

Holy Family

1080 W. Roosevelt
Chicago, Illinois 60608

Parish

A Word from Father Jerry

Dear Parishioners,

Today begins the season of Advent. The liturgy committee invites us to reflect on the theme "Making Room". One of the disturbing elements of the Christmas story was that there was no room in any Inn, as Mary was preparing to give birth to Jesus. Since that first rejection, generations of believers have had to grapple with the challenge, am I making room for the Lord? Has he been "crowded" out because of so many other distractions and claims on our time?



This theme is important because the power of this coming Christmas will largely depend on how well we "make room" for Christ. We all have to make choices in order for the Lord to "find" room in our hearts.

Holy Family has many opportunities in the coming weeks to spiritually prepare:

- 1) *Make room* for the Lord through prayer. Get one of our Advent books and take advantage of the scripture and prayers for the day. Special thanks to Jim Decorrevont for the books.
- 2) *Make room* for the Lord by helping at the food pantry, spreading the word about our Christmas Services with Jerry Hossli or helping to decorate the Church for Christmas.
- 3) *Make room* for the Lord by celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation on Dec. 21st.
- 4) *Make room* for the Lord by attending the Advent afternoon of reflection being led by Gerry Dignan on Dec. 21st.
- 5) *Make room* for the Lord by participating in the Giving Tree

These are just a few ways that this Advent could be the best ever!

Today we join people from all over in remembering one of Chicago's most tragic days. 50 years ago, 92 children and 3 BVM's were killed in a fire at Our Lady of the Angel's School. Our hearts go out to all those who were touched by this tragedy. This afternoon, hundreds will gather in the Church at 2:30 p.m. to remember this moment when the heart of Chicago was broken with such loss. The Mass will be presided by Bishop Manz and has been planned by the Friends of Our Lady of Angels. There is a copy of a Pontifical Blessing by the Holy Father to mark this anniversary as well as a proclamation by the City Council. Tomorrow, all schools mark a moment of silence and flags will be hung at half mask.

Yesterday there was a moving gathering of survivors and the families of victims at Queen of Heaven cemetery where many of the victims are buried. The Sisters of Charity planned the memorial service, because three of their Sisters died in the

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Rectory

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Website..... holyfamilychicago.org

Parish Staff

Administrator..... Rev. Jerry Boland

Deacon Rudolf Kotleba

Director of Gospel Choirs ..Sam Parker

P.C. President..... Odell Gordon

Masses

Monday-Friday..... 7:30 am
(St. Ignatius Chapel)

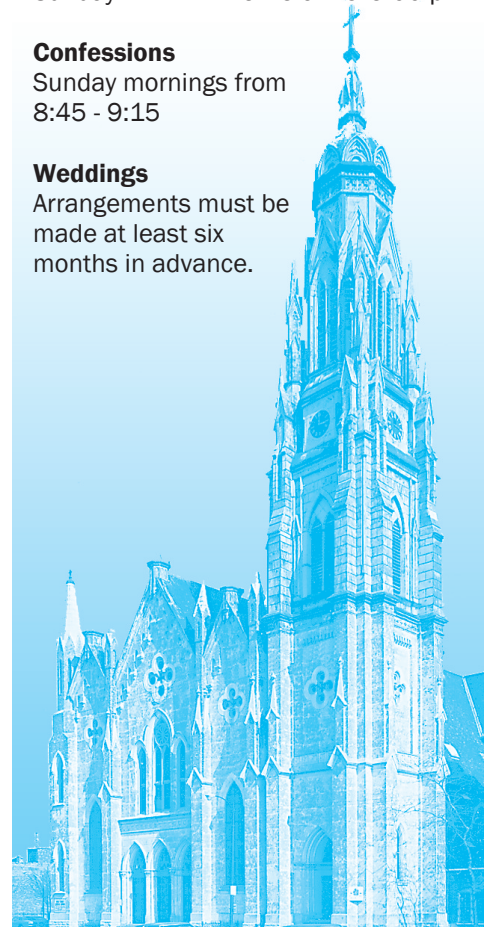
Sunday..... 9:45 am & 5:00 pm

Confessions

Sunday mornings from
8:45 - 9:15

Weddings

Arrangements must be
made at least six
months in advance.



Focus on the Word

The Sunday readings are placed in this bulletin for the benefit of those who might have a hearing impairment, and for your reflection before Mass and during the week. Since an important part of our Sunday worship is hearing the scripture proclaimed, we urge you to LISTEN to the readings as they are proclaimed. Thank you.



Reading I

Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7

You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt. Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Reading II

1 Cor 1:3-9

Brothers and sisters:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel

Mk 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

The Gospel of the Lord

fire.

Later today, at 6:30 p.m. we will have our annual Choir Concert. It is always a great event and something you shouldn't miss!

Special thanks to all who supported Sr. Otilie's Christmas sale last week. It was a great success and many treasures were discovered. Special thanks to Donna, Eileen and Dora who helped with all the planning.

This week our food pantry gave out hundreds of turkeys to families in need. It was unbelievable and I am grateful to Faith, Hope and Charity Parish for the donation of the turkey's and our food pantry staff and volunteers who worked so hard to make sure that families in need would have a great Thanksgiving. Thanks also to everyone who have brought food and donations to the pantry. We always can use food or donations to keep the pantry well stocked.

Don't forget to obtain a ticket for our Christmas Jazz party on Dec. 13th! Tickets are available in the back of Church.

Have a blessed week and lets make room for the Lord!



MAKE ROOM

As we are preparing for Christmas our calendars become increasingly crowded. "LET US MAKE ROOM" to prepare for Christ's coming

within our hearts in special ways. Focus on the 'true' spiritual meaning of this holiday. Take the time out of our busy schedules to give the gift of ourselves to others.

