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 IV
Esto mihi in Deum protectorum, et in locum refugii, ut salvum me facias: quoniam firmamentum meum, et refugium meum es tu: et propter nomen tuum dux mihi eris, et enutries me. Ps. In te Domine speravi, non confundar in aeternum: in iustitia tua libera me. Be unto me a protecting God and a house of refuge, to save me; for you are my support and my refuge; and for the sake of your name you will lead me and nourish me. In you, O Lord, do I trust; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. Ps 31:3, 4, & 2

PROCESSIONAL HYMN St. Michael Hymnal
689 O Worship the King

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
Deacon: Lord, have mercy.  Lord, have mercy.
Deacon: Christ, have mercy.  Lord, have mercy.
Deacon: Lord, have mercy.

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

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD
Lumen Christi Missal - Page 383

FIRST READING Jeremiah 17:5-8

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6
Cantor, then all; thereafter: all
Bless-ed are they who hope in the Lord.

SECOND READING I Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Lumen Christi Missal
Cantor, then all; thereafter: all
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.
GOSPEL

Luke 6:17, 20-26

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
656 O Food of Travelers

EISENACH

OFFERTORY MOTETS

9:00 Psalm 150 C. V. Stanford

11:00 Locus iste A. Bruckner

This place was made by God, a priceless mystery; it is without reproach.

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

Benedictus es Domine, doce me iustificationes tuas: in labiis meis pronuntiavi omnia iudicia oris tui.

Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your commandments. With my lips I have declared all the judgments spoken by your mouth.

Ps 119:12, 13

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

Mass Setting II - Pew Missal, p. 845

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Gregorian chant, mode I

Ps 78:29, 30

COMMUNION MOTETS

9:00 O sacrum convivium E. D’Evry

O sacred banquet, in which Christ is received, the memorial of his passion is renewed, the soul is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us, alleluia.

Cf. 1 Cor 11:26; Rom 8:18

11:00 Diligite inimicos P. de la Rue

Hold dear your enemies and those who abhor you. Pray for those who calumniate you. And do unto all men you would have them do unto you.

trans. L. Eby

Panis angelicus J. Langlais

Bread of the Angels is made bread for mankind. Gifted bread of Heaven of all imaginings the end. Oh, thing miraculous! This body of God will nourish the poor, the servile, and the humble. Thee Triune God, we beseech. Do us Thou visit, just as Thee we worship. By Thy ways, lead us where we are heading, to the light Thou dwellest in. Amen.

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
659 O God, Beyond All Praising

THAXTED

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.

**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.

**BLESSING OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS**
All expectant mothers are invited to receive a special blessing today at 10:30 AM in front of the church at the communion rail (families are welcome too!).

**DEACON JIM ON “THE 50/80 RULE”**
In his homily this past weekend, Father Joseph challenged us to deepen our sense of community. He also outlined some expectations to help us measure whether we are moving toward our desire to know more of our fellow parishioners and to help all feel welcome and included. He said that he wants each of us to know at least 50% by name and 80% by face of the people in attendance at your regular weekend Mass. For many of us (including me), this may seem to be a difficult standard. I have difficulty remembering names. One way of learning and remembering names is to pray for our fellow parishioners by name using the parish pictorial directory*. This does two things—it brings us together through prayer and secondly helps us to become more familiar with our fellow parishioners. We must then search these people out and greet them before or after Mass. Another way is to join a Lenten small group (refer to p. 7 of this bulletin) and get to know the people in your group. Our worship will deepen when we know more of our fellow worshippers. God bless you! -Deacon Jim

* We still have parish pictorial directories available for any parishioner who would like one. One per family, please stop by the church office to pick up, or call 952.929.0113 to make other arrangements.

**HOLY FAMILY CALENDAR**

**Sunday, Feb. 17**
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- 8:00 AM Confessions  
- 9:00 AM Mass  
- 10:00 AM Young Adult Gospel Discussion Nazareth House  
- 10:30 AM Blessing of Expectant Mothers Church  
- 11:00 AM Mass  
- 5:00 PM Mass: Church of Saint Bede See p. 4 for details

**Monday, Feb. 18**
President’s Day
- 8:00 AM Mass  
- 8:30 AM Exercise Class Fr. Wilkins Room  
- 3:00 PM Widows & Widowers Holy Hour Adoration Chapel

**Tuesday, Feb. 19**
- 7:30 AM Confessions  
- 8:00 AM Mass  
- 9:00 AM Scripture Study Fr. Wilkins Room  
- 3:30 PM Youth Choir Fr. Moorman Hall  
- 7:00 PM Neocatechumenal Way Fr. Wilkins Room

**Wednesday, Feb. 20**
- 7:30 AM Confessions  
- 8:00 AM Mass  
- 8:30 AM Donut Wednesday Fr. Moorman Hall  
- 9:00 AM Children’s Eucharistic Adoration Adoration Chapel  
- 9:00 AM Prayer Shawl Disciples St. Joseph Room  
- 6:30 PM Religious Ed School  
- 6:30 PM Confirmation Fr. Moorman Hall  
- 6:30 PM Youth Enrichment:YOU Program Nazareth House

**Thursday, Feb. 21**
St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of Church
- 7:30 AM Confessions  
- 8:00 AM Mass  
- 8:30 AM Donut Wednesday Fr. Moorman Hall  
- 9:00 AM Children’s Eucharistic Adoration Adoration Chapel  
- 9:00 AM Prayer Shawl Disciples St. Joseph Room  
- 6:30 PM Religious Ed School  
- 6:30 PM Confirmation Fr. Moorman Hall  
- 7:00 PM RCIA Rm.305  
- 7:00 PM Parish Choir Choir Loft

**Friday, Feb. 22**
The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
- 7:30 AM Confessions  
- 8:00 AM Mass  
- After Mass Chaplet of Divine Mercy  
- 7:00 PM Holy Hour & Games Church/Nazareth House

**Saturday, Feb. 23**
St. Polycarp
- 3:30 AM Confessions  
- 4:45 PM Benediction  
- 5:00 PM Mass

**Sunday, Feb. 24**
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
New Member / Donut Sunday
- 8:00 AM Confessions  
- 9:00 AM Mass  
- 10:00 AM Young Adult Gospel Discussion Nazareth House  
- 11:00 AM Mass  
- 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

**YOUTH GROUP (TEENS)**

**HOLY HOUR & GAME NIGHT**
Come join other teens for an evening of worship and fun. Meet in the church for adoration and prayer then we will head over to the Nazareth House. We will meet this coming Friday, February 22nd at 7 PM.
MASS INTENTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon., Feb. 18th</td>
<td>Michelle Westerly †</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues., Feb. 19th</td>
<td>Gregory Meitz †</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed., Feb. 20th</td>
<td>Dan Steger †</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu., Feb. 21st</td>
<td>Charlotte Pince †</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Feb. 22nd</td>
<td>Father Martin M. Fleming †</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Feb. 23rd</td>
<td>Charlotte Pince †</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Feb. 24th</td>
<td>For the Parish</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun., Feb. 24th</td>
<td>Tom Quistorff †</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INTERCESSIONS

Please pray for:

- Florence Novak
- Bob Cashin, Jr. (son of parishioner Kathy Cashin)
- Robert Bergman (father of Trever Bergman)
- Billy Houston
- Dave Miller
- Dan Osmek
- Joan Neil (mother of Cindy Deal)

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 9-10, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>Member Envelopes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Giving</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Contributions</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SECOND COLLECTION:

- **CARE Fund** $968.67

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.

They shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed, but each with his own gift, in proportion to the blessing which the LORD, your God, has given to you. Deuteronomy 16:16-17

CHURCH OF SAINT BÉDE THE VENERABLE

Sunday Mass: 5:00 PM

The St. Bede weekday Masses have 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.

EUCHARISTIC 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.

Urgently...

Tuesdays 2-3 PM, 3-4 PM
Wednesdays 1-2 PM
Thursdays 4-5 PM

STEP - Emergency Program: 952.925.4899

Eucharistic Adoration

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 button on the homepage at www.hfcmn.org. For HFA, click the button at hfamn.org.

DIRECTORY

Church Office 952.929.0113
- Bobbi Hanson  Parish Business Administrator  952.999.4888
- Kathy Fink  Office & Sacramental Records  952.929.0113
- Tricia Gawarecki  Office & Background Checks  952.929.0113
- Ken Varble  Accountant/Controller  952.999.4889
- Trever Bergman  Facilities Manager  952.999.4885
- Lisa Bearth  Comm. Coordinator  Lisa.Bearth@hfcmn.org
- Carrie Havlicek  Bulletin communications@hfcmn.org

Liturgical 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

To 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

Eucharistic Adoration

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**Holy Family Academy**

**WIN-WIN FOR YOU AND HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY!**

Please purchase raffle tickets from the Holy Family Academy students in the back of church, following Mass, today! As you may have heard, HFA has been selected to participate in the Catholic United Financial Raffle. What does that mean? HFA gets to keep all the monies from tickets sold, and you get a chance to win amazing prizes! Remember, you must be 18 years or older to purchase a ticket, and tickets are only $5.00 each. Don’t delay, remaining tickets will only be available after all Masses this weekend (Feb. 16th and 17th) and next weekend (Feb. 23rd and 24th). Thank you for supporting our school!

**SHOP ON AMAZONSMILE FOR HFA!**

Shop on Amazon? Instead shop on AmazonSmile (www.smile.amazon.com), and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of price of eligible items purchased to HFA! On your first visit to AmazonSmile, before you begin shopping, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization—please choose Holy Family Academy. From then on, each eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation to our school! Thank you!

**Lenten Series**

**Testimonies of Faith**

We are a flock of many individuals, each with a unique story and varying experiences. In an effort to continue building community and friendships in Christ (see “Lenten Discipleship Small Groups,” p. 7), after all weekend Masses during Lent, many parishioners will present their personal “Testimonies of Faith.” We will highlight the speakers and titles of the talks two weeks in advance of each weekend at www.hfcmn.org/news/testimonies-faith and in the bulletin. Stay tuned!

**Baptisms**

Please congratulate the following families of the newly baptized:

- Theodore James Pearson (son of Drew & Katherine Pearson)
- Tulip Conklin (daughter of Caroline Conklin)

**From the Church Office**

**Snow Emergencies in St. Louis Park**

There are on-street parking restrictions in St. Louis Park (Snow Emergencies) if three or more inches of snow accumulate. Your car can be ticketed and/or towed if you are parked in the street. Learn how to find out if St. Louis Park is in a snow emergency or sign up for notifications at https://www.stlouispark.org/services/snow-plowing, under the "How Will I Know if A Snow Emergency is in Effect?" section.

**Bulletin / Announcement Submissions**

If you have a parish-related event or announcement you would like to include in our bulletin, on Flocknote or pulpit announcement, please submit in writing to communications@hfcmn.org by the following deadline: **February 21th** for the March 3rd bulletin. Contact Carrie with any questions at carrie.havlicek@hfcmn.org or 952.999.4892.

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**Capital Campaign Update**

**IT'S FINALLY HERE!**

Holy Family Catholic Church and Academy are moving ahead with a capital campaign to build a new Parish Life Center! Our campaign is called Grateful Hearts – Forward in Faith. This theme conveys our gratitude to those whose sacrifices have made Holy Family what it is today and desire to build upon that tradition to ensure a dynamic future for our community. Over the next couple of months information will be provided about this effort in various ways including: bulletin, flock note, website, gatherings, Facebook, etc. Please look for the campaign logo (seen here) in upcoming communication materials to learn more about our building project and how it will enhance Holy Family’s future and make a positive impact on generations of parishioners and students. Please join us for a celebration kick-off after Masses the weekend of Saturday, March 2nd and Sunday, March 3rd. We also ask you to pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide and bless our vision and efforts. This is an important moment in our parish’s history and we thank you for your interest!

**Capital Campaign Kick-off & Mardi Gras Party**

You are invited to join in the excitement as we Celebrate & Launch our Capital Campaign “Grateful Hearts—Forward in Faith” in Fr. Moorman Hall after all Masses

**Saturday March 2nd**

**Food, Spirits and FUN!!!**

RSVP needed. Please go to www.hfcmn.org/news/campaign-kickoff Wednesday, Feb. 27th, Noon, is the deadline.

**Sunday March 3rd**

**Mimosas, Coffee, Donuts, Cake and FUN!!!**

NO RSVP needed.

**Here at Holy Family**

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

ADORATION CHAPEL ALTAR CLOTHS
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.

YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 18-39)

INDOOR SPORTS & GAMES NIGHT
Join us for the weekly West Metro Young Adults Sport’s Night. Friday, February 22nd, 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.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION
The most precious gift our Lord entrusted to His Church is the Most Holy Eucharist, the Sacrament of His Body and Blood. In every celebration of the Eucharist, there should be a sufficient number of ministers of Holy Communion so that it may be distributed in a reverent and orderly manner. Bishops, priests and deacons distribute Holy Communion in virtue of their office as Ordinary Ministers of the Body and Blood of our Lord. Extraordinary Ministers may be used to assist the Ordinary Ministers in certain circumstances. The appointment of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and the privilege of distributing Holy Communion is granted for the good of the faithful and for cases of genuine necessity. We need more people in this capacity. If you have questions or would like to become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, please contact Sharon at 952.999.4890, or Sharon.Pero@hfcmn.org.

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 17th — Greg & Claire Roden Family
- February 24th — Matt & Jennifer Kistler family

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

DISMANTLING PLANNED PARENTHOOD: ABORTION, RACISM, AND THE BLACK COMMUNITY
Tuesday, February 19, 6-9 PM, St. Mark’s, 2001 Dayton Ave., St Paul. Gloria Purvis, host of EWTN’s Morning Glory radio program and chairperson for Black Catholics United for Life, will help us understand the racist history and ongoing impact of abortion on the black community in the United States. Women of all creeds and convictions are warmly welcomed. Dinner at 6 PM and program at 6:45 PM. Advance tickets $10 at https://acw_gloria.eventbrite.com or $15 at the door. This event sponsored by Siena Symposium, the Minnesota Catholic Conference and Relevant Radio.

COR JESU
Friday, March 1, 8 PM, St. Mary’s Chapel at The Saint Paul Seminary, 2260 Summit Avenue, St. Paul. Father David Blume, Director of Vocations, will preside. Parking is waived on South Campus surface lots at the University of St. Thomas. For more information, call the Office of Vocations at 651.962.6890 or see our Facebook page “Cor Jesu”.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

FORMED.ORG

Please note: Please click the following links to view the contents:

- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- Adoration Chapel Altar Cloths
- Traveling Vocations Chalice
- Operation Andrew Dinner
- Miriam Dinner
- Dismantling Planned Parenthood: Abortion, Racism, and the Black Community
- Cor Jesu
**LENTEN DISCIPLESHIP SMALL GROUPS**

**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 this early description of the 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 region (see p. 4, Flocknote) to hear what’s going on in your neighborhood—maybe organize a local activity!
--Listen to Fr. Joseph’s homily from February 3rd at www.hfcmn.org/homilies-2019 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 a group of strangers praying at the same time under the same roof? We need opportunities where people can get to know one another, develop friendships based on Christ, and encourage one another in discipleship. Small groups can serve as those opportunities.

For Lent, Fr. Joseph has asked that everyone in the parish join a small group.
If you already belong to a monthly Bible study or Mom’s group, then maybe meet weekly during Lent, being more intentional about relating to one another. 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, now is the time! 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 no one magic time to meet or one particular topic to study. In fact, your group could start with something as simple as praying the Rosary and then have social time—perfect for families with small children running around! Each group should stay small--by a topic to be studied (e.g., Bible study, a particular video series on www.Formed.org [see p. 6, FORMED], etc.)
--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 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 your region [see p. 4, Flocknote] 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 invite 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 (952.929.0113). We will also soon provide some training for group leaders who desire more information about the nuts and bolts of best practices.

**AN ALTERNATIVE OPTION: SMALL GROUPS RELATED TO PARISH LENTEN EVENTS**

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 (7-8:30 PM): 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 (6:45-7:45 PM): Perfect for parents dropping your kids off for religious education or confirmation preparation!
--Friday evenings (7:45-8:45 PM) 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.

Plan to stop downstairs after 9 & 11 AM Masses next Sunday, February 24th, to learn more and get involved!
Questions? Contact Linda Wandrei (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