



## *St. Michael's*

CATHOLIC CHURCH  
12/26/2021

### The Holy Family

Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-1

All in the Family

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.



**Church Address**      **Mailing Address**  
2001 College Place      1912 18th Street  
Harlan, IA 51537      Harlan, IA 51537

**Hours:** Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30 pm

**Phone:** 755-5244

**Fax:** 755-2604

**Website:**

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**Pastor**

Fr. Clement Owusu

755-5244

Email: [oagustine668@gmail.com](mailto:oagustine668@gmail.com)

**Parish Ministers**

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Rhonda Buck

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Principal Ann Andersen

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[www.shelcocath.pvt.k12.ia.us](http://www.shelcocath.pvt.k12.ia.us)

**Hispanic Outreach Minister**

Sr. Joyce Blum, FSPA

712-489-2426

Email: [sisterjblum@fmctc.com](mailto:sisterjblum@fmctc.com)

**St. Peter's in Defiance**  
Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 am  
Sunday 8:00 am  
**St. Joseph's in Earling**  
Wednesday & Friday 8:00 am  
Sunday 9:30 am

**INTENTIONS for the Week of December 27, 2021**

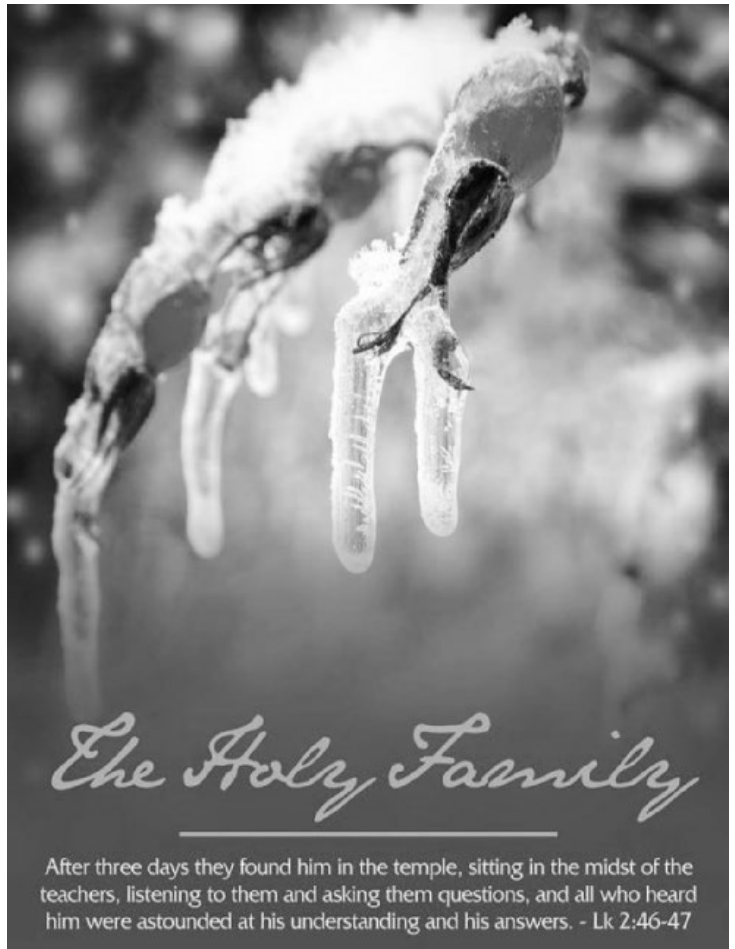
Monday, December 27, No Mass  
 Tuesday, December 28, 8:15 am Mass in memory of  
 Msgr. Ed Pfeffer  
 Wednesday, December 29, 8:15 am Mass in memory of  
 of Ray Buman  
 Thursday, December 30, Noon Communion Service  
 Friday, December 31, New Year's Eve  
 5:00 pm Mass in memory of Harold & Monica  
 Kleffman  
 Saturday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother  
 of God  
 5:00 pm Mass for the people of St. Michael's  
 Sunday, January 2, Epiphany of the Lord  
 9:30 am Mass for the Deceased Members of  
 the Norbert & Dolores Gross Family, Harley  
 Kruse & Clifford Kruse

**Christmas Flowers**

If you would like to make a memorial donation for Christmas flowers please place your gift in an envelope marked "Flower Donation." Tell us in whose memory the money is given, and place it in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office. Suggested donation is \$20. Memorials received by January 3 will be printed in January 8-9 bulletin.

**YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS**

Contributions received after Dec. 31, even if the check has a 2021 date, do not qualify as a contribution for 2021, unless the envelope they came in was postmarked in 2021.



**Church Calendars**

The 2022 church calendars are available in the back of church. We ask for a donation of \$2 to help cover the cost.

**Ministry Schedule**

	<b>Dec. 31 Jan.1-2</b>	<b>Friday 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Saturday 5:00pm</b>	<b>Sunday 9:30 am</b>
<b>Lector</b>	Janice Schmitz	Mary Tepe	Bonnie Kenkel	
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Maxine Kwapiszeski Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Dave Schechinger (T) Chris Tepe Joe Klein	Beth Klein (T) Virginia Kruse Volunteer Needed	
<b>Servers</b>	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed	
<b>Musicians Cantors</b>	Maryalyce Dotzler			
<b>Ushers</b>	Joe Wageman Lin Brinker Alice Kenkel Volunteer Needed	Joe Klein Lin Brinker Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Volunteers Needed	

**Remember the Sick**

Gary Kenkel  
 Charlotte Leinen  
 Tami Rueschenberg  
 Jennifer Anderson  
 Gay Burgod  
 Fr. Glen Wilwerding  
 Carol Thompson  
 Theresa Kranz  
 Becca (Kloewer) Fawkes  
 Olivia Fawkes  
 Dawson Fawkes  
 Ethel Defenbaugh  
 Tyler Bruck  
 Denny Stolz



**Office Hours - Christmas & New Year's**  
 Monday, Dec 27 CLOSED  
 Friday, Dec 31 CLOSING @ Noon  
 Monday, Jan 3 CLOSED

**\*\*\*REMINDER\*\*\***

**BEGINNING IN JANUARY ALL DYGS**  
**meet the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Weds each month**  
**Jr High in Music Rm, Sr High in Library &**  
**Confirmation Class in the Gym 6:30-8:00**  
**Family Formation**  
**continues to meet the 1st Weds of each**  
**month in the Gym 6:30-7:45**



Food Panty Collection next Weekend



We need someone to take Communion to Elm Crest every other Monday at 10:30 am.



**Thank you to all of you who volunteer, the gift of your time & talents is priceless. We appreciate you! Blessings!**



Lucy Jane Sibbald  
 Parents, Tom and Erin (Markham) Sibbald  
 Granddaughter of Scott & Joan Markham

Sophie Banks Leiting  
 Parents, Mark and Hanna (Bissen) Leiting  
 Granddaughter of Roger & DeaAnn Bissen

***Parish Solidarity Fund***

Bishop William Joensen invites us to help a sister parish, St. Mary of Hamburg, that needs a religious education center for its youth. We will be taking up a special collection the weekend of January 8-9. Or you can go to [dmdiocese.org/giving](http://dmdiocese.org/giving) to make your contribution.

**Sacrament Information**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**  
 4:00 P.M. Saturday or by Appointment  
**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK**  
 Is celebrated by request. Notify the office.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**  
 Contact the office to set a date

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**  
 Wedding dates are set after initial interview with Father



**Where to Watch**

St. Michael's Mass is televised on cable TV (HMU Channel 15 at 4:00 pm on Sunday & Wednesday, on Mediacom Channel 18 at 4:00 pm on Monday, and on FMCTC Channel 48 at 4:00 pm on Sunday.) Mass is also available as **livestream** or on demand on Harlan Knights of Columbus channel on YouTube at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/y4ax6z3g>

St. Michael's 9:30 AM Sun Mass is **livestreamed** on Facebook:  
**St. Michael's Catholic Church - Harlan, IA**



# FAITH FORMATION MEETINGS

## Sunday Saints

**Sunday 9:30 Mass 3 y/o - 2nd Graders**

## Family Formation Encounter

**1/5 6:30-7:45 K-6**

**Rosman Parish Hall**

## Defenders Youth Group (DYG)

**1/12, 1/19 and 1/26**

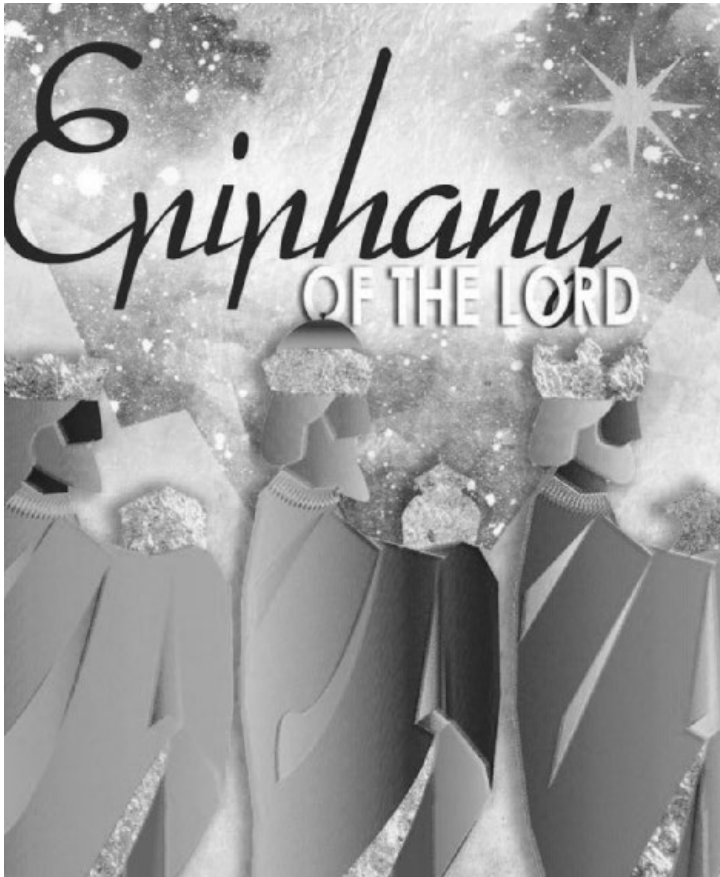
**6:30-8:00 ALL DYG Gather**

**Rosman Parish Hall**

**Jr High Music Rm - Sr High Library**

**- Confirmation in Gym -**

Next weekend we will celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. Blessing your home on Epiphany is a popular custom. We will have an insert in the bulletin and blessed chalk available in the back of Church next weekend after Mass! Please be sure to pick yours up & start a new tradition with your family!



## GOSPEL MEDITATION

December 26, 2021

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone.



### St. Michael's Mission Statement

We, the people of St. Michael's Catholic Parish, are many parts, but one body. As a community of believers in Jesus Christ and inspired by the Holy Spirit, we celebrate the sacraments, are challenged by Sacred Scripture and Roman Catholic Tradition, share of ourselves in service to others, and strive to promote the dignity of all human life and justice for all, as we continue toward the eternal glory of God's kingdom.



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 CONTACT FR CLEMENT OWUSU FOR INFORMATION

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