



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

# CATHOLIC TIMES

*A journal of Catholic life in Ohio*

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SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT  
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LANCASTER ST. MARY CHURCH GETS READY  
TO ENTER ITS THIRD CENTURY OF SERVICE

The Editor's Notebook*The Faith Revealed*

By David Garick, Editor



As we await the joyful celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord, now just a fortnight away, we do well to think about how God chooses to manifest his divine love to us. Human logic would seem to suggest that God should choose to reveal himself to the most educated and powerful in society to give his message the greatest impact. While he certainly did reveal himself to some influential people, his most important messengers have been very common folk.

During Advent, we hear the foretelling of the coming of the Messiah from John the Baptist. John was a simple man born of parents who did not have great wealth. He lived an ascetic life in the wilderness, wearing animal pelts and subsisting on locusts and honey. Yet his God-inspired message was so compelling that devout Jews ventured many miles across the wilderness to listen to him and be baptized by him in the Jordan River.

Likewise, Mary, chosen to be the Mother of God, was just a simple girl espoused to a carpenter from Nazareth. From such anonymous beginnings, she has been a source of inspiration and comfort to many generations. It is important to note that the first to share in the miracle of the Incarnation were shepherds from the countryside.

Mary continues to spread her message of love, pointing to her Son, Jesus. The church has recognized many instances where Mary has appeared to people on earth long after her assumption into heaven. In all of these cases, she chooses the most common of people to carry her message. We think of the simple peasant girl, Bernadette, who encountered Our Lady at the grotto of Lourdes, or the three Portuguese shepherd

children who saw Mary at Fatima.

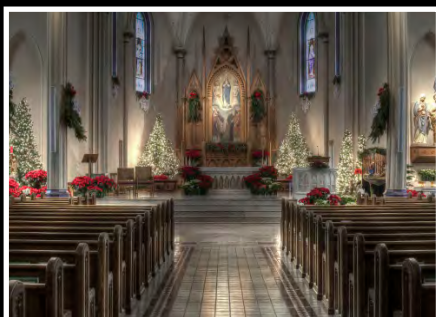
This week, we celebrate Mary's appearance here in North America. The story of Our Lady of Guadalupe is recounted on Page 20. Again, it is important to note that she chose as her messenger Juan Diego, a simple Indian living in the countryside near Mexico City. In canonizing Juan Diego as a saint of the Church, Pope John Paul II noted God's will to speak through the simple man: "What was Juan Diego like? Why did God look upon him? The Book of Sirach, as we have heard, teaches us that God alone 'is mighty; he is glorified by the humble' (cf. Sirach 3:20). St. Paul's words, also proclaimed at this celebration, shed light on the divine way of bringing about salvation: "God chose what is low and despised in the world ... so that no human being might boast in the presence of God (1 Corinthians 1:28,29)."

Events such as the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe should remind us that God is constantly reaching out to all of us. We may not see an apparition of Our Lady or be visited by a host of angels in a field. But God does reach out to each of our hearts with his message of love and redemption. We do not need to be biblical scholars or world leaders to be his emissaries. We need only to have open hearts to hear the blessed message and to share it, as St. Juan Diego did. We need not be immaculately conceived like Mary to hear God's will for our lives and to answer "be it done to me according to your will." God became flesh and dwelt among us that we might believe and have everlasting life. It is our mission to carry out that message.

**Second Week  
of Advent****Immaculate Conception**

**This stained-glass window at St. Mary Church in Manhasset, New York, depicts Mary appearing to St. Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France, as the Immaculate Conception in 1858. Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854 that Mary was conceived free of original sin. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of the United States, is celebrated on Dec. 8.**

CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

*Front Page photo:*

**The sanctuary of Lancaster St. Mary Church, which was dedicated in 1864. The parish is preparing for its 200th anniversary in 2020.**

Photo courtesy St. Mary Church

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Bishop Frederick F. Campbell, DD, PhD ~ President &amp; Publisher

David Garick ~ Editor (dgarick@columbuscatholic.org)

Tim Puet ~ Reporter (tpuet@columbuscatholic.org)

Alexandra Keves ~ Graphic Design Manager (akeves@columbuscatholic.org)

Mailing Address: 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215

Editorial/Advertising: (614) 224-5195 FAX (614) 241-2518

Subscriptions (614) 224-6530 FAX (614) 241-2573

(subscriptions @columbuscatholic.org)

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## Catholic liturgies avoid Christmas decorations, carols in Advent

By Carol Zimmermann

Catholic News Service

During the weeks before Christmas, Catholic churches stand out for what they are missing.

Unlike stores, malls, public buildings and homes that start gearing up for Christmas at least by Thanksgiving, churches appear almost stark, save for Advent wreaths and maybe some greenery or white lights.

“The chance for us to be a little out of sync or a little countercultural is not a bad thing,” said Paulist Father Larry Rice, director of the University Catholic Center at the University of Texas at Austin and the former director of the St. Thomas More Newman Center at The Ohio State University.

By the same token, he is not about to completely avoid listening to Christmas music until Dec. 24, either. The key is to experience that “being out-of-sync feeling in a way that is helpful and teaches us something about our faith,” he told Catholic News Service.

Others find that with the frenetic pace of the Christmas season, it is calming to go into an undecorated church and sing more somber hymns like *O Come,*



*O Come, Emmanuel.* But that shouldn't be the only draw, noted Jesuit Father Bruce Morrill, who is the Edward A. Malloy professor of Catholic studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee.

He said the dissonance between how the church and society at large celebrate Christmas is that the church celebration begins, not ends, on Dec. 25. The shopping season and the Christian church calendar overlap, but don't connect, he added.

And even though Catholic churches -- in liturgies at least -- steer clear of Christmas carols during Advent and

keep their decorations to a minimum, Father Morrill said he isn't about to advise Catholic families to do the same.

“It's hard to tell people what to do with their rituals and symbols,” he said, adding, “that horse is out of the barn.”

He remembers a family on the street in Maine where he grew up who didn't put their Christmas decorations up until Dec. 24 and didn't take them down until Candlemas, commemorating the presentation of Jesus in the temple, which is celebrated on Feb. 2 -- the 40th day of the Christmas season.

He is pretty sure that family's children or grandchildren aren't keeping up that tradition.

Father Rice similarly doesn't give families a lot of advice on when to do Christmas decorating, but said that when he has been pressed on it, he has advised families to do it in stages -- such as putting up the tree and having simple decorations on it, then adding to this on Christmas Eve.

He said it's a joyful time which Catholics should tap into.

Celebrating Advent is a little tricky in campus ministry, he noted, since the church's quiet, reflective period comes

at the same time as students are frantic over exams, papers and Christmas preparations.

This year, he said that on the day before the start of Advent, students at the Texas campus planned to decorate the Catholic center with purple altar cloths, pine garlands and some white lights.

As Father Morrill sees it, decorating churches with white lights or greenery almost bridges the secular and religious celebrations of Christmas, and that's OK by him. It beats using blue instead of purple for Advent wreaths or liturgical vestments, which he said some parishes did in the '80s until church leaders came down on it.

Liturgical notes for Advent posted online by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops -- <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent> -- point out that the liturgical color for Advent is purple, just like Lent -- as both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days.

They say Advent “includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting and disciplining our hearts for

See **SYMBOLS**, Page 7

## Collection helps aging sisters, brothers, and priests in religious orders

Catholics in the Diocese of Columbus will have the opportunity to “give to those who have given a lifetime” as part of the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which will be taken in parishes on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 9 and 10. Coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office in Washington, the annual appeal benefits 32,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious-order priests whose congregations lack adequate retirement funding.

Last year, the Diocese of Columbus contributed \$133,506.41 to the appeal. Women and men religious who serve or have served in the diocese but whose communities are based elsewhere may benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious.

The 2016 collection raised almost \$30.7 million. Roughly 94 cents of every dollar collected aids senior religious. In June, the NRRO distributed \$25 million to 390 religious communities across the nation. Communities utilize these funds

to bolster retirement savings and subsidize expenses, such as prescription medications and nursing care. Throughout the year, additional funding is allocated to assist religious communities with the greatest needs and to promote ongoing education in retirement planning and elder care delivery.

“We are humbled and profoundly grateful for the love and support of Catholics across the nation,” said Sister Stephanie Still, PBVM, the NRRO's executive director.

Despite this generosity, many religious communities still struggle to provide for aging members. Only 41 of the 539 communities submitting data to the NRRO in 2016 were adequately funded for retirement. Traditionally, Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious-order priests served for small stipends that did not include retirement benefits. Today, hundreds of religious communities lack sufficient retirement savings. Compounding the funding shortage are the rising cost



of care and the decrease in income that has resulted from the declining number of religious able to serve in compensated ministry.

In addition to providing assistance for day-to-day needs, proceeds from the collection underwrite initiatives to help religious communities address the factors underlying their retirement shortfalls. These efforts have helped provide solutions such as collaborative care facilities, strategic partnerships

with health care providers, and many cost-saving measures.

“I visit many religious communities and see the good works that members, young and old, provide,” Sister Stephanie said. “Generosity to the annual collection ensures our office can furnish support to help these communities care for older members while continuing their ministries and witness.”

To learn more, visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org).

## Flaget students make 'St. Anthony's Scarves'

Chillicothe Bishop Flaget School students from prekindergarten to eighth grade spent the day before Thanksgiving break making more than 300 "St. Anthony's Scarves" to share with those in the community who need them. The title refers to the patron saint of lost items. Each scarf has a tag which explains that it is not lost, but is free to anyone who might need it. First-grade teacher Julie Beatty saw a similar project on Facebook and presented the idea to the school staff.

"Everyone was in agreement that it would be a good service project for the students because it required the students to think about their own community and the difference they could make," Flaget principal Laura Corcoran said. Some scarves were donated to local organizations, and others were left in various locations where those in need are welcome to take them.

Eighth-grade students purchased fleece for the scarves and prepared the material so younger students could finish them through knotting or weaving the material together. Conversations during the project focused on who might need the items and how to get scarves to them. Students also expressed concerns that people would need gloves, hats, coats, and blankets.

"We want our kids to see the need in their community as well as the world. When you have first-grade students talking about how we need to do more to help the less fortunate in our community, you know you are on the right track. It's a good feeling when they are excited about the difference that they can make and are ready to get started. We want them to know that they can make a difference in the lives of others every single day," Corcoran said.



Working on the "St. Anthony's Scarves" project are Chillicothe Bishop Flaget School third-graders Amelia Barron (foreground, right) and Daniel Rourke.

Photo/Bishop Flaget School

## ODU named top military-friendly university in Ohio

For the ninth consecutive year, Victory Media has chosen Ohio Dominican University as a military-friendly school. The organization also has selected ODU as a Top 10 Gold school, ranking it as the best in Ohio among private colleges and universities with fewer than 10,000 students. In addition, it is ranked fourth in the United States, one spot higher than in last year's rankings.

The 2018 military-friendly schools list recognizes colleges, universities, and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's military members, veterans, and spouses as students and to ensure their success on campus.

"Our veterans perform extraordinarily well in the classroom and go on to success in their workplace and their communities," said retired Army Maj. Gen. Dennis Laich, director of ODU's PATRIOTS program. "With this honor, we are more committed than ever to serving America's veterans."

To further demonstrate its commitment to current and past military service members and their dependents, ODU recently announced a Salute to Service scholarship. Beginning in 2018, the university will cover a maximum of \$3,000 in tuition per semester that is not already covered by military education ben-

efits or other state and federal grants and scholarships. The scholarship will help many students achieve their goal of completing a degree at little to no personal expense.

ODU first launched the PATRIOTS program more than 20 years ago to meet the educational needs of returning Gulf War veterans. The program allows veterans to achieve their academic goals by pursuing an associate, bachelor's, or master's degree. The university reintroduced the PATRIOTS program in response to the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, also known as the Post-9/11 GI Bill. ODU also is an active participant in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Yellow Ribbon program.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill enables qualified veterans to earn a college degree or graduate degree. Depending on the number of active-duty months they have served, post-9/11 veterans in Ohio may qualify for as much as 100 percent of their educational expenses, with allowances for monthly living costs, books, and student activity fees. Veterans may receive as much as 36 months (or four academic years) of assistance.

For more information on ODU's office of military services, visit [ohiodominican.edu/Military](http://ohiodominican.edu/Military) or contact (614) 251-7400 or [military@ohiodominican.edu](mailto:military@ohiodominican.edu).

## St. Anthony students win prizes for cartoons

Students from Columbus St. Anthony School placed first and third in the group category and second and third in individual competition in a political cartoon contest for seventh- and eighth-graders sponsored by Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School. Group winners were (from left): Joyce Vamboi and Victoria Asiedu, third; and Caroline Sarpong, Abena Baffour-Awuah, Diana Orellana, and Samaria Beedles, first.

Photo courtesy St. Anthony School



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## Ohio Dominican to host 108<sup>th</sup> commencement ceremony

Ohio Dominican University will host its 108th commencement ceremony at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 16. More than 130 students will have degrees conferred upon them as they are joined by ODU faculty, staff, alumni, and hundreds of family and friends in Alumni Hall, on the university's campus at 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. A Baccalaureate Mass will be at 9 a.m. in Christ the King Chapel.

Dr. Sterling W. Hedrick, a renowned physician and former member of the ODU board of trustees, will deliver the commencement address and will receive an honorary doctor of science degree.



"The culmination of the student experience is marked by the tremendous pride they feel when they receive their hard-earned degree, and we are excited and blessed to celebrate this occasion with such an outstanding class of graduates," said Dr. Robert Gervasi, ODU president. "In addition, it

is a pleasure to recognize and honor Dr. Hedrick for the profound impact he's had on the evolution of Ohio Dominican's health care-related curriculum and partnerships, which has helped position ODU for future success while serving an important need in our community. It is my hope that

our new graduates are inspired by his address and example."

Hedrick is a graduate of Columbus Bishop Hartley High School. He earned his bachelor's degree from John Carroll University and his doctorate in medicine from The Ohio State University College of Medicine. He completed his training in internal medicine and rheumatology at University Hospitals in Cleveland. He previously was co-director of the musculoskeletal teaching module for first- and second-year medical students at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

Hedrick has spent the past 25 years as president of the Columbus Arthritis Center. He has expanded patient services, making it one of the nation's largest

rheumatology-specific centers. He also has served as director of Rheumatology at Mount Carmel Hospital and Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, where he and his colleagues also have volunteered their time to staff outpatient clinics.

When he was on the ODU board of trustees, he served as chair of its education affairs and student development committee. He was a driving force in establishing the university's physician assistant studies master's degree program, as well as its curriculum for the master of science degree in health care administration. In addition, his leadership and professional relationships helped ODU establish its early assurance program with Ohio University's Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.

## Building a Culture of Life conference planned in January

The combined efforts of Greater Columbus Right to Life, the diocesan offices for Social Concerns and Marriage and Family Life, and FEMM Health are bringing a Building a Culture of Life conference to central Ohio.

The conference will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Jan. 26 and 27, at Columbus St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road.

The program will feature talks by more than 20 educators and leaders in the pro-life movement, each of them recognized as experts in their fields. Those in attendance will be able to get beyond the basics for an in-depth analysis of some of the biggest moral,

medical, and legal issues of our day.

Admission to the conference is \$50 for both days and \$35 for Friday or Saturday. Student admission is \$15 each day. There is no charge for clergy and Religious. The cost includes educational seminars, continental breakfast, lunches, and all program materials. Scholarships are available for those whose financial circumstances make it difficult for them to attend.

For additional information about the conference, visit [www.gctrl.org/life-conference](http://www.gctrl.org/life-conference) or call (614) 241-2540.

Ben Hartings, author of the book "A Return to the Altar: A Sacred Journey

Through Grief and Joy," will give a Defender of Life testimony at 7 p.m. Jan. 26 at St. Peter Church in a separate event not connected with the conference. Admission is free.

Hartings' son, James, was given a fatal diagnosis at 21 weeks gestation while still in the womb. His mother, Lynn Hartings, chose to carry the child full term. The book tells the story of that experience and how it changed Ben

and Lynn's lives forever.

Greater Columbus Right to Life also will sponsor the annual pro-life rally at the Statehouse marking the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion. That event will be at noon Monday, Jan. 22 and will be preceded by the diocesan Respect Life Mass, celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell, at 10:30 a.m. in Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St.

## Advent lessons and carols

The parish choir of Newark St. Francis de Sales Church, 40 Granville St., again will present a special service of Advent lessons and carols at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17.

This service is a moving combination of the Scriptural prophecies of Christ's coming and the beautiful car-

ols of Advent, sung by choir and congregation. It is presented by choirs of many denominations and finds its home in the English collegiate and cathedral tradition.

It can be a welcome moment of prayerful rest in the busy weeks of Advent. A reception will follow.

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## Fasting and holy Communion; Preference for death penalty



### QUESTION & ANSWER

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE  
*Catholic News Service*

**Q.** I've heard several different takes on the rules with regard to fasting before receiving Communion. On the one hand, I've been told that we are not to ingest any food or drink within one half-hour of a service. But I've also heard that water or even coffee are not included in this prohibition.

Someone had mentioned to me also that this fasting doesn't apply if there are health issues involved. It seems to me that older parishioners take a stricter view on this, and younger parishioners a more relaxed one. Can you clarify for me what the real rules are? (southern Indiana)

**A.** The current rules on fasting before Holy Communion are simple and clearly expressed in the *Code of Canon Law*. They provide that one must abstain for one hour from all food and drink, with the exception of water or medicine, prior to receiving the Eucharist (Canon 919).

But that same canon notes that "the elderly, the infirm and those who care for them can receive the most holy Eucharist even if they have eaten something within the preceding hour." Perhaps the fact that these rules have changed several times within my own lifetime may explain why, in your words, there are "several different takes."

For centuries, Catholics were required to abstain from all food and drink (including water) from midnight of the evening before. (Since my family usually went to one of the later Masses on Sunday morning, I can tell you that this rule was something of a challenge.)

In 1953, Pope Pius XII decided that water or medicine no longer broke the fast. Four years later, that same pontiff -- anxious to make the Eucharist more easily available while still wanting to maintain proper reverence for this sacred gift -- reduced the time period; no longer would you have to fast from midnight but, instead, for only three hours.

Then, in 1964, Pope Paul VI reduced it even further -- to only one hour -- and that is still the rule. Note that fasting is required for one hour before the actual reception of Communion, not one hour before the start of Mass. (And note, too, that coffee drinkers do not get a pass; coffee does break the fast!)

**Q.** My question as a faithful Catholic is this: Is it wrong for me to pray daily and unceasingly for death? I have been in prison now for 25 years. I am so tired of this existence that I am seeking legal action to have my sentence changed from life in

prison to the death penalty.

I have always been opposed to capital punishment, but the past few years have made me realize the unbelievable suffering that results from a life term and what a relief death would bring. Nearly every one of my fellow prisoners -- even those on death row -- thinks that execution is much less cruel than life without parole.

I used to believe that God had a job for me to do here in prison, a role to play -- but I've never been able to find it, and the many years in prison have hardened my heart. It is so difficult to be talked about all the time and never really talked to. Is there any help for me? Is there anybody on my side? (Jefferson City, Missouri)

**A.** I don't see a problem with your praying for death. There are many accounts of saints asking to be taken into the peace of heaven and to be released from the pain of the present life. I think, though, that as a faithful Catholic, you should not be seeking the death penalty.

In October 2017, Pope Francis stated quite clearly that the death penalty "is, in itself, contrary to the Gospel." He said this in a talk marking the 25th anniversary of the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and suggested that the catechism's rejection of the death penalty needs to be stronger and more explicit.

The original text of the catechism in 1992 allowed for the use of the death penalty, but said that other means to protect human life should be used whenever possible. Five years later, that language was strengthened to prohibit the use of capital punishment, except in those situations where the identity and guilt of the perpetrator were certain and where the death penalty was "the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor" (No. 2267).

Now, in his recent October address, Pope Francis has made the church's rejection of the death penalty explicit and total. He said that the death penalty "heavily wounds human dignity," is an "inhuman measure" and extinguishes not only a human life, but the possibility that a person will recognize his or her errors, request forgiveness and begin a new life.

More than anything else, though, I would like to respond to your plaintive cry, "Is there any help for me?" I believe that there is. Why not speak to a priest-chaplain or counselor at your prison to help sort out the agony you are experiencing? Perhaps, through God's grace and human guidance, you might be able to play a part in lifting some of the daily burdens of your fellow inmates.

**Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at [askfatherdoyle@gmail.com](mailto:askfatherdoyle@gmail.com) and 30 Columbia Circle Drive, Albany NY 12203.**

## Pope says world has reached moral limit on nuclear deterrence

By Cindy Wooden

*Catholic News Service*

The Cold War policy of nuclear deterrence appears morally unacceptable today, Pope Francis said.

Pope St. John Paul II, in a 1982 message to the U.N. General Assembly, said deterrence "may still be judged morally acceptable" as a stage in the process of ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

But Pope Francis, in a message in early November to a Vatican conference, said "the very possession" of nuclear weapons "is to be firmly condemned."

During a news conference on Dec. 2 on his flight back to Rome from Dhaka, Bangladesh, Pope Francis was asked what had changed since St. John Paul wrote to the United Nations and whether the war of words between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un influenced his position.

"What has changed?" the pope responded. "The irrationality has changed."

Pope Francis said his position is open to debate, but "I'm convinced that we are at the limit of licitly having and using nuclear weapons."

The world's nuclear arsenals, he said, "are so sophisticated that you risk the destruction of humanity or a great part of humanity."

Even nuclear power plants raise questions, the pope said, because it seems that preventing accidents and cleaning up after them is almost impossible.

Pope Francis said he was not dictating "papal magisterium," or formal church teaching, but was raising a question that a pope should raise: "Today, is it licit to maintain the nuclear arsenals as they are or, to save creation and to save humanity, isn't it necessary to turn back?"

The weapons are designed to bring one side victory by destroying the other, he said, "and we are at the limit of what is licit."

**Correction** - The Dec. 3 *Catholic Times* printed an incorrect Eucharistic Adoration listing for Washington St. Colman of Cloyne Church, Adoration takes place there from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays during the school year.

## THE EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

By Rick Jeric

### *Inspiration and Motivation*



Coco is the number one movie of the year. Papa John's is the official pizza of the NFL. If you keep looking out the window each Christmas morning, one of these years there will be a Mercedes Benz outside with a big red bow on it, just for you. There is more joy at Target stores than anywhere else. The cute little puppy will attract you to the Mercedes Benz Winter Event. First Class is there to remind you that you're not in First Class. Presents for them, Kohl's cash for you. Ask Santa for a new i-phone. Michelob Ultra has 55 percent less carbs than a glass of white wine. Bud Light has special ingredients that will help you understand tonight's game better. Mercedes Benz, the best or nothing. Rock this Christmas with Walmart. Sexiest camera on earth. Anyone can save money with Geico. Do not play Pictionary with a sloth. Chevy trucks are the most reliable and best-selling. Ford trucks are the most reliable and best-selling. Dodge Ram trucks are the most reliable and best-selling. Santa wants you to leave him a bottle of Coca-Cola. More doing chores for mom and dad per roll of Bounty; you get more life per roll. For more good times this holiday season, go to Amazon. Think about what you can do with all that extra money after your 50 percent off Samsung phones. Tylenol: for what matters most. Master Pass, the modern way to pay. Tiger Woods returns tomorrow on the Golf Channel. Better call Jackson! The cheese is ours, the choice is yours. Happy Honda Days. You'll love what you find here. Team USA will show the world what makes America beautiful. Greatness awaits. What's a computer? Where is it you want to go? Better ingredients, better pizza. The freedom of knowing you are out in front. Bose, the official sound of the NFL. Every cleat tells a story. It would be great if human beings were really good at being human. Young, however you feel, really feel. Kia is the highest-ranked brand. Nationwide is on your side. This is why I'm hot. NBC is the home of Super Bowl LII (that's 52 if you are Roman-numerically challenged). Times change, the road home stays the same. That's a deal so good it can't be beat. Expect more, pay less. That's amazing, Molly. A special Christmas wall on NBC. Here's to the friends you can always count on. Give joy and get joy this weekend. Get the new U-2 album, *Songs of Experience*. Delivering the win. I strive now to be a part of the solution. The fun doesn't stop zone. Pay no interest for 12 months. There are only three seconds left; do you just take a knee or go for the Hail Mary? These are some pretty inspirational and motivational reasons to focus on television commercials this Advent.

Wednesday, Dec. 6 was the Feast of St. Nicholas. No one should put candy or anything edible in my shoes. After his wealthy parents died, Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made bishop while still a young man. He became widely known for his generosity to those in need, and his love for children. He had extraordinary character and is forever beloved and revered as protector and helper of those in need. Dec. 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and a holy day of obligation. It is on a Friday this year. What a great day to go to Mass! "The Blessed Virgin Mary in the first instance of her conception was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior."

Tuesday, Dec. 12 is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. She said to St. Juan Diego (whose feast day is Monday, Dec. 9) and she says to us, "I am the perfect and perpetual Virgin Mary, Mother of the true God through whom everything lives. I will give all my love, my compassion, my help, and my protection to the people. I am your merciful mother, of all mankind, of all those who love me, of those who cry to me, of those who seek me, and of those who have confidence in me." These are some pretty inspirational and motivational reasons to focus on our Catholic Faith this Advent.

## Bosco Bash youth rally set for Feb. 3

The Bosco Bash, the annual rally for young people of the diocese in sixth through eighth grades, will take place at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3 at Westerville St. Paul School, 61 Moss Road.



The event, whose theme this year is "Revive and Renew," is for Catholic and non-Catholic youth and includes high-energy activities, praise and worship music from the Station 14 band, talks, skits, service, prayer, small-group discussions, dinner, and Mass, all with the goal of helping middle-school teens deepen their relationship with God and helping youth ministers in their efforts to encourage young people. The program will end at about 9 p.m.

The main speaker for the day will be Katie Prejean McGrady (pictured), author of *Room 24: Adventures of a New Evangelist* and *Follow: Your Lifelong Adventure With Jesus*. She and

her husband, Tommy McGrady, live in Lake Charles, Louisiana, where she works as a theology teacher. Her presentation of "theological comedy" combines hard-hitting truths with humor and stories from her life.

Registration is available at <https://columbuscatholic.org/Bosco-Bash>. The cost is \$25 for young people and \$15 for adults, who are charged the lower price to encourage parent participation. Online registration must be submitted by noon Friday, Jan. 19 to be considered on time. Participants who register afterward will pay the same price, but there is no guarantee that they will receive an event T-shirt.

The rally is named for St. John Bosco, an Italian priest of the 19th century who founded the Salesian religious order and dedicated his life to the betterment and education of disadvantaged young people.

### SYMBOLS, continued from Page 3

the full joy of Christmas. This penitential dimension is expressed through the color purple, but also through the restrained manner of decorating the church and altar."

It also points out that floral decorations should be "marked by a moderation," as should the use of the organ and other musical instruments during Advent Masses.

The way the church celebrates Advent is nothing new. Timothy Brunk, a Villanova University associate professor in theology and religious studies, said it began in the fourth century in Europe but has never had the history or significance of Easter for the church.

But even though Advent doesn't have the penitential pull of Lent -- where people give

something up for 40 days or do something extra -- that doesn't mean the season should slip by without opportunities for spiritual growth.

Father Rice said it's important for Catholics to engage in spiritual preparation for Christmas, even in the middle of all the other preparations.

His advice: When you write a Christmas card, say a prayer for that person; while shopping, try to go about it in a slow and thoughtful way, not frantically running around, and let someone take that parking space you were eyeing.

Those actions, he said, are modern works of mercy on a simple and immediate level.

They also don't require batteries or store coupons.

## Wellston Sts. Peter and Paul students giving back

Students at Wellston Sts. Peter and Paul School and their families gathered more than 12 reusable bags filled with canned items and nonperishable foods to give to families in need during the Thanksgiving season. In addition, 20 blankets and nearly 100 personal care items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, body wash, shampoo, lip balm, coats, socks, washcloths, and pajamas were collected by the 125 students in preschool through eighth grade. All items were given to Compel Ministries in Wellston. For more than 100 years, the school has conducted service projects and regular collections that inspire and bring people together through the love of Christ and directly affect citizens of southern Ohio and beyond.

Photo courtesy Sts. Peter and Paul School



## Holy Spirit service project

Students at Columbus Holy Spirit School spent the month of November giving to others. The schoolwide service project for the month involved collecting items to donate to the food pantry of the Holy Spirit Church St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Third-grade students took the project under their wings and turned it into a lesson for all. They collected, counted, advertised, and created weekly announcement skits to encourage everyone to give. More than 600 items were donated.

The church and school also have been the site of a fresh produce market on every second Thursday of the month for the past six months. Members of the community are able to obtain fresh produce, bread, and meat for their families. The November market served 208 families, providing 676 individuals with fresh food. Middle school students volunteered at the pantry, helping guests find produce and carrying the items to their cars. Teachers helped run the computers that signed everyone in to receive their items.

Photo courtesy Holy Spirit School



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## Advent: the “both/and” of our faith

I looked up the word *advenio* in my old Latin dictionary and found that, depending on how it's used, the verb can mean “to draw near” or “to arrive.” The noun *adventus* is translated as either “approach” or “arrival.” The season of Advent encompasses both. We wait. We celebrate what already has come. It's the “both/and” of our faith. God is coming. God is already here.

During this season, we ponder that mystery and our participation in it. Liturgical readings are one place to start. For example, the first week of Advent is filled with passages from what is often called First Isaiah and provides glorious images of the kingdom to come: people from all nations streaming up the mountain of God, desiring to learn and walk in God's ways; a kingdom where all live together in peace; great feasts where God provides rich food and choice wine for everyone.

Isaiah paints more pictures: justice for the poor and vulnerable, abundant harvests, broad pastures and running streams. He shows us a God who does not judge by appearances and who responds immediately to the people's cries. These images were proclaimed in an eighth-century BC Judah that bears a resemblance to our current world situation. The introduction to Isaiah in the *Saint Mary's Press College Study Bible* describes the wealthy getting richer at the expense of the poor and nations posturing for war.

Despite the sins of the people, Isaiah's prophecies of the Holy One's faithfulness and the eventual arrival of a messianic king provided hope, along with the



calls for repentance to those who heard them. Isaiah's words provide hope for us, too, reminding us that God is merciful as well as just, and that with Grace, dark times that challenge and demand we heed God's word will not last forever.

Advent gospels speak of God already come. They tell not only the story of John the Baptist and how Jesus was born into our world through the faith and willingness of a young Jewish girl. They also tell of his public ministry, proclaiming God's kingdom with words and actions. He healed the sick, confronted those in positions of power, and showed compassion for the poor and struggling. When asked what was most important, he replied it was love—love of God, self, and neighbor.

Jesus was open to surprise, amazed at the deep faith coming not from the Israelites, but from “the other”—a centurion. Echoing Isaiah, Jesus told his followers that they'd be sharing the heavenly banquet with people they might not have expected, coming from east and west.

He relied on others to share in his work. When the huge crowd that had been listening to him for days

needed to be fed, Jesus asked first that those present share what they had. Then he blessed it. Before sending his disciples out to spread the good news, he lamented that there was much work to be done and few to do it.

Yes, God is already here, and has been since before time as we know it began. Yet “God is coming.” The events in our world, far from echoing the visions of Isaiah or the example of Jesus, speak of the need for this coming. The poor and vulnerable, so close to Jesus' heart, still are abused and overlooked by those grasping for power and wealth. Nations continue to prepare for and to wage war. We are far from beating swords into plowshares.

Jesus knew that being faithful to the commandment of love can bring suffering and death in a world unwilling to accept it. After his death and resurrection, he sent the Spirit who dwells within each of us and in every bit of creation. We are part of the “both/and,” the “coming” and the “already here.”

How do we live in the tension of this mystery? How do we join in God's work today? How do we live in dark times and still have both faith in God-with-us and hope in God-to-come? Perhaps during Advent, we can take quiet time to listen for the Spirit that lives in our hearts, to become aware of our part giving birth to that bit of divinity that has been shared with us and that the world sorely needs. We are not only graced with the Presence of God with us; we are called to do our part in birthing the God who is yet to come.

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## Newark Catholic students make lifelong gifts for challenged children

Art students at Newark Catholic High School have joined the Memory Project, a charitable nonprofit organization that invites art teachers and their students to create and donate portraits to children around the



world who have faced substantial challenges such as neglect, abuse, loss of parents, violence, and extreme poverty.

Because such children usually have few personal keepsakes, the purpose of the portraits is to provide them with meaningful mementos of their youth. The project also allows art students to practice kindness and global awareness while enhancing their portraiture skills.

The Newark students received photos of five children in Syria who are waiting for portraits, then worked in their Painting II class to create the artwork. Once finished, the Memory Project delivers the portraits to the children.

The Memory Project is a nonprofit organization based in Middleton, Wisconsin. Since the project began in 2004, more than 100,000 art students in the United

States have created portraits for children in 44 nations.

**Pictured are Newark Catholic senior Natalie Moran working on one of the portraits, and program participants (from left) Marie Medert, art teacher Trisha Boehmer, Joseph Olinger, Natalie Moran, and Josh Hoy.**

Photos courtesy Newark Catholic High School



# LANCASTER ST. MARY CHURCH IS PLANNING A YEAR OF BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

**BY TIM PUET**

Reporter, Catholic Times

Lancaster St. Mary Church has served its community for nearly two full centuries and already has started celebrating its bicentennial, with much more to come as the actual anniversary year of 1820 gets closer.

Ohio's pioneer Catholic priest, Dominican Father (later Bishop) Edward Fenwick, came to the Fairfield County seat from nearby Somerset to celebrate the frontier community's first Mass

in 1817. The building where the Mass was celebrated, originally the residence of Michael Garaghty, located a short walk from the church, is still standing and now is headquarters for the Fairfield County Federation.

The 200th anniversary of that Mass was commemorated on Tuesday, Aug. 15, the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, with a procession from the federation building to the church, led by Bishop Frederick Campbell and Father Craig Eilerman, the church's pastor, followed by Mass.

The date of the first Mass is not known, but Aug. 15 was chosen to mark the occasion because it is the patronal feast of the parish, whose complete name is St. Mary of the Assumption Church. Father Eilerman said St. Mary's bicentennial celebration will begin on Aug. 15, 2019, and conclude on the same date the following year.

Plans for specific activities during the year are tentative, but he anticipates that there will be an anniversary event each month, with something for people of all ages over the course of the celebration.

Possibilities being considered include a major mission, a concert, a speaker series, a pilgrimage, a pictorial directory, an outreach project, a five-kilometer race, and issuance of some type of commemorative item.

St. Mary's is either the second-, third-, or fourth-oldest parish in the Columbus diocese. Somerset St. Joseph, founded in 1818, was the first.

Father Fenwick and other Somerset-based Dominicans traveled on horseback to other settlements where there were enough Catholics to form a church, and founded three still-existing parishes – St. Mary's, Junction City St. Patrick, and Danville St. Luke – in 1820.

The Dominicans served in Lancaster until 1839, when they relinquished care of St. Mary

Church to priests of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The Diocese of Columbus, which includes Lancaster and Fairfield County, was formed from the archdiocese in 1868, and next year will be celebrating its own 150th anniversary.

The current St. Mary Church, at High and Chestnut streets, was dedicated in 1864 and is the parish's third church building. The original church was on Chestnut Street, about a half-mile away. The second church was built in 1840, then served as a school until it was torn down in 1911 and replaced by the current rectory.

St. Mary's was the only Catholic church in Lancaster until St. Mark and St. Bernadette churches were formed in the 1960s in housing subdivisions being built at the time. "It's remarkable that Lancaster had one parish for so long," Father Eilerman said. "County seats of similar size in central Ohio – like Zanesville and Chillicothe, and Columbus, as well – ended up in the mid-1800s with their original churches almost immediately splitting into two parishes because Irish and German Catholics each wanted their own church. Lancaster, for whatever reason, didn't have that kind of situation."

St. Mary's, with about 1,350 families, is the largest of the Lancaster parishes, in part because of its strong sense of tradition.

"I've lived here all my life and

my parents were baptized here," said parishioner Jane Thimmes. "I can't imagine being in another parish, not just because of the family history, but because I've always been encouraged to get involved with things."

"I'm in the choir and work with the children's liturgy now, and have been in other activities over the years. I feel that the parish is part of my extended family, and hope I'm being open and welcoming to newcomers so they can feel the same thing."

Parishioner Helen Jones was an inactive Catholic for 20 years who felt a need to reconnect with the faith a few years ago.

"I live between Lancaster and Columbus and began attending Mass here because it was easier for me," she said. "What kept me coming was the strong sense of reverence and faithfulness I felt from so many parishioners."

"I attend the 7 a.m. Mass on Mondays and Wednesdays, and it's surprising how many people come to church at that hour. I never paid attention to the Mass before, so when I returned to the church, I learned the Mass by watching it and studying."

"The sacraments, the liturgy, the music, the pastor – the whole package, all drew me in. And the church building itself is gorgeous," she said. Updates under the pastorates of Father Eilerman and his predecessor,

Father Don Franks, have kept it structurally sound.

Parish member Link Llewellyn said the church's beauty and traditional look have added to his appreciation of the Catholic faith he found as an adult.

"It's wonderful how the stained-glass windows here tell stories of their own, as they were intended to," he said. "It makes you realize you're a part of the communion of saints, and has increased my sense of the depth of Catholicism."

Llewellyn said he was an atheist for the first 33 years of his life, then joined an evangelical denomination. His experiences there were positive, but he and a friend who was a minister in that church both felt they were missing something. He said both began asking the question "What is the church?" and became Catholics after realizing the Catholic Church's doctrine and history provided the answers they sought.

Llewellyn is one of about 40 men of the parish who are active in its That Man Is You! men's ministry, which has been meeting for the past two years at 6 a.m. Saturdays.

"It's not easy to be awake that early," he said, "but the men who come are enthusiastic about it. They have persevered in coming and they see how it combines church teaching with current social and medical science."



Left: Pictured are (from left) Lancaster St. Mary parishioners Jane Thimmes and Helen Jones; Father Craig Eilerman, pastor; Julie Ogilvie, parish and cemetery administrator; parishioner Link Llewellyn; and Brian McCauley, faith formation director. Right: St. Mary School principal Erin Schornack. (CT photos/Tim Puet)



"It's geared toward authentic male leadership. The first year concentrates on the family, with the second year making you look more outward," he said. Programs in subsequent years expand on the themes of the first two.

"What I've learned through That Man Is You! has made me more evangelistic and willing to express my faith to others," Llewellyn said.

Since January, about 100 women of the parish have been regularly attending the Walking with Purpose program from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays. Walking with Purpose is a women's Bible study that has been introduced at several diocesan parishes in the past two years. It is not connected with That Man Is You!, but both are similar in that they help men and women examine their roles in the family and the faith community and link everyday challenges with the solutions offered by the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church.

Parish faith formation director Brian McCauley said that this Tuesday, the parish will complete an eight-part adult faith enrichment program titled *Follow Me*, based on meeting Jesus through the Gospel of John. When school resumes in 2018 after the Christmas break, parents of Parish School of Religion students will have the opportu-

nity to view the *Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible* series by Jeff Cavins. "We hope this will build more community among PSR families and give both parents and children an opportunity to grow in the faith through the PSR program," he said.

PSR students are St. Mary parishioners who do not attend a Catholic school. McCauley said about 110 students from preschool through high school attend PSR classes from 10 to 11 a.m. Sundays. During Advent, they are collecting paper products and toiletry items for the Lancaster St. Vincent de Paul Society chapter, which has a center near downtown to serve those in need. On the Sundays when they are not studying church teachings, the students take part in devotions including the Stations of the Cross during Lent and the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, both twice a year.

McCauley also is in charge of the parish RCIA program. He said that last Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent, two people with no previous faith background took part in the Rite of Acceptance and became catechumens, meaning they will continue studying the faith in anticipation of being baptized and confirmed at the Easter Vigil. In addition, seven people baptized in other faith traditions are candidates for confirmation at that time. Two other participants in the program are at

its first step, that of being inquirers into the faith.

The parish's youth ministry activities, coordinated by Rachel McAnespie, include programs for high school students every Sunday evening and sixth- to eighth-graders twice a month on Tuesdays. The high school group is providing volunteers for the St. Vincent de Paul center each month and is viewing Franciscan Father Dave Pivonka's DVD series, *The Wild Goose*, on the Holy Spirit.

Deacon Frank Sullivan, who has served the parish for all his 16 years in the diaconate, is a facilitator for the parish's family life committee, which sponsors several activities throughout the year, including an annual World Marriage Day celebration and dance in February, the yearly parish picnic, movie and speaker nights, and coffee and doughnuts after Mass once a month.

The committee also provides catechists for the pre-Cana marriage preparation program conducted twice a year by parishes in the Fairfield-Hocking-Pickaway Deanery. The parishes take turns hosting the event.

Deacon Sullivan also leads the parish social concerns committee. It provides sandwiches once a month for the homeless; visits prisoners at the Southeastern Correctional Institution in Lancaster with Father Eilerman; conducts bingo nights at area nursing

homes; promotes Respect Life events; supports the St. Vincent de Pau Society; mails prayer cards to the sick and homebound; passes out a themed holy card once a year to all parishioners; and sponsors an annual Rosary day at the parish cemetery.

The cemetery, about two miles from the church, was dedicated on Nov. 1, 1881. Julie Ogilvie, cemetery and parish administrator, said about 6,500 people are buried there, with about 50 burials occurring this year. It has about 15 acres developed and another 18 acres available.

Last weekend, the parish conducted a family Advent celebration, featuring a light lunch with homemade soup and a chance for children to create an Advent craft.

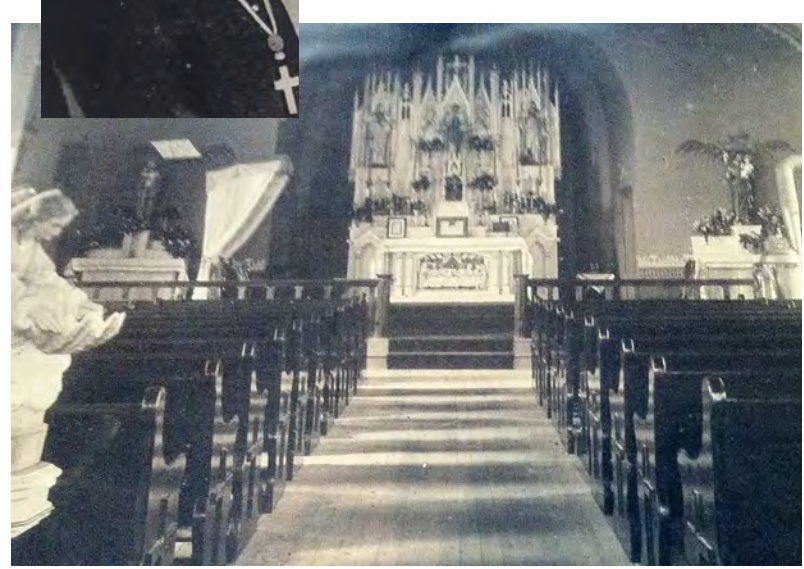
The parish also has set up a Giving Tree for homebound parishioners, nursing home residents, and families in need. On Feb. 11, the last Sunday before Lent begins, the Parish Council will host its annual pancake breakfast.

The church has been involved with the Lancaster Festival since the communitywide summer music and arts event began in 1985. It hosted a Columbus Symphony chamber music concert in that year.

For the past several years, the church has been the site of the event's opening concert.



From top: The building that was Lancaster St. Mary Church's second church and first school, built in 1840 and razed in 1911; Bishop Edward Fenwick; the same building's sanctuary; the current church, dedicated in 1864; and the 1929 building which houses St. Mary School's fourth- through eighth-grade classes. (CT file images; CT photos by Tim Puet)



**CHURCH**, *continued from Page 11*

This year, the concert celebrated the 30th anniversary of the festival orchestra, which exists only for the festival and includes musicians from around the United States. "Musicians love to come here because of the church's reputation as a performance site," Ogilvie said. "They rave about the acoustics."

The church also hosts an ice cream social during the festival, with proceeds going to the St. Vincent de Paul Society or the Foundation Dinners, a program which serves meals every day to those in need in Fairfield County.

In addition, it is the site for the Lancaster Chorale's annual Christmas concert. This Saturday, Dec. 9, it will be the final stop of the Fairfield Heritage Association's 39th annual holiday candlelight tour of downtown churches, which features music at each stop.

Sharon Silleck has been parish choir director and organist for the past four years and leads a music program which includes an adult choir that sings at the 8:45 a.m. Sunday Mass, on holy days, and at special events such as the candlelight tour.

"It's small, but it sounds really good," Thimmes said, "I've been a member for the past few years and credit Sharon with developing our sound."

The parish has separate children's choirs for grades three to five and six to eight. They sing at some Masses and join with the adult choir on other occasions.

The Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School choir sings occasionally at the church and will join the adult choir for the candlelight tour. The parish also has a funeral choir which gathers on short notice to lead the sung prayer of funeral liturgies.

St. Mary School includes two buildings – the older one, built in 1907, is for preschool through third-grade students. The former St. Mary High School, built in 1929, is for fourth through eighth grades. It has 229 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Lancaster St. Bernadette and Logan St. John schools, which have students only in kindergarten and the first five grades, send their sixth- to eighth-graders to St. Mary.

The preschool has 49 students and offers three- or five-day and half- or full-day options. The school also has an after-school program known as Kids CARE.

Erin Schornack, an educator in diocesan schools for the past 15 years, has been the school's principal since 2012 and came to Lancaster from Logan St. John, where she held the same position for six years.

"We are one school family," she said. "That's something I stress from the beginning of every year. By now, when I start the phrase, I'll pause after 'school' and the students will say 'family' in unison.

"We talk about how family members treat each other, the importance of family, and how family members can be very different, but watch out for each other. We treat each other as family and expect nothing less.

"I always wanted a big family, and I have two children of my own attending classes here, but now, it's as though I have 229 children – more than I know what to do with."

The school is just outside downtown on Chestnut Street, one of the city's main east-west arteries. Because many funeral processions travel that street, its location gives the students a chance to show their respect for the deceased.

"I had a son who died a couple of years ago, and I'll never forget what those students did," Thimmes said. "When the funeral procession started, they all lined the streets like an honor guard. It was very touching."

"Several years ago, the teachers started having students stop what they were doing when there was a funeral procession," Schornack said. "Recently, a retired firefighter died and the funeral was here. The younger students were at recess. The teachers saw a fire truck leading the procession, followed by flags. They told the students to stop, and they did so instantly and saluted.

"Afterward, the firefighter's widow sent us a thank-you note and said how the family cried when they saw the students. To know we have young people who are so thoughtful and inspiring is a very positive thing."

This is the seventh year the upper three grades have been organized into eight "houses," each with a patron saint representing a specific quality. The system is designed to create community, promote school spirit and the qualities the saints symbolize, and give more students a chance to be leaders.

Schornack said the school is working toward becoming part of the state's STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) learning network by partnering with a consultant from the Battelle research institute and a parishioner who is a Battelle employee.

It has received the Governor's Award for Excellence in STEM Education for the past six years. Its standardized 2016 test scores in reading and math for fourth



**Reception after 200th anniversary Mass.**  
Photo/St. Mary Church

through eighth grades all were above the requirements for those of a National Blue Ribbon school.

The school's academic program includes elective classes once a week for the upper grades, with each student able to choose one elective per quarter. The classes are based on interests expressed by students. For this quarter, they include calligraphy, modern music, historical investigation, STEM, drama, digital publishing, and additional physical education.

St. Mary School recently received a \$10,000 grant from Toyota, matched by \$10,000 from the local Toyota dealer, which enabled it to replace its stage curtains and apparatus and upgrade its lighting and sound systems.

Its main annual fundraiser is the Holiday Happening, a November event which features food, entertainment, and silent and live auctions. The school's teacher association has a fundraiser every year which donates all its proceeds to students. In addition, a school alumni association is forming.

Students attend Mass once a week and take part in other religious activities, in-

cluding Living Stations of the Cross on a Friday of Lent, living Rosaries, a May crowning, penance services, and monthly Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Other activities include an outdoor education program, Battle of the Books, marching and concert bands, an honors choir, Christmas and spring musicals, and a full athletics program.

Mass at St. Mary Church is celebrated at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 8:45 and 11:15 a.m. Sunday, 7 a.m. Monday and Wednesday, and 9 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. The Saturday evening Mass is preceded by the Rosary at 5 p.m.

Other devotional activities include Exposition from 9:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month during the school year, followed by Benediction; Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent; an evening prayer service on the Sundays of Lent; and the Office of Readings on the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings of the Sacred Triduum.

For more information about the parish, call (740) 653-0997. The parish website is [www.stmarylanaster.org](http://www.stmarylanaster.org).

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## TWO DIOCESAN EDUCATORS TRAVEL TO CHINA

Kimber Moehrman, principal of Columbus Trinity Elementary School, and Matt Brenner, head of school at Columbus St. Joseph Montessori School, traveled to China last month as part of the 2017 Chinese bridge delegation sponsored by the College Board of the United States and the Confucius Institute (colloquially known as Han-ban) of China. They were part of a delegation of about 175 principals and district administrators from across the United States.

The goal of the bridge delegation program is to provide participants with information and inspiration to start or expand Chinese language and culture programs in American schools. In its 12th year, the program has brought nearly 5,000 educators to China to deepen understanding of that nation, share best practices, and build partnerships with Chinese schools.

The journey began in Beijing at Han-ban headquarters, with visits to Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and the Great Wall. From there, the delegates were divided into six groups, each of which traveled to a Chinese province for additional cultural activities, educational workshops, and school visits.

Moehrman and Brenner's group traveled to Henan province, in central China just south of the Yellow River. Henan is one of the major birthplaces of the Chinese nation, very much like



**Above: Columbus St. Joseph Montessori School head of school Matt Brenner with a student from Zhengdong Primary School in Henan province, China.**

**Right: Columbus Trinity Elementary School principal Kimber Moehrman with students from the middle school and high school affiliated with Henan University in Kaifeng, China.**

Ohio in the way it reflects the entire nation's history and culture. Among the sites there which most impressed the Columbus educators were the Shaolin Temple and Songshan Shaolin Wushu College, the world's largest kung fu and martial arts college.

Henan has 27.5 million students in 57,200 schools. Moehrman and Brenner visited several public and private elementary and high schools. Their enrollments range from 2,400 to 8,000 students, making even the smallest schools large by American standards.



The educators said their Chinese student guides were friendly, polite, and informative. It was evident that they had discipline and drive, were eager to learn, and had aspirations for the future. Their appreciation for Chinese culture was showcased through presentations of dance, opera, instrumental music, art, and calligraphy.

"It was the experience of a lifetime, and I am grateful for the opportunity," Moehrman said. "I appreciated the openness and warmth of our guides. We were welcomed with open arms

and a true desire to build bridges between the United States and China. I look forward to the possibilities the future holds."

Brenner summed up the trip by saying, "The experience was truly amazing. I left with so many ideas and activities that my teachers could incorporate in their daily Montessori education lessons with their students. I also valued not just the academic lessons we were able to witness at all the schools, but also the traditions and emphasis on physical activity at all the schools."



**From left: Floral portraits of a dragon and a lady from the chrysanthemum festival in Kaifeng, China; a portion of the Great Wall of China located just outside Beijing.**

Photos courtesy Kimber Moehrman

## Second Sunday of Advent (Cycle B)

# Mark starts in the middle and stays at a fast pace



Father  
Lawrence L. Hummer

**Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11;**

**2 Peter 3:8-14;**

**Mark 1:1-8**

The tone of the first reading is quite different from what it was a week ago. Last week's lament is followed by this week's cry of comfort for Jerusalem and Judah: "Her service is at an end; her guilt is expiated." After this, Isaiah introduces a theme, which has been called "creative redemption."

The prophet weaves together the re-creation of the earth, specifically of the Holy Land and environs, with Israel's redemption. Thus, the Prophet announces the making of "a straight highway for the Lord in the wasteland." Valleys will be filled and mountains will be leveled. In all of this, the glory of the Lord will be revealed. Jerusalem announces the return of her God, who comes carrying the exiles from Babylon back to their homeland in Judah. It is announced as an accomplished fact, that the Lord has acted powerfully to return this captive people, with the joy we would expect when captives are freed.

Mark uses this kind of sheer joy to begin his "gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Mark combines Isaiah with Malachi, although he attributes everything to Isaiah as he begins: "Behold I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way (Malachi 3:1). A voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths (Isaiah 40:3).'"

With this booming announcement, Mark begins right in the middle of things. It is somewhat like Mark saying "Now hear this!" What he announces begins with the identity of Jesus, as "Christ" and as "Son of God." It will take his immediate disciples until chapter 8 for Peter to confess "You are the Christ." (Mark 8:29) It will take until chapter 15 for the Roman

centurion to confess "Truly this man was the Son of God." (Mark 15:39).

Oddly enough, throughout the rest of Mark at various points, the demons and unclean spirits will testify that Jesus is the Son of God, but the disciples ignore them. Mark is fast-paced, jumping from one event to another, almost as if he can't wait to get to the main attraction, which, in Mark, is the passion and death of Jesus. Many have noted that Mark is primarily a Passion narrative with a long introduction.

After the opening announcement, Mark immediately turns to the figure of John the Baptizer. Technically, because Mark uses two participles, the text should read "It happened that John was baptizing in the desert and was proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness (or remission) of sins." This is typical of Mark, who keeps us in the action by using participles to keep the action moving.

Mark then writes, somewhat exaggeratedly, that "all the Judean countryside and all people living in Jerusalem were going out to John and they were being baptized (meaning *dipped* or *washed*) by him in the Jordan River, for the remission of their sins." Once again, we see how active the scene is. The description of John's clothing and diet establish him as a prophet (see 2 Kings 1:8), who announces that one who is "stronger is coming after me," which meant as a successor to him (not that he was being chased by someone).

John admits that his own baptism is with water, but he adds that the one coming will baptize "with the holy spirit." John does not specify "holy spirit" with the definite article, so it must be supplied, but given that the work was written for Christian believers, it doubtless refers to the Holy Spirit.

The reading from 2 Peter tries to address the delay of the Lord's return. Any "delay" is regarded as an exercise of the Lord's patience. As such, it is an opportunity for us to clean up our act in pursuit of holiness, never mind the apocalyptic description of the "day of the Lord."

*Father Lawrence Hummer, pastor of Chillicothe St. Mary Church, can be reached at [hummerl@stmarychillicothe.com](mailto:hummerl@stmarychillicothe.com).*

## Awakening Faith program

Westerville St. Paul Church, 313 N. State St., will host a program for inactive Catholics who wish to reconnect with their Catholic roots.

The Awakening Faith program will begin on Thursday Jan. 11 from 7 to 9 p.m. and will meet for six weeks. Topics to be explored are spiritual hunger, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Mass, the Church, and the mercy of God. Sessions are free.

*For more information, call Susan Bellotti at (614) 882-2109.*



**Go to Church!**

## The Weekday Bible Readings

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

TUESDAY  
Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a;12:1-6a,10ab  
Judith 13:18bc,19 (Ps)  
Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47

WEDNESDAY  
Isaiah 40:25-31  
Psalm 103:1-4,8,10  
Matthew 11:28-30

THURSDAY  
Isaiah 41:13-20  
Psalm 145:1,9-13b  
Matthew 11:11-15

FRIDAY  
Isaiah 48:17-19  
Psalm 1:1-4,6  
Matthew 11:16-19

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

## DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF DECEMBER 10, 2017

### SUNDAY MASS

10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com).

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. 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 in Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City and Washington C.H.; Channel 125 in Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; and Channel 207 in Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com).

We pray Week II, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours

## A meditation on “Maranatha”

Happy (real) new year: the beginning of a new year of grace, which began Dec. 3 with the First Sunday of Advent.

“The holidays” so overwhelm our senses each December that it’s hard to remember that Advent, the season of preparation for Christmas, has a “thy kingdom come” dimension, as well as a Nativity dimension. For the first two weeks of Advent, the Church ardently and insistently prays the ancient Aramaic *Maranatha*: “Come, Lord Jesus!” And that petition is prayed, not in a spirit of disgust or resignation – “C’mon, Lord, let’s get this over with . . .” – but in the sure confidence that the Lord’s return in glory means the fulfillment of history: both the history of humanity and our personal histories. For in the Second Coming, history will be finally revealed as His-story, God’s story, in which we have been privileged to participate by grace.

The *Maranatha* also prompts the question of what the first Christians meant by calling Jesus “Lord.”

As Dr. Rowan Williams puts it, they meant that Jesus is “the supreme authority.” No other authority trumped the authority of Jesus: not the Law, the Sabbath, or the Temple, for Jewish paleo-Christians; not Caesar or the gods of Greece and Rome, for the first Gentiles to meet Christ. And why was Jesus the supreme authority? Because Jesus displayed “exactly the same liberty to love indiscriminately as does God himself.” And God himself ratified Jesus’s claim to be the embodiment of that indiscriminate, boundless



THE CATHOLIC  
DIFFERENCE  
George Weigel

love by raising Jesus from the dead, which “... made him both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2.36).

The Church of the New Testament and the Church of the Fathers worked out in creed and doctrine what that first confession of faith – “Jesus is Lord” – meant and implied. It meant that the God of Israel intended his salvation to reach all peoples. It meant that Jesus was fully participant in the life of God himself (“consubstantial with the Father,” as the Nicene Creed puts it). It meant that God was thus a Trinity of persons, united in one godhead by the mutual gift and reception of love.

And *that* meant that the child born in Bethlehem is, to return to Dr. Williams, “the earthly face on an eternal love (among) Father, Son, and Spirit.” Which was, in turn, a statement about us as well as about the triune God. For if we are given a share in that divine life through Baptism, then “being in the body of Christ, the community of baptized believers, gives us the freedom to love God the Father as Jesus loves him, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, and so too

to love the world with the unquestioning generosity of God, never restricting ourselves to those who are familiar to us and are like us.”

To say “Jesus is Lord” is to see the world aright and to behave differently. To say “Jesus is Lord” is to see children of God where before we saw only difference, and to treat others with the respect that befits those whom God has loved so much as to offer them the possibility of friendship with his incarnate Son. Indeed, to say “Jesus is Lord” impels us – or should impel us – to offer others the gift of friendship with the Son that we have been given, not by our own merits, but by sheer grace. That is what it means to be a missionary disciple in a Church permanently in mission: it means to deal with the world as generously as God has dealt with us, in order to convert the world.

What, then, does it mean to pray in the *Maranatha* that the Lord will come again? It means to understand that the end of the story has already been revealed in the Incarnation and above all in the Resurrection. God is going to win, in the end, whatever the travails that beset his people between now and then. That conviction is not an invitation to indifference; it is a counsel against despair, about both the life of the Church, when that becomes roiled, and the life of the world, when that turns sour.

So, yes, come, Lord Jesus, and give us the strength and wisdom to prepare a fitting place for your return.

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

## To foster vocations, trust young people, pope tells conference

By Junno Arocho Esteves

Catholic News Service

To foster vocations, the church must trust young people who, “despite belonging to the ‘selfie’ generation, look for full meaning in their lives, even when they do not always look for it where it can be found,” Pope Francis said.

“This is where we, consecrated men and women, have an important role: to remain awake to wake up young people, to be centered on the Lord to help young people center themselves in him,” he said in a message to participants in a two-day conference on vocational ministry and consecrated life.

Pope Francis said those in charge of ministering to youths must know the world and the current generation, while looking for ways to announce the good news and proclaim “the gospel of vocation.”

If this does not happen, he added, “we would be giving answers to questions that no one is asking.”

In a message sent on Dec. 1, the pope told the conference that helping young men and women discover their vocation should be at the heart of the evangelization and action in the church. He said young people need a clear, dynamic and complete formation on vo-

ational discernment that isn’t “closed in on itself.”

“This can turn into proselytism and can also lead to falling in the temptation of an easy and hasty recruitment,” the pope said.

Vocational ministry, the pope said in his message, means every pastoral action of the church is geared toward “vocational discernment,” which helps young Christian men and women discover the “concrete path toward the plan of life to which God calls them.”

Discerning one’s vocation to the priesthood and religious life shouldn’t be passed on at the end of a youth ministry program or to a particular group of young people “that are sensitive to a specific vocational calling,” he said.

Instead, “it should be reflected on constantly throughout the entire process of evangelization and the education of faith to adolescents and youths,” the pope said.

Prayer, he continued, is the “first and irreplaceable service” that is important in fostering vocations within the church, since the vocational calling and the response to it “can only resonate and make itself be heard through prayer.”

“Whoever truly prays for vocations tirelessly



works to create a vocational culture,” the pope said.

Pope Francis said Christians must also live out their faith with conviction and prove through their lives that a vocational calling is something “beautiful and lovely that gives meaning to an entire life.”

“Only then can a vocational ministry be a convincing proposal. A young person, like many of our contemporaries, doesn’t believe in teachers any more, but instead wants to see witnesses of Christ,” he said.

## Pray for our Dead

**ACQUISTA, Anthony A., 95, Nov. 26**  
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

**BAUMANN, James L., 86, Nov. 24**  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Buckeye Lake

**BERLENDIS, Josephine, 91, Nov. 29**  
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

**BROWN, Roma E., 65, Nov. 30**  
St. Leo Church, Columbus

**DONEY, Helen (Fairless), 87, Nov. 28**  
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

**EAKINS, Christyne A. (Eckle), 69, Nov. 27**  
Ss. Simon and Jude Church, West Jefferson

**FARRELL, James III, 69, Nov. 27**  
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

**GARNER, Donald, 88, Nov. 26**  
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

**GERAMITA, Dianne (Cacchione), 72, Nov. 29**  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

**GETREU, Maxine J. (Albanese), 81, Dec. 2**  
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

**GLOCKNER, Joan (Watts), 94, Dec. 1**  
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

**HECKER, Doris J. (Mocker), 76, Dec. 2**  
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

**HOUSEHOLDER, Florence (O'Brien), 89, Nov. 26**  
St. Patrick Church, Junction City

**HOUSEHOLDER, Todd L. Jr., 21, Nov. 20**  
St. Patrick Church, Junction City

**IONNO, Anthony, 69, Nov. 25**  
St. Joseph Church, Dover

**JACKSON, Ronald L., 73, Nov. 28**  
St. Thomas Church, Columbus

**MEHLING, Patricia A., 89, Dec. 2**  
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus

**MEYER, Nancy M. (Schram), Nov. 27**  
St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

**MIDDENDORF, Dr. Donald F., 69, Nov. 29**  
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

**NEENAN, James E., 57, Nov. 26**  
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

**PRIDAY, Carol J. (Wright), 84, Nov. 30**  
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

**PRYOR, Ark E. "Art," 83, Nov. 28**  
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

**SBERNA, Sam R., 87, Nov. 28**  
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

**SCHOEPPNER, Cletus H., 85, Nov. 27**  
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

**SCHULTHEIS, Andrew T., 97, Nov. 30**  
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

**SIPE, Tyla M., 49, Nov. 30**  
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

**THOMPSON, Mary C. (Meysenburg), 75, Nov. 28**  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Buckeye Lake

**TIBERI, Theresa E. (Stacchiotti), 84, Nov. 30**  
St. Anthony Church, Columbus

**USILTON, Dr. Richard, 87, Nov. 28**  
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

**VONAU, Walter E., 85, Nov. 27**  
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

**WILLOUGHBY, Ede (Gastaldo), 94, Nov. 23**  
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

### Thelma P. Collins

Funeral Mass for Thelma P. Collins, 94, who died Thursday, Nov. 16, was held Monday, Nov. 20 at London St. Patrick Church. Burial was at the parish cemetery.

She was born in London on June 26, 1923 to George and Beulah Hayes.

She was employed by St. Patrick Church and School for many years, first as parish secretary and then in the school office and library and as a read-

ing tutor. She also worked at Madison County Hospital for 25 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, William; a brother; and a sister. Survivors include sons, Tom (Linda) and David (Gail); daughters, Shirley (Jim) Witwer, Becky (Michael) Jester, Margie Brown, Mary Beasley (Joe) Dearring, Kathy, and Ruth (Jeff) Pearson; 15 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

## Turban project continues to grow

The Turban Project at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark is completing its busiest year ever. It has distributed more than 5,600 turbans, courage caps, beanies, scarves, knit and crocheted hats, and face masks to people who have lost their hair because of cancer treatment.

That brings the five-year total of items supplied by the project to nearly 14,000. It all started when the project's founder, Kathy Braidich, found that one of her co-workers at the U.S. Postal Service needed a cap. She talked about it with friends, and the project has grown ever since.

Today, it supplies 25 hospitals or treatment centers in central and southern Ohio and parts of Kentucky and West Virginia. It also has satellite projects in Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia, California, Australia, England, Portugal, Mexico, and Spain. The

satellites in other nations run on their own funding.

The ministry runs totally on donations and always is in need of decorative jewelry pins and fabrics. Its website is [www.turbanproject.com](http://www.turbanproject.com) and it has a Facebook page, The Turban Project. Donations also may be made through the Licking County Foundation or The Columbus Foundation, or by mail to The Turban Project, 7871 Ridge Road, Frazeysburg OH 43822.

The project also takes part in fundraising programs sponsored by the Kroger and GFS Marketplace stores.

For more information on those, send an email message to [turbanproject@outlook.com](mailto:turbanproject@outlook.com) or contact Braidich at (704) 504-6133 or Sally Oldham at (614) 403-9706.

All donations are tax-deductible.



**AM 820**  
CATHOLIC RADIO



*Lend an ear!*

Send obituaries to [tpuet@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:tpuet@columbuscatholic.org)

# H A P P E N I N G S

## CLASSIFIED

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Spaghetti Dinner St Elizabeth Church

6077 Sharon Woods Blvd  
**Sunday, December 3**  
 Carry-Out noon - 6:30 PM  
 Dine-In 3:30 - 6:30 PM  
 Adults (2 meatballs) \$8  
 Small dinner or children (1 meatball) \$5  
 Spaghetti, meatballs, salad, roll,  
 dessert and beverage  
*Join us for great food and a great time!*

## DECEMBER

### THROUGH JAN. 6

**Manger Display and Festival of Trees at Jubilee Museum**  
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday,  
 Jubilee Museum and Catholic Cultural Center, 57 S.  
 Grubb St., Columbus. Mangers at the Museum exhibit  
 hundreds of Nativity sets from around the world, plus  
 display of trees decorated by various Columbus organiza-  
 tions. \$10 adults, \$5 seniors and students. 614-600-0054

### 7, THURSDAY

**Christmas Tour of Newark Churches**  
 6 to 8:30 p.m., St. Francis de Sales Church, 40 Granville  
 St., Newark, will be the last stop of the 17th Sights and  
 Sounds of Christmas tour of eight downtown churches,

All fund-raising events (festivals,  
 bazaars, spaghetti dinners, fish fries,  
 bake sales, pizza/sub sales, candy  
 sales, etc.) will be placed in the "Fund-  
 Raising Guide."

An entry into the Guide will be \$18.50  
 for the first six lines, and \$2.65 for  
 each additional line.

For more information,  
 call David Garick at 614-224-5195.

### 'Happenings' submissions

Notices for items of Catholic interest must  
 be received at least 12 days before ex-  
 pected publication date. We will print them  
 as space permits.

Items not received before this deadline may  
 not be published.

Listings cannot be taken by phone.  
 Mail to Catholic Times Happenings,  
 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215  
 Fax to 614-241-2518

E-mail as text to  
 tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

with proceeds going to the Licking County Food Pantry.  
**Cenacle at Holy Name**

6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Colum-  
 bus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers in  
 the Cenacle format of the Marian Movement of Priests.  
**Sung Vespers, Benediction at St. Margaret of Cortona**  
 7 p.m., St. Margaret of Cortona Church, 1600 N. Hague  
 Ave., Columbus. Parish's regular Thursday Eucharistic  
 Adoration concludes with sung Vespers and Benediction  
 of the Blessed Sacrament. 614-279-1690

### 8, FRIDAY

**Downtown Columbus Serra Club Luncheon**  
 Noon, St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St.,  
 Columbus. Downtown Columbus Serra Club luncheon.  
 Speaker: Msgr. Robert Noon, a priest of the Diocese of  
 Columbus for 66 years. 614-486-4293

**Church Tour in Portsmouth**  
 6 to 8 p.m., Scioto County Courthouse, 602 7th St., Ports-  
 mouth. Annual holiday tour of churches in Boneyfiddle  
 historic district, including St. Mary Church. Tours every  
 half-hour. 740-354-4551

**Frassati Society Mass, Dinner**  
 6:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Co-  
 lumbus. Parish's Frassati Society for young adults  
 attends Mass for Feast of the Immaculate Concep-  
 tion, then goes to Acre, 2700 N. High St., for dinner.  
**Priests Renew Vows at St. Elizabeth**

7 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd.,  
 Columbus. Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Concep-  
 tion includes renewal of vows of the Congregation of the  
 Sons of the Immaculate Conception by the parish's three  
 priests. 614-891-0150

**Family Celebration at Church of the Resurrection**  
 Following 7 p.m. Mass, Church of the Resurrection,  
 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Fam-  
 ily celebration of Feast of the Immaculate Conception.  
 614-855-1400

### 9, SATURDAY

**Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City**  
 9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City.  
 Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and  
 confession.

**Bishop Hartley Admissions Testing**  
 9 a.m., Bishop Hartley High School, 1285 Zettler  
 Road, Columbus. Admissions testing for prospec-  
 tive members of school's Class of 2022. Students  
 who wish to be considered for a scholarship must  
 take test on this date. Preregistration is required.

**St. John Chrysostom Christmas Cookie Sale**  
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic  
 Church, 5858 Cleveland Ave., Columbus. Church's 13th  
 annual sale of Christmas cookies, baked goods, and gifts.  
 614-882-6103

**Anointing of the Sick at St. Pius X**  
 5 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reyn-  
 oldsburg. Communal Anointing of the Sick. 614-866-2859

**Church Tour in Lancaster**  
 6 to 9:30 p.m., St. Mary Church, 132 S. High St., Lancaster,  
 is final stop of Fairfield Heritage Association's annual  
 candlelight tour of eight downtown churches, with mu-  
 sic at each stop. Tickets \$12 (\$10 advance), \$4 children 5 to  
 12. 740-654-9923

**Sarah Hart, PJ Anderson Concert at St. Paul**  
 7 p.m., St. Paul Church, 313 N. State St., Westerville. Ad-  
 vent music and worship evening with Sarah Hart and PJ  
 Anderson. Suggested offering \$5. 614-882-2109

**Lessons and Carols at Delaware St. Mary**  
 7 p.m., St. Mary Church, 82 E. William St., Delaware. Les-

sons and carols service presented by the children of the  
 parish. 740-363-4641

**Magpie Consort at St. Francis of Assisi**  
 7:30 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave.,  
 Columbus. Christmas concert with the Magpie Consort,  
 with music from medieval to contemporary.

### 10, SUNDAY

**Anointing of the Sick at St. Pius X**  
 8:30 a.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reyn-  
 oldsburg. Communal Anointing of the Sick. 614-866-2859

**Exposition at Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel**  
 9:15 to 10:15 a.m., Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church,  
 5133 Walnut Road S.E., Buckeye Lake. Exposition of the  
 Blessed Sacrament every Sunday during Advent.  
 740-928-3266

**St. Christopher Adult Religious Education**  
 10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440  
 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Part 4 of seven-part video  
 series on "Wisdom: God's Vision for Life" by Jeff Cavins  
 and Thomas Smith.

**St. Brigid of Kildare School Open House**  
 1 to 3 p.m., St. Brigid of Kildare School, 7175 Avery Road,  
 Dublin. Open house for prospective students and their  
 parents. 614-718-5825

**Kateri Prayer Circle at St. Mark**  
 1 p.m., Aranda Center, St. Mark Church, 324 Gay St., Lan-  
 caster. Kateri Prayer Circle meeting to honor St. Kateri  
 Tekakwitha and promote Native Catholic spirituality.

**Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic Meeting**  
 1:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus.  
 Meeting of St. Catherine of Siena chapter, Lay Fraternities  
 of St. Dominic.

**Catholic Record Society Meeting**  
 2 p.m., Columbus Historical Society, 719 W. Town St.,  
 Columbus. Catholic Record Society quarterly meeting,  
 with church architect William Heyer speaking on "Church  
 Architecture and Beauty: The Struggles and Rewards of  
 Designing With Traditional Architecture." 614-241-2571

**Lessons and Carols at Cathedral**  
 3 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus.  
 Lessons and carols with cathedral choir and brass en-  
 semble. 614-224-1295

**Christmas Concert at de Porres Center**  
 3 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Co-  
 lumbus. Christmas concert featuring Columbus St. An-  
 thony Church multicultural choir. 614-416-1910

**Advent Concert at Our Lady of Victory**  
 3 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road,  
 Columbus. Church's eighth annual Advent concert, fea-  
 turing parish choir and an orchestra, with Advent and  
 Christmas music from many cultures. 614-488-2428

**Corpus Christi-St. Ladislav Christmas Concert**  
 3:30 to 5 p.m., Corpus Christi Church, 1111 E. Stewart Ave.,  
 Columbus. Christmas concert for Corpus Christi and St.  
 Ladislav churches, featuring organist Tom Dailey, pianist  
 Ty Boyle, and Bethany Baptist Church choir. Collection  
 to benefit American Red Cross hurricane relief efforts.

**Rosary, Evening Prayer at Columbus St. Peter**  
 4 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Colum-  
 bus. Recitation of the rosary, followed by Evening Prayer  
 at 4:30 on all Advent Sundays. 614-889-2221

**Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King**  
 5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston  
 Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly  
 parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry,  
 and teaching. 614-237-0401

**Ecumenical Lessons and Carols at Dover St. Joseph**  
 6 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 613 N. Tuscarawas Ave., Dover.

Ecumenical lessons and carols service with choirs from  
 parish and four other area churches and Dover High  
 School Ars Nova choir, preceded by handbell and brass  
 prelude. 330-364-6661

**Silent Night in Sugar Grove**  
 6 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 306 Elm St., Sugar Grove. 26th  
 annual "Silent Night in Sugar Grove" Christmas program,  
 beginning at St. Joseph's and continuing at Sugar Grove  
 United Methodist and St. Matthew Lutheran churches.

**Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter**  
 7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Colum-  
 bus. Mass in Spanish. 706-761-4054

**Vespers at Columbus St. Patrick**  
 7 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus.  
 Sung Advent solemn Evening Vespers. 614-224-9522

### 11, MONDAY

**Adoration, Evening Prayer at New Philadelphia**  
 5 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 139 3rd St. N.E., New Phila-  
 delphia. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, with Sacra-  
 ment of Reconciliation available, concluding with Eve-  
 ning Prayer at 6:30 on all Advent Mondays. 330-343-6976

**Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry**  
 6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, Co-  
 lumbus (Christ the King convent, first building west of  
 the church). 614-718-0277, 614-309-2651, 614-309-0157

**Our Lady of Peace Men's Bible Study**  
 7 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd.,  
 Columbus. Bible study of Sunday Scripture readings.

### 12, TUESDAY

**Christ Watch at Church of the Resurrection**  
 5 to 8 p.m., Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-  
 Granville Road, New Albany. Christ Watch, a time of  
 quiet prayer and reflection, with rosary at 6:25, Mass at 7  
 and Sacrament of Reconciliation available until 8.

**Calix Society Meeting**  
 6 p.m., Panera restaurant, 4519 N. High St., Columbus.  
 Monthly meeting of the Calix Society, an association of  
 Catholic alcoholics. Preceded by 5:30 p.m. Mass at Our  
 Lady of Peace Church, across street from meeting site.

**Holy Hour at Columbus St. Francis of Assisi**  
 St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus.  
 Monthly Holy Hour following 6 p.m. Mass. 614-299-5781

**Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc**  
 Following 6:15 p.m. Mass, St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700  
 Liberty Road, Powell. Recital of Rosary for Life, spon-  
 sored by church's respect life committee.

**EnCourage Ministry Monthly Meeting**  
 6:30 p.m., EnCourage, an approved diocesan ministry  
 dedicated to families and friends of persons who experi-  
 ence same-sex attraction. EnCourage respects the digni-  
 ty of every person, promotes the truth of God's plan for  
 each of us, and focuses on sharing our love. Confidential-  
 ity is maintained. Call for site. 614-296-7404

### 13, WEDNESDAY

**Dominican Lecture Series at ODU**  
 Noon to 12:30 p.m., St. Catherine of Siena Room, Erskine  
 Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Co-  
 lumbus. Second of three talks on "Advent -- A Time of Joy-  
 ful Anticipation" with Sister Louis Mary Passeri, OP. Part  
 of "Behold the Inheritance of St. Dominic" lecture series  
 sponsored by the Center for Dominican Studies. Lunch  
 provided.

**Eucharistic Adoration at Chillicothe St. Mary**  
 Noon to 4 p.m., St. Mary Church, 61 S. Paint St., Chilli-  
 cothe. Eucharistic Adoration each Wednesday during  
 Lent. 740-722-2061





EXHIBIT AT  
THE JUBILEE MUSEUM

## “Mangers at the Museum”

The Holy Family Jubilee Museum and Catholic Cultural Center’s annual “Mangers at the Museum” exhibit of nearly 400 Nativity displays will be open nearly every day through Saturday, Jan. 6. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and students. The museum is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. There is no need to call ahead unless a group of visitors is larger than 20.

The museum’s permanent collection is recognized by the Vatican as the largest collection of diversified Catholic artwork in the United States. It includes the Nativity figures displayed on the Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral lawn in the 1940s and sets from Ethiopia, Nigeria, Mexico, Honduras, Sweden, and elsewhere. The featured Nativity set this year was a gift from Henninger’s religious goods store in Cleveland. It is the largest set in the museum, and the tallest figure is nearly four feet in height. The smallest figure in the display is the size of a walnut.

A highlight is the nation’s largest collection of Fontanini Nativity figures from Italy, which was donated to the museum by Father Carmen Arcuri, a deceased priest of the Diocese of Columbus.



Other recent additions to the museum include the windows from the chapel at the old St. Vincent’s Orphanage in Columbus and three stained-glass windows from a Jesuit retreat house, which were donated by local resident John Haemmerle.

The museum is also featuring its annual festival of Christmas trees. Several local organizations have sponsored trees, including a St. Nicholas tree.



For more about the museum, visit its website at [www.jubileemuseum.org](http://www.jubileemuseum.org) or call (614) 600-0054.



## Living by church's calendar at home draws families closer to saints, Mass

By Maria Wiering

Catholic News Service

Growing up in St. Louis, Susanna Spencer loved her family's Advent tradition of adorning a Jesse Tree with Old Testament symbols leading up to Christ's birth.

She continued the tradition while in college at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, where she met her husband, Mark.

"After seeing (Advent traditions) in my childhood, I thought 'I want to do this the whole year, not just for the short four weeks before Christmas,'" said Spencer, 31.

Even before they were married, Susanna and Mark felt "drawn to liturgical life" and began incorporating more aspects of the Catholic Church's calendar into their daily lives, from praying the Liturgy of the Hours to observing saints' feast days. Now parents of four, ages 2 to 8, and members of a St. Paul, Minnesota, parish, the Spencers are intentionally shaping their home with the rhythm of the church seasons.

"A lot of the things that we've done are taking the Advent wreath idea and conforming it to the other liturgical seasons," Susanna said.

The First Sunday in Advent marks the beginning of a new church year, and for some Catholic families, the liturgical "New Year" is tied to special traditions at home. This year, the first Sunday is Dec. 3.

While enhancing a family's "domestic church" through aspects of the liturgical calendar is nothing new, Catholics who are interested in liturgical home practices can find an increasing wealth of information online, where Catholics share ideas on blogs dedicated to the practice, such as Carrots for Michaelmas ([www.carrotsformichaelmas.com](http://www.carrotsformichaelmas.com)), and Catholic All Year ([www.catholicallyear.com](http://www.catholicallyear.com)).

Spencer noted that Sts. Louis and Zelig Martin, the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux, used a set of 15 books dedicated to the annual cycle of feasts and fasts in their 19th-century French home. Spencer has an edition on a shelf in her own living room.

In the Spencers' West St. Paul home, the church's season is regularly re-



flected in two spots: the dining room table centerpiece and the family's small prayer table. The latter contains candles and a few icons, statues and artworks of saints, and devotions, some of which change to reflect certain feasts or seasons.

The family prays there together daily, often noting that day's saint or memorial. Sometimes, they mark a saint's feast by attending daily Mass, where the saint is commemorated in the liturgy.

The Spencers' centerpieces range from an Advent wreath to a crown of thorns during Lent to fresh flowers during ordinary time. Susanna anticipates feast days while meal planning, serving spaghetti on an Italian saint's memorial or a blueberry dessert on days honoring Mary, which the church traditionally symbolizes with blue.

"One of the ways that you can learn about holiness is living with the saints," she told *The Catholic Spirit*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. "If we never think of them, we ... can't benefit from their intercession."

She realizes that observing the Catholic Church's calendar can feel like another task on the to-do list, and therefore potentially overwhelming or discouraging. She encourages Catho-

lics who want to try it to keep it simple.

That's also the advice shared by Beth Morgan, who was inspired to incorporate the church year into her home after becoming a mother. Now with two girls under age 4 and a baby due in January, she said the practice helps her teach her children the faith.

"It's hard to engage (children) in Mass if you don't make it tangible, and I think having (aspects of the liturgical year) at home makes it tangible," said Morgan, 28, a parishioner of a church in Oakdale, Minnesota.

Like the Spencers, the Morgans try to reflect the church season with their dining table centerpiece, because it's a daily focal point in their home. The Advent centerpiece includes a purple cloth to help her daughters connect their home to what they see at Mass, Morgan said.

"The church has a beautiful tradition, and everything we do in our life goes to that same cadence," she said. "We want to instill that Jesus and God are part of everything we do."

Morgan also rotates some of her daughters' bedtime books to correspond with Christmas, Lent and Easter; celebrates the feast days of the saints for whom her daughters were named; and changes the family's prayer routine to reflect the season or

devotional month, such as adding Hail Marys to their evening prayers in May, the month when the church especially honors the mother of God.

The Morgans' Advent will include a Jesse Tree and special daily prayers paired with their meal prayer.

On Christmas Day, Morgan will swap her Advent wreath's purple and pink candles for white, and she'll place the Nativity scene's Baby Jesus in the center to await the arrival of the Magi -- whose figurines Morgan plans to move closer to Jesus each day until Epiphany.

In West St. Paul, Heidi Flanagan's family has developed an Advent tradition that has connected its members more intimately to the communion of saints.

On the First Sunday of Advent, Heidi; her husband, John; and their six children -- ages 2 to 12 -- select a slip of paper from a shoebox. On that paper is the name of a saint who becomes their patron for the liturgical year.

Heidi, 43, received the box -- and the idea -- about eight years ago from a friend who does something similar in her home. The Flanagans say a small litany of the saints daily, asking each member's patron saint for that year to pray for them. They also celebrate their feast days throughout the year.

"I feel like it's given them this buddy in heaven -- this sense of security -- that we're not alone, that they have these superheroes rooting for them and praying for them in heaven," Flanagan said of her children. "They develop friendships with these saints."

The tradition has provided an opportunity to learn more about the saints' lives, and the saints have helped all of the Flanagans grow in their spiritual lives. Before they select their saints, the Flanagans also pray that the saints selected would also "choose" them.

"It's been so cool how often we look back at the year and say, 'Oh, I can totally see how this saint chose me,'" because different challenges or opportunities seemed suited to that saint's intercession.

*Wiering is editor of The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.*

# THE STORY OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

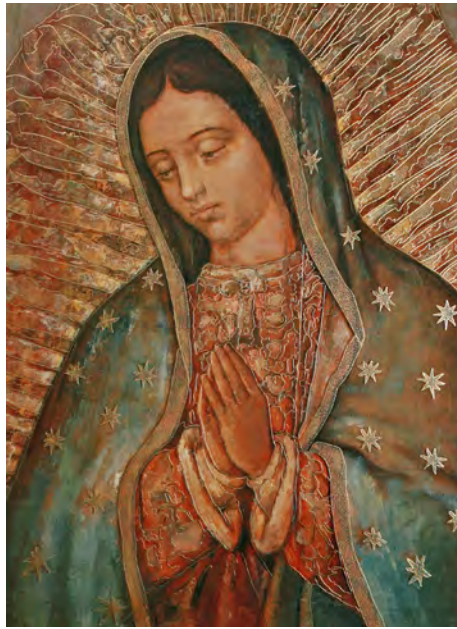
**BY TIM PUET**

Reporter, Catholic Times

Pope Pius XII declared Our Lady of Guadalupe to be patroness of the Americas on Oct. 12, 1945. Her feast day has grown in significance and importance in the United States for the past several decades as more Mexican and Latino Catholics have come to this country.

The Blessed Mother appeared to St. Juan Diego, a poor, 57-year-old Aztec peasant, three times in four days in 1531. The first time, on Dec. 9 at dawn, he was passing by Tepeyac Hill on the way to Mass when he was stopped by what he described as the sound of birds singing. He had a vision of Mary, who asked him to tell the bishop of Mexico City that she desired a chapel to be built on that spot.

Juan Diego did so, but the bishop appeared skeptical. Later that day, Juan Diego went back to the hill and found Mary waiting for him. When he told her he felt unworthy to bear her message, she responded that he had been chosen by her.



The next day, Dec. 10, Juan Diego went back to the bishop, who asked for a sign that it was Mary. Because Juan Diego's uncle had become seriously ill, he did not return to the hill until Dec. 12, while on the way to find a priest to see his uncle. Mary appeared to him there for the third time, told him his

uncle's health was being restored, and asked him to go to the top of the hill and cut roses which were growing there, even though they should not have been blooming at that time of year.

Mary said Juan Diego should gather the roses in his *tilma*, a poncho-like cape made of cactus fiber, and present them to the bishop as the sign he was looking for. When he did so and the roses fell from the *tilma*, the two men discovered the cloak to be imprinted with an image of Mary, as Juan Diego saw her. The bishop and his advisers then fell to their knees. The chapel was built, and was replaced by a larger church in 1622, a basilica in 1709, and a newer basilica in 1974. The *tilma* is on perpetual display in the new basilica and remains undamaged by the passage of nearly 500 years.

In the image, Mary has the appearance of an Aztec woman – dark-skinned, pregnant, and surrounded by stars. She stands in front of the sun's rays, symbolically eclipsing the power of the ancient Aztec gods as she looks lovingly down on her people.

Since she is Mexico's patron saint,

images of Our Lady of Guadalupe are everywhere in Mexico. Public officials in the state of Zacatecas in north central Mexico are proposing construction of a 147-foot statue of Mary, which would be nearly twice the height of a 75-foot statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Puebla state, to the east of Mexico City.

The statue in Zacatecas will cost \$4.25 million, with most of the money coming from private funds. The spending of public money on religious landmarks is controversial in Mexico, where church-state relations were strained for most of the last century, particularly in the 1920s. when more than 5,000 Catholics were executed in what were known as the Cristero Wars as the government of the era unsuccessfully attempted to suppress the Catholic Church.

The mayor of the municipality of Guadalupe, where the 147-foot statue will be located, said it was being built in response to the success of the 75-foot statue in Puebla in promoting religious tourism.

(Information from Catholic News Service was used in this story.)

## Parishes celebrate Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Parishes throughout the Diocese of Columbus will be celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with Masses and other events, mainly on Sunday, Dec. 10 and the feast day itself, Tuesday, Dec. 12. That day 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 throughout the diocese is as follows:

**Parroquia Santa Cruz, Columbus** – 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., Columbus, 8 a.m. Dec. 10, with *mananitas* upon arrival at the church, followed by Mass and refreshments. *Mananitas*

at the church, 9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11. Mass, 7 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by refreshments.

**Columbus Christ the King** – Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe daily at 7 p.m. through Dec. 11. *Mananitas* and rosary, 6 a.m. Dec. 10, followed by breakfast at 7. Procession, 11:15 a.m. Dec. 10, starting at Columbus St. Philip Church and traveling to church for 12:30 p.m. Mass, followed by a re-enactment of the apparition in Spanish and a fiesta with dances and songs to Our Lady at 1:30 p.m. in All Saints Academy gym.

**Columbus St. Agnes** – Mass, 7 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by a procession around the parish grounds and a fiesta in the social hall.

**Columbus St. James the Less** – *Mananitas*, 5 a.m. Dec. 12, followed by refreshments. Songs to the Blessed Virgin, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Dec. 12 in church, with Mass at 7, followed by a

procession around the property and food and fellowship in the school cafeteria.

**Columbus St. Ladislav** – Mass, 4 p.m. Dec. 12.

**Columbus St. Peter** – Social gathering, 8:30 p.m. Dec. 11, with dramatization of the apparition in Spanish at 9:30 and dances, all in the Blue Room, rosary at 10 p.m. in church, and *mananitas* at midnight in the Blue Room. Mass at 7 p.m. Dec. 12 in the church, followed by a gathering with snacks in McEwan Center.

**Columbus St. Stephen** – Procession starting at 9:30 a.m. Dec. 10 from church's upper parking lot to corner of Sullivant Avenue and Georgesville Road and back, followed by Mass at noon. Vigil Mass in Spanish, followed by *mananitas*, 10 p.m. Dec. 11. *Mananitas*, 5 a.m. Dec. 12, followed by Mass in Spanish at 5:30 a.m. Mass in English, 8:30 a.m. Dec. 12. Mass in Spanish, 7 p.m. Dec. 12.

**Columbus St. Thomas** – Procession from back entrance of Mann's Trailer Park and Sixth Avenue to church, 10:15 a.m. Dec. 10, followed by bilingual Mass at 11:30, and fiesta at Adams Recreation Center (former Krumm Park).

**Delaware St. Mary** – Mass in Spanish, 5 p.m. Dec. 12, including *mananitas* and mariachi music, followed by social gathering in Beitel Commons from 6 to 9 p.m.

**Dover St. Joseph** – *Mananitas*, 8 to 10 p.m. Dec. 11, beginning with traditional meal and procession. Eucharistic Adoration begins at 10 p.m. and continues through the night, concluding with Mass at 6 a.m. Dec. 12.

**Marion St. Mary** – Two-mile procession from Crescent Heights Road to church, 11 a.m. Dec. 10, followed by traditional dancing in Moira Hall at 12:30 p.m., Mass at 1, and dinner and music at 2:30. *Mananitas*

and rosary, with coffee and doughnuts afterward, 5:30 a.m. Dec. 12. Mass, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12, followed at 7:30 in Moira Hall by a re-enactment of Mary's appearance to St. Juan Diego.

**Newark St. Francis de Sales** – Mass, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, followed by fiesta in Johnson Hall. Confessions starting at 5:30.

**Portsmouth Holy Redeemer and St. Mary** – Procession from St. Mary to Holy Redeemer, 5 p.m., with rosary and 7 p.m. Mass in Spanish at Holy Redeemer, followed by potluck.

**Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas** – Parish mission with Father Thomas J. Loya of the Tabor Life Institute from 7 to 9 p.m. Dec. 11 and 12 on the theme "Our Lady of Guadalupe: The Invisible Made Visible." Scripture service, Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and rosary on Monday. Mass on Tuesday.