

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Missionaries of the Precious Blood
St. George Deanery



Pastor: Rev. Matthew Keller C.P.P.S.
Email: fmatt@glandorfstjohns.com

Deacon: Don Inkrott

PARISH OFFICE BUSINESS HOURS
Monday—Friday, 9:00am - 5:00pm
Closed for Lunch from 12:30pm—1:30pm
Parish Office Closed
Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024 -
Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025

Phone: 419-538-6928
Sacramental Emergencies :
419-778-9339
Fax: 419-538-6147
Website: www.stjohnglandorf.org
Address: PO Box 48, Glandorf, OH
45848

Business Manager: Ashley Duling
Email: bmanager@glandorfstjohns.com

Administrative Assistant: Michelle Horstman
Email: admin@glandorfstjohns.com

Pastorial Associate: Mindy Recker
Email: passociate@glandorfstjohns.com

Music: Dan Ellerbrock

Maintenance: Joe Schroeder

Janitors: Mark Klausung (Church),
Mark Kaufman (Parish Center)

Cemetery Caretaker-Manager: Jeff Gerding

Preschool Administrator: Lori Rump
Email: preschool@glandorfstjohns.com
Phone: 419-538-6264

K-4th Religious Education: Tammy Schmitz
Email: k4ccd@glandorfstjohns.com
Phone: 419-538-6335

5th-8th Religious Education:
Mindy Recker/Nichole Schroeder
Email: jrhighccd@glandorfstjohns.com
Phone: 419-538-6897

High School Religious Education:
Jennifer Warnecke
Email: hscdd@glandorfstjohns.com
Phone: 419-538-6897

Youth Director: Nichole Schroeder
Email: jrhighccd@glandorfstjohns.com
419-538-6897

Parish Council President: Mike Karhoff
Finance Committee Chairperson:
Luke Recker
Altar Rosary Society President:
Abby Nussbaum
Men's Society President: Derek Maag



OUR MISSION

Founded by Jesus Christ, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church is the heart of Glandorf. At the heart of our faith are the Sacraments which St. John's is here to evangelize, catechize, and celebrate all of God's people to set their hearts on fire in passionate love of God and neighbor.

PARISHIONERS

- New Members
- Any status or address changes
- To keep informed, register for Bulletin and Parish Notifications by email or visit St. John's website
Call or email the Parish Office

WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN OUR PARISH?

- If you are interested in becoming a Lector, Extraordinary Minister, Usher, Funeral Server, Choir, Spirit and Song Group and any other way.
- If Interested in becoming a member on our Finance Committee or Parish Council Committee. Please call the parish office for more information and to be put on the next ballot.
Call or email the Parish Office.

SNOW EMERGENCY LEVELS

Diocese of Toledo Snow Emergency Policy:
"Whenever a county/city within the Diocese of Toledo is placed under a Level 3 Snow Emergency, during which all roadways are closed to non-emergency personnel, the Catholic Churches within that geographic region will cancel the scheduled Saturday Vigil, Sunday, or Holy Day Masses. Roman Catholics in that region, therefore, are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass. If Masses are cancelled, Catholics are encouraged to participate in Holy Mass via television, radio, or internet, making a spiritual Communion.

If Putnam County is ever under a Level 3 Snow Emergency the regular Mass times will be **canceled here at St. John's. There will be a Mass at Noon**, if you can get here safely you are welcome. If not, we encourage you to watch it on cable channel 3 or on our YouTube page. Level 1 and Level 2 if you can get here safely you are welcome.

2 FROM THE DESK OF FATHER MATT

www.stjohnglandorf.org

Today is now the fourth Sunday of Advent. I would venture to guess the last three weeks for many of you have been busy and chaotic and flew by. Depending upon when you are reading this reflection, you are days to hours from Christmas. And I would venture to guess that many of you that are reading this a little nervous and anxious about Christmas being so close. Are all the plans that I have in place going to go off the way I have picture? Is the gift that I have to give good enough? Amid nerves, anxiety, and questions rest assured that you are in good company with the characters that we encounter in our scriptures today.

In our scriptures today the characters that we encounter are Elizabeth and Mary. Both women are expecting, and both women probably should not be expecting for two different reasons. Elizabeth for years was unable conceive and was considered barren. Now is beyond childbearing years is now expecting to give birth to John the Baptist. Mary on the other hand is much younger. Mary is of childbearing age, but she is not married yet and for Mary to be expecting to give birth outside of marriage at this time in history is quite risky. Mary is expecting to give birth to Jesus. Could you imagine the nerves and anxiety these two women may have been experiencing when Mary went to visit Elizabeth?

Regardless of nerves, emotions, and feelings Elizabeth and Mary may have been feeling at this time, the other thing that you could say about this moment was they were women of faith. Women of in trust, they believed that God was doing something great in their lives. Elizabeth credits Mary with having faith and trust, as she tells Mary "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled" (Luke 1:45). When the announcement came for the coming birth of John the Baptist, Zachariah did not believe and was made speechless. In the midst our own lives nerves, questions, and anxieties do we believe that God is doing something great in our lives?

Sometimes we can be logical like Zechariah and that think it is not possible for God to work greatness in our lives. Zechariah said it was not biologically possible for this to happen for Elizabeth. We can believe that we are too small or not good enough to have God work greatness in our lives. While there might be some truth in why it might be impossible for God to work in our lives. Perhaps like Zechariah we need to have our voices silenced and let God do God's work. For it is when we silence ourselves and let God work can it be possible for God to work greatness in our lives. Like Mary may we also believe and let God work greatness in our lives.



SACRAMENTS**BAPTISM**

Instruction is necessary when this is your first child. To arrange a baptism or register for the parental baptism class, please contact the Parish Office.

PARENTAL BAPTISM CLASS (by Mike and Becky Karhoff)

Parish Center Room 15 9:00am–10:30am
Upcoming classes: January 26, 2025, May 18, 2025, September 28, 2025

MARRIAGES

Please contact the Parish Office six months in advance to start planning your wedding. A marriage preparation class is required.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASS (REQUIRED)

1-DAY CLASS organized by Dr. Craig and Wendy Imm in the Parish Center Cafeteria
Sunday, November 2, 2025 at 8:00am

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Wednesday 7:15am–7:45am, 7:45pm–8:15pm
Friday 7:15am–7:45am
Saturday 8:30am, 4:00pm–4:15pm

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the Parish Office if you need a Priest for Anointing of the Sick or Last Rites. If a Sacramental Emergency call 419-778-9339.

HOLY ORDERS AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

Contact the vocation office at the Toledo Diocese at 419-244-6711 ext. 4945 or e-mail psmith@toledodiocese.org or contact the vocation office at the Missionaries of the Precious Blood 937-228-9263 or e-mail vocation@cpps-preciousblood.org.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesday 6:30pm–8:15pm
1st Friday 1:00pm–4:00pm with Benediction
1st Saturday 5:30pm - 8:00am

INITIATION OF ADULTS INTO THE CATHOLIC FAITH (RCIA/OCIA)

Is a journey through which interested adults and older children are welcomed and gradually introduced to the Roman Catholic Faith, Sacraments, Worship and way of life. In response to their inquiries, these people are properly instructed so that you can discern (through reflection and prayer) whether you are indeed called to Catholicism. If you would like more information or want to register please contact the Parish Office. The next session will start in the fall.

CATECHISM CORNER

Each week at Holy Mass we profess our belief in reciting the Nicene Creed. What does it mean when we say we believe in these statements/truths? We will take a look at each statement/truth of the creed and examine it's meaning through the use of the Faith and Life Series by Ignatius Press that is utilized in our parish religious education morning program, 5th Grade curriculum. For more information on this program, visit <https://loc.ignatius.com/faithandlife/>

"Holy Spirit, the Lord, giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son is adored and glorified..."

Fifty days after Jesus' Resurrection and ten days after his Ascension, the Apostles were gathered in an upper room when the Holy Spirit descended upon them. They experienced a rushing wind, tongues of fire, and the ability to speak in different languages. Their spirits awoke with passion and zeal to share the story of Jesus's saving love for all humanity. We call this event Pentecost.

All who were gathered in Jerusalem near the upper room experienced the coming of the Holy Spirit as they witnessed the Apostles emerge from the upper room and proclaim Jesus in each travelers tongues. The people didn't know the Apostles and were shocked at their ability to speak in different languages. But, when they heard Peter's message, they were "cut to the heart" (Acts 2:37). They must have been amazed to hear that Jesus had risen from the dead, and remorseful about their role in killing him, since here is proof that he was indeed who he said he was.

Peter didn't accuse them. Instead, he invited them to repent and be baptized; to join them in the mission and Kingdom of Christ. The Holy Spirit stirred the hearts of those people that day and gave them new life, for on that day, three thousand men were baptized! The mission of Jesus' work had begun. This is why the Church considers Pentecost to be the Birthday of the Church.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

- He is the Third Person of the Trinity, sent by Christ after His Ascension
- He is fully God, equal with the Father and the Son
- He is the love between the Father and the Son
- He illuminates, convicts, protects, consoles, sanctifies and guides the Church
- He gives life to the Church and is active through the Sacraments
- He brings life and grace to our souls and conforms us into the image of God.
- He is shown symbolically as fire, light, finger/hand of God, dove, wind, cloud, etc.

The first Sacrament in which we receive the Holy Spirit is baptism and He pours His gifts out and strengthens them during the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are:

- Wisdom – the ability to see things as God does
- Understanding – the ability to recognize truth in the Catholic Faith
- Counsel – the ability to make good and moral decisions
- Knowledge – to know and judge from the viewpoint of eternity
- Piety – to love God and serve Him faithfully
- Fortitude – to bear witness to God with courage, even when it's difficult
- Fear of the Lord – to have a wonder and awe of God, to know who God is, and to know who we are in relation to him

These gifts are given to bear witness to him in the world. Let us be encounter the Holy Spirit this week as we receive the Sacraments and prepare our hearts for his coming.

4 ABOUT OUR PARISH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23 St. John of Kanty

7:35am Rosary
8:00am Communion Service-Deacon Don

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve

7:35 am Rosary
8:00am Eullitta Spangler-time change
4:00pm For the Parish
10:00pm For the Parish

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 Christmas

7:35am Rosary
8:00am For the Parish
10:30 For the Parish

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26 St. Stephen

7:35am Rosary
8:00am-Communion Service- Deacon Don

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27 St. John

7:15am-7:45am Confession
7:35am Rosary
8:00am L/D Donald & Beatrice Hovest Family,
George & Genevieve Rupert Family, Charles & Rita Neate Family,
Eugene & Coletta Schram Family,
L/D Edward & Martha (AN) Smith Family, Donald Smith

12:00pm Rosary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

7:35am Rosary
8:00am Karl Speckmann, Margaret Siefker (AN), Julie Grismore
8:30am Confessions
4:00pm Confessions
4:30pm Thomas Freeman, L/D Ott Schnipke Family, Don Riepenhoff,
Walter Karhoff, Oscar Burgei, L/D Urban Warnecke Family,
Dale (Styx) Warnecke, Ed, Dorothy, & Carl Stechschulte,
Lisa Karl Shaffer

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

7:35am Rosary
8:00am Bridget Niese, Dolores Alt, David Schmiedebusch, Patricia Schmitz
10:30am Special Intention for Father Harry's Birthday, Hurbert Warnecke,
L/D Vincent & Mildred Brinkman Family, L/D Opal Niese Family
11:30am Baptism-Deacon Don

ATTENTION WEEKDAY LECTORS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

- **No School this next week, so we will need the weekday lectors and Eucharistic Ministers to cover the weekday Masses this week.**
- **All the morning Masses will be at 8:00am until January 2nd.**

Attention Coffee and Donut Organizers

2025 Coffee and Donut Schedule has been sent out for you to sign up for the times that you are able to coordinate.

Please complete this by Monday, December 16, 2024.

Thank you for assisting us in the ministry! Call the office if you have any questions.

SERVERS

Mon	8:00am	No Mass
Tue	8:00am	Bella Bockrath, Drew Schroeder, Ryland Ellerbrock
	4:00pm	Carson Faber, Will Faber, Royce Ellerbrock, Thurifer-Noah Schroeder
	10:00pm	Carter Vorst, Ella Vorst, Aubrey Siefker, Thurifer-Grant Schroeder
Wed	8:00am	Brady Pester, Owen Morman, Jade Sarka
	10:30am	Lochlan Brinkman, Jacob Schimmoeller, Izak Schimmoeller, Thurifer-Cole Morman
Thurs	8:00am	Roger Schroeder, Gary Recker
Fri	8:00am	Jacob Leopold, Olivia Carpenter, Ella Macke
Sat	8:00am	Connor Mayhew, Sydney Nienberg, Kamryn Schroeder
Sat	4:30pm	Noah Schroeder, Landyn Schulte, Aubrey Leopold
Sun	8:00am	Allison Kuhlman, Ethan Kuhlman, Peyton Kuhlman
Sun	10:30am	James Niese, Owen Schumaker, Reese Karhoff

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS LECTORS

Tue	4:00pm	Mary Ellen Halker Louis Halker	Aubrey Leopold Ruth Gerding
	10:00pm	Deb Burwell Gretchen Schmitz	Diane Nienberg Doug Karhoff
Wed	8:00am	Tara Gerding Rose Ellerbrock	Chris Birkemeier Mindy Recker
	10:30am	Doug Deitering Diane Deitering	Sharon Meyer Chris Schroeder
Sat	4:30pm	Mike Karhoff Mary Rose Ellerbrock	Mike Karhoff Mary Rose Ellerbrock
Sun	8:00am	Tim Hoehn Chris Hoehn	Elizabeth Ruhe Nicole Ruhe
Sun	10:30am	Sue Recker Laura Wagner	Mindy Recker Kelly Schroeder

GIFT BEARERS

Tue	4:00pm	Josh & Nicole Schroeder
	10:00pm	Ushers
Wed	8:00am	Ushers
	10:30am	Ushers
Sat	4:30pm	Ushers
Sun	8:00am	Ushers
Sun	10:30am	Ushers

DECEMBER USHERS

Tue	4:00pm	Dale Evers, Steve Brown, Roger Koch, Logan, Koch, Connor Koch, Kevin Ellerbrock, Alex Ellerbrock
	10:00pm	Bryan Kaufman, Michael Recker, Mark Maag, Alan Wrasman, Mitch Gable, Charlie Schroeder
Wed	8:00am	Tom Morman, Tony Maag, Elton Schroeder, Joe Schroeder
	10:30am	Jerry Recker, Al Kaufman, Mike Siefker, Greg Nussbaum
Sat	4:30pm	Dale Evers, Steve Brown
Sun	8:00am	Bryan Kaufman, Michael Recker
Sun	10:30am	Barry Maag, Ken Horstman

COMMUNION TO MEADOWS: Tim and Betsy Hansen

COUNTERS FOR SUNDAY 4

ROSARY NEXT SUNDAY: K of C Members

DECEMBER FUNERAL ROSARY LEADERS: Jo Ann & Roger Schroeder, Diane Nienberg, Connie & Don Dehnart, Jim Recker

STEWARDSHIP

December 15, 2024

Offering

Loose	\$	1,054.05
Adult Envelope	\$	6,591.00
Children	\$	147.00
Maintenance	\$	1,035.00
Online Offering	\$	2,233.00
Online Maintenance	\$	169.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	200.00
Christmas	\$	225.00
Total Collection	\$	11,654.05

Thank you to all of you who have been continuing to make your Weekly/monthly contributions to your St. John's parish family and for sharing your treasure, time, & talent with your St. John's parish family!

Give Online Today!

Visit our website to get the E-Giving Form to fill out and return to the Parish Office. It is located in the left side above the Menu options.
www.stjohnlandorf.org

Heartbeat needs Baby wipes, Diapers - size 4, 5, and 6, 3-6 and 6-9 month plain white onesies, Enfamil formulas (Infant and Gentlease) & Similac Neosure formula (for preemies)

Heartbeat Hours: Tuesday 1-5pm and located on 1225 E. Third St. in Ottawa.

Foods Needed at the Ottawa Food Pantry: pineapple, salad dressing, jelly. Note: Monetary gifts are also welcome. (Send in care of Trinity UM Church, 137 N. Pratt, Ottawa)

2025 GRAND-orf Club



drawing and coffee & donuts will be **January 12th in Room 15** by Pat and Barb Siefker. Extra tickets are in the racks in the church vestibules.

Thank you to Doug and Andrea Giesige, Mark and Lori Klausung, Craig and Kristin Duling, Pat and Barb Siefker, Clete and Mary Birkemeier for running the coffee and donuts last year!

Anyone interested in helping with the GRAND-ORF drawing along with coffee and donuts on the 2nd Sunday of each month, please call the office.

A Heartfelt Thank You

A huge thank you to Dan Ellerbrock, our Adult Choir, and Youth Choir for a **spectacular performance** with this year's **Christmas Cantata, Breath of Heaven!** Your hard work, dedication, and incredible talent brought so much joy and meaning to the season. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful musicians in our parish family.

Thank you for making this Christmas so special!

Pray For Those Who Have Gone Before Us

The past 20 years

Rosemary Lammers 12/22/13	Dakota John Schierloh 12/24/00
Dennis E Hermiller 12/22/16	Rose Ann Giesken 12/24/20
James E Buddelmeyer 12/22/17	Ronald L Maag 12/27/04
Paul B Schulte 12/22/22	William J Schroeder 12/27/21
Leo F Karhoff 12/23/01	Margaret M Siefker 12/28/21
Norman R Birkemeyer 12/23/13	

Watch out for the tickets they were mailed out this week or they are in the back of vestibules of Church.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
 PO Box 48,
 Glandorf, OH 45848

\$12.00
 PER
 TICKET

2025

GRAND-ORF CLUB RAFFLE TICKETS

TWO \$500.00 WINNERS EACH MONTH

HOW IT WORKS!

On the second Sunday of each month after the 8:00am Mass, we will draw **TWO \$500.00 WINNERS.**

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.

When you are a lucky winner, we will put your name in the bulletin and send you a check for \$500.00.

The winning tickets will be **REENTERED INTO THE DRAWING FOR ANOTHER CHANCE TO WIN!**

ONE TICKET HAS 24 CHANCES TO WIN!

THE FUNDRAISER HELPS SUPPORT THE MAINTENANCE OF ST. JOHN'S PARISH CENTER.

Over the years, St. John's Parish Center has provided a place for fellowship and spiritual growth for many adults and children in our Glandorf Community.

With your continued overwhelming support, we will be able to continue this tradition in Glandorf!

St. John's Parish Staff is truly grateful for your support!

RETURN ALL TICKETS BY JANUARY 5, 2025 TO BE INCLUDED IN EVERY DRAWING.
 DROP TICKETS OFF AT THE OFFICE OR IN THE COLLECTION BASKET.

HELP WANTED

- ◆ St. John's needs people to pray the rosary for a half hour on First Saturday's all day Rosary between 11:00am-11:30am. Or anytime. Some of the slots only have one person.

Please call the office if you are interested or have any questions.

Parental Baptism Class

Sunday, January 26, 2025

from 9:00 – 10:30 AM, in Room 15 in the parish center presented by Mike and Becky Karhoff

Pre-register by calling St. John's Rectory 419-538-6928.

Next class will be **May 18, 2025.**

We want to warmly invite all parents to join us for our upcoming Baptism Class! Whether this is your first child, second, third, or beyond, there is always something new to learn about this beautiful sacrament. We also encourage parents to invite their chosen godparents to attend the class. This class is only required for parents for their first child.



6 CHRISTMAS SEASON AND AROUND PARISH



Spread some holiday cheer

St. John's Outreach is sponsoring the Advent Angel Tree for Heartbeat of Lima and Putnam County. Pick up an angel or bottle from the tree in church and return before Christmas. Need items: cash donations, boys and girls winter outfits (3-6 mths, 6-9 mths), boys and girls winter PJs (18 mths, 24 mths, 3T, 4T, 4T, 5T), women's and men's full size shampoo and conditioner, body wash, deodorant, laundry detergent and gas gift cards.



**St. John the Baptist-Glandorf
Advent-Christmas Season Calendar**

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

- December 22nd, 10:15am - 11:30am - Advent School
- December 24th, 4pm - Christmas Vigil
- December 24th, 10pm - Christmas Mass During the Night
- December 25th, 8am - Christmas Mass at Dawn
- December 25th, 10:30am - Christmas Mass During the Day
- December 27th, 7:15am - 7:45am - Confession
- December 29, 2024 Feast of the Holy Family
- December 31st, 4:30pm - Solemnity Mary Mother of God
- January 1st, 8:00am & 10:30am - Solemnity Mary Mother of God
- January 3rd, 7:15am - 7:45am - Confession
- January 3rd, 1:00pm - 4:00pm - Adoration in Church concluding with Evening Prayer with Benediction

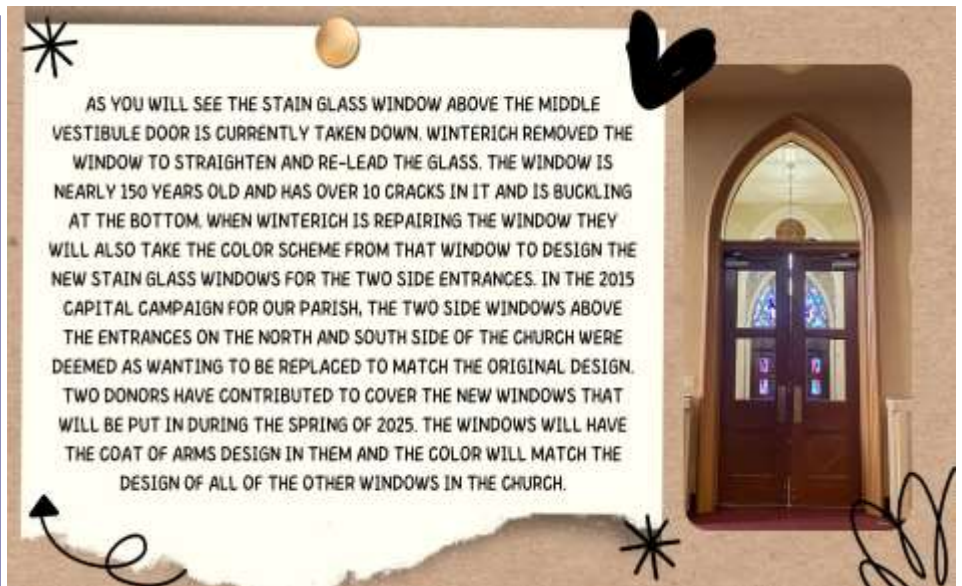


WILLIAMS AV **WaveCAST App**

BLUETOOTH HEARING ASSISTANCE NOW AVAILABLE IN CHURCH

- Connect to wireless internet: ASSISTED LISTENING SYSTEM Password: stjohnsound
- Download the WaveCAST APP
- Upon opening the app it will prompt you with No Internet Connection and ask if you want to use cellular. Choose "KEEP USING WIFI"
- The channel St. Johns Sound will be on the home page of the app. Click St. Johns Sound & adjust volume accordingly.

For any question and for those who do not have Bluetooth capabilities with their hearing aids and would like to use a hand held receiver during mass please contact the rectory office 419-538-6928 and ask for Ashley .



AS YOU WILL SEE THE STAIN GLASS WINDOW ABOVE THE MIDDLE VESTIBULE DOOR IS CURRENTLY TAKEN DOWN. WINTERICH REMOVED THE WINDOW TO STRAIGHTEN AND RE-LEAD THE GLASS. THE WINDOW IS NEARLY 150 YEARS OLD AND HAS OVER 10 CRACKS IN IT AND IS BUCKLING AT THE BOTTOM. WHEN WINTERICH IS REPAIRING THE WINDOW THEY WILL ALSO TAKE THE COLOR SCHEME FROM THAT WINDOW TO DESIGN THE NEW STAIN GLASS WINDOWS FOR THE TWO SIDE ENTRANCES. IN THE 2015 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR OUR PARISH, THE TWO SIDE WINDOWS ABOVE THE ENTRANCES ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH SIDE OF THE CHURCH WERE DEEMED AS WANTING TO BE REPLACED TO MATCH THE ORIGINAL DESIGN. TWO DONORS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO COVER THE NEW WINDOWS THAT WILL BE PUT IN DURING THE SPRING OF 2025. THE WINDOWS WILL HAVE THE COAT OF ARMS DESIGN IN THEM AND THE COLOR WILL MATCH THE DESIGN OF ALL OF THE OTHER WINDOWS IN THE CHURCH.



the mustard seed
Gifting Gifts & More than Meats

Mustard Seed Gift Shop normal business hours
Tues, Thurs, & Fri 9:00am - 5:00pm;
Wed 10:00am - 6:00pm;
Sat 8:00am - 1:00pm
 Phone number 419-538-7220
www.mustardseedgiftshop.com
 Brenda Maag 419-235-3106
 Julie Barlage 419-303-5366



Men's Society Christmas Party
 1/12/25 at 1 PM - Parish Center Cafeteria

All men of the parish are welcome.
 Food and Drinks provided.
 Two prizes to be raffled off include:
 - 4 tickets to the Ohio State vs Michigan Men's Basketball game on 2/16/2025 with a \$50 Visa Gift Card.
 - OSU Neon Sign.
 For tickets, contact:
 Derek Maag (419-890-8945).
 - 1 For \$10, 3 for \$20
 Need not be present to win.

MERRY

Christmas

ON THIS MOST HOLY AND JOYOUS DAY, WE GATHER IN SPIRIT AND FAITH TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST. HIS COMING INTO THE WORLD BRINGS US HOPE, LIGHT, AND SALVATION. AMIDST THE BUSYNESS OF THIS SEASON, MAY WE PAUSE TO REFLECT ON THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS: THE BOUNDLESS LOVE OF GOD MADE MANIFEST IN THE HUMBLE MANGER OF BETHLEHEM.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS IS A REMINDER THAT GOD IS WITH US – EMMANUEL. IN OUR JOYS AND STRUGGLES, IN MOMENTS OF PEACE OR TRIAL, HE IS PRESENT, OFFERING HIS GRACE AND MERCY. LET US WELCOME HIM INTO OUR HEARTS, HOMES, AND FAMILIES, ALLOWING HIS LOVE TO TRANSFORM US AND GUIDE OUR LIVES.

ON BEHALF OF FR. MATT AND THE PARISH STAFF, WE WANT TO WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS!



BRINGING UP THE GIFTS AT MASS

We are excited to introduce a new procedure for bringing up the offertory gifts during each Mass. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to participate in a meaningful way. We will be starting this new procedure for Christmas Masses this year!

How It Works:

- Families can sign up for the Mass and date that works best for them.
- You are welcome to sign up for as many dates as you'd like!
- If no one is signed up for a particular Mass, the ushers will bring up the gifts.
- You can sign up throughout the year the link and the QR code in the bulletin

What to Do on Your Scheduled Date:

- Sit towards the back of the church so it's easy to move to the back when needed.
- When the ushers begin collecting the offertory, head to the back of the church.
- The ushers will assist in handing you the gifts to carry forward.

We hope this new tradition will provide every family with the chance to actively participate in the liturgy. Thank you for being a part of this meaningful practice

Click the Link or Use the QR code to Sign Up:

<https://tinyurl.com/2dss8wpy>




Attention ALL MEN!!!! Join us on for That Man Is You (TMIIY)

TMIIY sessions are on Christmas break. 2025 Sessions will begin on Wed. Jan. 22nd and Sat. Jan. 25th. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Eucharistic Adoration

- Every Wednesday, 6:30pm-8:15pm
- First Friday, January 3rd 1:00pm - 4:00pm. Benediction starting at 4:00pm

Sign-up sheet is available on the radiator back in church or sign up on line using the following link <https://tinyurl.com/35shweny>

- First Saturday, January 4th and 5th

After 4:30pm Mass until 8:00am on Sunday morning.

Sign-up sheet is available on the radiator back in church or sign up on line using the following link <https://tinyurl.com/4h59xxn8>

Holy Hour, January 5th from 9:00am-10:00am concluding with Benediction starting at 9:55am. The Cantata music will be playing during the first part of the Holy Hour.

We would like at least two people signed up for each hour. If you can't make it to church to sign in, please call Katie Verhoff 480-236-7305.



Come and spend time with our Lord.

Breath of Heaven Holy Hour

Join us on Jan. 5th after 8:00AM
Mass for the 'Narration from
Breath of Heaven Cantata' with
background Christmas Hymn and
Carol Music." Benediction at
10:00AM

HOW TO CREATE A FORMED.ORG ACCOUNT FREE FOR ALL PARISHIONERS

Go to [FORMED.org](https://formed.org). Click Sign Up. Chose sign up as a parishioner /organization Find your parish, type in Glandorf OH - Click on St. John 109 Main St. Glandorf when it pops up. Fill out create a New Account. Already have a FORMED account. Visit [FORMED.org](https://formed.org). Click Sign In - upper right corner Have questions? Call 419-890-3724



Walk with One

The Stages of Spiritual Companionship



Intercede Start December 16

As soon as the Lord lays someone on your heart, begin to pray for them! Ask God to remove whatever obstacles are making it difficult for this person to draw closer to Christ and his Church. Pray for the grace to be able to accompany them well.



Getting Started:

- Write down the person's name on a sticky note and keep it in your wallet to remember during prayer
- Ask for God to open the heart of the person you are called to meet, to be receptive to him
- Offer a Mass or a holy hour for the person

In the Scriptures, we hear over and over how Jesus invited people one by one to follow him. He also invites us to follow him more deeply and, just like him, to “walk with one” person to a new or renewed experience of God’s love.

Say this Prayer

Heavenly Father, your love knows no bounds. In your infinite wisdom, you have called us to spread the Good News of your Son, Jesus Christ, to all corners of the earth. We come before you today, humble and ready to serve in this mission to Walk With One. You chose to become flesh, draw close, and walk alongside us, guiding us back to a restored relationship and life to the fullest. Bless us as we move forward, inspired by your example, to extend the same grace to others. Grant us the courage to step out of our comfort zones and speak your truth with conviction and love. Fill our hearts with your Holy Spirit so that we may articulate the message of salvation with clarity and compassion. May our words and actions reflect the love and mercy of Jesus, drawing others closer to him. Guide our efforts to build your kingdom here on earth. Open the hearts of those who have not yet encountered your love so that they may experience the joy of the Gospel and embrace the journey of faith. Strengthen our resolve when we face rejection or indifference, reminding us that we plant the seeds, but you, O Lord, provide the growth.

Through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Evangelization, and all the saints, we offer ourselves to you, Lord, as instruments of your peace and love.

Blessed Carlo Acutis and St. Manuel Gonzalez, pray for us! Amen.



TO COME: * Stage 3 Connect January 5 *Stage 4 Invite January 19

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

COME AND JOIN US!

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
AFTER 4:30PM MASS UNTIL 8:30PM

FELLOWSHIP
FAMILY ADORATION
FREE PLAY
PIZZA, DRINKS, SNACKS PROVIDED

ALL GATHERINGS WILL BE
IN THE PARISH CENTER
DURING THE COLD WEATHER
MONTHS

JANUARY 4TH
FEBRUARY 1ST
MARCH 1ST
APRIL 5TH

WHAT IS FAMILY
ADORATION?

- Family Adoration will be offered from 6-7:30pm in the Church. You can stay for as long as you'd like!
- Enjoy this special opportunity to introduce your children of all ages to adoring Jesus with other parish families
- Soft meditative music will be playing at this time
- Crying, soft whispers, & fidgeting is OK! Jesus wants ALL the little children to come to Him!



QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
BROOKE CASSIDY @ 419-235-4312
SHANA DULING @ 419-615-8988
WENDY IMM @ 614-634-1043

You Are Invited Eucharistic Day January 25th and 26th, 2025

Join us for a special time of prayer, reflection, and celebration of Christ's True Presence in the Eucharist.

- Adoration: Begins at 8:30 AM on January 25th and continues until 4:00 PM on January 26th.
- Conclusion: Evening Prayer and Benediction at 4:00 PM on January 26th.
- Dinner: Following Benediction, a wonderful dinner will be served in the Parish Center Gymnasium at 4:45 PM. If you plan to attend the dinner, please make your reservation by scanning the QR code or using the link provided. Reservations must be made by Monday, January 20th.

<https://form.jotform.com/243473040345147>



More details to come and we are looking forward to seeing you there!

Donations to help kids have free admission and items for activities!

February 22, 2025

Glandorf St. John

Must be 21 or older to attend!

"RAFFLE"

FUNDRAISER FOR SUMMER FAITH ADVENTURE PROGRAM

\$30

ACTIVITIES:

- 50/50 tickets
- "Raffle" (15 Games)
- Horse Race
- Side Raffles

INFORMATION:

- Glandorf St. John's Parish Center
- Doors open at 5:30
- Raffle starts at 6:30
- BYOB and BYO Snacks
- For Tickets Contact:
Nichole Schroeder: 419-303-7252
Barb Siefker: 419-236-2023



One of the prizes 65" TV



Please help these kids join for Free!



Advent School 2024

10 YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT

HIGH SCHOOL CCD

REMINDER: NO HIGH SCHOOL CCD WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18TH, 25TH AND JANUARY 1ST. WE WILL RESUME WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8TH AT 7:00.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

JENN WARNECKE

Sunday, December 22, 2024



BOY'S:

Birkemeyer: 1:00pm @ St. Michael's, Findlay

Ellerbrock: 1:00pm @ St. Michael's, Kalida

GIRL'S:

1:00pm Ottoville @ Glandorf

Youth Group Christmas Movie Night!
December 22nd

Join Us for a Fun Night!

Where: Parish Center Gym
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Food: Pizza & Drinks Provided
What to wear: PJs

Activities:
Movie
Cookie Decorating
Games
Gingerbread House Building
Karaoke

Bring your friends and get ready for an evening filled with fun and festivities!

CYO SPORTS

DIOCESAN POLICY FOR CYO SPORTS – All players must be members of the sponsoring parish and/or educational system of the parish in order to play on the parish team. **PARISH POLICY FOR HIGH SCHOOL CYO** Playing any sports this year? You are expected to attend both the Fall & Winter sessions of High School Religious Education Groups or Grade School CCD Classes--- plus weekend Saturday or Sunday Mass. This includes all players, coaches and their families. Attendance at these groups/classes will be monitored and reviewed. For each class missed, beyond 4 classes you will be sitting out one game. Parents, if your child is sick, please call or text Jenn Warnecke at 419-302-8465 before class. This also includes the **PUTNAM COUNTY GRADE SCHOOL BOY'S & GIRL'S CYO SPORTING TEAMS.** We kindly ask the cooperation of all concerned as we implement this church policy for the good of our parish.
Fr. Matt & Mike Karhoff

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

For Grade School and High School Students

The grade school envelopes were sent home the past few weeks during CCD. The high school students were passed out during CCD.

Home School children can pick them up at the office.

Please be on the look out for them!



Junior High Gathering

Stand Out: Embrace the Unusual
Held at St. John's Parish Center Glandorf
Students in grades 6-7-8 from the St. George Deanery are invited

February 16, 2025 10:30am - 3:30 pm

Includes: lunch, workshops, adoration, fun activities and snacks; while making friends with other Putnam County 6, 7, and 8 graders.

There needs to be at least one chaperone per Parish that will be there.

The day will start with Mass @10:30 followed by lunch, and filled with an afternoon of Breakout sessions.
\$ 8.00 Person

Contact your Youth Minister:
Ft. Jennings- Julie Fischach 419-905-8472, Glandorf Nichole Schroeder 419-303-7252, Millery City/New Cleveland- Diane Utrup 419-306-5588, Kalida Jill Zeller 567-376-9115, Ottoville Tanya Ellerbrock 419-890-3700, Ottoville Shelly Eickholt 419-233-7640

Little Flower Club

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR LITTLE FLOWER GIRLS CLUB BAKE SALE. MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Providing Education on the CREIGHTON MODEL Fertility Care™ System to Empower Women and Couples to UNDERSTAND, MAINTAIN, and APPRECIATE their Health and Fertility in a way that is cooperative with our Catholic faith.
Contact Wendy Imm, BSN CFCP for more information at 614-634-1043 or divinegracefertilitycare@gmail.com



The mission of **St. Catherine's Embrace** is to reach out to, assist and embrace all families in the St. George Deanery, regardless of faith affiliation, who have lost a child from miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant death.
Please call the rectory
419-538-6928



Christine Schroeder
INTEGRATIVE NUTRITION HEALTH COACH
Ph# 419-230-2953
email: christine@restore23.net
website: www.restore23.net

2025

CALENDAR YEAR

JANUARY

CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>20</p> <p>SUNDAY</p> <p>7:35AM Rosary 8:00AM Communion Service - Deacon Don</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:35AM Rosary 8:00AM Mass 4:30PM - Solemnity Mary Mother of God - Holy Day of Obligation</p>	<p>01</p> <p>7:35AM Rosary 8:00AM Mass - Solemnity Mary Mother of God 10:30AM Mass - Solemnity Mary Mother of God - Holy Day of Obligation</p>	<p>02</p> <p>8:15AM Rosary 8:45AM Mass 7:00-8:30PM Choir Practice SCHOOL RESUMES</p>	<p>03</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY 7:15-7:45AM Confession 7:35AM Rosary 8:00AM Mass 12:00PM Rosary 1-4 PM Adoration in Church concluding with Evening Prayer with Benediction</p>	<p>04</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY 7:25AM Rosary 8:00AM Mass 8:30AM Confessions 8:30AM - 4:00PM all day Rosary 4:00-4:15PM Confessions 4:30PM Mass 5:30pm - 12:00 - Overnight Adoration 5:30-8:30PM FAMILY FELLOWSHIP</p>	
<p>05</p> <p>EPHANY OF THE LORD 12:01-8:00AM Adoration 7:25AM Rosary 8:00AM Mass 9:00- 10:00AM Holy Hour concluding with Benediction 10:30AM Mass 11:30-12:30AM - 7th Gr.</p>	<p>06</p> <p>7:35AM Rosary 8:00AM Communion Service - Deacon Don</p>	<p>07</p> <p>7:35AM Rosary 8:40AM Mass</p>	<p>08</p> <p>7:15-7:45AM Confession 7:35AM Rosary 8:00AM Mass 6:30- 8:15PM Adoration 7:45-8:15PM Confession</p>	<p>09</p> <p>8:15AM Rosary 8:40AM Mass 7:00-8:30PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:15-7:45AM Confession 7:35AM Rosary 8:00AM Mass 12:00PM Rosary</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:25AM Rosary 8:00AM Mass 8:30AM Confessions 4:00-4:15PM Confessions 4:30PM Mass</p>
<p>12</p> <p>7:25AM Rosary 8:00AM Mass 10:30AM Mass Coffee & Donuts after Masses, Lending Library, Parish Museum 1:00PM Men's Society Christmas Party **Fr. John Merlini to Be Beatified</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:35AM Rosary 8:00AM Communion Service - Mike Karhoff</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:35AM Rosary 8:40AM Mass</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:15-7:45AM Confession 7:35AM Rosary 8:00AM Mass 1:00- 4:00PM Lady of Leisure 6:00-9:00PM Lady of Leisure 6:30- 8:15PM Adoration 7:45-8:15PM Confession</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:15AM Rosary 8:40AM Mass 7:00-8:30PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:15-7:45AM Confession 7:35AM Rosary 8:00AM Mass 12:00PM Rosary</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:25AM Rosary 8:00AM Mass 8:30AM Confessions 4:00-4:15PM Confessions 4:30PM Mass</p>
<p>19</p> <p>7:25AM Rosary 8:00AM Mass 10:30AM Mass</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:35AM Rosary 8:00AM Communion Service - Mike Karhoff</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:35AM Rosary 8:40AM Mass</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:15-7:45AM Confession 7:35AM Rosary 8:00AM Mass 6:30- 8:15PM Adoration 7:45-8:15PM Confession</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:15AM Rosary 8:40AM Mass 7:00-8:30PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:15-7:45AM Confession 7:35AM Rosary 8:00AM Mass 12:00PM Rosary</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:25AM Rosary 8:00AM Mass 8:30AM Confessions 4:00-4:15PM Confessions 4:30PM Mass</p>
<p>26</p> <p>EUCCHARISTIC DAY 7:25AM Rosary 8:00AM Mass 10:30AM Mass 11:30AM - 4:00PM Adoration 4:00PM Evening Prayer concluding with Benediction 4:45PM Eucharistic Day Dinner</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:35AM Rosary 8:00AM Communion Service - Mike Karhoff</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:35AM Rosary 8:40AM Mass</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:15-7:45AM Confession 7:35AM Rosary 8:00AM Mass 6:30- 8:15PM Adoration 7:45-8:15PM Confession</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:15AM Rosary 8:40AM Mass 7:00-8:30PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:15-7:45AM Confession 7:35AM Rosary 8:00AM Mass 12:00PM Rosary</p>	<p>01</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY 7:25AM Rosary 8:00AM Mass 8:30AM Confessions 4:00-4:15PM Confessions 4:30PM Mass</p>

12 AROUND THE AREA

Coordinator of Adult Faith Formation

Leipsic St Mary Church is seeking a part-time, 20-24 hours a week Coordinator of Adult Faith Formation. The primary objective will be to collaborate with the pastor in implementing a parish Adult Faith Formation program that furthers the mission of the parish, which is making faithful disciples who make faithful disciples. Position open immediately. To apply: Send Resume and three references to: Rev. Randy Giesige, 318 State St. Leipsic, OH 45856 Phone: 419-943-2688 Email: rpgiesige@gmail.com

A BLOOD DRIVE

Will be held at the Sts. Peter and Paul School Cafeteria on Monday, December 30th, from 12:00 to 6:00pm. To schedule an appointment to donate blood, please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org and use sponsor code: STSPETERPAUL.

Walk for life

Society of human life Sunday

Sunday January 19th, 2pm
Open house, 2-4pm



Park at Lima Central Catholic High School, 720 S. Cable Rd.

Walk to Heartbeat of Lima office and back. Prayerful, loving, inspiring signs will be available, or bring your own!

Refreshments and tours from 2-4pm.

Pastors and priests will lead blessings and prayers.

Handicap parking available in the Heartbeat lot, 421 S. Cable Rd. Lima, OH 45805

Join us with your family to watch this inspirational movie



Presents

JESUS THIRSTS

THE MIRACLE OF THE EUCHARIST



★★★★★
"5 STARS"
"Life changing"
"An absolute must see!"

SHOW TIMES and TICKET PRICES

Sunday, January 5, at 3:00pm or Friday, January 17, at 6:30pm

\$5 for Adults / \$3 for Senior Citizens and Teens / \$3 for ages 8-12

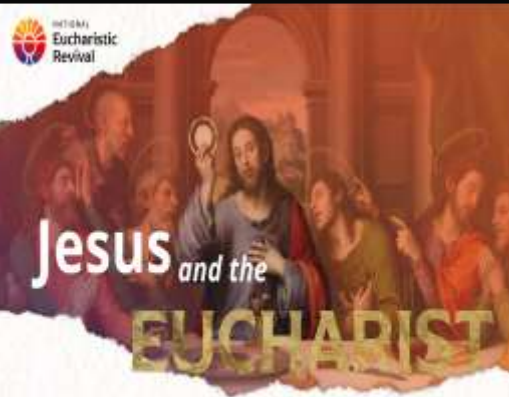
Admission is FREE for ages 7 and under, but you must call the office.

To purchase tickets, follow the link at www.stmaryandstmichael.org.

Use the QR Code, or go to <https://www.stmaryandstmichael.org/faithcontentnetwork/>

For help, call either parish office at 419-638-3842 or 419-637-2255

Hosted at Fremont Ross Performing Arts Center 3100 North St. Fremont, Ohio 43420



PUTNAM COUNTY YOUNG ADULTS

A SMALL GROUP SERIES

Encounter the reality of the Real Presence and gain a deeper understanding of your faith like never before. This study will be a special time to grow in community with other Young Adults around the area. There is no pre-work or homework, we go through it all together. Handouts will be provided to you at each session. There is no cost!

7 Sessions on Mondays 6:30-8:30pm

Jan. 13 & 27, Feb. 10 & 24,
Mar. 3 & 24, Apr. 14

New Cleveland REC
(house across from the church)
RSVP to Diane 419-306-5588

Scan for more info



visit www.uscc.org and the eucharist



Knights of Columbus

Newsletters are available in the back of Church.

THE SERRA CLUB OF LIMA AREA, WHICH EXISTS TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT VOCATIONS TO PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

PRIESTHOOD



Thursday January 9

at Lima Central Catholic High School

MASS WILL BEGIN AT 5:45PM FOLLOWED BY DINNER AND A PROGRAM. THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER WILL BE MATTHEW ETZKORN, VP OF MISSION FOR MERCY HEALTH-LIMA SPEAKING ON "VOCATION IN HEALTH CARE". PERSONS WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN THIS TOPIC OR THE MISSION OF THE SERRA CLUB ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND AS GUESTS. IF INTERESTED IN ATTENDING, PLEASE RESPOND TO KATHY AT 419-303-0339 NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, JAN. 7.

SHARE YOUR FAITH DAY

Diocese of Toledo and the Toledo Walleye



Friday, January 24, 2025



Gates Open 6:15 PM | Game Starts 7:15 PM

Experience a faith sharing evening with the Diocese of Toledo as we invite you to the Toledo Walleye in their thrilling game against the Kalamazoo Wings on January 24th at 7:15 pm for Blackout Bonefish night. Don't miss out on the excitement - a perfect outing for families and sports enthusiasts alike.

Accessible seating is located in Section 109 Row T Seats 9-12 for those who need it.

Discounted admission tickets are available through the FEVO link above for \$12.00 per ticket. The access code is CDOT, click ADD and DONE. Once the seats are selected and in the cart, the \$12 discounted ticket will show up, there are small provider fees.

Tickets are limited to the first 100 people, and we expect a sellout, so please do not delay...order your tickets today! This diocesan event is not open to the public. We hope to see you and your family there! Please email ajacobs@toledodiocese.org or priest@toledodiocese.org with any questions.



Deadline to purchase tickets is Friday, January 10, 2025!
<https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/CatholicDiocese38>

FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT

JANUARY 3RD
JANUARY 4TH

MIBB vs Akron
WBB vs Eastern Mich.

\$7 tickets

Scan QR code or visit www.uscc.org
tickets office to purchase at
419-325-9888



Leading the FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS



“Hope does not disappoint!”

“Hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5). These are the first words of the official announcement of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025 entitled “Pilgrims of Hope.” Quoting Saint Paul’s Letter to the Romans, our Holy Father Pope Francis follows the ancient tradition of announcing a periodic Jubilee Year for the Universal Church, offering this encouragement: “For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the “door” (cf. Jn 10:7.9) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere, and to all as ‘our hope’ (1 Tim 1:1)”. The Pope will formally initiate the Jubilee year with the opening of the Holy Year Door at St. Peter’s Basilica on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024, and conclude it on January 6, 2026.

At Christmas we celebrate Hope! And Hope has come to us in a person! That person is Jesus Christ, the Word made Flesh, true God and true Man, who comes anew as our Hope! And hope is much different than a wish, isn’t they? Some may

remember as children paging through the Sears Catalogue and making their Christmas wish list! Today, parents may receive texts with photos as hints of what their children are wishing to receive at Christmas. We are familiar with offering good wishes for someone’s graduation or birthday, wishing someone well when they are ill or wishing a couple many years of happiness as they marry.



But hope is different. Our Catholic faith teaches us that hope is the theological virtue by which we desire and expect from God both eternal life and the grace we need to attain it! (CCC). “The virtue of Hope responds to the aspiration to

happiness which God has placed in the heart of every person, it takes up the hope that inspire our activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of heaven; it keeps us from discouragement; it sustains us during times of abandonment; it opens up our hearts in expectation of eternal beatitude. Buoyed up by hope, we are preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity” (CCC 1818).



With its origins in Biblical texts and dating back to 1300, in the Roman Catholic tradition, a Holy Year, or Jubilee is a great religious event. It is a year of forgiveness of sins and also the punishment due to sin, it is a year of reconciliation between

adversaries, of conversion and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and consequently of solidarity, hope, justice, commitment to serve God with joy and in peace with our brothers and sisters. A Jubilee year is above all the year of Christ, who brings life and grace to humanity.

“The Jubilee is called Holy Year, not only because its beginning and end is marked with solemn holy acts, but also because its purpose is to encourage holiness of life. It is convoked to strengthen faith, encourage works of charity and brotherly communion within the Church and in society and to call Christians to be more sincere and coherent in their faith in Christ, the only Saviour” (vat.va).

Hope! Who of us in these days and at this time, with the reality of the situation in the world and in our nation, doesn't need to be reminded that Christ is our Hope! Who of us cannot admit that we are often weary, burdened, anxious, troubled, experiencing feelings of hopelessness? There's a great phrase in Italian: “C'e' sempre Speranza,” There is always hope! No matter what, there is always hope! For us, that hope is a person, whose coming we celebrate at Christmas. As we enter the Jubilee Year, I invite you to pray with me the Jubilee Prayer, so that as fellow pilgrims, we might not only experience and rejoice in that hope ourselves, but we might live and radiate that hope for all!

Father in heaven,
may the **faith** you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of **charity** enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed **hope**
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the
Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both
humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, **Pilgrims of Hope**,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen.

It is the wish of Pope Francis that “the Holy Year be planned and celebrated with deep faith, lively hope and active charity.” Please do keep abreast of how we will be observing this Jubilee Year, “Pilgrims of Hope,” here in the Diocese of Toledo. It is my sincere hope that individuals, families, parishes, our Catholic schools and organizations, will find worthy ways to promote and participate in this Jubilee. Almost every week throughout 2025 we will share through our Diocese of Toledo Facebook and website, events and prayer intentions for various groups, including families, young people, priests, deacons, seminarians, consecrated religious, students, the sick and so many others. I ask that you take time to pray for these intentions and feel emboldened to speak with your family, friends, coworkers and schoolmates about your Catholic faith and about the hope you have found in Christ Jesus, who is our Hope!

As the Holy Father encourages us: “Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it. May the way we live our lives say to them in so many words: ‘Hope in the Lord! Hold firm, take heart, hope in the Lord!’” (Psalm 27:14).

Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo
December 14, 2024

Christmas is Almost Here!



Now it's only a few days until Jesus' birthday! Are you all ready for it? If you have an Advent wreath then this is the week that all the candles will be lit. Jesus is coming soon, so the light should be getting very bright!

Do you have a Christmas tree? Do you know what it represents? A long time ago people used to have plays at Christmas time about how Adam and Eve sinned when they ate the fruit from the tree, and how Jesus was born to save us from that sin. So a Christmas tree is there to remind us of why Jesus came.



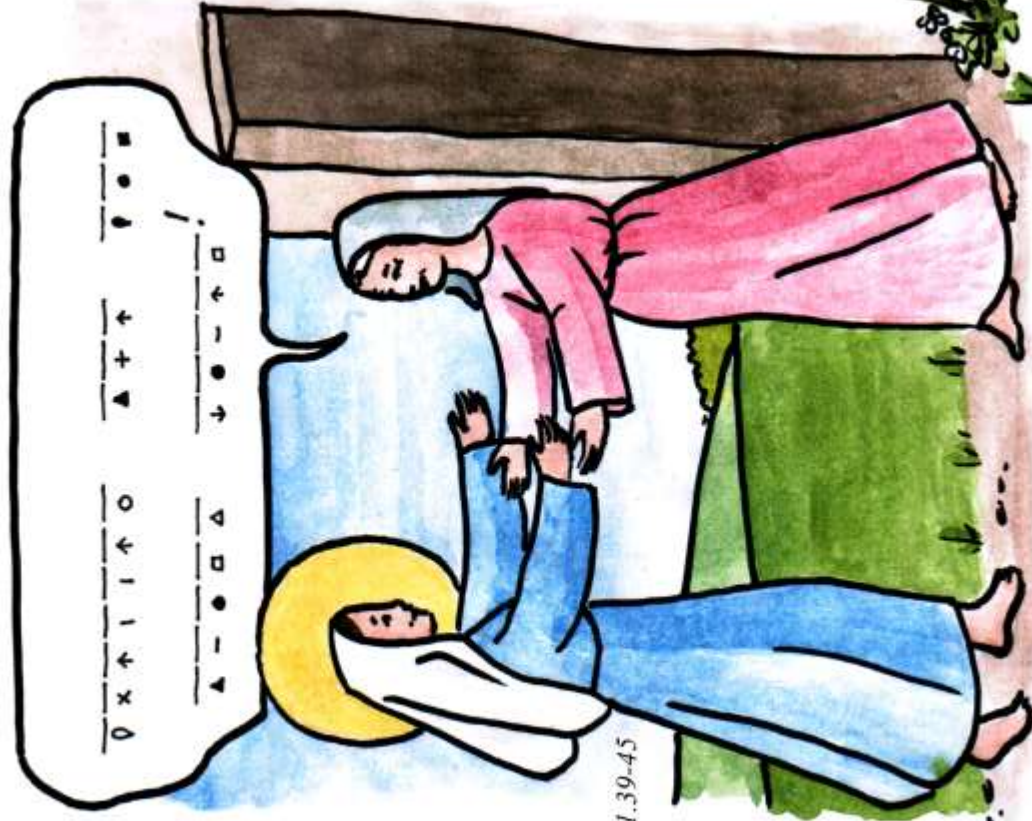
Does your family have a nativity scene? It should be all ready for Christmas, but the Baby Jesus doesn't get put in the manger until Christmas Eve!



Answer to front page puzzle: Blessed are you among women!
 Answer to True or False: 1.true, 2.false, 3.false, 4.true, 5.true, 6.false, 7.true.

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
 December 22nd, 2024



Luke 1.39-45

Elizabeth knew that Mary was the mother of the Messiah. What did she say to Mary when she came to visit her?

Use the code to find out!

A B D E G L M N O R S U W Y
 ▲ ◊ ○ ↑ △ × - □ + i ■ ↓ ●

Saints Adela and Irmina

December 24



IRMINA AND ADELA WERE BOTH PRINCESSES, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THEY WERE SPOILED AND SELFISH. THEIR GOOD PARENTS RAISED THEM TO LOVE GOD. WE CAN LEARN FROM THEIR EXAMPLE THAT FAMILIES CAN HELP EACH OTHER TO BECOME HOLY PEOPLE. HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR FAMILY?

Mary Visits Elizabeth

True or False?

How well do you know the story of the Visitation?
See if you can figure out which are true and which are false!

1. Mary was expecting baby Jesus when she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. True or False?
2. Elizabeth was married to Jeremiah. True or False?
3. Elizabeth was a bit sad when she saw Mary. True or False?
4. When Elizabeth heard Mary, her baby inside her jumped. True or False?
5. Elizabeth's baby was Saint John the Baptist. True or False?
6. Mary had to tell Elizabeth that she was going to have a baby because Elizabeth didn't know. True or False?
7. Elizabeth knew that Mary's baby was the Messiah. True or False?

