Welcome to Holy Family! For those who have impaired mobility, reserved seating is available in the front pew and at the cross aisle. An accessible restroom is located next to the adoration chapel. The main restrooms are on the lower level located next to an area for restless children. For those with a gluten intolerance, please stop by the sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive the Precious Blood. Please speak to an usher if you have any questions or need assistance.

INTROIT (9:00) Gregorian chant, mode II
Come, let us worship God and bow down before the Lord; let us shed tears before the Lord who made us; for he is the Lord our God. v. Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise unto God our Savior.
Ps 95:6, 7, & 1

PROCESSIONAL HYMN St. Michael Hymnal
562 Holy, Holy, Holy

GREETING Lumen Christi Missal - NICAEA
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 Lumen Christi Missal - Page 372
Deacon: Lord, have mercy.
℟. Lord, have mercy.
Deacon: Christ, have mercy.
℟. Christ, have mercy.
Deacon: Lord, have mercy.
℟. Lord, have mercy.

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

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Lumen Christi Missal - Page 372
Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Lumen Christi Missal
Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8
In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 15:1-11

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Lumen Christi Missal
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.
GOSPEL

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

'}}> And with your spirit.


}}} Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the Gospel:


}}} Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

}}} Lord, hear our prayer.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY HYMN (5:00) St. Michael Hymnal

635 My Song Is Love Unknown

OFFERTORY MOTETS

9:00 Laudate nomen Domini C. Tye

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

11:00 A Saving Victim (O salutaris Hostia) Z. Wadsworth

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

Perfice gressus meos in semitis tuis, ut non moveantur vestigia mea: inclina aurem tuam, et exaudi verba mea: mirifica misericordias tuas, qui salvos facis sperantes in te, Domine.

Render secure my footsteps in your paths so that my feet do not slip; incline your ear and hear my words; display your wonderful mercies, O Lord, Savior of those who place their hope in you.

Ps 17:5, 6, 7

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 II - Pew Missal, p. 845

MYSTERY OF FAITH

}}} We pro-claim your death, O Lord, and pro-fess your Res-ur-rec-tion un-til you come a-gain.

GREAT AMEN

}}} A - men, a - men.

SIGN OF PEACE

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

}}} And with your spirit.

AGNUS DEI Mass Setting II - Pew Missal, p. 845

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

Introibo ad altare Dei, ad Deum qui latificat juventutem meam.

I will go in to the altar of God, to the God who gives joy to my youth.

Ps 43:4

COMMUNION MOTETS

9:00 Be Thou My Vision arr. T. Marier | Trad. Irish

11:00 Ave verum F. Lizst

Hail true Body, born of the Virgin Mary; who truly suffered, immolated upon the Cross for mankind, from whose pierced side flowed water and blood; may we taste thee before we enter the trial of death. O sweet, O faithful, O Jesus, Son of Mary, have mercy upon me.

Trope to the Sanctus, 14th c.

SECOND COLLECTION The Care Fund

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

CLOSING HYMN St. Michael Hymnal

578 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Following the closing hymn, together we pray a “Hail Mary” for whichever parishioner is the next to be called home to the Lord. In light of the current crisis in the Church, we also pray the “St. Michael Prayer” as found on pg. 1085 of the red Lumen Christi Missal.

Excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. (I.C.E.L.). All rights reserved.
**TODAY AT HOLY FAMILY**

**RAFFLE TICKETS**
Holy Family Academy students will be available after all Masses selling raffle tickets for the Catholic United Financial raffle. Tickets are $5 each and 100% of profits go to Holy Family Academy. See p.5 for more details.

**DONUT SUNDAY**
Following the 9 & 11 AM Masses, come downstairs to Fr. Moorman Hall for donuts, hosted by the Holy Family Academy parents and 5th grade students.

**“SMALL GROUP” INITIATIVE FOR LENT**
Stop downstairs after 9 AM & 11 AM Masses today to learn more and get involved! See p.7 for details.

**YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY GOSPEL DISCUSSION**
The Young Adults Gospel Discussion group meets weekly to talk about the Sunday Gospel following the 9 AM Mass in the Nazareth House, 3144 Zarthan Avenue. No preparation or RSVP is required for this casual discussion. Please contact Mary Fink 763.307.3947 or mary.stlucy@gmail.com with any questions.

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE**
The committee had a busy meeting last Monday evening and worked hard to not let last week’s weather cancellation push our timeline back. We are moving quickly try to make this exciting dream for our parish’s future into a reality we can all enjoy as soon as possible!

There was considerable energy invested in creating a timeline that is fast but reasonable. We scheduled a number of house gatherings and town hall meetings for parishioners similar to the brainstorming meetings we hosted last Lent. These meetings will offer a fuller presentation of the vision for the new facility and allow for questions and answers.

Among the other items discussed, the committee approved a logo and took steps to create the necessary marketing materials. There will be several mailings over the next three months designed to keep everyone informed about the need for this project and invite participation by all members of our community.

“If the Lord does not build it, in vain do the builders labor...”

---

**HOLY FAMILY CALENDAR**

**Sunday, Feb. 10**
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- **Donut Sunday**
  - 8:00 AM Confessions
  - 9:00 AM Mass
  - 10:00 AM Young Adult Gospel Discussion
  - 11:00 AM Mass
  - 5:00 PM Mass: Church of Saint Bede

**Monday, Feb. 11**
Our Lady of Lourdes

- 8:00 AM Mass
- 8:45 AM Exercise Class
- 3:00 PM Widows & Widowers Holy Hour
- 7:00 PM Squires Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, Feb. 12**
- 7:30 AM Confessions
- 8:00 AM Mass
- 9:00 AM Scripture Study
- 10:30 AM Good-Timers
- 3:30 PM Youth Choir
- 6:00 PM Young Family Potluck
- 7:00 PM Neocatechumenal Way

**Wednesday, Feb. 13**
- 7:30 AM Confessions
- 8:00 AM Mass
- 8:30 AM Donut Wednesday
- 9:00 AM Children’s Eucharistic Adoration
- 6:30 PM Religious Ed
- 6:30 PM Confirmation
- 6:30 PM Youth Enrichment:YOU Program

**Thursday, Feb. 14**
St. Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bishop

- 7:30 AM Confessions
- 8:00 AM Mass
- 8:30 AM Valentine’s Senior Breakfast
- 1:00 PM Merciful Love Prayer Group
- 3:30 PM Youth Choir
- 7:00 PM RCIA
- 7:00 PM Parish Choir

**Friday, Feb. 15**
- 7:30 AM Confessions
- 8:00 AM Mass
- After Mass Chaplet of Divine Mercy

**Saturday, Feb. 16**
- 3:30 AM Confessions
- 4:45 PM Benediction
- 5:00 PM Mass

**Sunday, Feb. 17**
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00 AM Confessions
- 9:00 AM Mass
- 10:00 AM Young Adult Gospel Discussion
- 10:30 AM Blessing for Expectant Mothers
- 11:00 AM Mass
- 5:00 PM Mass: Church of Saint Bede

*For this week’s daily readings, please visit [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings)*
To request prayers, go to www.hfcmn.org/prayer-requests, or call the parish office 952.929.0113. Submitted prayer intentions will be shared via “Prayer Partners” Flocknote messages, and the bulletin for one week per request.

**SUNDAY STEWARDSHIP**

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 2-3, 2019**

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<tr>
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<td><strong>Total Contributions</strong></td>
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**SECOND COLLECTION:**

| CARE Fund | $ 1,165.23 |

Next week’s Second Collection will benefit: 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” with special intention on memo line; the church then is able to write one check to the organization.

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:21)*

**CHURCH OF SAINT BEDE THE VENERABLE**

**Sunday Mass:** 5:00 PM

*The St. Bede weekday Masses has been discontinued.*

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 their webpage: www.thevenerablebede.org or www.facebook.com/thevenerablebede mn for more information.

**DIRECTORY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position / Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
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<tr>
<td>Tricia Gawarecki</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ken Varble</td>
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<td>Trever Bergman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Bearth</td>
<td>Comm. Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Lisa.Bearth@hfcmn.org">Lisa.Bearth@hfcmn.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carrie Havlicek</td>
<td>Bulletin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:communications@hfcmn.org">communications@hfcmn.org</a></td>
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**Liturgy and Pastoral Staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deacon Jim Meyer</td>
<td>Sacramental Preparation</td>
<td>952.999.4881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Pero</td>
<td>Liturgy &amp; Pastoral Ministry</td>
<td>952.999.4890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Turkington</td>
<td>Director of Sacred Music</td>
<td>952.999.4887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atsuko Schlough</td>
<td>Associate Organist</td>
<td>952.999.4887</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Faith Formation Staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Hartnett</td>
<td>Director of Faith Formation</td>
<td>952.999.4822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Brown</td>
<td>Confirmation Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Elizabeth.Brown@hfcmn.org">Elizabeth.Brown@hfcmn.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please see the parish website www.hfcmn.org for contact information for all Apostolates. If you or someone you know is in need of emergency assistance, please contact:

**STEP - Emergency Program: 952.925.4899**

**EUCARISTIC ADORATION**

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. 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:*

- Tuesdays 2-3 PM, 3-4 PM
- Wednesdays 1-2 PM
- Thursdays 2-3 PM 4-5 PM
- Urgently...Fridays 4-5 AM

**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.
HERE AT HOLY FAMILY

Young Family Potluck
Any parish or Holy Family Academy family with young children is invited to a potluck on Tuesday, February 12th! Please bring a dish to share. We meet from 6:30-8 PM in Kattar Hall (lower level of the school). Please call Martha Cashman at 715.441.4176 with any questions.

Blessing for Expectant Mothers
All expectant mothers are invited to receive a special blessing on the third Sunday of each month. The next one will be Sunday, February 17th, at 10:30 AM in front of the communion rail (families are welcome too!).

Solennity and Feast Day Altar Flowers Sponsorship
Please help enhance the beauty of our worship by sponsoring one or more floral arrangements ($50-$150 per arrangement) for upcoming solemnities and feasts. This is a great way to honor or remember loved ones or patron saints or to give a gift to our Lord! To sign up and donate, go to www.hfcmn.org, hover over the Get Involved tab and select Sponsor Altar Flowers. If you have questions, please contact Sharon Pero 952.999.4890 or Sharon.Pero@hfcmn.org.

Holy Family Blood Drive
Monday, February 25th, 2–6 PM in Father Moorman Hall. Call Sarah at 651.332.7164 to sign up or schedule your appointment online at www.mbc.org/searchdrives and enter sponsor code 0183.

Weddings
Please pray for
David Pederson & Rachel Logan, Banns III
as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Sign up for Easier Electronic Giving!
Thank you for your generosity! Holy Family is moving from their previous online giving system, VANCO, to a more user-friendly online giving system, eCatholic. Please follow the directions at www.hfcmn.org/news/new-giving-system to either transition your recurring online giving from VANCO to eCatholic or if you’d like to sign up to give online for the first time. We want to have all members who are currently donating transitioned to the new system smoothly. Questions? Please contact Parish Accountant, Ken Varble (952.999.4889 or Ken.Varble@hfcmn.org). Thank you!

Bulletins Submissions
Please submit in writing to communications@hfcmn.org by February 14th for the February 24th bulletin. Contact Carrie with any questions at carrie.havlicek@hfcmn.org or 952.999.4892.

HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY

Raffle Tickets for a Win-Win!
Holy Family Academy has been selected to take part in the Catholic Financial United raffle this year! All prizes and materials for the raffle are donated by Catholic United Financial which means that for every ticket we sell, Holy Family Academy gets to keep 100% of the profits while you could win great prizes, a win-win! Tickets are only $5 each and the prizes include: a 2019 Chevy Trax SUV or $20,000 cash, a Dream Vacation Package, Apple iPads, Samsung Smart TVs, Valley Fair Tickets, Twin Cities Weekend Getaways and more! We will be selling raffle tickets in the back of church after all weekend Masses throughout February-February 24th is our last day. Drawing happens on March 5th. Thank you for supporting HFA!

Dine out for Schools!
Holy Family Academy will receive 5% of sales from Parkway Pizza, all day on Tuesday, February 12th! Parkway Pizza is located at the corner of Dakota Avenue & Minnetonka Blvd. Enjoy!

Catholic Schools Week

Academic Fair
Sixth graders, Hope Counts and Catherine Haney (pictured right) proudly share their research of these historic events in time.

Sock Hop
Parents and students came dressed in their 50’s attire and had great fun dancing and hula hooping!

Roller Garden
Our Kindergarten through 8th grade celebrated at the roller garden on Monday this past week. They “skated” their way there and back! Pictured below is the graduating Class of 2019!

WEDDINGS

Please pray for
David Pederson & Rachel Logan, Banns III
as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage.
STEWARDSHIP CORNER

MAILING COMMITTEE
The Mailing Committee is a group of disciples who come together a few times per year to assist with large church mailings. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow parishioners while folding, stuffing, sealing and stamping! Coffee and donuts are part of this group’s tradition! Please contact the office if you would like to be a part of the Mailing Committee at 952.929.0113 or staff@hfcmn.org.

FORMED.ORG

FORMED: CHOSEN
Parishioners, gain free access to Catholic movies, books, audio recordings and more, by registering at www.formed.org!

Enjoy a rare glimpse at a love story, the prayerful life and discernment of a young woman into a cloistered order. To view “Chosen” on www.formed.org, hover over the “Watch” tab, choose “Documentaries” from the dropdown, and select it from the “Men and Women of Faith” section.

ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY

ADORATION AND MAIN ALTAR LINEN HELP NEEDED
The Altar and Rosary Society cares for the liturgical needs of our church and sanctuary. In other words, we help things run smoothly and make those special touches that make our church look particularly beautiful! We currently need help with the washing and ironing of linens (training provided!). If you can help, or have any questions please call Mary Barron at 952.405.9737 or email kbarron1313@yahoo.com.

Task: Adoration Chapel Altar Cloths
Time commitment: 15 min - 1 hour per week as needed
Description: Every week, check and launder adoration cloths as needed. Work with the cloths while the Blessed Sacrament (in the monstrance) is displayed on the main altar in church:
Weekdays: 7 AM - 8:30 AM
Saturdays: 3:30 PM - 6 PM
Sundays: 8 AM - 12:30 PM
or Easter & Christmas while the Adoration Chapel is closed.

Task: Main Altar Cloths
Time Commitment: 15 min - 2 hours per week
Description: Check, change and launder altar cloths weekly. High altar, main altar, purification table cloths and 3 corporals. Work needs to be done during church hours in case the key is needed to get into the sacristy to use the Sacrarium sink. Office Hours, Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4:30 PM.

VOCATIONS

TRAVELING VOCATIONS CHALICE
We welcome more families to sign up for the traveling chalice and to pray for vocations in their homes for one week. The chalice with the prayers are exchanged at church on Sunday in the Sacristy. Please contact Phyllis with questions 612.702.3735 or email thegconnec@aol.com to sign up. Thank you for praying for vocations!

Exchange at 9 AM Mass
- February 10th — Vince & Linda Fahnlander Family
- February 17th — Greg & Claire Roden Family
- February 24th — Matt & Jennifer Kistler family

ST. JOHN VIANNEY COLLEGE SEMINARY VISIT
February 14–16, St. John Vianney College Seminary, St. Paul
The “Vianney Visit” provides high school sophomores through college age men (ages 16–24) the opportunity to take a closer look and experience college seminary. Attend Mass, prayer and spiritual conferences with SJV priests and hear testimonies from SJV seminarians. There is no charge for the event. All meals are provided. If interested, there are two steps to register. First, please contact Father David Blume, Director of Vocations, know of your plan to attend the Vianney Visit at 651.962.6890 or fill out enquiry form at www.10000vocations.org/vianney-visit. And, secondly, complete the registration, by calling 651.358.3335 or by completing the form here: https://semssp.org/registration-sjv/.

OPERATION ANDREW DINNER
Thursday, March 7, 6–8 PM, Archdiocesan Catholic Center 777 Forest Street, St. Paul. Archbishop Bernard Hebda and Father David Blume, Director of Vocations, invite men discerning the priesthood, ages 16–50, to dinner and conversation with vocations testimonials on priesthood and religious life. It is typical for a pastor, religious or youth minister to accompany each discerning guest. Priests, Religious and guests are asked to register before March 4 online at www.10000vocations.org. Questions? Email stpaulvocations@10000vocations.org or call 651.962.6890.

MIRIAM DINNER
Tuesday, March 12, 6–8 PM, Holy Cross Catholic Church 1621 University Avenue NE, Minneapolis. Archbishop Bernard Hebda and Father David Blume, Director of Vocations, invite women, ages 16–35, who are discerning consecrated life to join us for a Miriam Dinner. Come for an evening of prayer and dinner with consecrated women sharing their vocation testimonies. It is typical for guests to be accompanied by their pastor, consecrated religious, or youth minister. Please RSVP before March 8 at www.10000vocations.org

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

WINE: CATHOLIC WOMEN’S CONFERENCE
Saturday, March 2, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Brooklyn Park
WINE: Women In the New Evangelization invites you to the 5th annual Catholic Women’s Conference with an optional evening gathering on Friday. The Saturday conference runs from 9:30 AM-3:30 PM. The day includes inspirational talks by Catholic singer and storyteller ValLimar Jansen; Catholic evangelist, author, and retreat leader, Kathleen Beckman; and St. Paul’s own Bible teacher, author and singer, Elizabeth Kelly. Come for 8 AM Mass celebrated by Bishop Andrew Cozzens. Register today at the early bird price of $35 or register for the Friday Social Gathering & Saturday Conference for $100. For more information and to register, visit WINEconference.org.

YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 18-39)

INDOOR SPORTS & GAMES NIGHT
Join us for the weekly West Metro Young Adults Sport’s Night. Friday, February 15th at 7 PM at St. Gabriel’s, St. John’s Campus, 6 Interlachen Rd, Hopkins, in the gym. Basketball, volleyball, dodgeball, great fun! Check out our page for more events https://www.facebook.com/westmetroya.
**Making connections in Christ**

Do we just pop into church for sacraments and not invest in becoming a spiritual family? Does anyone think that Jesus intended His disciples to be strangers to one another? Does anyone think that Jesus is pleased with anything less than the original description of the early Christian community: “see how they love another”?

What can each one of us do to create a greater sense of being “brothers and sisters in Christ”?

Some examples:

--- Become a greeter to foster a sense of welcome. (Call the office to sign up!)
--- Stop being “too busy” to come downstairs for coffee and donuts! Sunday is the Lord’s Day, after all.
--- Sign up to serve coffee and donuts. (We’d love to have hospitality every Sunday but find it difficult to even do twice per month.)
--- Make attending parish events and activities a top priority.
--- Sign up for your Flocknote region to hear about offerings in your own neighborhood—and maybe even organize a local activity!
--- Listen to Fr. Joseph’s homily from February 4th on our website to get a fuller idea of what this initiative is all about.

**“Small Group” initiative for Lent**

The family is the basic building block of society. The parish is the basic building block of the Church. What makes a parish of 700 households a community rather than simply a group of strangers praying at the same time under the same roof? We need some building blocks of small groups where people can get to know one another, develop friendships based on Christ, and encourage one another in discipleship.

For Lent, Fr. Joseph has asked that everyone in the parish engage in this small group initiative. If you already belong to a monthly Bible study or Mom’s group, then maybe just schedule it weekly for Lent and be more intentional about relating to one another and not just the topic being discussed. Along with deepening your prayer life, this is the key to enriching your experience of Christian life! It also helps to fulfill the mandate of Jesus: “This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you!” (John 15:12).

If you aren’t yet in a small group, then now is the time and we are here to help with the mechanics of creating small groups. It is sometimes difficult to meet new people. We need to remember that we all have far more in common with one another than we usually recognize: our faith in Jesus Christ! We need to connect with one another as fellow disciples and discover how God blesses us with each other’s presence. Each person in this congregation is a gift!!!

There is nothing magical about a special time to meet or particular topic to study. In fact, the group could start with something as simple as praying the rosary and then have social time—perfect for families with small children running around! The size should stay small in order to foster getting to know one another—ideally a maximum of 8-12 people but even better around 6 people. Again, there is no magic number but there needs to be plenty of opportunity to get to know one another which becomes harder as groups get larger.

**How to organize your group:**

--- by a prayer time (e.g. Monday evening Rosary at Mr. Smith’s house or Friday Divine Mercy chaplet at Mrs. Jones’ house, etc.)
--- by a topic to be studied (Bible study, a particular video series on Formed.org, etc.)
--- by a shared state in life (e.g. Men’s group, Women’s group, Couples group, Young Moms group, Young Dads group, etc.)
--- by neighborhood (start with Flocknote regions to help connect with other parishioners in your area)

**Some basics:**

Small groups work best based in the relaxed setting of a home. Sometimes members alternate who hosts each week. No one needs to prepare lavish refreshments. Groups can be either “closed”—meaning you invited a few other parishioners and don’t have room for more members—or “open”—meaning you welcome others whom you may not yet know but who are interested in your topic or live in your area, etc. Personal invitation is the most effective way to recruit members to your group—which doesn’t preclude reaching out to someone you see at church but don’t yet know.

**Group leader:**

The group leader doesn’t have to be a trained catechist or Type A personality—he or she just needs to have a welcoming heart and a willingness to do some very basic logistics! If you are interested in coordinating the creation of a small group, please contact the parish office. We will also provide some training for group leaders who desire more information about the nuts and bolts of best practices.

**Small groups related to parish events to help you get started**

If organizing your own small group seems too intimidating or one of these times seems more attractive, we are providing a few options here at church for the creation of small groups during Lent.

--- Tuesday evenings (7-8:30pm): John Hartnett will present a lecture series “Living the virtues & losing the vices”. Each presentation will take 20-30 minutes and be followed by small group discussion for an hour.
--- Wednesday evenings (6:45-7:45pm): Perfect for parents dropping your kids off for religious education or confirmation preparation!
--- Friday evenings (7:45-8:45pm) Instead of a lecture series following Stations of the Cross, we will offer time for small groups to reflect on the upcoming Sunday’s Gospel and have discussion questions.

**Stop downstairs after Sunday 9am & 11am Masses this weekend and February 24th so we can assist you!**

For more information or questions contact Linda Wandrei at boysnlinda@msn.com or 952.926.8087 or call the parish office 952.929.0113.

“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)
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