



Knights of Columbus have named ...

The James and Annice Hoffman Family November's "Family of The Month"



The James and Annice Hoffman family have been members of our parish for only three years, but have already begun to be involved in parish activities. As their children grow they will no doubt become much more involved.

Annice has been a catechist for the past two years. She began teaching kindergarten children but now teaches those in the second grade. She is also a member of our Eucharistic adoration team and is part of the centering prayer group. She also volunteers as a member of the Catholic Homeschooler's Co-op at St. Joseph's Church. James is a recently new member of the St. George Knights of Columbus and he, together with Annice, helps with the music at "Made 2 Worship" and "Presence for Christmas."

Their children, Michael and Elsa, are home schooled by Annice but have already begun to be involved in various activities. Michael sings with the Children's Choir and he will be performing as "Randy" in the Erie Playhouse production of "A Christmas Story." And in December Elsa will be performing in the "Nutcracker" at the Warner Theater with the Lake Erie Ballet. Both Children are also involved in the Catholic Homeschooler's co-op.

James is an 11th and 12th grade English teacher at the Charter School of Excellence. Annice is a former high school Spanish teacher who now is a full-time mom and educator.

When submitting information for this write-up, the Hoffman's said: "We are humbled and greatly appreciate being nominated for Family of the Month in such a wonderful community as St. George."

One thing is certain - we have not heard the last of this remarkable young family. Stay tuned



Michael is now 7 and Elsa is 5 - they were two years younger when this picture was taken.



Nomination forms for "Parishioner of Family of the Month" and the boxes in which to place them are at the entrances to the church.



Our annual "Giving Tree" will be up next weekend

Our parish "Giving Tree" project under the direction Bill and Jo Holtz **begins next weekend.** A Christmas tree decorated with hundreds of gift tags will be placed in the shrine area of the sanctuary next Saturday. The tags are for children and adults from families in need that are served by our parish Food Pantry. Once you have selected a tag simply purchase the necessary item, wrap it as a gift, cut off the bottom of the tag that tells what the gift is and attach the tag securely to the gift. Place the gift under the "Giving Tree" sometime during the weekend of **December 5th and 6th.** If you are unable to return the gift to church that weekend, please return the gift to the parish office by the morning of December 7th.





Today's gospel...

...teaches us that uncertainty is normal. There are some things in life which “no one knows ... only the Father.” Marriage and parenting are full of uncertainty for like the fig tree in the gospel, the people we love grow and change.

Let us give thanks

When you say grace at your Thanksgiving table this year remember our troops and their families in your prayers.



What will your family be eating on Thanksgiving Day?

The year end holiday season is just around the corner and that means an increase in pressure for our parish Food Pantry to find supplies for the needy families we service on a regular basis. In the coming weeks you can help provide food for the holidays by contributing food items (including hams and turkeys) and cash donations.

Anything you can do will help and it will be greatly appreciated by our Food Pantry staff of volunteers. Your contribution will be making the holidays a happy time for all.



Think about this...

It's not what you eat between Thanksgiving and Christmas that puts on the weight -- it's what you eat between Christmas and Thanksgiving

“Christ is the reason....”

If it feels like the holiday season's getting longer, you're right. Experts call it “Christmas creep.” And it may be annoying to people who like to celebrate one holiday at a time, especially in recent years, when Christmas decorations hit store shelves before Halloween.

Why? Because retailers know that budgets are limited. And they want to get whatever money you're going to spend before one of their competitors gets it. For example, stores used to open at dawn on Black Friday. Then they pushed it back to midnight Thanksgiving night. But last year, some big chain stores opened their doors at 9:00 p.m. Thanksgiving night – when most of us were still finishing our pie.

So, does Christmas creep work? You might say so, since a survey found that 1 in 3 shoppers had already started shopping for holiday gifts before Halloween and another third started before Thanksgiving.

Advent begins November 29 - a perfect time to remind us that “Christ is the reason for the season.”

An interesting sign on a Philadelphia street



It says: “Welcome Pope Francis - from the Diocese Of Erie.” Photo by Jessica Carlotti who lives in Philadelphia.