Church of the Holy Family

1279 North Great Neck Road
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454

Madonna with Baby and Angels, Giov. Batt. Salvi da Sassoferrato (1609-1685)

CHRISTMAS 2018

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

John 1:14

December 29/30, 2018
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH
Breviary Week I – p. 37

REMEMBER THE DEAD: Dolores Schiavo

PRAY FOR: Theresa Andrew, Susana Asercion, Dante Baral, Barbara, Marni Bill, "Babs" Boggs, Dick Carlson, William E. Coyle, Jr., Kiah Davis, Dawn Dodare, John Dunn, Susanne Dye, Michael Eaton, Brendan Feely, Pat and Jackie Feeley, Fred and Margie, Robert Garrison, The Ginley Family, Larry Goulet, Roger Hall, Kathleen Horey, Susan Kayota, Shannon Kelch, Connie Loschi, Lou Lucente, Thomas Lyver, Cheryl McLeskey, Debbie Merritt, Donald Miele, Maria Oakes, Lorraine Ondrasik, Joyce Palacios, Carrie Pfeiffer, Ryan Piotti, Marlene Riggins, Greg RioFrio, Piero Rosso, Francesca Rosso, Barbara Sack, Tonya Trimble, Johnny Vankemp, Gabriella Vianzone, Ken Watson, Martin White, Bill Wills

Some of the names to "pray for" have been in the bulletin for three months and are being removed this weekend. If you need prayers for you or your family members, please contact the Parish Office at 481-5702. These names will be in the bulletin for three months before being removed.

"Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you receive it, and you will." – Mark 11: 24

PRAYERLINE REQUESTS:

Please call the Parish Office at 481-5702.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday, December 30:
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph:
Sir 3:2-6,12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Lk 2:41-52
Monday, December 31: *Saint Sylvester I, pope:*
1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2,11-13; Jn 1:1-18
Tuesday, January 1: *Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God:*
Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Wednesday, January 2:
Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors of the church: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
Thursday, January 3: *The Most Holy Name of Jesus:*
1 Jn 2:29–3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
Friday, January 4: *Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious (USA):*
1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1,7-9; Jn 1:35-42
Saturday, January 5: *Saint John Neumann, bishop (USA):*
1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 1:43-51
Sunday, January 6: *The Epiphany of the Lord:*
Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30
Feast of the Holy Family Celebration (after the Masses)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31 – Office Closed

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1 – Office Closed
New Year's Day – Mass at 10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

J.O.Y. Club	11:00 a.m.
Boy Scouts	6:00 p.m.
Rosary	6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

K of C Rosary	7:00 p.m.
K of C Business Meeting	7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

Winter Clothing Drive Begins	
Patriotic Rosary	9:40 a.m.
Chaplet of Divine Mercy	9:45 a.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

Childbirth Lamaze Class	8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Reconciliation	4:30 p.m.
Rosary	5:00 p.m.

Feast of the Epiphany Celebration (after Mass)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6
Feast of the Epiphany Celebration (after the Masses)

Children's Liturgy of the Word	
Christian Formation K-5/Edge	9:30 a.m.
RCIA	9:30 a.m.
Adult Formation – "Psalms"	9:30 a.m.
LifeTeen	7:00 p.m.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 31: No Mass
Tuesday, January 1 – New Year's Day:
10:30 a.m. – Terry McElroy by The Servant Leadership Team
Wednesday, January 2: No Mass
Thursday, January 3: No Mass
Friday, January 4: No Mass
Saturday, January 5: Robert Freesmeier by William Freesmeier
Sunday, January 6:
8:15 a.m.: Holy Family Parishioners;
11:00 a.m.: James Kurkowski by The Chosen Ministry Group
FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY:
Please join us next Saturday at 5:00 p.m. to pray the Rosary.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday, from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;
Friday, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Fr. Eric Ayers, President; Joe Stefonowich, Chairperson; Kay Flohre, Vice-Chairperson; Audrey Douglas-Cooke, Secretary; Linda Baker; Kim Howell; "Mike" Jakubec; Mike O'Brien; Leah Rowland; Tom Rumely; Amy Schleicher (Youth Representative). ppc@holyfamilyvb.org.

FINANCE COUNCIL:

Fr. Eric Ayers, Paul Battaglia, Jill Broome, Buzz Crown, Stella Havens, Olive Lincoln, Dan Ryan, Rick Paradiso.

NEW EVANGELIZATION TEAM (NET):

Kathy Staskin, Chairperson; Mike DeJaeger, Andy Koch, Shannan LePage, Elizabeth Panchik, Tom Rumely; Cate Sleigh, Todd Solomon, Steve Winter, Fr. Eric Ayers. NET email: hfevangelization@gmail.com

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Budget 2018/2019 is $1,072,000.00. This includes Diocesan Schools Parish Sharing Assessment of $105,785.00.

December 15/16 Collection $22,079.36

Living Our Mission
funds will be devoted to parish share and programs throughout the diocese.

HAITI TEACHER 2 TEACHER (T2T) SPONSORS:

You will find green envelopes in a basket on the shelf in the Welcome Office. Please remember to always use a green envelope for your checks. We thank you for your support.

THE HOLY FAMILY MEN OF FAITH (HF-MOF)

is a group of men that educates and informs each other about our Church's teachings so we can grow in our relationship with Our Lord. This is a group where men can openly share their challenges, successes, and failures to help one another live in the most Christ-like way possible. The focus is on the development of our spiritual growth within us, our families, and communities, as well as the world around us. We meet the second Tuesday and the fourth Thursday of the month, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at Holy Family. For more information, contact Bob Breault at 610-360-6070 (cell); or bobbro1938@gmail.com, or Ron Batdorf at ronald.batdorf@gmail.com.

RECEIVING COMMUNION WHILE YOU ARE IN THE HOSPITAL:

If you or someone you know is in the hospital and would like to receive Communion on a Sunday, please notify the Church by calling the office at 757-481-5702 or sending an email to Alfie at pa1@holyfamilyvb.org

Holy Family Day School

Wise Men and Shepherds came to see Him. In a town filled with chaos, in an unlikely stable, the Savior of the World was born. We hope that in the midst of today's busy world, you and your family and friends are able to come together and find wonder and peace during this very special Season of Christmas.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas Season
and a Peaceful New Year!

PRAYERS FOR OUR COUNTRY AND THE MILITARY:

Every Friday, we say the Patriotic Rosary after morning Mass. Everyone is welcome. If you have a family member in the military and would like us to pray for them by name, please email Mary Sorrentino at mmsorrentino@gmail.com with their name and branch of service. Please remember that we still have military members in harm's way and keep them in your daily prayers.

MINISTRIES IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE:

Are you available on Sunday mornings? Do you like to meet people? If so, we have several vacancies on our Doughnut Hospitality Teams. We especially need help at the 11:00 a.m. Masses! If you are so moved to lend your time and talent to this ministry once a month, please contact Glenn in the Parish Office or email facilitiesdirector@holyfamilyvb.org.

HOLY FAMILY LEARNING & LEISURE

Our Next Scheduled Meeting on Thursday January 17, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., will feature our own Becky Marshall, a fellow parishioner, who will share her experiences and expertise as a licensed massage therapist. Come with your questions for Becky about what massage therapy can do for you.

L&L Hardboiled Egg Ministry:
• January 3 • January 17 • January 31

Please bring eggs before noon on Thursday.
(for Brother Charles to pick up).

Coming Attractions:
February 21 – Mr. John Quarstein will speak on the beginning of Hampton Roads Tourism, highlighting the Cavalier and Chamberlin Hotels.
March 4 – Tour and lunch at the Chamberlain Hotel

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

Council 10804

DUES ARE DUE

We are in the process of collecting dues and issuing new I.D. cards. Please be prompt with paying your dues so that we can get that behind us.

COUNCIL MEETING

Knights of Columbus Council 10804 monthly business meeting is held on the first Thursday of each month. The Rosary will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel and **all parishioners are invited.** The members only business meeting begins at 7:30 p.m., in the Family Room.

We invite all of the men in our Parish to join our Council and help us make a difference!

Grand Knight Scot Stratton (274-3208),
Chaplain Father Eric Ayers,
Membership Peter Frangenberg (481-1010)

Music Notes

MUSIC SCHEDULE

Solemnity of the Holy Family, December 29/30 (regular weekend schedule)

Parish Patronal Feast Day Celebration:

5:30 p.m. – Saturday Mass: Christmas Choir sings!

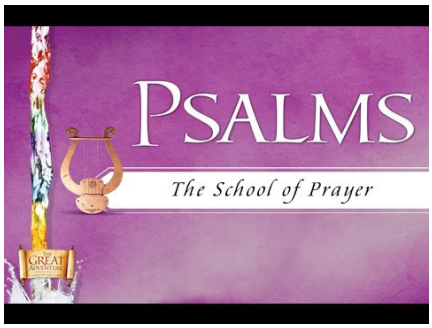
6:30 p.m. – Family Room Reception after Saturday Mass

7:30 p.m. – "Christmas Concert" in the Church by Allegra Havens, violin, **Harbor String Quartet,** and **Soprano Adrienne Kerr.** Come hear your favorite Christmas music, popular, sacred, classical, and carols for all. Bring visiting family, friends, and neighbors. No admission fee! (Donations are always welcome.)

LOOKING AHEAD: Christmas Choir sings Epiphany Sunday, January 6, at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Arrive 30 minutes before Mass for warm-up and review.

- No week night rehearsals for any choirs this week - Merry Christmas Break!
- Watch this column for January rehearsal start dates for all Music Ministry rehearsals.
- Can't wait? Email Sylvia Chapa at music@holyfamilyvb.org In January, I may be as slow as the proverbial molasses, but I promise I'll return your email with info on how you can join Music Ministry, ages 1st Grade through...?

WEEKLY WISDOM



Psalms: The School of Prayer

At the heart of the Bible are the Psalms, prayers from God that help us learn to pray. The Holy Spirit inspired them. Israel sang them. Christ himself prayed them, as did our Blessed Mother. These sacred hymns become our heartfelt response to God's loving and wondrous deeds for us. Their words captivate the imagination and draw us into a deeply personal encounter with God.

Join Jeff Cavins, Sarah Christmyer, and Dr. Tim Gray as they show you how to establish a deeply personal dialogue with God through the Psalms.

Join us for *"Psalms: The School of Prayer"* on Sundays between the Masses or Monday evenings beginning **January 27 at 9:30 a.m. or January 28 at 7:00 p.m.** Registration Forms can be found on the parish website or at the Parish Office.

It is Not Too Late to Join Us!

Women's Book Circle: Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 17, at 7:00 p.m. The book we will be discussing is "Hallelujah Anyway, Rediscovering Mercy" by Anne Lamott. **All are welcome!**

Women's Scripture Circle meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. We will be studying Ephesians through February 13, and beginning the Gospel of Luke February 27. Please join in at anytime.

For more information on the faith-sharing circles, contact Marie Sexton at 718-4147.

Have a blessed week, *Your AFF Team*

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS:

Are you called to serve the family of the Lord and share the Father's love as a priest? Call the Vocations Office at (804) 359-5661, to speak with Fr. Michael Boehling or Fr. Brian Capuano; or email vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

Catholic Diocese of Richmond

Office of the Bishop

Bishop Knestout encourages anyone aware of sexual abuse of minors on the part of clergy or staff of our Diocese to notify civil authorities, call the Attorney General's Clergy Abuse Hotline at 1-833-454-9064, and reach out to Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator Jennifer Sloan at 1-877-887-9603.

SAVE THE DATE
FEBRUARY 16, 2019

Come join us for the Fourth Holy Family Fun-Tastic Auction. There will be a Live Auction with a professional auctioneer, a Silent Auction, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and beverages. Many items will be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

We have already acquired the following items for the Auction:

- Beach House in Duck, N.C. – sleeps 14 for a week off-season
- 757 Sports Collectables
- 3-month membership to One Life Fitness
- Mr. Comfort Heating and Air Conditioning
- Quality Stone Concepts
- Bay Creek Resort and Club
- The Signature Golf Course
- Ramone Photography
- London Bridge Greenhouse and Nursery
- A Dinner Party for 6 prepared by our own Father Eric

We would appreciate your help with donations. Do you have a vacation rental or a time share? Do you have a service that you can donate? Can you get a gift card from a restaurant, animal groomer, hair salon, gift shop, etc? Do you have any jewelry or unneeded new or like-new items? Rugs are acceptable if in good condition.

Tickets will go on sale after Mass on the weekends of January 26/27. The presale price of tickets will be $20.00 per person. The price at the door will be $25 per person.

If you have a donation or question, please call John or Pat Wiersch at (757) 463-2263. Watch the bulletin for more details.

The Auction Committee

PRAYER LINE PHONE TREE MINISTRY:

Holy Family has a Prayer Line Ministry which consists of a phone tree that is used to pass on critical situations, which are in need of prayer. If you or a family member or a loved one are in need of prayer, please call the Parish Office at 481-5702, and ask to be put on the Prayer Line Phone Tree. If you would like, please share a little about your critical situation that needs prayer.

If you have asked to be on the Prayer Line Phone Tree and prayers have been answered, let us know so that we can pass on a "Praise Report."

"Whatever you ask in prayer,
believe that you receive it, and you will."
~ Mark 11:24

LEGACY GIVING PROGRAM:

Giving to your parish through your will is a wonderful way to continue your stewardship beyond your lifetime.

For more information on the Church of the Holy Family Legacy Giving Program, contact Steven Winter (Legacy Giving Chairperson) at edgewaterw@aol.com or swinter@edgewaterasset.com.

ONLINE GIVING:

Online Giving is available for your Tithes and for your donations to the Capital Fund. You may make your donation through your bank account, Master Card, or Visa card. This service is not available for American Express or Discovery Credit Cards.

You can sign up on Holy Family's website. There are also forms in the Front Office and in the Commons which you can complete for processing.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY COLUMBARIUM

Our Columbarium offers inurnment niches for companion (2), shared (2), or single (1). Since each niche is manufactured to hold two urns, the cost of one niche is the same whether inurnment is for one or two urns. The current cost for one niche is $2,000.00.

Only cremated human remains will be inurned in the Church of the Holy Family Columbarium.

Application forms are available outside the Welcome Office, or by contacting our Columbarium Custodian, Stella Havens, at 481-5702.

BULLETIN:

The deadline for bulletin notices is Mondays at 9:30 a.m. Please submit to Carla, the Parish Secretary. Any inserts will need to be digital as everything is emailed to the publishing company.

LOW-GLUTEN COMMUNION HOSTS:

For those who require special dietary restrictions, we now have low-gluten communion hosts (approved by the USCCB). Please contact Alfie in the Parish Office for further instructions on how to receive low-gluten hosts at communion each weekend.

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETINGS

are held every first and third Sundays at New Creation Renewal Center, 1600 Elbow Road, Chesapeake, at 3:30 p.m. The prayer meeting is open to all. Come join your brothers and sisters for praise and worship, a time to hear the Lord speak, intercessory prayer, and a short teaching. There are prayer teams available afterwards for anyone desiring individual prayer. For more information, call Ron or Terry Hughes at (757) 587-1352. The prayer meeting is sponsored by New Creation Community, a Catholic, charismatic fellowship of members from various parishes in the area. New Creation Community belongs to the Catholic Fraternity recognized by the Vatican. www.ncccharismaticcommunity.org

THE CHOSEN MINISTRY is a ministry dedicated to ministering to persons (middle school to adults of any age) who experience disabilities. We learn that we are all "chosen" to serve God, and God loves all of us just as we are. We have Holy Family *The Chosen Ministry* gatherings the first three Mondays of the month, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., during the school year. Our next meeting is **Monday, January 7, at 6:30 p.m.** For more information, contact Susie Stefonowich at 342-8540 or parishadvocate@gmail.com.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH COVERAGE:

Did you know that affordable health coverage is now available for all Virginians, regardless of the income level? To apply or learn more, go to www.coverva.org, or call 1-855-242-8282.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT FOR HEALING AFTER ABORTION:

A Rachel's Vineyard Weekend Retreat will be held January 25-27, at The Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center in Toano, Virginia, sponsored by St. Joan of Arc Church. The weekend retreat includes Spiritual Exercises, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service, and a Mass of Entrustment. This retreat is available to women, men, and anyone adversely affected by an abortion. Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness, and compassion. To register, contact Linda Riva at 757-887-3144 or email lindaj2@yahoo.com

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:

Start the new year out right by enriching your marriage at the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. It is a weekend for married Christian couples who value their relationship and desire a richer, fuller life together. The next weekends are March 1-3, 2019, in Hickory, North Carolina and March 22-24, 2019, in Herndon, Virginia.

Early sign-up is recommended. For more information, visit our website at https://renewmarriage-vasouth.org/, or contact us at applications@renewmarriage-vasouth.org or 757-690-1369.

"CREATION CARE CORNER:"

As we are about to begin a New Year, let us reflect on our place in the world with a beautiful poem by Joyce Rupp.

"It Is Possible"

it is possible
to become so one
with Earth
that every flower
perfumes the soul,

every snowflake sends icy softness
dancing through veins,

every drop of rain
trickles down vessels
of the heart,

every cloud in the sky
sails along
the songliness of the spirit,

every earthquake
rumbles in the gut,
every tide of the sea
moves in and out of self,

it is possible
to become one
with Earth,

just as it is possible
to become one
with all people,
their pain, my pain,
their joy, my joy,
their struggle and delight
an echo of my own.

It is possible to become one.

It is possible.

"The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a common concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can bring change."

~ Pope Francis, Laudato Si'

A History of the Holy Family Statue

By Frank Coyle

"The beauty of the images moves me to contemplation, as a meadow delights the eyes and subtly infuses the soul with the glory of God." -- St. John of Damascus

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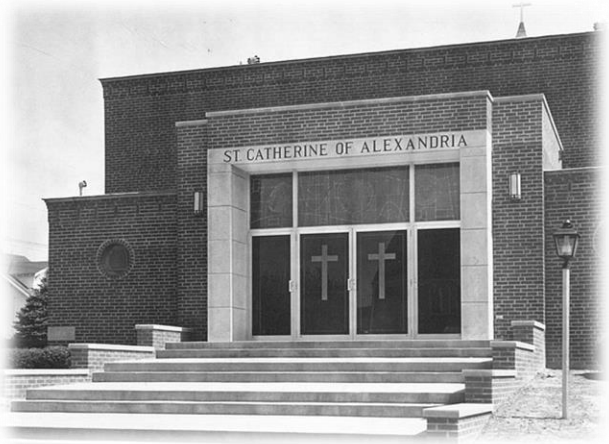
Upon assuming his pastorate at Church of the Holy Family in Virginia Beach, Rev. Eric Ayers resolved that a statue of the Holy Family would be a fitting and appropriate adornment for the church. In late 2017, he procured a plaster statue depicting Mary, Joseph, and the Lord Jesus as a child. The statue is prominently displayed in the narthex of the church where it greets parishioners and visitors and reminds them of our church's foundation.

Fr. Eric bought the statue from A. T. Merhaut Inc., a company located near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania that sells church supplies, restores statuary and stained glass, refinishes metalware, and manages consignments for churches that are closing. In 1959, Albert Thomas Merhaut began a career as a salesman for a church supply company called Templegate. Ten years later, Mr. Merhaut bought Templegate and renamed it A. T. Merhaut Church Books & Supplies. Today, Mr. Merhaut and his wife are retired, but the company remains in the family with four of their nine children and several grandchildren running the business.

Merhaut acquired our Holy Family statue from St. Catherine of Alexandria church in Leechburg, Pennsylvania. St. Catherine's was established in 1872 and became a full-fledged parish in 1906. Following WWII, the parish built a new church and joined the Diocese of Greensburg. It is unknown when St. Catherine's acquired the statue, or why they chose the Holy Family theme, but according to the diocesan archivist, the parish probably obtained it shortly after construction of their new church in the early 1950s. St. Catherine's closed in 1999 merging into other parishes in the Greensburg diocese.



St. Catherine of Alexandria Church
Leechburg, Pennsylvania (circa. 1952)

Over the years, the Holy Family statue suffered from the effects of time. Sunlight, candle smoke, and casual touching caused soot and dirt contamination, peeling paint, discoloration, and some damage. In need of restoration, Merhaut turned to skilled artist Mary Elizabeth Birkos who has been working with the company for over thirty years. Mary is an expert in the wall application of Venetian plaster, faux stone, marble and various metallic

finishes. In 2001, she began restoration of the statue and worked to replicate its original paint scheme. To see more examples of her work, visit her website: www.ecclesiastical-artist.com.

Daprato Bros. & Co.
106 Vanburen St., Chicago, IL (circa. 1895)

Merhaut believes our statue was made by Daprato, a company in Chicago specializing in church renovation and ecclesiastical design. In 1860, four brothers from the Tuscan town of Barga immigrated to Chicago and established Daprato Bros. & Co. The men, all sculptors, began fabricating, furnishing, and selling figurines and statuettes to the general public. In 1881, their younger cousin, John E. Rigali, left Italy at age sixteen to begin his apprenticeship under the Dapratos after completing training with the renowned instructor, Maestro Colognieri of Florence. As Rigali learned the business, he suggested the company transition from making novelty statuettes to supplying churches with altars and statuary.

In 1884 Rigali became a partner and in 1890, he became president of the company. He oversaw its growth into a worldwide ecclesiastical art producer and distributor. In 1909, His Holiness Pope St. Pius X bestowed the title, "Pontifical Institute of Christian Art" upon the Daprato studios. The company is famous for its interior church design and architecture and especially for its magnificent altars.

By 1917, Daprato had operations in Chicago, New York, Montreal, and Pietrasanta, Italy, near the famous Italian Carrara Marble Quarry, which is still a source for many of its marble projects. In 1960 the company took the name Daprato Rigali Studios.

Daprato Roman Altar (circa. 1900s)

An interesting footnote is the work Daprato Rigali completed for the University of Notre Dame. The company was commissioned to install statues of the football team's championship coaches at Notre Dame stadium. Joseph Rigali (son of John E. Rigali) was a member of the 1924

National Championship team under Knute Rockne and Robert Rigali Sr. (a grandson) was a member of the 1953 Championship team under Frank Leahy. Both men played halfback. After graduation they joined the family business.

John E. Rigali (1920)

John E. Rigali died in 1936 but the company is still family run offering marble, stained glass, wood, statuary, and custom decorative painting to complement their altars. They also specialize in restoration and conservation of churches, basilicas, and cathedrals. Fourth generation Rigali family members - Bob, John, Mike and Elizabeth - are skilled artists who also manage the company. Visit their web site to see examples of Daprato Rigali artistry and craftsmanship: www.dapratorigali.com.

Further confirmation that our statue of the Holy Family is indeed a Daprato creation comes from the archives of Orlandi Statuary, another Chicago company. According to Merhaut, Orlandi acquired rights to lines of Daprato statuary and began making molds from many of the original plaster castings. Since Orlandi only casts statues in fiberglass, a plaster casting of the Holy Family statue would have been a Daprato creation.

A record of our statue's manufacture is not available from Daprato, however based on existing company information and newspaper reports of the era, the Holy Family statue was

Daprato plaster prior to painting

Daprato plaster original painting

Orlandi painted fiberglass

likely designed by Mr. Marcello Rebechini and cast by Mr. Tom Tsubone in the 1930s or 1940s. Both men were longtime employees of Daprato and each had sole responsibility for creating scale models sculpted from wet clay and casting statuary in plaster. Slight variations between the Daprato original, the Orlandi recreations, and our statue may be attributed to repairs made to the statue and irregularities that occur during subsequent re-castings.

The unveiling of our statue occurred during the Feast of the Holy Family on the weekend of December 30 and 31, 2017 with Rev. Eric Ayers presiding assisted by Deacon Robert May. We are grateful to have this beautiful statue in our church and thankful for Father Eric's foresight in acquiring it. And, we pray that present and future generations of Holy Family parishioners will continue to appreciate its presence and be inspired by its beauty.

The Holy Family Statue
Church of the Holy Family, Virginia Beach, VA

Sources

- www.dapratorigali.com - Website accessed October and November 2018
- www.ecclesiastical-artist.com - Website accessed October 2018
- Correspondence between author and A. T. Merhaut, Inc., October 2018
- Phone conversation between author and Margaret DiVirgilio, Chancellor, Human Resources Director, and Archivist, Diocese of Greensburg, PA, November 16, 2018
- *Skills of Many Artists Required in Making Religious Statuary*, The Chicago Tribune, April 9, 1950

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