

### Masses for the Week

#### SATURDAY, December 19

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

#### MONDAY, December 21—St. Peter Canisius

Reading I: Sg 2: 8-14; Gospel: Lk 1: 39-45

6:30 p.m. Sam Mendolera

#### TUESDAY, December 22

Reading I: 1 Sm 1: 24-28 Gospel: Lk 1: 46-56

7:00 a.m. Kerry Kipfstuhl

#### WEDNESDAY, December 23—St. John Of Kanty

Reading I: Mal 3: 1-4, 23-24; Gospel: Lk 1: 57-66

#### THURSDAY, December 24—Christmas Eve

Reading I: Is 9: 1-6; Reading II: Ti 2: 11-14;

Gospel: Luke 2: 1-14

4:30 a.m. Norma Zimny

10:00 p.m. Barney Nowicki, Sr.

#### FRIDAY, December 25—Christmas

Reading I: Is 52: 7-10; Reading II: Heb 1: 1-6

Gospel: Jn 1: 1-18

8:00 a.m. Bernadette Berdella

10:00 a.m. Special Intention of Mimie Hernandez

12:00 p.m. Leonard (AM) & Mildred Divoky

#### SATURDAY, December 26—St. Stephen

Reading I: Acts 6: 8-10, 7: 54-59; Gospel: Mt 10: 17-22

#### Vigil Mass

4:30 p.m. Ruth Wilkes

#### SUNDAY, December 27—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Reading I: Sir 3: 2-6, 12-14; Reading II: Col 3: 12-21

Gospel: Lk 2: 41-52

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

10:30 a.m. Helen Petro (AM)



**Merry Christmas!**

**Fr. Dan Fickes, Pastor**

**Fr. Norm Gajdzinski, Pastor Emeritus**

**Deacon Bob Bugaj**

**Sr. DeAnne Zawadzki, DRE**

**Mrs. Nancy Heineke, Youth Minister**

**Mr. Frank Kozuch, Music Minister**

**The St. Therese Parish Staff**

The parish office will be closed on Thursday, December 24, and Friday, December 25.

#### Collection-December 12/13

Collection: \$10,413.30\* Envelopes Used: 342

St. Vincent de Paul: \$134

Religious Retirement: \$80

\*figure includes the following:

Parish Use Only: \$594 Restoration: \$98

School: \$87.00 Children: \$17.30

Flowers: \$168 Christmas: \$790

Immaculate Conception: \$913.50

Solemnity of Mary: \$65 Faith Direct: \$1,767

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 Krolikowski, Nancy Kolecki, Dorothy Latko, Pat Harmon, Joe Putka, Hank Malinowski



Please pray for the souls of:

**Jerome Popovich**

**Lois Ahrens**

May our loving Savior grant them peace.

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Do you know? What is the focus of the first part of Advent as well as the focus of the second half?**

*Answer below.*

### Peace & Justice Gem

*Therefore, my own good daughter, do not let your mind be troubled over anything that shall happen to me in this world. Nothing can come but what God wills. And I am very sure that whatever that be, however bad it may seem, it shall indeed be the best.*

**St. Thomas More, in a letter to his daughter shortly before his execution.**

### Weekend Drawing

The winners of our weekend drawing for last weekend were Florence Maslar and Tom Gadus. Congratulations!



### Help Decorate the Church!

We will finish decorating the church after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 20. Anyone who would like to join us is welcome and would be appreciated! This is a great opportunity for service hours.

**Please note: Due to the New Year's Day holiday, all articles for the January 3 bulletin must be in to the parish office on Tuesday, December 22, by 10 a.m. Sorry for any inconvenience. Thank you!**

### YOUTH MINISTRY

On behalf of the YOUTH412 Adult Leadership Team, we wish our teens, their families and our parish families a blessed Christmas. We appreciate your prayers and support throughout the year for our Young Church. Blessings!

Andy, Christine, Joanna, Lou, Nancy & Pam

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: Watching and waiting for Jesus' second coming, then expectation regarding our celebration of Jesus' birth.**

### SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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

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!

### Holiday Mass Schedule

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
Thursday, December 31:	5:00 p.m.
Friday, January 1:	10:00 a.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place after the 10 a.m. Mass on January 1, First Friday.



Can you help?

### Attention Altar Servers

We are still in need of altar servers for the Christmas masses, especially the 10 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve and all three Christmas Day Masses (8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon). Please let us know if you can help out by calling the rectory at 216-581-2852.

The Matt Skitzki musical group will perform a prelude to the 4:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 26.



### 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.



We have several gift cards for different stores and restaurants, etc. in stock at the rectory. Get your last minute Christmas shopping done by purchasing gift cards here. That way you also benefit the parish!

*Thank You*

The Garfield Hts. Knights of Columbus would like to thank you for your generous donations of coats, gloves, hats, and scarves during our Coats for Kids campaign. We were able to collect 80 coats and a bag full of accessories along with \$300 in cash donations which will be used to purchase coats. May God bless you and Merry Christmas!

### Oplatki

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

### Celebrate Mass at Night



Come to church at 9:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve and enjoy a half hour of Advent and Christmas carol singing and instrumentals before Mass. What a beautiful way to enjoy the quiet welcoming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, at His birth.

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

Need the perfect gift for your spouse this Christmas? Better than power tools or jewelry, better than a romantic dinner, even better than a cruise, give your spouse the gift of your time and love by taking him/her on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next one will be held in Hudson at the Clarion Inn and Conference Center on February 12-14. Applications and further info is available at [www.GreatMarriagesOhio.org](http://www.GreatMarriagesOhio.org), or call 330-305-9963. Upon request, a gift card can be mailed to you for gift giving. Call today and make your good marriage a great marriage!

Next weekend is Donut Weekend after all masses!



### 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

### Start a New Career in the New Year With Ohio Catholic Federal Credit Union!

Are you a motivated, business-savvy individual who is searching for a meaningful career with an organization that shares your Catholic values? Check out the exciting job opportunities available with Ohio Catholic Federal Credit Union. Recognized as the largest faith-based, full-service credit union in the state of Ohio and the ninth largest in the country, Ohio Catholic practices a unique business model of focusing on faith and finances. With a competitive salary and benefits package, opportunities for advancement, and a fun, family-oriented culture, the credit union recognizes the integral role that hardworking employees play in the success of Ohio Catholic.

Visit [www.ohiocatholicfcu.com/careers](http://www.ohiocatholicfcu.com/careers) for a list of open positions or send an email to [hr@ohiocatholicfcu.com](mailto:hr@ohiocatholicfcu.com) for more information.

## Fourth Sunday in Advent

### Retrouvaille Weekend

Someone once said, "Marriages may be made in heaven, but they sure take a lot of work on earth." Have you become so distracted by outside pressure that you neglect your spouse? The Retrouvaille program can help you put your troubled marriage back on track. This program is supported by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. The next Cleveland Retrouvaille weekend will be held January 15-17. A registration fee of \$150 is required to confirm your reservation. For more information concerning the program, or to register, please call Diane or Al Miskinis *in complete confidence* at 1-800-470-2230. For additional information or to register online, please to to: [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org).

### Jesuit Retreat House

There are retreats coming up in January at the Jesuit Retreat House. For information, please contact JRH at 440-884-9300 or visit [www.jrh-cleveland.com](http://www.jrh-cleveland.com). The Jesuit Retreat is located at 5629 State Road in Parma.

### The Week Ahead

#### Sunday, December 20

Choir Practice after 10:30 Mass if needed, C

#### Tuesday, December 22

AA 8 p.m., H

#### Merry Christmas!

#### Saturday, December 26

Musical Prelude by the Skitzki Group 4:10 p.m., C  
Donut weekend after all Masses, H

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

### From Fr. Dan:

On Christmas we celebrate the birth of Emmanuel, which means "God is with us". There will be a family gathering, singing, lighted candles, and presents, as with most birthday parties. However, the Church's observance of this festival of our Savior's birth really is a far cry from a birthday celebration. As a point of comparison, let's look at Presidents' Day. It isn't an occasion for making a birthday cake for George Washington and Abraham Lincoln but to consider the meaning of these great men for our nation. Their influence on us didn't die when they breathed their last, and this is far more the case with Jesus. That God's Son humbled himself to share in our humanity so that we may share in his divinity demands reflection on our part. The reason is that it speaks to us of how much God treasures each person. If you and I and everybody else on earth are so precious to God, then it's essential that we show tremendous care for one another. I came across this Franciscan blessing on a website I enjoy. I think it's appropriate for Christmas, as a reminder of what it means to bear the name of Christian, after the one who was born long ago, remains among us, and will come again:

*May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.*

*May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

*May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.*

*And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen!*

I pray that God may grant all of you a Christmas day and season blessed with a deep sense of God's passionate love for you and with a heart-felt gratitude for the gift of Emmanuel.



