



Church
of the

Holy Spirit

3700 Harvey Lake Rd, Highland MI 48356



Wayne States Universally

The church was packed for Christmas Mass; Not just with the usual parishioners, but with people who attend church only for special occasions. A crusty old pastor stared down at the congregation and began his homily. He gave them a hellfire and damnation sermon. He said the church was full of faces he only saw at Christmas and Easter. He told them what sinners they were, that they were using the Church, that God demanded more than a once or twice a year appearance. One could feel the atmosphere in the church change. The happy spirit of celebration turned sour: people felt uncomfortable, affronted, and angry. Some got up and walked out.

When the assisting priest stood to lead the closing prayer, he made a big point of praying especially for those who struggled with their faith, those who find faith difficult, those who continue to hang on to faith by their finger-tips, despite all the troubles and trials and tribulations of life. Rather than berating them, he did everything he could to encourage them.

These priests – though caricatures – represent two very different understandings of who God is, and what it means to believe in God. Which is right? Even as adults, many of us carry around an image of God from childhood: Perhaps God is viewed as an angry old man, demanding things of us, threatening eternal punishment when we sin. This is the God of the crusty old priest, a God who is to be feared, kept happy, to be placated and obeyed.

The readings paint a very different picture of God. Isaiah tells us that the coming of God is not bad but good news; Bringing peace and happiness, causing us to shout and sing for joy. No matter how messy or difficult our lives are – no matter what our own particular "ruins" are – God consoles, frees, redeems, and offers us salvation. The writer of the book of Hebrews tells us that Christ is the one who most fully and uniquely reveals God's love to us. The Father speaks through his Son. The Son is a perfect copy of the Father's nature. So, what is this Father like, as revealed by Jesus? In the Gospel, John tells us that God wants to save us so that we might have fullness of life. How God goes about this reveals everything. We find that we are not confronted with a powerful, angry, judgmental figure. Nor are we forced to believe and obey in the face of some awesome power. We are not even caught up in a compelling glory from which there is no escape. The whole Christmas story shows us that God isn't like that. Scripture reveals that God came to save us, not with a great show of power and strength, flashes of lightning or peals of thunder, but by being born as a baby. No pomp, drum rolls or razzle dazzle. A helpless baby, who was not even born in a house. Making a statement about our God who is very much at home with us. The Gospels continues: The Word who is God lived among us – pitched a tent among his people. Such a God doesn't threaten and menace but entices each of us to believe; Attracts and allures us. God is full of grace and truth, not spitting anger and fear.

Our Christmas congregation is most certainly made up of daily Mass-goers as well as those who haven't been to church in many years. Whoever we are, and wherever we are at on life's journey, each of us is invited to allow ourselves to be seduced by God; To let the Christ child enter our heart, to let God's love fill our soul. At least for a while, all of us are called to ponder how God, through Christ, made himself vulnerable; How close and available he made himself for us. Whether our faith in God is strong, weak, or somewhere in-between, whether our relationship with the Church is close or distant, we can look at the crib and know whatever level our faith – and/or doubt – God never loses faith in us. The Lord never gives up on us. To prove this, God will go any length, even to becoming a helpless baby, even to dying on a cross. Each of us is precious in God's eyes. Indeed, we've been created for life.

Merry Christmas,
Fr. Wayne

Holy Spirit Church

Calendar at a Glance

Monday, December 27

BUILDING CLOSED

11am-AA

Tuesday, December 28

BUILDING CLOSED

Wednesday, December 29

BUILDING CLOSED

Thursday, December 30

BUILDING CLOSED

Friday, December 31

BUILDING CLOSED

Saturday, January 1

9am-Mass, Solemnity of Mary

5pm-Mass, Epiphany

Sunday, January 2

9am-Mass

11am-Mass



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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.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



Help Us to Grow

Father,
through the holy family,
you have made all families holy.
You have given them as a model for us
as we walk through life together.
Help us to be ever more merciful.

Help us to forgive one another and
to do small things with great love.
Help us to grow together in holiness.
Give us the wisdom to imitate Mary,
holding all great mysteries in our hearts.
Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 26, 2021
All Families Are Made Holy



Today's readings: Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14; Psalm 128: 1–2, 3, 4–5; Colossians 3:12–21 or 3:12–17; Luke 2:41–52 or 1 Samuel 1:20–22, 24–28; Psalm 84:2–3, 5–6, 9–10; 1 John 3:1–2, 21–24; Luke 2:41–52. Little is known about the life Jesus, Mary, and Joseph lived in Nazareth. From the time they returned from Egypt until the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, the only story that appears in Scripture about the family is the founding of Jesus in the temple. A close reading of this text shows that they were observant Jews and they went to Jerusalem each year for Passover. It also can be seen that they traveled with their extended family, so they had other significant relationships in their lives. They had regular family struggles. Mary asks, "Why have you done this to us?" She sounds like many mothers who are

raising adolescents. Their family life is a model for ours, but it must have been very ordinary indeed.

Imagine what that can mean for us.

Jesus knows our hearts and our struggles because he lived them too. God entered into a family and set the family apart as a place of sanctification. The holy family makes all families holy. The family is an ordinary place filled with ordinary love, peace, mercy, justice, and forgiveness. It is a place to grow in holiness. This week, as you go about your routine, imagine how you are connected to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, across time and space, to their home in Nazareth. If you are preparing a meal or folding the laundry, you are doing holy work, just as they did.

Meditations for December 25
John 1:1-18

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. (John 1:14)

Today we join Christians all over the world in celebrating the birth of Jesus. Today we rejoice that God has come to save us. And today we kneel before the manger in awe and gratitude. O come, let us adore him.

“The Word . . . ” This child in Mary’s arms is no ordinary infant. No, he is the Word who existed from the beginning. He is the image of the invisible God! Jesus, the unseen Word who created everything, has become visible in human flesh. Now we can see this God who loves us and made us. Not only that, but we can know him personally. Through Jesus, the God who made the world is now remaking it. He is making all things new, including our relationship with God. O come, let us adore him.

“became flesh . . . ” Jesus, the divine Word, has emptied himself to take on our human flesh. He came to do for us what we could not do on our own. We could not enter heaven; we could not become like him; we could not save ourselves. So in his mercy, the eternal Son descended to us in order to save us from sin and death. By freely choosing to share our human condition, he embraced all our weakness and suffering. The world has never seen such love before! O come, let us adore him.

“and made his dwelling among us.” Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. He has come to earth to live and walk alongside us. He has come to bring us strength and comfort, wisdom and hope in this troubled world. Even now he dwells within us through his Holy Spirit. We are never alone, never without help, never without his grace. O come, let us adore him. Wherever you are today, Jesus is close to you. He looks at you with great love, and he invites you to come to him. O come, let us adore him.

“Jesus, Son of God, I worship you! Thank you for becoming man for me.”



Readings for Sunday, January 2

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

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 | Kathy Edwards | Keri Mueller |
| Greg Azzoli | Suzanne Farnum | Jeff Mummery |
| Jeannine Aubry | Richard Fish | Diane Nightengale |
| Bob Behmer | Ruthie Glover | Jamie O’Brien |
| Kathy Bergen | Lisa Grunwald | Jan Oleszczak |
| Loren Bloetcher | Dominic Guzzardo | Don Owens |
| Dale Bretz | Richard Haviland | Aalyhi Phelps |
| Jerry Bretz | Wendy Heibert | Josephine Polcyn |
| Brooklyn Bridson | Juliann Heidt | Michael Polcyn |
| Carol Burke | Scott Hoensheid | Anthony Pilar |
| Amanda Burger | Carol Johnson | Michael Pino Jr. |
| Kevin Burger | Jim Johnson | Kathy Rakowski |
| Stephanie Byrne | Jim Kelly | Christine Rejniak |
| Doris Cameron | Tracy Kelly | Paula Reynolds |
| Margaret Chenier | Mike Konopnick | Rhett Richardson |
| Harry Cole | Ken Kost | Kelly Rodgers |
| Mary Cole | Bob Kotulak | Betty & Ken Simmons |
| Nancy Cooper-Bass | Rick Kowal | Phil Thomas |
| David Crockett | Karen Law Family | Courtney Thompson |
| Ed Deaton | Marty Levin | Tom Torode |
| Gene Demey | Pete Lillemoen | Martin Tufts |
| Steve Demey | Maurie Luther | Linda Tudman |
| Sue Deming | Roberta Luther | Vicki Wheeler |
| Renee Dubiel | Tom Mitch | Carole Ziegler |
| Nancy Duzzie | Robin Motley | |
| | Ed Meyer | |



Weekly Offertory Collection

Date	Actual	Budget	Over / (Under)
12/12	\$ 5,844	\$ 10,200	(\$ 4,356)
Y-T-D	\$233,792	\$255,000	(\$21,208)

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. 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 give weekly and are consistent contributors.

Thank You from the Royal Family KIDS Camp

Dear Royal Kid Camp Quilters,
As this unusual Holiday Season comes upon us, we need to be grateful for the blessings we have. I know that we all have worked hard to keep ourselves and our families safe. Most of us have had to reach out and help someone in need. We will continue to make the world a better place because we are here.

I received a nice note from the camp directors:
"Thank you so much for providing beautifully unique quilts each summer for our campers. During this cold season, the children will be bundling themselves in their special quilt, remembering the staff they had met at Camp and reminiscing about the memories that were made. The quilts that you generously prepare and donate each year are precious to our campers. As directors, we are touched by your thoughtfulness and appreciate seeing your gifts and talents touch the lives of the children we serve. Thank you! May God bless you during this holiday season. We look forward to partnering together next summer."

*Blessings,
Jon & Becca Kolenda
Royal Family KIDS Camp, Novi Directors*

At this time, The Directors expect to have at least 24 campers this summer. The camp will follow the prodigal in place when the camp is held. They are sure they will use the quilts in 2022. In these trying times, we hope that you will find a way to continue to support the quilt program.

Most quilting groups contribute every year, the number of quilts varies based on the needs of the particular congregations. Some individuals also contribute one to three quilts depending on the time they have available. The quilters, I talk to enjoy making children's quilts as it is a change from the ones they do for their congregation. Most new quilters come from you mentioning the camp to other quilters. Please keep up the good work.

When I think of you, quilters, I think of the words of a holy person. The holy person said I preach the Gospel every day and every now and then I have to talk about it. Your quilts reach so many people each year and they bring people closer to God and it is your quilts that do the speaking for you. Please sent me a note if you will be able to help again this year.

Our prayers are with you,
Dave and Maureen Boyd

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

Christian Service Corner

We are in need of the following items:

Laundry Detergent, Mayo, Toilet Paper, 2qt Juice
All Purpose Cleaner (spray bottle), Paper Towel

Due to COVID we can no longer take plastic or paper bags and **we cannot accept expired food.*

Knights of Columbus Thank You



Dear Parishioners and Brother Knights:
The Knights of Columbus collection for Holy Cross Children's Services was a huge success. You donated 32 sweatshirts, 7 sets of sheets, at least 50 assorted hats, scarves and gloves, along with \$70 in gift cards. Thank you for your generosity from myself, my brother Knights and the children from Holy Cross.

Larry Paffi, PDD, PGK

Bring in your Colasanti's Receipts

Please turn in your Colasanti's receipts before the end of the year. Colasanti's needs to wrap up their year end books and they need your receipts in order to pay us our rebate.



Please Prayerfully Consider Adoring in Our Chapel

Hours needing to be immediately filled.

Sunday	3-4AM
Monday	9-10AM
Tuesday	8-9PM
Wednesday	2-3AM, 3-4AM, 4-5AM, 3-4PM
Thursday	3-4AM, 4-5AM, 5-6PM
Saturday	5-6AM, 11AM-12PM, 12PM-1PM

Children's Hour - Monday's 11AM-Noon

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

Mass Intentions

Lector Schedule

Monday, December 27

1 Jn 1:1-4 | Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday, December 28

1 Jn 1:5—2:2 | Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday, December 29

1 Jn 2:3-11 | Lk 2:22-35

Thursday, December 30

1 Jn 2:12-17 | Lk 2:36-40

Friday, December 31

1 Jn 2:18-21 | Jn 1:1-18

Saturday, January 1

9:00 a.m. (PPP) Our Parish Family

9:00 a.m. +Lillian & Percy Carr

9:00 a.m. +Kenneth Young

9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Rail & Helou Families

5:00 p.m. (PPP) Our Parish Family

5:00 p.m. +Michael Benner

Sunday, January 2

9:00 a.m. (PPP) Our Parish Family

9:00 a.m. +Howard Zimmerman

9:00 a.m. +Joseph Matweycek

11:00 a.m. (PPP) Our Parish Family

11:00 a.m. Intentions of Wayne & Mary Gonder

11:00 a.m. Intentions of Jerry Bergen

Saturday, January 1

9:00 a.m. - Maurena Muldoon

5:00 p.m.—Joyce Lucas

Sunday, January 2

9:00 a.m. - Carrie Pishek

11:00 a.m. - Jerry Przekora

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, 4pm or by Appointment

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: 9:00 a.m. –3:00 p.m. Mon.-Thur.

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 - Text - 810-516-6594

Pastoral Council

Meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Baptisms

Contact Deacon Mike at 248-887-8813

Marriages

Contact Fr. Wayne 6 months before your wedding date.

Bulletin Deadline: Thursday at noon

Changing your address or phone number?

Please notify the office when making these changes.

Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

From Fr. Wayne, Deacon Mike, Kay, David, Pam,
Jillian, Gayle, Julie, Jim, Joe & Jojo



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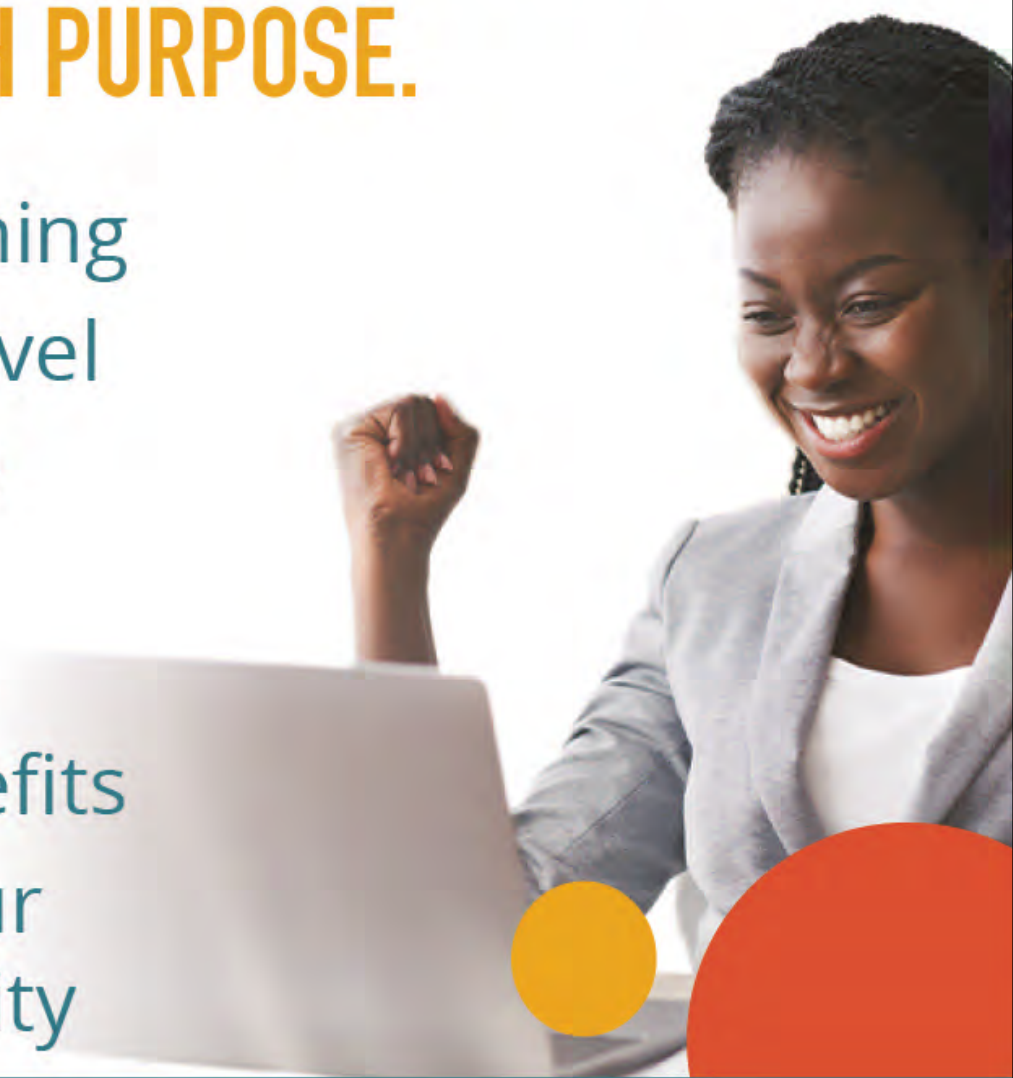
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