

## Liturgy Schedule

**8:30 Morning Prayer, Rosary, Monday through Friday**

**Monday, December 18 Late Advent Weekday**

8:00 Nancy Rickard

7:00 Festival of Praise with Confessions

**Tuesday, December 19 Late Advent Weekday**

8:00 Sean Stephen Kukoleck

**Wednesday, December 20 Late Advent Weekday**

8:00 Ronald Kaminski

**Thursday, December 21 Late Advent Weekday**

8:00 Nathan Hanzlick & Family

**Friday, December 22 Late Advent Weekday**

8:00 Fr Haren & Family

**Saturday, December 23 Late Advent Weekday**

3:15 Confessions

4:00 Randolph Klosowski

**Sunday, December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:00 People of the Parish

10:00 James Baroni

4:00 People of the Parish (Children's Mass)

6:00 Priest Intention

Midnight Priest Intention



the following members of our Parish community: the following members of our Parish community: **Calhan, Joan Hrovat, John Rozmarynowski, Albert Marotta Sr., Jack Pekar, Lynda Petit, Joan Kaczmarczyk, Bill Exton, Dolores Nose, Taryn, Sr. Maryann Zakrajsek, Marie Sabol, Robert Govang, Bernie Nenadovich, George Cooke, Thom Machar, Larry Piechowiak, John Rozmarynowski, Robert Phipps, Marie DiCola, Joann Reddinger, Baby Ryan Martin, Sheila Sillasen, Richard Rosberil, Karen Styler, Sarah Burket and Mark Pennington.** The names will remain in the bulletin for two weeks. Please call the Parish office for more information. If you have a special intention you would like remembered in prayer, please call Lillian Neptune @ 216.662.5464.



Our sincere sympathy and prayers are extended to the family and friends of **Mary Stradiot, Barbara Storme, Ursula Strauss and Joseph Glowik** who were buried this past week. May they and all our dearly departed, rest in peace.



Join us this week for Coffee & Donuts after 8:00 and 10:00 masses. **Hosting will be members of the Catholic War Vets / Catholic War Vets Auxiliary.** There will be NO social over the Holidays. **The next social will be January 7th.** Hosting will be members of the Athletics Assoc.

### Religion Question of the Week

Who are the "Laity" of the Church?

### Did You Know?

Did you know that the track around the ball fields on our parish grounds is one half mile in walking distance?

### One Liner

"Laugh a lot, and the wrinkles you receive later in life will be in the right places".

Answer to the Religion question of the week located on page 4 of this bulletin, under the collections.

**The Parish Office will Close at 4:00pm on Friday, Dec. 22nd and will reopen on Wednesday, Dec. 27th at 8:00am. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you. Merry Christmas!!**

### A Very Special Shepherd Celebrates Midnight Mass

As the shepherds came to adore the newborn Savior at the first Christmas, Saint Monica's parishioners will have a very special Shepherd as the main presider at the Midnight Mass this Christmas. Bishop Martin Amos, recently retired from the Diocese of Davenport, Iowa, will be the main celebrant and also will join us here during the Christmas holidays. Bishop Amos is a "Cleveland native" with deep roots in our diocese where he served as an auxiliary bishop from 2001 to 2006, and then was appointed as the eighth bishop of Davenport, Iowa from 2006 to 2017. We extend a warm welcome to Bishop Amos for the Christmas Season and celebrate his presence as a true "Christmas gift"!

### Christmas is Special for Children and so is the 4:00 pm Vigil Mass

Over the last three years, the 4:00 pm Mass has had a special focus for the children and it will be no different this year. Please consider celebrating this '4:00 Vigil Mass' that will allow the family to worship early enough to have dinner, set out the cookies and milk for Santa, and head off to bed before the reindeer fly! **The children-friendly presentation will take place after the Gospel.** We look forward to having your family join us in welcoming the Infant Savior and the 'Reason for the Season' who is Jesus!



**Oplatky is now available at the Parish Office. Cost is \$1.00 for a package of two.**

## Pastoral Scene

### Savor the Moment

I spoke briefly about moments worth savoring in my last Pastoral Scene, "Sing It Like You Believe It," and basically suggested that most of these experiences are few and far between. However, as I thought more about this particular topic, I found myself retracing the last forty or so years that my ministerial career has spanned. I was actually taken back by the sizable number of memorable moments that had taken place. I recalled the faces of many friends and neighbors, some still with us and many who no longer walk this earthly plain – and brought to mind the significant events that we shared – and that in hind-sight, I apparently savor.

Maybe the old adage, "youth is wasted on the young," holds a bit of truth. In the brashness of my youth, I didn't see the significance of such meetings or events. As I have gotten a little older, I've come to realize that in some ways, I'm just beginning to understand and savor many of those chapters in my story – many of which hold important life-lessons.

Not long ago, I attended an event called the St. Cecilia Sing. It was a large gathering of musicians from across the Diocese of Cleveland, who came together to make music in honor of St. Cecilia (the patroness of music). Experiencing the joy of being together and making music in celebration was a very moving experience. Again, the key was that we all wanted to be there (to some degree or another), we all slowed down for the moment and took time for ourselves, and we all sang it like we believed it.

I have a dear friend who has said on many occasions, "We run from one thing, to another to the next - and it's only at certain times that we're challenged to stop and reflect on our lives. Do I tell those who are truly close to me that I love them, or do I just assume that they know it? Is there someone to whom I owe an apology or need to accept an apology from?" The quote's a little loose, but I think you get the idea.

Society is quickly spinning out of control, and many times each of us come dangerously close to getting sucked into that vortex. How do we combat this situation? My suggestion: Take time to savor the *moments*."

Bob Soeder

### Winterfest Donations

Once again we are asking for any donations for our Chinese Raffle for Winterfest which will be held on Saturday, January 13th and Sunday, January 14th 2018. Anyone who does any sewing, knitting, crocheting, painting, wood work and crafting of any kind, donations would be greatly appreciated! Tickets to plays, movies and sporting events would be wonderful. If you would like to donate any gift cards of any kind or an item that best highlights your business we would gladly accept that too! Lastly if you would like to donate money to help us make some great baskets...well we would be grateful for that as well!

Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office during regular business hours. Please make sure you let them know it is for Winterfest and don't forget to leave your name so we can properly thank you! If you need to make arrangements to have it picked up we can do that too! Call Bill Noyes at 216-912-8679 and he will be happy to pick it up!



### Questions of Faith: Do Angels really exist?

In the Creed at Mass we profess our belief that God created everything that is both seen and unseen. Among the unseen are Angels.

Angels are pure spirits which means they have no bodies. They perform various ministries in their relation to God. The most famous Angels are the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael who are mentioned in the Bible. All of us have a Guardian Angel sent by God to help us live a life worthy of God's calling.

There are also other angelic beings called "demons" or "devils". They are angels who rebelled against God, and forever are at enmity with Him. They are permitted by God to roam the earth, and they cause much evil in our lives.

In our 21<sup>st</sup> century culture, there are many persons who do not believe in Angels or devils. That is a shame, because they do exist. Our responsibility is to pray to our angels and ask for their help as needed. Our other responsibility is to be aware that there are devils who are out there trying to tear us away from God. We should pray to God in order to ward off the evil they inflict on the world around us.

Angels do exist! For a more fulfilled life we should pay attention to this Belief of our Catholic Faith.

Fr. Thomas Haren

### CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone who went to Chipotle on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> to help support our new Wellness Ministry. We should be receiving a check from Chipotle for over \$375.00. Your support is appreciated!



### ST. MONICA SENIOR GROUP

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS! COME JOIN THE SENIORS ON JAN. 9TH IN THE ST. AUGUSTINE ROOM (lower level of the school) FOR OUR FIRST MEETING AT 2 PM. THERE WILL BE REFRESHMENTS AND FUN FILLED GAMES TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR. WISH YOU ALL A BLESSED 2018 AND HOPE TO SEE YOU ON TUESDAY.

### Night with the Cleveland Monsters!



Join us for an evening with the Cleveland Monsters on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Game time begins at 7:00 pm. Just in time for a great family outing! As an added bonus, 15 people from our group will have the opportunity to sit on the Monsters bench during their warm up time. See the flyer for more details about the evening and how to order. Ticket order forms are available at the Parish Office, in the bulletin, and on our website. In addition, every Friday Night Game is a "1-2-3 Friday" where fans can enjoy \$1 Pepsi products, \$2 Sugar-dale hotdogs and \$3 draft beer specials.



## Stewardship

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION Dec. 9 / Dec. 10

Regular Sunday Envelopes	\$ 7,894.00
St. Monica Fund	\$ 490.00
Children's Envelopes	\$ 30.00
Retirement For The Religious	\$ 2,446.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 1,953.00

### Answer to This Week's Religion Question

Who are the "Laity" of the Church?

Answer: The "Laity" are all Baptized Catholics who are not ordained as Priests, and who do not belong to a religious state that is approved by the Catholic Church.

*To help build an endowment fund, please consider remembering St. Monica Church in your Will.*



### Third Grade

Our third graders have been busy discussing what they are thankful for. So many of them are thankful for their families, friends, and God. Using what they are thankful for, they are working on creating multiple paragraph writing pieces! They have been very successful with this and seem to be enjoying expressing themselves through writing. We are continuing to improve our reading skills by going back in the text to find "text evidence" and showing that they understand what they have read. Multiplication concepts have been introduced, and I must say that these students are impressive! They are understanding multiplication and grasping the strategies to solve these problems. We are looking forward to mastering the multiplication facts and understanding division. Each day we are seeing that God is at work here with our special third graders; they are showing kindness to their friends, being helpful, trying their best to follow the school rules, and working on becoming successful in their school work.



## Parish Activities

### MONDAY, December 18

- 4:00 Athletic Practice (g)
- 7:00 Festival of Praise with Reconciliation (+)

### TUESDAY, December 19

- 4:00 Athletic Practice (g)
- 6:00 Bible Study (F)
- 6:45 SVDP Mtg. (p.o. kitchen)
- 6:45 Boy Scouts (c)
- 7:00 MH K of C Mtg (AR)

### WEDNESDAY, December 20

- 3:00 Board Game Club (AR)
- 4:00 Athletic Practice (g)
- 8:00 Ushers Meeting (c)

### THURSDAY, December 21

- 4:00 Athletic Practice (g)
- 6:30 Guild Mtg (c)

### FRIDAY, December 22

- 4:00 Athletic Practice (g)

### SATURDAY, December 23

- 7:30 Men of the Vine (ocu1&2)

### SUNDAY, December 24

Christmas Eve

### NIGHT AT THE RACES

ST. BENEDICT ATHLETICS WILL BE HOSTING ITS ANNUAL NIGHT AT THE RACES ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2018, IN THE SCHOOL GYM. TICKETS ARE \$20 AND HORSES ARE \$25 AND ARE ON SALE NOW. THERE IS ALSO ADVERTISING AVAILABLE IN OUR RACING PROGRAM. CONTACT ALYS RADOSEVIC AT 216.319.6832 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TICKETS. SEE YOU IN THE WINNERS CIRCE!!



### Youth Mass

The next Saint Martin and Saint Monica Youth Mass and Activity is December 17. For this date we will be meeting in the mobile unit for Mass and Activity. Mass will be at 6:30 pm.

### Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship



Girls and Boys age 10 to 14, you are invited to participate in a basketball free throw competition, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Councils #4130 and #5106. You do not need to be on a basketball team to participate! All you need is a parent (or guardian, friends parent, coach, any adult) and a non-perishable food item for the hunger center! Winners will continue on to the District and State competition, times to be announced.

**When:** Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 **Time:** 6:00 pm

**Where:** St. Benedict's Gym

13633 Rockside Road, Garfield Hts., Ohio 44125

Questions? John Kevern @ 216 536 1895 or Ben Welich @ 216 663 0570.

Please Remember Your Food Donation



**Readings for the Week of December 17, 2017**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
<b>Monday</b>	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
<b>Tuesday</b>	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
<b>Wednesday</b>	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church</b> Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
<b>Friday</b>	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Saint John of Kanty, Priest</b> Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38 Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**St. Martin of Tours will be having their Annual Christmas Concert in the church, Sunday, December 17 at 7:00 pm. Raine Austen and Dave Millen will be joined by David Pratt on vocals, Frank Restifo on guitar with Allana Restifo on violin.**

**Merry Christmas from your friends at AM 1260 The Rock!**

Make your Christmas more meaningful by joining AM 1260 The Rock for a variety of special programming on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day from EWTN celebrating this joyous season! For the complete schedule visit, [www.am1260therock.com](http://www.am1260therock.com).

**40 Days for Life National Update**

The 40 days for Life national team has released the amazing results of the 2017 Spring Campaign that was conducted in 375 cities in 24 countries. As a result of their prayers, 693 were not aborted, there are now 16 more workers that have experienced conversion and have quit their job in the abortion industry. The cumulative results of 10 years of 40 DFL campaigns conducted in 741 cities in 47 countries stands at 13,998 babies lives saved from abortion, 170 abortion workers quit their jobs, and 90 abortion facilities have closed their doors!