

# **Holy Spirit Catholic Parish A Welcoming Community**

**1489 Shea Road, Stittsville, ON K2S 0G8**

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## **PASTORAL TEAM**

Father Geoffrey Kerslake, Pastor, [pastor@holyspiritparish.ca](mailto:pastor@holyspiritparish.ca)  
Alex Ducharme, Youth/Sacramental Coordinator, [youth@holyspiritparish.ca](mailto:youth@holyspiritparish.ca)  
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***Feast of the Holy Family***

## FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

### Dec 29 - Holy Family



Sirach 3.2-6,12-14  
Colossians 3.12-21  
Luke 2.41-52

### Jan 1 –Mary, the Holy Mother of God



Numbers 6.22-27  
Galatians 4.4-7  
Luke 2.16-21

### Jan 5 - Epiphany of the Lord



Isaiah 60.1-6  
Ephesians 3.2-3a,5-6  
Matthew 2.1-12

#### Parish Calendar

**Mon, Dec 30**  
**Tue, Dec 31**  
7:00 pm Mass  
**Wed, Jan 1** Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God  
10:00 am Mass  
**Thu, Jan 2** St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen  
9:00 am Mass  
9:30 am Cenacle of Marian Movement of Priests  
**Fri, Jan 3**  
9:00 am Mass  
9:30 am Flame of Love Prayer Group  
9:30-10:30 am First Friday Adoration & Benediction  
**Sat, Jan 4**  
9:00 am First Saturday Mass  
9:30 am Cor: Into the Breach  
4:15-4:45 pm Reconciliation  
5:00 pm Mass  
**Sun, Jan 5** Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord  
9:00 am Mass  
11:00 am Mass

\*hospitality & coffee hosted by the Knights of Columbus after the 9 & 11 am Masses. Everyone welcome!

\*Confession available before morning Mass 8:30-8:50am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Friday, January 3 after the 9AM Eucharist. The Monstrance with the consecrated host (the Body of Christ) will be placed on the altar for Benediction until 10:30AM.

(Please note: The Parish Office will be closed until January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 am.)

#### ATTENTION MEN OF HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

Men's Discussion Group sponsored by the Knights of Columbus: Join us after the First Saturday Mass on January 4th at 9:45 am until 10:45 am for a discussion based on the Knights of Columbus series for men "Into the Breach." There is coffee, a short video and a facilitated discussion on the topic. The next session is: "Leadership". All men are welcome!

#### Support Christians in the Holy Land Through Craft Sale:

after weekend Masses on December 28 and 29, we will have representatives of families from the Holy Land who make olive wood religious articles to support themselves. Christians are a tiny minority in the Holy Land and their population is shrinking due to instability, lack of jobs and opportunities. Making articles from olive wood from trees in the Holy Land is a major source of work (along with tourism) for Christians living in the land of Jesus. Please come out and see some lovely crafted goods that would make a lovely present for First Communion, Confirmation, birthday or (next Christmas!) gifts.

#### Mass Intentions

**Tue, Dec 31 – 7:00 pm**  
Living & deceased members of Foote-Gunn-Pollock family  
**Wed, Jan 1 – 10:00 am**  
For the intentions of all parishioners  
**Thu, Jan 2 – 9:00 am**  
Intentions of Marion Di Gaspari by Margaret Mulvihill  
**Fri, Jan 3 – 9:00 am**  
†Dan Anis by Mary Garvey  
**Sat, Jan 4 – 9:00 am**  
For the intentions of Fr. Geoff by Cathy Philpott  
**Sat, Jan 4 – 5:00 pm**  
†Mary K. Bleskie by Agatha Bleskie  
†Teresa Wolf & †Maria Luisa Bustamante by Veronica Wolf & Daniel Chavolla  
**Sun, Jan 5 – 9:00 am**  
For the intentions of all parishioners  
**Sun, Jan 5 – 11:00 am**  
Deceased members of Turner & Clarke Families  
Intentions of Susan Bahen by Dolores and Warren Bahen  
**Please pray for those who are sick:**  
**Please pray for those who have died:** †Thérèse Boudreau, sister of Dan Boudreau; †Paul Murphy, brother of Anne Reich  
†Indicates Deceased.



We are in the process of preparing our system to generate CHARITABLE RECEIPTS for 2024. If you have made an address change in the past year, please contact the Parish Office so that we can update our records. We wish to remind our supporters that if you wish to receive credit for contributions in 2024, donations must be received and deposited on or before the end of 2024. Revenue Canada does not permit charitable organizations to backdate receipts. So please have your year-end donations in by **SUN, DEC 29, 2024**, and your etransfer donations in by Dec 20, 2024 before 3PM, or your donations must be calculated as donations for 2025.



#### Beware of Suspicious Emails from the Priests!

Fr. Geoff will **never** ask parishioners for money, gift cards or favours by email. If you receive an email supposedly from Fr. Geoff that looks suspicious, call the parish office. Do not respond to the email. Call anytime if you have questions! It's a sad reality that scammers use priests' names to prey on the generous good will of parishioners.



Donate to our  
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**Sunday Reflection:**

The Opening Prayer at Mass orients us for today's Feast: "O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards." St. Paul's letter to the early Christian community, the family of God, advises Christians how to treat one another. His instructions are relevant for our families and other relationships just as much for our church family: "Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another." As human beings we will always have different ways of approaching challenges so disagreements will arise. But we have control over how we will disagree with each other. We can do so respectfully and seek forgiveness for when we cross the line. We can choose to be more patient and loving instead of having to win every disagreement or to be always right. Our goal is to be more Christ-like not only to the stranger on the street, but especially to the people we live with and call family.

Fr Geoff

**Understanding the Mass – The Preparation of the Gifts:**

At the preparation of the gifts, the priests enjoins us: "Pray brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father". The sacrifice that we all offer at Mass is not only the bread and wine that will become the Body and Blood of Christ but also the sacrifice of our daily work, our prayers, and our family life – in short, the sacrifice of every area of our lives – that we all offer to God at every Mass. There is a Catholic traditional prayer that we can pray at the beginning of the day called "The Morning Offering" where we offer to God the whole day and everything in it – our works, our joys, our sufferings and our hopes – which echoes this total sacrifice of our lives to God. That is why everyone who attends Mass participates in the sacrifice of the Mass in offering themselves on the altar with the bread and wine to God and so we reflect that reality in the priest's words "my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable".

Fr Geoff

**The Morning Offering Prayer for Use at Home:** O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, in union with the holy sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in thanksgiving for your favors, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all my relatives and friends, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father. Amen.

**SUNDAY MISSALS** The 2024-2025 Sunday Missal, "Living with Christ" is available for purchase in the Parish Office at \$5.00 each. Please call the Parish Office for assistance. Limited supply – get yours early.

**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Reflection:**

Today is both the day we pray for peace in the world and it is an important celebration for us. Mary, who is the mother of Jesus, who is God's Son, is also our heavenly mother too. She loves and cares for her spiritual daughters and sons and wants to lead us to Jesus. In Mary, we also see God raising up the lowly and bestowing good things on the humble. Mary shows us that faith treasures God's love and mercy, and faith also leaves room in our lives for pondering how God keeps his promises. May God bless you on this great Feast honouring Mary as the Mother of God.

Fr. Geoff

**Prayer to Mary Mother of God: (Sub Tuum Praesidium):**

We fly to thy patronage, O holy Mother of God; Despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

**Help Needed Counting Parishioners at Weekend Mass:**

We are looking for volunteers to count parishioners at the weekend Masses. We have the handheld counters. It involves counting how many people come to a Mass and recording the number in a log sheet in the sacristy. We are hoping to collect some 'hard data' on attendance. If you can volunteer to count at a Mass on a rotating schedule, please contact Alex at [youth@holyspiritparish.ca](mailto:youth@holyspiritparish.ca)

**Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care**

*Gathering together to share meaningful conversations to better understand palliative care so that our parishes and families become Compassionate communities, rooted in the mercy and tenderness of the living Christ.* Sundays: Feb 9 – Mar 2 from 2:15 - 4:15pm at Holy Redeemer Parish. Questions or to register: contact Michael at [olsentsai@rogers.com](mailto:olsentsai@rogers.com) or call Holy Redeemer: 613-836-1764

**Prayer for families by Pope Francis:**

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches. Holy Family of Nazareth may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen. (Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, 325).

For e-Transfer please send it to [admin@holyspiritparish.ca](mailto:admin@holyspiritparish.ca) and use the password: Holyspirit (*all one word with a capital H*).

*"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you." – St. Teresa of Kolkata*

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