



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

The Mother Church of Auburn

85 North Street, Auburn, New York 13021 phone 315-252-9576, cell 315-246-3112

E-Mail aholyfam@dor.org

December 17, 2017

The Third Sunday of Advent

Parish Office

315-252-9576

Office Hours

Monday through
Thursday 9:00-5:00
Closed on Fridays

Pastor Ext. 10

Fr. John Gathenya

Secretary Ext. 14

Karen Brennan

Faith Formation

Ext. 16

Nancy Smith

Bookkeeper Ext. 13

Sandi Mettler

Pastoral Minister

Ext. 15

Carole Tomandl

Pastoral Council Chair

Liza Kelly - Acting

Finance Council Chair

Robert Ringwood

Co-Chair

Laurie Piccolo

St. Joseph School 253-8327

Principal

Michael Carney

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 9:00 am &
11:15 am

Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:30 pm

Baptisms

By appointment.
Class December 20,
6:30 pm. Call to
register.

Marriages

By Appointment

auburnholymfamily.org
and
[facebook.com/
auburnholymfamily](https://www.facebook.com/auburnholymfamily)

The Feast of Holy Family—December 31st: Our Patron

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Holy Family!

Welcome to this year's celebration of the Patronal Feast of Holy Family Parish on the weekend of December 30/31. As 2017 gives way to a new year, I thank you for your generous support spiritually, morally, corporal works of mercy and financially. The foundation of this parish is deep and strong. May God bless all of you! Happy Feast of the Holy Family! Many of you here in this community have played an important role, not only in saving Holy Family, but assisting the ongoing development of this historic parish community of 183 years. God Bless You. **May I bring to your attention that we shall dedicate the celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday, December 31, at 9.00 AM to the intentions of our Catholic Diocese of Rochester, especially giving thanks to God for its Sesquicentennial Celebration (150th Anniversary)!**

The Holy Family consists of the Child Jesus, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Saint Joseph. The Feast of the Holy Family is normally held on the Sunday within the Christmas octave, i.e., between Christmas and New Year's Day. Jesus wanted to be born and grow up in a human family; he wanted the Virgin Mary to be his mom and Joseph to fulfill the role of father. They raised and educated him with immense love. Jesus' family truly merits the title of "holy," since it is entirely focused on the desire of fulfilling the will of God, incarnated in the adorable presence of Jesus. Pope Benedict XVI explains that in "one sense it is a family like all others, and as such, it is a model of conjugal love, collaboration, sacrifice, confidence in divine providence, a spirit of work and solidarity. Certainly, it presents all these values that the family protects and promotes, contributing in a basic sense to form the fabric of every society." On this feast day, let us give thanks to God, like the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph, who with such faith and willingness cooperated in the Lord's plan of salvation. What is the purpose of this feast then, to us in the Church? Pope Francis says that on this feast "as we gaze on the Holy Family lets us also be drawn into the simplicity of the life they led in Nazareth. It is an example that does our families great good, helping them increasingly to become communities of love and reconciliation, in which tenderness, mutual help, and mutual forgiveness is experienced. Let us remember the three key words for living in peace and joy in the family: "may I", "thank you" and "sorry". I would also like to encourage families to become aware of the importance they have in the Church and in society. The proclamation of the Gospel, in fact, first passes through the family to reach the various spheres of daily life. Let us give thanks for the contribution of families in propagating faith to our children for the last 150 years of the existence of our diocese! What makes the Holy Family worthy of reflection is that apart from their trials and challenges this was a family that was united in love, mercy, and centered on God. Here is where all families can learn lessons from the home of Nazareth. Our families are called to be "domestic churches" meaning that they are places where unconditional love flows to each member of the house. They are to be places where mercy and forgiveness bring healing to the arguments and divisions that can inevitably happen. Concretely, our families are to be places where God is at the center and our faith is taught, lived, and passed on. As we shall celebrate our parochial patron the Holy Family in the midst of this joyous Christmas season, let us ask them to intercede for all our families (and our parish family and diocese as a whole) that we may truly have homes united in love and mercy and where God is honored and adored.

(continued on page 3)

Sunday, December 17
 9:00 am Charles Mettler - Sandi & Family
 11:15 am - Jean M. Doyle - Barbara McCormick DeTomaso

Monday, December 18
 12:15 pm Louis J. Nolan - Martin Nolan

Tuesday, December 19
 12:15 pm Philip Caci - Mike & JoMarie Joly

Wednesday, December 20
 12:15 pm Joe Klink - Family
 Frank Sigona - Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sigona

Thursday, December 21
 12:15 pm **No Mass**

Friday, December 22
 12:15 pm Mary Scomber - Sandy, Joyce & Family

Saturday, December 23
 4:30 pm Joseph & John Carberry - Family
 Jack Hogan - Family
 William Stuart - Linda
 Gerald Oliver - Emily Baier
 Frank & Margaret Sigona - Suzie, Dave & Lauren

Sunday, December 24
 9:00 am Thomas Kirwan - Tom Patterson
 11:15 am Jack & Irene Flaherty - Family

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve
 4:30 pm Pat Cinotti - Family
 11:00 pm Rose Fiermonte - Family

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day
 10:00 am Jeanne & Jim Salva - Salva Family



FAITH FORMATION OFFERTORY PROCESSION: this week at the 9 am Family Mass—4th Grade Faith Formation. On December 24th and 31st there will be no participation by Faith Formation due to Christmas vacation.

CHRISTMAS EVE 4:30 MASS ACTING GOSPEL (PAGEANT) PRACTICES are today and next Sunday, 11 to 11:15 am in the school. Dress rehearsal is on December 23rd, 10:30 to 11:30 am in church.

<u>FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP</u>	
	<u>12/3/2017</u>
Attendance	411
No. of Envelopes Used	190
Regular Collection	\$4,075
St. Joseph's School	\$153
Fuel/Heat	\$156
Roof	\$401
All Saint's	\$10
Catholic Universities	\$376



ST. ALPHONSUS COLLEGE STUDENT REUNION MASS AND RECEPTION: 5PM Mass on Sunday December 17th at St. Alphonsus will offer an opportunity for college students returning to their homes in the Auburn area to participate together in a campus like Mass. It will be followed by a free reception for college students. Details are posted on the Church bulletin board. You need not attend this Mass to attend the reception.

AUBURN-N. CAYUGA PARISHES PASTORAL PLANNING UPDATE: Thank you to those who completed the ministry assessment survey. The results of the survey will be available in January and will form the basis for discussions at pastoral and finance council meetings in February. **The planning team has been meeting monthly.** Besides the initial work in assessing ministry needs in our area, the primary focus of work thus far has been in looking at possible parish clustering configurations in which 4 priests rather than our current 6 could serve our parishes effectively. Various arrangements clustering more parishes under one pastor were brainstormed by planning team members and reviewed at the October planning team meeting. Nine were taken to the November pastoral and finance council meetings for additional input regarding the advantages and disadvantages of each. At their January meeting, the planning team will try to reach a shared preference on one configuration to recommend to Bishop Matano for the time when one or more of our priests assumes senior priest status or moves to a different assignment.

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL "What's for Dinner!" A new and exciting fund raiser -The raffle tickets are \$25 each. The Grand Prize: Menu will consist of \$1000 worth of various restaurant gift cards. The First Prize: MENU will have over \$500 in restaurant gift cards. The drawing will be January 29, 2018. Please call the school office (315) 253-8327, for more information. Thank you for your support!

God Bless you for your generosity. Your support is needed and greatly appreciated.

HOLY FAMILY'S CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL (CMA): Our goal for 2017-18 is \$34,772.00! As of Monday, December 11, 2017, 128 donors of our 552 households have pledged \$18,375.00 which is 52.84% of our goal. **Our hope is that each family will make a gift or a pledge before Christmas!** We cannot ask everyone to consider the same size gift, but we ask that your gift reflect how generous God has been to you with His gifts. Thank you for your prayers and for offering your assistance through your Catholic Ministries Appeal donation. Envelopes are still available at every entrance of the Church or at the Rectory office. Please note that Holy Family has to make up the difference between what we raise and what our Diocesan-given quota is. This "difference" comes from our dwindling operating funds. **If you can help your parish, but do not want to contribute to the CMA directly, please place your check payable to Holy Family in the weekly collection and the MEMO write "PARISH SPECIAL CARE". This will ensure that these monies are used to make up the difference.**

OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

Tuesday , December 19
 10:00 - 11:00 am Clothes Closet - School

Thursday, December 21
 6:00 - 7:00 pm Clothes Closet - School

Saturday, December 23
 3:30 pm Confessions

ALTAR SERVERS**Saturday, December 23**

4:30 pm C. Duffy, K. Duffy

Sunday, December 24

9:00 am T. Dennis, A. Blair-Kinsella, E. Trupiano

11:15 am L. Mosley, E. Sbelgio, N. Sbelgio

4:30 pm S. Ringwood

11:00 pm J. Siddall, D. Sikora

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day

10:00 am T. Dennis, J. White

LECTORS**Saturday, December 23**

4:30pm S. Marullo, A. Seneca

Sunday, December 24

9:00 am A. Bryant, P. Ferrari

11:15 am J. Renahan, C. Scott

4:30 pm S. Marullo, B. Ringwood

11:00pm C. Scott

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day

10:00 am R. White

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**Saturday, December 23**

4:30 pm S. Marullo, A. Seneca, C. Tomandl, D. Walsh

Sunday, December 24

9:00 am A. Bryant, R. Bryant, C. Kinsella, P. Stolarow

Nursing Home: P. Stolarow

11:15 M. Lawson, K. Pines, M. Warter, B. Wilson

4:30 pm S. Marullo, T. Nolan, A. Lane, M. Lawson

11:00 pm C. Siddall, D. Sikora

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day

10:00 am EM's Needed

*(continued from page 1)*

My dear Brothers and Sisters: In the opening verses to his letter to the Corinthians, St Paul writes, "I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus..." (1 Cor. 1:4) I echo those sentiments. I am so incredibly grateful to the wonderful people of Holy Family for their love of God and neighbor which is so constantly expressed in so many ways. One of the more concrete ways your love of God and neighbor is expressed is through your ongoing sacrificial giving to support the work of the parish. This giving is a natural outflow of your recognition that everything you have is ultimately a gift from God. And so out of thanks, you make a return to the Lord for His goodness. Through your stewardship especially financial giving, Holy Family is then able to be a blessing to so many others. **As I thank you for your faithfulness in the past, I also ask you above all to please continue your faithful support of the parish in attending Mass and letting the Eucharist be the source and summit of our spiritual life, all our apostolate and works of mercy as we move to the future.** As our bishop Most Reverend Matano wrote "We are quickly advancing toward the 150th anniversary of our Diocese on March 3, 2018," it is my prayer and firm conviction that we make the Most Holy Eucharist, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the heart and center of our Sesquicentennial Celebration. He continued to emphasize that "for 150 years (since March 3, 1868) the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester has been the visible presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ through the prayer life and work of the Catholic Church in our verdant 12-county region in western New York. . We are bound together as sisters and brothers in a culturally diverse community of faith, in communion with the Apostolic See of Rome and our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and we are nourished and strengthened by the Sacraments, especially the Most Holy Eucharist." He further said that the "Year of the Eucharist will allow all parishes and families to make a comprehensive effort to renew and deepen the understanding that we have of this central Sacrament of our faith and urge every Catholic household to recommit themselves to reverent participation in the celebration of the Mass, and to see the celebration of the Eucharist as the heart and center of our Sesquicentennial Celebration ... and the driving force for our Diocese's pastoral, apostolic and charitable works." **Again, join us on the Feast of Holy Family to give thanks to God for 150 years of Evangelization and apostolic work in the Diocese of Rochester at our 9.00 AM Mass!** Fr. John

OUR THANKS Heieck - Pelk Funeral Home, LLC for sponsoring our bulletin this week.

'TIS (ALMOST) THE SEASON...Best Advent Ever by Dynamic Catholic. Rediscover the joy in preparing for Christmas! Sign up for Free at BestAdventEver.com/You'reInvited and receive short inspirational videos, practical tips and Real-Life Stories of Hope.

FEELING LUCKY? The Holy Family Church \$100 Raffle will take place, Sunday, January 7, 2018. Remember we only sell 200 tickets for the event. We will have one more early bird drawing on Dec.17th after the 11:15 Mass. Tickets for the \$100 Raffle are available in the Rectory or after Masses. New York State has changed the law and we can now accept cash or CHECKS! So get your tickets, they are going fast. Good luck everyone and thank you for supporting Holy Family Church.

RENOVATION FUND – CAN YOU HELP?

PRESERVING OUR TRADITION AS COMMITTED STEWARDS

TOWARDS: NEW ROOF: Over three years ago, we kicked off the exciting plan for our Church Roof Renovation. We are so thankful to our earliest parishioners for their sacrifices to build a beautiful church and school. But 183 years have passed and now it is up to us to provide for our current needs and also for the needs of those who will come after us. Please join us in this exciting and essential effort to better our service to one another, to our community and to Christ. **Our Roof Campaign Goal is \$300,000.00. We are proud to announce that (at bulletin printing time) we have received over \$188,397.00 (62.7%) Thank You for your thoughtfulness and generosity!** We are on our way to a new roof for our Church. But we do need each and every family to continue making a pledge/gift for this important campaign. Please prayerfully consider how you can participate. We are engaged in a long distance race and as we all know, slow and steady wins that race. I thank you for helping us enter that race and for all the cooperation and generosity which itself is a blessing from God so that we might continue to stand together, to strive together and serve together in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Auburn for many more years to come and together remain a beacon of hope in the community of Holy Family!

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH,
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