

The Good News

Annual Report

December 24-25, 2024

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
Marian University: 5:00 pm

Weekday

Monday & Friday | Sacred Heart: 12:00 pm
Monday - Friday | Holy Family: 7:00 am
Wednesday | Marian University: 12:00 pm
Wednesday | Sacred Heart: 6:00 pm
Saturday | Holy Family: 8:00 am

RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday

Following 7:00 am Mass at Holy Family

Monday, Friday

11:15 to 11:45 am at Sacred Heart

Wednesday

11:15 to 11:45 am at Marian University
5:00 pm at Sacred Heart

Saturday

After 8:00 am Mass at Holy Family
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
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Trisha Zimmerman: ext. 503

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Just a few weeks ago, Pope Francis announced the theme of our 2025 liturgical year as “Pilgrims of Hope.” Since the Church’s beginnings, Catholics have lived as such pilgrims. In fact, hope is as necessary an ingredient to our human existence as it is our faith. No matter our place in history, every human has leaned on hope to get through difficult times and to propel themselves forward. While it can be difficult to find the light in the darkness, we are blessed as Catholics to know there is a flame ever burning for us: our Lord, Jesus Christ.

As pilgrims of hope, we carry this flame forward. Looking back on 2024, I am moved by the countless ways your love of Christ has carried this flame to each other and to our community.

Every time we attend Mass and receive the Eucharist, we are reminded of God’s love for us, and Jesus’ promise of everlasting life. We were grateful for the opportunity to expand our Mass offerings by adding four daily Masses to our schedule for a total 25 of throughout the week. We partnered with Marian University to offer Masses at their Dorcas Chapel on Wednesdays and Sundays for their students and our parishioners to attend. This is in addition to the Masses we offer at St. Mary’s Springs Academy and nine local long-term care facilities. To serve those who are unable to attend Mass, a team of 40 volunteers brings Communion to 100 parishioners, so they can continue to receive the gift of the Eucharist and remain connected to our parish.

Our ability to offer Mass is made possible by a team of our priests, liturgical ministers, maintenance crews, and musicians. To ensure every Mass is offered with reverence, our Liturgical Ministers participated in training this year, from our Altar Server Training to our Lector Training, which took place this past November. Our musicians and choirs raised their voices in song to lead the music at more than 670 Masses.

We find hope for our world and for our Church in future generations. As we share our faith with those growing in our parish, we share with them our hope in God as well. As Elementary and Middle School Faith Formation moved to our Summer Program, we began to offer monthly events during the school year for our parish’s families to have fun and explore facets of our faith with activities including the Living Rosary, Posadas (a tradition of our Hispanic community re-enacting the journey to Bethlehem), and family service nights. Adults in our parish continue to seek opportunities to learn as well, as over 200 signed up to participate in our fall and winter Small Groups and Bible Studies.

We were privileged to celebrate the sacraments with many of our parishioners. We welcomed 130 Catholics into our parish through baptism. One hundred-and-thirty-three people received their First Communion and 124 celebrated their Confirmation. As people come to the faith at all different stages of life, we were blessed to have 14 of our parishioners complete the Orders of Christian Initiation and join our Catholic faith. We also celebrated the weddings of 27 couples, and the ordination of our parishioner, Deacon Marty Ryan, into the diaconate.

Hope helps to sustain us during our most difficult moments, as does the support of our brothers and sisters. Over this past year, we have been at the bedsides of more than 300 of our parishioners, offering comfort through the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. We mourned and prayed for 200 parishioners who passed into eternal life.

Being part of a community enriches our lives. That is why we believe in the importance of fellowship. This year, we started our Hospitality Sunday at many of our churches, bringing parishioners together after Mass to learn more about one another over homemade treats. In September, we celebrated our shared mission with St. Mary’s Springs Academy and those who help us fulfill it at our Cor Unum Awards, and in November, recognized the volunteers who power our parish at our Volunteer Packer Party. Latin Flavor and Oktoberfest returned to much success, inviting people from the greater Fond du Lac area to enjoy delicious food and great entertainment. Families walked alongside our A *Charlie Brown Christmas*-themed float in the city’s Christmas Parade, and filled our Holy Family Hall to watch the film as they decorated Christmas cookies. Our High School Youth Group also grew, with students turning out twice a month to play games, engage in service activities, and bond with their fellow Catholic teens.

Your giving hearts have allowed us to serve our community members in need. The Holy Family Warming Shelter Raffle raised nearly \$85,000 to support the shelter, and those experiencing homelessness. Schools in Brandon, Rosendale, North Fond du Lac, and Fond du Lac received hundreds of donations through Advent Giving Tree, helping them to provide their students with necessities. Our new program, Summer Bites, distributed over 3,300 bagged lunches to kids, families, and adults from June through August. This November, we were thrilled to celebrate the fifth year of our Free Takeout Thanksgiving Meal, which to date has served 2,000 meals.

Your impact is also seen in our ability to maintain our parish sites. In the past year, we have added air conditioning to the Sacred Heart School Hall; installed new windows that included our restored stained glass at Our Risen Savior, as well as resealed its parking lot; renovated our Holy Family Warming Shelter; installed a new roof at St. Peter; automated our bell system at St. Mary, so the bell can be heard every day; and refreshed the trim at Presentation. Thanks to three Eagle Scouts, landscaping around Holy Family and Sacred Heart has been improved and renewed.

So, what gives us hope at Holy Family? Our faith, of course, but also you. As you each of you carry the flame of Christ, you drive out the darkness, and together, light our world. It is because of your dedication, service, and support that we have great hope for the future of our parish, and with your ongoing contributions to our Endowment Fund, that we will continue to offer that hope for generations to come. I thank you for all that you do for our community, and cannot wait to see how we continue to live as pilgrims of hope in 2025 and beyond.

In Christ,

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

A Look Back on 2024



*Join us throughout 2025 as we celebrate Holy Family Catholic Community's 25th Anniversary!
Upcoming events include:*

Women's Ministry:
Sharing Our Journey
Saturday, January 18
Holy Family Church

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

2025 Parish Mission: Deacon Ralph Poyo
March 2-4, 2024 | 6:30 to 8:00 pm
Holy Family Church

Over three nights, we will analyze God's
plan for us, the ways Satan has tried to pull
us from God, and the profound hope found
in the Holy Spirit.

Celebrate Holy Family Gala

Wednesday, April 23 | 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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Mass Intentions

Monday, December 30

Holy Family (HF) 7:00 am: The Living & Deceased of the Carl & Wilhelmina Smedberg Family

Sacred Heart (SH) 12:00 pm: Frank Schmidt

Tuesday, December 31

HF 7:00 am: The Living & Deceased of the Peter Ludovic Family

SH 4:00 pm: The Elsie & John Kiefer Family

Wednesday, January 1

HF 8:00 am: Patricia La Plante

SH 12:00 pm: Fr. Joe Coerber

HF 12:00 pm (Spanish): For the Parishioners

Thursday, January 2

HF 7:00 am: The ENDOW Women and All Their Families

Friday, January 3

HF 7:00 am: Neal Salter (Anniversary)

SH 12:00 pm: Jeanne (Jean) Secor (Anniversary)

- David Papenfuss and Cheryl Papenfuss-Burg
- Tim Shea (Anniversary)
- Pam Marsch
- Gale Degner
- Michael Ketterhagen

St. Mary (SM) 6:30 pm: For the Parishioners

Saturday, January 4

HF 8:00 am: The Living & Deceased of the Leo & Rosemary Kelley Family

SH 4:00 pm: Helen Heimerl

SP 4:00 pm: The Living & Deceased of the Greg & Irene Halfmann and Victor & Esther Freund Families

HF 4:00 pm: Living & Deceased Members of the Margaret R. & James K. Rashid Family

Sunday, January 5

SH (Spanish) 7:00 am: For the Intentions written in the Prayer Book

St. Mary 7:15 am: Jerry Krajewski

HF 8:00 am: Carol Klamrowski

SP 8:30 am: The Living & Deceased of the Ramstack and Orlikowski Families

SH 9:00 am: Neal Salter

Presentation 10:00 am: Les Stueber

ORS 10:00 am: For the Parishioners

HF 10:00 am: Andrew Glaeser (Anniversary)

- Jim & Pat Giebel
- Ben Hoepfner
- Frank Krupp, Jon Austin, and the Living & Deceased of the Mertens & Crowley Families
- Jayne Godleski
- Roger & Mary Ann Birschbach
- Mike Davis

SH 11:00 am: Raymond & Carol Smith

HF(Spanish) 12:00 pm: For the Intentions written in the Prayer Book

MU 5:00 pm: For the Marian University Community