



Church of the Holy Family

5900 West Lake Street ✕ St. Louis Park, MN 55416

December 14, 2008

Third Sunday of Advent

Reverend Thomas W. Dufner, Pastor
Reverend James Stromberg, Weekend Associate

Mass Times:

Sunday Masses 9:00AM and 11:00AM
Saturday Mass 5:00PM
Weekday Masses 8:00AM (Rosary 7:35AM)

Confessions:

Saturday 3:30PM to 4:50PM
Sunday 8:00AM to 8:50AM

Parish Office

952.929.0113

Staff:

Rev. Thomas Dufner	Pastor	ext. 15
June Kattar	Baptism/Marriage Prep.	ext. 14
Sharon Pero	Pastoral/Parish RN/Liturgist	ext. 13
Jean Prather	Coord. Elementary Religious Ed.	ext. 12
Elizabeth Brown	Confirmation Coord.	ext. 17
Kathy Vansickle	Controller	ext. 16
Bobbi Hanson	Bookkeeper	ext. 11
John Pero	Facilities Manager	ext. 20
Theresa Bakos	Secretary	ext. 10
Lynn Tomaszewski	Youth Minister	612.396.6890

Extensions:

Christmas Liturgy Schedule

Confessions

Wednesday, December 17 7-8PM
Saturday, December 20 3:30-5PM
Sunday, December 21 8-9AM
Monday, December 22 3-5PM
Tuesday, December 23 10-11AM

Christmas Eve Masses

Wednesday, December 24 4 & 9PM

Christmas Day Masses

Thursday, December 25 9 & 11AM

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 27 5:00PM
Sunday, December 28 9 & 11AM

Solemnity of Mary

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Wednesday, December 31 5:00PM
Thursday, January 1 9 & 11AM

Web Address: www.hfcmn.org **Email Address:** staff@hfcmn.org

Registration in Parish:

Required for baptism and marriage. Adults 18 and over call the parish office 952.929.0113.

Marriages:

Registered parishioners must make application 6 months prior.

Baptisms:

First Sunday of the month. Must be registered parishioners. Baptism class required. Please call 3 months in advance.

Perpetual Adoration - Jim Glover **763.533.0423**

Prayer Chain -Dona Marek, 9AM to 9PM **952.926.3130**

STEP - Emergency Program **952.925.4899**



5925 West Lake Street ✕ St. Louis Park MN 55416

Ann Coone, Principal

School Office **952.925.9193**

Web Address: www.holyfamilyacademy.cc

Penance and the Gift of Forgiveness

Archbishop John C. Nienstedt - Catholic Spirit, Wednesday Nov. 5

Within the first verses of St. Mark's Gospel, Jesus appears in Galilee, proclaiming God's Good News: "This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Reform your lives and believe in the Gospel!" (Mark 1:15). From the very beginning of his public ministry, then, Jesus calls all men and women to conversion from sin. But, one might ask, what is sin? Why are we called to conversion? What kind of reform is being asked of us?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church indicates the answer: "To try to understand what sin is, one must first recognize the profound relationship of man to God, for only in this relationship is the evil of sin unmasked in its true identity as humanity's rejection of God and opposition to him. . . .

"Without the knowledge Revelation gives of God we cannot recognize sin clearly and are tempted to explain it as merely a developmental flaw, a psychological weakness, a mistake, or the necessary consequence of an inadequate social structure, etc. Only in the knowledge of God's plan for man can we grasp that sin is an abuse of the freedom that God gives to created persons so that they are capable of loving him and loving one another" (CCC. 386-387).

Who has sinned? St. John gives us the answer in his first letter: "If we say, 'We are free of the guilt of sin,' we deceive ourselves; the truth is not to be found in us" (1 John 1:8). Therefore, to be truthful, we must all admit that we have sinned. Sin affects both our relationship with God and with our neighbor. But the truly good news is that Jesus came to save us from sin and that he has entrusted the power to absolve sin to his apostles. That power of forgiveness is offered to us in the sacrament of penance, otherwise known as reconciliation.

The ordinary, and therefore most appropriate, way of celebrating this sacrament calls for a verbal confession of our sins to a priest. Why? Allow me to give three reasons for this.

Jesus as model

The first reason is that, during his earthly ministry, Jesus himself always forgave sins in a one-on-one encounter with the penitent. While other miracles in the Gospels may have involved groups of persons, the gift of forgiveness is always given to an individual, who hears Jesus speak the words, "Go, your sins have been forgiven."

Second, as human beings, one of the most difficult things we ever have to say is, "I'm sorry." Yet, once we have said it, we are freed to accept our guilt and then to begin the process of reconciliation. We can inevitably find all kinds of self-justifying reasons for what we have done or failed to do. Yet, once we have spoken out loud the reality of our guilt, it is often only then that we accept responsibility for what we have done, and only then can we begin to reform our ways. Finally, the actions that we call "sins" very often betray an attitude or an inner disposition that ultimately led us to commit a particular sin...

Pastoral concerns

Historically, the Second Vatican Council, contrary to what some may think, never envisioned the use of Form III with General Absolution as the ordinary way to experience the sacrament of penance. The church has never approved its use, even though it has been widely practiced in some places...

But my concern here is much more a pastoral one than a legal one. A regular use of general absolution is bound to have a negative effect on the spiritual well-being of the penitent because general absolution involves a depersonalized experience of the sacramental grace of forgiveness.

Without the one-on-one encounter and an explicit confession of guilt, penitents also risk developing a superficial understanding of their willing participation in the personal evil that is sin.

I am pleased to be receiving requests these days from pastors who are planning penance services using Forms I or II during the upcoming Advent season. I encourage all pastors in the archdiocese to do the same. To be clear: The use of general absolution is simply not allowed.

I appeal to all of our priests to be obedient to the promises they made on their ordination day and offer our Catholic people the sacrament as it is meant to be celebrated. I likewise appeal to our faithful laity not to participate in celebrations prohibited by church norms...

God love you!

This WEDNESDAY, December 17th, is our Communal Penance Service. We will have 9 priests hearing Confessions beginning at 7PM. (The Religious Ed students will be in Confession from 6:30PM - 7PM and then the rest of the parish will begin at 7PM.)

Dear Parishioners,
Please consider participating in our annual *Holy Family Academy Adopt-a-Student Program*. This program is designed to help parish families with tuition during times of financial need and hardship. Over the last few years our **Adopt-a-Student Program** has truly made a difference in the lives of our school families. Your gift will enable a child to continue their growth in faith, wisdom, virtue, and knowledge while becoming a next generation Catholic leader. All gifts, regardless of size, are needed and will be greatly appreciated! To donate, please mail your tax-deductible contribution to:

**Holy Family Academy,
5925 West Lake Street
St. Louis Park, MN 55416.**

Thank you for considering this very worthy cause.

Your generosity will be remembered in the prayers of the students and families of Holy Family Academy.

YOUTH MINISTRY

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sun., Dec 21st—6-8PM @ Youth House. *Come celebrate the birthday of Jesus!* This will be a true birthday party with games and cake! You need to bring three things, yourselves, a gift to donate for Toy's for Tots and a white elephant gift. Call Jay & Lynn Tomaszewski with questions 612.396.6890.

Holy Family Catholic Church

Christmas Eve Family Mass

Gospel Presentation of the Birth of Jesus



Presented by the children of Holy Family!

Children ages 4 on up who are interested in being an Angel, Shepherd, King or Camel Leader during the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass: REHEARSAL is Saturday, December 20, 10am in the Church.

All actors participating in the Gospel Presentation must attend this rehearsal!

Various costumes will be available to take home after the rehearsal.



Adults/teens are needed to help distribute costumes, cue actors and be in camel costumes.

Please call Jean Prather at 952-929-0113 x12 if you can help.

Children, **7 years old and older**, who would like to play the part of **Mother Mary, St. Joseph, Head Angel, Head Shepherd** or the **Giant Star from the East**, complete and clip the slip below and place it in an envelope addressed to: Mrs. Jean Prather. **Slips must be received by Thursday, December 18.** All are **simple acting parts** (no speaking) and will occur during the Gospel Reading at Mass.



HOLY FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE GOSPEL PRESENTATION

Name: _____ Age: _____ (7 years old and older for parts below)

Phone Number: _____

Please put my name in the drawing to be: (circle one)

Mother Mary St. Joseph Head Angel Head Shepherd The Bethlehem Star (circle one)

There will be a random drawing to determine the above parts. If YOUR name is picked, you will be notified by our Saturday rehearsal. If your name is not picked, you ***still*** get to participate in the celebration of the birthday of Jesus as an Angel, Shepherd or Magi!!! ***Every single child is needed and welcome!!!***

✧ Weekly Calendar of Events ✧

Sunday, December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent

Donut/New Member Sunday

8:00 am Confessions
9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass

Monday, December 15

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Exercise Class (Gathering Place)
3:00 pm WOW Holy Hour (Adoration Chapel)

Tuesday, December 16

8:00 am Mass
10:30 am Goodtimers (Gathering Place)

Wednesday, December 17

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Coffee & Rolls
9:30 am Quilting (Moorman Hall)
11:45 am Exercise Class (Moorman Hall)
5:15 pm Kids Praise Too! (Church)
6:30 pm Confirmation (Moorman Hall)
6:30 pm HFC
7:00 pm Communal Penance

Thursday, December 18

8:00 am Mass
7:00 pm Choir

Friday, December 19

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Exercise Class (Gathering Place)
7:00 pm Holy Family Academy Concert (Church)

Saturday, December 20

6:30 am Holy Name Society (Gathering Place)
10:00 am Rosaries for Life (Robbinsdale)
10:00 am Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal (C)
3:30 pm Confessions
5:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Food Drive Sunday

8:00 am Confessions
9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass
6:00 pm Youth Christmas Party (Youth House)

Monday, December 22

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Exercise Class (Gathering Place)
8:30 am Branch III
3:00 pm WOW Holy Hour (Adoration Chapel)
3-5:00 pm Confessions
7:00 pm ACCL (Moorman Hall)
7:00 pm Breast Cancer Support Group

Tuesday, December 23

8:00 am Mass
10- 12:00 pm Confessions

Wednesday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Mass **9:00 pm** Mass

Thursday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day

9:00 am Mass **11:00 am** Mass



Funerals

Agnes Doyle
Patricia Funk



ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS

Sincere thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who helped so much last weekend at "Sugar Plum Days". So many parishioners, long time and new, gave time and energy generously to this event. We especially thank the Choir for the beautiful music and for the kindness and patience of the entire parish staff. Donations of food, treasures, gifts, time and service were all much appreciated. God Bless all of you!!

Congratulations to the winners of the Sugar Plum Days basket raffles! "St. Nicholas" drew the names of Tom Backman, Michael Fahlander, and Kim Morgan as the weekend event drew to a close. Thank you to every raffle participant for contributing.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Catholic Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend, attend a weekend and learn how to turn your good relationship into a great marriage! February 6th-8th at Kings House in Buffalo. For more information call 612.840.7630 or visit our web site at www.wwmesection8.org/.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17
Thursday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Saturday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Holy Family Weekly Offering ~ December 6/7

Regular Envelopes	\$23,198.16
Plate	\$ 1,589.06
Care Fund	\$ 795.55

Thank You For Your Generosity!

Mass Intentions for the Week

Dec 15	Shawn McMahon †
Dec 16	Rev. Robert A. Patterson †
Dec 17	Gene Szymanski †
Dec 18	Henry Sieve †
Dec 19	Rou Elliot †
Dec 20	Bob Cashin †
Dec 21	William Schuth, Jr. (9AM)
Dec 21	For the Parish (11AM)





“Something Special is Coming!”

Come and Enjoy a Beautiful Evening with Friends and Family
at the Holy Family Academy Advent Concert
Friday, December 19th, 6:30PM, Holy Family Church



*Twinkling Christmas lights...
Echoes of the past mixed with joyful music of the present...
Rich voices of children filling the air with heart-warming melodies...
Thousands of years of history retold and remembered through the O Antiphons ...*

Please be our guest and let us celebrate the joy of this glorious Season with you.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FAMILY OF THE YEAR NAMED

The Saint Louis Council #3949 of the Knights of Columbus has named **David and Veronica Miller** “*Knight Family Of The Year for 2007 - 2008*”.

The Millers have been involved in all aspects and support of the Council's church, family, school, and social activities, for over 10 years. They have been instrumental in helping to establish and support the marathon for Non-public education, and the Seminarian Pancake breakfasts. They have earned this distinction through their continuous commitment to support the Parish, School and our Council's mission and goals through the direct support of these projects.

Please congratulate them when you see them.

George Hoene, Grand Knight

HELP NEEDED. . . on **Tuesday, December 16th** to shape the large Christmas trees. I'll be starting after the 8AM morning Mass, so, if you have some free time, please join me in the Sanctuary. Thank you. Sharon.

KNIGHTLY NEWS

Saint Louis Knights of Columbus Council #3949 welcomes 10 new Knights to their order.

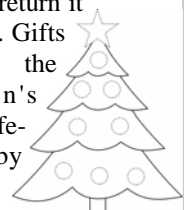
On Saturday, November 22nd in St. Cloud Minnesota, Chris Counts, Dr. Robert Morgan, and Steve Zielinski, all received the honors of Knighthood in the Third Degree.

On Friday evening, December 5th, at the Bloomington Marion Council, the following seven men, all from Holy Family received honors in the First Degree:

Jim Reinhardt, Derek Lidbom, Vince Fahlander, Jim Romportl, Tom Shaughnessy, Paul Rampetsreiter, Dieter Geerts. (Affectionately known as the Magnificent Seven).

Holy Family Knights and parishioners all extend a warm welcome and congratulations to these men.

The Pro-Life Giving Tree to benefit expectant mothers will be in the entrance to church again this year. Please take an ornament off the tree and return it with your unwrapped gift. Gifts will be distributed to the Robbinsdale Women's Center and Southside Life-Care Center. Sponsored by ACCL



CHRISTMAS DECORATING

YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE!

It will soon be time to decorate the Church for Christmas, however, this year the decorating will be done in **two steps!**

On **Thursday, December 18th** we will put the **lights** on the six large trees in the back of the Sanctuary, hang the **wreaths** from the Choir loft, and put up the **banners**.

On **Tuesday, December 23rd**, we will finish the remaining decorating.

Please mark your calendars for December 18th and/or December 23rd and plan to help decorate. (Adults only, please, due to the nature of the work). We'll meet in Moorman Hall after Mass and begin decorating at 9:00. Call Sharon at 952.929.0113 Ext.13 if you have questions.

POINSETTIAS! POINSETTIAS!

You are invited to help defray the cost of decorating the Sanctuary this Christmas by donating a beautiful Poinsettia plant. The cost per plant is \$8.00. For your convenience, there is an envelope in your church envelope packet labeled “**Christmas Flower Offering.**” Just drop it in the Sunday collection basket any weekend. **Thank you!** Sharon

Adoration

We still need an adorer to share the 3-4PM Sunday hour, perhaps committing to every other week. Also we would like to have at least one more overnight sub. Please call Jim@ 763.533.0423. Thank you!

FOOD COLLECTION DATES !

for the Needy and S.T.E.P.

Dec 20/21, 2008, Jan 3/4, 2009 and

Jan 17/18, 2009