



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Pastor

Rev. David Keegan
dkeegan@hollyfamilyjax.com

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Matthew Ibok
mibok@hollyfamilyjax.com

In Residence

Msgr. Mortimer Danaher
Msgr. Daniel B. Logan

Deacon

Deacon Mike Holmes
mholmes@hollyfamilyjax.com

Director of Faith Formation

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Director of Music

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Maintenance Supervisor

Matt Hannigan
mhannigan@hollyfamilyjax.com

Parish Administrator

Patricia Lombardo,
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Ways to stay connected :

Parish Website:
hollyfamilyjax.com

Parish App

Facebook

Instagram

Twitter

YouTube

FORMED (Free to use)
Parish Code: G89FGR

Diocese of St. Augustine:
dosaf.com

April 26, 2020

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3rd Sunday of Easter

© Diocesan

CRISIS PREGNANCY? WOMEN'S HELP CENTER 904-398-5143



WE REMEMBER...

MONDAY, APRIL 27

READINGS: Acts 6:8-15; Jn 6:22-29

7:00 am +Helen DeOrlo by Aunt Mary, Uncle Mick & Kathie

9:00 am Birthday blessings for Matthew Guidry by Susan Fromm

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

READINGS: Acts 7:51-8:1a; Jn 6:30-35

7:00 am +Mike Robinson by Bob & Rose Heston

9:00 am +Joe Shiffert by Nancy Shiffert

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

MEMORIAL OF ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

READINGS: Acts 8:1b-8; Jn 6:35-40

7:00 am Special intention for Fr. Drew Dellasega by Charlie & Betsy Sloan

9:00 am +Joe Staneko by Dave & Carolyn Swidorsky

7:00 pm +Peter Galvano by Charlene & Keith Brinker

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

READINGS: Acts 8:26-40; Jn 6:44-51

7:00 am Special intention for Trudy Harris by G-MOMS

9:00 am +Brian Earley by Nancy & Joe McTighe

FRIDAY, MAY 1

READINGS: Acts 9:1-20; Jn 6:52-59

7:00 am +Karlene Slyman by Margaret Helow

9:00 am +Bob Brinker by Brett & Karen Bosworth

SATURDAY, MAY 2

MEMORIAL OF ST. ATHANASIUS

Readings: Acts 9:31-42; Jn 6:60-69

9:00 am +Fr. Henry Kowalczyk, SHM by Fr. David Keegan

5:30 pm +Jane Walicki by Arlene Windisch

SUNDAY, MAY 3

Readings: Acts 2:14a.36-41; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

8:00 am Deceased members of the Canon family by Marian Dickson

9:30 am For the people entrusted to the care of the Pastor

11:30 am Birthday blessings for Gustavo Gari by the Gari Family

5:00 pm +Helen & Joe Pepper by Mary Pepper



PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS & FAMILY

FOR THE SICK AND BURDENED

Bruce Kujawa

Virginia Carlson

Jackie O'Hare

Barbara Tighe

Debi Meier

Kevin Ruane

Dan Zerbe

Dorothy McCue

Paula Weghorst

Mike Oakey

David Vassal

Ann Edwards

Egda Intriago

Pat Harth

Marie Giambrone

Lucille Ramputi

Elena Benner

John Schmitz

Joe Antone

Alex Perez-Poveda

Kinsley Green

Mary Ann Harmon

Rami Intriago

Melayzia R. Smith

Frances Hargrove

Sr. Richardine Rempe

Joanna Dickson Smith

Alice Gartland

Alex Balseiro

Tal Kelly

Msgr. Daniel B. Logan

Mitchell McCormick

Hernan Maisonove

Mary Pepper

Jeri Ruane

Lisa Mohr

Juliana Ibok

Rose Speranza

Romulo Blanza

Bill Lewis

Dennis Lester

David Estes

Lee Neviaser

Mike Bensco

Archie Miller

Daniel Cassidy

Margaret Kroll

Chuck Day

Kathy Warren

Neilie Vara



FOR OUR MILITARY



Capt. J. Michael Huth, ANG

A1C Samantha Bendon

CPO Timothy Devlin, USN

Lt. Col. Gerardo V. Meneses, USA

Kristoffr Relova, AM

Capt. Joe Roberts, USMC

Cameron Keane, USAF

CWO Jason Lonsdale, USN

Sr. Airman Tyler A. Michaud, USAF

Lt. Cdr. Richard Silva Jr., USN

PFC Sean Ortiz, USA

Lt. Shelley Huth, ANG

Edward R. Bensley, USA

Lt. Cmdr. Ryan Mullen, USN

Cpl. Alex Giuliano, USMC

Lt Ann Demi, USAF

Lt William Beverly

Lt. Cdr. Brett Jones, USN

Sgt. Kyle Muzelak, ANG

CPO Sean Goguen

Sgt. Chris Martin, USA

Lt. Alejandro Trujillo, USN

Jordan Pratti, USN

LCDR Scott Tedrick

USNHM Brian Bautista

PO2 David Kelly, USN

Lt. Nicholas Cerny, USN

Cpt. Crystal Guta, USA

PFC Patrick H. Harmon

Sgt. Delmar Kirkendall

Lt. Kristina Oberst, USN

SSG Gerald Lowery, US

Sgt. Sean O'Grady, USMC

RDML Brendan McLane

Lt. Adam Guarno

SN Peter Guarno

Judson J. Hendricks, USN

LCpl James Savino USMC

Lt. Thomas Gaus, USN

Sgt. Samuel Costa, ARNG

2Lt. Troy A. Seidel, USA



Candles are lit for **prayer** intentions. To "**light a candle** for someone" indicates one's intention to say a **prayer** for another person, and the **candle** symbolizes that **prayer**.

Please join the **ELIZABETH MINISTRY** (sponsored by the HF Women's Club) in praying for the following expectant mothers and their families:

Aileen Abelgas, Nikki Aguilar, Mae Cosare, Juvy Grafilo, Elizabeth Naughton, Francine Palmeri, Alicia Revels, Sarah Rozycki, and Anna Sharpe

The Spring Blessing has been postponed for now. As soon as we are able to come together we will reschedule.

For questions or information, please e-mail Charlene Brinker at brinkerc13@gmail.com.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE SOMEONE ADDED TO A PRAYER LIST OR TO REGISTER FOR OUR PARISH, PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE

Prayer Requests

Send Fr. David and Fr. Matthew your prayer requests to prayerintentions@holyfamijax.com.

Fr. Keegan and Fr. Ibok will continue to celebrate Mass privately and will honor all scheduled Mass Intentions.

Fr. David will continue live-streaming the Mass. You can view Mass on our website at holyfamijax.com 9:00 am Monday through Saturday and 10:00 am on Sunday.

The Parish Office and School will be closed until further notice. However, the phones and e-mails will continue to be answered during regular working hours. Please call or e-mail us with any questions or concerns.

We will continue to keep you updated through all our social media platforms. Stay safe. God bless you and a happy and blessed Easter Season to all!

The coronavirus is causing hardship for our people and our parishes, both spiritually and financially. Your parish brings you the light of Christ. Please help keep the light shining by giving through your parish's online program, app, or mail an offering to your parish office.

Though we may not be able to gather together, you can still make your contribution. Here are some easy ways:

- 1) Through our on-line giving program, Faith Direct. You can sign-up for Faith Direct by visiting holyfamijax.com and clicking *on-line giving* at the top of the page.
- 2) Venmo - @HolyFamily-CatholicChurch or visit holyfamijax.com and click on the Venmo button at the top of the page.
- 3) Text to give (904) 747-8001.
- 4) U.S. Postal Service.

Thank you so much for your support.



Easter Flower Collection

Some may have noticed that we did not adorn the Church with flowers on Easter Sunday. Since we were live-streaming Easter Mass, we didn't want to decorate the church and not have our parishioners present to enjoy them. We have limited space in the sanctuary while live-streaming the Mass so it is extra difficult to try to capture everything on camera. If we added flowers in the sanctuary it would have further complicated things. We are also not running the air A/C as we regularly would and the hot/still air would not be good for the flowers.

I would like to thank all who donated to the Easter flower collection. Your envelopes with the names of loved ones are placed on the Altar and offered up during the Mass. All Easter Flower donations will be used at a later date when we can all be together as a community. Our plan is to have our own Easter celebration - for we will surely have been given new life!! God bless you. - Fr. David Keegan

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to help us with the cost of Altar Flowers each week, you may donate \$45 per arrangement in remembrance of a loved one, birthday blessing, anniversary blessing, or whatever your intention may be.

We are here for you!

During this time, our parish staff are working from home, responding to all your questions!

Our parish manager, Patti, is answering emails and the phone during our regular office hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9am-4pm

Friday: 9am-1pm

All of our staff are on-call to answer your e-mails and assist you in any way possible.

Dear Friends and Family of Holy Family,

We are asking all of our registered friends and families to send in pictures for our church directory. Your picture will not be put on Social Media. You can e-mail your picture to Patti at plombardo@holyfamijax.com.

It will be so nice to have your picture included in our database. I hope you will participate!

God bless you. Holy Family Pray For Us.

ATTENTION HOLY FAMILY YOUTH GROUP!!!
Elisa Schiavo is hosting a Youth Group Zoom
All High School Youth are invited. Hope to see
you virtually!!!!

YOUTH GROUP ZOOM
YOUTH GROUP ZOOM



SUNDAY
APRIL
26TH
7PM

MEETING ID: 782-955-8779

On April 11th 2020, the following were baptized and became our newest members of our Holy Family. Congratulations and welcome to Holy Family.

Don Auerbach Mindy Rios David Shepherd Jacob Hewitt Wesley Edwards

Let us continue to pray for them and for the candidates, that they will complete their initiation in the days to come when we can all be together.

Melissa Efird Gerald Farnell Darren Gardner Ashleigh Dunnington
Andrea Colloway Diaz Gore, Jr. Tianna Hernandez Christopher Ryan Boles

Kelly Mandella Nicholas Dantini Gabriella Saleh Isabella Saleh Vanessa Saleh



As we continue through this pandemic and days of separation, I share this article with you that hopefully will bring a little peace and encouragement as we await the day when we can once again gather together for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. - Fr. David Keegan

Lessons to be learned from the Hidden Christians of Japan

Meg Hunter-Kilmer March 26, 2020

Father Bernard Petitjean must have been discouraged. He had dreamed of being another St. Francis Xavier, the Jesuit missionary who had brought the Gospel to Japan and laid the groundwork for hundreds of thousands of Japanese to be baptized. So when Japan had finally opened her borders after 250 years, Father Petitjean had high hopes for the Japanese people.

It had been two years. Nobody had come.

They had built a beautiful church. Nobody had come.

They had named it for the Japanese Martyrs, canonized only two years before, hoping that a reminder of their Christian ancestors might draw the hearts of the Japanese people. Nobody had come.

And that St. Patrick's Day, as he sat praying in his big, empty church, Father Petitjean may have been wondering just what he had been trying to do, waltzing into a country where the Faith had been so thoroughly eradicated and attempting to convert a people that clearly had no interest in the Gospel.

Around noon, Father Petitjean heard the sound of a small crowd outside the church. In a country where converting to Christianity remained a capital offense, where even contact with a missionary was illegal, the presence of 15 Japanese people at his door was intriguing. The young French priest invited them in.

Then, as he knelt for a moment before the high altar, Father Petitjean heard an urgent whisper in his ear: "We have the same heart as you!"

Startled, he turned to look at the speaker, a middle-aged woman.

"Who are you? Where are you from?" he asked.

"From Urakami," she said, naming a village only a few miles off. "There, almost all have the same heart." Then she asked, as though it was a question she'd longed to ask all her life, "Where is the statue of Santa Maria?" Father Petitjean was stunned. This woman knew the Blessed Mother. She was looking for a statue. Could it possibly be? Were they Christians, descendants of those men and women who had given their lives for the faith two and a half centuries before?

He led them to the statue of Our Lady, where the group knelt in prayer. Soon, though, they were surrounding him, with a series of very important questions. Did he follow the great ruler in Rome? Did he have children? On hearing his answers, the group was elated: they had waited for 250 years and finally, finally, their priests had come back to them!

They wept as they knelt before that statue. Imagine how they wept when they finally went to confession, after generations of having to settle for an act of contrition, when they received the Eucharist for the first time. Missionaries of Japan.

The Gospel had first been preached in Japan in 1549 and was generally tolerated (even embraced) by the ruling class. The persecutions began in 1587: minor at first, then deadly but localized, and eventually nationwide. By 1614 all missionaries had been expelled from the country and the Christians were being forced to decide between life and faith. For 25 years this persecution continued in earnest, slowing only after the 1639 martyrdom of Blessed Peter Kibe, the last known priest in Japan.

After that, there were only a handful of western priests who attempted to infiltrate the closed country. Each was captured immediately and either martyred or tortured into apostasy. The Christian problem, it seemed, had been solved. And though the government continued to require suspected Christians to trample on an image of Jesus, it was rather a cursory effort: Christianity had clearly been destroyed.

Catholicism without priests.

The government must have been just as surprised as Father Petitjean when tens of thousands of hidden Christians came out of the woodwork after that remarkable 1865 encounter in Nagasaki. These people weren't supposed to exist, and yet here they were, telling stories of secret baptisms and Marian images made to look like Buddhist goddesses. They recited "Latin" prayers that were barely intelligible to the western priests and sang hymns modeled on Buddhist chants as another layer of camouflage.

But they had appointed men as catechists, men to baptize and serve in a pastoral role, and others to keep the calendar. They abstained from meat on Fridays, observed Lent and Easter, even attempted to celebrate feast days. As best they could, they gave their children Saints' names. Many had resigned themselves to the need to deny their faith publicly, but they prayed acts of contrition, again and again, longing for the day when they would once again be able to receive sacramental absolution.

They knew the priests would return. They knew because the missionaries had promised, and they knew because a martyr named Bastian had prophesied in 1660 that after seven more generations, confessors would return to Japan. So they counted down the years until that fateful day in 1865 (seven generations later) when Father Petitjean received them at the church named for their ancestors.

Lessons of longing

As churches around the world lock their doors, leaving tens of thousands of priests celebrating Mass in empty chapels, attempting to livestream the holy sacrifice for their people, we would do well to ask the intercession of the Hidden Christians of Japan. For 25 years, they had only sporadic access to the Mass, and then only if they were willing to risk their lives.

For 225 years after that, there was no Mass. There was no confession. There was the hope that Mass was being celebrated somewhere on the planet, though they couldn't be sure. There was the promise that one day — one day — the priests would return. And with them, the sacraments.

So they prayed together by candlelight, murmuring words that brought comfort more than understanding. They remembered the Eucharist in ritualized meals of fish and rice and saké, all the while longing for the bread of life. And in each generation, the longing swelled their hearts more and more. Each whispered family legend of a time when their grandmother's grandmother's grandmother had been able to attend one Mass made the Hidden Christians of Japan hungrier, so hungry that even a statue of the Blessed Mother would move to tears a crowd of people who had survived for centuries on their ability to conceal their religious feelings.

But when the missionaries returned, not every Hidden Christian became Catholic. Half, it seems, felt that they were doing just fine on their own. The others gave their lives to be Catholic, several thousand of them being sent into exile just before Japan finally offered its citizens religious freedom. Some sources say that 20% of them died, martyrs who gained heavenly crowns scant months before Christians were given the freedom to worship. The question for us is: what will this sacramental famine do to us? Will we grow in longing and desire for Jesus, like the holy Hidden Christians who gave their lives for the Eucharist after centuries of hunger? Will we take every opportunity for adoration, for Mass, for confession? Will we hunger for Jesus even after this is all long over?

Or will we fade away, finding that a Sunday without an obligation is rather more peaceful?

May the martyred Hidden Christians of Japan pray for us, that like them we would learn to hunger for the sacraments. May this time of physical distance from the Lord draw us ever more deeply into his Sacred Heart.

Meg Hunter-Kilmer is a Catholic author and speaker. Visit her website at piercedhands.com.

https://www.osvnews.com/2020/03/26/lessons-to-be-learned-from-the-hidden-christians-of-japan/?fbclid=IwAR0Vf91bYZhb6GT5_sf388TIGymv0q6z9ot6S1APNKCIGoSBSJxeB3Vy56M

and here is a great lecture/conference on the Japanese Martyrs

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pp81rxaTcy8&feature=emb_logo