

# Church of the Holy Family

## PARISH RECTORY

234 Hermitage Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19127

Phone: 215-482-0450

Fax: 215-482-7531

E-mail: [contact@holyfamilychurch.org](mailto:contact@holyfamilychurch.org)

Website: [www.HolyFamilyChurch.org](http://www.HolyFamilyChurch.org)

### *Pastor*

Rev. Msgr. Patrick E. Sweeney  
[pastor@holyfamilychurch.org](mailto:pastor@holyfamilychurch.org)

### *Pastor Emeritus*

Rev. Francis X. McKee

### *Sunday Visitor*

Rev. John P. Collins

### *Pastoral Service Director and Permanent Deacon*

Deacon James Browne

### *Music Director*

Joseph O'Brien

**Child Care** Ages: Infant (6 wks.)-PreK (4)

Hours: 6:00am-6:00pm (year-round care)

Phone: 610-952-9186

Email: [childcare@holyfamilychurch.org](mailto:childcare@holyfamilychurch.org)

*Holy Hour*: Second Sunday of each month  
after the 11:00am Mass Miraculous Medal

*Novena*: every Friday after 8:00am Mass

*Altar Servers*: Bernadette Welsh

*Cantors*: Joseph O'Brien

*Extraordinary Ministers*:

Jeanine Censi-Lamont

*Lectors*: Kathy Duffly

*RCIA*: Wednesday at 7:00pm

*PREP*: Sundays from 10:00-11:00am



## CHURCH SERVICES

Saturday Evening Mass: 4:00pm

Sunday Mass: 9:00am, 11:00am

Weekday Mass: 8:00am

Holy Day Vigil Mass: 7:00pm

Holy Day Mass: 9:00am

## BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated every third Sunday after the 11:00am Mass. Please contact the rectory for details about the Pre-Jordan program which is held on the first Sunday of the month at 12:00pm in the rectory.

## CONFESSION

Saturday: 3:00-3:45pm or any time upon request.

## MARRIAGE

Couples must make arrangements at Holy Family at least 6 months prior to the wedding. Call the rectory at 215-482-0450 for an appointment.

## MINISTRY TO THE SICK & ELDERLY

Visit those unable to attend Mass due to sickness or age on Thursday each week from 11:00am to 12:30pm

*Pre-Cana Team*: Program for engaged couples – John and Beth Delaney

*Liturgy Committee*: Plans religious services – Jim Browne

*Parish Pastoral Council*: meets first Monday of the month to confer on Pastoral planning

*Women's Club*: Meets six times/year and sponsors social activities

*\*Please note*: If you are interested in participating any of these activities, please contact the rectory at 215-482-0450.

## Welcome

*We welcome all who join us for worship, and we invite you to become part of our parish family.  
You may register as a parishioner in the rectory on any Sunday morning after the Masses or any time online.*

Have a

*Blessed*

*New Year*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>  
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**



You may wonder why the ancient Christmas Carol, "The Five Rings", was Twelve Days long. It corresponds to the Christmas season of or from December 25<sup>th</sup> to the Epiphany, January 6<sup>th</sup>. The song published in 1790 without music was a chant. The tune from 1909 is by the English composer, Frederic Austin. The church thought it important to be used to learn Christian doctrine. The meaning of each gift begins with a gift called, "A Partridge in a Pear Tree". The meaning is: Jesus, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas, is symbolically, represented as a mother bird, the only kind of bird that will die to protect her young.

Now that the projection of the Old Testament is fulfilled, we should joyfully proclaim the Good News. Prophets preach by example the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The arrival of the saviour will enable all men and women to be gifted with a virtuous life. The Eucharistic real presence will be seen through the birth of Christ. We are not alone in this world. It will take God's grace will help us to serve the family of mankind, beginning in our own homes.  
Happy and Healthy New Year,

Monsignor Sweeney and Clergy of the Parish



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30<sup>th</sup> – 4:00pm**

Doris, Marianne, Eileen and Dave, requested by Betty Thummel and family

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup> – 9:00am**

Our Parishioners

**11:00am**

Joseph J. Wack and Mary Theresa Wack, requested by Joe and Mary Ellen Wack

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**

January 1<sup>st</sup> – New Years Day this year is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

**9:00am**

**11:00am**

Our Parishioners

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8:00am**

Debbie Cupchak, requested by Gail and John Carlin

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8:00am**

No Intention

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 4<sup>th</sup> – 8:00am**

Special Intentions

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 5<sup>th</sup> – 8:00am**

Annie Swalla, requested by her family

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 6<sup>th</sup> – 4:00pm**

John Censi, requested by the Koenig Family

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7<sup>th</sup> – 9:00am**

Dennis Mohan, requested by Joe and Mary Beth Szymick

**11:00am**

Our Parishioner





Please remember your **CHURCH WEEKLY OFFERING**. You can either mail it in or do it by **Electronic Giving**. Please follow this secure link: [www.holyfamilychurch.org/give](http://www.holyfamilychurch.org/give)

Your financial offerings are most appreciated.

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Due to our Publisher needing the bulletin for December 31<sup>st</sup> on December 26<sup>th</sup>, the collection amounts for December 24<sup>th</sup> will be in the January 7<sup>th</sup> bulletin.

The second collection this weekend will be for the Parish.



In your prayers, you are asked to pray for all the sick of the parish and those who care for them especially, Josephine Barry, Ashley Brown, Christopher Browne, Megan Duffy, Daniel Evans, Terry Flanagan, Theodora Garrett, Anna Kenny, Jane Latta, Edward Lawnton, David Leahy, Lisa Long, Maeve Mahon, Erin McFarlane, Jerry McGough, Megan McHugh, Anthony Pelle, Marie Prince, Ronald Rigler, Daniel Seddon, Bill and Theresa Sherwin, Fred Smeltzer, Ava Snick, David Sparacino, Frances Sprenkle, Joseph Syrnick, and Roy (Toysie) Turvey, Jr.



LCPL. Shane Canavan, Sgt. Shane Carlson, Sgt. Tyler Manigly, RTC Dominic Remolde, Captain Zach Schwatka, Col. Scott Shore, and Cpl. Christopher Starrett.



Please pray for the happy repose of all the faithful departed.



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>**

**4:00pm**

Grace Welsh

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>**

**9:00am**

Joseph Arturo

**11:00am**

Jocelyn Welsh

**MONDAY, JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup>**

**9:00am**

Joseph Arturo

**11:00am**

Grace Welsh



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>**

**4:00pm**

Harry Mullen

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>**

**9:00am**

Mary Reed

**11:00am**

Tom Payne

**MONDAY, JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup>**

**9:00am**

Jamie Torna

**11:00am**

John Delaney

**LECTORS**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>**

**4:00 pm**

Sister Mary Jo Larkin

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>**

**9:00am**

Mary Reed

**11:00am**

Dorothea Richardson

**MONDAY, JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup>**

**9:00am**

Lolita Bennett

**11:00am**

Dorothea Richardson



**50/50 RAFFLE**

**Drawing will be held on 12/30/23 after the 4:00pm Mass.**



**Dear Parishioners,**

**As you are aware, your Block Collection Envelopes were delivered to you in the past few weeks. To those have already donated, thank you. To those who have yet to do so, please remember the fall block collection is one of the biggest fundraisers to help with upcoming winter expenses. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.**



Are you an early riser? Holy Family Childcare Center is in need of an early riser willing to open up the childcare center, open the gate, turn on the lights at 6 am. If you are interested, please call the rectory at 215-482-0450.



We are in need of Altar Servers. Please see Monsignor Sweeney after mass to discuss if you'd like to become an Altar Server. Your help would be very much appreciated.



**Volunteers needed to help carry statues and crucifixes from the Old School building to the Convent. All help is needed and welcomed. We would like to do this on Saturday, January 6, 2024 around 10 am.**



Congratulations and Welcome to the Church our newest Baptized Parishioners of 2023:

Saoirse Rose Bellina-Lawnton

David Antonio Castro-Bones

Penelope Quinn Reed

Samuel John Aylmer

Delia Marie O'Shaughnessy

Zachary Ian Preston

William Karwoski

Jillian DellaMonica

Blair Stephen Buzogany

Margaret Wynne Newell

Maeve Ellen Mahon

Conor Murtha

Ava Rose Yovino

Sophia Grace Yovino

Elena Catalon

Robert David Pritchard

Macklin Terrance Knell

## THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

### Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Many items in our everyday lives follow a formula. The list would include everything from breakfast cereal to industrial chemicals. But the same holds true for our spiritual lives. Our Catholic prayers, for example, generally follow the “formula” or pattern of the “Our Father.” We praise God and then make respectful request(s) of Him.

So too is there a formula for living family life as given us in Holy Scripture. Today’s Second Reading, of St. Paul to the Colossians, should rank high in our estimation. It is a direct refute of all the bullish attacks on Christian family life in the secular culture that surrounds us. The chief feature there is the absence of God and any reference to Him that is sadly prevalent in many families today.

The purpose of this particular letter was to bolster the faith of the community at Colossae and to correct errors reported about the Church in that city. Jewish and Hellenistic elements seem to be combined in those errors. Paganism, magic, astrology and mystery religions.

As we read the particular section of the Letter chosen for us on this special Feast of the Holy Family, we note the formula that emerges for living all our families in a truly Christian way. The basic component is the fact that we are “God’s chosen ones.” This means that God’s existence as well as His presence are the essentials. Take God away and the whole formula is baseless. Note that “bearing with one another and forgiving one another” is included. How absent that seems to be many times these days!

Comedians make light of it, sometimes, but underneath the laughter is the sad kernel of truth that too many of us do not forgive and forget the mistakes of those people who have the same last name as ours.

We dare not push aside the Holy Family as our model because of the sublime holiness present there. If we are, as Paul tells us, “God’s chosen ones,” we have the inborn ability to honor God’s choice by our prayer and daily effort.

The story is told of a young man who stood before a judge to be sentenced for forgery. The judge had been a friend of the boy’s father, who was famous for his books on the law of trusts. “Young man,” said the judge sternly, “do you remember your father, that father whom you have disgraced?”

“I remember him perfectly.” the young man answered quietly.

“When I went to him for advice or companionship. He would say ‘Run away, boy, I’m busy.’ Well, my father finished his book, and here I am.”

God love you, and bring His peace to your family.





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