## St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Missionaries of the Precious Blood *St. George Deanery* 

Pastor REV. MATTHEW KELLER C.PP.S.

Email frmatt@glandorfstjohns.com

Deacon DON INKROTT

#### PARISH OFFICE BUSINESS HOURS

Monday—Friday, 9:00am - 5:00pm Closed for Lunch from 12:30pm—1:30pm Phone: 419-538-6928 Sacramental Emergencies: 419-778-9339 Fax: 419-538-6147

Website: www.stjohnglandorf.org Email: admin@glandorfstjohns.com

> Address: 109 N. Main Street PO Box 48 Glandorf, OH 45848

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

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

**Music:** Dan Ellerbrock Maintenance: Joe Schroeder Janitors: Mark Klausing (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 Email: jrhighccd@glandorfstjohns.com Phone: 419-538-6897

**High School Religious Education:** Ruth Gerding Email: hsccd@glandorfstjohns.com Phone: 419-538-6897 Cell: 567-204-1275

Parish Council President: Mike Karhoff Finance Committee Chairperson: Luke Recker Altar Rosary Society President: Betsy Maag Men's Society President: Tony Schroeder



of the Lord

The Solemnity of the **Epiphany is celebrated** in honor of the Magi visiting the infant Jesus in Bethlehem. The Epiphany proves that all, including gentiles, were called to honor the Son of God.

#### 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

#### 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 nonemergency 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.

#### 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.

Facebook St. John the Baptist Catholic Church - Glandorf | YouTube: Search glandorf st john's catholic church live stream

# **FROM THE DESK OF FATHER MATT**

### www.stjohnglandorf.org

Merry Christmas! This Christmas Season is moving very quickly, it is hard to believe that today we are already celebrating the Solemnity of the Epiphany. The Solemnity of the Epiphany is a significant feast for us as Missionaries of the Precious Blood. Traditionally this feast is celebrated on January 6<sup>th,</sup> and it was on this date in 1786 our founder St. Gaspar del Bufalo was born. Because he was born on this day his parents named him after the three magi Gaspar Melchior Balthazar.

Today we celebrate the Epiphany and, on the surface, today we remember/celebrate the magi/the wisemen/the three kings coming in the Nativity Scene bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. On the surface today this is what we celebrate, but if we look below the surface, we know that today is about more than just magi coming on the scene with gifts.

If I were to say that I had an epiphany, I could also say that I had a light bulb moment some spark of knowledge or insight just came to me out of nowhere. The magi had an epiphany when they looked up at the night sky, they looked and noticed a new star that indicated a newborn king of the Jews. And it could have ended there, they could have made the discovery and let it go at that. But their discovery got them to be curious to go purse this star, it got them to go search for this newborn king. The star led them to a palace where they thought they would find the king but ended up leading to where least expected to a stable. They encountered this newborn king. And because they had this encounter, they did not return to Herod but they returned to their home by a different route.

Like the magi discovering the star of Christ, the star of Christ gets our attention. And usually when we initially make the discovery of the star of Christ, we do not even know that it is Christ. The star of Christ gets our attention and sparks our curiosity to go follow the star. And like the magi the star of Christ can lead us to places of surprise. Regardless of where we are led, we are led to have an encounter with Christ, and we offer Christ gifts not of gold, frankincense, or myrrh but we offer our very lives as gift to Christ. Each time share in the

sacraments we have an encounter with Christ, and we are changed. Because we have had this encounter we are called to return to our homes by a different route. Some may understand this returning home by different route literally by driving and walking home by a route you typically do not take. But this different route we are called to take is really an invitation for us to live our lives differently. Many of us during this time of the year make New Year's Resolutions seeking to change their lives, seeking live their lives differently, seeking to go home by a different route. As we begin this New Year, as we have our Epiphany with and encounter the Lord may we return to our homes by a different route.



#### MONDAY, JANUARY 8 The Baptism of the Lord

7:35am Rosary 8:00am Communion Service - Mike Karhoff **TUESDAY, JANUARY 9** 

8:25am Rosary

8:45am Kevin Schroeder

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10 7:15-7:45am Confessions

7:35am Rosarv 8:00am L/D Ken Kleman Family 6:30pm-8:15pm Adoration 7:45pm - 8:20pm Confessions

### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 11**

8:00am Penance 4C 8:25am Rosarv 8:45am L/D Wilfred(AN) & Dorothy Kleman Family FRIDAY, JANUARY 12 St. Marguerite

7:15am - 7:45am Confession 7:35am Rosary

8:00am L/D Victor Duling Family 12:00pm Rosary

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 13 St Hilary

7:35am Rosary

8:00am For the Poor Souls

8:30am Confessions

4:00pm Confessions

4:30pm L/D Virgil Recker, Mike Recker, Brian Schmitz Families, L/D Virgil & Mary Agnus Recker Family

5:30pm Baptism

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

7:35am Rosary 8:00am L/D Albert & Elizabeth Roof Family, Patricia Brickner 10:30am Elmer Tobe, Craig Vorst, Cayla Fortman-Ross, Angie Schumaker

Engaged Couples

Need to contact Fr. Matt 6 months before your marriage to start your marriage preparation. It is your responsibility to call for an appointment or can't promise you a wedding here at St. John's.





Sunday, February 4, 2024 from 9:00 - 10:30 AM, in Room 15 in the parish center presented by Don Inkrott.

Pre-register by calling St. John's Rectory 419-538-6928. Next class will be May 12, 2024.

### Notifications

Bulletin and Parish Notification If you would like to receive the bulletin and other parish notifications via email, please let us know by sending an email to admin@glandorfstjohns.com

# ABOUT OUR PARISH

		SERVERS		
Mon	8:00am	Communion Service - no servers needed		
Tue	8:45am	Students		
Wed	8:00am	Gene & Rose Warnecke		
Thurs	8:45am	Students		
Fri	8:00am	Ken & Paula Elchinger		
Sat	8:00am	Liam Kaufman, Reese Karhoff, Landon Heckman		
Sat	4:30pm	Alaina Klass, Carson Faber, Royce Ellerbrock		
Sun	8:00am	Owen Morman, Zachary Horstman, Morgan Maag		
Sun	10:30am	Owen Schumaker, Grant Schroeder, Jacob Schimmoeller		
		EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTORS	
Sat	4:30pm	Steve Brown	Reagan Miller	
		Sharon Brown	Morgan Miller	
Sun	8:00am	Deb Burwell	Diane Nienberg	
		Getchen Schmitz	Doug Karhoff	
Sun	10:30am	Tara Gerding	Chris Birkemeier	
		Rose Ellerbrock	Mindy Recker	
		GIFT BEARERS		
Sat	4:30pm	Brian & Christine Schroeder		
Sun	8:00am	Joe & Deb Schroeder		
Sun	10:30am	Jim & Julie Meyerhoffer		
		JANUARY USHERS		
Sat	4:30pm	Kevin & Mary Rose Ellerbrock, Sam Warnecke		
Sun	8:00am	Mark Maag, Alan Wrasman		
Sun	10:30am	Louis & Mary Ellen Halker		
COUNTERS FOR SUNDAY: 6				

**ROSARY NEXT SUNDAY:** Ginny Schroeder & Karen Parker JANUARY FUNERAL ROSARY LEADERS: Dolores Schnipke, Ginny Schroeder, Darlene Stechschulte, Tina & Randy Fortman, Mary Ellen & Dan Klear

#### ATTENTION TO ALL VOLUNTEERS OF THE PARISH WHO WORK WITH CHILDREN!

The diocese mandates that all who work with children need to setup a Virtus account online and take the online workshop, online background check and sign standards form every 5 years. If you plan to work with children as a volunteer during 2024 please e-mail admin@glandorfstjohns.com. You are responsible to complete these requirements to be compliant with the diocese and the Dallas Charter for Protecting Youth and Those Who Serve Them". For all employees and volunteers please check your e-mails Virtus will be sending you an

e-mail if your requirements will be expiring. If you changed your e-mail address please logon to Virtus and update. Please let us know here at the rectory also of your new e-mail address.

Ushers Needed!

Would you like to become an usher or would you like your name taken off the Usher Schedule? The current schedule ends at the end of January. Please call or email the rectory (419-538-6928 or admin@glandorfstjohns.com).

# **ABOUT OUR PARISH**

### 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 Deacon Don) Parish Center Room 15 9:00am - 10:30am Upcoming classes: February 4, 2024, May 12, 2024 (Room 22), and September 15

#### 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 Caféteria Sunday, November 3, 2024 at 8:00am

#### **RECONCILATION (CONFESSION)**

Wednesday 7:15am -7:45am, 7:45-8:20pm Friday 7:15am-7:45am Saturday 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 email 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.

#### **EUCHARISTIC 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.

#### **Updated CYO SPORTS**

Diocesan Policy for CYO Sports--All players must be members of the sponsoring parish and/or educational system of the parish to play on the parish team. St. John's Parish Policy for High School CYO-Playing any sports this year? It is a privilege to play sports for St. John's and not an expectation. You are expected to attend both the Fall and Winter Semesters of High School Religious Education CCD Classes. Attendance at these classes will be monitored and reviewed. For each class missed beyond 4 classes you will be sitting out one game per absence. Parents, if your child will be absent, please contact or text Ruth Gerding at 567-204-1275 before class. All high school players are required to give 5 hours of service to St. John's by January 14, 2024. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. Without the gift of the Eucharist, we do not exist as a parish, and you do not have the privilege of playing for St. John's. All coaches and players are required to attend Saturday evening or Sunday Mass. If you miss, we kindly ask that you sit out that week's game. All coaches and high school players are to spend one hour in Adoration on Eucharistic Day. If you miss, we kindly ask that you sit out one game. If you do not have time for the LORD, you do not have time to play sports. We kindly ask the cooperation of all as we implement this policy for the good of our parish and the good of the Church. (Fr. Matt Keller & Mike Karhoff, Parish Council President)

CATECHISM CORNER **Epiphany House Blessing** 

The Solemnity of the Epiphany traditionally is the time to bless your homes. A priest or a deacon can come to bless your home, or a family could do it without a priest or deacon present.

What you will need to do this blessing is:

Holy Water , a piece of chalk.

Begin by gathering with your family by the main entrance of your home. Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit All: Amen.

Leader: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. It is Christ who enlightens our hearts and home with love. It is Christ, risen from the dead, who is our source of hope, joy, and comfort. May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love.

#### Blessing Prayer

Leader: Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with gladness of your presence. Bless all who live here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love (to each other) to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us, and preserve us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever.

#### All: Amen

Now you can go throughout your house blessing different rooms sprinkling Holy Water in different rooms as you go. Different members of the family can turns reading the prayers and sprinkling Holy Water.

#### At the Entrance

Sovereign Lord, you are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Send your servants out from this place on many errand, be their constant companion on the way, and welcome them upon their return, so that coming and going they maybe sustained by your presence. Through Christ our Lord.

#### In the Living room or Family room

Bless this living room that here we may find our bonds of friendship joyfully renewed and deepened after days of study and work, play and growth. May your peace always stay in this room, making it a place where we can each grow into better friends with you and with one another. Through Christ our Lord.

#### In the Dinning Room

Bless are meals, O Lord, King of the universe, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives. Make us grateful for all your mercies, and mindful of the needs of others. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### In a Bedroom

Father, you gave us bodies that we might be the living body of Christ on earth. Grant a blessing which fills this room, so that out of love for you we may always care for our bodies as the living temples of your Holy Spirit. Through Christ our Lord.

#### **Recreation area**

Father, you richly shred your precious gift of life with us. Bless this place of reset and leisure time, that in our play and recreation, we may find refreshment and fulfillment for our busy lives. Through Christ our Lord.

#### In a workplace

O God, your blessed Son worked with his hands in the carpenter shop in Nazareth. Be present, we pray, with those who work in this place, that laboring as workers together with you, they may share the joy of your creation. Through Christ our Lord.

#### The Inscription

The three wisemen- G-Gaspar, M-Melchior, And B-Bathasar, Followed the star of God's Son who become man two thousand and twenty-four years ago.

May Christ bless this dwelling

And remain with us through the new year.

Above the doorway of the entrance of your home with chalk trace the following inscription 20 + G + M+ B+ 24

#### Prayer of Blessing

Let us prav:

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who live in it. Fill them with the light of Christ, that their concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

# **PRAYER AND STEWARDSHIP**

### **STEWARDSHIP**

Offering

<u>orrenng</u>	
Loose	\$ 1,019.00
Adult Envelope	\$ 8,285.00
Children	\$ 193.00
Maintenance	\$ 195.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,290.00
Mary Mother of God	\$ 827.00
Christmas	\$ 2,075.00
Initial Offering	\$ 115.00
Total Collection	\$14,999.00
Loose	\$ 375.00
Adult Envelope	\$ 1,735.00
Children	\$ 12.00
Initial Offering	\$ 147.00
Total Mary Mother of God	\$ 2,269.00

December 31, 2023

NOTE: All ladies & men of the parish are members of the Altar Rosary Society & Men's Society. Please take note that there is a special envelope in your envelope packets for the Altar Rosary dues \$3.00 & Men's dues \$6 per year. Please turn your envelope in as this helps keep our organizations running. Thank you!

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.stjohnglandorf.org

**Heartbeat** needs size 4 and 5 Pampers Swaddle Diapers

Heartbeat Hours: Tuesday 1-5pm and Thursday 9-1pm

**Foods Needed at the Ottawa Food Pantry:** pineapple, mandarin oranges, pears, ready to eat soup, pancake mix, pop tarts or breakfast bars, boxed or canned potatoes, rice, dry beans, canned pasta, egg noodles, condiments, salad dressing, sloppy joe sauce, hamburger helper, spaghetti sauce, snacks. Note: Monetary gifts are also welcome. (Send in care of Trinity UM Church, 137 N. Pratt, Ottawa)



#### ADVENT - ANGEL TREE FOR HEARTBEAT

Please return baby bottles as soon as possible!

#### THANK YOU

The Glandorf Lion's Club would like to thank the wonderful people for the beautiful Christmas displays in the Glandorf Park this Christmas season!



Newsletters are available in the back of Church.

PRAYER FOR PRIEST O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name), act in him, speak in him and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul, take over his entire personality and life. Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving, pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union alwavs. Amen.

#### Please Pray every day for a Missionary of the Precious Blood.

#### JANUARY PRAYER LIST

- 1. Fr. Kenneth Pleiman
- 2. Fr. Franklin Rayappa
- Br. Nicholas Renner
  Br. Robert Reuter
- Br. Robert Reuter
  Fr. Garry Richmeier
- Fr. Garry Riching
  Fr. Paul Sanders
- 7. Pray for vocations
- 8. Fr. Kevin Scalf
- 9. Fr. Dennis Schaab
- 10. Br. Matthew Schaefer
- 11. Fr. Louis Schmit
- 12. Fr. Kenneth Schnipke
- 13. Fr. Kenneth Schroeder
- 14. For living and deceased
- C.PP.S. members
- 15. Br. Jerome Schulte 16. Fr. James Seibert

- 17. Br. Antonio Sison
- 18. Fr. James Smith
- 19. Fr. Jerome Stack
- 20. Fr. William Stang
- 21. Pray for those in formation
- 22. Fr. Jerome Steinbrunner 23. Fr. Donald Thieman
- 3. Fr. Donald Thiema
- 24. Fr. Daniel Torson
- 25. Fr. Dien Truong
- 26. Fr. Joseph Uecker
- 27. Fr. James Urbanic
- 28. For living and deceased Companions & Amici
- 29. Fr. Michael Volkmer
- 29. Fr. Michael Volkmer
- 30. Fr. True Minh (Joseph) Vu
- 31. Br. Joseph Vu

#### Please Include them in your prayers OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Please remember in your Masses and prayers the soul of our faithful departed . Our sincere sympathy is extended to their families, relatives, friends & neighbors.

Sister Mary Kuhlman Marilyn Schroeder

#### WEDDING BANN

**II Alyssa Schnipke** of this parish, daughter of Larry and Kathy Schnipke & **Kody Kuhlman** of Holy Family, New Cleveland, son of Marty and Shawnda Kuhlman.

### Pray For Those Who Have Gone Before Us

Eugene J Knueven 1/7/11 Bernadine I Nienberg 1/8/05 Carl L Ellerbrock 1/8/09 Amy Black 1/8/22 Wayne E Patrick 1/8/22 Paul J Schroeder 1/9/06 Rita D Klausing 1/9/10 Michael J Wolke 1/9/15 Ralph A Kaufman 1/9/18 William S Koch 1/9/21 Leona J Schweller 1/10/08 Victor R Verhoff 1/10/17 Angela L Schumaker 1/10/20 Norman A Recker 1/11/07 Bertha A Steffes 1/12/10 Carolyn Jean Quinn 1/13/15

#### CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

All suspected or actual acts of physical or sexual child abuse, or neglect, must be reported to the Putnam County Job and Family Services by calling 567-376-3777. Select "O" and ask to speak with someone from children's services and needing to make a referral. Hours are Monday- Thursday, 7AM to 4:30 PM, and Friday 7 AM to Noon. If incident is after hours, please call the Sheriff's Department at 419-523-3208. They will contact the caseworker on call and the caseworker will get back to the one reporting the incident--leave your contact number with the Sheriff Department person. The person who witnessed or was told is to be the person to make the call. Report incident to the Diocese of Toledo after County Caseworker has been notified by calling the Diocese of Toledo Victim Assistance Coordinator at 419-244-6711, ext 4880. Notify Pastor, if not already notified. With Pastor's discretion, next call parents and give basic information, while not disclosing any personal information. If abuse is by a teacher, parish staff, or volunteer, report incident to Diocese of Toledo after County Caseworker has been notified.

## **AROUND THE PARISH**



## YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS & AROUND THE PARISH

### Elementary & Jr. High Corner

<u>Confirmation Rite of Election</u> Meeting is Sunday, January 7, 2024 immediately following the 10:30 am Mass, in the Church. This meeting will be for the Confirmation Candidates and their Sponsors. It is *your responsibility* to notify the sponsors about this meeting. This meeting will provide information for the Sponsors and serve as the Candidate's formal, public declaration of receptivity of this Sacrament. It should conclude





#### The Epiphany of the Lord: Gifts from the Heart



THE GRACE I SEEK: to offer the Lord the treasures of my heart

#### IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.

Pause for a few moments, and allow yourself to become aware of Jesus' gift of himself in the Eucharist. Realize that, at this very moment, the Lord of Life is gazing upon you with great love. Allow yourself to receive his loving gaze. You are his beloved child. Rest in his loving gaze. Thank Jesus for the gift of himself in the Eucharist.

ASK FOR THE GRACE: Jesus, help me to give to you gifts from my heart.

**SCRIPTURE MEDITATION** — Read slowly, 3–4 times. Allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this passage.

"Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you." (Isaiah 60:5)

**FOR REFLECTION** — Allow yourself to sit with these questions for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart.

In the busyness of our daily lives, it is easy to miss the abundance of love the Lord is pouring into our hearts. Over the last week or two, can you think of an instance when the Lord was giving you a true gift, but you were too busy or preoccupied to let your heart "throb and overflow" at the goodness of Jesus? Talk to him about your experience.

**SCRIPTURE MEDITATION** — Read slowly, 3–4 times. Again, allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you in a personal way through this passage.

# "They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." (Matthew 2:10–11)

**FOR REFLECTION** —When we begin to see the gifts that Jesus is giving to us throughout the day, our natural response is to give back all we have to him in joy, and the way we give to Jesus is often by giving to others. Think about all of the gifts and talents the Lord has given to you. Are there any that you have not cultivated? What is the reason for this? Ask the Lord to help you identify any of the fears holding you back. Present them to him in simplicity, asking for the courage to overcome them. It might be helpful to journal about them, too!

Remain in silence with the Lord. Allow him to speak in the silence, in your heart. Receive his presence. If it helps, write down what you sense the Lord communicating to you during this time of prayer.

**CLOSING PRAYER** — O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen. (Collect, The Epiphany of the Lord, Mass During the Day)

**SUNDAY MASS CONNECTION** — At every Mass, Jesus offers himself to the Father for us. We can always join our own offerings with Jesus at Mass. This Sunday, offer your desire to cultivate the treasures of your heart to be able to show Jesus' love to those around you.

**LOVE IN ACTION** — Look back at the uncultivated talent(s) you identified during the second reflection. Ask the Lord to show you how you can develop these gifts. Write these steps down; it may also be helpful to ask a friend for support and encouragement! Trust that the Lord will use these efforts to grow his Kingdom.

the mustard seed

Mustard Seed Gift Shop normal business hours Tues, Thurs, & Fri 9:00am - 5:00pm; Wed 12:00pm to 8:00pm; Sat 8:00am - 1:00pm Phone number 419-538-7220 <u>www.mustardseedgiftshop.com</u> Brenda Maag 419-235-3106 Julie Barlage 419-303-5366

#### CATHOLIC COUNSELING

Feeling depressed during the Christmas season? Struggling with the loss of a loved one? Dealing with marital problems? Experiencing gender identity issues? If you or someone you love might benefit from counseling, confidential professional Catholic counseling, rooted in our Catholic faith, is now available at Findlay St. Michael Parish. To inquire, please contact the main parish office @ 419-422-2646 and ask to be transferred to the Catholic Counseling services.