



## The Holy Family

### Mass and Communion Services

#### WEEKEND

Sat: 4:00 pm

Sun: 8:00 am | 10:30 am

#### WEEKDAY

1st and 3rd Wed: 9:30 am Mass

2nd, 4th, and 5th, Wed: 9:30 am

Communion Service

(Except on holy days or communal reconciliation during Advent and Lent. Please check the Parish Calendar.)



### Connect

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### Join the Parish

ololmke.org/become-a-member



### Notes from Deb

#### Happy New Year!

Our New Year's Eve tradition continues! On Wednesday December 31, we will have the Mass for the Holy Day of Mary Mother of God at 4:00 pm. Following that we will have our New Year's Eve potluck dinner. We hosted this event last year and it was an absolute blast! We will enjoy our favorite dishes, have some great conversation and share our New Year's wishes (at midnight London time!). Please see <https://www.ololmke.org/intergenerational-youth-ministry/> for more details.

As the year 2025 draws to an end, please know of my gratitude for all the good that is happening here. The parish continues to grow. We continue to welcome all, find new ways to build God's kin-dom, and pray well together. It is a blessing to shepherd this beautiful parish family. Please know of my prayers and hopes for a healthy and safe New Year for us all. May 2026 bring us peace.

Your shepherd,  
Deb Steppe

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## Calendar

### Sunday, December 28

8:00 am Mass (Cooper) Church  
10:30 am Mass (Schramm) Church

### Monday, December 29

1:00 pm Sheepshead Group Rm 10

### Tuesday, December 30

3:00 pm Food Pantry Rm 7

### Wednesday, December 31

10:15 am Morning Faith Group Hall C  
4:00 pm New Year's Mass  
(Mary, Mother of God) Church  
5:00 pm New Year's Eve  
Potluck Hall

### Thursday, January 1—Office Closed



### Friday, January 2—Office Closed

10:30 am Ben Litwin Funeral  
Visitation Church  
12:00 pm Ben Litwin Funeral Church

### Saturday, January 3

11:00 am Walking Though  
Grief Together Rm 3  
4:00 pm Mass (Schramm) Church

### Sunday, January 4

8:00 am Mass (Suriano) Church  
10:30 am Mass (Lewis) Church



## Stewardship Update

### Looking Ahead to 2026

As we fast approach the end of another year, we remind you that contributions for calendar year 2025 must be received by the weekend of **December 27/28** or in an envelope postmarked no later than December 31, 2025. A check dated December 31 or earlier, **but not in our possession or in a valid postmarked envelope** and received after January 1 is a 2026 contribution. Parishioners who want to make any contributions in person must have dropped them off to the Parish Office or in the secure mailbox outside the 58th Street entrance by 12:00 pm (noon) on Wednesday, December 31, to receive credit for 2025. We do check this mailbox regularly. Please plan accordingly!

Office Holiday Hours:

**Closed:** December 24, December 25, and January 1  
Please use Outside Drop Box.

**Open:** December 31—8:30 am—4:00 pm

## Community Life

### Our Condolences

...to the families and loved ones of Kathryn Madole, Ben Litwin, and all others who have died. Please keep them in your prayers.

**From the Garden to the Empty Tomb:  
Mapping God's Family Tree**  
with Dr. Daniel J. Scholz, Ph.D.



**Tuesday, Jan. 6th 7pm-8:30pm  
St. Alphonsus Community Room**

Scripture offers us a way to think about humans belonging within God's family tree. We'll explore what God's family tree looks like from creation to the coming age.

Freewill offering. Register: 414-421-2442 X 225

Walk-Ins welcome!

## Catholic Social Teaching

One of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching is the **preferential option for the poor and vulnerable**. Something profound about the earthly life of Jesus is the breadth of experiences. In his life, Jesus was a son of an unwed mother, migrant, teacher, leader, friend, healer, reject, criminal, torture and murder victim... and Son of God. He experienced both refugee life and honor, humiliation, and transfiguration.

Today's readings remind us of the fear that marked Jesus' early life as his parents fled with him in tow. Traveling anywhere with a young child is a trying experience. Fleeing violence to save the life of a young child is trauma. This trauma is all too prevalent in our world today, yet the very people most traumatized in this way are too often the most rejected and criminalized. Working on behalf of the vulnerable migrant is working on behalf of Jesus in our midst.

## Formation

### New Years Eve Potluck!

It's almost here! Join us on December 31 at 4:00 pm for Mass, then stay for a parish-wide dinner and the 6:00 pm New Year's countdown. It's not too late to join. RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/4x3xjr78> or call the Parish Office today!

### OCIA Informational Meeting

If you missed the December 11 Informational Meeting but want to be a part of OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation, formerly known as RCIA), please contact Tanya Gross as soon as possible so that we can plan appropriately for you. We will begin sessions in early February.

### Next GIFT Session: Nonviolence-January 11, 2026

Join us Sunday, January 11, at 9:00 am in the hall for GIFT, as the Active Nonviolence group leads us on an exploration of nonviolence. What is nonviolence and how does it relate to our faith? Join us to discover what nonviolence is and is not.

If you do not regularly attend GIFT and wish to attend, please call the Parish Office for details.

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## Worship

**"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"**  
— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Research reveals that serving others activates the brain's reward centers, releasing what scientists call "the fantastic four" hormones:

- Endorphins: These "helper's high" hormones create feelings of euphoria and reduce pain.
- Dopamine: The "feel-good" hormone that boosts motivation and pleasure.
- Oxytocin: Known as the "bonding hormone," it strengthens social connections and builds trust.
- Serotonin: The "pride hormone" enhances mood, self-esteem, and a sense of accomplishment.

Together, these hormones counteract stress, promote emotional resilience, and create a profound sense of well-being.

**We hope we've caught your attention, because WE NEED YOU!** We can't have the vibrant liturgies we have without your help, and there are some immediate needs. Please consider trying one of these out – and then make it even more fun by inviting a family member or friend to join you.

### Minister of Hospitality

Do you like to know who has come to pray with you? This is the perfect opportunity to see all the people who walk through our doors. Share your friendly smile, help them find a seat, collect our offerings and send people on their way with another smile. It really is that easy.

### Weekend Sacristan

Do you like to work behind-the-scenes? Sacristans are the magicians who prepare our worship space, including the lighting, candles, bread, wine, etc. Without them, we couldn't share Eucharist at Mass. They help make our time together run smoothly, and before they leave, they clean up and prepare the space for the next celebration.

### Spirit & Grace Choir

Our Sunday morning choir will begin again at the end of January. That makes this the perfect time for you to discover your inner love of music, warm your voice up as you sing to the radio and make plans to join us. Thursday rehearsals and Sunday Mass are just a couple times a month. We welcome new members any time, so why not sign up right now?

To participate in these or any other worship ministries, please contact Director of Worship Ministries, Jim Wielgosz or Director of Music Ministries, Anne Van Deusen.

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## Spotlight

### Gospel Meditation

When I was 10, my dad gathered our family around the table in small-town Vermont and told us we were moving to the big desert city of Phoenix, Arizona. We were leaving behind family, friends, and everything familiar. None of us knew what to expect.

But something beautiful happened. As we made the move together, our family grew closer. In retrospect, I'm amazed at my parents' courage to go on that adventure. Even as a kid I realized our family found, in that challenge, a deeper unity and mutual love.

In today's Gospel, Joseph is told: "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee..." (Matthew 2:13, 20). First to Egypt, then later to Israel. The Holy Family is frequently challenged to move and change, to adapt to God's will for them, in order to find safety in the midst of threat. It's not just an idiosyncratic story about survival. It's a spiritual pattern for all of us. Every Christian family is called to be a kind of sanctuary, especially in a world full of noise, busyness, and fear.

May I make a practical application for us? The Lord's Day, Sunday, is perhaps the most practical way we imitate this dynamic we see in Joseph and his family. Sunday is not meant to be just like every other day, filled with errands and stress. It's meant to be a day set apart; a holy "escape" into rest, worship, joy, and peace. A day to rise, take your family, and flee, into God's presence.

Father John Muir  
©LPi

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## Discipleship

### Family Holiness

The Holy Family, composed of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, involves recognizing them as a model for human families, embodying virtues like love, patience, and faith, and understanding that their holiness was not perfect, but was achieved through love, sacrifice, and faithfulness amidst difficulties.

#### Model for family life

- **Humility, patience, and faith:** They are a prime example of a family united by faith and love, who demonstrated essential Christian virtues like humility, patience, and dedication.
- **Embracing difficulties:** Their example is not one of perfection but of a family that faced challenges, anxiety, and pain while their love for one another and their commitment to their faith remained strong.
- **A source of holiness:** The Holy Family is a model for how our own families can become "heralds of the family of God" by building a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, and service are the rule.

#### Teachings for parents

- **First responsibility for education:** Parents have the primary responsibility for their children's education, which includes creating a home that fosters virtues and teaching them to prioritize the spiritual over the material.
- **Giving good example:** Parents are called to be witnesses to their children through their actions, teaching them self-denial, self-mastery, and a life of self-giving service.
- **Living a life of forgiveness:** A key part of family life is the ability to offer and accept forgiveness, as shown by Jesus' example, which he learned within his own family.

#### Broader applications

- **Recognizing "family" beyond the household:** The concept of "family" can be extended to include all of humanity. All individuals, including the homeless, the sick, and those in prison, are members of the human family of God and deserve respect.
  - **Living a life of discernment:** The Holy Family's life was one of continually listening for and discerning God's will. We are called to do the same through prayer and listening for God's guidance in our own lives.
  - **Finding true home:** The Holy Family shows that our ultimate and true home is in God's "house," and our earthly family relationships are meant to point us toward this greater family of God.
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## Outreach

### Upcoming Food Pantry Dates: December 30, January 13 and 27

Most needed items: hygiene products (body wash, deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo, dish detergent (small sizes, not travel sizes)), Spaghetti 'O's, cookies, canned beets, canned carrots, canned potatoes, and spaghetti sauce.

Thanks for your ongoing support to the pantry. God bless.

Please watch expiration dates.

[ololmke.org/food-pantry](http://ololmke.org/food-pantry)

## Communications

### Change to January 3 and 4 Live Stream

Due to scheduling conflicts with all of our A/V Ministers who can live stream, the broadcast for the weekend of January 3 and 4 will take place during the 10:30 am Mass instead of the 4:00 pm Mass.

This adjustment provides us the opportunity to mention that we can always use more A/V ministers, especially anyone willing to learn how to live stream. Operating the live stream is just a matter of opening a browser on our laptop and clicking a few buttons to both start and stop the simulcast. Beyond that, you follow a script that tells you what to press and when it should be pressed. Training and support are provided until you are comfortable being on your own. You can even have family members sit with you behind the desk and help, if needed.

Want to learn more before jumping in? Feel free to chat with any A/V minister after any Mass. They will be able to tell you how simple this ministry is.

Ready to join the A/V Ministry team? Contact Marc Puechner, Jim Wielgosz, or Deb Steppe.

## Seasonal Reflection

### Other Plans

I don't know exactly what kind of life Mary and Joseph envisioned when they were first betrothed – back in those simple times when they were just like any other couple who had hopes, dreams and no angels telling them what to do.

Whatever their plans were, I think it's safe to say that the future God had in store for Mary and Joseph was not one either of them expected. I would imagine they both anticipated something a little quieter. A little more stable (no pun intended). A little less tumultuous.

It exhausts me simply to read through the chaos of their movements in today's Gospel. Flee to Egypt, return to Israel (but not Judea! Herod's son is there! Divert to Galilee! Divert!). Settle in Nazareth (let me remind you, this is all happening with a baby in tow, and without the aid of a minivan). Take a deep breath, but don't get too comfortable – now it's almost time to lose your kid in Jerusalem. Then you'll have about 20 years off before he starts raising people from the dead, and that's when things start to get really crazy.

The story of the Holy Family is the ultimate example of the phrase "God had other plans." If any four-word sentence encapsulates what we can expect from the Christian life, it is this.

I thought I was meant for that job, but God had other plans. I thought I would live in this place, but God had other plans. I thought I was supposed to become this person, but God had other plans.

We can do all the right things. We can make all the right choices. We can say, over and over again until our voice wears out, "Thy will be done." But all we can know for sure is that God has other plans.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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