



ST. OWEN CATHOLIC CHURCH
DECEMBER 27, 2020

6869 Franklin Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301 ♦ 248-626-0840 ♦ www.stowen.org

THE HOLY FAMILY

"For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples."

- Lk 2:30-31

THIS WEEK AT ST. OWEN

	MASS INTENTIONS	SCRIPTURE READINGS	CALENDAR EVENTS
Saturday, December 26	Kimberly Gallagher Req. by Patrick & Denise Martin	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22	St. Stephen, the First Martyr 4:00pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Mass
Sunday, December 27	9am Mass Hakki & Suad Husaynu Req. by their children 11am Mass Marjorie Wruble Req. by Betty J. Bright	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 Lk 2:22-40	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 9:00am Mass 11:00am Mass <i>*Parish Office closed through Monday, January 4.</i>
Monday, December 28	Richard Brennan Req. by St. Owen Parishioners	1 Jn 1:5—2:2 Mt 2:13-18	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs 9:00am Mass and Rosary following Mass
Tuesday, December 29	DeVooght & Moenck Family Req. by Dean & Judy Moenck	1 Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35	St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr 9:00am Mass
Wednesday, December 30		1 Jn 2:12-17 Lk 2:36-40	
Thursday, December 31 	St. Owen Parishioners	1 Jn 2:18-21 Jn 1:1-18	St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve 5:00pm Mass 7:30pm AA meeting: Center
Friday, January 1	World Peace Req. by	Nm 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21	Mary, The Holy Mother of God New Year's Day 10:00am Mass
Saturday, January 2	Lynn Tomlinson Req. by St. Owen Parishioners	1 Jn 2:22-28 Jn 1:19-28	Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church 4:00pm Reconciliation 5:00pm Mass
Sunday, January 3	9am Mass Sharon Fitzpatrick Req. by Joe & Peg Dasovic 11am Mass Hakki Husaynu Req. by his children	Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12	The Epiphany of the Lord 9:00am Mass 11:00am Mass— Teen Liturgy

Welcome
THANK YOU FOR JOINING US.

St. Owen welcomes you to our Mass celebrating The Holy Family. If you are a visitor, guest or returning member, we are

delighted you have joined with our parish family. If you wish to learn more about the Catholic community of St. Owen, call the parish office at 248-626-0840.



We welcome a newly baptized child

Sean Jordan Connolly

Baptized on Sunday, December 20, 2020

Son of Kevin and Elizabeth Connolly



A NOTE FROM FATHER MIKE

Who is not going to wish “good bye” to 2020? As we celebrate the arrival of an inoculation that can keep us from the disease we also celebrate a new year. ‘Celebration’ is the operative word here; we need to recognize the genius of those women and men who have spent their lives peering into microscopes and now we are the recipients of their discovery.

All of this reminds us to recognize the gift of our global family; this is not healing for our own family, but the wide reach for all that God has created. This brings new meaning to our annual celebration of the Holy Family because we have learned through this pandemic that we are all in this together -- whether it started in China or wherever, we are all in the search for a cure and a search to learn how to better live together as a family created by God.

Happy New Year all!

Fr. Mike

SUNDAY’S READING

FIRST READING:

The Lord took Abram outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so,” he added, “shall your descendants be.” (Gn 15:5)

PSALM:

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever. (Ps 105)

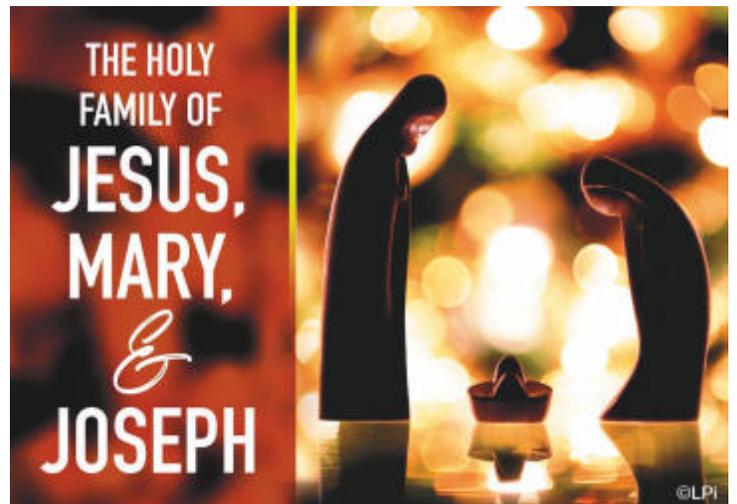
SECOND READING:

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a placethat he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. (Heb 11:8)

GOSPEL:

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. (Lk 2:40)

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THE GIFT OF FAMILY

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than

others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, “people need people.”

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn’t important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don’t misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

Dear Msgr. Mike, Staff and Parish Family of St. Owen,

The grand and glorious Feast of the Nativity of the Lord Jesus is upon us. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Merry Christmas, but even more, a holy and peace-filled Christmas.

2020 was a year of changes and tumult with a presidential election and the threat of the Covid virus uppermost in everyone's mind. It was also the year I entered into retirement from the active priestly ministry. All of these things have had a profound influence in my life and yours.

Retirement has been a challenge and I can honestly say that I am not fully adjusted. I miss parish life and at the same time I am profoundly touched and grateful for your cards, notes and prayers. Be sure that I remember you and St. Owen with affection and love.

I have a lovely condo in the Bellbrook Catholic Retirement Community in Rochester Hills. I have wonderful neighbors and close priest friends who are a constant source of support and encouragement.

At the same time, I have had to face several health challenges which have needed attention. While taking physical therapy I somehow injured my neck and shoulders and am being treated by the doctor who performed back surgery so successfully six years ago. More serious have been some heart problems.

I have a leaky heart valve which needs surgery which should come along in January. While exploring my heart, my doctors discovered three blockages which need stints. That was a lucky find. I have been in and out of the hospital several times for innumerable tests but it should pay off in a successful procedure to take care of the valve situation.

Truly heart-breaking has been my decision to give up my pal Joey, the dachshund I had for twelve years and who adjusted to the move to the condo so well. But realizing my diminished physical condition and thinking of what was best for my little guy I gave him to Judy and Dean Moenck who had taken care of him whenever I was unable. Judy, as many of you will recall was the parish secretary who retired when I did in June. They love him and he loves them. I miss him every day. 'Nuff said.

But Christmas is at hand. What a wonderful event we recall in the birth of Jesus long ago. And his birth in us today as he sees our difficulties and offers comfort and joy even in strained circumstances. When I think of Christmas I go way back to childhood and on through the years of my priesthood, all memorable, all great gifts and treasures from the Lord. And I am grateful, to all of you, for your encouragement and support.

We all look for the day when things return to normal. Until then, we have the overwhelming grace of God who comes to us in Jesus his Son. That grace is unexpected, undeserved, astonishing.

May the blessings of Christmas be with you and your family. And let us pray for one another. May the God who had saved us be in our hearts, mind and lives.

Sincerely,
Fr. Jim Cronk

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Feast of the Holy Family
Saturday, December 26
5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 27
9:00 a.m. / 11:00 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation. Fulfilled on December 31 or January 1.

New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31
5:00 p.m.
No morning Mass.

New Year's Day, Friday, January 1
10:00 a.m.

**Regular Mass schedule and normal office hours
will resume on Monday, January 4.**



**Charitable
End-of-Year Giving
Christmas Collection**

If you have yet to donate to the Christmas collection or make an end-of-year gift to St. Owen, it can still be accomplished.

Give a contribution between now and December 31st with Christmas written on memo line of check payable to St. Owen or write Christmas on any envelope with your offering.

or

Submit an online donation by December 31st . Visit our website at www.stowen.org. The WeShare online giving prompts will guide you through the steps to donate to the Christmas collection.

Thank you to those who have remembered St. Owen this Christmas.

The year-to-date offertory contributions and Christmas collection will be reported in the January 10 bulletin. Following several weeks of contributions under budget, we look forward to sharing improved financial results.

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Links to live streaming Masses are available on www.stowen.org or www.aod.org. In addition, check your Sunday cable listings for broadcast Mass times. Check out an array of livestream/online liturgical events on the AOD website.

Per Archbishop Vigneron all the faithful in southeast Michigan remain dispensed from their obligation to attend Mass through at least Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021. This dispensation means you *do not* commit a mortal sin by missing Mass. However, this does not release the faithful from honoring the Lord's Day on Sunday. While the dispensation has been extended, our churches remain open and all guidelines for mask-wearing, social distancing and other precautions to help ensure the health and well-being of our communities remain in place.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music from the heart.

Howard Thurman



Dear Friends in Christ,

I am truly hopeful you all had a lovely Christmas! We continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus, celebrate our many blessings, and know in our hearts we continuously are called to serve! From the writings of Howard Thurman, he reminds us so beautifully of The Work of Christmas.

RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF CHRIST

St. Owen Food Pantry



Thank you for your continued support to keep our pantry very well stocked. With food donations and gift cards from Kroger & Meijer, we are able to often gift the recipients with a great variety of food and a gift card to supplement

for perishable items. The pantry recipients are always so incredibly grateful for your assistance to help provide for their families. Donations of cleaning products are always in great need. If you would like to donate any cleaning products, they will be well received. Thank you!

Stamp Donations



We are always accepting cancelled stamps. Over Christmas when you are receiving more personal cards and notes than usual. Please continue to save and donate your cancelled stamps. You may place them in an envelope labelled

cancelled stamps and leave them in the container labelled in the narthex or drop them in the collection basket. The stamps are sent to the Franciscan Missions in Wisconsin who sell the stamps to stamp collectors and use the money to help those in need!

May the Lord continue to help us all to see Him in the face of every person we meet this week.

God Bless you, your family and loved ones! Wishing all a Happy, Healthy Blessed New Year!

Michelle Novaco
248-626-2320
Christianservice@stowen.org

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The December Education Meeting was held in the church several weeks ago. The teens were guided through a meditation called *The Christmas Star*. They listened as they imagined themselves walking into the countryside and looking up to see the magnificent stars and recalling the story of the birth of Christ, filling their hearts with the gentle presence of God. They were asked to reflect and remember God is with us. God lives in our hearts. We are the Christmas star. What does it mean to be a star? What is the job we have to do? How can we bring the light of God to the people in our family? Our friendships? Our schoolmates? Our work place? How can we bring true Christmas peace to our loved ones, our friends, our acquaintances? The teens were then asked to complete a heart refection sheet and place initials of people on the left side they have hurt (people they may have embarrassed, disappointed, made fun of, angered, left out, used) and initials of those who have hurt them in the same ways on the right side. They were then asked to write peace notes to help heal the hurts. The choice was theirs whether the notes will be delivered.



The challenge for December was to see how many people they can bring peace to before Christmas and privately reflect if they feel a change in their hearts. The notes are meant to encourage them to think about what is needed to repair a wounded or broken relationship in our lives. Which side is more difficult for us to heal? The left or the right? And who can help us heal those broken relationships? Each present were given a glow in the dark star to take home as a reminder of the evening's reflection that they are God's light, God's love filling their whole being, flooding their hearts.

"Don't be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and a thankful heart, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God which goes beyond all understanding will guard your hearts."

Philippians 4:7

CALENDAR

January 3 Teen Liturgy, 11am. Need ushers!

YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISING

Support the Youth Group with your Kroger Plus Card

1. Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com.
2. Create an account to register your Kroger card.
3. Enroll in the Rewards Program: click on Michigan
4. Select Youth Group's assigned number **NI814**.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

CSA Project

Now that we have reached our CSA goal and Archdiocese is refunding the money raised above our goal is **100% tax free**, we are calling on everyone who hasn't replied to this year's CSA.

We are in great need of purchasing and installing digital screens, projection equipment and upgrading the sounds system in the church. Making these improvements will not only enhance the worship experience but will also allow us to live stream masses and other church events. Such improvements carry a cost of approximately \$50-60K. We would like to finance much of this expense though this year's CSA refund. Can we get everyone on board? We are counting on your participation and generosity.



Visit our website and send your pledge today!



WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED:

- Met our \$84,343 CSA Goal
- Met our \$104,343 Parish Target
- Started a Fundraising Campaign for a Projector and Screens

WHAT WE NEED:

- Larger involvement in the program (Currently 183 out of 900 registered parishioners participated.)
- Financial support of \$50K



SIGN UP TO GIVE ONLINE

If you've never donated online before, signing up is easy!



- 1** Visit **stowen.org** and click "Online Giving."
- 2** Click on the collection you wish to donate to.
- 3** Click "Recurring Donation," then enter your donation amount and frequency.

Once you've added your account information, donations will automatically deduct from your account. It's that easy!

2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

All offertory contributions to St. Owen that are dated December 31, 2020 or earlier and received in the parish office by 5pm on Monday, January 4, 2021 will be included in the 2020 record of contributions.

Do we have your correct address? We will mail your 2020 contribution statement to the address on file. If you want it mailed to a new address or a "winter" address, please notify us. Thank you.



Parish Registration

You've heard that **membership has its privileges**. A corollary to that is **registration has its benefits**.

Registering is a statement that you are a part of this Catholic community and have made a commitment to the vitality of our parish. Also, being a registered parishioner is a significant factor when it is time for baptisms, religious education classes, when asked to be a Godparent or Confirmation sponsor, marriage and even funerals.

If you would like to register as a member of St. Owen, please call the parish office at 248-626-0840 or visit the St. Owen website at www.stowen.org. Click on the REGISTER HERE icon as seen below. Registration just takes a few minutes.




Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith? Are you interested in becoming Catholic? The RCIA process (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is going to be starting soon. Because of the Covid restrictions, we are going to start our meetings online. If you are interested in joining this class, please contact Jarrod at 248-626-2300. Currently we are flexible with dates and times. We can accommodate your schedule.



At each St. Owen Mass, one special intention is offered. We are scheduling throughout 2020. AOD's suggested donation is \$10. Call us at 248-626-0840 or email parishoffice@stowen.org to reserve a Mass intention. We have a selection of cards for occasions to express your sympathy or intention and communicate that a Mass will be offered.

52 Sundays 2021



Experience a new way to celebrate the Lord's day at home with 52 Sundays! 52 Sundays is a family guide to Sunday engagement. It includes the weekly Gospel reading, stories about the saints, fun and tasty recipes and other activities for the whole family. Get your copy today (or give it as a gift) for just \$9.95 before it's sold out! Order 52 Sundays: <http://www.4lpi.com/52-sundays/>

2021 Calendar

**Available this weekend
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Archdiocese of Detroit: <http://calmingthestorm.org>

To help people get the physical, mental and spiritual support they need to get through this pandemic, the AOD team of missionaries has launched a new spiritual outreach and support initiative.

Anyone who needs assistance may pursue help:

CALL 313-237-4646

TEXT 'SOS' to 313-315-5758

VISIT <http://calmingthestorm.org/>



Paul Krass (Dec 2020)
 Harry Samuel (Dec 2020)
 Peter Najjar (Nov 2020)
 Mary Lou Schmidt (Nov 2020)
 Joseph Madden (Nov 2020)
 Mike and Bev VonEnde (Oct 2020)
 Father James Cronk (Sept 2020)
 Mike Donovan (Sept 2020)
 Ashley Colestock (Sept 2020)
 Joe Mastromatteo (Aug 2020)
 Eileen Poth (Aug 2020)
 Jean Juett (July 2020)
 John Dueweke (July 2020)
 Pam Biglin (Feb 2020)
 Jozef Wyszynski (Jan 2020)
 George Fenton (Dec 2019)
 Jalila Kainaya (Nov 2019)
 Betty Bright (Nov 2019)

Lila Fenech (Nov 2019)
 Mary Lu Bennethum (Nov 2019)
 Pat Devine (Oct 2019)
 Sheila Callahan (Oct 2019)
 Margaret Fuchs (Sept 2019)
 Mark Crawford (August 2019)
 Elizabeth Ebisawa (July 2019)
 Polly Brennan (July 2019)
 Norma Tioran (May 2019)
 Fred Hillard (Feb 2019)
 Jim Holden (Feb 2019)
 Donna Kelly (Sept 2018)
 Joann Holden (Aug 2018)
 Sawyer Ziegelman (June 2018)
 Armed Forces & Veterans
 First Responders
 Missionaries
 Healthcare Personnel

**Liturgical Minister Schedule
 January 2-3, 2021**
 *Substitute may replace a scheduled minister after publication.

Ushers: A&B	Altar Servers*	Lectors*
January 2 Saturday 5:00 p.m.		B. Lampertius P. Plopa
January 3 Sunday 9:00 a.m.		M. Leedom K. DeRonne
January 3 Sunday 11:00 a.m.		YOUTH MASS



If you or someone you know is in need of prayers and would like to remain confidential, may we suggest you request prayers from the Prayer Line Ministry. Call Rita Lou at 248-851-0595.

Prayer List:

To add or make a change to this prayer list please call Angela in the parish office at 248-626-0840.

ST. OWEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Msgr. Michael LeFevre, Pastor pastor@stowen.org

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parishoffice@stowen.org
Business Manager, Eva Ashor Ext. 3
eashor@stowen.org
Youth Ministry, Mary Mills Ext. 5
 248-932-5919 (home) ♦ stowenyouthgroup@gmail.com
Music Minister, Bradley Lieto Ext. 4
lietoba@gmail.com

Parish Center
Religious Formation (PreK-8 and RCIA)
 Jarrod Dillon 626-2300
dre@stowen.org
Christian Service 626-2320
 Michelle Novaco
christianservice@stowen.org
Parish Maintenance
 Alex Brown 626-2458

WEEKEND MASS
SATURDAY: 5:00 PM
SUNDAY: 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM
WEEKDAY MASS
MONDAY: 9:00 AM
TUESDAY: 9:00 AM
THURSDAY: 9:00 AM
FRIDAY: 9:00 AM

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