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HOLY NAME PARISH

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Holy Name Parish is a family of believers aware of the saving power of the Holy Name of Jesus and the protection of the Mother of God. We are guided in our life's journey by the wisdom of the Scriptures, the leadership of the Holy Father, the teachings of the Church, and nourished by the strength of the sacraments. Our concern about the needs of all our family members is deep and sincere, especially about the formation of youth. All this requires the effective cooperation of all members with the blessings of God.

Rev. George P. Evans, Pastor

Rev. Baldemar M. Garza, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Brian M. Flatley, In Residence

Rev. Oscar J. Pratt, In Residence

Rev. Martin J. McNulty, In Residence

Rev. Joseph Weiss, SJ, Visiting Celebrant

Rev. Mr. Timothy Donohue, Permanent Deacon

Rev. Peru Dayag, SVD., Filipino Ministry

Ms. Maureen Connell, Pastoral Associate

Mr. Jim Flanagan, Youth Ministry

Mr. Thomas Manguem, Music Director

Ms. Joan Conlin, Office Manager/Facilities

Ms. Mary Cuddy, Finance Manager

Mrs. Janice Kerwin, Administrative Assistant

Holy Name Parish School

Mr. Daniel Chisholm, Principal

Mrs. Debra Buckley, Assistant Principal

Weekend Mass Saturday 4:00pm upstairs; Sunday 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am upstairs

Daily Mass Tuesday and Thursday 8:00am upstairs

Baptism Visit website and email to make arrangements.

Marriage Visit website and email 6 months in advance.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Holy Name Mondays 4:00-5:00pm

Use the ramp entrance

St. John Chrysostom Thursdays 5:00-5:30pm

Use main door of Church/Washington Street

St. Theresa Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm

Use chapel main door, via parking lot

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

When God Whispers “You don’t need to shout. My hearing works just fine.”

Are you a parent that has used that one on your kids? I’m not sure at what age they realize that the volume of their voice doesn’t correlate to the likelihood of receiving a favorable reply it might be sometime in the teenage years, when the talking slows down altogether.

But I’ve got to admit, it would be nice if God always gave us a loud and dramatic sign when He wanted something the booming voice and the torn-open heavens (“This is my beloved Son!”) really get the message across. Sometimes I find myself envious of the Apostles, who were able to witness such things in person.

The fact of the matter is, in the year 2021, God is more likely to speak in a whisper than in a shout. The prophet Isaiah forewarns that Christ himself will not be a noisemaker for all his preaching, he will not cry out or shout to bring forth justice to the nations. His way is altogether different than that.

We are not the Apostles, and we do not have the privilege of seeing the Holy Spirit descend on Christ like a dove. But here’s the good news: God doesn’t need to shout. Our spiritual hearing works just fine. We just have to be listening.

Let’s wake up each morning ready to hear God’s whispers throughout the day. Let’s make a conscious effort to invite those whispers into our hearts, where they can become a catalyst for grace in this Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS world.

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at Holy Name Parish.*

*No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church,
No matter what your current family or marital situation,
No matter what your past or present religious affiliation,
No matter your personal history, age, background, race or color,
No matter what your own self-image or esteem.*



*Fran Hauck, former
Pastoral Associate*

I was thinking... I visited my husband's grave today, and from a distance, watched as a family gathered to bury their loved one. The song "Through it all..." kept running through my mind as I watched and wondered—wondered about the deceased, and what his or her life story was, wondered about the mourners, and if they knew what lay ahead for them, *through it all*. I hoped that they knew that through it all, God would be with them and give them the strength and courage to keep moving forward.

Through it all Somehow all of life is about getting through it all. Whether the journey is easy and filled with joy, or difficult and filled with challenge, or more likely a combination of both, we know that when there is a Power that accompanies us, through it all, we somehow get to today.

As we begin the new year, followed by a year unlike any other in our memory, we take the time to recommit to living life to the fullest, to take each day as a gift and, through it all, to look forward to what is to come. Don Miguel Ruiz, a Mexican physician and spiritualist, offered a code of conduct that can be as appropriate as New Year's resolutions as it was a lesson for Confirmation students years ago. *Please know that I'm plagiarizing Ruiz's work rather freely.*

Through it all, be impeccable with your word. My grandfather frequently reminded us that our word was the most important, if not the only thing, we had to give others. In order for others to rely on us and trust us fully and to maintain our reputations, we had to choose our words carefully, say only what we mean, and let the power of our word be our truth in love.

Don't take anything personally. Too often we are thrown by the words of others; we know who we are, yet we are quick to allow the opinions of others, particularly the negative opinions, impact us. What others say and do is a projection of their own reality and their own dream. Ruiz posits that anger, jealousy, envy, and even much sadness in our lives, could be ameliorated if we stopped taking things too personally.

Don't make assumptions. Ass/u/me: my dad loved to toss that word, written like that, at us when we complained about something that occurred, or didn't, because of an assumption. An assumption can create stress and interpersonal conflict because a person believes that assumption is a representation of the truth, when, in fact, it is just an opinion. Clear communication, asking questions and listening to the answers, can avoid the misunderstanding, sadness, and drama of assuming.

Through it all, it is imperative that we always do our best. Living up to our potential involves doing our best at all times and in all things. If we do our best in all we do, make a decision then let it go, much regret and "only ifs..." in our lives could be eliminated. And we could experience personal peace.

Each new year brings endless possibility and none more than 2021. While no one can promise us a year with no fears or sorrows, with more answers than questions, with more socializing than distancing, we can know one thing for certain: *through it all*, with trust and faith in God, and a little bit of trust in ourselves, we'll come through.

"I've had many tears and sorrows, I've had questions for tomorrow; there've been times I didn't know right from wrong...through it all, through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God..."

Happy New Year 2021, may God accompany you *through it all*.



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." - Mk 1:7-8



Deacon Tim Donohue

The Beginning Just a few days ago we celebrated the birth of Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem. Today we are celebrating the Baptism of Jesus. Both celebrations mark beginnings.

The birth of the Messiah changed the world forever. The Father sent his only son to help all of us, to open the gates of Heaven for us and to bring us hope. This great world event brought the Three Kings from another continent to find Jesus, Mary and Joseph and bring him presents. We celebrated the Epiphany last week.

Today we celebrate the start—the beginning—of the public life of Jesus. Saint Mark writes about The Baptism of Jesus in the very beginning of his gospel. Yet we know that Jesus was around 30 years old when he was baptized. He was starting his second career, leaving behind his carpentry trade that his father, Joseph, taught him. Jesus was now going to undertake the work of his other Father, the work of salvation.

The work ahead for Jesus was announced centuries before his birth through the prophets. In our first reading one of those prophets, Isaiah, tells us of great things that were ahead for the Jewish faithful: a leader beyond any they had ever seen. When we look at the words of Isaiah we get a sense of the greatness that was coming with this birth and through this baptism that we are celebrating in this Christmas Season.

Isaiah is telling us that Jesus will bring forth justice to all nations, to the world. Not through shouting or violence but through a gentleness that would not break the stem of a fragile flower or with commotions that would cause turbulence that might put out the flame of a candle. Isaiah describes the work of Jesus and the Father—what they will do for us. This would be the work of creation challenging us, forming a partnership with us, a covenant and setting us on our earthly task of being a “light for the nations.”

“I grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.”

What great images, grand tasks, great ideals for us to strive to reach. And so today we celebrate the baptism of the One that Isaiah wrote about. In Mark’s gospel today we hear that as Jesus is baptized, as he comes out of the water, His Father, Our Father, calls out to offer his praise and encouragement, “You are my beloved son, with you I am well pleased.”

“And the Spirit, like a dove, descended on him”. All three persons of the Trinity are present as Jesus undertakes his ministry to save the world!

We can mark today as the beginning of our lesson on how to live our lives. Today we celebrate the beginning of the ministry of Jesus Christ. In the weeks and years ahead we will build on this lesson through other gospel stories that will teach us how to love one by bringing the light of Jesus Christ to each other.



PRAYER FOR THE NATION



As the nation prepares for the presidential inauguration 1/20/2021 and as Congress begins its new session, it is necessary that we turn to our merciful God and ask him to send the gifts of the Holy Spirit to our elected leaders. The following prayer for the United States was composed by Archbishop John Carroll for the inauguration of George Washington in 1789. Consider adding this to your prayer life this week.

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed your glory to all nations. God of power and might, wisdom and justice, through you authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment is decreed.

Assist with your spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of these United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness, and be eminently useful to your people over whom he presides. May he encourage due respect for virtue and religion. May he execute the laws with justice and mercy. May he seek to restrain crime, vice, and immorality.

Let the light of your divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress, and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government. May they seek to preserve peace, promote national happiness, and continue to bring us the blessings of liberty and equality.

We pray for the governor of this commonwealth, for the members of the legislature, for judges, elected civil officials, and all others who are entrusted to guard our political welfare. May they be enabled, by your powerful protection, to discharge their duties with honesty and ability.

We likewise commend to your unbounded mercy all citizens of the United States, that we be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of your holy law. May we be preserved in union and in that peace which the world cannot give; and, after enjoying the blessings of this life, be admitted to those which are eternal.

We pray to you, who are Lord and God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Question: Why do we hold hands during the Our Father?

Answer: The practice of members of the assembly holding hands while praying the Lord's Prayer during the Mass is a custom that developed organically in the 1970s and 1980s. While some commentators acknowledge that the practice varies from place to place, it is a fairly universal reality in parishes across the United States. For some, this action symbolizes the communion of Christians praying together as one family of believers honoring the Father of All. Critics of the practice sometimes express concern that holding hands can be a distraction from the more significant unity that is experienced when we process to the altar to receive sacramental communion.

And so, we're left to ask, what is the answer? The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (the document that offers specific instructions for the celebration of the Mass) is silent on the practice, saying only that "all the faithful say the prayer" with the priest. The website of the US Bishops simply observes that "No position is prescribed in the Roman Missal for an assembly gesture during the Lord's Prayer." And so, we're left to discern within ourselves and within our parish and religious communities what is an authentic gesture of praise during this important point of the Mass. For some, this means continuing to hold hands, while for others, this may mean adopting another posture of prayer.

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