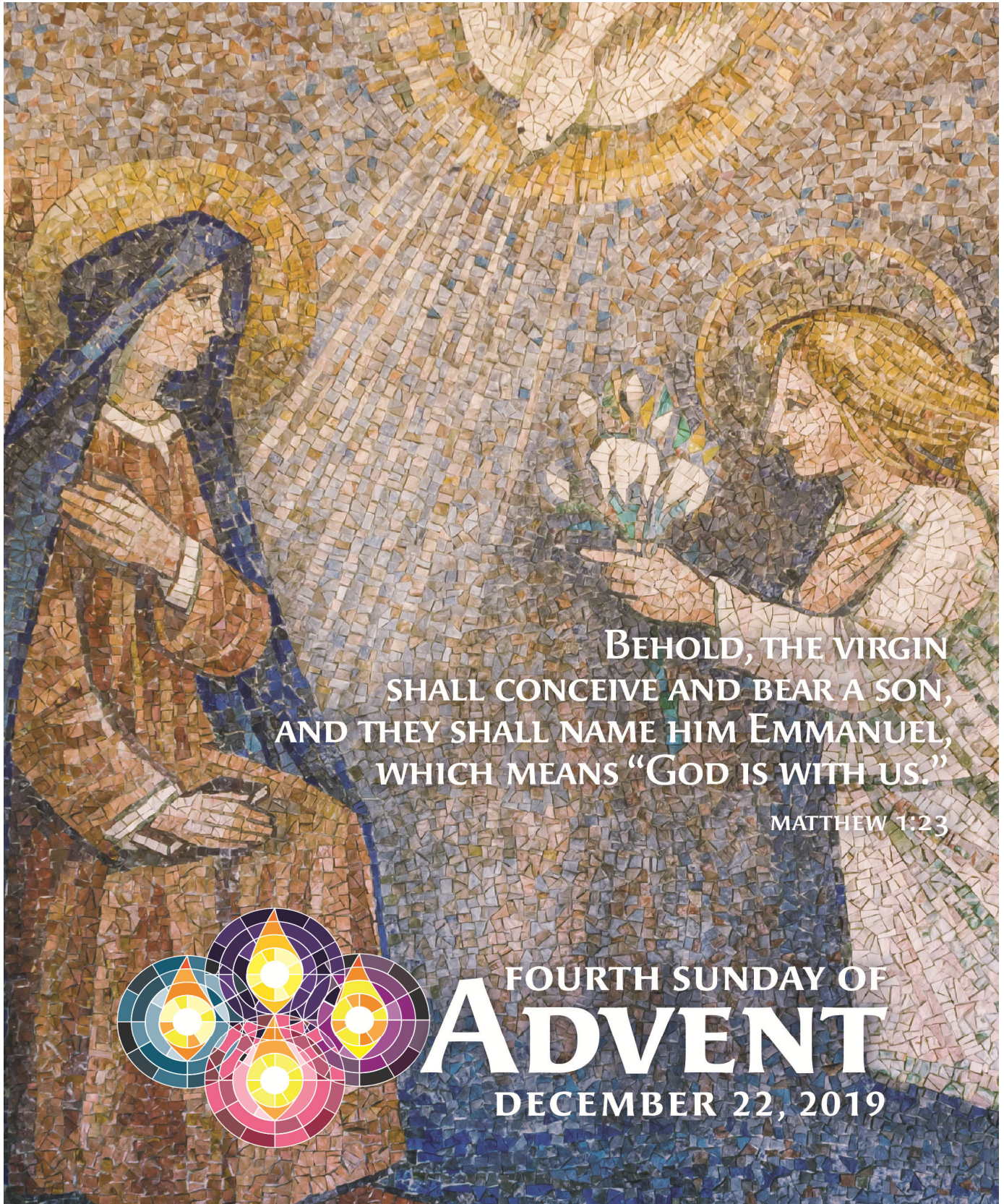


St. Teresa of Avila Parish

1878 Abbe Road Sheffield Village, Ohio 44054



BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN
SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON,
AND THEY SHALL NAME HIM EMMANUEL,
WHICH MEANS "GOD IS WITH US."

MATTHEW 1:23



FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
DECEMBER 22, 2019



Established 1845

ST. TERESA OF AVILA CHURCH is handicap accessible.

STAFF

Reverend Edward J. Smith, Pastor
Office Hours: Wed & Fri 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Fr. Thomas Sanders, OSB,
Weekend Associate

Debbie Wehler, Sue DiVaccaro,
Secretaries

Lou Varos, Finance Council Chairperson

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

For those advanced in age, sick, or
undergoing surgery. Administered upon
request. Contact the Rectory.

PARISH INFORMATION

BAPTISMS: Baptisms are celebrated after
the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays.
Arrangements should be made shortly
before or after the birth of the child.

COMMUNION CALLS: Please call the
Rectory to schedule.

MATRIMONY: At least one member must be
a parishioner and be active for at least six
months prior to calling. Couples need to
make arrangements at least six months
prior to the wedding date. No date may be
reserved until discussed with the priest of
the parish.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Call the Rectory to
register.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION: Interested
in becoming a member of the Catholic
Church? Call the Rectory for more
information.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

They shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." — Matthew 1:23

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 21 St. Peter Canisius

4:30 p.m. Kordich grandchildren

Sunday, December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. +Jean Ackerman by Bob & Marilyn Rumph

11:00 a.m. deceased of the Valdez & Pham families

Monday, December 23 St. John of Kanty

NO MASS

Tuesday, December 24

4:30 p.m. living/deceased members of St. Teresa Parish

10:00 p.m. +Martin & +Dorothy Yonkof by family

Wednesday, December 25 The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas)

8:30 a.m. +Chuck, +David & +Brian DeChant by Bill DeChant, Gerry & family

Thursday, December 26 St. Stephen, the First Martyr

NO MASS

Friday, December 27 St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

8:30 a.m. living/deceased members of St. Anthony & Teresa parishes

Saturday, December 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

4:30 p.m. +Ruth Wagner by family

Sunday, December 29 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

8:30 a.m. +Louise Pliszka-Nichols by Kathy Eckenrode

11:00 a.m. +Jimmy Matsamas by Marci Matsamas



Weekly Offering

Weekly Goal
In future
Bulletin

\$4,000.00

Please keep St. Teresa Parish in mind when making out your will.



MASSES

Sunday Vigil - Saturday 4:30 PM

Sunday - 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Wed & Fri - 8:30 AM; Holy Day Vigil, Holy Day and Civic Holidays - Watch Bulletin

CONFESSIONS

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat. 3:30 - 4:00 PM or by appointment.

CONTACT US

Rectory Office.....(440) 934-4227

Office Hours.....Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Fax.....(440) 934-4500

E-mailst.teresa.church@neohio.twcbc.com

Website..... www.stteresaparish.com

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

If St. Joseph was ready to divorce his fiancée, then it would seem that divorce must be permissible? Is that one of the messages in today's gospel (Matthew 1:18-24)?

We need to remember not to confuse the separate issues of "legality" and "morality." Not all biblical teachings in the Old Testament, such as the permission given by Moses for men to divorce their wives, are meant to be binding forever; several were abolished by Jesus. For example, the practice of divorce and remarriage in St. Joseph's day, an accommodation that had slipped into the old Law, was later flatly prohibited by Jesus (e.g., Mark 10:2-12; see the Catechism of the Catholic Church #2382). His new ban was an entirely new idea not found in the Old Testament or even the rabbinical literature. Today, just like the crime of abortion, divorce from a sacramental marriage has come to be "accepted" in our culture simply because it is "legal." Divorce is a civil matter, not a religious event. If the Church investigates and concludes that a marriage was, in fact, not sacramental, then an annulment can be granted – which simply states that no sacramental marriage existed in the first place.

That most awesome event that we celebrate each year, the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, is only days away! Just think about what is going on here. For centuries the Jewish people had been expecting a Messiah, the One the prophets had announced would be coming to save them. And then the Messiah came! He became incarnate – our divine God took on our human flesh! That is the "awesome" part (human words fail to describe this great mystery) – so overwhelming that every Sunday when we pray our Creed, each of us bows our head as we say, "by the power of the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man!" That is all a human believer can do: simply bow our heads in awe and adoration and such a remarkable event in history!

So today let's focus on God's intervention in our human history, the mystery of the Incarnation. Also, let's remember to trust in God's word, as St. Joseph trusted in God's word given to him by an angel.

The Reverend Edward J. Smith, Pastor

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

| | |
|------------|---|
| Monday: | Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66 |
| Tuesday: | 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79; Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 |
| Wednesday: | Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20, Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14] |
| Thursday: | Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22 |
| Friday: | 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8 |
| Saturday: | 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18 |
| Sunday: | Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23 |

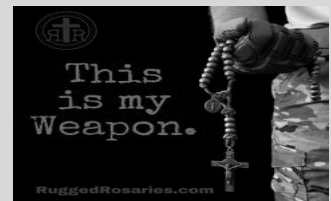
**NO CONFIRMATION ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22.
NO PSR ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| Children's Mass | Tues, Dec 24 | 4:30 p.m. | Church |
| Vigil Mass | Tues, Dec 24 | 10:00 p.m. | Church |
| Christmas Mass | Wed, Dec 25 | 8:30 a.m. | Church |
| Church Office Closed | Dec 24 – 26 | Blessed | Christmas! |

TOGETHER 
LET US PRAY ...
PARISHIONERS:

Luz Villanueva, Eleanor Rieth
Loretta Forthofer, Dorothy Tomshe
Gladys Mackert, Eva-Maria Peters
Charlotte Joherle, Amy White
Kathleen Brezinski, Anna Joseph
Patricia Welsh, Maebelle Fill
Marty Lima, Marianne Rieth
Ruth Bistak, Arlene Flynn
Neva Young, Bernadette Mack
Mike Gall



FAMILY AND FRIENDS

SERVING OUR COUNTRY:

Charles Godles, Christopher
Barnhart, Jason Bender, Thomas
Daley, Capt. Richard Robinson,
Tom Fisher, Anthony Burns, Michael
Naughton, Allen Fish, 2nd Lt. Louis
Rios, Justin Callison, Quinn Rambo
Capt. Shelby Stratton, Grant
Bartlett, Sgt. Tyler Corwin, John
McGlynn, Cpl. Andrew Edwards,
Justin Brown, Michael Garba
SSgt. Leo Ostrolencki,
Dustin Moorman, Cpt. Matt Terrigno
To add names call 934-4227.

HOSPITAL CALLS

Please request the services of the Catholic Chaplain at the hospital for a patient. Notify the parish office so that the sick will be remembered in our prayers and Masses.



ST. TERESA OF AVILA PRAY FOR US!

**"There is every reason to be
conformed to the will of God."**
St. Teresa of Avila



CATHOLIC PROGRAMMING



He is the Light of the World! Check out all the Christmas Mass celebrations to be viewed on EWTN including Solemn Mass of Christmas Eve from Rome and Midnight Mass from the Holy Land. Visit ewtn.com for programming details.

PRAYER TO SAVE THE WORLD ONE BABY AT A TIME

"Jesus, you gave us your mother as Our Mother. Send Our Mother, who had an unplanned pregnancy, to her daughter who is considering an abortion. Tell your daughter that she is greatly loved by her Mother in heaven, her baby, and Jesus. Then ask her to CHOOSE LIFE for the sake of her baby, herself and the world." **Hail Mary,**

FATHER BECHERER 65TH JUBILEE!

Let us thank our Lord for the dedication shown by Fr. James Becherer throughout his Priesthood of 65 years! Let us join together and thank Fr. Becherer, by sending cards of appreciation, prayer and joy. Send cards to his address:
4963 E. Lake Road, Sheffield Lake, Ohio 44054.
Let us keep Fr. Becherer in our prayers every day.

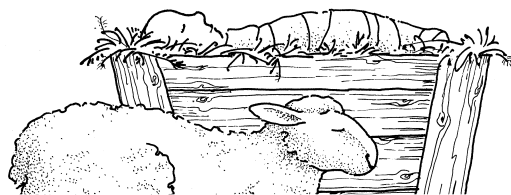
What is a Manger?

"When the child Jesus was born, his mother Mary laid him in a manger." (Lk2:7)

The word "manger" comes from the Latin word *munducare* which means "to eat". A manger is a wooden or stone feeding trough that holds hay for larger farm animals.

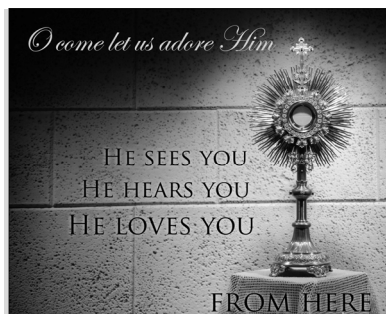
Jesus was not laid in a manger by accident. It is a major spiritual symbol. Animals go to the manger for physical food, but with Jesus lying on the hay, we can go to the manger for spiritual food. Jesus has an infinite storehouse of nourishment available, and we can approach him any time and never go hungry. Jesus feeds us with Word and Sacrament, his gospel and the Eucharist. Jesus wants us to devour his word (Jer 15:16; Ez 3:1; Rev 10:9-10), chew on it, slowly ruminate on its meaning, swallow and digest it, and make it part of the fabric of our being. Jesus' Word is like no other food, it has the power to save our souls (Jas 1:21). Not only that, the infant in the feeding trough is the Bread of Life (Jn 6:35), the true bread come down from heaven, and whoever eats this bread will live forever (Jn 6:51).

If a person wants to be spiritually well-fed, it is important to read Scripture and receive the Eucharist often.



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION - DECEMBER

"That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering."



Seek Jesus by spending time with Him in the Eucharist.
Every Wednesday at St. Teresa Church 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

Keep up to date with current happenings in your parish! Visit www.stteresaparish.com. Scroll to the bottom of the homepage for current events and other information.



THANK YOU TO...

...to our generous parishioners who donated so willingly to the food drive and the Birthright collections. May God take these items and bless those to whom they go.

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOUR LOVED ONE IS SICK

If a family member is sick or hospitalized we welcome a phone call at the parish office so their name can be put in the bulletin for prayers. Not all hospitals in the area notify churches that a parishioner has been admitted.

PARISH CLUSTER CORNER

St. Thomas the Apostle
www.saintthomaschurch.net
St. Anthony
www.stanthonylorain.org/our-parish/



HOW TO HELP OUR PARISH FAMILY

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE NEWS



“Gifts for Baby Jesus” to benefit Birthright of Lorain County

Takes place during Advent, through **December 22, 2019.**

This year Birthright’s greatest need is diapers (newborn – size 6), formula (Gerber or similar), and cotton & fleece sleepers (up to size 5). Gifts can be wrapped or unwrapped and placed near the tree at the front of the church.

ITEMS NEEDED: Geber formulas (or similar), Bath items, Blankets/afghans, Gently used clothes (newborn – size 12), Gently used or new coats, boots, & gloves, Gently used maternity clothing, and money to replenish needed items.

Donations for Mother Cabrini Food Pantry

Our next collection will be the weekend of January 4 & 5, 2020.

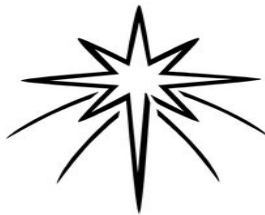
Leave donations of non-perishable food in the tub in the vestibule of the church.

THE ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS

Our next Altar & Rosary Society Mass will be **Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.**

The Rosary will be said at 8:00 a.m. prior to Mass.

All Ladies are welcome to all events & meetings! You do not have to be a member.



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24
4:30 and 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25
8:30 a.m.

Christmas Office Hours

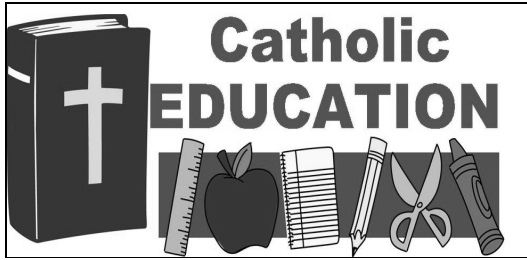
The Office will be closed December 24 - 26, 2019, and
January 1 & 2, 2020.



Oh Holy Night

ST. TERESA’S HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

We visit Parishioners who are in nursing homes or who are homebound because of age, illness or recovering from surgery. If you know a Parishioner who would like a visit please call the church office at 440-934-4227.



PSR classes are on Tuesdays from 6 – 7:15 p.m.
for students in grades 1st – 8th.
No classes on December 24 & 31, 2019.

If the Sheffield schools are closed on Tuesday because of bad weather, PSR will be cancelled that night as well.



ST. TERESA'S BIBLE STUDY
We meet on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
Join us in January on the 9th.

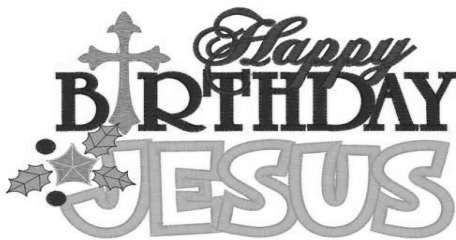
CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Classes are held on Sundays at St. Teresa of Avila Church/Parish Life Center from 8:30 a.m. (with Mass) to 11:45 a.m. **There are no classes on December 22nd and 29th.** Class resumes on January 5th, 2020.

STAY ROOTED IN THE ADVENT SEASON!

“...be prepared.” (Matthew 24:44)

Jesus commands us to be prepared for His coming. Be intentional about what matters most to you, regarding the traditional holiday preparations (cards, decorating, baking, and gift-giving). *What is truly necessary, and what is optional?* Invite the Lord into your preparations, and to guard against anxiety, do not be afraid to cross things off of your usual list.



Happy Birthday to all those babies being born at Christmas because of the prayers said everyday for the past nine months!

Hundreds of unborn babies were spiritually adopted earlier this year and will now find themselves in the arms of their mothers this Christmas!

Thank you Jesus, Mary and Joseph for hearing our prayers!

BUILDING FUND - NOVEMBER 2019

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Donations | \$ 2,232.00 |
| Monthly Payment | \$ 3,272.20 |
| Balance Owed | \$ 342,544.77 |

Thank you to all who donated to the Building fund!



**THERE ARE MANY MASS INTENTIONS AVAILABLE FOR 2020.
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SCHEDULE A MASS FOR A LOVED ONE.**

TELEVISED SUNDAY MASS

ch8 at 6:00 a.m. WUAB ch43 at 8 a.m. WMFD ch68 at 9:30 a.m.
Online video Mass from *Heart of the Nation, Catholic Mass*, with Fr. Mark Payne at www.HeartoftheNation.org

Liturgical Ministers Schedule

Eucharistic Ministers

Sat, Dec 21
4:30 p.m.
Daniel Bryda
Joan Gigliotti
Tom Pienoski **
Ann Glime

Sun, Dec 22
8:30 a.m.
Barb Eifel **
Greg Smail
Bill Bistak
Aaron Davis

Sun, Dec 22
11:00 a.m.
Fred Courtright
Don Kirchner
Carol Kirchner
Trish MacDonald

Tues, Dec 24
4:30 p.m.
Christi Smail
Bill Bistak **
John Katricak
Greg Smail

Tues, Dec 24
10:00 p.m.
Kathy Cunningham
Joan Gigliotti
Marty Yonkof
Carol Yonkof

Wed, Dec 25
8:30 a.m.
Ann Glime
Sue DiVaccaro **
Aaron Davis
EM Needed

Sat, Dec 28
4:30 p.m.
Debbie Korce
Joan Gigliotti
Frances Geiger
EM Needed

Sun, Dec 29
8:30 a.m.
Kathy Cunningham
Christi Smail
Bill Bistak
Sue DiVaccaro **

Sun, Dec 29
11:00 a.m.
Elmer Klingshim
Marc Matsamas
Trish MacDonald
Debbie Brady

Lectors

Sat, Dec 21
4:30 p.m.
Larry Durica

Sun, Dec 22
8:30 a.m.
Adam Smail

Sun, Dec 22
11:00 a.m.
Lou Varos

Tues, Dec 24
4:30 p.m.
No Lector

Tues, Dec 24
10:00 p.m.
Phil Gigliotti

Wed, Dec 25
8:30 a.m.
Karen Davis

Sat, Dec 28
4:30 p.m.
Phil Gigliotti

Sun, Dec 29
8:30 a.m.
Greg Petro

Sun, Dec 29
11:00 a.m.
Tom Parkey



Altar Servers

Sat, Dec 21
4:30 p.m.
Ray Fitzwater

Sun, Dec 22
8:30 a.m.
Frank Lanza

Sun, Dec 22
11:00 a.m.
Dave Griffith

Tues, Dec 24
4:30 p.m.
Mikey Griffith
Dave Griffith

Tues, Dec 24
10:00 p.m.
Tom Pienoski **
Frank Lanza

Wed, Dec 25
8:30 a.m.
Bill Brock

Sat, Dec 28
4:30 p.m.
Dan Huczko

Sun, Dec 29
8:30 a.m.
Cara Smail

Sun, Dec 29
11:00 a.m.
Mikey Griffith
Dave Griffith

Around the Town

SOLACE OF LORAIN COUNTY - ADVOCACY FOR FAMILIES COPING WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The next meeting will be **December 27, 2019 from 6 - 8 p.m.**
Amherst Beaver Creek: Visitor Center, 913 N. Lake St., Amherst.
For information call Kathy at 440-823-6177. Visit:
www.lorainadas.org.

CURSILLO (Spanish for "short course")....

.....is a movement deeply rooted in Catholicism. The mission of Cursillo is to provide adult men and women a method to come to know Jesus Christ in a more intimate way through prayer, fellowship and working together. The Diocese of Cleveland has scheduled Cursillo Weekends for the following dates: **Men's Weekend - January 16th - 19th, 2020; Women's Weekend - February 20th - 23rd, 2020.** If you would like more information about Cursillo or would like to registrar for one of the above scheduled weekends, please call Joe Perez 440-915-4886 or Lisette Gracia 440-308-7006.

MEN'S FIRST FRIDAY LUNCHEON

Join us at St. Clarence Church, 30106 Lorain Rd., N. Olmsted, on **Friday, January 3, 2020.** Registration begins at 11:15 a.m., followed by luncheon, then an inspirational talk, and concludes with Mass. Cost is \$10. RSVP to George at 440-937-6606 by Monday, December 30.



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NIGHT OF PRAYER AND HEALING

Peter's Shadow Healing Ministry will be at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 929 Pearl Rd., Brunswick, Oh, on **Sunday, January 19, 2020 from 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.** Jesus often preached the Gospel of the Kingdom of God with demonstrations through signs, wonders and miracles – with healing as the most frequent! **Jesus still heals today!** Come experience God's supernatural Love. No Charge. No Reservation Needed. For more information call Peter's Shadow at 234-206-0263. Schedule for the day is: 1:30 p.m. – Eucharistic Procession and Exposition, Gospel and Preaching; 2:30 p.m. – Corporate Prayer for Healing; 3:30 p.m. – Individual Prayer Ministry.