

# St. Teresa of Avila Parish

1878 Abbe Road Sheffield Village, Ohio 44054



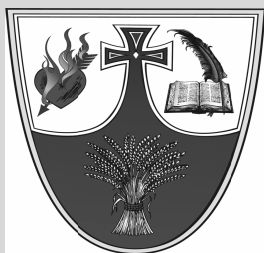
*The Visitation*  
Albrecht Dürer  
(German, 1471-1528)  
c. 1504  
Cleveland Museum of Art



Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." *Luke 1:41-42*

*Fourth*  
Sunday of *Advent*

December 19, 2021



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

December 19, 2021

O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted. — Psalm 80:15-16

Saturday, December 18

4:30 p.m. +Gloria Urig by Dolacki family

Sunday, December 19 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 a.m. +Thomas B. King & +George King by Tom & Peg

11:00 a.m. +Elia Riegel & +Sophia Carlos by family of Dorothy Tomshe

Monday, December 20

NO MASS

Tuesday, December 21 St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

NO MASS

Wednesday, December 22

8:30 a.m. All Souls

Thursday, December 23 St. John of Kanty, Priest

NO MASS

Friday, December 24

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

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

Saturday, December 25 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

8:30 a.m. Kordich grandchildren by Rose Kordich

Sunday, December 26 HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

8:30 a.m. +Roy L. Schneider by children

11:00 a.m. +Stephen E. Pigott by Bob Nelson



Weekly Goal In Next Bulletin

\$4,000.00

Please keep St. Teresa Parish in mind when making out your will. We thank our parishioners for their continued, generous support of the Parish!

WELCOME TO ST. TERESA PARISH!

Let us welcome to the St. Teresa Parish family – Anthony & Pamela Schiavone

“And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You?” (Matthew 25:38)

Masses

Sunday Vigil - Saturday 4:30 PM and 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-mails .....debbie@stteresaparish.com and sue@stteresaparish.com

Website..... www.stteresaparish.com

 from the Pastor. . .

Besides Jesus, no other figure is more central to the Christmas story than Mary. There is no one else who can help us prepare better for the birth of the Savior than the Mother of the Savior Himself. We can only imagine with what tender love and eager anticipation she would have awaited His birth. His arrival changed drastically not only her life but also the course of human history. What lessons can we learn from this humble maiden from Nazareth whom God diligently transformed to become a worthy dwelling for His Son?

First, she is a woman of profound, prayerful reflection. In his infancy accounts, twice St. Luke uses the same set of words to describe the mental state of Mary: "She treasured all these things in her heart." Many of the things that happened to her – the message from Archangel Gabriel, the praise of Elizabeth, the visit of the shepherds and the adoration of the Magi – were intriguing and she pondered them in her heart. In prayer she recognized the hand of God who was working out His plan quietly but surely.

Second, her trust in God is extraordinary. What young woman would not have recoiled in fear when the angel suddenly interrupts her peaceful life with an earth-shaking message from God? Even though she does not understand and is puzzled, Mary does believe that "nothing is impossible for God." Putting her trust in the God who reached out to her, Mary humbly submits to His will.

Third, she practiced the love for others that her Son so powerfully preached. Immediately after the annunciation Mary did not sit back to enjoy her new-found celebrity. Gripped by her concern for her elderly cousin Elizabeth, she undertook a difficult journey over the hills of Judea and spent six months to serve her needy neighbour. As the Word took flesh in her, she carried that Word to others in acts of loving service.

We are a few days away from Christmas, may we imitate Mary as we prepare ourselves for the birth of Christ. Amidst the hustle and bustle of our last-minute preparations, let us spend some time in prayerful reflection. Perhaps we can listen to some holy Christmas music that will remind us of God's gift of His Son to us. Maybe we can read the story of Christmas as recounted by Matthew and Luke. Perhaps we can share that story with our children.

No matter what, let us learn to trust in our God who loves us. Let us be reminded that whether our lives are going well or not so well, that nothing is impossible for God. He is the God who continues to work wonders even in our time. Instead of carrying all our burdens by ourselves, we need to bring them to Him in prayer. He will lighten our heavy load and we will be refreshed.

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I say to you, rejoice! For the Lord is near.

**Rev. Edward J. Smith, Pastor**

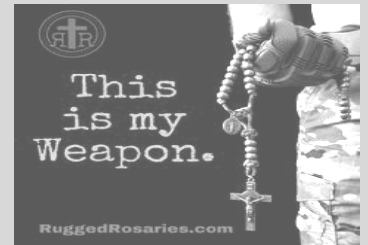


**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Mass	Wed, Dec 22	8:30 a.m.	Church
Eucharistic Adoration	Wed, Dec 22	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Church
Office Closed	Dec 23 & 24		
Christmas Eve Mass	Fri, Dec 24	4:30 & 10:00 p.m.	Church
Christmas Day Mass	Sat, Dec 25	8:30 a.m.	Church
NO Mass	Sat, Dec 25	4:30 p.m.	No Mass
Office Closed	Mon, Dec 27		

**TOGETHER -  LET US PRAY ...**

- Eleanor Rieth, Fran Rottman
- Loretta Forthofer, Elvira Quester
- Marianne Rieth, Chris Ughrin
- Jamila Kos, JoAnne Wisnieski
- Kathleen Brezinski, Anna Joseph
- Patricia Welsh, Larry Sheets
- Marty Lima, William Wisnieski
- Vickie Aring, Michael Wisnieski
- Patrick O'Toole, Judy Williamson
- Gina Ackerman; Lloyd Canterbury



**FAMILY AND FRIENDS SERVING OUR COUNTRY:**

- Charles Godles, Christopher Barnhart,
- Jason Bender, Thomas Daley, Major
- 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,
- 1st Sgt. Derek Lisowski, Darrin Kirchner
- SSgt. Leo Ostrolencki, Ken D.
- Dustin Moorman
- 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!

**"However long it lasts, it lasts but a moment in comparison with eternity."**  
St. Teresa of Avila



Remember  
CATHOLIC PROGRAMMING



**EWTN Christmas Programming** Visit <https://www.ewtn.com/tv/specials/> for all Christmas Mass times and other spiritual shows. These include “Choral Meditations on the Nativity” at 10:00 p.m. and Holy Mass at 10:30 p.m. on December 24. Also watch Solemn Mass of Christmas at 8:00 a.m. and Noon on December 25.

### PRO-LIFE MEDITATIONS ON THE ROSARY

The Fourth Sorrowful Mystery – The Carrying of the Cross For all who labor under burdens that seem too great to bear – due to illness, age, poverty, cruelty or injustice – that our prayers and aid will lighten their crosses.

For pro-life novenas visit Priests for Life at [PrayerCampaign.org](http://PrayerCampaign.org)



### FLOWER DONATION ENVELOPES

Please turn in your Christmas Flower Donation envelopes to the office by December 20.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38  
 Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12 20-21; Lk 1:39-45  
 Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56  
 Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66  
 Friday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79  
 Saturday: 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  
 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]  
 Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

### JESUS' DIVINE MERCY

To St. Faustina: **“My child, do you fear the God of mercy? My holiness does not prevent Me from being merciful. Behold, for you I have established a throne of mercy on earth — the tabernacle — and from this throne I desire to enter into your heart. I am not surrounded by a retinue or guards. You can come to Me at any moment, at any time; I want to speak to you and desire to grant you grace.”** (*Diary*, 1485).

*\*The words of Jesus appear in boldface*

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



There will be **NO Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesday, December 29, 2021.** (Will resume on Wednesday, January 5, 2022.)

Come pray from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays.**

“..seek first the kingdom of God”  
(Matthew 6:33).

Call the church office if you are interested (440-934-4227).

### CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR THE SICK

Call the church office if a family member is sick or hospitalized.

Their name can be put in the bulletin for prayers.

Not all hospitals in the area notify churches that a parishioner has been admitted.

### POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION - DECEMBER

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

## PARISH NEWS

Visit Our Website! [www.stteresaparish.com](http://www.stteresaparish.com)

Read the *Bulletin* and find current events in "Announcements" (top of home page) or scroll to the bottom.

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

### BIBLE STUDY

Everyone is welcome!

Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.  
the St. John Room  
January 6 & 20



### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION at St. Teresa Parish

Call the Parish Office if you have a child in Second grade. Classes will begin in March 2022.



### THE ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS

#### Mass

Sunday, January 9, 2022  
Rosary at 8:00 a.m.  
Mass at 8:30 a.m.

### CCA GRIEF SUPPORT DECEMBER 19TH "IN-OFFICE" AT 3:00PM AND "VIRTUAL" AT 5:00PM

Catholic Cemeteries Association provides free monthly grief support groups on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month. Come and be in the presence of those who understand. **3:00 pm In-Office Grief Support groups** meet in the main office building at St. Joseph, Avon | 32789 Detroit Road. **5:00 pm Virtual Grief Support group is via Zoom.**

Sign up at <http://bit.ly/ccavirtualgriefsupportgroup>.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact [Rhonda](#) at 216-930-4866.

The Altar & Rosary Society would be happy to pray the Rosary at the funeral home for the deceased of our Parish. The Family is invited to call the Parish Office at 440-934-4227 and ask for this gift of the heart!

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve – Friday, December 24, 2021

4:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day – Saturday, December 25, 2021

8:30 a.m.

*\*\*Please note: there is NO 4:30 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day*

The Parish Office will be **closed** on the following days for the Christmas and New Year's Holidays

December 23, 24 & 27; and December 31 & January 3, 2022

There will be **NO Mass or Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesday, December 29 and NO Mass on Friday, December 31, 2021.**



### "Helping Hands" for Parishioners

This is a fund set up by the Social Concerns Committee that may provide help with groceries, medicine, and utility bills for those parishioners in need during this difficult time, **"Helping Hands Fund"**

Please contact the parish office at 934-4227

Monday through Friday between 9a.m. – 3p.m.

All information is kept confidential.

### SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE NEWS

#### Spiritual Adoption of the Unborn

Pray a short prayer every day for nine months to preserve the life of an unborn child.

This devotion begins **March 25 (Feast of the Annunciation)** and ends at **Christmas.**

*"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion."*

Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

#### Mother Cabrini Food Pantry

The next food pantry collection will be January 1 & 2, 2022

**Suggested food donations:** boxed stuffing, spaghetti, taco kits, boxed mashed potatoes, pancake syrup, peanut butter/jelly, Ramen noodle soup, canned soup, canned vegetables, canned fruit, tuna fish, coffee, hominy beans, Hispanic foods, bottled water, and cooking oil. **Please - NO non-food donations.**

We only accept donations of *unused & unopened non-perishable food items.*



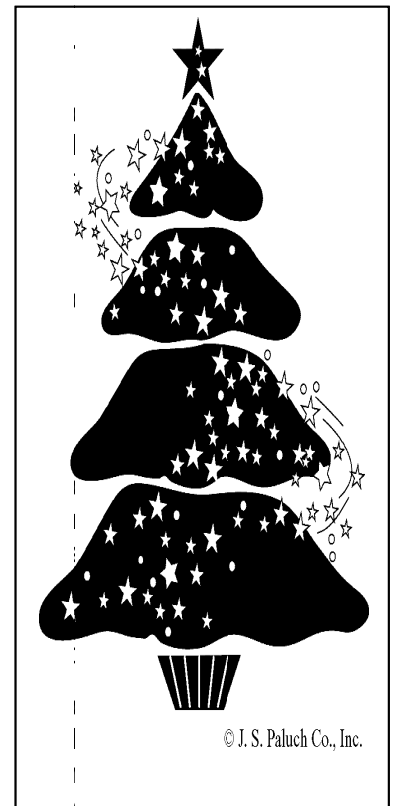
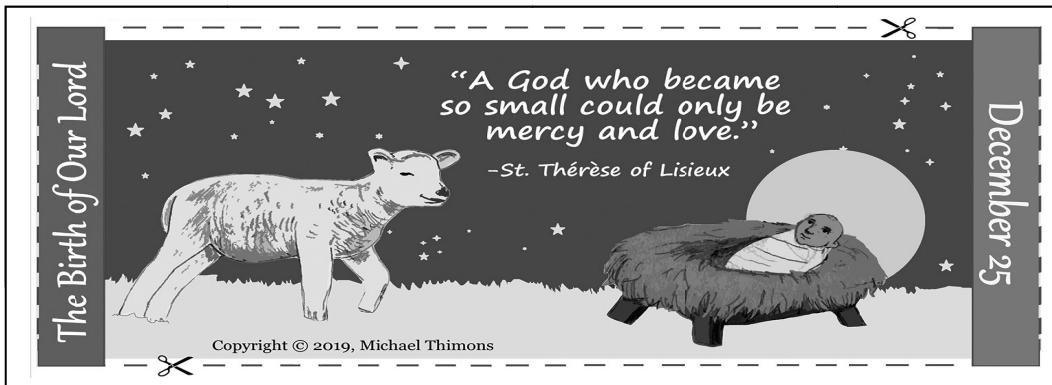
Feed the Hungry

**MASS ON TV, ONLINE AND RADIO**

**The weekly television Mass produced by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland is now on** Sundays at 10 a.m. on WUAB Channel 43, the CW43. Viewers are invited to take part in the weekly celebration of the Mass at a more convenient time, and, is an over-the-air station, that is, accessible even to those without cable TV.

Also watch the Mass at [www.dioceseofcleveland.org/offices/communications/mass](http://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/offices/communications/mass) OR at: <http://www.catholicstv.org> OR <https://www.ewtn.com/tv>, and [www.HeartoftheNation.org](http://www.HeartoftheNation.org).

**Listen to Mass** on AM 1260 The Rock at 4 p.m. Saturday and 10:30 a.m. Sunday.



**COMFORT AND SALVATION**

All of today’s scriptures seem to declare Christmas’s “comfort and joy.” Micah declares that, as small as Bethlehem is, the child born there will bring peace that “shall reach to the ends of the earth.” Hebrews proclaims that, despite pain and suffering, the “offering of the body of Jesus Christ” saves us all.

In today’s Gospel, bearing the Christ Child within her, Mary, barely more than a child herself, immediately, unselfishly sets aside her own preoccupations—and as a betrothed but as yet unmarried mother-to-be, how many they must have been—to travel in haste, over dangerous terrain, a four-day journey (the scholars say) from Nazareth to Ain-Karem, to the home of Elizabeth and Zechariah.

Then, just as David leapt and danced before the ancient Ark of the Covenant that bore precious signs of God’s abiding presence, so John leaps in his mother Elizabeth’s womb as Mary arrives, a living ark bearing God’s living presence. Elizabeth joyfully greets Mary in words that we pray daily in the “Hail Mary”: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” Why Mary is so “blessed” Elizabeth then explains: “Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” Likewise, we may dare hope to be “blessed” for “believing that what was spoken” to us “by the Lord”—Jesus’ promise of mercy—will be fulfilled as we share God’s mercy with everyone. For by reason of our baptism and, more immediately and repeatedly, because of our participation in the Eucharist, we too bear within ourselves the living Christ. To whom, or to what situation, do we need to bear Christ this Christmas? Indeed, throughout the year, how selflessly do we set our own concerns aside? How eagerly—“in haste”—do we, disregarding difficulties, traverse whatever dangerous terrain needs conquering to be of service to another?

Today’s Readings: Mi 5:1–4a; Ps 80:2–3, 15–16, 18–19; Heb 10:5–10; Lk 1:39–45



# Liturgical Ministers Schedule

## Eucharistic Ministers

<b>Sat, Dec 18</b> <b>4:30 p.m.</b> Ann Glime Tom Pienoski (choir)	<b>Sun, Dec 19</b> <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Christi Smail	<b>Sun, Dec 19</b> <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Jeff Wohlever
<b>Fri, Dec 24</b> <b>4:30 p.m.</b> John Katricak (Wehler**) Debbie Korce (choir)	<b>Fri, Dec 24</b> <b>10:00 p.m.</b> Joan Gigliotti Kathy Cunningham(choir)	
<b>Sat Dec 25</b> <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Ann Glime (Bistak**)	<b>Sun, Dec 26</b> <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Bill Bistak **	<b>Sun, Dec 26</b> <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Trish MacDonald

## Lectors

<b>Sat Dec 18</b> <b>4:30 p.m.</b> Tom Pienoski **	<b>Sun, Dec 19</b> <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Christi Smail	<b>Sun, Dec 19</b> <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Lou Varos
<b>Fri, Dec 24</b> <b>4:30 p.m.</b> Larry Durica	<b>Fri, Dec 24</b> <b>10:00 p.m.</b> Phil Gigliotti	
<b>Sat, Dec 25</b> <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Bruce DiVaccaro	<b>Sun, Dec 26</b> <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Frank Lanza	<b>Sun, Dec 26</b> <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Fred Courtright

## Servers

<b>Sat, Dec 18</b> <b>4:30 p.m.</b> Brock	<b>Fri, Dec 24</b> <b>4:30 p.m.</b> Fitzwater	<b>Fri, Dec 24</b> <b>10:00 p.m.</b> Lanza **	<b>Sat, Dec 25</b> <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Brock
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### “KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS” MAGNETS

Father Ragan Council #3269 is selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" Magnets for \$5.00 each. Magnets are great stocking stuffers and look great on the back of your vehicle or on your refrigerator. If interested in purchasing Magnets (or selling them), please contact Previous Grand Knight Greg at [gregpalichleb.koc@gmail.com](mailto:gregpalichleb.koc@gmail.com) or 440-865-5883. (4 ½ X 7 inches)



## Around the Town

### INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC WAY OF LIFE? TRY RCIA

Follow your heart and join us at St. Vincent de Paul Church on the journey of Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. If you have never been baptized, were baptized in another Christian community, or were baptized Catholic and have not received the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation, this journey is for you. The journey involves learning about the teachings and traditions of the Church. If interested, please call or email Jackie at 440-242-0195 or [jackiesvdp@gamil.com](mailto:jackiesvdp@gamil.com).

### MATTHEW 25:36 “FOR...I WAS SICK AND YOU VISITED ME.”

The Eucharistic Ministry team of University Hospital in Elyria is looking for volunteers. Consider helping 60-90 minutes, once-a-week or every-other-week, and bring Holy Communion and prayerful support to Catholic patients. You can choose to help either on a weekday or weekend morning. Volunteers must be commissioned as a Eucharistic Minister, be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 (although we do not visit any Covid patient rooms) and also have proof of this year’s flu shot. Hospital orientation and training provided. Interested in learning more? Contact Mary Anne Cunningham at (440) 759-7459 or [maryanne116@msn.com](mailto:maryanne116@msn.com).

### ST AUGUSTINE HEALTH MINISTRIES - HOLY FAMILY HOSPICE AND HOME CARE - FREE GRIEF AND HEALING SUPPORT GROUP (Virtual)

Members will meet others who have suffered a loss, explore their individual grief process & gain knowledge & insight of useful grief coping skills to help them begin to heal. These sessions will take place **Tuesday Afternoons January 11 – February 15 from 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm via Zoom**. Contact Erin Hout: (440) 545.7032 or [ehout@holyfamilyhome.com](mailto:ehout@holyfamilyhome.com) by Wednesday, January 5th, 2022 to register.”

*Blessed are you among women*



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### PRO-LIFE DOCTORS LIST

A list of local Pro-life doctors, who do not practice abortion nor support its use, is available. Call 440-322-0076 or visit [www.loraincountyrighttolife.org](http://www.loraincountyrighttolife.org) under Resources and Issues tab.