

Stay Connected

December 26, 2021



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil	4:30 PM
Sunday	6:30 AM, 8:00 AM 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM 12:30 PM, 6:00 PM
Daily Mass (M-F)	6:30 AM, 8:30 AM
Saturday Morning	8:30 AM

Livestreamed Masses

Daily Mass (M-F)	8:30 AM
Saturday Vigil	4:30 PM
Sunday	9:30 AM

Confession Times

Tuesdays	4:00—5:00 PM
Thursdays	After 6:30 AM Mass—until all are heard
Saturdays	9:00—10:00 AM

4401 Highcrest Road, Rockford, IL 61107
(815)398-4280

Building Community · Making Disciples

Rev. Phillip A. Kaim, Pastor
pkaim@rockforddiocese.org

Rev. Akan Simon, Parochial Vicar
asimon@rockforddiocese.org

Rev. Kenneth Wasilewski, in residence

Deacon Jason Stewart

In this issue:

- **Stan Lee and What We Celebrate at Christmas, p. 2-3**
- **Pics from Neighborhood Ambassador Outreach!, p. 7**
- **K of C and Coats for Kids, p. 7**

Formed.org | info@holymfamilyrockford.org | St. Vincent de Paul (815)986-5825
Teresa Field, Parish Nurse (815)298-8138

FROM THE PASTOR:

Our Need for Super Heroes that Identify With Us

Since 1939, Stan Lee created or co-created some of the world's most popular superheroes. His super-human imagination gave birth to Black Panther, Spider-Man, the X-Men, Thor, Iron Man, the Fantastic Four, and the Incredible Hulk, just to name a few.

Of course, the world has no shortage of storytellers, but Lee took things to a new level. So, what set his stories apart from the rest? Lee was able to tap into deeply rooted human instincts. He once explained in an interview:

“The whole formula ... was to say: Let's assume that somebody really could walk on walls like *Spider-Man*, or turn green and become a monster like *The Hulk*. That's a given; we'll accept that. But, accepting that, what would that person be like in the real world if he really existed? Wouldn't he still have to worry about making a living? Or having acne and dandruff? Or his girlfriend jilting him? What are the real problems people would have? I think that's what made the books popular.”

We all know we need a superhero to rescue us from our enemies and from calamities. But we simultaneously want this hero to be someone with whom we can identify. There are two instincts woven into our fallen nature: the knowledge that we need someone to save us and the deep desire for another to understand our struggles.

What does that sound like? Well, it sounds a lot like what we celebrate with the Incarnation—God taking the form of a human being.

Now, like Alfred Hitchcock, Lee was also well-known for his cameo appearances inside the stories he had written. Each film since *X-Men* in 2000 has featured a brief “incarnation” of the author.

Stan Lee wasn't the first to write himself into his storyline. Jesus did not simply rescue us from afar. He wrote himself into our story! He became a man and subjected himself to all the tyrannies of a fallen world. He's a man we can truly identify with!

Last week I went home to see my dad and we watched a couple episodes of the critically acclaimed *Chosen* series. Have you watched any of it? Parishioners know that I have mentioned this on numerous occasions. For our out of towners who have not heard of it, I highly recommend you download the free app and start watching the first two seasons, which consist of eight episodes. It's a profound spiritual experience—more so than any other account of the life of Jesus that I have seen. And it's taken the Christian world by storm. When you go on the app it shows how many people have viewed it. It's up to over 300 million worldwide!

Anyways, enough of the commercial for *Chosen*. In the one I was watching with my dad, the third episode of season two, the apostles are managing a long line of people who come to have Jesus heal them or perhaps just have a one on one encounter with Him. The apostles don't really see Jesus all day. They just see His effects and the people coming out of the tent where Jesus met them. Then, as they are sitting by the campfire they see Jesus coming back late at night. He collapses into his tent and you can see how exhausted He was. They were so focused on all the miracles He was doing, they had forgotten that He was still human. An 18 hour day of receiving a steady stream of people would exhaust anyone—including the Savior of the world! It was a powerful message to the apostles about Jesus' humanity and a reminder to us of how magnificent this celebration is. The Savior of the world takes on our flesh with all its limitations! We should never tire of such a spectacular gift we have been given. It's the greatest gift any one of us could ever receive.

Merry Christmas to you and your family!

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam,

Fr. Kaim, S.T.L.

Calendar of **E V E N T S**

December

Every Sunday	Becoming Catholic (RCIA)—Frassati Room <i>* Not meeting Dec. 26 and Jan. 2*</i>	11 AM—1 PM
Every Thursday	Legion of Mary Meeting—Frassati Room	9:30 AM
Friday, Dec. 24—Jan. 3	Harte Center Offices Closed for the Christmas Holiday	
Friday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve—see p. 4 for Mass times	
Saturday, Dec. 25	Christmas Day—see p. 4 for Mass times	
Weekend of Dec. 25/26	Food Collection—see p. 5	
Wednesday, Dec. 29	Parents Night Out—RBI	
Tuesday, Dec. 28	Women's Guild Coffee at Mary's Market	9:15 AM

January

Sunday, Jan. 2	Holy Family Bridge League—Frassati Room	1:30 PM
Thursday, Jan. 6	Mary's Messenger Groups—St. Anne Room	6:30—8:30 PM
Friday, Jan. 7	Holy Dusters—Cleaning the Church	9 AM
Sunday, Jan. 9	Healing Hearts 815	4—5 PM

GOD IS HERE
ALL IS GOOD

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 27, St. John the Apostle

- 6:30 + Georgia Tussing
- 8:30 + Christina McWethy

Tuesday, December 28, The Holy Innocents

- 6:30 + Robert Brady
- 8:30 The Deceased Members of the Larson and Mueller Families

Wednesday, December 29, 5th Day within the Octave of Christmas

- 6:30 + Kay Walls
- 8:30 + Raymond Hodges

Thursday, December 30, 6th Day within the Octave of Christmas

- 6:30 + Russell Costello
- + Theodore Fragin
- + Larry Wehner
- + Eileen Brandlein
- + Robert Hogan
- 8:30 + Gaby Lee Ramirez

Friday, December 31, 7th Day within the Octave of Christmas

- 6:30 + Joseph Bruscato
- 8:30 + Phyllis Comerford

Saturday, January 1, The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

- 8:30 + Cathy Altenhoff Murphy

- 4:30 + Janice Retzke

Sunday, January 2, Epiphany of the Lord

- 6:30 + Eileen Brandlein
- 8:00 + Tom Johnson
- 9:30 Int. of Jim and Kathy Campbell on Their Anniversary
- + Catherine Krema
- + Patricia Hobart
- + Betty Larson
- 11:00 +++ Lyle and Josephine Larson, + Daniel Mueller
- 12:30 + Deacon Frank Zammuto
- 6:00 For the People of Holy Family

Holy Family — Stewardship of Treasure December 12, 2021

In-pew Sunday Stewardship	\$11,661.00
Online Giving – EFT.....	\$13,136.00
Mail-in Sunday Envelopes	\$18,817.00
Total Weekly Collection.....	\$43,614.00
This week's tithe goes to St. Joseph and Sons.....\$1,308.42	



*The Sanctuary Tabernacle Lamp is
burning for the intentions of
Annie Jones.*

*A candle in the adoration chapel is burning in memory of
Ray Hodges*



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
* 4 PM—Church (livestreamed)	(all in the church) * 7 AM
* 4 PM—Gym	* 9 AM
* 6 PM—Church	(livestreamed)
* 10 PM—Church	* 11 AM

Sunday Worship Aid QR Code

Please open the camera app on your phone to scan the code.

Dec. 24/25

Dec. 26



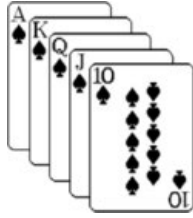
The Harte Center offices will be closed from December 24th through January 3rd for the Christmas Holiday.

"Bloom where you are planted."
St. Francis de Sales



The food collection this month will go to the St. Elizabeth Center. Please bring your non-perishable donations to church and put them on the table designated for the food collection. Needed items are spaghetti sauce, alfredo sauce, boxed scalloped potatoes and au gratin potatoes, seasoning packets, cream of mushroom, celery, and chicken soup as well as toiletries and cleaning products. There will be envelopes on the food collection table for monetary donations. Please put the envelopes in the Sunday collection. For more information, please contact Dianna. We appreciate your generosity!

Holy Family Bridge League



Please join us on the first Sunday of the month at 1:30 PM in the Frassati Room for the Holy Family Bridge League. If you are interested in joining, please contact the office.



Healing Hearts 815: Youth Grief Support Group

Do you know a young person who is struggling with the loss of a relative or friend? Healing Hearts 815 is a grief support group for young people grades 6 and up. We will have our monthly meeting on Sunday, Jan. 9 from 4—5 PM in the St. Anne Room. We welcome current and new participants to engage in discussion and activities that help young people progress on their grief journey. For more information, email Elizabeth Hand at healinghearts815@gmail.com or visit healinghearts815.com.

Parents Night Out



HOLIDAY POP-UP

Ugly Sweater Party at RBI

Join the Crusader Crush Planning Committee in supporting Holy Family Catholic School! All ticket proceeds go directly to Holy Family! Holiday bites included in admission!

Wednesday, December 29th, 2021

5:00 - 9:00 PM @RBI
3870 N Perryville Rd

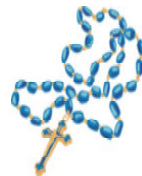
Tickets: \$15 advance/\$20 @ the door

hfxmaspopup.eventbrite.com



The St. Peregrine Group will not hold formal meetings during the winter months. We hope to resume in March or April of 2022. I will continue to meet with individuals on an as needed basis. Please reach out to Dixie Ferguson at 815-988-2830 or call the office for more information. Merry Christmas and blessings.

Mary's Messengers Rosary and Knitting Groups



We will meet again on **Thursday, Jan. 6** in the **St. Anne Room** from **6:30—8:30 PM**. If you have extra



knitting supplies, bring them! There may be a lady or two who want to learn the craft of knitting. Let's do the Lord's work together, and meet new people! If you have any questions, please contact Barb at 815-398-4280.



Jeans for a Reason!
We're going casual
for a cause!

Holy Family School's Advent Service Project
to Benefit the Rockford Rescue Mission

Every Friday during Advent each student is asked to bring an item that the Rockford Rescue Mission is in desperate need of. They may bring the item in any day that week. Feel free to send in all 6 items at once. If they bring the item in, they earn a jeans day on that Friday.

- Friday, January 7—travel size shampoo
- Friday, January 14—travel size toothpaste
- Friday, January 21—travel size lotion

Thank you for your help with our service project!

Women's Guild Coffee



On Tuesday, Dec. 28 after 8:30 AM Mass, we will once again meet at Mary's Market in the Edgebrook Center. Members: if it's your birthday month, this one is on us! A typical month will find 10-20 of us in attendance. Come join us! Masks and social distancing will be observed. For reservations, call Elaine at 815-988-7445.

Note: we will not be dining out this month.

AmazonSmile is a way for parishioners to support Holy Family when shopping on Amazon. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible

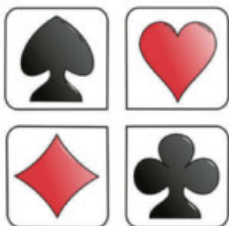


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Newsletter Submissions

If you would like something to be put in the newsletter, please send it to hfnewsletter@holyfamilyrockford.org; please include the complete ad in a Word document with the picture if applicable. Thank you!



Men's Night Out on Feb. 11,
2022: Euchre Tournament

If you enjoy beer, pizza, cards, and fellowship, then save this date! Join us at Holy Family in St. Gabriel Hall at 6:30 PM.

Don't know how to play euchre? Don't worry! We'll have a team of guys who will teach you the game. Please reserve your seat by contacting Bill Grzelak at 815-978-3004.

BOYLAN



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HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT EXAM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22 / 8:00AM- 11:30AM
CHECK-IN: 7:45AM @ STUDENT ENTRANCE (DOOR D)

Incoming freshmen for the 2022-2023 school year can register now for Boylan's High School Placement Test to help determine best course placements.

REGISTER AT BOYLAN.ORG/HSPT

Questions? Contact Emily Schubert at eschubert@boylan.org or by phone at 815-877-0531 x226

Terry and Patti Bomkamp are part of our neighborhood ambassador program. They brought Christmas joy to one of their neighbors who is receiving cancer treatment by gathering a crew to sing Christmas carols. Thank you Terry and Patti as well as to all our ambassadors who are reaching out this holiday season to our fellow parishioners!



The annual KofC Coats for Kids (and Adults) Drive has concluded with the delivery of 10 new men's coats and 10 new winter shoe boots to Carpenter's Place. Pictured on the right are Kay Larrick, Executive

Director of Carpenter's Place, along with KofC members Mark Funfsinn, Dennis Fermanich, and Steve Garbe. In addition to Carpenter's Place, Catholic Charities, St. Elizabeth Center, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society were also recipients of the generous donations of the Holy Family Parish. We collected 335 new and used coats, 42 pair of new shoes and boots, and 100+ pairs of used shoes. The total monetary donations received was \$2800. The Holy Family KoC wishes a very Blessed and Merry Christmas to our Holy Family Parish community, and THANK YOU for your generosity that makes our charitable programs so successful!



Decorating the Altar with Flowers



We are taking donations for flowers on the altar. With a minimum donation of \$50, parishioners may remember a loved one or special occasion (such as a baptism, birthday, anniversary, or memorial) with flowers on the altar. Contact the office to schedule your donation.



If you think you lost something at Holy Family, the lost and found bin is under the lower part of the welcome desk. Or call the office.

We are looking for volunteers to help livestream weekend and weekday Masses. If you are interested, please contact Barb in the office.



HE IS BORN



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Donating IRA assets to charity

Turn your Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) into charitable donations

IRS rules mandate that retired individuals after they reach age 72 (70 ½ if you turned 70 ½ before January 1, 2020) to take RMDs from their IRA each year, regardless of whether the income is needed. By making a charitable contribution from your IRA, you can satisfy your RMD amount without reporting additional income. This provision may be especially attractive for retirees who do not need all the income from their IRA to meet current living expenses. By donating the money to charity, you can enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to a worthy cause while effectively lowering your tax bill.



How it works

The provision allows retirees after they reach age 72 (70 ½ if you turned 70 ½ before January 1, 2020) to donate up to \$100,000 tax free from their IRA each year. Generally, when you take a distribution from your IRA, it is treated as taxable income. Under this provision, made permanent in the 2015 federal spending and tax package, those assets are excluded from income if the distribution is made directly to charity. The distribution is not included in your income so you avoid the potential negative consequences that regular IRA withdrawals in retirement can create, including taxes on Social Security benefits. Distributions excluded from income are also equivalent to a 100% deduction. Normally, charitable contribution deductions are limited to a lower percentage (or are eliminated altogether) for taxpayers who do not itemize and take the standard deduction.

Guidelines for donating IRA distributions to a charity

Eligibility	IRA account owner must be at least age 72 or 70 ½ if you turned 70 ½ before January 1, 2020 at time of IRA distribution in order to take advantage of this provision. Rule applies only to Traditional, Rollover, and Roth IRAs; SEPs and SIMPLE IRAs are generally excluded. Distributions of non-deductible IRA contributions also do not qualify.
Annual Limit	Maximum amount of a taxpayer's qualified charitable distribution must not exceed \$100,000 per tax year and may include required minimum distributions (RMDs).
Qualifications	Distribution must be made directly to a qualifying charity; private foundations and donor-advised funds are not eligible. Consult a tax professional for additional information.
Direct Contribution	The IRA Trustee or custodian must make the distribution directly to the charity. Distributions made payable to the IRA owner and transferred to the charity will not qualify.

Example: Tax savings from donating required IRA distribution to a qualified charity

- Charitably minded retired couple over the age of 72 with income of \$80,000
- Required distributions from IRA totaling \$10,000
- Claiming the standard deduction on tax return
- They make annual charitable gifts of \$10,000 annually

	Donate RMD to charity	Write a check to charity
Income	\$80,000	\$80,000
RMD	\$0	\$10,000
Total Income	\$80,000	\$90,000
Standard Deduction	(\$26,600)	(\$26,600)
Taxable income	\$53,400	\$63,400
Tax bill	\$6,027	\$7,227

↓
Tax savings of \$1,200

Please consult your own tax advisor before engaging in any transaction.

RESPECT LIFE

respect • love • protect

She pondered these things in her heart - Wendy-Irene Zepeda writes in the November, 2018 Magnificat, "My mother-in-law was prayed into existence by her sister Margaret. Margaret was the youngest in her family, the only girl, and desperate for a little sister. She prayed and prayed, and at last God well-nigh miraculously answered her prayer. Margaret's father was sixty-five and her mother was almost forty-four, and ten years past her last pregnancy, but she gave birth to a baby girl, Betty.

They all doted on Betty; her father called her 'The one bright spot in the Great Depression.' Margaret rejoiced in the long-awaited baby sister. A happy ending to her prayer...but was it the end?

Fast forward to today; that baby girl is the mother of nine children (among them my husband), the grandmother of forty-four, and great-grandmother of sixteen. Seventy dear people, seventy immortal souls - including my own children - exist today because Margaret prayed for a little sister.

As I look at my beloved husband and children, and think of how deeply my life is blessed by their presence, I find myself grateful for little Margaret's prayers so many years ago, and inspired by her to place before God, with the trust of a child, every aspect of my life. She didn't foresee all the consequences, but she lifted her childish desire up to God, and He answered superabundantly.

Looking for end-of-the-year pro-life organizations to support:

Little Sisters of the Poor are an international congregation of Roman Catholic women religious founded in 1839 who care for the elderly poor in over 30 countries. (www.littlesistersofthepoor.org)

Human Life International was officially established in 1981 by Fr. Paul Marx and it exists for the defense of life, faith and family around the world. (www.hli.org)

The Haven Network was founded in Rockford in 2004 to provide support, programs and services to moms, dads, and families enduring the death of their baby through miscarriage, stillbirth, and genetic disorders. (www.thehavennetwork.org)

Stay informed on the issues of Life at these sites: www.lifesitenews.com and www.liveaction.org

For thou didst form my inward parts, thou didst knit me together in my mother's womb. . . . [M]y frame was not hidden from thee, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth. Ps 139:13,15



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