



Holy Family Catholic Church

2606 Washington Ave., Granite City, IL 62040

618-877-7158 • www.holyfamilygc.org

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Sunday, December 26, 2021

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Stephen A. Thompson, Pastor
fr.sthompson@holyfamilygc.org
Emergency of health or death after
office hours: 618-709-7116

Deacon Neil Suermann,
deaconsuermann@gmail.com

Bertha Koerper,
Office of Stewardship & Administration
bkoerper@holyfamilygc.org

Keith Unfried, Parish Secretary
kunfried@holyfamilygc.org

Joe Hartsoe, Parish Maintenance

MINISTRY STAFF

Deacon Neil Suermann: Director RCIA
Teresa Alexander: Pastoral Minister
Nancy Diak: PSR Coordinator
Gary Kasprovich: Sacristan
Woody & Rita Halbrook: Youth Ministers
Joyce Taff: Safe Environment Coordinator

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL & LEARNING CENTER

Marge Pennell,
Principal & Executive Director
School ~ 618-877-5500
Learning Center ~ 618-877-0001

CALVARY CATHOLIC CEMETERY

618-656-5464

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Call the office to register for
Baptism Preparation Class & schedule
your child's Baptism

Penance: Saturday 3:15-3:45 PM or
Anytime by Appointment

Marriage: Call the office to make
arrangements at least nine months
before the desired date

**For Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting
and Investigation call:
Diocese of Springfield in Illinois
217-698-8500**



THE HOLY FAMILY

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

Weekend Masses: Saturday ~ 4:00 PM Sunday ~ 8:30 AM

Friday: Eve of the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God ~ 4:00 PM

Saturday: Solemnity of Mary Mother of God ~ 10:30 AM

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Tuesday ~ St. Mary & St. Mark Intention at Holy Family ~ 8:00 AM

Wednesday & Thursday ~ 8:00 AM

Dear family and friends of Holy Family and St. Mary and St. Mark Parishes,

We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The Psalmist says, "Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways." Very often, people mistake the use of the word 'fear' when talking about our relationship with God as being afraid of God or anticipating His wrath. The word 'fear' used in Sacred Scripture is taken from the context of having reverence for His majesty and power. When we consider the awesome power of God, it can invoke of spirit of servile fear in all of us that we must obey Him or else He will punish us. Consider, rather, that when we have fear of God, we want to serve Him in the spirit of truth that He has created us for a purpose beyond anything that we can conjure up in our minds. Should we be afraid of breaking the Commandments of God or not living up to the Beatitudes of Jesus? Yes, but not because of the punishment that can be levied against us, rather because we do not want to offend God who is full of mercy and compassion. In several of my visits with children in the upper grades at Holy Family Catholic School in the last few weeks since the beginning of Advent, I have spoken to them about the importance of repentance of sins and reconciliation. I discussed with them that when coming to the Sacrament of Penance they should not be afraid of being honest with God. They cannot hide their sins from Him and certainly they cannot outdo Him in generosity. This is something that all of us can learn when talking about the insistence of the Church in our frequenting the Sacrament of Penance. As a Sacrament of Healing, Penance can teach us about the mercy of God and the fact that our sins are beyond the ability of God to forgive us.

In our first reading from the Book of Sirach, we hear, "God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother." To understand the Fourth Commandment "Honor thy father and mother," we must look at what it means to honor someone. To honor goes beyond cherishing, loving, and respecting our parents; we must place our parents in a position of great admiration and as people whose joy to God is when we see them as gifts and treasures to us in this life. Honoring our father and mother is not a one-way street, but implies that they honor us as well as gifts given to them by God to raise them in faith, prayer, and giving glory to God in all that we do in life centered on the good. Fathers teach us by their example, that is good example, when we learn how to be good sons and daughters, obedient to the wishes of their parents. Children learn from their fathers how to be hard workers, diligent in all that they do, respectful of others in authority, and dependable. Fathers give mothers the honor they are due when they respect the authority of the mother. Mothers teach us how to be good sons and daughters by being obedient to our fathers. Children learn from their mothers how to be nurturing, understanding, respectful of others, and honest in our actions. Mothers are often the disciplinarians of the household and keep the peace in the home. We see in today's world a shift in how some parents raise their children. When parents do not raise their children with love, respect, and dignity, the children grow up with disrespect towards others, ill will towards others, and disregard for the dignity of others.

In the Gospel of Luke, we hear about the parents of Jesus going to Jerusalem with him as they did each year in honor of the Passover. We hear that Jesus is twelve years old, meaning that he is between being a child and a teenager. A tough year for many children when they are discovering who they are and what they want to be when they grow up. Jesus was interested in listening to the Rabbis when they spoke on the Word of God. He was old enough to know the difference between good and evil but young enough to learn from those in authority when they spoke on God and the importance of religion and faith. Imagine the scene when His parents, on their return home, discover that Jesus is not with them. Keep in mind that when people traveled to Jerusalem in the ancient world, they came in caravans. This was not only a matter of keeping together while on the trek to Jerusalem, but a matter of safety; safety in numbers. Children would travel with various relatives on the way, so Jesus' parents presumed He was with other family members. Looking for Jesus they become panicked when they discover that He is not with any of the other family members. We can imagine time standing still in their horror. Where could He be? Why did we not check beforehand to make sure He was with us? This is one of the greatest fears of parents, losing their children. Imagine them making the trip back to Jerusalem looking frantically for Him and when they do find Him, He is sitting with the Rabbis and the scholars debating with them. Jesus did not seem to have any worry that He was separated from His parents. In fact, Mary says to Him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." Jesus' response is priceless, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Imagine the expression on Joseph's face when he heard Jesus referring to God as His Father. To say the least, Joseph was probably perplexed because he saw himself as Jesus' father. This is the mystery of God's revelation. For Jesus, we are told that He went with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them and advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. He perfectly fulfilled the Commandment of honoring His father and mother.

In our second reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Colossians, we hear, “Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.” Where do we learn these acts of selfless love? From Jesus of course, but our parents also try to show us these attributes of holiness by their actions. They are imperfect, but they also desire that we learn from them in a manner that demonstrates our obedience towards them. When Jesus was found by His parents, He could have treated them with indignance, showing them that they did not understand what He was doing, but instead He followed them in obedience. As His parents pondered in their hearts what each statement made about their son meant, and as they saw Him growing up becoming even closer to discovering His true identity, they treated Him with honor and in turn He did the same. The Holy Family teach us what the dynamic of family life is all about. They teach one another and learn from one another how to better serve God. We certainly do not come from perfect families, but we can rest assured that when we as children of parents show honor to them, it brings joy to God and it teaches us to handle all things with great humility and trust.

Fr. Steve

Pastor of Holy Family &
St. Mary & St. Mark Parishes



This Week

Saturday, December 25, 2021

Christmas

10:30 AM † JoAnn Zotti

(Tony & Debbie Willis)

Sunday, December 26, 2021

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

8:30 AM LIVESTREAMED

8:30 AM For all Parishioners

Especially † Shirley Jansen

(Ladies Auxiliary 1098)

Monday, December 27, 2021

Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00 AM † Jo Ann Murphy

(Tony Besserman)

Wednesday, December 29, 2021

Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00 AM † Dolores Fechte

(Larry, Darla, & Donna Smallie)

Thursday, December 30, 2021

Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00 AM † Dolores Scaturro

(Marcel Vangel)

Friday, December 31, 2021

Eve of the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

4:00 PM † Jim McDonnell

(Larry & Susie Papa)

Saturday, January 1, 2022

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

10:30 AM † Bill Wyatt

(Bob, Kathy, & Sue)

4:00 PM † Ronald Sheppard

(Jerry & Pat Goclan)

Sunday, January 2, 2022

Epiphany of the Lord

8:30 AM LIVESTREAMED

8:30 AM For all Parishioners

Especially † Celeste Biason

(Ladies Auxiliary 1098)

Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 26:

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
12:30 PM Bingo - Columbus Hall

Monday, December 27:

5:30 PM T.O.P.S.

Tuesday, December 28

8:30 AM Quilters (QR)
7:00 PM Bingo - Columbus Hall

Wednesday, December 29

8:30 AM Adoration (CH)
3:00 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet
7:00 PM MPH Devotions
7:00 PM AI-Anon (MR #1)
6:00 PM GC Rocks Lock in

Thursday, December 30

11:00 AM Simply Sober (MR #1)
7:00 PM RCIA

Friday, December 31

4:00 PM Mass
6:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous (MR #1)

Saturday January 1

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God
10:30 AM Mass

March 18-20 Participate in Fellowship.
More details to come.

Outreach Items Needed! Our blue bins are waiting for your items! With the cold weather here, we have added all sizes of new HATS and GLOVES, used or new HOODIES, and HAND WARMERS to our collection. There are so many items that are needed so add whatever you have and we will find someone to use it. Thank you from GC Rock for your generosity to help us help others!

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH...GC ROCK is for YOU!

BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO OUR ROCKS AND FAMILIES

Wednesday/Thursday, December 29/30- ROCK Christmas Lock-In! 8TH Graders are invited from 6:00 PM-10:00 PM!

Sunday, January 2- NO GATHERING

Sunday, January 9- Deadline for Headcount for the SPRING-FIELD MARCH FOR LIFE so we can plan transportation!

Sunday, January 16- Gathering at Holy Family 6:30-8:00 PM. Bring a friend!

***MARK YOUR CALENDARS* Friday, January 21- Springfield March for Life- We are planning on attending Mass at the Cathedral in Springfield, Il followed by a peaceful March to the State Capitol. We do not have a timeline for the day, but will let you know as soon as we are notified. Let us know as soon as possible if you can attend, so we can plan accordingly! Parents are welcome.**

Rocks, Please watch our FB page (GC Rock Youth Group) or GroupMe for any changes or additions. Questions, call Rita 9724022, Woody 8767551, or Dawn 7093565

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

II. WHAT IS THIS SACRAMENT CALLED?

1329 The Lord's Supper, because of its connection with the supper which the Lord took with his disciples on the eve of his Passion and because it anticipates the wedding feast of the Lamb in the heavenly Jerusalem.¹⁴³

The *Breaking of Bread*, because Jesus used this rite, part of a Jewish meal, when as master of the table he blessed and distributed the bread,¹⁴⁴ above all at the Last Supper.¹⁴⁵ It is by this action that his disciples will recognize him after his Resurrection,¹⁴⁶ and it is this expression that the first Christians will use to designate their Eucharistic assemblies;¹⁴⁷ by doing so they signified that all who eat the one broken bread, Christ, enter into communion with him and form but one body in him.¹⁴⁸

The *Eucharistic assembly (synaxis)*, because the Eucharist is celebrated amid the assembly of the faithful, the visible expression of the Church.¹⁴⁹

How do you fellowship...
with Christ
with the Spirit
with one another
with the gospel?
You Participate!

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you are interested in placing flowers on the **HIGH or SIDE altars** on a particular weekend, please call the parish office with the date you would like: 877-7158

The cost is \$40.00 for two arrangements created by The Flower Emporium

Because of early bulletin submission the financial statement will not be available till next week.

Happy Anniversary

12/30

Scott & June Oney
Neil & Mary Suermann
Paul & Christie Taylor

12/31

Paul & Christie Humphrey



AE

12/26

Kenzie Hawkins

A

12/27

Alissa Bosslet
Jim Hawkins

R

12/28

Joe Pastoriza

R

12/29

Ed Gray
James Prazma
Mario Rossi
Al Schuler

F

Amanda Simon

12/30

Barbara Boyer
Myra Skinner

AE

12/31

Gerald Booker
Carol Dombrosky
Kenneth Gray
Carolyn Nelson
Kathy Stegemeier
Turner Stone

F

R

T

AE

F

1/1

Patricia Culiberk
Dennis Holland
Bill Russell

A

F

"In a series of revelations, Jesus taught Sister Faustina that His mercy is unlimited and available even to the greatest sinners, and He revealed special ways for people to respond to His mercy. Come pray for world peace, our nation, church, family, and many other intentions as we recite this special prayer given to St. Faustina with:

Quiet Adoration: 12:30-1:00 PM

Followed with Adoration Prayers and

Divine Mercy 1:00-1:30 PM

1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month

For more information contact Eileen Welle at 345-4343
SS Peter and Paul Church 207 Vandalia Street
Collinsville, IL

Also Remember we have Devine Mercy prayer every
Wednesday at 3:00 PM.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

Sun, Dec 26:

Bingo Team #4

Tue, Dec 28:

Bingo Team #4

Sat, Jan 1

Happy New Year

26 St. Stephen
27 St. John the Evangelist
28 Holy Innocents
29 St. Thomas Becket
30 St Egwin
31 St. Sylvester 1
1 Mary Mother of God



Participate in fellowship for \$50

UPCOMING SCHEDULE:

Tues, Dec 28 7:00PM

Team #4 Pat Knollman

Sun, Jan 2- 12:30PM

Team #1 Heather Easler

Sun, DEC 12

Attendance:138

Profit: \$4,020.58

Tue, DEC 14

Attendance:111

Profit:2,504.50

Sun, DEC 19

Due to early submission numbers will not be available till next week

Tue, DEC 21

Due to early submission numbers will not be available till next week

God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus.
One day Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth.
Elizabeth was going to have a baby, too.

The baby inside her leaped for joy when he heard Mary's voice!

Look at these pictures.

Circle five things that are in the bottom one but not the top.



Requiescat in pace...

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

†Elsie M. Flach

"Please also remember in your prayers those who loved her and will mourn her

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
~Amen~



Saint Mary has many titles under which we honor her. Today's Solemnity commemorates the utterly unique, and unrepeatable, bond she shared with Jesus, a bond no other saint can claim. Jesus and Mary probably even looked very much alike, as hers was the only human DNA in His body. What a beautiful thing that our God did not float down from heaven on a golden pillow. How good that He was not forged from a fiery anvil. How just that He did not ride to earth on a thunderbolt. So it was fitting that He was born like all of us—from a mom. We honor Mary today for her vocation as mother. If she had disappeared from the pages of the Gospels after giving birth to Jesus she still would have fulfilled her role in salvation history. She was obedient. She was generous. She allowed God to use her, body and soul, to write the first chapter of man's true story, the story of the Church. Like all true stories, the person comes first. A life is lived. The book comes later.

<u>January</u> <u>1-2</u>	Saturday, 4:00 PM	Sunday, 8:30 AM
Altar Servers	Cecilia Essington Reagan Myatt (Req Sub) NOT FILLED	Joseph Halbrook Lily Terrell Owen Terrell
Eucharistic Ministers	Amy Allen Therese Pashea	Deacon Neil Suermann Teresa Alexander
Gift Bearers	Ed Gray Marie Gray	Jan Casey Tom Casey
Greeters	Lynne Davis Pat Goclan	Denise Jarvis Bev Wilson (Req Sub)
Readers	Art Austin	Keith Unfried
Ushers	Jack Calve Charles Dickerman Jason Myatt George Sotiroff	Valeria Brinker Eric Brinker Woody Halbrook Mark Hendel

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Holy Family Parish, in imitation of Jesus as servant, pledge to unite in the Catholic tradition of spreading the gospel through prayer, education, spiritual development and social activities. Together in Christ, we can do all things.

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