

Holy Family Catholic Church

Building Community • Making Disciples

4401 Highcrest Rd., Rockford, Illinois 61107 815-398-4280

St. Vincent de Paul 815-986-5825



The Second Sunday ADVENT *of*

Prepare!

December 10, 2017

Rev. Phillip Kaim, S.T.L., Pastor

pkaim@rockforddiocese.org

Rev. Charles Fitzpatrick, Parochial Vicar

cfitzpatrick@rockforddiocese.org

Rev. Kenneth Wasilewski, S.T.L., in residence

No Two-fers for Christmas!

As you may know, Christmas poses a challenge this year by being on a Monday. The U.S. Bishops decreed a few years ago that with some Holy Days of Obligation, we are dispensed from the requirement to attend Mass should it fall on a Monday or a Saturday. Christmas is not one of them. So we are obligated to go to Mass to fulfill that obligation on the day of or the night before. We are also required to go to Mass every Sunday. Regardless of where any feasts or solemnities fall, that is always the case.

All that is background to say that we must attend Mass either Saturday or Sunday of the 4th Sunday of Advent (December 23 or 24) and we must attend Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas day (December 24 or 25). We cannot attend Mass on the evening of the 24th and count it as fulfilling the requirement for the 4th Sunday of Advent and for Christmas. There are no “two-fers” when it comes to fulfilling our obligation! A Sunday evening Mass on the 24th will be a Christmas Eve Mass and not anything to do with the 4th Sunday of Advent.

So practically speaking, what that means is that we can go to Mass on Saturday night and Sunday night, twice on Sunday (in the morning and in the afternoon) or on Sunday morning and Monday morning. Any of those combinations will meet this year’s requirement.

Hopefully, I have not thoroughly confused you, but shed some light on the situation. You can always call our office if you need clarification of what I have just written. I should point out that we will NOT have the normal 12:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday the 24th in order to prepare for the Solemnity of Christmas.

The lineup for Christmas Eve is as follows: 4:00 p.m., 4:15 p.m. (in the gym), 6:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m. Christmas Day: 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Finally, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on January 1 is one of those Holy Days of Obligation that we are dispensed from this year because it does fall on a Monday. So instead of the full complement of Masses we normally have on that day, we will treat it like all the other secular holidays that fall on a weekday in which very few people work. **In other words, on January 1, our only Mass will be at 8:30 a.m.**

It sure will be less complicated when Christmas is on a Wednesday!

Advent—Christ’s Threefold Coming

Advent is taken from the Latin, *Adventus*, which means “coming”. But it’s more than patiently awaiting His arrival at Christmas. We Catholics speak of Our Lord coming in three ways. He came to us in history, as the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. He comes to us now in mystery, through the Eucharist. Finally, He will come again at the end of time in majesty, sometimes called His Second Coming. This shows the richness of our faith and of our understanding of the Word that was made flesh and dwelt among us. Have a blessed Advent!

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam,

Fr. Kaim



4th Sunday of Advent and
Christmas Mass Schedule

Come HOME for Christmas

December 23: 4:30 PM—4th Sunday of Advent

December 24 (4th Sunday of Advent): 6:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM. (NO 12:30 PM Mass)

Christmas Eve: 4:00 PM (church), 4:15 PM (gym); 6:00 PM and 10:00 PM.

Christmas Day: 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Questions and Answers with Fr. Kaim

“Besides Sunday fellowship, how else will the new fellowship hall be utilized?”

This is a great question, and if one is not here that much during the week, we might not see the need for more space. First, I should point out that we added a number of new organizations to Holy Family just since my arrival last year. Here are the new groups at our parish: St. Vincent dePaul, That Man is You, Time Travelers—our children’s Liturgy of the Word—adult classes for Religious Education parents called “Faith Formation Mornings”, three singles groups, the *Courage Apostolate* for those with same-sex attraction, a divorce support & cancer support group, an alumni association for the school and then we re-booted the *Light of the World* retreats that were no longer taking place at the parish.

Let’s take a look at just one of these new groups: St. Vincent DePaul Society. They are a big group at our parish, with about 100 volunteers. There are many aspects to this important ministry, and they have four committees that meet in the church on a monthly basis. And that’s just one organization that started within the last year! Now add to that the existing parish organizations that have significant space demands, such as the weekly choir, the Knights of Columbus, and the Women’s Guild.

For the number crunchers, here’s a quick glance at the big picture of what we accommodate: 80 organizations, 16 that meet monthly, 17 that meet weekly, 2 that

meet twice weekly, 4 that meet quarterly, 4 that meet every other month, 7 that meet yearly and 4 that meet twice a year. And then there are funerals, sometimes with luncheons, weddings and their rehearsals, as well as special speakers, such as our recent parish mission or Women’s Advent dinner.

There are other things I’d like to bring to the parish, but I’m hesitant because we are nearing capacity with our facilities. One I have in mind is *Alpha*, which is another retreat opportunity. Some folks just can’t get away for an entire weekend. As great as *Light of the World* is, it’s just not going to fit into some folks’ schedules. *Alpha* can be offered once a week over the course of many weeks, and in that “bit size” chunk, we will get even more folks on a retreat who wouldn’t otherwise come. I would also like to empower more lay faithful to run Bible and book studies. Eventually, I’d like to see many more small groups in people’s homes, such as what we have with *Light of the World*, but in the interim, it would mean some more in the church.

While the church is not booked all the time, during peak hours—Monday through Thursday nights—it has been a challenge, and will continue be a challenge, to our ability to grow this parish.

So yes, a fellowship hall (with an ability to subdivide that hall) will be a welcome addition to our expanding ministry needs.

I am very pleased to announce that the following couples agreed to serve as general chairs for the *Honoring Our Past... Building Our Future* Capital Campaign at Holy Family:

**Mr. and Mrs. Ivan and Anne Brown
Dr. and Mrs. David and Kim Cheng
Dr. and Mrs. Scott and Mary Jo Legrand
Mr. and Mrs. John J. and Maureen Morrissey**

I am so grateful for the gifts they bring to our leadership team, their commitment to our campaign goals in serving our parish mission, and their willingness to help lead our capital campaign effort. Please pray in thanksgiving for their generosity and that many others will follow their loving example to help us achieve success.





Mass Intentions

Monday, December 11, Advent Weekday

6:30 +Vita Monti
8:30 +Margo Shifo

Tuesday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe

6:30 +Dr. Kurt & Eleoner Kalweit
8:30 +LeRoy Becker, +David Gonzalez and
+John Hajnacki

Wednesday, December 13, St. Lucy

6:30 +Josephine Musso
8:30 +Billy Long & +Vic Giovengo

Thursday, December 14, St. John of the Cross

6:30 +Fr. John Hanrahan
8:30 +Kathleen Dunlea & +Arnold Hintzman

Friday, December 15, Advent Weekday

6:30 +Peter Scibona
8:30 +Mike Pinter

Saturday, December 16, Advent Weekday

8:30 +Moraima (Mora) Herrera

3rd Sunday of Advent

4:30 +Grace Guerrera & +Robert Ditzler

Sunday, December 17, 4th Sunday of Advent

6:30 +Charles & Helen Doyle
8:00 For the people of Holy Family
9:30 ++Oscar & Mary Johnson
+Richard Pfluger
11:00 +Matthew P. Cicero
+Peter Paesani
12:30 +Michael Corirossi
6:00 +Michaele Galluzzo

The Giving Tree Program

Can you please help with donations on the following weekends?

- Week 4—Dec. 16-17 hats, gloves, scarves, mittens, socks and underwear for children and adults.

Holy Family parishioners have a reputation for caring and sharing. Thank you for your generosity to those less fortunate.

If you have any questions, please call Teresa at 815-398-4280. Thank you for ALL your generosity!

Woman of the Year



Please join us in honoring **Mary LaLoggia** at the “Woman of the Year” banquet! It will be held at Giovanni’s Restaurant, on Sunday, January 28, 2018. Social time at 4:30 PM dinner will be served at 5:30 P.M. The cost of the meal is \$35.00 per person. A child’s meal is available for children 10 years old and under for \$15.00. Please contact Lorraine at 815-397-2905 with your reservation.

December Events



Sunday, 10
Thursday, 14
Sunday, 17

Monday, 18
Thursday, 21
Friday, 22
Sunday, 24
Monday, 25

End of homily cards for semester
Christmas Program
My Parish App Kick Off!
Pancake Breakfast with Santa
Culver’s Dinner Out!
Church Decorating
Office closing at noon
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day



Holy Family Seniors Group will meet on Wednesday, December 13th at 12:15 PM at Capri Pizza, 313 E. State St.

All are welcome!!! Please contact Gary at 815-541-6549 for reservations!



Download
the Parish App

New Parish App Coming Soon!

In the coming weeks, Holy Family Catholic Church will launch our own app for iPhone and Android smart phones. This will allow us to better communicate with you throughout the week and keep you updated with relevant parish news or updates. The app is very well designed and very intuitive. It will be a great resource for parishioners by providing daily Mass readings, Catholic news and prayers, convenient prayer and Confession reminders, our bulletins and more.

We hope for our new app to be a tool for fostering stronger parish life at Holy Family Catholic Church and better engaging the New Evangelization.

Join the Knights of Columbus *NEXT*
Sunday, December 17 from 9–11 AM for



*The Knights will be serving their new pancakes
beginning at 8 AM, and Santa will arrive at 9 AM!!*

\$10 per family or \$5 per person

All are welcome!!!



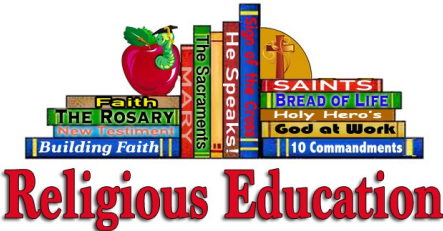
On December 1, we held our first Advent by Candlelight, by women for women. Tables were decorated by a table hostesses. The women gathered at their tables and processed upstairs with votive candles to hear the guest speaker Paula Sentovich. After the service they enjoyed a dinner catered by Di Tullio's and social time.

The table on left was decorated by Amy Hintzman and Kristin Dixon, using Amy's grandmother's china and crystal and a quilted table runner that Amy's mom made. Barb Beckett and Jessica Koenig are pictured on the right near the table Barb decorated.

familylife

Pray for yourself today!

I, _____, pray to You LORD, and You answer me. May You free me from all my fears.



Upcoming dates

December 17, Regular RE Classes

December 24, No Classes. Merry Christmas!

December 31, No Classes. Happy New Year!



Are you an 8:30 AM Daily Mass attendee?

Then this message is for you! We are starting a new Coffee & Donut Ministry! Beginning January 11, 2018 we will serve coffee and donuts after the 8:30 AM Mass. We will do this on the second Thursday of each month to simply come together and get to know each other. We don't always have to rush right out after Mass. We will celebrate anyone who has a birthday within that month. Hope you can join us in January to kick off this new ministry. For questions please call Barb at 815-398-4280.

Respect Life!



Paul VI plays the prophet [laying out] what he saw as consequences of turning away from the Church's classic teaching on sex.

- Bishop Robert Barron, www.ncregister.com, writes, "Pope Paul VI was convinced that artificial contraception was morally bad in itself, [with] adverse affects on general societal attitudes regarding sex. His first observation: 'Let them consider how easily this course of action could open the way for marital infidelity and a lowering of moral standards. Human weakness needs incentives to keep the moral law, and it's an evil thing to make it easy for them to break that law. Another effect that gives cause for alarm is that a man who grows accustomed to the use of contraceptive methods may forget the reverence due to a woman, disregarding her physical and emotional equilibrium, reducing her to being a mere instrument for the satisfaction of his own desires, no longer considering her as his partner whom he should surround with care and affection.' Does anyone doubt that, in the last fifty years, we have seen a profound attenuation of marital fidelity and a significant breakdown of the institution of marriage? Is anyone so blind as not to see that

during the last five decades 'a lowering of moral standards' has taken place? Paul VI was intuiting something of great moment that once we commenced to redefine the nature of the sexual act, we placed ourselves on a very steep, slippery slope toward a complete voluntarism, whereby we utterly determine the meaning of sexuality, of marriage, and even of gender. The rapid rise in pornography use, the sexual exploitation of children, and human trafficking are functions of this same arbitrariness. What was only vaguely envisioned fifty years ago is now accepted as a matter of course. The HHS Mandate, which would require even Catholic institutions to provide insurance coverage for contraception and abortifacients, has been so aggressively pursued that even the Little Sisters of the Poor found themselves battling for their rights in court. [Permitting ourselves] to separate love from procreation—to sever the link between sex and diapers—we place ourselves on a short road to reducing sexual intercourse to a form of self-indulgent recreation. (<https://tinyurl.com/yboxrpzu>)



Festival of Lights **Sinissippi Park**

Began Friday, December 1

Friday, Saturday and Sunday viewing **only**.

Viewing times 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Closes Sunday, December 31, 2017

No admission charge, donations gladly accepted.
Donations will help to carry on this annual event.

Ladies Auxiliary

Our next meeting will be Wed. Dec 13 at 7 PM in the church basement. This will be a short meeting as we will have our Christmas party. Everyone should bring a wrapped gift - valued at \$10.00 with no name tag and a dessert or appetizer to share. This is always a fun party, so hope to see everyone there!

Joe and Beth Von Arx and family wish to extend sincere thanks to all those who offered sympathy, condolences, memorials, and meals in the aftermath of their son Max's death.

Special thanks to Fr. Kaim, Fr. Ken, Fr. Fitzpatrick and all of Holy Family's staff who assisted us in this time of sorrow.

Thank you and may God's richest blessings cover all of you!



Stockings for Kids

As an extension to our Giving Tree, this year we are looking for stockings and stocking stuffers to give to children in the Rockford Area.

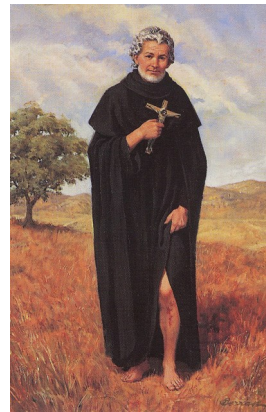


We are asking for donations of stockings and small stuffers (lip gloss, playing cards, matchbox cars, candy, etc.) The items will be put in the stockings and donated here in Rockford.

The idea came from one of our 7th grade students who wanted to do a project to help people! What a beautiful gift she is giving!!!

Let's make her idea become a reality!!

Stockings and stuffers can be dropped off in the back of church OR to Teresa at the Harte Center no later than December 11.



Holy Family's St. Peregrine Cancer Support Group **Christmas Party**

WHERE: Stockholm Inn, 2420 Charles St.

TIME: 10:00 am

DATE: Thursday, December 21st.

Breakfast and a gift exchange (\$20 limit) if you would like to participate. Guests are welcome to join us! Please RSVP to Dixie at 815-988-2830, by December 11.



42 parishioners were guided by Fr. Kaim on a pilgrimage to some of the most beautiful churches in Chicago!



Fr. Kaim blessed a new business this week from one of our new parishioners. Best wishes to Cyril David & his family!



Our 8th grade girls at their last game of the season. From left to right: Jacqueline R., Kaylee W., Fr. Kaim, Olivia F., and Megan K.

Other 8th grade girls, not pictured: Julia L., Lauren M., and Annie R.

Holy Family Catholic School



Working to make our every thought, word and action pleasing to God...

Holy Family House System

Learn more about it...



The mission of Holy Family Catholic School's House System is to nurture relationships among students, encourage a sense of family, and develop a strong Catholic faith. Students will live the Catholic faith through sharing the sacraments, promoting academic excellence, and engaging in service. The House System will foster partnerships between the family and the school, and strive to empower the students to reach their unique potential spiritually, socially, physically, intellectually, and emotionally.



Seven Houses... One Family



House Structure

- Holy Family's House system has 8 houses.
- Kindergarten through 8th grade students and staff are each assigned to one of six houses.
- Each house is named after Catholic religious orders.
- Our school and parish office staffs are members of the Guardian Angels.
- Our preschool students and staff are members of the Angels House.
- When preschool students reach Kindergarten, they are "adopted" into one of the other six houses.
- Students and staff members remain a part of the same house throughout their years at Holy Family School.
- Siblings are members of the same house, with the exception of preschoolers.
- Each house contains three "families" or smaller group of students of about the same age: grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8.



THANK YOU!!

A huge thank you to all our parishioners and volunteers who made our Youth Christmas Party such a blast!!

The kids enjoyed a “wrapping” game, snowball fight (with marshmallows), making hot chocolate and decorating cookies, a white elephant gift exchange and building marshmallow towers. Not pictured: Buddy the Elf pasta eating contest.

