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

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

1405 FIRST AVENUE SATURDAY 4:30 PM SUNDAY 10:30 AM 201 CLARK STREET SUNDAY 9:00 AM This Mass Live Streamed ADORATION POSTPONED

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

THIS YEAR CHRISTMAS WILL BE DIFFERENT WITH COVID.

We cannot safely accommodate all the people who normally attend our Christmas Masses.

We really don't want to turn anyone away, but we can't exceed safety capacity, and if necessary, we'll invite you to attend a different Mass.

THERE ARE SOME PRACTICAL POINTS TO CONSIDER!

- Families should plan to arrive together if they wish to attend the Mass together. For everyone's safety, we'll be keeping a count as people enter.
 Once we're full - we're full!
- Sorry there is no saving seats.
- Airflow is the best deterrent. We are keeping ventilation going so please dress accordingly!
- The staff will be serving as greeters/ushers and cleaning crew for all 7 Christmas Masses and thank you in advance for your kindness and cooperation with these extraordinary measures.

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, Dec 24th

3 PM AND 5 PM --- St. John Church*
3 PM AND 5 PM --- Holy Trinity Church
Midnight --- Holy Trinity Church

Christmas Day - Friday, Dec 25th

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.

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 your envelope TODAY! Thanks!

HOLY FAMILY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday and Sunday - December 19 and 20

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

9:00 AM Mass HT Jim Kramer - Birthday Remembrance

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

10:30 AM Mass SJ Vivian McConnell

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 21

6:00 PM Mass HT Jeannine Pfeffer

Tuesday, December 22

12:10 PM Mass HT Ralph Gutman

Wednesday, December 23

12:10 PM Mass HT Carl Wiese - Anniversary Remembrance

Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve

3:00 PM Mass HT People of Holy Family Parish

3:00 PM Mass SJ Roger, Barbara, and David South

5:00 PM Mass HT Lucy Dillon - Anniversary Rem.

5:00 PM Mass SJ Florence & Clifford Sweeney

12:00 AM Mass HT Joe Stugmyer

Friday, December 25 Christmas Day

9:00 AM Mass HT Robert Wise

10:00 AM Mass SJ Mary Mikula

Saturday, December 26

4:30 PM Mass SJ William Pence

Sunday, December 27 Feast of the Holy Family

9:00 AM Mass HT Rita Gough - Wedding Anniversary Rem.

10:30 AM Mass SJ Katie Davis - Wedding Anniversary Rem.

Weekly Collections Stewardship

Sunday, December 13th \$21,254 Retirement Fund for Religious \$ 2,397

Thank you for your generous stewardship!

Holiday Schedules and Closings

The parish office is closed December 24th and 25th for Christmas and December 31st and January 1st for New Year's. **Be sure to check the Mass Schedule carefully the next couple of weeks!**

Daily Scripture Readings

Mon: Sg 2:8-14 / Lk 1:39-45

Tues: 1 Sm 1:24-28 / Lk 1:46-56

Wed: Mal 3:1-4,23-24 / Lk 1:57-66

Thurs: 2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16 / Lk 1:67-79

Fri: Is 9:1-6 / Ti 2:11-14 / Lk 2:1-14 Sat: Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59 / Mt 10:17-22

Sun: Sir 3:2-6,12-14 / Col 3:12-17 / Lk 2:22-40

Our Prayers and Sympathy are Extended

to the family and friends of Vera Mangus, who died December 15th and to Mike Clarey in the death of his mother, Lois Clarey.

In Your Prayers Please Remember

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

Health Ministry: How to Safely Enjoy the Pandemic Holidays



by Lori Deschene (excerpted)

"Surreal" is the word that keeps coming to mind this holiday season. After a year of much sacrifice, reality is requiring us to forgo traditions we hold dear and distance ourselves from people we may feel we've already gone too long without seeing. I hope this checklist helps you approach the weeks ahead safely, with peace, hope, and joy, wherever you can create it.

- **1. CAUTION** This is the big one, and the hardest one to follow. We all need to do our part to protect ourselves and the people around us.
- **2. COMMUNICATION** Different people hold vastly different perspectives on what constitutes "caution," and some are willing to take greater risks. Don't assume you know how anyone thinks unless they've clearly communicated it, because it's quite possible you'd be wrong.
- **3. EMPATHY** We can accept what we can't control and choose love over righteousness, however warranted it may feel.
- **4. SELF-COMPASSION** Be extra gentle with yourself and know it's okay if your gratitude is mixed with a wide range of complex emotions.
- **5. ACCEPTANCE** When we accept what we can't control, we're free to focus on the things we can control and to make the best of them, enjoying whatever's here to be enjoyed. *continued on page 5.....*

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Many people, on hearing
"On the first day of Christmas,
my true love sent to me a partridge
in a pear tree" will immediately



recognize it as the opening lines of the popular holiday tune The Twelve Days of Christmas. The song appears to tell a secular story of the gifts received by someone on each of the twelve days between the birth of Jesus and the arrival of the Magi. But to some, both past and present, the song seems to contain a secret message of deep religious meaning created during a time of religious intolerance in England. Catholics in England during the period from 1558 until 1829 were prohibited from any practice of their faith by law. Adhering to that faith was considered a crime and openly practicing it could result in imprisonment or worse. Based on this fact, some have argued that The Twelve Days of Christmas was written as a catechism song to help teach young Catholic children the tenets of their faith. According to the theory, each gift is a symbol. In order, these are:

A Partridge in a Pear Tree - Christ
Two Turtle Doves - The Old and New Testaments
Three French Hens - Faith, Hope and Charity
Four Calling Birds - the four Gospels
Five Golden Rings - The Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament

Six Geese a-Laying - the six days of creation **Seven Swans a-Swimming** - the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit - the seven sacraments

Eight Maids a-Milking - the eight beatitudes **Nine Ladies Dancing** - the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit **Ten Lords a-Leaping** - the Ten Commandments **Eleven Pipers Piping** - the eleven faithful apostles **Twelve Drummers Drumming** - the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

Is there a hidden message in the Christmas carol *The Twelve Days of Christmas?*

So is the story of English Catholics keeping their faith and traditions alive through a coded piece of verse true? There are as many who respond *yes* to this question as there are who say *no*! Just Google it for yourself and you can spend hours reading contradictory articles sighting various sources. I like best Fr. Hal Stockert's final words on the subject: *Believe if you will. Dissent if you choose.*Let the rest enjoy the story. catholicculture.org and suite101.com

Introductions to Sunday Readings

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



First Reading - 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Today's passage refers to the "Ark of God" which was a wooden chest overlaid by gold, where the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments were kept. King David, rich and comfortable in his palace, felt the Ark deserved to be housed in similar splendor. God will tell David that a physical building is not as important as the "house" (that is, the dynasty) of David. Christians have seen this prophecy fulfilled in Christ, who was born of the House of David.

Second Reading - Romans 16:25-27

Our second Scripture reading is the conclusion of Paul's long letter to the Romans. It is one sentence, and it is very much like a toast offered to God. In effect, Paul is saying that it all comes down to this: We should give thanks to God that salvation is available to all people through faith in Jesus Christ.

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults December 20th

January 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st *December 20th - Ministry of Jesus*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.

Pope Francis celebrating Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at 7:30 pm this year.

This Mass has been celebrated at the earlier time of 9:30 pm for years but this year will begin two hours earlier to comply with the Italian curfew. You can watch this Mass on EWTN - Spectrum channels 23, 385 and 1385 and on NBC stations - please check local listings!

Christmas Mass on Broadcast TV Options!

On EWTN Christmas Day Mass 8:00 AM and 6:30 PM from the EWTN Our Lady of the Angels Chapel.

Heart of the Nation Catholic Mass - broadcast TV channel 12.2, Spectrum channel 20, DirecTV channel 25 and 3017, and Dish Network channel 239.

Readings for Saturday and Sunday

First Reading - 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the Lord had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the Lord is with you." But that night the Lord spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: Should you build me a house to dwell in? It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The Lord also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading - Romans 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel - Luke 1:26-38

The Lord be with you.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

How to Safely Enjoy the Pandemic Holidays continued...

- **6. PERSPECTIVE** As with everything in life, this is all temporary. Things won't always be this way.
- **7. INGENUITY** Think of this as your chance to do more with less, to find beauty in simplicity, to make the best of what you have and maybe start some new traditions.
- **8. MINDFULNESS** So here we are. At the end of a strange, painful year, staring down months more of uncertainty and potential stress and struggle. No one would fault us for looking back — it's like there's a massive multi-car pileup behind us; it's hard not to gawk. And no one would be surprised if we anxiously looked ahead, worrying about the potential for more accidents down the road. But right now, many of us are sitting safely in our cars, with heat and music and at least one person we love to play car games with and pass the time. I realize this isn't true for everyone. You might not have your needs met. If that's you, please know there are resources out there to support you. If that's not you and you're relatively fortunate and have a lot to appreciate and enjoy if you choose to be present make the choice. As best as you can.

I think one of the gifts in 2020 is that we're reminded of things that are always true, but we often forget: That life is short, nothing is guaranteed, every moment with the people we love is precious, and each day is ultimately what we make of it. I know it's easier for some than others to make the best of the life they're living, because life is different for all of us. But I also know when I remember these things, I feel a lot more present, peaceful, and alive. And that's the best way to appreciate the life we're currently living — to choose to fully live it. Lori Deschene www.tinybuddah.com

Hymns for Saturday and Sunday

Entrance

On Jordan's Bank

- On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh; Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings.
- 2. Then cleansed be ev'ry heart from sin; Make straight the way for God within, And let each heart prepare a home Where such a mighty guest may come.

Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; William H. Havergal, 1793-1870

Closing

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

Inclement Weather Cancelations



In the event of winter weather cancelations, we'll post an update at the parish website www.holyfamilymiddletown.com and we'll use the One Call Now robocall system to send out alerts. Please be sure we have your current phone number on file!

Communion

The Servant Song

- Will you let me be your servant, Let me be as Christ to you; Pray that I may have the grace to Let you be my servant, too.
- We are pilgrims on a journey,
 We are trav'lers on the road;
 We are here to help each other
 Walk the mile and bear the load.
- I will hold the Christ-light for you In the nighttime of your fear;
 I will hold my hand out to you,
 Speak the peace you long to hear.
- I will weep when you are weeping;
 When you laugh I'll laugh with you.
 I will share your joy an sorrow
 Till we've seen this journey through.
- When we sing to God in heaven
 We shall find such harmony,
 Born of all we've known together
 Of Christ's love and agony.

Richard Gillard; text and music © 1977 Universal Music, admin. at CaptolCMGPublishing.com used with permission A702646

We are all wounded people dealing with messy emotions in a confusing, sometimes scary world.

That doesn't give anyone the right to be mean, thoughtless, or disrespectful.

But remembering this makes it a littles easier to think, "I hope you heal from your pain" instead of "I hope your hurt like you hurt me."

~ Lori Deschene



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

Pastor	
John Civille	422-0602
Deacon	
John Lyons	422-0999
Music Ministers	
Marilyn Ifcic	425-7113
Mike Kramer	513-435-0873
Religious Education	
Dee Golembiewski	513-267-8596
Facilities Manager	
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St. John XXIII Catholic School

Dawn Pickerill, Principal......424-1196

Bishop Fenwick High School

Blane Collison, Principal......423-0723

Parish Council Members

Don Accurso Lois Allen Dr. Steph Burk Evan Dobrozsi Jeff Gephart Dale Gerber Dee Golembiewski Rick Gregosky Adam Lewis John Lyons Don McCann Matt Mulligan Dawn Pickerill Ryan Mulligan Maria Rodriguez **Judy Rogers**

Prayer Chain

Knights of Columbus	.513-360-4760
Carole Orth	423-7262
Beth Kast	424-6100

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

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 www.holyfamilymiddletown.com. 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 monica@holyfamilymiddletown.com 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 - 8th Grade - www.stjohn23school.org.



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