# HOLY FAMILY PARISH

A Catholic faith community called to serve God and others through Eucharist, prayer, education, and daily living of the Gospel values.

PARISH OFFICE: 201 CLARK STREET, MIDDLETOWN, OH 45042 (513) 422-0602 www.holyfamilymiddletown.com

#### WEEKEND MASSES

ST. JOHN CHURCH

1405 FIRST AVENUE 201 C

SATURDAY 4:30 PM SUNDAY 10:30 AM

#### HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

201 CLARK STREET SUNDAY 9:00 AM This Mass Live Streamed ADORATION POSTPONED

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION ST. JOHN CHURCH SATURDAY 3:30 PM

Third Sunday of Advent

### December 13, 2020

### This year Christmas will be different with Covid-19.

Our #1 goal when we returned to celebrating public Mass back on May 31<sup>st</sup> was - and continues to be - the safety of those in attendance. And while we couldn't have ever imagined the Ohio Bishops canceling Holy Week and Easter Masses, we find ourselves having to accept another difficult reality:

We cannot safely accommodate all the people who would normally attend our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses.

With social distancing we're limited to 125-150 at St. John Church, well below the 700+ at the 3 PM and the 400+ at the 5 PM Christmas Eve Masses. At Holy Trinity Church we're limited to 85-105, just a third of the 300+ we see at Midnight Mass.

We really don't want to turn anyone away, but we cannot exceed our safety capacity, and if necessary, we will have to ask you to attend a different Mass.

We are focusing on what we can do.

- We've added two additional Masses this year.
- We'll live stream the 9 AM Christmas Day Mass which you can watch live or anytime you choose.
- We clean the churches after every single Mass.
- Face masks and hand sanitizer are at every door.

Looking back, we survived the unimaginable — the Holy Week and Easter lockdown. With your cooperation, we'll "celebrate small" this Christmas, and stay safe, taking care of each other. And we'll look forward to being together next Christmas! We're all in this together.

### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

St. John Church Safety Capacity 125-150
Holy Trinity Church Safety Capacity 85-105



Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24th

3 PM AND 5 PM --- St. John Church\*

3 PM AND 5 PM --- Holy Trinity Church

Midnight --- Holy Trinity Church

Christmas Day - Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

9 AM --- Holy Trinity Church
This Mass live streamed! Find the link at
www.holyfamilymiddletown.com.

10 AM --- St. John Church\*

\*The entrance for the St. John Church Masses will be the First Avenue doors. Those who cannot manage steps are welcome to use the Baltimore Street entrance.

## You're Not Too Late...YET! Deliver Giving Tree Gifts ASAP!

Please drop your gift through the parish office front door mail slot or if it won't fit, call the office 422-0602 to let us know when you're dropping off your gift.

#### HOLY FAMILY MASS SCHEDULE

### Saturday and Sunday - December 12 and 13

4:30 PM Mass SJ Daniel Wallace

9:00 AM Mass HT Carolyn Gustin - Wedding Anniv. Rem.

9:00 AM Mass live streamed and available on the website anytime.

10:30 AM Mass SJ Vincent & Anna DiNardo

The Catholic faithful who reside in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati continue to be dispensed from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass / Holy Day Mass. - ARCHBISHOP DENNIS SCHNURR

### Monday, December 14

6:00 PM Mass HT Robert Wise

Tuesday, December 15

8:15 AM Mass SJ23 Louis Agoston — *students / staff only!* 

12:10 PM Mass HT Roger Romer - Birthday Remembrance

Wednesday, December 16

12:10 PM Mass HT Edna Donisi - Anniversary Remembrance

Thursday, December 17

12:10 PM Mass HT Paul Bruggeman

Friday, December 18

8:00 AM Mass HT Mamerta Arsenio

Saturday, December 19

4:30 PM Mass SJ Inez Newman - Anniversary Rem.

Sunday, December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM Mass HT Jim Kramer - Birthday Remembrance

10:30 AM Mass SJ Vivian McConnell

### Weekly Collections Stewardship Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> \$30,611

Thank you for your generous stewardship!

### A Note from Dale & Joan Gerber

Dear Holy Family Parishioners,

We would like to express our appreciation and thanks for the many prayers, cards and donations we received in memory of our precious daughter



Rebecca Pellegrini. While we have relocated to Michigan to help our son-in-law care for our three grandchildren, we will always remember and cherish the warm and friendly parish of Holy Family. God has granted us the strength to persevere through this most difficult time of our lives.

We wish you every blessing and a joyous Christmas season. Fondly,

Dale and Joan Gerber

### **Daily Scripture Readings**

Mon: Nm 24:2-7,15-17a / Mt 21:23-27 Tues: Zep 3:1-2,9-13 / Mt 21:28-32 Wed: Is 45:6b-8,18,21c-25 / Lk 7:18b-23

Thurs: Gn 49:2,8-10 / Mt 1:1-17 Fri: Rv Jer 23:5-8 / Mt 1:18-25 Sat: Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a / Lk 1:5-25

Sun: 2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16 / Rom 16:25-27

Lk 1:26-38

### **Our Prayers and Sympathy are Extended**

to the family and friends of Jeannine Pfeffer, who died December 6<sup>th</sup>, and Edie Mulhall, who who died December 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **In Your Prayers Please Remember**

Larry Bober at Grandview Hospital, Judy May at Sycamore Hospital, and John Stugmyer at Atrium Medical Center this week.

## The Knights of Columbus Donate \$2,500 in New Streaming Equipment!

Until recently, not only have we relied on the generosity of the tech team volunteers - Adam Lewis, Evan Dobrozsi, Ryan Mulligan and George Nenni - we've also been using a collection of equipment that is on loan. According to Grand Knight Adam Lewis, the Knights have purchased and are donating to Holy Family Parish everything needed to continue the live streaming of the 9AM Mass. They have generously purchased and donated the following equipment:

- A digital camcorder
- A high-performance laptop
- Lighting
- A Microphone
- Cabling
- Batteries allowing mostly wireless operation
- Miscellaneous accessories: 6 outlet adapter, storage tote, cases

Per Adam, so far the Knights have purchased about \$2,500 in gear and they are ready to buy anything else needed. The Knights are committed to making sure that the Parish is able to offer live streams as long as needed.





### St. Vincent de Paul Society

Thanks to everyone for your continued support and contributions, with which the SVDP volunteers were able to assist our needy neighbors again this past month. Here are the numbers from November:

† St.Vincent de Paul

### **SVDP Pantry Food Donations**

79 Households totaling 257 people

48 senior citizens 151 adults 58 children

### **Thanksgiving Baskets**

52 Households totaling 143 people

### **SVDP Help Line Utility Bill Assistance**

6 households - Duke 31 households - Water

### **SVDP Help Line Rest Assistance**

We have set aside some funds to help the community with rent during this difficult time.

- 2 direct pay to landlord
- 1 partnered with another agency to pay

#### **SVDP Outreach Ministry**

- 11 home visits to assess needs
- 12 deliveries of bedding or vouchers for furniture

### **SVDP Prison Ministry**

This Ministry is suspended due to Covid-19.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY & CONTINUED SUPPORT!

5TH SUNDAY SVDP COLLECTIONS OCCUR FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

OUR NEXT ONE IS NEXT MONTH - JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup>!

### **Introductions to Sunday Readings**

by Bishop Ken Untener, in collaboration with Catherine Haven and Fr. Bill Taylor



### First Reading - Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

The last part of the book of Isaiah contains the words of a prophet who preached after the Jews returned from exile in Babylon. They found their temple destroyed and the city leveled. In today's reading, the prophet describes how God called him to encourage the people in this desperate time.

### Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Our second reading comes at the end of Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. Just as a parent might give last-minute instructions as their child heads out the door, so Paul has a list of last-minute instructions for these people whom he loves.

## RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

December 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>

December 13<sup>th</sup> - Discernment

11:30 PM St. John Undercroft

If you're interested in becoming Catholic, or you know someone who may be interested, please call the parish office 422-0602.

#### Annual 365 Lotto

\*\* The FINAL turn in date is January 31, 2021.
No tickets will be accepted after that date! \*\*

St. John XXIII Catholic Elementary School is selling tickets for the Annual 365 Lotto. It's called 365 Lotto because a winning ticket is drawn every day of the year. It's possible to win more than once in a year

### "365 LOTTO"

365 Daily Prizes Will Be Awarded

- 3 \$1,000.00 prizes on Easter, 4th of July & Christmas
- 12 \$ 500.00 prizes on all first Mondays
- 52 \$ 100.00 prizes on all Sundays
- 299 \$ 40.00 prizes on remaining days of the year

because winning tickets are returned to the hopper and only 5000 tickets are sold. Prize money will be mailed to the winners. To participate in the lotto, complete the form below and send it along with \$20 per ticket to: **St. John XXIII Catholic School 3806 Manchester Road, Middletown, OH 45042** 

**ATTN:** Peg Fairbanks Ticket orders may also be dropped in the collection basket in an envelope marked "365 Lotto." The official ticket will be filled out and the stub will be mailed back to you. Any questions regarding the 365 Lotto can be directed to Peg Fairbanks 424-1196. *Makes a Great Christmas Gift!* 

Name			
Address			
City	State	Zip	
Phone			

### **Readings for Saturday and Sunday**

### First Reading - Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord and a day of vindication by our God. I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord God make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil. May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### Gospel - John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Lord be with you.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

And with your spirit. Glory to you, O Lord.

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christmas Flower Fund** If you would like to remember your deceased loved ones by donating to the Christmas Flower Fund, please use the envelope in the December packet and drop it in the collection basket, drop it through the parish office front door mail slot, or send it via USPS. The list of names will be posted at the front and back of the churches for Christmas. **Want to be sure your loved one's name is correctly spelled and included in the list? Please** *print the name* and turn in by this Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>!

### **Mass Prayers and Responses**

### **Profession of Faith**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, At the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow.

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

#### **Invitation to Communion**

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the lamb.

All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

## Gaudete Sunday Third Sunday of Advent



Today is *Gaudete Sunday* or *Rejoice Sunday*. Why? What is all the rejoicing about?

More than two hundred years ago a man named Isaac Watts wrote the words to a Christmas carol which, no doubt, you have heard every Christmas since you were born. The first verse reads:

> Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare him room And heaven and nature sing.

Do you ever wonder if that is really true? Is there joy in the world because Jesus was born? Yes! There is joy and happiness, celebration and song, excitement and honest-to-goodness merriment. There is hardly a nook or a cranny, hardly a country on the entire earth that doesn't have at least some Christian people who join in celebrating Jesus' birth. Almost as though the Liturgy can't wait to celebrate the presence of the Savior, the Word of God today tells us to rejoice.

How will you put that word into practice as we enter this second half of the Advent season?

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### **Hymns for Saturday and Sunday**

#### **Entrance**

### The King Shall Come

- The King shall come when morning dawns
   And light triumphant breaks;
   When beauty gilds the eastern hills
   And life to joy awakes.
- Not, as of old, a little Child,
   To suffer and to die,
   But crowned with glory like the sun
   That lights the morning sky.

John Brownlie, 1857-1925, alt.; William Jones, 1726-1800 / A702646

### Closing

### The King of Glory

#### Refrain

The King of Glory comes, The nations rejoices; Open the gates before him, Lift up your voices.

 Who is the King of Glory; How shall we call him? He is Emmanuel, The promised of ages.

Willard F. Jabusch, 1930-2018 Text © 1967, 1984, A702646

## Light Up Middletown Goes On - 21 Years!!

Open every night Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve 6-10 PM. Open in all weather & Holidays! Admission by cash donation -



you set the price! Due to COVID restrictions, there will be no balloon glow or visits with Santa this year.

### Communion

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

 O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

#### Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel.

- O come, O Wisdom from on high, Who orders all things mightily; To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
- 3. O come, O come, our Lord of might, Who to your tribes on Sinai's height In ancient times did give the Law In cloud and majesty and awe.
- 4. O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem; From ev'ry foe deliver them That trust your mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
- 5. O come, O Key of David, come, And open wide your heav'nly home; Make safe the way that sets us free, And close the path to misery.
- O come, O Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by your drawing nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadow put to flight.
- 7. O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of humankind; Make all our sad divisions cease, And be for us the King of peace.

Based on "O" Antiphons, Latin, 9th cent. Tr. by John M. Neale, 1818-1866, and others



**OUR DOORS ARE OPEN:** No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, no matter what your current family and marital situation, no matter what your age, race, background, personal history, etc., no matter what your own self-image — you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected here at Holy Family Parish. Our doors are open!

### Holy Family Parish

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Deacon
John Lyons422-0999
Music Ministers
Marilyn Ifcic425-7113
Mike Kramer513-435-0873
Religious Education
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pp Fenwick High School	Carole Orth	423-7262
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**Parish Council Members** 

Lois Allen

Evan Dobrozsi

Rick Gregosky

Dale Gerber

John Lyons

Don Accurso

Jeff Gephart

Adam Lewis

Dr. Steph Burk

Dee Golembiewski

**Baptism Preparation Class** - These classes are held quarterly: March, June, September and December.

Bisho

Blane

The actual date, time and location will be announced in the weekly bulletin. Please call the parish office to register.

**Baptisms** - Please call the parish office to schedule a baptism.

**Becoming a Member of Holy Family Parish** - Fill out a Census Form at the parish office or download it under FORMS at <a href="https://www.holyfamilymiddletown.com">www.holyfamilymiddletown.com</a>. Drop your completed form in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office. **Becoming Catholic** - Please call the parish office to find out more about the RCIA process.

**Bulletin Deadline** - Submit announcements in hard copy or to <a href="mailto:monica@holyfamilymiddletown.com">monica@holyfamilymiddletown.com</a> by noon Tuesday.

Hospitalization or Death in the Family - Please notify the pastor as soon as possible by calling the parish office.

Marriages - Couples wishing to be married must set the date with the pastor at least six months in advance.

Nursery - Due to the coronavirus, the 10:30 AM Mass Nursery is temporarily closed.

**Parish Religious Education Program** - Due to the coronavirus, Sunday Preschool is canceled and Monday K-8th Grade have an in home program. Contact Dee Golembiewski, DRE, with questions.

St. John XXIII Catholic School - Parish school for Preschool - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - www.stjohn23school.org.



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