

# St. Remy Catholic Church

~January 9, 2022~



## THE BAPTISM *of the Lord*

"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16bc

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

# SCHEDULES, EVENTS & DAILY READINGS

## MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 8-16

- 08 Sat:** 5:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Barb Cordonnier Family
- 09 Sun:** 7:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Parish  
9:00 a.m. Rhomane & Rosemary Bulcher  
11:00 a.m. Nancy Wood (Birthday) & Bob Schaub
- 10 Mon:** 8:15 a.m. Leon Ruhenkamp
- 11 Tues:** 8:15 a.m. Brian Richard  
9:00 a.m. Confession (Father Fox)
- 12 Wed:** 5:00 p.m. Confession (Father Fox)  
6:15 p.m. Firmin, Theresa, & Bob Alexander
- 13 Thurs:** 8:15 a.m. For Vocations  
3:00 p.m. Confession (Father Fox)  
3:10 p.m. Children's Eucharistic Adoration  
7:00 p.m. Confession (Father Fox)
- 14 Fri:** 8:15 a.m. Francis Hoying
- 15 Sat:** 8:15 a.m. Gus, Lavera, & James Pleiman  
9:00 a.m. Confession (Father Fox)  
3:30 p.m. Confession (Father Fox)  
5:00 p.m. Ed & Jackie Barlage
- 16 Sun:** 7:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Parish  
9:00 a.m. Paul & Erna Voisard  
10:30 a.m. Confession (Father Fox)  
11:00 a.m. Randy Marchal

*O Lord, my God, you are great indeed! You are clothed with majesty and glory.* ~From today's Psalm

## MINISTRY SCHEDULES FOR THE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 15-16

### SERVERS

- 5:00 p.m. Andrew O'Dell & Mackenzie Rose  
7:30 a.m. Sheldon Pohlman & Sam Prenger  
9:00 a.m. Elijah Cordonnier, Ben & Nathan York, Michael Bell, Zeb & Eli Borchers  
11:00 a.m. Chase Stueve & Jayden Gaerke

### LECTORS

- 5:00 p.m. Danielle Francis  
7:30 a.m. Scott Borchers  
9:00 a.m. Joan Bergman  
11:00 a.m. Angie Heaton

### DISTRIBUTORS

- 5:00 p.m. Carrie Heuing  
7:30 a.m. Ron DeLoye  
9:00 a.m. Jana Francis  
11:00 a.m. Kathy Nichols

### COLLECTION COUNTERS

Barney & Sonja Francis, Karen Doseck

*After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."*

~From today's Gospel



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** is held every Thursday, beginning at the conclusion of the 8:15 a.m. Mass, and ending with Benediction at 8:30 p.m.

### WEEKLY RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

- Tuesday: 9:00—9:15 a.m.  
Wednesday: 5:00—6:10 p.m.  
Thursday: 3:00—4:00 p.m., 7:00—8:20 p.m.  
Saturday: 9:00—10:00 a.m., 3:30—4:45 p.m.  
Sunday: 10:30—10:50 a.m.

### REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

- Knights of Columbus—3rd Monday of the month (January 17) at 8:00 p.m. in the parish office basement.
- Children's Adoration—every Thursday from 3:10-4:15.
- Pastoral Advisory Council—4th Tuesday of every other month (January 25) at 7:00 p.m. in the parish office basement.
- St. Vincent de Paul Society—2nd Wednesday of the month (January 12) at 7:00 p.m. at the Russia Library.
- Catholic War Veterans—3rd Wednesday of the month (January 19) at 8:00 p.m. at the CWV Hall.
- Patriotic Rosary—will be prayed every Tuesday at 7:45 a.m., as well as on the 1st Friday of the month (February 4) following the 7:00 a.m. Mass.
- Blessing for Expectant Mothers—will take place in church following the 11:00 Mass on the first Sunday of the month.

## READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

- This Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11 The Baptism of the Lord  
Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7  
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
- Monday:** 1 Sm 1:1-8  
Mk 1:14-20
- Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:9-20  
Mk 1:21-28
- Wednesday:** 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20  
Mk 1:29-39
- Thursday:** 1 Sm 4:1-11 St. Hillary  
Mk 1:40-45
- Friday:** 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a  
Mk 2:1-12
- Saturday:** 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1 Blessed Virgin Mary  
Mk 2:13-17
- Next Sunday:** Is 62:1-5 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
1 Cor 12:4-11  
Jn 2:1-11

# WHAT DOES FATHER FOX SAY?

***Thanks for your prayers! I feel better.*** Between Christmas and January 1, I came down with a virus. My Covid test was negative. Whatever it was, it seemed a slight nuisance until early Friday morning, when I was feeling much worse. My staff – who had some deserved time off – had to wheel into action to get priests lined up at the last minute. I usually do that myself, and I know how hard it has gotten to line up priests, even with weeks of notice. Thanks to Father Baker, Vonderhaar, Zink, and Batts (all retired), plus Father Eric Wood (who was visiting family) for covering Masses from Friday evening through Sunday morning. I was back at daily Mass on Tuesday.

***This was an uncomfortable reminder of why changes are coming.*** I know people aren't happy about "Beacons of Light" creating new families of parishes, and I realize there is a lot of uncertainty. More on that below. But let me point out: what happened last weekend showed everyone how fragile our situation is. Our retired priests are tremendously generous, and this time, everything worked. But one of these weekends, when I get sick again (100% certain, sooner or later), we won't be so fortunate. One of these weekends, the parish staff will put out a last-minute announcement, via email and social media, telling you that one, two, or even all Masses are cancelled.

When I worked in Virginia, before the seminary, we sometimes had a must-do project that required "all hands on deck." The group I worked for, the National Right to Work Committee, would sometimes have to rush a mass mailing involving millions of pieces of mail out the door, and that meant lots of people working late hours to make it all happen.

***Lots of employers know what I'm going to say next:*** Such experiences are valuable because: (1) they tell you what your staff can do or what your organization is capable of in a high-stress situation; (2) you will inevitably discover some weakness that you can later address; and (3) your staff gains confidence and cohesion because it successfully pulled off a big rush project. This is all good. However, it would be foolish to run an organization that way on a routine basis: you will wear out your staff, people become cynical, and you lose valuable employees.

Why do I tell this story? Because this is the situation with priests in the archdiocese, and it has been the reality for a long while. Yet it is invisible to 99% of Catholics who go to Mass weekly, and that was by design! Until "Beacons of Light," the direction higher-ups in Cincinnati gave to parish priests was precisely to keep everything going along with minimal disruption as if there were plenty of priests and always would be. Believe me, I know all this is upsetting, but one way to see it more positively is that Archbishop Schnurr pulled back the curtain and let you see the whole situation for yourself. That's a healthy thing.

***I'm sorry I can't answer some questions, but don't hesitate to ASK.*** This is frustrating, but I can't help it. I truly want every parishioner to feel totally free to ask me ANYTHING about parish business and, specifically, about "Beacons of Light." But at the same time, there are questions I can't answer yet. Over Christmas, I know I frustrated some parishioners who were pressing me on several Beacons of Light issues, and I repeated variations of "I don't know" or "Be patient."

Until it's determined who will be pastor, and until all seven parishes in the new "family" are included in the planning, it is terribly imprudent for me to speculate. In fact, it is likely to cause harm, because anything I or any of the priests say about topics like Mass schedules is guaranteed to be repeated everywhere. Also guaranteed, it will come out like this: "Did you hear? The priest in Russia has already decided to do such-and-such, without us even being included."

***The more any of us priests speculate about future arrangements, the worse we make it.*** I do understand everyone wants to know, but I beg of you, be patient. We'll all know more in the next few weeks and months. It won't really be that long before EVERYONE in the seven parishes will be asked to give input – and some folks are always skeptical and cynical and say, "The fix is in." And the chattier I am now, the worse that negativity will be later.

—Father Fox  
StRemyPastor@gmail.com  
(937)526-3437

# LIVE YOUR FAITH



The family receiving the **TRAVELING VOCATION CHALICE** this Sunday is Mike and Sara Stueve. The family receiving it the week of January 16 is Jeff and Carrie Siegrist. Please pick up the chalice from the table inside the rectory door after Mass on Sunday, and return it to the same place the following Friday.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BRING THE TRAVELING VOCATION CHALICE AND RELATED MATERIALS INTO YOUR HOME?** Please see the binder in the back of church to sign up. This is a great tool to encourage vocations in your home, as well as to pray for our priests and for more vocations.



**LEARN NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING** at home and at your own pace with the Home Study Course from NFP International. The study includes ecological breastfeeding, a double-check system of fertility awareness, and Catholic teaching that's easy to understand. Work with a live instructor by email! The study is only \$70. Visit [www.nfpandmore.org](http://www.nfpandmore.org) and click on "Home Study Course" for more information.

**SHELBY COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE'S ANNUAL CANDLE LIGHT VIGIL** will be held on Thursday, January 20 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the Shelby County Courthouse. This event is held in commemoration of the anniversary of Roe v. Wade and the millions of lives lost to abortion since that time. There will be a speaker, a time of prayer, and an outdoor candlelight procession, followed by a send-off for the buses headed to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. For more information, please see the Shelby County Right to Life website at [www.shelbycountyrtil.org](http://www.shelbycountyrtil.org).

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN GREENVILLE** is accepting applications for a school principal, as Mr. Vern Rosenbeck is retiring at the end of this school year. Interested individuals are asked to visit the school's website at <https://www.smsgvl.com> to obtain a job description and to view the application process.



**ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH ALCOHOL ISSUES?** You and your family don't have to face it alone. Call the Alcoholics Anonymous 24 hour hotline at (937)622-1294 or the Dayton central office at (937)222-2211. They are there to help. Remember their motto: "If you want to drink, that is your business. If you want to stop drinking, that is our business."

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY



We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

## Encouragement from Catholic Radio Host Jon Leonetti



If you want to make this the best year of your life, you're not going to be able to do it without God. I'm a big fan of New Year's resolutions. I make them every year. Sometimes I accomplish them, and sometimes I don't. They're always different, they're always new, and I have a lot of fun with them. But the one constant resolution for us all is

to deepen our prayer life with God. I don't know of a better New Year's resolution than that, quite frankly. The way that's going to happen is going to be up to you and Him. But we've got to put our focus THERE this year. Don't think you've got to start praying like a cloistered monk overnight either. But something—anything—you can do to strengthen your prayer life will make this year, no matter what happens, a good year. And it CAN happen. God wants that deeper relationship with you and me. He knows the potential and is ready to give us all the grace to make it happen. So start there in prayer: "Lord, help me to strengthen my relationship with You. Lord, direct me in the way You want me to deepen my prayer life with You." Start there, and let's put our focus on prayer. Happy 2022 everyone! God bless you.



**THE CINCINNATI MEN'S CONFERENCE** will be hosting two amazing speakers this year: Jim Caviezel ("Jesus" from The Passion of the Christ), and Raymond Arroyo (EWTN and FOX News). Don't miss the opportunity to

hear them share their messages of strength and encouragement on Saturday, April 2 at the Fifth Third Arena on the University of Cincinnati campus. UC head football coach Luke Fickell will also be speaking at this year's conference, which is themed "Evil Prevails When Good Men Do Nothing." To view the promo video and order tickets, visit [www.CincinnatiMensConference.com](http://www.CincinnatiMensConference.com). Get your family and friends together to take in this amazing event!

If your group or organization would like to **REQUEST FUNDS FROM THE PROCEEDS OF THE RUSSIA PICNIC**, please submit your request in writing and mail it or drop it off at the parish office at 108 E. Main Street. Be sure to include the name of the organization and what the funds would be used to purchase. All requests should be received by Tuesday, January 18.



**THE MONTHLY LUNCH FOR THE 70ish AND OLDER CROWD** will be held on Tuesday, January 18 at 11:30 a.m. at the St. Joseph's Village Centre. Please RSVP by calling the parish office at (937) 526-3437 by Monday, January 17.



# LIVE YOUR FAITH

## Bulletin Sponsor of the Week



This week's featured sponsor is  
**THE CORNERSTONE SHOP.**

The store, located on State Route 66 in New Bremen, offers Christian books, home décor, jewelry, Rosaries, Baptismal gifts, nativity pieces, crucifixes, and Lent and Advent items. Open Monday-Friday from 9:00-8:00 and Saturday from 9:00-5:00, they can be reached at (419)629-3472. Stop in today to pick up a gift for someone special!

We extend a sincere thank you to all of the businesses that advertise on the back cover of our bulletin. Their sponsorship covers the church's entire expenses in printing the bulletins each week. Please call on these businesses when you are looking for products and services.

## From the Deacon's Desk

*The following article was written by Deacon Mike Meyer.*

Today is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which marks the end of the Christmas Season. It is a good time to review what Baptism means for us. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains that there are five "fruits of Baptism." They include:

**In Baptism, all sin, both original and personal, is forgiven.** After Baptism, any mortal sins must be confessed. Through Baptism, we "put on Christ" and choose His way. Do our lives reflect the sanctity and purity of Jesus Christ?

**Baptism makes us a new creature, that is, a Child of God and a temple of the Holy Spirit.** If our Baptism has made us new, are we choosing to live and walk as temples of the Holy Spirit in the light of Christ? As a "new creature," we are given the gift of grace, participation in the life of God. We are given the virtues of faith, hope, and love and the ability to grow in goodness. Do we choose to live as an "old creature," or as a Child of God?

**Baptism makes us members of the Body of Christ, the Church.** No longer are we alone, but we are united to Jesus and His People, a Body that transcends time, place, and nation. Through Baptism, we become "priests" to offer our sufferings, work, families, and friendships to God. We become "prophets" to proclaim the Word of God by our words and deeds. We become "kings" to lead others to Jesus and to provide for those in need. How can we recommit ourselves as priests, prophets, and kings?

**Baptism brings us into communion with Christians.** Through Baptism, we share a bond of unity with all those who bear the name Christian. Mindful of this, are we praying that all of Jesus' disciples might be fully united in His true Church as one flock?

**Baptism configures us to Christ, claims us as Christ's own, and indelibly marks us.** When we are Baptized, we receive an indelible mark on our soul. This seal of the Christian life can never be erased, even when we fall into sin. Do we strive to proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Savior? Do we long for Heaven as our ultimate happiness and trust in Christ's promises to attain it?



**THE NEXT BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS** will be held on Saturday, January 15 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the St. Joseph Village Centre (formerly called the Gathering Place). The next opportunity to take the class will be in April. Parents are required to attend a class before the Baptism of their child. Call Steven and Regina Schulze at 638-3642 to register or for more information.

Please remember to pray for the people listed in the St. Remy Prayer Intentions Book located in the back of church.

# RUSSIA COMMUNITY NEWS



**A BLOOD DRIVE** will be held on Tuesday, January 11 from 12:30-6:30 p.m. at St. Remy Hall. Please bring a photo ID, or your CBC Donor ID card if available. For more information or to schedule your critically needed blood donation, please call (937)461-3220 or visit [www.donortime.com](http://www.donortime.com). Platelet and plasma appointments are also available. Come out and give the gift of life!

**THE TRAVELING FOOD PANTRY** will be located behind St. Remy Church on Saturday, January 15 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. Volunteers and nonperishable food donations are always welcome. For more information, please call Marie Daugherty at (937)564-6360.

**A CWV CHICKEN FRY** will be held at their hall on Kelch Road on Friday, January 14, beginning at 4:30 p.m. and ending when sold out. All are welcome!



**THE CLAIR C. NAVEAU GYM IS OPEN TO WALKERS** Monday through Friday from 8:05 a.m.—10:40 a.m., as well as from 12:40 p.m.—1:25 p.m. on these days. Come in out of the chilly weather and stay fit!

# CCD & YOUTH MINISTRY



## Attention All Adults of the Parish:

Due to so many of our catechists being unable to teach CCD from week to week due to sickness during this time of the year, we are seeking individuals who would be willing to come in as a sub for students in grades 7-12 on Wednesday nights. Classes meet from 7:00-8:00 p.m. If you can help by volunteering occasionally on Wednesday evenings, please contact Karen Rosenbeck at [stremydre@roadrunner.com](mailto:stremydre@roadrunner.com).



## Second Grade Retreat

Speaker and author John Wood will be coming to Russia to facilitate our Second Grade Retreat for all second graders preparing for their First Holy Communion and their parents. This high-energy interactive retreat is mandatory and will be held on Sunday, January 16 from 12:30-3:30 p.m. at Russia Local School in the commons area.



## Polar Bear Volleyball

All high school students are welcome to participate in our first ever Polar Bear Volleyball Tournament on Monday, January 17 (Martin Luther King Day) at 1:00 p.m. in the park. Teams will be established once everyone arrives. Dress warm and join us for hot chocolate and a campfire! Students are encouraged to bring gently used winter coats and newly purchased socks and gloves that will be donated to a local homeless shelter. Invite your friends!



## Come to "Rosary and Doughnuts" Before School

All high school students are invited to come to church to pray the Rosary together before school on Friday, January 14. Please meet in church at 7:15 a.m. Following the Rosary, we will head to the parish office basement for doughnuts and beverages. Don't miss this great way to start the day with your friends!



## Steubenville Update

The annual Steubenville Youth Conference for high school students will be held July 15-17. To reserve your spot for this popular event, please submit a \$50 check made out to St. Remy Church by January 31. Checks may be turned in at the parish office during regular business hours or may be slid under the door to the office any time.



## Events for Boys

- Knights of St. Michael (grades 1-3) will meet on Monday, January 10 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at school.
- Knights of Our Lady (grades 4-6) will meet on Monday, January 17 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at school.



## Events for Girls

- ◆ Little Handmaids (grades 1-3) will meet on Monday, January 10 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the parish office basement.
- ◆ Daughters of the Immaculate Heart (grades 4-6) will meet on Monday, January 17 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the parish office basement.

# Life Information For Everyone

## 2020 Vision

**While last year revealed our spiritual blind spots, prayer is the key to restoring perfect 20/20 vision.**

*The following article was written by Sister Deirdre Byrne, MD, and was found in "Day 41" magazine, a publication of 40 Days for Life.*



In 2020, ironically, it became obvious that our vision is not clear. For much of the year, many Christians under coronavirus restrictions were unable to go to church. Catholics were deprived of the sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and confession. The grace of God we receive through our worship and our participation in the sacraments allows us to stay in a state of grace, helping us to see precisely. But as 2020 wore on and churches remained shuttered, I grew concerned that "Covid cataracts" had blinded many of our faithful.

In particular, I worried that many well-meaning folks were being misled by politicians campaigning for elected office as Catholics, while trying to cover up that they were running on the most anti-life platform in U.S. history. Troubled by what I was seeing, I begged God to allow me to be a voice and an instrument for

defending human life. God answered that plea by providing me the opportunity to speak at [a 2020 National Convention]. While the event was political, I used the platform to remind viewers that the sanctity of human life transcends politics.

As a retired surgeon with the U.S. Army, I can assure you that life begins at conception. That is the science. As a religious sister, I remind you that God made each of us in His image and likeness and that we are commissioned to know, love, and serve Him. *That is our faith.* But as I said at the convention, I'm not just *pro-life*; I'm *pro-eternal life*.

Eternity is our ultimate goal. As Christians, the great news is that we are eternal in God's eyes. Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Supporting life here on earth—especially the most vulnerable (the unborn, the elderly, immigrants, the sick, the mentally ill, and the homeless)—is our doorway to Heaven. My time serving as both an Army colonel in Afghanistan and Egypt and as a missionary in Haiti, Kenya, Iraq, and Sudan introduced me to the poor, the sick, and those fleeing war-torn countries around the world. The sick I have cared for in mission countries have so very little. In Sudan, many lived under the stars and ate whatever they could catch. When they became ill, they had little medical support. But they are incredible and so grateful for whatever we could do to provide medical care for them. They were born innocently in poverty, totally dependent on the goodness of those caring for them.

It's folks like these whom we think about when we consider the poor and marginalized. But the unborn are also innocent, poor, and marginalized. The vast number of unborn babies killed in their mothers' wombs without any afterthought is horrifying—a perpetual slaughter of innocents beyond anything Herod could have imagined.

I fear for the souls of those blindly enforcing the death of children in the womb on a mass scale. Hell is real, and the individuals who support the destruction of children (and others) will only be saved by the grace of God. We must pray for them.

We cannot fight this battle on our own—this is a battle between our Lord and the devil. Many unfortunate souls are caught in the crossfire because they do not know Jesus. We are missionaries of Christ and we might be the only Light of Christ that those who are pro-death will ever experience. So be that light—never angry or judgmental. Remember, many who are pro-death support abortion because they themselves have experienced abortion (or someone close to them has). So, we must look on them with compassion and love. We cannot give them what we do not have. So, work first and foremost on your own prayer life. Build up your spiritual muscles. We must be rooted in prayer.

Churches are open again, so go. I encourage Catholics to spend time—even if for only five minutes—before the Most Blessed Sacrament. Blessed Francisco Maria Greco, our founder of the Little Workers of the Sacred Hearts, said, "It was before the Most Blessed Sacrament that I found that love of Jesus and the power of that love." That is also why the greatest weapon, the Rosary, will help overcome any fear or anxiety one might feel confronting the evil one.

Faith grows stronger on the front lines of a battle...and that is where we are. Stay hopeful because ultimately God is in charge, and He is far greater than the devil. We will win this battle between life and death.

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