

Masses for the Week

SATURDAY, December 26

4:30 p.m. Ruth Wilkes

SUNDAY, December 27—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and 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)

MONDAY, December 28—The Holy Innocents

Reading I: 1 Jn 1: 5—2: 2; Gospel: Mt 2: 13-18

6:30 p.m. Lawrence & Ann Cermak

TUESDAY, December 29—St. Thomas Becket

Reading I: 1 Jn 2: 3-11; Gospel: Lk 2: 22-35

7:00 a.m. John Roman

WEDNESDAY, December 30

Reading I: 1 Jn 2: 12-17; Gospel: Lk 2: 36-40

THURSDAY, December 31— St. Sylvester I

Reading I: 1 Jn 2: 18-21; Gospel: Jn 1: 1-18

Vigil

5:00 a.m. Theresa Gerard Vasilev

FRIDAY, January 1—Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Reading I: Nm 6: 22-27; Reading II: Gal 4: 4-7

Gospel: Lk 2: 16-21

10:00 a.m. Intention of Celebrant

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

SATURDAY, January 2—SS. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

Reading I: 1 Jn 2: 22-28; Gospel: Jn 1: 19-28

Vigil Mass

4:30 p.m. Jeanette & Christopher Lehman

SUNDAY, January 3—The Epiphany of the Lord

Reading I: Is 60: 1-6 Reading II: Eph 3: 2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Mt 2: 1-12

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

10:30 a.m. Richard C. Milbert & Jeanie Savnik
PSR Family Mass



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

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 31, and Friday, January 1.

The collection amounts from the weekend of December 19/20 and Christmas were not available due to our early bulletin deadline. Please refer to next weekend's bulletin for these figures.

Thank you.

Holy Day of Obligation

Friday, January 1, is the Solemnity of Mary, a holy day of obligation. Mass times for this holy day are:

Thursday, December 31: 5 p.m.

Friday, January 1: 10 a.m.

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

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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Do you know? Who Thomas Becket was?

Answer below.

Peace & Justice Gem

We are not faced with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the underprivileged, and at the same time protecting nature.

**Pope Frances in
On Care for Our Common Home**

Weekend Drawing

Weekend drawing winners for December 19/20 and the Christmas winner of \$500 will be reported in next week's bulletin. Due to an early bulletin deadline imposed by our bulletin publisher, these name were not available for this bulletin.

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.

Attention Altar Servers

We need altar servers for the holy day, The Solemnity of Mary, at 5 p.m. on December 31, and at 10 a.m. on January 1. Please call the rectory at 216-581-2852 if you are able to help. Thank you!

YOUTH MINISTRY

May your heart be full of hope for a year of mercy, in the world, in your house and in your heart! Youth412's Adult Leaders and the teen members wish you all the very best in 2016!

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: The Archbishop of Canterbury martyred by some of the English king's soldiers in 1170. Canonized three years later, he become one of England's best-known saints. His feast day is December 29.



I Jamie Cromika & Daniel Stanzas

We thank the Matt Skitzki musical group for performing a prelude to the 4:30 Mass this weekend!



Please join the Stewardship Committee as they host Donut Weekend in the hall after all masses this weekend.

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

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend 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, or call 330-305-9963. Call today and make your good marriage a great marriage!

Adult Catholic Education

The next ACE session is from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19, at St. Michael Church, 6540 Brecksville Road in Independence. It is titled "Formed in the Image of Christ: Eucharistic Living" and will be presented by Fr. Joe Mamich.

From Fr. Dan:

“Peace hath her victories / No less renowned than war.” Thus wrote the 17th century English poet John Milton. My prayer for Anno Domini 2016 is that you and I will contribute to the victories of peace. In our reading from Luke on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, after announcing to Mary that God wished her to bear Jesus, Gabriel told her about Elizabeth’s pregnancy, stating, “Nothing will be impossible for God.” I suppose no one could appreciate that better than Mary, the virgin who in nine months would give birth to the Prince of Peace. The challenge to which each of us must rise is to bear peace just as much as Mary did. If left to our own meager powers we will fail miserably in this, but nothing is impossible for God. As individuals we have an important part to play because relying on those who lead our nation hasn’t worked well at all. However, that’s nothing new in human history. So we heard at Christmas, in the midnight Mass reading from Isaiah.

This passage records the prophet’s vision of an ideal king who would embody all that his own king lacked. The name of this failed king was Ahaz, who ruled in Jerusalem in the early 8th-century B.C., when Isaiah was active. The prophet viewed him as a disaster. In those verses, he applies four titles to the ideal king that he foresees will come one day. He will be Wonder-Counselor, whose plans will benefit his people, not bring them the disastrous wars of King Ahaz. As God-Hero he will be a God-like king who will save his people from harm, unlike Ahaz. While Ahaz led his people to ruin, the future king will be called Father-Forever because he will take faithful care of them. Ahaz trusted in power politics rather than in God, but as Prince of Peace the future king will guide his people in the way of perfect peace and justice.

We Christians learn the way of peace from Jesus, that ideal king envisioned by Isaiah. It is the way of forgiveness and non-violence, self-sacrifice and love. In 2016 let us redouble our effort to put these lessons into practice. In our work of peacemaking, we must begin with ourselves. John of Apamea, a 5th century Syriac monk and spiritual writer, said, “Honor peace more than anything else. But strive first of all to be at peace in yourself.” Prayer, fasting, and the sacraments

enable us to tame the violence and discord that lurk within each of us. The peace that we nurture within ourselves inevitably touches our family, friends, and co-workers. Perhaps even more to the point, it leads us to love and forgive our enemies. Only when each of us as individuals learn this will peace be possible among nations at odds with one another. In the words of Thomas Merton, an American monk and spiritual writer, “Instead of loving what you think is peace, love other men and women and love God above all else. Instead of hating all the people you think are warmongers, hate the appetites and disorders in your own soul which are the cause of war.”

Since with God all things are possible, you and I can contribute to the victories of peace. However, in doing so we will pay a price, as Jesus did. His future suffering is foreshadowed in today’s passage from Luke, through Simeon’s words to Mary, “This child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted.” Your efforts to heal a rift within your family could blow up in your face. Your refusal to respond in kind to a classmate who has badmouthed you or worse could be interpreted as weakness. Your opposition to the death penalty, or your insistence that the incarcerated remain God’s beloved children and need our help, or your compassion for undocumented workers might earn you scorn and ridicule. Mary bore the Prince of Peace, and so must we. Doing so will bring us pain, but let us persevere, confident that in this we are cooperating in Christ’s work of salvation.

The Week Ahead**Sunday, December 27**

Coffee & Donuts after masses, H
Divine Mercy Holy Hour 2:30 p.m., C

Monday, December 28

Boy Scout PLC Meeting 7 p.m., R

Tuesday, December 29

AA 8 p.m., H

Friday, January 1**Happy New Year!**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after 10 a.m. Mass

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

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

For our 4th page, we have the January activity calendar.

