



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

CATHOLIC TIMES

A journal of Catholic life in Ohio

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THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT
VOLUME 67:12



CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY BRINGS THE LOVE
OF MARY AND JESUS TO CHILDREN IN NEED

Third Week of Advent



Catholic Times welcomes new editor

Douglas Bean has been named editor-manager of the *Catholic Times*. Bean is an award-winning journalist who has extensive experience, having served for many years as a newspaper copy editor and reporter at *The Columbus Dispatch* and other media, as well as in positions in communications and marketing, most recently with the Raisin Rack natural food market.

Among other things, he has been a contributing sports columnist for the *Catholic Times*. He also has worked as a freelance writer and editor for Catholic and pro-life publications and for a national sports news agency.

He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Iowa and a master's degree in business administration from Xavier University in Cincinnati. He and his family are members of Columbus St. Patrick Church.

Bean will be replacing Dave Garick, who is retiring at the end of the year after 10 years as editor of the *Catholic Times*.



The Editor's Notebook

Christmas Memories

By David Garick, Editor



It's almost time to hang up the stocking. I admit it ... I'm a big kid when it comes to Christmas. I love this season. I love everything about it. Well, maybe except for all the traffic around the shopping malls. That, and the threat of snow. I never did buy into that *White Christmas* thing. I've been to Bethlehem. There has never been a white Christmas there ... why do I need one here?

But I love the anticipation and joy of this season. I was a pretty typical child of the 1950s. I grew up in front of the television when it was still new and miraculous. I wanted all the newest toys to appear under the tree on Christmas morning, just like I saw on my favorite shows. I could have been a spokesman for Mattel (In fact, I think I applied for a public relations job there once ... some dreams never die).

But as much as I enjoyed getting presents (except the sweaters and socks), I always knew there was a lot more to the season than what was in it for me. Even though I spent a lot of time in front of the TV, I also spent a lot of time at church. The Christmas traditions there got me just as excited about what Christmas was really about as the gifts I hoped to receive. In fact, the older I got, the balance moved farther away from my gifts and more to the real joy of the season.

I always enjoyed the annual church Christmas pageant. It was pretty cool the year that I got promoted from being a shepherd. Being a shepherd had gotten pretty boring. It was almost like being scenery. But then I was chosen to be a wise man. I even got a couple of lines. I loved being in front of an audience. That role came with a fancy robe and a fake beard. I must have been impressed with that because once I was old enough, I grew the beard permanently. Then there were the gifts. My two buddies and I were given a bag of those gold foil chocolate coins, a fancy Avon bottle, and a jewelry

box. That's what we carried to the Christ Child. After the play, the bottle and box went back to Mrs. Anco's dressing table, but we never admitted what became of those chocolate coins. I'm not saying that we were mischievous. But she did remind us that our role was "wise men," not "wise guys."

This activity ingrained in us that the Christmas holiday was about something a lot more exciting than Santa Claus and candy canes. With each passing year, we gained a greater appreciation of the fact that we were celebrating an incredible event in which God came to us as a little child to live among us and give us the greatest gift imaginable.

The other part of Christmas at church was that while my friends and I were participating in the Christmas play, we also were participating in our church program to gather up toys, food, clothing (I knew just where to find some sweaters and socks), and other things to give to people in the community who needed them. We learned early that the real joy of Christmas was in the giving and that the greatest gift, the thing that makes the Christmas season so special, was the closeness you felt to so many people.

Christ came into the world to bind us together. Through His incarnation, His ministry, and ultimately His death and resurrection, we are all joined together in Him through His church. This issue of *Catholic Times* takes a look at the Christ Child society, an organization that ministers to children in need in our communities. Christmas at its core is about the birth of a child who changed the world and all of our lives. But it is also a time when we are happy to share the gifts we have received. As the wise men brought gifts to the Christ Child, we also delight in bringing gifts to the children of God around us because Christ is present in each of them.



Front Page photo:

Mary and the Christ Child are portrayed in the painting "Virgin of the Lilies" by William-Adolphe Bouguereau, a French artist of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

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Court seems divided in cake case examining religious rights, expression

By Carol Zimmermann/Catholic News Service

The U.S. Supreme Court seemed equally divided in the long-anticipated oral arguments on Dec. 5 about the baker who refused to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple because of his religious beliefs.

Even Justice Anthony Kennedy's comments went right down the middle, from expressing concern for those who would be shut out of services to later stressing that "tolerance is a two-way street" and saying the state of Colorado, where the bakery is located, seemed to be "neither tolerant or respectful" of the baker's views.

The case, *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, pits antidiscrimination laws against freedom of speech and freedom of religious expression.

It drew strong feelings on both sides long before the court heard the arguments, with the filing of 100 friend-of-the-court briefs months ago and crowds lined up for days hoping to get into the court during the arguments. Crowds also gathered on the Supreme Court steps under cloudy skies and warm temperatures, chanting and holding aloft placards such as "Justice for Jack" (the baker) and "Open for All."

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops filed a friend-of-the-court brief in support of the baker and was joined by the Colorado Catholic Conference, Catholic Bar Association, Catholic Medical Association, National Association of Catholic Nurses-USA and National Catholic Bioethics Center.

And after the hour and a half of oral arguments, chairmen of three USCCB committees issued a statement saying "America has the ability to serve every person while making room for valid conscientious objection."

It also said it hoped the court would continue to "pre-



serve the ability of people to live out their faith in daily life, regardless of their occupation," noting that artists "deserve to have the freedom to express ideas -- or to decline to create certain messages -- in accordance with their deeply held beliefs."

The statement was issued by Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, chairman of the Committee for Religious Liberty; Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, chairman of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth; and Bishop James D. Conley of Lincoln, Nebraska, chairman of the Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage.

The case before the court at the end of 2017 was five years in the making, beginning in 2012 when Charlie Craig and David Mullins asked the Colorado baker, Jack Phillips, to make a cake for their wedding reception. Phillips refused, saying his religious be-

liefs would not allow him to create a cake honoring their marriage.

The couple filed a complaint with the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, which decided the baker's action violated state law. The decision was upheld by the Colorado Court of Appeals. The Colorado Supreme Court wouldn't take the case, letting the ruling stand. The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the case.

During oral arguments at the high court, many questions came up about what constitutes speech, since the baker claimed he should have freedom of speech protection.

Justice Elena Kagan asked if a florist, chef or make-up artist also should have the same protection. Other professions were called into question, such as tailors and invitation designers, as were other cakes; pre-made cakes, for example, would not be an issue of compelled speech.

And as Kristen Waggoner, the Alliance Defending Freedom attorney representing Phillips, said, "Not all cakes would be considered speech."

Amid the back and forth between what could be considered artistry and questions about how artists could be compelled to convey messages they disagree with, Justice Stephen G. Breyer asked, "Well, then, what is the line? That's what everybody is trying to get at."

"Obviously, we want a distinction that will not undermine every single civil rights law," he added.

The bulk of the defense for the baker focused on his freedom of speech rights, which attorneys argued would be violated by forcing him to make this cake.

Waggoner said the court was saying it had the discretion to decide what speech is offensive and what isn't,

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Court allows travel ban to be implemented as legal challenges continue

By Catholic News Service

The U.S. Supreme Court said on Dec. 4 that President Donald Trump's travel ban restricting entry into the United States by nationals from some countries can be fully implemented while legal challenges to the ban work their way through the lower courts.

In a brief unsigned order, the high court stayed a preliminary injunction on implementation of the ban, granting the Trump administration's request to allow its latest ban, released in late September, to go into effect. The order also urged the two appeals courts with cases before them to render "with appropriate dispatch" a decision on whether the ban is constitutional.

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor "would deny the application," according to the order.

The Supreme Court's order means that the Trump administration can fully carry out the ban -- which is now in its third iteration. It currently restricts travel to the United States from eight nations, six of them predominantly Muslim. Most citizens of Iran, Libya,

Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Chad and North Korea will be barred from entering, along with some Venezuelan government officials and their immediate family.

A friend-of-the-court brief filed on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in mid-September said the travel ban was "cruel and inhumane treatment" and that "denying refugee children life-saving entry to the United States based on an executive order clearly motivated by anti-religious bias is both un-Catholic and un-American."

"We are not surprised by today's Supreme Court decision," a White House spokesman said on Dec. 4, calling the ban "lawful and essential to protecting our homeland."

Trump administration officials say the restrictions are necessary because the nations on the list have either refused to share information with the U.S. government or have not taken necessary security precautions. They said, however, that these countries can be taken off the list if they meet certain conditions.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Fran-



cisco and the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in Richmond, Virginia, were both scheduled to hear oral arguments in the next week on the legality of the ban.

Before the circuit courts are legal challenges to the ban from Hawaii and Maryland. The Trump administration had asked the Supreme Court to allow the ban to be implemented, rather than held up while the courts considered these lawsuits.

Faith in Action

By Jerry Freewalt

Peace be with you, and to our migrant brothers and sisters

"Peace be with you." This is what we say to each other during the Sign of Peace at Mass. It's a time when we reach out to our neighbors in the pews, often to people we don't even know. We extend a heartfelt expression of good will, with a desire for them to have God's peace in their hearts.

At Christmas, we are reminded of the angels who proclaimed "peace" to the world. The messengers heralded the announcement of the Prince of Peace to those whom God favors, especially the lowly shepherds tending their flock.

Each Jan. 1, the Catholic Church celebrates the World Day of Peace with a message of peace and an aim to address the challenges of peace in our time. For 2018, the theme of Pope Francis' message is "Migrants and Refugees: Men and Women in Search of Peace."

It is quite clear today that migrants and refugees in our world are not escaping peace, but hunger and thirst for it. There are more than 250 million migrants worldwide, 22.5 million of whom are refugees. Through recent news stories, we are learning about the Rohingya refugees, who are desperately fleeing to Bangladesh to escape ethnic cleansing in Myanmar.

That's right. The Rohingya refugees are escaping to Bangladesh, which is not typically a desired destination point for safety and economic prosperity. Can you even imagine the hardship they are going through right now? Pope Francis is calling on us to do just that, to imagine and cast a "contemplative gaze," to recognize the dignity of our neighbors, our family.

Migrants and refugees are on a perilous journey because they do not have peace in their homeland. They are in search of peace. The Holy Father reminds us of what is driving them away in search of a new home: war, conflict, genocide, ethnic cleansing, poverty, lack of opportunity, and environmental degradation.

In his message, Pope Francis gives us four "mileposts for action" necessary to provide the opportunity of peace for migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and trafficking victims:

1. Welcoming, which calls for "expanding legal pathways for entry" and better balancing national security and fundamental human rights concerns;
2. Protecting, or recognizing and defending "the inviolable dignity to those who flee";
3. Promoting, which entails "supporting the integral human development of migrants and refugees"; and
4. Integrating, by allowing migrants and refugees to "participate fully in the life of society that welcomes them." Doing so enriches both those arriving and those welcoming.

Our faith calls us to extend the Sign of Peace to our neighbors, even to those we do not know. The Church realizes not all neighbors have peace in their hearts toward us, but that should not build a barrier of indifference to all migrants and refugees, especially those in most desperate need.

To put faith into action, please pray for our migrant brothers and sisters. Read the World Day of Peace message at www.usccb.org. Join Pope Francis' Share the Journey campaign at www.sharejourney.org to learn more about the plight of migrants and what families, parishes, and schools can do for them. Support Catholic Social Services' Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, the Dominican Learning Center, Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS), and other agencies responding to the needs of migrants. Advocate for sound policies that support migrants and refugees in the U.S. and around the world. Visit www.confrontglobalpoverty.org and www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

May peace be with you, and to our migrant brothers and sisters in search of peace.

Jerry Freewalt is a program director for the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.

**Early January will be busy at St. John Neumann**

Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, will be starting the new year with a busy schedule of events, including a visit by Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers and a women's retreat.

Deacon Burke-Sivers, of Portland, Oregon, is known as "The Dynamic Deacon" for his enthusiastic speaking style, which was warmly received by the people who heard him at the 2017 Columbus Catholic Men's Conference.

At St. John Neumann, he will speak at a men's breakfast at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 6; a youth program at 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7; a discipleship summit at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8; and a marriage and family life program at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9. Registration is required for the Jan. 6 and 8 events.

The women's retreat, based on the theme of Mary's *Fiat* (her acceptance of her role as the mother of Jesus), will be from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13.

It will feature talks by Father Paul Noble, the parish's pastor; Father William Ferguson, pastor of Logan St. John Church; Father Anthony Davis, parochial vicar of Columbus St. Andrew Church; and parishioner Kathie Bowman. The day will begin with Mass and will include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a worship and praise service, time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation; and breakfast, lunch, and dinner. It will close with a wine, coffee, and dessert social at 7 p.m.

For more information on these events, go to www.saintjohnsunbury.org or call (740) 965-1358.

Alcohol Training Program

The Diocese of Columbus is offering free training sessions at two locations in January to provide important information to staff and volunteers about laws and appropriate guidelines for serving alcohol at church events.

The Alcohol Server Knowledge (ASK) training program, conducted by the Ohio Investigative Unit, is designed to instruct and assist liquor permit holders on laws pertaining to the sale and/or consumption of alcohol. This training is vital for all parishes, schools, or offices that serve alcohol at festivals, fish fries, and other activities. Guidance will be provided on

dealing with minors, when to shut people off, and other critical safety issues.

Training sessions are scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10, at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, and 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20 at the Bryce Eck Center, 3880 Reed Road, Upper Arlington, which is just south of Columbus St. Andrew Church.

Upon completion of the free class, attendees will receive a certificate from the Ohio Investigative Unit.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to the diocesan Chancery at (614) 224-2251 by Friday, Jan. 5.

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John Carroll University selects new president

Dr. Michael D. Johnson has been elected by the John Carroll University board of directors as the institution's 25th president, effective July 1, 2018, with an appointment that runs through 2023.

Johnson is provost of Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, the top-ranked school for entrepreneurship in the United States, where he is also professor of marketing. He previously served for 10 years as dean and marketing professor at the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration. From 1982-2006, he was a marketing professor at the University of Michigan. He earned a doctorate in behavioral science and marketing and a master of business administration degree from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and a bachelor's degree in economics and psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Johnson was appointed following an extensive national search led by John Carroll board chairman Michael Merriman. He also will join the JCU faculty as a professor in the department of management, marketing, and supply chain in the Boler School of Business.

"Dr. Johnson was a transformative academic leader while dean at Cornell, and will build upon John



Carroll's distinctive programs and strengths," Merriman said. "Known for his transparent and collaborative leadership style, Dr. Johnson has excellent operational management, planning, and financial skills."

"The passion that the students, faculty, staff, and alumni have for John Carroll is inspiring, and I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this community," Johnson said. "As one of 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the country, John Carroll University is

poised for growth with many distinctive programs and an exceptional faculty and staff."

Johnson will succeed Dr. Jeanne M. Colleran, who has been serving as interim president since June 2017, when Father Robert L. Niehoff, SJ, retired as JCU president.

John Carroll University, founded in 1886, is located in University Heights in suburban Cleveland. Its Jesuit Catholic mission inspires individuals to excel in learning, leadership, and service in the region and the world. The university, one of 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States, is recognized nationally for an exceptional four-year graduation rate, teaching excellence, and a commitment to living a faith that does justice as central to its mission.

God does not lead us into temptation, Satan does, pope says

By Cindy Wooden/Catholic News Service

The Italian and English translations of the "Our Father" can give believers the wrong impression that God can and does lead people into temptation, Pope Francis said.

The Italian bishops' television channel, TV2000, has been broadcasting a series of conversations between the pope and a Catholic prison chaplain in which they look at the Lord's Prayer line by line.

The episode broadcast on Dec. 6 focused on the words "Lead us not into temptation."

Father Marco Pozza told the pope that friends have asked him, "Can God really lead us into temptation?"

"This is not a good translation," the pope said.

The standard versions of the prayer are translated from the Latin, which was translated from the New Testament in Greek.

While he said nothing about ordering a new translation, Pope Francis noted how the French bishops had decided that beginning Dec. 3, the First Sunday of Advent, French Catholics changed the line to the equivalent of "do not let us enter into temptation."

French-speaking Catholics in Benin and Belgium began using the new translation at Pentecost last June. The common Spanish translation already is *no nos dejes caer en la tentacion* or "do not let us fall into temptation."

The Italian bishops' conference in 2008 adopted a new translation of the Bible; for the Lord's Prayer, both in Matthew 6 and Luke 11, they chose "do not abandon us in temptation," although they did not order the change in liturgical use. The *New American Bible*, revised edition, is the basis for the *Lectionary* used at English-language Masses in the United States; the petition from the Lord's Prayer in Matthew and Luke is translated as "do not subject us to the final test."

Pope Francis told Father Pozza, "I'm the one who falls. But it's not (God) who pushes me into temptation to see how I fall. No, a father does not do this. A father helps us up immediately."

"The one who leads us into temptation is Satan," the pope said. "That's Satan's job."

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, in its discussion of the Lord's Prayer, says, "our sins result from our consenting to temptation; we therefore ask our Father not to 'lead' us into temptation. It is difficult to translate the Greek verb used by a single English word: the Greek means both 'do not allow us to enter into temptation' and 'do not let us yield to temptation.'"

Referring to James 1:13, the catechism says, "'God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one'; on the contrary, he wants to set us free from evil. We ask him not to allow us to take the way that leads to sin."

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BURIAL OF UNBAPTIZED; ROLE OF DEACON



QUESTION & ANSWER

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. My son passed away recently at the age of 35. We held a memorial service for him since we could not have a funeral Mass. (He was not baptized as an infant -- which was my decision, of course, not his.)

I have been a Catholic all my life, have followed Christian principles and have raised my children with those same values. My parish priest is saying that since my son was never baptized, he cannot be buried in our church's Catholic cemetery (where our family has already purchased plots for cremains).

I was very saddened to be told this -- because now, until my husband or I die, we will hold onto our son's ashes; and we ourselves will now choose to be buried in a non-Catholic cemetery so that our son is not laid to rest alone. We want him to be next to us. I would appreciate whatever information or guidance you might offer. (northeast Texas)

A. First, my condolences and the assurance of my prayers. Losing a child is, I think, the hardest loss of all -- one for which no one is ever really prepared.

You live with the understanding that your parents are likely to predecease you and that your spouse might as well, but you never expect to out-

live your own children. So I will pray for you, that God will ease your sorrow -- and for your son, that he may enjoy the peace of God's presence and one day welcome you there.

Meanwhile, please take comfort in the fact that your son's remains can in fact be buried with you in the family plot you have purchased. Family ties are sacred, and the church has no interest in separating loved ones -- either in life or in death. Nothing in canon law prohibits a non-Catholic from being buried in a Catholic cemetery.

The website of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, for example, says clearly: "Non-Catholics may be buried with their Catholic spouses or other family members ... in a Catholic cemetery." It is true that, in most circumstances, a Catholic funeral Mass may be offered only for those already baptized in a Christian denomination (several of the ritual's prescribed prayers refer directly to the baptism of the deceased), but there is no such limitation regarding the place of burial.

Q. Recently I read an article in our Catholic newspaper about the work of a deacon in a parish not far from my own. That deacon regularly baptizes people and distributes Communion

at Mass. What I don't understand is where he gets the authority to do those things.

The deacon in our own parish is not allowed to do any of that. With most parishes now having only one priest, wouldn't it be helpful if deacons could do more? (Indianapolis metropolitan area)

A. Deacons are authorized by the laws of the Catholic Church to baptize, witness marriages, perform wake and funeral services outside of Mass, distribute holy Communion, proclaim the Gospel, preach homilies and expose the Blessed Sacrament for eucharistic adoration. (A deacon is not empowered -- as a priest is -- to consecrate the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, to hear confessions or to anoint the sick.)

The work of a deacon, however, is done at the discretion and under the immediate supervision of the pastor of the parish to which that deacon is assigned. So there is some variation from parish to parish as regards the particular ministries of the deacon assigned there and the frequency with which those ministries are exercised. As you have pointed out, the current shortage of priests has made the work of deacons in the church today all the more valuable.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Drive, Albany NY 12203.



Columbus St. Mary School Advent calendar

The December service project for Columbus St. Mary School's Student Council involved spending two days after school getting the building decorated for Advent and Christmas. Students William Smiley and Mabry Hill are shown posting an Advent calendar which describes actions students can take to prepare their hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Photo/St. Mary School

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but it didn't "apply that in a fair way to Mr. Phillips." She also said that "what's deeply concerning" is how speech could be compelled of "filmmakers, oil painters and graphic designers in all kinds of context."

The arguments against the baker questioned whether failing to provide services to same-sex couples was discriminatory.

David Cole, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, defending the couple, said discrimination against the couple who wanted the cake consigned them to "second-class status."

The last minutes of the oral arguments boiled down to the opposing views, but also didn't reveal a clear path forward.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor said the nation's views about interracial marriages "didn't change on its own" but because of "public accommodation laws that forced people to do things that many claimed

were against their expressive rights and against their religious rights."

"Whatever it is you choose to sell, you have to sell it to everyone who knocks on your door, if you open your door to everyone," she added.

In response, Waggoner said it would be a grave offense to the First Amendment to "compel a person who believes that marriage is sacred, to give voice to a different view of marriage and require them to celebrate that marriage."

Sotomayor suggested not participating in weddings or creating neutral wedding cakes but that refusing to offer goods to some goes against public anti-discrimination laws.

Waggoner, in her last allotted minute, said, "A wedding cake expresses an inherent message that is that the union is a marriage and is to be celebrated, and that message violates Mr. Phillips' religious convictions."

Follow Zimmermann on Twitter: @carolmaczim.

Answering God's Call

SISTER HELPS INSTITUTIONS MAINTAIN DOMINICAN VALUES



Sr. Anne Keenan, OP

by Tim Puet

It didn't take long for Anne Keenan to realize that she was entering a different world when she began discernment for the religious life with the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs, now the Dominican Sisters of Peace, in Columbus.

"I was a New York City girl," she said. "I was born in Brooklyn, grew up in Manhattan, and had relatives in the Bronx. So it was quite a shock to come here in 1956 to a city with a one-building skyline. Seven of us arrived on a plane from New York to enter the convent as postulants. We took a taxi to the Springs, and as a last fling, gave the driver all our change."

When the driver dropped off Anne – now Sister Anne Keenan, OP – and her companions at the sisters' Motherhouse, they found themselves at a place which, though just 10 minutes by car from downtown, is located on a 75-acre site with ample open space. "That was a real surprise," she said. "I hadn't expected to be surrounded by all these grounds."

Once she got over her initial shock, it didn't take Sister Anne long to get used to central Ohio. She graduated from the College of St. Mary of the Springs, now Ohio Dominican University, in 1962, was a teacher for 16 years in Lancaster, Columbus, other Ohio locations, and Connecticut, and has spent most of the past 40 years in Columbus.

For the last two years, Sister Anne, 79, has been co-director of the Office of Founded Ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, a congregation which was formed when the St. Mary of the Springs sisters united with six other Dominican congregations in 2009. A seventh was added later.

"The number of sisters has become fewer and we are not as present in the 25 institutions our various congregations founded as long ago as 1822 and as recently as 2014," Sister Anne said. In the Columbus area, these include Ohio Dominican, the Mohun Health Care Center, and the Martin de Porres Center, all on the Springs campus on the city's east side; the Dominican Learning Center on the south side; and the Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center in Blacklick.

"My work with the Office of Founded Ministry involves visiting those institutions and talking with their boards and staff to ensure that our lay partners maintain our Dominican values and Catholic identity as they take over responsibility at those places," she said. The office also includes Sister Charlene Moser, OP, as co-director and longtime diocesan religious educator Mark Butler as educational resources coordinator.

Sister Anne's family belonged to St. Ignatius Church on Park Avenue in Manhattan's Upper East Side, and she attended the parish's school. "It was a Jesuit parish, and it was through a Jesuit priest there that I had my first contact with the Dominican Sisters," she said. This came when she attended Dominican Academy, a high school for girls which the sisters have operated on the Upper East Side since 1897.

"What impressed me about them was that they were happy, joyful, and the best teachers ever," she said. "When I went to college, I realized that I had a great advantage because they had prepared all of us at the academy to be leaders and to be articulate, and to do the kind of research and study we

needed to be successful in college."

Sister Anne didn't think seriously about the possibility of becoming a sister until her senior year in high school. "I was active in things like theater and cheerleading and was one of those New Yorkers who thought 'Why go past the Hudson River?'" she said. "But my interest in at least seeing what the Dominican life was like grew stronger. I talked to two sisters, Sister Florita and Sister Mary Ambrose, about it, went through the steps of applying, and left home for Columbus.

"I'm an only child, and leaving was tough on my mother – not just because I was going away from home, but because my being a sister meant she wouldn't be a grandmother. I probably didn't realize then what that meant to her because I was so occupied with getting ready for a different life in a different place. My dad's attitude was that whatever I decided was all right, as long as I was happy."

Sister Anne pronounced her first vows in 1958 and her final vows in 1963. As was the custom then, she was given a religious name, Sister Mary Marcelle, by which she was known until the Dominicans, along with many other orders, changed their rules after the Second Vatican Council to permit sisters to be known by their baptismal names.

She began her teaching career at Lancaster St. Mary School in 1960, while she was still a college student. "There were 18 sisters in the convent there, and I was the youngest," she said. "Sister Sebastian Gallen, a very kind, loving woman, was our superior. I remember how she would take me and the next youngest sister on trips to get to know the area.

"Large classes were common then. We had 180 first-graders, divided into three classrooms of 60 each, but we never had any real discipline problems, though I do remember one time when a student went out the back window, and we never missed him until the principal told me."

Sister Anne taught from 1960-76 at Lancaster and at parochial schools in Steubenville and Connecticut, then at a Montessori school in Cincinnati and the Montessori school at St. Mary of the Springs. In 1968, she received a master's degree from Xavier University of Cincinnati in Montessori education, which is a more hands-on and individualized way of teaching than traditional methods.

From 1976-81, she was a consultant for the diocesan schools office, adapting her Montessori background to methods of teaching religion to children in diocesan elementary schools. In 1981, she returned to her alma mater, Dominican Academy in New York, and spent six years teaching there.

"That was interesting, especially in my first two years, when I was teaching the daughters of guys I used to date. They'd giggle, and I'd just say 'Yes, your dad and I knew each other,'" she said. "I loved being part of the city again. Dominican Academy has a great history, and it's still there today, located in a recently renovated mansion where it's been for the past 80 years. Its president is Sister Margaret Ormond, also a Dominican Academy graduate, who was the first prioress of the Dominican Sisters of Peace after the congregations united."

While at the academy, Sister Anne earned a master's degree in religious studies from The Catholic University of America. She spent the 1987-88 academic year doing additional studies in theology and spirituality at Regis College of the University of Toronto, then returned to Columbus, where she worked again in the schools office, was interim diocesan religious director for a year, and was part of her congregation's ministry of welcome.

She served as pastoral associate from 1991-2002 at Columbus St. James the Less Church. "The parish was blessed during that time with wonderful Precious Blood priests, who were very pastoral, and a staff which was innovative and enthusiastic and shared similar views on education and ecclesiology," she said.

"A couple of things which were particularly memorable during that time were the parish's 50th anniversary events in 1997 and the evening prayer service at which we celebrated the coming of the new millennium."

Sister Anne served on the St. Mary of the Springs congregation's leadership team from 2002-09. During much of this time, preparations were being made to bring together the congregations which formed the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

"We didn't want this to be seen as a merger of one congregation over the other," she said. "All came to the table equally, with different gifts, to be united as one. We had constant struggles, but it was very exciting.

"One of the most important things was how the name 'Dominican Sisters of Peace' was chosen. We had two large meetings of all seven congregations, one in Columbus and one in New Orleans, going on at the same time, to select a name for the new congregation. We had several options, and when the results of the simultaneous voting were announced at both meetings, we were surprised to learn that 'Dominican Sisters of Peace' was the choice of the majority in both instances. This gave us a real sense that the Holy Spirit was guiding the selection."

Sister Anne spent a year on sabbatical in Ireland and California after the congregations united, then was at Columbus Holy Cross Church from 2010-16, directing adult faith formation programs, performing outreach to nursing homes and the homebound, coordinating and training liturgical ministers, and organizing special events, before being appointed to her current position with her congregation.

"I have been very happy in my almost 60 years in religious life," she said. "I'm not a Pollyanna. There have been times when I've questioned my vocation, but you struggle through those, you pray, and you come out with a greater realization that this is what God is calling you to do.

"I would tell any woman who is discerning whether to enter a religious life that if you are being called, you will receive the grace you need. There will be hard times and good times, and you always have to be true to yourself, because people will see if you're being artificial, but the grace will always be there."

Ohio EPA recognizes Watterson teacher

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School science teacher Will Reiss was recognized by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for his work creating the school's recycling program. His efforts in the past eight years have resulted in 30,000 pounds of trash being diverted from landfills each year. "He imparts his knowledge and commitment to students who choose to recycle at school and home," his certificate of appreciation said. "He often arrives early to sort and organize the school's recycling efforts and stays late to lead the Environmental Club he founded in 2009. Often referred to by teachers and students as the 'nicest man in the world,' his dedication to recycling and leadership in environmental education is exemplary."

Watterson's principal, Deacon Chris Campbell (standing, far left) is pictured with club members congratulating Reiss (standing, far right) on his recognition.

Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School



Seasons of Giving at Bishop Watterson

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School's Student Council conducted a Seasons of Giving collection to benefit several local organizations. Freshmen collected warm winter accessories for the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs, sophomores brought wrapping supplies for the Bishop Griffin Center's free store, juniors contributed diapers, wipes and money for the Kinder Women's Care Center, and seniors brought personal hygiene items for a fundraiser for Haiti which took place at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School. The Watterson faculty and staff are supporting the toy store at St. Lawrence Haven, operated by the St. Vincent de Paul Society downtown. Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School



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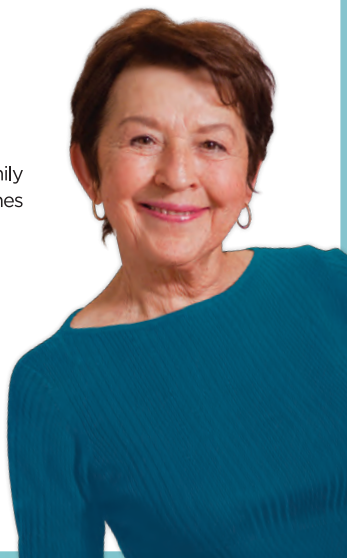
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Spirits Soar

When you look into the lights of a tree so wonderfully and thoughtfully decorated, does it cause your mind to wander? Do the twinkling stars so brightly shining bring about a moment of reflection? What we think of as a passing thought can be a message from God. Remember that through gentle whispers, we receive the kindest and most meaningful of gestures.

It is said that many of us go through life with blinders on. We try so hard not to have a negative experience that we forget there is growth in suffering and in sacrifice. We never could become what we were meant to be without that little spark of divine intervention. It is in those vulnerable moments when we are closest to God.

Memories can be a tricky thing. They can be a reminder to us of a wisdom learned or of a need for us to change. If we get into a bad situation, is it our nature to run away from the problem, or to come to it in full knowledge that by solving it, we relieve ourselves from the burden of possible failure? It is through trial we seem to make the most awesome accomplishments.

The work of our hands and of our heart is at the precipice of the common nature of being human. We all seek out that which brings a sense of community and belonging, rather than something which takes us away from that normality. We are never truly alone.



LIGHTING THE WAY

J. P. Leo Thomas

It is only our vain supposition that keeps us isolated. Do not fear or condemn what you may not understand; rather, take this chance to undergo a remarkable and humbling experience.

Especially at Christmastime, we are so busy that we seem to lose the proverbial forest through the trees. We forget the immense strides it took to get us here. We are so enamored in the season that we tend to neglect the most important person in this process -- ourself. Take this time to learn a little more about yourself and the people around you. God sends you His love, and His invitation is the highest, above all the rest. Answer Him back by loving a little more, showing someone a little more compassion, or helping that neighbor who has fallen on bad times or circumstances. This is what God is waiting to see, not just by empty rhetoric but by your actions.

Intermingled in the wave of gifts, parties, greetings, and prayers is a simple premise. God is giving you

this time as a test to see the fruits of His labor and your chance to be something extra special for someone else. He plants His seed in good ground, watches it grow and mature, and, in the end, relishes in the abundant harvest. Sweeter than honey or nectar, it is what Our Lord loves the most.

Remember, He gave the ultimate gift, His son born to us in the humblest of ways. He wasn't afraid to become human because He is a part of every one of us. He gave us His spirit and His heart to be as enduring to our needs as He was always willing. Pope St. John Paul II once said, "Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth -- in a word, to know himself."

So let your spirit soar and fly high among the clouds. Raise your voices in prayer. Make this holiday, this birthday, this Christmas, the most awesome and special adventure for everyone you meet. May the wind be forever at your backs, may the Holy Spirit bring you intense joy, and may His peace be with you always. So I say to you all without reservation, "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night."

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



St. Rose students play carols

Members of Bernadette Kunkler's combined second- and third-grade class at New Lexington St. Rose School played Christmas carols under the direction of parishioner Nick Fiore (pictured with the class). He has been coming to the school once a week since the last school year to teach ukulele, guitar, mandolin, standup bass, and keyboard. He and another parishioner purchased those instruments and donated them to the school. Fiore usually is accompanied by Mary Waydo, who has been teaching students to play the dulcimer. She is recovering from a fall.

Photo courtesy St. Rose School



Photos (top to bottom): The entrance to the child care center at St. Stephen's Community House on Columbus' east side, named for the Christ Child Society of Columbus; society members (from left) Molly Fanning, Pat Reynolds, and Janey Davies with the organization's red wagon symbol; members stock books in the center's library. CT photos by Tim Puet (top 2); photo courtesy Christ Child Society



Christ Child Society provides personal service to meet children's needs

BY TIM PUET
Reporter, Catholic Times

Members of the Christ Child Society of Columbus do more than pull out their checkbooks when called on to help children in need.

In the tradition of the founder of the society's national organization, Mary Virginia Merrick, the group provides personal, hands-on service by making layettes for infants, volunteering at the child care facility at St. Stephen's Community House, staffing the Crib Club at the Women's Care Center on the city's east side, providing meals for children at the Run the Race Club on the west side, and taking part in other activities which have the common purpose of benefiting at-risk children.

"I love working with kids," said Beth Kistler, president of the organization for the past year. "We help children and mothers at every level, from layettes at birth to programs designed to help bring success at school. What's especially important is that everything we do has an education and literacy component to it. I joined the society in 2011, and my life is much richer because of it."

"I was invited to a get-acquainted meeting over coffee for prospective members of the society three years ago and was immediately impressed by the women belonging to it," said Kathy Kelly, who will succeed Kistler as president in 2018. "I could see the significance of their projects and the impact they had. I wanted to be part of it and to do what Mary Virginia Merrick often said, 'Find a need and fill it.'"

"The guiding principle of the society has always been personal service rendered for love of the Christ Child to the least of these, his little ones," Merrick wrote in 1954. "In developing this purpose, the society has widened and deepened its

activities to meet the exigencies of the time."

The society's story begins at this time of the year in 1884 with Merrick, a young boy, and a red wagon.

Merrick, who lived in Washington, D.C., was 18 years old at the time. She had been partially paralyzed after a childhood fall, and remained in a wheelchair all her life. Her family had enough wealth to be able to hire a woman as a laundress, with the woman's son Paul taking on the role of doing errands for Mary Virginia.

One day, he told her that he wanted a red wagon for Christmas so he could carry home his mother's wash, but he realized his family had little money. Mary Virginia knew her family could afford to purchase the wagon, but she wanted to do so anonymously. She told Paul, "Write a letter to the Christ Child, the giver of all good gifts." In a few days, he returned to Mary Virginia's side with a handful of letters written by his brothers and sisters.

Mary Virginia shared these letters with her sisters and friends, who fulfilled all the children's Christmas requests. Their gifts bore tags that read "From the Christ Child."

Merrick's philanthropy did not end there. Three years later, in 1887, she learned of a family living in extreme poverty who were expecting a baby at Christmastime. She persuaded Kistler as president in 2018. "I could see the significance of their projects and the impact they had. I wanted to be part of it and to do what Mary Virginia Merrick often said, 'Find a need and fill it.'"

With these first gifts and the dedication to enhance the lives of needy children, Merrick formally organized the Christ Child Society in 1887. The red wagon remains its symbol, and the layette is its signature gift. Merrick was active in the society until her death in 1955. She has been declared a Ser-

vant of God. Her cause for beatification and canonization was opened in 2007.

The faith-based, all-volunteer society of women which she founded has nearly 6,000 members, with chapters in 19 states and the District of Columbia. Molly Fanning of Columbus is a member of its national board. Ohio is the state having the largest number of chapters, with eight - located in Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton, Toledo, Geauga and Lake counties, and Columbus.

The society's Columbus chapter received its charter in April 1983, nearly 100 years after the organization was founded. "The idea for a chapter started around 1981," said Kay Gibbons, one of the chapter's 28 founding members. "I had moved here from Akron, where I was a member. I had a conversation with Mary Ann Celebrezze and learned she belonged to the society in Cleveland before moving to Columbus when her husband, Frank, became an Ohio Supreme Court justice. The mother of Alice Heller, another founding member, was a member of the society in Chicago.

"A few more of us started talking about starting a chapter in Columbus, and eventually we had a meeting to organize it at the home of Helen McDaniel," longtime diocesan Catholic Social Services director. "All of us wanted to help children," Gibbons said. "We had the blessing of Bishop (Edward) Herrmann and help from Helen and the Dayton chapter of the society in getting things organized. At first, we met in each other's homes."

The chapter's general membership meetings now take place once a month at various locations. It has about 120 members. In 2018, it is resuming a previous practice of forming a provisional class of members who take part in activities for a year before being admitted



to full membership. Dues are \$75 per year, \$95 for sustaining (non-active) members, and \$60 for members who no longer live in the area.

The chapter's first service project involved assembly and distribution of the society's signature layettes - a service which has continued uninterrupted for nearly 35 years. Members gather each month at Columbus St. Timothy Church to put together the layettes in assembly-line fashion and tie them in a blanket for delivery.

Kistler said 1,780 layettes were sent in 2016 to hospitals, women's centers, health departments, and pregnancy support organizations in Franklin, Pickaway, Union, and Madison counties which are contacted each month by Christ Child volunteers. Contents of the layettes have changed over the years to reflect advancements in knowledge about infant care.

The layettes currently consist of a sleep sack, a receiving blanket, a towel, two "onesies" underwear shirts, disposable diapers, two sleepers, a book, and other items as available. The book is a recent addition to the package and is part of a renewed emphasis the national organization is placing on literacy through its "Challenging Poverty, One Child at a Time" program.

The chapter is particularly ac-

Christ Child Society scholarship winners with Bishop Campbell; playtime at CCS center. Photos/Christ Child Society

story time and assisting with monthly literary enrichment, music, and art classes and holiday and seasonal events.

The chapter has established a library at St. Stephen's for preschool, elementary, and high school students, has purchased equipment for its playground, and works with its literacy program. For teachers, the chapter provides staff meeting support, a teacher appreciation week, and a planning area.

Its Project Starfish program provides tuition assistance for the child care center to eight to 10 families who meet income eligibility and have mothers who are working or going to school.

The chapter's Crib Club boutique is located in the Women's Care Center at 935 E. Broad St. in Columbus. Since 2008, it has benefited low-income mothers and babies by providing support, valuable information concerning infant care, and items the mothers might otherwise be unable to afford, such as new cribs, pack-and-play sets, diapers, and clothing.

This is an incentive program that rewards participation in parenting classes, prenatal care, and other valuable educational programs. Through participation, coupons are earned and may be redeemed at the Crib Club store. Chapter volunteers are fully responsible for running the store. Members raise funds to purchase merchandise, price items, and stock shelves.

The chapter's involvement with the Run the Race Club has grown substantially over the years. The club sponsors a variety of programs for children in the west side and Hilltop areas of Columbus. It was established

Christ Child Society members work with children at St. Stephen's Community House. Photos/Christ Child Society



by Rachel Muha of Columbus in honor of her son Brian, one of two Franciscan University of Steubenville students abducted from their off-campus room and murdered in 1999.

The chapter also provides tutoring for students at Columbus All Saints Academy and Columbus St. James the Less School, working one-on-one with students in kindergarten through third grade whom teachers have identified as needing extra time to master learning skills.

Each year, it awards need-based scholarships and grants to students who will attend diocesan Catholic high schools. For the 2017-18 school year, it awarded \$39,250, with that

See SERVICE, Page 16



Protests cause uncertainty in Bethlehem, but for now, pilgrims visit

By Judith Sudilovsky/Catholic News Service

BNot far from where journalists lined up for positions outside the guard tower at Rachel's Tomb in anticipation of confrontations between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians, life in Bethlehem continued. Trendy young Bethlehem residents and visitors were lunching on vegetarian pizza, quinoa and salmon salad, and sandwiches with names like Sexy Morning at the popular Zuwadeh Cafe.

"No benefit will come (of the demonstrations), but people are getting their frustrations out like they have the right to do. It's the least they can do," said Mahmoud Hamideh, 25.

"People go and throw stones, but then life goes back to normal," agreed his cousin, Saleh al-Jundi, 31, who just moved back to Bethlehem from Abu Dhabi with his wife and 14-month-old son. "But this time I am not sure after what Trump said."

Palestinians leaders called for three days of protests following U.S. President Donald Trump's Dec. 6 official recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and demonstrations have broken out in the West Bank, Jordan and other parts of the Muslim world.

Palestinians reported one killed and at least 35 injured in clashes in the Gaza Strip, with some 115 Palestinians injured in all protests Dec. 8. In Bethlehem, Israeli soldiers fired tear gas and rubber bullets at rock-throwing demonstrators.

Jerusalem is home to holy sites sacred to Christians, Muslims and Jews and is contested as the capital of Israel and a future Palestinian state. The city has been a key point of contention in Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, which have been on hold since 2014.

Palestinians say that with his declaration, Trump has removed the United States from the status of neutral mediator.

Though concerned that a continuation of the hostilities may affect the busy Christmas season, shopkeepers and others in the tourism industry in Bethlehem said Dec. 8 that, for now, pilgrims are not canceling reservations.

"But people will be afraid and will think we have a war here," said 21-year-old Marianna Musallam, who is Greek Orthodox, as she arranged oversized rosaries meant to be hung on the wall. "But we are always in war. Nothing has changed. Trump's speech was not for good. Jerusalem is for us Palestinians. It is not possible to share."

Several guests were busy checking messages on their smartphones in the lobby of the Franciscan Casa Nova Guest House, just steps from the Church of the Nativity, and an older couple dropped off their keys on their way out.

"Until now everything is good," said Issam Matar, who was staffing the reception desk. "But no one knows what will happen in the future."

Restaurant manager Mahmoud Abu Hamad, 30, a Muslim, said the Catholic owner had told him to close Dec. 7 for a one-day strike called by Palestinian



leaders. He said they were not concerned about losing customers over Christmas.

"What we have to lose is bigger than anything. (Jerusalem), the capital of Palestine, is bigger than anything," he said. "In the end, Jerusalem will be the capital of Palestine. We don't care what (Trump) says."

Others, like a Catholic shop owner and a Muslim in the tourism industry, both of whom did not want their names used, said the violence would not help the Palestinian situation.

"If people are smart they would not go out to the streets," said the Muslim. "With a new conflict, we will lose more kids just because the leaders said to go out into the streets. They should send their own sons, not our sons, who don't even know what they are fighting for."

Inside the Church of the Nativity, a large part of which has been cordoned off due to ongoing restoration, pilgrims stood patiently in line, waiting to enter the creche that marks the traditional spot of Jesus' birth.

Latvian pilgrim Janis Bulisi, 43, said he and his wife had disconnected from the internet since arriving in the Holy Land and had vaguely heard something about Trump's announcement and the ensuing demonstrations.

"We are here on our pilgrimage. We have felt no ten-

sions. We are just excited to be in the place where Jesus was born," he said.

"Honestly, I did consider canceling the trip, but after thinking about it I saw the violence was more (in other areas), so I took the chance on still coming, though there is a lot of hesitation, nervousness and uncertainty," said Daniele Coda, 34, of Italy.

Stella Korsah, 56, said though her group had seen some demonstrators on their way from Jericho to Jerusalem, they had not seen violence.

"I have been waiting for this (pilgrimage) for my entire life and I had the opportunity now," said Korsah, who is a member of St. Catherine of Genoa Catholic Church in Brooklyn, New York. "I was nervous listening to the news ... but I hope for peace ... and remember my purpose for coming here. We serve a living God, and I know peace will prevail."

In the courtyard outside the Church of St. Catherine, a Spanish group from the lay ecclesial movement Communion and Liberation prepared, in song, for their Mass.

"We are here on our pilgrimage. We were a bit worried, but our priest reassured us," said Cristina Gallego, 53, who directed the singing. "We pray for peace. Christ is here. Here one comes to see, touch and feel their faith."

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Trinity Dome Mosaic, ‘crowning jewel’ of national shrine, dedicated

By Carol Zimmermann

Catholic News Service

The overflowing congregation at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington hardly needed reminding to raise their “eyes to the heavens” during the dedication of the Trinity Dome Mosaic on Dec. 8.

Before Mass began, all eyes were already on the newly completed gold dome above the front central section of the Upper Church.

When it was blessed during Mass, incense rose above the congregation and bright lights were turned on to give a better view of the newly finished dome, which includes the words of the Nicene Creed encircling the base and a depiction of the Holy Trinity, Mary, the four evangelists, angels, and more than a dozen saints connected to the United States or the shrine.

During the blessing and before and after Mass, phones and cameras were held aloft to capture the completed work, which was more than two years in the making. But it would take more than a

few pictures to capture the details in this majestic work of art described as the “crowning jewel” of the national shrine during introductory remarks by Msgr. Walter Rossi, its rector.

The dome mosaic is composed of more than 14 million pieces of Venetian glass covering more than 18,300 square feet of the dome’s surface. Its completion marks the final step in finishing the work on the Upper Church, which began in 1955.

The dome was dedicated, fittingly, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, reflecting the basilica’s namesake. The dedication Mass was celebrated by Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl and Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the Vatican’s Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, who was named by Pope Francis to be his special envoy at the dedication Mass.

Other cardinals concelebrating the Mass included Cardinals Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington, and Justin Rigali, retired archbishop of Philadelphia, along with Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. They were



Mosaic tiles depicting the Immaculate Conception and various saints are seen in the Trinity Dome at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn

joined by more than two dozen bishops and 90 priests.

Cardinal Wuerl pointed out in his homily that the mosaic tiles in the dome are symbolic of the living body of Christ regularly filling the pews of the shrine and reflect the church’s diversity.

He urged the congregation of families, women religious, students and people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds who filled the pews and the side chapels and stood in the back at the dedication Mass to always look to this “great majestic dome mindful of our prayer to Mary” and ask for her intercession.

He said Mary is the model of “what our faith should be” because she believed that nothing was impossible with God.

The cardinal said he remembered coming to the shrine when he was a student at The Catholic University of America in the 1960s, when the walls were simply brick except for the mosaic image of the risen Christ at the front of the church.

He also noted that the completion of

the dome finishes a work that began nearly 100 years ago, when the shrine’s cornerstone was placed in 1920.

As construction began on the shrine, Catholics across the country were invited to contribute whatever they could. Some donated pieces of gold jewelry and even precious stones, which were fashioned into what came to be known as the “first chalice of the National Shrine” and was used at the Dec. 8 mosaic dedication.

When Pope Francis was at the shrine in 2015 to celebrate Mass and canonize St. Junipero Serra, he also blessed a piece of the mosaic: the words for the beginning and end of the Nicene Creed -- “I believe in one God” and “Amen.”

At the end of the dedication Mass, Msgr. Rossi thanked the artists and workers for their work on the mosaic, which was done in Italy and shipped in 30,000 sections weighing 24 tons. “This crowning jewel of Mary’s shrine is really your work, your gift to the Blessed Mother,” he said.

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Father
Lawrence L. Hummer

**Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11;
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;
John 1:6-8,19-28**

Isaiah speaks in glowing terms about the end of the Babylonian exile in the first reading. The end of exile means “glad tidings” for the poor, healing for the brokenhearted, liberty for captives, and release for prisoners. All of this happens during a “year of favor” from the Lord. This “jubilee year” stems from Leviticus 25:10, which is supposed to occur every 50th year. It coincides here with the 50th year (roughly) since the exile had begun. It began in 586 BC. and Cyrus declared the exile at an end in 538 BC. Naturally, the prophet recounts all that is to be expected during this jubilee.

Luke cited the first two verses of today’s first reading at the opening of Jesus’ public ministry at the synagogue in Nazareth in Luke 4:18-19. After that, Luke’s Jesus said, “Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.” We should note that Isaiah was quite comfortable with the idea that the words he wrote were being fulfilled in his own day. Luke chose to interpret them as applying to Jesus. It is important to realize that contemporary Jews of Isaiah’s day were every bit as overjoyed at the prospect of the exile ending as Luke was in understanding these words being fulfilled in Jesus.

During a jubilee year, nothing was to be planted and nothing harvested. “You may only eat what the field yields of itself (Leviticus 25:12).” This explains the latter half of the reading: “As the earth brings forth its plants and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord God make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.”

The first part of the Gospel reading is from early in chapter one of John’s Gospel and is busy with the

identity of John (the Baptist). His role is much less as a baptizer and much more as a witness to the light, so that all might believe “through him.” John the Evangelist understands the testimony of John the Baptist as the key by which all will come to believe the light, to which John the Baptist testifies. John is not the light, but comes to testify to the light.

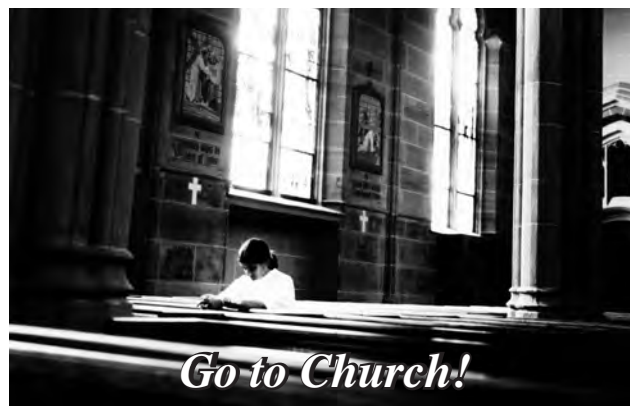
Sunday’s reading then jumps to verse 19, which spells out what John the Baptist’s testimony was as it introduces Jerusalem authorities, including priests and Levites, to inquire about him: “Who are you?” It is a stunning question, really. How would we answer the question? Do we start telling our life history or do we state our name, our gender, our occupation? How do we answer?

John answers negatively: “I am not the Christ.” The questioners ask: “What then? Elijah? ... The Prophet? ... Who are you so we can tell those who sent us?” John’s answer quotes Isaiah (40:3): “I am the voice of one crying in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord.” In verse 17 of his Gospel, John the Evangelist says “grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” That is the first mention of Christ in John, suggesting that John the Baptist in his preaching probably mentioned Christ and was aware of the expectation that the Messiah (or Christ) was near. The official comes to John the Baptist because of his many followers, which is why John immediately denies that he is the Messiah.

Everything points to the one who is coming after him. When the Pharisees join in, asking him why he is baptizing if he is not the Messiah nor any of the others, John answers that there is one among them now, whom they do not recognize, whose sandal strap John is unworthy to untie. “Bethany across the Jordan,” where John was baptizing, is a place unknown.

The scene is set for Jesus to arrive, which will unfold shortly during the Christmas celebration to follow. Paul reminds us in the second reading to rejoice always, to pray without ceasing, and to test everything while retaining the good.

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



Go to Church!

The Weekday Bible Readings

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY
1 Samuel 1:24-28
1 Samuel 2:1,4-7,8abcd (Ps)
Luke 1:46-56

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

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF DECEMBER 17, 2017

SUNDAY MASS

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

Mass with the Passionist Fathers at

7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus, and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378).

(Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).
Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

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

DAILY MASS

8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv

(Channel 113 in Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City and Washington C.H.; Channel 125 in Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; and Channel 207 in Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

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

Late-Day Christmas Mass at Cathedral

Are you looking for a late-day Christmas Mass because of work or other circumstances?

Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral will be celebrating a 5:15 p.m. Mass on Monday, Dec. 25.

The Cathedral is located at 212 E, Broad St. Secured parking is accessible off East Gay Street. For more information, call the cathedral at (614) 224-1295, or visit www.saintjosephcathedral.org.

Books for Christmas

It's been a good year for publishing – at least in the sense of a lot of good books getting published – so here are some for the readers on your Christmas gift list (in addition, of course, to *Lessons in Hope: My Unexpected Life with St. John Paul II* [Basic Books], by your scribe).

The Light of Christ: An Introduction to Catholicism, by Father Thomas Joseph White, OP (Catholic University of America Press): Father White is one of America's most impressive younger Catholic thinkers (and its most impressive banjo-playing Catholic thinker). His work exemplifies the Catholic renaissance inspired by St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, and his book makes the searching skeptic think, and then think again, about what the fullness of Catholic faith means.

Charles Borromeo: Selected Orations, Homilies, and Writings, edited by Msgr. John R. Cihak (Bloomsbury): The saintly 16th-century archbishop of Milan, Charles Borromeo – who was shot at the altar for his reformist efforts, recovered, and then pleaded for his assailant's life – is obviously a man worth getting to know. Msgr. Cihak's fine introduction to Borromeo's life and work helps us distinguish true from false reform in the Church at a moment when that's a crucial issue for 21st-century Catholicism.

An Introduction to Vatican II as an Ongoing Theological Event, by Matthew Levering (Catholic University of America Press): I've been amazed to discover in recent years just how little young and engaged Catholic millennials know about the Second Vatican Council and what preceded it – a gap in their historical knowledge that often leads to a distorted view of today's intra-Catholic contentions. Give Dr. Levering's fine book to anyone you know who falls into that category, or indeed to anyone who wants to know the Council and today's arguments over its proper implementation better. It's reader-friendly and written for non-specialists (although I can think of some theologians on the port side of the Barque of



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE
George Weigel

Peter who could benefit from studying it, too).

Accompanying, Discerning, Integrating: A Handbook for the Pastoral Care of the Family According to "Amoris Laetitia," by Jose Granados, Stephan Kampowski, and Juan Jose Perez-Soba (Emmaus Road Publishing): The buzzword title ought not put anyone off from giving this engaging and trustworthy guide through the thicket of family life issues to every priest, deacon, marriage-preparation minister, and marriage counselor on their gift list.

Scalia Speaks: Reflections on Law, Faith, and Life Well Lived, edited by Christopher J. Scalia and Edward Whelan (Crown Forum): How could anyone not love a man whose favorite lunch was pepperoni pizza and red wine? Well, a lot of people didn't love Justice Scalia during his lifetime, but this posthumous collection of his speeches may change even the most hardened of hearts and minds. For it not only introduces the man in full, but helps explain why he was one of the most influential jurists in American history, in a class with John Marshall and Joseph Story. Antonin Scalia was a serious man who took his craft seriously, loved his family and country, and wrote with courage, passion, and wit, especially in dissent. Little wonder

that he was given, by his priest-son, Paul, the finest funeral homily since Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger's homily at the funeral Mass of John Paul II.

Leading a Worthy Life: Finding Meaning in Modern Times, by Leon R. Kass (Encounter Books): Generations of students at the University of Chicago found in Leon Kass and his late wife, Amy, the kind of teachers for which every student and every student's parents should long. In this collection of essays, some jointly written by one of the all-time great husband-and-wife teams, readers meet wisdom and decency honed by a deep reading of everyone from Homer, Aristotle, and Moses to Shakespeare, Jane Austen, and C.S. Lewis – and by a lifelong love for the Chicago Cubs (which, after the 2016 World Series, can no longer be dismissed as a sign of grave psychic distress).

Kenneth Clark: Life, Art, and "Civilisation," by James Stourton (Knopf): A charming biography of the great art historian, who once said that entering the Catholic Church (which he seems to have done on his deathbed) was like a painting entering the Louvre: "It would find itself in some pretty queer company, but at least it would be sure that it had a soul."

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

Our Lady of Bethlehem plans two open houses

Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare, 4567 Olentangy River Road, will host open houses from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28 and 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, March 7.

The school serves children from six weeks old through kindergarten during the school year, as well as offering before- and after-school child care. It also has a summer program for children in preschool through grade six.

Its mission since its founding in 1956

has been to provide exceptional faith formation and early education in a safe, nurturing community to each student and family it serves.

Our Lady of Bethlehem's programs foster optimum growth, development, and academic success in each young child. The school's unique blend of tradition, proven curriculum, and individualized care and education give children a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

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Pray for our Dead

ALVARADO, Elinor L., 91, Dec. 10
St. Paul Church, Westerville

ANDRACKI, Zenon J. "Andy," 85, Dec. 4
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

BEARDUCCI, Martha (Cenci), 80, Dec. 9
St. Joseph Church, Dover

BRYANT, Kathleen A., 55, Dec. 8
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

CONNOR, Thomas, 63, Dec. 8
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

COVAN, Brandon A., 36, Dec. 4
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

DeBROSSE, Myron E., 57, Dec. 10
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

FERRONI, Cornelia M. (Pratt), 82, Dec. 6
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

GATES, Sharon (Akers), 76, Dec. 2
St. Cecilia Church, Columbus

GREELY, Wendy L., 65, Dec. 4
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

HARD, Thomas J., 78, Dec. 2
St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

JASKIEWICZ, Eileen M. (Valentine), 87, Dec. 5
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

JONES, Janice A. (Haley), 80, Dec. 3
St. Michael Church, Worthington

JONES, Norma M. (Trucco), 94, Nov. 16
Christ the King Church, Columbus

KIMBALL, Mary L. (Morris), 89, Dec. 8
St. Michael Church, Worthington

KNIES, Nigda (Alvarado), 84, Dec. 7
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

LEFEBURE, Pauline C. (Paxton), 82, Dec. 4
St. Mark Church, Lancaster

O'NEILL, Joyce (Wagner), 78, Dec. 8
St. Paul Church, Westerville

RUPE, Freeda L. (Seybert), 91, Dec. 3
St. Bernard Church, Corning

WESTRUD, Barbara E. (Corsten), 86, Dec. 3
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

WILSON, Kristian D., 37, Dec. 4
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

Sister Mary Ronald Sunic, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Mary Ronald Sunic, OP, 93, who died Tuesday, Dec. 5, was held Wednesday, Dec. 13 in the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born Margaret Sunic on Nov. 27, 1924, in East McKeesport, Pennsylvania, to George and Ruth (Daugherty) Sunic.

She was a graduate of Taylor Allderdice High School in Pittsburgh and received a bachelor of science degree in elementary education in 1955 from St. Mary of the Springs College (now Ohio Dominican University) and a master of education degree in library science in 1969 from Duquesne University. She entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1944 and professed her

vows on Aug. 14, 1946.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was a fifth-grade teacher at Columbus Holy Name (1949-50) and Columbus St. Thomas (1950-51) schools and was a nursing assistant and volunteer at the Mohun Health Care Center in Columbus (1994-2009). She entered a ministry of prayer and service at the Motherhouse from 2009-10 and of prayer and presence at the Mohun center from 2010 until her death. She also was a teacher and librarian at schools in Steubenville and in Pennsylvania, New Mexico, New York, and Connecticut, and was a nursing assistant from 1992-94 at St. Andrew Convent in Flushing, New York.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, George and John; and sisters, Elizabeth Clontz, Ruth, and Mary. Survivors include several nieces and nephews.

SERVICE, continued from Page 11

amount including five new scholarships and a one-time grant. Since the inception of the scholarship program in 2000, it has awarded \$841,850 to students.

Its principal fundraising event is the annual Red Wagon Fare luncheon, named in honor of Mary Virginia Merrick's initial gift. It takes place on a weekday afternoon in October, and for the last several years has been at the Villa Milano banquet center in Columbus. The event includes a style show and a boutique featuring local vendors. This year, about 430 people attended the event and it raised about \$43,000. Those attending were asked to bring a book with them and donate it as part of the chapter's literacy efforts, and about 300 did so.

Other activities sponsored by the chapter include a day of reflection for members and friends in March, a baby shower in April to provide layette items, and a Founders Day event in May at which longtime members are honored, new members are inducted, and scholarship

recipients are recognized.

The 2018 day of reflection will be at Columbus St. Andrew Church from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 21. The featured speaker will be Pam Heil, who was youth minister at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church and campus minister at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School for more than a decade. She is a nationally known speaker on listening to and learning from young people and helping them develop healthy relationships and strong values. Mass and lunch also will be part of the program.

The chapter's annual Angel Fund drive is under way. Donations may be sent to Christ Child Society of Columbus, Post Office Box 340091, Columbus OH 43234-0091. Its email address is css.columbus@gmail.com.

For more information or if you are interested in becoming a member, go to www.christchildssociety.org. To learn more about the chapter's national organization, go to www.nationalchristchildssociety.org.

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CATHOLIC RADIO

Lend an ear!

To have obituaries printed, contact
tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

H A P P E N I N G S

DECEMBER

THROUGH JAN. 6

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

14, 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.

Sung Vespers, Benediction at St. Margaret of Cortona

7 p.m., St. Margaret of Cortona Church, 1600 N. Hague Ave., Columbus. Parish's regular Thursday Eucharistic Adoration concludes with sung Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. 614-279-1690

Theology on Tap Meeting

7 p.m., El Vaquero restaurant, 3230 Olentangy River Road, Columbus. Theology on Tap discussion and social group for young Catholics, with Rachelle Martin, who has spent more than 30 years in the health care field, speaking on "Bringing Mental Illness Out of the Shadows and In the Church." RSVP to cbustheologyontap@gmail.com or Columbus Theology on Tap Facebook page.

'Into the Deep' Talk at Columbus St. Patrick

7 to 8:30 p.m., Aquinas Hall, St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Monthly "Into the Deep" series on the Catholic faith concludes with talk

by Father Boniface Endorf, OP, on "Trust Not in Princes: Hope and Despair in American Politics." 614-224-9522

15, FRIDAY

Christmas Concert at Church of the Resurrection

7:30 p.m., Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Christmas concert with all of the parish's music organizations, featuring more than 200 musicians. 614-855-1400

15-23, FRIDAY-SATURDAY

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 nights. Dec. 23 closing celebration begins with Mass at 7, followed by potluck in Pastors' Hall.

16, 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.

Morning of Reflection at Sts. Peter and Paul Center

9 to 11:30 a.m., Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, 2734 Seminary Road S.E., Newark. Advent morning of reflection with Sister Louis Mary Passeri, OP. Theme: "The Precious Present." Cost: \$20 including continental breakfast. 740-928-4246

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 University Commencement Ceremony

11 a.m., Alumni Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. ODU winter commencement ceremony. Speaker: Dr. Sterling W. Hedrick, president of the Columbus Arthritis Center. Preceded by Baccalaureate Mass at 9 a.m. in Christ the King Chapel.

Frassati Society Volunteers at Holy Family Soup Kitchen

11 a.m., Holy Family Soup Kitchen, 57 S. Grubb St., Columbus. Columbus St. Patrick Church Frassati Society for young adults assists Columbus Relief organization with outreach activities. Those interested must register at www.columbusrelief.org.

Blessing of Infant Jesus Figures at Zanesville St. Thomas
5 p.m., St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 144 N. 5th St., Zanesville. Blessing of infant Jesus figures during Mass. 740-453-3301

17, SUNDAY

Blessing of Infant Jesus Figures at Zanesville St. Thomas
8 and 11 a.m., St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 144 N. 5th St., Zanesville. Blessing of infant Jesus figures during Mass. 740-453-3301

Catholic War Veterans Mass, Brunch

9 a.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Catholic War Veterans posts 1936 and 1963 attend Mass, followed by brunch at Max & Erma's, 55 E. Nationwide Blvd., with talk by retired Army Maj. Gen. Dennis Laich of Ohio Dominican University PATRIOTS program.

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

Frassati Society Mass, Brunch

Noon, St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Parish's Frassati Society for young adults attends Mass, followed by brunch at Fox in the Snow Cafe, 1031 N. 4th St. 614-224-9522

Eucharistic Adoration at Church of the Resurrection

Noon to 4 p.m., Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. 614-855-1400

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

2 to 4:30 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttlers Ave., Columbus. Meet in church for prayer, followed by general meeting, ongoing formation, and fellowship. Visitors welcome. 614-895-7792

Polish Mass at Holy Family

2 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Monthly Mass in Polish. 614-221-4323

Lessons and Carols at St. Colman of Cloyne

3 p.m., St. Colman of Cloyne Church, 219 S. North St., Washington Court House. Gaudete Sunday lessons and carols program. 740-335-5000

Lessons and Carols at Zanesville St. Thomas

4 p.m., St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 144 N. 5th St., Zanesville. Advent lessons and carols concert, followed by reception in Rosary Hall. 740-453-3301

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

Carol Festival at Columbus St. Peter

4 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Carol festival featuring cherub, youth, adult, and bell choirs. 614-889-2221

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

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

Lessons and Carols at Groveport St. Mary

5 p.m., St. Mary Church, 5684 Groveport Road, Groveport. Lessons and carols, followed by parish social with refreshments. 614-497-1324

Rite of Candidacy for Prospective Deacons

5:15 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Mass includes Rite of Candidacy for members of diocese's new permanent diaconate class.

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

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

Lessons and Carols at Columbus St. Patrick

7 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus.

Advent lessons and carols. 614-224-9522

Lessons and Carols at Newark St. Francis de Sales

7:30 p.m., St. Francis de Sales Church, 40 Granville St., Newark. Advent lessons and carols program, followed by reception. 740-345-9874

18, 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

19, TUESDAY

Christ Watch at Church of the Resurrection

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

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.

20, 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

Dominican Lecture Series at ODU

Noon to 12:30 p.m., St. Catherine of Siena Room, Erskine Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Third of three talks on "Advent -- A Time of Joyful Anticipation" with Sister Louis Mary Passeri, OP. Part of "Behold the Inheritance of St. Dominic" lecture series sponsored by Center for Dominican Studies.

Eucharistic Adoration at Chillicothe St. Mary

Noon to 4 p.m., St. Mary Church, 61 S. Paint St., Chillicothe. Eucharistic Adoration each Wednesday during Advent. 740-722-2061

21, 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.

Holy Hour at Holy Family

6 to 7 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Holy Hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by meeting of parish Holy Name and Junior Holy Name societies, with refreshments. 614-221-4323

Sung Vespers, Benediction at St. Margaret of Cortona

7 p.m., St. Margaret of Cortona Church, 1600 N. Hague Ave., Columbus. Parish's regular Thursday Eucharistic Adoration concludes with sung Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. 614-279-1690

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

Frassati Society Meeting at St. Patrick

7 p.m., Aquinas Hall, St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Parish's Frassati Society for young adults meets for monthly "Christ in the City" program. 614-224-9522

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.

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OPERA

Amahl and the Night Visitors

Opera Project Columbus and Maestro Alessandro Siciliani present Gian Carlo Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7 at the Lincoln Theater, 769 E Long St., Columbus.

The show will be fully staged, featuring the OPC Orchestra, conducted by Siciliani.

Amahl and the Night Visitors was the first opera specifically composed for television in the United States. It was commissioned by the NBC network and first performed by the NBC Opera Theater live from Rockefeller Center on Dec. 24, 1951.



The role of Amahl will be sung by 15 year-old Claire O'Shaughnessy of Upper Arlington, who sings with the Columbus International Children's Choir (CICC), the Columbus St. Andrew Church choir, and the Wellington School choir. She also has performed with CATCO Is Kids! and the Gallery Players. With CICC, she has sung throughout Italy, in Latvia, at Carnegie Hall, and at the White House for President Obama.

Rounding out the cast will be Emily Holsclaw as the mother, Eric McKeever as King Melchior, Joshua Cook as King Kaspar, and Tommy Petrushka

as King Balthasar.

OPC artistic administrator Adam Cioffari has sung with festivals and operas in Europe and across the United States and will make his directorial debut with *Amahl*. Katherine Wexler will provide the set design.

Amahl and the Night Visitors is the second production in OPC's eighth season. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased through the CAPA box office, Ticketmaster, and www.operaprojectcolumbus.com. For more information on Opera Project Columbus, visit its website, www.operaprojectcolumbus.com.

Children's books show Christmas' true joy with beautiful stories, art

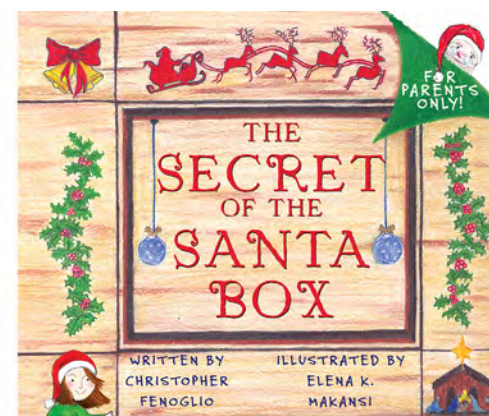
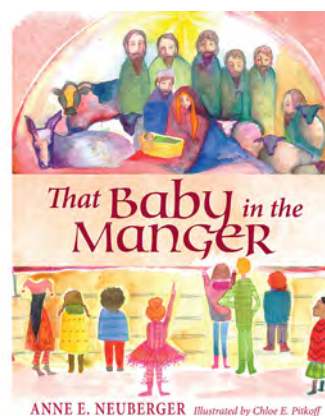
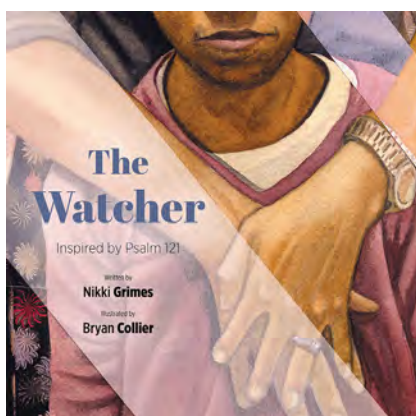
By Regina Lordan/Catholic News Service

The following books are suitable for Christmas giving:

The Watcher by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Bryan Collier. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers (Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2017). 42 pages, \$17.

The Watcher is a rare treasure in the world of children's books: The verse is poetic, the illustrations are a compelling blend of photographs and drawings, and the story is a gripping tale of bully and victim ... or is it? The narration unfolds and reveals that the instigator is really just a lonely child desperate for a friend. Influenced by Psalm 121, which attributes all help to God's loving protection and care, it is written in "golden shovel" form, in which the last word of each verse is a word from the psalm. *The Watcher* is a story that holds onto you as it slowly reveals understanding, compassion and innocent faith in God's love and protection. After it is read, its lyrical tale will not be soon forgotten. Ages 6-10.

Be Yourself: A Journal for Catholic Girls by Amy Brooks. Gracewatch Media (Winona, Minnesota, 2017) 100 pages, \$20.



Be Yourself is a place for Catholic girls and young women to indeed learn how to be themselves, just the way God intended them to be. Colorful, interactive and brimming with saint spotlights, prayers and biblical quotes, *Be Yourself* will encourage Catholic girls to, as author Amy Brooks writes, nourish their relationship with God to better know his will for them and to use the journal to "navigate that relationship -- on good days and bad days." Ages 9 and up.

Look! A Child's Guide to Advent and Christmas by Laura Alary, illustrated by Ann Boyajian. Para-

plete Press (Brewster, Massachusetts, 2017) 32 pages, \$16.99.

Advent is a time of anticipation and waiting, but it can also be a time for reflection and mindfulness of today ... if we take the time to look. Author Laura Alary welcomes children to be aware, appreciate and change during Advent within a biblical and present-day context. She tells the story of Jesus' birth within the framework of children's daily lives, and she en-

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courages children to anticipate Christmas by preparing to say “yes” to God with simple, practical activities and works of service. Ages 5-10.

Anointed: Gifts of the Holy Spirit by Pope Francis. Pauline Books and Media (Boston, 2017) 120 pages, \$18.95.

Intended for young men and women preparing to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of confirmation, but appropriate for all teens, *Anointed* is a compilation of the teachings of Pope Francis brightly illustrated with graphics and photos, Bible verses and prayers. *Anointed* makes the pope’s teachings accessible and engaging, and invites readers to openly receive the gifts God has given us. Ages 12-18.

That Baby in the Manger by Anne E. Neuberger, illustrated by Chloe E. Pitkoff. Paraclete Press (Brewster, Massachu-

setts, 2017) 31 pages, \$15.99.

Father Prak was puzzled: A group of curious children, beautiful in their multicultural diversity, were preparing for Christmas Mass when they started asking questions about the statue of the baby Jesus. Why didn’t he look like many of them, and why didn’t he look like Jesus most likely did, with dark skin, hair and eyes? The priest turned to God for help while an innocent parishioner in the church overheard the discussion. Answering Father Prak’s prayers through the eavesdropper’s clever idea, the children discovered that through the gift of Christmas, Jesus has come to save each and every one of them, no matter what they look like. A perfect Christmas gift for children, this book celebrates the truth of Christmas while highlighting the mystery

of God’s interactions with us through prayer and each other. Ages 4-10.

Angel Stories from the Bible by Charlotte Grossetete, illustrated by Madeleine Brunelet, Sibylle Delacroix and Eric Puybaret. Magnificat (New York, 2017) 47 pages, \$15.99.

Beginning with Jacob’s ladder and ending with the angel appearing at Jesus’ tomb, author Charlotte Grossetete adapts biblical passages of God’s celestial messengers into children’s short stories. Children will enjoy the illustrations of the five stories, created by three artists with varying styles, and the narratives of God intervening in human lives with his angels out of love and care. Particularly appropriate for Christmas, *Angel Stories from the Bible* includes St. Gabriel the Archangel visiting Mary to announce Jesus’

impending arrival. Ages 5 and up.

The Secret of the Santa Box by Christopher Fenoglio, illustrated by Elena K. Makansi. Treehouse Publishing Group (St. Louis, 2017). 32 pages, \$16.95.

There comes a time in every parent’s life when a child anxiously asks them, “Is Santa real?” Many parents struggle with this answer, knowing that with the loss of belief in the jolly old man comes the loss of a part of childhood. But fear not, the Catholic faith shows us that the real joy of Christmas is Jesus’ birth itself and the joy of the mystery of Christmas comes not from Santa, but from everyone but Jesus himself. *The Secret of the Santa Box* is a needed book for curious children ready to move past the secular stories of Christmas and into a deeper relationship with the true meaning of Christmas. It gently explains the sometimes sensitive topic in cheerful and

thoughtful rhymes and illustrations. Ages 7-10.

Contemplating Scripture in Color by Sybil MacBeth. Paraclete Press (Brewster, Mass., 2017) 64 pages, \$11.99

Ever find yourself at a loss of words when trying to pray? Sometimes the actual effort to find the right thing to say is so distracting that prayer is lost in frustration. Author Sybil MacBeth found her words trivial and trite compared to the magnitude of her prayer intentions, so she created a doodle book to encourage focus, creativity and a space to pray. Guided by a relaxed formula, older children can practice this version of *lectio divina*. *Pray for Others in Color* and *Count Your Blessings in Color*, also by MacBeth, offer similar avenues for intercessory prayers and prayers of gratitude. Ages 12-18.

Molly McBride and the Plaid Jumper by Jean Schoonover-Egolf. Gracewatch Media (Winona, Minnesota, 2017) 32 pages, \$11.

One in a series, *Molly McBride* helps normalize discussions about religious vocations through its cheerful and accessible narratives about a young girl and her women religious friends. Molly wants to be one of the “Purple Nuns,” and she wears her purple habit everywhere. But she will be attending Catholic school soon and will have to wear a school uniform. Thankfully, a fun-loving priest and her parents help Molly understand that Jesus’ love is much deeper than the clothes she wears. Children will love Molly and her cute wolf pet named Francis. Ages 4-8.

Lordan, a mother of three, has master’s degrees in education and political science and is a former assistant international editor of Catholic News Service.



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Our Lady of Peace junior cantor

Columbus Our Lady of Peace School student Jack Leonard took part in his inaugural Mass as a junior cantor on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at the weekly all-school Mass. He is pictured with music teacher Stephanie Doyle Gamber and parish music director Nathan Medley.

Photo courtesy Our Lady of Peace School

St. Nicholas visits Trinity students



St. Nicholas (portrayed by Columbus St. Christopher Church parishioner Joe Sonderman) made a visit to Columbus Trinity Elementary School, sharing a little bit about his life with all the students. He is shown with the school's kindergarten class. Photo/Trinity Elementary School

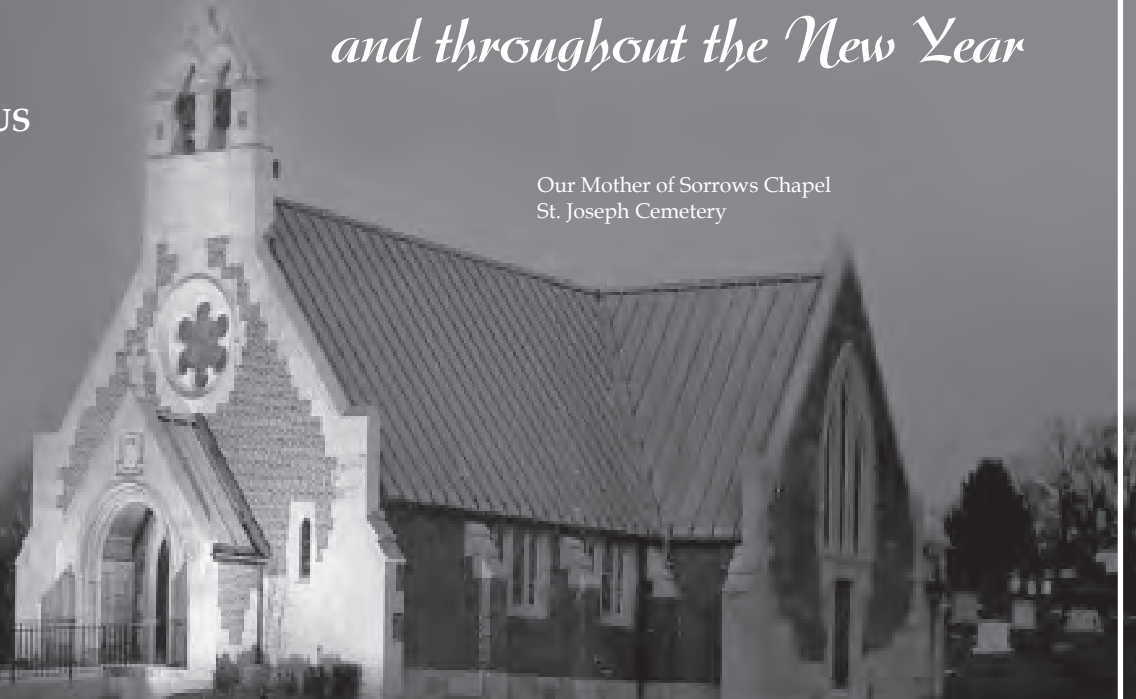
Wishing you every Joy and Blessing at Christmas

and throughout the New Year

THE STAFF AT
THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF COLUMBUS

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Jon Abshire</i> | <i>Fred Messmer</i> |
| <i>Tim Boggs</i> | <i>Sandee Murphy</i> |
| <i>Tyler Brown</i> | <i>Ann Noble</i> |
| <i>Brian Everts</i> | <i>Mark Noble</i> |
| <i>Laura Favret</i> | <i>Mike Redmond</i> |
| <i>Rich Finn</i> | <i>Steve Skinner</i> |
| <i>Jan Gerst</i> | <i>Jeremy Sprouse</i> |
| <i>Jenny Gruber</i> | <i>Jim VanHorn</i> |
| <i>Ed Jones</i> | <i>Deanna Ventura</i> |
| <i>Kevin Kelley</i> | <i>Chuck Weiner</i> |
| <i>Joyce Kitsmiller</i> | <i>Craig Wright</i> |
| <i>Aaron McDole</i> | <i>Gregg Wright</i> |
| <i>Kyle McGlone</i> | <i>Billy Wright</i> |

Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel
St. Joseph Cemetery



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Lockbourne, Ohio 43137
614-491-2751

Resurrection Cemetery
9571 N. High St./U.S. Rt. 23 N.
Lewis Center, Ohio 43035
614-888-1805

Holy Cross Cemetery
11539 National Rd. S.W./U.S. Rt. 40 E.
Pataskala, Ohio 43062
740-927-4442

Mount Calvary
c/o St. Joseph Cemetery
614-491-2751

