

# St. Rita Reporter

## MISSION STATEMENT of ST. RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH

We, the people of St. Rita Catholic Parish, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are dedicated to serving the community in which we live by proclaiming, teaching, and living the Word of the Gospel so that Christ's love, respect, peace, and justice for all will prevail.



**DECEMBER 18 & 19, 2021**

## *Fourth Sunday of* **ADVENT**



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### Christmas Masses

December 24th: 4:00p.m.  
6:00p.m.  
11:00p.m.

December 25th: 9:00a.m.  
11:00a.m.  
No 6:00p.m. Mass

December 26th: 9:00a.m.  
11:00a.m.  
No 6:00p.m. Mass



### New Year's Weekend Mass Schedule

Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary  
December 31st—5:00pm

Vigil of the Epiphany  
January 1st : 4:00pm

Epiphany of the Lord  
January 2nd: 9:00am  
11:00am;  
6:00pm



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION  
NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS • NEWS



High School Youth Ministry

Our next meeting is December 19 from 4:30pm—5:30pm. We will be meeting in the church hall for a Christmas party.



Religious Education Schedule

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 Mass: 7pm—7:40pm

Tuesday, December 21, 2021 Break

Tuesday, December 28, 2021 Break

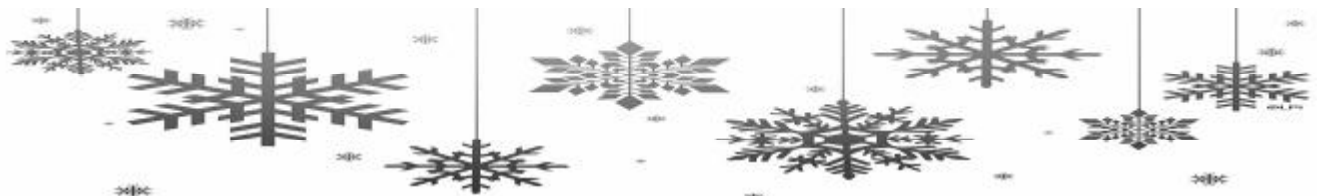
Advent Wreath

Question:  
What's the story behind the Advent wreath?

Answer:  
Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreathes adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn't falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God's love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* means "rejoice" in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we're roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the mid-point to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ's coming at Christmas.

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St. Rita Catholic Church  
Registration Form

If you are not already registered and would like to be, please fill out and drop in the collection basket or mail to:  
309 E. Maple  
Holly, MI 48442

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_ How long at this address? \_\_\_\_\_ Previous Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Head of House hold:  
First Name \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse:  
First Name \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_  
Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Children & Birthdates

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Mass Intention Requests**

Offering Mass for a special Intention is a long standing tradition in the Catholic Church. It is usually considered that special graces are obtained for whom the Mass is said. Masses are offered for many reasons, for the souls in purgatory, in remembrance for someone who is deceased, or in honor of a birthday or anniversary. If you would like to have a Mass said for someone, go to the Parish Office or call 248-634-4841 ext. 0. They will help you with the dates and times which are available. Cards are then given to you so that you can mail them to whomever you choose to so they may also participate in the Mass. The stipend or offering given, signifies the sacrificial nature of giving of something of yourself to associate more intimately with Christ who offers himself in the Eucharist.



Scott Flake, Nancy Davis, Beth Elliott, Kailee Gallagher, Bob & Louise Kendall, Don Elliott, Chris Brown, Gregg Golden, Terry Showers, Pete

Pierce Jr., Ann Czmer, Cindy Schmidt, Vickie Grabowski, Pete Buccellato, Ron Tucker, Kim Simmons, Don & Rhonda Barron, Larry Slasinski, Loree Ciarkowski, Michael Latrow, Cheryl Molina, Mary Brown, Louie Loestael, Catherine Corcoran, Jesse Hoorelbeke, Melinda Kici O'Brian, Mary Ann Skaja, Patricia Murphy, Mary Garren, Bill Hartwell, Norm Raupp, Pat Houring, Gerrie Hoch, Carolyn Sawicki, Erma Boucher, Rafael Hernandez, Mick Smith, Gail Ward, Dan Rice, Delbert & Debra Herrel, Jerry Deibis, Carl Borgstrom, Mary Crass, Sandy & Earl Sedam, Betty Gajewski, Louise Sargent, Michael Kollenberg, Donald Smith, Renee Charlick, Rita Dusseau, & Kylie Ossege. May they find peace, strength, and comfort in God's care.

Please Include the following in the Mass Intentions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Required

Please **add/remove** the following name to/from the prayer list:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May they find peace, strength, and comfort in God's care.  
Requested by & Contact #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary**  
Friday, December 31st  
Mass is at 5:00p.m.



**Vigil of the Epiphany**  
Saturday, January 1st  
Mass is at 4:00p.m.  
The Sunday reading will be on Saturday.

**Feast of the Epiphany**  
Sunday, January 2nd  
Masses are at  
9:00a.m.  
11:00a.m.  
6:00p.m.

Pastor: Fr. David Blazek  
 309 E. Maple St.  
 Holly, MI 48442  
 248-634-4841 (Office)  
 248-634-4858 (fax)  
 Email: [stritcholly@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stritcholly@sbcglobal.net)  
 Website:  
[www.stritcholly.org](http://www.stritcholly.org)

**Office Staff**

Nicole Hagle

**Business Manager**

Fred Metz

**Rectory Office Hours:**

By phone

**Religious Formation**

The Learning Center  
 211 Washington St. Holly, MI 48442  
 248-634-4841

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

**RCIA**

Contact Rectory 248-634-4841

**Director of Music:**

Kellie Rao 248-634-4841

**Masses:**

Weekdays: Tuesday & Wednesday at 7:00pm

**Weekend Masses:**

Saturday 4:00 pm  
 Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am and 6:00pm

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

By Appointment

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Parents must register at the Parish office to attend one class prior to Baptism.

**Sacrament of Marriage**

Contact parish office

**Holly Nursing Home Ministry**

Angie LaValle 248-634-3352



**Saturday, December 18**

4:00pm Living Intention of Sherry Showers

**Sunday, December 19**

9:00am Bev Grantner  
 11:00am Michelle Axford  
 6:00pm Thomas Nigg

**Monday, December 20**

No Mass

**Tuesday, December 21**

7:00pm William Strange

**Wednesday, December 22**

7:00pm : Margaret Johnson

**Thursday, December 23**

No Mass

**Friday, December 24**

4:00pm William J. Dixon  
 6:00pm Gordon, Marie, Tim & Carol Mills  
 11:00pm Richard & Nicholas LeMarbe

**Saturday, December 25**

9:00am Holly Runo  
 11:00am Michael Crick

**Sunday, December 26**

9:00am Don Rodgers  
 11:00am Raymond Gauthier

**Clothes Closet & Food Pantry**

Please be aware, that due to our **limited space**, we are only able to accept donations of food and clothing.

If you have **large household items** you wish to donate **please call the rectory office** to see if we may have someone in need of your item.



**RCIA classes have begun!!**

Been away for awhile and wondering how to return to the Church?

Searching for a group with the same questions and concerns as yourself? Yearning to become a full member of the Catholic Church?



Looking to become involved in the Catholic Community at St. Rita?

If you answered **"YES"** to any of the above, Then look no further, jump in and join us.

All are Welcome!

For more information, please contact the Rectory at 248-634-4841 or send us an email at: [stritchollyfaithform@gmail.com](mailto:stritchollyfaithform@gmail.com) to get started!

**Clothes Closet & Food Pantry**

Even though the physical building is closed, ministry is ongoing. If you are in need of assistance or know someone in need, call the Rectory and leave a message. Voicemails are checked throughout the day and someone will get in touch with you. We are still accepting donations. You may drop them off at the front door of the Rectory. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated during this trying time.

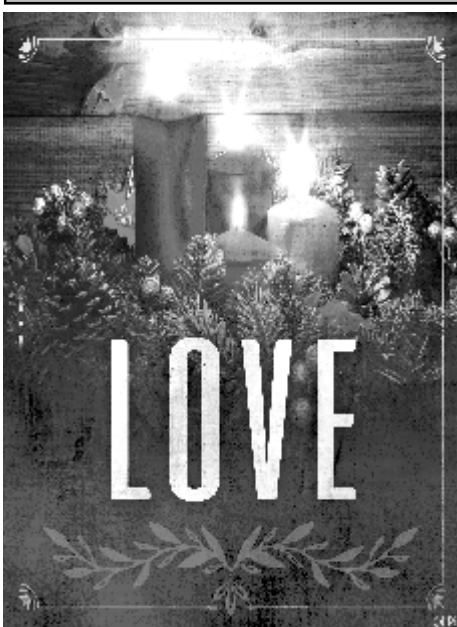
**Food Pantry's Needs**

Toilet paper, paper towel, tooth paste, tooth brushes, laundry soap, shampoo & conditioner, juice, oatmeal, saltine crackers, oyster crackers, instant potatoes and easy mac.

**NO frozen foods**

**Unopened/unexpired items only**  
 When writing checks, please make sure that they are made out to:

**St. Rita Food Pantry**





We would like to thank Kellie and the St. Rita choir for giving of their time and talents in performing an inspirational and uplifting concert this past Sunday.



## WORSHIP & MEDITATION



### FIRST READING

You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel. (Mi 5:1)



### PSALM

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (Ps 80)



### SECOND READING

"Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" (Heb 10:7)



### GOSPEL

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Lk 1:42-43)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.*



## WE ARE GOD'S INSTRUMENTS

### GOSPEL MEDITATION

#### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

St. Augustine tells us that a "Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps." As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life's necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world's ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn't God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world's ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God's vessel so that God's greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God's fix for the world's difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God's instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

# WE'RE HIRING

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