

Masses for the Week

SATURDAY, December 12

4:30 p.m. Paul Deininger

SUNDAY, December 13—Third Sunday of Advent

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

Gospel: Lk 3: 10-18

8:30 a.m. Don Kuczmarski

10:30 a.m. For the People of the Parish
Cub Scout Mass
HNS

MONDAY, December 14—St. John of the Cross

Reading I: Nm 24: 2-7, 15-17a; Gospel: Mt 21: 23-27

6:30 p.m. Rudy N. Guzman

TUESDAY, December 15

Reading I: Zep 3: 1-2, 9-13; Gospel: Mt 21: 28-32

7:00 a.m. All Souls

WEDNESDAY, December 16

Reading I: Is 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Gospel: Lk 7: 18b-23

THURSDAY, December 17

Reading I: Gn 49: 2, 8-10; Gospel: Mt 1: 1-17

8:30 a.m. Bogucki Family

FRIDAY, December 18

Reading I: Jer 23: 5-8; Gospel: Mt 1: 18-25

8:30 a.m. Kukwa & Moczadlo Families

SATURDAY, December 19

Reading I: Jgs 13: 2-7, 24-25a

Gospel: Lk 1: 5-25

Vigil Mass

4:30 p.m. Joseph & Martha Weinrauch

SUNDAY, December 20—Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reading I: Mi 5: 1-4a; Reading II: Heb 10: 5-10

Gospel: Lk 1: 39-45

8:30 a.m. Bogucki Family

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

Collection-December 5/6

Collection: \$7,610.05* Envelopes Used: 290

PSR: \$6.00

St. Vincent de Paul: \$402.00

Religious Retirement: \$2,105.00

Catholic Campaign: \$540.00

*figure includes the following:

Parish Use Only: \$1,233 Restoration: \$87.00

School: \$77.00

Children: \$18.55

Flowers: \$171.00

Christmas: \$90.00

Immaculate Conception: \$167.00

All Saints: \$2

All Souls: \$6

Thank you!

Parish Snapshot: The latest financial snapshot for the month of October: We had receipts of \$63,330 and expenses of \$48,811 for a surplus of \$14,519. For the fiscal year 2015-2016 we are currently running at a deficit of \$4,461.

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 Krolikowski, Nancy Kolecki, Dorothy Latko, Pat Harmon



Recently Baptized:

Emily Sunday

May God bless her, her Godparents and her family!

Please note: Due to the Christmas holiday, all articles for the December 27 bulletin must be in to the parish office on Thursday, December 17, by 10 a.m. Thank you!

Third Sunday of Advent

Do you know? Who, according to Luke, was the relative that Mary visited early in her pregnancy?

Answer below.

Peace & Justice Gem

Joy and growth come from following our deepest impulses, however foolish they may seem to some, or dangerous, or even though the apparent outcome may be defeat.

A. J. Muste

Weekend Drawing

The winners of our weekend drawing for last weekend were Michael Skitzki and Maureen McKee. Congratulations!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Coming up!

All middle school students are invited to our final meeting for 2015! We will meet in SS. Peter & Paul's school building THIS WEDNESDAY, December 16, from 7-9 p.m. Please be on time. Doors open 15 minutes early.

Students must be registered to receive a 2016 postcard in the mail! To register, go to our website, download the form, and drop it off at one of our cluster parish offices.

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



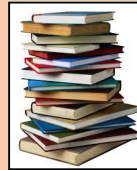
Our John Paul II Academy Panthers had a very successful first weekend of basketball games. The 8th grade boys won their game against Gesu 39-33. The 6th graders won their game against Sacred Heart of Jesus in South Euclid 29-16. The fourth graders won their game against Sacred Heart of Jesus 28-8. The third graders won their game against St. Clare 17-11. Way to go, teams!

Answer: Elizabeth

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.



Prices as marked.



Spiritual Development Commission

We are seeking children volunteers from our parish who would like to be a part of the 4:30 p.m. family Christmas Mass on December 24 as one of the following:

1. Greeters
2. Lectors
3. Present the Gifts to the Altar
4. Join in the Procession with Fr. Dan. Dress up as a shepherd or angel (we will provide the outfit).

If you are interested, please contact the rectory at 216-581-2852 by December 17 stating you would like to participate. Leave your name, grade and home phone number.

Also at this Mass, the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be collecting non-perishable food items for the pantry. They will also be collecting gifts for infants that will be donated to Womankind.
Hope to see you there!

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 27, at 2:30 p.m. in St. Therese Church.

Announcement from Villa St. Joseph

The Village at Marymount is seeking volunteer certified Eucharistic Ministers to distribute Communion to residents of Villa St. Joseph. Ministers are needed one day a week and/or as substitutes. Please call Sr. Mary Alice at 216-332-1743 to learn more and schedule a visit

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.



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! Some tags may look a little different than in the past. We included Womankind in our family of Giving Tree recipients this year, and the Koinonia Group Home has made

their own tags to include more helpful information, mainly gender and age.

Help make some family's Christmas a happy time. Please return your gift before December 19 so that it may be sorted and distributed. Also make sure the tag is attached securely to the gift. There are envelopes available for those who would rather donate money. Envelopes can be placed in the collection baskets on Saturday or Sunday. Thank you!



Please join the John Paul II Academy K-4 students as they prepare to celebrate the season with a Christmas Concert on Tuesday, December 15, at 6:30 p.m. in SS. Peter & Paul Church!

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.com. The Jesuit Retreat is located at 5629 State Road in Parma.

Third Sunday in Advent

Dear Parishioners,

Eight years ago John Paul II Academy was born of the merger of St. Therese Parish's and SS. Peter & Paul Parish's schools. In the ensuing years our school has excelled at nurturing our children in their faith and helping them to master the subjects that will assist them in making good use of their God-given talents.

From the beginning a big concern has been maintaining the number of students JP II needs to stay viable. This has proved to be a great challenge, as is clear when one glances at the statistics. In the 2009-2010 academic year 250 students attended kindergarten through the eighth grade. This number declined every year: 231 in 2010-2011, 205 in 2011-2012, 187 in 2012-2013, 170 in 2013-2014, 168 in 2014-2015 and 164 in the current year.

The hope that Fr. Gregory J. Olszewski, who is the pastor at SS. Peter & Paul Parish, and I entertained was that our school eventually would become self-supporting. The two parishes subsidized it \$180,000 per year for the first seven years. Because that amount of money was not sustainable, it was lowered to \$120,000 last year and then to \$100,000 this year. Due to the financial challenges that confront our faith communities, we cannot continue the subsidy next year, which necessitates that tuition will have to bear the burden alone at that point. However, with tuition as JP II's sole source of income, a minimum of 200 students is needed. Regrettably, since that number has eluded us, we only can conclude that the goal of a self-supporting school is out of reach.

Fr. Olszewski and I met with representatives of the diocesan Secretariat for Catechetical Formation and Education in October. After reviewing JP II's financial position and the enrollment trends, we reluctantly concluded that our school should close when the current academic year ends in June. We advised Bishop Richard Lennon of this, and he concurred. Though we project \$287,572 will remain in the school's checking, savings, and investment accounts by June 30, 2016, we believe that it would be a gamble to carry on another year. That amount could prove insufficient if JP II incurred a major expense, such as the failure of the boiler or the roof. But for the \$100,000 subsidy provided by the parishes, the deficit for the current school year would be \$145,418 by June 30, 2016, according to the education office's figures. The deficit for fiscal year 2014-2015 was \$161,630, excluding the subsidy. Elsewhere in this weekend's bulletin you will find these figures in the Annual Financial Report for JP II.

To try keeping our school open another year would in our view be an inadvisable use of the funds that remain, considering the risk that the well might run dry before the school year ended and that space is available in other parochial schools nearby. That residual money, which came from the subsidy supplied by both of our parishes, will benefit us as we strive to carry on our mission in a time that is daunting financially. We pastors and Ms. Christine Lackney, the principal, are working closely with the education office in arranging for representatives from St. Benedict School in Garfield Heights, Archbishop James P. Lyke School and Holy Name School in Cleveland and St. Michael School in Independence to meet with our parents about the next academic year. The education office also will assist our teachers in finding positions in other parochial schools, and Fr. Olszewski and I fervently hope that these fine men and women will be able to continue their careers elsewhere.

I am proud of John Paul II Academy and its students, parents, faculty and staff. The sacrifices our parents make to give their children a Catholic education are considerable, and the dedication of our teachers and staff fills me with gratitude. With great reluctance Fr. Olszewski and I came to the conclusion that JP II is no longer viable and, to that effect, made our recommendation to the Bishop. My prayer and hope is that the JP II community will strive to make this final year a wonderful one, recognizing that our school's dedicated effort these past eight years is reason to celebrate. I ask that all of you lend the parents, students, faculty and staff the support of your prayers.

Since 1927 our children have been schooled in that building on the corner of Granger and E. 105th, which also housed our parish's worship space until 1960. It is wrenching for us to witness the end of an era. However, let us trust in the Almighty who raised Jesus from the dead. Whenever one door closes, he always opens another.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Dan

The Week Ahead

Sunday, December 13

Welcome to our Cub Scouts at the 10:30 Mass!
Holy Name coffee & donuts after 10:30 Mass, H
Confirmation Workshop 11:45 a.m., S
Communal Penance Service 3 p.m., C

Monday, December 14

Seniors Christmas Party, 12:00 noon K of C Hall (Small)
Boy Scouts Parent Meeting 7:00 p.m., R
Holy Name Society Meeting, 7:00 p.m., H

Tuesday, December 15

PSR 6:30 p.m., S
St. Vincent De Paul 6:30 p.m., R
JP II Christmas Concert 6:30 p.m., SS. Peter & Paul

Tuesday, December 15, continued

Social Concerns 7:30 p.m., St. Rita
AA 8 p.m., H

Wednesday, December 16

Choir Practice 6:45 p.m., C

Thursday, December 17

Bingo 6:45 p.m., H

Friday, December 18

Cub Scouts Meeting / Christmas Party 7:00 p.m., H

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

