



Holy Family Parish of Nazareth, PA

27 February 2026

On the occasion of the Friday of the First Week of Lent

Dear Holy Family Parishioners,

Holy Family Parish is blessed to have a great school! Not only do we have wonderful leadership and administration, we have an amazing faculty and the best students in the world! And it is not only our goal, but our responsibility to provide our students with the best opportunities to succeed as they grow into disciples of Jesus Christ, ready to evangelize the world.

An area of concern that needs to be addressed, and is being addressed, is the gymnasium. The gym has been an issue for many years, and because of deferred maintenance, actions were not taken in the past to make sure our gym is suitable for our School, Athletic Association and Parish. Deferred maintenance means putting off fixing problems into the future. This usually leads to higher costs when something catastrophically breaks down versus fixing the smaller problem when it is first discovered. As I promised at my Town Hall Meeting a few days after arriving at Holy Family Parish, we would no longer defer maintenance and kick the bucket down the road. Rather, we would face our problems and handle them as they arise.

With that being said, we will be undertaking two projects to make our gym usable and safe. The first is to fix the blowers that provide heat to the gym. For several years now, the gym has been operating on 1 of the 2 blowers because of issues. This has caused the “good” blower to have issues because it is trying to do the work intended for 2 blowers. We are getting new motors and parts for the blowers. This project will entail moving the side basketball hoops as they are in the way of getting to the blowers to service them. Large lifts will be brought in and the hoops will be moved; the blowers will be inspected and fixed and then the hoops will be replaced.

The second project will take place immediately after the blowers are fixed, and that entails redoing the basketball court. The court has not been redone in well over a decade. Instead, we have just refinished the floor each year (this works for a few years, but the finish needs to be removed, floor sanded, repainted and resealed every 5-8 years). This has led to an unsafe environment as injuries could happen with a gym floor that has not been resurfaced for many years. Some CYO teams have even told us that they would not play on our floor if it was not redone as it is unsafe. We have the money for this project and the Athletic Association was prepared to move forward on two separate occasions over the last 5 years, but at the last minute they were told to not do the project. I have greenlighted the project with the only caveat being that

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we complete the blowers first as I do not want to bring large equipment into a newly completed gym (we need to do these projects in order).

With this new project, it was brought to my attention that we should consider our Holy Family mascot. I was not even aware of our mascot until this was brought up. Holy Family's mascot is the "Chieftains." Some have commented that in this day and age, and realizing that the current climate in our community "Chieftain" might be considered insensitive. I have discussed this with our Athletic Association, School and Parish Leadership, and they agree that our mascot might be considered insensitive to some.

Therefore, we have come up with the following plan that will address Holy Family's mascot:

1. Holy Family Parish invites our students that are members of Holy Family School or participate in our CYO program to create a new mascot for Holy Family Parish or tell us why you think it should remain the Chieftains (High School students that either do or have fit into these categories are welcomed to participate). The students will present their submission and explain why it should be our new mascot.
2. A committee comprised of myself, our Principal Mr. Peiffer, a Holy Family School teacher, a representative of the Athletic Association, and a representative of the Parish Pastoral Council will review the proposed mascots and select 5 finalists. The finalists will be presented to the school community and CYO teams, who will be able to vote for their favorite mascot.
3. The winning mascot will be revealed and introduced to the Parish.

Submissions of the new mascot will be accepted until Friday, March 20th. Finalists will be selected by Tuesday, March 31st and students will be vote for our new mascot on Wednesday, April 8th.

It is my prayer that our Parish may continue to grow and be strengthened by the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph her spouse. And may the blessing of Almighty God continue to strengthen Holy Family Parish of Nazareth as we approach the great solemnity of Easter. With prayers and gratitude, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Jason F. Stokes
Pastor

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