

Masses for the Week

SATURDAY, December 5

4:30 p.m. John & Katherine Kandra

SUNDAY, December 6—Second Sunday of Advent

Reading I: Bar 5: 1-9; Reading II: Phil 1: 4-6, 8-11
Gospel: Lk 3: 1-6

8:30 a.m. For the People of the Parish

10:30 a.m. Edward Judson

PSR Family Mass

MONDAY, December 7—St. Ambrose

Reading I: Is 35: 1-10; Gospel: Lk 5: 17-26

6:30 p.m. Pamela Kolar

TUESDAY, December 8—The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Reading I: Gn 3: 9-15, 20; Reading II: Eph 1: 3-6, 11-12
Gospel: Lk 1: 26-38

8:30 a.m. Frank Hokes

WEDNESDAY, December 9—St. Juan Diego Cuahtlatotzin

Reading I: Is 40: 25-31; Gospel: Mt 11: 28-30

THURSDAY, December 10

Reading I: Is 41: 13-20; Gospel: Mt 11: 11-15

8:30 a.m. Leona Gibbons

FRIDAY, December 11—St. Damasus I

Reading I: Is 48: 17-19; Gospel: Mt 11: 16-19

8:30 a.m. Rev. Francis O'Linn

SATURDAY, December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

Reading I: Zec 2: 14-17

Gospel: Lk 1: 26-38

Vigil Mass

4:30 p.m. Paul Deininger

SUNDAY, December 13—Third Sunday of Advent

Reading I: Zep 3: 14-18; Reading II Phil 4: 4-7

Gospel: Lk 3: 10-18

8:30 a.m. Don Kuczumski

10:30 a.m. For the People of the Parish

Scout Mass

HNS

Collection-November 21/22

Collection: \$5,746.75* Envelopes Used: 301

PSR: \$12.00

St. Vincent de Paul: \$230

Human Development: \$1,001.65

*figure includes the following:

Parish Use Only: \$262 Restoration: \$182

School: \$89

Children: \$16.75

Flowers: \$173

All Saints: \$10

All Souls: \$15

Collection-November 28/29

Collection: \$6,558.50* Envelopes Used: 275

PSR: \$5

St. Vincent de Paul: \$53

Thanksgiving: \$393

Religious Retirement: \$55

*figure includes the following:

Parish Use Only: \$1,090 Restoration: \$251

School: \$11

Children: \$17.50

Flowers: \$191

Eucharistic Devotions: \$9

Christmas: \$83

Fuel: \$50

Solemnity of Mary: \$8 Immaculate Conception: \$8

Thank you!

Pray for the Sick of our Parish:

Joshua Stebal, Elizabeth O'Donnell, Don Tews, Laverne Griffiths, Jess B. Palker, Michelle Cozens, Shirley Zwilling, Robert Thomas, Rita Pawloski, Raymond Pavlik, Naomi Conter, Michael Kobie, Keith Thomas, Jeannie Wolfendale, Dori Herout, Linda Voracek, Dolores DiBaggio, Richard Schultz, Larry Pentek, Robyn Buckley, Joseph Sciko, Sophie Tessmer, John Thomas, Sr. Felicia Mann, John Zenda, Jeff Bucell, Celine Chepeus, Michelle Triska, Laura Anzelec, Diane (Kipfstuhl) Wieland, Chris Lackney, Pauline Kloss, Sr. Dorothy Ann Krolkowski

In Memoriam

Please pray for the souls of

Marion Kosmalski

Frances Krajewski

Deacon Leo McNulty

May our loving Savior grant them

His peace.

Second Sunday of Advent

Do you know? What are the other three Church seasons besides Advent?

Answer below.

Peace & Justice Gem

The sole meaning of life is to serve humanity
Tolstoy

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Tuesday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Mass times are Monday the 7th at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday the 8th at 8:30 a.m.

Weekend Drawing

The winners of our weekend drawing for last weekend were Joyce Burchfield and Fred Sizler. Congratulations!

Jesuit Retreat House

There are some Advent retreats coming up at the Jesuit Retreat House. For information, please contact JRH at 440-884-9300 or visit www.jrh-cleveland. The Jesuit Retreat is located at 5629 State Road in Parma.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Coming up!

There will be a middle school student youth group meeting on Wednesday, December 16th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at SS. Peter & Paul School.

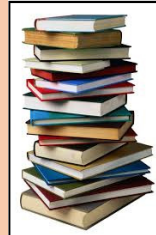
Nancy Heineke, Youth Minister
YOUTH412 is a cluster program of St. Martin of Tours, St. Monica, Saints Peter and Paul & St. Therese.
13623 Rockside Road, Garfield Hts., OH 44125
(216) 662-8685 xt 123

Answer: Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The other 33 weeks of the Church calendar outside of these seasons belong to Ordinary Time.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

**Here Ye, Here Ye,
Just in time for Advent**

Do you have someone who is difficult to buy for, or are you looking for a unique stocking stuffer? Come and take a look at the Christmas CD's, Books, and Booklets available in the vestibule beginning the weekend of December 5th & 6th.



Prices as
marked.



Attention Seniors

The Seniors' Christmas party will be on Monday, December 14, at the Knights of Columbus hall. Your reservation and payment are a must before the party. Call Mary Lou Kieta at 216-662-3592.



Looking Ahead to Christmas

Our Christmas Mass times this year will be:

Thursday, December 24: 4:30 p.m.

(family Mass)

Thursday, December 24: 10:00 p.m.

(Music & carols begin at 9:30 p.m.)

Friday, December 25: 8:00 a.m.

Friday, December 25: 10:00 a.m.

Friday, December 25: Noon



We have several gift cards for different stores and restaurants, etc. in stock at the rectory and many more we can order. Get some of your

Christmas shopping done early by purchasing your gift cards here. That way you also benefit the parish!

Oplatki

Oplatki (Christmas wafers) are available at the rectory for purchase. The cost is \$2.00 per package of four.

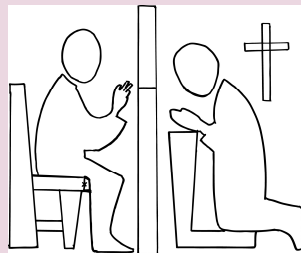
Divine Mercy Holy Hour

There will be a Divine Mercy holy hour on Sunday, December 13th at 2:30 p.m. in St. Monica Church. All are welcome!

Communal Penance Service

The sacrament of penance will be celebrated communally in conjunction with SS. Peter & Paul Parish on Sunday, December 13th at 3:00 p.m. here at St.

Therese Church. Please join us to bask in God's mercy.



Adult Catholic Education

The next ACE session is on Thursday, December 10, from 7-9 p.m. at St. Basil the Great Church, 8700 Brecksville Road in Brecksville. Sheila McGinn, Ph.D. will present "From Jewish Sect to Christian Church: The Early Faith Community."

Heat Energy Assistance Program

HEAP is a federally funded program designed to assist eligible Ohioans with their winter heating bills. There are envelopes containing information and applications in the back of the church for anyone needing help.



There is still time to participate in the Giving Tree! Help make some family's Christmas a happy time. Just make sure you return your gift before December 19 so that it may be sorted and

distributed. There are envelopes available for those who would rather donate money. Envelopes can be placed in the collection baskets on Saturday or Sunday.

Little Blue Advent Books

We are offering the little blue books again this Advent season. There are daily reflections to help us stay connected during this special time of Advent. An envelope is included for your free will donation.

COUNCIL CORNER

The Parish Pastoral Council met on November 23rd. Dave DeLambo, who had facilitated at the parish Visioning Session held on October 24th, gave a recap of the event along with his observations and a report of the event. The Council then discussed the material which will be used in further planning and discussions. Committee reports were given. The Council and the Stewardship Committee will continue to seek ways to serve the community with outreach programs. The parish is preparing for Advent and the Christmas season. A committee is working on implementing the Medicine of Mercy program, to observe the Year of Mercy that Pope Francis has instituted. Some Council members have received the parish newsletter and complimented it on being very well done. The Council will meet again on January 25th. May our entire parish family be blessed during this season, and we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Second Sunday in Advent

From Fr. Dan

The Jubilee of Mercy begins this Tuesday, December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Declared by Pope Francis in April in the papal bull *Misericordiae Vultus* (the Face of Mercy), he is calling on Catholics around the world to employ this Holy Year in making manifest God the Father's mercy. On December 8 the Pope will open the Holy Door in Rome, and the following Sunday at cathedrals around the world Holy Doors will likewise be opened. It happens that Vatican Council II closed 50 years ago on December 8. One reason Pope Francis selected this day was to commemorate the council, which itself centered on divine mercy. The idea behind the Holy Door is that each of us is encouraged to use this Holy Year as a time of pilgrimage.

A pilgrimage takes one to a holy place, just as from the earliest days of Christianity the faithful have gone on pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The journey itself is as important as the destination, because in the course of it the pilgrim gradually experiences a transformation of heart. Though few of us will get to Rome this year, most of us can walk through the Holy Door, the "Door of Mercy", at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in downtown Cleveland. As the Pope writes in his bull, "May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion: by crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us."

On our pilgrimage through this Jubilee of Mercy, I hope that each of us will encounter the Father's mercy. This divine quality receives much attention in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Repeatedly God "lifts up the downtrodden" (Psalm 147), brings healing, forgives the sinful, feeds the hungry, and frees prisoners. God constantly bestowed such mercy on his people Israel in Egypt, during their journey to the Promised Land, and once they had settled there. The ultimate revelation of his mercy was in the coming of his Son in human flesh, his death, and his resurrection.

God identifies in a special way with people on the margins. In fact, a key aspect of the Year of Mercy is the call that you and I, whom God has blessed in so many ways, reach out even more to those around

us whose needs are great. Mercy is something we are to act on, and in so doing we help others to encounter Jesus Christ, the face of the Father's mercy. We are to play the part of the Samaritan in Jesus' parable (Luke 10: 29-37). Taking pity on the man left for dead, whom the priest and Levite had ignored, he saw in him a brother and saved his life. May we as a parish be merciful like the Father. A group of parishioners has been meeting to identify ways for us to practice mercy more profoundly, particularly towards the poor. Soon our plan will be finalized, and I hope that our faith family here will embrace it as a major element in our pilgrimage through the Year of Mercy.

A note of thanks: My thanks go to Craig Lengyel for his labor, all voluntary, in laying new tiling on the rectory's kitchen floor. I also am grateful to Dan Chermonte, who masterminded last Friday's reverse raffle. Over the years, he has raised tens of thousands of dollars for St. Therese Parish in the course of this annual event. Finally, I want to sing the praises of the volunteers who produced the first issue of *Have You Heard*, our new parish newsletter! They are Char Jeloveck, Pam Skernivitz, Debra Sarnowski, Bob and Peggy Newton, and Cynthia Radosavljevic. Please contact the parish office to share with us any ideas you have for future issues or to volunteer to help with the newsletter.

The Week Ahead

Monday, December 7

Choir Practice after 6:30 p.m. Mass, C

Tuesday, December 8

PSR 6:30 p.m., S

AA 8 p.m., H

Wednesday, December 9

Pre K Christmas Pageant 6:00 p.m., S

Cub Scout Caroling at Marymount Place 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 10

Spiritual Development 7:00 p.m., S

Bingo 6:45 p.m., H

KEY: H: parish hall R: rectory C: church S: school

