



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

CATHOLIC TIMES

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FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT
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**THE SPIRIT OF EVANGELIZATION
IS ALIVE AT DOVER ST. JOSEPH**

The Editor's Notebook

St. Joseph: A Real Man

By David Garick, Editor



As Christmas is almost within our grasp, we are flooded with the images of this holy season. Setting aside the modern cultural images of Christmas trees, Santa Claus, holly, and candy canes, we still have vivid pictures of the Nativity. We look at the loving Virgin Mary and the radiant child Jesus. We see the shepherds who the angel sends to Bethlehem to see the holy child, and the Magi led by a star to worship him.

Thorough all of this, we almost overlook the person standing beside Mary at the Nativity and throughout her life -- St. Joseph.

This week's Gospel account of the Nativity emphasizes the role of Joseph of Nazareth in the Incarnation. Joseph provides us a living example of what it means to be a man. His role is far more than just as a bit player in the Christmas pageant.

Pope St. John Paul II, in his apostolic exhortation *Redemptoris Custos*, writes: "Together with Mary, Joseph is the first guardian of this divine mystery. Together with Mary, and in relation to Mary, he shares in this final phase of God's self-revelation in Christ and he does so from the very beginning. One can say that Joseph is the first to share in the faith of the Mother of God and that in doing so he supports his spouse in the faith of the divine annunciation. He is also the first to be placed by God on the path of Mary's pilgrimage of faith."

Joseph accepts his role of loving and protecting Mary in a very difficult situation. When the life of the infant Jesus was threatened, he took on the role of protector, ensuring the child's safety. He accepts

the responsibility of taking Jesus as his own son, nurturing him into manhood and providing a role model of Jesus' human nature.

Again, St. John Paul tells us: "The total sacrifice, whereby Joseph surrendered his whole existence to the demands of the Messiah's coming into his home, becomes understandable only in the light of his profound interior life. It was from this interior life that very singular commands and consolations came, bringing him also the logic and strength that belong to simple and clear souls, and giving him the power of making great decisions -- such as the decision to put his liberty immediately at the disposition of the divine designs, to make over to them also his legitimate human calling, his conjugal happiness, to accept the conditions, the responsibility and the burden of a family, but, through an incomparable virginal love, to renounce that natural conjugal love that is the foundation and nourishment of the family."

St. Joseph remains a role model for all of us. We seek his protection as a patron of the family and of workers and the namesake of many ministries and churches, including St. Joseph Church in Dover, which is featured in this issue of *Catholic Times*.

In these challenging times, it does us good to allow our faith to be strengthened by the man who, at God's call, devoted his entire being to the love and protection of his wife and the child who would save us all.

Correction - A story in the Dec. 11 Catholic Times incorrectly stated that kindergarten classes at Columbus Immaculate Conception School are in the former convent of Immaculate Conception Church. The classes were moved to the school building last year.

THE FOURTH
WEEK
OF ADVENTOhio lawmakers send governor two bills
restricting abortion

By Catholic News Service

The Ohio Legislature has sent two abortion bills to Gov. John Kasich for his signature.

On Dec. 8, lawmakers passed a measure to ban abortions in the state after 20 weeks, or five months of pregnancy. On Dec. 6, they approved legislation that would ban abortions when a fetal heartbeat can be detected, which is usually at about the sixth week of pregnancy.

Current law bans abortions after a fetus has begun its 20th week of gestation, unless a doctor determines that the fetus isn't viable outside the womb. The latest measure, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, or Senate Bill 127 -- would eliminate the viability test and simply ban abortions past 20 weeks. The current exception for the woman's health still would apply.

"The bold pro-life action taken by the Ohio Legislature is reflective of the message the voters sent on Election Day, and that is a rejection of the status quo," said Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Washington-based Susan B. Anthony List.

"Americans reject the status quo of abortion on-demand, especially painful late-term abortions," she said on Dec. 8. "Instead, voters and lawmakers

are recognizing the humanity of the unborn child: its heartbeat around six weeks and the pain the child can feel at 20 weeks."

Once the bills reach Kasich's desk, he will have 10 days to decide whether to sign or veto them. If he vetoes them, three-fifths of the state House and Senate would have to vote to override the veto.

The American Civil Liberties and the president and chief executive officer of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio objected to the measures

"For the second time in a week, the Ohio Legislature has inserted itself into women's private and personal health care decisions," said Iris E. Harvey, Planned Parenthood's president and CEO. "These bans are a deliberate attempt to make abortion illegal in the state of Ohio."

Meanwhile, Planned Parenthood affiliates have filed suit against abortion regulations in Missouri, North Carolina, and Alaska.

About the Ohio measures, Dannenfelser said, "Both the heartbeat bill and the Pain-Capable bill aim to humanize our law. Should either of these bills land in the courts, the courts should take the opportunity to catch our laws up with public opinion, science and basic human decency."



Front Page photo:

The sanctuary of Dover St. Joseph Church, which was built in 1965. The parish's history goes back to 1849.

Photo courtesy St. Joseph Church



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Baby Jesus reminds us of painful plight of migrants, pope says

By Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

Pope Francis said the Christmas tree and Nativity scene are symbols of God's love and hope, reminding us to contemplate the beauty of creation and welcome the marginalized.

The baby Jesus, whose parents could find no decent shelter and had to flee persecution, is a reminder of the "painful experience" of so many migrants today, he said on Friday, Dec. 9 just before the Vatican Christmas tree was to be lit and its Nativity scene was to be unveiled.

Nativity scenes all over the world "are an invitation to make room in our life and society for God -- hidden in the gaze of so many people" who are living in need, poverty or suffering, he told people who were involved in donating the tree and creche for St. Peter's Square (pictured below).

The northern Italian province of Trent donated the 82-foot spruce fir, which was adorned with ceramic ornaments handmade by children receiving medical treatment at several Italian hospitals.

The 55-foot-wide Nativity scene was donated by the government and Archdiocese of Malta. It features 17 figures dressed in traditional Maltese attire, as well as a replica of a Maltese boat representing the seafaring traditions of the island (pictured above right).

The boat also represents "the sad and tragic reality of migrants on boats headed toward Italy," the pope said in his speech in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall.

"In the painful experience of these brothers and sisters, we revisit that



(experience) of baby Jesus, who at the time of his birth did not find accommodation and was born in a grotto in Bethlehem and then was brought to Egypt to escape Herod's threat.

"Those who visit this creche will be invited to rediscover its symbolic value, which is a message of fraternity, sharing, welcoming, and solidarity," the pope said.

The beauty of the pristine forests of

northern Italy where the tree grew "is an invitation to contemplate the creator and to respect nature," he said, adding that "we are all called to approach creation with contemplative awe."

The Nativity scene and tree will remain in St. Peter's Square until the feast of the Lord's Baptism on Monday, Jan. 9.

Archbishop Lauro Tisi of Trent, speaking at the tree-lighting ceremony as the sun set, told people in St. Peter's Square that the towering tree had lived for decades -- decades that saw thousands of people from the region emigrate in search of work in the early 1900s. He said it's unconscionable that people today refuse to welcome those coming from poorer places with the same needs and dreams.

Manwel Grech, a sculptor of religious statues from Gozo, Malta, won a contest to form the Nativity scene. He said it was a dream come true to create art for the Vatican and have it exhibited in the square, where thousands of people from around the world will see it.

More than a dozen statues of people and a menagerie of animals and other elements are in the scene, Grech said

he is a bit of a traditionalist. Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus are his favorites among the resin sculptures.

He said he wanted Mary to have a peaceful face because "when you see Jesus, you relax," and he tried to give Joseph a look of pride.

Grech included several very Maltese touches in the Nativity scene: A traditional balcony decorated with a Maltese cross; a statue of St. George Preca, the country's only canonized saint; and a *luzzu*, the traditional Maltese fishing boat, which also reminds people of the journeys of migrants across the Mediterranean Sea.

Between the Nativity scene and the Christmas tree, the Vatican placed the cross and chunks of the facade of the Basilica of St. Benedict in Norcia, Italy. The basilica was destroyed by an earthquake in October and dozens of other churches in central Italy crumbled or were heavily damaged. Money left at the Nativity scene by visitors will be donated to the church rebuilding effort in Norcia.

Contributing to this story was Cindy Wooden at the Vatican.



Are your grandparents lonely? Sharing God's mercy this Christmas

By Sister Constance Veit, LSP

In the past few weeks, I've been asked to speak about loneliness in the elderly on many occasions. I even was quoted in a recent article by Catholic journalist Mary Rezac titled *Our Elders Are Lonely – Do We Care?* As we look forward to Christmas, let's hope we can all say "Of course we do!"

The issue of loneliness among the elderly may not be as clear-cut as it seems. While one recent study reported that nearly half of people older than 60 said they feel lonely on "a regular basis," another asserted that only six percent of American seniors said they "often" feel this way. Contradictory statistics aside, in our nation, roughly one third of those older than 65 and half of those older than 85 live alone.

Sociologists see this trend as a sign of social progress. They say improved health care, increased wealth, and the emergence of retirement as a relatively long stage of life have created more choices for seniors and enabled them

to live independent of their adult children. This situation, often referred to as "intimacy at a distance," respects the life choices and autonomy of older persons and their adult children, fostering more positive and supportive emotional bonds for all.

In his book *Being Mortal*, surgeon and author Atul Gawande wrote, "The lines of power between the generations have been renegotiated. ... The aged did not lose status and control so much as share it. Modernization did not demote the elderly. It demoted the family. It gave people – the young and the old – a way of life with more liberty and control, including the liberty to be less beholden to other generations. The veneration of elders may be gone, but not because it has been replaced by the veneration of youth. It's been replaced by veneration of the independent self."

The problem is that our exultation of personal autonomy over family and community fails to acknowledge that sooner or later, each of us will need

the help of others to survive and enjoy a meaningful life. This brings us to Christmas. What is Christmas without family and community? And yet this season also can be a time of stress for those who are estranged from their loved ones, those who cannot afford to fulfill their children's wishes, those whose holiday joys are but a distant memory, and those who find themselves alone in this world.

Christmas is the perfect time to begin promoting (rather than demoting) family and practicing what our Holy Father asked in his apostolic letter for the closing of the Year of Mercy, *Misericordia et Miseria*. As we gather in our families, social circles and faith communities – even at our office parties – may we look around to see who is standing on the periphery, who is at risk of being excluded from the joys of this season. Inspired by mercy, let us offer a word of consolation and begin restoring joy and dignity to those who feel left out. Pope Francis suggested that God's mercy finds expression in the closeness, affection, and support we offer our brothers and sisters, and in the strength of family. "The drying of tears is one way to break the vicious circle of solitude in which we often find ourselves

trapped," he wrote.

Mercy leads us to see each person as unique. "We have to remember each of us carries the richness and the burdens of our personal history;" Pope Francis wrote. "This is what makes us different from everyone else. Our life, with its joys and sorrows, is something unique and unrepeatable that takes place under the merciful gaze of God."

If you are young, you can share God's mercy this Christmas by patiently listening to your grandparents' stories or offering them a hand in a way that says "You are important to me."

If you are a grandparent, look to see which one of your children or grandchildren is waiting for your affirmation or your words of wisdom.

Even if you are infirm or in need and feel that you have nothing to give, you still can offer your smile, your thanks, or a word of kindness to those who help you.

Our Holy Father reminds us that God never tires of welcoming and accompanying us despite our sins and frailties. Let our loving presence be the gift we give others this Christmas!

Sister Constance Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Man of Year Nomination Deadline Nears

The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club reminds anyone interested in nominating someone to receive the 2017 diocesan Catholic Man of the Year award that the nomination deadline of Thursday, Dec. 29 is approaching. The award will be presented by Bishop Frederick Campbell at the club's luncheon on Friday, Feb. 3.

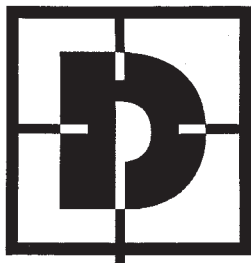
The award recognizes a layman who, through his daily actions, words, and

prayers, exemplifies the "good and faithful servant."

The recipient will have the opportunity to share his personal testimony at the meeting.

For details and nomination instructions, go to <http://www.catholicmensministry.com/cmlc>. Completed nominations and supporting letters should be emailed to catholicmanoftheyear@gmail.com.

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Christmas Mass Schedules in Columbus Diocese

Christmas is on a Sunday this year, so most parishes in the diocese will be changing their usual Sunday Mass schedule. The following is a list of Christmas Vigil Masses for Dec. 24 and Masses for the feast day.

Ada Our Lady of Lourdes – Dec. 24, 5 p.m.; Dec. 25, 11 a.m.

Bremen St. Mary – Dec. 24, 9 p.m.; Dec. 25, 8:30 a.m.

Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel – Dec. 24, 6 p.m., midnight; Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

Canal Winchester St. John XXIII – Dec. 24, 5 p.m., church; 5:15 p.m. lower level; 10 p.m., church, with half-hour musical preludes before each Mass; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Cardington Sacred Hearts – Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m.; Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

Chillicothe St. Mary – Dec. 24, 6 p.m., 9 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Chillicothe St. Peter – Dec. 24, 5 p.m. (children's Mass), midnight; Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m.

Circleville St. Joseph – Dec. 24, 5 p.m., midnight; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Columbus Christ the King – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m. (Spanish); Dec. 25, 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m. (Spanish).

Columbus Corpus Christi – Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m.; Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

Columbus Holy Cross – Dec. 24, 4 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Columbus Holy Family – Dec. 24, 5 p.m., 7 p.m., midnight; Dec. 25, 8:30 a.m. (Latin), 11 a.m.

Columbus Holy Name – Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m. (concert at 5); Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John – Dec. 24, 6 p.m.; Dec. 25, 9:30 a.m.

Columbus Holy Spirit – Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m., 10 p.m. (music 9:30); Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Columbus Immaculate Conception – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 7 p.m., 10 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Columbus Our Lady of Peace – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 10 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal – Dec. 24, 4 p.m. (children's Mass), 10 p.m.; Dec. 25, 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

Columbus Our Lady of Victory – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 7 p.m., 10 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Columbus Parroquia Santa Cruz – Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m. (Spanish); Dec. 25, 11 a.m. (Spanish), both at Columbus Holy Name Church.

Columbus Sacred Heart – Dec. 24, 4 p.m.

Columbus St. Agatha – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 10 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Columbus St. Agnes – Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m., midnight.

Columbus St. Aloysius – Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Columbus St. Andrew – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., church; 4 p.m., hall; 6 p.m., 10 p.m.; Dec. 25, 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

Columbus St. Anthony – Dec. 24, 4 p.m. (children's Mass), 6:30 p.m., 9 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Columbus Ss. Augustine & Gabriel – Dec. 24, 7 p.m. (English and Vietnamese); Dec. 25, 11 a.m. (English).

Columbus St. Catharine – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 6 p.m., midnight; Dec. 25, 11 a.m.

Columbus St. Cecilia – Dec. 24, 5 p.m., 8 p.m., midnight; Dec. 25, 9:30 a.m.

Columbus St. Christopher – Dec. 24, 4 p.m. (with musicians from Sunday 6 p.m. Last Call Mass), 6 p.m., 8 p.m.; Dec. 25, 9 a.m. No Last Call Mass.

Columbus St. Dominic – Dec. 24, 8 p.m.; Dec. 25, 11:30 a.m.

Columbus St. Elizabeth – Dec. 24, 4 p.m. (Children's Mass with children's choir), 7 p.m. (Family Mass with 9 a.m. Sunday Mass choir); midnight (with Ohio State University brass); Dec. 25, 10 a.m. (with 11 a.m. Sunday Mass choir).

Columbus St. Francis of Assisi – Dec. 24, 5 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Columbus St. James the Less – Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m. (English), 7 p.m. (Spanish); midnight (English); Dec. 25, 10 a.m. (bilingual).

Columbus St. John Chrysostom Byzantine – Dec. 24, 10 p.m. (begins with Compline); Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Columbus St. John the Baptist – Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral – Dec. 24, 4 p.m. (organ prelude, 3:30), 6 p.m. (organ prelude, 5:30), midnight, celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell (concert with Cathedral Choir and Brass, 11 p.m.); Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m. (organ prelude, 10), 5:15 p.m. (organ prelude, 4:45).

Columbus St. Ladislav – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., midnight; Dec. 25, 11 a.m.

Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona – Dec. 24, 4 p.m. (children's Mass), 10 p.m. (carols 9:30); Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m.

Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 7:30 p.m., midnight; Dec. 25, 10 a.m., all in school gym.

Columbus St. Mary Magdalene – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 7 p.m., 10 p.m.; Dec. 25, 11 a.m.

Columbus St. Matthias – Dec. 24, 5 p.m. (children's Mass), 10 p.m.; Dec. 25, 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

Columbus St. Patrick – Dec. 24, 4 p.m. (incense-free, children's Mass with children's choir, crib blessing), 6:30 p.m. (incense, vocal quartet, brass quartet), midnight (incense, choir, brass and string quartet); Dec. 25, 7 a.m. (incense-free, no music), 10 a.m. (incense-free, cantor, organ, brass), noon (incense, choir, organ, brass).

Columbus St. Peter – Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m., church; 4:30 p.m., McEwan Center; 7 p.m., midnight; Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m. (Spanish).

Columbus St. Philip – Dec. 24, 4 p.m. (music 3:30); Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

Columbus St. Stephen – Dec. 24, 4 p.m. (English), 7 p.m. (Spanish), 9 p.m. (Spanish); Dec. 25, 8 a.m. (Spanish), 10 a.m. (English), noon (Spanish), 7 p.m. (Spanish); Monday, Dec. 26 (Feast of St. Stephen), Bilingual Mass, followed by potluck, 6 p.m.

Columbus St. Thomas the Apostle – Dec. 24, 5 p.m., midnight; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 7 p.m. (Blue Christmas Mass for those not feeling joy during the holiday season), 10 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Columbus St. Timothy – Dec. 24, 7 p.m., 10 p.m.; Dec. 25, 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon.

Corning St. Bernard – Dec. 24, 5 p.m.

Coshocton Sacred Heart – Dec. 24, 5 p.m., 8 p.m., midnight; Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

Crooksville Church of the Atonement – Dec. 24, 7 p.m.; Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

Danville St. Luke – Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m. (children's pageant at 4); Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

Delaware St. Mary – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., church; 4 p.m., gym; 7 p.m.; Dec. 25, 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m. (Spanish).

Dennison Immaculate Conception – Dec. 24, 5 p.m., 10 p.m.; Dec. 25, 8 a.m., 10 a.m.

Dover St. Joseph – Dec. 24, 5 p.m. (music 4:30), 7:30 p.m. (Spanish, music at 7), 11:30 p.m. (music at 11); Dec. 25, 9 a.m. (music 8:30).

Dresden St. Ann – Dec. 24, 9 p.m.; Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 10 p.m.; Dec. 25, 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

Gahanna St. Matthew – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m. (incense-free at 10); Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Glenmont Ss. Peter and Paul – Dec. 24, 9 p.m.

Granville St. Edward – Dec. 24, 5 p.m., 9 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., church (school choir); 4 p.m., gym (PSR choir); 7 p.m., 10 p.m.; Dec. 25, 9:30 a.m.

Groveport St. Mary – 5 p.m. (crèche blessing, young people perform choral music and proclaim Scripture and prayers), 9 p.m. (preceded by choral music); Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

See MASS SCHEDULES, Page 15

In the marriage case styled DICKESS - SALYERS, 2016/0260, the Tribunal of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio, is currently unaware of the present address of MS. LISA DAWN SHIVEL SALYERS. The Tribunal herewith informs her of the case and invites her to contact REVEREND MONSIGNOR JOHN JOHNSON, JCL, Presiding and sole Judge, no later than 3 JANUARY 2017. Phone: 614-241-2500 Extension 3. Anyone who knows of the whereabouts of MS. LISA DAWN SHIVEL SALYERS is herewith asked to make this Citation known to her or to inform the Tribunal of her current address. Given this 5 day of DECEMBER 2016. REVEREND MONSIGNOR JOHN JOHNSON, JCL, Presiding Judge.

In the marriage case styled GILBERT - MC GEHEE, 2016/0152, the Tribunal of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio, is currently unaware of the present address of MR. MARC DOUGLAS MC GEHEE. The Tribunal herewith informs him of the case and invites him to contact REVEREND MONSIGNOR JOHN JOHNSON, JCL, Presiding and sole Judge, no later than 3 JANUARY 2017. Phone: 614-241-2500 Extension 3. Anyone who knows of the whereabouts of MR. MARC DOUGLAS MC GEHEE is herewith asked to make this Citation known to him or to inform the Tribunal of his current address. Given this 5 day of DECEMBER 2016. REVEREND MONSIGNOR JOHN JOHNSON, JCL, Presiding Judge.

Guidelines on gluten-free hosts; Football commentary at Mass



QUESTION & ANSWER

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. At our parish weekend Mass, one child comes regularly to the altar at the same time as the eucharistic ministers and receives Communion separately from the congregation. My understanding is that he has celiac disease and gets a gluten-free host.

But I just realized today that the celebrant gives him Communion using the same hand that has just touched the “regular” hosts. As a person with a food allergy myself (albeit a different one), doesn’t that risk a cross-contamination of the host received by the boy? (Lansdale, Pennsylvania)

A. The Mayo Clinic in 2012 estimated that 1.8 million Americans suffer from celiac disease; for them, eating gluten (a protein contained in wheat) can cause serious damage to the intestinal lining. This would mean that, in a Sunday congregation of 400 worshippers, two or three would likely be afflicted.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has recognized the danger you point out of cross-contamination. In their pastoral guidelines, they suggest that before Mass begins, a low-gluten host be placed in a pyx on the altar. (A pyx is a small inexpensive metal container, and most parishes would have several of them.)

When the person with gluten intolerance approaches the priest in the Communion line, he or she could simply be handed the pyx containing the consecrated host and then self-communicate.

You will notice that I use the term “low-gluten” rather than “gluten-free.” According to the Vatican, hosts must be made of wheat, since Christ used wheat bread at the Last Supper.

In the parish from which I just retired, we used low-gluten hosts made by Benedictine nuns in Clyde, Missouri, that contain less than 0.01 percent of gluten and that medical research has deemed safe for most celiac sufferers. Researchers have estimated that most of those afflicted would have to consume 270 such wafers a day to reach a danger point.

For safety’s sake, a person with celiac disease is best advised to seek medical

advice regarding the consumption of low-gluten hosts. Those Catholics unable to consume even low-gluten hosts may receive under the species of wine only, even if the cup is not offered to the rest of the congregation at a particular Mass.

Q. A retired priest says one of the Sunday Masses each week at our parish. During football season, after the opening hymn, he spends a couple of minutes commenting on the football game that our local team played the day before.

This, of course, produces giggles from the congregation, which urges him to continue what I believe borders on sacrilege. (Also, at the conclusion of the liturgy, instead of saying, “The Mass is ended. Go in peace,” he says, “The Mass never ends; it must be lived by each of us today.”)

His comments at the beginning of Mass have irritated me to the extent that I now leave church until he has finished that part, and then I return to my pew. Your thoughts?

A. The first rule, I would think, is that the Mass should be offered with the reverence and dignity that the circumstance warrants: Jesus Christ is made present on the altar, offered to the Lord in sacrifice, and then received back as gift to the faithful. This doesn’t rule out occasional humor, lighthearted commentary, or reference to contemporary events, even football games.

But if the priest you mention regularly spends as much time as you say -- “a couple of minutes” and then some more -- that seems a bit excessive. (Your use of the word “sacrilege,” though, does sound a tad extreme.)

As to his extemporizing at the dismissal rite, why can’t he stick to one of the four formulas offered in the *Roman Missal* -- including “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life,” which is what he seems to want to say?

And as regards your leaving church during the opening comments, I wouldn’t call that a good idea. At the very least, it can distract other worshippers when they watch you return. If it really bothers you that much, why not do something else: Talk to the priest himself, which would be the most “upfront” thing to do, or speak with your pastor, or, as a last resort, simply go to a different Catholic parish?

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 40 Hopewell St., Albany NY 12208.



St. Mary hosts police appreciation luncheon

Columbus St. Mary School hosted a holiday luncheon for police officers. Student Council members welcomed the officers, and school safety patrol members were honored during the reception. Kindergarten through fourth-grade students sang the officers a few songs with the theme “Christmas everywhere.”

Photo courtesy St. Mary School



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Answering God's Call

HE WANTED PROOF AND KEPT GETTING ANSWERS



Deacon Dan Hann

by Tim Puet

Many of the Bible's greatest figures, including Moses, Jonah, and Jeremiah, were reluctant to acknowledge that God was calling them. They kept asking for proof and receiving answers until the evidence was too strong to ignore. So it was with Deacon Dan Hann of London St. Patrick Church.

"As a young man, I know I felt called to something," he said. "I decided the calling was to the vocation of marriage, but I never quite shook the feeling that I was meant to do something more.

"I began thinking about the possibility of becoming a deacon when I was a teacher and a part-time farmer, living in Fairfield in southwest Ohio and attending St. Ann Church in Hamilton with my wife, Paula, and our children. I admired the way Deacon Mark Brunner of that parish balanced his family and his ministry. But I never said anything to Paula in connection with this," he said.

"I began praying about the possibility of becoming a deacon and said, 'Lord, you're going to have to have a priest tell me I should do this.' In three weeks, two priests and a deacon said I should consider the diaconate. I kept saying, 'That was too easy, and anyway, I don't have the time.' I was given that time while recovering from a kidney stone.

"Recuperating gave me the time to give the idea more thought and to realize I may have a calling," Deacon Hann said. "I got in touch with the director of the lay pastoral ministry program at the Athenaeum of Ohio (a center for ecclesial formation sponsored by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati) and she asked if I could come there and talk to her that night. That seemed awfully fast, but I realized this was God's way of letting me know he really was calling me to serve him in a role beyond the one I already had."

Deacon Hann received a certificate of lay pastoral ministry from the Athenaeum in 1989, at about the same time his extended family was making a major change. His parents, his two brothers, and all of their families, who had been living on a 60-acre farm that had been in the family for six generations, decided to sell the land because it was being surrounded by developments.

The family moved northeast about 70 miles to Madison County, where today the three brothers and Deacon Hann's son, Mike, grow soybeans and corn and have a small hog-raising operation on 1,400 acres halfway between London and Washington Court House.

After settling in his new home, Deacon Hann became active in various ministries at St. Patrick Church. The deacon formation program in the Diocese of Columbus was in a state of transition, so he did not immediately pursue the diaconate. However, officials at the Madison Correctional Institution, where there was no deacon or priest serving at the time, learned of his pastoral training and asked if he would become a Catholic chaplain at the prison. He agreed, becoming the first layperson in Ohio to be hired for that position by the state.

He served there from 1991 to 2006. "I had concerns about becoming a prison chaplain," he said. "Reluctance would be too strong a word to describe what I was feeling, but apprehension doesn't fit. Mainly, I was open to the possibility and had a lot of questions.

"I found out the men who came to see me also were very open, and that helped a lot. Since I was doing something totally new, it took about two years to become totally comfortable, but I felt I was readily accepted, and I'm deeply appreciative of

the many priests who came to the prison to celebrate Mass," Deacon Hann said.

"I felt kind of like John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus, in that I was preparing the men I was serving to celebrate the Eucharist. While I was there, we had several awareness retreats and Life in the Spirit seminars, RCIA classes, and many other things. I was an art teacher for 15 years in the Madison Local school district in Butler County when I lived in Fairfield, and that was good training."

"I got great satisfaction from prison work and how it allowed men to develop their abilities. It provided a face of humanity and compassion and got them to reach out to each other in a hostile environment. We had good musicians who used their musical talents to learn liturgical music and provide accompaniment for Masses. We also had inmates carving statues and crucifixes we used," he said.

"One important thing about being a prison chaplain is that you can't lose sight of the humanness of the people you are serving. It's important to remind them that they are made in God's image and likeness, when the rest of society often treats them as though they are something less than that.

"I would encourage anyone who is interested in prison ministry and has the training to go in and try it with an open mind. It's a great opportunity to serve people in their woundedness. But do it with your eyes open, as it's easy to be caught up and manipulated by some," he said.

After the diocesan diaconate training program resumed in the mid-1990s, Deacon Hann completed it and was one of 12 men ordained as deacons by Bishop James Griffin on Feb. 1, 1997. He served both St. Patrick Church and the prison for nine years before leaving prison ministry.

Deacon Hann, 65, and Paula have been married for 42 years. They have two sons, David, 41, and Mike, 39; a daughter, Amy, 36; three grandsons; and three granddaughters.

He said he works about 15 hours a week at the parish. He delivers homilies once or twice a month at weekend Masses and is involved in its marriage preparation, Alpha, and RCIA programs. He also assists with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on first Fridays and Stations of the Cross during Lent, witnesses marriages, and performs baptisms. In addition, he is an advocate on the diocesan Tribunal and occasionally is master of ceremonies for Bishop Frederick Campbell at liturgical functions.

"The Tribunal work is very satisfying because you can see how the marriage annulment process is able to heal people's brokenness and give them a sense of peace," he said. "When I'm a master of ceremonies, it's always great to see how people are excited when the bishop comes to their parish and how anxious they are to do well. I help calm them down."

The former art teacher remains involved in liturgical art. He provides calligraphic, illuminated copies of the Lord's Prayer for RCIA presentations at his parish and West Jefferson Ss. Simon and Jude Church. He also has written icons for a few parishes and is beginning icons of St. Patrick and St. Columba to join an icon of St. Brigid at his church in conjunction with its 150th anniversary.

"A deacon is a servant, and it's been a very fulfilling role for me," Deacon Hann said. "It's a pleasure to be able to assist people to do what they're called to do, for the honor and glory of God."



St. Agatha Adopt-a-Family Program

Columbus St. Agatha School eighth-grade students are pictured with some of the presents they bought for their adopt-a-family program. They used their own money and went shopping and wrapped the gifts.

Photo courtesy St. Agatha School



Watterson Commended Scholars

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School seniors (from left) Aaron Tayal, Matt Dockman, John Blevins, and Caitlin Williams have been named commended scholars by the National Merit Scholarship Corp. The recognition is based on scores from the 2015 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School

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5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass ~ St. John the Baptist

December 25

10:00 a.m. Mass ~ St. John the Baptist

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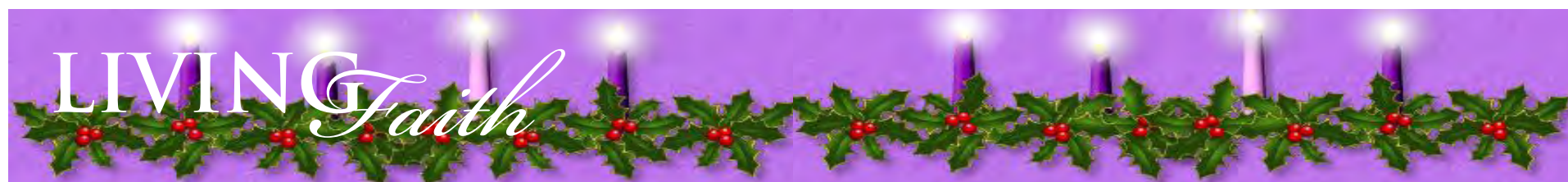
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God's Gift

Have you ever wondered how some people can put a lifetime into a few short years? How can they seem to find such talent and do so many wonderful works in such a fleeting period of time? On the other hand, for some of us, why does it seem to take a lifetime to find ourselves, accomplishing little, if anything?

It is not for us alone to determine our impact on the community or on others. God teaches us early that He is in control. If we try to circumvent Him, He gently corrects our path. He has a design for every one of us, and it is for us to figure out how we are to make this life He gives to us worthwhile. I certainly would want my life to account for something good when I finally meet Him. What memories will we have to share? Will they measure up to His expectations?

Christmastime especially can be a season of reflection, of looking back at how we made a difference. My mom and dad never had a lot, but made others' lives during the holidays extra special.

Christmas allows us the chance to help another discover the hope we all dream of sharing.

It started with a small child 2,000 years ago in a quiet, out-of-the-way village. Some knew what this child's birth meant, but for many, it was another ordinary day. Little did we know how His birth would affect us in monumental ways.

People say inspiration can strike when we least expect it. Take a lesson from Him and give of yourself. Do not wait for the time when it feels just right. Do it because He puts the urgency in your heart. Whether you perform an act of kindness or an act of love, God looks at all of us in the same way. He sees our light and is our companion along this journey. Let us pray for each other to accomplish all good things with marvelous humility. Show others you care, not just with words, but with the hand of charity and love so wonderfully alive at this time of year.

Yes, count your blessings, but try and look at what



LIGHTING THE WAY

Joseph Thomas

you have through the eyes of someone who needs you much more than you need yourself. That is how God measures success, by the light of a single candle burning in the darkness, and how hope overcame fear.

Lay your head upon my shoulders and I will give you rest. God brings us love, God brings us peace, but, most importantly, He brings to us abundant joy. Merry Christmas, everyone. May your life be rich and full, may the needs of the poor be heard, may our prayers for a better life for all be granted, and may His peace be with you always.

Joseph Thomas, a member of Gahanna St. Matthew Church, is a freelance writer and is active in many diocesan and church activities.

Wishing you every Joy and Blessing at Christmas

and throughout the New Year

THE STAFF AT
THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF COLUMBUS

Jon Abshire

Theresa Bayes

Tim Boggs

Brian Everts

Laura Favret

Rich Finn

Jan Gerst

Jenny Gruber

Ed Jones

Kevin Kelley

Joyce Kitzmiller

Aaron McDole

Kyle McGlone

Fred Messmer

Sandee Murphy

Mark Noble

Steve Skinner

Jeremy Sprouse

Jim VanHorn

Chuck Weiner

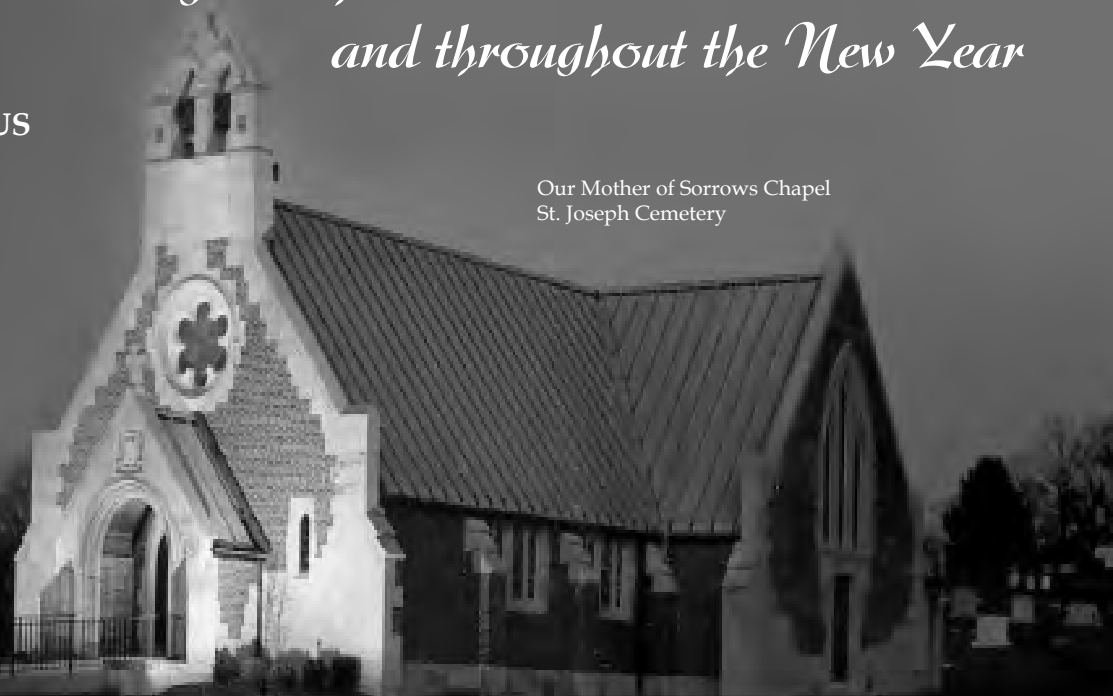
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NEW EVANGELIZATION BRINGS RENEWAL TO DOVER ST. JOSEPH

BY TIM PUET

Reporter, Catholic Times

Father Jimmy Hatfield says this is an exciting time at Dover St. Joseph Church.

"You can sense the impact of the New Evangelization beginning to take effect," said Father Hatfield, who has spent most of his priestly ministry at the parish, as pastor since 2013 and parochial vicar for 18 months after his ordination in 2010.

"The parish is beginning to catch fire with the spirit of evangelization. More people are becoming involved with many aspects of parish life, such as our outreach to those who can't get to church, our music ministry, and our youth program. The parish's Hispanic ministry is constantly growing. It's a real awakening on a broad scale," he said.

"I've always felt this is a parish filled with people who participate, rather than just sit in the pews and go home," said Jack Burnham, president of the parish Pastoral Council. "For one thing, it seems everybody sings at Mass. I don't see that in many of the other parishes I've visited."

"When I've had family members visit, they tell me they're impressed with the friendliness of the people, the parish's history, and the scriptural content of Father Jimmy's homilies," parish member Nancy Allen said.

Father Hatfield said the parish's participation in the Amazing Parish conference in Denver in 2015 was a catalyst for parish renewal. He attended the event with Jack Burnham and his wife, Judy, and pastoral associate Brenda Stilgenbauer. "It clarified our vision and helped in setting priorities on how to move the parish forward so that parishioners could become more authentic disciples, living out the good news Jesus proclaimed," he said.

"The conference reminded us our goal as a parish is to move from maintenance to mission – to go beyond just being thought of as the place where people come for Mass on Sunday to becoming more involved in transforming the community," Stilgenbauer said.

Parishioner Michelle Tope said one

example of this is a recent expansion of the parish's program of visiting parishioners who are in nursing homes or are homebound.

"Many parish members are older people who can't come to church. Father was concerned about their being felt left behind, so he asked me about a year ago to organize an outreach to them," Tope said. "More than 30 people expressed an interest in this. About a dozen of them have become active in this ministry. We go in pairs on our visits, and we see more than 30 people regularly."

"The visits take place at least once a month, with the frequency depending on an individual's preference. All our visitors have undergone the diocese's Protecting God's Children training. It's been a very positive thing for both the visitors and the people they see, who really are pleased with the concern the parish is showing them," Tope said.

"We started with a list of more than 100 people to see. In the short time this program has been operating, some have died, or their health has improved so they're able to get to church, or, in some cases, they didn't express a need to have someone visit them. The list is constantly changing, which means people are aware of what we're doing and know we're here to meet their needs."

The Alpha Course has provided another opportunity for spiritual growth. This nine-week look at the basics of Christianity has been offered at thousands of Catholic parishes worldwide, as well as churches of other denominations. "It's making a difference," said parishioner Nancy Allen. "We just finished offering the course for a second time. The first time, most who came were Pastoral Council and staff members. Word of mouth about it was positive, and about 110 people came for the second offering."

"People are excited and abuzz about it," said parishioner Mary DeBois. "Next time, we're going to offer it on Sunday afternoons, particularly for people who have kids in sports or school activities during the week and can't come at any other time."

Besides the Alpha Course, the par-



Members of the parish's Guadalupe choir (left) and adult choir were among participants in an ecumenical festival of lessons and carols at Dover St. Joseph Church on Sunday, Dec. 11.

Photo courtesy St. Joseph Church



Above: The exterior of Dover St. Joseph Church. Right: Advent candles, Advent wreath, and sanctuary.

Below: Parishioners (from left): first row, Judy Burnham, Mary DeBois, and Brenda Stilgenbauer; second row, Jack Burnham, Andy Troiano, Nancy Allen, Michelle Tope, Matt Ritzert, Kevin Kutz, and Father Jimmy Hatfield, pastor.

(Photos above, right courtesy St. Joseph Church; CT photo by Tim Puet)



ish offers Bible studies for women twice a month on Friday mornings and for men each Saturday morning. The parish's mission outreach also extends beyond Tuscarawas County. This past summer, eight parishioners, organized by parish member John Karl, went on a mission trip to Hindman, Kentucky, and repaired homes in the heart of Appalachia for a week. They plan to return there in mid-June.

"It was an extremely rewarding week and an eye-opener," said mission participant Matt Ritzert. "We were a group of Catholics living for a week in a Methodist church, working on a project organized by the Mennonite central committee, all coming to a greater realization of what unites us as Christians."

The parish has about 810 families and was founded in 1849 to serve people employed along the Ohio and Erie Canal in what then was known as Canal Dover because of the waterway's importance.

Immigrants have always been a key part of the parish's life. First were the people migrating from the East on the canal, then the Italians, Germans, and Swiss who came to work in the industries of Dover and Tuscarawas County.

Members of the parish's annual Hispanic Confirmation class with Bishop Frederick Campbell. Photo courtesy St. Joseph Church

They said the area's hills reminded them of the Alps. Their presence resulted in much Alpine-themed architecture in the area, particularly in Sugarcreek, one of the communities served by the parish, which is the home of the annual Ohio Swiss Festival. Dover's annual Canal Days and Italian-American Festival also honor that heritage.

The newest large group of immigrants is the Hispanic community of Tuscarawas, Stark, Holmes, and Carroll counties, which the parish has served for about 20 years. Father William Arnold, now pastor of Columbus Holy Spirit Church, began celebrating Masses for Hispanics after he came to Dover in 1996, end-

ing a 110-year period during which the parish was served by Capuchin Franciscan friars. That ministry has continued under Father Matthew Hoover, now at Columbus Immaculate Conception, and Father Hatfield. "There's been constant growth in the Hispanic ministry," Father Hatfield said. "When I came here the first time in 2010, about 150 people attended the weekly Mass in Spanish. Now that number is around 300 to 400, and the number of Baptisms, Confirmations, and first Communions, as well as instances in which Hispanic couples have their marriage vows blessed by the Church, is steadily increasing."

"We've also incorporated Spanish

into the liturgies for major events such as Holy Thursday and Ash Wednesday. We will have a Christmas Eve Mass in Spanish, and the bishop celebrates a Spanish Confirmation Mass each year with a class ranging from 25 to 40 Hispanics. We have a Guadalupe choir and other Hispanic musicians because of the hard work of Kevin Kutz, our music director. There's also been a lot more Hispanic participation in the parish festival."

Father Hatfield said a parish day of prayer and fasting on Sept. 29, dedicated to civil peace, provided a time of bonding between the Hispanic and English-speaking communities. That date was the Feast of St.

Michael, the patron saint of police. The observance began with a 6 p.m. Vigil Mass on Sept. 28, followed by 24 hours of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and a closing prayer service at 6 p.m. Sept. 29. A communal rosary was prayed at midnight and noon, and there were several opportunities to hear the Word of God proclaimed and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Carmen Bravo serves as pastoral associate in charge of the parish's Hispanic ministry. She is at the parish office every weekday to help Hispanics deal with things such as transportation, medical issues, helping parents with questions related to their children's education, and providing referrals to people who can offer assistance on immigration and legal questions.

She also leads a Hispanic women's group which meets for three hours on Friday mornings. Participants can bring their young children for a meal, prayer, Bible study, an English lesson, and talks on various subjects. A Hispanic Bible study group for men meets on Friday evening.

The church building at 613 N. Tuscarawas Ave. downtown, about a two-minute drive from the Dover exit of Interstate 77, was dedicated in 1965 to replace a structure



CHURCH, *continued from Page 11*

built in 1898. Across the street is a 15,000-square-foot Family Life Center, which has two stories and a basement and includes eight meeting rooms. It has served a number of purposes for the church and the community and for many years was the site of a clinic for uninsured people, operated by area hospitals.

Every Wednesday evening, it is the location of a soup kitchen, which has served the community since 2013. Alcoholics Anonymous, Boy Scouts, and youth groups meet there weekly. The parish also operates two cemeteries, one dating to its earliest days, which remain in active use.

Across the street from the church is the former St. Joseph School, now Tuscarawas Central Catholic Elementary School, serving students in kindergarten through sixth grade from St. Joseph and parishes in New Philadelphia and Zoar. "It's a consolidated school, but remains a vital part of the parish," said Ritzert, the school's principal. "Enrollment is growing as more Hispanic children enter, and the students are active in many parish and community programs. The school's Helping Hands service team hosts the soup kitchen on a regular basis, rakes leaves, and takes part in clothing drives and in collections for the community soup kitchen." The school also includes a hall where some parish social events take place.

The parish's Knights of Columbus council recently opened its own hall, going against a trend which has seen many councils close their halls for financial reasons.

"We had been sharing space with the New Philadelphia council and had been saving and investing money for years in hopes of having a hall of our own," said council grand knight John Kuczirka. "We wanted a building that would be large enough for parish functions, but small enough not to be a fi-

nancial strain." The new hall has 1,400 square feet of space and is located on a four-acre site. So far this year, it has been used for the parish picnic, graduation parties, an Alpha retreat, and a Boy Scout campout. This Saturday, Dec. 17, it will host the council's annual Dinner with Santa.

The council has 205 members and was a recipient of the Knights' 2016 Star Council honor, the top award for an individual council, because of its service programs and membership growth. During the year, council members collected more than \$5,000 to support diocesan seminarians. The council also recently donated coats to 30 needy schoolchildren. In addition, it takes part in the Ohio Knights' Measure-Up program for the developmentally disabled, provides tuition assistance for Catholic elementary and secondary schools, and assists with a living rosary at one of the parish cemeteries.

The Knights have been part of the parish since 1919, but are not its oldest organization. That distinction belongs to the parish chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order for lay people, which was founded by the Capuchins soon after their arrival in 1886.

Other parish organizations with a long history include the Ladies Catholic Benevolent Organization, organized in 1903, which makes prayer shawls for the homebound and operates a craft booth at the parish festival each year; Boy Scout Troop 95, part of the parish since 1929; the Knights' Isabella Society for women; the Regina Study Club, which meets on the third Thursday of each month to hear a guest speaker and awards an annual scholarship; and the St. Gerard Committee, a ministry providing meals to new mothers and others needing help in difficult periods.

Father Hatfield said the parish senior citizens group often attracts 70 to 80 people to its luncheon meetings on the third Wednesday of the month. The group's recent activities included a May pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey.

The group meets at the Manor restaurant in Strasburg, a business which has a special connection to the parish because it is owned by the parents of



Dover St. Joseph School students sing on Grandparents Day.

Photo courtesy St. Joseph Church

Father Anthony Davis, parochial vicar of Columbus St. Andrew Church, who was ordained in 2015. Another recent addition to the diocesan clergy from the parish is Deacon Ronald Onslow, whose ordination took place last month. He has been assigned to New Philadelphia Sacred Heart Church.

Deacon Ronald Fondriest, 84, has been a member of St. Joseph Church all his life and has served it as a deacon since his ordination in 1979. He is officially retired, but remains active in the Secular Franciscans and makes about 15 Communion calls a week to people unable to attend church.

Youth minister Andy Troiano, in his third year with the parish, has a full schedule every Sunday, meeting with eighth-graders from 12:30 to 2 p.m. and sixth- and seventh-graders from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Family Life Center and with high school students from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at either the Dover or New Philadelphia church or Dennison Immaculate Conception Church. He also meets with high school students on Tuesday evenings in Dover and at 6:30 a.m. Thursdays in New Philadelphia.

"I see about 60 students a week, he said. "I'm actually busier in the summer because the weekday groups meet all year, while the Sunday activities are only during the school year. I can't stress the importance of the Mass strongly enough. That's the reason for meeting in the summer. The meetings are linked to Mass times so students can keep up their Mass attendance."

During the summer, the youth group also has attended the diocesan Gospel Road program, conferences at Franciscan University of Steubenville, the Fest program for Catholic young people

in the Cleveland area, and the Alive! Christian music festival in Mineral City, and has gone to Atwood Lake and Cedar Point.

Kutz leads an extensive music program, including an adult choir which sings weekly at the 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass and other liturgical events, as well as a youth choir of seventh- through 12th-graders which is featured at the 11 a.m. Mass on the third Sunday of each month.

Cantors lead the singing at the 4 p.m. Saturday Mass and the other 11 a.m. Sunday Masses. The Guadalupe choir sings at the Mass in Spanish at 1:30 p.m. Sundays. A children's choir is a highlight of the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass, and the annual first Communion Mass includes a special choir of students who have been in the elementary school's choir or have been cantors for the weekly school Mass. A special choir is available for funerals and sings at the parish memorial Mass on All Souls' Day.

The adult, teen, Guadalupe, and children's choirs all are part of the parish's annual lessons and carols program, which took place last Sunday, Dec. 11. The program also included the Dover High School Ars Nova Singers and choirs from Moravian, United Church of Christ, Lutheran, and United Methodist congregations.

Kutz brought this service to Dover six years ago. It tells the biblical story of events from creation through the birth of Jesus through Scripture, prayer, and music in a format which has become known around the world through the annual broadcast of Christmas Eve lessons and carols from King's College, Cambridge, England, by British and American public radio networks.

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HARTLEY WINS SECOND CONSECUTIVE STATE FOOTBALL TITLE

Columbus Bishop Hartley High School won the Division IV state football championship for the second straight year, defeating Steubenville 24-21 on a 31-yard field goal by sophomore Matteo Agriesti with two seconds to play on Saturday, Dec. 3 at Ohio Stadium.

The same teams played for the championship last year, with Hartley winning 31-28.

The Hawks also were state champions in 1986 and 2010. The four titles are the

most for any Franklin County school.

Team members are (from left): first row, Thomas Casimir, Nick Onega, Jacob McFeeters, Jaden Manley, Cody Kirkbride, Cam Ron Culver, Marquette Dixon, Adam Cone, Jake Ruby, Jack Baughman; second row, Nick Cone, Blaine Barringer, Elijah Carter, Jonathan Serrano, Nick Warrick, Josiah Rawls, Andrew Heinmiller, Nick Dawes, Conor Collins, Jordin Smith, Justin Annesi, Chase Ford, Thomas

Carney; third row, Jacob Culbertson, Matteo Agriesti, Anthony Macieweski, Michael Hatem, Jon Anderson, Tyler Davis Viau, Ethan Amaya, Winston Amakowah, Nathaniel Amaya, James Reese, Alexander Blackmon, Anthony Whitney; fourth row, Griffin Rathburn, Deacon Benson, Michael Knox, Evan Costlow, Jacob Miller, Jesse Foster, Ben Dankow, Paddy Gilliland, Max Steinecker, Anthony Carfagna, Brandon Wise, Phillip Cole; fifth row, Owen Griffith, George Dunor, Kenyon Davis, Kiron Anderson, Donald Allwein, Payton Collins, Harold Conigy, Jordan Kirkbride, Thomas Mayhan, Tandre Clifton, Blake Newsome, Braylon

Mitchell, Ryan Heuser; sixth row, Paddy Page, Angelo Evans, Miles Fleming, Mason Sawyer, Antonio Tucker, TJ Johnson, Alex Michael, Isiah Stinnett, Thomas DeFoor, Sean Cunningham, Connor Macioce, Austin Paulus; seventh row, Dion Drake, Micah Slater, Aiden Davis, Marwan Perkins, Janan January, Luke Carney, Griffin McCauley; eighth row, managers Peyton Underwood and Joey Wooten, coaches Eric Selegue, Randy Wooten, Woody Underwood, Chuck Wooten, Brad Burchfield (head coach), Tim Rathburn, Mike Evans, Chris Sawyer, Adam Williams, Derrek Downard, Rob Ballinger. Photo courtesy Bishop Hartley High School

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Fourth Sunday of Advent (Cycle A)

Account of Jesus' birth leaves us wanting more



Father
Lawrence L. Hummer

Isaiah 7:10-14

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24

This close to Christmas, it is no surprise that our attention shifts directly to that prophecy of Isaiah which seems to bear directly on Christian belief in Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah.

Before we make that link, we have to check Isaiah's original prophecy. Israel's king had joined with the Syrian forces to fight against Judah and Jerusalem. The time was 734 BC. Judah's discovery that Israel had joined forces with Syria against them dispirited Judah's citizenry greatly. Enter Isaiah, who goes to meet Ahaz, Judah's king, telling him not to fear the enemy. He promises the king that Israel soon will collapse, and so will Syria.

Isaiah then tells Ahaz to ask for a sign (prophets were really big on signs) that his words would come true. Ahaz refuses "to tempt the Lord" by asking for a sign, but the prophet gives him a sign anyway: "See, the young woman is pregnant and is about to give birth to a son; she will give him the name Immanuel."

Commentators on this passage cannot agree either on who the young woman was or who the son she bore was, many supposing that the woman was Isaiah's wife. If she were a **virgin**, the Hebrew word would have to have been *betula*. The text, however, presents us with *alma*, a word with no connotation of virginity.

The Greek translation of this passage, centuries later, used the word *parthenos*, which did mean a "virgin." The New Testament used the Greek Old Testament for its citations and Matthew was able to use Isaiah 7:14 as his "proof text," and another Old Testament passage was thereby fulfilled. Matthew includes three

other fulfillment citations in the two chapters of his infancy narrative.

It was a perfectly legitimate use of an Old Testament text, as long as one explained that it was a translation of a Hebrew original. We will never know why the Greek translator, four centuries after Isaiah, chose to translate as he did. Knowing that Matthew was written in the 80s of the first century, we easily can see that by using the Isaiah quote, the tradition of Mary as a virgin already had been handed down. We note in passing that no other Gospel mentions this passage in the New Testament.

Belief in Mary's virginity does not rest on proof texts. That is why we "believe" it to be true. If it can be proven, it is no longer in the realm of faith.

Among the more interesting highlights of Matthew's account of Jesus' birth is Joseph's decision to end the marriage because Mary was "with child through the Holy Spirit." Joseph was torn because he was a "righteous man," but "unwilling to expose her to shame." His dilemma is that he knew he had not impregnated her, but because of her presumed infidelity (or not), he wanted to divorce her. Deuteronomy 22:20-21 required Joseph to have her stoned, or at least to divorce her. Yet some suggest Joseph tempered his righteousness with mercy, and so was unwilling to expose her to shame and married her without further ado.

Like the Old Testament Joseph, this Joseph dreamt a dream. In it, an angel explained to him what was happening to Mary and the son she was bearing. Marriage was a two-step process, with betrothal which could be lengthy (but still binding), followed by the husband taking his wife into his home. Matthew gives us no idea what Mary's reaction to all this was.

In the end, we do not know what Joseph thought and we certainly don't know what Mary thought about all this. Matthew also leaves us wanting more. Out of all this is born Jesus, who continues to "save his people from their sins."

Father Lawrence Hummer, pastor of Chillicothe St. Mary Church, may be reached at hummerl@stmarychillicothe.com.

Scholarship event planned for St. Charles

The inaugural Thomas James Knox Memorial Scholarship event, *An Evening Anchored in Education*, will take place Saturday, Jan. 28 at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St.

Columbus St. Mary Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God Church, 672 S. 3rd St., will take place each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 5:20 p.m., followed by Benediction and Mass, in the St. Francis of Assisi chapel of the Burkley Building adjacent to the church.

The church building is closed for repairs because of damage caused by a lightning strike on Aug. 28.

Knox was a 14-year-old St. Charles freshman who died in 2015. His family established a scholarship endowment to honor his memory and to give back to the young men at the school who served as his brothers and made his educational experience a life-changing one.

The event's goal is to raise \$30,000 toward a \$250,000 endowment base. The evening will include a 50/50 raffle, a live auction, music from the Bluewater Kings Band for dancing, and catering by Berwick Catering.

Register for the event at Eventbrite.com and search for Thomas Knox. For more information, call Lisa Knox at (614) 595-6585 or email LisaKKnox@gmail.com.

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY

Judges 13:2-7,24-25a
Psalm 71:3-4a,5-6b,16-17
Luke 1:5-15

TUESDAY

Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalm 24:1-6
Luke 1:26-38

WEDNESDAY

Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Psalm 33:2-3,11-12,20-21
Luke 1:39-45

THURSDAY

1 Samuel 1:24-28
1 Samuel 2:1,4-8 (Ps)
Luke 1:46-56

FRIDAY

Malachi 3:1-4,23-24
Psalm 25:4bc-5ab,8-10,14
Luke 1:57-66

SATURDAY

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16
Psalm 89:2-5,27,29
Luke 1:67-79

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF DECEMBER 18, 2016

SUNDAY MASS

10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at 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 (Time Warner 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).

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.

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

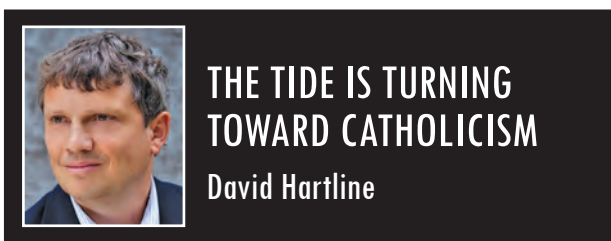
The Christmas Conundrum

The Christmas narrative told in the Gospel of Matthew is the only account that contains the entire story of Mary's angelic visitation, Jesus' birth, and the star of Bethlehem. In many ways, this Gospel account is indicative of the entire Christian experience – an experience filled with faith overcoming doubt. The story of Christ's birth is simple, yet complex. It can be understood by the smallest child, yet contemplated with vigor by the most studious of intellectuals. Like all riddles, it makes absolute sense, but one must contemplate it and believe in it.

From ancient times to the present, believers have been dismissed or even mocked. However, time after time, the faithful have been proven right, often after long spells of persecution. For the first 300 years of Christianity, the faith was under constant assault. In some years and decades, the attacks were more brutal than at other times, but it always was under assault. Only God knows the countless numbers of believers beaten, sold into slavery, or murdered for their faith.

As would occur countless times in the future, one event would change the course of the Church. In 312 AD, the Roman emperor Constantine saw a vision of the cross and immediately lifted the empire's ban on the faith. His mother, the future St. Helena, made an arduous journey which took years as, with the help of local historians, she meticulously located all the important chapters of Jesus' life in the Holy Land. Within a few years after Constantine's declaration, belief in the Roman gods would simply vanish as believers spread the Gospel message near and far throughout the Middle East, north Africa, and Europe.

The same sort of thing happened in more recent



THE TIDE IS TURNING TOWARD CATHOLICISM

David Hartline

times, but has been less documented. Beginning in the 1800s, many Protestant and even Catholic scholars began to doubt the Gospels' infancy narratives, those passages surrounding the earliest days of Jesus. Sadly, I am sure many of us have heard religious people we respect state that Matthew gave us a nice story about the star of Bethlehem, but it was only a story. After all, how could one person see this stupendous star and another not see it at all? Oh, ye of little faith!

The dawning of the computer age allowed scientists and astronomers to research constellations as they would have appeared throughout history. When the approximate date of Christ's birth was fed into a computer, astronomers were stunned to find that a constellation of jaw-dropping proportions would have been seen by people of the East -- Nabateans, Zoroastrians, and the people of modern-day Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Iraq. It became more reasonable to assume that people of Jesus' time who studied the stars might have seen a sign in this conjunction of stars and would come to Nazareth to bring homage to a great king born under that sign. Most adherents of the Torah would not have known about such signs. Therefore, Jews of that time, especially the secular

Herod, could have looked all night and not seen what Jesus' three visitors from faraway lands did. What we have learned from modern research means Matthew's story of Jesus' birth is historically accurate and makes perfect sense.

Perhaps this tells something to all of us. How many of us doubt what we hear at Mass or in the Bible, and buy into the whims of our modern world because some sociologist, pop star, or politician the secular media admires has told us we have to get with the times and put our faith on a shelf? Imagine that after much contemplation, you have found your dream husband or wife. You have logically scrutinized your choice, thinking it over carefully and including many rounds of prayer. However, a couple of friends or family members challenge your choice, politely at first, then belittling your logic and thought process. Would you give in to them, or would you trust your gut and your prayerful instincts? Isn't something similar to this example happening so often in our modern secular world?

Think about it. First you doubt the story of Jesus' birth, then you doubt the rest of the Gospels. It is very similar to doubting your own judgment about marriage and friendship. Where does that leave you? The dark side wants us to live in doubt, worry, and fear. The Christmas story tells us that even as an infant, Jesus was telling us something about faith, courage, hope, and love. It's something to ponder as the Advent season soon turns into the Christmas season.

Hartline is the author of "The Tide is Turning Toward Catholicism" and a former teacher and administrator for the diocese.

MASS SCHEDULES, continued from Page 5

Heath St. Leonard – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 8 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m.

Hilliard St. Brendan – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., church; 4 p.m., school multipurpose room; 6:30 p.m., church; 6:30 p.m., multipurpose room; 10 p.m.; Dec. 25, 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

Jackson Holy Trinity – Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m., midnight; Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

Johnstown Church of the Ascension – Dec. 24, 5 p.m. (carols and Nativity play at 5, followed by Mass), 10 p.m. (carols 9:30); Dec. 25, 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m.

Junction City St. Patrick – Dec. 24, 8 p.m.

Kenton Immaculate Conception – Dec. 24, 8 p.m.; Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

Lancaster St. Bernadette – Dec. 24, 6 p.m., midnight (carols 11:30); Dec. 25, 11 a.m.

Lancaster St. Mark – Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m. (children's Mass), 8 p.m., midnight; Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m.

Lancaster St. Mary – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9 p.m.; Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

Logan St. John – Dec. 24, 5 p.m., midnight; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

London St. Patrick – Dec. 24, 5 p.m., 10 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m.

Marion St. Mary – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 7 p.m., midnight (music 11:30); Dec. 25, 11 a.m., 1 p.m. (Spanish).

Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 6 p.m., midnight; Dec. 25, 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Mattingly Settlement St. Mary – Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m.

Millersburg St. Peter – Dec. 24, 6 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 6 p.m., midnight; Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m.

New Albany Church of the Resurrection – Dec. 24, 4 p.m. (children's Mass), 7 p.m., 10 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

New Boston St. Monica – Dec. 24, 10:30 p.m.; Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

New Lexington St. Rose – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 6 p.m., midnight; Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

New Philadelphia Sacred Heart – Dec. 24, 5 p.m., 7 p.m., midnight; Dec. 25, 8:30 a.m.

Newcomerstown St. Francis de Sales – Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m.

Newark Blessed Sacrament – Dec. 24, 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m., midnight; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Newark St. Francis de Sales – Dec. 24, 5 p.m., 8 p.m., 11:30 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Otway Our Lady of Lourdes – Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m.

Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 11 p.m.; Dec. 25, 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m.

Plain City St. Joseph – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., church; 4 p.m., activity center; 7 p.m., activity center; midnight, church; Dec. 25, 10 a.m., church.

Pond Creek Holy Trinity – Dec. 24, 10 p.m.

Portsmouth Holy Redeemer – Dec. 24, 7 p.m.; Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

Portsmouth St. Mary – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 10 p.m.

Powell St. Joan of Arc – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., church (no incense, Joan of Roc women's singers); 4 p.m., social hall (no incense, cantor); 6:30 p.m., church (Joan of Roc); 6:30 p.m., social hall (no incense, cantor); 10 p.m., church (music 9:30, choir with chamber orchestra); Dec. 25, 9 a.m., church (handbell choir); 11 a.m., church (no incense, children's Mass, children's choir).

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 10 p.m. (music 9:30); Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

Somerset Holy Trinity – Dec. 24, 6:30 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Somerset St. Joseph – Dec. 24, 4 p.m.; Dec. 25, 8 a.m.

See MASS SCHEDULES, Page 19

Pray for our dead

ARWAY, Kevin A., 37, Dec. 7
St. Thomas More Newman Center, Columbus

BAKER, James I., 79, Dec. 2
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

BARBIER, Emma (Coccia), 95, Dec. 9
St. Mary Church, Marion

BARTON, Leo T., 89, Dec. 2
St. Agnes Church, Columbus

BONANNO, Samuel M., 89, Dec. 4
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

BURNS, Barbara (O'Brien), 79, Dec. 7
St. Paul Church, Westerville

CARP, Margaret (Bogner), 70, Dec. 7
St. Mary Church, Marion

CLARKE, Edwin J., 83, Dec. 8
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

DEL COL, Elena V. "Helen" (Bando), 96, Dec. 4
St. Paul Church, Westerville

FOREMAN, Claudia (Causey), 84, Dec. 8
St. Mary Church, Marion

GLEICH, Josephine K. (Cortez), 92, Dec. 9
St. Philip Church, Columbus

HOOD, William H., 67, Nov. 24
Holy Name Church, Columbus

JOHNSTON, Irma C. "Claire," 93, Nov. 30
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

KOENINGER, Richard M., 76, Dec. 6
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

MATHEWS, Margaret (Thurn), 87, formerly of
Columbus, Dec. 9
Blessed Sacrament Church, Savannah, Ga.

McLOUGHLIN, Kevin T., 67, Dec. 6
St. Mary Church, Mattingly Settlement

MOORE, Dinty J., 74, Dec. 3
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

MONTAG, Robert A., 73, Dec. 8
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

NUTINI, L. Sharon (Burton), 73, Dec. 8
St. Cecilia Church, Columbus

PAUL, Richard H., 89, Dec. 6
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

PEZZOT, George A., 60, Dec. 7
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

ROUSH, Mary L. (Harold), 92, Dec. 5
St. Paul Church, Westerville

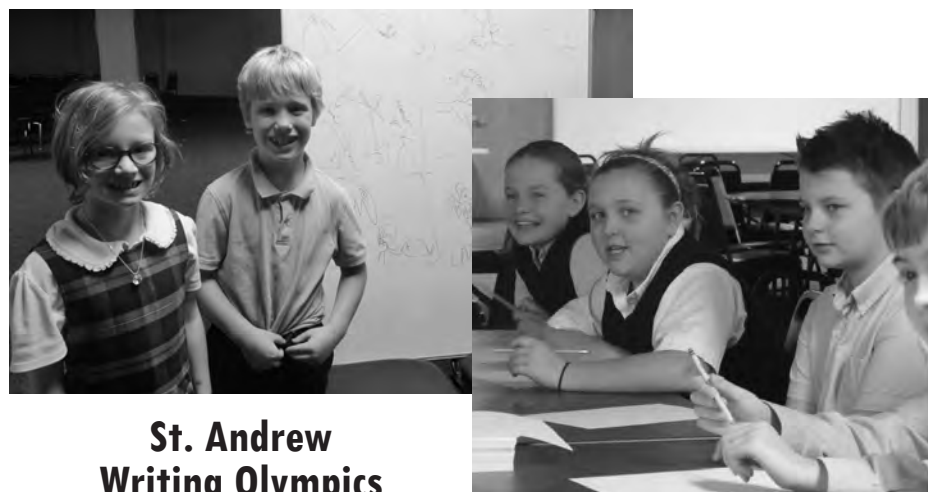
SCHOPINSKY, Gerald E., 75, Dec. 7
St. Paul Church, Westerville

SOUTHALL, Anthony J., 79, Dec. 8
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

SQUASHIC, Stasia (Skura), 82, Dec. 6
Corpus Christi Church, Columbus

VAN HORN, James R., 59, Dec. 2
St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

ZAWODNIAK, Leonard G., 83, Dec. 9
St. Agatha Church, Columbus



St. Andrew Writing Olympics

Columbus St. Andrew School recently hosted author Alan St. Jean for his "Writing Olympics" program. He guided students at each grade level in writing and illustration. By the end of the three-day program, each grade had written and illustrated an original story. The stories were read to the school, and a panel of three judges voted on the bronze, silver, and gold medal winners. Pictured are (left photo): Matilda Millman (left) and Kaden Jones working on a storyboard and Kaitlyn Lauber (left) and Katie Moore working on illustrations for their story. Photo courtesy St. Andrew School

Lighting the Advent Candle

Logan St. John School kindergarten students Eleanore Stowe (left) and Molly McGuire light Advent candles at the opening of a school day, with the help of teacher Bess Huffman. Each classroom at the school has a week in which it starts the Advent prayer for the day and lights the Advent candle at morning opening. The other students join in saying the Advent prayer for the day. Photo courtesy St. John School



St. Nicholas Visits St. Brigid

St. Nicholas arrives at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare School on horseback on his feast day, Tuesday, Dec. 6. Students left their shoes in the hallway when they left the school to see him and came back to find a peppermint in them.

Photo courtesy St. Brigid of Kildare School



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A BETTER WAY!

AM 820
CATHOLIC RADIO

H A P P E N I N G S

DECEMBER

15, THURSDAY

Cenacle at Holy Name

6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers in the Cenacle format of the Marian Movement of Priests.

Advent By Candlelight at Delaware St. Mary

6 to 9 p.m., Beitel Commons, St. Mary Church, 82 E. William St., Delaware. Advent By Candlelight program with dinner, followed by presentation on "Spiritual Warfare in the Age of Mary" by author and radio personality Elizabeth Ficocelli. 740-363-4641

Abortion Recovery Network Group

7 to 8 p.m., Gateway Center, 2670 N. Columbus St., Lancaster. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program and wants to stay connected. 614-721-2100

15-23, THURSDAY-FRIDAY

Simbang Gabi Celebration at St. Elizabeth

7:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Simbang Gabi, a Filipino Christmas tradition, featuring celebration of Mass for nine consecutive days. Dec. 23 closing celebration begins with Mass at 7, followed by potluck in Pastors' Hall.

17, SATURDAY

Wilderness Outreach Firewood Fundraiser

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 399 Carroll-Eastern Road N.W., Baltimore. Fundraiser to benefit Wilderness Outreach male spirituality program. Firewood will be cut, split, and loaded into vehicles. Freewill donations accepted; those in need will receive special consideration. Fathers and sons are en-

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 expected 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

couraged to attend to help with the work. 614-679-6761

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.

Centering Prayer Group Meeting at Corpus Christi

10:30 a.m. to noon, Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Centering prayer group meeting, beginning with silent prayer, followed by Contemplative Outreach DVD and discussion. 614-512-3731

Ohio Dominican Fall Commencement

11 a.m., Alumni Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. University's fall commencement. Speaker: Dr. Julia M. McNamara, ODU graduate and former president of Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Connecticut. 614-251-4453

18, SUNDAY

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

Blessing of St. Gerard Majella at Holy Family

After 11 a.m. Mass, Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Blessing of St. Gerard Majella, patron of expectant mothers, for all women who are pregnant or wish to become pregnant. 614-221-1890

Angelic Warfare Confraternity at Columbus St. Patrick

Following noon Mass, St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Monthly meeting of Angelic Warfare Confraternity, with talk on chastity-related issues followed by Holy Hour. 614-224-9522

St. Padre Pio Secular Franciscans

1:30 to 5 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 720 Hamlet St., Columbus. Fellowship and ongoing formation followed by adoration and prayer, Liturgy of the Hours, and initial formation with visitors. 614-282-4676

St. Catherine of Bologna Secular Franciscans

Note date change because of Christmas. 2 to 4:30 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus. Rosary, Meet in church for prayer, followed by general meeting, ongoing formation, and social.

Lessons and Carols at London St. Patrick

3 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 61 S. Union St., London. Festival of lessons and carols with parish chancel choir and children's choir, First Presbyterian Church choir, and London High School show choir. Monetary and food donations for London HELP House encouraged. 740-852-0942

St. Dominic Gospel Choir Concert

4 p.m., St. Dominic Church, 453 N. 20th St., Columbus. Parish Gospel choir's annual holiday concert, featuring Joyful Inspiration youth dance ministry. 614-252-5926

Bilingual Advent Concert at St. Mary Magdalene

4 p.m., St. Mary Magdalene Church, 473 S. Roys Ave., Columbus. Bilingual Advent concert featuring The Lambs of Jesus choral group, consisting of second-graders through adults, which sings every Sunday at Columbus St. Agnes Church bilingual Mass. 614-274-1121

Taize Evening Prayer at Corpus Christi

4 to 5 p.m., Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Evening Prayer in the style and spirit of the Taize monastic community, with song, silence, and reflection. 614-512-3731

Exposition, Evening Prayer at Coshocton Sacred Heart

4 to 5 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, Walnut Street and Park Avenue, Coshocton. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with Evening Prayer and Benediction, every Sunday during Advent. 740-622-8817

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

5 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. 614-861-1242

Live Nativity Scene at St. Brendan

6:30 to 8 p.m., St. Brendan Church, 4475 Dublin Road, Hilliard. "Waiting in Joyful Hope" Advent concert of song, Scripture, and praise. 614-876-1272

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

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

19, MONDAY

Adoration, Evening Prayer at New Philadelphia

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

20, TUESDAY

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, sponsored by church's respect life committee.

21, WEDNESDAY

Abortion Recovery Network Group

9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Westerville Area Resource Ministry, 150 Heatherdown Drive, Westerville. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program and wants to stay connected. 614-721-2100

Labyrinth Walk at Shepherd's Corner

7 to 8:30 p.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Labyrinth walk with Dale Sparlin. Theme: "The Lightning of Our Lives." Suggested donation \$5. Registration deadline Dec. 19. 614-866-4302

22, THURSDAY

Cenacle at Holy Name

6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers in the Cenacle format of the Marian Movement of Priests.

Children's Christmas Program at St. John Neumann

7 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury. "Prepare the Way" Christmas program with approximately 80 elementary-school students. 740-965-1358

Holy Hour of Reparation at Columbus Sacred Heart

7 to 8 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour following Holy Hour of Reparation prayer format, concluding with Benediction and social period. 614-372-5249

24, 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.

'Blue Christmas' Mass at Newman Center

7 p.m., St. Thomas More Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave., Columbus. "Blue Christmas" Mass, a traditional Christmas Eve liturgy designed to be more quiet and reflective for people who do not feel joy during the holiday season. 614-291-4674

Midnight Mass with Bishop at Cathedral

11 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Seasonal music with the Cathedral Choir and Brass, followed by midnight Mass celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell. 614-241-2526

25, SUNDAY

Praise Mass at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

11 a.m., Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. Praise Mass with upbeat contemporary music. 614-861-1242

Curry Family Christmas Dinner at Newark St. Francis

Noon, St. Francis de Sales Church, 40 Granville St., Newark. Christmas dinner sponsored by Nick Curry family and open to all. 740-345-9874

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

4:30 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish. 706-761-4054

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. 614-886-8266

26, MONDAY

Feast Day Mass at St. Stephen

6 p.m., St. Stephen Church, 4131 Clime Road, Columbus. Bilingual Mass celebrating Feast of St. Stephen, followed by potluck. 614-272-5206

Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry

6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, Columbus (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.

27, TUESDAY

Padre Pio Prayer Group at St. John the Baptist

12:30 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 168 E. Lincoln Ave., Columbus. Padre Pio Prayer Group meeting, including rosary, devotions, and 1 p.m. Mass. 614-294-5319

28, WEDNESDAY

Columbus Catholic Renewal Mass at St. Matthias

6 p.m., St. Matthias Church, 1582 Ferris Road, Columbus. Columbus Catholic Renewal program, beginning with rosary, followed by praise adoration led by Justin Yglesias at 6:30, with teams available for individual prayer, and Mass at 7:30 celebrated by Father William Hritsko.

31, 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.

JANUARY

1, SUNDAY

Exposition at Church of the Resurrection

Our Lady of the Resurrection Chapel, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, beginning with procession following 11 a.m. Mass and continuing to 5 p.m.

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

5 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. 614-861-1242

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

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

Compline at Cathedral

9 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Chanting of Compline, the Catholic Church's official night prayer. 614-241-2526

Iraqi Christians in U.S. pray to reunite with family at Christmas

By Simone Orendain

Catholic News Service

On a recent overcast Sunday morning in northwest Chicago, the pews of the small wood-paneled St. Ephrem Chaldean Catholic Church were filled to overflowing. Among the rows of Massgoers sat Firaz Rassam and her sisters, Fairuz and Victoria.

(The sisters are pictured at right and below in photos taken at the church. Firaz is at left, Fairuz in the center, and Victoria at right in the bottom photo.)

After the Mass, Firaz and Victoria said they “pray, pray that (Victoria’s) children would be able to get out (of northern Iraq) in time” before any major Islamic State attack or any other conflict reaches their neighborhood in Ankawa, a Christian hub in the Kurdish region. Firaz Rassam, who arrived in Chicago in September, said that this year, she would not be able to celebrate Christmas “with the type of happiness that (her family) normally would celebrate.”

Speaking through their nephew, who interpreted from their native dialect, which is a derivative of Aramaic, Firaz Rassam, 44, told Catholic News



Service that she and her three children came ahead of her husband after her sister Fairuz sent for her.

“The environment over there,” said Firaz Rassam, who used to be a librarian. “There’s no electricity. It’s dangerous. There’s no work. I want to have a better future for my kids.”

Victoria Rassam, 56, who migrated to Chicago two years ago, still was waiting for her family to come. She said that all she could do was pray and that she was “really hoping” she would see her children again soon.

“This Christmas, we will celebrate by going to midnight Mass and praying for them,” said Victoria Rassam.

Since the second Gulf War in 2003, oil-rich Iraq has been unstable with ethnic and religious conflicts that have given rise to various terror organizations, including the Islamic State group, which grew out of Saddam Hussein’s military, factions of al-Qaida, and other groups. Many Christians migrated; others fled Islamic State and other terror organizations.

Deacon Hameed Shabila, a longtime Chicago resident who works at St. Ephrem, told CNS that his siblings in the Baghdad area have not been able to attend midnight Mass for years because it is not safe. He said the churches

are heavily guarded by armed forces after dark.

Deacon Shabila, who has asked that his siblings be allowed to come to the U.S., said a parishioner’s adult son was killed in Iraq 10 years ago around Christmas time. Shabila served as interpreter for the parishioner, Maria Yonan.

Yonan said that she fled Iraq with her daughter-in-law and two grandsons immediately after her son was killed when he was celebrating on New Year’s Day. The 77-year old widow was hesitant to speak with CNS and feared for her grandsons’ safety as she described how a group she called terrorists attacked her son and his friends.

Yonan and her daughter-in-law spent a couple of years as refugees in Syria, trying to get to Australia, where her daughter-in-law has family. But the wait was too long and they decided to come to the U.S., which was readily accepting refugees. Her daughter also came to the U.S. as a refugee and is living in California. One other daughter stayed behind with her own family.

Yonan, who recently became a U.S. citizen and lives in low-income housing, said that at Christmas, she likes to go to midnight Mass at St. Ephrem, where she can be with people who speak her language. She has tried to keep up some of the same Christmas traditions that her family kept in Iraq.

Yonan said that every Christmas, her grandsons visit and she makes special Christmas candy known as *klecha*, a treat that “makes people happy” and

signifies a joyful time. Yonan said she was not planning to make the candies this year because she is in mourning after the Nov. 25 death of her son-in-law, who suffered a heart attack in Baghdad.

Hazim Maryaqo and his family also will not be celebrating Christmas this year, because of the death from illness of his brother in Baghdad. Maryaqo, 49, arrived in the Detroit area on Oct. 4 with his pregnant wife and three children, all younger than eight.

In a phone interview with CNS, he said through an interpreter that when the family was living as refugees in Turkey for two years before coming to the U.S., “There was no (Christmas) celebration.”

“The three or four (Christian) families that were around us, they came to our house, we went to their house. That was as simple as we could do,” said Maryaqo, who was threatened with death at his family pastry shop in central Baghdad for selling certain cakes with liqueur in them.

Maryaqo said now that he is in Michigan, his family tries to go to Mass often, but sometimes trying to find transportation is tough. He said he is hoping to find work as a pastry chef so the family can have some stability and get to church more regularly. But he also expressed anxiety about the safety of his elderly father and siblings left behind in Baghdad. “I will never go back to Iraq, but I hope I can bring my family here,” he said.

Going to Christmas midnight Mass was something Eevyan Hanoon said she longed for when she lived with her husband and toddler for three years at a refugee camp in Turkey. She told CNS by phone that she made *klecha* and tried to make the most of the season. But something was lacking.

“The difference at Christmas was the Eucharist. I missed taking the Eucharist. I was with two church choirs in Mosul (Iraq),” said Hanoon, 28. “This is the most important thing. We have not missed a single Sunday” since arriving in Michigan in September.

In Chicago, the Rassam sisters’ nephew, Rakan Kunda, said that even though his family has been living in the U.S. for two decades, they “always remember ... family back home” at Christmastime. CNS photos/Simone Orendain



Despite distance, Iraqi Christians keep the spirit of Christmas alive

By Oscar Durand

Catholic News Service

Sami Dankha, his three brothers, and their families used to kick off Christmas celebrations by attending a packed Christmas Eve Mass at St. Thomas Church in Baghdad. Wearing brand-new clothes and sporting fresh haircuts, they would spend the night chatting, singing, and eating *pacha*, a dish made from sheep's head that Iraqis consider a treat. That was 20 years ago. Today, Dankha, 51, his wife, Faten, and their five children live in Turkey as refugees, far away from the rest of their families. They are waiting for an answer to their resettlement application to Australia.

"If you count Christmas and Easter, it has been about 40 times we haven't gathered," said Dankha, whose brothers live in New Zealand, Australia, and the Netherlands.

Years of instability, violence, and discrimination have forced Iraqi Christian families to leave their homes. Christmas, traditionally celebrated with loved ones, is a reminder of the exodus of Christians from Iraq and the Middle East to nations all over the world. Despite the distance and across different time zones, families keep the spirit of the holiday alive.

"The last time we were all together



Iraqi refugee Sami Dankha feeds his one-year-old son, Alin, at his home in Istanbul, Turkey, where he lives with his wife and five children. His brothers live in New Zealand, Australia, and the Netherlands.
CNS photo/Oscar Durand

was 2005. Maybe 2006. I am not sure," Habiba Taufiq, 69, told Catholic News Service.

Taufiq was born in Aqrah, but has lived most of her life in Ankawa, a Christian enclave in northern Iraq. She is a refugee in Turkey, where she lives with one of her 10 children. The other nine are split among Australia, France,

Sweden, and Iraq.

"We danced and celebrated because of Jesus. Not only us, but also with other families," Taufiq said, remembering Christmas back home. "Now there is a big difference because we are in different countries and that affects the occasion."

To stay connected, families rely on messaging and calling apps.

"I call them on Viber video," said Dankha, mentioning one of the most popular apps among the Iraqi community in Turkey.

Last year, Dankha spent at least four hours glued to his phone as he virtually celebrated Christmas with family and friends in 10 nations. At some point, he had to connect his phone to a power adapter after running out of charge. But seeing and hearing what is happening on the other side of the call is no replacement for being face to face.

"I see them celebrating in parties, and I feel sorrowful because I am here and we are separated, in different countries," Dankha said.

Nearly halfway around the world, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Nesrin Arteen, 42, also uses a messaging app to keep in touch with her family.

"I talk to them often. With the Internet, it is easy. But back when I arrived,

it was very different," she told CNS.

Arteen is from Zakho, Iraq, and moved to Canada in 1994 before smartphones became ubiquitous. At the time, she had to use a call center and wait in line before she could speak with her family. When it was her turn, the quality of the connection was not good and the calls frequently disconnected.

For Arteen, Christmas meant attending the Christmas Eve Mass and staying up all night with her family. She fondly remembered *klecha* -- a traditional cookie usually filled with nuts, coconuts, or dates -- which she could not have when she first arrived in Canada. Back then Saskatoon did not have a Chaldean Catholic church, which made her feel removed from her Christmas traditions.

"It was a different feel, different from home. I didn't feel the spirit of Christmas," Arteen said, remembering the first Christmas she spent in Canada.

Things changed over time things changed. Today, there is a Chaldean church in her city, and Arteen has started to create her own Christmas traditions.

"I feel that the spirit of Christmas is here," she said. "My children go to a Christian school and are also part of the choir. There are places where they sing Christmas carols."

Taufiq hopes to reunite soon with some of her family in Australia. As she navigates visa procedures, she said she feels at peace that her children continue the traditions she started.

"The circumstances separated us and now we are in different countries. But we still continue living with love," she said.

Dankha told CNS that this Christmas will be special. His younger brother, Yalda, will visit him in Turkey from the Netherlands. They haven't seen each other since 2000.

That makes one less person on his list of people to call on Christmas.

"There are so many friends I don't know if I will ever see. Maybe one day when my country's situation is OK, maybe then we will get together. But I don't know if that will happen," he said.

MASS SCHEDULES, continued from Page 15

Sugar Grove St. Joseph – Dec. 24, 8 p.m.; Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

Sunbury St. John Neumann – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., midnight; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne – Dec. 24, 5 p.m., 10 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

Waverly St. Mary – Dec. 24, 9:30 p.m.; Dec. 25, 9:30 a.m.

Wellston Ss. Peter and Paul – Dec. 24, 5 p.m., midnight; Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

West Jefferson Ss. Simon and Jude – Dec. 24, 5 p.m., 10 p.m.; Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m.

West Portsmouth Our Lady of Sorrows – Dec. 24, 8 p.m. (Spanish); Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

Westerville St. Paul – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., church (cantor); 4 p.m., Westerville

North High School (no incense, music ensemble); 6:30 p.m., church (no incense, youth choir at 6); midnight, church (adult concert at 11); Dec. 25, 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m. (all with cantor; no incense at 9).

Wheelersburg St. Peter in Chains – Dec. 24, 4 p.m.

Worthington St. Michael – Dec. 24, 4 p.m., 6 p.m., midnight (music 11:30); Dec. 25, 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

Zaleski St. Sylvester – Dec. 24, 8 p.m.

Zanesville St. Nicholas – Dec. 24, 5:15 p.m., 10 p.m.; Dec. 25 – 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m.

Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas – Dec. 24, 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m., midnight (carols 11); Dec. 25, 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

Zoar Holy Trinity – Dec. 24, 6 p.m., 9 p.m.; Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

'Tis the season, and Bethlehem businesses hope for a merry one

By Judith Sudilovsky/Catholic News Service

Even the Christmas decorations seem more cheerful this year in Bethlehem.

A new display of Santa's reindeer and sleigh were about to alight at the main traffic circle on Manger Street, and a big white Christmas tree made of lights perched merrily next to them. The official Christmas tree in Nativity Square was a focus of great commotion as pilgrims and locals struck poses for photos and selfies on Dec. 5. A few days earlier at the official tree-lighting ceremony, the square was packed with hundreds of onlookers ready to welcome the Christmas season to the birthplace of Jesus.

After two Christmas seasons in which political reality had overtaken holiday cheer, people seemed primed to finally feel some merriment in Bethlehem. The summer Gaza war still was keeping away tourists in 2014, and last year, a spate of stabbings and shootings overshadowed any hope of holiday cheer.

This year, the Israeli separation barrier construction continues to slowly creep around Bethlehem, creating an isolated enclave. There has been no real move toward a longterm peace agreement, nor any easing of travel restrictions or any significant improvement in the economic or political situations, but Palestinians are embracing what they can of the holiday spirit.

Storekeepers such as Muslim Samer Laham, 37, whose front entrance displays rows of hanging Santa Claus hats, are putting out their Christmas wares and readying for the celebrations.

"People haven't started buying the hats yet, but they will in a few more days," Laham said confidently.

Ashraf and Shahad Natsheh, who are also Muslim, took the afternoon to come from Hebron, West Bank, to take pictures of their 10-month-old daughter Na'ara in front of the official Bethlehem Christmas tree, with its life-sized creche and gold-colored ornaments.

"The atmosphere is definitely better than last year. The roads are open and there is more calm," said Shahad Natsheh, 26. "We come to see the tree because it is beautiful."

Ian Knowles, the British director of the Bethlehem



Top left: Ian Knowles, director of the Bethlehem Icon Center, stands in his studio. Top right: Anton Ayoub Mussalam holds a dove on the roof his home. Bottom right: A Palestinian man walks on Star Street in Bethlehem. CNS photos/Debbie Hill

Icon Center on historic Star Street, which used to be the main thoroughfare into the city center, said that although people are still a bit apprehensive about the general situation, "Christmas hope still flickers."

Seeing the apparent defeat of Islamic State in several battles in Iraq and Syria also has brought a sense of optimism to the Christian community, which had harbored fears that it might be next if the militants were not stopped, he said.

"People here have family in Jordan and Lebanon, and they were feeling (that this) could happen to them," said Knowles. "Now they are watching as Christians are slowly returning to their churches and celebrating Masses in the charred remains."

Catholic tattoo artist Walid Ayash, 39, and his staff stayed up almost half the night cleaning his tattoo studio and barber shop and putting up Christmas decorations.

"Two days ago, they lit up the Christmas tree in the city. Everybody is happy. The kids are happy. I have four kids and they are happy," he said. "Last year it was very sad, the situation was bad, but we hope this year will be better than before."

"I want to be happy with my family. I am very reli-



gious. I thank God I am in Bethlehem. We celebrate. My workers dress like Santa Claus and throw candy for the children. The kids will be here, the atmosphere will be happy. You know, it's Christmas," he said.

Cradling one of his white doves -- "peace pigeons" as he has dubbed them -- in his hands in their rooftop roost above Star Street, Anton Ayoub Mussalam, 75, who is Catholic, said everyone is waiting for Christmas.

From 1987 until 2015, he and his wife, Mary, were not permitted to go to Jerusalem, where one of their daughters lives.

"Maybe there will be a happy Christmas," Mussalam said. "We hope everyone will be happy. We hope there will be a small piece of peace. We need peace like we need food and water."



Scenes from Bethlehem (from left): Tattoo artist and barber Abu Ayash stands at the entrance to his shop; two Palestinian women walk past a shop selling Christmas decorations near Manger Square; Ashraf Natsheh holds the couple's 10-month-old daughter, Na'ara, next to his wife, Shahad, in front of the Christmas tree in Manger Square.