

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Staff:

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Parish Office Hours
Tues. – Thur. 9:00AM - 3:00PM

Heart of the Plains Cemetery
Linda Epple
970-347-7597

Religious Education
Deacon Ed Green (SH)
Christina Workman (HF)

9.20.2026

Twenty-fifth Sunday

Parish Information

Mass Times

Saturday: 5:00 PM Holy Family
Sunday: 8:00 AM SH; 10:30 AM HF; 12 PM HF Spanish
Tues: 6:00 PM SH preceded by Adoration & Confessions
Wed - Fri: 8:30 AM Sacred Heart
First Saturday of each Month: 8:30 AM Holy Family

Confessions

30 minutes before Weekend and Weekday Masses
Tuesday: 5:00 - 6:00 PM at Sacred Heart
Or by appointment

Baptism: Call Deacon Ed Green 720-550-0356.

Marriage: Call six months prior to wedding date.

Death Is Gain

Longing for our Lord strengthens our hearts; and as we toil and labor here on earth, our desire to be with the Lord in heaven grows. That is what St. Paul is trying to reveal to us when he expresses,

"I do not know which I shall choose. I am caught between the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, that is far better. If I remain in the flesh it is for your benefit" (Phil 1:23).

The Christian paradox: whether I live here with you or live with Christ in heaven, demands a solution. Yet that solution cannot be of human origin. It is not our decision to decide life or death. Our human will must be rooted in the Divine Will.

We do not decide if we live or die. God does. Our responsibility adheres to God's choice, for we do not know what is better, since God's ways are far above our ways and his ways see from the eternal perspective — not an earthly perspective.

Struggling to submit to God's ways creates rebellion; whereas accepting God's ways creates harmony, not only with God, but with others. That is why whether one lives or dies, it is critically important that we stay united to Christ.

Status of Operating Fund

(July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027)	Sacred Heart		Holy Family	
Weekly Budgeted (Sep 6)	\$2,307.69	\$240.38	\$1,538.46	\$67.30
Actual Collection	\$1,575.00	\$177.00	\$1,024.00	\$20.00
Over/<Under> Weekly Budget	(\$732.69)	\$73.38	(\$514.46)	(\$47.30)
Year-to-Date Budgeted	\$23,076.90	Capitol	\$15,384.60	Capitol
Year-to-Date Actual Collections	\$16,361.00	Funds	\$13,460.75	Funds
Over/<Under> Yearly Budget	(\$6,715.90)		(\$1,923.85)	
Expenses Budgeted for the year	\$29,138.50		\$22,032.70	
Expenses for the year to date	\$28,764.22		\$23,473.71	
Over/<Under> Yearly Budget	(\$374.28)		\$1,441.01	

**For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says
the LORD.**

**SET YOUR MIND
ON THINGS
ABOVE**

**As high as the heavens are
above the earth, so high are my
ways above your ways and my
thoughts above your thoughts.**

September 20, 2026

The world is full of people who are grabbing and self-seeking. So the rear individual who unselfishly tries to serve others has an enormous advantage. He has little competition.

Mass Times & Intentions

Sat. Sep 19 Holy Family	5:00 PM: Clara & Lyle Smith† by Jim Brnak
Sun. Sep 20 Sacred Heart	8:00 AM: Parish Family
Sun. Sep 20 Holy Family	10:30 AM: Frances Kemp by Christina Workman
Sun. Sep 20 Holy Family	12:00 PM: Alfonso & Norma Gandarilla† by Parish
Mon. Sep 21: <i>No Mass Here</i>	
Tue. Sep 22 Sacred Heart	6:00 PM: Frank Hafner by Christina Workman
Wed. Sep 23 Sacred Heart	8:30 AM: Chris Larchik by Ed & Teresa Green
Thu. Sep 24 Sacred Heart	8:30 AM: Kenny Green by Ed & Teresa Green
Fri. Sep 25 Sacred Heart	8:30 AM: Rene Buchholz† by P. Buchholz Family
Sat. Sep 26 Holy Family	5:00 PM: Clem Schrandt† by Leah Bowman

† indicates Memorial Mass



Sep 21/24 Catechesis 8-9 PM, Holy Family Hall
Sep 22 OCIA begins, 7 PM Sacred Heart
Sep 24 Bible Study Letter of James 6:45 PM, Sacred H
Sep 25 Safe Environment Training 7 PM, Holy F. Hall
Sep 28/1 Catechesis 8-9 PM, Holy Family Hall
Sep 29 OCIA 7 PM, Sacred Heart
Sep 29 Spanish Healing Mass 7 PM, Holy Family
October-November Stuffed Animal Donation Drive
Oct 1 Youth Group 7-8 PM, Holy Family Hall
Oct 3 First Saturday Devotions 8:30 AM, Holy Family
Oct 5/8 Catechesis 8-9 PM, Holy Family Hall

Pray for Them

Janet Klausner, Don Bratrsovsky, Jason Klausner, Bailey Navarro, Fr. John Shedlock, Barb Marty, Robert McMillion, Sally Bratrsovsky, Fr. Peter Dinh, Jeanette Neuhaufen, Mary Ockenfels, Bowman Family, Bill Epple, Theresa Schindedecker, Leticia Paz, Easton Vigil, Rick Gerkin, Geri Green, Dennis Buchholz, Dale Boehner



(Please let the parish office know if you or someone you know needs to be added or removed from the prayer list.)

Work Pays Eternal Life

Humanity was created to worship, which is why we rest on Sunday. Rest does not mean sleep; it means we break from work and worship God!

The mysterious narrative of the six days of creation reveals man's true purpose. We work six days and worship one day. Adam and Eve highlight all of creation. They are told to rest on the Sabbath so they can commune with God. This is the purpose of the Seventh Day: Divine Worship; we rest in His Presence.

In our industrialized culture, we easily reduce ourselves to pawns, making ourselves cogs in industrial progress. However, we are more than pawns who produce and reproduce for the industrial giants. We are not only the work force, but we own our work.

As workers, we are proud and pleased with our performance, being careful not to reduce ourselves to mere robots. As the Church teaches, the person is valued for what he is, rather than for what he owns or does.

We cannot reduce ourselves to widgets, but honor and respect our human dignity as workers; and more importantly, our work reveals our divine dignity, created in the image of God.

Instead of pretending to progress in our industrial process where man evolves each day from his work, making some contribution to human evolution, the parable of the workers in the vineyard reveals a new standard.

The workers hired in the morning thought that their lives evolved around work rather than worship. They misunderstood that their work was an opportunity for them to develop themselves, support their families, and give God his due. This is God's concept of work.

"The other standard belongs to the Kingdom of God, in which the way of measuring is not the just distribution of things but the giving of a gift, and, ultimately, the greatest gift of all - the gift of self" (John Paul II Homily, 9/19/87, 4).

The only gift truly acceptable to God is the gift of ourselves. We stunt our personal and spiritual growth if we merely work for selfish gain. We deny society its growth if we selfishly work for our own treasures, and not share them with others.

In our work then, we combine our divine dignity with our human effort, in which we seek to please God first, then our family and community. We do not place our needs first and reject God. We do not place our wants above the needs of those who are less fortunate.

We cannot place our work and lives above God. We serve God, working to support our family and our society. Work then puts on the mind of Christ, which is to do the will of my father (John 6:38).

Our thinking needs transformation. We cannot reduce the mindset of Christ to our way. We are to change our way to Christ's way. We work for God as we work and receive not only a just human wage but also a divine wage – eternal life.

"But in the Kingdom of God the pay or wages is God himself. This is what Jesus is trying to teach. When it comes to salvation in the Kingdom of God, it is not a question of just wages but of the undeserved generosity of God, who gives himself as the supreme gift to each and every person who shares in divine life through sanctifying grace" (John Paul II Homily, 9/19/87, # 5).

To accept anything less for our work would be ridiculous. We would take an infinite cut in our salary if we merely worked for ourselves, because the wage that God offers us is divine life.

Work Fulfills Our Inmost Desire

"Man ought to imitate God both in working and also in resting, since God himself wished to present his own creative activity under the form of *work and rest*."

~ Pope Blessed John Paul II
(*Laborem Exercens* 1981)

Adam and Eve were punished. Eve with labor pains and Adam with toil. Both suffered the consequences of their sins. The pains they caused are now ours and we suffer their sin. Yet, the pains we suffer become the means of our salvation.

"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure" Phil 2:12-13).

Work for many is drudgery, feeling forced to do something against our will. Yet, when we look at work: raising children, working to improve our intellect, our lives, and keeping ourselves healthy physically, mentally, and socially, improves our lives and others. This brings great fulfillment.

Work is a gift and yes, pains come from our work. But they are not to drain us, but inspire us. We are doing something great for God. No greater work exists for a woman than to raise her children. No greater work exists for a man than to provide and protect his wife and family. This is the purpose of our work: building and raising a family for God. In this light, husband and wife work in harmony, being fruitful, subduing the earth.

God gave Adam and Eve the command to "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it" (Gen 1:28). That command was never changed. We are to be fruitful and multiply, using our time, talent, and treasure well, not merely for ourselves, but for others and God's church.

Inspired work taps into our natural talents and gifts and uses them, sharpening and honing them so we become proficient and practiced. Work then is a blessing and we ought to work not only doing our best always, but also knowing that while we do our best, we become the best version of ourselves.

This work that we do is creative and in so doing, we procreate. That is what we do, we do it on behalf of God. As Isaiah tells us (Is 26:12)

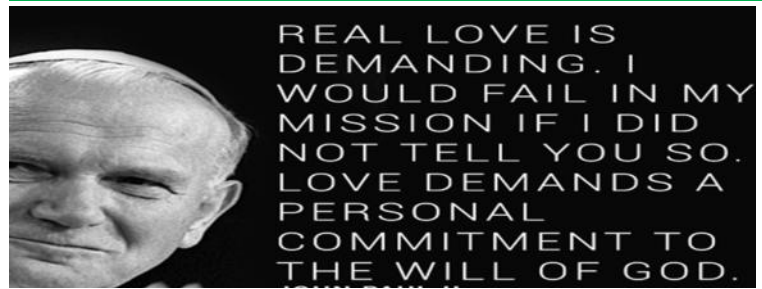
"O LORD, you will ordain peace for us, for you have indeed done for us all our works."

In other words, what work we do, is really God working through us!

What Do We Teach Our Children?

How to Think and Learn for Themselves!

OCIA: SYMBOLON



**September 22, we begin OCIA.
It is open to all.**

Those wanting to explore conversion to the Catholic Faith and those who are Catholic and want to grow in their faith.

OCIA journeys through the Bible, the Creed, the Commandments, and Prayer. Exploring our faith deepens our love of the Truth, Who is Jesus Christ.

Genesis is a highly contested book if read from a scientific mindset; but if read from a historical, mythological, and theological outlook, it reveals the compelling Truth: God is love and his love creates this spectacular and amazing world in which we mature. Maturity means we adhere to God's will.

The whole of Scripture reveals the unfathomable and unconditional selfless-love of God, we call the Trinity, Who is a Communion of three Divine Persons pouring out their pure which purifies us.

Pure love is self-donating love and God donates Himself to us through the Son, Who promises to send the Holy Spirit into our hearts to Restore our lives in grace. Yet, do we let Him?

What did the Father-Gift give us freely? His Son Who gifted Himself on the cross to free us from the snares of Satan.

God is a Person-Gift as John Paul II called the Holy Spirit, so too we who receive such a wonderful gift are to become a gift-person: We freely received and now we freely give ourselves to the Father by obeying the commandments and adoring the Trinity daily through prayer.

On the cross, Jesus invites us to follow Him. Throughout the Scriptures God constantly invites us to follow his ways. Yet, the stories revealed throughout the pages expose hardened hearts who refuse God's love. OCIA breaks that hardness.

The Journey of Faith that we embark on in OCIA invites us to examine our hearts and ask Whom do we love? Do we love our own will or do we love the will of the Persons-Gifted?

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