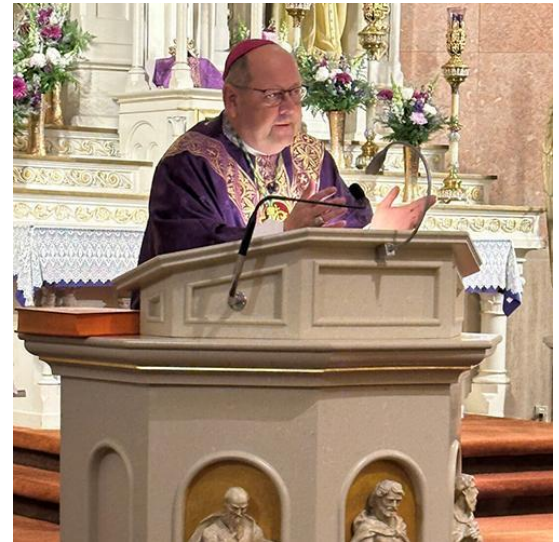


**St. Adalbert Parish, Berea marks 150 years as a faith family**

When St. Adalbert Parish was founded in 1873, Berea – established in 1836 -- was a young and growing community. The area was rich with sandstone and labor was needed to extract the stone, which resulted in a thriving industry by the early 1840s. German, Irish and Polish stonecutters from Europe – many Catholics -- made the long trip to settle in Berea.

After attending St. Mary Church, which was primarily Irish and German, the Polish immigrants wanted their own worship site, so on Dec. 4, 1873, St. Adalbert Church was organized by Father Victor Zareczny. About 100 families were members of the new parish.

[Read more>](#)



**Retirement Fund  
for Religious**

**Please give to those who have given a lifetime.  
Donate at your local parish December 9-10.**



## [A message to the Jewish community in Northeast Ohio from Bishop Malesic](#)

At this extraordinarily challenging time in the history of the Jewish people, I join my prayers with those of the Diocese of Cleveland's Catholic community for peace in your homeland, especially during this special time of Hanukkah. Now, more than ever, we need to reflect the love, unity and peace of God to all the world, increasing the bonds of faith and family, and stand against the rising tide of antisemitism.

May your burdens be lifted and your hearts be brightened as you mark the lighting of another lamp on the Menorah each night, commemorating the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem so long ago by Judas Maccabeus.

[Read more>](#)



## [Disability Services & Ministries takes a 'Journey to Bethlehem'](#)

A popular pre-Christmas event, the 38th annual Journey to Bethlehem, drew an enthusiastic group to St. Ladislav Church in Westlake on Dec. 2.

Presented by Disabilities Services & Ministries, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland, the Journey to Bethlehem included a Mass and reception. Auxiliary Bishop emeritus Roger Gries, OSB returned as celebrant. He said it's one of his favorite liturgies of the year.

Father Mark Latcovich, who was installed last summer as St. Ladislav pastor, welcomed the event and attendees.

[Read more>](#)





### [Archbishop Broglio comes 'home' to celebrate with young adults of diocese](#)

A special guest made the Global Celebration of Youth and Young Adults even more meaningful in the Diocese of Cleveland this year. The celebration took place on the feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, which is the last Sunday of the liturgical year.

Archbishop Timothy Broglio, who shepherds the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA and is serving as president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, celebrated the vigil Mass on Nov. 25 in the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. He also attended a post-Mass reception in the cathedral rectory.

[Read more>](#)

A photograph of several students in school uniforms sitting at a desk and studying. They are looking down at their books and papers.

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## [Orroyo brings 'Christmas Merry and Bright' concert to Playhouse Square](#)

Raymond Orroyo, an award-winning broadcaster and New York Times best-selling author, will appear in a holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 15 at the KeyBank State Theatre in Cleveland's Playhouse Square.

The show, "Raymond Arroyo Christmas Merry and Bright," will feature his Big Band New Orleans Jazz Players. Arroyo's vocals will be augmented with a touch of humor and the jazz sound of the accompanying musicians as they perform a collection of Christmas standards.

[Read more>](#)

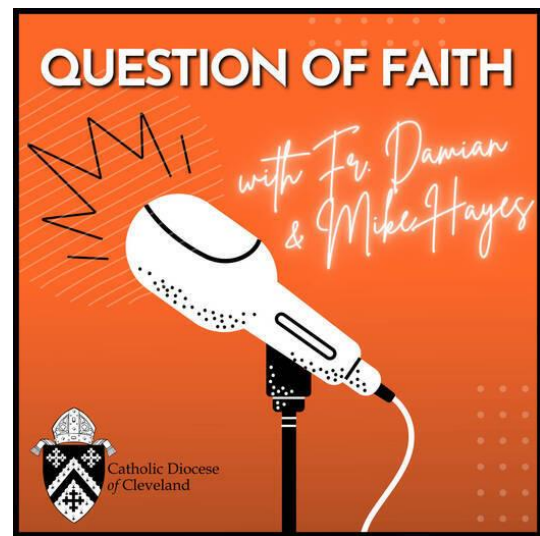


## [Scripture reflection: First Sunday of Advent](#)

In his weekly Scripture reflection, Bishop Edward Malesic writes about beginning a new liturgical year and shifting the readings from Cycle A to Cycle B. He points out the readings for this liturgical year will focus on the Gospel of St. Mark. In the Gospel for the First Sunday of Advent, St. Mark looks at the final return, or the second coming of Jesus, warning us to be watchful since we do not know the day nor the hour when Jesus will return. This refers not only to the end of time, but for Jesus' return for us at the end of our lives.

Read the entire reflection [here](#).





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## And finally...

Did you know that Dec. 8 is the [solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary](#) – and a [holy day of obligation](#), which means Catholics are obligated to attend Mass?

This session of [Nine Nights of Night Prayer](#) will conclude at 8:15 p.m. Dec. 8, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. An ice cream social featuring a new flavor, “Mary, Undoer of Knots,” will take place after prayer at each participating church. Click [here](#) for a list of the nine host parishes.

Those who are experiencing grief or struggling with loss during the holiday season are invited to attend a Blue Christmas prayer service. [Our Lady Queen of Peace](#) Parish’s Ministry of Comfort and Healing will host a service at 7 p.m. Dec. 13 in the church, 708 Erie St., Grafton. Other services will take place at 7 p.m. Dec. 21 at [St. Joan of Arc Parish](#), 496 E. Washington St., Chagrin Falls; [St. Mary Parish](#), 340 N. Main St., Hudson; and [St. Francis Xavier Parish](#), 606 E. Washington St., Medina. Contact the parish for more details.

Remember that this weekend, Dec. 9-10, a special collection will be taken nationally – including throughout the diocese – for the [Retirement Fund for Religious](#) to help meet the retirement and health care needs of aging members of religious communities. Among communities from the [Cleveland Diocese](#) that received support from last year’s collection are the [Sisters of Notre Dame](#), [Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland](#), [Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine](#) and [Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament](#). The collection was launched in 1988 by what is now known as the [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops](#), which oversees the [National Religious Retirement Office](#). Click [here](#) for more information.

[St. Aloysius/St. Agatha Parish](#) will have its annual Live Nativity 6-8 p.m. Dec. 14 on the parish grounds, 10932 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland. All are welcome. The program will include Foxx & Company Band, the [St. Aloysius School](#) Gospel Chorus, [St. Adalbert School](#) altar servers, Diocesan Praise Dancers from [St. Agnes/Our Lady of Fatima](#) and [Holy Spirit parishes](#). Live animals will be on hand including a donkey, sheep, goats and a camel as part of the Nativity scene. Event organizers said there will be cookies, cocoa and neighborhood hospitality.

And finally, [St. Ladislav Parish](#) will have a Christmas concert as part of its 50th anniversary celebration at 7 p.m. Dec. 10 in the church, 2345 Bassett Road, Westlake. Admission is free. Refreshments will follow the concert. Reservations would be appreciated. Call 440-835-2300.

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