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 We Three Kings  J. H. Hopkins
   As with Gladness Men of Old  19th c. German
11:00 Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light  17th c. German

Introit (9:00)
Gregorian chant, mode II
Ecce advent Dominar Dominus: et regnum in manu eius, et potestas, et imperium.
Ps. Deus, iudicium tuum regi da: et iustitiam tuam filio regis.
Behold, the Sovereign Lord is coming; kingship, government and power are in his hands. V. Endow the King with your judgment, O God, and the King’s son with your righteousness.  
Cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12; Ps 72:1, 10, 11

Processional Hymn
Collegeville Hymnal
211 The First Nowell

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
Celebrant: Brethren, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
R. 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

The Liturgy of the Word
Lumen Christi Missal - Page 77

First Reading
Isaiah 60:1-6

Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Cantor, then all; thereafter: all  S. Turkington
R. Lord, ey-ery na-tion on earth will a-dore you.
SECOND READING  Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION  Cantor, then all; thereafter: all

GOSPEL  Matthew 2:1-12

Deacon:  The Lord be with you.

℟:  And with your spirit.

Deacon:  A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

℟:  Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the Gospel:


℟:  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

℟:  Lord, hear our prayer.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY HYMN  (5:00)  Collegeville Hymnal
229  As With Gladness Men of Old

DIX

OFFERTORY CHANT  (9:00)  Gregorian chant, mode V
Reges Tharsis, et insulae munera offerent: reges Arabum et Saba dona adducunt: et adorabunt eum omnes reges terrae, omnes gentes servient ei.
The kings of Tarshish and the islands shall offer presents; the kings of the Arabians and of Sheba shall bring gifts; all the kings of the earth shall adore him, all nations shall serve him.  Ps 72:10, 11

OFFERTORY MOTETS
9:00  Ding, dong, merrily on high!  16th c. French
11:00  As with Gladness Men of Old  19th c. German

INVITATION TO PRAYER

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

℟:  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.

℟:  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 IV
Vidimus stellam eius in Oriente, et venimus cum munieribus adorare Dominum.
We have seen his star in the East, and we have come with our gifts, to worship the Lord.  Cf. Mt 2:2
**COMMUNION MOTET** (9:00 & 11:00)
*What Child is this?*  16th c. English

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

**CLOSING HYMN**  Collegeville Hymnal
*231 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*  SALZBURG

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**TODAY AT HOLY FAMILY**

**EPHESUS HOUSE BLESSING**

Items needed: chalk and a small bottle of holy water. Gather with family members, friends, and neighbors at the front door.

*Leader:* In the (+) name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us pray: *Christus mansionem benedicat.* May Christ bless this house, Amen. With chalk we sign this doorway, along with four crosses of the seasons and the numerals of the new year.

\[20 + C + M + B + 18\]

*Leader:* A reading from the Letter to the Galatians. So then, while there is time, let us do good for all people, especially those who are of the household of faith. The Word of the Lord.

*Each room is sprinkled with holy water; after each prayer, all respond:* Bless this room, O Lord. Amen.

**Living room:**
Bring us to live with you one day in heaven.

**Kitchen:**
You prepare for us a heavenly banquet.

**Dining room:**
Feed us at your celestial feast.

**Bedrooms:**
In you alone we rest peacefully.

**Bathroom:**
Cleanse us from all uncleanliness.

*All return to the front door to pray together the Lord’s Prayer.*

*All are sprinkled with holy water.*

Bless this household through all days to come, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

**FOOD DRIVE SUNDAY**

Donations will go to the St. Louis Park Emergency Program (STEP) which strengthens our community by responding to the basic emergency needs of individuals and families in St. Louis Park.

**TREE OF LIFE: LAST OPPORTUNITY!**

Please remember to drop off any remaining Tree of Life gifts today, Sunday, January 7th in the vestibule.

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**WEEDINGS**

*Please pray for*

**Mark Korf & Christen Bowell, Banns II**

as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage.

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**HOLY FAMILY CALENDAR**

**Sunday, January 7:**

9:00 AM Mass  **Food Drive Sunday**
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

**Monday, January 8:**

8:00 AM Mass
8:30 AM Exercise Class  Fr. Wilkins Room
After Mass: Christmas Decorations Clean-Up  See p. 5 for details
3:00 PM Widows and Widowers Holy Hour  Adoration Chapel
5:00 PM Mass: Church of Saint Bede  See p. 4 for details
6:00 PM Young Family Potluck  See p. 5 for details
6:30 PM Respect Life Meeting  Saint Joseph Room
7:00 PM Squires Monthly Meeting  Fr. Wilkins Room

**Tuesday, January 9**

8:00 AM Mass
9:00 AM Weekly Scripture Study  Fr. Wilkins Room

**Cancelled**

**Goodtimers 500 Club**
4:00 PM NET Retreat for Teens  See p. 5 for details
5:30 PM Mass: Church of Saint Bede  See p. 4 for details
6:30 PM HFHE Monthly Meeting  Fr. Moorman Hall
7:00 PM Altar & Rosary Meeting  HFA - Library
7:00 PM Young Adults Meeting  Nazareth House
7:00 PM Neocatechumenal Way  Fr. Wilkins Room

**Wednesday, January 10**

8:00 AM Mass
After Mass: Coffee & Rolls  Fr. Moorman Hall
9:00 AM Children’s Eucharistic Adoration  Adoration Chapel
9:30 AM Pester the Pastor
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 11**

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 12**

8:00 AM Mass
After Mass: Divine Mercy Chaplet & Benediction  Church

**Saturday, January 13:**

4:45 PM Benediction  **SAINT HILARY, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**
5:00 PM Mass
6:15 PM Friendship Club Meeting  Fr. Moorman Hall

**Sunday, January 14:**

9:00 AM Mass  **2nd Sunday**
11:00 AM Mass
12:30 PM Vocations Committee Meeting  See p. 5 for details
3:00 PM Youth Group  Nazareth House
5:30 PM Mass: Church of Saint Bede  See p. 4 for details

Please refer to page 1 for our schedule of Confessions.
MASS INTENTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Jan. 8th</td>
<td>Mary Flynn †</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue., Jan. 9th</td>
<td>Msgr. Francis J. Fleming †</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., Jan. 10th</td>
<td>Donald Turkington †</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu., Jan. 11th</td>
<td>Msgr. Francis J. Fleming †</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Jan. 12th</td>
<td>Fr. James Stark Stromberg †</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Jan. 13th</td>
<td>Arlene Sieve †</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Jan. 14th</td>
<td>Joseph McDaniels †</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For the Parish</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INTERCESSIONS

Please pray for:

All parishioners and their loved ones

+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

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

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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER 24-25, 2017

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

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 button at hfamn.org.

For this week’s daily readings, please visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings
**Here at Holy Family**

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

**YOUNG FAMILY POTLUCK**  
Any Holy Family families with young children are welcome to bring a dish to share for this year’s third potluck this **Monday, January 8th** from 6 to 8 PM in Kattar Hall at HFA. The potluck is intended to help young families from the parish to meet and develop friendships. Please call Martha Cashman at 715.441.4176 with any questions.

**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 Deacon Kattar Hall at HFA for some fun, skits, talks, pizza, small groups, and time for prayer. Bring a friend. Leave refreshed! $5 to help cover food costs. RSVP to Elizabeth.brown@hfcmn.org.

**ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY JANUARY MEETING**  
The Altar and Rosary Society is having its monthly meeting for January this **Tuesday, January 9th** at 7 PM in the Fr. Wilkins Room. Every woman of the parish is a member of the Altar and Rosary Society. Please plan to come to find out how to become involved with all the important ministries we provide that support the altar and sacristy needs at Holy Family. We will be doing a white elephant gift exchange, so please bring a used, wrapped gift to the meeting. Any questions can be directed to Lynn Heeren at 952.974.5270 or lynnheeren5@gmail.com.

**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!

**SAVE THE DATE! HOLY FAMILY BLOOD DRIVE**  
The next Holy Family Blood Drive takes place on **Monday, February 26th**. Stay tuned for 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.

**TRAVELING VOCATIONS CHALICE**  
We welcome more families to sign up for the traveling chalice to pray for vocations in their homes! Once a family signs up to pray for one week, they are entered into the scheduling rotation; they will be asked every few months to take the chalice home after the 9 AM Mass, pray for vocations in their homes, and then return it before the 9 AM Mass the following Sunday. Thank you for praying for vocations!

- **January 7th**: The John and Margaret Berns family  
- **January 14th**: The Tim and Lynn Heeren family  
- **January 21st**: The Dan and Jennifer Tomashko family  
- **January 28th**: The Dave and Kathy Rennie family

If your family would like to participate in this important program, please contact Phyllis Galerneult (to sign up or with questions) at thegconnec@aol.com or at 612.702.3735 (call or text).

**THIS FALL: A TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND!**  
Registration has just opened for our pastor Fr. Joseph’s pilgrimage to the Holy Land. **September 30 - October 12, 2018.** Twelve grace-filled days of Scripture study and prayer! Save the dates and sign up soon as there is a limited number of places available. Total cost including airfare, all taxes, and tips: $4,629. Stop by the office for a brochure or contact Consolidated Travel for more information: tel. 404.767.2727 or email info@ctoinc.com.

**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!

**Knights of Columbus**

**PRO-LIFE PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
The local Knights council of Holy Family will be hosting a delicious pancake breakfast on **Sunday, January 21st**, with proceeds from the free will donations to be used by the Knights for pro-life purposes. Come downstairs to Fr. Moorman hall after Mass, and leave the cooking to us!
2018-19 REGISTRATION
Registration for the 2018-2019 school year will take place the week of January 8th - 12th for all current families. A link will be sent to each family tomorrow. January 8th, 2018. The re-enrollment is important to ensure there is a place for your child(ren) in the classroom.

Registration for new families will start on January 12th.
A link will be made available on our website on that day (and sent by email to families who have specifically requested it through the school office).

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). 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.

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 Youth Choir
The Parish Youth Choir is a growing and vital group of young singers, aged 7 through 18. If you or your child would like to try us out, come to a Wednesday rehearsal, 3:30 to 4:45, and see how much fun it is (come at 3:00 pm for snacks)! The Youth Choir rehearses every Wednesday and sings for the 11:00 am Mass approximately every three weeks. Special concerts and social activities are a regular part of the year's schedule. Tuition is $25.00 per student per semester (fall and spring), with a $60.00 family maximum per semester. For more information, call or email Scott Turkington, 952.999.4887, Scott.Turkington@hfcnn.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

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.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER
“Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands.”

As we begin the waiting of advent, let us strive to become the work of his hands by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Feb. 9 - 11 and May 4 - 6 in Buffalo, MN. For more information, call Brent & Tracy Chessen at 612.756.8720 or visit them at twincitieswwme.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@hfcnn.org by January 11th for the January 21st bulletin.
MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

EPIPHANY: The three kings brought precious gifts to the Baby Jesus — What about me? Thinking about “Stewardship” for 2018

A new year can sometimes bring a new perspective on life. Many people make New Year’s resolutions as they examine their lives and find areas where they seek improvement. How can we make this a spiritually useful exercise?

“Stewardship” is the lens by which we see life not as “MY life” but as “God’s gift.” We often see how someone else’s life is God’s gift. We experience this powerfully at particular times - for example, upon the arrival of a newborn child or at the departure of a cherished grandparent who died. What about my own life? I did not create myself! My life is a gift from God. Stewardship recognizes that I have a responsibility for using the gift of my life in accordance with God’s plan.

Gratitude is the key to this new perspective on life. The word “Eucharist” means “thanksgiving” and every Mass is a communal act of giving thanks to God. Every time we receive Holy Communion, we should do so with grateful hearts. In fact, the Church urges us to make individual acts of thanksgiving at each Mass — which is why we provide a moment of silence after Holy Communion.

Everything we have comes as a gift from God. Christmas is the time we especially remember the poverty of our sinful world to which 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

Christmas 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 a renewed effort to grow closer to Christ and serve Him more wholeheartedly the most important resolution I have for 2018?

The way we spend our time, talent, and treasure is the concrete expression of how we prioritize our lives. 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.

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.

Spare time and spare change won’t build the Kingdom of God on earth! At this feast of the Epiphany, we remember the three kings who went far out of their way to seek the Baby Jesus. They brought Him costly gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What sacrifices do I make to seek and serve the King of Kings?

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 resemble the good and faithful steward in the Scriptures who was commended and promised an eternal reward?

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