



St. Theodore's Church

"Broken, we gather. Nourished, we are sent forth."

Pastoral Perspectives

We have just celebrated the birth of Jesus. The mystery of the Incarnation is that Jesus was not God play acting at being human. Jesus really was human. He got bumps and bruises, roughhousing with friends. The family we call the Holy Family was not all that much different from other families.

Because of the Incarnation, holiness cannot be other worldliness. The place where God is met, where God loves us, is here, now. A truly holy man or woman lives in the here and now, is a sign now that God's love is real and at work.

The word "holiness" comes from the word 'healthy', and health may be the means for us to understand holiness and, therefore, what we celebrate on this Feast of the Holy Family.

Holiness is a kind of confidence, a conviction that God's love embraces me. God's love is stronger than sin, stronger than death, and so I can live with confidence. I need not fear to love others or be loved by them. I need not fear the world and what it may do to those who serve. I need not fear the power of sin or death.

Holiness is a result, not an objective. When I am filled with amazement at God's great love, when I share that love with all I meet, I become holy. I pray with gusto.

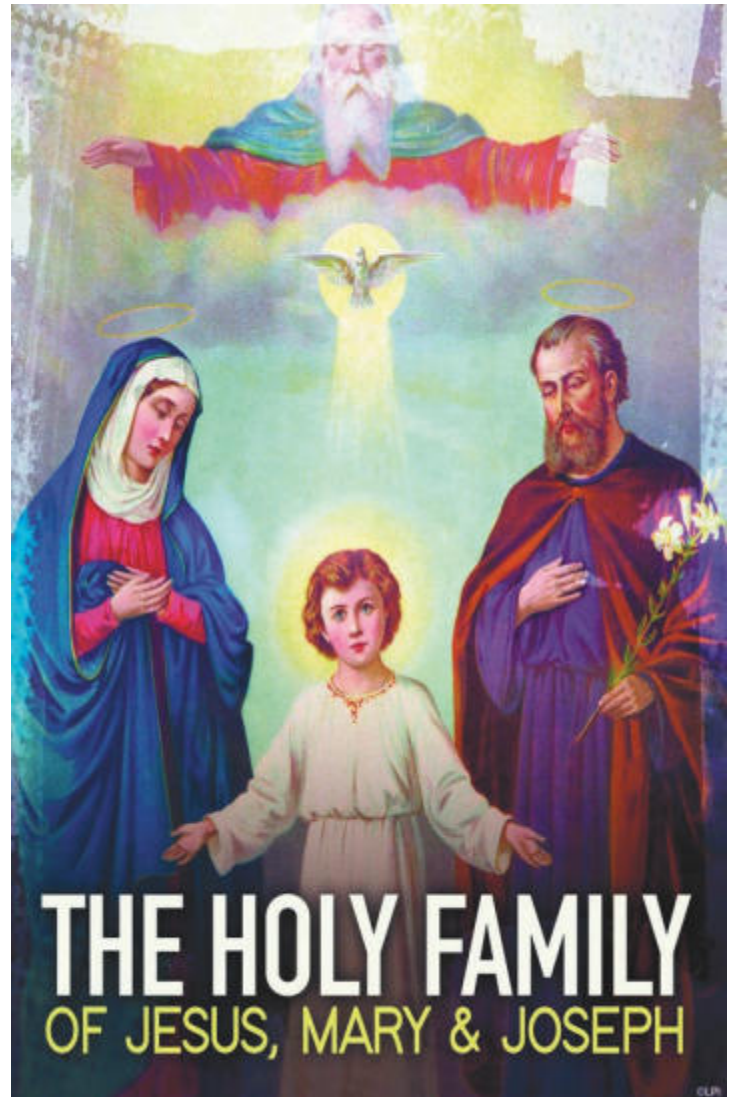
The Holy Family was holy not because it lived an exalted life unavailable to the rest of us. It was holy because it was a group of people not unlike ourselves who loved, who lived, who wept, who laughed. Theirs was a home in which boy could 'grow in size and strength, filled with wisdom (with) the grace of God on him.'

Our homes can be the same. Perhaps more than we realize, they are. They have their problems. No family is without them. Every mother feels a sword pierce her heart at some time. Yet our homes are where we learn to love, where we learn of God's love. It is in our families that we practice the sharing, openness and patience that enable us to show the glorious love of God to our world.

Thought for the week: There are many beautiful reasons to remain happy.

Smile for the week: Why did the children put sugar under their pillow? They wanted to have sweet dreams.

God bless! Have a wonderful week! Fr. Kevin McKenna




168 Spencerport Road, Rochester, New York 14606
 Parish Office: 429-6811 — Fax: 429-7726 — Faith Formation Office: 429-5650
 e-mail: Gsttheod@dor.org — visit us on the web: sttheodoreschurch.com
 like us on Facebook (St. Theodore's Catholic Church—Rochester NY) and

FIRST RECONCILIATION RETREAT



On Wednesday, January 5, at 6:30 p.m., we will have the retreat for the children preparing for First Reconciliation and at least **one** of their parents. **We will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. in church; please arrive a few minutes early to sign in.** Be sure that the children bring their Reconciliation textbook with them and put their name in the book. **Lessons 1-7 along with the worksheets for lessons 3, 5, 6 and 7 need to be completed by January 5.** The books and worksheets will be collected for Mrs. Piehler to review.

Any questions, call Maureen at 429-5650 or email Maureen.piehler@dor.org.



Anne DiPonzio
Thomas Monagan
Joseph Ruta

Please remember our deceased and their families at this most difficult time.



THEO'S CLOSET HAS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Due to various circumstances, Theo's Closet has decided to close until further notice. Please do not drop off any clothing. Clothing may be put in the clothing shed in the back parking lot. Thank you.

2022 CALENDARS

Calendars are still available for 2022. You can pick one up in the church entrances or parish office. Thank you to DiPonzio Funeral Home for supplying them.



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

Any concerns related to financial fraud can be reported anonymously:

Financial Fraud Hotline
1-800-388-7177 x1266

Reports may also be made in writing to:
Internal Audit Department • Diocese of Rochester
1150 Buffalo Road • Rochester, NY 14624

FOOD CUPBOARD

Your special generosity through the Thanksgiving- Christmas season added happiness to many families in our community. Even in these unusual times, you remembered those in need in our area. Thank you for your support throughout the year. The volunteers of the Food Cupboard wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

NEEDED ITEM OF THE WEEK:

Jelly





WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION AND LECTORS

Please make sure to sign up for dates that you are able to serve in January through June.

DAILY RAFFLE WINNERS

12/13 Carmen Nasca	\$25
12/14 Meg Vogler	\$25
12/15 Spencer Dovi	\$125
12/16 Kathy Dougherty	\$25
12/17 Jean Paduano	\$25
12/18 Mary Marianetti	\$50
12/19 Isabel Sofia	\$50

ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

Victims of sexual abuse should always report to the civil authorities.
To receive free and confidential guidance from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Deborah A. House
505-223-0220, ext. 1666
Toll-free: 1-800-388-7177, ext. 1995
or by e-mail: victimassistance@dor.org

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1150 Buffalo Road
Rochester, New York 14624
(585) 328-3210

December 3, 2021
Year of St. Joseph

Reverend and dear Father McKenna and devoted Parishioners:

I write to express my most sincere gratitude to you for exceeding your assigned goal in contributions and pledges for the 2021-2022 *Catholic Ministries Appeal* (CMA). Your generosity allows us to continue the ministries of the Diocese when they were needed most. I am grateful for your steadfast support.

In keeping with the theme of this year's Appeal, *Forward in Faith*, you are a leading the way forward so that we can set about the work to reinvigorate, rebuild, and renew our Church. I am so very thankful for and deeply encouraged by your continued commitment and dedication in these most challenging of times.

I pray that the Lord will continue to bless your parish family. Be assured of my prayers for you, and please, in your kindness, remember me in your good prayers.

Renewing my sincere gratitude, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Congratulations upon such a fine accomplishment. I pray you have a blessed Christmas preceded by this beautiful, prayerful season of Advent.

Salvatore R. Matano
The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano
Bishop of Rochester

The Reverend Father Kevin E. McKenna
Saint Theodore's Church
168 Spencerport Road
Rochester, New York 14606

Debtor in Possession

BAPTISMS—Please call 429-6811 to schedule the baptism.

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN IN GRADES 1-9 INCLUDING SACRAMENT PREPARATION—Contact Maureen Piehler at 429-5650 for information regarding programs.

HOSPITAL CALLS—Please call the parish office to have a priest or pastoral staff visit you while you are in the hospital. Due to privacy laws, we cannot access information about your hospitalization unless you indicate St. Theodore's as your faith community on your admissions forms.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION—Saturdays from 3:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

WEDDINGS—Contact Deacon Dennis at 429-6811 or dennis.lohouse@dor.org as soon as possible to reserve the church **before** you sign a contract with a reception hall.

YOUTH MINISTRY FOR GRADES 6-12—Contact Maureen Piehler for information at 429-5650.

BULLETIN—Email sttheodorebulletin@dor.org at least 10 days before the bulletin date. Pick up a copy of our latest bulletin in the chapel entrance.

Please remember St. Theodore's Church of Gates, NY in your will. Request that memorial donations be sent to our parish upon a loved one's death.

SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPES—Please continue to mail in your envelopes on a weekly basis. We are also accepting envelopes in the parish life center during parish office hours. Your financial support is greatly appreciated and needed at this time.

FOOD CUPBOARD—Donations to the Food Cupboard can be dropped off at the parish life center during parish office hours.

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Parish Staff:

- Rev. Kevin McKenna, Pastor
- Dennis Lothouse, Deacon
- Angelo Coccia, Senior Deacon
- Laurence Feasel, Senior Deacon
- Anthony Caruso, Senior Deacon
- David Paluskiewicz, Senior Deacon
- Daniel Leitten, Finance Director
- Leigh Ann Lester, Business Manager
- Maureen Piehler, Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry
- Rita Manners, Music Director
- Food Cupboard: 429-5360
- Sr. Catherine Pflieger, RSM



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

MONDAY St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

8:30 A.M. For the increase of Vocations to Diaconate Ministry

TUESDAY The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

8:30 A.M. For the increase of Vocations to Lay Ministry

WEDNESDAY Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:30 A.M. Rich LoMonaco req. Lester Family

THURSDAY Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:30 A.M. James Calandra req. Anne Calandra & Family

8:30 A.M. Antonio & Laurinda and John & Adelaide Freitas req. Nelson & Nidia Flores

FRIDAY Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:30 A.M. For Victims of Violence

SATURDAY

10:00 A.M. For Peace throughout the World

WEEKEND MASSES

Epiphany of the Lord

SATURDAY

4:30 P.M. People of St. Theodore's Parish

SUNDAY

9:00 A.M. Millie Branciforte req. Phyllis DePetres

11:00 A.M. Salvatore Gugliotta req. Wife and Children

Bible readings for next Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12(20)



Thank you to the good stewards who continue to support our parish. St. Theodore's is very blessed to have your support especially during this difficult time.

FINANCES FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 12

Sunday Collection	\$7,612.00
Maintenance Fund	\$338.00
Attendance	410

The finances for the week of December 19 will be in the January 2 bulletin.

Page Five



In accordance with the Governor of New York State and the Diocese of Rochester, masks are to be worn at all times while in any building of St. Theodore's regardless of vaccination status.

Christmas Flowers

Thank you to all who honored their loved ones by contributing to our Christmas flowers this year.



YEAR END CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

There is still time to make your 2021 charitable contributions to St. Theodore's Parish or the Catholic Ministries Appeal. Gifts or offertory envelopes should be postmarked no later than December 31.

Even though we have made our CMA goal, you may still make your contribution. For any monies raised over our goal, the Diocese will return half of that to us.

Thank you all for your continued support throughout 2021!

MONDAY

No Faith Formation Classes

TUESDAY

No Bell Choir

WEDNESDAY

No Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

No Bible Study



The parish office will be closed from Friday, December 24 through Sunday, January 2.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION—Saturdays from 3:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.



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Funeral Director

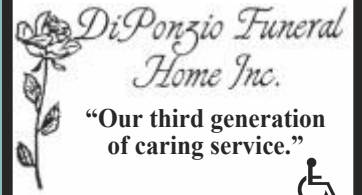
RICK CAMPOLI, Agent

Rick Campoli Agency

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Rochester, NY 14625

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rick@campoliagency.com



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