



We are

Holy Family Parish



Holy Family Parish

*A Catholic faith community
called to serve God and others
through Eucharist, prayer, education,
and daily living of the Gospel values.*

Holy Family Parish was established in 1991 as the Catholic Church of Middletown; created from the former parishes of Holy Trinity, St. John and St. Mary.

Holy Trinity Church
201 Clark Street

St. John Church
1405 First Avenue

Parish Office

201 Clark Street, Middletown, Ohio 45042
513-422-0602 FAX 513-424-7416
www.holyfamilymiddletown.com

Fr. John Civile - Pastor

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We believe!

Mass Greeters

This happy group is made up of parishioners who arrive a bit early to Mass so that they can greet people at the doors of the church. There's no special training needed - just a friendly smile and an earlier arrival on the day you're scheduled to greet! We schedule according to Mass preference. Contact Dee Golembiewski / DRE 422-0602 dee@holyfamilymiddletown.com.

Altar Servers

Boys and girls in grades 5 - 8, teenagers and adults can participate in a special way in the celebration of Mass by assisting the clergy during the liturgy. We offer training and schedule according to your Mass preference. Contact Dee Golembiewski / DRE 422-0602 dee@holyfamilymiddletown.com.

Lectors

Adult and teenaged parishioners who are comfortable with public speaking proclaim the First and Second Readings and often the Prayers of the Faithful. We offer training and schedule according to your Mass preference. Contact Dee Golembiewski / DRE 422-0602 dee@holyfamilymiddletown.com.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Adult and teenaged parishioners assist in administering the consecrated bread and wine at Holy Communion. We offer training and schedule according to your Mass preference. Contact Dee Golembiewski / DRE 422-0602 dee@holyfamilymiddletown.com.

Presentation of Offertory Gifts

Looking for an easy way to get more out of Mass? Would you like to participate without getting on another schedule or adding to your to-do list? Take a turn carrying up the offertory gifts!

You'll find an Offertory Procession binder in the back of both churches. If the square for the Mass you're attending is blank, then we need you! Just write in your name and let an usher know that you're carrying up the gifts. It's that easy!

Choirs

If you enjoy singing or playing an instrument, you'll find a variety of options here at Holy Family. Find one that fits best for you!

- 1) **The Holy Trinity Choir** - adult choir
Mike Kramer /organist and Marty Mulhall/ director
- 2) **Marilyn Ifcic's Players & Singers** - adult choir and instruments
Marilyn Ifcic / organist and director
These two choirs lead the singing at the Saturday night and Sunday morning Masses at both St. John and Holy Trinity. The Holy Trinity Choir practices on Thursday nights. Marilyn Ifcic's Players and Singer practice on Wednesday nights.
- 3) **Marilyn Ifcic's Children's Choir** - children in grades 2 -7
The Children's Choir sings about once a month and on Christmas Eve. They practice on Monday evenings September through May.
- 4) **Holy Family Bereavement Choir**
You don't have to be in any of the parish choirs to be a participant and there are no individual parts to sing. The songs that are chosen are familiar to every Catholic. The blending of voices along with the celebration of the funeral Mass comfort the bereaved in many ways.

Call the parish office 422-0602 for more information and to join any of these Holy Family Parish choirs.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Understood simply, Eucharistic Adoration is adoring or honoring the Eucharistic Presence of Christ. It involves the contemplation of the Mystery of Christ truly present before us. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is Monday through Friday, 12:30 - 4:30 PM in Holy Trinity Church. Please use the ramp door entrance.

The program operates with volunteers who fill four one-hour slots on every non-holiday weekday. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Frank Long 422-8225 or flong101@juno.com.

Prayer Chain

If you find that you or someone you love is in need of prayers, you are encouraged to call the Prayer Chain. The Prayer Chain is made up of a group of parishioners who share prayer needs by phone and text message. You can call the Prayer Chain directly - even on weekends - or you're welcome to call the parish office 422-0602 and let us call in your prayer request for you.

Prayer Chain Lead: Beth Kast 424-6100.

Prayer Partners

Parishioners support and share their faith with 2nd graders preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. In December, interested parishioners receive Prayer Magnets that include the name and address of their 2nd Grade Prayer Partner so that they can let them know through personal cards or little gifts that they are remembered in prayer as they prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Contact Dee Golembiewski / DRE 422-0602
dee@holymiddletown.com.

We teach!

PREP

Parish Religious Education Programs

Religious Education is available for children attending public school. At Holy Family, we have a vibrant community of families who are involved in religious education and trained, engaged, enthusiastic volunteers serve as Catechists, making PREP possible. Contact the Director of Religious Education - Dee Golembiewski 422-0602 or dee@holyfamilymiddletown.com.

PREP classes for Kindergarten - 8th grade meet on Mondays from 6:30 - 7:30 PM from September through April (*closely following school schedules*) in the St. John Center and Rectory.

Early Childhood PREP Class for preschool children meets Sunday mornings from 10:15 - 11:30 AM in the St. John Center from September through April.

St. John XXIII Catholic School

St. John XXIII is the private, Catholic elementary parish school of Holy Family Parish for students in preschool through 8th grade.

3806 Manchester Road, Middletown, Ohio 45042

Contact Dawn Pickerill / Principal 424-1196

dpickerill@stjohn23school.org.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is a popular summer activity. A week of VBS includes games, snacks, crafts, skits, hands-on experiments and single-point Bible lessons. There is always a connection between God and the theme, allowing kids to discover God in a creative way. Children preschool aged through 5th grade attend and junior high and high school kids participate as Assistant Crew Leaders and Station Helpers with adults.

Contact VBS Coordinator Linda Slone 937-746-5849

rlsone1@cinci.rr.com.

Sacramental Preparation

Baptism

If you are expecting your first baby or wish to have your first child baptized, we ask that you attend a baptismal preparation class. These one-time workshops are held in March, June, September and December and last about an hour. The goal is to present information about the Sacrament of Baptism, answer questions, and fill out forms in scheduling the actual Baptism. The class date, time and location are announced in the Sunday bulletins. Contact Dale and Joan Gerber 422-8404 dandigerber@aol.com.

Sacramental Preparation

First Reconciliation & Eucharist

Second grade parishioners receive religious instruction, and in particular, preparation for First Reconciliation and Eucharist as students of either PREP class or St. John XXIII Catholic School. In addition to classroom religious instruction, Holy Family includes the following:

Bless the Children Ceremony - December

Joined by their parents, second grade parishioners take part in this special ceremony during the Sunday 10:30 AM Mass. The children renew their baptismal vows and join Fr. Civile around the altar, taking part in the Liturgy of the Eucharistic.

Family Eucharist Workshop - March

Parish second graders practice special hymns, rehearse receiving Communion, make their very own Blessing Cups, and learn more about the sacrament at the Family Eucharist Workshop. The program includes refreshments and a brief talk about the sacrament with Fr. Civile, pastor.

Contact Dee Golembiewski / DRE 422-0602
dee@holyfamilymiddletown.com.

Sacramental Preparation Confirmation

Eighth grade parishioners receive religious instruction, and in particular, preparation for Confirmation as students of PREP class or St. John XXIII Catholic School. In addition to classroom religious instruction, Holy Family includes the following:

Rite of Enrollment Ceremony - January

Joined by their parents, eighth grade parishioners voice their intention to prepare themselves for Confirmation as part of this special ceremony during the 10:30 AM Mass. Afterwards, these candidates and their families are treated to a luncheon in the St. John Undercroft. During the luncheon the students and their families receive detailed instruction regarding Confirmation.

Eighth Grade Confirmation Retreat

This retreat is presented by National Evangelization Teams - NET Ministries. NET team members, young adults who proclaim the Gospel to Catholic youth through retreat ministry, are powerful Catholic witnesses to Christ. They are skilled pray-ers and can teach youth to pray. They witness to youth that a relationship with Jesus is not only possible, it's indispensable and will help young people grow in commitment to Jesus Christ, the Church, and their parish or school. Contact Dee Golembiewski / DRE 422-0602 dee@holymiddletown.com.

Sacramental Preparation Marriage

Couples wishing to be married must contact the pastor at least six months in advance. Couples complete a pre-marriage FOCCUS inventory - Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understand, & Study and meet with a volunteer couple to discuss the findings. Contact Theresa Hurlburt 422-0602 theresa@holymiddletown.com.

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the term for the way in which adults are initiated into full membership with the Roman Catholic Church. RCIA has several distinct stages beginning with inquiry, learning about the faith and preparing for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist, and reflecting on the mysteries of the Mass. The RCIA program begins in the fall and meets Sunday's at 11:30 AM. The Sacraments are received at the Easter Vigil Mass and the program finishes several weeks later.

Who is responsible for the RCIA catechumens and candidates, those who are seeking to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church? WE ALL ARE! Our faith is a gift, not for us alone, but for all. It is for us to share. We are asked to pray for them, to give them support and good example. Bringing new members into the Church is part of what we are commissioned to do by Christ. Participate as a **sponsor** or **lead a dismissal**.

Contact Dee Golembiewski / DRE 422-0602
dee@holymiddletown.com.

Children's Bulletins and *My Mass Book*

Children's Worship Bulletins, available for ages 3 to 6 and 7 to 12, plus *My Mass Book*, a child's resource guide for all the essential points of the Mass, are available every week at the doors of the churches. The bulletins include games and puzzles that match the gospel and can be taken home, while the books remain in church.

Small Group Bible Study

Twice a year around the times of Advent and Lent, small groups meet for six weeks to study the Bible. These sessions have included a variety of themes - specific scriptures or books of the Bible, saints, people of the Bible, and specific prayers.

We serve!

Sacristans

Sacristans have multiple duties and responsibilities at each Mass, most often serving behind the scenes. The sacristans arrive early, unlock doors, prepare the hosts and wine, and make sure that readings are ready. They coordinate the Offertory Procession and sometimes fill in for lectors, altar servers and Eucharistic ministers. Being a sacristan is a Welcoming Ministry as well as a Ministry of the Liturgy.

Ushers

The ushers' duties include making people feel welcome at church, assisting the Pastor, Sacristans, Greeters, and sometimes the Director of Religious Education with people management, providing seating, collecting the offering, coordinating the Offertory Procession, and maintaining a safe environment. Holy Trinity Church contact Don Accurso 424-1403
St. John Church contact Hal Pearce 423-7631

10:30 AM Mass Nursery

Check out our Nursery available in the St. John Center during the 10:30 AM Mass. Babysitting is provided by parish pre-teens and teens and the kids really have fun! Contact Monica Cummins 422-0602 monica@holyfamilymiddletown.com.

Monday Morning Collection Counters

These volunteers are appointed and supervised by the Business Manager and, on a rotating basis, count and record the money collected from weekend Masses. This ministry makes certain that parishioners' gifts of treasure receive an accurate accounting. Contact Theresa Hurlburt / Business Manager 422-0602 theresa@holyfamilymiddletown.com.

**Special Church Custodians ~
Liturgical Flowers, Fabrics, Seasonal Decorating
Cleaning and Weekly Preparation
Altar Linen Care**

It takes many generous parishioners volunteering their time and talents in caring for the everyday and seasonal upkeep of the churches. Volunteers care for flower arrangements, altar linens and liturgical fabrics, plus launder purificators and vestments while some meet weekly to prepare the sacristy, sanctuary, and entrances - mostly updating these areas from week to week. These are much needed ministries that offer an opportunity to be an integral part of the liturgy. If you'd like to find out more, please call the parish office 422-0602.

Atrium Weekly Eucharistic Ministers

This special group of Eucharistic Ministers take Communion to parishioners who are hospitalized in Atrium Medical Center. Call the parish office 422-0602 to join this important ministry.

Ministry of Care

The Ministry of Care is here for you! This group of volunteers, lead by Jody Akers, makes Communion visits to parishioners who are shut in, living either as residents of assisted care facilities or in their own homes. The Ministry of Care also attempts to provide transportation to Mass or to medical appointments. We hope to match anyone desiring a Communion visit or transportation help with a volunteer interested in practicing their faith in action. It is a most meaningful service to both the recipient and the deliverer. Call Jody Akers 424-5041 or the parish office 422-0602 if you would like to find out more about the Ministry of Care.

Bereavement Ministry

Our parish has a wonderful group of volunteers who help families when they've lost a loved one. The **Ministry Planners** work with family members to help them choose readings and hymns for their loved one's funeral, as well as schedule the lectors, servers, greeters and Eucharistic Ministers for the Mass.

The **Bereavement Choir** is a group of volunteer singers whose participation in the celebration of the Mass truly is a comfort to the family. The **Bereavement Luncheon** group prepares and hosts a meal for the family and friends after the funeral. Many volunteers provide a variety of side dishes and desserts while others actually serve the lunch. Contact Monica Cummins 422-0602 monica@holyfamilymiddletown.com.

Parish Gardening Angels

We enjoy lovely flower beds and landscaping at our churches, centers, rectory and parish office thanks to the volunteers of the parish gardening group who plant and prune, weed and water. The group meets Monday mornings May through October plus takes turns with week-long watering shifts. If you like to garden or just like to get your hands dirty while enjoying great fellowship, contact Sandy Kelley, Lead Gardener 422-0602.

SHALOM

Serving the Homeless with Alternate Lodging network Of Middletown
Holy Family Parish joins the SHALOM network of local churches of various denominations who take turns providing food and shelter for the homeless of Middletown during the winter months. Groups of parishioners participate with meal preparation, serving, and clean up, plus overnight hosting and transportation. Contact Carole Schul / HFP SHALOM Coordinator 422-9686

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul strive to grow spiritually by offering tangible assistance to those in need on a person-to-person basis. The services listed below are offered by the Holy Family Parish SVDP chapter - Ray Kelly / President.

The **Help Line** responds to clients needing food, furniture, and help paying utility bills. Volunteers monitor the voice message mail box and coordinate services in these areas. Judy Dixon is the Help Line Lead.

The **Food Pantry** provides 2-3 days supply of food to clients who can visit every 30 days. It is open for food pickup Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. with volunteers working many hours behind the scenes with Shared Harvest and local vendors to keep the shelves stocked. Shared Harvest also operates the *BackPack Program* providing weekend food for qualifying children in Southwest Ohio. SVDP volunteers deliver the food donations to local schools and covers the cost for the St. John XXIII students who benefit from this program. The SVDP Pantry also regularly donates baby formula to the Community Pregnancy Center. Frank and Judy Pressler are the Food Pantry Leads.

The **Outreach Furniture Ministry** responds to Help Line callers needing assistance procuring furniture and basic household items. Volunteers make home visits to assess needs, pick up donated furniture and housewares, and deliver to needy clients. Sandy Ongkiko is the Outreach Furniture Ministry Lead.

The **Prison Ministry** volunteers visit inmates of the Middletown City Jail and Butler County Jail, praying with them and sharing our faith. Charlie Disney is the Prison Ministry Lead.

Call the parish office 422-0602 for more information or to join this vibrant and generous ministry serving our community.

Christmas Giving Trees

Giving Tree Gifts are a very personal way to share the joy of Christmas! As is tradition, parishioners are invited to choose an ornament, purchase the suggested gift, wrap it, and bring the gift to the Thanksgiving Day Mass or to the parish office during the first week of December.

Prison Ministry: Angel Tag We team with Messiah Lutheran Church to provide Christmas gifts for Middletown children whose parent or guardian is currently in prison. Through the chaplain, inmates request gifts for their children. Messiah Lutheran passes out these gifts in early December.

Family Services: Star Tag Needy families in the Middletown area sign up with Family Services for Christmas gifts for their children. Our St. Vincent de Paul Society joins other organizations and churches in the community to provide these gifts.

Homebound Parishioners: Christmas Tree Tag We share Christmas with our parish family! Ministry of Care volunteers ask these homebound parishioners for gift ideas. Other volunteers serve as Santa's helpers - delivering the gifts and sharing a visit.

Calvary Cemetery

Our own Catholic Cemetery, Calvary, was founded in the 1850's by the then-pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Fr. Jeremiah O'Connor. Although there are no longer any available lots for burials, the Calvary Cemetery Association is still responsible for upkeep and maintenance and relies on a special collection every November.

Bob's Gang Trash Pick Up Team

Bob's Gang meets four times a year - April, June, August, and October - to pick up trash along Route 122, helping to make the main entrance to Middletown looking clean and welcoming. Call the parish office 422-0602 to join Bob's Gang!

Good Neighbor Program

In order to better serve our parishioners, our congregation is organized in geographic neighborhoods. The hope is to facilitate stronger community and clearer communication on a smaller, more intimate level. Good Neighbor Representatives deliver calendars to fellow parishioners in their Neighborhood in November. In addition to the next year's calendar, the reps pass along an Advent and Christmas Brochure detailing the special Seasonal Services and Mass Schedule. Call the parish office 422-0602 to learn more about the Good Neighbor Program.

Church Women United Clothing Depot

Church Women United is a national volunteer Christian ecumenical women's movement that brings together women of diverse races, cultures and traditions in closer Christian fellowship, prayer, advocacy, and action for peace with justice in the world. Middletown's CWU operates The Clothing Depot where needy families can shop for no-charge clothing and household items. Holy Family parishioners Ann Fishbaugh and Millie Sheller are officers of Middletown's Church Women United. Ann and several other parishioners volunteer at the Clothing Depot. Contact Ann Fishbaugh 422-1516

Operation Christmas Child Program

PREP families participate in the Operation Christmas Child Program. This is a program sponsored by the international relief agency, *Samaritan's Purse*, which brings joy and hope to the needy children around the world. Participants create gifts for the children by filling a shoebox with age and gender appropriate presents, including a personal message and prayer for the child. The shoeboxes are collected and a celebration including a procession of the gifts occurs on a PREP Monday in November.

We gather!

Coffee & Donut Sundays

Join us for Coffee and Milton's Donuts after the 9:00 AM Mass at Holy Trinity Church or after the 10:30 AM Mass at St. John Church. We have Coffee & Donut Sundays once a month and aim for the third Sunday, taking turns at each church. This is a fun, easy way to get to know other parishioners. Thanks to Larry & Phyllis Nichols and Frank & Judy Pressler for hosting this gathering!

Special Anniversaries Celebration

Couples celebrating 25th, 50th, and 60th Wedding Anniversaries join in a special ceremony celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage at a 9:00 AM Mass in February. Following the Mass, a brunch is served for these special couples in the Holy Trinity Center.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt takes place on the front lawn of Holy Trinity Church at 11:00 AM on Holy Saturday. 1800+ plastic eggs filled with candies and little prizes are found by children in three age groups: 3 and under, 4 to 7, and 8 to 10.

Holy Family Parish Bocce League

The Holy Family Parish Bocce League meets Thursday nights in May through August and is so popular that we have two groups - Early Birds play at 4:30 p.m. and Night Owls play at 6:45 p.m. A grill and beverages are available and the season ends with a banquet and an awards ceremony in the Holy Trinity Center. Contact Carolyn Dorn 513-435-7809 cdorn@cinci.rr.com.

Annual Parish Golf Outing

The Annual Parish Golf Outing is played at Wildwood Golf Course in August and includes golfers who vary in age, experience, and skill. Everyone has a great time. Dinner and awards are enjoyed afterwards and the Pastor's Challenge is donated to our SVDP.

Annual Parish Picnic

Parishioners join under the tent on the Sunday before Labor Day for a good old fashioned parish picnic. Everyone brings a dish - dessert, snack, appetizer, or salad, potato or vegetable - and the parish provides metts, brats, hotdogs, drinks and table service. Enjoy pony rides, water balloons, tug-of-war, split-the-pot and snow cones. Lots of people volunteer and we all enjoy the picnic!

Annual Pet Blessing

The Annual Pet Blessing takes place on an October Sunday at 2:00 PM on the Holy Trinity Grounds. Deacon John Lyons offers the blessing and all pets are welcome.

Knights of Columbus

St. John Paul II Council 1610

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. Originally serving as a mutual benefit society to low-income immigrant Catholics, it developed into a fraternal benefit society dedicated to providing charitable services, promoting Catholic education and Catholic public policy positions, and actively defending Catholicism in various nations. Our K of C offers Pancake Breakfasts, Fifth Sunday Dinners, Lent Fish Fry Friday, and Trunk or Treat plus essay and sports contests and numerous charitable events and opportunities. Contact Grand Knight Bob Weaver 424-8500 www.council1610.org.

Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus

The Lady's Auxiliary is an organization of Catholic women dedicated to our Patronesses, Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Theresa the Little Flower and St. Joan of Arc. One of our purposes is to aid our Council spiritually, socially and financially. Contact Martina Gassmann 513- 392-1344 Martinalea@hotmail.net.

Gathering of Widows

Join other widows of the parish for support and community every first Tuesday morning of the month at 11:00 a.m. in the Holy Trinity Center. The meeting often includes a lunch or social outing. Contact Carol Bishop 937-746-9090.

Men's Group

Men of the parish are invited to join for prayer and study every second and fourth Saturday of the month. Meetings are held from 7:00 to 8:30 AM in the St. John Rectory. Contact Joe Lyons 424-0239 josephclyons@yahoo.com.

Order of Sons of Italy

The Order Sons of Italy in America is the largest, oldest and most geographically represented organization of Americans of Italian descent in the U.S. It is a non-profit fraternal organization whose purpose is to promote and support all of its educational and charitable endeavors. Our local lodge, the Frank D. Vitori #2142, (Don Accurso, President) meets at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month. We're strong supporters of our local community and we volunteer in a variety of fundraisers, including an annual Garage & Bake Sale and an Alzheimer Collection. If you are of Italian descent and would like to join this wonderful organization please call Don Accurso 424-1403.

Rafflemania & Fall Bazaar

Events like the annual Rafflemania and Fall Bazaar help to raise funds for our Vacation Bible School while providing wonderful opportunities to get involved and get to know other parishioners. If you're interested in these types of events, please contact Diane Roark 422-5354.



Welcome to Holy Family Parish

How can we serve you?

Please cut out this form and drop it in the collection basket, leave it with an usher, or mail it to the parish office.

Name / Address _____

Phone # _____

_____ I would like to join Holy Family Parish.

_____ Change of address / phone # / email.

_____ I am interested in volunteering with

_____ I would like Communion at home.

