December 3, 2017

Holy Family Church

129 Winthrop Street, Watertown, NY 13601
Phone: (315) 782-2468
E-Mail: hfchurch@twcny.rr.com
Website: www.holyfamilywatertown.org

PASTOR:	**Rev. Steven M. Murray**
PASTOR EMERITUS:	**Rev. Msgr. Robert J. McCarthy**
IN RESIDENCE:	**Rev. Leo A. Wiley**
	Rev. Msgr. Paul E. Whitmore
DEACONS:	**Deacon Edward R. Miller**
	Deacon Michael J. Allan
TRUSTEES:	**Mrs. Rita Brancheau**
	Mr. Daniel Charlebois
SCHOOL BOARD:	**Mr. Michael Ledoux**
PARISH STAFF	
Pastoral Associates:	**Sr. Angelica Rebello, SCC**
	Patrick Bates
Christian Formation Director:	**Sr. Angelica Rebello, SCC 782-6750**
R.C.I.A. Director:	**Kathy Allan 785-8576**
Business Manager:	**Carol Brown 782-6086**
Secretary:	**Judy Geng**
Organist:	**Edward Kemp**

IMMACULATE HEART CENTRAL SCHOOLS
School Pastor:
Rev. Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin 782-1190
High School (Grades 7-12) 788-4670
Interim Principal: Mr. Joseph Orobona
Elementary School (Grades K-6)
Vice Principal (K-3): Mrs. Kari Conklin 788-7011
Vice Principal (4-6): Mrs. Annette Connolly 788-3935

BAPTISM: Baptisms are generally scheduled on Sunday. Parents must attend a class held on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 PM.

WEDDINGS: Arrangements should be made six months In advance by calling for an appointment with a priest or deacon.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:
Confession/Penance - Saturday 4-5 P.M.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: Upon Request - Please call Fr. Murray if you are planning on having any surgery and he will be happy to anoint you.

Holy Family Church Welcomes Everyone

No matter what your present status is in the Catholic Church; no matter your family or marital status; no matter where you are in the practice of faith; no matter what your self image may be; you are invited, welcomed and loved at Holy Family Church.

Sunday	**December 3, 2017…FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
9:00	Dorris Powers by John and Family
11:00	Laurien Flitcroft by Beverly Dalton
5:15	People of the Parish
Monday	**December 4, 2017…Advent Weekday Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church**
9:00	Agnes Gaffney by Dick Gaffney
Tuesday	**December 5, 2017…Advent Weekday**
9:00	Garry T. McGivney
10:00	Alfred Goodwin Smith by Maria Smith (at the Summit)
Wednesday	**December 6, 2017…Advent Weekday Saint Nicholas, Bishop**
9:00	Robert Rebello by Sisters of the Cross
Thursday	**December 7, 2017...Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**
9:00	Lance Marzano by Family and Friends
Friday	**December 8, 2017...IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Holy Day of Obligation**
9:00	Frances McGowan and Deceased Members of the McGowan Family by the Estate of Frances McGowan
5:15	People of the Parish
Saturday	**December 9, 2017…Second Sunday of Advent**
5:15	Alfred DeCastro by Ed Becker and His Daughters
Sunday	**December 10, 2017...SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
9:00	James E. Brett by the Estate of James E. Brett
11:00	Patrick Fallon by His Family
5:15	Keith James Robbins by Joe, Maureen and Family

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS – Monday, 12:30PM-4:00PM; Tuesday–Thursday, 9:00AM-4:00PM, closed for lunch noon-12:30PM; **Friday, 9:00AM-1:00PM.**

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS The next class will be Monday, December 11th, at 7PM in McGivney Hall. Please call the Rectory at 315-782-2468 during business hours to sign up if you are planning on attending **this required class**. Thank you.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sunday: December 3rd
Second Collection: Capital Campaign
Blood Pressure Screening (Gathering Area after Masses)
10:00AM Religious Education (Greystone Building)
12:00Noon Coffee Hour (Gathering Area)

Monday: December 4th
9:30AM Holy Hour for Vocations (Church)

Tuesday: December 5th
9:30AM Holy Hour for Vocations (Church)
9:30AM Catholic MOM Group (Greystone Building)
10:00AM Mass (Samaritan Summit Village)

Wednesday: December 6th
9:30AM Holy Hour for Vocations (Church)
10:00AM Legion of Mary (McGivney Hall)

Thursday: December 7th
9:30AM Holy Hour for Vocations (Church)

Friday: December 8th
Holy Day of Obligation

Saturday: December 9th
4:45PM Praying the Rosary (Church)

INQUIRY If you are interested in the Catholic Faith or know of someone who is, please contact Kathy Allan at 315-785-8576 for an appointment.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT -- December 3, 2017
"Father, we are the work of Your hands." Is God's work in you to be of service to Him as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Talk to Fr. Steven Murray at 315-782-2468 or Fr. Doug Lucia at 315-386-2543/ dlucia@rcdony.org or Cathy Russell, the Diocesan Vocation Coordinator at 315-393-2920, ext. 1450/ crussell@rcdony.org. See us also on Facebook or at www.myvocation.net.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE DEC. 9th & 10th

5:15	Daniel McCullouch, Daniel Smith
9:00	Claire and Jillian Draper, Ashton Mathews, Bennett Pistner
11:00	Christopher, Nolan and Sarah Hennessey
5:15	Ann, Joey and John Tyler

ACTIVITIES AHEAD IN OUR PARISH

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT will be the second collection at all Masses next weekend. "Thanks to the support from the Retirement Fund for Religious, we are now in a much better position to care for our elders," writes a religious sister. Your donation helps her religious community and hundreds of others provide for aging members and plan for long-term needs. Please give to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious Collection.

CONFIRMATION YEAR I next session will be Sunday, December 10th 3PM-6PM at the Greystone Building.
CONFIRMAION YEAR II Basket Spirit will be Sunday, December 17th.

CITY WIDE PENANCE SERVICE Sunday, December 10th, 1:00PM at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, 320 W. Lynde St., Watertown.

IMPACT YOUTH GROUIP will meet Saturday, December 16th 3:30PM-5:00PM at the Greystone Building

"LIGHTS ARE ON" Confessions will be heard Monday, December 18th, 7:00PM at Holy Family Church.

IHC MYSTERY PLAYERS will perform at Holy Family Church, **Sunday, December 17th at 7:15PM**. Through the use of special lighting, pantomime and liturgical readings, this group of High School seniors and adults presents a moving, dramatic meditation that promises to be the highlight of our Advent Season. This group has travelled extensively in New York State and in surrounding states plus Canada. We strongly encourage everyone to attend this unique and powerful prayer.

ADOPT-A-PLATOON With the recommendation of Fr. Steve, the Evangelization Team has agreed to represent the parishioners of Holy Family Church in adopting the 1st Platoon, Bravo Company 1-87 Infantry (Fort Drum) which is deployed to Afghanistan. The goal is to dispatch monthly packages to the 33 members in the platoon. A list of suggested items requested by the members is posted in the gathering area of the church as well as on our web site. Please pray for "our" platoon's safety. They are already thanking God (and us) for your kindness, your support, and your generosity. Any questions contact Pat Fanning at 315-788-1101 or pfanning5010@twcny.rr.com.

Please take a gift tag from the Giving Tree and help a child's Christmas be brighter. Please return the unwrapped gifts to the Rectory by Tuesday, December 12th. The gas and food cards may be brought to the Rectory or put in the collection plate at any time. Thank you for your continued generosity.

The following parish names have been suggested for the new parish which will result from the merger of Holy Family, St. Anthony, and St. Patrick: Immaculate Heart, Unity of the Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity, Living Stones, Divine Mercy, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Transfiguration, Corpus Christi, Blessed Sacrament, St. John Paul II.

Immaculate Heart because Immaculate Heart Central has been a part of all three parishes.
Unity of the Holy Spirit because the three parishes will need to function under the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they unite together.
Living Stones because a parish is not made up of physical stones, but rather from the people who form the parish.
Divine Mercy because this devotion has affected the lives and practices of so many people in our community.
Our Lady, Queen of Peace because as a new parish we wish to live in peace and unity with one another.
Transfiguration because the new parish is a transfiguration of the former three parishes.
Corpus Christi because all three former parishes will work together forming the body of Christ.
Blessed Sacrament because the celebration of the Eucharist is the source and summit of our lives as Catholics.
St. John Paul II because he was a faithful disciple of Christ leading people back to Christ.

The committee originally thought of **Holy Trinity** because we would be forming one parish from three. However, after some discussion, the committee believe that there might be confusion by some between our parish and the Episcopal parish.

All of the suggested names are appropriate in some way. However, we look to you, the parishioners, for more suggestions. Think about this and contact Msgr. Aucoin, chairman of the committee, with your suggestion(s). You may contact him by emailing to him pastor@sawatn.org or phoning 315-782-1190, option 4. Please send your suggestion by December 10.

Note from the Pope,

Pope Francis reflects on Eucharist as "the making present of Christ's passover"

Pope Francis in his reflection on the **Eucharistic Mass** explained how it is a memorial of Christ's passover from death to life, and its celebration gives Christians new life.

He said the memorial is **not just a mere remembrance** of the event, but rather "the making present" of the Lord's **paschal mystery**. By doing so, the **Eucharist** allows Jesus to "pour out his mercy upon us, in order to renew our hearts, our lives and our entire world."

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"In our continuing catechesis on the Eucharist, we now consider the Mass as the memorial of Christ's passover from death to life. In the Bible, a "memorial" is more than a mere remembrance of a past event; it is the making present of that event, which enables us to share in its saving power.

At every celebration of the Eucharist, Jesus pours out his mercy upon us, as He did on the cross, in order to renew our hearts, our lives and our entire world. In the words of the Second Vatican Council, "as often as the sacrifice of the cross is celebrated on the altar, the work of our redemption is carried out." Each Sunday, we enter into Christ's victory over sin and death and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are given a share in His very life. By making present the Lord's paschal mystery, the Eucharist strengthens us to bear witness, like the martyrs of old, to His triumph over death and to love others as He does, freely giving of ourselves for their good.

I greet the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's Audience, particularly the groups from England, the Netherlands, Poland, Australia, China, Indonesia, Singapore and the United States of America. I offer a particular greeting to the Marist and Marianist Brothers taking part in a programme of spiritual renewal, and to the members of the priestly fraternity Companions of Christ. Upon all of you, and your families, I invoke joy and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ."

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11
Psalm 85: 9-14
2 Peter 3: 8-14
Mark 1: 1-8

As we await new heavens and a new earth (2), let us make clear the way of the Lord (1, 3) by being servants of justice, truth and peace (Ps).

OUR TITHING PARISH
THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

This Year	$	8,621.00
Last Year	$	9,513.00
Youth	$	18.00

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

This Year	$	7,727.00
Last Year	$	7,144.00
Youth	$	41.00
Campaign for Human Dev/ Black & Indian Mission 2017	$	2,066.00
Campaign for Human Dev/ Black & Indian Mission 2016	$	1,764.00
Watertown Urban Mission 2017	$	5,487.00
Watertown Urban Mission 2016	$	5,175.00
Pennies from Heaven (November)	$	355.22
Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry (November)		157
Watertown Urban Mission Critical Needs (November)		148

Thank you for your continued generosity

Note From the Pastor,

Bishop Terry R. LaValley and the Solidarity in Faith Committee of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are pleased to announce the visit of Bishop Antoine Chbeir of the Maronite Diocese of Latakia, Syria. Bishop Chbeir will travel throughout the Diocese from the 11th thru the 18th of December. He will be presiding at Liturgies and meeting with the people; on the 12th at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Watertown at 11:00AM, on the 13th at the Cathedral of St. Mary's at noon in Ogdensburg, on the 14th at Seton Catholic Central at 10:00AM in Plattsburgh, on the 16th at 4:00PM at the Cathedral in Ogdensburg and finally on the 17th at 11:00AM at the Church of the Holy Family in Watertown. Solidarity in Faith is a process of building a lasting relationship between the Diocese of Ogdensburg and the Maronite Diocese of Latakia, where the oldest Christians on earth reside.

ADVENT RETREAT Register now for the annual **Advent Retreat** at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph, 1425 Washington St. by calling **782-3460**. It will be held on **Sunday, December 10th from 1:30 until 4:00**. A reflection on the spirituality of dreams will be given by Sr. Jennifer Votraw. There will also be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, time for personal prayer, and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Sisters will again host their **"Work of our Hands"** sale during the afternoon with all proceeds given to our local Victims Assistance Center. This year the "Bakery" will be expanded as will the variety of handmade note cards. Come and see!

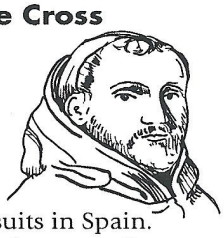
Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith. December 2017

Holy Family Church
Rev. Steven M. Murray, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. John of the Cross

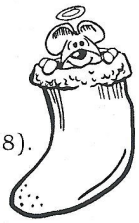


Raised by his mother after his father's death, St. John studied with the Jesuits in Spain. He entered the Carmelite Order in 1563. St. John led a much-needed reform of the Order, encouraging more prayer and simplicity. His reforms were not always popular. He was jailed in a tower for almost a year, yet some of his most beautiful spiritual writing came from this experience. He was a close friend of St. Teresa of Ávila.

"I am with you always."

Sometimes God can seem distant and silent. Yet, he promised to stay with us always (Matthew 28:20). The same God who came to Bethlehem 2,000 years ago still comes to us now to live in our churches and our hearts. Today, be mindful of God's loving presence. Ask him to help you grow closer to him.

"Draw near to God and he will draw near to you" (James 4:8).



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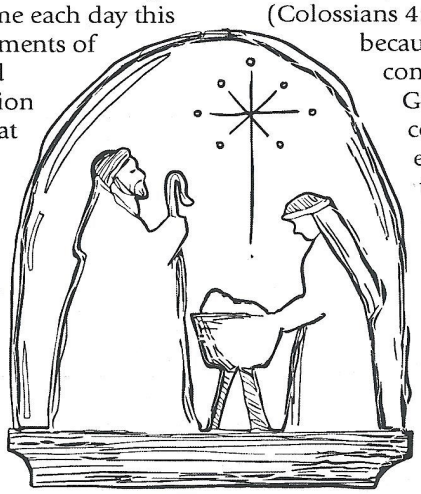
A holy Advent leads to a joyful Christmas



During Advent, we wait for the gift of pure love. Taking time each day this season to create moments of watchful silence and thoughtful preparation will lead to real joy at Christmas.

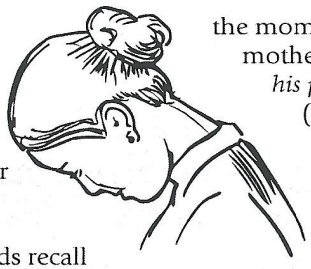
Watchful silence. *"For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him"* (Psalm 62:5). God does not shout. He speaks quietly and softly, in a *"still small voice"* (1 Kings 19:11-12). It isn't always heard in the rush of daily life but in the silence of our hearts. During Advent, slow down, quiet down and listen for the still small voice of God.

Prepare. *"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving"* (Colossians 4:2). We fall into sin because our hearts are not continuously turned to God. When we confidently turn to him each day, he will give us the protection and strength we need to withstand the darkness of sin. God does not expect us to be perfect but he does want us to be a little better today than the day before. Regular Confession is indispensible.

Celebrate. We were created to have a mutual, loving relationship with God. In fact, he loves us so much that he sent his Son to show us, tell us, and die for us. Celebrate our love story on Christmas with Mass and joy.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics bow during the Nicene Creed?



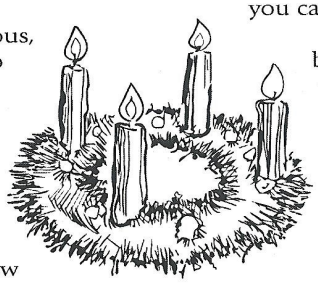
When we proclaim our belief that God's Son was "born of the Virgin Mary and became man," we bow out of reverence for the mystery that made our salvation possible (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #461). These words recall the moment when Mary became the mother of Jesus, who would, *"save his people from their sins"* (Matthew 1:21).

This is an amazing truth – out of love of us, God became man, died for our sins, and rose from the dead.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP: How "green "will your Christmas be? How can our celebration of Christmas this year reflect Christian simplicity, social justice and care for our common home? The three R's (reduce, reuse, and recycle) could prove helpful in finding ways to respond to the challenge. Using this as a guide could make a merrier Christmas for everyone on the planet. While there is still time, have this conversation with a friend.

Share the Christmas gift of love

At Christmas time, we are asked to reach into ourselves and bring out only what is kind, generous, and loving. To help, remember that Jesus came to us out of love and wants us to find ways to share his love with others. *"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you"* (John 15:12). Ultimately, Christmas is about love.



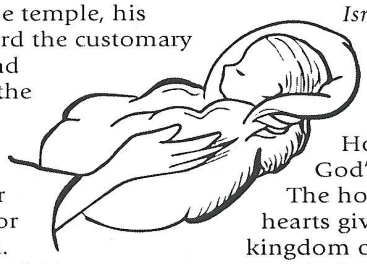
Comfort those who suffer. This time of year highlights financial struggles and hardships. Offer the gift of love by calling your parish office or Catholic Charities (800-919-9338) to learn how you can help others in need.

Offer the gift of yourself. The holidays can be sad for those who are alone. Spending time with someone else – especially when you don't have much to spare – is one of the most precious ways to show you care.

Forgive. There is no better time to offer forgiveness to someone who has wronged you or to ask it of someone you may have hurt. Forgiveness is a powerful form of love in action.

from Scripture — Luke 2:22-40, Look for the Lord

To the uninformed observer, Jesus' birth was unremarkable and his family was quite ordinary. When it came time to present Jesus in the temple, his parents couldn't afford the customary offering of a lamb and gave two pigeons as the offering of the poor instead. As faithful Jews, they did what was required by their faith to thank God for the gift of their child.



Yet, when Joseph and Mary presented their new baby in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized him as the Messiah. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he prophesied that Jesus was to be *"a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel"* (Luke 2:32).

Simeon was not alone in recognizing the Lord in the temple. Anna was also filled with the Holy Spirit. Her faith in God's promises gave her hope.

The hope God places in our hearts gives us a desire for the kingdom of Heaven. The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Lord to those who want to know him, to receive him, and to be happy with him forever.

Feasts & Celebrations

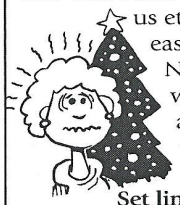
Dec. 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1854). On this day, we commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without original sin. In addition to attending Mass, praying a joyful Rosary is a wonderful way to celebrate.

Dec. 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531). The Blessed Mother appeared as a Native American maiden to St. Juan Diego, also Native American. She asked that the bishop of Mexico build a chapel for her, and had him carry roses to the bishop as a sign. When the roses were emptied from his tilma (cape), it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

Dec. 16 – St. Adelaide (999). A Burgundian princess, St. Adelaide had to escape from a murderous plot for the throne. She was rescued by the Holy Roman Emperor, King Otto of Germany. She married him and upon his death ruled for their young son, Otto II. As queen of Germany she was known for charitable works, including founding and restoring monasteries.

Q & A — How can I reduce stress this Christmas?

Christmas celebrates the amazing fact that God's Son became one of us to win us eternal life. It's not always easy to focus on the Good News while shopping, wrapping, baking, rushing, and entertaining. Try these tips for a more joyful Christmas holiday:



Set limits. Stick to your spending limits when buying gifts to avoid sticker shock after the holidays. Be choosy about which invitations to accept so that you aren't exhausted when Christmas arrives.

Focus on prayer. Whether it's praying a decade of the Rosary, reading Scripture, or spending time before the Blessed Sacrament in church, daily prayer is a necessity not a luxury.

Prepare your heart. Make an examination of conscience and go to Confession. Experience God's mercy as the priest absolves your sins.

Make it last. For Catholics, Christmas isn't just one day – the season lasts until January. Celebrate The Holy Family (December 31st), The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1st), The Epiphany (January 7th), and The Baptism of the Lord (January 8th).

Our Mission
To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT *Readings: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37*

Happy new liturgical year. Today is the first Sunday of Advent, a time of waiting in the "in-between" times. Christ has won the victory, but his Kingdom is not yet fully realized. We wait for his return in glory. With Isaiah we call out to God asking him to return so we may not wander away from him. We need to stand firm with Paul and be watchful and alert as Mark tells us in the gospel. Advent is a time of waiting in active hope. It is a time for turning to the Lord that we may see his face as we call upon his name. Come Lord Jesus.

December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is the Patronal Feast Day of the United States and a Holy Day of Obligation.