Church OF THE Holy Family A Catholic Church

Weekend Masses Saturday 5:30 p.m.

Saturday 5:30 p.m. Sunday 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Holy Family Day School 757-481-1180

Morning Prayer & Daily Mass

Tuesday-Friday 9:30 a.m. Reconciliation Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.

The Room Inside the Chapel

1279 North Great Neck Road Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454

757-481-5702 • Fax 757-481-3989 www.holyfamilyvb.org

Welcome – If you are new to our church or just visiting, we are pleased to have you share in this celebration of the Eucharist. If you would like to join our parish, registration is held in the Welcome Office after all Masses.

Wedding Policy – <u>Six months</u> before the wedding, the couple should meet with the pastor, **before** the wedding dates are selected. At least one member of the family should be a member of our parish.

Baptism Policy – Parents must be registered parishioners and attend a Baptism Class before their child may be baptized. Expectant mothers are encouraged to attend. The class is for parents only – baby-sitting is not provided.

Funeral Policy – Funerals are scheduled Tuesday-Saturday. We discourage funerals Sundays and Mondays. Participation by other priests and deacons must have prior approval of current pastor.

Parish Servant Leadership Team

Church of the Holy Family Pastoral Vision

The Church of the Holy Family is dedicated to manifesting the joy of the Gospel and enriching every individual's Spiritual relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. The Church of the Holy Family Ministries dedicate themselves in service to our Parish Community, building a just society, and outreach to those in need.

Fr. René R. Castillo – Pastor
Rev. Mr. Bob May – Parish Deacon
Brian Alexander – Social Justice Coordinator
Sylvia Chapa – Director of Music Ministries
Stella Havens – Bookkeeper
Tanya Manns – Pastoral Minister
Jeff Mingin – Youth Minister
Laurie Powers – Admin. Assistant
Carla Schneider – Parish Secretary
Mark Stinard – Facilities Director
Tiffany Watson – Director of Rel. Ed.

Cindy Girard - Day School Director





August 15/16, 2020 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Breviary Week IV – p. 257

PRAY FOR: Theresa Andrew, Susana Asercion, Patty Backus, Lennie Bano, Jennifer Wright Case, Bryan Cohen, Tucker Davis, JoAnn DeJaeger, Ryleigh Derrick, Betty Doherty, John Dunn, Michael Eaton, Brendan Feeley, Dalton Fox and Family, Robert Garrison, The Ginley Family, Christina Gordon, Gail Grabowski, Kenneth Gregory, Sr. Nancy Healy, George Heath, Kathleen Horey, Phyllis Hosier, Theresa Hughes, Susan Kayota, Shannon LePage, Louis Liene, Tony and Tess Liene, Connie Loschi, Thomas Lyver, Cheryl McLeskey, Doris Maviglia, Debbie Merritt, Christopher Miele, Sandy Nuzum, Maria Oakes, Margaret Panzarino, Jon Perry, Ryan Piotti, Daniel Rafferty, Richard "Dirk" Rigney, Mary Romano, Dan Ryan, Jr., Lorraine Stagg, Mark Staff, Tracey Sullivan, Tonya Trimble, Andrea Valerio, Ken Watson, LaRue Wright

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

BULLETIN PRAYER REQUESTS:

Please call the Parish Office at 481-5702.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday, August 16: Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time:
Is 56:1,6-7; Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28
Monday, August 17: Ez 24:15-24; (Ps) Dt 32:18-21; Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday, August 18: Ez 28:1-10; (Ps) Dt 32:26-28, 30, 35c-36b; Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday, August 19: Saint John Eudes, priest: Ez 34:1-11; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 20:1-16

Thursday, August 20: *Saint Bernard, abbot, doctor of the church:* Ez 36:23-28; Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; Mt 22:1-14

<u>Friday, August 21</u>: *Saint Pius X, pope*: Ez 37:1-14; Ps 107:2-9; Mt 22:34-40

Saturday, August 22: *The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary:* Ez 43:1-7ab; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Mt 23:1-12

<u>Sunday, August 23</u>: *Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time:* Is 22:19-23; Ps 138:1-3, 6, 8; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday – 5:30 p.m. Sunday – 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday Evening – 6:30 p.m.

Morning Weekday – 9:30 a.m. Tuesday through Friday

Sign up on Flocknote or by calling the Parish Office (757-481-5702)

(10:30 a.m. Mass also Live-Streamed) See Church of the Holy Family Facebook for more information. **EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS:** If you have an emergency and call the Church Office at 757-481-5702, please follow the directions on the phone as to what number to call for what emergency. Do not call the number listed for the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick if you need Financial Assistance. There is separate number for Financial Assistance.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

<u>Note</u>: Some Mass Intentions may have had to be moved or changed after the Bulletin was published. We apologize for this inconvenience and appreciate your patience and understanding.

Mon., August 17: No Mass

Tue., August 18: 9:30 a.m.: Mass; 6:30 p.m.: Mass Wed., August 19: Connie Lynch + and Rae Dilieto +

by Maggie Diviny **Thu., August 20:** Mass

Fri., August 21: Marco Benedetto by The Benedetto Family

<u>Sat., August 22</u>: 5:30 p.m.: Intentions of Holy Family Parishioners <u>Sun., August 23</u>: 8:15 a.m.: Intentions of Holy Family Parishioners; 10:30 a.m. (also live-streamed): Intentions of Holy Family Parishioners

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS:

"Woman, you have great faith." It takes faith to hear God's call in our lives. And His call takes us on unexpected paths of deeper trust and love. Is God calling you to life as sister, brother, deacon or priest? Call the Vocations Office, at (804) 359-5661, or email vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP TEAM EMAILS:

Fr. René R. Castillo, Pastor – <u>pastor2019@holyfamilyvb.org</u> Rev. Mr. Bob May, Deacon – <u>deacon@holyfamilyvb.org</u> Brian Alexander, Social Justice Coordinator –

socialjustice@holyfamilyvb.org

Sylvia Chapa, Music Director – music@holyfamilyvb.org
Stella Havens, Bookkeeper – bookkeeper@holyfamilyvb.org
Tanya Manns, Pastoral Minister – pal@holyfamilyvb.org
Jeff Mingin, Youth Minister – youthminister@holyfamilyvb.org
Laurie Powers, Receptionist – reception@holyfamilyvb.org
Carla Schneider, Parish Secretary – secretary@holyfamilyvb.org
Mark Stinard, Facilities Director –

facilitiesdirector@holyfamilyvb.org

Tiffany Watson, DRE - DRE@holyfamilyvb.org

Cindy Girard, Day School Director –

dayschoolprincipal@holyfamilyvb.org

Rev. Mr. Bob Durel, Retired Deacon, Pastoral Care Coordinator – robertdurel@gmail.com

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Fr. René Castillo, Pastor; 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. René Castillo, Pastor; Paul Battaglia, Chairperson – pbattaglial@gmail.com; Jill Broome; Buzz Crown; Stella Havens; Ray Michelini; David Reda; Dan Ryan; Rick Paradiso.

NEW EVANGELIZATION TEAM (NET):

Tom Rumely, Chairperson; Mike DeJaeger, Elizabeth Panchik, Cate Sleigh, Todd Solomon, Steve Winter, Fr. René Castillo. NET email: hfevangelization@gmail.com.

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.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Budget 2020/2021 is \$ 988,458.00.

Week ending August 8/9, 2020

Weekly Total Collection	\$	27,005.24
Weekly Budget	\$	19,008.81
Week over Budget	>\$	7,996.43<
Month-to-Date Collection	\$	100,638.55
Budget for 6 weeks	\$	114,052.86
Month over Budget	>\$	7,996.43<
Year under Budget	<\$	13,414.31>
Social Ministry:	\$	1,860.00
Haiti Fund:	\$	662.50
Capital Reserve:	\$	1,343.79

Make your stewardship easy with e-giving. Have your contribution taken from your bank account or charged to your credit card. See "Online Donation" on the Parish website: htts://holyfamilyvb.org/. Contact Stella Havens in the Parish Office if you have questions.

HOLY FAMILY MEN OF FAITH ARE ZOOMING:

Due to the current crisis, we now meet on the internet using Zoom, an application designed to support online group meetings. Lon Scofield (contact info below) will be happy to help you get set up for our next on-line meeting. It's easy, fun, and safe. If you're interested in inquiring about us:

- We Men of Faith are ordinary Catholic men who seek a closer relationship with God.
- We meet on the second Tuesday and the fourth Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. to support and encourage one another on our spiritual journey. Note: Currently meeting via Zoom.
- We preview the Mass readings for the following Sunday and discuss how to apply their lessons to our daily lives.
- We also read and discuss spiritual books to help us focus on our daily interactions with others in our families and communities at large.
- We join the universal Church in praying and reaching out to our brothers and sisters in need.
- If you'd like to meet with other men who are seeking to improve their spiritual journey, come join us, or call or contact for more information:

Ron Batdorf at <u>ronald.batdorf@gmail.com</u>, or Bob Breault at <u>bobbro1938@gmail.com</u> or (610) 360- 6070, or Lon Scofield at 757-635-3613 or <u>scofvb@verizon.net</u>

Weekly Wisdom



Have you ever wondered about having an object blessed by the priest. It is not uncommon for people to bring their sacramental objects like a Rosary, or cross to a priest to be blessed, but what else can be blessed? Amazingly, just about anything can be blessed. Your car, motorcycle, home, or pet can be blessed. In New England, fishery fleets are blessed. What better way to bring Jesus closer to us, than to have a priest or deacon bless these special objects in our lives.

Now, to be "blessed" did not merely mean to be "set apart." It meant to be set apart for something. There is no virtue in simply being different. Israel was holy because it was set apart for the Lord. To be blessed (or to have an object blessed) is to be set apart for a purpose. Another way to word it: To be blessed is to be set apart for God's purposes. It is not simply to be "removed from use," but to be "elevated to a higher purpose and use." You could also think of the term "consecrated." In this sense, you could see how certain people or things were "consecrated" for a purpose: how Samson and John the Baptist were both consecrated from the womb, or how the altar in the Temple was consecrated for the worship of God.

When we bring forth an object or a person to be blessed, we are presenting that person or thing to God so that (by the power of the Holy Spirit and the invocation of the name of Jesus), they would be set apart for God's purposes. For example, many people will ask me if I can bless their cross on a chain or a bracelet. When they bring it to me, it is merely jewelry. But after it is blessed, it ceases to be jewelry that is nothing more than an accessory to one's outfit: That object has been set apart for a purpose. It will still be worn like jewelry, but the purpose for which it is worn has been changed because the object has been consecrated for a higher purpose. In the case of the cross around one's neck, the higher use is that it will, from then on, only point to Christ and his saving death and resurrection. Why do we do this, though? Why bless all of these ordinary objects around us? We do this for the simple reason that we are very much like ancient Israel. Our tendency is also to want to be just like everyone else. Having all of these reminders around us that have been consecrated to the Lord assists us and reminds us that we too have been consecrated to God." Fr. Mike Schmitz

It is Not Too Late to Join Us!

The Women's Book Circle meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome! **Note: Canceled until further notice.**

The Women's Scripture Circle meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. Note: Canceled until further notice.

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

Have a blessed week, Your AFF Team

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Holy Family Day School



Holy Family Day School is missing the children and teachers! To help us stay connected, the teachers have recorded favorite stories for the children and their families to listen to. You can visit our facebook page, too! We hope your families enjoy the stories. Please like our page! https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilydayschoolvb.

Enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year is open now. If you would like more information, please call the office at 757-481-1180. You can also visit our website for more information at www.holyfamilydaschool.org.

Holy Family

Learning & Leisure meets every third Thursday at 10:00 a.m.







<u>L & L Hardboiled Egg inistry</u> Note: Canceled until further notice.

2020 BAPTISM CLASSES AND DATES

Baptism Class: Thursday, August 27, 6:30 p.m.

Baptism Date: Saturday, September 5 at 5:30 p.m. Mass and Sunday, September 6 at the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Masses

Baptism Class: Thursday, October 8, 6:30 p.m.

Baptism Date: Saturday, October 17 at 5:30 p.m. Mass and

Sunday, October 18 at the 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Masses

If you are interested in attending a Baptism Class, please register with Tiffany at <u>DRE@holyfamilyvb.org</u> or 757-937-8144. We ask that you include your selected Mass time from the listed Baptism weekends with your registration.



BICENTENNIAL PRAYER

Father of lights,

the radiance of Your Son has guided the advance of the Gospel across the Diocese of Richmond for two centuries, strengthening our Church from the Eastern Shore to the Cumberland Gap.
Grant that the nearness of Your Son may dispel the darkness of our sins, so that as our love increases more and more, we may dare more than ever to fearlessly proclaim the word.

Holding fast to the word of life, may we shine like stars in the world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.



During this time of COVID-19 restrictions, the Alzheimer's Association SEVA Chapter is offering caregiver support groups online/by phone. To find the schedule and to register, go to: https://www.alz.org/seva/events.

Scroll to *Browse Events by Type*, then click on *Support Groups*. Scroll to find upcoming groups. Click on the date you prefer. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click *Register Now*. If you need more information, contact Janet Hellmann at (757) 617-2691.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

Council 10804



Knight of the Month: Jim McCaddin **Family of the Month:** Brian and Renee Alexander

Congratulations to Jim, Brian & Renee, and thank you for all you do!

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. **Note: Currently meeting via Zoom.**

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

Grand Knight ~ Bella Ah-Hing Membership ~ Joe Stefonowich Chaplain ~ Fr. René Castillo



Catholic Diocese of Richmond

Office of the Bishop

August 3, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With so much happening this year and all that we've encountered as a faith community, I write this letter to connect and communicate with you on an important announcement from the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The matter centers on the issue that remains of utmost importance – the universal Church's ongoing responsibility to address the protection of children.

As a new pastoral year approaches in the fall, this responsibility necessitates we consistently review our efforts in our promise to provide a safe environment through transparency, accountability and enforcement of rigorous policies and procedures especially in our diocese. By God's grace and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we continue to do all we can at restoring the trust of our faithful.

As part of that effort to rebuild trust, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) on July 16, 2020, published a *Vademecum*, or instruction manual, which provides specific guidance and procedural steps to bishops, religious superiors and others when governing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by clergy.

Why is this manual significant? The document provides best practices and step-by-step guidelines to dioceses worldwide. This handbook does not alter Church law. However, it is a critical tool and a substantial step forward in the universal Church's responsibility to protect our most vulnerable members.

This initiative is a follow-up to the Vatican summit held in February 2019 regarding the protection of minors and the need for further stringent procedures of accountability, especially for bishops, resulting from the grave sins of the actions and inactions of Church leaders. As we await the report from the Vatican on Theodore McCarrick, we recognize the importance of putting such measures into effect.

As you are aware, Pope Francis promulgated Vatican norms for the Church's handling of sex abuse in May 2019 by a motu proprio, titled, "Vos estis lux mundi" ("You are the light of the world"). Within that apostolic letter, one of the measures called for the establishment of a "metropolitan model" for the investigation of accusations of sexual misconduct against bishops and their peers.

I joined my brother bishops in approving the U.S. implementation of the directive in June 2019. Our diocesan website contains more information on the <u>protocols</u> for reporting abuse against bishops and about the nationwide service. I remind you that **ANY** report of child sexual abuse must be reported immediately to law enforcement and then to our <u>diocese</u>.

So where are we within our diocese concerning response and actions of accountability? I promised you, the faithful, of my commitment to address this wound in our local Church and to further our journey of spiritual renewal and reform. Please allow me to update you on the various mechanisms put into place within the last 18 months in our diocese:

• In June 2019, the Richmond Diocese established and began using a third-party, independent, hotline system called **EthicsPoint**. This independent reporting service allows clergy, religious, employees, volunteers, parishioners, vendors and other interested parties confidentially to report concerns about suspected financial or ethical misconduct and misuse of resources.

- High standards of professional behavior from our clergy, employees and volunteers are always expected.
 Effective March 28, 2020, I promulgated the <u>Code of Ethical Conduct</u> to strengthen and set a clear expectation of the core values and behavior that is consistent with Catholic Church teachings and required of all clergy, religious, employees and volunteers.
- In the ongoing promise in our local Church to help survivors with their healing, I directed a full audit of our clergy files by an independent entity and in February 2019, published the <u>names of clergy</u> with a credible and substantiated accusation of sexual abuse of a minor. This is be updated as required and includes the past assignments of our named diocesan clergy.
- One of the aspects to reconcile the sins in our local Church and repair the damage that has been done is the establishment of the <u>Independent Reconciliation Program (IRP)</u>. It was established to assist victim survivors who were sexually abused as minors by Catholic clergy. The program, announced in February 2020, is independently administered and remains ongoing.
- Our <u>Diocesan Review Board</u>, which consists of lay individuals, religious and clergy, continues to review all allegations of child sexual abuse by Church personnel and recommends actions to be taken.
- In my continuous commitment for greater involvement of the laity and co-responsibility of the care of our Church, the <u>Diocesan Pastoral Council</u> was formed and met for the first time in August 2019. The council is one of several advisory bodies that provides valuable counsel to me and reflects the voice of the lay faithful on important matters of policy, pastoral initiatives and pastoral planning. The council is composed of nine men and nine women selected for their parish experience and leadership. They are representative of the diocese's 15 deaneries.
- Our seminarians have the opportunity of studying at some of the best seminaries in order to prepare themselves academically, pastorally and spiritually for their <u>life of ministry</u>. They undergo careful psychological assessments, training on child protection and reporting policies in our diocese, establishing expectations and guidelines for reporting sexual harassment as well as management courses in order to develop skills to serve as effective leaders in the Church.
- Through the <u>VIRTUS</u>® *Protecting God's Children for Adults* Program, all clergy, religious and employees are required to receive preventative and educational training that provides proactive measures on the issue of child sexual abuse. Volunteers who regularly work with children and youth are also required to take this training.

Please know I continue to hold in my heart the hurt and pain victim survivors have shared with me about the enormously profound impact these grave violations of sacred trust have had on their lives, and I will always do so. I continue to emphasize that our response will always be about what we are doing, not simply about what we have done. As we tend to the wound still healing in our Church, please join me in continuous prayer.

May the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God grant me and all in leadership understanding and strength as we continue to rebuild the sacred trust of our faithful.

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout

Bishop of Richmond

Music Notes J J

Holy Family Ringers: Weather permitting, see you August 20 at 6:45 p.m. in the back parking lot for our handbell practice while masked and safely distanced a parking space apart.

JJJ

<u>Children's Choir & Teen Singers</u>: SUNDAY, August 16 and 23 at 12:30 p.m. Keep those voices singing & let's solfege our Do Re Mi creations!

Parish Choir: Check your Email for the latest links, and keep singing!



Questions about Music Ministry? Email Director of Music Ministries Sylvia Chapa or call 757-481-5702, ext. 124.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Hey, would you like to help out with lawn mowing and yard work? We are in need of volunteers for the summer Grass Cutting and Lawn Maintenance Ministry. If you can help, please contact Mark at 481-5702 or email facilitiesdirector@holyfamilyvb.org.

BICENTENNIAL BOOK AVAILABLE:

The Diocese of Richmond has created a beautiful commemorative book, "Shine Like Stars" to celebrate its Bicentennial Year. This book highlights our two hundred year history with text, pictures, and profiles of our nearly 150 parishes. You can purchase this commemorative book in our Parish Office for \$35.00.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HOLY FAMILY PRAYER LINE MINISTRY:

The Prayer Line Ministry is a group of volunteers who use a "Phone Tree" to pass on prayer requests. There is a Day Time "Phone Tree" (for those who are available to take and make calls during the day) and a Night Time "Phone Tree" (for those who are only available in the evening). You can choose which one you would like to be on.

Here's how our Prayer Line works: The prayer request is activated when a call is placed to the Parish Office. Then the Prayer Line Coordinator starts the Day List and the Night List. Once a call is received, the volunteer passes the name and prayer request to the next person on the "Phone Tree" list. Please note that this ministry is especially for critical situations. The name of the person to pray for can also be added to the Bulletin prayer request list.

During these uncertain times and while we are "sheltering in place" and staying home, this is a safe way to be involved in church ministry. If you are interested, please call the Parish Office at 757-481-5702 and leave your name, phone number, and email address. If you are a current Prayer Line minister, please confirm that you are still interested in continuing to be a volunteer.

Please prayerfully consider being a part of this important ministry that enables miracles to happen through the power of prayer.

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



American Red Cross

Together, we can save a life

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE AT HOLY FAMILY:

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive here at Holy Family on Wednesday, August 19, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. To sign up, go to www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: CHF, or contact Georgia at 408-2326. NEW! All blood donations are now tested for COVID-19 antibodies. The test results will be available within 7 to 10 days after your successful donation.



HAITI UPDATE AUGUST

What's new with our sister parish in Baptiste Haiti?



After Mass, the children of St. Jude Baptiste Haiti were treated to a snack and a drink. What a beautiful picture of Joy in the Lord. (Holy Family version of doughnuts and coffee) Somethings are universal. St. Jude is facing the same questions of reopening schools. The early plan is to reopen schools in person. Virtual learning obviously is not an option. A final decision has not been made by the Dioceses of Hinche. Holy Family parishioners sponsor five schools and their forty teachers. We will continue to support the teachers. Please pray for their safety and their continued spiritual growth. The Haiti Committee of Holy Family will keep you informed about the latest developments in Baptiste Haiti.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our twinning parish in Baptiste Haiti.

Contact Brian Alexander <u>socialjustice@holyfamilyvb.org</u> for more information about the Holy Family Haiti Committee. The Haiti Committee meets (on Zoom) at 7:00 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 8. Contact Brian for Zoom invitation. God Bless!



JOIN THE EDGE TEAM

Do you like working with the youth of our parish? Are you looking for a way to become more involved in your parish community? Then the **EDGE** Team is the ministry for you! Please consider giving of your time and talent to the middle school youth of the parish. EDGE is a dynamic, engaging, and fun youth program designed specifically for middle school students. We are looking to grow our team of dedicated catechists. Come join the fun! Interested? Contact Tiffany for more information at 937-8144 or <u>DRE@holyfamilyvb.</u> org.

"CREATION CARE CORNER:"

In our fight against climate change, I believe it is helpful to periodically be reminded of the actions we can take. A reminder can sometimes find us in a different frame of mind or life circumstances, which leave us more open to implement the action(s), if we have not already done it. Hopefully, these following reminders will challenge you to apply yourselves even more in your efforts to reduce your carbon footprint:

- We need to work at <u>eliminating food waste</u>, which mostly occurs in stores and at home. A study by the Natural Resources Defense Council indicates that Americans throw away up to a whopping 40% of the food they buy. Ways to combat this waste are to shop only for what is needed, eating leftovers, composting scraps, and donating excess to food banks.
- Change to a more <u>plant-based diet</u>, which can cut our footprint in half or even shifting from high to low meat consumption.
- By participating in the <u>democratic process</u>, we decide by our vote who will support comprehensive climate policies and contacting your legislators when you disagree.
- <u>Taking our money out</u> of institutions that fund fossil fuel industries, which are the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Choosing to buy less or not at all is a way of reducing the production and eventual disposal of goods. Add "refuse" to the three R's, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

The list of reminders could go on and on, but the space is not available. If you are already pursuing these actions, maybe, you can expand your efforts.

"We must all change our day-to-day actions to live more sustainably. This requires honesty, courage, and responsibility." Pope Francis

Ed Marroni – Holy Family Environmental Minis

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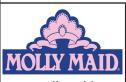


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