

The Good News

Annual Report

December 24-25, 2023

Christmas

Holy Family Catholic Community
271 Fourth Street Way
Fond du Lac, WI 54937
(920) 921-0580 | hffdl.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday

Holy Family: 4:00 pm
St. Peter: 4:00 pm
Sacred Heart: 4:00 pm

Sunday

St. Mary: 7:15 am
Holy Family: 8:00 am | 10:00 am
12:00 pm (Spanish)
St Peter: 8:30 am
Sacred Heart: 7:00 am (Spanish)
9:00 am | 11:00 am
Our Risen Savior: 10:00 am
Presentation: 10:00 am

Weekday

Monday, Wednesday | St. Mary: 12:10 pm
Tuesday, Thurs., Friday |
Holy Family: 7:00 am
Thursday | Presentation 7:30 pm
Saturday | Presentation: 8:00 am

RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Following 7:00 am Mass at Holy Family

Monday, Wednesday

11:30 am to 12:00 pm at St. Mary

Thursday

Presentation - 6:30 - 7:15 pm
with Adoration

Friday

St. Mary - 7:00-8:00 pm primarily
in Spanish with Adoration

Saturday

After 8:00 am Mass at Presentation
3:00 to 3:45 pm at Sacred Heart
3:00 to 3:45 pm at Holy Family
3:00 to 3:45 pm at St. Peter

Sunday

9:00 to 9:45 am at Our Risen Savior

STAFF CONTACTS

Call (920) 921-0580

Clergy

Fr. Ryan Pruess: ext. 601
Fr. Michael Malucha: ext. 602
Fr. Matthew Kirk: ext. 603
Fr. Kevin Tanel: ext. 604
Fr. Pedro Ruiz: ext. 605
Deacon Dale Paczkowski:
dalep@hffdl.org

Staff

Angie Bestul: ext. 504
Sabina Carter: ext. 501
Valerie Collien: ext. 302
Erin Cobb: ext. 301
Terry Drake: ext. 101
Ellen Kant: ext. 105
Michelle Ludtke: ext. 104
Gabby Murry: ext. 303
Sarah Razner: ext. 201
Eric Rudd: ext. 502
Evan Schwalbe: ext. 103
Paul Thelen: ext. 401
Eva Thelen Dunphy: ext. 202
Carmen Valenzuela: ext. 203
Trisha Zimmerman: ext. 503

Dear Friends,

From its start, the Catholic Church has called us to be in community. We only have to look at Jesus’ conversation with his disciples in which he told them “for where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20) to see this. While we each have our own individual relationship with God, to do His work means that we cannot be an island unto ourselves. It is through connection and collaboration that humanity and the Church are sustained, and that we fulfill the mission of our Lord. Each act of kindness, perseverance, understanding, and goodwill brings us closer to each other and to God.

At Holy Family, we know the power of community. With more than 5,700 families across our six churches, our parish has great capacity to share God’s message and make positive change in the lives of not only those within it, but also those around us. It is a blessing and a responsibility that we take very seriously. How do I know that? Because every time an opportunity arises to help one another grow in our faith, better our parish, or do good in the Fond du Lac area, our parishioners step forward in droves, ready to give of their time, talent, and treasure to serve the Lord. As I look back on this year, I am very proud of the multitude of ways that our parish came together to celebrate one another, share God’s message, and lift up our neighbor in their time of need.

Love for God begins at home. As our parish’s families raise their children up in the Catholic faith, we are grateful that so many see the importance of enrolling them in our Faith Formation programs. Through the work of our incredible catechists and staff, students in our Faith Formation program learn alongside their peers what it means to live a life as a disciple of Christ. This year, we had **more than 300 students** in grades 1-8 enrolled in our Summer Program, an increase over pre-pandemic numbers. **More than 140 children** received the Sacraments of First Communion and First Reconciliation, and **nearly 100 high school students** received the gifts of the Holy Spirit through Confirmation. In November, we celebrated with **12 adults** as they confirmed their Catholic faith in front of their parish family. As we long to grow in our faith and help others to do the same throughout their lives, we were thrilled to see **about 200 adults** enroll in our Small Groups and Bible Studies this year.

We are a community growing not only in faith, but in size. Over the past few years, we have seen the number of people attending Mass in our parish rise, topping pre-pandemic attendance multiple times this year. Since 2019, our Hispanic community has **more than doubled**, with about 400 people attending Mass each week. In total, our parish celebrated approximately **1,620 Masses and Liturgies** this year, including those at our local long-term care facilities and prisons. Our liturgical musicians offered their talents at **769 of these Masses**, adding to the atmosphere of reverence at Mass. We were blessed to partner further with St. Mary’s Springs Academy for the 2023-2024 school year to offer seven weekly Masses at their chapel, six all-school Masses throughout the year at Holy Family, and biweekly opportunities for Adoration and Confession. In community, we came together to celebrate joyous occasions, including **30 weddings** and **177 baptisms**. In times of death and illness, our church community is a place of solace for those suffering and grieving. This year, we stood alongside them, **offering 281** anointings and **160 funerals and committals**, and we hope, a measure of comfort.

As often as we can, we want to offer events and programming to bring parishioners together from across our six churches and connect with one another. This year, we were able to do so a number of times, including at our Eucharistic Processions, Parish Mission featuring Bart Schuchts, Easter Egg Hunt, Celebrate Holy Family Gala, Back-to-School Concert featuring the band MJM7, first-ever Cor Unum Awards with SMSA, Volunteer Appreciation Packer Party, Christmas Cookie Decorating Night, and our sold-out Living Nativity! It brought us great joy to see our Prayer Garden filled with people enjoying live entertainment, delicious food, and fun games at Latin Flavor and Oktoberfest, both of which saw record high attendance. To reach our older parishioners who may be unable to attend events, we have a team of **115 volunteers** who send out greeting cards throughout the year to let these **945 parishioners** know that we care.

What never fails to leave me awestruck is the way in which our parish rallies to help those in need. Blessed Bites provides upwards of **60 to-go meals** each week, with items donated by **40 volunteers** this year. This summer, we once again joined with The Salvation Army of FDL County to give free bagged lunches to children and families in need. Through your donations and **our team of 26 volunteers**, we gave out a **staggering 400 meals** every Tuesday. Our Soup du Jour event sold hundreds of bowls of soup donated by local restaurants to **raise \$2,000** each for the St. Katharine Drexel Shelter and Holyland Food Pantry. This fall, when we made the decision to open the Holy Family Warming Shelter and serve those experiencing homelessness, the love our parishioners displayed for their neighbor and the incredible support we received from the greater Fond du Lac community deeply moved us. For weeks, new donations of clothing, dishes, toiletries, and more for the shelter filled out our Parish Office entryway. Along with local businesses and organizations, our members contributed thousands of dollars to purchase, renovate, and support the ongoing operations of the shelter; signed up to donate dinners through April; and volunteered to prepare the shelter for opening.

Alone, we could not dream of accomplishing all of this; but together, our giving, faith-filled hearts have made a real impact—feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting those in prison, comforting the sick, and burying the dead. I hope you all are as proud of the good works you have done, as I am of our parish. Thank you for the blessing of your faith and your commitment to Holy Family.

May God bless you,



Very Rev. Ryan J Pruess
Pastor - Holy Family Catholic Community

Our Favorite Moments of the Year



Women's Ministry: Sharing Our Journey

Saturday, January 20
Holy Family Church

Join us for a morning of worship
and community with our
Women's Ministry!

Save the Date: 2024 Events 2024 Parish Mission: Fr. John LoCoco

February 18-20
6:30 to 8:00 pm
Holy Family Church

This three-night event will feature
national Eucharistic preacher and past
Holy Family Priest Fr. John LoCoco, as he
invites us to draw closer to the Lord!

Celebrate Holy Family Gala

Wednesday, April 17
5:30 to 8:30 pm
Holy Family Church

Celebrate your parish with your fellow
members at this wonderful night! More
information to come!

Thank you for your donation to Holy Family! Please support those who support our parish:

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