redner
11:00 Hymn to the Virgin B. Britten
Balulalow (Lully, Lullay) P. Warlock

SECOND COLLECTION
The Care Fund
The Care Fund meets the emergency needs of Holy Family parishioners and the wider community.

CLOSING HYMN
Collegiate Hymnal
222 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN

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For this week’s daily readings, please visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings

TODAY AT HOLY FAMILY

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Our Patronal Feast Day

Donut Sunday
After Sunday Masses - Fr. Moorman Hall

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
Sunday, December 31st - 5 PM Vigil Mass
Monday, January 1st - 9 AM Mass

OUR CHRISTMAS TIDE GIFTS TO YOU!
We are giving away the following after all Masses:
♦ Two different books: Choose from either Joy to the World by Dr. Scott Hahn, or Saints for Our Times, a stunning portrait of four great saints, by Jerome K. Williams. Each family is welcome to take one book.
♦ 2018 Calendars

WEDDINGS

Please pray for
Mark Korf & Christen Bowell, Banns 1
as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage.

HOLY FAMILY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 31:

Feast of the Holy Family

8:00 AM Confessions
9:00 AM Mass
After Mass Donuts & Refreshments Fr. Moorman Hall
11:00 AM Mass
After Mass Vigil Mass: Mary, Mother of God

Monday, January 1:

Mary, Mother of God

9:00 AM Mass
11:00 AM Mass: Church of Saint Bede

Cancelled Exercise Class
Cancelled Widows and Widowers Holy Hour

Tuesday, January 2:

Saints Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors

7:30 AM Confessions
8:00 AM Mass
Cancelled Weekly Scripture Study of the Church
Cancelled Goodtimers 500 Club Parish Offices Closed
5:30 PM Mass: Church of Saint Bede
See p. 4 for details
7:00 PM Young Adults Meeting
Cancelled Neocatechumenal Way

Wednesday, January 3:

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

7:30 AM Confessions
8:00 AM Mass
After Mass Coffee & Rolls Fr. Moorman Hall
9:00 AM Children’s Eucharistic Adoration Adoration Chapel
3:30 PM Youth Choir Fr. Moorman Hall
5:30 PM Mass: Church of Saint Bede
See p. 4 for details
6:30 PM Confirmation Class Fr. Moorman Hall
6:30 PM Religious Education HFA

Thursday, January 4:

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

7:30 AM Confessions
8:00 AM Mass
8:30 AM Exercise Class Fr. Wilkins Room
1:00 PM Merciful Love Prayer Group Church
5:30 PM Mass: Church of Saint Bede See p. 4 for details
7:00 PM Parish Choir Rehearsal Choir Loft
7:00 PM RCIA HFA 305

Friday, January 5:

Saint John Neumann, Bishop

7:30 AM Confessions
8:00 AM Mass
8:45 AM Divine Mercy Chaplet & Benediction Church
After Mass Altar & Rosary 1st Friday Fr. Moorman Hall
11:30 AM HFHE 1st Friday Fr. Moorman Hall
5:00 PM HFA Christmas Concert See p. 5 for details
7:00 PM Youth Group Happy Hour & Games Nazareth House

Saturday, January 6:

Saint André Besette, Religious

3:30 PM Confessions
4:45 PM Benediction
5:00 PM Mass

Sunday, January 7:

Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 AM Confessions Food Drive Sunday
9:00 AM Mass
10:45 AM Epiphany Pageant Church
11:00 AM Mass
After Mass Britten: Ceremony of Carols (Youth Choir) Church
3:00 PM Young Adults Nazareth House
5:30 PM Mass: Church of Saint Bede See p. 4 for details
Mass Intentions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Mass Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Jan. 1st</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>For the Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue., Jan. 2nd</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Fr. Alphonse M. Kubat †</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., Jan. 3rd</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Fr. James E. Holl †</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu., Jan. 4th</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Fr. Alphonse M. Kubat †</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Jan. 5th</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Altar &amp; Rosary Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Jan. 6th</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>James Walsh †</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Jan. 7th</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>For the Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Jan. 7th</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Donald Turkington †</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Intercessions

Please pray for:
Bob Higgins
Joann O’Brien, mother of Scott O’Brien;
Vicki Ryan;
Dorothy Welter

Go to www.hfcmn.org and click on “submit prayer request” or call the parish office. You need permission from the person for his/her name to be listed in our prayer intentions. Sign up for “Prayer Partners” on Flocknote to receive notifications. Prayer intentions will be sent by email and listed in the bulletin for one week. Birth and death notices (with meal calendars) will be sent to those signed up for “Prayer Partners.”

Sunday Stewardship

Contributions for December 23-24, 2017
will be published in the January 7, 2018 bulletin.

Next week’s Second Collection will benefit the Care Fund.

Thank you for your generosity!

Stewardship Note

Even when the second collection goes to another organization, please fill out all checks to “Holy Family Catholic Church;” the church then is able to write one check to the organization. Thank you!

One of the dangers of having a lot of money is that you may be quite satisfied with the kinds of happiness money can give and so fail to realize your need for God. If everything seems to come simply by signing checks, you may forget that you are at every moment totally dependent on God. C. S. Lewis

Church of Saint Bede

The Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter was created by the Vatican in 2012 to assist former Anglicans who wish to become Catholic. Their liturgy is a valid Catholic Mass but incorporates distinctive elements from their tradition. Everyone is welcome, and attendance fulfills the obligation for any Catholic for Sunday and holy days.

Visit www.thevenerablebede.org for more information.

Directory

General Staff
- Bobbi Hanson  Parish Business Administrator  952.999.4888
- Kathy Fink  Office & Sacramental Records  952.992.0113
- Tricia Gawarecki  Office & Background Checks  952.992.0113
- Linda Vos  Accountant  952.999.4889
- Trever Bergman  Facilities Manager  952.999.4885
- Lisa Bream  Comm. Coordinator  Lisa.Bearth@hfcmn.org
- Carrie Havlicek  Bulletin communications@hfcmn.org

Liturgy and Pastoral Staff
- Deacon Jim Meyer  Sacramental Preparation  952.999.4881
- Sharon Pero  Liturgy & Pastoral Ministry  952.999.4890
- Scott Turkington  Director of Sacred Music  952.999.4887
- Atsuko Schlough  Associate Organist  952.999.4887

Faith Formation Staff
- John Hartnett  Director of Faith Formation  952.999.4822
- Elizabeth Brown  Confirmation Coordinator  Elizabeth.Brown@hfcmn.org

Apostolates
- Lee Flesher  Pastoral Council  pc@hfcmn.org
- Mike Zwack  Perpetual Adoration  612.710.5007
- Lynn Heeren  Altar & Rosary Society  lynnheeren5@gmail.com
- Mark McCarthy  Knights of Columbus  GrandKnight@KofC3949.org
- Mary Anne von Dohlen  Home Educators (HFHE)  Call Church office for contact information.

Natural Family Planning:
- Teri Russek  Sympto-Thermal Method  612.721.3791

If you or someone you know is in need of emergency assistance, please contact:
STEP - Emergency Program: 952.925.4899

Parish News & Events: Flocknote

Christmas & Weather-Related Updates!
We have many special Mass and confession times this holiday season, not to mention many engaging events you’ll want to attend! Stay updated through Holy Family’s communication tool, Flocknote. You’ll get weekly updates from the parish, as well as any timely updates from the school and any groups you’d like to join (e.g. Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament).

How to hear from Holy Family:
1. Visit www.flocknote.com/HFC - or - Text HFCMN to 84576
2. Fill in your information (which will be kept confidential) and join those groups (e.g. ‘Adorers...’ or ‘Prayer Partners’) that pertain to you. Please be sure to join the group representing your region to keep up with activities in your neighborhood.
3. You can log in anytime to change what groups you follow!

Holy Family is on Facebook!
“Like” Holy Family on Facebook to get updates on parish life, Catholic topics around the archdiocese, and upcoming parish events! For the Church, click the ‘Like’ button on the homepage at www.hfcmn.org. For HFA, click the ‘like’ button at hfamn.org.
**HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY CHRISTMAS CONCERT**
Friday, January 5th, 5:00 PM in the Church. Open to all! 6th - 8th grade will be performing.

**NOTE: NEXT SUNDAY IS FOOD DRIVE SUNDAY**
Remember to bring non-perishable items to Mass and put them in the boxes located at the Church doors. Please help fill the STEP food shelves and make sure our neighbors do not go hungry.

**TREE OF LIFE**
We support two centers that assist mothers and fathers in choosing life. You may pick an ornament from the tree in the vestibule and return it with a new unwrapped gift by Sunday, January 7th.

**CHRISTMAS TREE CLEAN-UP**
Adult help is needed to take down the Christmas decorations on Monday, January 8th, after the 8:00 AM Mass.

**NET RETREAT FOR TEENS**
TEENS! All high school students are welcome to our second N.E.T. NIGHT at Holy Family! Need a spiritual shot in the arm? Need a break from homework pressures and high school drama? This is for you! On Tuesday, January 9th from 4:00 - 7:30 PM, come to Moorman Hall for some fun, skits, talks, pizza, small groups, time for prayer and Confession. Bring a friend. Come away refreshed! $5 to help cover food costs. RSVP to Elizabeth.brown@hfcmn.org.

**VOCATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**
Sunday, January 14th, 12:30 PM in Fr. Wilkins Room. Our parish is blessed with many young people in seminary, religious life, or actively discerning. We invite members of our parish to join the Vocations Committee to continue efforts in promotion of and support of vocations. Please join us for an informational and brainstorming meeting!

**CANA DINNER**
Married and engaged couples: Plan to attend our Cana Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 3rd! Please join us for this special evening to celebrate and refresh your marriage, right in time for St. Valentine’s Day! The evening includes the regular 5 PM Mass followed by an elegant 4-course dinner in Fr. Moorman Hall, fellowship, and speaker Fr. Kyle Kowalczyk. Stay tuned for more details!

**SUPPORT SACRED MUSIC**
It’s always possible to make a donation to Holy Family’s Sacred Music Program with a donation! Donations can be made online - at hfcmn.org/donate - or mailed or dropped off at the Church office. New: Sacred Music CDs featuring our many ensembles are available from the office for $12, and will soon be available online.

**YOU’RE INVITED: MERCIFUL LOVE PRAYER GROUP**
In celebrating the Jubilee Year of Mercy, we learned that praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy helps save the world by drawing down God’s mercy into the wounds of humanity. For this reason, we have formed the Merciful Love Prayer Group at Holy Family. All are invited to come and pray with us, bringing any intentions! We meet in the church on Thursdays from 1-2 PM to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Rosary, and other prayers. If you have any questions, contact Ann Juberian (612.807.3811) or Betty Rockwell (952.929.7188 or bettyrockwell@comcast.net).

**DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Our Dinner at Your Door program is in need of substitute helpers.** Meals are delivered on the 2nd Thursday of the month; the time commitment is approximately 1 ½ hours – from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. If you are able to help out occasionally, please contact Sharon at 952.999.4890.
- **Your help is needed at the Saturday 5 PM Mass: to meet a wheelchair bound parishioner** who is transported by Metro Mobility, to assist during Mass if needed, and to stay after Mass until Metro Mobility arrives. The arrival time to Mass is approximately 4:30 PM and pick-up time can be anywhere from 6:10 to 6:30 PM. You will receive training until you are comfortable with the routine. If two or three people are able to help, this would be a commitment of about once a month. Please contact Sharon at 952.999.4890 for more information.

**DISCIPLESHIP & SERVICE: PLEASE MEET THE REQUIREMENTS!**
Holy Family has many service opportunities thanks to our active organizations and special events that require disciples (Catholic Vacation Bible School), as well as our liturgical ministries (ushering, bringing the Blessed Sacrament to the sick and homebound). In order to protect everyone, especially those who are most vulnerable, the Archdiocese requires all our disciples to be trained on acceptable practices, and to undergo a background check. Unfortunately, we cannot allow those who are not up-to-date to serve, and they will be removed from parish organizations and ministries until they are in compliance. To make sure you are up-to-date with these requirements, you can call the parish office at 952.929.0113 for help (especially if you need a reminder of your user/pass), and visit www.virtus.org. Thank you!
Please spread the good news about Holy Family Academy! The schools (Pre-K, Kindergarten, Lower and Middle, explaining our each). There are also brochures on the website for each of our day, M-W-F, or Tuesday and Thursday (1/2 or full day for each). There are also brochures on the website for each of our schools (Pre-K, Kindergarten, Lower and Middle, explaining our programs). Tuition and other information (after and before school care hours and rates) are also available on the website.

Please spread the good news about Holy Family Academy! The next Open House will be on the morning of January 12th - Holy Mass through 12:00 - come when you can.

2017 CORPORATE MATCHING YEAR WINDING DOWN
It's also approaching the end of the tax-year (and, a little bit earlier, the end of our liturgical year as Catholics). As everyone (including Grandma and Grandpa and Uncle Joe) finalizes their corporate matching opportunities, please consider having them contribute to Holy Family Academy. It's a double the bang for your buck deal - so why not do it! Thank you!

APPEAL FOR ADORERS
It is our goal at Holy Family to have at least two adorers present at each hour on the adoration schedule, so that every adorer can have a partner for scheduling back-up and safety during nighttime hours.

We are always in need of committed substitutes! If you wish to adore at a time not listed, you are still welcome and needed!

Please contact Mike Zwack, our Adoration coordinator, if you are willing to make an hour’s (or greater) commitment each week, and for information on the other times available:

612.710.5007

Currently, the times of our greatest need are:

Wednesdays: 1 - 2 PM;
Thursdays: 12 - 1 PM; Saturdays: 8 - 9 PM;
Sundays: 12 - 1 AM; Sundays: 9 - 10 PM

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Holy Family Parish Choir
The Parish Choir is always looking for singers to join their worshipful company! For those who love to sing from the great repertory of Sacred Music, our ensemble works hard to bring the musical "treasure of inestimable value" to Holy Family's beautiful Masses. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings, 7-9 PM, and Mass is every Sunday at 9:00 AM. For more information, call or email Scott Turkington, 952.999.4887, Scott.Turkington@hfcmn.org.

FORMED.Org: The Mystery of Christmas
To access Catholic movies, books, audio recordings and more, go to www.Formed.org, and sign up using our parish code: 2QCG4F.

In this inspiring audio talk, renowned retreat master Fr. Larry Richards helps us to reflect on the wonder of the season and the immensity of God’s love for us. Access “The Mystery of Christmas” at www.Formed.org by hovering over the “LISTEN” tab, choosing “Talks” from the drop-down menu, and selecting it from the “Advent and Christmas” section.

In and Around the Archdiocese

Chesterton Academy Open House
Chesterton Academy is a joyfully Catholic, classical high school founded through a grass-roots movement of parents in 2008. At Chesterton, our students experience the joy of Christ; they grow in character; they deepen their faith; they learn leadership; and our integrated classical curriculum prepares them for college – and for life. Please join us for our open house from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM on Tuesday, Jan. 4th (Edina Campus) or Thursday, Jan. 16th (St. Paul Campus) to learn more about our school, tour the campus, meet with some of our students and faculty, and learn about our exciting extracurricular activities! Please RSVP on our website: https://www.chestertonacademy.org/admissions/open-house/

Healing Mass
Father Jim Livingston will celebrate a Healing Mass on Tuesday, January 9th at 7:00 PM at Saint Gabriel - Saint Joseph Campus, 1310 Main Street, Hopkins. Please join us for the Rosary and Mass. Direct questions to Barb at 952.933.8423.

Eli Broomtree Men’s Retreat
The 13th annual Eli Broomtree Cabin getaway will be held January 12-14, 2018 (MLK weekend) at the Boyd Lodge Cabins in Crosslake, MN. All men are invited to a well-deserved break from daily routine. These remote cabins are on the whitefish chain of lakes. Opportunities include snowshoeing, ice fishing, and cards. Affordable! This is a weekend of fellowship and relaxation. For more info, and to get on the mailing list, please email Tom Bertoldi: bert.mn@centurylink.net, or call John Rosenthal at 612.618.8900.

Healing the Whole Person
Church of the Epiphany, in Coon Rapids, MN is hosting a Healing the Whole Person retreat, led by the John Paul II Healing Center, on January 18-20th. Jesus responds today to brokenness, disease, and pain with transformative love and restoration. Grounded in Church teaching, you’ll engage the topics of “Facing our Brokenness,” “Encountering the Father’s Love,” and “Living in Freedom.” Learn more and register for this amazing retreat at http://jpiihealingcenter.org/. Registration ends Jan. 8th, 2018.

Bulletin Submissions
If you have a parish-related or archdiocesan event or announcement you would like to include in our bulletin, please submit in writing to communications@hfcmn.org by December 21st for the December 31st bulletin.
CHURCH of THE HOLY FAMILY
Christmastide and New Year
Schedule 2017

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
(not a Holy Day of Obligation)

Sunday, December 31st:
5 PM Vigil Mass

Monday, January 1st:
9 AM Mass

Adoration Chapel Hours for New Year’s
Closed Saturday, Dec. 30th, 5 PM -
Tuesday, Jan. 2nd, after the 8 AM Mass.

Parish Offices will be closed on:
Monday, January 1st and Tuesday, January 2nd.

From the Priests and Deacons of Holy Family:
Thank you all for your warm wishes, prayers and
gifts this Advent and Christmas season!
Our prayers for a happy new year are with you all.

Father Joseph Johnson
Father George Welzbacher
Father Marcus Milless
Deacon Jim Meyer
Deacon Mike Kraemer

STEWARDSHIP: GRATITUDE FOR GOD’S GIFTS, COMMITMENT TO THE CHURCH’S MISSION

Everything we have comes as a gift from God. Advent is the time we especially remember the poverty of our sinful world before Jesus brought the riches of God’s Merciful Love. The joy of Christmas evokes generosity towards those we love as we exchange gifts with them. It prompts us to ask: How do I show my gratitude to God in exchange for all His gifts to me?

Gratitude for a life of discipleship in this parish, including:

♦ The gift of baptism through which I was freed from original sin, adopted as a child of God, and given the promise of eternal life
♦ This beautiful church where I worship with my spiritual family in the Mystical Body of Christ
♦ The Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist by which I am nourished by the Bread from Heaven
♦ The full Mass schedule and reverent liturgies with extraordinary sacred music
♦ The opportunity to spend time with our Eucharistic Lord in the perpetual adoration chapel
♦ The forgiveness of sins in Confession offered here every day of the week (instead of 45 minutes once per week or “by appointment” as in other parishes)
♦ A dynamic Catholic school which shapes the minds and hearts of our youngsters with Truth, Goodness, and Beauty
♦ A wide range of faith formation opportunities for every age presented according to the Magisterium of the Church

The way we spend our time, talent, and treasure is the concrete expression of how we prioritize our lives. In January, Holy Family will invite our parishioners to fill out a pledge card as a sign of our gratitude to God and commitment to the mission of the Church. Please prayerfully begin discerning now what your commitment will be for 2018.

Examination of conscience: Does the holiday whirlwind mean I devote less time to prayer in this holy season? Am I just a “consumer” at my parish or do I actively participate in prayer as well as faith formation initiatives, service opportunities, etc.? Do I take my share of personal responsibility for the financial health of the parish where I practice my faith? Do I spend more money on Christmas gifts for others than showing my gratitude to God? Do vacations and holiday celebrations consume more of my resources than my support of the Church’s mission does? Is renewed effort to grow closer to Christ and serve Him more wholeheartedly the most important aspect of my observance of Christmas?

Definitions:
1. “Tithe” - the debt of gratitude we owe to God in thanksgiving for all He has done for us. The Bible records this as 10% of our income. It is always directed towards the Church though it may be split between our parish and other Catholic entities.
2. “Almsgiving” - sacrifices freely made out of charity after we have fulfilled our tithe. This can be directed towards any good cause or a particular neighbor in need.
3. “Firstfruits” - the opposite of leftovers! We are supposed to honor God first before we spend time/money on ourselves.