

# *The Holy Family*

OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

December 26, 2021

*After three days Jesus' parents found him in the temple,  
sitting in the midst of the teachers,  
listening to them and asking them questions.*

Luke 2:46

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A child's first words are usually a source of excitement and joy for family members. Today we hear the first words of Jesus in the Gospel according to Luke. And they are challenging ones. "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" The words astounded, astonished, and great anxiety are used to describe Jesus' extended visit to the Temple. How familiar those emotions are to most parents! Had Jesus' parents forgotten the angel Gabriel's words or the prophecy of Simeon? In Luke's Gospel this passage foreshadows Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem where he will experience his own Passover and again be "lost" for three days. The story of Hannah in the first reading confirms the need and nature of trusting in God's activity in our lives. It seems clear that faithful attention to a family's spiritual life is no guarantee that life will be free from hardship.

## EMMANUEL: GOD IS WITH US

Could Tolstoy have gotten it wrong when he wrote that all happy families are alike and that unhappy families are each

unhappy in their own way? It seems that the opposite is equally true. Because happy families foster the unique talents and interests of each member, each person shines according to their own lights. A happy family's faith, goals, and challenges will be uniquely their own. Unhappy families, on the other hand, might look very similar in their woundedness, their fears and confrontations, and their tendency to give negative interpretations to another's actions.

It is tempting to conclude that family life today is more problematic than ever. It might be reassuring to learn that the feast of the Holy Family was added to the Church's universal calendar because of Pope Leo XIII's concern for the state of family life—one hundred years ago! During this season of Christmas when families are everywhere, we welcome Emmanuel—the God who has pitched his tent among us.

Today's Readings: 1 Sam 1:20–22, 24–28; Ps 84:2–3, 5–6, 9–10;  
1 Jn 3:1–2, 21–24; Lk 2:41–52

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## ST. ISIDORE CHURCH

**Laingsburg, Michigan**

**Pastor:** Rev. Anthony Brooks

**Rectory:** 651-6617 - E-Mail: [franthonny@stisidorechurch.org](mailto:franthonny@stisidorechurch.org)

**Parish Secretary:** Sharon Gillespie

**Office:** 651-6722 - E-Mail: [office@stisidorechurch.org](mailto:office@stisidorechurch.org)

**Office Hours:** Wed. & Fri. 8:00 - 3:00 PM

**R.C.I.A. Dir.:** Nancy Kienitz - [nk1001927@gmail.com](mailto:nk1001927@gmail.com)

**Religious Ed. Formation (REF)** - Mary Stevens -

[marystevens@stisidorechurch.org](mailto:marystevens@stisidorechurch.org)

**Outreach Ministry:** Jesse Anguiano - 517-881-2227

**Web Address:** <http://stisidorechurch.org>

**Saturday Mass:** 5:30 pm - **Sunday Mass:** 9:00 am

**Confession:** Wednesday 5:30 to 6:20 pm

## HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

**Ovid, Michigan**

**Pastor:** Rev. Anthony Brooks

**Deacon:** John Marsh

**Parish Secretary:** Sharon Gillespie

**Office:** 989-834-5855

**E-Mail:** [holyfamilyovid@gmail.com](mailto:holyfamilyovid@gmail.com)

**Office Hours:** Tues. 8:00 - 3:00

**Religious Ed. Formation (REF)** Ginger Kusnier

**R.C.I.A. Dir.:** Vivian Durling

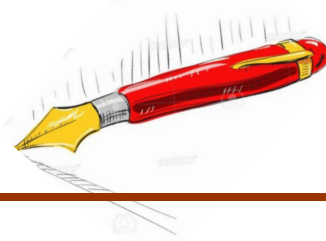
**Web Address:** <http://stisidorechurch.org/hf/>

**Saturday Mass:** 4:00 pm - **Sunday Mass:** 11:00 am

**Confession:** Saturdays 3:00 to 3:30 pm



## Notes from Fr. Anthony ...



*"Good King Wenceslas looked out, On the Feast of Stephen.  
When the snow lay round about, Deep and crisp and even."*

So begins the classic Christmas Carol and it is also on the day mentioned that you will be reading this. The 26<sup>th</sup> of December is always the feast of St. Stephen the protomartyr. He is called that because he is the first martyr of the Church, being the first to give his life for Christ after the Ascension. So his feast day is given the place of honor of immediately following Christmas.

I wish you all a blessed and merry Christmas! We now begin the celebration of Christmas, on this second day of Christmas (as it is traditionally known) and this celebration will last for the next few weeks. The weather this last week has been, suffice it to say, less than warm. I never look forward to the freezing temperatures, but at least now the days start to become longer and we know that sooner or later spring will be here. It is an interesting fact as well that we celebrate the birth of our Savior in the cold winter months. At a time when the days are shorter and it gets dark much too soon for my taste. Let us take a moment and ponder this in relation to the coming of Christ. To quote St. John's prologue *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him: and without him was made nothing that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it..... That was the true light, which enlightens every man that comes into this world."*

This happens because of Christ's coming; He is the light which shines in the darkness and that the darkness cannot overcome. Interestingly enough, nature gives testimony to this as well. While the temperatures will still be in the lower regions of the thermometer for the next few months, the days gradually start becoming longer now. The darkness

lessens and we ourselves begin to feel the change of longer days, of more light. We find ourselves encouraged by this as it reminds us that the warmth is coming as well, that spring will be here. That new life is sure to be following the bleakness of the winter landscape. This is even more true in the spiritual realm. Christ the light enters into the darkness of our brokenness and sinfulness and offers us the light, promises us that with Him there is a possibility of living in the light and not letting the darkness overcome us. He promises new life, the warmth of God's mercy and love. He does not promise instant success but guarantees us that if we are willing to go with Him, to suffer with Him through the coldness of sin and the unfriendliness or even hostility of the world, that new life will be ours. We will be able to savor the goodness of the Lord in a very real way, just as we savor the scents and sounds of spring.

One could almost say that nature is the embodiment of trust in God. The birds and other wildlife know that although food maybe scarcer, it is still available. The birds still sing their songs every day, they still fly about in the sky, proving that even the animal instinct knows that God is here and there is no need to worry about tomorrow, that winter will end and spring will come. For us also this is true in a very real way, the spring of the spiritual life of the soul will come, all thanks to what happened in that manger 2000 years ago. Christ came here, to lead us through the winter and darkness and back into the spring and light of God's presence. He became a defenseless child so that we may have safety. He contended with the darkness beginning on a cold night in Bethlehem so that we may have the light in our souls. And so to quote Archbishop Fulton Sheen – *"God love you"* and *Merry Christmas*.

**Fr. Anthony**



## **PARISH ACTIVITIES**

Thurs.— **NO Quilting**—Dec. 23 & 30

Dec. 29—Spiritual&Corporal Works of Mercy-6:30 HF

### **GIVING TREE**

Thank you to all parishioners who bought gifts for the giving tree this year!



### **Coat Drive**

St. Isidore

Gently used Men's and Women's coats will be donated to the Cristo Rey Community Center. Please leave coats in the marked bins in the church entrance



## **Religious Education Formation—REF**

Holy Family—9:50—10:50 am—Sundays

St. Isidore—10:15—11:15 am—Sundays

Questions: Email—

marystevens@stisidorechurch.org

**NO REF CLASSES DEC. 26 OR JAN. 2**



## **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

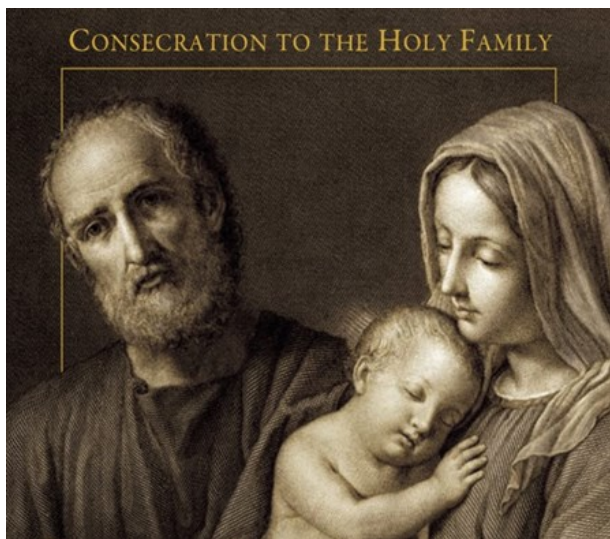
Dec. 26 Consecration of the Holy Family  
Jan. 12—Business Meeting—7:00 pm

**Knight of the Month:** John Marsh

**Family of the Month:** Ernie, Jen, Ethan & Emma West



### **CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY FAMILY**



We will pray the Consecration to the Holy Family prayer at St. Isidore and Holy Family Masses on Sunday, December 26, the Feast of the Holy Family. It is an opportunity for our parish's families to consecrate themselves under the protection of the Holy Family.

Prayer cards with this prayer will be distributed at Masses this weekend by the Knights of Columbus.

**QUILTING QUIPS...** Holy Family Christmas Store has closed for another year. Each year, we are amazed at the generosity of everyone who looks at our table of gifts and makes a purchase or donation. And this year was the best year ever. Considering that only people who come to church, we never expected to raise this much for our area Food Banks.

**GRAND TOTAL DONATIONS FOR 2021**

**\$1,920.00**

Thanks to everyone who made a donation to this fund raiser. Hope to see you next year. And if you have any ideas for gifts that we can make, please share them with us! We are always looking for new ideas.

**KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS** submitted posters can be seen on the website.

[stisidorechurch.org](http://stisidorechurch.org)



### **2022 Offertory Envelopes**

The new offertory envelopes are out at both churches in the hall. If your envelopes are not there please contact the office.

**ST. ISIDORE, LAINGSBURG****MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK**

Christmas Day --Saturday--Dec. 25--(9:00 AM) † Clif Tobias by Gary & Barb Koonter  
 Sunday — Dec. 26 —(9:00 AM) † Jimmy Warnke by Jim & Anita Leathers  
 Wednesday— Dec. 29— (6:30 PM) † Harriet Delaney by Dave & Cheryl Lewis Family  
 Thursday— Dec. 30 -(8:30 AM) People of the Parish  
 Friday—Dec. 31—(8:30 AM) † Sheila Doyle by the Family  
 Saturday—Jan. 1—(5:30 PM) † Bob McMonagle by the Knights of Columbus  
 Sunday — Jan. 2 —(9:00 AM) † Mercedes Maria Brown by the Family

**HOLY FAMILY, OVID**

Christmas Day -Saturday--Dec. 25--(11:00 AM) † Fr. Raymond Urbanek  
 Sunday—Dec. 26—(11:00 AM) † Margaret Williams by the Family  
 Tuesday— Dec. 28 —(12:10 PM) † Frank & Mary Kral & Frank, Jr. by the Family  
 Thursday - Dec. 30 - (6:30 PM) † M/M August Dunay by Greg & Margaret White  
**New Year's Day—Sat.— Jan. 1—(9:00 AM) † Ed Ladiski by Jon & Elaine Bartholic**  
 Saturday—Jan. 1 (4:00 PM) †Deceased Members of the Julius & Wyona Keusch Family by  
 John & Konnie VanGeertury  
 Sunday—Jan. 2—(11:00 AM) † Guadalupe Ortiz by Mike & Barb Chapko

**PRAYERS: PLEASE PRAY FOR** Archie Schebester (Friend of Jesse Anguiano), Theresa Pickler (Friend of Jesse Anguiano), Autumn Michels, Pamela & Dan Morgan, Tori Martens, Tom & Mary Hughly (Friends of RoseMarie Thering), Janice Smith, Hugh Smith, Beth Ann Elliott (Daughter of Don & Denise), Clarence Dell, Craig & Caren Henning, (Nephew & Niece of Leonard Mitchell) Vince Minarik, (Son in Law of Leonard Mitchell), Terri Sue (Daughter-in-Law of Leonard Mitchell), Brad Walker, Virginia Bernal (Cousin of Jesse Anguiano), Fr. Mathias Thelen, (Brother of Pam (Ryan) Fabus), Bonnie Ehlert, Gary Delaney (Nephew of Bev Delaney), Pat Spencer (Friend of Bev Delaney), Charles Oleniczak, Judith Bond, Sandy McPherson (Sister of Cooky Hawkins), Sharon Darling, Jim & John Ginther (Sons of Ron & Charlene), Ron & Charlene Ginther, Carlos Duncan (Cousin of Jesse Anguiano), Steve Butler, Sean Robinson, Chasidy Martin, (Niece of Doug & Char Angell), Jesse Loar (Great Grandson of Leonard Mitchell), Dawn Wrobel, Mary Lou Willoughby (Sister-In-Law of RoseMarie Thering), Rosa Zamarripa, (Cousin of Jesse Anguiano), Taylor Nixon, (Friend of RoseMarie Thering), Bob Bunn (Nephew of Pat White), Bob McCue, Kathy Latz, (Daughter in Law of Pat Latz), Star McCann (Niece of Marian Horsley & Nancy Shipley), Tom Hulburt (Son of Nita Hughes), Larry Miller, Diane Mead (Friend of Joanne Evans), Gary Hrncharik, Donna Fruchey, Col-lene Smith, Nancy Byrnes, Nancy Alice Carbary (Mother of Maggie Sayles), Marguerite Sarkozi, Great Aunt of Stacy Voisinet, Bob Koger, Michelle Houska, Charles Carroll (Brother of Char Angell), Melvia Quine, Judy Kovarik (Mother of Bill Kovarik)

*Please contact the office to add or remove names from the prayer*

**Remember our service members in your prayers:**

Taylor Earl Parsons—Air Force—Space Force  
 Aubrey Hurst—National Guard  
 Christian Garza—Army  
 Fr. Brandon Oman—Air Force  
 LTC Nathan Cooley - USN  
 MSGT Joshua Delaney - Air Force  
 Alexandra Cultra - Navy  
 Andie Ostrander—Navy (To add names, - contact the office.)  
 Patrick Schiffer—Air Force

**ADORATION****St. Isidore Church- Wednesdays**

5:30—6:20 pm Adoration & Confessions  
 6:30 pm Mass  
 Adoration & Confessions Following Mass  
 Until 7:45 pm

**Holy Family—Thursdays**

5:30—6:20 pm Adoration & Confessions  
 6:30 pm Mass

**WEEKLY OFFERTORY  
December 18 & 19, 2021**

St. Isidore Offertory - \$2,523  
 Holy Family Offertory - \$2,116  
 Online Offertory - \$2,725

**TOTAL: - \$7,364**