



O Oriens: "O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death." Isaiah had prophesied, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown." (9:1).

O Rex Gentium: "O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust." Isaiah had prophesied, "For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace." (9:5), and "He shall judge between the nations, and impose terms on many peoples. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again." (2:4).

O Emmanuel: "O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God." Isaiah had prophesied, "The Lord himself will give you this sign: the Virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel!"

Christmas Liturgy Schedule

✠ Confessions

Thursday, December 22 3 - 5 pm

Friday, December 23 10 - 11 am

✠ Christmas Eve Masses

Saturday, December 24 4 & 9 pm

✠ Christmas Day Masses

Sunday, December 25 9 & 11 am

✠ Feast of the Holy Family

Friday, December 30 8:00 am

✠ Solemnity of Mary

Saturday, December 31 5:00 pm

Sunday, January 1 9 & 11 am

Church of the Holy Family

5900 West Lake Street ✠ St. Louis Park, MN 55416



Merry Christmas



Reverend Thomas W. Dufner, Pastor

Reverend James Stromberg, Weekend Associate

Mass Times:

Sunday Masses 9:00AM and 11:00AM
 Saturday Mass 5:00PM
 Weekday Masses 8:00AM (Rosary 7:35AM)

Confessions:

Saturday 3:30PM to 4:50PM
 Sunday 8:00AM to 9:00AM

Parish Office

952.929.0113

Staff:

Extensions:

Rev. Thomas Dufner	Pastor	ext. 15
June Kattar	Baptism/Marriage Prep.	ext. 14
Sharon Pero	Pastoral/Parish RN/Liturgist	ext. 13
Claudia Capello	Assistant	ext. 17
Jean Prather	Elementary DRE/Special Events	ext. 12
Elizabeth Brown	Confirmation Coordinator	ext. 19
Alyssa Bormes	Youth Minister	ext. 21
Kathy Vansickle	Controller	ext. 16
Bobbi Hanson	Bookkeeper	ext. 11
Rick Nichols	Facilities Manager	ext. 20
Theresa Bakos	Secretary	ext. 10

Web Address: www.hfcmn.org Email Address: staff@hfcmmn.org

Registration in Parish:

Required for baptism and marriage. Adults 18 and over call the parish office 952.929.0113.

Marriages:

Registered parishioners must make application 3 months prior.

Baptisms:

First Sunday of the month. Must be registered parishioners. Baptism class required. Please call 3 months in advance.

Perpetual Adoration - Jim Glover 763.533.0423

Prayer Chain -Dona Marek, 9AM to 9PM 952.926.3130

STEP - Emergency Program 952.925.4899



5925 West Lake Street ✠ St. Louis Park MN 55416

Ann Coone, Principal

School Office

952.925.9193

Web Address

www.hfamn.org

The Pastor's Page

Merry Christmas!

On behalf of Fr. Stromberg and the Staff, I would like to wish each of you all the joys and blessings of Christmas! In this holy season we recall the great work of our salvation which began when God chose to directly intervene in the world's affairs by becoming man. As the Fathers of the Church noted, He who created us without our cooperation will not save us without our cooperation. And so, even in the beginnings of our salvation, God made Himself dependant upon the free ascent of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He prepared her with enormous gifts of grace, the greatest of which is the Immaculate Conception, so that she would be free of original sin. And at the appointed hour, God sent the Angel Gabriel to "announce" the plan of salvation, and awaited from her the "yes" which He expected to hear. When Mary said, "let it be done to me according to your word," the "Word became flesh and dwelt among us!"

On this feast of Christmas, we want to recall that our salvation requires our free ascent as well. We have to be willing partners with God in the work of salvation. We need to act like images of God, be committed to the truth and walk in his ways. Sunday Mass should be given. That's where the struggle begins! That's where we get our marching orders. God who created us without our consent will not save us without our cooperation.

Rev. Thomas W. Dufner

"Where God Is, There Is The Future"
Pastoral Visit Pope Benedict XVI to Germany

Religion and Freedom

Upon his arrival on September 22, 2011 in Berlin, the Holy Father was welcomed by the Federal President, and outlined a brief thought on the reciprocal relationship between religion and freedom:

... As you mentioned, Mr. President, we are witnessing a growing indifference to religion in society, which considers the issue of truth as something of an obstacle in its decision-making, and instead gives priority to utilitarian considerations.

All the same, a binding basis for our coexistence is needed; otherwise people live in a purely individualistic way. Religion is one of these foundations for successful social life. "Just as religion has need of freedom, so also freedom has need of religion.." These words of the great bishop and social reformer Wilhelm von Ketteler, the

second centenary of whose birth is being celebrated this year, remain timely.

Freedom requires a primordial link to a higher instance. The fact that there are values which are not absolutely open to manipulation is the true guarantee of our freedom. The man who feels a duty to truth and goodness will immediately agree with this: freedom develops only in responsibility to a greater good. Such a good exists only for all of us together; therefore I must always be concerned for my neighbors. Freedom cannot be lived in the absence of relationships.

In human coexistence, freedom is impossible without solidarity. What I do at the expense of others is not freedom but a culpable way of acting, which is harmful to others, and hence ultimately also to myself. I can truly develop as a free person only by using my powers also for the welfare of others. And this holds true not only in private matters but also for society as a whole. In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, society must give sufficient space for smaller structures to develop and, at the same time, must support them so that one day they will stand on their own.

Wills and

Parish Offices Closed
Monday, December 26
through
Friday, December 30.
We will re-open on
Monday, January 2 at 8:30am.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! ☺

PLEASE HEAR THIS!
Fees and Rolls on
Wednesday,
December 28, 2011 is
suspended and will resume on
January 4, 2012.



Remember to notify the
office of any changes to
address or phone number.
Thank you!

Mass for Life

January 22, 2012 will mark the 39th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's tragic decision to legalize abortion. This year the Office of Marriage Family and Life will be Celebrating a Mass for Life instead of an Ecumenical Prayer Service as the date falls on a Sunday. Archbishop Nienstedt will be the celebrant for this special Noon Mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul in St. Paul. *YES, this does count as your Sunday obligation so come as a family to attend together.* The MCCL Rally at the state capitol will follow the Mass. Last year this inspiring event was attended by approximately 3,000 people.

Over 50 million unborn babies have been aborted since 1973. Please join others in this opportunity to pray for these children of God as well as the men and women who suffer because of the decision they made to terminate a pregnancy. Contact the Marriage Family and Life office at 651.291.4506 or wilsons@archspm.org with questions.

Giving...at year-end

The time is now.....

The closing of the calendar year is a time when many tax payers review their charitable contributions and their tax liability for the past year. It is also a time of year when many professionals receive bonuses or profit/stock distributions.

We hope that the information presented here will help you make the best choices in order to give most effectively now or at any time of the year.

Your Tax Rate Can Mean Greater Savings

Charitable gifts offer one of the few ways to reduce your tax bill in a way that is totally within your control. The higher your effective tax rate, the more you can save.

Deciding What to Give

Cash is deductible up to 50% of your adjusted gross income in any year.

If, on the other hand, you have stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or certain other properties that have increased in value since you have owned them, they may make especially attractive gifts.

IRA owners who have reached 70 1/2—and who have begun withdrawing money from their retirement accounts—can contribute up to \$100,000 of otherwise taxable payouts annual directly to charity.

Check with your tax professional to ensure that your gift will benefit you as well as the church.

Make Sure It Counts

To write off any cash contributions, no matter how small, you need a canceled check, bank record or a receipt with the charity's name and donation amount. That means that putting cash in the church collection plate is a no-no if you want to be able to take a deduction for it.

Timing is everything. You can take the deduction for your contribution in the year that you make it.

In compliance with IRS regulations, checks dated December 31, 2011 but put in a collection basket on Sunday, January 1, 2012 are NOT considered a deduction for 2011—you will have to wait until 2012 to deduct that donation.

Opportunities.....

Donations can be made by check, cash, online, or stock transfers.

For online donations go to www.hfcmn.org and click **ONLINE GIVING** in the red bar at the top of the page and you can make a contribution to any number of categories at the church or the Endowment Fund or Adopt-A-Student program at the school.

If you are donating stock or need help with a donation please call Kathy Vansickle at the church office at 952-929-0113 ext. 16.

Make Year-End Gifts Online.....

In the course of year-end tax planning, you may find yourself considering special one-time donations. There is a growing trend among donors to make contributions to their favorite organizations via the Web during the final week of the year. As you contemplate year-end gifts, please keep Church of the Holy Family and Holy Family Academy in mind. We welcome your donations through the ONLINE GIVING page at www.hfcmn.org.

A Quick Summary...

Charitable Giving Tips:

- Charitable gifts made by December 31st are deductible and can reduce or eliminate the impact of income taxes.
- Checks dated December 31, 2011 but put in a collection basket on Sunday, January 1, 2012 are NOT considered a deduction for 2011. You will have to wait until 2012 to deduct that donation.
- To ensure full tax benefits, keep all acknowledgements of gifts and gift amounts you receive in letters from charitable recipients.
- Ask your advisor about the methods of giving most advantageous to you.

✠ Weekly Calendar of Events ✠

Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day

9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass

Monday, December 26 - Parish Offices Closed

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Branch III
3:00 pm Widow and Widowers Holy Hour (Chapel)

Tuesday, December 27 - Parish Offices Closed

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Grandparents Prayer Group (Gathering Place)

Wednesday, December 28 - Holy Innocents

Parish Offices Closed

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am NO Coffee & Rolls
5:15 pm NO Kids Praise Too!
6:30 pm NO HFC (School)
6:30 pm NO Confirmation (Moorman Hall)

Thursday, December 29 - Parish Offices Closed

8:00 am Mass

Friday, December 30 - Feast of the Holy Family

Parish Offices Closed

8:00 am Mass

Saturday, December 31 - New Years Eve!

6:30 am Holy Name Society (Gathering Place)
10:00 am Rosaries for Life (Robbinsdale)
5:00 pm Mass

Sunday, January 1, 2012 - Mary Mother of God

9:00 am Mass
11:00 am Mass

Monday, January 2

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Exercise Class (Gathering Place)
3:00 pm Widow and Widowers Holy Hour (Chapel)
7:00 pm Respect Life (Nursery)

Tuesday, January 3

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Grandparents Prayer Group (Moorman Hall)
10:30 am Goodtimers 500 Club (Gathering Place)
7:00 pm Knights of Columbus (Gathering Place)

Wednesday, January 4 - HFA DQ Night (Excelsior Blvd)

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Coffee & Rolls (Moorman Hall)
11:45 am Exercise Class (Moorman Hall)
5:15 pm Kids Praise Too!
6:30 pm Confirmation (Moorman Hall)
6:30 pm HFC (School)

Thursday, January 5

8:00 am Mass
12:30 pm Blood Drive (Moorman Hall)
7:00 pm Choir
7:00 pm NFP (Gathering Place)

Friday, January 6

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Exercise Class (Gathering Place)

Saturday, January 7

6:30 am Holy Name Society (Gathering Place)
10:00 am Rosaries for Life (Robbinsdale)
3:30 pm Confessions
5:00 pm Mass

Sunday, January 8 - Donut/New Member - Epiphany

8:00 am Confessions 9 & 11:00am Mass

Banns II

Eric Crosby and Marcela Aciola

Banns III

Kory Schmidt and Andrea Weingartz

Holy Family Men's Winter Getaway

The annual trip, also known as the Eli Broomtree weekend will be held this year during Jan 13-16 at Boyd's Lodge on in Crosslake, MN. This is not a retreat so much as it is a weekend of fellowship and "stress reduction". Every year a group of a dozen or more HFCC men take a much deserved break and head North to some remote and seasonably affordable cabins to recharge our batteries for the year to come. We say a rosary together followed by Saturday evening mass, and generally speaking, we are free to spend our time in whatever way we find enjoyable. See the accommodations on the Boyd Lodge website at boyd lodge.com. Please reserve your spot by Sunday December 28th. The entire weekend, including gas, lodging and food is about \$150. For more information contact Tom Bertoldi at 952.233.5511 or bert.mn@mchsi.com.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Please be sure to arrive **15 minutes** early when you are scheduled to serve at Mass. It is difficult to find substitutes in the congregation or to know if the schedule is adequately covered if you arrive just a few minutes before Mass begins. Thank you. Call Sharon 952.929.0113 Ext. 13 with questions or concerns.

This Wednesday is HFA Dairy Queen Night

10% of all sales at the St. Louis Park DQ on Excelsior Blvd between 4:00 and 8:00PM this Wednesday will be given to Holy Family Academy so stop in and enjoy dinner or a special treat!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Friday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. Stephen

Tuesday: St. John

Wednesday: The Holy Innocents

Thursday: St. Thomas Becket

Friday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Saturday: St. Sylvester I

Mass Intentions for the Week

Dec 26 James Branagan †
Dec 27 Roger & Gloria Cruze
Dec 28 Father Richard Larkin †
Dec 29 Erva Betlock †
Dec 30 Father Moorman †
Dec 31 Shawn McMahan †
Jan 1 Jim Raabe (9AM)
Jan 1 For the Parish (11AM)



Fundamentals of Catholicism Classes and RCIA Candidates

We are getting ready to offer the Fundamentals of Catholicism Classes again beginning **Tuesday January 10th 2012 at 7:00PM through Tuesday April 6th, 2012**. We will be revising the class this year and incorporating some of Fr. Robert Barron's Catholicism Series! We invite all those adults interested in Baptism and those already baptized who are interested in becoming Catholic to call the parish office at 952.929.0113 and sign up for the course.

Youth Ministry

Jan 7 – Lifeline Mass at NET Center – please sign up with Miss Bormes at missbormes@gmail.com – we will leave Holy Family at 4pm and return around 10pm. You can sign up for any youth event at missbormes@gmail.com or 952.929.0113 x 21

2012 Mother's Day of Renewal

Saturday ~ January 28th
Holy Family Catholic Church
5900 West Lake Street
St. Louis Park, MN

Featuring: Stephanie Maricich

Schedule: 8:30am: Confessions and Rosary
9:00am: Mass with Father Livingston
9:45am: Registration/Continental Breakfast
10:00am: Talk begins
12:00pm: Lunch break
12:30pm: Talks continue
3:00pm: Closing



Register by January 14th for the discounted rate of \$25. After Jan. 14th cost is \$30. Lunch included.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Registration and payment (checks: Mother's Day of Renewal) to: Tina Robbins, 9301 Xylon Cir. S. Bloomington, 55438. For more info: trobbs5@comcast.net

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Love, Naturally: The Billings Ovulation Method is a scientific, reliable method that celebrates your marriage, sexuality, and fertility. A First Instruction in the Billings Ovulation Method will be offered on **January 5th and 19th**, (or by appointment) here at Holy Family. To register, or to get more information, call Lorena at 612.396.4019.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Healing After Abortion

If you are struggling with an abortion experience, experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat on January 6-8, 2012 in the Twin Cities area. Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. For more information or registration contact Nancy at rvr-nancy@usfamily.net or 763.250.9313. The cost is \$160.00 for meals, room and all retreat materials. If you have a financial burden, assistance is available. See more information on the web @ www.rachelsvineyard.org.

The Couple to Couple League will be offering a series of classes, for engaged and married couples, on the Sympto-Thermal Method of Natural Family Planning here at Holy Family in the School Library. New streamlined methodology and new materials integrate Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Classes begin on Monday, January 9, at 7:00pm. Visit our website at <http://twincities.ccli.org> for registration or for more information call 612.721.3791.



...IT'S TIME TO REGISTER!

Holy Family is hosting an

"Emergency Blood Drive"
Thursday, January 5, 2012
from 12:30pm to 7:30pm in
Moorman Hall.

Since our blood drives have been no less than "fantastic" the Memorial Blood Center is turning to us for special help. Please mark your calendars and take time during this **Christmas Season** to give a very **"Special Gift."** **Did You Know?** **Each week**, 2,700 volunteer donors are needed to help supply blood to patients in our area hospitals. Your **single donation** can save as many as three people's lives. Blood is needed for cancer and surgery patients, burn victims, accident victims, premature infants...the list is endless.

We need a total of
65 REGISTERED DONORS
to meet our goal.
Please call Sharon at
952.929.0113 Ext. 13
to schedule your appointment.

Pro-Life Corner

WASHINGTON, D.C., DEC. 7, 2011 (Zenit.org).- According to data from the World Health Organization, cardiovascular disease is the number one killer globally, resulting in an estimated 17.3 million deaths in 2008 alone. As difficult as this destructive illness may be both on a worldwide and on a personal level, some are beginning to see hope: Because cardiovascular disease accounts for 30% of global deaths, there are worldwide efforts to develop new and better treatments. As these efforts have exploded over the last decade, stem cell therapy has emerged as perhaps the fastest growing area of interest in biomedical research, and funds from international venture capitalists and other investors have followed. Among some of the more fascinating findings are those which demonstrate that some adult stem cells can be coaxed to become a specific cell type, and can then be used to regenerate diseased or injured tissues. Such research has raised hopes that conditions once thought incurable might prove to be treatable after all. Read on: <http://www.zenit.org/article-33945?l=english>