

**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT — NOVEMBER 28, 2021**



**NATIVITY OF THE LORD JESUS**  
**2425 Myersville Road • Akron 44312**

PHONE: 330-699-5086

WEBSITE: [www.nativityofthelord.org](http://www.nativityofthelord.org)

## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday — 4:30 PM  
Sunday — 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM  
Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri — 8:00 AM

## CONFESSIONS

Saturday — 3:00 - 4:00 PM  
1st Tuesday — 6:00 - 6:45 PM  
Other times by appointment

## EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION/ ADORATION

Thursday — 12:00 - 7:00 PM  
Resources available in the Narthex.

## BAPTISM

Those expecting their first child are encouraged to attend preparation sessions before the birth. Godparents must be practicing Catholics. Contact Father Kawalec.

## MARRIAGE

Couples should contact Father Kawalec before any wedding plans have been made. Preparation begins at least six months before the marriage date.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Parish Life Night (PLN)  
Weekly - September-May.  
(Wednesdays 6:30-7:30PM)

## SPONSOR CERTIFICATE

May be obtained at the parish office by registered and active parishioners who are confirmed and, if married, in a valid Catholic marriage.

## R.C.I.A.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: a faith formation program for those interested in becoming Catholic. Contact Father Kawalec.

## PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

St. Francis de Sales School is available to Nativity children. Contact Fr. Kawalec before registering your child.

## BETHLEHEM CAVE AND NATIVITY MUSEUM

Tours are available year-round to the public. Contact Kathleen Conrad at 330-896-0565 or [tours@nativityofthelord.org](mailto:tours@nativityofthelord.org)

## OFFICE AND MUSEUM HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9:00AM – 4:00PM  
Mailboxes open until 8:00PM  
**PARISH PHONE: 330-699-5086**

## OHIO CATHOLIC CREDIT UNION

2720 S. Arlington Rd., Akron 44312  
1-888-696-4462  
[www.ohiocatholicfcu.com](http://www.ohiocatholicfcu.com)

## MISSION STATEMENT

*We are Nativity of the Lord Jesus Parish, a Roman Catholic Church, providing a gathering place for all in the name of Jesus Christ. We encourage the participation of each individual for the betterment of the parish and community.*

*We seek to give birth to Jesus Christ in the hearts of all people through loving service, Christian example, and Spiritual growth.*

*Serving southern Springfield Township and northern Green at the corner of Killian and Myersville Roads.*

## PARISH WEBSITE

[www.nativityofthelord.org](http://www.nativityofthelord.org)



## STAFF

Pastor:	Rev. Zachary Kawalec	<a href="mailto:father@nativityofthelord.org">father@nativityofthelord.org</a>
Parish Catechetical Leader:	Ada Honeck	<a href="mailto:nativitydre@">nativitydre@</a> “
Maintenance Director:	Kim Haas	<a href="mailto:maintenance@">maintenance@</a> “
Secretary/Assoc.Bookkeeper:	Helen Hershberger	<a href="mailto:office@">office@</a> “
Secretary:	Mary Ann Laston	<a href="mailto:secretary@">secretary@</a> “
Bookkeeper:	Karen Treen	<a href="mailto:books@">books@</a> “
Bulletin Editor:		<a href="mailto:bulletin@">bulletin@</a> “

## JOIN NATIVITY BY REGISTERING

[cleveland.parishsoftfamilysuite.com/](http://cleveland.parishsoftfamilysuite.com/)



## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Chairperson: Ed Eitner	330-524-2779	<a href="mailto:eeeitnersr@gmail.com">eeeitnersr@gmail.com</a>
Vice Chairperson: Betty Mitchell	330-644-2513	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.mitchell01@gmail.com">elizabeth.mitchell01@gmail.com</a>
Corres. Secretary: Tessa Miller	216-374-5233	<a href="mailto:mwmiller1969@gmail.com">mwmiller1969@gmail.com</a>
Youth Representative: Tessa Miller	216-374-5233	<a href="mailto:mwmiller1969@gmail.com">mwmiller1969@gmail.com</a>
Barb Whiddon	330-699-1470	<a href="mailto:bkwhiddon1@outlook.com">bkwhiddon1@outlook.com</a>
Mike Miller	216-374-5233	<a href="mailto:mwmiller1969@gmail.com">mwmiller1969@gmail.com</a>
George Cabe	330-204-1133	<a href="mailto:gjcstv@gmail.com">gjcstv@gmail.com</a>
Linda Cuckler	330-571-4382	<a href="mailto:lcuckler926@gmail.com">lcuckler926@gmail.com</a>
Raul Herrera	330-807-0690	<a href="mailto:raulherrerajr@yahoo.com">raulherrerajr@yahoo.com</a>

## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due Mondays by 10:00AM.  
Submit announcement and duration by email to [bulletin@nativityofthelord.org](mailto:bulletin@nativityofthelord.org) or in writing to the parish office.

**MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS**

**Sun. November 28**

8:30AM Pro Populo (For the People)  
11:00AM MaryAnn Traina/Carl & Family

**Mon. November 29**

8:00AM Jack Kelly/Lou Girard

**Tues. November 30 NO MASS**

**Wed. December 1**

8:00AM Pat Lutz/Friends & Family

**Thurs. December 2**

8:00AM Esther Waples/Gene Waples

**Fri. December 3**

8:00AM James Waples/Gene Waples

**Sat. December 4**

4:30PM St Mary's Seminarians/Janis Gallagher

**Sun. December 5**

8:30AM Joanne Glinsky/Jerry & Family  
11:00AM Pro Populo (For the People)

**OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS**

<b>NOVEMBER 14, 2021</b>	<b>NUMBER OF ENVELOPES 69</b>
TOTAL OFFERTORY	\$2,983.00
MAINTENANCE	\$ 250.00
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL & POOR BOXES	\$ 340.00

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND AND GENEROUS SUPPORT**

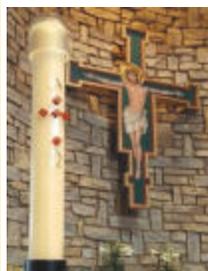
**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

*Names will be kept on this list for two months unless the office is notified. Names removed will be in prayer basket in church.*

Ann Schen	Nina Kennedy
Chuck Pritt	Norm Gilbert
Duane Davidson	Rose Kern
Gage Laston	Sarah Turner
John Shreve	Shelia Cumberlidle
Katherine Wallace	Sylvia Kless
Kennedy Brown	Tom Tuxill
Mary Davidson	<i>and all caregivers</i>
Marlene Rogacs	

**PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DECEASED**

*Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended, and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven. (Roman Missal)*



**Congratulations,** to Brian and Sarah Grafton on the Baptism of their daughter Amelia Jane. May the Lord bless them and surround them with His love.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28, 2021**

Sun: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b]/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36  
 Mon: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-1  
 Tues: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22  
 Wed: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37  
 Thurs: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27  
 Fri: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31  
 Sat: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8  
 Sun: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

**OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28, 2021**

Sun: 1st Sunday of Advent  
 Tues: St. Andrew, Apostle  
 Sat: St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church  
 Sun: 2nd Sunday of Advent ©LPi

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**Sun. November 28**  
**Mon. November 29**  
 Rosary after 8:00AM Mass (CH)  
 We Care Noon (V)  
 Scouts 7:00PM - 8:00PM (LL)  
**Tues. November 30**  
 Rosary for our Country 4:00PM (CH)  
 Building Committee 7:00PM (HF)  
 Night Prayer 8:15PM (CH)  
**Wed. December 1**  
 PLN 6:30-7:30PM (LL)  
 Creed & Catechism For Adults 6:30PM (HF)  
 Night Prayer 8:15PM (CH)  
**Thurs. December 2**  
 Bible Study 10-11:30AM (HF)  
 Adoration Noon-7:00PM (CH)  
 Eucharistic Bible Study 7:00PM (LL)  
 Ladies Guild 6:30PM (HF)  
 Night Prayer 8:15PM (CH)  
**Fri. December 3**  
 Bloodmobile 1:00-6:00PM (NH)  
 Night Prayer 8:15PM (CH)  
**Sat. December 4**  
 Confessions 3:00 - 4:00PM (CH)  
 Night Prayer 8:15PM (CH)

Church Open

Sun, Mon, Wed - Fri  
 7:30AM - 8PM  
 Tues 9AM - 8PM  
 Sat Noon - 8PM

Office Hours

Mon-Fri 9AM-4PM

*First Sunday of Advent:*

*As we begin Advent we are called to “wait” in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives. Wherever you live in our parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell.*



# Nativity News

**ROSARY FOR OUR COUNTRY** Please join us in prayer every Tuesday at 4:00PM in church. Pamphlets available on table inside the Weekday entrance door. If you have any questions, please call Barb Bergdorf at 330-714-6446 .

**ADORATION AND EXPOSITION** is every Thursday from noon—7:00PM in church. Materials are available in the Narthex for your use. *“Be still and know that I am God!”* (Psalms 46:11)

**Bible Study on The Eucharist** Join us as we explore the Old Testament roots and New Testament fulfillment of this mystery.

Thursdays: December 9 and 16, January 6, 13, 20, and 27 for the next months’ dates) directly after Eucharistic Adoration at 7:00 pm in the Holy Family Room.

**COMING to Nativity NOVEMBER 30th to DECEMBER 8** (Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary) — *Nine Nights of Night Prayer* sponsored by the Diocese of Cleveland’s Vocation Office. What a GREAT way to start the New Church Year! Plus a surprise treat on December 8th! Please mark your calendar and join us each evening!

## 200 CLUB WINNERS!

\$100 winner was Jeanne Lippe  
\$50 winner was Pat and Kim King  
\$25 winner was Father Kawalac  
\$25 winner was Dave and Barb Cvengros

*Congratulations!!*

## PARISH WINTER POLICY:



**REMINDER:** If Springfield Schools are closed due to inclement weather, then we will automatically CANCEL all morning events here at the parish as well as PLN for that evening, and the office will open at 12:00 Noon that day. PLEASE watch the local weather for Springfield School Closings!

## Cookie Sell-A-Bration

December 11 and 12 after all Masses

Get your recipes ready, get cracking those eggs, and help whip up an assortment of yumminess!

Help the Ladies’ Guild make this sale a success. Cookies can be dropped off in the church kitchen beginning December 9.

## ANNUAL PARISH GIVING TREE

Saint Vincent de Paul Society is again coordinating the parish Giving Tree!

We appreciate your enthusiasm and devotion to this program which is a beautiful reflection of our parish’s love for the Christ Child and one another.

The tree, in the Narthex, is filled with stars noting needed \$25 gift cards for nearby families in need. Please submit the noted gift card in an envelope with the star attached to the parish office by December 11th.

Springfield CARES, a volunteer organization also dedicated to helping our neighbors in the Springfield/Lakemore area, will then distribute the cards.



## KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS POSTER CONTEST

The Knights of Columbus annual poster contest will start on Wednesday Nov. 17th. The posters are due on Dec. 15. Posters may be dropped off at the parish office. Entry forms are available in the Narthex table by the ‘Weekday Entrance’ door: 3 age groups: 5-7 yrs., 8-10 yrs., and 11-14 yrs.



**On 18 November the Knights of Columbus Charles Reyman Council 4664 delivered 4 dozen coats to the Battered Women’s Shelter. Pictured is Ed Perko, Deputy Grand Knight.** (pictured right)

**Thank; to all for making it a success!**



# Community News

**PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR JESUS** with AM1260 The Rock. During the Holy Season of Advent, as we prepare for the Birth of Jesus Christ, AM 1260 The Rock will be broadcasting special programming throughout the Advent and Christmas season to enrich your celebration of the Nativity. Please visit our website at: [www.am1260therock.com](http://www.am1260therock.com) for updates and have a blessed and peaceful Advent.

## SENIOR SOCIAL EUCHRE GROUP

St. Francis de Sales Parish, Akron  
4019 Manchester Rd.  
330-644-2225  
Memorare Center

1:00pm, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays

- 2021: December 8, 22  
2022: January 12, 26  
February 9, 23  
March 9, 23  
April 13, 27  
May 11, 25  
June 8, 22



## COAT COLLECTION—LAST DAYS

*St. Vincent de Paul is collecting coats for the Ozanom Center through November.*

Place your donations in the marked container in the Narthex. Thank you for helping our brothers and sisters stay warm this winter!



## NCYC attendees thank you!

A very special thanks to the parishioners who donated money, cinch sacks full of goodies, the Knights of Columbus' monetary donation for dinners etc., time from the adult chaperones (Ashley Sklack and Jon Hawkins), and to all those who have prayed for our 7 NCYC attendees.



(above) NCYC attendees prepare for a blessing before leaving Nativity

(left) joining attendees from St. Raphael Parish in Bay Village to head to Indianapolis, Indiana.

# PLEASE JOIN US 9 NIGHTS OF NIGHT PRAYER

**BEGINS THIS TUESDAY:** Bring your ENTIRE family and invite others!

NATIVITY is one of the 9 designated parishes throughout the Diocese of Cleveland to host *9 Nights of Night Prayer* this Advent starting **Tuesday, November 30 through Wednesday, December 8**. This 9-night prayer experience is an opportunity for anyone to stop by a designated Catholic Church at the end of the day to rest, meditate on Scripture, and be nurtured through God's grace!

On each evening, the church will remain open for Night Prayer, starting promptly at 8:15PM. ALL are welcome to join throughout the 9 days and encourage others to experience this short and sweet time of prayer each evening. *Slow down and experience Advent like never before!!* (special treat on December 8th!)

Dear Parish Family,

It is hard to believe that it is now a New Liturgical Year, which always begins with the **First Sunday of Advent**: November 28<sup>th</sup> this year! Our Archdiocese of Cincinnati reminds us of the following reflection that I wish to share with you:

“Human beings cannot live without hope. Unlike the animals, we are blessed – or cursed – with the ability to think about the future and to fear our actions to shaping it. So essential is this to human life, that we cannot live without hope, without something to live for, without something to look forward to. To be without hope, to have nothing to live for, is to surrender to death in despair. But we can find all sorts of things to live for and we can hope for almost anything: for some measure of success or security or for the realization of some more or less modest ambition; for our children, that they might be saved from our mistakes and sufferings and find a better life than we have known... Not all of

these forms of hope are selfish; indeed, they have given dignity and purpose to the lives of countless generations.

...The people of the Old Testament had the courage to hope for big things; [yet] their hopes are not yet realized [as they are for us who believe in Jesus Christ]. The coming of Jesus in history, as a partial fulfillment of God’s promises, immeasurably confirms and strengthens our hope. [Plus,] Jesus has revealed to us that God is not afar off, but is already in our midst. Hence the importance in the Advent liturgy of John the Baptist and of Mary: because they recognized the new situation, they serve as models for the Church in discerning the presence of our Savior in the world.” (The Spirit of Advent, Mark Searle, in *Assembly*, Volume 7:1 (c) Notre Dame Center for Liturgy.)

God bless you – *Fr. Kawalec*

**FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH** *We are honoring Deacon Dennis' wishes to share reflections on the "Year of St. Joseph" with you.*

Over the past 10 months, we have completed our study of the two major documents written in the modern day about good St. Joseph: *Patris Corde* of 2020 by Pope Francis and *Redemptoris Custos* of 1989 by St. John Paul II.

We now look to other sources for further reflections on St. Joseph during the next two weeks as the Year of St. Joseph is completed on December 8th, 2022.

St. Joseph was a man for the ages. I like to think of Joseph as a man that walked the walk and only talked if it was necessary. I imagine that he went about his life quietly and out of the spotlight, worked hard in his carpentry, and spent time with his family in Nazareth. Imagining Joseph living today, I have similar imagery: he works for his father’s woodworking business, devotes time in his day for quality family time, and volunteers on weekends. I can picture the same figure then and now. Can you?

St. Joseph’s March 19th Solemnity celebrates faith, fatherhood, and fortitude in a way that brings people together. St. Joseph is the patron saint of the Universal Church, fathers, families, expectant

mothers, travelers, immigrants, craftsmen, and many more! People all around the world look to Joseph as a model for their lives because of his deep faith, warm fatherhood, and fortitude.

**His deep faith evidenced in his “Yes” to marry the Virgin Mother.** As we read in the Gospel of Matthew (Mt 1:18-19), Joseph was a kindhearted man who loved Mary so much that he was willing to risk his reputation. He was ready to stick by her through the betrothal and pregnancy and figure it out later, as we might say today. Matthew’s phrase is “divorce her quietly.” Scripture also tells us that God sent his angel in a dream to straighten things out with Joseph: “*Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.*” Certainly, only a man of true faith would hear these words and trust in God’s plan. (Krissy Pierno, 3/21/2019: <https://www.catholicapostolatecenter.org/blog/st-joseph-a-man-for-the-ages>)



Hi Folks,

Last week, after that awesome Craft Show, I invited some friends over to scavenge for leftover crumbs from that delicious lunch. After we had our fill, we played some fun games like kick the can, Mother-may-I, and musical chairs. It was hilarious to see Cousin Cletus try to kick the can that was way too big for any of us. He ended up inside the can, rolling across the floor.

When we started playing musical chairs, there were seven chairs in a circle for eight players, and I was in charge of the music. I began the music as everyone started walking around the chairs. Some of my friends were serious about winning the game; Loretta kept trying to squat into each of the chairs so that she would be ready to sit when the music stopped. Others seemed ill prepared and their joking around distracted them when the music stopped, so they missed finding an empty seat. Each round eliminated one chair and one player until we got down to two final contestants, Scabby and Loretta. They walked cautiously, eyeing my hand to see the first possible flinch to stop the music. Loretta’s legs finally gave out from all that squatting, and

Scabby was able to land the winning move and win the prize.

That night I was thinking about what a fun day it had been seeing the excitement of the Craft Show and then visiting with friends. I wondered if it will be fun like that if I make it to heaven? I remember that Gospel reading where Jesus said that no one except God knows when a person will be called to heaven, or when the second coming of Christ will happen when all the people will be called to their eternal home. Isn’t that sort of like my game of musical chairs—except only God is in charge of stopping the music. Everyone is here on earth, going about their lives, not knowing when the music will stop; I hope that I will be ready to find a good seat.

Maybe there is a way to be in training or have a strategy that helps me win the prize. Hey, I heard Father say that Advent is starting this weekend, and it was a time of joyful preparation for the arrival of Baby Jesus. That sounds like a great opportunity to become alert and prepare my soul for the time I get to see Jesus after the music stops.

So long for now from Chatter, your friendly church mouse



## 1st Sunday of Advent Gospel Reflection

Staying awake can often be a challenge, especially when we are exhausted. Life's demands have a way of zapping every last bit of energy out of us. When we are tired it affects us not only physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. All of our senses are dulled and diminished. We can overlook details, become disinterested, lethargic and apathetic, and detached. Getting sufficient physical rest only helps so much. We need to be rejuvenated, refreshed, and reenergized in other ways. If we are psychologically exhausted, we need to understand what is draining our emotions and taxing our relationships. If we are spiritually tired, we need to find the necessary "shot in the arm" to put us back in touch with God. Unfortunately, exhaustion is seldom limited to just one part of who we are. When we lack energy and zeal it is usually the case that everything suffers. We not only are affected physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. In short, when we run out of gas the engine stops.

And yet, our Lord's directive is clear, "Be vigilant at all times." Even Jesus knew what "the anxieties of daily life" can do to us. One day pours into another and time quickly flies by. Any one of us can take a moment and reflect on how many wonderful, creative opportunities we miss because there is always so much "stuff" to do and so little time to do it. Usually these are missed

moments of love, and if we are missing love encounters we are also missing God. Sleepwalking through life, we check the boxes next to our list of "must and have to dos" and justify it all by convincing ourselves that tomorrow is another day and there'll be more time. It may surprise us, but tomorrow is here, and time is running out. While we may like to believe that we have an "eternity" of time to do all those things that require the focus, energy, and desire we do not currently have, we don't. We're on a limited ride and time is short.

Jesus is also clear on another point. "That day [will] catch you by surprise like a trap." If we are going to be judged on love and so easily justify not having all that much time to do so, then it seems we must shift focus a bit. St. Teresa of Calcutta tells us, "We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another." Getting to this place doesn't "just happen." It requires vigilance and discipline both with a knowledge of what is really of importance and what really needs to be the focus of our energy and time. Pray, starting now and not tomorrow, that we can stay alert, be strengthened in our faith, and prepared for whatever will come. Don't miss another opportunity to love.

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