



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH // JULY-AUGUST 2023

INSPIRE



A Message From The Pastor

BY FR. JAMES STUHRENBURG

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, As the summer comes to a close and we reflect on our many blessings, I am reminded that God is a family God. He wants us to live our faith by participating with our family in activities that bring us closer as a family unit and closer to Him.

This summer's Vacation Bible School brought 80 kids to Holy Family's concourse and parish center. It was heartwarming to see children having fun while learning about Jesus. It's important that we have an

environment at Holy Family that encourages youth participation at all ages... from the very young, to teenagers, and young adults. It's also important that all parishioners, from young families to our seniors play a role in the success of Holy Family. It is through all of us that we glorify God.

A parish is not just a building or a church... it is a home, a home for all of us to enjoy. For our parish home to be full of life, we need parishioners that are full of life.

My hope is that this newsletter shines a light on all of the good that is taking place at our home. I invite you to read its content, think about your role in the life of our parish, and become a part of Holy Family's life, not just at Sunday Mass.

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BY PEGGY SCHUMACHER

Vacation Bible School 2023 was a Stellar success! With 75 of Holy Family's young people participating and close to 50 volunteers, a great time was had by all. We were blessed to have Fr. Kang join us in the chapel for prayer and then join us for snack in the picnic shelter.



Youth Enjoy Summer of Faith and Fun

BY JENNIFER BARLOW

This summer, thanks to the generous support of our parish, our Edge and LifeTeen programs participated in three extraordinary summer experiences: Camp Hidden Lake (MS), Steubenville-Atlanta (HS), and our new Service Work Week (HS).

At Camp Hidden Lake, 15 of our middle school youth spent a week in community, and the friendships forged through ropes course challenges, small group time and prayer experiences offered unique and unforgettable memories that will last for years to come. With daily Confession opportunities and Mass, Adoration and praise & worship, the youth embraced their faith with passion and excitement.

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"Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Mondays
11:00am - Noon

Saturdays
3:30 - 5:00pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday: 12:30pm

Tuesday-Friday: 9:00am

Saturday: 5:30pm, 7:00pm
(Spanish)

Sunday: 7:45am, 9:15am,
11:00am, 12:30pm

Youth Enjoy Summer of Faith and Fun (cont'd)

During Steubenville-Atlanta, 17 of our high school youth participated in talks, games, music, and more, all focused on this year's conference theme, "Refuge," based on Matthew 11:28. Teens were encouraged to reflect on their baptismal promises and graces to see more fully that God is our refuge when we are burdened. Led by a dynamic team of speakers and musicians, the main takeaway from the weekend was: "God comes to us so we can come to Him." (Bishop William A. Wack, CSC, Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Sunday homily).



This year, in lieu of Catholic Heart Work Camp, we focused on serving those in our community during our Service Work Week. 14 high school youth volunteered at Salem Pregnancy Care Center, Second Harvest Food Bank, the Servant for Day raffle winner, Catholic Charities, and SECU Family House at Trellis Hospice and Palliative Care. Teens connected with these organizations and made an impact at each agency they served.

Thank you to the adult chaperones and volunteers who assisted during these summer experiences and to all parishioners who donated to our fundraisers and prayed for our youth. These opportunities would not be possible without your generous and constant support!



AROUND THE PARISH

Air Conditioner Update

The installation of the new heating and air conditioning unit in the Family Center has been delayed. The estimated time of installation is now the end of September. We appreciate your continued patience.

Save The Date!

- September 17: Newcomer Breakfast
- September 24: Parish Picnic
- September 30: Cars For A Cause
- November 10: Support Our Seminarians Bingo
- November 11: Red Cross Blood Drive

MEET OUR STAFF: VICKI MEYERS



Vicki Meyers grew up in New Jersey and joined Holy Family Staff in July, 1999. Through all of the office responsibilities that Vicki has at Holy Family, her favorite part of the job is the interaction with Parishioners. It brings inspiration and joy to have a job where she can be an integral part of Stewardship. Whether welcoming new families, or assisting with funerals, working for a church brings her the opportunity to do God's work, for His glory. Some of her greatest friendships have been fostered through the various programs available here at Holy Family. Vicki invites you to reach out to her and introduce yourself. She is comforted in knowing that we are all on this journey together.

Stewardship: My Testimony

BY MICHAEL ELLIS

I can't tell you how long it took for me to make a friend at Holy Family. No... it's not what you think. It wasn't an issue with the parish. It was me resisting anything more than attending Sunday Mass. Sure... I attended an occasional church event, and even admit I had fun. But when it came to opening up myself to others, I couldn't do it. I really can't put my finger on the reason why.... maybe I thought I had enough friends. Maybe it was arrogance that I didn't need "church friends." Whatever it was, I resisted.

My "moment of clarity" came about 15 years after joining Holy Family.

I was walking out of church after Mass and saw several parishioners greeting each other, smiling, and enjoying each other's company. For them, being at church was more than attending Mass. There was a spirit of community that I was missing out on. In that moment I realized I was just a spectator, and not a participant in my faith. It was time to get out of my comfort zone. I told my wife, Annette, that I was ready to be more involved and she suggested joining the Knights of Columbus. I got connected with a brother knight and, two days later, I was attending the Admission ceremony.

You know when you have those moments when you wonder why you hesitated to do something? That's what I felt... it was almost a feeling of remorse because it was so silly as to why I didn't get involved sooner. Becoming a knight and a steward at Holy Family was the best decision I have made in a long time.

One thing I have learned since getting involved at Holy Family... this is an active and dynamic parish! We have parishioners from all over the world, not just the USA. It's been fun to meet people from different places, with different life experiences, and learn about their lives and culture. I have also learned that we have many opportunities in our community that need our support. Please consider joining one of our dozens of ministries at Holy Family that address those needs.

My journey was a long one and I regret all the excuses I made to stay on the sidelines. You may be at a similar point in life. That's ok... it's NEVER too late to take that next step. Please make this your time to take action. It will bring joy to your life and your family's life. Time, Talent, and Treasure is not just a catchy phrase, it's a calling and a duty as Catholics to give back in a way that glorifies God.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Knights of Columbus is the largest, Catholic, men's fraternal organization in world. There are over 16,000 councils around the world, 300 of which are on college campuses. As of 2019, the Knights of Columbus have over 1.9 million members.

The K of C are also one of the largest providers of life insurance in the world with more than 2 million contracts and \$114 billion in active insurance coverage.

The order also owns the Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, a money management firm which invests in accordance with Catholic social teachings.

For more information about joining Bishop Greco Council 9499 at Holy Family, email your inquiry to gk@kofc9499.org