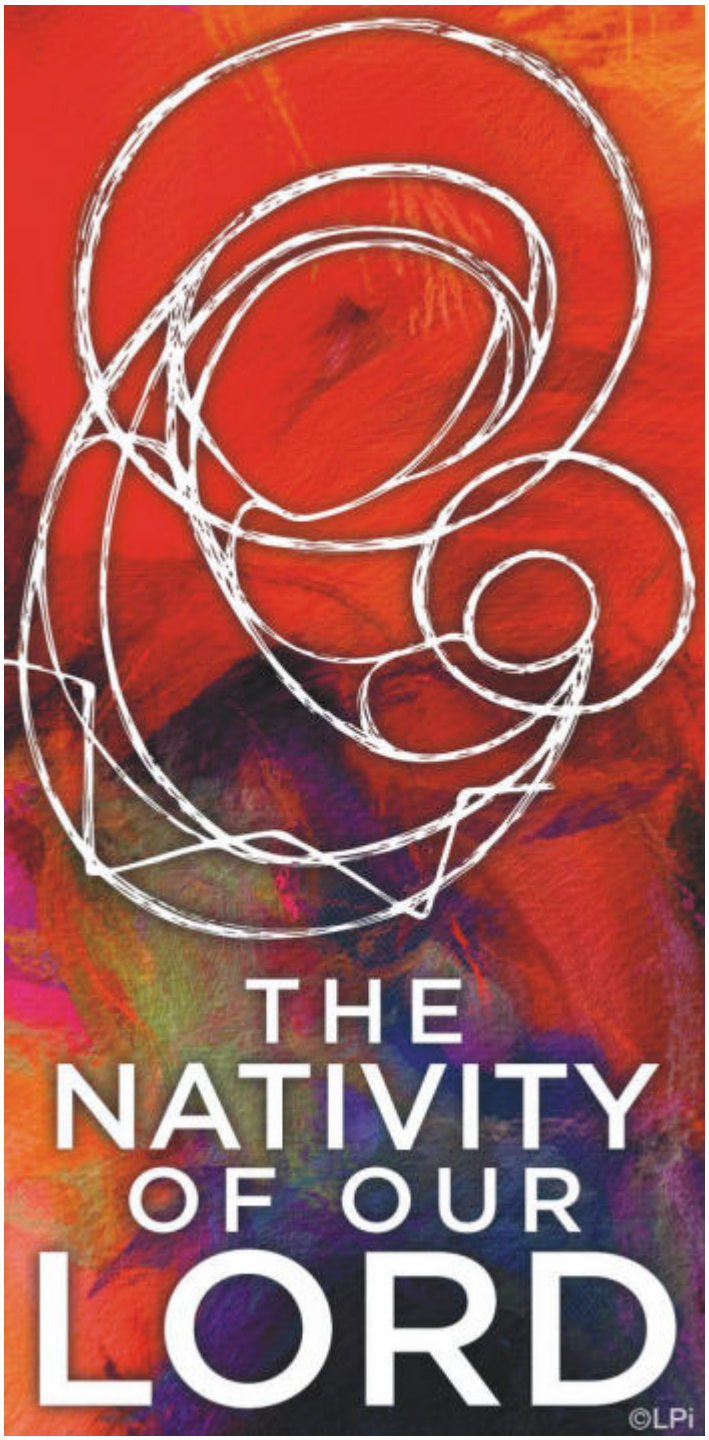
Church of the Holy Spirit

3700 Harvey Lake Rd, Highland MI 48356

4th Sunday Advent - Christmas



Wayne States Universally

If ever there is any doubt ... whether you are 8 or 88', Yes, Virginia, (insert your name here), ...there is a Santa Claus. Of late, questions have surfaced about Santa's arrival. Since Santa lived through the pandemic of the 1918 flu, there is no doubt in my mind that the COVID-19 pandemic will not slow him down in the least little bit. This year, or in years to come.

Fr. Wayne

Dear Editor:

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so. Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Continued on page 2 . . .

Wayne States Universally

Continued from cover . . .

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and un-seeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus? Thank God he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Is There a Santa Claus?
by Francis Pharcellus Church
Published in the New York Sun,
September 21, 1897

Virginia O'Hanlon was the eight-year-old daughter of a New York City doctor. She heard some of her less fortunate friends speak of the possibility that there was no Santa Claus. She approached her father with the question "Is there a Santa Claus"? Whether her father was being evasive over a difficult question, or to sow the seeds of independence, he suggested that she write to the question and answer column of the New York Sun. One of his favorite aphorisms was "If you see it in the Sun, it's so." Young Virginia agreed to write the newspaper

We like to envision Francis P. Church as the pro-typical crusty, old newspaperman. We don't know that. We do know that he was a veteran journalist. He reported on the Civil War for the New York Times, had been editor of both the Army and Navy Journal and Galaxy Magazine. By the time the Fall of 1897 rolled around he had been with the New York Sun for about 20 years and was now an editorial writer. Whether it was because of his experience or thoughtfulness, the difficult and controversial subjects of the day were given him. So young Virginia's letter landed on his desk. As is practiced still on editorial pages, it was published without a byline and still today his reply fills us all with the hope of the season.

Francis Church died in April 1906. Virginia O'Hanlon went on to a 47-year career as an educator in the New York City public school system. She died at the age of 81 in May 1971. Virginia's original letter still exists as the first page of a scrapbook she kept and is still kept by the family. Francis Church's editorial was reprinted each year until the NY Sun went out of business in 1949.

Holy Spirit Church

Calendar at a Glance

Monday, December 21
10:00am-2pm-Office Open
11:00am-AA

Tuesday, December 22
10:00am-3:00pm-Office Open
10:00am-Women's Prayer Group

Wednesday, December 23
9:00am-Mass
10:00am-3:00pm-Office Open

Thursday, December 24
4:00pm-Mass
6:30pm-Mass
10:00pm-Mass

Friday, December 25
9:00am-Mass
11:00am-Mass

Saturday, December 26
5pm-Mass

Sunday, December 27
9am-Mass
11am-Mass

Parish Vision: To Be Christ to All.
Our Mission Statement: Led by the Holy Spirit, we accompany others to encounter Jesus, to give witness to Him, and to grow as missionary disciples.

The Christmas Wafer (Oplatek)

The Christmas wafer commemorates a custom many centuries old. It is a tradition among Polish, Slovak, and many Lithuanian families, which has been adopted by many other ethnic groups. The tradition is as follows:

After grace is said and before sitting down to the Christmas Eve (or Christmas Day) meal, all present share the wafer as a symbol of love, brotherhood, innocence, and Christ. The father (or oldest person present) breaks the wafer with his wife (or next oldest person) exchanging wishes for heath and happiness. The Oplatek is then broken with others, beginning with the oldest child, also sharing wishes for happiness, health, and good fortune. When the wafer is accepted, a willingness to forgive and forget is expressed; when it is offered to another, a willingness to share is denoted.

To help continue this beautiful tradition of love and peace of the Christmas season, we have Oplatek available in the office.

Be sure to check us out online!
www.HolySpiritHighland.com

Please Prayerfully Consider Adoring in Our Chapel

We are looking to have the following hours immediately filled.

Sunday	3-4AM, 2-3PM
Monday	2-3AM, 3-4AM
Wednesday	2-3AM, 3-4AM, 4-5AM, 2-3PM
Thursday	5-6AM, 9-10PM
Friday	5-6AM
Saturday	5-6AM, 11AM-12PM, 12PM-1PM

COVID Cleaning Schedule
Weekdays 12PM-1PM closed for cleaning

We are always looking for substitute adorers.
Please call, Jenna Konarzewski 248-891-1623
Or Autumn Woodcox 248-872-6607

Christmas MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
MASS-4:00 PM
MASS-6:30PM
MASS-10:00PM

CHRISTMAS DAY
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
MASS-9:00 AM
MASS-11:00 AM

NEW YEARS EVE-5:00 PM
NEW YEARS DAY-9:00 AM

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS
CLOSED DECEMBER 24TH-JANUARY 3RD

CSA Catholic Services Appeal Weekly Report

Parish Target	$73,817
Pledged	$56,322
Amount Needed to Reach Goal	$17,495

Thank you for your generous response.

Meditations for December 20
Luke 1:26-38

The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. (Luke 1:32)

It's almost Christmas! That thought can fill our hearts with anticipation. We might look forward to seeing friends or family. We can't wait to see the look on a loved one's face when they open the gift we carefully chose. Or we just want to enjoy celebrating Jesus' birth with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

But think about the anticipation that the Jews felt as they awaited the coming of the Messiah! Their hope was kindled almost one thousand years before Christ, when God promised David a kingly lineage. Imagine as well Mary's surprise when the angel described the son she would bear by using nearly the same words that God had spoken to David so much earlier. He would be called Son of the Most High, he would sit on the throne of his father, David, and he would reign over an eternal kingdom (Luke 1:26-38). Israel's long wait was over—the birth of Jesus would bring about everything they had hoped for.

As modern-day Christians, we don't experience the Jews' yearning for a Messiah, but we can still feel the ache of longing. For peace. For justice. For security. Jesus is the fulfillment of these yearnings too. When conflict—on a large or small scale—threatens to tear us apart, Jesus offers reconciliation and the chance to live once more in peace with God and our neighbor. When injustice breaks our hearts, Jesus tells us he has come to make all things right and to give us the strength to make things better in our own corner of the world. When insecurity makes us feel as if nothing ever remains the same, Jesus reminds us that his kingdom is everlasting; he gives us a sure foundation to build our lives on.

That's the kind of fulfillment that the kingship of Jesus can bring. That's what he promises. And that's a gift we can all receive this Christmas.

"Jesus, you are the fulfillment of all my longings! I love you, Lord!"

Readings for Sunday, December 27
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 | Col 3:12-21 | Lk 2:22-40

Prayer REQUESTS

The names of the sick will be removed in 6 weeks. To re-list, or to add a name, please call the parish office at 248-887-5364.

Debbie Adams
Greg Azzoli
Jeannine Aubry
Alice Beckner
Brooklyn Bridson
Amanda Burger
Kevin Burger
Gordon Buttrey
Joe Camilleri
Jim Carr
Jim & Theresa Cerretani
Margaret Chenier
Dan Cole
Jennie Collins
Nancy Cooper-Bass
Gayle Crawford
D'Ambrosi Family
Pascual Della Torre
Gen Demey
Steve Demey
Jason Dull & Family
Morgan Elliott
Barbara Eschrich
James Gibson
Ruthie Glover
Gonder Family
Juliann Heidt
Jim Kelly
Ken Kost
Joe Kubani
John Laskey
Maurie Luther
Roberta Luther
John Matchinski
Carole Mattson
Tom Mitch
Ed Meyer
Jeanette Moran
Jeff Mummery
Don Owens
Josephine Polcyn
Michael & Pam Polcyn
Anthony Pilarz
Chuck Poling
Cole T. Quirolo, F3
Joanne Rabideau
Sylvia Ramirez
Audrey Schilkey
Joe & Joey Segedy
Betty & Ken Simmons
Ray Siri
Lynn Smith
Courtney Thompson
Linda Tudman
Terese Tuohey
Louie Weglarz

Weekly Offertory Collection

Date	Actual	Budget	Over / (Under)
Early Bulletin Submission - No New Numbers			
Y-T-D	$231,977	$227,355	$4,622

This report is based on the Offertory Collection line in the budget. It includes weekly envelopes, loose and children's collection, holy day collections, and online giving. It does not include Christian Service, fuel, or kitchen fund envelopes, the Christmas collection, Parish fundraisers, grants received, CCE tuition and fees, or other miscellaneous income. It is based on a yearly budget where we anticipate the expenses of the Parish. Just because there may be a deficit here, it does not mean the Parish is operating at a deficit. To Feel free to direct questions to the Parish Finance Council.

The weekly offertory is the life-blood of any parish. We have utility bills to pay, a large physical plant to maintain, staff that we have hired to run our day-to-day operations, youth to teach, worship and music ministry to support, Christian Service neighbors to help. We need everyone who can to put something in the offertory basket each week. We are so grateful for all who do give weekly and are consistent contributors.

Meet Our Extended Family

The Shepherds

The birth of Jesus quickly spread far and wide thanks to the persistent effort of the first people outside of the manger to learn about it: the shepherds. Why shepherds? Why didn't God choose a king, a powerful dignitary, or people of great wealth? Why didn't the three Wise Men or the Holy Family share the news of Jesus' birth? Shepherds were humble men with very little status. As such, they were looked down upon by almost everyone at that time. Angels appeared to these lowly people in the middle of the night to show that Jesus came into the world for everyone: the wealthy and the destitute, the educated and the ignorant, people of every race. Abraham, Moses, and David were all shepherds, and God made promises to them about future deliverance. God honored this promise by announcing the coming of the Messiah to the shepherds first. Their key role was to spread the news of Christ's birth as quickly as possible. History tells us that they did this very well.

Family Prayer

Lord Jesus, Help us to focus on you today, remembering that you are our most treasured gift for the whole year through. Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you. Thank you for your reminder that, in both seasons of celebration and seasons of brokenness, you're still with us. You never leave us. Thank you for your daily Presence in our lives, that we can be assured that your heart is towards us, your eyes are over us, and your ears are open to our prayers. Amen.

52SUNDAYS.COM

Christmas Offertory

The contributions you make for Christmas is the one annual collection that is not assessed 7% for the Archdiocese, as is the case in all of the other offertory collections of the year. We are able to keep the entire Christmas collection, as long as the donations come in two weeks before or two weeks after Christmas in your Christmas envelope.

Christian Service Corner

We are in need of the following items:

Juice boxes or bottles of juice, Beef Stew, Salad Dressing, Mayo, Granola Bars, Dish Soap, Syrup, Corn, Peas, Pasta Sauce, Diapers: Sizes 5 & 6 Pull-Ups size 4/5 Toddler

Explore the Sunday Gospel

The Birth of Jesus LK 2:1-14 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "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. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Take Time To Chat

1. Why is the birth of Jesus so important to people of every time and place?
2. In what way does gift giving relate to the birth of Jesus?
3. In what way do the lights on our Christmas trees remind us of Jesus?

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 21
Sg 2:8-14 | Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday, December 22
1 Sm 1:24-28 | Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday, December 23
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 | Lk 1:57-66
9:00 a.m. (PPP) Tyler & Jojo Kind & Family
9:00 a.m. Intentions of Mary Johnson

Thursday, December 24
4:00 p.m. (PPP) Tyler & Jojo Kind & Family
4:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Chenier & Spampinato Family
4:00 p.m. +Romeo Family
4:00 p.m. +Mackover Family
4:00 p.m. +Michael J. Polo
6:30 p.m. (PPP) Tyler & Jojo Kind & Family
6:30 p.m. Our Parish
10:00 p.m. (PPP) Tyler & Jojo Kind & Family
10:00 p.m. Our Parish

Friday, December 25
9:00 a.m. (PPP) Tyler & Jojo Kind & Family
9:00 a.m. +Sam Putnam
11:00 a.m. (PPP) Tyler & Jojo Kind & Family
11:00 a.m. Our Parish

Saturday, December 26
5:00 p.m. (PPP) Tyler & Jojo Kind & Family
5:00 p.m. Intentions of Alan & Ruthie Glover

Sunday, December 27
9:00 a.m. (PPP) Tyler & Jojo Kind & Family
9:00 a.m. Maurie Luther
11:00 a.m. (PPP) Tyler & Jojo Kind & Family
11:00 a.m. In Thanksgiving

Lector Schedule

Christmas Eve:
4:00 p.m. - Mike Perrera
6:30 p.m. - Mary Pat Chynoweth
10:00 p.m. - Bill Metz

Christmas Day:
9:00 a.m. - Jillian Peck
11:00 a.m. - Maurena Muldoon

Saturday, December 26:
5:00 p.m. - Audrey Schilkey

Sunday, December 27:
9:00 a.m. - Bill Metz
11:00 a.m. - Cindie Audia

Church of the Holy Spirit

3700 Harvey Lake Road
Highland, Michigan 48356
248-887-5364 Fax: 248-889-1374
www.holyspirithighland.com

(Vicariate of the Lakes)

Rev. Wayne Ureel, Pastor
Michael Somervell, Deacon

Mass Schedule

SATURDAY - 5:00 p.m., SUNDAY - 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
HOLY DAY - 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
CONFESSIONS - Saturday, By Appointment Only

Parish Offices
Business Manager:
Kay Young - Kayoung@holyspirithighland.com.....248-887-5364
Pam Glover - Glover@holyspirithighland.com.....248-889-5888
Fax.....248-889-1374
Office Hours: 10:00 a.m. –3:00 p.m. Mon.-Thur.
RCIA: Ron Shankin.....248-245-1608
Stephen Ministry: 248-887-5364
Christian Service: Gayle Greene.....248-887-1441

Faith Formation
Director of Faith Formation:
Jillian Peck - Jillian@holyspirithighland.com.....248-887-1634

Youth Ministry & SAGS
Julie Owens.....248-887-0027
Jojo Kind.....248-887-0027
Email.....TAG@holyspirithighland.com

Minister of Music
David Popovits - Music@holyspirithighland.com...810-629-8807

Pastoral Council
Meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
Baptisms
Contact Deacon Mike at 248-887-8813

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