

# *The* CATHOLIC TIMES

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## Holy day moved to Monday for Immaculate Conception

The Holy See has clarified that the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception remains a holy day of obligation this year.

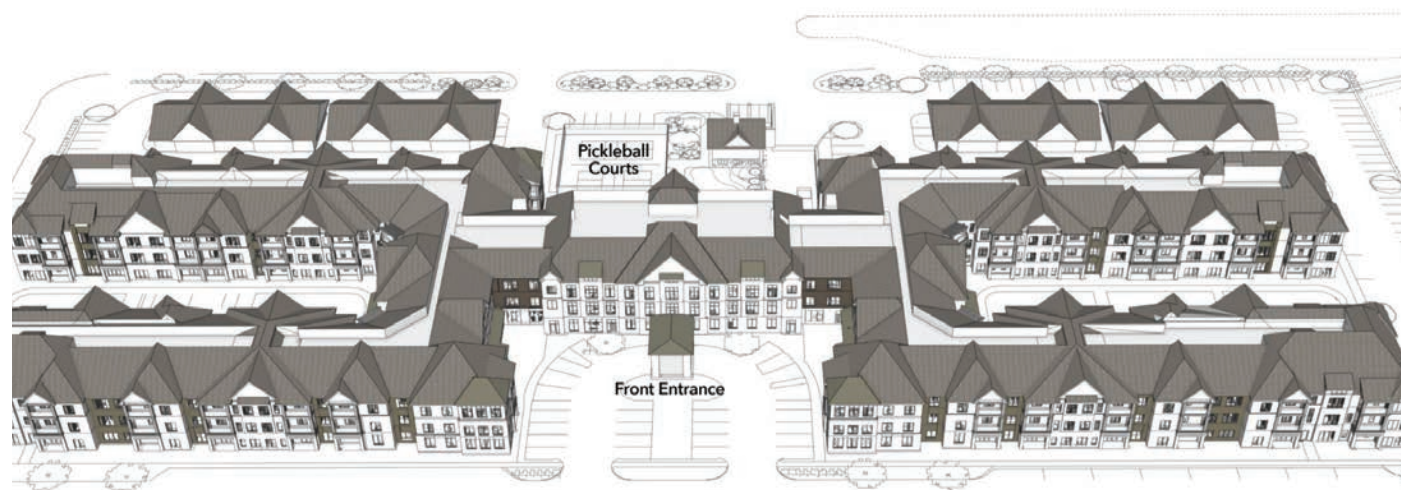
While the feast, celebrated annually on Dec. 8, has always been a holy day of obligation, this year the feast is transferred to Monday, Dec. 9. This is because Dec. 8 is the Second Sunday of Advent.

Some holy days of obligation that fall on a Sunday are often celebrated either on the preceding Saturday or the following Monday, which is the case this year for the Immaculate Conception. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a holy day because it is the patronal feast of the United States of America. Not all holy days of obligation (for example, Christmas) are moved.

A holy day of obligation means that Catholics are obliged to attend Mass in honor of the particular feast. Thus, this year, Catholics are to worship God at Mass both on Sunday, Dec. 8 and Monday, Dec. 9, the transferred date for the Immaculate Conception.

If it is impossible to attend Mass, such as in the case of illness or needing to care for infants, the obligation ceases because no one is bound to do the impossible. Catholics, on an individual basis, may also be dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass by their own pastor for each particular feast or Sunday on account of necessity or a just cause.

"Whenever January 1, the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, or August 15, the solemnity of the Assumption, or November 1, the solemnity of All Saints, falls on a Saturday or on a Monday, the precept to attend Mass is abrogated," according to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.



The Villas at St. Therese Plain City senior community will include 209 apartments for independent and assisted living. *Drawing/Ohio Living*

## Catholic senior community planned near Plain City

A new Catholic community for seniors is coming to the Plain City-Dublin area in 2027.

The Villas of St. Therese Plain City, sponsored by the Diocese of Columbus and operated by Ohio Living, has begun to accept priority list applications for the independent and assisted living complex that will offer 209 apartments when finished in summer 2027.

A refundable \$1,000 deposit with a completed application, which can be found at [www.thevillasofst.org](http://www.thevillasofst.org), is required upfront to become a part of the project. In early 2025, all those who made an initial deposit will be given an opportunity to decide whether or not to move forward, make an additional deposit and then select an apartment style.

Msgr. Joseph Hendricks, the bishop's delegate for community relations, said the new Villas at St. Therese has been in the works for almost nine years.

"It began as a project to add another site for senior living," Msgr. Hendricks said. "After COVID and the inability of HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) to fund the project, we began again with a consultant and study to test the concept of senior living and to expand the availability of more units."

The Villas at St. Therese Plain City is located off U.S. Route 33 just north of Post Road in an area between Dublin and Plain City. Of the 209 apartments, 173 are designated for independent liv-

ing and 36 for assisted living.

Residents must be age 55 or older. "It's a Catholic facility, but it's open to anyone," Msgr. Hendricks said.

The Plain City location will be the second Villas at St. Therese in the diocese. The Villas of St. Therese in Columbus at 5253 E. Broad St. has existed on the east side since the late 1990s. The Mother Angeline McCrory Manor for memory assisted living, skilled nursing and rehabilitation was added in 2005.

The Columbus senior-care complex is affiliated with the not-for-profit Carmelite System sponsored by the Carmelite Sisters of the Aged and Infirm. It is not connected with the Villas at St. Therese Plain City.

The centerpiece of the Plain City property will be a Catholic chapel for Masses, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, prayers and various devotional activities. The sacraments will be provided by retired priests living at the facility.

"Sacramental care is the number one priority," said Joel Wrobbel, marketing director for Ohio Living, which is managing the property. "It's a beautiful chapel."

An architectural sketch of the chapel can be viewed at the website as well as the other buildings. There are three one-bedroom floor plans ranging from 649 square feet to 980 square feet and six two-bedroom options from 1,091 square feet to 1,551 square feet.

All but one layout includes a patio

or balcony. Each apartment has a fully-equipped kitchen, individually controlled heat and air conditioning, spacious closets, laundry room with washer and dryer, walk-in showers with grab bars and an emergency call system.

In addition to the chapel, indoor amenities include formal and private dining rooms, fitness center, salon, library, game room, lockers and a therapy gym. Outdoor amenities feature two courtyards, planters for outdoor gardening, yard game area, putting green, fire pit, bocce ball court, pickleball courts, shelter and outdoor movie area and garage parking.

Residents will have access to healthy meals, medical care and a variety of social and spiritual activities.

Wrobbel pointed out that the Villas are within three miles of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church and that there's easy access to shopping, restaurants, parks and recreation.

Ohio Living owns and operates 11 life plan communities throughout Ohio and also provides home health and hospice care in 51 of the state's 88 counties. The faith-based organization was founded in 1922.

More information regarding fees and costs for the Villas of St. Therese Plain City is available on the website. Wrobbel can be reached at 614-653-2993 or [jwrobbel@ohioliving.org](mailto:jwrobbel@ohioliving.org).



Front page photo

### ADVENT BEGINS

Seasonal events will be taking place at diocesan parishes from Dover to Portsmouth during the blessed time of preparation for the birth of Savior, Jesus Christ.

*iStock photo*

## CATHOLIC TIMES

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**Bishop Earl K. Fernandes:** President & Publisher  
**Doug Bean:** Editor ([dbean@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:dbean@columbuscatholic.org))  
**Hannah Heil:** Reporter ([hheil@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:hheil@columbuscatholic.org))  
**Emma Noel:** Layout/Design ([enoel@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:enoel@columbuscatholic.org))  
**Mailing Address:** 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215  
**Editorial/Advertising:** (614) 224-5195  
**Subscriptions:** (614) 224-6530  
[subscriptions@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:subscriptions@columbuscatholic.org)

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Dr. Marlon De La Torre, senior director for the diocesan Department of Evangelization and Catechesis, gives his keynote address at the Evangelization Leadership Summit on Nov. 16.



Msgr. James Shea, president at the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota, serves as a keynote speaker at the diocesan summit held at Ohio Dominican University.



The diocesan Evangelization Leadership Summit was held in Matesich Theater at Ohio Dominican University in Columbus on Saturday, Nov. 16.

*Photos courtesy William Keimig*

## Evangelization Leadership Summit focuses on marriage and family

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

This year's diocesan Evangelization Leadership Summit held at Ohio Dominican University on Saturday, Nov. 16 was centered around God's design for marriage and family.

The summit, organized by the diocesan Department of Evangelization and Catechesis, is designed for clergy, consecrated religious, parish and school leadership teams, staff and volunteers, parents and individuals interested in learning about diocesan evangelization efforts. It also offered strategies for evangelization and strengthening families and communities in the diocese.



Father Adam Streitenberger (center), diocesan vicar for evangelization, is joined by seminarians Zachary Goodchild (right) and Miguel De La Torre as he leads attendees in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

"We all involved in ministry need an opportunity to be spiritually and catechetically formed. Even more, we need an avenue for a community amongst our peers to pray, listen and learn from each other," said Dr. Marlon De La Torre, senior director for the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis. "The Evangelization Summit allows everyone to rest from everyday ministry's challenges and be ministered to."

"The Evangelization Summit also provides the Department of Evangelization the opportunity to unveil the latest ministerial initiatives and directives from the diocese."

Msgr. James Shea, a priest of the Diocese of Bismarck, North Dakota, served as a keynote speaker this year. He serves as president at the University of Mary in Bismarck and has spoken at numerous events, including the National Eucharistic Congress and Fellowship of Catholic University Students' SEEK conference.

Other keynote speakers included De La Torre and Bishop Earl Fernandes, who also celebrated morning Mass at the summit.

Msgr. Shea's keynote, "Marriage as a Sign of and a Participation in the Divine Drama," explored how God uses marriage to draw individuals to Himself and make them more like Him.

He focused on the question, "Why does God care at all about us?" He said he wanted to take a "cosmic approach" rather than a political, sociological or historical one to answer it.

He reflected on Christ's conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well in the fourth chapter of John's gospel. Msgr. Shea said, while Jesus' conversations are often brief exchanges, His conversation with the Samaritan woman is the longest recorded in all four gospels, reaching 42 verses.

The question at the center of the conversation is marriage. He explained that marriage is a central part of the human experience – an experience that takes center stage and is a participation in the divine drama.

Marriage, he said, is about the whole story of salvation.

"The essence of salvation can be distilled down to a right understanding of the mystery, the sacrament and the great adventure of marriage. This is important, especially in our own time, because ... marriage has been flattened out," he said.

"The depth and the meaning of it is lost on most people, not just because that's inevitable in a humdrum and rough-and-tumble of life, in which the day of the wedding, so filled with the promise, excitement, deteriorates into the rough-and-tumble of daily life and dirty diapers and soccer practice. No, it's not just practical in that sense. We live in a time in which marriage doesn't mean anything."

He asked, if marriage means nothing, why should individuals marry and have children? By such logic, he said, married life does not seem a natural or sensible way to live.

He also pointed out that a need for children is not as obvious today as historically, when children were needed for labor on the family farm or as soldiers in war. He said children now are often an unwanted burden or a desired luxury.

"Marriage is tending to be diminished from a serious social arrangement with evident desirable implications to a highly personal and emotional relationship between two people with little at stake apart from their preferences," he said.

"If that's the truth, it's no wonder that people aren't getting married anymore. On the sacramental records, we've seen a precipitous decline of couples ap-

proaching the Church for marriage. And on the civil side, marriages are being contracted less and less."

However, Msgr. Shea said, God's plan of salvation is directly connected to marriage and family.

He said God, not having to, chose to bring into existence creatures who otherwise would never have existed. Doing so made human beings sharers in God's life, elevating them to His level. He explained that married couples do the same through welcoming children.

Msgr. Shea said God raised the human race to Himself so human beings – mortals – could be like gods. He described the teaching as so outrageous that there is no comparison to it.

"The essence of our faith is not simply that we should live a good life, that we should be contributors to society, that we should be moral in our action ... educating children and caring for the poor," he said.

"All of that is an overflow of this central reality that God's purpose in bringing us into existence is that we should be deified, that we should become gods, divinized."

God does that, Msgr. Shea said, first by making persons His children and then marrying the human race, joining them to Himself in marriage.

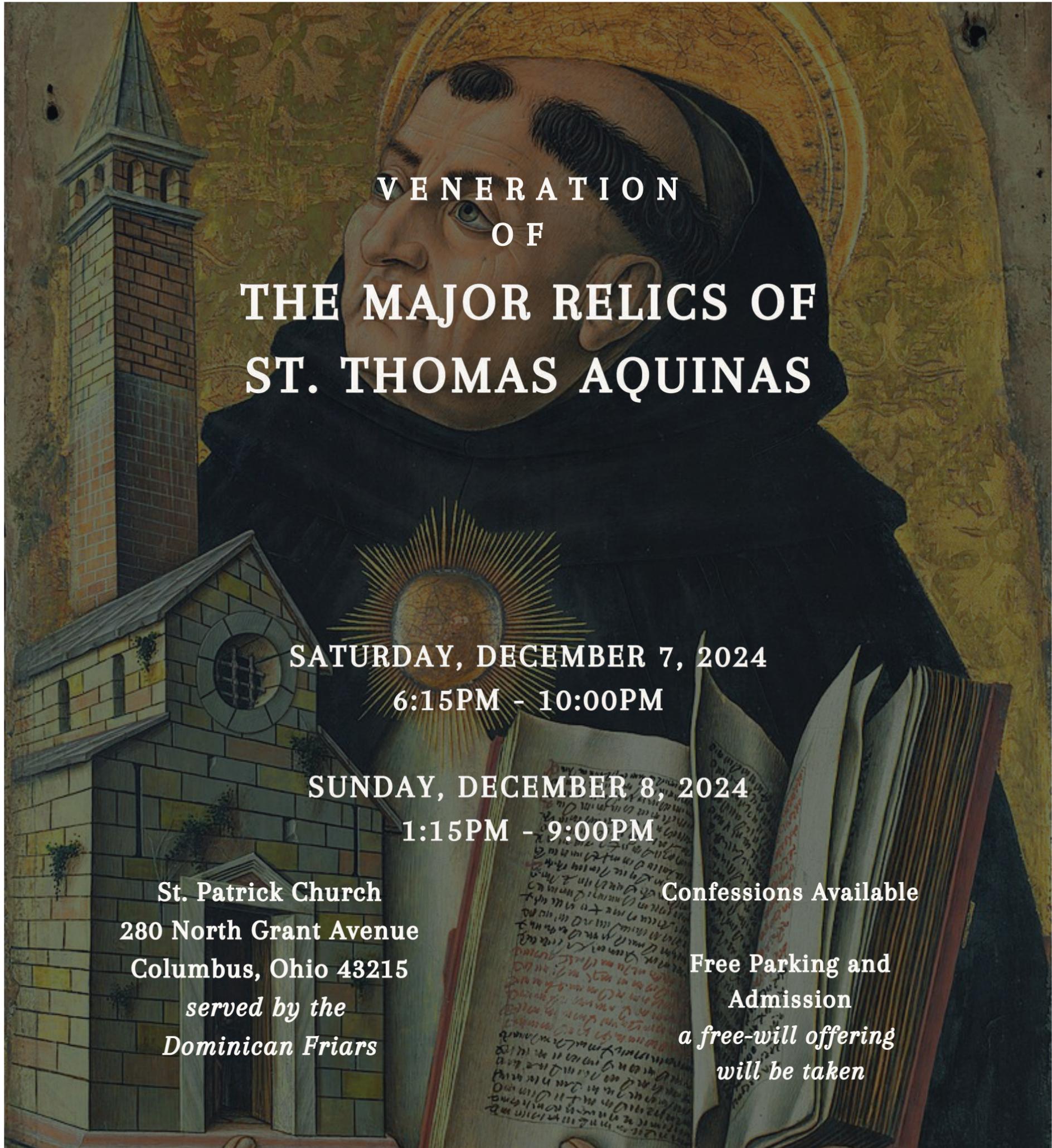
Marital imagery throughout Scripture is a sign of divinization.

Msgr. Shea gave an example of five women in Jesus' genealogy: Ruth, Rahab, Tamar, Bathsheba and Mary. All were unlikely candidates, yet God raised them to "unimaginable heights," he said, and each become part of the lineage of the Messiah.

He used a modern-day example of British royalty.

"Think of someone like Kate Middle-

*See EVANGELIZATION, Page 8*



VENERATION  
OF  
THE MAJOR RELICS OF  
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024  
6:15PM - 10:00PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024  
1:15PM - 9:00PM

St. Patrick Church  
280 North Grant Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
*served by the  
Dominican Friars*

Confessions Available

Free Parking and  
Admission

*a free-will offering  
will be taken*

## Is hell just a scare tactic?

Dear Father,  
I saw a billboard that says "Hell is real!" I was told that we Catholics don't have to believe in purgatory anymore, so I was wondering if we don't have to believe in hell. I thought only Protestants believe in hell. I'm confused because my priest gave a sermon where he talked about hell and purgatory. Should I just ignore these things as scare tactics?

-Giselle

Dear Giselle,

We should all fear hell. It's a terrible reality. It's not just a scare tactic. Our Lord had no qualms about preaching on eternal punishment, most notably in his parable about the sheep and goats in Matthew 25:31-46. We know that He will judge us according to our works (Romans 2:5-8). We are made by God and reborn in Christ for good works (Ephesians 2:8-10), but some will pay the penalty of eternal ruin (2 Thessalonians 1:6-9).

(By the way, purgatory exists. The Church has never stopped believing in and teaching about purgatory. See my other columns on this matter.)

Fear of hell is not the best motive for avoiding going there, but it may be a possible help for avoiding doing evil or failing to do good.

God tells us about hell in Sacred Scriptures not to scare us but to warn us about our choices in life. God and the Church are simply stating the facts about the outcome of the way we live our lives. These are warnings, not unlike the signs at the Grand Canyon warning hikers about falling in the big hole. The motive is not to frighten people but to save them from death. Strangely, there are still people who insist on ignoring the signs and they suffer the effects.

So it is with God. His one desire is that we share in

### SACRAMENTS 101

Father Paul Jerome Keller, OP, S.T.D.

*Father Paul Jerome Keller, O.P., S.T.D., director of the diocese's Office of Divine Worship, is a priest of the Dominican Province of St. Joseph. His doctorate is from Rome in sacramental theology. He currently assists at Columbus St. Patrick Church.*



His life and that we enjoy eternal happiness with Him in heaven. His warnings about hell are instructive about His plan for our happiness. That said, He also has given us freedom to choose against His plan. God knows better than we do that frightening people into being good typically doesn't work. Therefore, He entices us with His innumerable benefits and blessings.

The greatest saints of the Catholic Church spent most of their time preaching and teaching about how good God is and how happy we are when we love Him. The saints did not waste time trying to scare people into behaving themselves; they warned, rather, about the unhappiness that sin causes in our lives and the lives of others. Of course, the saints did not skirt the issue of hell, but it was never their main message.

Another thing about scare tactics is that they cause servile fear. This kind of fear makes us want to run away from the threatening person or thing that who brings about this fear. Servile fear turns us into slaves, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church points out (#1828). God wants us to know that we are His most beloved children. It does not please Him if we are slavish, even in our good works.

That last point is important. Some people try to "be good" in a groveling kind of way. In these cases, good works, sacrifices, and prayer aren't done with joy and

offered as gifts. Instead, a burdensome scrupulosity sets in. This is not the life of the freedom of the children of God.

Contrary to servile fear is healthy, or holy, fear. Some call it filial fear. This fear is a gift of the Holy Spirit and is the opposite of being scared of hell. Filial fear is a loving fear, related to the duties and affections of a son or daughter toward parents. Children naturally want to please their parents. As children age, they show their gratitude and love for their parents by doing more for them, giving greater signs of love and care.

St. Paul tells us that we are to work out our salvation (attaining heaven) with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12-13). He means that we are to avoid sin as we make our way through life toward the hereafter. We strive to please God and not men. We mustn't take salvation for granted and become puffed up, thinking that we have achieved perfection. While in this life, each of us can fall, and sometimes quite badly.

In sum, there are healthy and unhealthy fears of hell. To develop a healthy fear of hell is to show greater love and respect for God and everything that pertains to Him. We do this by observing His Commandments, by uniting ourselves with Christ in the sacrifice of the Mass, by frequent use of the sacrament of penance, by daily prayer and reading the Scriptures.

While hell is, indeed, real, worrying about it is not the best way to avoid hell. The best, and only, way to avoid going to hell is to be set on the path to heaven by constantly seeking divine mercy. Divine mercy is abundantly, and only, available from Jesus Christ. He continually showers it on us through the sacraments and sacramentals of His Church.

To heaven (not hell) with you!

## Coach will be remembered for faithfulness, not just football

The state of Ohio lost a devoted Catholic college coach for the second time this year when Gerry Faust passed into eternal life in November.

In April, faithful University of Dayton men's basketball coach Don Donoher preceded Faust in death when he passed away at age 92.

Faust was 89 when he died Nov. 11 in Akron, where he lived in retirement after a high school and college coaching career that spanned five decades.

"Fran and I are saddened to learn of the death of Coach Gerry Faust," Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine said on X (formerly Twitter). "His career at Archbishop Moeller was legendary. Most importantly, Gerry was a man of faith, who focused just as much on building moral character as he was on building character on the gridiron. He was a true role model."

A former University of Dayton quarterback who started his coaching career at Dayton Chaminade High School in the late 1950s, Faust rose to prominence in the 1960s as the head coach at Cincinnati Moeller High School, where he started the football program and compiled a 178-23-2 record in 19 seasons that included five state championships from 1975 to 1980.

More important, he made an immeasurable impact on young men and their families as a devout Catholic mentor. Earlier this year, he was inducted into the National High School Football Hall of Fame.

After winning a state title in 1980 at Moeller, Faust landed his dream job as the head coach at the University of Notre Dame. Rarely does a coach make a leap from high school to one of the highest profile positions in college football, but his success at the prep level combined with his passion for the school seemed like the perfect combination in what was dubbed "The Bold Experi-

### EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS

ment."

Unfortunately, the move didn't go as well as he had hoped on the field. In five seasons leading the Fighting Irish from 1981 through 1985, he compiled a 30-26-1 record.

Faust's tenure began with a win over LSU that catapulted Notre Dame to No. 1 in the national polls, but the Fighting Irish finished the 1981 season with a 5-6 record. Over the next four years, his teams never won more than seven games in a season and played in only two bowl games, winning the Liberty Bowl in 1983 and losing in the Aloha Bowl in 1984.

Never abandoning his unwavering faith or his great love for the university, he continued to hope that he could turn things around at Notre Dame. On Nov. 5, 1984, Sports Illustrated ran a cover story on Faust with the headline: "I'm gonna make it!"

Always the optimist, Faust remained undaunted. But he was unable to enjoy the success he wanted to achieve or meet the program's high expectations. Notre Dame ended the 1985 season with a 5-6 record after a humbling 58-7 loss to Miami in the finale.

Rather than force the university to fire him, Faust resigned his position. Not surprisingly, he never expressed bitterness. Until the day he died, he maintained his love and admiration for the university despite what happened to him there.

He often said that he only experienced 26 bad days (his losses) at Notre Dame. One of his favorite things to do outside of coaching was visiting the famous grotto on campus to pray.

In 1986, Faust returned to his home state to become the head coach at Akron, where he helped the Zips make the transition from what was then known as Division I-AA to Division I-A, the highest level of college football.

At Akron, the results were similar to his time at Notre Dame. The Zips' best season in Faust's nine years was 7-3-1 in 1992 when they tied for third in the Mid-American Conference. After a 1-10 season in 1994, Faust was let go, finishing with a 43-53-3 record at the school and an overall record as a college coach of 73-79-4.

After he was done coaching, he spent time as a fundraiser at Akron and became a frequent speaker at Catholic conferences and events. He estimated that he gave 120 talks a year, many to church and charity groups, and he rarely charged a fee, telling the *Los Angeles Times* in 2008 that it was his way to "give back to the Good Lord."

There's no doubt his tremendous Catholic faith and devotion to the Blessed Mother carried him through good times and bad. He was an active Mass goer and was involved in parish life and supported youth football teams in his later years.

The following is a story that illustrates the faith and charity of a man that every coach at every level should emulate.

In the summer of 1981, Faust was preparing for his first season at Notre Dame. A sports editor from a small-town daily newspaper not far from South Bend contacted the athletic communications office to see whether the coach might agree to a sit-down interview.

The young journalist, who was just a year out of college, knew it would be a long shot but figured it was worth a try. Big-time coaches almost never agree to

# Parishes offer regular, special Adoration times during Advent

The following is an updated list of locations throughout the diocese where Eucharistic Adoration is taking place, as supplied by the parishes to *The Catholic Times*. The list includes special Adoration times during Advent.

**Ada Our Lady of Lourdes** – Mondays, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 6 to 7 p.m. with confessions; Thursdays and Fridays, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

**Bridgettine Sisters (Order of the Most Holy Savior of St. Brigid of Sweden) convent, 40 N. Grubb St., Columbus** – Tuesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 4:30 to 9 p.m.

**Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel** – Sundays, Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22, 9 to 10:45 a.m.

**Canal Winchester-Groveport Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary** – Wednesdays, 6 to 7 p.m., First Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m., both at Canal Winchester St. John XXIII Church.

**Chillicothe St. Peter** – 6 a.m. Tuesdays to 7 p.m. Thursdays.

**Circleville St. Joseph** – First Sundays, 2 p.m.

**Columbus Christ the King** – Wednesdays, 6 to 9 p.m.; Fridays, 4 to 6 p.m.

**Columbus Holy Cross** – Saturdays, following 11:30 a.m. Mass.

**Columbus Holy Spirit** – First Fridays, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

**Columbus Immaculate Conception** – First Wednesdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Columbus Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization (formerly Columbus Holy Name)** – 6 p.m. Mondays to 8:30 a.m. Saturdays in chapel.

**Columbus Our Lady of Peace** – Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Columbus Our Lady of Victory** – Fridays, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

**Columbus Sacred Heart** – Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Columbus St. Agatha** – Wednesdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m. and 7 to 8 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 15, 3 p.m. until all confessions are heard.

**Columbus St. Andrew** – Tuesdays, 6 to 9 p.m., ending with Compline and Benediction.

**Columbus St. Catharine** – Sundays through Fridays, 6 a.m. Sunday to midnight Friday, church closed Saturday from 12:01 to 6 a.m.; Saturdays, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays at 7 p.m. are ADORE nights featuring candlelit programs and confession.

**Columbus St. Cecilia** – First Fridays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Columbus St. Christopher** – Weekdays, 3 to 4 p.m. with Mass at 4; Young Catholic Professionals Advent adoration, Thursday, Dec. 19, 7 to 8 p.m.

**Columbus St. James the Less** – Second Tuesdays, 7 to 8 p.m. with Benediction in Spanish; Wednesdays, noon to 7 p.m. with bilingual Benediction.

**Columbus St. Josephine Bakhita at St. Elizabeth Church** – Tuesdays, 5 to 6 p.m.

**Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona** – Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon.

**Columbus St. Mary German Village** – First Fridays, from after 8:30 a.m. Mass to 1 p.m.; Tuesday, Dec. 17, 5 to 6 p.m.

**Columbus St. Patrick** – Tuesdays, Dec. 3, 10 and 17, 12:15 to 8 p.m., Fridays, 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.; Fridays, 8 p.m. Friday to 7 a.m. Saturday (church locked; call church office at (614) 224-9522 for access information)

**Columbus St. Peter** – Mondays through Fridays, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr** – Thursdays, 6 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

**Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center** – Mondays through Fridays, 8:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. when Ohio State University classes are in session

**Columbus St. Thomas the Apostle** – Tuesdays, 7 to 8 p.m.

**Coshocton Sacred Heart** – First and third Fridays, 9:30 to 11:15 a.m.

**Danville St. Luke** – Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 5:30 to 10:30 a.m.

**Delaware St. Mary** – Thursdays, after 5:30 p.m. Mass to 7:30 p.m.; 40 Hours of Adoration from 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5 to 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7.

**Dennison Immaculate Conception** – Tuesdays, 8:45 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Dover St. Joseph** – Tuesdays, 5 to 6 p.m.; Thursdays, 9 to 9:30 a.m.; First Fridays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 9 p.m. until 4:30 a.m. Thursday Dec. 12

**Dresden St. Ann** – Tuesdays, Dec. 3, 10 and 17, 7 to 8 p.m.

**Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare** – Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11 and 18, 5 to 7 p.m., chapel; First Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., church.

**Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle** – 24 hours, seven days a week in basement adoration chapel. Open to the public from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Holy Hour

for the reparation, purification and sanctification of the Church, fourth Fridays, 7 to 8 p.m.

**Granville St. Edward** – Mondays, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help** – First Fridays, 9 a.m. Friday to 9 a.m. Saturday; other Fridays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Groveport St. Mary** – First Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m.

**Heath St. Leonard** – First Fridays, after 9 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 2:30 p.m.

**Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator** – Mondays, 6 to 10 p.m.; Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. (First Fridays until 1 p.m. Saturday); Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Sundays (Advent only), 6:30 to 10 p.m. No Adoration from Monday, Dec. 23 to Saturday, Dec. 28 and on Tuesday, Dec. 31 and Wednesday, Jan. 1.

**Johnstown Church of the Ascension** – Tuesdays, 5 to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

**Kenton Immaculate Conception** – Tuesdays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, from end of 9 a.m. Mass to Benediction at 1 p.m.

**Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption** – Thursdays, Dec. 5 and 12, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Dec. 19, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Lancaster St. Bernadette** – Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 6 p.m. Thursdays to 8 a.m. Fridays.

**Lancaster St. Mark** – Mondays and Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**London St. Patrick** – Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; First Fridays, noon to 5:15 p.m. No adoration Thursday, Dec. 26.

**Marion St. Mary** – Fridays, 5 to 6 p.m.; First Fridays, 4 to 7 p.m.

**Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes** – First Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 8, 10 to 11 a.m.

**Mattingly Settlement St. Mary** – Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11 and 18, 7 to 8 p.m.; First Fridays, 6 to 7 p.m.

**Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul** – Thursdays, 3 to 10 p.m.; Fridays, 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**New Albany Church of the Resurrection** – Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11 and 18, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesday, Dec. 31, following 7 p.m. Mass until midnight.

**New Lexington St. Rose** – Wednesdays, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m., concluding with

Benediction and followed by Mass at 6:30.

**New Philadelphia Sacred Heart** – Tuesdays, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Evening Prayer and Benediction, Mondays, Dec. 2, 9, 16 and 23, 6 p.m.

**Newark Blessed Sacrament** – Mondays, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, 9 to 11 a.m.

**Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton** – Perpetual Adoration, except from noon to 1 p.m. Thursdays. Sign up at [www.setonparish.com/ministries/adoration](http://www.setonparish.com/ministries/adoration).

**Plain City St. Joseph** – Mondays through Thursdays, 6 to 11 a.m. and 6 to 9 p.m.; Fridays, 6 to 8 and 9 to 11 a.m. and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**Portsmouth St. Mary** – Perpetual Adoration 24 hours a day, except when there are Masses or special events.

**Powell St. Joan of Arc** – 9 a.m. Mondays to 8 a.m. Saturdays.

**Reynoldsburg St. Pius X** – Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 9 p.m. in chapel, with Holy Hour from noon to 1 p.m. in church; Sundays, 4 to 5 p.m.; First Fridays, 9 a.m. Friday to 6:30 a.m. Saturday.

**Sugar Grove St. Joseph** – First Thursdays, 9 to 10 a.m.

**Sunbury St. John Neumann** – 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily in chapel.

**Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne** – Sundays, 8 to 8:45 a.m. and 5 to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays, 6 to 7 p.m.; Wednesdays through Fridays, 7:15 to 8:15 a.m.

**Waverly St. Mary, Queen of the Missions** – Wednesdays, 6 to 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 to 10 a.m.

**West Jefferson Sts. Simon and Jude** – Tuesdays, 5 to 6 p.m. First Fridays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Westerville St. Paul the Apostle** – First and third Wednesdays, 2:30 to 9 p.m. (confessions 7 p.m.); First Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Worthington St. Michael the Archangel** – Holy Hour with confessions, Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; 9 a.m. Thursdays to 9 p.m. Fridays

**Zanesville St. Nicholas** – First Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas** – Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in chapel.

**Zoar Holy Trinity** – Wednesdays, 7 to 8 p.m.

## Diocesan churches schedule Advent activities

Churches and other organizations throughout the Diocese of Columbus will conduct many special programs throughout the Advent season. The following is a list of seasonal activities provided by parishes to *The Catholic Times*:

**Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel** – Eucharistic Adoration, Sundays, Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22, 9 to 10:45 a.m.

**Canal Winchester-Groveport Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary** – Lessons and carols, Sunday, Dec. 15, 3 p.m., followed by reception, Canal Winchester St. John the XXIII Church.

**Circleville St. Joseph** – Parish will deliver Christmas dinner between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 25 to anyone who calls the church at (740) 477-2549 by Friday, Dec. 20.

**Columbus Christ the King** – Morning of reflection with Sister Christella Ritchey, OSF, Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m., includes breakfast. Registration deadline Wednesday, Dec. 4; concert with selections in English, Spanish, Italian, French and German, Sunday, Dec. 15, 4:30 p.m.

**Columbus Immaculate Conception** – Talk by Father Thomas Blau, OP, on “The Immaculate Conception and Grace,” followed by Rosary, Sunday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.; Advent Vespers, followed by Mass, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 6:15 p.m.; Advent lessons and carols with choirs from parish and Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, Sunday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m.; penance service, Wednesday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m.

**Columbus Our Lady of Victory** – “A Renaissance Christmas” with The Magpie Consort, Sunday, Dec. 15, 4 p.m. Tickets \$25; children 12 and under free.

**Columbus St. Agatha** – Afternoon prayer, followed by Eucharistic Adoration, Sunday, Dec. 15, 3 p.m.

**Columbus St. Catharine** – ADORE lessons and carols service, Thursday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m.

**Columbus St. Cecilia** – Lessons and carols, Sunday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m.

**Columbus St. Christopher** – Columbus Young Catholic Professionals Eucharistic Adoration, Thursday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m.

**Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral** – Lessons and carols, Sunday, Dec. 8, 3 p.m.

**Columbus St. Josephine Bakhita Parish at St. Elizabeth Church** – Multiethnic Christmas concert, Saturday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m.; penance service, Sunday, Dec. 8, 4 p.m.; Simbang Gabi, a novena of Masses in English and music in the Tagalog

language of the Philippines to prepare for the coming of Christ and honor the Virgin Mary, Sunday, Dec. 15 to Monday, Dec. 23, 7 p.m., with Bishop Earl Fernandes as celebrant on Dec. 23

**Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona** – Vespers and Benediction, Thursdays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19, 7 p.m.; family penance service, Monday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m.

**Columbus St. Mary German Village** – Church is part of Village Lights event Sunday, Dec. 8 with Columbus Maennerchor concert at 4 p.m., parish handbell group at 6, parish choir at 6:30, In Common Columbus a cappella choir at 7:30 and bell and parish choirs at 8:15.

**Columbus St. Mary Magdalene** – Candlelit Rorate Caeli (Light of the World) Mass, Saturday, Dec. 7, 6:30 a.m., followed by breakfast

**Columbus St. Peter/Powell St. Joan of Arc** – Penance service, Monday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m. St. Peter; “Journey with Mary” Advent program, Tuesdays, Dec. 3, 10 and 17, 12:30 p.m. at St. Peter and 6:30 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc, children’s Christmas program, Friday, Dec. 6, 6 to 8 p.m., St. Joan of Arc; Christmas concert with Nick Cosgrove of Broadway’s “Jersey Boys,” Friday, Dec. 13, 6 p.m., St. Joan of Arc

**Columbus St. Thomas the Apostle** – Family Advent wreath making workshop, Saturday, Nov. 30, 9 a.m. to noon. Cost \$5 per person for breakfast and \$25 per family for supplies

**Delaware St. Mary** – 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration, 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5 to 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7; Advent by Candlelight women’s dinner, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Breakfast with St. Nicholas for children, with crafts, entertainment and Secret Santa sale, Sunday, Dec. 15, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Dover St. Joseph** – Lessons and carols, Sunday, Dec. 8, 6 p.m.; children’s concert, Wednesday, Dec. 18, 6 p.m.

**Dresden St. Ann** – Advent Holy Hour, Tuesdays, Dec. 3, 10 and 17, 7 p.m.; Christmas horsedrawn carriage rides down Main Street with hot chocolate, coffee and cookies, craft activities and treat bags, Sunday, Dec. 15, 3 to 5 p.m.

**Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare** – Rosary, Sundays, Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22, 8:30 a.m.; Vespers, same dates, 5 p.m.; Advent “Face to Face” video series with Father Mike Schmitz, sponsored by Women Sisters in Christ, Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11 and 18, 1:15 p.m.; Eucharistic Adoration, same dates, 5 to 7 p.m.; Taize prayer service, Thursday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.; penance service, Sunday, Dec. 15, 5:30 p.m.; in-

dividual confessions, Monday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m.; lessons and carols with parish schoolchildren, Tuesday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.; Project Magi collection of outerwear for the homeless, Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 4 and 5 after all Masses

**Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle** – Behold Eucharistic Adoration hour, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 6 p.m.; caroling to the homebound, Saturday, Dec. 14, 3 p.m.; “Waiting with Mary” Advent music and prayer service, Sunday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m.

**Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator** – Advent lessons and carols, Sunday, Dec. 1, 3 to 4 p.m.; Anchored in Adoration, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 6 p.m.

**Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption** – Parish Advent celebration with lunch, games and fellowship, Sunday, Dec. 1 following 10:30 a.m., Mass, Spirit Center; lessons and carols, Sunday, Dec. 15, 3 p.m.; penance service, Thursday, Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m.

**Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes** – Lessons and carols, Sunday, Dec. 15, 3 p.m.; penance service, Thursday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m.

**Mattingly Settlement St. Mary** – Advent Holy Hour, Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11 and 18, 7 p.m.

**New Albany Church of the Resurrection** – Eucharistic Adoration, Wednesday, Dec. 4, 11 and 18, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Breakfast with Santa, Saturday, Dec. 7, 8 to 11 a.m.; Advent by Candlelight program for women, Friday, Dec. 13, 6:30 to 9 p.m.; Evening of Reflection, Monday, Dec. 16, 6:30 p.m.; penance service, Wednesday, Dec. 18, 7 to 9 p.m.; Eucharistic Adoration, Tuesday, Dec. 31, following 7 p.m. Mass until midnight, closing with Benediction.

**New Philadelphia Sacred Heart** – Evening Prayer and Benediction, Mondays, Dec. 2, 9, 16 and 23, 6 p.m.

**Newark Blessed Sacrament** – Eve-

ning prayer, Tuesdays, Dec. 3, 10 and 17, 7 to 8 p.m.; Christmas music program, Wednesday, Dec. 11, Newark Catholic High School.

**Portsmouth St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Community** – Ladies Guild Christmas dinner and auction, Sunday, Dec. 8, 1 p.m., Wheelersburg St. Peter in Chains Church. Admission \$10 adults, \$5 children 12 and under; Christmas pageant and dinner, Sunday, Dec. 15, 5 p.m., St. Peter in Chains Church

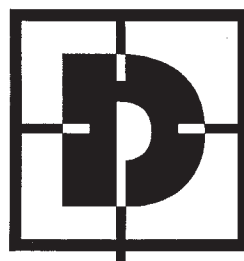
**Reynoldsburg St. Pius X** – Advent retreat with Leaven of the Immaculate Heart of Mary sisters. Includes lunch, craftmaking, confessions and closing Mass, Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. RSVP to <https://forms.gle/eQRhZNY-2JbewHFe9A>; parish Christmas dinner, Saturday, Dec. 14, 6 to 8:30 p.m. RSVP by Dec. 7 to [mmvail002@outlook.com](mailto:mmvail002@outlook.com). Bring a dessert to share.

**Sunbury St. John Neumann** -- Eucharistic Miracles of the World exhibit, Saturday, Nov. 30, 5 to 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; penance service, Wednesday, Dec. 4, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**West Jefferson Sts. Simon and Jude** – Advent mission with actor Frank Runyeon, Sunday and Monday, Dec. 8 and 9, 7 to 8:15 p.m., with dessert to follow. Themes: Sunday, “The Gospel of John”; Monday, “Hollywood vs. Faith”; Christmas pageant with elementary- and middle-school children, Sunday, Dec. 15 after 6 p.m. Mass.

**Westerville St. Paul** – St. Vincent de Paul Society Christmas food collection, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7 and 8; Messiah singalong with Westerville Symphony Orchestra, Sunday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.; parish choir Advent and Christmas concert, Saturday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.; expanded Advent confession hours, 30 minutes before 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sunday Masses.

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# Parishes to celebrate Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, is Thursday, Dec. 12. Several parishes in the diocese will celebrate the feast with events on that day or the days before and after. Following is a list of activities planned in those parishes:

**Columbus Christ the King** – Novena of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Tuesday, Dec. 3 to Tuesday, Dec. 10, 6:30 p.m. nightly; procession from St. Philip Church to Christ the King, 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, followed by Mass at 12:30 p.m. at Christ the King and celebration in All Saints Academy gym; novena conclusion and Mananitas (“Happy Birthday”) serenades to Mary in Spanish, 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11; feast-day Masses, 6:45 a.m. (English), 7 p.m. (Spanish), Dec. 12; posadas (re-enactments of Mary and Joseph’s attempts to find shelter in Bethlehem, Monday to Saturday, Dec. 16 to 22, 7 p.m. nightly).

**Columbus Our Lady, Star of the New Evangelization** – Procession starting at

COTA Park and Ride, 4939 N. High St., traveling 3.9 miles down High Street and Patterson Avenue to church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., 8 a.m. Dec. 8, with Mass at 11 and gathering afterward; Mass with Bishop Earl Fernandes as principal celebrant, 7 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by celebration. All events in Spanish.

**Columbus St. Agnes** – Mass, 11 p.m. Dec. 11, followed by Mananitas at midnight; Mananitas and prayers, followed by breakfast, 6 a.m. Dec. 12; Mass in Spanish, 7 p.m. Dec. 12.

**Columbus St. Cecilia** – Mananitas with Rosary, 5:30 a.m. Dec. 12, followed by breakfast with tamales; Mass in Spanish, 7 p.m.

**Columbus St. James the Less** – Mananitas, 5 a.m. Dec. 12; Mass, 7 p.m., followed by reception in school cafeteria.

**Columbus St. Mary German Village** – Procession and Rosary, 5:30 p.m. Dec. 12; re-enactment of the Virgin Mary’s appearances to St. Juan Diego, 6 p.m., Mass, followed by celebration, 6:30 p.m.

**Columbus St. Mary Magdalene** – Procession, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by Mass at 7 and celebration.

**Columbus St. Peter** – Novena, Dec. 3 to 10, 7:30 p.m. nightly; procession, 2 p.m. Dec. 8; Mananitas and conclusion of novena, 6 p.m. Dec. 11; Mass, 7 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by blessing of images and refreshments.

**Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr** – Procession beginning in upper parking lot, 8:30 a.m. Dec. 8, followed by Mass; Dec. 12 Masses at 6 a.m. (Spanish), 8:30 a.m. (English) and 7 p.m. (Spanish).

**Columbus St. Thomas the Apostle** – Novena, Dec. 3 to 10, 6:30 p.m. nightly; procession from Stelzer Gardens trailer park to church, 9 a.m. Dec. 8, followed by Mass at 10:30; novena conclusion and Mananitas, 10 p.m. Dec. 11; feast-day Mass in Spanish, 7 p.m. Dec. 12.

**Delaware St. Mary** – Procession and Mass, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by celebration with Matachine Dancers, 8 to 9:30 p.m.

**Dover St. Joseph** – Eucharistic Adoration, 9 p.m. Dec. 11 to 4:30 a.m. Dec. 12; Mananitas, 5 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, followed by Mass at 6 and breakfast.

**Kenton Immaculate Conception** – Rosary, 6 p.m. Dec. 8, followed by Mass in Spanish at 7 and reception in the St. Anthony Center.

**London St. Patrick** – Posadas, Tuesday, Dec. 17, 5:30 p.m.

**Marion St. Mary** – Mananitas, Rosary, coffee and doughnuts, 5:30 a.m. Dec. 12; school Mass, 8:30 a.m.; re-enactment, 6 p.m., and traditional dance, 6:30, both in Moira Hall; Mass in Spanish, 7 p.m.

**Newark Blessed Sacrament** – Mass, 6 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by dinner in school cafeteria.

**Portsmouth St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Community** – Novena, Dec. 3 to 11, 7 p.m. nightly (except 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9); Mananitas, 11:30 p.m. Dec. 11; Mass, 4 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by procession and dinner, all at Portsmouth Holy Redeemer Church.

## EVANGELIZATION, continued from Page 3

ton, the middle-class English girl who meets the prince, marries him and becomes a duchess and probably the future queen,” he said.

“This is what’s meant in Psalm 45, which is subtitled, ‘A Love Song.’ Speaking to the bride in the 45th Psalm, she’s told to forgive her people and her father’s house because the king will desire her beauty. ... The Psalm goes on to say what a blessing this will be to her, how the richest of the people will come and give her wealthy gifts.

“Her sons will be princes. Her name will be celebrated all over the earth. Wealth, fame and power and influence are the blessings of her marriage. Comparatively, little is said about her emotional fulfillment.

“The point is that marriage has changed her status. She is now objectively in a new set of conditions. This is what we need to understand if we are to understand the love affair of God with the human race, which is very, very surprising.”

Msgr. Shea reflected how, in Scripture, God designed marriage from Genesis – first with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden – through the end in the Book of Revelation.

“How could we understand this if we do not understand that God’s purpose in bringing us into marital relation with Him, in giving us His Body and His Blood as a bridegroom does his bride on their wedding night, that His purpose is to divinize us, to change our status entirely, to raise us from utter poverty, from prostitution, from disguises and darkness, from refugee status to the fullness of His life, to share in His glory,” Msgr. Shea said.

After the first parents were disobedient and ruptured humanity’s relationship with God, God even recreated marriage.

God brought His people, the Israelites, into a desert – the chosen place of courtship. God chose the desert, he explained, because it is a place where no human can survive alone. Through showing the Israelites their need for dependence on Him, God reversed the independence of Adam and Eve.

The Father ultimately sent His Son as the bridegroom of the human race, who died for His people.

“Death is the great curse, the deepest shame of the human race, and the most shameful way to die is in full view of everyone, naked, nailed to a cross, and in that epicenter of ultimate shame, in the vortex of shame, Jesus, in His love, hangs upon the cross for us, forsaking His glory, skirting the shame, reviling it, mocking it,” Msgr. Shea said.

“He is naked upon the cross without shame because His desire for us has swamped it, has overcome it, has healed it. And so, He rises up from the dead because our shame, the disgrace of our race cannot hold a love like that.”

Bishop Fernandes’ keynote, “The State of the Family in the Church,” focused on teachings of the last three popes – St. John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis. The bishop referenced Pope St. John Paul II’s “Theology of the Body,” encyclicals from Pope Benedict XVI and discussed the Holy Father’s vision for the family today.

He also focused on the deposit of faith and present-day challenges in handing it on. He explained the importance and duty to defend the deposit of faith.

The bishop explored how the breakdown of the family correlates to a rise in the “nones,” or those who do not practice any faith.

“The Evangelization Summit provided

us with an opportunity to listen to our diocesan shepherd, Bishop Fernandes, speak on the importance of the family as the foundation for Catholic life,” De La Torre said.

“Msgr. James Shea’s message about the importance of the sacrament of marriage and his parallel between the woman at the well, Jesus’ discourse with her and our own relationship with Christ was an important highlight of the conference.

“The opportunity for religious educators from throughout the diocese to gather together in fellowship throughout the day beginning with Mass and concluding with Eucharistic Adoration was a blessing to experience.”

Breakout sessions were held in the afternoon. Several speakers offered talks concerning aspects of marriage and the family.

Sister M. Carolyn Nunes, the vocation director for the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George, spoke on family as the seedbed of vocation and school of love. Sister Carolyn met the Sisters while studying at Franciscan University of Steubenville, where she earned a degree in theology, and made her final vows in 2015.

A talk on family-shaped youth ministry was offered by Jim Beckman, the executive director of the ImpactCenter, a Catholic apostolate that ministers to Church ministry leaders, based in Colorado. Beckman has experience in diocesan and parish ministry, evangelization and leadership development. He has built several ministry programs in parishes and dioceses.

John and Sandy O’Shaughnessy, founders of Good Mourning Ministry, a mission-driven healing ministry supporting Catholic parishes throughout

the United States, spoke on grieving the death of a loved one. The O’Shaughnessys discussed “The 7 Intentions of Mourning,” which they created as a guided pathway to healing and hope. It is available as a book and film series.

Dr. William Keimig, a professor at Franciscan University of Steubenville, gave a talk on the Catechumenal Model in Whole Family Faith Formation. The model was designed to equip parents and walk with them in the formation of their children. In Whole Family Faith Formation, parish religious education classes incorporate parents in their child’s faith formation.

A live session of SoulCore, which is intended to nourish the body and soul through prayer, core strengthening and functional movements, was also offered. In a SoulCore session, which lasts about 45-60 minutes, participants contemplate the mysteries of the rosary and virtues at a deeper level. Classes are offered in the central Ohio area.

Father Paul Keller, OP (Order of Preachers), the director of the diocesan Office of Divine Worship, spoke about the sacramental power of marriage. Jason Spoolstra, the diocese’s associate director for marriage and family, offered a talk on the foundation of prayer in family formation.

Msgr. Shea also led a breakout session focused on proclaiming the kerygma, or Good News of Jesus Christ, in the Apostolic Age.

Father Adam Streitenberger, diocesan vicar for evangelization, led a Holy Hour with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to conclude the summit.

# Asking questions ... and knowing how to answer

I miss the days when my kids asked easy questions; their young, sweet faces inquiring why must they eat their veggies or go to bed. Those are the answers I can easily supply.

When a more existential question arose, I marveled at their inquisitiveness. As they got older, we tried to answer their questions at age-appropriate levels. Now walking alongside my young adults, I find I don't have all the answers they seek, so I turn to Jesus for His guidance.

Jesus is asked hundreds of questions in scripture. He answers very few directly, preferring to teach more with questions of his own.

In Matthew, chapter 6, we hear him ask, "Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?" In Chapter 8, he asks, "Why are you so afraid? Why did you doubt?"

These questions He poses parallel the ones I'm lobbying back and forth with my older children lately as they navigate their human desire to have answers to the emotions that come with personal suffering and the recognition that the world we live in is broken; that we too are broken and feeble.

Why does Jesus answer us in questions? I think it is so that we begin to own our own understanding. A gentle probing question encourages ownership of our thoughts.

The questions I am asked as a parent are deeper these days and deep in their desire to know the answers. Why does love hurt so much, Mom? Why must we be vulnerable? Why is trust necessary?

It is often hard not to give an answer. I have so many answers to these and more questions because I have walked many years and weathered many relationships where these answers have been honed in fire. But the truth is the answers are unique to me, because the

## ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

MaryBeth Eberhard writes about marriage, life experiences of a large family and special needs. She attends Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.



Lord knows my heart. He knows that being vulnerable stretches me, opens doors I'd rather keep shut, takes away the risk of being hurt.

But then he asks (in Matthew chapter 8) "What are you afraid of?" So I pose the same question to my children, and the discussion continues. I have found that these discussions, whether they be about relationships or providing for themselves and those they love, or politics and social justice, though sometimes challenging and tenuous, help my children to grow in their understanding of who they are and who they want to be.

As I pondered this, I am drawn to the support our church offers and how uniquely it is set up to guide us in a similar fashion. I think of the sacraments of initiation and how they allow us to ask our why questions along our faith journey. In Baptism, we are given godparents who state in faith that they will help answer our why questions from an early age. The Church recognizes that at that stage we are not able to answer, but we are seekers of answers. Who is God? Where is He?

Then we move to reconciliation and the Church sees that we can be held more accountable for our actions and we grow our understanding of mercy and compassion. How many times have I asked (even as an adult) how can you love me? How am I loveable? How can you forgive me?

First Communion comes and we are brought into the

fullness of the Church with the gift of the Eucharist. We are told the what (transubstantiation – the bread becomes flesh and the wine becomes blood) and we are told the who (Jesus), but we are left to grow our understanding of the how and why. Perhaps some of us still wrestle with this, and I think that is good. Wrestling shows that we are thinking and stretching ourselves.

Confirmation is perhaps one of my favorite sacraments in regard to questioning. I think of the apostles in the gospel of John where Jesus is teaching them that He is the Bread of Life and they are shocked and begin to murmur among themselves. Some even walk away saying, "This saying is too hard, who can accept it?"

Can we not see ourselves here in so many ways? Do we not see our children wrestling with the very same questions whether it be Eucharistic in nature or a battle against moral relativism and its pervasive influence in their lives?

Scripture gives us such rich examples like Zachariah, who when told that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a son, responded, "How can I understand this?" (Luke chapter 1:18)

At the same time, Mary at her Annunciation in Luke chapter 1:34 when told she is to bear the Christ child, takes herself out of the question and seeks a deeper understanding. She asks, "How can this be?" Mary shows us that this is the goal.

Can we not see how we have grown and how we can help our children grow just by asking these questions? Lord, I do not have all the answers for my children and certainly not for myself. Stay with me, Lord, that I may guide my children as you guide me along this journey of faith.

# A great Christian witness too little known in the West

The Venerable Andrei Sheptytsky, who died 80 years ago on November 1, 1944, was one of 20th century Catholicism's outstanding figures, whose remarkable life and heroic ministry as leader of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church spanned 43 years, two world wars, five pontificates, Stalin's terror-famine (the "Holodomor," in which at least 6 million Ukrainians were deliberately starved to death), and a half-dozen changes of government in the territories in which he served. Amid that turmoil, Sheptytsky became a crucial figure in refining modern Ukraine's national identity while his cultural, ecumenical, interreligious, and pastoral initiatives anticipated the teaching of the Second Vatican Council and the Church of the New Evangelization. So, on this 80th anniversary of Metropolitan Andrew's passover to his present, exalted position in the Communion of Saints, attention should be paid.

Count Roman Aleksandr Maria Szeptycki was born in 1865 in a village near L'viv in then-Austrian Galicia to a family descended from Ruthenian and Polish nobility. Over a decade and a half, his studies took him to L'viv, Kraków, and Breslau (today's Wrocław); he also traveled to Kyiv, Moscow, and Rome, where, in 1888, he met Pope Leo XIII. A few months after that encounter, Sheptytsky, who had adopted the Ukrainian spelling of his surname, joined the Greek Catholic Basilian Order of St. Josaphat, taking the religious name Andrew – St. Peter's brother and the great patron of Eastern Catholicism. Ordained a priest in 1892, he earned a doctorate in theology and, in 1898, founded a religious community based on the rule of St. Theodore the Studite, with the aim of reforming Ukrainian Greek Catholic monasticism. A year later, he was named a bishop, and in late 1900, Leo XIII concurred in his appointment as Metropolitan of Halych, Archbishop of L'viv, and Bishop of Kamianets-Podilskyi,

## THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

George Weigel is the Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. George Weigel's column 'The Catholic Difference' is syndicated by the Denver Catholic, the official publication of the Archdiocese of Denver.



positions he assumed in January 1901 at age 36.

Metropolitan Andrew carried out a lengthy and vigorous episcopate under extraordinarily challenging circumstances, as Ukraine struggled to refine and defend its national identity: first, in the face of Russian and Polish pressures; then, amid a Soviet-era genocide; and finally, during a brutal Nazi occupation. Against the opposition of the czars and often traveling in disguise, he worked to build up the Eastern Catholic Churches in the Russian Empire before 1917. Concurrently, he tried to temper Polish and Ukrainian nationalist rivalries in the turbulent latter years of the Austro-Hungarian Empire while invigorating the Greek Catholic Church in Emperor Franz Joseph's domains. In all cases, and to all parties in the faction-ridden Ukrainian lands, he urged a spirit of fraternal charity and ecumenical sensitivity, as previously imperial territories like today's Poland and Ukraine – long carved up by Russia and Austria-Hungary – struggled to establish their independence in the aftermath of World War I.

As modern Ukrainian national identity was being formed in the early 20th century, Metropolitan Andrew built institutions of culture to shape a future Ukraine in continuity with the nation's origins in the baptism of the eastern Slavs at Kyiv in 988 A.D.: a seminary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions, and a national mu-

seum to preserve and support Ukraine's artistic heritage. As a pastor, he strove to deepen the faith of his people through effective catechesis, encouraged youth ministry, and made a lasting contribution to Ukraine's religious life by supporting Studite monasticism and inviting the Byzantine-rite Redemptorists into his dioceses.

The flails of Soviet and Nazi German brutality hit Sheptytsky and his people with unmitigated fury, and while Metropolitan Andrew at first welcomed the 1941 German invasion of Ukrainian lands as a means of crushing Stalinism, he soon recognized the monstrous evils being perpetrated by the invaders, writing *Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler* in February 1942 to protest the slaughter of Jews. In cooperation with his brother Klymentiy, a Studite monk beatified in 2001, he saved hundreds of Jewish children, hiding them in Greek Catholic institutions while he personally gave shelter in his residence to the son of a leading L'viv rabbi. In August 1942, he wrote Pope Pius XII, describing the Nazis' mass murders and admitting that he had originally misread Hitler's intentions in Ukraine; three months later, he issued a pastoral letter, *Thou Shalt Not Kill*, publicly protesting the German reign of terror and excommunicating its perpetrators. One of those he saved, David Kahane, later became chief rabbi of the Israeli air force.

Metropolitan Andrew's legacy – deep piety, intellectual depth, cultural sophistication, mature patriotism, ecumenical and interreligious charity – lives on in the vitality of today's Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine, led by Sheptytsky's worthy successor, Major-Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk. As Ukraine fights for its life and the freedom of the West, we should honor the memory of this great Christian witness and pray for his intercession.

# Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur leave Columbus after 169 years

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

After 169 years of continuous service to Catholics in central Ohio, the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur no longer will be part of the Diocese of Columbus.

Sister Pat Pieper, SNDdeN, one of the two remaining members of the order living in the diocese, said she and Sister Annemary Miller, SNDdeN, who have shared a Columbus apartment since 2017, are moving to their congregation's Mount Notre Dame community on Columbia Avenue in Cincinnati for what she described as "a combination of health issues and community needs. We each had different reasons for making the same decision," she said.

Their departure ends a history that began in 1855, 13 years before the founding of the Diocese of Columbus, when the area covered by the diocese was part of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

"How grateful we Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur are that we have been able to serve the people of the Diocese of Columbus through these many years," said Sister Kathleen Harmon, provincial for the order's Ohio province.

"The grace of sharing, of having brought the goodness of God has nourished our mission and given us great joy."

The first members of the order to serve in Columbus — Sisters Mary Augusta Baustert, Kostka Deehan, Gonzaga Van Aschen and Mary Agnes Schumacker arrived in the city from Cincinnati on Aug. 27, 1855 in response to repeated requests from the pastors of the city's original Catholic churches — St. Patrick and Holy Cross — for sisters to teach the children of their parishes.

They rented a small frame house on Washington Street that was furnished only with several chairs and a table. They had brought their own bedding from Cincinnati. Kind neighbors came to their aid with donations of additional furniture.

Within weeks of their arrival, the sisters began teaching at St. Patrick School. The addition of another sister for the next school year allowed them to open the school doors to children of Holy Cross. The order served both of those parishes

for more than a century.

The sisters moved their living quarters twice in their first five years in the city. In 1860, with the assistance of several prominent citizens, they were able to purchase land at Rich and Grant streets a block from Holy Cross Church and build a two-story, 10-room convent, which was ready for occupation in December 1863.

In 1873, Bishop Sylvester Rosecrans asked the sisters to open a girls high school in Columbus because he said there was a need for one. The Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs had opened a similar school on land that now is part of Ohio Dominican University, but in those days that was considered too far out of town for many people.

The Notre Dame sisters bought property adjacent to their convent and built Columbus St. Joseph Academy there, with classes opening on Sept. 6, 1875. The sisters will commemorate the 150th anniversary of that event next year.

The school originally charged tuition of \$8 per quarter for higher grades and \$7 for lower grades. Sister Josephine Ignatius Tierney was appointed principal and her kind, scholarly presence would guide the academy for the next quarter-century.

A new academy building was added in 1924 and eventually the sisters' convent, a new convent built in 1962, a chapel and the academy occupied the area from Rich to Main streets and from Sixth to Grant (formerly Seventh) streets.

The academy remained open until 1977, when the building was sold to Franklin University. The sisters sold the rest of the Rich Street complex to the university at the end of 1991 and the area continues to be used for educational purposes. Some of the buildings used by the sisters were torn down, but the 1924 school and one other building from the sisters' time there remain standing.

Sister Pat (1954) and Sister Annemary (1978) are among 10 living Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur who are graduates of the academy. The others, with their year of graduation, are Sisters Rose Zuber (1946); Rose Marie Deibel (1947); Bernice Weibacher (1951); Camilla Burns (1954); Carolyn Davis (1954); Rebecca Spires (1958); Stephanie Thompson (1973) and Anne Ralston (1980). The school continues to

have an active alumni association, led by Sister Pat.

Other schools served by the order include St. Joseph Cathedral, St. Aloysius, St. Augustine, St. Christopher, St. Agnes and St. Joseph Academy in Columbus, Logan St. John, Lancaster St. Mark and Westerville St. Paul the Apostle. The sisters left most of those schools in the mid-1970s and remained at St. Augustine and St. John until 1990.

Sisters from the order were the administrators of Columbus Bishop Hartley High School when it opened in 1957 and remained there until 1984. A convent also was established at Hartley, with the sisters who were stationed there living in the downtown convent until their quarters were ready.

In 1942, the sisters opened a center known as Maryhurst in Marble Cliff for young women discerning the religious life who would attend St. Joseph Academy, then after graduation would continue the discernment process in Cincinnati as postulants if that was their choice. It remained open until 1956. The order also provided staff members for the former Diocesan Child Guidance Center in downtown Columbus from 1953 to 1983.

Both of the Notre Dame sisters leaving Columbus served in a variety of positions in the city and elsewhere in the post-Vatican II era when most orders of sisters transitioned from primarily teaching to performing other ministries.

Sister Pat, a sister for 70 years, was a pastoral associate at Holy Cross Church and a volunteer at the Open Shelter in two separate periods. Sister Annemary, a member of the order for 45 years, was a nurse for the Columbus Department of Health and LifeCare Alliance in Columbus, then answered phones at the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs. Both also were pastoral associates at Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church.

Both also served as missionaries — Sister Pat in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sister Annemary on the Navajo reservation in Arizona.

"My most memorable experiences as a sister came during the seven years when I served in the Congo," Sister Pat said. "This was just after that nation had gained independence from Belgium in

1960. Everything was so different and unexpected from what I was used to, but it was something I very much wanted to do because I wanted the experience and to be able to put to use all the French I had learned at St. Joseph Academy.

"My longest time in any one place before coming to Columbus for a second time in 2013 was in Arizona, where I spent nine years living in the Phoenix area and was a chaplain at Arizona State Hospital. As it was when working in Africa, this extended period gave me time to get to really know people and not just learn about them."

Sister Pat also spent a year as a pastoral minister at the order's Motherhouse in Namur, Belgium and another year at Cuville, France, where St. Julie Billiart, who with Francoise Blin de Bordon cofounded the order in 1804, was born.

"Leaving Columbus for Cincinnati is part of how life happens for us as sisters," she said. "I have a large family of nieces, nephews and associates of the order here, so I'll still have plenty of ties to Columbus."

"Since becoming a sister, Mount Notre Dame has always been home to me. A lot of sisters I've known are there, so going back there is a coming home, but leaving Columbus is a bittersweet departure. It's nice to know I'm going to a place where there will be help when I need it, and I'm sure I'll find new ways to volunteer and do community service."

Sister Annemary, who grew up as a member of Columbus Corpus Christi Church, spent most of her career in Arizona and the Columbus and Cincinnati areas as a nurse.

"I just loved everything about nursing," she said. "It gave me the opportunity to provide healing to people of all types. I especially enjoyed working with poor people and other sisters. From the time I was a child, I always wanted to serve God through individuals and families and nursing gave me that opportunity."

Speaking of retirement, she said, "Eventually, there comes a time when you just have to do it. You just get the call and you go. This just seemed like the right time to follow that call as I followed the call to be a sister."

## COACH, continued from Page 5

these sorts of interviews unless it's a major media outlet. To his surprise, however, he received a reply that Faust would be willing to grant an interview in his office.

When the young sports editor and his newspaper's photographer arrived, Faust couldn't have been more gracious. Unpretentious. Humble. As the journalist later recalled, there was a statue of the Blessed Mother in his office and a rosary on his desk.

At the end of an interview that lasted somewhere around an hour, Faust asked the photographer whether he had the shots he needed. Then, rather surprisingly, he asked whether the photographer would like to get a shot of him in the stadium. Absolutely, the writer and photographer responded.

And so they made a short drive over to Notre Dame

Stadium with the coach to take a portrait photo of him inside one of college football's iconic venues.

They thanked him and headed back home, somewhat stunned by his graciousness.

Not to disparage any of today's major college coaches, but there's hardly a chance of that ever happening in the corporate world that athletics has become.

That's the kind of man that Faust was. Charitable. Catholic. Beloved husband, father of three and grandfather of six.

His family said in a statement after his passing that he dedicated his life to them and also to his faith and the teams and players he coached:

"Throughout an extraordinary life driven by an unwavering and deep devotion to his Catholic faith, he was

a beloved mentor to countless young men both on and off the playing field. His work ethic, optimism, leadership and humility were legendary. He leaves behind a legacy of perseverance, compassion and inspiration, reminding us all of the extraordinary impact one life can have.

"While most knew him as a coach, we will long remember him as a wonderful father and grandfather who inspired us through example to live our best lives."

At the hour of death, faithfulness and charity are held in much higher regard than wins and losses on a football field. That's something to keep in mind when your favorite teams suffer a disappointing loss.

And just in case you're wondering, that young sports journalist mentioned above wrote this column.

## Mass of Inclusion recognizes SPICE program

The annual Special People in Catholic Education (SPICE) Mass of Inclusion honoring all of God's children was celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes on Sunday, Nov. 17 at Columbus St. Catharine of Siena Church.

Father Robert Penhallurick, the parish's pastor, concelebrated the Mass and Deacon Christopher Reis assisted at the altar.

The Mass celebrated the contributions of not only those with diverse needs but also the teachers, catechists and staff at diocesan schools and parishes who share in the mission that every child is special.

St. Catharine is considered the birthplace of the SPICE program, which has expanded to approximately 15 parishes in the diocese and in other parts of the country after its founding 25 years ago by longtime parishioners Bob and Mary Ginn Ryan.

SPICE is a ministry in diocesan schools and parishes that supports children who have unique learning needs. Its mission is to raise awareness of special needs, to help serve special needs, to raise funds to meet those needs and to serve as a model to other parishes.

Some of the ways that St. Catharine provides assistance in addition to educational resources are signers at Mass, handicap ramps, and elevators in the school and parish hall.

Bishop Fernandes acknowledged the

participation in SPICE of many individuals with different abilities.

"Each and every one of you is a masterpiece of God and you are always welcome in this house of God and in the family of God," he said near the end of Mass.

Twenty-five years ago, there were no programs in place or trained teachers in Catholic schools to accommodate the needs of children with different abilities when the Ryans were contemplating how to educate the youngest of their 11 children, Megan, who was born with Down syndrome.

As Megan approached school age, her parents were concerned about where her education would take place and worried that she wouldn't be able to follow in her older siblings' footsteps who attended St. Catharine School.

Unable to find an answer on their own, the Ryans came to St. Catharine to tell then-principal Margaret Crabtree that they wanted to enroll Megan in Catholic school. Crabtree quickly put the Ryans' fears to rest when she told them, "We've been waiting for her."

That motivated the Ryans to start SPICE. Since then, the program has expanded in the diocese to other parishes, and the Ryans have visited others states where there is interest in starting SPICE.

"When we enrolled Megan in St. Catharine, we realized the expense that would be incurred and it was then that Bob and



Members of the Borro family present the gifts during the Mass of Inclusion on Nov. 17 at Columbus St. Catharine of Siena Church.  
CT photos by Ken Snow

I decided to create the SPICE program to address the challenges and try to make it successful, not only for Megan but for all kids with special needs," Mary Ginn said. "Megan went through all the grades in St. Catharine's, spent four years at (Columbus) Bishop Hartley (High School) and then she went to Ohio State, which has a four-year transitional program for students with special needs.

"So she got the experience that all her siblings did. It's been a gift. It's been a journey for us. She's given more to us than we've given to her."



Mary Ginn (left) and Bob Ryan, founders of the SPICE program, are with their daughter, Megan.



# LIVE AND LOCAL!

## WEEKDAYS AT 8AM

ST. GABRIEL  
CATHOLIC RADIO



**AM 820**  
COLUMBUS

**FM 88.3**  
SCIOTO COUNTY

**FM 106.7**  
ATHENS

## St. Cecilia Church celebrates patroness feast day

A Mass with strings, organ and choir honored the patroness of music and musicians on her feast day.

Columbus St. Cecilia Church hosted a special Mass with sacred music to commemorate the parish's namesake on Friday, Nov. 22.

Bishop Earl Fernandes was the principal celebrant. He was joined by Father Thomas Buffer, the parish pastor; Father Ronan Sarmiento from the Diocese of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands; Deacon Mark O'Loughlin, who serves at the parish; and Deacon Max Gallgos, a transitional deacon in the Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama.

The choir was made up of singers from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral; Una Voce, a local schola; and St. Cecilia Church. They were joined by a strings ensemble and organ.

"We've had musical concerts to celebrate the feast day of St. Cecilia in the past but not to the large scale that we have today," said Dr. Caroline Salido-Barta, the parish director of liturgical music.

The Mass prelude was the Hymn to St. Cecilia. The Penitential Act, Sanctus and Agnus Dei were selections by Joseph Haydn. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus was sung during Communion and organist Robert Wisniewski played Fugue in E-flat Major BWV 552 by Johann Sebastian Bach as a postlude.

St. Cecilia, a third century virgin and martyr, was known for her great faith and courage. She is often depicted in statues and stained glass playing a viola, organ or other musical instruments.

St. Cecilia has inspired countless pieces of music and also poetry.

Bishop Fernandes noted the willingness of St. Cecilia to give her life to the Lord and the example she provides to praise Him.

"We worship God in spirit and truth and with our limited abilities, whether because our minds are distracted or our hearts are distracted, or we just haven't been given a good voice or a well-trained voice, we try to sing and praise God," the bishop said. "Still more beautiful, however, is the song that we sing with our souls, where each person can sing a beautiful song for God — one of praise and of true and authentic worship. ...

"Some days we're great. Other days we're like a discordant note; we sing off key. But today, on this feast day of St. Cecilia, we have a chance to sing in harmony with the Lord. Sing with our souls and with all our hearts for His praise and glory. And as we are healed through the sacraments we receive, we can sing more and more in harmony with God's will. We can join the angels and saints, and all of creation which sings the song of praise to the Lord."



(Top photo) Dr. Caroline Salido-Barta, director of liturgical music at Columbus St. Cecilia Church, conducts an ensemble that includes singers and strings during a feast day Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes on Friday, Nov. 22 at the parish. (Right photo) A crucifer leads the procession into St. Cecilia Church at the start of Mass for the feast day of the parish's patroness. St. Cecilia, a third century virgin and martyr, is known as the patroness of music and musicians.

CT photos by Ken Snow



CATHOLIC SOCIAL  
SERVICES

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jnaporano@colscss.org  
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CATHOLIC  
SOCIAL SERVICES

## Four Children of Mary sisters profess vows

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

Four sisters in the Children of Mary religious order made a profession of vows on Thursday, Nov. 21 at the order's motherhouse located outside of Newark.

Bishop Earl Fernandes presided over the profession of vows and celebrated Mass that day, recognized as the feast of the Presentation of Mary on the Church calendar.

Sister Maria Caritas, CM made her perpetual vows while Sisters Teresita Maria, CM and Lillian Emmanuel, CM renewed their junior profession of vows. Sister Anastasia Rose, CM made her first profession of vows.

The Children of Mary's motherhouse and retreat center in the diocese is home to the order of semi-contemplative sisters who were founded more than 20 years ago. The order also has a daughterhouse in Cincinnati. The sisters have a prayer apostolate and an active apostolate, in which they host retreats and work with the poor and elderly.

Sister Maria Caritas, one of seven children, was raised in a Catholic family in Batesville, Indiana. Growing up on farmland, she was instilled with the values of hard work and a strong community life.

She received an associate's degree in business administration from Ivy Tech College in Indiana. Her pastor challenged her to pray for an hour each day, which she said changed her life. She joined the Children of Mary in 2019.

Sister Teresita Maria, who renewed her junior profession of vows this year, grew up in a Catholic family in Virginia. She discerned a calling to religious life during college and left to answer the call. She entered the Children of Mary on Jan. 31, 2017 at age 19.

Sister Lillian Emmanuel, who also renewed her vows this year, made her first profession of vows last year. She grew up in Queens, New York and converted to



Sister Maria Caritas prostrates in front of the altar under a black funeral pall as a sign of her death to the world as part of making her final vows to the Children of Mary religious order.

the Catholic faith in high school after her step-father led the family to the Church.

She attended college and graduate school for acting. She worked in theatre and in the television and film industry in New York.

Sister Lillian Emmanuel said she began experiencing a call to religious life as her relationship with the Lord deepened. She befriended Catholics who introduced her to a life rooted in Christ: prayer, self-gift and an all-encompassing love for God and neighbor. She entered the Children of Mary on May 1, 2021.

Sister Anastasia Rose, the second daughter of 10 children, grew up in a military family and lived in Germany and several places in the United States. She first met sisters belonging to the Children of Mary at Fiat Camp, a girl's discernment retreat, in Emmitsburg, Maryland and later visited the convent and discerned a call to the community.

She entered the order on Jan. 1, 2022. She received a new religious name – Sister Anastasia Rose – last year before making her first profession of vows this year.

There are typically several stages of

formation for women in religious communities before making a final profession of vows. Consecrated religious life begins with postulancy for newcomers, which typically lasts one to two years.

Postulancy is followed by the novitiate, which prepares an individual to live a vowed life. At the end of the novitiate, an individual professes temporary vows, which are renewed during a period of time before making perpetual or final vows.



Children of Mary sisters kneel before the altar in the chapel.



Mother Philomena Maria places a crown of roses on Sister Maria Caritas as she makes her final vows.



Sister Anastasia Rose kneels before Bishop Earl Fernandes and Mother Philomena Maria at the altar in the Children of Mary's chapel in Licking County. Sister Anastasia Rose made her first profession of vows on Thursday, Nov. 21. Photos courtesy William Keimig



## 2024 GIFT GUIDE

### Very Mary Christmas

By MaryBeth Eberhard

The fiat of Mother Mary leads us on our path to Christmas Day. Her “Yes” amid the unknown is an example for us all to walk forward in trust. A child is worthy of celebration and the birth of the Christ child is worth such joy and exultation. It is with that same joy and anticipation that we walk through the season of Advent preparing our hearts and home for the Christmas season. In this preparation, may we ask Mother Mary to walk alongside us, revealing and encouraging us as we journey toward Christmas.

As this year’s list was curated, we realized the opportunity we had to use gift giving as a tool to evangelize and share love for Mother Mary. With this in mind, we are excited to present this Very Mary Christmas gift guide that includes some well-known Catholic shops and some new ones. It is the hope that this guide will help you share the beauty of the Catholic faith inside and outside your homes.

#### FOR THE HOME:

##### *Kitchen Madonna: Our Lady of Tenderness Plaque*

House of Joppa has some lovely Catholic merchandise that always finds a spot on my Christmas shopping list. I love the idea of a Kitchen Madonna as I spend a great deal of time in my ministry of motherhood in my kitchen and images help anchor me in my faith. This plaque of Our Lady of Tenderness is a beautiful reminder of who we are called to be as mothers.

[www.houseofjoppa.com](http://www.houseofjoppa.com)

##### *Holy Family Heart Trio: Just Love Prints*

Just Love Prints offers beautiful artwork in a style that invites you into a deeper examination of the story it is depicting. In this trio, which would hang beautifully over a prayer corner, my children ask me to remind them why is there a sword. What do the flowers mean on St Joseph’s heart? Artwork is a beautiful way to evangelize to ourselves, our family, and our friends.

[www.justloveprints.com](http://www.justloveprints.com)

##### *Marian Throw Pillows and Table Runner: Magnify the Ordinary*

These throw pillows are a soft and lovely way to weave a love for Mama Mary throughout your home. Just as we decorate for seasonal holidays, I think it is equally lovely to decorate liturgically as a way to celebrate our Catholic identity. Imagine how fun it would be to take out your Marian pillow covers, tablecloths

and tea towels for the feast days! What fun!

##### THROW PILLOWS:

<https://tinyurl.com/2uhm33h9>

Coupon Code: JUST-FORYOU23MA33

##### TABLE RUNNER:

<https://tinyurl.com/54v5868h>



##### *Marian Tea Towels*

Store Bio: At Firefly Wishes, we take great pride in creating personalized, handmade gifts that bring joy and a unique touch to every occasion. From our home studio, we design and handcraft a variety of items including handmade Christmas ornaments, Catholic gifts, home goods, apparel and more. Our Catholic line beautifully weaves faith and artistry, offering meaningful items that celebrate devotion and inspire spiritual growth. From hand-designed kitchen towels to personalized ornaments to inspirational T-shirts each product reflects a commitment to quality craftsmanship and heartfelt design. These pieces serve as thoughtful gifts for sacraments, housewarmings, or simply as everyday reminders of faith in the home. Designed with care in our studio, these items resonate deeply with those seeking to honor their Catholic faith in a personal, tangible way. Save 10% on our Catholic Gifts collection with [promo code MARYGIFTS](https://www.firefly-wishes.com) through December 31, 2024 website: [www.firefly-wishes.com](http://www.firefly-wishes.com) Order by December 15 for delivery by Christmas.

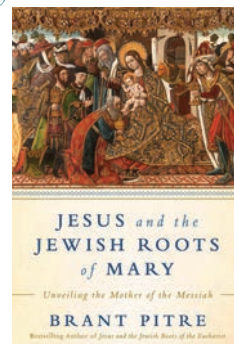
[www.firefly-wishes.com](http://www.firefly-wishes.com)

#### BOOKS:

##### *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary*

As a Catholic, I have always loved exploring my Jewish roots. I love to celebrate some of the Jewish holidays and teach them to my children because they are my history too. It is with this same desire that I chose this book for the book portion of our guide. Brandt Pitre has the heart of a teacher as he writes. I think this would be a great gift to either give or put on your own wish list.

[www.ascensionpress.com](http://www.ascensionpress.com)



##### *Our Lady of Charity:*

*How a Cuban Devotion to Mary Helped Me Grow in Faith and Love*

Full Disclosure: I have had the privilege of sharing a meal with the author of this book and it was a beautiful experience. Maria Morera Johnson reflects her

culture’s joyful and devout faith both in person and in her writing. One of my favorite things is learning more of Our Lady’s apparitions and Our Lady of Charity was new to me. This is an easy yet thought provoking read.

[www.avemariapress.com](http://www.avemariapress.com)

##### *Saint Monica and the Power of Persistent Prayer*

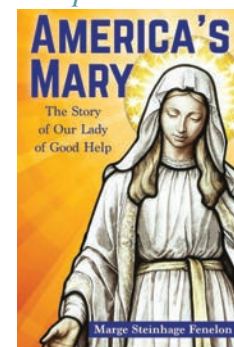
This book is hands down one of my favorite books I have read. If you sat in my office, you would see the corners bent, pages written on, and the cover worn and that would not be my first copy! If you are a parent or know a parent who has struggled with watching their children travel a path that brought separation, suffering, illness, loss of faith and great sorrow, this book is a necessity in your prayer life. I have bought multiple copies of it and share it quite frequently. This would make a very thoughtful gift to someone you know needs some encouragement.

[www.osvcatholicbookstore.com](http://www.osvcatholicbookstore.com)

##### *America’s Mary/ Our Lady of Good Help*

Marge Fenelon, the author of this book, is somewhat of a mentor for me when it comes to learning about our Blessed Mother. She has written countless books digging deeper into Marian theology and the relationships Mary wants to have with us. This is her first book about Our Lady of Good Help, our national shrine in Wisconsin. The story of Adelle is not a well-known one but one that encourages us to be steady in our vocation and trust in God’s plan.

[www.orderosv.com](http://www.orderosv.com)



##### *Marian Consecration for Children*

This book is so charming and beautiful. I initially purchased it to do with my daughter but ended up reconsecrating myself with a more childlike faith. The stories used in each day’s reflection are classical and thought provoking. Trust me when I say this little book is a treasure worth sharing.

[www.tanbooks.com](http://www.tanbooks.com)

##### *Take it to the Queen*

Josephine Nobizzo has such a gift for telling stories. The illustrations almost make you feel as if you’re on a pilgrimage in Italy with their broad strokes and careful attention to detail. My family owns all of Nobizzo’s books (There is a trilogy of which this is one). In keeping with our gift guide theme, this story shares the role of Mother Mary as advocate and nurturer to her people in a lovely story. This would make a great gift from a grandparent, godparent, or aunt and uncle.

<https://tinyurl.com/ypmb6vns>



## APPAREL/CLOTHING

### *Marian World Tour Hoodie: Sock Religious*

I love this sweatshirt because it invites a conversation. As a drama teacher, youth minister, teacher and speaker, I often have an audience and I enjoy wearing something that reflects who I am in an upbeat and modern way. This sweatshirt does that and more! I think it is a fantastic gift for the holidays!

[www.sockreligious.com](http://www.sockreligious.com)



### *Prince of Peace Pajamas: Holy Pals*

Holy Pals is such a fun new company to showcase this year. Their pajamas are cozy, high quality and come in all sizes. Seriously, why not follow the trend of matching Christmas pajamas but with this festive Prince of Peace pattern? Perhaps a Christmas card sent out with faith-filled pajamas can share a subtle part of your story with those you are hoping to keep in touch with.

[www.holypals.com](http://www.holypals.com)



### *No Hood Like Sainthood: Millennial Me Designs*

We have a reputation around our kids' friends of being pretty punny. Whether it be carpooling or late-night drive-through runs, we love to represent our faith and our vocation in fun ways. This shirt is on my giving list for a couple friends who share the same joy of inviting conversation through what they wear. I also like that it has a modern feel that even my older kids might throw on with a pair of jeans.

<https://tinyurl.com/4j32rr34>

### *Call your Mother: Millennial Me Designs*

This shirt is so fun! It presents an opportunity to share our faith and gives a gentle reminder to those around us that our Blessed Mother is there waiting for us to reach out. She is our constant advocate! I imagine myself wearing this shirt and just arching my eyebrow and pointing to my shirt as my children catch me up on the events in their adult lives this holiday season. This is on my list for some friends whom I call "close as sisters."

<https://tinyurl.com/yc87tdnp>

## FOR THE KIDS

### *Call me Mama Board Book*

This board book is made in the U.S. Written and illustrated by Kortnee Senn, it helps pass down the message that all Marian apparitions are still our Mama Mary no matter how she appears or what she is called. I think it also helps us share how thoughtful she is to appear in a

way that her children understand. Suggested purchase by date is Dec. 14. Studio Senn books are 20% off, no coupon needed!

[www.studiosenn.com](http://www.studiosenn.com)

### *Wooden Magnet Nativity Set*

Shining Light Dolls has a mission to offer beautiful, affordable, faith-filled products that encourage play-based learning and family catechesis. They do this through unique books, toys, games, dolls, and plushies that help foster a sense of Jesus' presence in every aspect of our lives, as well as the prayers of the saints, cheering us on. **Coupon Code: NEW10** to receive 10% off your first order. Expires at the end of the year. **Christmas Order Deadline:** Due to high order volumes and shipping times that can be slower, please order by the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec. 12) to ensure arrival before Christmas.

[www.shininglightdolls.com](http://www.shininglightdolls.com)



### *Make your Own Rosary Kit*

I recently had a conversation with one of my sons about the importance of learning through creating. When I saw this DIY Rosary kit, I smiled and thought of how meaningful it would be for a young child to make his or her own rosary to pray with. Being considerate of the child's age of course, I think this would be a wonderful gift to give.

[www.beaheart.com](http://www.beaheart.com)

### *Hail Mary Pillowcase*

I love little seeds planted of faith around our home, especially in our kids' rooms. From a crucifix on the wall to a holy water font by the light switch, these decorative sacramentals become meaningful reminders of our faith in our daily living. Any tangible little reminder is always a win for me and this pillowcase is great for either son or daughter. I might roll mine up, tie it with a ribbon, and place them in a stocking!

[www.thelittleroseshop.com](http://www.thelittleroseshop.com)

### *Rosary Mass Quiet Book*

If I were being very truthful, I would say I need my own copy of this as I am a cheat sheet girl with my mysteries. Perhaps it is the eight kids, or the very fact that I do not have the best memory, I love this book. I love that young children can follow along and we can even give them opportunities to teach us!

[www.thelittleroseshop.com](http://www.thelittleroseshop.com)



### *Father Leopold Says Mass Lego Kit*

Domestic Church Supply Company offers a line of Catholic-themed LEGO sets that utilize genuine LEGO bricks. Their flagship product, Fr. Leopold Celebrates Mass, is a complete Mass set! They also have a Fr. John Hears Confessions set where you build a confessional, complete with lights that actually light up, and an advent wreath set. Order by Dec. 16 for delivery by Christmas. PS: This brings back so many memories of my kids playing Mass. Now they can create it with Legos! I think this is a really creative way to evangelize our younger population and teach them that our faith can be fun! I see them using their other Lego pieces to add a Virgin Mary prayer altar and a St. Joseph side altar, or perhaps even a stained glass window. The list can go on and on!

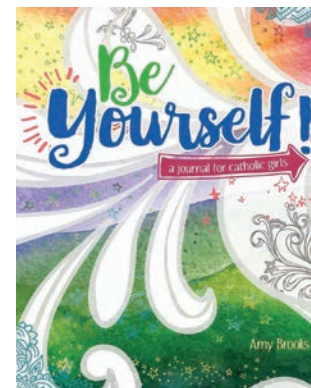
[www.domesticchurchsupply.com](http://www.domesticchurchsupply.com)

### *Be Yourself Journal*

"Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire!"

— St Catherine of Siena. Those words are at the heart of *Be Yourself! A Journal for Catholic Girls*, which is designed to help girls explore their identity and purpose in life. Packed with gorgeous, full-color line art, quizzes, journaling questions, and inspirational quotes from the Catechism and Scripture, the *Be Yourself!* journal leads girls to discover that they are beautifully and wonderfully made ... and that they have a unique, God-given mission and purpose in the world. Ages 9 and up. I know my tween daughter uses a journal as a way to organize all the thoughts she is bouncing around in her head. I think this journal will help! As a mother, my role is to be an advocate for her as she grows and help her develop strategies to cope with all the thoughts and experiences she will have as she matures. This journal looks like a lovely way to walk beside her.

[www.prayerwinechocolate.com](http://www.prayerwinechocolate.com)



## FOR THE LADIES

### *Mother & Home 'Marian Antiphon' scarf*

Elevate your Advent attire or accessories with the exclusive Mother & Home "Marian Antiphon" scarf collection! The first antiphon scarf release is Alma Redemptoris Mater, the Marian hymn traditionally sung at the end of every Catholic mass from Advent to the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas). The stylish 22" multi-use scarf was designed in collaboration with Catholic artist Jamie Redpath. It is rich in symbolism featuring flowers with deeply theological significance: The Christmas rose, which is a purple in color



# OH WOW!

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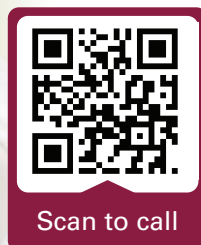
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\*Speak with a licensed sales agent during call center hours: April 1 to September 2, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday; September 3 to March 31, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.

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ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 888-546-2834 (TTY: 711). 注意:如果您使用繁體中文, 您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 888-546-2834 (TTY: 711)



## GIFT GUIDE, continued from Page 15

rose, the dainty white Star of Bethlehem flowers, and Our Lady's Bedstraw, a flower always yellow and gold. This bandana-style scarf can be worn as a bandana, headband, ponytail, Mass covering, neck scarf, or to elevate a handbag or diaper bag! Great as a gift or when you'd like to add a "pop" to your wardrobe. Use **CATHOLICTIMES15** to get 15% off sitewide now through Dec. 18. Shipping to all countries, free over \$150. [www.motherandhomemarket.co](http://www.motherandhomemarket.co)

### *Pocket Chaplet: Fount of Grace*

This decade rosary is handmade and exquisite. I love the blue Marian colors and rosettes that intertwine each bead. Both the cross and the medal that shows our lady cradling baby Jesus in her arms have an antique flair. This would be a collectible piece that would be a very special gift.

[www.fountofgrace.com](http://www.fountofgrace.com)

### *Scalloped Miraculous Medal Necklace*

I love vintage Catholic jewelry. It is both stylish and a way for me to feel connected to my faith. This miraculous medal comes on a beautiful chain and is a conversation piece in its design. A side note, it is also pretty sturdy in comparison to many miraculous medals I have had over the years.

[www.telosartshop.com](http://www.telosartshop.com)



### *Lourdes Wallet*

This trendy yet functional wristlet has such fun fabric options from Stella Maris to Guadalupe, Mama Mary is represented in it all. I like the many pockets it offers and also think it would be a great addition to a stocking.

[www.brickhouseinthecity.com](http://www.brickhouseinthecity.com)



## FOR THE MEN

### *Marian Hoodie*

My boys love a good dark hoodie. My husband has a tradition of taking my boys out to coffee or lunch, sometimes a long walk where they dig deep and catch up. Their dress is casual, often weekend ease, and I love that this sweatshirt gives that understated yet out loud representation of being boldly Catholic. This is a solid choice for the grandpas, fathers and sons in our families.

[www.sanctusco.com](http://www.sanctusco.com)

### *St. Benedict Bracelet*

Bracelet wearing has become a trend and I am all for it when it becomes another tool to share our Catholic identity. This St. Benedict bracelet gives my mother's

heart a moment of peace as I ask for his protection over them. This bracelet will find its way into one of my family member's stockings this year.

[www.telosartshop.com](http://www.telosartshop.com)



### *Leather Bible Cover*

I have spent a lot of time on the Oremoose website just fascinated by their product line of leather Bible covers. This is not my usual thing as gifts, but these are of such high quality and I love the cross stitching on the front. This feels very masculine yet personalized.

**Coupon Code: CATHOLICTIMES15** for 15% off. Deadline this year is Dec. 15.

[www.oremoose.com](http://www.oremoose.com)

### *Holy Family Necklace for Men*

Many of my boys have various versions of a scapular that they have worn over time. I love this Holy Family Medal as it calls them back into the notion of family. If I gifted this to one of my sons, I would remind him that he is part of a large Holy Family and this little holy family here in our home and that just as St. Joseph and Mother Mary cared and loved Jesus, when you wear this, remember that you too are held and loved and cared for by us all. This is a great gift to give to young teenage boys as it reminds them of their place in the family.

[www.telosartshop.com](http://www.telosartshop.com)



## HOSPITALITY

### *Christmas Ornament*

Meyer Market Designs is your go-to shop for Catholic gifts and meaningful home decor. This is a cute ornament with all the saints to give alongside a nice bag of Mystic Monk coffee beans or a lovely bottle of wine. A great reminder that we have a family of saints in heaven praying for us! Use **coupon code 10OFF** for 10% off of your purchase from Meyer Market Designs!

[www.meyermarketdesigns.com](http://www.meyermarketdesigns.com)



### *Mary the Immaculate Conception: Fragrance Free Candle*

Candle lighting is part of my prayer routine, but I am pretty particular with my scents. I love sipping my tea in the morning, lighting my candle and asking each of our saint friends to intercede for my family. I love Corda candles! Each unique scent is directly inspired by saints and the faith, and custom blended in house. As you burn the candle and enjoy the scent, there's a

tangible, concrete connection to the holy men and women who have gone before us. There are so many scents and candles to explore, including ones inspired by Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Michael the Archangel, and St. Joan of Arc. Orders \$75+ ship for free plus everyone can receive 15% off their entire order with **code CATHOLICTIMES** now through Dec. 31.

[www.cordacandles.com](http://www.cordacandles.com)



## STOCKING STUFFERS

### *Hair Headbands*

There are so many of these beautiful Marian headbands at Brick House in the City. They make fantastic stocking stuffers! The fabric is sturdy and the colors fresh and modern.

[www.brickhouseinthecity.com](http://www.brickhouseinthecity.com)



### *Mothers' Manual: Prayers and Advice for Catholic Mothers*

Early on in my mothering, I was given this book and I kept it nearby for quiet moments of prayer; whether I was nursing a baby, in between appointments, or sitting in the chapel for some time with Jesus. This book brought me great comfort. It's funny it has resurfaced in a time when I find myself sitting in between sports or dance practices, theater auditions and taekwondo. Its wisdom is timeless. It would make a lovely gift for the mothers in your life.

[www.catholiccompany.com](http://www.catholiccompany.com)

### *Visitation Socks (though do consider the rosary and Marian monogram ones as well!)*

Sock Religious is well known for their liturgical socks as well as creative Catholic apparel. The Visitation is my favorite mystery to reflect upon and these socks are a fun reminder as well as a fantastic way to evangelize! They have a whole assortment that can help you fill every stocking!

[www.sockreligious.com](http://www.sockreligious.com)

### *Magnificat Prayer Card*

I love putting a prayer card in my kids' stockings or St. Nick shoes. The Magnificat is a reminder of how we are called to live out our everyday fiat for the Lord. My kids have these on their lockers, bulletin boards and I've even seen one on the dash of a car on occasion.

[www.abundanceofgrace.com](http://www.abundanceofgrace.com)



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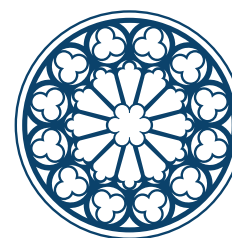
- provides a perpetual source of income for your parish
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[catholic-foundation.org](http://catholic-foundation.org)

# St. John Center continues to serve community needs

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

Six months after the closing of Holy Rosary-St. John Church next door, the St. John Center (also known as the St. John Community Center) on Columbus' south side continues to thrive as a community hub for many activities.

The former St. John School at 640 S. Ohio Ave. is the site of the Community Kitchen, serving free hot meals five days a week; a food pantry that is open every Thursday and provides three days' worth of food to low-income residents from anywhere in Franklin County; the St. John Learning Center, offering classes for people preparing for the GED high-school equivalency diploma test, plus other adult education programs; and the Order of Malta Center of Care, providing free medical care and referrals once a week and free dental care twice a month at no charge to anyone who visits.

The final Mass at Holy Rosary-St. John Church was celebrated on Sunday, May 12 and the building officially closed as a worship site on June 30, when a decree issued by Bishop Earl Fernandes at the beginning of the year went into effect.

The church's worship community was merged with that of nearby Columbus St. Dominic Church, with the combined parish given responsibility for caring for the closed church, the St. John Center and other properties on the Holy Rosary-St. John campus.

"It doesn't appear that there's been any noticeable drop-off in the number of people using the center; in fact, I'd say things are continuing to go very well there," said Gary Rhoades, who oversees maintenance for the combined parish. "We had a resource fair at the center and about 270 people showed up, so there's obviously still great interest."

"I put together a five-year buildings plan for the two churches last year and that remains in effect. Roof leaks at the center were fixed, we have a couple of grant applications awaiting approval and we're continuing a fundraising drive."

"A lot of people thought at first that since the church was closing, the center would be closing, too," said MJ McCleskey, president and chief executive officer of Community Kitchen, Inc. "The number of people coming for meals went down for a while and donations dropped off, but people have started to realize we're still here and we need more people to know that we're not going anywhere. We continue to look for volunteers and we're still taking donations."

McCleskey, who has been involved with the program for 15 years, said the kitchen is on track to serve about 150,000 meals again this year. It's open for sit-down dining on weekdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. for breakfast and 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for lunch. Last year, it served about 150,000 meals on-site. It also delivers meals to the Westside Christian

School, the Fresh Market on Parsons Avenue and the Nehemiah House on East Main Street. McCleskey said about 2,000 meals were delivered in October.

"Delivery was something we started as a result of COVID, which taught us to be more flexible," she said. "We also started doing more takeout meals for people to bring home or to their jobs. We used to have many people come for breakfast, then stay for lunch. There's less of that now and more in-and-out."

The program began as a parish ministry in 1979 and since 1985 has been a federal 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization independent of the church, with a board of directors representing the community.

It shares space in the former school's basement with the St. John Food Pantry, which remains a program of the parish. The pantry has been open since the 1980s and serves about 70 families or individuals each Thursday from 9 to 10:30 a.m., said volunteer coordinator Rose Moses. In 2023, the pantry provided more than 74,000 meals to nearly 8,300 people.

"We've given out about 3,000 food packages since the first of the year and it's been pretty steady all year," she said. "If anything, I think there's been a few more people coming this year than last. The need is still there, people know we're here and they've gotten over any concerns related to the church's having closed. Most people coming here are not Catholic, so the status of the church didn't make a difference to them."

She said everyone the pantry serves receives one bag of nonperishable foods such as cereal, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti, rice and canned foods, plus one or two bags of nonperishables including bread, milk, eggs, yogurt and fresh fruits, vegetables and meat.

Moses, who has been volunteering at the pantry for more than 20 years, said most of the perishables are from the Mid-Ohio Food Collective, with canned goods and other items coming from Columbus St. Peter and St. Catharine, Powell St. Joan of Arc, Pickerington St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare parishes, the Knights of St. Peter Claver auxiliary, the River House apartments and other organizations and individuals.

During the Christmas season, the pantry distributes hats, gloves and blankets it receives from the knitting ministry at Gahanna St. Matthew Church.

Moses is assisted by eight to 10 regular adult volunteers, plus high school students who come to the pantry to earn volunteer service hour credits. She said most of the volunteers come from St. Dominic, Columbus Christ the King and the parishes that provide most of the food donations. The pantry's major expenses are for office supplies and bags. Most of those who come to the site are from the neighborhood near the center, but Moses regularly has clients from the far eastern and far western ends of Franklin County as well.

The Columbus region of the Order of Malta has operated its Center of Care at the St. John Center since the summer of 2017. The center is open Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and offers health screenings and basic medical, wound, burn, dental and foot care from volunteer physicians, podiatrists and dentists from the Catholic Medical Association, along with medical referrals for those needing advanced levels of care. It does not bill insurance or Medicare but operates solely on donations.

It also provides packages of hygiene supplies, undergarments, socks, T-shirts, gloves and hats to anyone who wants them.

Jason Thomas, president of the center's board, said that about 300 people have received medical care and 70 have obtained dental care this year through mid-November, with more than 2,200 care packages being distributed. The center has received and distributed 192 winter coats each year for the past three years. Some are available this year, but he anticipates they'll be gone before too long.

"We've been serving about the same number of people each year since re-opening on a full-time basis in 2022 once COVID came under control," he said. "Before COVID caused so much disruption in 2020, we were seeing about 500 annually. Most come through word of mouth."

Teresa Lee, who has been the St. John Learning Center's coordinator since 2022, said it has been offering GED classes since the 1980s, doing it in the past year or so in a partnership with Columbus City Schools and the Ohio Department of Higher Education's Aspire program for adult learners. The classes are offered quarterly. The next set of classes will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 6, with registration starting in early December.

Students in the classes take a placement test that positions them in one of two levels of study. The first level gives students enough general knowledge to go to the second level, which gets them ready to take the GED test. New classes start approximately every three months, but there's no set term for when classes end for each student. That depends on the time it takes for an individual to complete each level.

The St. John Learning Center, which is still a parish-run program, also offers quarterly classes in English for Speakers of Other Languages, in cooperation with the Columbus Literacy Council. The winter session for those classes begins in February with registration in January.

Throughout the year, the center presents a Zoom workshop series on mental health issues titled "Stop the Stigma," with licensed counselors speaking on a different subject from noon to 1 p.m., usually on the third Thursday of each month. The next workshop will be on "Dealing with Grief During the Holidays" and will be from noon to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 12.

Lee said the success of the resource fair

in October has led to plans for another such event in 2025, with a job fair planned for a date in the spring to be determined. Also on tap for next year are multiple-session programs on home buying, financial literacy and starting a business, which the center has hosted in the past.

The small business workshops attract people hoping to start a small business and others trying to improve their current businesses. The goal of the St. John Learning Center, whether through GED classes or through these small business classes, is to help individuals and families become self-sufficient and thrive financially.

Besides offering classes, the center has a computer lab with six stations for students. It is looking for donations of up-to-date computers.

To learn more about the center and check its schedule of events, go to [stjohnlearning.wordpress.com](http://stjohnlearning.wordpress.com) or call (614) 547-2171.

The St. John Community Center also is continuing an annual school supply program in cooperation with Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church and sponsors a Christmas gift program in collaboration with Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, said Violet Jackson, coordinator for both.

"St. Paul parishioners are very generous year after year in providing back-to-school items for students who can't afford them," she said. "This year, we were able to give backpacks filled with about six months' worth of items such as notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, paper towels and wipes and so forth to about 150 students. They are designed for the needs of various grades, with high school students even getting calculators."

"The program in collaboration with St. John Neumann puts together forms with gift requests for about 30 families and distributes the forms to families in both the parish and the surrounding neighborhood in November, and there's always a great response."

"When the changes at Holy Rosary-St. John were announced, we didn't know if that would affect these programs, but both parishes were adamant that they wanted to keep them in the community."

The Christmas gift program co-sponsored by St. John Neumann is already full, but the Community Kitchen also offers Christmas gifts in collaboration with St. Paul the Apostle Church. Those attending that program can pick up gifts after getting a free lunch as well.

St. Dominic Church, at 453 N. 20th St., has a parish center where home-cooked meals have been served since July 2023. The meal program is known as Cecil's Café in honor of longtime parish employee Cecil Douglas and serves breakfast from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and lunch from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

"It's only open three days because we're out shopping on Tuesdays and Thurs-

See CENTER, Page 24

First Sunday of Advent Year C

# Nothing to fear when the Lord is near

Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14  
1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2  
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Much of our response to life is based on fear. We live in times of uncertainty. We look ahead and we are afraid of failure. We doubt we can meet the challenges set before us. Sometimes we may see “the light at the end of the tunnel,” but even then, we can imagine it not to be the way out, but another tragedy we will have to face. Jesus invites us to stand tall and to be confident that we are equipped to meet whatever is in prospect.

Some remind themselves that fear is really “f.e.a.r.,” “false evidence appearing real.” Others realize that it is not fear that causes the problem, but what our imagination does with that fear. We become authors of our own version of horror films designed to keep us in fear.

Jesus describes the end of the world as the collapse of everything that we find familiar and stable. Nothing in our experience is destined to last forever. Yet, at the very same time, He invites to stand tall, awaiting His return with confidence. “But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.”

As we face the challenges of our time, Jesus tells us to stay awake, not to be caught up in the flow of things that are beyond our control and not to try to avoid the challenges by closing in on ourselves. “Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily

2nd Sunday of Advent Year C

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

Rev. Timothy M. Hayes is the pastor of Granville St. Edward the Confessor Church.



life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap for that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.” When the time comes for us to experience difficulties, we can be confident that God is with us and that we have all we need to stand tall.

In the earliest letters of the New Testament, written by St. Paul to the Thessalonians, we see that the first generations of Christians had concerns similar to ours. Their world was often in turmoil, and they faced persecutions and often misunderstood what was happening to them. Paul consoled them with a reminder that they were part of a family united in Jesus Christ and that God would be with them through all that they had to experience. “May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen.”

Pope Francis has often commented that we are living not merely in a time of change, but in a change of epoch. Daily news has accounts that cause us to wonder if “the end is near.” Jesus’ advice to His contemporaries is apt for us. We

## Scripture is specific for a reason: It's real

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Tyron Tomson

Father Tyron Tomson is a priest of the Diocese of Columbus pursuing a Licentiate in Sacred Scripture in Rome.



of Our Lady, an unwed teenage mother.

He is made manifest among unnamed shepherd boys. Actual scribes and Pharisees got chastised. Poor and sick people specifically were helped and healed. Loved ones were raised from the dead. Bona fide sinners were forgiven. Real-life disciples made quantifiable sacrifices to follow Him.

They all encountered Him in person. Angels and kings come to attend to Him, not the other way around. We number our years by His appearance, and the exploits of secular potentates pale alongside those of His simplest saints, whose accounts endure because they form part of His story.

## THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

<b>12-2/12-7 MONDAY</b> Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122:1-2,3-4b,4cd-5;6-7;8-9 Matthew 8:5-11	<b>THURSDAY</b> Isaiah 26:1-6 Psalm 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27a Matthew 7:21,24-27	<b>12-9/12-14 MONDAY</b> Genesis 3:9-15,20 Psalm 98:1,2-3ab,3cd-4 Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12 Luke 1:26-38	<b>THURSDAY</b> Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a;12:1-6a,10ab Judith 13:18bcd,e,19 Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47
<b>TUESDAY</b> Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17 Luke 10:21-24	<b>FRIDAY</b> Isaiah 29:17-24 Psalm 27:1,4,13-14 Matthew 9:27-31	<b>TUESDAY</b> Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 96:1-2,3,10ac,11-12,13 Matthew 18:12-14	<b>FRIDAY</b> Isaiah 48:17-19 Psalm 1:1,2,3-4,6 Matthew 11:16-19
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Isaiah 25:6-10a Psalm 23:1-3a,3-b,4,5,6 Matthew 15:29-37	<b>SATURDAY</b> Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26 Psalm 147:1-2,3-4,5-6 Matthew 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Isaiah 40:25-31 Psalm 103:1-2,3-4,8,10 Matthew 11:28-30	<b>SATURDAY</b> Sirach 48:1-4,9-11 Psalm 80:2ac,3b,15-16,18-19 Matthew 17:9a,10-13

### DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION: Mass Schedule: Weeks of December 1 and December 8

#### SUNDAY MASS

10:30am Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio AM820, Columbus, FM88.3, Portsmouth, and FM106.7, Athens., and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com) and diocesan website, [www.columbus-catholic.org](http://www.columbus-catholic.org).

Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Mass from St. Francis de Sales Seminary, Milwaukee, at 10 a.m. on WWHO-TV. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or Breeze-line Channel 378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on WILB radio (AM 1060, FM 94.5 and 89.5), Canton, heard in Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Coshocton counties.

#### DAILY MASS

8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113), Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City, Washington C.H.; Channel 125, Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; Channel 207, Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com).

12:05 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. Saturdays, Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com) and diocesan website, [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org). (Saturdays on radio only).

Videos of Masses are available at any time on the internet at these and many other parish websites: Mattingly Settlement St. Mary ([www.stannstmary.org](http://www.stannstmary.org)); Columbus St. Patrick ([www.stpatrickcolumbus.org](http://www.stpatrickcolumbus.org)); Delaware St. Mary ([www.delawarestmary.org](http://www.delawarestmary.org)); Sunbury St. John Neumann ([www.saintjohnsunbury.org](http://www.saintjohnsunbury.org)); and Columbus Immaculate Conception ([www.iccols.org](http://www.iccols.org)). Check your parish website for additional information.

#### WE PRAY WEEKS I AND II OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

must be vigilant. We must put our faith in Him.

We may or may not be at the end of the world. Nonetheless, we are certainly at “the end of an age.” God does fulfill His promises. We are safe and secure. We do have a God Who is just and merciful. Despite turmoil and change, we await the presence of God in Jesus Christ. He is faithful and true. Let us hold our heads high.

A personal word to readers of this column: I have enjoyed the weekly and

bi-monthly challenge of reflecting on the Sunday and Holy Day Scriptures for several years to write this column. It has truly been a privilege. Now The Catholic Times has reached out to other priests who serve in the Diocese of Columbus to share the responsibility. You will have the opportunity to hear different voices. I will continue to contribute, but just once a month or so. May we all deepen our knowledge of the Scriptures by the shared wisdom. Knowledge of Scripture is knowledge of Christ.

Baruch 5:1-9  
Psalm 126:1-6  
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11  
Luke 3:1-6

Notice the intense precision in the Gospel of St. Luke, which gets highlighted prominently during Advent. The physician-turned-evangelist insists very deliberately on the historical truth of the events he reports with a scientific sense of detail. He's not poetically musing, or abstractly philosophizing, or moralistically mythologizing. St. Luke stands as a personal witness to the reality of the arrival of God's Messiah-Son.

Like ancient writers normally did, he appeals to well-known authority figures of the day, but to the reader's surprise, the Divinity doesn't appear to them. Instead, Christ arrives to the rugged and wild John the Baptist. He comes by St. Joseph, a workaday laborer. He is born

While this vivid realism is made plain in the Biblical texts, we should recall our place in the ranks of all those personalities by making that Psalmist's prayerful observation our own: “The Lord has done great things for us.” Baruch is prophesying to Jerusalem, as well as to us, with a very particularized message of hope: “For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever.” Like St. Paul writes to the Philippians, we too have share in a “partnership for the Gospel” and the “good work” begun within us must still be completed.

We could leave all these spiritual exhortations stagnant in their original Scriptural setting, or we could apply them to our personal role in living the Church's unchanging faith today. In other words, we need to become participants in the activity of grace, not remain sideline spectators.

If a quaint saccharine holiday vibe threatens to infiltrate the spiritual realm and dilute our Catholicity with a vague and anonymous triviality, let us not forget the Advent theme of the Lord's Second Coming. The epic isn't over yet. “The day of Christ,” the Last Judgment, is known as “general” only in the sense of “universal.” He promises it will be quite exacting: “He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,” we recite each week, perhaps too blithely.

Only facing that reality somberly will help us prepare properly. If only we took the kind of time and trouble we spend wrapping gifts to unwrap our hearts! What if we adorned our souls like we do our homes? The Scriptures speak repeatedly today of some serious landscape terraforming: “Every lofty mountain be made low” and “age-old depths

See SCRIPTURE, Page 23

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Year C

Genesis 3:9-15, 20  
Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4  
Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12  
Luke 1:26-38

On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, we read a passage from the beginning of human history, from Genesis. In simple words, how we messed up our own life by disobedience.

The Lord asked Adam, ‘Where are you?’ Jewish rabbis often remarked that God, the One who knows everything, does not know where Adam is. However,

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SOLEMN  
TABERNACLE  
TANTUM ERGO  
THURIBLE

The beginning of your salvation  
SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Robert Jager, Ph.D.  
Father Robert Jager, Ph.D., is pastor of  
Columbus St. John Chrysostom Byzantine  
Catholic Church.



er, they answer God knew where Adam was. He was not asking about the place but rather where are you in your life? What have you done with your life? It is a bitter recognition you destroyed what I gave you. You fooled yourself. And we see the messiness.

Adam did not take responsibility, even though he was there with Eve the whole

time. He could have said to her: No, don’t talk to him! He did not. Instead, he accuses God “the women you gave me” and throws everything on Eve. Eve is not bitter at all. She accuses the serpent.

Through this story, we face our own reality – mistrust in God, constant accusation of others for our own faults or at least explanations how we are not in fact responsible because of the circumstances, other people and their influence, etc. Fear. Distance keeping from God and others. Lack of inner peace. Brokenness. Just like Adam and Eve.

However, the Lord did not regret creating humans or did he totally turn away from us. We bear the consequences of our actions, but the Lord already promises help: Her offspring will crush your head.

In the Hebrew text, offspring is singular, and the following pronouns used are singular as well. Likewise, the Greek translation of the OT uses singular. Already in the time of Jesus, Targums (Jewish commentaries) point to the “offspring” as the Messiah, a concrete individual. It is a concrete individual and not a group!

The Gospel tells us the story of fulfil-

ment of the ancient prophecy from the dawn of history. A woman whose offspring will crush the head of the enemy is this young girl, Mariam (Mary) from Nazareth. Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you! (Lk 1:28). In the Greek text, this is one sentence. Because the Lord is with Mary, she is full of grace! The Lord is the cause of this fullness and not Mary. She is the one that receives it. She is full of grace because the Lord made her so. This is the reason to rejoice. The parts of the sentence explain each other.

We should read the two accounts as parallels. What was messed up at the beginning now is being restored. Instead of fear, rejoicing. Instead of confusion and accusations of others, Mary enters a dialogue and receives answers. Instead of mistrust and refusal, Mary accepts and surrenders.

The Immaculate Conception is a special moment that urges us to stop and ponder the reality of our life. The Lord created and chose a virgin to be the beginning of salvation. He preserved her in a special way from the consequences of

See SALVATION, Page 23

Words of Wisdom

by Pat Battaglia, aka Dr. Fun

Draw a path from letter to letter to spell the words given in capital letters that completes the wisdom statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left or diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

When you bury the hatchet ...

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DO NOT MARK THE GRAVE

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Pastor installed at St. Brendan



Father Sean Dooley (left) is installed as pastor at Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church during a Vigil Mass on Saturday, Nov. 16 by Bishop Earl Fernandes. Father Dooley became the parish's pastor in July after serving in the same capacity at Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church. He replaced Father Bob Penhallurick, who moved to Columbus St. Catharine of Siena Church and also became the diocese's Respect Life coordinator. Photo courtesy St. Brendan Church

Seminarians installed as lectors, acolytes



Seminarians in the Configuration stage of formation at the Pontifical College Josephinum were installed as lectors and acolytes on Nov. 17, by Bishop John Iffert of Covington, Kentucky. Diocesan seminarians Miguel De La Torre (top photo) and Matthew Waldman (center photo) were installed as lectors. Third-year seminarian Anthony Whalen (bottom photo) received both ministries. Once termed minor orders, the ministries of lector and acolyte were established by Pope Paul VI in 1973 with the apostolic letter Ministeria Quaedam. Lectors are commissioned to proclaim the Word of God in the liturgical assembly and to instruct children and adults in the faith to prepare them to receive the sacraments. Acolytes are entrusted with attending to the altar, assisting the deacon and priest at Mass, and distributing Holy Communion during the liturgy and to the sick. In the rite, each candidate is handed a symbol of the ministry to which he is being instituted. Lectors receive a Book of the Gospels and acolytes are presented with a chalice while the bishop encourages the men to fulfill the ministry faithfully. Photos courtesy Pontifical College Josephinum



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## Retirement fund for religious collection set for Dec. 7-8

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection is scheduled in parishes throughout the diocese on the weekend of Dec. 7-8.

John Knutsen, director of the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), expressed his gratitude for the 2023 contributions of \$107,778.35 to the fund from the diocese.

"The unwavering support of the Catholic faithful in the United States continues to inspire us," he said. "Every contribution to the Retirement Fund for Religious makes a tangible difference in the lives of those who have given so much to our Church and communities."

Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests have often worked for little to no pay, leaving them with limited retirement savings. Today, religious communities face the challenge of caring for an aging population, with more than 20,000 religious being past age 70. The annual cost of their care exceeds \$1 billion, highlighting the critical need for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Since its inception in 1988, the collection has raised over \$1 billion. Nearly \$870 million has been distributed for direct care, and more than \$103.5 million has funded self-help projects like collaborative health-care facilities.

The collection also supports educational programs, enabling religious communities to plan for their long-term needs.

"By contributing to the Retirement Fund for Religious," Knutsen emphasized, "members of the Catholic Church in America not only provide for the care of aging religious but also empower their communities to continue their vital ministries."

In 2023, the appeal raised \$29.3 million, providing financial assistance for the retirement needs of 286 U.S. religious communities.

The NRRO coordinates the annual na-

tional appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious and distributes financial assistance to eligible religious communities. It is sponsored by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

For more information, visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org) or contact Robin Cabral, campaign director, by phone at (508) 685-8899 or by email at [robincabral@retiredreligious.org](mailto:robincabral@retiredreligious.org).

### LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

## 'Let There Be Light!' mission coming to Sts. Simon and Jude

West Jefferson Sts. Simon and Jude Church, 9350 High Free Pike, will be the site of an Advent mission titled "Let There Be Light!" with actor Frank Runyeon on Sunday and Monday, Dec. 9.

On the first night, Runyeon will bring the Gospel of John to life with a presentation in a candlelight setting. Monday's theme will be "Hollywood vs. Faith," an evening filled with humor as Runyeon compares the story of our faith to the media stories people see every day.

Each presentation will be from 7 to 8:15 p.m. with receptions to follow.

Runyeon has been presenting the Gospel with drama and humor in various ways for more than 25 years and has appeared in more than 1,000 television shows in the past 30 years, with recurring soap opera roles in *The Young and the Restless*, *As the World Turns*, *Santa Barbara* and *General Hospital*.

For more information, contact Bonnie Creeger at [bcreeger@stsimonjude.org](mailto:bcreeger@stsimonjude.org).

### African Catholics to gather for annual Mass

The annual African Mass will be cele-

brated at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1 at Columbus St. Matthias Chapel, 1582 Ferris Road. The chapel is home to the diocesan Nigerian Catholic community.

The annual Mass is organized by the National Association of African Catholics in the United States (NAACUS).

Father Elias Udeh, CSSp (Congregation of the Holy Spirit, or Spiritans) will celebrate the Mass. Co-celebrants include Fathers Lawrence Tabi, Jude Fongouck, Weldit Tesfazghi Abby and Process Milton Kiocha.

The Mass will also be livestreamed.

For more information, call Uche Ezechukwu at 773-709-4326 or Father Udeh at 614-622-1956.

Information about NAACUS is available at [www.naacus.org](http://www.naacus.org) or [facebook.com/groups/naac.usa](https://facebook.com/groups/naac.usa). The association can be contacted at [naacus@gmail.com](mailto:naacus@gmail.com).

### St. Dominic Church alters weekly Mass schedule

Columbus St. Dominic Church, 453 N. 20th St., is changing its weekly Mass schedule.

Effective this Sunday, Dec. 1, the

church's Sunday Mass will be at 9:45 a.m., with a weekday Mass at noon on Wednesdays. There also is a Mass for former residents of Cameroon at 1 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month.

Eucharistic Adoration takes place from noon to 1 p.m. on the first Friday of the month.

### Simbang Gabi event will be Dec. 15 to 23

The Filipino Catholic community of central Ohio will be celebrating its traditional Simbang Gabi novena of Masses from Sunday, Dec. 15 to Monday, Dec. 23 at Columbus St. Josephine Bakhita Parish at St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd, with praying of the Rosary at 6:30 p.m. and Mass at 7 each evening.

Bishop Earl Fernandes will be celebrant for the final Mass, which will be concelebrated by Father Anthony Davis, pastor; Fr. Pius Ajuluchukwu, associate pastor; and Father Hilary Ike, priest in residence at St. Josephine Bakhita; and Father Ramon Ower, chaplain of the Filipino Catholic community.

Simbang Gabi is a spiritual prepara-

tion event in the Philippines in anticipation of Christmas. The novena Masses will be celebrated in English, with most songs in the Tagalog language of the Philippines.

For more information, contact irene\_sze@yahoo.com or [minda-li58@hotmail.com](mailto:minda-li58@hotmail.com).

### St. Pius X to host Advent retreat

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, will be the site of an Advent retreat on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to the conclusion of the parish's 4:30 p.m. Mass.

"Great Expectations" will be the theme of the day, with talks by members of the Leaven of the Immaculate Heart of Mary sisters who serve the St. John Paul II Scito Catholic Community, based in Portsmouth.

The program will include lunch, small-group discussion, Advent garland making and time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

To RSVP, go to <https://forms.gle/eQRhZNY2JbewHFe9a>.

### SCRIPTURE, continued from Page 20

and gorges be filled to level ground." Hardly minor cosmetic touchups. No stone will be left contentedly unturned in its picturesque little place. That's what needs to be happening in our souls, in our families, in our parishes, and in our society.

In this, we are offered far more concrete certainty than the testimony of the grand political figureheads and religious hierarchs, like St. Luke points out. It's good to have good ones, but they all come and go. "The word of God came" in a personalized way for each of us. He alone

will return again. It doesn't get any more real than that.

Are there mystical and mysterious components to the Bible? Certainly. Are the typological patterns and poetic imagery? On every page. Does this mean that we are to understand the wide arc of this sweeping saga as kind of grand fable? Quite to the contrary.

We might sense that tendency to extract some hackneyed practical wisdom from the storylines of Scripture in the manner of a nursery rhyme, then find ourselves leaving the historical narra-

tive aside, skirting around the more unnerving passages, and even entertaining some questions about its veracity. This would be clearly antithetical to the intentions of both the human authors and the Divine Author of Sacred Scripture.

Myths may impart to us useful lessons, but the Word-Made-Flesh who is our Savior Himself desires our life, truly and entirely, personally taking full account of every detail. Hopefully, you can offer Him yours better than ever during this holy season.

### SALVATION, continued from Page 21

the original sin – the Lord is with you. He made her pure of heart so she would absolutely trust the Lord and no one else.

The Byzantine liturgy praises this divine plan in the following words: Today the beginning of our salvation is conceived in barren womb; and Anna rejoices with Joachim, Adam rejoices to be freed, and with them, we also begin our hymn: rejoice, O woman full of grace, the Lord is with you.

It is fitting indeed to sing together Psalm 98: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous deeds! Do not listen to this psalm but pray it! Sing it! It is your salvation as well.

The Lord, through Mary's child, Jesus, has chosen you as well. Paul reminds us of this in his letter to the Ephesians. Take this hymn with you and pray it during this day! If you feel distant from this rejoicing, ask yourself the same question as the Lord did ask: Adam, where are you? What have you done with your life?

Whatever the answer is, share it with him. Just as Mary expressed her confusion and questions. Do not point to others or circumstances. Do not hide like Adam and Eve. Be honest with the Lord. Return to him, for he has chosen you to be his child! Today is the new beginning for you as well, for the Lord remembered his kindness and faithfulness to you!

PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

**ALEXANDER, Catherine A. (Andryszczyk), 67, Nov. 17**  
St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

**BERRY, Carol J., 96, Nov. 18**  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

**CUBBERLY, JoAnn, 94, Nov. 4**  
St. Mary Church, Delaware

**COWGILL, Sandra L. (Lech), 77, Nov. 12**  
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

**DOWD, Mary Ann (Bores), 81, Nov. 6**  
Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center

**FRANK, David K., 75, Oct. 31**  
St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus

**FROST, Richard Lee, 81, Aug. 28**  
St. Matthew the Apostle Church, Gahanna

**GARNER, Barbara Jean, 74, Nov. 9**  
Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster

**GATEWOOD-PREECE, Eleanor R. "Rose" (Schery), 77, Oct. 23**  
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

**GRIBBLE, James F., 97, Nov. 11**  
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

**HAAG, Marilyn, 78, Nov. 8**  
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

**HAMILTON, William Edward "Bill," 93, Nov. 18**  
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

**HERAN, Gayle L., 68, Nov. 6**  
Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

**HILSHEIMER, Dorothy (Lynch), 87, of Columbus, Nov. 6**  
St. Anne Church, Rittman

**KELNHOFER, Dennis L., 91, Oct. 28**  
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

**KIFFER, Kathleen B., 82, Aug. 22**  
St. Matthew the Apostle Church, Gahanna

**MacGREGOR, Gail K., 77, Nov. 15**  
St. Peter Church, Columbus

**McGOUGH, David John, 77, Oct. 20**  
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

**NIEMAN, Mary R. (Lang), 93, Nov. 9**  
St. Leo the Great Oratory, Columbus

**NASH, Helen C. (Stenson), 94, Nov. 12**  
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

**NEELY, Robert Allen, 74, Oct. 10**  
St. Matthew the Apostle Church, Gahanna

**PEREZ, Oscar B., 32, Oct. 29**  
St. Joseph Church, Dover

**RADERSTORF, Carol A. (Walsh), 96, Nov. 4**  
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Columbus

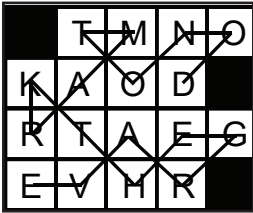
**ROONEY, Marguerite A. (Gonzales), 97, Nov. 6**  
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

**SANDFORD, Mary Ellen, 73, Sept. 25**  
St. Matthew the Apostle Church, Gahanna

**SHARRON, Victor Joseph "Bud," 89, Nov. 10**  
St. Peter Church, Columbus

**TUSSING, Thomas R., 87, Oct. 30**  
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

**WIRICK, Andrew D. "Andy," 32, Nov. 22**  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark



WORDS OF WISDOM SOLUTION

Hannah K. Wilson

Funeral Mass for Hannah K. Wilson, 83, who died Thursday, Nov. 14, was celebrated Tuesday, Nov. 19 at Somerset Holy Trinity Church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

She was born August 9, 1941, to T. F. and Ada Emmert and was a 1959 graduate of Holy Trinity School.

She spent 27 years at the school and had the official title of school secretary and government clerk but was considered a second mother to generations of the school's children and a mentor to

new teachers. She also was a member of the parish mother's club and several prayer groups.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Stevie; and a sister, Cynthia Decot. Survivors include her husband of 65 years, Robert; sons, Jack (Robin) and Joe (Vickie); daughters, Jill (Tom) Sullivan and Julie Kilbarger; brothers, Tom and Tim (Karen Hess); 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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Jannette "Jan" MacKay

Funeral Mass for Jannette "Jan" MacKay, 92, who died Thursday, Oct. 31, was celebrated Saturday, Nov. 16 at Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center, followed by burial.

She was kitchen manager at Columbus St. Matthias School for several years and ran the parish fish fries. She also

was a greeter and was involved in several other parish activities.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jay, sons Ric and Andy and a granddaughter. Survivors include her daughter, Leslie (Dennis) Curtin; three grandsons, two granddaughters and three great-grandchildren.

CENTER, continued from Page 19

days," said Sheila Jones, a volunteer who does the cooking with her aunt, Bunny Neal, and assistance from other volunteers. "We have between 125 and 175 people at lunch and they're happy to come see us because they know what they get is cooked with love and isn't something from out of a can. We don't want anyone to come here expecting something ordinary."

The Community Kitchen served meals at St. Dominic's for several years but ended that program in the summer of 2023, with Jones and Neal stepping up to take its place. "We paid for everything in the first six months, but then the Catholic Foundation stepped in with a grant. We're also getting help from parishes and still paying for some of the food ourselves. In addition, we have a friend who wishes to remain anonymous from Westerville St. Paul who visits bakeries and brings us their leftover bread each day."

The parish also sponsors the distribution of Thanksgiving food baskets to more than 400 families and is involved with a Christmas gift partnership for children served by the St. Vincent Family Center.

Effective this Sunday, Dec. 1, the church's Sunday Mass will be 9:45 a.m., with a weekday Mass at noon on Wednesdays. There also is a Mass for former residents of Cameroon at 1 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month.

Parish council president Angela Hickman said St. Dominic's social justice ministry has been involved for decades with Building Responsibility, Equality and Dignity (BREAD), a Columbus-based coalition of more than 40 churches of all denominations that addresses community problems by holding public officials accountable to implementing proven solutions.

Issues being addressed by BREAD include affordable housing, renter protection, gun violence, environmental justice and juvenile justice.

Besides St. Dominic's, other Columbus parishes that are part of the group are

Christ the King/St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Christopher, St. Josephine Bakhita, Immaculate Conception, St. Francis of Assisi and the St. Thomas More Newman Center, as well as the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

"I've been pastor here for only three months, so I'm still getting used to the parish, but I'm impressed by what a vibrant community it is and how Masses at St. Dominic's are a real celebration," said Father Antony Varghese, CFIC, a member of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception religious order. He also is pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church.

"The many social programs at the St. John Center make it a unique parish. People at Holy Rosary-St. John and St. Dominic are doing well in getting used to each other. Those with long memories recall that it's not the first merger involving these parishes. Holy Rosary-St. John resulted from a combining of parishes in the 1960s, and the former St. Cyprian Church merged with St. Dominic's in the 1950s, so St. Dominic's as it now exists is really a combination of four parishes."

The newly merged parish needs outside donations to support this faithful work at both the St. John Community Center and St. Dominic Church. Donations from individuals around the diocese in addition to the contributions from St. Dominic parishioners are important to keeping all these much-needed programs operational.

To donate by check, send a check made out to "St. Dominic Catholic Church" to the church at P. O. Box 83572, Columbus, OH 43203-0572. If possible, put "year-end appeal" on the memo line.

If you would like to know more about donating or have questions about any of the parish programs, including the St. John Food Pantry, St. John Learning Center, and Cecil's Café, call (614) 252-5926, extension 207. For information on Community Kitchen, Inc., call (614) 252-6428. For information on the Order of Malta Center of Care, call (614) 530-8643.

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in necessity. Oh, star of the sea, help me and show me herein, you are my Heaven and Earth. I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in this necessity. There are none who can withstand your powers. Oh, show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us, who have recourse to thee. (Repeat three times) Oh, Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hand. (Repeat

three times) Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads that I can obtain my goals. You gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, and in all instances in my life, you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. | D.P.

# St. Mary Magdalene students cast ballots in school election

Democracy and civil engagement are alive and well at Columbus St. Mary Magdalene School, where students cast their ballots and made their voices heard in an all-school election on Nov. 5.

The 266 students from pre-K through eighth grade voted on three important issues: new playground equipment, the theme for a dress down day and a special classroom snack.

Principal Leigh Kane charged teachers to teach about the electoral process in developmentally appropriate ways.

Middle school students learned about how the government operates, the legal process in order to vote, how bills become laws, the branches of government and the importance of exercising civic duty in social studies classes.

Elementary students learned about voting, elections and the issues that would be voted on.

Prepared with this information, students were ready to cast their ballots.

During the election, organized by middle school social studies teacher Fatima Alfaro and student council adviser Elba Martinez, students arrived at their polling place at designated times.

Greeted by an election official, students cast a paper or an electronic ballot. Choices were represented by images for younger voters and in Spanish as well as English, making voting accessible for all.

After voting, students proudly showed off their "I Voted" sticker provided by Kids Voting Ohio. This organization, which also provided the sample electronic ballot, is



Columbus St. Mary Magdalene School students participate in an all-school election on Tuesday, Nov. 5. Students voted on three school issues while learning about the electoral process on the same day as the general election in the U.S. Photos courtesy St. Mary Magdalene School

a "non-profit, non-partisan organization that serves Ohio schools through voter preparation and preparedness."

"It's been really fun partnering with Kids Voting Ohio the past three years," Ms. Alfaro said. "Various government and civic standards are covered during the year, but it is always particularly fun and more impactful for students to practice casting their vote each November."

"For many of our students, they will be the first person or generation in their family that will be able to exercise the right to vote in the United States. That makes this all even more special for me!"

Ms. Alfaro has organized middle school elections in the past, but this was the first year the entire school was involved.

The excitement in the building about the

school election was palpable. Students put a lot of thought into their decision making.

"When I was choosing what to vote for, I thought about what we (the school) needed," fourth grader Jose Garcia said.

"It was difficult to decide what to choose," Persia Vega, another fourth grader, added. "This was going to be my future."

Results were tallied over two days by student council leadership before the final vote was shared during morning assembly to much applause and cheers.

"I'm happy with all of the results," student Aylin Yadaicela said. "This felt like



real voting."

Ms. Alfaro said, "I feel that as much as it is a responsibility to accurately teach the past in social studies, there is also a responsibility to make sure our students are well informed citizens, understanding the value of their voices in their communities and their votes going forward."

Mrs. Kane agreed. She hopes the experience will set the foundation for students to trust in the democratic process knowing that their vote matters.

## Sister honored at Cristo Rey



Sister Castissima Masambo (center), campus ministry assistant at Cristo Rey Columbus High School, is celebrating her 50th jubilee with the Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro. She was recognized at an All Saints Day Mass with a special blessing from school chaplain, Father David Arroyo Alonso, C.R. She was later scheduled to travel to her home country of Tanzania to celebrate the milestone. After Mass, she was presented a book with a compilation of prayers she has written during her three years at Cristo Rey Columbus that she composes each day to read over the intercom during morning prayer. Sister Castissima was joined by school principal Ryan Michelle Pettit (left) and Father Arroyo. Sister Castissima took her first vows in 1974 with 13 others and made her perpetual vows in 1983. She came to Cristo Rey Columbus in 2021 and has become a treasured part of the community, offering guidance and counsel to students and staff in addition to leading prayer each morning.

Photo courtesy Cristo Rey Columbus

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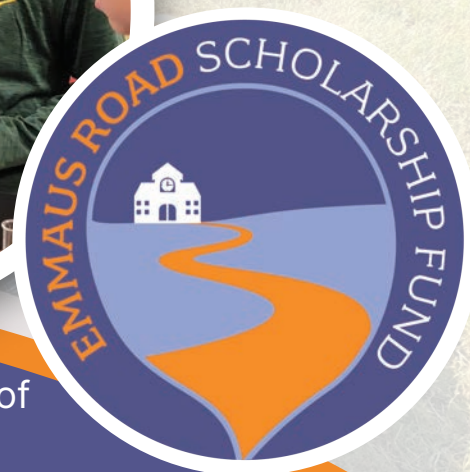
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# Watterson girls win, St. Charles boys lose in state soccer finals

By Tim Puet  
For The Catholic Times

Two soccer teams from diocesan high schools had contrasting results in state championship games at Historic Crew Stadium. The Columbus Bishop Watterson girls defeated North Royalton 2-1 on penalty kicks in the girls Division II final on Saturday, Nov. 9, and the Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School boys suffered a heartbreaking 1-0 double-overtime defeat the following day against Cleveland St. Ignatius in Division I.

After regulation play and two 15-minute overtimes ended with the score tied 1-1 between Watterson and North Royalton, the Eagles outscored the Bears 3-0 on penalty kicks by Sasha Smith, Emma Miller and Megan Goehring. Watterson goalkeeper Suzie Roginski stopped both North Royalton penalty kick attempts. She and the Bears' Leah Prezenkowski each made five saves.

Watterson took a 1-0 lead on freshman Sophie Scott's goal with 25:27 remaining in the first half. North Royalton's Sophia Antonio tied the score with 6:33 to play.

The Eagles (20-2) won their first state championship after losing in semifinals in 2018 and 1998. Watterson outshot North Royalton (13-6-4) 14-9 and had an 11-5 advantage in corner kicks.

Watterson coach Scott Dempsey said it was a memorable game no matter the outcome.

"Both teams were going for their first championship and showed great effort," he said. "This was the kind of game you want in a state championship, the kind of pitched battle we played throughout the district and regional rounds. We felt comfortable controlling the pace and style of the game but couldn't get good chances.



Columbus Bishop Watterson players celebrate their Division II state girls soccer championship victory over North Royalton at Historic Crew Stadium. Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson

"The coaching staff and I had a feeling from the start of practice that this could be a special group and you could see the players start to sense it about midway through the season, then it became evident to lots of people. The farther we went, the more cohesive we became.

"Most of the credit goes to a tremendous group of leaders whose role is going to be one of the most difficult things to emulate going forward. Our captains were senior sisters Megan and Kat Goehring, senior Megan Terveer and junior Emma Miller. Bailey Kerins was our other senior starter and senior Gwen Dixon was important coming off the bench.

"This team dug deeper than a lot of people maybe thought they could. They proved we had the will to win."

This was Dempsey's eighth year at St. Charles and 33rd year as a coach, with his other stops being at Columbus Bishop Hartley, Bexley and Hilliard when it had a single high school. His teams have been state semifinal-

ists 11 times and won championships at Bexley in 1999 and 2009.

The St. Charles-St. Ignatius game came as close as possible to going to penalty kicks, ending with one second to go in the second overtime when the Wildcats' Bryce Ince-Lovelace fired a shot into the upper corner of the net, giving St. Ignatius (15-4-2) its sixth consecutive state championship and 14th overall.

St. Charles (13-4-4) missed a chance to win its first state title since 1985 and third overall. The Cardinals, who received permission to compete in Division I this year after originally being assigned to Division II as part of the Ohio High School Athletic Association's tournament realignment, were in their first championship game

since 2016. They lost in the semifinals last year.

Goalkeeper Aiden Rice kept St. Charles in the game as the Cardinals were outshot 28-12. They also lost to St. Ignatius 4-2 on Sept. 7.

"No question this was a tough loss," St. Charles coach Chris Vonau said a few days after the game. "The emotion involved with coming so close, working as hard as we did and falling just short still comes in waves. It brings a mental fog and makes you think of what-ifs every now and then.

"But there were so many positives to the season. We had an interesting path to the championship game because we started the postseason as only the fifth-ranked team in the district, so we did pretty well and proved we deserved recognition as an elite team.

"This was a team that paid great attention to detail when it came to game planning and proved to be resilient, concentrating on its goals and accomplishing them except for the last one. It was an amazing ride."

Vonau, in his ninth year as head coach and 17th in the St. Charles program, said "It's hard to single one player out as a standout in this group because it's such a team sport.

"All of our seniors — Ivan Canas, Connor Evans, Sebastian Isbell, Austin Perdue, Ransom Perkins, Aidan Rice, Ian Rotruck, Al Sauer, Zeke Shalawyo, and Jackson Soder — had an impact. Ryan Sullivan and Thomas Thornton are juniors who will be playing a big role next year, and so will (sophomores) AJ Boiarsky and Mickey Hulme."

## Nine Watterson seniors commit to play college sports



Nine Columbus Bishop Watterson High School seniors committed to play college sports during a fall ceremony. The students who will continue their athletic careers are (front row from left) Abby Emswiler, softball, Thomas More University; Jessie Musselman, volleyball, University of Akron; Bailey Kerins, soccer, University of Akron; Ellie Rowlands, soccer, University of Pittsburgh; (back row from left) Macie Moreland, volleyball, Kent State University; Mitchell Younger, wrestling, University of North Carolina; Noah Lawler, baseball, Ohio Dominican University; Giovanna Francati, lacrosse, Butler University; and Sophie Ziel, basketball, Ashland University.

Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School

## 2024 All-Central Catholic League - football

### First team

Zack Weber, RB/LB, sr., Drew Bellisari, QB, Jr., Jake Uhlenhake, WR/CB, sr., Ben Uhlenhake, RB/LB, soph., Tommy Haley, WR/SS, sr., Vance Graney, OL, sr., Micheal Boyle, DL, soph., Columbus Bishop Watterson; Ty Neubert, DT/OL, sr., Frankie McAllister, DE, jr., RJ Day, QB, jr., Jonathan Brown, RB, jr., Davis Anderson, DB, sr., Matthias Burrell, OL/DL, soph., Columbus St. Francis DeSales; Robert Lathon, RB, jr., Bryson Winbush, WR/DB, sr., Jay Zang, RB/LB, jr., Jake Beatty, OL, jr., Malik Tufts, DL/TE, sr., Columbus Bishop Hartley; Michael Zarick, LB/RB, soph., Jack Brandt, DE/OT, jr., Ryan Mooney, QB, sr., Trey Davis, WR, soph., Ben Nickey, WR, soph., Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School.

### Second team

Cal Mangini, WR, sr., CJ Youell, DE, sr., Dominic Theado, TE, sr., Nate Henderson, FS, soph; Blaise Strausbaugh, OL, jr., Bishop Watterson; Dax Middleton, WR, soph., Adam Faulkner, LB, sr., Kean VanSyckle, OL, sr., Dane Crabtree, LB, sr., Jake Williams, DB, jr., St. Francis DeSales; Matt Galich, QB, jr., Shamarion Coleman, LB, soph., Brandon Hambric, RB/DB, sr., Vincent Mertz, TE/DE, sr., Camden Caldwell, DB/WR, soph., Bishop Hartley; Nick Kummer, LB, jr., Charlie Koesters, TE/P, jr., Brian Curtis, DB, sr., Tommy Moore, DL/OL, jr., St. Charles.

### VARSITY STANDINGS

**Bishop Watterson** 14-0 3-0  
Regional champions

**St. Francis De Sales** 9-3 2-1  
Regional Semifinalist

**Bishop Hartley** 6-5 1-2  
OHSAA Playoffs

**St Charles** 4-7 0-3  
OHSAA Playoffs

### JUNIOR VARSITY STANDINGS

**Bishop Watterson** 8-0 3-0  
**Bishop Hartley** 5-3 2-1

**St. Charles** 5-3 1-2  
**St. Francis De Sales** 2-8 0-3

### FRESHMEN STANDINGS

**Bishop Watterson** 6-3 1-0  
**St. Charles** 1-3 0-1

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### THE MAGPIE CONSORT

Artistic Director Sheena Phillips is a choir director and composer. A native of London, England, she has lived in Columbus and directed The Magpie Consort for 13 years. Sheena also directs the Cardinal Singers at Otterbein University and is accompanist and assistant director of the Columbus Women's Chorus. Her compositions and arrangements are published and performed on both sides of the Atlantic.



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**Mark Voris, Artistic Director**

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