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. For those who wish to receive the Precious Blood only due to a gluten intolerance, please check in before the start of Mass in the sacristy. Please speak to an usher if you need assistance.

**Prelude to Mass (9:00 & 11:00)**
Laudate nomen Domini

Praise the name of the Lord, ye servants of the Lord; from the rising of the sun until the same setting. The decrees of the Lord are just, and [their] heart is glad: Praise the Lord ye princes and all ye people.

*Cf. Ps 113:1, 3*

**Introit (9:00)**
Gregorian chant, mode IV

Omnis terra adoret te, Deus, et psallat tibi: psalmum dicat nomini tuo, Altissime.

Ps. Iubilate Deo omnis terra, psalmum dicite nomini eius: date gloriam laudi eius.

Let all the earth worship you and praise you, O God; may it sing in praise of your name, O Most High. ¶ Shout joyfully to God all the earth; sing a psalm in honor of his name; praise him with magnificence.

*Ps 66:4 & 1, 2*

**Processional Hymn**
The Church’s One Foundation

**Greeting**

Celebrant: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*R* Amen.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.  

*R* And with your spirit.

**Penitential Act**

Deacon: You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

*R* Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

*R* Christ, have mercy.

Deacon: You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

*R* Lord, have mercy.

**Gloria**

Mass Setting II - *Lumen Christi Missal*, p. 844

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**First Reading**

*Lumen Christi Missal* - Page 335

**Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

*T. Marier, alt.*

*Cantor, then all; thereafter: all*

Here am I, ___ Lord; I come to do ___ your will.

**Second Reading**

I Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Lumen Christi Missal

GOSPEL
John 1:35-42

Deacon: The Lord be with you.
\[ \textit{R}: \text{And with your spirit.} \]

Deacon: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.
\[ \textit{R}: \text{Glory to you, O Lord.} \]

At the conclusion of the Gospel:
\[ \textit{R}: \text{Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.} \]

HOMILY

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, he suffered 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.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER
\[ \textit{R}: \text{Lord, hear our prayer.} \]

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY CHANT (9:00)
Gregorian chant, mode I


Sing joyfully to God all the earth; let the entire earth cry out with joy to God: sing a psalm in honor of his name. Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what the Lord has done for my soul, alleluia.  Ps 66:1, 2, 16

OFFERTORY MOTETS
9:00 Cantate Domino  R. Führer

Sing a new song to the Lord: sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Ps 95:1

11:00 Ego sum panis vivus  G. P. da Palestrina

I am the living bread. Your fathers ate manna in the desert, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven: if any man eat of it, he will not die.
Jn 6:48-50

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Celebrant: Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

\[ \textit{R}: \text{May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.} \]

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.

\[ \textit{R}: \text{And with your spirit.} \]

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

HOLY COMMUNION

We invite actively practicing Catholics who are properly disposed 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 VIII
Dict Andreas Simoni fratri suo: Invenimus Messiam, qui dicitur Christus: et adduxit eum ad Iesum. And we found the Messiah (which means Christ); and he led him to Jesus. Jn 1:41, 42

COMMUNION MOTET
9:00  Be Thou My Vision  trad. Irish, arr. T. Marier
11:00  Tu solus  J. des Prez
Thou alone art the Wonder-worker, thou alone art the Creator, who created us, thou alone art the Redeemer, who redeemed us with thy most precious blood. In thee alone do we take refuge, in thee alone do we trust, none other do we adore, O Jesus Christ. To thee do we pour out our prayers: hear what we beseech, and grant what we ask, O benevolent King.

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

CLOSING HYMN
Collegeville Hymnal
519  Ye Servants of God
LAUDATE DOMINUM

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Today at Holy Family

Donut & New Member Sunday
After Sunday Masses - Fr. Moorman Hall

Vocations Committee Meeting
Today, 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!

Weddings

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

Formed.org

Formed.org: Committed Discipleship
To access Catholic movies, books, audio recordings and more, go to www.Formed.org, and sign up using our parish code: 2QCG4F. Renowned Catholic speaker Jeff Cavins challenges us to move from being a mere fan of Jesus to a disciple in this inspiring audio talk. Access “Fan or Follower?” at www.Formed.org: hover over the LISTEN tab, choose “TALKS” from the dropdown menu, and (after scrolling down) choose “Fan or Follower?” from the CATHOLIC LIFE section.

Holy Family Calendar

Sunday, January 14:
8:00 AM Confessions
9:00 AM Mass
11:00 AM Mass
12:30 PM Vocations Committee Meeting  See below for details

Monday, January 15
8:00 AM Mass
8:30 AM Exercise Class  Fr. Wilkins Room
3:00 PM Widows and Widowers Holy Hour  Adoration Chapel
5:30 PM Mass: Church of Saint Bede  See p. 4 for details

Tuesday, January 16
7:30 AM Confessions
8:00 AM Mass
9:00 AM Weekly Scripture Study  Fr. Wilkins Room
10:30 AM Goodtimers 500 Club  Saint Joseph Room
5:30 PM Mass: Church of Saint Bede  See p. 4 for details
7:00 PM Young Adults Meeting  Nazareth House
7:00 PM Neocatechumenal Way  Fr. Wilkins Room

Wednesday, January 17:
7:30 AM Confessions
8:00 AM Mass
After Mass Coffee & Rolls  Fr. Moorman Hall
9:00 AM Children’s Eucharistic Adoration  Adoration Chapel
9:00 AM Prayer Shawl Disciple Mtg.  Saint Joseph Room
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 18
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

Friday, January 19
7:30 AM Confessions
8:00 AM Mass
After Mass Divine Mercy Chaplet & Benediction  Church

Saturday, January 20:
3:30 PM Confessions  Saint Fabian, Pope & Martyr; Saint Sebastian, Martyr
4:45 PM Benediction
5:00 PM Mass

Sunday, January 21:
Pro-Life Pancake Breakfast - After Masses  See p. 5 for details
8:00 AM Confessions
9:00 AM Mass
10:30 AM Blessing of Expectant Mothers
11:00 AM Mass
3:00 PM HFFHE Family Event  Nazareth House
5:00 PM Mass: Church of Saint Bede  See p. 4 for details

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Jan. 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Jerry † and Pat Morton</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue., Jan. 16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Fr. Alphonse M. Kubat †</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., Jan. 17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Msgr. Baumgaertner †</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu., Jan. 18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Msgr. Francis J. Fleming †</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Jan. 19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Kenneth Miller †</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Jan. 20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Harry Geraty †</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Jan. 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Msgr. Stanley J. Srnec †</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Jan. 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>For the Parish</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Intercessions**

Please pray for:

- John Browne, son of Tim & Colleen Browne:
- Fulton Burril, son of Katherine Burril:
- Carmelo, father of Daniela Malkasian:
- Tim G., John & Josephine Jacobs: Thomas McDermott:
- Jim Sicora, Judy Sicora, Lois Sicora, Bonnie Wall

† Connie Nerheim, mother of Norma Treco

Phyllis Turner, mother of Norma Treco

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 January 6-7, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plate</td>
<td>$1,885.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member Envelopes</td>
<td>$8,766.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Giving</td>
<td>$8,617.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Contributions</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19,268.56</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Second Collection:**

- The Care Fund $1,100.28

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!

Not ‘How much of my money will I give to God?’ but ‘How much of God’s money will I keep for myself?’ — John Wesley

**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.

**Parish News & Events: Flocknote**

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.

**Directory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Staff</td>
<td></td>
<td>952.929.0113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobbi Hanson</td>
<td>Parish Business Administrator</td>
<td>952.999.4888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Fink</td>
<td>Office &amp; Sacramental Records</td>
<td>952.929.0113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tricia Gawarecki</td>
<td>Office &amp; Background Checks</td>
<td>952.929.0113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Vos</td>
<td>Accountant</td>
<td>952.999.4889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trever Bergman</td>
<td>Facilities Manager</td>
<td>952.999.4885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Bearith</td>
<td>Comm. Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Lisa.Bearch@hfcmn.org">Lisa.Bearch@hfcmn.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrie Havlicek</td>
<td>Bulletin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:communications@hfcmn.org">communications@hfcmn.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Liturgy and Pastoral Staff**

- Deacon Jim Meyer: Sacramental Preparation 952.999.4822
- 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 lynneheeren5@gmail.com
- Mark McCarthy: Knights of Columbus GrandKnight@KofC3949.org
- Mary Anne von Dohlen: Home Educators (HFA) info@hfamn.org

**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
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: JANUARY 18-25, 2018

The theme for the 2018 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, "Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power," is taken from the book of Exodus 15:6. The resources for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the churches of the Caribbean by an ecumenical team of women and men under the leadership of His Grace Kenneth Richards, Catholic Archbishop of Kingston, the Antilles Episcopal Conference, together with Mr. Gerard Granado, General Secretary of the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC).

Throughout the Biblical narrative of salvation, an unmistakable motif is the unrelenting determination of the Lord to form a people whom He could call His own. The formation of such a people, united in a sacred covenant with God, is integral to the Lord's plan of salvation and to the glorification of His name. The prophets repeatedly remind Israel that their covenant demanded that relationships among its various social groups should be characterized by justice, compassion and mercy. Reconciliation often demands repentance, reparation and healing of memories.

As Jesus prepared to seal the new covenant in His own blood, His earnest prayer to the Father was that those given to Him by the Father would be one, just as He and the Father were one. When Christians discover their unity in Jesus, they participate in Christ's glorification in the presence of the Father, with the same glory that He had in the Father's presence before the world existed. Therefore, God's covenanted people must always strive to be a reconciled community that serves as an effective sign of how to live in justice and peace for all the people of the earth.

Today, the Bible continues to be a source of consolation and liberation, inspiring Christians to address the conditions that currently undermine the Body of Christ. The Church, like Israel, is called to be a sign and an active agent of reconciliation.

O God, your right hand is glorious in power. Extend your hand to help us discover new ways that unite your people in the Body of Christ, the Church. May the strength of your hand take away all misunderstanding and prejudice that hinder our calling to be one in body and spirit. Draw us together in the bond of peace, faith and charity that we may be one in Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. Amen.
REGISTRATION
Registration for the 2018-2019 school year has begun!
Please call the front office 952.925.9193 to enroll!
Pre-Kindergarten offerings will be the same as this year: every
day, M-W-F, or Tuesday and Thursday (1/2 or full day for each).
Tuition and other information about our classical curriculum is
available online. Please spread the word about Holy Family
Academy!

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
Saint Cecilia Academy for Strings
The St. Cecilia Academy for Strings, a program of Holy Family
Church, is a Catholic string orchestra for youth ages 12 to 18.
Unique in our archdiocese, the Academy rehearses weekly and
plays repertory from the great treasury of Sacred Music at Masses
and in concerts. Founder and Director Michal Sobieski, recently
retired from 35 years with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, leads
the ensemble and teaches techniques and specialties of chamber
music. For more information, call or email Scott Turkington,
952.999.4887, Scott.Turkington@hfcmn.org.

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
January 18th for the January 28th bulletin.

FINES ARTS PROGRAM NIGHT
Friday January 19th: Holy Family Academy will host an evening
of enlightenment with light desserts and sparkling beverage.
Both school families and parishioners are invited at 7:00 PM to
come to Kattar Hall and enjoy the fruits of our children. Be
delighted by: art from all ages; song from select groups; music
from our 2 strings programs and some brief announcements from
School Advisory Council. No RSVP needed!

MARCH FOR LIFE
On Jan. 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade and
Doe v. Bolton decisions legalized abortion on demand
nationwide. Each year, pro-life Minnesotans mark the anniversary
of Roe and Doe with the MCCL March for Life at the state
Capitol in St. Paul. The purpose of the March is to commemorate
the lives lost to abortion (and the women and men who have been
hurt as a result) and to call for renewed respect and protection for
all members of the human family, including unborn children and
their mothers. The 2018 MCCL March for Life will take place
on Monday, Jan. 22, beginning at 12:00 noon on the Capitol
Mall south of the Capitol building. It will be followed by a brief
program on the Capitol steps at 12:30. MCCL will introduce its
legislative agenda for the upcoming session during the program.
Many pro-life elected officials are expected to attend the March
and will be introduced to the crowd.

PRO-LIFE ACROSS AMERICA
Join Mary Ann Kuharski, or Pro Life Across America, on Friday,
January 26th, as she prays and recommitts herself to the pro-life
efforts that will end the horror of abortion and promote a “Culture
of Life”!
Fr. Spencer Howe will celebrate a memorial Mass, at
6:00 PM followed by social hour of refreshments and snacks, at
St. Charles Borromeo Church, Minneapolis.

MIRIAM DINNER
Tuesday, Feb. 6th, 6 – 8 PM, Church of the Holy Cross, 1621
University Avenue NE, Minneapolis - The Miriam Dinner, hosted
by Archbishop Bernard Hebda, is an event for women ages 16-35,
who are discerning consecrated life. It is typical for women
discerners to be accompanied by their Pastor, Consecrated
Religious, or Youth Minister. The evening begins with prayer,
followed by dinner with consecrated women sharing their vocation
stories. Register online before February 1st at
www.10000vocations.org. Questions? Call the Office of Vocations
at 651.962.6890 or email patty.mcquillan@stthomas.edu.

WOMEN’S DISCERNMENT RETREAT
Saturday, Feb. 17th, 8 AM - 3:30 PM, Maternity of Mary
Catholic Church, Saint Paul -Join us to gain a deeper
understanding of consecrated life! Bishop Andrew Cozzens will
celebrate Mass and speak on consecrated life. The retreat is for
single Catholic women, ages 16 to 35. The retreat day will include
consecrated women sharing their vocation stories, along with
many opportunities for discerning women to chat and ask
questions. Discover the steps of discernment, learn more about
yourself, and listen to God speak to your heart. Retreat fee is $20.
Scholarships are available, if needed. Register online by February
9 at www.10000vocations.org.

MILES CHRISTI RETREAT
Silent retreats for women based on the Spiritual Exercises of St.
Ignatius will be preached by priests from the Miles Christi
Religious Order on the weekends of March 9-11 and May 4-6 at
the Franciscan Retreat Center in Prior Lake. For more information
and to register, please contact Karen Hastreiter at 651.451.1132 or
minnesota@spiritualexercises.net.
MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

“You are not your own - You have been purchased at a price” (I Corinthians 6:20)

In today’s second reading, Saint Paul reminds us of our identity in the Mystical Body of Christ. Through the waters of baptism, we are joined to the Lord and to one another by a bond more profound than mere human relations. We are related to our families by human blood but to fellow Christians by the Blood of Christ!

Too often we look upon God as an imposition. We are supposed to make time in our busy schedules for daily prayer and Sunday Mass. We are “guilted” into helping with activities around the parish or contributing financially to the work of the Church. It all seems like a series of burdens placed upon us by an outsider. This feeling leads us to try to negotiate or evade these apparent “burdens”—but these are not outside demands!

The reality is that we are part of a beautiful spiritual entity known as the Mystical Body of Christ. Scripture tells us that Jesus is the Head and we are the members. Does the heart feel resentment that it has to pump blood because the brain needs oxygen? Does the left foot begrudge a shoe for the right foot? Do our ears complain that the eyes need light? The list could go on interminably and every example would be just as absurd! The human body is an integrated whole and all the parts need each other in order to function smoothly.

The Mystical Body of Christ creates a unity in which we can all share in the blessings of Christ the Head. We receive the new life of grace through His Resurrection. The sacraments transmit this life in Christ to us and promise us eternal life. Along with these newfound dignities come responsibilities: to nourish our souls by prayer, to conduct our bodies in a moral way according to the Commandments, and to commit ourselves to the work of Christ in bringing His salvation to the world.

“How am I a steward of the life of Christ in me?

The way we spend our time, talent, and treasure is the concrete expression of how we give meaning to our lives. Giving God spare time and spare change doesn’t express a mature understanding of my life as a member of the Mystical Body of Christ. God doesn’t need anything from us. We need to give God our best as a sign that we want to live this union of love established by Christ’s gift of His life on the Cross.

Biblical references to stewardship:

“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.

“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.

“Firstfruits”—the opposite of leftovers! We are supposed to honor God first before we spend time/money on ourselves.

If you give your heart fully to Jesus, then your pastor will never have to beg for your time or your money. Out of gratitude you will naturally seek ways to serve and give more generously. Jesus showed us sacrificial love. Am I showing Him sacrificial love in the way I use my time, talents, and treasure? Do I radiate the life and love of Christ in my life through the everyday choices I make?

In the coming month, 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.

Holy Family Catholic Church—my spiritual family: Disciples of Jesus seeking personal spiritual maturity and taking responsibility for the Church’s mission