

From the Desk of Father David Jenuwine

Dear Parish Family,

This coming month brings with it the close of the 75th Anniversary celebration of the Diocese of Saginaw. We now settle into Ordinary Time and the end of summer.

Earlier this month we began weekday Masses on Wednesdays at 4:00 pm and Fridays at 9:00 am; and have had a nice crowd at both liturgies. Special thanks to Jeremy and Kay for providing music; and to Alex and others for doing the readings. Daily Mass can be a nice spiritual boost during the week.

Thank you to everyone for the warm welcome I've received since starting at Holy Family. It really does feel like 'family.' The title of this monthly newsletter is the Latin word for 'family.' Part of the ministry of priests is daily praying the five 'hours' of prayer for the people entrusted to his spiritual care. Know that I

am praying for you. If you have any particular needs you would like prayer for, please let me know.

Finally, with parish re-alignments this last month, we may see some new faces at Masses. Please extend a warm welcome to these potential new members of our parish family. God bless you!

Fr. DAVID



The Assumption of Mary August 15 is the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, which is a holy day and our diocesan feast day. Mass will be at Holy Family on August 14 at 7pm. Marian celebrations this month are the Dedication of Saint Mary Major on the 5th (formerly Our Lady of the Snows); and the Queenship of Mary on the 22nd.

FAMILIA

First Saturday Devotions at Holy Family

Back in November 2012, I approached Deacon Roger about the possibility of hosting a one-time First Saturday Mass at Holy Family. This arose out of a request from the World Apostolate of Fatima, Saginaw Division.

Since then, this has evolved to a monthly noon Mass preceded by recitation of the Rosary and time for Confession. Attendance has soared to over 100 people. The First Saturday Devotion is an opportunity for personal spiritual growth in the charism of the messages of Our Lady of Fatima.

The Power of Blessings

Earlier in the summer, I attended a conference for priests, deacons, and seminarians at Franciscan University of Steubenville. Eight years ago, I was a graduate student at FUS studying Theology; and since my ordination as priest have made every effort to attend this conference annually.

One of the conference speakers addressed the topic of blessings. He emphasized that since priests and deacons have the authority and power to extend the Church's blessing in many ways that we should promote blessings at our parishes.

I have made it my practice to use a solemn blessing at the end of weekend and holy day Masses. In addition, if you would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick before surgery or for a chronic illness; a blessing before travel or a trip; have a religious article or Bible blessed - please ask after any Mass. You can also have your home, car, business, garden, fields, (anything) blessed.



On the "New Evangelization"

A new sense of mission cannot be left to a group of 'specialists' but must involve the responsibility of all the members of the People of God. The parish is not only the place where catechesis is given, but also the living environment which must actualize the new evangelization, looking upon itself as being on "permanent mission". Just like the Church herself, each community is "called by its nature to reach out beyond itself in a movement towards the world in order to be sign of the Emmanuel, of the Word who became flesh, of the God with us".



Chalices and Coincidences

When I was ordained priest, just a bit over four years ago, my parents wanted to provide me with a chalice. The chalice they chose (pictured at left) is from Poland, and is called the 'Holy Family' chalice. On the base is a cross in blue, and three red medallions showing Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Just this past winter, the Knights of Columbus asked if I would accept a chalice in memory of a deceased member of their council. When it was presented to me, I was surprised to see that although it was a different style and manufacturer, it too was called the 'Holy Family' chalice. On the stem are carved figures of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

I marvel at the happy coincidence of my serving at Holy Family!