



# Holy Family

C H U R C H  
*Our Doors Are Open Wide*



Last weekend marked the First Sunday of Advent. We began a new liturgical year, we switched from green to violet, decorations become a bit more restrained, and we stop using the Gloria at Mass, at least until Christmas. All around us, the sights and sounds of the season tell us that it's time to get ready for Christmas, nothing more urgently perhaps than our shopping list.

As we well know, this began a few weeks ago. Part of our challenge in celebrating Advent is to not be sidetracked by this emphasis on Christmas. Our society is not very good at waiting, and Advent is all about waiting. The first thing we must admit is that most of the Christmas trappings all around us have little if anything to do with celebrating the birth of the

Christ-Child. We are surrounded instead by marketing efforts aimed at having a successful retail season. The higher the profits, the more successful the season will be judged, with little to no regard for things like peace on earth and goodwill toward men (and women and children). We can fret about all that, and perhaps enter the various controversies that seem to plague the season in recent years.

But the challenge of truly celebrating Advent runs even deeper than that. For no matter how much, it might seem to be so, Advent is not just about preparing for Christmas, even though that glorious feast marks the end of the season. If we are to grasp the richness of Advent, it is quite instructive to look at the Sunday Scripture readings that the Church gives us during the season. Last Sunday, the readings focused on the end of the world, and the Second Coming of Christ, when all creation will be redeemed in Christ Jesus. This Sunday and next draw us into the beginnings of Jesus' public ministry on earth, as we spend not one but two of the four Advent Sundays hearing about "the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord'". The story of John the Baptist fills half of our Advent Gospels. This year, because Christmas falls on a Tuesday, we do not even hear about Mary until two days before Christmas.

So yes, Advent is about preparation. It is about a promise, from God himself, to come again. It is also about a presence, as the stories of John announcing Christ invite us to recognize Christ present in our midst. Only at the end is Advent about pregnancy and parenthood, as we rejoice in the birth of the Messiah. Advent is about God coming to rescue his people, as he chooses to do so. It is about hearts open to a God who saves, who transforms, who redeems. How does God want to enter our lives this year?

Giving Tree gifts: We ask that if you haven't done so thus far please return the gifts for the giving tree sometime today

Next Saturday, is Breakfast with Santa from 10-12noon.

Peace, *In Mike*

### Rectory

1080 West Roosevelt  
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### Parish Staff

Pastor.....Rev. Michael Gabriel  
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### Masses

Sunday.....9:45 am & 5:00 pm

### Confessions

Sunday mornings from 8:45 - 9:15

### Weddings

Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance.



**MINISTRY SCHEDULE:**

**Dec. 9 at 9:45 am**

Presider....Rev. Michael Gabriel  
Candle Bearers....Jerrilyn Young,  
Cynthia Holden, Maria Vega  
Lector.....Raquel Flores  
Eucharistic Ministers.....John  
King, Jacque Hale, Sr. Emelyn  
Malecki, Joyce Addo, Josephine  
Aguilar, Vernon Lam  
Greeter.....Christine Pugh

**Dec. 9 at 5 pm**

Presider.....Rev. Michael Gabriel  
Eucharistic Minister.....  
Lector..... Alison Conlon

**Dec. 16 at 9:45 am**

Presider....Visiting Priest  
Candle Bearers.....Jerrilyn  
Young, Maria Vega  
Lector.....Alaric Rylon  
Communion Ministers...Vernon  
Lam, Debbie Gausselin, Dawn  
O'Holleran, Bob Johnson, Sr. Pat  
Cummings, Joyce Addo  
Greeter.....Christine Pugh

**Dec. 16 at 5 pm**

Presider.....Rev. Michael Gabriel  
Lector.....Amanda Seddon

**December Ushers:**

West Side.....Leslie Archer  
Center West...  
Center East....Maria Vega  
East Side.....Bill O'Brian

**HOLY FAMILY CHURCH WEBSITE**

[www.holyfamilychicago.org](http://www.holyfamilychicago.org)

Registration forms for new  
parishioners, weddings,  
and baptisms.

News and information about  
Holy Family Parish  
**Check it out!**

Please send all **bulletin  
announcements**, including  
names of people for the prayer  
list, to  
[marina@holyfamilychicago.org](mailto:marina@holyfamilychicago.org)  
Announcements are due by  
Monday at noon.

Please Remember in your  
Prayers:  
Sr. Mary Angela Buser, BVM,  
Sr. Mary Therese Freyman, BVM  
The Gibson Family, Spencer  
Hooper, Madelynn Jacobs,  
Letece Lee, Sr. Mary Therese  
Simon BVM, Denise Summers,  
Sam Tripp



**CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE:**

Please return your gifts  
sometime today. Thank you for  
your generosity to those in  
need.



Our next Hospitality will be next  
Sunday, Dec. 16.



**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS  
PARTY**

Breakfast with Santa  
Saturday Dec. 15  
10:00 a.m.— 12 p.m.

**Sunday Collection**

Goal: \$3,200.00

Nov. 18 9:45.....\$1307.27  
5:00.....\$ 421.70  
Give Central.....\$ 905.00  
(Difference - \$566.03)

Nov. 25 9:45.....\$942.25  
5:00.....\$310.00  
Give Central.....\$980.00  
(Difference - \$967.75)

(Collection totals for Sunday,  
Dec. 2 were not available at  
time of publishing)

**FISCAL YEAR TO DATE**

Offerings.....\$64336.22  
Budget..... \$70,400.00  
Surplus/(Deficit) .....(-\$6063.78)

\*((\$3,200 a week for 22 weeks)

If you use an envelope that is  
not pre printed with your name  
or #, please be sure to write the  
information on it so you can  
receive proper credit.

Contributions can also be  
made at [givecentral.org](http://givecentral.org) Call the  
parish office with any questions  
or for help with online  
donations.

You can also click on the  
'Donate' link on our web page.  
[www.holyfamilychicago.org](http://www.holyfamilychicago.org)  
Thank you for your support.

**Calendar**



**Sunday, Dec. 9 - 2:00 p.m.**  
Cardinal's Christmas Concert

**Saturday, Dec. 15—10:00**  
Children's Christmas Party



## Everyday Stewardship

I remember growing up in Catholic school and having to make construction paper Advent wreaths every single year! The little yellow flames would be cut out and held until each new candle was lit. Great idea, except for the fact that the chance you could find the flames greatly diminished as each week passed. I will bet over 50% of the wreaths never received a 4th flame! Of course by then, most kids in elementary school had moved on to Christmas. Christmas was not a day. It was an entire experience of vacation from school.

You may or may not have an Advent wreath in your home or office, but those flames are rather insignificant to the flame that should be burning in our hearts during this season. How are you finding ways to light your fire? How are you preparing the way for Christ to come into your life and the lives of those around you in a more profound way?

The ritual of an Advent wreath is a good idea for anyone. But don't think that your preparations are done simply because you have one. You are called to be a flame to others during this season, reminding them of why we celebrate this time at all. Each person is a candle to be lit, and you have the gifts, given to you by God, to light them. At Christmas, you want God to look at you and see all the light generated by those He lit through you. Now is the time. Don't wait until Advent is almost over. You might not be able to find your own flames if you wait too long.

-- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



## CARDINAL'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Will be hosted by Holy Family Parish today at 2:00

All are invited and encouraged to attend. Come and enjoy the music of Christmas.

## ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

### Human Dignity and Solidarity— Immigration Ministry XIII ANNUAL POSADA SEEKING IMMIGRATION REFORM

Join us to walk and pray in solidarity with our immigrant sisters and brothers who— as the Holy Family sought a place to stay—are seeking legislative shelter, “Posada.”

Friday, December 14, 2018  
7 a.m. – 9 a.m.

101 West Congress Parkway  
**Route:** From Correctional Center (71 West Van Buren Street), DePaul (1 East Jackson Boulevard), Federal Plaza, and St. Peter's (110 West Madison Street)

For more information:  
312.534.8503 or  
[www.catholicsandimmigrants.org](http://www.catholicsandimmigrants.org)

### RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS Second Collection— Today

Perhaps a special woman or man religious shared with you love, faith, and a belief in all that you could become. Maybe you knew more than one. Today these sisters, brothers, and religious order priests may be elderly, and their religious communities may struggle to meet retirement needs. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious is very much appreciated.

## Holy Family Church CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

*Sunday, December 9th  
2:00 p.m.*

*The Cardinal's Christmas Concert*

*Monday, December 24th  
Christmas Eve  
5:00 p.m.*

*Vigil Mass of the  
Nativity of the Lord  
Featuring the Historic  
Rice-Frobenius Organ and Brass,  
played by  
Dr. Walter Whitehouse*

*9:30 p.m. Christmas Carols  
10:00 p.m. Mass of the Nativity  
of the Lord*

*Tuesday, December 25th  
Christmas Day  
9:45 a.m. Christmas Mass*

*Sunday, December 30th  
Veneration of the Relics  
of the Holy Family  
The Church will be open all day*

*9:45 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.  
Mass of the Feast of the Holy  
Family*

*Tuesday, January 1st, 2018 New  
Year's Day -  
Feast of Mary, Mother of God  
9:45 a.m. Mass for the New Year*

*Sunday, January 6th -  
The Feast of the Epiphany  
9:45 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Mass*

**Observances for the week  
of December 9, 2018**

**Tuesday:**

St. Damasus I,  
Pope

**Wednesday:**

Our Lady of  
Guadalupe

**Thursday:** St.

Lucy, Virgin and  
Martyr

**Friday:** St. John  
of the Cross,

