

The Catholic **TIMES**

The Diocese of Columbus' Information Source

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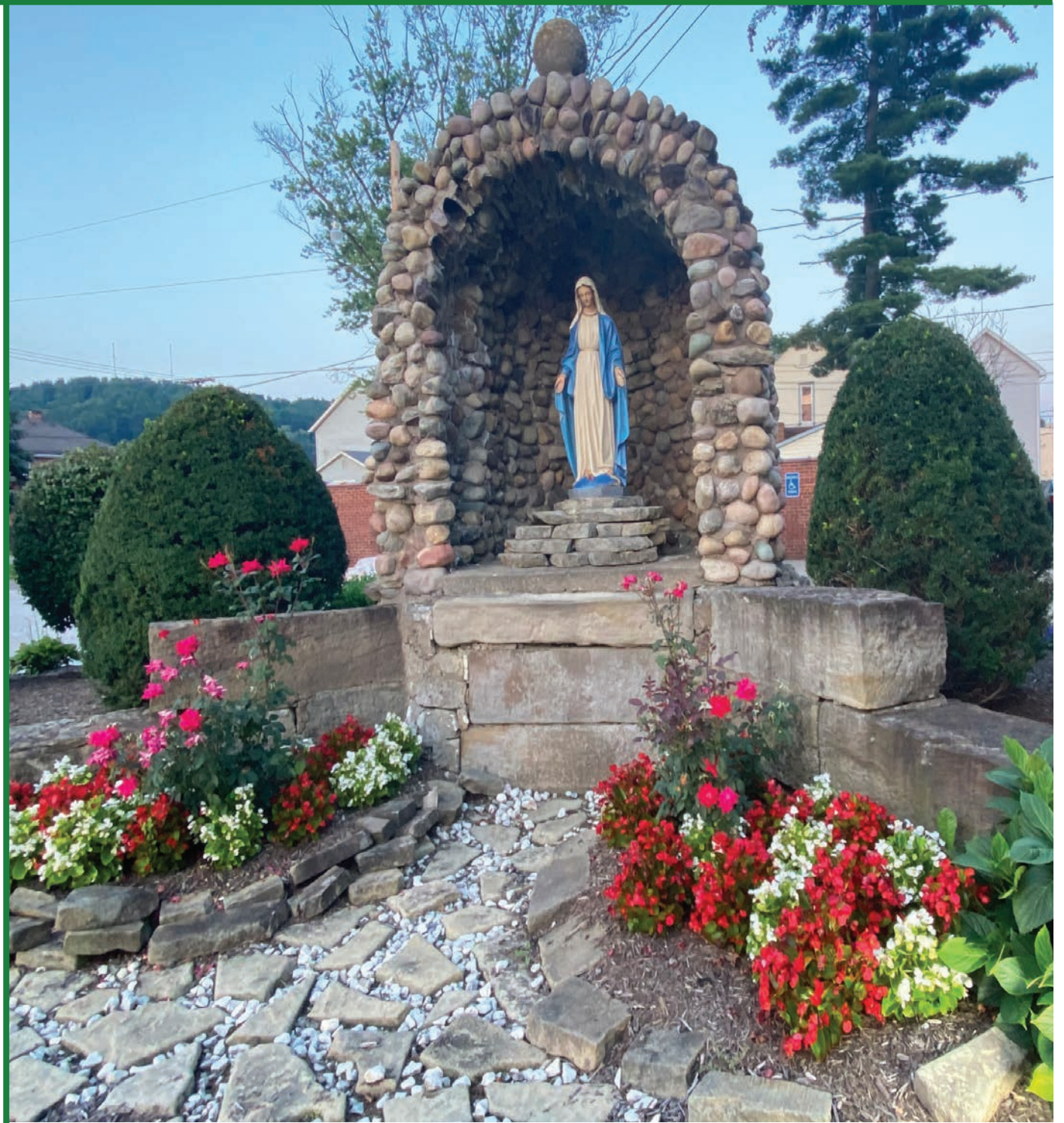
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DENNISON IMMACULATE CONCEPTION TURNS 150 ON OUR LADY'S SOLEMNITY

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Father Joseph returns to U.S., begins ministry at St. Joan of Arc

Father Eugene Joseph says putting things in the hands of God enabled him to endure a yearlong delay related to immigration issues that left him stuck in England awaiting a chance to serve as a priest of the Diocese of Columbus.

Now that the issues have been resolved, he will begin an assignment as parochial vicar at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church this month.

The delay was caused by the COVID-19-related closing of the U.S. Embassy in London, which prevented the processing of paperwork he needed to have completed before he could serve as a priest in this country.

“For sure, there were moments of frustration during this last year, but nothing overwhelming,” he said in an email message from England. “There were many things that I was able to do

here (in England) that I could never imagine happening otherwise.

“I can sum things up in the words of Romans 8:28: ‘We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.’ It was much more peaceful



Father Eugene Joseph

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Father Dennis Stevenson passed away on Nov. 13

Funeral Mass for Father Dennis E. Stevenson, 67, who died Saturday, Nov. 13, was celebrated Friday, Nov. 19 at Columbus Christ the King Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

He was born on Feb. 12, 1954 in Lancaster to Robert and Edith (Leohner) Stevenson.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and education from Capital University in 1977, then taught for several years in public schools. He was baptized in the Lutheran Church as an infant but was drawn to the Catholic faith and became a fully initiated member of the Roman Catholic Church on April 18, 1981 at Christ the King Church.

He completed his seminary formation at Mount St. Mary of the West Seminary in Cincinnati in 1988 and was ordained on June 11 of that year at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral by Bishop James Griffin. He earned a licentiate in canon law from the Catholic University of America in 1993.

Since 1989, he served in many capacities with the diocesan Tribunal while balancing these responsibilities with pastoral ministry in the parishes where he was assigned or resided. These included Worthington St. Michael, Columbus St. Andrew, Columbus St. Aloysius and Christ the King churches.

He is survived by his brothers Mark (Renita) and Robert (Lora), five nieces and a nephew.



Diocese names new CFO; Bishop's Annual Appeal under new direction

The Diocese of Columbus announced last week that John Mackessy was named its chief financial officer effective Dec. 1 and that the diocese entered into a short-term agreement with The Catholic Foundation and CCS Fundraising to take over the Bishop's Annual Appeal (BAA).

Mackessy replaces William Davis, who is retiring after 14 years with the diocese.

Growing up in north Columbus, Mackessy attended Columbus St. Anthony Church and School and then graduated from St. Charles Preparatory School. He went on to receive a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Kenyon College and a master's degree in computer science from Northeastern University.

After nine years of working in information technology at Nationwide and Costello Consulting, Mackessy went into business in 1994 and helped form HMB, a consulting firm that provided IT solutions for local companies and departments of education nationally. He served as the chief financial officer for HMB for 26 years.

Mackessy and his wife, Linda, have been married for 37 years and are members of Columbus St. Catharine Church. They have four children and one grandchild. He is active at St. Catharine in the Knights of Columbus and as an extraordinary minister. Mackessy also has served on the boards of Catholic Social Services, St. Charles and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Davis, a member of New Albany Church of the Resurrection with his wife, Jill, began working for the diocese in 2007 and has held the positions of finance director and chief financial officer.

“At this point in my life, this decision is what is in the best interest of me, my family and the diocese,” Davis said. “For the past 14 years, I have been truly blessed to serve the diocese as its finance director and CFO. It has been a blessing to have worked side by side with so many incredibly faith-filled, talented and special people.

“I will keep all of you in my prayers and hope that you will keep me in yours.”

“In those 14 years, our diocese has seen seasons of great abundance and significant challenge,” diocesan Chief Operating Officer Matthew Schlater said. “Bill has truly been a humble and steadfast servant helping to weather the storms and reap plentiful harvests, in dutiful stewardship for the future.

“The contributions Bill has made to our diocese have, without question, set us up for a great measure of success in the Real Presence Real Future endeavor. Having seen these contributions firsthand and the impact they have made, I offer my sincerest gratitude toward Mr. Davis.”

Schlater also announced a reconfiguration of the diocese's fundraising and stewardship efforts that include The Catholic Foundation and CSS Fundraising, a consulting organization based in New York.

“The Catholic Foundation and CCS will guide the BAA process over the next few years and help it, over time, to develop best practices that will serve to enhance the Appeal, develop goals that match the needs of the diocese, offer transparency, increase

participation and promote the way in which the Appeal is presented to pastors and parishioners alike,” Schlater said.

“CCS will also help the diocese to develop, in the coming months and years, a new strategy and structure for in-house stewardship and development.”

Andrea Pannell, the episcopal moderator in the diocese's Office of Development and Planning, has accepted the position of vice president at The Catholic Foundation. Suzanne Roberts, a program associate in the development office, also will move to the Foundation.

“Both have served the diocese in a tremendous fashion, and we are excited to continue to collaborate with them in their new roles,” Schlater said. “The strategic partnership between the diocese and The Catholic Foundation will help us focus on current operational concerns while putting together a comprehensive plan for the future that positively impacts all parts of our diocese.”



Front Page photo:

DENNISON IMMACULATE CONCEPTION TURNS 150
On Dec. 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Dennison Immaculate Conception Church will observe the 150th anniversary of its founding in 1871. Pictured is a grotto dedicated to Our Lady at the parish. Photo courtesy Ryan Barnabi

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Bishop Brennan installed in Brooklyn

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

Bishop Robert Brennan spoke with fondness about his tenure as shepherd of the Diocese of Columbus and with enthusiasm concerning the opportunity to lead another diocese as he was installed as the eighth bishop of Brooklyn, New York.

“I loved these last three years in Ohio,” he said at the start of his homily during his installation ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 30 at the Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph and St. Teresa of Avila in Brooklyn. “I loved the variety of life, especially coming to know and love rural life. I was ready to spend my life there and, quite honestly, kicked and screamed a little when I learned I needed to move.

“I met wonderful people and worked with heroic and holy priests. I wouldn’t trade these last years for anything and will always appreciate the opportunity afforded to me.”

Then, in a reference to his background as someone who had “spent 50 of my 59 years right here on Long Island breathing the saltwater air” before coming to Ohio, he said, “I did keep asking, ‘Where do you keep the boardwalk? How do I get to the beach?’ Somehow, the Lord in his providence has called me back to the shore.”

Bishop Brennan spent his last two months in Columbus making a “farewell tour” of the diocese after his appointment to the Brooklyn diocese, succeeding the retiring Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, was announced on Sept. 29. In a news conference before the installation ceremony, he said he had gone through “a very long goodbye in these last two months, from the day my appointment was announced to this past weekend. Now that I’m here (in Brooklyn), I’m really here, and I’m excited.”

He said that he had spent his first few days in his new home “learning the neighborhoods by walking around,” and that “my first step as bishop will be to get to know people, to understand even better the good things happening here.”

“I don’t have a next step,” the bishop said. “I have to learn what that next step will be through discernment.” He said that in his first months in Columbus, “I learned that a lot of really good things were happening there, and I could bring my own mark to them. ... It would be a little foolish to come here and say, ‘Now here’s the Bren-



Bishop Robert Brennan (top photo) stands at the altar of the Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph and St. Teresa of Avila during his installation in the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York, on Tuesday, Nov. 30. The former Diocese of Columbus bishop (bottom photo) displays the papal decree naming him Brooklyn’s new bishop.

Photos courtesy of the Diocese of Brooklyn/John Quaglione

nan way of doing things.”

He followed with a reference to his new diocese’s multiplicity of ethnic groups, who represent more than 160 nations and speak about 80 languages. “The whole world is here in Brooklyn, and with each of the different communities that come to the Church, it is renewed here. Like the tide going in and coming out, it’s always being refreshed,” he said.

Much of Bishop Brennan’s time in Columbus coincided with the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. All Catholic churches in Ohio were closed for more than two months from mid-March to the end of May 2020, while Catholic schools switched to online learning for the final portion of the 2019-2020 school year as the effects of the pandemic initially were being felt.

The schools reopened in August 2020. Churches and schools are con-

tinuing to make adjustments related to the pandemic and the possible impact of its latest strain, known as the omicron variant.

“I don’t know enough about the new variant,” Bishop Brennan said, “but I’m proud that in Columbus we found very good ways to gather again and are well-poised to continue dealing with this new development.”

In Columbus, Bishop Brennan began a strategic planning initiative known as Real Presence Real Future, which has invited everyone in the diocese to express their concerns and desires and to help determine the best path toward increasing the presence of the Church in the diocese’s 23 counties.

The Brooklyn diocese, which covers the New York City boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, is in the midst

Diocese awaits naming of administrator

As *The Catholic Times* went to press on Tuesday, Nov. 30, an administrator for the diocese had yet to be named.

The administrator will oversee the diocese in the interim period while the bishop’s chair is vacant, which is referred to in Latin as *Sede Vacante*.

That announcement was expected soon after a meeting of the diocesan College of Consultors to decide who would fill the role until a new bishop replaces Bishop Robert Brennan, who is now leading the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Members of the College of Consultors in the Diocese of Columbus are Msgr. Stephan Moloney, Father Stash Dailey, Father Dan Dury, Father Mark Hammond, Father Michael Hartge, Father Michael Lumpe, Father Bob Penhallurick, Father David Schalk and Father David Sizemore.

A successor to Bishop Brennan will be appointed by the Vatican. There is no time estimate for that announcement to occur.

When Bishop Brennan replaced retiring Bishop Frederick Campbell in 2019, approximately six months went by from the time Bishop Campbell submitted his retirement letter and when the Vatican announced that Bishop Brennan was coming to Columbus.

The current situation is somewhat unique for the diocese. The last time a Columbus bishop was appointed to lead another diocese came in 1968, when then-Bishop John Carberry was chosen as the archbishop of St. Louis.

After Carberry’s departure, Columbus Auxiliary Bishop Edward Hettinger was named the administrator on March 27, 1968 to serve during the interim period. Bishop Hettinger also had been the diocese’s vicar general since 1945.

On May 29, 1968, Bishop Clarence Elwell, auxiliary bishop in the Diocese of Cleveland, was named to succeed Carberry. He was installed as bishop in the Diocese of Columbus on Aug. 22, 1968, at St. Joseph Cathedral.

Bishop Elwell died Feb. 16, 1973, and the next three successors – Bishop Edward Herrmann (1973-82), Bishop James Griffin (1983-2004) and Bishop Campbell (2005-2019) – stayed on as administrators until a new bishop was in place.

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Sexual atoms and molecules

A major issue in bioethics today involves “informed consent,” but some try to make everything about consent. This is especially notable when it comes to ethical discussions around the exercise of human sexuality.

In a thought-provoking 2015 article entitled *Liberalism Can't Understand Sex*, author and researcher Jason Morgan challenges the reigning cultural view that sees sexual activity as acceptable between any two or more individuals as long as they freely consent to engage in it.

He notes that in such a framework, “all activities are equal, as long as we have obtained consent when those activities involve others.” This assumption about the equivalence of all consensual activities, however, is dubious at best, given that sexual activity affects and engages us in a way that is radically different from other human activities.

Morgan notes that “sex, unlike anything else we might do with another person, transcends the self while radically reorienting it within a new, shared context with our sexual partner. Consent assumes that sex will not do this, that sex will leave two people as fully autonomous after sex as they were before. But this is precisely the one thing that sex was designed *not* to do. Sex, even if entered into based on a free agreement between two autonomous people, by its very nature dismantles the autonomy upon which the consensual understanding of sex had been based.”

In other words, sex touches us at a deeper level than other activities, binding us to another and

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS Father Tad Pacholczyk



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, PhD, earned a doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did postdoctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and serves as director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.

speaking a language not of autonomy or transient engagement, but of communion and enduring self-gift. To suggest that sex is just about being sure you gave consent before the clothes started flying is to leave young people unfulfilled. That's what happens routinely in hook-up experiences and patterns of cohabitation.

Morgan sums up the central flaw in consent-based notions of human sexuality this way: the ‘yes’ given to sex and premised on individual autonomy is “fundamentally different from the ‘yes’ in which human sexuality is designed to operate: a ‘yes’ to the other in his or her spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical entirety. Sex functions precisely to break down autonomy and overcome the overweening sovereignty of the self upon which consent is ultimately based.”

He continues: “By contrast, sex draws two people into the most intimate form of community, forming a new relationship based on a shared totality of existence. Where liberalism deals in a world of unjoinable, antagonistic atoms, human sexuality

strives to bring two atoms together in order to make an entirely different molecule.”

By talking about consent ad nauseum, we misdirect young people down primrose paths, away from the unique anchoring power of love in marriage, wherein the full experience of the human sexual encounter, embodying both transcendence and sacrifice, is able to be lived out.

This plenitude of sex cannot be adequately captured by the vagaries of in-the-moment consent, which reduces and over-simplifies the bigger question of whether or not to have sex to the choice between “yes” or “no” regarding a particular act of intercourse.

Instead, the “yes” or “no” raised by sex is not just to the physical joining of two bodies, but to the richly rewarding and sacrificial intermingling of two selves becoming one entity in a life-long union of persons. This commingling automatically expresses the strongest and most authentic human affirmation each one can give to the other, even to the point of embracing each other not only as spouses but also as parents in the potentially life-giving act of marital intimacy.

Those who partake of sex within a loosely committed relationship like cohabitation, on the other hand, sense — especially women — that the troubling absence of a marital commitment ultimately connotes an incomplete, inauthentic and unstable promise about love.

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to simply trust God, not worry about things that I couldn't control and let things happen in His own time.”

Father Joseph, 29, a native of India who had lived in England since he was 10 years old, had been a Pontifical College Josephinum student since 2015 and was to have been ordained as a Columbus diocesan priest, along with Fathers Stephen Ondrey and Jacob Stinnett, on May 29 of this year.

He had been in the United States on a student visa, but his graduation from the Josephinum and planned ordination as a priest meant he had to apply for a religious work visa. Because of complications

with the paperwork, he wasn't able to complete the application process in the United States and had to return in mid-November 2020 to England.

While awaiting a resolution of his case, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Columbus this past July 22 in Birmingham, England, by Auxiliary Bishop Stephen Wright of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, with the cooperation of former Columbus Bishop Robert Brennan.

While in England following his ordination, Father Joseph served as parochial vicar of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus Church in Stoke-on-Trent, assisted with liturgies in the Catholic Church's Syro-Malabar rite, and was in residence and assisted priests at the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Birmingham.

Because he was born and baptized in the Syro-Malabar rite, one of the 23 Eastern Catholic churches in communion with the pope, he is permitted to celebrate the sacraments in both rites. The Syro-Malabar Church traces its roots to St. Thomas the Apostle's mission to the state of Kerala in India, where Father Joseph was born.

A Syro-Malabar community in Columbus gathers regularly for Mass at Sacred Heart Church, and Father Joseph was involved with some of its activities while at the Josephinum.

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FAITH IN ACTION

Mark Huddy

Mark Huddy is the Episcopal Moderator for Catholic Charities and the Office for Social Concerns in the Diocese of Columbus.



Advent a time for awakening to Jesus and to others' needs

It's the first week of Advent; that time at the beginning of the liturgical year when the alarm clock goes off. Wake up! There is much to do before the end of the day, or, better stated, the end of days. Jesus is coming, and soon. Are we ready? No more sleepwalking. No more dully going through the routine. We must prepare. But how?

When St. John the Baptist appeared before Jesus' manifestation, he called people to repent, to make crooked ways straight and to produce good fruit as evidence of their repentance. It is no wonder that we have John's exhortations given to us in the readings of this Advent season.

Have we awakened to the fact that our ways are winding, and we cannot be our own saviors? Do we remember who we belong to and at what price? Are we willing to examine our conduct toward our neighbor and recognize our indifference, our judgments, our failures to bind up wounds and our blindness to the inestimable dignity of every person created by God in His image?

We all are called to repentance and to a willing entrustment of ourselves to the very God who gave His life to save us.

John also answered the question of what are we to do by telling those around him to share with those in need. He gave his followers this practical advice of how to produce the good fruits of their repentance. He told workers (tax collectors and soldiers) to toil honestly without grumbling about their wages. Simple things, ordinary things that can actually demonstrate in whom we place our trust.

So, in this graced time of year, when the alarm clock has sounded, let us shake off our deadly sleep and look to Christ to give us His light. The sacrament of reconciliation is even more widely available in every parish in the diocese. Let us resolve to go to meet Christ there in this season.

There are many opportunities to share what we have with those in need. Let us remember the many Catholic charities in our diocese (Catholic Social Services, St. Stephen's Community House, St. Vincent Family Services, J.O.I.N. and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul) and support them in their mission to serve those in need.

Let us also be alert to the people around us. May we recognize their dignity. May we have enough interest in them to see their needs. And, may we be generous in our response. In this way, we can make straight the road for the coming of our Lord and rejoice when He appears.

'The one who has hope lives differently'

By Sister John Paul Maher, OP

We all need hope. Yet, the hope we most need is not the kind we stir up in ourselves. It is a hope given to us by God.

Hope is a theological virtue received at baptism to sustain us as we journey through life to God. We need this supernatural help, which is a grace that raises us above the tendencies of our fallen nature.

The virtue of hope helps prevent us from despairing of our salvation or of thinking God will not forgive us. Hope reminds us of our dependence on God and that we cannot save ourselves. It encourages us to live an ongoing conversion, relying on grace.

In the life of a follower of Jesus, hope points us to the end goal: an eternal life of joy, being in the loving presence of God.

When we have an end goal, we take the steps necessary to get there. For disciples of Christ, the steps necessary to reach heaven include being open to God's grace, praying for the theological virtues and gifts of the Holy Spirit and persevering in a virtuous life.

As Benedict XVI wrote in *Saved in Hope*: "The one who has hope lives differently; the one who has hope has been granted the gift of a new life." (Spe Salvi, 2)

The gift of a new life in Christ is available to everyone, without exception. Christians believe in God's power to turn any person's life around and toward the Father. God has done this throughout the ages.

We can hope for this grace of a return to the Father for ourselves, our loved ones and even those we have never met. It is a great mystery how and when He answers these prayers, but we are right to hope for the grace of conversion.

This is Christian hope, to believe in the power of Christ to bring souls from the bondage of sin into the joy of heaven.

This is a central theme of the Advent season: to wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Advent, the liturgy leads us to experience the hope of the ages, the desire of the nations and

the longing of the prophets to see Jesus face to face. God satisfies the longing in our hearts, like He did for Simeon (Luke 2:25-35), especially when we are steadfast in prayer, seeking God in spirit and truth.

Make no mistake about it, Christian hope is a supernatural hope that sets us apart from this world. We hope in a God who entered human history to conquer sin and death and to raise us to new life. Millions of martyrs and saints have gone before us, having won the victor's crown. God's grace stands ready to be as powerful in us as it was for them. We can rightly hope to become the next victors.

We hope in Christ, knowing He is the redeemer of mankind and stands at the center of the universe and of history. (Pope John Paul II, *Redemptor Hominis*, 1) This is the truth of the Gospel to be proclaimed by us today, to a world that has lost hope because it does not know Jesus.

As Pope John Paul II reminds us: "The Incarnation of the Son of God and the salvation which he has accomplished by his Death and Resurrection are the true criterion for evaluating all that happens in time and every effort to make life more human." (*Incarnationis Mysterium*, 1)

We have a different perspective than the "world" because we have put on the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:16) We keep the mind of Christ by recalling His Incarnation often, as in the Hail Mary or the Angelus. We remember, He came to us that we may come to Him.

Our God remains faithful. Hope does not disappoint. (Romans 5:5) Just as Abraham trusted in God's promise, hoping against hope, we can be courageous by placing our hope in God. (Romans 4:18)

We live the virtue of hope by turning to Divine Mercy, a devotion given to us through St. Faustina. As John Paul II said, "Apart from the mercy of God, there is no other source of hope for mankind." (Homily, Aug. 17, 2002)

Let us embrace hope in God, and place our trust in Him.

Sister John Paul Maher, OP, is the principal at Worthington St. Michael School and a member of the Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist based in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Foundation gives \$15,000 grant to ODU for campus ministry

Ohio Dominican University (ODU) has received a \$15,000 grant from The Catholic Foundation to fund, establish and develop faith formation initiatives offered by the university's Office of Campus Ministry.

The university currently offers opportunities for members of the campus community to explore, deepen and celebrate their faith. These include weekday Mass, Sunday Mass, weekly rosaries, guided meditations, adorations, soup and scripture gatherings, and numerous other events, lectures and activities offered regularly to support the faith and spiritual needs of community members.

ODU plans to use the funding from The Catholic Foundation to complement and expand upon its current campus ministry initiatives and better engage those who live, learn and work at ODU. Examples include providing Bibles and journals to those who attend Women's Nights and Bible Studies; read-

ing materials for Advent and Lenten book reads; stipends to help cover costs associated with guest speaker fees; and food and refreshment for those who attend campus events and programs.

"We are extremely grateful to The Catholic Foundation for their generous support, which will allow us to pursue opportunities to further strengthen and expand upon the Campus Ministry offerings currently available to students, employees and alumni of Ohio Dominican University," ODU president Connie Gallaher said.

"As Central Ohio's Catholic university, it's vitally important that we do everything possible to serve our students' needs both educationally and spiritually in ways that are rooted in the Catholic and Dominican tradition. This grant equips us with important resources that we will use to address the unique individual needs of those within our special community."

Our goal – even when we don't think of it – is to be with God

In a previous column, I quoted Bishop Robert Barron: “To worship is to order the whole of your life toward the living God, and, in doing so, to become interiorly and exteriorly rightly ordered.” Through the next columns, we are going to go through the First Part of the Second Part of St. Thomas’ *Summa Theologiae*, which deals with man.

We are going to touch on Man’s Last End, Human Acts such as the Will, Good and Evil, Passions, Habits, Vice and Sin, and ending with Grace. Our goal is to recognize aspects of our lives that help us love God and love our neighbor so as to be most happy in this life and be best prepared for the next life.

Man’s Last End. Few people start a journey, or even start their day, not knowing where they are going or what they are going to do. Even if they don’t know where they are going, they know they don’t want to be where they are now. When they get there or have completed a task (an end), sooner or later, there is someplace else they want to go or something else to do.

If we take note of all the things we’ve done in our lives, we find that none of those things satisfied us so completely that we wanted to stop. Even if we did, or we could point back to wishing for the “good ol’ days,” we would find it an illusion.

AQUINAS CORNER

Richard Arnold

Richard Arnold, a parishioner at Chillicothe St. Mary, holds an MA in Catechetics and Evangelization from Franciscan University of Steubenville and is a husband and a father to two children.



St. Thomas writes, “That in which man rests as in his last end is master of his affections, since he takes therefrom his entire rule of life ... (for) according to Matthew 6:24, No man can serve two masters. It is therefore necessary for the last end so to fill man’s appetite that nothing is left besides it for man to desire ... (T)he will of an individual man must be fixed on one last end.” (I-II, 1, 5)

Peter Kreeft, in *Practical Theology: Spiritual Direction from St. Thomas Aquinas*, sums it up this way, “Therefore everything you do every day is for God, for union with God, for your last end, for your Heavenly perfection – from the first movement of your arm in shutting off the alarm clock to the closing of your eyes as you fall asleep; from the first thought of your day in offering it all up to God (let that be your first thought every day: it takes only seconds!) to the last thought of your day, asking God to send your guardian angel to guard your

sleep – and from the miracle of your soul entering your body at the moment of your conception to the moment of your soul leaving your body at death. Everything is connected by the Last End.”

For the Christian, our Last End is what St. Augustine says, “for rest in (God).”

Naturally, there would be objections to St. Thomas’ argument. An example that he addresses is the objection, “It would seem that man does not will whatsoever he wills for the last end. For ... man does not always think of the last end in all that he desires or does.”

To which he answers, “One need not always be thinking of the last end whenever one desires or does something, but the virtue (effective power) of the first intention, which was in respect of the last end, remains in every desire directed to any object whatever, even though one’s thoughts be not actually directed to the last end. Thus while walking along the road one needs not to be thinking of the end at every step (I-II, 1, 7).

It is for us in our action, as having free will and control of our actions, that we strive to make it as natural (second nature) to keep our eyes fixed on the prize as it is to walk down a road not thinking of the end at every step.

Books for Christmas 2021

Some suggestions for Christmas giving, in the form of books that amuse, inspire, educate or all of the above:

Prison Journal, Volume 3 – The High Court Frees an Innocent Man, by Cardinal George Pell (Ignatius Press). The vindication of Cardinal George Pell by Australia’s High Court in April 2020 was an unalloyed joy amid Plague Time. With this third volume, Ignatius Press completes the publication of Cardinal Pell’s remarkable prison diary, which has become something of a modern spiritual classic, even as it has introduced the real George Pell to a world audience bombarded for decades by media caricatures of the man. Cardinal Pell bears no animus against his persecutors, but because one of my oldest friends is a better man than I am, I have a few things to say in the book’s Afterword about those who covered themselves in ignominy by persecuting him, or by failing to support him in his time of need.

Journeys with a Tin Can Pilgrim, by Lynda Rozell (St. John’s Press). Part memoir, part insightful reflection, part how-to manual, and part travel guide along roads both material and spiritual, this distinctive book recounts a return to Catholic faith that transformed a hard-driving and well-compensated corporate lawyer into a peripatetic pilgrim, traveling the country in an Airstream trailer and doing the New Evangelization retail in campgrounds around the country. It’s a story of delight in the love of God, coupled with reflections on maintaining spiritual and mental health in the practice and sharing of the faith. Quite unusual, and often quite moving.

The Universe Behind Barbed Wire: Memoirs of a Ukrainian Soviet Dissident, by Myroslav Marynovych (University of Rochester Press). Dr. Mary-

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

George Weigel is the Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.



novych, another man I am honored to call a friend, spent years in a different sort of campground: Perm Camp 36, the most notorious of the Soviet GULAG labor camps. His crime? Circulating bulletins about the abuse of human rights in the workers’ paradise that Senator Bernie Sanders visited on his honeymoon. Yale’s Timothy Snyder nicely described the life trajectory of this contemporary martyr-confessor in these terms: “When [Marynovych] was arrested at 28, he was an agnostic. When he was released a decade later, he was a Christian ethicist and political thinker. His memoir is a humble, and humbling, account of a man maturing in hell.” Myroslav Marynovych now puts that maturity to work in building a free, democratic, and decent Ukraine, through his work as Vice Rector for Mission at the Ukrainian Catholic University in L’viv and in several parallel enterprises dedicated to fostering solidarity among the Ukrainian, Polish, Jewish, and Crimean Tatar communities in his hard-pressed country. His book deserves a wide readership — not least in the Vatican’s Secretariat of State and the papal diplomatic corps.

The Road Less Traveled: The Secret Battle to End the Great War, 1916-1917, by Philip Zelikow (Public Affairs). As if there were not enough reasons to dislike elitist, racist, anti-Catholic Woodrow Wilson, now comes a striking re-examination of

Wilson’s diplomacy (or lack thereof) at a moment when he and his consigliere, Edward House, might have brokered a rational settlement to World War I. That they failed to do so was in part due to their incompetence and in part because of the machinations of the “Welsh Wizard,” David Lloyd George, keen to become British prime minister. Had the opportunities Zelikow describes been seized, there would have been no Lenin or Soviet Union, no Hitler or Nazi Germany, and quite possibly no Great Depression and no World War II. A sad, instructive tale.

Why We Are Restless: On the Modern Quest for Contentment, by Benjamin Storey and Jenna Silber Storey (Princeton University Press): The Storeys make intellectual history come alive in an engaging and accessible way for everyone, as they explain our current cultural and political discontents while making creative suggestions for addressing those cankers. An especially good gift for any young (or older) Catholic integralist who imagines that dismantling the liberal political order is the answer to renewing the culture.

Before Amoris Laetitia: The Sources of the Controversy, by Jarosław Kupczak, OP (CUA Press). As the Church ponders its post-Pope Francis future, this careful examination of one of the great controversies of the present pontificate should help all reflective Catholics think more clearly about the stakes in the battle over the character of Christian marriage.

And, if I may: In a season of small-bore public personalities, my **Not Forgotten: Reminiscences of, and Elegies for, a Diverse Cast of Characters, Most of Them Admirable** (Ignatius Press) may be an encouraging reminder that giants walked among us, not so very long ago.

Columbus native never anticipated career as educator

By Tim Puet
For The Catholic Times

Father Joseph Massucci never expected when he was ordained as a priest 51 years ago that he would spend his entire career as an educator.

“When I was finished with seminary and all the lectures and textbooks in Latin and English, I thought I would be a parish priest and do some teaching. I got to do both, but to my surprise, I became more of a teacher and school and college administrator. It’s not the path I originally envisioned but something I was assigned to do, and I’ve done it with the grace of God,” he said.

Father Massucci, 78, a Columbus native and a member of Columbus Bishop Hartley High School’s first graduating class, has been associated with the University of Dayton (UD) since 1985 as first a graduate student, and then a faculty member. He was chairman of the university’s Department of Educational Administration for 13 years before retiring from full-time teaching in 2014 and now holds the rank of professor emeritus.

He has never been officially assigned to a parish during his 36 years in Dayton but has been a pastoral presence for UD staff members and parishioners of several Dayton-area churches where he has been a weekend associate.

“I’ve taken care of a number of UD faculty members as they were dying,” he said. “They were concerned about death and felt comfortable when I tried to reassure them that their faith was the key to unlocking the door to what happens after death. That became a really awesome experience.

“At the various parishes I’ve served, I’ve helped people through marriages, funerals and other major events, and it’s been very sustaining and rewarding. I assisted at one parish, St. Rita’s in north Dayton, for 19 years, and the provost at UD told me that many people there thought of me as their pastor because I was there longer than the priests assigned to the parish.”

Father Massucci also assisted at Miamisburg Our Lady of Good Hope Church for nine years and currently serves Centerville St. Francis, Beavercreek St. Luke and Kettering Assumption parishes and anywhere else he’s needed. “I was trained in such a way that it’s hard to say ‘no’ to people, and it’s much easier to say ‘yes,’” he said.

Father Massucci is the only son

ANSWERING GOD’S CALL

Answering God’s Call profiles the life of a priest, deacon or professed religious sister with ties to the Diocese of Columbus.

of the late Vincent James and Martha Ann (Cosentino) Massucci and has two younger sisters, one of them deceased. His father, who had opened an Italian restaurant in partnership with Romeo Sirij in Grandview Heights in 1949, decided he wanted to concentrate on pizza for carry-out only and opened the first of what are now 14 Massey’s Pizza locations in the early 1950s on East Livingston Avenue in Columbus. Vincent Massucci and his brother Dan followed with a second location on East Main Street in Whitehall.

“I was part of the business from the beginning, when I was in grade school,” Father Massucci said. “I started by bussing tables for waitresses. Back then, a quarter was a great tip,” he said. “It wasn’t long before I was making pizza, taking money, cutting pizza, monitoring the oven, slicing pepperoni and mozzarella – you name it.”

“When I was a freshman at Hartley, Dad’s mother died in Chicago, so he went to the funeral. I had to stay home from school because Dad put me in charge of making the dough for the two restaurants and of running the Livingston Avenue location, while Uncle Dan ran the Main Street one. That was quite a responsibility for a 14-year-old.”

When Bishop Hartley High opened in 1957, members of Father Massucci’s freshman class, which graduated in 1961, were the only students in the school, with one class added in each of the next three years. “We were very protective of that building, making sure the students coming after us were respectful of the property,” he said.

“I remember how we’d pick up rocks from the ground in front of the school so eventually grass could be planted for a lawn. We had a real sense of being custodians of the site.”

Father Massucci said his class had a 60th anniversary reunion attended by about 30 people this fall. “I was the only priest in the class, the first Hartley graduate to be ordained. At the reunion, I didn’t need a name tag, since it was easy for my classmates to recognize me because of my Roman collar,” he said. Father Massucci



Father Joseph Massucci

said the class had about 140 members who graduated in 1961, at least 40 of whom are deceased.

“I think I always had the desire to be a priest,” he said. “My youngest sister, if she were alive, would tell you, ‘Joey always was a priest.’ The family were parishioners at St. Joseph Cathedral when I was young, and I can remember being mesmerized by what the priest was doing, even though, in those days, he stood facing the altar and we couldn’t see everything that was taking place. I’ve always been in love with the Mass and still feel that way today.”

He attended the cathedral’s former grade school, which closed after he was in first grade, and then went to Columbus Holy Cross, St. Catharine and Corpus Christi schools before coming to Hartley.

Following graduation there, he attended the former Columbus St. Charles Seminary for two years as a day student, and then completed his priestly formation at the former St. John Vianney Seminary at Bloomingtondale in the Diocese of Steubenville. That location is now a retreat and recreation center for Catholic families.

He also earned a Master of Arts degree from the Catholic University of America in 1977, an Educational Specialist degree from UD in 1988 and a doctorate from the same institution in 1993.

He was ordained by Steubenville Bishop John King Mussio on May 16, 1970 and celebrated his first Mass at Columbus Corpus Christi Church the following day.

“That was the one and only day I ever felt like royalty,” he said. “You come into the church at the end of a huge procession with servers, your parents and other priests, and the or-

gan plays the music normally reserved for the entrance of a bishop. That’s the only time it’s played for you, unless you become a bishop.

“I was presented a chalice representing Jesus’ crowning with thorns and at the time didn’t realize the symbolism of it. There have been plenty of thorns in my life, but God has helped me handle them, and they’ve been outnumbered by the happy moments.”

Father Massucci spent 15 years in the Steubenville diocese, serving as a teacher, and then assistant principal and principal at the former Guernsey Catholic Central High School in Cambridge, followed by 10 years as principal at Steubenville Catholic Central High School.

“I find it fascinating that the high school where

I was principal in Steubenville was founded by Bishop James Hartley, the namesake of the high school from which I graduated,” he said. Bishop Hartley, who served as bishop of Columbus from 1904-44, came to the city after serving as a pastor in Steubenville, which until 1944 was part of the Diocese of Columbus.

Father Massucci served at several parishes in the Steubenville diocese, most notably as pastoral administrator for five years at St. Mary Church in the Belmont County community of Temperanceville, one of the smallest Catholic churches in Ohio, which now is served by the pastor of Assumption Church in Barnesville. “It’s a rural parish, and I’m a city boy, so the people there made it their goal to expose me to farm life. That was a memorable experience,” he said.

“I enjoyed Guernsey Catholic, which had about 135 students and 14 faculty members, and felt a little reluctant about going to Catholic Central, which had about 900 students and 75 staff members. But Bishop Mussio told me, ‘The needs of the diocese far exceed the needs of any one individual,’ so I went to Steubenville,” Father Massucci said. “It took awhile to adjust, but things worked out.”

He said Bishop Mussio had a great impact on his priestly life, particularly after the bishop’s retirement in 1977, following 32 years as the diocese’s first bishop. “He did more to influence me by his actions as a retired bishop than at any other time,” he said. “He asked me if he could teach a class at the high school, and that surprised me, since he was the former bishop and I

Parishes announce Advent activities, Christmas Mass times

The following is a list of planned Advent activities and Christmas Mass times throughout the Diocese of Columbus, as supplied by parishes to *The Catholic Times*. A complete list of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses for all diocesan parishes will be published in the newspaper's Dec. 19 edition.

Ada Our Lady of Lourdes – Christmas Masses: 5:30 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel – Eucharistic Adoration, Sundays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19, 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Parish Giving Tree benefits families in Buckeye Lake, Hebron, Millersport and Thornville.

Canal Winchester St. John XXIII – Lessons and carols, Sunday, Dec. 19, 3 p.m. Christmas Masses: 4, 6 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25. Giving Tree benefits area families in need.

Chillicothe St. Peter and St. Mary – Inaugural Chillicothe Christmas church walk, beginning at St. Peter Church and continuing to Walnut Street United Methodist, First Baptist, First Wesleyan and St. Mary churches, with a short program at each stop, Saturday, Dec. 4, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$10, proceeds benefit Adena Health Foundation Women's & Children's Fund.

Columbus Christ the King – Christmas Masses: 4 p.m. (English), 6 p.m. (Spanish) Dec. 24; 10 a.m. (English), 12:30 p.m. (Spanish) Dec. 25

Columbus Holy Spirit – Christmas Masses: 6 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 11 a.m. Dec. 25. Parish Giving Tree benefits Whitehall Kids Christmas program.

Columbus Ss. Augustine & Gabriel – Christmas Masses: 7 p.m. Dec. 24; 11 a.m. Dec. 25

Columbus St. Cecilia – Parish St. Vincent de Paul Society assembles Christmas baskets, Friday, Dec. 10,

distributing them the following day. Giving Tree benefits needy parish families, Catholic Social Services and Columbus Healthcare Center, with gifts distributed the week of Monday, Dec. 13. Christmas Masses: 5 and 8 p.m. and midnight (Office of Readings, 11:15 p.m.) Dec. 24; 9:30 a.m. Dec. 25

Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral – Lessons and carols, Sunday, Dec. 5, 3 p.m. Christmas Masses: 4 and 6 p.m. and midnight (concert begins at 11 p.m.) Dec. 24; 10:30 a.m. Dec. 25

Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona – Weekly Eucharistic Adoration concludes with sung Vespers and Benediction, Thursdays, Dec. 2, 9, 16 and 23, 7 p.m.

Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God – Concert featuring Columbus Maennerchor German choir and parish handbell choir, Sunday, Dec. 5, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration and confession, Tuesdays, Dec. 7, 14 and 21, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Columbus St. Patrick – Solemn Advent Vespers, Sundays, Dec. 5 and 19, 7 p.m. Lessons and carols, Sunday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m. Christmas Masses: 4 p.m. (incense-free), 6:30 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 7 and 10 a.m. (both incense-free) and noon Dec. 25

Columbus St. Peter – Christmas Masses: 4, 6 and 10 p.m. (English) and 8 p.m. (Spanish) Dec. 24; 9 a.m. (English), 11 a.m. (Spanish) and 1 p.m. (Swahili) Dec. 25

Columbus St. Philip – Christmas Masses: 4 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25. Parish food pantry is collecting laundry detergent, fabric softener, dish soap and dishwasher detergent for those in need.

Columbus St. Thomas the Apostle – Christmas Masses: 4 p.m. Dec. 24, 11 a.m. Dec. 25

Columbus St. Timothy – Christmas Masses: 4 p.m. (church and gym)

and 8 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25

Dover St. Joseph – Eucharistic Festival of Praise, Sunday, Dec. 12, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Advent prayer service with music, Sunday, Dec. 19, 3 p.m.

Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help – 24 Hours of Adoration, 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 3 to 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 4. Parish's Giving Tree and women's association hat and mitten tree benefit community residents.

Kenton Immaculate Conception – Christmas Masses: 6 and 8 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25

Lancaster St. Mark – Christmas Masses: 5 p.m. Dec. 24; 10:30 a.m. Dec. 25

Lancaster St. Mary – Church is final stop for Fairfield County Heritage Association's 42nd annual candlelight tour of six downtown churches, with 15-minute choral programs at each site, Saturday, Dec. 11, 6 to approximately 9:30 p.m. Tickets \$10 adults, \$12 day of tour, \$4 children. Lessons and carols, Sunday, Dec. 19, 3 p.m.

Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes – Christmas Masses: 4 and 7 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

New Philadelphia Sacred Heart – Eucharistic Adoration and Evening Prayer, Mondays, Dec. 6, 13 and 20, 5 p.m.

Pond Creek Holy Trinity – Christmas Mass: 5 p.m. Dec. 24.

Portsmouth Holy Redeemer and St. Mary – Parishes, Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton Parish and Catholic Social Services distribute holiday food baskets, Friday to Sunday, Dec. 17 to 19, Holy Redeemer activity center. Christmas Masses: 4 p.m. (St. Mary), 6:30 p.m. (Holy Redeemer) and midnight (St. Mary) Dec. 24; 9 a.m. (Holy Redeemer) Dec. 25

Powell St. Joan of Arc – Lessons and carols with parish choir and chamber orchestra, Sunday, Dec. 12, 3:30 p.m.

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X – Anointing of the Sick, Sunday, Dec. 12, after 10 a.m. Mass. Parish's 43rd annual Adopt-A-Child program collects toys and clothes for the Bish Foundation, CHOICES domestic violence shelter and Catholic Social Services Our Lady of Guadalupe Center. Christmas Masses: 4, 6:30 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

Sugar Grove St. Joseph – 29th annual "Silent Night in Sugar Grove" program, with stops at St. Joseph, Sugar Grove United Methodist and St. Matthew Lutheran churches, Sunday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.

Sunbury St. John Neumann – "Hallelujah! It's Christmas!" concert with the Grace Notes choral ensemble, featuring vocalists and musicians from across central Ohio and the parish children's choir, Sunday, Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m. Giving Tree sponsored by parish youth ministry program benefits families of Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church. Gift deadline is Sunday, Dec. 12. Christmas Masses: 4 and 6:30 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25. Music before all Masses

West Jefferson Ss. Simon & Jude – Youth group live Nativity scene, Sunday, Dec. 19, social hall. Family Nativity scenes, with the stories behind them, will be displayed in the hall. Parish School of Religion and Knights of Columbus will put together blessing bags with nonperishable items to be distributed to those in need during Advent.

Wheelerburg St. Peter in Chains – Christmas Masses: 4 p.m. Dec. 24

Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas – Christmas Masses: 5 and 10 p.m. (carols 9:30) Dec.; 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25. All Masses in parish activity center because of church construction

GOD'S CALL, continued from Page 7

felt he didn't have the need to ask.

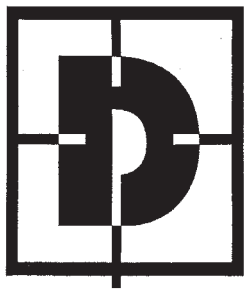
"I thought he would want to teach religion, but he asked to be an English teacher. That's what he taught at Xavier University before he began studying for the priesthood. He educated and ordained me, yet as a retired bishop, he was receptive to the authority of a younger priest. That taught me a great lesson," Father Massucci said. Bishop Mussio died in 1978, seven months after his retirement.

"Another great influence was the late Msgr. Paul Richter, who was pastor of (now-closed) Steubenville St. Anthony Church while I was a deacon intern for six months. He was given

a temporary assignment there and stayed for 50 years. He was a wonderful inspiration, and the people loved him. It was really something to be a deacon at his parish," Father Massucci said.

Asked to define what he feels is a priest's most important responsibility, Father Massucci said, "The priest is the facilitator of Christ for the people – first and foremost through Christ's presence in the Eucharist at every Mass. A priest is the servant of the people, the one who leads them prayerfully. I became a priest because I've loved the Mass since I was a boy, but I'm just Christ's messenger."

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Diocese, parishes to mark Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Latino Ministry Office of the Diocese of Columbus is sponsoring a celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe for all diocesan parishes from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 11 at Westerville St. Paul Church, 313 N. State St.

The event will be entirely in Spanish and will include Mass, music, dancing and more. The featured speaker will be Sister Ana Gonzalez, OP, a member of the Dominican Sisters of Peace who immigrated with her family from Mexico to Texas when she was a child. She made her final vows as a sister earlier this year and serves as coordinator of international admissions at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Connecticut.

In addition, several diocesan parishes are planning special Masses and other events, mainly on the actual feast day, Sunday, Dec. 12, with some on Saturday, Dec. 11 or on other days. Dec. 12 is the anniversary of the third and final apparition of the Blessed Virgin to St. Juan Diego in 1531 at Tepeyac Hill, near Mexico City. Some parish programs will include the "Happy Birthday" serenades to Mary that are known as mananitas.

The schedule for activities related to the feast throughout the diocese is as follows:



The diocese celebrated Our Lady of Guadalupe's feast last December at St. Joseph Cathedral. *CT file photo by Ken Snow*

Parroquia Santa Cruz, Columbus – Novena to the Virgin of Guadalupe, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, followed by Mass and continuing daily until 8:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 11, followed by Mass. Procession starting at the COTA Park and Ride stop, 4939 N. High St., traveling 3.9 miles down High Street and Patterson Avenue to Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., 8 a.m. Dec. 12, with Mass at noon. All Masses in Spanish

Columbus Christ the King – Mananitas, 10 p.m. to midnight Dec. 11; procession from Columbus St. Philip Church to Christ the King, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by Mass at church and reception in All Saints Elementary School cafeteria, featuring a dramatization of Mary's appearance to St. Juan Diego

Columbus St. James the Less – Mananitas, 6 a.m. Dec. 12, with Mass at 12:30 p.m., followed by a procession around the church and food and celebration in the school cafeteria

Columbus St. Peter – Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 11, followed by dramatization of Mary's appearance at 9, dancing at 10:30, rosary at 11:30 and mananitas. Posadas, which re-create Mary and Joseph's search for a place to stay in Bethlehem, will take place at 7 p.m. from Thursday, Dec. 16 to Thursday, Dec. 23 in the Blue Room

Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God (German Village) – Procession, 12:30 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by Mass at 1 and celebration in school gym

Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr – Procession starting at 9 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 5 from church's upper parking lot to corner of Sullivant Avenue and Georgesville Road and back, followed by Mass at noon. Dramatization of Mary's appearance. 10 p.m.

Dec. 11, followed by vigil Mass in Spanish at 11 and mananitas at midnight. Mananitas, 5 a.m. Dec. 12, followed by Masses in Spanish at 5:30, 8 and 11:30 a.m. and 1 and 7 p.m. and in English at 10 a.m.

Columbus St. Thomas the Apostle – Procession from back entrance of Mann's Trailer Park and Sixth Avenue to church, 9 a.m. Dec. 12, followed by Mass in Spanish at 11

Delaware St. Mary – Rosary, 1 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by procession at 1:30, Mass at 2 and food and celebration in the school

Dover St. Joseph – Mananitas. 9 p.m. Dec. 11, followed by traditional foods the following morning. Posadas, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16 to Friday, Dec. 24

Kenton Immaculate Conception – Procession, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by Mass in Spanish at 7 and food and celebration at 8

Marion St. Mary – Eucharistic Adoration, 7 p.m. Dec. 11 to 6:30 a.m. Dec. 12, ending with rosary and mananitas; 2-mile procession from Crescent Heights Road to church, 11 a.m. Dec. 12, followed by traditional dancing at 12:30 p.m. and Mass at 1

Portsmouth Holy Redeemer – Mass, 4:30 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by mananitas at 5:30 and potluck dinner.

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Real Presence Real Future

Reflections

2nd Sunday of Advent, December 5, 2021

Real Presence, Real Future reflections: Gifts from God Lead Us to Service

Dcn. Tom Berg, Jr., St. Andrew Parish

The season of shopping for Christmas gifts for family, friends, and colleagues is well underway. Since this is on our minds right now, let us also consider other kinds of gifts besides the ones we will purchase, wrap up, and place under trees. Let us also collect the grace-filled gifts that our loving Lord offers us: His Word and Eucharist, His Holy Sacraments, His Wisdom. May those gifts empower us better and more humbly to love and serve the Lord and one another. As we continue our diocesan Real Presence, Real Future initiative, let's also consider how we can use the gifts God gives us to help this effort and assist our pastors in the work and decisions that lay ahead.

For more about the life of faith and discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus, visit www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org.

3rd Sunday of Advent/Gaudete Sunday, December 12, 2021

Real Presence, Real Future reflections: Spread the Joy
Deacon Tim Birie, Knox County Consortium of Catholic Churches

"Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!" Gaudete Sunday. It is supposed to be a time of great joy. Some may say the last few years we haven't had much to be joyful about. Covid, attendance loss at Mass, and losing our Bishop to name a few. But we can take great joy knowing, as we hear from Zephaniah, God is in our midst, and will get us through the tough times. Real Presence, Real Future is already helping us with parish planning matters, even though we had Bishop Brennan for a short time, and soon we will be celebrating the Birth of Jesus. So, shout for joy, God is always with us.

For more about the life of faith and discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus, visit www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org.

II domingo de Adviento, 5 de diciembre, 2021

Reflexiones Presencia Real, Futuro Real: Los dones de Dios nos llevan al servicio

Diácono Thomas Berg, Jr., Parroquia San Andrés

La temporada de compras de regalos de Navidad para familiares, amigos y colegas está en marcha. Ya que estamos en medio de esto ahora mismo, consideremos otra clase de regalos aparte de los que podemos comprar, envolver y colocar bajo el árbol. Busquemos los regalos llenos de gracia que nuestro amado Señor nos ofrece: su palabra y eucaristía, sus sagrados sacramentos, su sabiduría. Que estos regalos nos fortalezcan para amar y servir al Señor y a nuestro prójimo de una forma mejor y con humildad. Mientras avanzamos con nuestra iniciativa Presencia Real, Futuro Real, consideremos en cómo utilizar estos dones que Dios nos ha dado para ayudar en este esfuerzo y apoyar a nuestros párrocos en el trabajo y decisiones que se darán en el futuro.

Para leer más acerca de cómo podemos crecer juntos en la vida de fe y discipulado en la Diócesis de Columbus, visita: www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org

III domingo de Adviento/ domingo de Gaudete, 12 de diciembre, 2021

Reflexiones Presencia Real, Futuro Real: Difundir la alegría

Diácono Tim Birie, Consorcio de iglesias católicas del condado Knox

"Canta, hija de Sión, da gritos de júbilo, Israel!" Domingo de Gaudete. Se supone que debe ser un tiempo de gran gozo. Algunos podrían decir que en los últimos años no hemos tenido mucho por lo cual sentirnos gozosos. COVID, baja participación en misa, la pérdida de nuestro obispo, por nombrar algunos. Pero podemos tener gran gozo sabiendo, como lo escuchamos de Sofonías, que Dios está entre nosotros, y que nos ayudará a superar estos tiempos difíciles. Presencia Real, Futuro Real está ayudándonos ya con los asuntos de planeación parroquial, incluso debemos celebrar que tuvimos al obispo Brennan por un corto periodo de tiempo y que pronto celebraremos el nacimiento de Jesús. Por ello, gritemos de júbilo, Dios está siempre con nosotros.

Para leer más acerca de cómo podemos crecer juntos en la vida de fe y discipulado en la Diócesis de Columbus, visita: www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org

No need to re-invent parishes to evangelize

By Father Sean Dooley

What will the parish of the future look like? I don't know. To be honest, I don't think anyone has the answer to that question.

In the Catholicism of yesteryear, the parish was more in the center of people's lives due to ethnic and cultural origins. Many people came to the parish. They came to receive the sacraments, for spiritual guidance from their clergy and for community activities. However, we must mention the elephant in the room – many people do not operate in this way anymore.

We no longer have the luxury of being a "destination" where most of the social, spiritual and even physical needs of the individual and the family can be met. Too many other options exist, and the priority of faith and parish life has been displaced by other priorities.

So, the pressing question is: How is a parish to be healthy and viable in this century amid the marketplace of options?

The pandemic has taught us that change comes fast – and parishes experienced this seismic shift. During those initial and horrible months of COVID-19, we saw parishes reach out to their parishioners through various communication means, sharing the Gospel during a crisis. Whether it was through phone calls to parishioners, livestreaming Masses and ministries or sharing resources on social media, we found new and innovative ways to "go out" into our community because our community could not come to us.

Now with realistic hope, parishioners are tasked with taking what we learned from those months of restriction and isolation and continuing this ministry of going out into the community. The parish begins now, more than ever, to invite and bring people to a healthy and holy community.

Being at Columbus Our Lady of Peace Parish in the heart of the Clintonville area, we are blessed to be a neighborhood parish, and we are striving to be engaged in our neighborhood.

We want non-Catholics and non-practicing Catholics to know about Our Lady of Peace. We want them to know that we are active in and genuinely care about this neighborhood. More important, we want people to know that we are driven by the love of God and neighbor.

Whenever I walk along N. High Street near the church, I am reminded of these words of Pope Francis from his 2015 visit to the United States: "God is living in our cities. The Church is living in our cities, and she wants to be like yeast in the dough. She wants to relate to everyone, to stand at everyone's side, as she proclaims the marvels of the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Eternal Father, the Prince of Peace."

Here, we see the Holy Father speak of the churches truly being incarnational. The parish is involved and has something (the Gospel!) to say in the wider community. In other words, a parish is like John the Baptist crying out in its own area, not being afraid to teach, preach and sanctify society.

I am convinced that the parish of the future does not need to re-invent the wheel regarding evangelization and ministry. In our attempt to "fix" our current situation and innovate a new future, our tendency is to create programs, take polls or resort to advertising the Gospel like we are in an episode of Mad Men. And all these models tend to rely on the personality of the priest. This is not a feasible or sustainable plan. More significant, it's not who we are.

The parish of today and of the future – just like the parish of the past – must rely solely on the Word of God and the Eucharist. It is tempting for us priests to lose that focus as the temporal needs of the parish (such as maintaining buildings, juggling finances and managing personnel) can swallow one in an abyss. The moment we priests and laity lose that focus on the Word and the Eucharist, we lose our identity and hope in Christ.

The challenges of parish life can seem daunting, and we might be tempted to go into defeatism mode. But here we are. God has tasked the laity, religious and clergy to build and encourage authentic and healthy parishes.

We can take these words from Lumen Gentium to heart in parish life: "All the faithful of Christ are invited to strive for the holiness and perfection of their own proper state. Indeed, they have an obligation to so strive. Let all then have care that they guide aright their own deepest sentiments of soul. Let neither the use of the things of this world nor attachment to riches, which is against the spirit of evangeli-



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Pietra Fitness promotes spiritual, physical health

By Elizabeth Pardi

Although the Church has never condemned the practice of yoga, some Catholics avoid it because of its roots in Hinduism. As a result, there are Catholic alternatives to yoga that seek to foster physical, mental and spiritual health through exercise and meditation.

One such alternative is Pietra Fitness, which has certified instructors throughout the United States and in Australia.

Locally, Maria Elliott, a wife and mother of four who attends Worthington St. Michael Church, became a certified Pietra instructor in 2018. Before her involvement in Pietra, Elliott practiced yoga but wanted a program that incorporated her faith as well.

"I wanted something that honored the interconnectedness of my body, mind and soul and the truth of who God created me to be," she said. "I searched the internet and found Pietra Fitness. (It) offered an alternative that provided the same fruits that I was seeking: strength and renewal of body, mind and soul that included the goodness, beauty and truth of the Catholic faith."

Because no classes were offered in her area, Elliott participated in Pietra via DVDs and was certified through online learning. She now offers classes for women and children that can be scheduled through her website, viribuswellness.com.

Each class is roughly an hour long but can be shortened to 30 minutes for certain groups. The Pietra classes for kids are described on Elliott's website as "Child-centered (classes) and meditations to build strength, confidence, and relaxation." The classes can be taken by youth sports teams, for example, to enhance performance.

Pietra offers three class levels, dependent on participants' goals. The gentle level provides relief from stress and anxiety while the intermediate level promotes strength and invigoration. The advanced level develops strength, flexibility, balance and endurance.

EVANGELIZE, continued from Page 10

cal poverty, hinder them in their quest for perfect love" (No. 42).

The parish actively strives to bring awareness of the gifts and talents within the community. But if these talents are not shaped by, given for and rooted in the Word and the Eucharist, they will do little to contribute to



Maria Elliott (center) leads a Pietra class at Worthington St. Michael Church. A certified instructor, Elliott offers classes for children through adults. Photos courtesy Pietra

Elliott said she opens each Pietra class with prayer intentions. These include "the intentions of the pope and all bishops, priests and religious, including the chaplain of Pietra Fitness."

The organization's chaplain, Father Ezra Sullivan, OP, is a Dominican friar of the Province of St. Joseph. He has studied yoga extensively and written articles on its origins and purpose that can be found on Pietra's website, pietrafitness.com.

Following prayer intentions, Elliott's class moves onto the Sign of the Cross, an opening prayer and a Scripture reading. Participants then engage in deep breathing "to calm the mind and nervous system," she said.

"(We then do exercises) of strengthening and stretching. Several times (throughout) the workout, a bodily prayer posture is held (that is) based on the bodily prayer poses of St. Dominic, while a prayer is offered."

According to the Racine Dominicans, a community of Catholic sisters and lay associates who claim St. Dominic as one of their patrons, the saint was often called the "athlete of Christ" because he "prayed in ways that were physically demanding, ... (and) he prayed with great grace and agility."

the spiritual health of the parish.

As a pastor, for me the moments of hope come when a parishioner tries a new ministry outside his or her comfort level. Hope for me is when a school student wants to receive the sacraments of the Church because of what he or she has learned in the

He is mentioned on Pietra's website along with Sts. Francis, Benedict, Teresa of Avila and others as saints "whose prayers, teachings, and examples have guided us along our journey."

The main patron saint of Pietra, however, is St. Peter. According to the organization's website, the name Pietra was chosen because it means "rock" in Italian. "St. Peter is the rock of the Church," the website says. "We are confident that his intercession will keep Pietra Fitness firmly grounded on the strongest of foundations: Christ himself."

Elliott said that a crucifix is displayed at each Pietra class, "(and) sacred Gregorian chant music (is) offered at the final resolution pose and prayer." There is no chanting or verbal prayer throughout the class. "Pietra is more of a contemplative practice," Elliott said. Participants "prayerfully participate without reciting prayers, but silently listen and pray."

Asked about her own practice, Viribus Wellness, Elliott said it's "in the beginning stages of becoming a wellness and counseling practice with a mission to help individuals and families to become strong, healthy, and well in mind, body and spirit."

She said she plans to "provide men-

classroom. Another sign of hope for me is seeing sustainable and holy liturgical ministries take off again in the parish and to see the altar servers excited to serve again. It is the small things that can begin a quiet revolution in a parish.

We must allow ourselves to notice



Prayer is an important element of the Christ-centered Pietra program.



Students at Worthington St. Michael School practice Pietra stretching in the school gym.

tal/emotional health counseling, nutrition education and counseling, and various other programs for women, men and families seeking strength and renewal."

Elliott, who has worked in ministry and counseling with families and individuals of all ages, said she is passionate about "helping someone live their true, pure self – the self that God sees and God created."

For more information, or to schedule a Pietra class, visit Elliott's website, viribuswellness.com.

the signs of hope and build on them. The Word and Eucharist are alive and dwelling in our parishes, and we have learned new ways to embrace and share this reality. We cannot afford to squander this moment.

Father Sean Dooley is pastor of Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church.

INSTALLATION, *continued from Page 3*

of a similar consultation process leading to a diocesan synod. The process also is taking place throughout the world and will conclude with a synod of bishops at the Vatican in 2023.

Becoming part of the process “gives me a great chance right away to get to know the different areas of the diocese,” Bishop Brennan said. He said that in reference to the process, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Vatican’s apostolic nuncio to the United States, had advised the nation’s bishops at their recent meeting in Baltimore to “speak frankly and listen carefully.”

At the installation ceremony, Archbishop Pierre read Pope Francis’ letter appointing Bishop Brennan to his new position, as he did when Bishop Brennan was installed as bishop of Columbus on March 29, 2019, after spending seven years as auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, where he grew up.

After it was read, the letter was presented to the Brooklyn diocesan chancellor and the diocesan College of Consultors, an advisory body of priests. As he did at his Columbus in-

stallation ceremony, Bishop Brennan then walked throughout the cathedral and displayed the document, written in elaborate, calligraphic-style scrollwork, so that all could see it.

He then was escorted to the cathedra, the bishop’s chair, by Archbishop Pierre and Cardinal Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York, who also had been at his Columbus installation. The bishop’s coat of arms, with his episcopal motto, “Thy Will Be Done,” earlier had been placed above the chair.

He then was presented with a crozier (bishop’s staff), and at that point officially became bishop of the nation’s fifth-largest diocese, which has about 1.5 million Catholics among its 4.9 million residents.

The installation was preceded by processions of civic and religious leaders and of clergy, including 42 bishops and Cardinal Joseph Tobin, archbishop of Newark, New Jersey. Attending from the Diocese of Columbus were 14 diocesan priests; Father Steven Beseau, rector-president

Farewell Mass at Christ the King on Solemnity



Bishop Robert Brennan celebrated one of his final Masses in the diocese on Sunday, Nov. 21 at Columbus Christ the King Church. The parish was commemorating its 75th anniversary on the Solemnity of Christ the King.
Photo courtesy Jan Childers

of the Pontifical College Josephinum; representatives of orders of women religious serving the diocese; and many laypersons.

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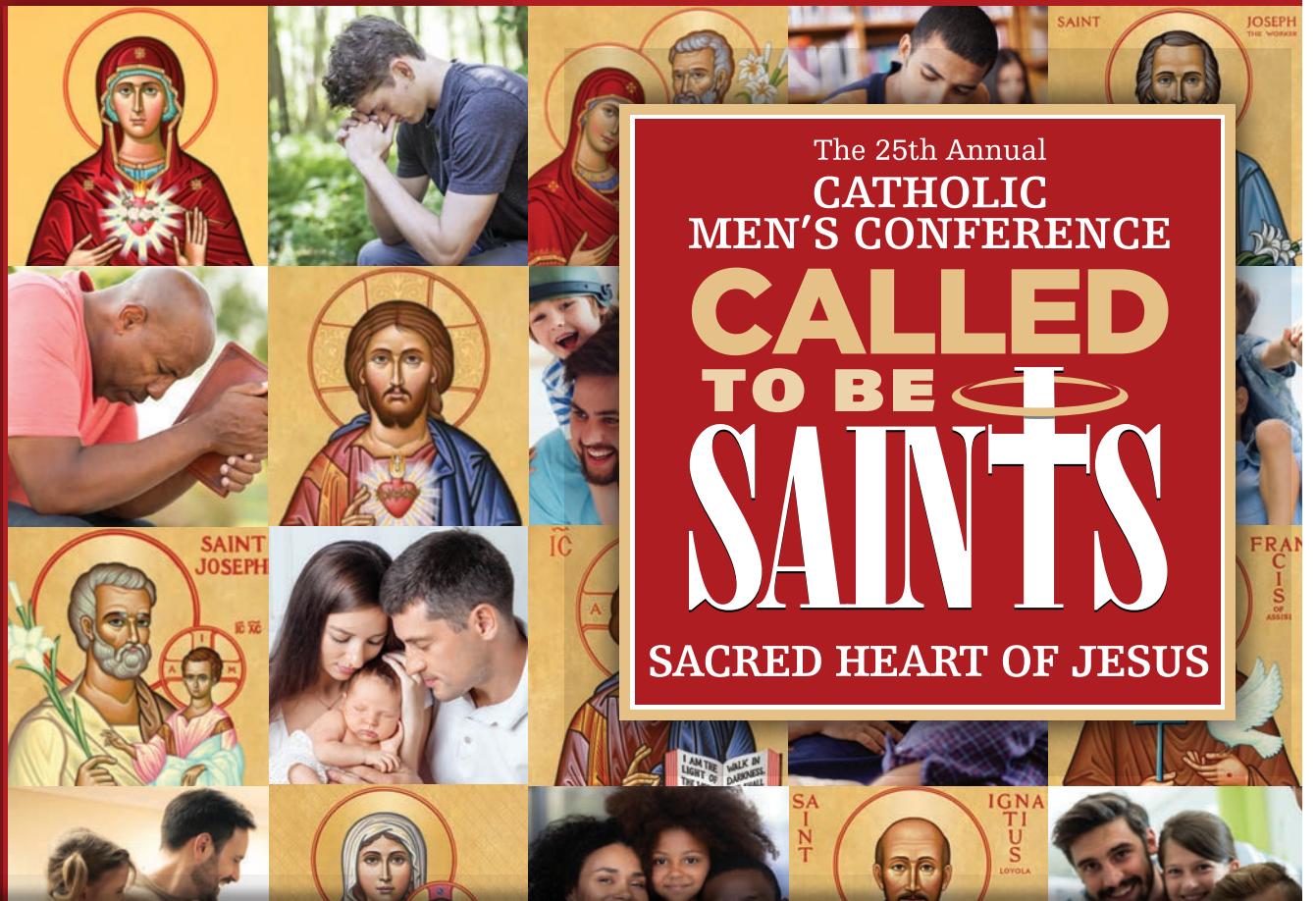
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FOLLOW:



OpenDoor seeks volunteers to aid women in recovery

By Tammy Adler-Foeller

Addiction. The word conjures up many emotions and judgments.

For some, the word relates to other people: street people, someone else's loved one, a stranger. For others, the word is heartbreaking and isolating. For me and Leslie Kristoff, the word is part of our daily vocabulary.

Both of us have endured the suffering that comes when a loved one is drowning in addiction. We know the heartache of having two beautiful daughters from the suburbs, from good families, good neighborhoods and good schools, addicted to drugs.

Both families suffered with the secrets of addiction in silence and isolation. Yet, these secrets brought Leslie and me together in a friendship of shared pain. While our daughters were spiraling in addiction and the ugliness that comes with it, we had each other to dig out of the solitude and darkness.

As we sought resources, it became clear that services for women were lacking in Franklin County. Certified recovery houses for women were scarce; only seven existed. Ultimately, both our daughters were sent out of state for the help they could not get in Columbus.

So, the conversation began. What could we do? How could we help



women like our daughters? There is so much talk about the problem, but not enough discussion about the solution.

As we brainstormed “the plan,” we reached out to Rachel Muha for guidance in fall 2017. We knew Rachel had lost her son, Brian, to murder, and she had turned her tragedy into awe-inspiring forgiveness and help for children in the inner city. Rachel's insight and experience were invaluable.

On a rainy Saturday morning over breakfast, the three of us met. Leslie and I shared our secrets with honesty and raw truth, and Rachel listened quietly.

Rachel started the Brian Muha Foundation and Run the Race Club following her son's death in 1999. Rachel knew firsthand the heartache of addiction. Men high on crack cocaine had murdered her son. She had witnessed stories like ours for 20 years

as she mentored children (Racers) of women who struggled with addiction. As our breakfast came to a close that morning, Rachel was inspired to join our mission. It was truly a God moment.

With Rachel's guidance, knowledge and eagerness to serve, our real work began. In 2018, our organization, OpenDoor, was officially created.

While we prayed for guidance for a plan of action, we were introduced to Open Table, a model of change that has been utilized for 16 years. The model works like this: OpenDoor offers one year of free services (a Table) to a woman in recovery from addiction.

Tables are composed of six to eight volunteers, trained by Open Table. Volunteers make a one-year commitment to act as a team of life specialists, encouragers and advocates. Tables meet once a week to transform their relational and social capital into tools for these recovering women. The only prerequisite to become a volunteer is a willingness to serve.

Each Table of volunteers brings together their resources to benefit one woman in recovery. Friends, book clubs, Bible study groups, any group of people can come together and form a Table. You can also come yourself and join a Table of other volunteers.

This model made it easy for us to get to work. We read about the data

attesting to its success. We met the founder, Jon Katov, and discussed how we could implement this in our community.

Because Open Table is based on research, replicable training and measurable outcomes, it provides guidance so the Tables are implemented successfully. We lovingly tell our volunteers to come through our OpenDoor to sit at the Table.

Women are referred to us by the Brian Muha Foundation, Basecamp Recovery Center and the parole division of the federal court system. Sadly, there is not a shortage of women who need our services.

Our greatest challenge is not having enough volunteers to fill our Tables. With the ratio of six to eight volunteers serving one woman, we need a lot of volunteers! For one hour a week, by reaching across the Table, we can transform many lives. We are asking for you to prayerfully consider becoming a volunteer. Your life will be transformed also.

We are also raising money to open a certified recovery house for women. We want to spare mothers like us the heartache of “no room in the inn” for our daughters.

To be a part of this journey, contact Tammy Foeller at 614-327-3847 and visit our website, www.opendoor-columbus.com. Follow us on Instagram @OpenDoorColumbus

10 tips offered to help seniors facing holiday loneliness

The holiday season can be difficult for seniors, especially those living alone and facing the risks of isolation. Here are a few tips on engaging, comforting, and checking up on your aging loved ones this time of year from the Carmelite senior care communities of Mother Angeline McCrory Manor and The Villas at Saint Therese in Columbus.

1. Actively Listening – Make a point of actively listening when your loved one wants to talk. An honest and empathetic conversation can help them process any issues they may currently be experiencing. These open conversations may also reveal why they may be feeling down, and in turn, perhaps inspire other ways to lift their spirits.

2. Reminding Them of Their Importance – Remind your loved ones of how important they are as a part of your life, your family members' lives, and these annual holiday celebrations. Our elders tend to feel like a burden during the holiday season. Instead, encourage them to do what they are capable of and show appreciation for their contributions.

3. Holiday Cards – Ask family members and friends to contribute cards, photographs, or drawings to help keep the senior's seasonal mail more upbeat. Don't forget, your elder's connections with their life-long friends are important relationships to

them but they may need some help! By simply offering to assist in writing outgoing holiday cards, you can provide your senior with a cherished memory and the opportunity to be involved in the lives of those close to them.

4. Focus on The Real Meaning of Celebrations – Remind them that they have taught you the importance of family and friendship as opposed to receiving gifts and planning grand parties and thank them for that. Perhaps substitute a material gift for something more experience-based, like tickets to see a play together or dinner at their favorite restaurant.

5. Spiritual Support – Check with your loved one's religious organization to see if they can offer social and/or spiritual support. Simply having someone to talk to can go a long way toward relieving depression.

6. Assist in Adding Festive Touches – Help add festive touches to their home or room. Many seniors enjoy reflecting on past holidays as they unpack cherished decorations, so be sure to listen to their stories and ask about special pieces. Try to decorate in stages to prolong the fun and give them something to look forward to.

7. Cook Traditional Baked Goods or Treats – Plan to cook or bake with your loved one throughout the holiday season. If they're not within visit-

ing distance, mail them a box of familiar treats that represent your holiday customs or good memories you've shared together.

8. Encourage & Facilitate Social Activities – Places of faith are great locations for individuals to meet like-minded people and join group activities. Your aging loved one may also consider activities available through a local senior center. Offer to join them on their first trip to any new places to reduce anxiety and apprehension.

9. Pen Pal Date – If your aging loved one has a long-time pen pal or long-distance friend, plan a get-together by contacting their friend and coordinating a virtual or in-person meet-up. This would be a great chance for them to spend some time together and can offer you even more insight into their interests and hobbies.

10. Make Them Feel Loved & Included – The most important thing you can do with a senior to make them feel loved and included this season is to simply spend time with them in a safe way. If you cannot get together in person this holiday season, schedule some time to have a phone, Zoom or FaceTime call with them. Regardless of what you decide to do, anytime spent with your loved one will be a special gift.

At age 150, Dennison Immaculate Conception parish steams forward

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

When the Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) created the community of Dennison in Tuscarawas County in 1864 as a site for repair shops and a watering stop, the Catholic Church was there from the start.

Many railroad workers were Catholics from Ireland and eastern Europe, so a priest from nearby Dover visited their homes to celebrate Sunday Masses. Crowds for the Masses grew so large that they were moved to a banquet hall.

By 1871, a small red-brick church had been built in the community under the patronage of Mary, the Immaculate Conception. Father William Hawe was appointed as its first resident pastor by Bishop Sylvester Rosecrans, the first bishop of Columbus.

That church building, with additions built in 1880 and 1916, has been well-maintained over the years and still stands at 206 N. First St. On Wednesday, Dec. 8, its patronal feast day, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dennison Immaculate Conception Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary with Masses at 8:15 a.m. for children of the parish school and 7 p.m. for the community, followed by a reception.

Father Jeff Coning, pastor of the church and of New Philadelphia Sacred Heart and Zoar Holy Trinity churches, will be the celebrant. Father T.J. Lehigh, who grew up in the parish and is pastor of the Perry County Consortium of Catholic Churches, will be on hand, and other diocesan priests who have served the parish also have been invited, as have women religious from the parish. In addition, an anniversary video is being produced.

"It is an honor to be at service to the people of Immaculate Conception," Father Coning said. "Their faith in God is deep, and their love for God and the Church is strong. They have been kind to me and the priests that have been assigned to the parish."

Dennison has a population of about 2,600, about half of what it was when it reached its peak 100 years ago when the railroad was flourishing, but the parish, which has about 650 families, remains vibrant. Its members, many of them descendants of families who came to Dennison with the PRR, are proud of its legacy and especially of the school, which has existed since 1891.

"We're a strong parish," said Bernadette Blackstone, a parishioner since



The interior of Dennison Immaculate Conception Church



The parish's founding date is etched in stone.

1950. "I call it a parish of survivalists in that we've survived all the good and bad times of the last 150 years and have always had a solid core of people who have good rapport. Don't ever count us out. We'll always come back.

"The school especially holds us together," she said. "Many of the students are the children and grandchildren of former students here, and many of the teachers also went to school here."

"Several of us on the staff have been here for more than 20 years after graduating from eighth grade here and going on to (Tuscarawas) Central Catholic (High School in New Philadelphia)," said school secretary Ava DelGallo. "Dennison is a place where tradition and pride are passed on through generations, and it shows



The exterior of Dennison Immaculate Conception Church



An historical view of Immaculate Conception Church Photos courtesy Ryan Barnabi

in the school."

Immaculate Conception School (which, like the church, is often referred to locally as "St. Mary's") is part of the Tuscarawas Central Catholic (TCC) school system, along with TCC Elementary School in Dover and the high school in New Philadelphia. Matt Ritzert is principal of the two elementary schools.

"We and the TCC schools are known in the area for our academic excellence," said Immaculate Conception sixth-grade teacher Tricia Love, who has been associated with the school as either teacher or parent for 29 years. "Our children tend to test well, and parents readily see how well-prepared they are. But we consider our academic excellence second to the strong Catholic identity we try to impart."

"People are frequently complimentary when they see how well-behaved our students are," said preschool and pre-kindergarten teacher Ronna Coventry. "I've often heard people say, 'You can tell the St. Mary's kids because of the way they show people respect.'"

"That positive impact is one of the reasons the school has stayed strong because it's brought in more non-Catholic students," said Michelle Wright, who teaches second grade and conducts classes on the sacraments and religion for multiple grades.

The school has a total enrollment of 131 students, with 93 in kindergarten through sixth grade and 38 in preschool or pre-kindergarten. In 2012, when *The Catholic Times* last visited the school for a story, it had 83 students, including 65 in kindergarten through sixth grade. Love said an increase in the number of non-Catholic students is mainly responsible for the school's growth in the past nine years.

Students attend an all-school Mass every Thursday at 8:15 a.m., as well as prayer services during Advent and the Stations of the Cross during Lent. This year, they began what is planned to be a continuing event honoring first responders on Sept. 29, the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, patron of police officers and military personnel.

There also was a prayer service to mark the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. "We tie everything secular to the Catholic faith that we possibly can," Love said.

Students recently took part in a Thanksgiving canned food drive for the Twin City Food Pantry in nearby Uhrichsville and for many years have been part of the Share-A-Christmas program of the Tuscarawas County Council for Church and Community. This ecumenical group helps the needy during the holidays by providing food, clothing and toys.

Coventry said students at the school have packed COVID bags filled with items such as note pads, candy and toiletry items for the homebound and nursing home residents. They also have visited nursing homes when permitted to do so by health restrictions and have sent cards and gift bags to the military.

Parish activities were eliminated or curtailed because of COVID for most of 2020 but have gradually resumed this year. "One of the things people missed most was our summer festi-

PARISH, *continued from Page 14*

val in July,” said parishioner Marlene Ridgway.

Longtime parishioners say the festival’s history goes back to at least the 1940s. “We weren’t sure how many people would come (in 2021), but the response was phenomenal. People were just so happy to be there,” Ridgway said.

“It was a little hard to get volunteers, but the people who did work the festival were so committed,” said parish member Vicki Dominick. “Students, parents, organizations – they all pitched in. That shows the caring nature of our parish.”

“One thing I’ve seen change over the years in the parish has been our willingness to do community outreach,” Blackstone said. “It seems like it used to be that people felt that to be Catholic, it was enough to go to Mass on Saturday and Sunday and lock the doors the rest of the week.

“Now, with the encouragement of the parish Altar Society and the Knights of Columbus, our main outreach groups, the parish has been more involved with things like visiting nursing homes, having food drives and working at the food pantry and other types of community service. I think that’s easier to do in a small community like ours, where people can readily see the effects of helping others.”

The Altar Society, the parish’s principal women’s group, meets every month and assists in a number of ways, such as serving at bereavement dinners, providing candles and flowers for the altar and vestments for priests, repairing chalices, sending cards to the sick and cooperating with Knights of Columbus Council 576 in various projects.

The Knights council is the third-oldest in the Diocese of Columbus, dating back to the late 1800s, and one of the few that still operates its own hall. The hall hosts weekly bingo games and activities, including steak dinners, to benefit the Tuscarawas Catholic schools and the Birthright pregnancy assistance organization, as well as wedding receptions and other events.

The council also raises money for several charities, with special emphasis on the state K of C’s annual Measure Up campaign for the developmentally disabled. The council’s Measure Up funds go mainly to support St. John’s Villa, about 20 miles from Dennison.

The church’s two anniversary Masses will include music from the school choir in the morning and eve-



Students and staff members at Dennison Immaculate Conception School pose for a picture in the church.

ning, and the adult choir, with violin and trumpet accompaniment, in the evening. Parish music activities are led by Rosemary Zorzi, who has been either a music teacher at the school or the parish music director for 45 years.

“COVID was such a blow to all choirs because it stopped us from singing,” she said. “Our choir used to practice every Thursday and sing on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Now we practice once a month and sing on the fourth Sunday, as well as at special events like Christmas and the anniversary Mass.

“It’s a shame we’re so limited because this church has acoustics that are really made for a choir and that seem to have gotten better as the church has gotten older.”

Over the years, at least 12 sons of the parish have become priests, including Father Lehigh and Father William A. Metzger, pastor of Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church.

Many women of the parish have become religious sisters, including Sister Wilma Ross, SCN, now living in retirement with the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky after serving Columbus St. Ladislus Church and School for 58 years.

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women honored two women from the parish – Lulu Benedetto in 1998 and Zetta Blickensderfer in 2003 – as its Catholic Woman of the Year.

Dennison’s location was responsible for its creation by the PRR. Because it’s about 100 miles from Columbus, Pittsburgh and Cleveland, the railroad found it to be an ideal location where trains could be repaired or take on water. The town was named for William Dennison, Ohio’s gover-



A street view of Dennison Immaculate Conception School, which is known locally as St. Mary’s



A drone captures an overhead view of the Immaculate Conception complex in Dennison. Photos courtesy Ryan Barnabi

nor from 1860 to 1862.

By 1920, the town had 12,000 people, the rail shops employed 2,100, and another 1,500 worked in nearby plants that made sewer pipe and brick from the area’s abundant clay.

World War II brought Dennison national recognition and the nickname “Dreamsville.” Soldiers going off to war or coming home from combat gave it that name because the Salvation Army set up a canteen at its railroad station, where PRR trains would stop so soldiers could receive sandwiches, cookies and coffee from women volunteers. The soldiers said seeing those women reminded them of the wives, mothers and girlfriends back home they dreamed about.

The canteen served about 1.5 million soldiers during the war. The station eventually fell into disuse after the last passenger train stopped in

Dennison in 1968 and the last freight train stopped in 1982.

But the building has been restored as a museum and was designated in 2012 by the National Park Service as a national historic landmark. It includes exhibits on Dennison’s role in World War II, a model railroad and a display of several railroad cars. The museum is running a Polar Express train for families during the holiday season.

Masses at Immaculate Conception Church are celebrated at 5 p.m. Saturdays, 11 a.m. Sundays and 8:15 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. A prayer Cenacle (group) meets every other Monday at 6 p.m., and the church hosts Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

For more information about the church, go to www.icdennison.com or call (740) 922-3533.

Christmas gift ideas reflect religious themes

By MaryBeth Eberhard

Complete your Christmas shopping with these creative gift ideas that focus on sharing God's love with your family and friends this season.

Each product's entry includes a description provided by the shop owner, vendor or creative and a website for each shop.

Ice pack

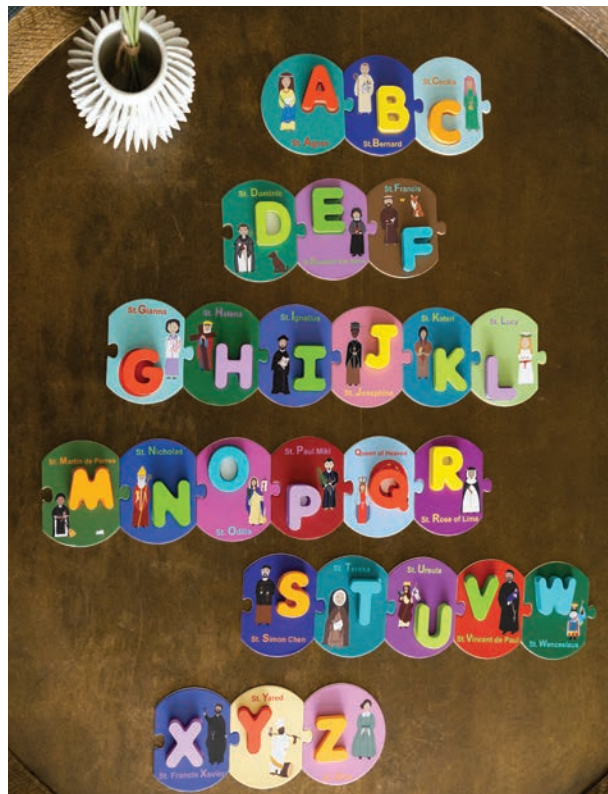
A few months back, one of my boys fell down and scraped his knees. While I was tending to him and kissing his boo boos, he asked if that was something that his Mother Mary could do, too? I told him absolutely and gave him kisses on Mary's behalf, but I couldn't stop thinking about his sweet request, and that is the story about how the Mama Mary ice packs were born. It has now become the first thing the kids ask for when they get an ouchie. They're filled with gel and glycerin, and measure 7.5 inches by 4 inches.

Website: BrickHouseInTheCity.com

Swaddling blanket

Soft and flowy bamboo/cotton muslin swaddle will wrap your precious babe in Mary's Mantle. What does it mean to be wrapped in Mary's Mantle? Jesus gave us the gift of His mother as He was dying on the cross when He said, "Behold, your mother." Mary, as our spiritual mother, looks after us in a special, intimate way. As a mother comforts her baby, Mary gently comforts us.

Website: TheLittleRoseShop.com



Activity puzzle

Featuring beautiful and unique depictions of saints from around the world, this four in one activity puzzle made from non-toxic and eco-friendly

materials provides hands-on learning to help teach your child their ABCs, develop their gross motor skills and improve hand-eye coordination and reasoning skills. This toy is sure to grow with your child as it demonstrates proper letter formation and presents concise saint facts, allowing your child to grow in faith while they play.

Website: SaintryHeart.com

Teething rosary

Chews Life offers rosaries for every age group. They have adorable silicone rosaries for babies and young children. Chews Life's mission is to equip all Catholics with rosaries for life. This beautiful silicone rosary is sure to bring joy to your home. This mint and gray teething toy is not only soothing for your little one but is also sure to help build wonder and love for the rosary. Watching your child hold this silicone rosary is like watching them hold the hand of Mary.

Website: ChewsLife.com

Subscription boxes

Catholic Family Crate is a faith formation brand focused on delivering creative, high quality and engaging materials for Catholic families to learn about their faith. They do this mainly through their monthly and seasonal subscription boxes that deliver faith-filled (faithful to the Magisterium) crates designed to make cultivating a strong family within the domestic church easy and streamlined. They take the overwhelming out of liturgical living and faith formation; deliver highly engaging and beautifully crafted catechesis tools that make growing in the faith doable in a busy, modern life; and help families establish themselves in the good, true, and beautiful.

Website: CatholicFamilyCrate.com

Pencil pouches

Our Lady of Fatima and St. Michael pencil pouches are created by Blessed Be God Boutiques, whose mission is to evangelize the glory of God by making quality items that celebrate Catholic ideals using imagery and prayer. Products range from clothing, rosary pouches, drinkware, stickers and paper goods. There are items for each member of the family. Each product is aimed to give praise to Jesus and spread His word.

Etsy: BlessedBeGodBoutique

Card game

The Emoji Bible Stories Card Game is great entertainment for everyone. With four versatile gameplay options, even younger children and those new to the Bible can join in the fun. All games are created with both families and churches in mind. Fun and captivating. Great for bringing people together. Learn about the Bible as you play.

Website: BibleGamesCentral.com

Apparel

God Swagg Apparel is a cutting edge faith based clothing line inspired by Ephesians 6:10-18. Joe Melendrez's vision was to create a clothing line

that represents God in a very relevant and attractive way. The slogan "Rep What You Believe" is a phrase that encourages all disciples to be proud to represent their faith, wear it every day, and truly let God be their fashion. As God Swagg Apparel continues to grow, we pray in thanksgiving for all of our supporters and everyone who has made the choice to rep what you believe.

Website: GodSwaggApparel.com



Sacred art

Saint Script is a sacred art brand that focuses on modern depictions of the saints, prayer cards and other Catholic goods created to inspire prayer wherever you are.

Website: SaintScriptShop.com

Jewelry

Stella & Tide offers feminine, dainty Catholic jewelry handmade with love in the USA. Our curated selection includes elegant Catholic necklaces, bracelets, rings, chokers and earrings crafted with high-quality, gold filled, sterling silver and rose gold filled metals.

Website: StellaTide.com

Handmade items

Three homeschool mamas whose Catholic faith has brought us together. We enjoy bringing our faith and family life together in many of our handmade items, which include hair accessories, bath and body goods, doll slings, baby items, jewelry and home décor. Our newest offering is a growing line of gift boxes!

Website: JoyfulMamaJoyfulBaby.com

St. Clare blanket

The luxurious soft and silky St. Clare throw blanket will make a beautiful gift or addition to your home. May you feel God's protection in the sacrament with this beautiful blanket!

Website: LittleWayDesign.co

Marian tea towels

This set features three 100% cotton tea towels

GIFTS, continued from Page 16

that have been dyed indigo by hand in small batches and then bleach dyed with each of three Marian designs: Ave Maria, Miraculous Medal and Mama Mary. All items in the shop feature unique designs that are hand drawn. All tea towels and napkins are hand dyed. Bleach dyeing removes the pigments present in the items' fabric, leaving behind a design that is permanent and unique.

Website: Pycnoline.etsy.com

Saint candles

Our faith makes visible so many invisible realities, and we hope our Catholic prayer candles will do the same for you. Through the power of fragrance, these uniquely inspired candles connect us to the saints in a real, concrete way. Add them to your home altar or prayer space to create the perfect atmosphere for prayer and reflection

Website: HouseOfJoppa.com



Rosary hanger

This is the perfect way to keep your rosaries accessible and ready for family prayer. As Father Peyton reminds us, "The family that prays together, stays together." This rosary hanger is made of reclaimed pine. It is customized with your choice of wood finish and knob number/color. The text is made of high quality vinyl and will read "Hail Mary, Full of Grace." Each hanger is made to order based on your customization.

Website:

Etsy.com/shop/RusticChristianDecor?coupon=CATHOLICMOM5

Holy Family prints

Call on the Holy Family to help you navigate the ever-changing waters of the world. Hang these prints in your home, and be reminded to place your trust in heaven, rather than the world.

Website: JustLovePrints.com

Family Jesse Tree kit

Meyer Market Designs is your go-to shop for Catholic Gifts and meaningful home decor. Whether you're looking for a children's gift, paper goods, Catholic-themed pillows or art, they've got what you're looking for. Bernadette's work is saint-in-

spired and seeks to provide something beautiful to gift or fill your home with. This year, Meyer Market Designs is featuring their brand new Jesse Tree ornament set and devotional book. A wonderful way to celebrate Advent with your family.

Website: MeyerMarketDesigns.patternbyetsy.com

Prayer/inspiration cards

Abundance of Grace was created to provide you with access to the beauty of the Catholic faith through Scripture, tradition and the saints. Every item in the shop is hand designed and lettered. Every item in the shop has a story behind it, an inspiration from the Holy Spirit or lives of the saints. "The grace of the Lord is abundant." (1 Timothy 1:14)

Etsy:

Etsy.com/Shop/AbundanceOfGrace

Key fob

Saint Clare + Francis offers adorable Catholic stickers, T-shirts and decor. Each product is designed by a high schooler on a mission to spread encouragement and joy through simple, yet faith-filled designs. Designed with Catholics in mind, the Catholic key fob will hang perfectly and comfortably around your wrist. Perfect for carrying car keys or keychains, and makes remembering them so much easier.

Website:

SaintClareAndFrancis.etsy.com

Coffee

Mystic Monk Coffee is roasted by Carmelite monks in Wyoming. Deliciously flavored roasts, single serve cups and more. Our favorite is the Hermits Bold Blend. The liveliest of the extra dark roasts, Hermits Bold Blend is a special blend of Arabica coffees from Indonesia and Central America.

Website: MysticMonkCoffee.com

T-shirts

Totally Catholic Tees is dedicated to spreading the Gospel through our apparel. All shirts are of the highest quality, but more important, they tend to start meaningful conversations. Our tees are bold, unique and profound. The fact that they are comfortable is only a bonus. Preach the Gospel, and sometimes use a Catholic T-shirt.

Website: TotallyCatholicTees.com/

Prints

Leanne Bowen is a Catholic mom and watercolor artist with a desire to make the merciful heart of Jesus known. This year, her Christmas line is designed to provide unique Catholic gifts for everyone on your list. The design "Under Mary's Mantle" comes in a greeting card, candle and a variety of print sizes. Also choose between radiant gold and silver milagro ornaments, packs of Christmas cards, hand poured 100% soy candles and Catholic prints.

Website: LeanneBowen.com

Rosaries

Rugged Rosaries was the first to bring paracord



rosaries and WWI replica rosaries to the Catholic market. We are now in our 10th year of making rosaries. We still make the rosaries by hand in our own studio in Houston, Texas every day. The Original Paracord Rosary collection is a customer favorite year after year. The Gentleman's Heavy Duty Rosary has gunmetal alloy beads and a lovely symbolic crucifix that includes "relic" soil from the catacombs of Christian martyrs in Rome. The paracord rosaries are especially loved by men because of their masculine look and larger size. They are very strong and unbreakable.

Website: RuggedRosaries.com

Socks

There are a lot of Christmas socks out there. None will be as authentically Catholic as these St. Nick Socks. Let your socks start conversations about the true story of jolly old St. Nick. These socks are sure to be a conversation starter and evangelization opportunity.

Website: SockReligious.com





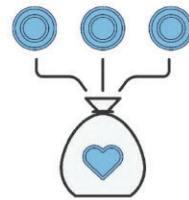
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- Make donations anonymously
- Create a family legacy of faith
- Invested in accordance with Catholic teachings
- Ability to add to the fund at any time

PEACE OF MIND WITH AUTHENTICALLY CATHOLIC GIVING

Local news and events

Bonfante to speak at Columbus Catholic Renewal's December gathering

A citywide Mass, praise and adoration, sponsored by Columbus Catholic Renewal, is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 11 from 9 to 11 a.m. at Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road.

Guest speaker Angela Bonfante's topic will be "Don't waste your suffering! A story of surrender, suffering and miracles."

Bonfante, a cradle Catholic, fell away from the church after graduating from college before returning to the faith. Several years later, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and begged God to release her from the suffering. She now shares what she learned about surrendering to God's will, redemptive suffering and the miracles that resulted from God's healing love.

She is a board member of St. Gabriel Catholic Radio, a motivational speaker and owner of Angela Bonfante Kitchen Designs LLC.

In addition to the Mass, testimony and adoration, there will be time for prayer and confession. No breakfast will be served, but attendees are welcome to bring a snack. Limited childcare is available upon request. Contact Cheryl at 614-861-1242.

Flame of Love devotions set for Saturday at St. Christopher

An evening devoted to the Flame of Love movement will be offered starting at 6 p.m. Saturday at Columbus St. Christopher Church, 1420 Grandview Ave.

There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, confessions, Flame of Love rosary, and readings from the diaries of St. Faustina Kowalska and Elizabeth Kindelmann.

Devotion to the Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary finds its origin in the revelations of the

Lord Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary to Kindelmann, a Hungarian mother of six who received inner locutions from the Blessed Mother from 1961 to 1982.

On June 6, 2009, Cardinal Peter Erdö, Archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest and president of the Council of Episcopal Conferences of Europe, granted his Imprimatur to the Hungarian original spiritual diary of Kindelmann, authorizing the publication of the messages given to her by Jesus and Mary. Archbishop Charles Chaput, retired archbishop of Philadelphia, has given an Imprimatur to the English translation of Kindelmann's diary.

On June 19, 2013, Pope Francis gave his Apostolic Blessing to The Flame of Love movement.

St. Elizabeth offers novena for Immaculate Conception

A novena to Our Lady leading up

to the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be recited at 7 p.m. through Dec. 8 at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd.

Mass will be celebrated for the holy day at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8.

For more information, visit the parish website at www.stelizabethchurch.org.

Ohio State faculty invited to Newman Center event

An OSU Faculty Wine & Cheese gathering will be offered at the Thomas More Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave., on the Ohio State University campus from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9.

There will be opportunities for fellowship and networking. For more information or the RSVP for the event, email mailbox@buckeyecatholic.com or call the parish at 614-291-4674.

Collection helps aging sisters, brothers, priests in religious orders

The Diocese of Columbus will hold the Retirement Fund for Religious collection on Dec. 11-12, with proceeds helping religious communities across the country to care for aging members.

The parish-based appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) in Washington, D.C.

Last year, the Diocese of Columbus donated \$104,863.04 to the collection.

"I am continually heartened by the generosity of U.S. Catholics," said NRRO executive director Sister Stephanie Still, a member of the Sisters of the Presentation of San Francisco. "Even in difficult times, they find a way to give back to those who have tirelessly served our Church and our world."

Hundreds of U.S. religious communities face a large gap between the needs of their older members and the funds available to support them. Historically, Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests — known collectively as women and men religious — served for little to no pay. As a result, many communities now lack adequate retirement savings.

At the same time, health-care expenses continue to rise, and an increasing number of older religious require specialized services. NRRO data show that 26,330 women and

men religious in the United States are older than age 70. The total cost for their care exceeds \$1 billion annually.

To help address the deficit in retirement funding among U.S. religious orders, Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the Retirement Fund for Religious collection in 1988. Distributions are sent to each eligible order's central house and provide supplemental funding for necessities, such as medications and nursing care. Donations also underwrite resources that help religious communities improve eldercare and plan for long-term retirement needs.

Religious orders typically do not receive diocesan funding but rather are financially autonomous and thus responsible for the support and care of all members. While many dioceses hold separate appeals for their retired priests' fund, the once-yearly Retirement Fund for Religious collection is for members of U.S. religious orders and benefits both men and women religious.

The 2020 appeal raised \$20.7 million, and funding was distributed to 321 U.S. religious communities.

"We are blessed by countless supporters who share our mission to ensure all religious can enjoy a safe and modest retirement," Sister Still said.

Visit retiredreligious.org to learn more.



St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church
5858 Cleveland Ave. Columbus, Ohio 43231
The gold-domed church between I-270 and SR-161



17TH ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE
DECEMBER 11, 2021 10AM – 2PM



➤ **TRAYS OF MORE THAN 6 DOZEN ASSORTED COOKIES** \$40ea



➤ **NUT & POPPYSEED ROLLS** \$12ea
~ sold frozen ~



➤ **BAKLAVA** 8"x8" PAN \$20ea



➤ **GOURMET PIROHI** \$6/pkg
Fillings – Potato/Cheese, Sauerkraut,
Sweet Cheese and Whole Prune
~ sold frozen in pkgs of one dozen per filling ~




Due to the ongoing health guidelines, this sale is **PREORDER ONLY! Only the items listed above will be available. Pickup will be handled as drive-up and orders will be brought to your car.**

TO PLACE YOUR ORDER
(Preferred) Go to our website: WWW.BYZANTINECOLUMBUS.COM
OR Call (614) 882-7578 and follow the prompts
PRODUCT IS LIMITED
ORDER DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 5TH
CASH, CHECK OR CARD ACCEPTED AT TIME OF PICKUP

The church will be open from 10am to 12pm during the sale for those who wish to visit. Please follow the city's health guidelines.

DeSales opens new access road for students



Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, Nov. 19 for Stallion Way, the new student access drive from the school's south parking lot to Ferris Road. Made with pervious pavers and designed to provide a quicker and safer commute, Stallion Way will also alleviate traffic congestion on Karl Road. Father Tony Davis, pastor at St. Matthias Church, offers a blessing. Members of the school's administrative and advancement team, student leaders and the marching band attended. DeSales alumnus Mike DeAscentis Sr., who was the driving force behind the engineering and execution of this update, had the honor of cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School

Seminarian discusses vocations at IC



Diocesan seminarian Jake Asuncion talks with students at Columbus Immaculate Conception School about his calling to the priesthood during National Vocations Awareness Week in November.

Photo courtesy Immaculate Conception School

Saints alive at Immaculate Conception



Columbus Immaculate Conception School first graders dressed up as saints for an all-school All Saints Day Mass on Nov. 1 and then gave a presentation on their respective saint.

Photo courtesy Immaculate Conception School



Members of the 2021 Bishop Watterson state champion field hockey team

Photos courtesy James Carwile

Bishop Watterson repeats as state field hockey champion

Columbus Bishop Watterson won the Division I state field hockey championship on Saturday, Nov. 6 at Thomas Worthington High School, giving the Eagles back-to-back state titles for the first time in program history.

The Eagles defeated Thomas Worthington 2-1 in the final on senior Molly Griffith's winning penalty-shot goal in overtime. Bishop Watterson had advanced to the state title game with a 3-0 win over Cincinnati Mount Notre Dame on Nov. 4.

The team finished the season with a 20-0-1 record. Its lone tie came against Thomas Worthington earlier in the year.

The state championship was the



Bishop Watterson celebrates its state championship in field hockey on Nov. 6 at Thomas Worthington High School.

fifth for Bishop Watterson in field hockey and the fourth for coach Janet Baird, whose 2005, 2009 and 2020 teams previously claimed titles.

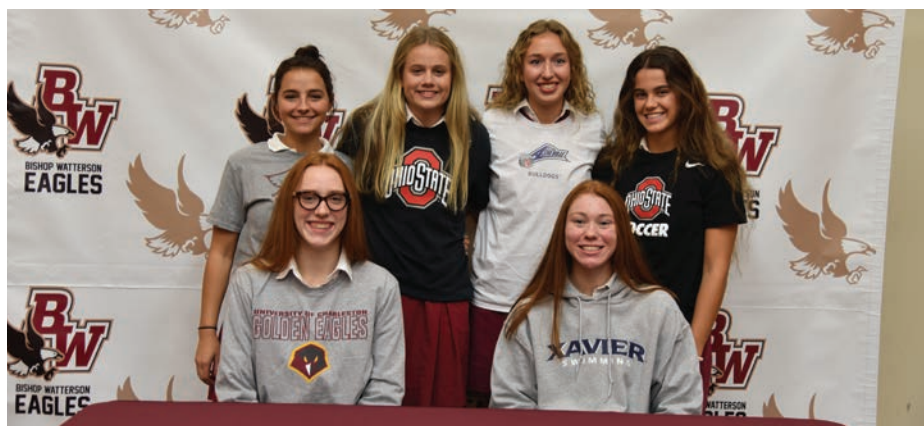
School dedicates new greenhouse, EcoLab



After two years of planning, waiting for permit approvals and supply chain delays, Columbus St. Joseph Montessori School, 933 Hamlet St., unveiled its Biotopia on Nov. 12. Middle school students were invited to present a speech to the community about what the facility means to them and its importance to the wider community. Students have begun to plant bulbs and seeds in raised garden beds surrounding the greenhouse, and the school community has been invited to bring in plants to the new greenhouse this winter.

Photo courtesy St. Joseph Montessori School

Six Watterson students sign to play college sports



Six Columbus Bishop Watterson High School seniors recently signed athletic scholarships to play Division I or Division II college sports. The student-athletes are (front row from left) Kiley Graham, basketball, University of Charleston and Olivia Oyster, swimming, Xavier University; (back row from left) Makenna Twombly, lacrosse and field hockey, Seton Hill University; Zoe Coleman, lacrosse, Ohio State University; Brooklyn Scythes, soccer, University of North Carolina-Asheville; and Gabriella Rotolo, soccer, Ohio State University.

Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School

DeSales athletes sign with colleges



Columbus St. Francis DeSales student-athletes recently took part in the high school's fall national letter of intent college signing day. They included (from left) Andrew Shaffer, soccer, Bowling Green State University; Brady McInerney, swimming, University of Kentucky; Gianna Cua, lacrosse, Xavier University; Molly Ballard, lacrosse, Slippery Rock University; Morgan Tydings, volleyball, Davenport University; and Jackson Carawan, lacrosse, University of Richmond.

Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School

Knight honored for volunteer work



Sir. Emeka Anyadoh (center) receives a volunteer of the year award for Knights of Columbus Assumption Council No. 3727 at Columbus St. Matthias Church from Father Tony Davis (left) and Grand Knight Steven Shultz.

Central Catholic League fall sports

Football

Varsity	Overall	CCL	
Bishop Hartley	9-3	3-0	Regional quarterfinals
St Francis DeSales	7-5	2-1	Regional quarterfinals
Bishop Watterson	5-6	1-2	Playoff qualifier
St. Charles	2-7	0-3	
Bishop Ready	5-6		Playoff qualifier

Junior Varsity		Freshmen		
Bishop Watterson	8-0	3-0	Bishop Watterson	6-3 3-0
St Francis DeSales	6-1	2-1	St. Francis DeSales	6-2 2-1
Bishop Hartley	4-3	1-2	Bishop Hartley	5-3 1-2
St Charles	4-5	0-3	St. Charles	4-5 0-3
Bishop Ready	5-4	0-1		

All-CCL first team

Trey Saunders, WR, sr., Daniel Tooson, DL/OL, sr., Dylan Newsome, LB/FB, jr., Nyal Johnson, RB/DB, sr., Peyton Underwood, QB, jr., Andrew McFeeters, OL/DL, sr., Richard Kenny, DB, sr., Columbus Bishop Hartley; Whit Hobgood, QB, sr., Nathaniel Wallace-Dilling, P, sr., Rechee Smith, WR, sr., Max Shulaw, LB, so., Asher Hayles, DL, jr., Jalen Carpenter, OT, sr., Columbus St. Francis DeSales; Dominic Orsini, RB, sr., Kevin Hinsman, OL, sr., Collin Cassady, OL, sr., Dominic Purcell, DB, so., Brandon Trout, WR, jr., Columbus Bishop Watterson; Ryan Carretta, OL, jr., Fred Nimely, RB, sr., Pete DeSocio, DB, jr., Evan Somos, OL, sr., Nick Bennison, DL, sr.; Brian Fitzsimmons, RB, jr., J'Sun Gardner, DB, sr., Cullen Dent, OLB/TE, jr. Columbus Bishop Ready

Second team

DeAunte Hubbard, LB, jr., Anthony Murphy, LB, jr., Avion Murphy, OT, sr., Donovan Davis, G, so., Cherod Bowens, DL, sr., Bishop Hartley; Kyle Nicely, WR, sr., Joe Schaefer, OL, sr., Jackson Carawan, DB, sr., Gabe Caruso, RB, jr., Ty Neubert, DL, fr., St. Francis DeSales; Rudy Kessinger, K, so., Matthew Heidenreich, OL, sr., Cole Rhett, DL, jr., Ryan Rudzinski, QB, so., Cole Graney, OL, sr., Bishop Watterson; Nick Meleca, DB, sr., Keegan Meloun, DB, sr., Solomon Lisath, DL, jr. JD Epler, OL, sr., St. Charles

Boys soccer

All-CCL first team

Gabe O'Reilly, Charley Valachovic, Colin Sullivan, Thomas Hohmann, St. Charles Preparatory School; Trent Maisano, Sean Nyhus, Alex Spiers, Bishop Watterson; Alex Gabriel, Colin Calahan, Emmett Gillies, Bishop Hartley; Zach Rennie, Alex Shaffer, St. Francis DeSales; Isaac Paul, Bishop Ready

Second team

Yannick Lambe, Connor Morgan, St. Charles; Jordan Vais, Dillon Brown, Johnny Haemmerle, Bishop Watterson; Tony Epstein, Gabe Donaghy, Bishop Hartley; Luca Romanelli, Jeremiah Kanu, Ryan Destefanis, DeSales; Adam Bennett, Angel Rivera-Martinez, Riley Dove, Bishop Ready

Girls Soccer

All-CCL first team

Rachel Spencer, Gabriella Rotolo, Brooklyn Scythes, Gabriella Capozella, Bishop Watterson; Karli Barringer, Ellie Morrow, Emily Knox, Bishop Hartley; Abigail Groff, Kylie Hast, Bryn Klingbeil, St. Francis DeSales; Caroline Buendia, Allison Bair, Bishop Ready

Second team

Lexie Francis, Erin Karas, Bishop Watterson; Olivia Ralston, Anna Casto, Sydney Eads, Bishop Hartley; Jennifer Mitevski, Mia Gehrich, St. Francis DeSales; Abby Grundei, Jessica Murray, Ava Baker, Bishop Ready

Second Sunday of Advent Year C

Preparation begins with confession

Baruch 5:1-9
Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Luke 3:1-6

Advent invites us to acknowledge the presence of God in our lives, now and forever. God calls us all to be open to His presence, creating space for Him in our own hearts. We cannot do this without the action of grace. Salvation is a gift, but our weakness makes it impossible to accept the gift without the help of God Himself.

That help is readily given; we call it mercy. To fill in the valleys and straighten the paths within, to create the highway for our God within our souls, we are called to make choices that give God the room He needs to work in us. It means giving God's Spirit direct access to our hearts and to our lives, not holding back or barring the door in any way.

The sacraments are the ordinary means of grace that are given to us. Baptism opens the door. But we have to choose to go through the door and to enter into the power and grace of the sacramental life. For Catholics, the sacrament of reconciliation is the means that renews us in grace most powerfully. It is the sacrament of mercy.

Hear the invitation offered in your parish to prepare the way for Christ in your heart through confession. John the Baptist's cry still echoes in our hearts: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths . . . all flesh shall see the salvation of God." Invite someone to join you. Let this be truly an Advent of preparation and not just a busy season. It is time to respond to mercy.

There are troubles in the world. But every trouble out there begins in here. To meet the world's challenges, we must accomplish two actions. One concerns our intellect – our capacity for knowing – and the other concerns our will – our capacity for loving and choosing.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

Father Timothy M. Hayes is pastor of Chillicothe St. Mary and St. Peter; and Waverly, St. Mary, Queen of the Missions.



We must come to know the truth that God and His Church are always acting on our behalf. Even when members of the Church fail – whether among the leaders or the general flock – God is still in charge, and it will all work out for our salvation.

God is trustworthy and true. To prepare the way for Him, we must accept this deep in our spirits, clinging to our faith. This means trusting in God and listening to Him as He speaks through the voice of the Church, even in her brokenness.

We live for the praise of God's glory. Joy in receiving the word of truth – even when it is painful to hear – is a sign that the Spirit is at work in us. We can be confident that God will complete the good work He has begun in us, if only we respond to His call.

God Himself prepares the way into our hearts. But He seeks our cooperation. Confession is good for the soul. We need Jesus. Only God can help us. The Spirit is at work in us. The complexities of our world are not a match for God. He created us.

Advent presents us with an opportunity to review our experience of God's providence and to rediscover the hope that has been given to us. Hope resides in the memory, the faculty of the human spirit that allows us to stitch together what we have experienced into a trajectory.

We recall where we have been and the simple truth that God has always been there for us. Hope invites us to look to the future. Each one of us is still on a journey. God will be there for us throughout our lives. He has a plan that will bring it all together for the

12/6-12/11

MONDAY

Isaiah 35:1-10
 Psalm 85:9ab,10-14
 Luke 5:17-26

TUESDAY

Romans 10:9-18
 Psalm 96:1-3,10ac,11-13
 Matthew 18:12-14

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

Isaiah 41:13-20
 Psalm 145:1-9-13ab
 Matthew 11:11-15

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

FRIDAY

Isaiah 48:7-19
 Psalm 1:1-4,6
 Matthew 11:16-19

SATURDAY

Sirach 48:1-4,9-11
 Psalm 80:2ac,3b,15-16,18-19
 Matthew 17:9a,10-13

12/13-12/18

MONDAY

Numbers 24:2-7,15-17a
 Psalm 25:4-5ab,6,7bc,8-9
 Matthew 21:23-27

TUESDAY

Zephaniah 3:1-2,9-13
 Psalm 34:2-3,6-7,17=19,23
 Matthew 21:28-32

WEDNESDAY

Isaiah 45:6b-8,18,21c-25
 Psalm 85:9ab,10-14
 Luke 7:18b-23

THURSDAY

Isaiah 54:1-10
 Psalm 30:2,4-6,11-12a,13b
 Luke 7:24-30

FRIDAY

Genesis 49:2,8-10
 Psalm 72:1-4ab,7-8,17
 Matthew 1:1-17

SATURDAY

Jeremiah 23:5-8
 Psalm 72:1-2,12-13,18-19
 Matthew 1:18-25

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF DEC. 5 AND DEC. 12, 2021

SUNDAY MASS

10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org.

10:30 a.m. Mass from Portsmouth St. Mary Church on St. Gabriel Radio (FM 88.3), Portsmouth.

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 WOW 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.

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 and diocesan website, 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); Columbus St. Patrick (www.stpatrickcolumbus.org); Delaware St. Mary (www.delawarestmary.org); Sunbury St. John Neumann (www.saintjohnsunbury.org); and Columbus Immaculate Conception (www.iccols.org). Check your parish website for additional information.

We pray Weeks II and III Seasonal Proper, Liturgy of the Hours.

whole of creation.

When we express gratitude to God, we acknowledge our relationship with Him. We must acknowledge that it is because the Lord has done great things for us, we are filled with joy.

Jesus invites us to open our lives to Him. God takes delight in the human race because He sees the perfection He intends for us fulfilled in Jesus His Son. In Jesus, and in His Church, especially the sacraments, we are filled with joy.

Third Sunday of Advent Year C

It's time for all to draw closer to God through repentance

Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18

Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, marked in the Liturgy by the pink candle and rose vestments, invites us to experience that "leap of joy" that comes just before we reach our goal. God speaks to us in the midst of the darkness and tells us to rejoice. The Lord is near to us. He invites us

to acknowledge that He is with us and that He is merciful.

The message of Advent is a message of hope and expectation. God is available to all of us. There is no human situation that is foreign to Him. Human beings in every circumstance, even persons considered outcasts, can draw close to God. Every human heart seeks to respond to this truth.

John the Baptist's preaching paved the way for Jesus. John preached a baptism of repentance. Jesus came

in meekness and humility, surprising everyone, even John. The fire Jesus preached was not of condemnation but of the kingdom of mercy.

God's mercy is offered to us in these days of preparation for Christmas. We are called, invited, urged and even begged by God Himself to draw close to Him. We are busy with so many things. But now is the time to turn back to God. The time of mercy is at hand.

We often hear of God's extraor-

dinary actions to make His mercy known. The sacraments are the ordinary means of receiving that mercy, especially the sacrament of reconciliation. In approaching this sacrament, we have a chance to change our hearts and to give ourselves anew to the action of grace.

If you have not been to the sacrament of reconciliation in a long time,

See REPENTANCE, Page 23

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Mary exemplifies what God wants us to be

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

The Immaculate Conception is God’s work, creating Mary for the purpose for which He brought her into being – to be the mother of the messiah, the hope of Israel and the savior of the world. In Mary, we see pure humanity.

Mary is saved from the beginning of her existence, giving human nature a “clean start.” The pure idea God has of humanity is given an existence in a human person, who is supplied with the graces necessary to cooperate.

There is a growth in Mary. She begins where we end up. Her human nature still has to be stretched in capacity to “take God straight” in the Incar-

nation, when she gives her fiat to the message of the angel and to continue to consent, “Thy will be done,” as her Son embraces His own death on the cross.

From the divine gift of the Immaculate Conception, we learn many things. God is God. He is sovereign. Our sin does not and cannot impede His will. He is creator, and He is all-good. He has chosen to share that very goodness with His creatures, starting with Mary in view of her role in salvation history.

God is provident. He prepares us for what He intends us to be and do for Him. We can trust God to have an answer for every circumstance.

We must cooperate with grace. God gave Mary the help she needed, giving humanity itself a “jump start” in the process of accepting salvation in

Christ. But she had to assent to it freely, responding to the fullness of grace within her own person.

We can look at Mary to discover what God wants for us. The Immaculate Conception gives us a glimpse of what God wants us to be as His creatures, free from sin, perfected by grace, entirely reliant on the merits of Christ, living for Jesus and accepting the salvation He offers.

Mary accepted with love her own call to be Jesus’ mother, and she gave herself fully to Him. In return, He gave her to us, as the prime example of what He can do in our human nature.

With Mary, we can express gratitude for our very being. In the Magnificat, Mary says, “My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord.” She is our mother in the order of grace, and she

continues to pray for us and with us.

Mary is the Immaculate Conception. Her human nature is the renewed nature God gives through the merits of her Son. By cooperation with the great graces given to her, Mary becomes the pure vessel that gives us salvation in the person of her divine Son.

May we be sons and daughters worthy of such a mother! Let us respond as she does, confident of her intercession for us: Let it be done to us, according to Your Word.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is the patronal feast of the United States of America. On this day, let us pray for our country and its leaders. May we be open to the action of grace that allows us to be a beacon of hope for the world, living in freedom and in a manner that supports true justice for all.

CATHOLIC WORD SEARCH

CHRISTMAS

www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

V	I	A	O	Z	S	U	S	N	E	C	L	N	L	E
H	I	V	N	O	I	T	H	C	N	B	Y	I	G	J
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P	M	A	O	L	G	G	W	Q	F	I	P	G	V	D

ANGELS
 ANNUNCIATION
 BETHLEHEM
 CENSUS
 EMMANUEL

HEROD
 HOLY SPIRIT
 HOMAGE
 INCARNATION
 MAGI

PRESENTATION
 SHEPHERD
 STAR
 VISITORS
 WISE MEN

REPENTANCE, continued from Page 22

due to the reality of COVID or due to a lapse in practice, let this be the moment you begin again. Whatever may stand in the way for you, hear the baptist’s cry for you to open your heart to the action of grace and respond to mercy’s call.

Listen to St. Paul’s encouragement: “Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! The Lord is near.” And He is the Lord of mercy.

The prayer of the Church during these days is that we may be made ready for the coming of Christ at the end of time and into our hearts as we continue our earthly journey. Jesus invites us through word and sacrament to open our lives to Him. We are meant to give all we are to the Lord, to become holy, to share the good news and to cooperate both materially and spiritually in the work of salvation.

The difficult experiences of the past few years have affected all of us. We can be tempted to give in to discouragement. When we listen to the words of division and controversy, despair is a natural response. Sorrow can take root in our spirits and challenge our faith.

The message of the Spirit offers hope instead. This does not mean a denial of the struggles we face. Rather, it encourages us to look up and to realize that our salvation is near at hand. Let us take our cue from the liturgy: Gaudete! “Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! The Lord is near.”

May we open our hearts to the Spirit, and may we rejoice in the power of the living God at work among us!

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

AGRIESTI, Mary J. (Mirolo), 97, Nov. 12
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

BARNHART, Richard J., 92, Nov. 13
St. Mary Church, Marion

BOCH, Patrick, 64, Nov. 4
St. Mary Church, Bremen

BOCH, Virginia (Thimmes), 93, Nov. 3
St. Mary Church, Bremen

CLOUD, Robert T., 73, Nov. 18
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

COCKERELL, Mary A. (Flichia), 67, Nov. 12
St. Anthony Church, Columbus

CULLMAN, Sharon (Buonauro), 62, Nov. 10
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

DALPIAZ, Helen (Davis), 94, Nov. 12
St. Joseph Church, Dover

DORMENDO, Mary A. (Pongonis), 92, formerly of Columbus, Nov. 20
Immaculate Conception Church, Willoughby

FERRARO, Dr. James II, 82, Nov. 18
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

FOURNIER, Marie T. (Musser), 95, Nov. 12
St. Leo the Great Oratory, Columbus

GALLUCCI, Charlene R. (Lowry), 88, Nov. 16
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

GLAUB, Sharon K. (Howell), 72, Nov. 21
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

HELWIG, Louis "Brent," 83, Nov. 17
St. Joseph Church, Dover

HICKEY, Donna M. (Ryan), 95, Oct. 17
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

HISRICH, Mary, 70, Nov. 6
St. Joseph Church, Dover

JASPER, Theodore F., 93, Nov. 13
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

KENNY, William, 76, Nov. 11
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

KNAPP, Richard L., 74, Nov. 11
St. John XXIII Church, Canal Winchester

MacNEALY, Mary J. (Fogle), 76, Oct. 29
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

MARTIN, William "Bill," 74, Nov. 21
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

McGRATH, Linda, 53, Nov. 13
Immaculate Conception Church, Kenton

MILLER, Edward "Mike," 86, Nov. 9
St. Peter Church, Columbus

O'BRIEN, Doris J. (Browning), 83, Nov. 14
St. Paul Church, Westerville

PENTELLA, Vincent J. Jr., 73, Nov. 11
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Columbus

RIFFLE, Deborah A. (Batross), 67, Nov. 14
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

RODDY, Mary C., 89, Nov. 10
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

SCHMIDT, Agnes T. (Moffitt), 96, Nov. 13
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

SCHRAER, Patricia A. (Thorburn), 87, Nov. 11
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

SHORT, Donald E., 89, Nov. 18
St. Paul Church, Westerville

SKUNDA, Michael J., 71, Nov. 10
St. Thomas More Newman Center, Columbus

SPIRES, Angeline R. (Walker), 83, Nov. 13
St. Mary Church, Chillicothe

STARRETT, John M., 66, Nov. 6
St. Leo the Great Oratory, Columbus

STEPHENS, Sharon, 75, Nov. 21
St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

VOELM, Clint, 70, Nov. 17
St. Joseph Church, Dover

WALLACE, Charles "John," 86, Nov. 6
St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

WARD, Janet (DiLoreto), 81, Nov. 13
St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

Father James A. Nicolicchia, OP

Funeral Mass for Father James A. Nicolicchia, OP, 89, who died Tuesday, Nov. 16 at the Mohun Health Care Center in Columbus, was celebrated Monday, Nov. 22 at Columbus St. Patrick Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Somerset.

He was born in Brooklyn, New York on March 2, 1932, to the late James and Caroline (Panebiano) Nicolicchia. He graduated from Nutley (New Jersey) High School in 1951 and served in the U.S. Navy in the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean from 1951 to 1955.

He enrolled in Providence (Rhode Island) College as a preparatory student of the Dominican order of priests in 1956 and entered the novitiate at St. Joseph Priory in Somerset in 1958, receiving the religious name Andrew. He was simply professed on Aug. 16,

1959, studied philosophy at St. Stephen Priory in Dover, Massachusetts from 1959 to 1962, received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Providence College and studied theology at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C., from 1962 to 1966.

He was solemnly professed as a Dominican on Aug. 16, 1962 and was ordained a priesthood on June 10, 1965 at St. Dominic Church in Washington by Auxiliary Bishop William McDonald of Washington.

He served in parish ministry at St. Dominic Church, Youngstown and at churches in New York, Michigan and New Jersey and St. Dominic Church in Washington. In 2015, he moved to the Dominican Center for Assisted Living in Washington, where he lived until coming to Columbus a few months ago.

Richard D. "Dick" Finn Jr.

Funeral Mass for Richard D. "Dick" Finn Jr., 88, who died Tuesday, Nov. 16, was celebrated Monday, Nov. 22 at Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church.

He was born on March 12, 1933 in Lima to Richie and Dorothy Finn. He graduated from Lima St. Rose High School and Ohio State University, where he was a pitcher and captain on the 1955 Big Ten Conference championship baseball team. He also earned a master's degree from the University of Toledo.

He taught and coached at Toledo Central Catholic and Toledo Woodward high schools, was head baseball

coach at the University of Toledo from 1964 to 1969, then returned to Ohio State as an assistant coach in 1969. He was the Buckeyes' head coach from 1976 to 1987 and his teams compiled a record of 310-262-4 overall and 92-99 in Big Ten play.

He was inducted into several halls of fame, volunteered for many organizations and was honored by the Shamrock Club of Columbus as its 1993 Irish Man of the Year.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife of 60 years, Bea. Survivors include seven children, 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

John J. Hollern

Funeral Mass for John J. Hollern, 74, who died Thursday, Nov. 11, was celebrated Saturday, Nov. 20 at Columbus St. Matthias Church.

He was born in Columbus on Dec. 28, 1946 to the late James and Mary Hollern and was a graduate of Columbus Aquinas High School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Leo (Florida) College and a Master of Science degree in guidance and counseling at Ohio State University.

He began his career in education as a teacher and coach at Columbus St.

Christopher School (now Trinity Elementary School) and was employed by the Columbus City Schools system for more than 35 years, teaching math and social studies and coaching softball, track and soccer. He served on the Woodward Park advisory board and was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Survivors include his wife, Tarie (Brigham); daughters, Laura (Scott) Thorne and Julie (David) Lombardo; and five granddaughters.

In the marriage case styled GARY NEAL THOMAS and MARGARET GASCH, the Tribunal of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio is currently unaware of the present address of MARGARET GASCH. The Tribunal herewith informs her of the case and invites her to contact REVEREND ROBERT KITSMILLER, M.Div, JCL, Presiding and sole Judge, no later than - 20 DECEMBER 2021, or call phone (614)241-2500 Extension 1. Anyone who knows of the whereabouts of MARGARET GASCH is herewith asked to make this Citation known to her or to inform the Tribunal of her current address.

Given this 5 DECEMBER 2021;

REVEREND ROBERT KITSMILLER, M.Div, JCL
Presiding Judge

KAREN KITCHELL
Notary



Msgr. John Cody's funeral homily for Father Dennis Stevenson

"Dennis Stevenson was son, brother, uncle, teacher, priest, parochial minister, canon lawyer, defender of the bond, judge, and adjutant judicial vicar of the Diocese of Columbus Tribunal. But these only tell us who he was and what he did in his 67 years of life and his 33 years as a priest. There is much more we could say about Dennis: about his kindness, his friendliness, his sense of humor, his love of family, his devotion to his students, parishioners and brother priests over the years.

"My association with Father Dennis began while he was in the seminary and I was in my first pastorate at St. Ladislav Parish in the south side of Columbus 40 years ago. Mount St. Mary Seminary in Cincinnati required seminarians to serve a pastoral year in one of their diocesan parishes prior to ordination. I was glad and happy that Dennis was assigned to me and St. Ladislav for that year, and it was then and there that our friendship began.

"Being somewhat older than his classmates and having served as a teacher at Finland School formed Dennis as an excellent teacher and master of the English language. In those days, seminarians in parishes were permitted to give reflections during Mass, and since we had daily Mass at St. Ladislav, there were many times that Dennis gave his reflections on the readings of that day to students and faculty alike.

"He brought a wealth of experience and insight to that task, was gifted in his articulation of the faith and was involved in all aspects of parish life.

Marcia A. Troiano

Marcia A. Troiano, 80, a former teacher at Hilliard St. Brendan School, died Monday, Sept. 20 in Las Vegas.

She graduated from Vandergriff (Pennsylvania) High School, received a Bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Seton Hill College in Greensburg, Pennsylvania and did postgraduate studies at Ohio State University.

She taught science at St. Brendan School for 25 years and organized an-

BIOETHICS, *continued from Page 4*

By pushing back against the hollow notion of "consent-for-tonight" and encouraging chaste continence until marriage, we initiate the process of restoring sex to its rightful place — not as contractual or bargained recreation, but as the unrestricted gift of one for the other and the reception of that same gift.

In this perspective, unique to the setting of marriage, men and women give of themselves for the sake of each other. Such a form of mutual honoring involves the sacrifice of oneself in an other-centeredness that can and often

I also enjoyed his company as a partner in ministry and found him eager to learn and eager to serve. We became friends during that time. Life in the rectory was never dull and we spent a lot of time together.

"He was handicapped, but never defeated or brought low by this. Though limited, he did the best he could. Dennis was an able and intelligent canonist, and that was his chief ministry at the time of his passing.

"The Scripture reading chosen for his funeral Mass speak of our lives in Christ and our final destiny. If any of us want to know what happened to Father Dennis, the selection from the Book of Wisdom tells us that the souls of the just are in the hand of God and no torment shall touch them.

"And if in their lives, they endured suffering and pain, these served not to destroy, but to strengthen and purify — tried as gold in the furnace, and as sacrificial offering God takes to Himself.

"Psalm 23 is perhaps the most comforting image of God we find in Holy Scripture — the image of the shepherd who leads his flock to cool waters, refreshes them, guides them along safe paths and truly loves his flock so much that even if they walk in the shadow of darkness and death, they fear no evil, for the shepherd is with them.

"Thus the psalmist can say 'Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and in the Lord's own house I shall dwell forever.' These words were a comfort to Dennis, and they give all of us much

nual science fairs, and her students received honors at state competitions. She received a national Golden Apple Award for teaching from Ashland Inc.

Survivors include her husband, Dr. Marlin Troiano; daughters, Laura Troiano and Jennifer (Dean) Breudigam; son, Dr. Tim Troiano (Donna Riggs); brother, Stephen; sisters, Jayne (Rick) Sulser and Mary Lee Rybar (Scot Hunter); and two grandsons.

does elevate the dignity of each to a new and transcendent level.

The ethical issue, in sum, is not merely one of mutual consent, but of authentic interpersonal good. Consenting to harmonious hedonisms or reciprocal exploitation is obviously against the good of the individuals involved, as anyone who has ever been sexually objectified, used and discarded sadly knows. Consent is necessary, but not sufficient. What also is needed is to secure the mutual, lasting good of the parties involved.

confidence and hope as we journey through this life to our final destination, which is where God wants us to be — in His kingdom forever.

"Romans 14 reminds us that we not only belong to ourselves, but that we really belong to God, so that whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. Paul also tells us that Jesus died and came to life so that He might be the Lord of both the living and the dead. St. Paul further reminds us that all of us will come before the judgment seat of God and that each of us will have to give an account of ourselves before God.

"Paul says this not to scare or frighten us, but to emphasize that God expects us to make a difference for the good during our lives on this earth — that we are to serve and not to be served, but to give ourselves in generous service of God and neighbor. The parable of the talents illustrates the teaching of Jesus that we are expected to make use of whatever gifts God has given us and for which we will be accountable.

"The beatitudes in today's Gospel reading call blessed those whom our modern culture would not see as blessed in any way. To be blessed is to enjoy the favor of God. God's ways and thoughts are not always ours. We know that, yet we don't always like that, but eventually learn that in His will is our

peace.

"Jesus calls as blessed the poor in spirit, those who are mourn, those who are weak, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, and those who are merciful, clean of heart and peacemakers. And even those persecuted for the sake of righteousness, as well as those who are insulted and persecuted and declared evil falsely because of their faith in Jesus — for their reward will be great in heaven.

"To see these beatitudes are countercultural and challenging to us is to highlight and emphasize the values that Jesus expects of us who are his disciples to live by and to die by, if necessary.

"In his life, Father Dennis Stevenson did his best, despite his limitations, to be a faithful disciple, to embrace the teachings and values of Jesus and to give his life in service to God and God's people. I think that Dennis would be embarrassed if I tried to canonize him in this homily. He knew painfully his weaknesses and limitations. But he never gave up.

"May we also do our best to serve God and neighbor, to live and preach the Gospel by what we say and do, and to never count the cost. May you rest in peace, Dennis, and know the joy of life with God forever."

SUNDAY, DEC. 5TH

SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING AT



St. Mary's Church & School

★ GERMAN VILLAGE LIGHTS ★

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE | 10 AM - 9 PM

GERMAN MAENNERCHOR CHOIRS & HANDBELL CHOIRS MUSIC CONCERT | 3 PM

SPAGHETTI DINNER | 4 - 7 PM

SANTA LOCATED INSIDE ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

COOKIE SALE & PRE-ORDER PICK-UP ON SCHOOL LAWN | 4 - 8 PM

REINDEER ON PARISH LAWN & HOT COCOA SERVED W/ TOPPINGS | 5 - 7 PM

St. Cecilia School celebrates feast day



Columbus St. Cecilia School students gather around a statue of their patroness, St. Cecilia, on her feast day, which was Monday, Nov. 22. They processed to the statue on the church grounds with Father Nicola Ventura, the parish pastor, after an all-school Mass at which students served as lectors, altar servers and singers in the choir. Students were also able to venerate a first-class relic of St. Cecilia. *Photo courtesy St. Cecilia School*

Christ Child Society donates books



Christ Child Society of Columbus collected more than 4,000 books during their National Day of Service Book Drive. The books will be distributed between the local Christ Child programs and the Reach Out and Read Program at Nationwide Children's Hospital pediatric clinics. Members sorting the donated books are (from left) Linda Vorisek, Catherine O'Connell, Suzanne Swartz, Nancy Richards, Molly Wood, Chris Grindley, Jeannette Oxender, Cindi Harmon, Nova Volanich, Janey Davies and Lori Caldwell. *Photo courtesy Molly Fanning*

Three St. Charles scholars recognized



Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School seniors (from left) Lennon Aledia and Justin Fagge were recognized as College Board National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars and Soloman Lisath was named a College Board National African American Recognition Program Scholar. Fagge also was a National Merit Semifinalist. The three qualified for the honors based on their outstanding PSAT/NMSQT and AP exam scores as well as grade-point averages of 3.5 or higher. *Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School*

St. Charles graduate named Rhodes Scholar

Justin Hadad, a 2017 graduate of Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School and a 2021 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is one of only 32 American Rhodes Scholars-elect for 2022. At UNC, he majored in economics and applied physics and minored in Latin, was a Morehead-Cain Scholar, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, an Honors Carolina laureate and an entrepreneur. Hadad has helped Silicon Valley companies Carbon and Zoomo design algorithms to analyze 3D printed parts and develop infrastructures for theft recovery. He also served as a research fellow for Louisville Forward, creating new financial policies for immigrants. After graduating from UNC, Hadad worked at a real-time simulation software company, Unity, designing software for low-tech industries. Alex Coccia, a 2010 St. Charles graduate, was the school's first alumnus to be named a Rhodes Scholar.



Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School

Diapers donated during Respect Life Month



Columbus Bishop Ready High School and Westerville St. Paul School held diaper drives during October for Respect Life Month and donated nearly 15,000 diapers to the Bottoms Up Diaper Drive ministry. Bishop Ready students (top photo) collected 2,111 diapers for families in need. St. Paul students (bottom photo) held a baby shower and accumulated 12,847 diapers and 23,269 baby wipes. *Photos courtesy Bottoms Up*



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4 pm

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

Christmas Eve - Family Mass
Prelude music & sing-along starting at 3:45 p.m.
The Bells of St. Mary's, Columbus OH

6 pm

"Noel, Noel"

Christmas Eve Latino Mass
Fully in Spanish

Midnight

"Night of Nights"

Christmas Eve - Solemn Holy Mass
Sacred Prelude Concert at 11:25 p.m.
Angelic Choir accompanied by
Baroque Chamber Orchestra
Organ directed by Mark Voris

10 am

"Joy To the World"

Christmas Day Mass
Prelude music starting at 9:45 a.m.
Utopia Brass Quintet: Organ & Violin
with Cantor to lead you in the Carols

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us..." John 1:14

Corpus Christi

Christmas Eve Mass: 4 PM
Christmas Day Mass: 9 AM

St. Ladislav

Christmas Eve Mass: 6 PM
Christmas Day Mass: 11 AM

