**ADVENT: YESTERDAY AND TODAY**

Advent was originally celebrated as a kind of “Lent” during the forty days before the feast of Christmas. Gradually, Advent developed its own distinctive character, retaining a slight penitential dimension but emphasizing our joy-filled hope in the coming of the Lord.

Today, these two aspects continue side by side. During the first part of Advent, the prophecies of Isaiah and John the Baptist remind us that we are waiting for God’s coming and need to prepare. During the latter part of the season the focus shifts more directly on the events leading up to Jesus’ birth. These twin perspectives give richness to our observance of Advent, leading us to introspection and renewal, and to the exuberant joy and celebration of Christmas.

**THE ADVENT SEASON**

Marking the beginning of the Church’s liturgical year, the four weeks of Advent lead us to the celebration of Christmas. Advent’s familiar sights and sounds stir in us a readiness to receive our savior, while sharpening our sense of the world’s need for redemption and of the great mystery of God’s becoming human for us.

**ARRIVAL OF CHRIST**

*Advent* is a Latin word meaning the coming or arrival. The season of Advent is a time to prepare to celebrate the three arrivals of Christ: his lowly birth in the past, his mysterious coming to the Christian community in the present, and his promised return as our judge at the end of time.

**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**

Since Advent looks forward to Christ’s Incarnation and birth, it is an appropriate way to begin the Church Year. However, Advent is not part of the Christmas season itself, but a preparation for it. Thus, Catholics do not sing Christmas hymns or use Christmas readings in the Mass until December 25th, the first day of the Christmas season.

**PARISH DIRECTORY**

Rev. Thomas Rekiel, Pastor,
Rev. Krzysztof Liwarski, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Frederick Walters, Pastor Emeritus,
Deacon Peter M. Fiore,

Director of Music Ministry, Randy Hertzog
Pastoral Minister, Virginia Akhoury
Parish Bookkeeper, Robyn Morris,
Office Administrator, Celeste Walsh

Protecting God’s Children Coordinator, Celeste Walsh

Director of Faith Formation, Dr. Suzanne Herold,
CCD Director, Anne Giedlinski,
Youth Coordinator, Daniel Wikstrom

Director Holy Family School, Mary Smith,
Assistant Director, Toni Fiore
School Bookkeeper, Tammy Zebick

**FINANCE COUNCIL**

Ralph Aurilia  973-951-6508  Mike Prokop  973-301-0678*
Mike Cannilla  973-822-1661
Carmen Cefolo-Pane  973-377-1387
Bob Cottam  973-887-1232  Fred Summa  973-822-3362*
Peter Fiore  917-880-9601

**Mass**

Sunday Mass Schedule
Saturday 5:30 pm
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm, 7:30pm

Daily Mass Schedule
Monday-Friday 8:15 am,
Saturday 8:15 am
Holy Day Schedule
Vigil Mass, 7:30 pm
7:00, 8:15 am, 12:10, 7:30 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturdays, 4:30 to 5:15pm

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

rectory@holyfamilyfp.org
Phone 973-377-1817  Fax 973-377-6350
www.holyfamilyfp.org
1 Lloyd Ave. Florham Park, NJ 07932

**MASSES AROUND THE COUNTRY**

To find the closest church in the U.S., or go to www.masstimes.org.

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:**

LTC Timothy Renahan USA; Matthew Manzione, USA;
AS1 Brian Schramm, USN; Capt Stephen Scirocco, USMC;
LCpl. Stephen Hanily, USMC; Sgt. Chad Jennings, USA;
PFC Patrick Montuore, USMC; Sgt. Jared K. Nucci, USA.
**Tithing:** This week’s collection was $9,910.00, last year was $8,507.00. Thank you for your continued generosity to Holy Family Parish.

| December 2 | Coffee & Cake Sunday  
CYO Basketball Games Gym  
CCD Grades 1-8 9:00 am  
Confirmation 10th Gr. 5:30 pm |
| December 3 | Centering Prayer Mtg. 7:30 pm K of C Hall |
| December 5 | CYO Basketball Practice Gym  
Saints Study Fr. Krzys 7:00 pm CH  
Children’s Christmas Choir 6:00 Sch |
| December 7 | Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
Vigil Mass 7:30 pm |
| December 8 | Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
(Mass at 8:15 am & 12:10 pm)  
CYO Basketball Practice  
Parish Dinner 6:30 pm CH |
| December 9 | CYO Basketball Games Gym  
Confirmation 9th Gr. 5:30 pm  
Youth Group Meeting |
| December 10 | Centering Prayer Mtg. 7:30 pm K of C Hall |
| December 11 | CCD Grades 6, 7 & 8 6:45 pm |
| December 12 | CCD Grades 1-8 3:30 pm  
Children’s Christmas Choir 6:00 Sch  
CYO Basketball Practice Gym  
Bible Study Fr. Thomas 7:00 pm CH |
| December 15 | CYO Basketball Practice Gym |
| December 16 | Gifts Due Back to Church  
Blessing of Baby Jesus Statues All Masses  
K of C Breakfast with Santa  
CCD Grades 1-8 9:00 am  
CYO Basketball Games Gym |
| December 18 | CCD Grades 6, 7 & 8 6:45 pm |
| December 19 | CCD Grades 1-8 3:30 pm  
CYO Basketball Practice Gym  
Children’s Christmas Choir 6:00 Sch |
| December 22 | Women’s Salt Group 9:00 am CH  
Confessions 8:45 am - 5:15 pm  
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm |

**Food Pantry** Thank you for all you do to support the Food Pantry. This week’s item is **Kirkland or Swanson canned chicken. We cannot accept expired food.** Sharon Carr @973-568-5932, Anne Platoff @ 973-822-0430, Bernadette Stone @201-412-4668.

**Please Pray for Our Deceased**  
Theresa Veverka, (sister of Peggy Schneyer), Sharon Boy, Joseph Walsh, (brother of Phyllis Walsh).

**Pray for the Sick:** James Connolly Sr., Peggy Schneyer, John Veverka, Dave Kreutzer, Mary O’Connor, George Padkowsky, Sloane Dyer, Ken Eberer, Betty Kelly, Anne D’Innocenzio, Jonathan Tagorda, Orie McMorrow, Barbara Froetscher, Judith Prestage, Steven Pilla, Jean Walsh, Keith Northbridge, Fred Stadelbauer, Roseann Picone Lukasik, Barbara Colwell, Peter Sena, Bernie Benckso, Evalina Luberto, Peggy Schneyer, Kristen Jankowski, Nicholas Lacitignola, Dick Kaye, Fr. Fred.

**Monday, December 3, 2018**  
8:15 - Claudia Veronica Fiore  
- Barbara Rubin  
**Tuesday, December 4, 2018**  
8:15 - Peter Bocage, 1st Anniversary  
- Marguerite Michaels  
- Special Intention  
**Wednesday, December 5, 2018**  
8:15 - Kevin Savage  
- Timothy Murphy  
- Howard Kraus  
**Thursday, December 6, 2018**  
8:15 - Anna Prokop  
- Terry Manelski  
- Carmella Ruffa  
**Friday, December 7, 2018**  
8:15 - Kay Needham  
- Robert McCourt  
**Saturday, December 8, 2018**  
Immaculate Conception  
5:30 - Al DelSordi  
- Mary and John Cullen  
- Claudia Fiore  
- Robert Lisanti  
**Sunday, December 9, 2018**  
St. Ambrose  
7:30 - People of Holy Family Parish  
- Angela Lepore  
- Antoinette Sena  
9:00 - Claudia Fiore  
- Camilo Sanchez  
- Raffaela Scotti  
10:30 - Audrey Murphy  
- Lucy Vitiello  
- Protection of Babies in the Womb and Their Families  
12:00 - Stanley Strand  
- Al DelSordi  
- Nancy McDermott O’Brien  
7:30 - Helena Cole, 1st Anniversary  

Dear Parishioners,  
I would like to invite you for our monthly Saints Study meeting which will be held this Wednesday, December 5th at 7 p.m. in the Church Hall. At this meeting I will talk about the Saints from South America. We will learn about the life of Saint Juan Diego, a native of Mexico, who received apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Moreover, we will talk about the patron of our neighboring parish, Saint Rose of Lima, Patroness of the Americas. I will also present the life of Saint Martin de Porres, a Dominican lay brother who served people in Lima, Peru. In addition, you will be able to hear about Saint Peter Claver, a Spanish Jesuit who served slaves. With delicious coffee and plate of cookies interesting conversations and comments will be held!  
See you on Wednesday December 5th and have a blessed season of Advent!  

God bless you,  
Fr. Chris
WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR OUR NEW HOLY FAMILY PROJECT

“Go and make disciples of all the nations”
Matthew 28.19

I know that many times we hear about sharing our faith with other nations and bringing the good news about the Gospel to them, but we need to start here in our own neighborhood first! Let’s remind everyone in our locality that Holy Family Parish is here, striving to build a community in the image of the Holy Family, worshiping our God.

What is this project about?
We have ordered 7000 books by author Matthew Kelly entitled:

![Image of book]

“Do you believe it’s possible to be happier than you have ever been before? Not for fleeting moments, but consistently? This book provides the practical tools necessary to help you regain your fervor and leave your mark on the world—and experience more happiness than you thought possible. Together we can change the course of history—with humility, generosity, kindness, and joy, one Holy Moment at a time”.

For Christmas our goal is to give everyone: all Catholics and non-Catholics in our town a copy of the book with our Christmas wishes and information about our parish and school. Our hope is to reach everyone who desires happiness and wishes to share that happiness with others.

WE NEED YOUR HELP SHARING THIS EXCITING BOOK IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

This week at the doors of the church there are signup sheets with all the streets in Florham Park and some in East Hanover and Madison. We ask that you sign up to help deliver books on your block.

When the books arrive you will be asked to pick up copies for your street and to leave the books on the doorsteps of your neighbors’ homes.
Hey,

Who would’ve known the trip of a lifetime started from going to church? Last year a group of friends wanted to improve their faith, while still having fun. After speaking with Father Tom, our Holy Family Youth Group was formed. Meeting every other Sunday after mass, we discussed a variety of different topics connected to our faith and our personal lives.

We volunteered our time doing community work in our area, holding fundraisers, and meeting every two weeks. Through these meetings, our small group grew a tight knit bond. And at the end of it all, we went to San Marcello Pistoiese, Italy for a mission trip.

We are writing to you today, asking if you would like to join us this year in our Holy Family Youth Group. Our next meeting will take place on Sunday, December 9th, in the Youth Center in the rectory basement. We invite you to join us at the 7:30 pm mass, followed by the meeting which will begin right after the mass, (meeting will last for one hour). RSVP by texting 973-647-9876 (Steve Prokop) by December 5th.

Sincerely,
Your Youth Group Leaders
Many thanks to the Holy Family Rosary Society.
Due to their generosity
we were able to purchase all new
Chalices and Ciboriums to be used at mass.
These new vessels will add to the beauty of our
Eucharistic Celebration.

Thank you ladies for your service, support and
prayeful presence here at Holy Family.

Bible Study – December
Matthew 11:2-13:53
Opposition from Israel
Meeting Wed., December 12 at 7pm

The narrative section of the third book (Mt 11:2–
12:50) deals with the growing opposition to Jesus.
Hostility toward him has already been manifested
(Mt 8:10; 9:3, 10–13, 34), but here it becomes more
intense. The rejection of Jesus comes, as before, from
Pharisees, who take “counsel against him to put him
to death” (Mt 12:14) and repeat their earlier accusa-
tion that he drives out demons because he is in league
with demonic power (Mt 12:22–24). But they are not
alone in their rejection. Jesus complains of the lack of
faith of “this generation” of Israelites (Mt 11:16–19)
and reproaches the towns “where most of his mighty
deeds had been done” for not heeding his call to re-
pentance (Mt 11:20–24). This dark picture is relieved
by Jesus’ praise of the Father who has enabled “the
childlike” to accept him (Mt 11:25–27), but on the
whole the story is one of opposition to his word and
blindness to the meaning of his deeds. The whole sec-
tion ends with his declaring that not even the most
intimate blood relationship with him counts for any-
thing; his only true relatives are those who do the will
of his heavenly Father (Mt 12:48–50).

The narrative of rejection leads up to the parable dis-
course (Mt 13:3–52). The reason given for Jesus’
speaking to the crowds in parables is that they have
hardened themselves against his clear teaching, un-
like the disciples to whom knowledge of “the myster-
ies of the kingdom has been granted” (Mt 13:10–16).
In Mt 13:36 he dismisses the crowds and continues
the discourse to his disciples alone, who claim, at the
end, to have understood all that he has said (Mt
13:51). But, lest the impression be given that the
church of Jesus is made up only of true disciples, the
explanation of the parable of the weeds among the
wheat (Mt 13:37–43), as well as the parable of the net
thrown into the sea “which collects fish of every
kind” (Mt 13:47–49), shows that it is composed of
both the righteous and the wicked, and that separation
between the two will be made only at the time of the
final judgment.
Holy Family Evergreen Sale
Supporting our fundraiser is easy; Simply decorate your home or send an elegant evergreen gift!
1 Visit www.LCFFundraising.com/c/157774
2 Click on a product category or Donate Now
3 Shop and place your order and we earn 20% of your purchase!
Prefer to order by phone? Call 1-888-426-0781 and reference Campaign #157774.

Holy Family Christmas Dinner
Saturday, December 8th  6:30 PM
Please join us to celebrate the Christmas Holidays. This is a wonderful opportunity for adults and children to share an evening of fun, fellowship and great food!
Our Menu Will Include:
Crab Cakes, Mini Hot Dogs, Salad, Coleslaw Bread, Roast Pork, Chicken, Salmon, Beef, Stuffing, Roasted Potatoes, Vegetables, Dessert
RSVP BY December 4th,
Adults: $25.00
Young Adults & Children (21 and under) $5.00
Name of guest (s)
1. _______________________________________
2. _______________________________________

2018 Bishop’s Annual Appeal Here I Am, Lord!
As the year comes fast to an end, and many are planning on how to make a final year-end charitable contribution that has the most impact, please consider the many lives that are helped because of the support given to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. These are your neighbors, your friends, our senior priests and seminarians and urban school students. All of us can play a part in the Bishop’s Annual Appeal—as either a contributor to the cause or as a recipient of its mission— and all are blessed as a result. Please make the Bishop’s Annual Appeal a priority in your year-end philanthropy. Gifts can be made by check, credit card, through gifts of securities or on-line at www.2018appeal.org. If you are 70 1/2 or over and have an IRA, you can receive a tax benefit by instructing your IRA investment manager to donate your required minimum distribution to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. Please consult your tax or financial advisor for more information.

Prayer Shawl Ministry
The Prayer Shawl Ministry will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be on January 8th. Have a wonderful Christmas Season surrounded by family, friends and love.

Pro-Life Ministry wishes to thank all the people who made our Baby Shower a huge success. Your many gifts, including beautiful handmade items, clothing, baby shoes, diapers and so many other things as well as your cash donations, will be greatly welcomed and appreciated by the mothers at Good Counsel Homes. God bless you all for your generosity.

Family Chess Knight!
Sponsored by: Florham Park/ Madison Knights of Columbus for families with children in grades 3 and up (grades 3-5 must be accompanied by at least one parent or guardian).
Meetings, Knights Hall Lloyd Ave., Florham Park: 12/12 from 7 to 9 pm. St. Vincent Martyr, St. Peter’s Room, 12/18 from 7 to 9 pm. To register call Joe O’Brien at 973-301-1864 or just show up.