



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

CATHOLIC TIMES

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THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT
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**CIRCLEVILLE ST. JOSEPH CHURCH:
RESTORING, REBUILDING, RENEWING**

Editor's reflections by Doug Bean

Gaudete Sunday: Rejoice!

During Advent, Catholics and Christians are focused on preparations for the birth of the Savior. On the secular calendar, the end of the year is near.

This Sunday, Dec. 16, the third Sunday of Advent, is designated as Gaudete Sunday on the liturgical calendar. It's one of two Sundays during the year (Laetare Sunday during the middle of Lent is the other) when the priest has the option to wear a rose-colored chasuble and deacons a rose dalmatic, and in some parishes, the tabernacle veil and the altar are adorned in the same color. The candle for the third week of Advent also stands out as the only rose one amid the other three that are purple. A traditional Advent hymn is *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*.

Children especially are fascinated with the vestments. They often mistake the rose color as pink. So do adults. But if your parish priest wears violet on Gaudete Sunday, don't call the rectory or the chancery. According to the rubrics of the Church, violet is permitted.

The Church isn't trying to make a fashion statement. The intention is to orient the faithful toward the great gift of celebrating Christ's arrival as the newborn king in a few short days.

The Latin word *gaudete* means "rejoice." It truly is a time to rejoice in anticipation of Christmas, which is reflected in the entrance antiphon for the Mass from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near."

Advent is actually scaled down from its observance in the early

days. Advent began as a fast of 40 days similar to Lent. It started on Nov. 12, the Feast of St. Martin of Tours, and was known as St. Martin's Lent.

By the ninth century, the Advent fast was shortened to four weeks. Evidence for this comes from a letter to the Bulgarians from St. Nicholas the Great, who was pope from 858 to 867. By the 12th century, simple abstinence replaced the fast.

The Divine Office and the liturgy are characterized throughout Advent by the expectation for Christmas and for the second coming of the Lord. The Mass readings reflect the excitement of the season.

In the first reading from Zephaniah, we hear these words: "The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love; he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals."

The responsorial psalm follows with "Cry out with joy and gladness; for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel."

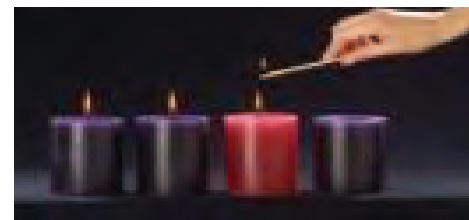
Again, from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians, we are instructed: "Brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord always, I shall say it again: rejoice!"

And in the Gospel from St. Luke, John the Baptist tells the people that "one mightier than I is coming."

As Advent continues and the arrival of Christmas comes closer, keep your eyes firmly fixed on Christ and the Holy Family, and prepare to rejoice in the joy He brings to the world.



Third Week of Advent



Registration begins for Catholic Women's Conference

The 13th annual Columbus Catholic Women's Conference is around the corner on Saturday, Feb. 16, when an estimated 4,000 women will gather in the Cardinal Building at the state fairgrounds for the largest conference of its kind in the United States.

Registration is open in time to make it a unique, meaningful Christmas gift. Discounted tickets are \$35 and student tickets are \$20 if purchased before Sunday, Jan. 13.

The conference theme is "Inspired by Faith." In this troubled time within the church, it is faith in the truth of Jesus Christ that brings women together to learn, worship, praise and become one voice for Him.

The day will start with praise and worship music by Out of Darkness and will continue with the celebration of Mass. The conference board of directors, leadership team and hundreds of volunteers have been planning for the past year to provide a spiritually empowering day.

This year's lineup of conference speakers includes:

Father Christopher Hartley, a missionary priest from Ethiopia, who will speak about his recent work on the documentary *The Price of Sugar* and the book *Slaves in Paradise*.

Colleen Mitchell, author of the award-winning books *Who Does He Say You Are?: Women Transformed by Christ in the Gospels* and *When We Were Eve*.

Sister Faustina Maria Pia, SV, who is dedicated to the Sisters of Life, will speak on her charism of life in the litany of trust.

Magnus-McFarland-Barrow, founder of Mary's Meals, returns from Scotland and will explain how past support for Mary's Meals has impacted children around the world.

Anna Mitchell, co-host of the *Son Rise Morning Show* on St. Gabriel Catholic Radio, will be the emcee.

Purchase tickets today and bring a friend. Trust that God will take care of the details and don't miss this unforgettable spiritual experience. To register for the Columbus Catholic Women's Conference, visit www.columbuscatholicwomen.com.



CORRECTION

The listing of Advent events in the Dec. 2 Catholic Times gave an incorrect time for the lessons and carols program at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on Monday, Dec. 17. The correct time is 7 p.m.



Front Page photo:

Cirleville St. Joseph
The interior of Cirleville St. Joseph Church, which recently underwent its first significant renovation in more than 40 years. Photo courtesy St. Joseph Church

CATHOLIC TIMES

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Bishop Frederick F. Campbell, DD, PhD: President & Publisher

Doug Bean: Editor (dbean@columbuscatholic.org)

Tim Puet: Reporter (tpuet@columbuscatholic.org)

David Vance: Graphic Designer

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

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

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

(subscriptions@columbuscatholic.org)

Lessons and carols at the cathedral



Approximately 300 people attended an Advent lessons and carols service on Sunday, Dec. 9, at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. The event featured the Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Brass, with Dr. Richard Fitzgerald conducting, and included scriptural readings appropriate to this season of preparation. Photos courtesy St. Joseph Cathedral

Wilderness Outreach sponsors Advent hike

Wilderness Outreach will host its annual Advent hike for men and boys on Saturday, Dec. 22 at Clear Creek Metro Park, located off U.S. 33 south of Lancaster, at the border of Fairfield and Hocking counties.

Participants will gather at the west end of the park at the Barnebey Hambleton area. The hike will be along the same trail as the annual Wilderness Outreach "Carry the Cross" hike on

Holy Saturday. It will begin at 7:30 a.m. with Morning Prayer, cover a distance of up to 12 miles, and be completed by noon.

Those taking part should come prepared with water, snacks and appropriate clothing. The hike will take place rain or shine. Questions may be directed to John Bradford at wildernessoutreach2560@gmail.com or (614) 679-6761.

Parishes sponsor March for Life bus

Danville St. Luke, Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas, Sunbury St. John Neumann and Columbus St. Patrick churches will be sponsoring bus trips to the annual March for Life in Washington, which will take place Friday, Jan. 18.

This is the 20th consecutive year for the trip from Danville, which will be for three days and two nights, from Thursday to Saturday, Jan. 17 to 19. Thanks to donations from the Knights of Columbus, the cost again will be \$280 for a double room and \$240 each for three or more persons in a room.

This covers the bus ride, two nights at the Hampton Inn in Alexandria, Virginia, with a hot breakfast each morning, and a tour of Washington, guided by former St. Luke parishioner John Durbin, a career courier with the federal government.

The bus will depart Danville at 6 a.m. Thursday. The group will attend a vigil Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception that evening. On Friday, there will be some touring in the morning, followed by the march at noon. Departure is on Saturday morning, with arrival in Danville on Saturday night.

A \$50 deposit is due immediately. Final payment is due by Thursday, Jan. 10. Make checks payable to St. Luke Parish. For more information, contact the church office at (740) 599-6362 or Bobbie Thomas at (740) 398-9710 or (740) 427-4044. Checks may be sent to St. Luke Church, Post Office Box P, Danville OH 43014.

The Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas pilgrimage also will be from Jan. 17 to 19. Prices for the bus trip and two nights at the Hampton Inn in Silver Spring, Maryland, are \$151 per person for a room for four people, with two queen-size beds; \$221 per person for a room for two people, with two queen beds; and \$360 per person or \$410 per couple for a room with one king-size bed.

The bus will leave the church at 12:30 a.m. Thursday. Highlights of the pilgrimage include the vigil Mass at the Shrine of the Immacu-

late Conception and time to visit the nearby St. John Paul II shrine on Thursday night, and participation in the March for Life, with free time to tour Washington, on Friday. A visit to Emmitsburg, Maryland on Saturday will include Mass at the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and the opportunity for prayer at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes.

To register or to learn more about the trip, contact parish faith formation director Amanda Zurface at (740) 453-3301, extension 125, or azurface@saintthomaszanesville.org.

Sunbury St. John Neumann Church's family pilgrimage will depart the church parking lot at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16 and return there in the early hours of Sunday, Jan. 19.

It includes visits on Jan. 17 to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, the March for Life Expo, and the Mass at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Besides the rally and march on Jan. 18, there will be a visit to Priests for Life's memorial for the preborn. On Jan. 19, pilgrimage participants will attend the Students for Life conference in Upper Marlboro, Maryland all day, departing at about 6 p.m.

Participants may sleep on a mat at Sacred Heart Church in Bowie, Maryland (\$165 per person, lunches packed at the church) or stay at the Hampton Inn in Bowie (\$290 to \$555 per person, depending on number of occupants per room; price includes box lunches).

A nonrefundable reservation deposit of \$90 is due immediately, with the balance due on Friday, Jan. 4. For more information and registration forms, go to the parish website, www.saintjohnsunbury.org (search: march for life 2019) or call Lorraine Vance at (740) 965-2674.

The bus from Columbus St. Patrick Church will leave the church at 9:30 p.m. Jan. 17 and will be back at the church at around 2 a.m. Jan. 19. There will not be an overnight stay in Washington. The cost is \$75. To reserve a seat, call Bob Tatz at (614) 570-9368.

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Seeing through Christmas lights

Among my happiest memories of Christmas seasons past is the wide-eyed look of wonder on my young daughters' faces as they marveled at the bright lights shining everywhere, and especially on our own Christmas tree. The joy of children lights up our own hearts, whatever our own burdens and challenges may be, and the lights of Christmas invite us to release our own inner child.

What a fitting dynamic, since the season itself celebrates a Child, the Light of the World, whose presence among us is marked, in the words of a classic Christmas carol, by a "Star of wonder, star of night/Star with royal beauty bright." The sparkle of Christmas lights invites us to celebrate our own childlike joy, thanks ultimately to that Special Child the three kings sought so earnestly.

It's also a fitting coincidence that, in our American calendar, Christmas follows closely after Thanksgiving, because gratitude really is the overriding response that should animate our Christmas experience. How amazing that the God who created us should become one of us! It is a gift that is truly incomprehensible, even as we still try to comprehend it, as theologians and mystics have tried for centuries.

And because we can never fully grasp the meaning and mystery of the God-Child, it's all too easy for the lights of the season to distract us rather than focus our attention on what really matters.

One possible distraction is excessive materialism, as we are beckoned



CATHOLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

By Dr. Robert Gervasi

President, Ohio Dominican University

by the holiday lights of shopping malls (or the lights of our computer screens as we shop online!). And while shopping and gift-giving are good things, we miss so much if they become the main event.

Another, perhaps more dangerous distraction is the temptation to use the trappings of Christmas to focus on our own immediate circle of friends and family, to the exclusion of others in need. Christmas is not a vacation from our connection to the wider world, but an invitation to embrace the world more fully – to truly experience the joy that we are all sisters and brothers, thanks to the Light of the World. There is no more valuable gift. We should regard the lights of Christmas as just a hint of what St. Thomas Aquinas called the "Beatific Vision," the heavenly experience of the full reality and bliss of God, which is promised and foreshadowed in the Eucharist. And we will share that bliss together.

As Sister Diane Traffas, OP, director of the Center for Dominican Studies at Ohio Dominican University, reflected recently, "Gratitude is the equivalent of feeling the Divine Presence in our lives. It is the same as being in a state of bliss. It allows us to see value, virtue and benefit in

everything. Gratitude can be considered even as an antidote to suffering. Giving thanks in some way always includes embracing the other."

In an age when it is all too easy to ignore and even persecute the other, the lights of Christmas call us to embrace the other as a shining reflection of the Divine Presence among us and as a hint of the fullness of joy to come. As Catholic Christians, we affirm that the final word in the world's history will be not conflict but kindness, not war but peace. Exactly a century ago in 1918, as the horror of the First World War was drawing to a close, Jesuit father and poet Gerard Manley Hopkins affirmed the same hope in his poem *God's Grandeur*:

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;

It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil

Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?

Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil

Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;

And though the last lights off the black West went

Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs—

Because the Holy Ghost over the bent

World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

This Christmas, may Father Hopkins' poetic vision inspire us to see beyond bright lights to the Light of the World and the Holy Spirit's bright presence within and among us all.

Robert A. Gervasi is the president of Ohio Dominican University in Columbus.



PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NEEDED

The National Catholic College Admission Association (The National CCAA), based in New Albany, is seeking a part-time (10-15 hours/week) Administrative Assistant.

Applications for the position are due **January 7, 2019**. For details about the position and instructions on how to apply, please go to www.catholiccollegesonline.org/members/careers.html.

Founded in 1959, the National CCAA is a nonprofit organization of Catholic colleges and universities committed to promoting the value of Catholic higher education and to serving students in the transition to college. The National CCAA leadership is comprised of a Board of Directors who are senior-level college admission professionals from member schools, college/guidance counselors from Catholic high schools, and a full-time Executive Director. To learn more about the Association, please go to catholiccollegesonline.org.

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The stewardship of joy



STEWARDSHIP, LIVING OUR FAITH Andrea Pannell

Joy and happiness, though often used interchangeably, are not the same. During a not-so-happy time in my own life, I received great advice: “Do not attempt to reduce Joy’s abundance by trying to force it into a box marked for ‘Happiness.’” Stewardship tells us that joy is not a fleeting emotion or a collection of positive feelings, which can define happiness. Joy is a generosity of the spirit that bears fruit. It is a Fruit of the Spirit, an observable result of our abiding in Christ Jesus. As Christian stewards, we rejoice in the goodness of Our Lord and cling to his saving hand in times of uncertainty and despair. We know that suffering is unavoidable, so we trust in God’s promise that with every winter, there will be a summer, and with every nightfall comes a new day of opportunity.

The Old Testament Book of Proverbs teaches us that “A joyful heart is the health of the body, but a depressed spirit dries up the bones.” A joyless life causes us to harden like dry, brittle bones. We become fragile, easily broken, bitter and unforgiving, hindering our ability to heal, to love or to live in the fullness of Christ. Do you know someone who just cannot find anything good in his or her life, the church or the world? No matter how much laughter and fun you are having or how joyous the occasion, that person will find the negative in it and something to get upset about. Is there someone you know who chooses differently and refuses to be controlled by negativity? A person who can hardly stand still in the company of complaining voices and will look for the good and beauty in every person and circumstance?

We have each been entrusted with God-given talents and skills, guiding

us toward joy and purpose and challenging us to put God’s priorities before our own. Good stewards share their gifts generously, understanding that tithing and raising money cannot be a goal unto itself, and that even our treasures must serve God’s plan. Joy often can be lacking in the life of a parish community and surely can stunt one’s ability to live out a call to stewardship. How do we practice a stewardship of joy in the activities we plan and the messages we share? How do we share this message of emboldened generosity fueled by joy? Every time we tell our own stories of joy, we are testifying to the boundless generosity of a loving God. Our witness and the witness of others can be one of the best ways to share a joy-filled stewardship message and re-energize a dry and brittle community. When asked to share a lay witness talk, do not shy away from the opportunity. Remain prayerful, be prepared, succinct and sincere, and tell your story of rejoicing in God’s love for you.

An incarcerated Paul encouraged the people of Philippi to rejoice: *Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! ... Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus* (Philippians 4:4,7). This message is also for Christians today. The Holy Spirit bears witness to hope, peace, love, and fullness of joy that will enflame your stewardship activities. Use this knowledge to fan the flames of God’s joy in yourself and your community and rejoice in the generosity of Our Lord.

Andrea Pannell is episcopal moderator for the diocesan Office of Development and Planning.

MUSIC DIRECTOR – ST. PATRICK CHURCH, LONDON

ST. PATRICK CHURCH, a historic parish of 400 families located in London, Ohio (20 miles west of Columbus) is searching for a music director and organist. The Director of Music will develop and maintain a high-quality sacred music program well-formed in the traditions of the Latin Rite Catholic Church.

The director of music is responsible for exercising supervision over all aspects of liturgical music in the parish and for leading sacred music for three Sunday Masses (one anticipatory on Saturday), Holy Days of Obligation, as well as funeral and wedding liturgies. Leads adult, children, and bell choirs (all September - May) and recruits, trains, and directs cantors. Collaborates with the pastor and parish staff to plan liturgies and special celebrations as needed.

The parish has the following instruments:

- Austin Organ Company Opus 2636 (II/15)
- Baldwin Grand Piano
- 2 + Octave Hand Bells

A bachelor's degree in music or extensive experience is desired. A thorough knowledge of Roman Catholic liturgy and music, the skills to introduce a traditional repertoire to a parish, and excellent interpersonal and communications skills, are required.

Familiarity with chant and the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite is a plus.

Interested candidates should send resume and salary requirements by January 15, 2019 to:

Fr. Michael Hinterschied, Pastor
St. Patrick Church
61 S. Union St., London, OH 43140
mhinterschied@columbuscatholic.org



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PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

(Never known to fail)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in necessity. Oh, star of the sea, help me and show me herein, you are my Heaven and Earth. I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in this necessity. There are none who can withstand your powers. Oh, show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us, who have recourse to thee. (Repeat three times) Oh, Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hand. (Repeat three times) Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads that I can obtain my goals. You gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, and in all instances in my life, you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer three consecutive days, after three days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor has been granted. MAL

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The church and single parents; Realistic portrayal of Crucifixion



QUESTION & ANSWER
Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

Recently, you wrote a column about the vocation of singles in the Catholic Church and the need to pray for them. Unfortunately, you left out a whole cohort of people: single parents.

I have heard of only one ministry in the church for us, and it was not in our diocese. We, as single parents, are expected to support, guide and educate our children in a similar fashion to married folks, but we get none of the time and attention paid to married couples.

Maybe it's because the church is run by a bunch of single guys who cannot possibly fathom what it is like to be all alone as a mother or father with the responsibilities of home care, child care and work life. It is absolutely exhausting, and you are constantly second-guessing yourself because you know that the life and welfare of another human being falls totally on your own shoulders and no one else's.

Priests should reach out and invite single parents to their rectories for meals and recreation. Perhaps, too, you could find married couples who might take single parents under their wings, mentor them and help see to their needs. (City of origin withheld)

This writer speaks eloquently to the plight of single parents – not an insignificant segment in contemporary America. I read recently that in New Jersey, 30 percent of children live in single-parent households.

In terms of financial assistance, Catholic Charities in some instances has been able to help; the website of Catholic Charities USA indicates where grants might be available for such needs as housing, medical and dental care and legal assistance. But with regard to broader programs – such as help with parenting skills – I would agree that the church is only now beginning to catch up with the need.

The Archdiocese of Newark, New

Jersey, for instance, offers support groups specific to single parents – providing them an opportunity to associate with their peers and to talk about the various struggles they face bringing up children alone. Throughout the country, a number of individual parishes are beginning to offer similar programs.

The parish of St. Stephen in Valley Center, California, for example, offers single parents the chance to meet regularly to discuss such challenges as “ride sharing, getting children to and from activities, babysitting, budgeting, planning and dealing with alternate holiday schedules and visitations.” I would recommend contacting the family life office in your diocese to see whether such programs might be available locally.

My question centers on the physical appearance of the body of Jesus as he hangs on various crucifixes. I have yet to see one that conveys the suffering that Christ must have experienced during his scourging, when straps covered with iron hooks penetrated to the bone and tore off large pieces of flesh. To look at the crucifixes in our churches today, you would never grasp the degree of suffering which Our Savior must have undergone, and I am wondering why. (Brookhaven, Georgia)

Certainly, the suffering of Jesus during the Passion went beyond what we could ever imagine. I remember many years ago, as a seminarian, reading a book titled *A Doctor at Calvary*. It was written in 1950 by a French surgeon named Pierre Barbet and described the Passion in detail, including the scourging. Scourges made of brass chains tipped with lead have been found in the catacombs, and the Shroud of Turin would indicate that Jesus was struck with such scourges more than 100 times.

Interestingly, the Crucifixion does not appear regularly in Christian art

until the sixth century. Scholars suggest that early Christians were reluctant to portray their Savior in that way because crucifixion represented a dishonorable death in the Roman world – a fate reserved to slaves and criminals.

During the Middle Ages, the crucified body of Christ began to be shown more and more realistically. A painting done in 1503 by Lucas Cranach that hangs now in a museum in Munich displays blood spouting out of Christ's nailed feet, the feet bizarrely twisted together and shapeless.

Such depictions were offered during a time when plagues ravaged Europe, wide-scale death was a daily occurrence and criminals were still executed publicly. Artistic tastes change, and we in the 21st century seem to shy away from such graphic images, but it helps to be reminded of all that Christ went through on our behalf.

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

St. Therese's hosts New Year's Eve praise Mass

The Columbus Catholic Renewal is sponsoring a praise and thanksgiving Mass on New Year's Eve, Monday, Dec. 31 at St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus.

The Mass, to be celebrated at 7 p.m. by Father Jim Coleman, will be preceded by the rosary at 5:30, followed at 6 by praise and worship songs, with music by the Daughters of Songs. Teams will be available for individual prayer. The Sacrament of Reconciliation also will be available at this time. Fellowship will follow the Mass. Bring a dish to share. The renewal says those attending will be home before 9 p.m.

For more information, visit www.cccolumbus.org or call (614) 980-3021. The Columbus Catholic Renewal is under the authority of Bishop Frederick Campbell through his appointed liaison, Father Dean Mathewson.

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LIGHTING THE WAY

J. P. Leo Thomas

Ever wonder how we will be greeted in Heaven? Ever wonder what it might be like not to have to suffer the wounds of our existence? Although we may beg to differ on many things, there is a unique sense and perspective we seem to have as Christians about ourselves and about society – the hope that we are all headed to a better place. Many times, we feel as if our lives would have been different had we taken another course, if we had chosen to go right instead of left. Even I admit that on occasion, I find myself wishing for a better outcome to events that shaped not only my character, but my life.

When we seem to be taking things out of context, let us remember who the guilty party is. Do not look further than the mirror that spreads idle gossip or just repeats what others say about people. There is a real difference between being well-informed and well-intentioned. Do not make the mistake of allowing yourself to get caught up in a moment. Rather, look at it as an opportunity to broaden your view and your horizon, if just a bit, especially at this time of year.

We are all molded in the essence of God, so it comes as no surprise that we constantly are raising our brows to the sky. We are, after all, children of the light and not of the earth below. We feel connected to the world by experiences we can touch, see and remember. When we experience something, we are setting in motion the actions that we will soon become a part of, good or bad.

It brings to mind what God may have been thinking when He sent His only son to this dangerous and unforgiving land. He wanted to feel related to the world around Him, so He decided to come in man's likeness, not in the likeness of an animal or inanimate object. He also chose the body of an infant, so innocent and so depending on the goodness of others. What an awesome sight it must have been for Mary to give birth not only to her son, but to the son of God Himself.

If we are to believe that such divine providence was well-conceived, we must also believe in the notion that He was fully man. Some of us, to this day, do not submit to the fact that He even existed somewhere out of time. This short-sightedness is troubling, but not unexpected. There are critics who wish us to believe in a lonely and secular world, but I am one who needs a sense of community and sharing to produce the kind of fruit we need to grow and to care for one another in an ever-changing world.

Mother Teresa once said, "We shall never know all the good a simple smile can do." Your smile, a loving smile, sometimes is the only thing we have in common. Have and show others this joy. His love, on this holiest of days, should be the catalyst that sends our thoughts and prayers to those who need it most. For those who are forgotten, let them be forgotten no more. For those who need, let them need no more, and for those who hate, let them hate no more. Remember this simple phrase when we seem to be getting a bit out of sorts, with all of the bows, ribbons and bags. And let us also remember our responsibility to that small child in the manger – to make the lives of the people we touch full of hope, full of dreams and full of love.

May God bless you and keep you this Christmas season. May His love be with you every day. May the wind be at your backs, and may His peace be with you always.

Accepting the unknown



TWENTY SOMETHING

Christina Capecchi

It all started with a lost birth certificate. The Holy Spirit was at work that day and hasn't slowed down since.

My aunt Jan has always known she was adopted, and the many mysteries surrounding that reality had never haunted her. She raised her daughters near St. Paul, Minnesota, her husband's hometown, and cherished her Catholic faith. Now 56, she is an empty nester who volunteers often and paints religious icons.

Last summer, Jan was applying for her enhanced driver's license and Transportation Security Administration documents and couldn't find her birth certificate. Finally, she resolved to send for another one from Pennsylvania, where she was born and raised. The state website noted that Pennsylvania would soon be issuing original birth certificates.

Eventually she applied, and the following month, a copy of her original birth certificate arrived, bearing two revelations: her birth name, Theresa Anne, and her birth mother's name, Judy. The unusual maiden name prompted an online search, and within minutes, White Pages churned up a 1940 census showing that Judy had grown up – of all places – in St. Paul! She is 80 and still alive, living in Florida.

Within a week, Jan was mining Ancestry.com. An obituary of her mom's brother listed his children, including one distinct name: a member of Jan's parish, St. Odilia – a thriving Catholic community in Shoreview, Minnesota.

Jan has known and worshipped alongside her first cousin for years!

The two have since forged a warm new friendship, meeting and texting regularly. Though her birth father's identity remains unclear, Jan has determined that she has five half-siblings, including one in Duluth, Minnesota. Many cousins live nearby, and Jan recently met an uncle in another St. Paul suburb.

Jan's spiritual life proved just as active as her adoption research. She took three icon classes and began the lay formation process for the Third Order Carmelites.

Reconnecting with her birth mom was never her goal, but suddenly, it seemed prudent to reach out before someone else mentioned Jan to Judy.

And so, on a Friday night in August, Jan sat at her kitchen table and wrote a letter to her birth mom. The words and tears poured out.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the gift of life and the gift of adoption," she wrote. "Thank you for having me baptized Catholic. I know God has been with me from the very beginning."

She expressed a willingness to meet, but left it up to her mother.

"I have prayed in thanksgiving for you and my siblings and birth father for years," Jan wrote in closing. "I will continue to do so."

The letter was written in one sitting and was in the mail the following morning.

Initially, Jan hoped for an immediate reply.

None has come, but she's OK with that.

"God is so amazing to allow me to see these connections this side of heaven," she said. "He is working through me more and more!"

It's evident in her art: she has completed seven icons this year. Normally, she'd finish one or two. It's also evident in her abundant prayer life, including a daily rosary and many Masses offered for her birth parents and siblings.

"You have to be in motion for God to act," she said. "Prayer is action."

As the year draws to a close, Jan has a peaceful acceptance of the many remaining unknowns – and a joyful optimism for the future.

She'd love to paint icons full time to give to churches in need. She plans to learn the violin after retiring and eventually to walk *El Camino*. She's dreaming big and believing, like never before, that anything is possible in God.

"I am living it!"

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.



DeSales students collect canned food



Students and staff at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School recently wrapped up their annual canned food drive, reaching more than 140 percent of the school goal. Items donated were delivered to food pantries at Columbus St. James the Less Church and St. Stephen's Community House. Students and parishioners at Columbus St. Matthias Church and School also made a substantial donation to the drive. Pictured are DeSales students who earned the privilege to deliver canned goods to the pantries.

Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School

Advent at St. Matthias



Students at Columbus St. Matthias School participated in a traditional Advent prayer service. Each grade helped to prepare the manger scene for Jesus.

Photo courtesy St. Matthias School

Advent angel at St. Bernadette



Lancaster St. Bernadette School students don't have an elf, but they do search each morning for their Advent angel. The angel, dressed in the school's plaid uniform, moves around the building each night, then watches through the day for positive student behavior. She is a reminder to the children that good deeds and loving acts help prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Pictured are fifth-grade students discovering the angel's new location at the top of the school's Jesse tree.

Photo courtesy St. Bernadette School

OLB students build 'snow forts'



Kindergarten students from Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare were challenged to predict whether it would be better to build a snow fort tall or wide by only using toothpicks, glue and mini-marshmallows. Students then had a "snowball fight" with large marshmallows to try to prove their prediction.

Photo courtesy Our Lady of Bethlehem School

OPEN POSITION

Job Vacancy for a Pre-K to 6th Grade Principal exists at St. Peter Catholic School Transfiguration of the Lord Parish, Upper Sandusky, OH. Candidates may inquire by calling the rectory at (419) 294-1268.

*Applicants should submit a letter of interest no later than January 15, 2019 and 3 letters of reference.

*Early applications will be viewed favorably by the Search Committee

11 students earn Italian Festival scholarships

Eleven 2018 high school graduates now attending college have earned \$1,500 scholarships sponsored by the Columbus Italian Festival and Columbus St. John the Baptist Church.

Recipients of Father Casto Marrapese, PIME, scholarships are Josha Conturo (a graduate of Columbus Bishop Ready High School, attending Capital University), Anthony Cua (Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, John Carroll University), Anna D'Andrea (DeSales, Franciscan University of Steubenville), Nicholas DePalma (Columbus Bish-

op Watterson High School, University of Dayton), Stephen Julian (Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, The Ohio State University), Elizabeth Kirn (DeSales, Dayton), Talia Kreuzer (DeSales, Dayton), Camille Lanese (Grove City High School, UCLA), Delaney Lombardi (Bishop Ready, Otterbein University) and Giacomo Melaragno (Upper Arlington High School, Ohio State). A Pat Denardo scholarship was awarded to Carmen Gioffre of Bishop Watterson, who is attending the University of Cincinnati.

The scholarships are for students of Italian de-

cent. Father Marrapese founded the Italian Festival in 1980 and was associate pastor at St. John the Baptist from 1949 to 1954 and 1967 to 1974 and pastor from 1974 to 1991. He died in 2002. Denardo, a Columbus attorney, was a past chair of the festival. Former Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School principal Pat Rossetti is chair of the scholarship committee.

To apply for the 2019 scholarships, go to the St. John the Baptist church website, www.sjbitaliana.com.

45 Perry County students confirmed



Bishop Frederick Campbell administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 45 students from the Perry County Consortium of Catholic Parishes at the consortium's first Confirmation ceremony in three years. It took place at Corning St. Bernard Church. The students prepared for the sacrament by using Dynamic Catholic's Decision Point program and went on a weekend retreat. The consortium includes St. Bernard, New Lexington St. Rose and Junction City St. Patrick churches and the Church of the Atonement in Crooksville.

Photo courtesy Zack Carney

St. Brigid students share strengths



This year's theme at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare School is "Discovering and Sharing Our Strengths." Throughout the year, students are being reminded that as disciples, they are called to creatively and innovatively use their strengths to make a positive difference in the world. Many school projects have focused on this theme. One of them was a creativity hour, in which students in kindergarten through eighth grade were given time to reflect on their greatest strengths. After reflecting, they had an hour to use a variety of classroom supplies, such as cardboard, foil, cotton balls and tissue paper to create an object that represented those attributes. They then explained how their object represented their strengths.

Photo courtesy St. Brigid of Kildare School

CIRCLEVILLE ST. JOSEPH CHURCH:

By Tim Puet, *Catholic Times* Reporter

Christmas and the period of Advent leading up to it is a time for thankfulness and helping others. Circleville St. Joseph Church is expressing its gratitude for God's gifts in a multitude of ways during the season.

"This is a really giving community," Parish School of Religion and youth ministry director Vanessa Butterbaugh said when asked how she would describe her parish to others.

"The giving spirit takes many forms," she continued. "Every year, there are things like our traditional Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and the other activities the parish does around the holidays. And for the past two years, parishioners have shown their generosity by the way they have responded to the capital campaign which has allowed us to make extensive renovations to the church building."

The changes are the first significant physical improvements at the church in the past 40 years or so, said Father Ted Machnik, pastor at St. Joseph since mid-2011. He said that because the 108-year-old church is structurally sound, another major renovation shouldn't be needed for several decades.

A \$1.72 million goal was set for the "Following in St. Joseph's Footsteps: Restoring, Rebuilding and Renewing" campaign that raised money for the repairs. To date, \$1.83 million has been pledged and \$1.44 million has been paid. "It's been mostly in small donations, one by one," Father Machnik said. "It's what the Holy Spirit and the parishioners wanted. Because of the cooperation we've had and the expertise of parish members who knew how to find quality items and keep costs low, we've gotten the most use from the money we've raised."

The changes include new wiring and an LED lighting system with additional lights; a new floor with marble from the same Italian quarry as the original altar; a mosaic on the floor in front of the sanctuary; repainting interior

walls and exterior window ledges; replastering; a new pulpit, cantor stand, presider's and server's chairs; fixing water damage; restoration of the pews and returning them to their original configuration; new louvers for the bell tower; repairing and cleaning of stained-glass windows, plus addition of a protective glass layer; and new doors.

Improvements made earlier include new bells and renovation of the heating, ventilating and air conditioning system.

Also new to the church is a grand piano. "The piano wasn't part of the campaign. It was donated and makes a wonderful addition to our music program," Father Machnik said. He also noted that the Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral choir will be at the parish, located at 134 W. Mound St., for a concert at 3 p.m. this Sunday, Dec. 16.

"The doors are a great example of



Children's choir at 2017 Christmas Eve Mass.

how we were able to find things which look good, but were affordable," he said. "They were done by craftsmen from Tijuana and look like the parish's former wood doors, but are made of fiberglass. That means they will last a lot longer than wood, while avoiding the issues of warping and aging that are part of anything made of wood."



Circleville St. Joseph Church, decorated for Christmas in 2017. The church was built in 1910. Its history goes back to 1840.

Photo courtesy St. Joseph Church

White remains the dominant color in the sanctuary, but Father Machnik said its complementary colors are now in more earthy tones such as dark green, brown and cream because St. Joseph was a carpenter. The improvements were dedicated at a Mass on Jan. 20.

The renovation is the parish's second major project in the past decade. A parish center containing offices and 14 classrooms was dedicated in 2012. Father Machnik had become pastor at that point, but most of the fundraising and planning for the building was done by his predecessor, Father Stephen Krile, who was pastor in Circleville from 1999 to 2011 and now is pastor of Logan St. John Church.

"We needed a parish center badly because the former parish school had become unsafe and was torn down in 2006," Butterbaugh said. "For the next several years, we used the parish hall and the church for religious education programs, and it was a nightmare. Classes took place wherever we could find somewhere to put them, but there just wasn't adequate space."

"The center gives us a safe facility, with adequate parking and enough room for multiple Parish School of Religion classes to meet at the same time," she said. The PSR meets at the center on Sundays at 9:30 a.m., between the parish's 8 and 11:15 a.m.

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A GIVING COMMUNITY

Masses. The parish's other weekend Mass is at 5 p.m. Saturday, with weekday Masses at 9 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 7 p.m. Tuesday and Eucharistic Adoration from 2 to 3 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month. The center also is the site of adult education classes, youth ministry activities, and bloodmobile visits.

A Mercy Garden in back of the center consists of nine beds where vegetables are grown for the Pickaway County Community Action Organization's food pantry and for delivery by the parish St. Vincent de Paul Society to families in need. Vegetables grown there have included tomatoes, squash, peppers, onions, cucumbers, lettuce – and pumpkins, an appropriate choice for a city best known for its Pumpkin Show, an annual tradition dating back to 1903.

The center is at 777 E. Ohio St., about a mile-and-a-quarter south of the church. This gives the parish a presence in three areas of the city, for it also has a cemetery at 1151 N. Court St., two miles north of the church. The cemetery remains in active use, with 18 burials in the past year and volunteers regularly maintaining it. It in-

cludes an open-air altar, which is the site of a Mass every Memorial Day, as well as outdoor Stations of the Cross and a monument to the unborn.

Because the parish center does not have kitchen facilities, the hall that is part of the main parish complex continues to be the site of many activities. Events at the hall include serving of coffee and doughnuts on the first Sunday of the month; a Shrove Tuesday dinner; a combined St. Patrick's-St. Joseph's party in March; a Passover Seder meal; a dinner following a parish penance service in the summer; RCIA classes for adults wishing to join the Catholic Church; and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings three times a week.

This is the hall's busiest time of year because of the Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day dinners mentioned earlier in this story. The meals are provided for residents throughout the county and have been a parish tradition since 1984.

"More than 300 meals are either served or delivered to people each year," Butterbaugh said. "We especially invite people who have special needs, are senior citizens, handicapped, or unemployed, and those



St. Joseph parishioners at Painting With a Purpose, which raised money for parish young people to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis.

who are alone – everyone, not just Catholics. We also deliver dinners to the homebound. This gives people who otherwise probably wouldn't have a chance to eat a traditional holiday dinner an opportunity to share in the joy of the season, and it adds to the joy of the many people who volunteer each year."

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, the parish's Knights of Columbus council distributes food baskets to needy families. The council supplies turkey and potatoes, and parishioners take care of the rest. "The council collected an abundant amount of food this year, as it usually does," Butterbaugh said. "There was plenty left over, with the excess donated to the food pantry."

The parish also sponsors an annual Giving Tree, which this year is benefiting 13 families and 22 children through the county's foster care agency, as well as nine adults through the county disability center. An Advent calendar in the parish bulletin has suggested particular food or personal care items to be donated for each day of the first two weeks of Advent from Dec. 2 to this Sunday, Dec. 16. The

items will be placed in boxes later this week and delivered during the Christmas season.

St. Joseph Church has about 450 families, a number that has remained stable for some time, and is the only Catholic parish in Pickaway County, which is just to the south of Columbus and Franklin County. Pickaway County's population is about 57,000 and has grown steadily since 1950, but not in the dramatic fashion of the Ohio capital city's northern neighbors. It remains a mainly rural county, with some industry.

Circleville's General Electric light bulb plant closed in 2017, with the loss of about 150 jobs. Since 2000, the county has been affected by the closings of a television picture tube plant, a factory operated by the Container Corporation of America, and the Circleville Metal Works.

But its economic future has brightened considerably as a result of the recent opening of a new plant by Soffidel, an Italian tissue paper manufacturer. The plant is expected to employ 700 people when it reaches full capacity in a year or two. Father Machnik

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Circleville St. Joseph Church participants in the city's Amazing Race for young people, a scavenger hunt which involves searching for clues throughout downtown.

ST. JOSEPH, *continued from Page 11*

noted that Sofidel executive Luigi Novelli, who is here from Italy, was one of those who attended the Thanksgiving dinner. He wanted to assist since he has no family in the United States.

St. Joseph Church takes part in a number of ecumenical programs with congregations from other denominations throughout the county. These include the food pantry, as well as a community kitchen which Circleville Presbyterian Church hosts three times a week and is staffed on a rotating basis by various churches. St. Joseph operates it on the fifth Monday of months when there are five Mondays.

The parish also hosts segments of an annual countywide preaching mission in April and is part of a holiday Window Walk that began last year. Five downtown churches, all within a short walk of each other, open their doors on the first Saturday of December for this activity, inviting people to view

youth ministry program for the past 16 years. She said St. Joseph is one of the few parishes in the diocese offering PSR for high school students.

The youth ministry program for third- through sixth-graders, titled Faith Factor, has evening fun and learning programs three times a year. Junior high and high school students meet periodically for social events including trips to Kings Island, skiing at Mad River Mountain or Snow Trails, the diocese's Bosco Bash for junior high students and youth conference for older students, Good Friday Walking Stations of the Cross at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, and the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis. A laser tag outing in Lancaster is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 30.

Each spring, parish young people take part in the Amazing Race, which Butterbaugh describes as more of a scavenger hunt than a race because it



Circleville St. Joseph Church parishioner Emma Butterbaugh at a 2017 summertime project in Farmington, Michigan sponsored by Catholic HEART Workcamp.

their stained-glass windows and hear musical selections. The program repeats every half-hour from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Parish School of Religion has 127 students from kindergarten through 12th grade, including 32 in high school, 19 seventh- and eighth-graders preparing for Confirmation, eight getting ready for first Communion, and 10 in preschool.

Butterbaugh has been in charge of the PSR and the parish's separate

involves searching for hidden clues downtown. This activity has been going on for about 15 years.

The PSR also takes part in the annual Gospel Road program sponsored each summer by the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, which St. Joseph has hosted in the past. Every other year, parish young people also are part of the Florida-based Catholic HEART Workcamp, assisting with summertime



Circleville St. Joseph parishioners work in the Mercy Garden behind the parish center. Vegetables grown there are sent to the local food pantry and needy families.

projects for needy people in other parts of the nation.

In addition, PSR students provide a \$33 monthly donation to sponsor a child each year through Child-Fund International, and they assist in a Vacation Bible School sponsored jointly by St. Joseph and the city's Methodist, Episcopal and Presbyterian churches. The parish cannot host the VBS because of a lack of kitchen facilities.

Longtime parish music director Patty Immell is in charge of five groups: an adult choir that sings weekly during the school year and on special occasions; a children's choir, a group that provides music from handheld chimes, and a contemporary music group, all of which take part in Masses once a month; and a funeral choir.

Each spring, the parish hosts a music recital for young people and adults. Piano, organ and vocal music usually makes up most of the program, but it also has included French horn players, guitarists and violinists.

A bereavement committee assists at funeral meals at the request of the family of the deceased. Committee members prepare and serve the meals and do cleanup.

All women of the parish belong to its Altar and Rosary Society, which conducts a rummage sale twice a year



Vanessa Butterbaugh, PSR director; Father Ted Machnik, pastor; Mack Blankenship, parish secretary. CT photo by Tim Puet

and a bake and craft sale in November. Proceeds are used for Eucharistic bread and wine, candles, altar cloths and other church supplies.

The parish St. Vincent de Paul Society recently reported that it collected nearly \$14,000 to help the needy in the year that ended Sept. 30. The vast majority of that amount went to pay electric, gas and water bills. Funds come from "fifth Sunday" collections four times a year and an annual walk for the poor, which takes place in the parish cemetery.

Father John Hannan Council 5297 of the Knights of Columbus uses proceeds from its weekly fish fry on the Fridays of Lent to provide food for the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets and to help the developmentally disabled.

The council soon will be moving its meetings to the parish center. Like

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ST. JOSEPH, *continued from Page 12*

many K of C councils nationwide, it is closing the hall it formerly operated because of the expense involved. The hall is named in honor of the parish's longest-serving pastor, who was in

Circleville from 1901 to 1932.

For more information about St. Joseph Church, go to its website, www.saintjosephcircleville.com or call (740) 477-2549.



Young people from Circleville St. Joseph Church's youth ministry at a Christmas party. The parish is one of the few in the diocese with weekly high school PSR classes.



*Come and experience the joy of
Christmas with us at*

SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. ~ Mass

6:00 p.m. ~ Mass

11:00 p.m. ~ Cathedral Choir Concert

12:00 Midnight ~ Mass

Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day

10:30 a.m. ~ Mass

5:15 p.m. ~ Mass

Saint Joseph Cathedral

212 East Broad Street + Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 224-1295 + www.saintjosephcathedral.org

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Sunday Mass Obligation

Saturday, December 22 – Vigil Mass at 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 23 – 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12 noon

Christmas Vigil Masses - Monday evening December 24 The Vigil of Christmas

4:00 p.m. Mass – *Incense free*

Children's Mass and Blessing of the Crib
Chorus Angelorum Children's Choir

6:30 p.m. Mass – *Incense used*
Vocal Quartet, Brass Quartet

12 Midnight Mass – *Incense used*
Parish Choir, Brass and String Quartet

Christmas Day Masses - Tuesday morning December 25 The Nativity of the Lord

7:00 a.m. Mass – *Incense free*
Mass without Music

10:00 a.m. Mass – *Incense free*
Cantor, Organ and Brass

12:00 noon Mass – *Incense used*
Parish Choir, Organ and Brass

NEW YEAR'S HOLY DAY MASSES AND DEVOTIONS

January 1, 2019 The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

On January 1st the Church celebrates the
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
THIS IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.

Monday, December 31, 2018

5:00 p.m. – Vigil Mass

11:00 p.m. – Holy Hour

12 Midnight Mass preceded by sung Te Deum

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Masses at 7 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 noon

**ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH
280 N. GRANT AVENUE
COLUMBUS, OH**



Third Sunday of Advent (Cycle C)

Give thanks during Advent

By Jem Sullivan
Catholic News Service

Zephaniah 3:14-18
Isaiah 12:2-6 (Psalm)
Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

For a Christian, thanksgiving is not just an annual holiday, but a daily attitude of life. For God became one of us, in humble self-emptying, to reconcile each one of us to God's love and mercy. For this act of undeserved and unmerited divine love, we never exhaust the depths of our gratitude to God.

On this Third Sunday of Advent, traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday, the readings of Scripture invite us to recapture that deep Christian spirit of gratitude expressed in deeds of justice and charity. And as we give thanks to God, we discover the deep hope of Advent in God's renewed coming into our families, homes and lives.

One of the first phrases parents teach a child is "thank you." And public expressions of gratitude are often on display during award ceremonies when people receiving awards deliver short or long acceptance speeches. From the Oscars and the Golden Globes to the Grammys and Country Music Awards, winners are compelled to deliver words of thanks as they accept the honor of a special award.

Overjoyed winners often list, with gratitude, those in their professional and personal lives who made it possible for them to achieve success and fame. And they are quick to admit that in the limited time of an acceptance speech, they could only mention a few outstanding persons, since they could not thank everyone who is truly deserving of their gratitude.

When it comes to expressing our gratitude to God, there are never-ending opportunities to lift our hearts and minds to God. There is no limit to what we can thank God for, since all of creation comes from the loving hand of God.

Everywhere we look, we discover some sign of God's love, mercy and providential care, even in the midst of difficulties and obstacles to faith. Perhaps this is why St. Paul urges the Philippians with such confidence by saying "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: Rejoice!"

It's never too late to begin the spiritual preparations of Advent. Give God thanks for the small and large gifts of daily life as one way to get back on the spiritual track you may have hoped to travel this Advent.

As we approach the midpoint of Advent, we might be tempted to discouragement if the hectic pace of the season leaves little time for prayer and spiritual preparation. The holiday stress can easily turn Advent into an overwhelming and distracting time.

Once again, the word of God invites us into the mystery of the Incarnation that comes with the promise of our transformation and renewal. If we have lagged behind, we can still begin our Advent preparations anew, believing that God's word fills us with Advent gratitude to say confidently, "Speak to me, Lord."

Reflection Question: For what one person, event or thing will I give thanks to God, today and every day for the rest of Advent?

Sullivan is secretary for Catholic education of the Archdiocese of Washington.

THE WEEKDAY
BIBLE READINGS

MONDAY

Genesis 49:2,8-10
Psalm 72:3-4b,7-8,17
Matthew 1:1-17

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

1 Samuel 1:24-28
1 Samuel 2:1,4-7,8abcd
Luke 1:46-56

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO
AND TELEVISION MASS
SCHEDULE: DEC. 16, 2018

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.

Do You Feel Called?



We are a part of the Society of St. Vincent De Paul, a Catholic lay organization focused on transforming our member's lives through service to the poor. We are looking for two self-motivated, service oriented, hard-working, and mission-driven individuals who will put big love into the little things of life. Both our homeless shelter (St. Vincent Haven) and our Transitional Living Program (The Gardens on 6th) need new Program Directors.

An ideal candidate for this position would exemplify virtue, have a bachelor's degree in social work from an accredited university, possess a current license to practice social work, and have management experience. This candidate must possess a great, but humble courage to face a myriad of challenging situations on a day to day basis.

If you feel you are called to serve the poor, encouraging them to improve their lives, and improve your own through that service, please submit a resume, with a cover letter, and references pertaining to your previous place(s) of employment to johnpaul@SVDPhaven.org.

This position will pay \$30,000 to \$50,000 salary per year depending on qualifications.

Living 'I Do' - Weekly Marriage Tips

There is something powerful in acknowledging your spouse publicly. Not that you have to be cheesy, but thanking or praising your spouse in front of others is a way of showing respect and building trust. If you are more inclined to complain or joke about your spouse, remember that this habit can affect how you see and act toward your spouse in private.

Diocese of Columbus Marriage and Family Life Office

Why Clinton had to be impeached 20 years ago

Twenty years ago this month, I found myself seriously double-booked, so to speak.

The editing of the first volume of my John Paul II biography, *Witness to Hope*, was entering the ninth inning, and I was furiously engaged in exchanging edited and re-edited copy with my editors in New York. At the same time, the Clinton impeachment drama was cresting. And as I had long done speech writing for Congressman Henry Hyde, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, I spent week after week of split time, working on John Paul II from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., then switching to impeachment for a couple of hours before returning to *Witness to Hope* in the evening.

It was not the optimal way to work, but it had to be done, even if it seemed likely that the president would be acquitted in a Senate trial. On December 19, 1998, the House of Representatives voted two articles of impeachment and senior House members, including Mr. Hyde, solemnly walked the two articles across the Capitol and presented them to the Senate's leaders. Toward midnight, Henry Hyde called me and, referring to Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, said, "We're not going to make it. Trent won't fight; I saw it in his eyes." After a long moment, I replied that, if we were going to lose, we had a duty to lay down a record with which history would have to reckon.

Which is what the great Henry Hyde did during the January 1999 Senate trial, where he bent every ef-



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE George Weigel

fort to prevent the proceedings from descending into farce.

For Hyde, the impeachment of President Bill Clinton was an unavoidable piece of nasty business. It was not a matter of partisan score-settling, nor was it a matter of punishing a president for gross behavior with an intern in the White House. It was a matter of defending the rule of law. As Henry put it to me when it seemed clear that the president had perjured himself and obstructed justice, "There are over a hundred people in federal prisons for these crimes. How can the chief law enforcement officer of the United States be guilty of them and stay in office?"

Impeachment is a political process, and it was clear by mid-fall of 1998 that the politics were not breaking toward removing the president from office. They had been pointed that way over the summer, though. And as the pressures built, it seemed as if the Clinton presidency might end as Richard Nixon's had: Party elders, in this case Democrats, would go to the White House, explain that it was over, and ask the president to resign for the sake of the country. Then around Labor Day that year, Maureen Dowd of *The New York Times* and other columnists began suggesting that, if Clin-

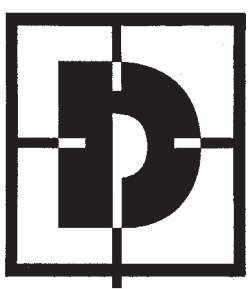
ton were impeached and convicted, the sexual revolution would be over, the yahoos of reaction would have won, and we'd be back to something resembling Salem, Massachusetts, during the witchcraft insanity.

That was preposterous. It was also effective. And within days, at least in Washington, you could fill the templates shifting: This wasn't about the rule of law, it was about sex, and the yahoos couldn't be allowed to win. (That Henry Hyde was the leader of the pro-life forces in Congress neatly fit this storyline, of course, abortion being a major plank in the platform of the sexual revolution.)

So once the game was redefined – Are you for or against the puritanical yahoos? – there was little chance to wrench the political process back to what it was really about: the rule of law. In his opening speech during the president's trial, Henry Hyde tried valiantly to refocus the argument, insisting that high office did not absolve a man from obeying his constitutional oath to faithfully execute the laws of the United States and his oath swearing to tell the truth to a federal grand jury. To suggest that it did was to "break the covenant of trust" between president and people, dissolving "the mortar that binds the foundation stones of our freedom into a secure and solid edifice."

It wasn't a winning argument. But it was the right argument. And on this 20th anniversary, the nation should remember with gratitude those like Henry Hyde who, under fierce assault, stood for the rule of law.

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

ALLDREDGE, Mary "Chris" (Johnson), 94, Dec. 8

St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

ANDERSON, Barbara J. (Rader), 70, Dec. 3

St. Catharine Church, Columbus

BAUMANN, Marigene (Cenci), 82, Dec. 3

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

BROWN, Pauline (Powers), 84, Nov. 27

St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

CARDINALE-DONAHUE, Nancy E. (Wheaton), 67, Dec. 4

St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Columbus

HEASLEY, James, 72, of Dublin, Dec. 4

St. Joseph Church, Strongsville

HENNESSEY, Patrick S., 54, Dec. 8

St. Matthew Church, Columbus

HEROLD, Mary (Herman), 90, Dec. 6

Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

HOLOCHER, John F., 83, Dec. 5

St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus

LeSTOURGEON, Marion B. (Patterson), 85, Dec. 2

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

MARKS, Agnes (Korbel), 90, Dec. 3

St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

MEALEY, Mary J. 91, Dec. 6

St. Anthony Church, Columbus

PULSINELLI, Anthony J., 97, Dec. 8

St. Agnes Church, Columbus

REYNOLDS, Eula "Faye," 78, Dec. 7

St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

ROMA, Pauline E. (Clementone), 94, formerly of Columbus, Dec. 8

St. Michael Church, Canton

SCHALMO, Gregory A., 70, Dec. 8

St. Mary Church, Delaware

John W. Kozak

Funeral Mass for John W. Kozak, 63, who died on Monday, Nov. 19, was celebrated on Wednesday, Nov. 28 at Zanesville St. Nicholas Church. Burial was at Mount Olive Cemetery, Zanesville.

He was born on March 23, 1955 to the late Herbert and Margaret (Tanoury) Kozak.

He was employed by Mutual Federal Savings and Loan in Zanesville and Park National Bank from 1980 to 2012, retiring from Park National as senior vice president and a member of the board of directors. He started his career in 1977 as an accountant for DeLoitte, Haskens & Sells in Columbus.

He graduated in 1977 from the Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in accounting and in 1973 from Zanesville Rosecrans High School, where he was the school's all-time leading basketball scorer at the time of graduation. He was a member of

the school's first Hall of Fame class in 2008. He later coached eighth-grade boys basketball at St. Nicholas School and was assistant girls basketball coach at Newark Catholic.

He received many honors for community service, including the first John W. Kozak Distinguished Service Award from Behavioral Healthcare Partners of Central Ohio in 2015. He was a board member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, Camp O'Bannon, the Newark Kiwanis Club, and the Licking county and Zanesville/Muskingum County chambers of commerce.

Survivors include his wife, Susan (Eppley); son, Michael (Jessie); daughters, Jennifer (Peter) Liu, Christina and Lindsay (Will) Englefield; brothers, Herb (Susan), Steve and Chris (Carol); sisters, Margo (Bill) Moyer, Lisa (Dave) Kohn and Tricia; and five grandchildren.

John A. Connor II

Funeral Mass for John A. Connor II, 78, who died on Wednesday, Dec. 5, was celebrated on Monday, Dec. 10 at Columbus St. Christopher Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

He was a third-generation attorney who was a 1966 graduate of The Ohio State University College of Law and was elected a Franklin County Common Pleas Court judge in 1992, serving until 2008, when he was elected as a judge of the 10th Ohio District Court of Appeals. He retired from the bench in 2015.

He was a lawyer for the Diocese of Columbus and was special counsel to three Ohio attorneys general.

He also was president of the Shamrock Club of Columbus in 2013, was the club's Irishman of the Year in 2006, and was grand marshal of the 2017 Columbus St. Patrick's Day parade. He was chair of the Greater Columbus Irish Cultural Foundation and was active in the Charity Newsies.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Ellen; wife, Annie (Luken); and son, J.D. Survivors include daughters, Colleen (John) Williams and Erin (Ed) Winemiller; four brothers, Steve, Jeff, Pete and Michael; four sisters, Kathleen Reardon, Leslie Aymes, Mary Hill and Suzanne Taggart; two grandsons; and one granddaughter.

To have an obituary printed in the Catholic Times, send it to: tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

Turban Project receives Foundation grant



Members of The Turban Project at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark display their thanks to The Catholic Foundation for a \$3,000 grant received through the Foundation's responsive grant cycle. This grant will help the project provide free headwear, blessed by a priest, to men, women and children who have lost their hair because of medical issues. The project's founder, Kathy Braidich, said that in six years, it has supplied more than 26,000 items. It serves 25 hospitals or treatment centers in central and southern Ohio and parts of Kentucky and West Virginia. It also has independently run satellite projects in Ohio, three other states, and five other nations. To learn more about how you can set up funds through the foundation to help The Turban Project or other Catholic organizations in the Diocese of Columbus, contact the Foundation's development director, Scott Hartman, at shartman@catholic-foundation.org or (614) 443-8893. To learn more about The Turban Project, go to www.turbanproject.com.

Photo courtesy The Turban Project

H A P P E N I N G S

DECEMBER

THROUGH JAN. 6

Christmas Display at Jubilee Museum
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jubilee Museum, 57 S. Grubb St., Columbus. Christmas display featuring hundreds of Nativity sets from around the world, plus Christmas-themed oil paintings by Lancaster artist Chris Ryckman. \$10 adults, \$5 seniors and students. **614-600-0054**

15, SATURDAY

Theology Talk Program at de Porres Center
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. "Theology Talk: Community" program looking at our role as "catholic" or universal, with presentations by Pam Harris, Alma Ciriello and Devin Jones of the diocesan Catholic Ethnic Ministries office. **614-221-7990**

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

Centering Prayer Group Meeting
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
11 a.m., Alumni Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. ODU winter commencement ceremony. Speaker: Dr. Jim Strode, university's dean of graduate studies. Preceded by Baccalaureate Mass at 9 a.m. in Christ the King Chapel. **614-251-4453**

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

Singalong at Delaware St. Mary
7 p.m., St. Mary Church, 82 E. William St., Delaware. Parish singalong of Christmas and Advent hymns. **740-363-4641**

15-23, SATURDAY-SUNDAY

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 celebration dinner in Pastors' Hall.

16, SUNDAY

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

Exposition at Our Lady of Mount Carmel
9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 5133 Walnut Road S.E., Buckeye Lake. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Sunday during Advent.

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

Angelic Warfare Confraternity at 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**

Kateri Prayer Circle at St. Mark
1 p.m., Aranda Center, St. Mark Church, 324 Gay

St., Lancaster. Kateri Prayer Circle meeting to honor St. Kateri Tekakwitha and promote Native Catholic spirituality.

St. Padre Pio Secular Franciscans
1 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**

Catholic Record Society Meeting
2 p.m., St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. Catholic Record Society quarterly meeting, with center director Mary Murphy and Sister Elaine Ballmann, SNDdeN, speaking on "Stories of Bishop Hartley's Gem on East Broad Street," followed by business meeting. Lunch available, \$10; reservations required. **614-268-4166**

St. Catherine of Bologna Secular Franciscans
2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus. Prayer followed by general meeting, ongoing formation, fellowship. **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**

Cathedral Choir at Circleville St. Joseph
3 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 134 W. Mound St., Circleville. Concert with Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral choir. **740-477-2549**

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**

Lessons and Carols at St. Thomas Aquinas
5 p.m., St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 144 N. 5th St., Zanesville. Advent lessons and carols service. **740-453-3301**

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King
5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. **614-886-8266**

St. Dominic Christmas Concert
5 p.m., St. Dominic Church, 453 N. 20th St., Columbus. Parish Christmas concert. Theme: "For Unto Us, A Child Is Born." **614-252-4913**

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 service. **614-224-9522**

Nativity Scene at Ss. Simon and Jude
7 to 8 p.m., Ss. Simon and Jude Church, 9350 High Free Pike, West Jefferson. Live Nativity scene on church grounds. **614-879-8562**

Christmas Cantata at St. Mark
7 p.m., St. Mark Church, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. "Sing Christmas," parish's annual Christmas cantata. **740-653-1229**

17, MONDAY

'I Can Only Imagine' at Ss. Simon and Jude
Noon, Ss. Simon and Jude Church, 9350 High Free Pike, West Jefferson. Presentation of film "I Can Only Imagine," about the song of the same name, the largest-selling Christian song ever. **614-879-8562**

Lessons and Carols at Grove City
7 p.m., Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3730 Broadway, Grove City. Traditional service of nine Advent lessons and carols. **614-875-3322**

18, TUESDAY

Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc
Following 6:15 p.m. Mass, St. Joan of Arc Church,

10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Recital of Rosary for Life, sponsored by church's respect life committee.

19, WEDNESDAY

Abortion Recovery Network Group
9:30 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**

Program on Angels at Delaware St. Mary
6:30 to 8 p.m., Beitel Commons, St. Mary School, 66 E. William St., Delaware. Conclusion of series on "Angels: A Very Mary Advent," with Deacon Todd Tucky and Julie Lutz. Topic: "Angels in Our Lives Today." **740-513-3325**

Young Catholic Professionals Speaker Series
7 to 9 p.m., Columbus Country Club, 4831 E. Broad St., Columbus. Young Catholic Professionals Christmas celebration and monthly executive speaker series, featuring talk by Ohio 10th District Appeals Court Judge William Klatt. Open bar; free hors d'oeuvres. Information at www.ycpcolumbus.org.

20, 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.

Lessons and Carols at St. Matthew
6:30 p.m., St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna. Advent lessons and carols, preceded by blessing of congregation's infant Jesus figures. **614-471-0212**

Vespers, Benediction at St. Margaret
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**

Holy Hour at Holy Family
7 to 8 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**

Abortion Recovery Network Group
7 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 Visits Funny Bone
7 p.m., Funny Bone Comedy Club, 145 Easton Town Center, Columbus. Columbus St. Patrick Church Frassati Society for young adults attends performance by "clean comic" Jon Reep. **614-224-9522**

'One Voice' at Columbus St. Peter
7 p.m., front lawn, St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. "One Voice," an ecumenical gathering in front of the parish manger scene, featuring the parish choir and a singalong of Christmas carols, with prayer, storytelling and hot chocolate. **614-889-2221**

21, FRIDAY

Catholic Singles on Fire for Christ
6 p.m., Chapel, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Monthly meeting of Catholic Singles on Fire for Christ, for anyone older than 35 who is single in the eyes of the Catholic Church and seeks to grow in faith, bring hope to others and share the love of Christ. Begins with prayer and Adoration, followed by dinner at a restaurant. **614-855-1400**

22, SATURDAY

Wilderness Outreach Advent Hike
7:30 a.m. to noon, Clear Creek Metro Park, off U.S. 33 near the Fairfield-Hocking county border. Wilderness Outreach 12-mile hike for men and boys. Meet at Barnebey Hambleton area at west end of park. Bring water, snacks and appropriate clothing. **614-679-6761**

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

Children's Program at St. John Neumann
6:30 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury. Children's Christmas program featuring students from kindergarten to fifth grade. **740-965-1358**

'Messiah' at Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes
7 p.m., Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 1033 W. 5th St., Marysville. Performance of Handel's "Messiah," featuring local chorus and solo volunteers and central Ohio string ensemble. **937-644-6020**

23, SUNDAY

Exposition at Our Lady of Mount Carmel
9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 5133 Walnut Road S.E., Buckeye Lake. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Sunday during Advent.

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King
5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. **614-886-8266**

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

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

24, MONDAY

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

27, 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.

Eucharistic Holy Hour at Sacred Heart
7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour with the intention of deepened holiness and an increase in the virtue of fortitude for the Holy Father, bishops, and priests, concluding with Benediction, social period and refreshments. **614-372-5249**

29, 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.

30, SUNDAY

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

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.

Catholic convert embraces the faith, art of rosary making

By Doug Bean, *Catholic Times* Editor

Abbey Morante couldn't have imagined herself praying the rosary just a few years ago, and now she's making them.

A journey of faith that led the former non-denominational Christian into the Catholic Church in 2016 has turned into an avocation. Her Prayer Warrior Gifts is thriving, with a 400

impressed by him."

That meeting took place at about the time RCIA classes were getting underway at the parish. Pregnant with her second child, Micah, Morante initially went to religious instruction classes just "to get some information."

"I didn't know what I was getting myself into," she said. "But I found that I was way more Catholic than I knew."

ing it.

Her family also was going through a difficult time dealing with a serious medical issue affecting their son. Going to church and visiting the chapel gave her the strength to get through that process.

"I was exactly where I was meant to be," she said. "I just didn't know it."

At the Easter Vigil Mass in 2016, she was confirmed and entered into full communion with the Catholic Church. The family embraced the faith and had their home enthroned to the Sacred Heart of Jesus while praying the rosary every night together in preparation.

"I am extremely thankful and proud of her for what she does, how she raises our kids, how she touches people's lives and how she brought me back to the faith," her husband said.

Morante's rosaries were borne out of a search for a more modern, contemporary rosary when she was coming into the Church. She couldn't find the style she wanted, and so the idea came to her to try making her own.

When she was 18, her mother

The first recipients were the officers in the Ladies of St. Jude women's group at St. Matthew, a ministry she was involved in. Then she began to receive requests from families and friends. The rosaries were such a hit that she decided to put them on an Etsy site.

The orders haven't stopped coming. She is trying to keep up with the demand while working as a full-time lab supervisor for Ohio Health in Pickerington and taking care of her family.

"I'm just going wherever the Holy Spirit wants me to go and doing as much as I can," she said.

What makes Morante's rosaries such a hit are their uniqueness. Her customer designs include Ohio State Buckeyes and Cleveland Browns rosaries. In October, a *Columbus Dispatch* columnist featured her Ohio State rosary as a Buckeye-themed gift for fans of the university.

She offers rosaries for police officers and firefighters, members of the various branches of the armed forces, breast cancer awareness, patron saints (with a medal attached), first holy Communion, and Confirmation (with the recipient's initials on the three Hail Mary beads), and sports themes. For children, she has made a Lego rosary and one with dinosaurs.

"I like to make them for the individual customer because I feel like if it's personal, they are more likely to use it," she said.

Each five-decade rosary takes approximately 45 minutes to finish, depending on the material. She uses real gemstones for some and crystals for others.

She also makes single-decade rosaries and bracelets (there's one for Notre Dame Fighting Irish fans) and chaplets. Those take 20 to 45 minutes to complete.

In addition to making rosaries, she will fix and repair rosaries sent to her for free.

"I don't feel like anybody should have to pay for that," she said.

Morante's work embodies the inspiring words of St. Teresa of Calcutta that Morante includes on her site and her business card: "Not all of us can do great things, but we can all do small things with great love."

For more information, visit www.etsy.com/shop/PrayerWarriorGifts or contact her at abbey.morante@outlook.com.



Abbey Morante with her custom-made rosaries.

Photos courtesy Abbey Morante

percent increase in orders for her custom handmade rosaries during the past year through her Etsy site, referrals and several craft shows.

"I just go where I'm led. This year has been a huge blessing," the wife and mother of two young children said. "I'm so blessed to be a blessing for other people."

Her rosary story begins with a conversion.

In the fall of 2015, she decided it was time to have her then-2-year-old son Nico baptized. The Austintown, Ohio, native had attended several Christian churches in the Columbus area and tried to get her husband, Mike, who was born and raised Catholic, to go with her.

"But it wasn't working for us," she said.

Morante went to Father Ted Sill, pastor at Gahanna St. Matthew Church, to find out whether she could have her son baptized without her becoming Catholic. God had bigger plans for her.

"He showed me an abundance of grace," she said. "I was so thoroughly

She met some "really great people" at the parish and "I decided I was going to go for it. We had our second child during that process and we had our struggles. I didn't know if we would make it through the entire RCIA process, but we did."

During that period, not only was her son baptized, but Morante also was guided to the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at St. Matthew. Members of the RCIA class were given a rosary and she took it with her to the chapel. She signed up for a holy hour, but didn't really know what to do. One of the leaders described his routine, which started with the rosary, and "I figured I should start learning this" because everyone else was pray-



Buckeye rosary bracelet

had taught her beading. She had never used that skill, but after looking online for the easiest way to make a rosary, she decided to give it a try. It was a success.

After creating her own rosary, she started giving her creations as gifts.

Graduate dean to speak at ODU commencement

Dr. Jim Strode, dean of graduate studies and associate professor of sport management at Ohio Dominican University, will deliver the principal address at ODU's 110th commencement ceremony at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 15 in Alumni Hall, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus.

More than 200 students will have degrees conferred upon them as they are joined by ODU faculty, staff, alumni, and hundreds of family and friends. A baccalaureate Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. in Christ the King Chapel.

"Our entire campus community is thrilled to celebrate this exceptional class of Ohio Dominican graduates and recognize their outstanding individual achievements, as well as their contributions to ODU's story," said Dr. Robert Gervasi, Ohio Dominican president. "Dr. Strode's tremendous energy, appreciation and passion for teaching and his students is a wonderful example of what makes an ODU education so special and valuable in today's world."

Strode earned his bachelor's de-

gree in business administration from the University of Wisconsin and his master's and doctoral degrees in sport management from The Ohio State University.

He has received many faculty awards at ODU, including the Sister Angelita Conley Award, which recognizes excellence in teaching, and the Sister Charles Marie Brantl Influential Panther Award, which is awarded by student-athletes based on effectiveness in teaching and mentoring.

Strode has published in multiple peer-reviewed journals and has presented his research on athletic donor motivations and issues related to coaching effectiveness before the North American Society of Sport Management, the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance, and other national and international organizations.

He also is head coach of the Worthington Kilbourne High School girls basketball team and is a past president of the Ohio District 10 Basketball Coaches Association.

ODU receives gift to expand scholarship opportunities

Ohio Dominican University has received an \$80,000 gift from Columbus developer Robert Weiler to expand a scholarship fund that provides financial support for Columbus City Schools students who aspire to attain an ODU education through the university's Panther Promise program. The Weiler Scholarship Fund was established in 1993 and now totals \$100,000.

Weiler is chairman of the board for The Robert Weiler Co., a Columbus-based commercial real estate firm. He is a former president of the Columbus Board of Education, and co-founded I Know I Can in 1988 to provide Columbus public school students with resources to help them pursue a college education.

In the spring of 2018, ODU partnered with I Know I Can to create the Panther Promise program, which provides eligible Columbus, Whitehall, and South-Western School District students with financial resources and support to help make an ODU education attainable.

"At the core of Ohio Dominican's mission is helping to provide access to higher education to students who may find paying for college to be an insurmountable challenge," Weiler said. "We are grateful to be in a position to help students from Columbus City Schools who aspire to receive a first-class, values-based college experience with this investment in our scholarship fund at ODU."

"We are extremely thankful for Bob's generosity and tireless advocacy for the young men and women who graduate from Columbus City Schools with the desire to receive a Catholic Dominican college education," said Dr. Robert Gervasi, ODU president. "These gifts and scholarships are critically important to breaking down barriers, opening doors and lifting up individuals who have bright dreams, but may need additional resources to make them a reality."

ODU to host information session for physician assistants program

Ohio Dominican University will host an "Evening with the PA" program from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15 at St. Albert Hall, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Those wishing to attend can register for the free event at ohiodominican.edu/PAEvent.

During the information session, attendees will have an opportunity to learn more about ODU's master of science in physician assistant studies program; speak with current students, faculty and staff; and take a tour of the program's facilities.

Graduates of ODU's PA program have achieved a 98 percent first-time pass rate on the physician assistant national certifying exam, and a 100 percent employment rate. Certified physician assistants are in demand across the nation. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the field is expected to grow by 37 percent by 2026.

To learn more about ODU's PA program, visit ohiodominican.edu/PA, email grad@ohiodominican.edu, or call (614) 251-4615.

*Join us in worship
as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!*



CHRISTMAS EVE: 4 P.M., 6 P.M., MIDNIGHT
(Carols begin at 11:30 PM before the midnight mass)

CHRISTMAS DAY: 10 A.M.

Saint Catharine of Siena Church
500 S. Gould. Rd., Columbus • www.stcatharine.com



Help Wanted!!

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church is looking for a talented vocalist to serve as Music Director/Cantor.

Position Requirements include:
3 years parish music experience,
knowledge of Catholic liturgical music documents and practices,
strong interpersonal and communication skills.

This is a salaried position.
Interested parties should
**contact the church office at
614-299-5781.**

Jubilee Museum Christmas display open through Jan. 6

The Jubilee Museum's annual display of nearly 400 Nativity scenes and other Christmas-related exhibits will be open nearly every day through Saturday, Jan. 6. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and students. The museum is open through the holiday season from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. It will be closed from Monday to Wednesday, Dec. 24 to 26, as well as Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

Year after year, the Christmas season continues to be the most popular time to visit the museum, located at 57 S. Grubb St. in the former Holy Family School building. Its permanent collection is recognized by the Vatican as the largest collection of diversified Catholic artwork in the United States.

Its Nativity scenes range in size from one whose figures are more than four feet tall to another carved in a quartz crystal, with figures the size of grains of rice. They are made of everything from plaster and wood to papier mache, seed pods, and co-

conut. They come from every continent except Antarctica, depicting how Jesus' birth is viewed in multiple cultural traditions, testifying to the universality of Catholicism.

Also on display at the museum are a Dickens village, model trains, and a new-gallery of Christmas-themed oil paintings by Chris Ryckman, a retired physician from Lancaster.

The gallery is titled "Santa's True Heart," because many of the paintings feature Santa Claus, but emphasize his origin of holiness. One shows him kneeling in front of the tabernacle of a church based on Ryckman's parish, Lancaster St. Mary. The altar servers are two of his daughters.

Because of the number of visitors expected, guided tours of the museum will be limited during the Christmas display. There will be one guided tour a day at 1 p.m. If you would like to arrange for a tour at another time, call the museum at (614) 600-0054.

For more about the museum, visit its website at www.jubileemuseum.org.



One of nearly 400 Nativity scenes on display through the Christmas season at the Jubilee Museum in the former Columbus Holy Family School. Photo courtesy Jubilee Museum

Wishing you every Joy and Blessing at Christmas

and throughout the New Year

THE STAFF AT THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF COLUMBUS

Jon Abshire

Tim Boggs

Tyler Brown

Brian Everts

Laura Favret

Rich Finn

Jan Gerst

Jenny Gruber

Ed Jones

Kevin Kelley

Joyce Kitsmiller

Aaron McDole

Kyle McGlone

Fred Messmer

Sandee Murphy

Ann Noble

Mark Noble

Mike Redmond

Steve Skinner

Jeremy Sprouse

Jim VanHorn

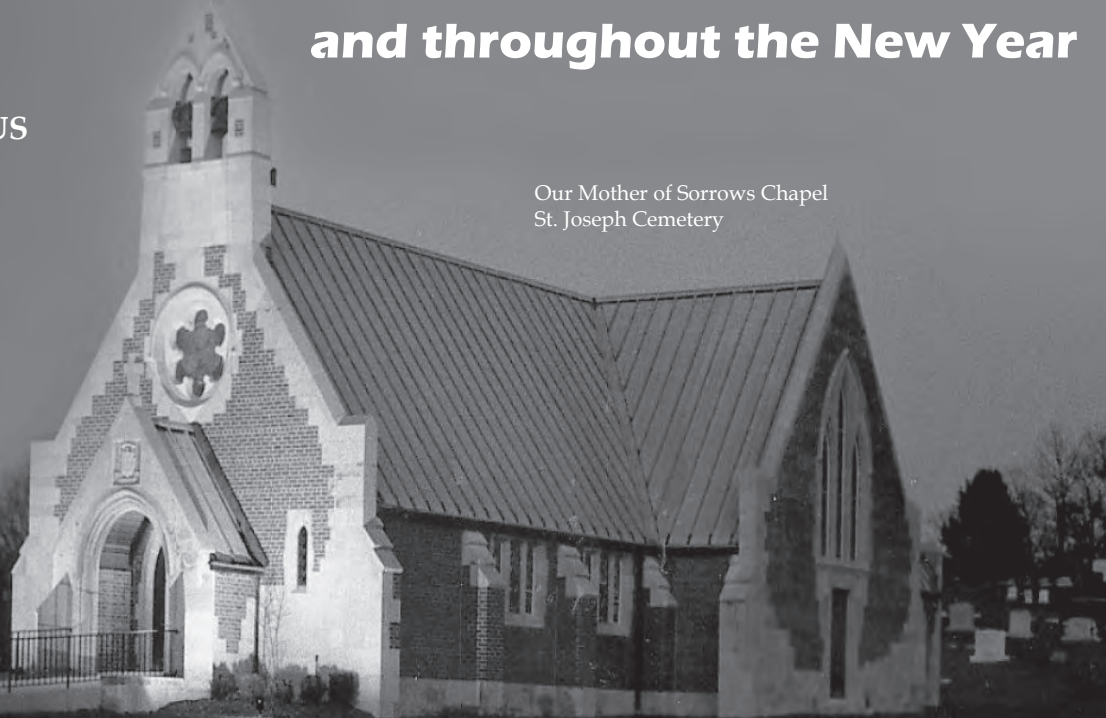
Deanna Ventura

Chuck Weiner

Gregg Wright

Billy Wright

Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel
St. Joseph Cemetery



St. Joseph Cemetery
6440 S. High St./U.S. Rt. 23 S.
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

