

# 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 24 & 25, 2022

Merry  
Christmas!

AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH




JOHN 1:14




# FAITH FORMATION






## High School Youth Ministry

**Merry Christmas!**  
**Have a Wonderful Christmas break!**



**Confirmation for all teens 9th-12th grade seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation**



Preparation has begun! Our second meeting will be Wednesday, January 11 at 6:00pm.

*To Receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit Changes your Life from Night to Light!*




**Our Next Meeting Date:**

January 14 at 11:00am  
In the church hall.

**First Communion**



This is a sacrament year for students in the 2nd grade. Make sure your student is registered. If you are in 2nd-5th and have not made First Communion contact the rectory.



**FIRST READING**  
For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests.  
(Is 9:5)

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**PSALM**  
Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.  
(Ps 96)


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**SECOND READING**  
Beloved:  
The grace of God has appeared, saving all. (Ti 2:11)

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**GOSPEL**  
"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." (Lk 2:10-11)

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.



**WORSHIP & MEDITATION**



WE ARE NEVER LOST OR ALONE

**GOSPEL MEDITATION**  
**Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture**

As we age, time seems to pass more quickly. Years seemingly fly by as one holiday flows into the next, January quickly becomes December and life maintains its hectic pace. What do we accomplish in all of that busyness? Perhaps technology is responsible for some of the frenzy, keeping us isolated in our social media worlds, communicating through texts rather than in person, and always connected to world events. We're over stimulated in many ways by information, noise, opinions, and ideologies. Yet, we still find the time to decorate our homes, purchase gifts, and plan Christmas gatherings. We know, however, that the true meaning of Christmas is not found in twinkling lights, beautifully adorned trees, perfectly set tables or exchanged gifts. We are being called to something deeper and more authentic. Christmas reminds us to look for God along the way of our lives and not get distracted by the illusions around us. Our world's complexity can leave us feeling displaced, desperate, alone, neglected, and unimportant. Joseph and Mary felt that way too. In the midst of all that captures and intrigues us in our self-created virtual worlds, is this longing for the anchor of faith to keep us grounded and make sense of it all. Only faith can give us the perspective to see what truly matters in life. We discover our divinely blessed humanity. The uncertain and challenging journey to Bethlehem gives way to the tender moments of birth and its embrace. Christmas softens us and slows us down a bit. It shows us Jesus as the light who enlightens everyone. It shows us the truth.

The faith that comes from Christmas calms our fears and allows us to go into the nighttime of our lives courageously. We are never lost or alone. We need to stop and savor more of life's moments before they slip away in time. God is with us, loving us, and leading us where we need to be. God is born again and again in every soul willing to give birth to His presence. God connects us and provides us with a place where we feel safe and welcome: home. Merry Christmas!



**Religious Education:**  
Helps to build a strong foundation

**Religious Education Classes**

Classes have begun.  
**Merry Christmas!**

Religious education classes, for grades K—8th grade, The classes will be at the Learning Center from 10:15am—11:30am. It is not too late to register. Forms may be found in the back of the church.

**BEING THE SIGN**

I think the real challenge of evangelization in the modern age is the reality that pretty much everyone has already heard of Jesus Christ — or, at least, they think they have.

To our 21st-century eyes, the angel who shared news of the birth of Jesus with the shepherds had an easy job. All he had to do was announce it.

Our baptism compels us to do the same — to announce the coming of Christ over and over again, always and everywhere. But our audience is not a group of illiterate shepherds in ancient Judea. Our audience is a world that has heard so much about Jesus they often claim weariness of his name. So how do we do it? If we walk into a crowd of strangers and tell them we want to talk about Jesus, their reaction will probably be either “I already know about Jesus, thanks,” or “I’ve heard of him, and based on the behavior of those who

claim to follow him, I’m really not interested in hearing more.”

Because in the end, our very lives are how we “announce his salvation” in the present day. We announce it in our actions to strangers. We announce it in our treatment of people who have wronged us. We announce it in our interactions with those who disagree with us.

How long had the coming of the Messiah been foretold to the Israelites? So long that, no doubt, many of them despaired of his coming altogether. So, God had to give them a sign: “You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

Now we are the sign.

The world has heard of Christ by now. But have they all seen him? It’s our job to show them.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

**WHY DO WE GIVE GIFTS AT CHRISTMAS?**

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give

a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.



DECEMBER 25, 2022

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The Church Office will be closed the week of December 25th.

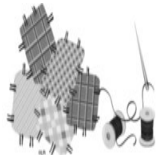
In case of an emergency call 248-634-4841. Emergencies will be responded to immediately.

The office will reopen Tuesday, January 3 at 9:00am.

**Prayers and Squares**

If you are in need of a quilt for your loved one, please call the office to request a quilt.

Thank you to all who share their time to this ministry.



**Clothes Closet & Food Pantry**

Donations for the food pantry can be dropped off inside the doors of the Church or at the Rectory office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am—3pm.

We are in need of:

- Pancake mix**
- (add water only), syrup, rice,**
- Canned chicken and hamburger helper**
- NO frozen foods**

Unopened/unexpired items only.

When writing checks, please make sure that they are made out to:


**Pastor: Fr. David Blazek**  
 309 E. Maple St.  
 Holly, MI 48442  
 248-634-4841(Office)  
 248-634-4858 (fax)  
**Email: stritaholly@sbcglobal.net**  
**Website:**  
**www.stritaholly.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: stritahollyre@gmail.com  
**RCIA**  
 Contact Rectory 248-634-4841  
**Director of Music:**  
 Kellie Rao 248-634-4841  
**Masses:**  
 Weekdays: Tuesday 7:00pm & Wednesday at 9:00am  
**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

**Parish Information**  
 Please update your address and phone number for the parish office, if you have moved or have a new phone number.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

May be dropped in the collection basket.

  
**Saturday, December 24**  
 4:00pm William J Dixon  
 6:00pm Gordon, Marie, Tim & Carol Mills  
 11:00pm Richard, Carol & Nicholas LeMarbe  
**Sunday, December 25**  
 9:00am Mary Ann Holzer  
 11:00am Holly Runo  
 6:00pm NO MASS  
**Monday, December 26**  
 No Mass  
**Tuesday, December 27**  
 7:00pm NO MASS  
**Wednesday, December 28**  
 9:00am NO MASS  
**Thursday, December 29**  
 No Mass  
**Friday, December 30**  
 No Mass  
**Saturday, December 31**  
 4:00pm Elizabeth Sarate  
**Sunday, January 1**  
 9:00am Benjamin Kovacinski  
 11:00am Susan Todd  
 6:00pm NO MASS

  
**Kroger Rewards!**  
**Do you have a Kroger Rewards Card?**  
**Do you have it linked to**  
**St. Rita Catholic Church?**  
 If you don't, make sure to log in to your Kroger Rewards Account, choose St Rita Catholic Church or type our account number **BF918** as the community recipient and the St. Rita's will receive the community rewards by Kroger.

**A couple of things to remember:**  
 \*\*This program does NOT affect your fuel points.  
 \*\*It does not cost you anything, Kroger donates a percentage of spending directly to St. Rita.  
 \*\*\*All you have to do, is link your Kroger Card to St Rita Catholic Church and show your card each time you shop. By doing this, you support St. Rita Catholic Church.

Questions: please contact Kristi Hosner at hozboys@yahoo.com

  
 Scott Flake, Nancy Davis, Beth Elliott, Kailee Gallagher, Bob & Louise Kendall, Don Elliott, Chris Brown, Gregg Golden, Ann Czmer, Cindy Schmidt, Vickie Grabowski, Pete Buccellato, Ron Tucker, Don & Rhonda Barron, Larry Slasinski, Loree Ciarkowski, Cheryl Molina, Mary Brown, Louie Loestael, Catherine Corcoran, Bob Davis, Melinda Kici O'Brian, Mary Ann Skaja, Patricia Murphy, Mary Garren, Bill Hartwell, Pat Houring, Gerrie Hoch, Carolyn Sawicki, Erma Boucher, Rafael Hernandez, Mick Smith, 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, Suzie Chermey, Linda DeHetre, Dorothy Seelig, Kristin Komar, Ray Rogers, Joe McGowen, Bonnie Matti, Dorota Best, Paul Kruszewski, Carol Marshalek, John Renusch, Doris Holser, Peggy Dryer, Kathy Ronan, Dianne Parrish, Joan Tokarz, Cindy Anderson, Barbara O'Brien, Eileen Theisen, Adalia McClemons, Jerry Knepper, Andrew Hailo., Robert Linden, Ron Rinehart, Rebecca Johnson, Joanne Gerow, Patricia Pecho, Renne Laube, Chuck Almashy, Alfred Ventre, Robert & Luanne Fellows, Shannon, Kim Morrow, Betty Tormey, Sean MacInnes. And Leo Zimba. May they find peace, strength, and comfort in God's care.

**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.

Please include the following in the Mass Intentions:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\*Required

Christmas Donation2022

*It's not too early to give a gift to your parish family for Christmas!*

*Just mark it  
"Christmas Donation  
2022"*

*and put it in an envelope and drop it in the collection basket, mail it, or bring it to the Rectory Office. Christmas gifts are always on time and remember all of the Christmas donations stay in the parish! For your generous faith-filled giving, God Bless you!*

*Father Dave*

**Carpeting Campaign  
Continues!**

**Reaching Our Goal  
for Carpeting**

*We are on our way to the amount needed and are now at 72% of our goal.*

*So join me and all of our friends in making a donation for  
NEW CARPETING!*

*God Bless,  
Father Dave*



# Joy to the World

*Merry Christmas! May the Birth of Our Savior fill your heart with Joy and bring a new Spirit of Peace to your home and family! As we Celebrate the Nativity of Jesus to the World, bringing us into the most immediate relationship with God, we can rejoice for we know how abundant blessings come to those who wait for the Lord! A Merry Christmas to you and yours—may your family be blessed by the Birth of Our Savior!*

*God Bless,  
Fr. Dave*



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