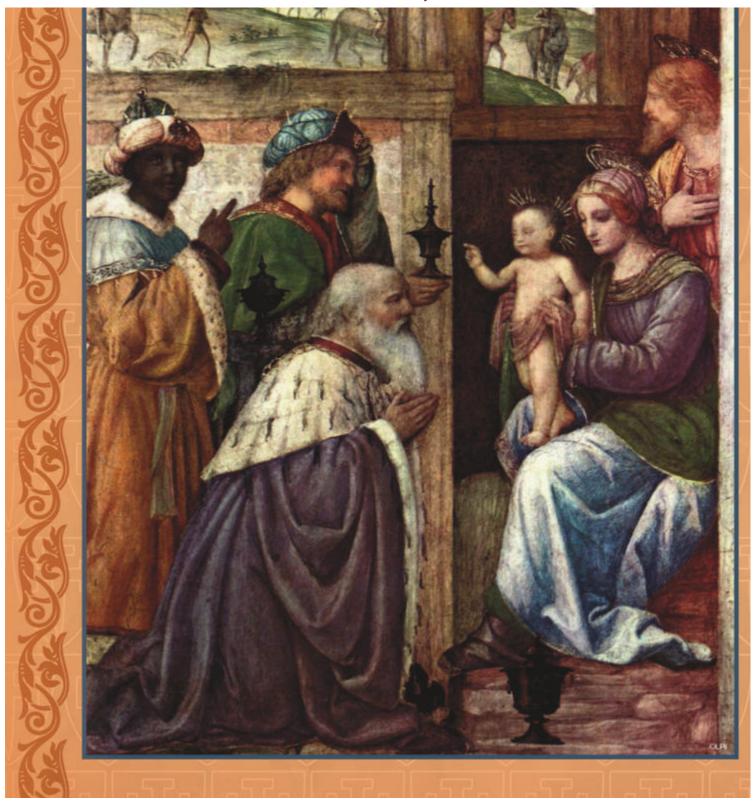
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 2, 2022



NATIVITY OF THE LORD JESUS 2425 MYERSVILLE ROAD - AKRON 44312

INFORMATION

Serving southern Springfield Township and northern Green: corner of Killian and Myersville Roads.

Office and Museum Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Mailboxes open until 8:00PM Tours are available year-round to the public. Contact Kathleen Conrad at 330-896-0565 or tours@ nativityofthelord.org

PARISH STAFF 330-699-5086

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Bulletin Editor

bulletin@nativityofthelord.org

CONFESSIONS

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

EUCHARISTIC 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 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.

OHIO CATHOLIC CREDIT UNION

2720 S. Arlington Rd., Akron 44312 1-888-696-4462 www. ohiocatholicfcu.com

PASTORAL COUNCIL

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NEW PARISHIONERS

Join Nativity by registering at cleveland.parishsoftfamilysuite.com/ or use the QR code to the right.



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.

PARISH WEBSITE



www.nativityofthelord.org

FREE CATHOLIC CONTENT



FORMED

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

MASS TIMES/INTENTIONS

Pro Populo (For the People) Sun, Jan. 2 8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. † Jack Kelly (Janis Gallagher) Mon, Jan. 3 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's Seminarians (Janis Gallagher) Tues, Jan. 4 No Mass Wed, Jan. 5 8:00 a.m. Intentions of Beth & Eric Brill (Auman Family) Thurs, Jan. 6 8:00 a.m. Intentions of Darlene & Dwight Morrison (Friends) Intentions of Ken Pastier Fri, Jan. 7 8:00 a.m. (Barb Bergdorf) Sat, Jan. 8 4:30 p.m. † Anniversary of Dn. Dennis Smith's Death (Ginny & Doug) Sun, Jan. 9 8:00 a.m. Pro Populo (For the People) Jack Kelly (Stephanie Ferrara) 11:00 a.m. †

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Chuck Pritt Rose Kern
Ellianna Livengood Sarah Turner
Gage Laston Shelia Cumberlidle
Katherine Wallace Stephanie Crangle
Linda Cuckler
Nina Kennedy and their caregivers

PRAYER REQUEST OR PASTORAL VISIT?

Names will be kept on this list for two months unless the office is notified. Names removed will be in prayer basket in church. Contact us for a prayer request or pastoral visit.

PRAY FOR OUR 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)

Ronald Powell: d. December 11, 2021, Funeral; December 20. 2021

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

Date 12/19/2021	
Total Offertory	\$3,124.00
Maintenance	\$1,802.00
St. Vincent de Paul & Poor boxes	\$ 413.00

Thank you for your kind and generous support.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 2, 2022

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf.11]/

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/

Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44 Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52 Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/

Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/

Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/

Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/ Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/ Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14;

3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 02, 2022

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church

Monday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus Tuesday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious Wednesday: St. John Neumann, Bishop Thursday: St. André Bessette, Religious Friday: St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sun: January 2

Mon: January 3

Rosary after 8:00AM Mass (CH)
We Care Noon (V)
Scouts 7-8PM (LL)
Catholic War Vets 7pm (LL)

Tues: January 4

Rosary for our Country 4:00PM (CH)
Confessions 6:00-6:45PM (CH)
SVDP Meeting 7:00PM (V)

Wed: January 5

Parish Life Night 6:30-7:30PM (LL) Creed & Catechism 6:30PM (HF)

Thurs: January 6

Bible Study 10:00-11:30AM (HF) Adoration Noon-7:00PM (CH) Eucharistic Bible Study 7:00PM (HF)

Fri: January 7

Rosary after 8:00AM Mass (CH)

Sat: January 8

Confessions 3:00-4:00PM (CH)

Church Open: Sun, Mon, Wed-Fri 7:30AM-8PM

Tues 9AM-8PM Sat Noon-8PM

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: January 6, 13, 20, and 27, directly after Eucharistic Adoration at 7:00 pm in the Holy Family Room.

PARISH LIFE NIGHT

Resumes, January 5, Wednesday from 6:30-7:30PM.

CREED AND CATECHISM

Next gathering is Wednesday, January 5, from 6:30-7:30PM in the Holy Family Room.

COMMUNITY NEWS

HEALING MASS

Friday, January 21, 2022, 7:00-9:00 pm at St. Hilary, Fairlawn. Fr. Jacob Bearer will be the main celebrant. Peter's Shadow Healing Prayer Ministry will lead the healing prayer portion.

FREEDOM IN CHRIST CONFERENCE

Do you long to be free from bad habits, repetitive sin, attitudes that hurt you and your relationships? Here is an opportunity to attain the freedom Christ won for you and wants for you! UNBOUND: FREEDOM IN CHRIST CONFERENCE, 9:00 am- 5:00 pm, St. Hilary, Fairlawn, Horning Hall led by Matt Lozano, of Heart of the Father Ministries; He is an international speaker and author. Conference fee is \$50; includes pastry, lunch, and snacks. Please register ASAP, as space is limited: https://sthilarychurch.org/2021/09/30/parishsurvey/

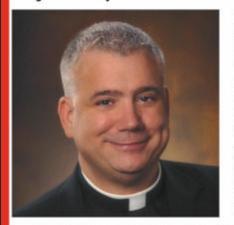
CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION offers free, safe, and compassionate monthly Grief Support meetings in-person in six of our offices and virtually: For details, visit: https://www.clecem.org/Information/Bereavement.aspx.

For more information or questions, call Rhonda at 216-930-4866.

DADS & MENTORS are encouraged to join us for talks and resources tailored to those that are raising young men.

YOUNG CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

Keynote Speaker: Father Larry Richards



also...
Bishop Malesic
Father Jacob Bearer
Father Ryan Mann
Father Mike McCandless
Luke Brown, LPCC
Tommy Dome
Erin Hogan
Jim Hogan
Paul Koopman
Dean Robinson
Drew Vilinsky
The Culture Project

TEEN SESSIONS

sports, science, dating, managing stress, spiritual growth, culture and integrity

SACRAMENTS

Mass, confession opportunity

YCMC is an initiative to encourage and strengthen men in their Catholic life and how to live it in today's culture. With cooperation of religious, this event is wholly produced by a group of committed lay Catholics who recognize the vast challenges of Christian manhood.

Saturday, January 29th 2022 @ Walsh Jesuit High School

www.YCMC_US for more info
and to register

START OUT THE NEW YEAR

A PRAYER TO BE OPEN TO GOD'S WILL

Good and gracious God,
I know that life can be unpredictable.
Sometimes I know what is good and right,
but I don't have the courage to do it.
Sometimes I am so busy with my own affairs,
I forget to see the needs of people in front of me.
Sometimes I am set in my own ways,
and I resist growing and learning.
Help me, Lord, to be open to Your will.

When You prompt me to do the right thing, give me the courage to do it.
When those around me need my help, give me Your heart to love them.
When I'm stuck in my own ways, give me the grace to grow closer to You every day.
Give me the trust and confidence of Mary.

Give me the trust and confidence of Mary. Let it be done unto me according to Your word! Amen.



RESPONDING TO GOD

I can't explain it. I feel a nudge from God to something out of the ordinary. How do I respond?

You're in good company! Abraham was asked to leave all he knew and loved for a strange land, with only abstract divine assurance that such a sacrifice would be worth it. Plenty of prophets protested against God's call, whether it was claiming they were too young (Jeremiah) or running away entirely, only to end up in a whale's belly (Jonah). St. Joseph was asked to do something very strange. He was asked to believe — on the word of an angelic appearance in a dream — that his betrothed was pregnant not from another man, but by a miraculous intervention of God. Then he was called to marry her.

Author Flannery O'Connor once wrote, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you odd." Sometimes God's invitation might seem strange or challenging. It might require sacrifices we never expected to make. Our life might look different than we had always imagined. But as we all know, life throws its own curveballs, regardless of whether or not we're listening for God's will. Better, one would think, to be open to the promptings of God and to follow along the strange trails that they lead. We have the assurance that, eventually, we will find green pastures.

For Your Information

As you have noticed, the bulletin looks very different from last year. LPi, Nativity's bulletin publisher, has a NEW format. Please have patience while we learn this new way!

Have a Happy New Year - Nativity Staff

PLAY THAT ONE AGAIN

How many times have you sung the church song, "Here I Am, Lord"? If you grew up Catholic and are around my age (still 50!), the answer is more than you can count. The song that quotes various verses of Scripture is sung using guitar, piano, or organ, by cantors and choirs, in traditional and modern churches. It is truly a Catholic greatest hit of the modern Church. The question is how many times when singing the refrain have you really taken to heart what you were singing.

"Here I am, Lord; is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night." Like the biblical figure Samuel, we are responding to the call of God by asking for clarification that we are indeed the one being called. We then follow up the question with a profound statement: "I will go if You lead me." It is profound because we are pledging to our God that we are willing to go wherever He wants. We are accepting the challenge put forth in the U.S. Bishops' pastoral letter, "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response," to become mature disciples who respond to the call of Jesus Christ regardless of the cost. We have sung this pledge repeatedly for many years.

We never have any idea what God will call us to do and where to go. Sometimes the request can ask us for quite a lot. Hopefully, we respond like a mature disciple. If not, maybe we should reflect more the next time this song is played. The melody will not allow for the words, "I will see if I am busy and then decide to go if you lead me." Then again, I don't want to sing that to God, the source of all life anyway. Do you?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi



Dear Parish Family,

I would like to thank you for the heartfelt letters and cards I received and those of you who stopped by the office to check on me. It meant so much to me to know your prayers and support were with me and helped in my time away. May God bless each of you and I thank Him for being a part of this loving parish.

May the new year bring you His peace and joy. Kim Haas Pastor's Notes

Dear Parish Family,

Once again, on behalf of our entire Parish Staff, I offer you and your loved ones a very Merry, Blessed, and Holy Christmas Season!! In case you would like to bless your house with the Rite of Blessing for a lay minister, the Catholic Church, within the **Book of Blessings**, provides the following instructions and prayers.

All make the Sign of the Cross as the head of the household says: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." All respond: "Amen." The head of household continues: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. It is Christ who enlightens our hearts and homes with his 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." A family member reads the passage from Sacred Scripture about the house built on rock (Luke 19:1-9). A family member then reads the Intercessions:

"The Son of God made His home among us. With thanks and praise let us call upon Him. Our response is:

Stay with us, Lord." "Lord Jesus Christ, with Mary and Joseph you formed the Holy Family: remain in our home, that we may know you as our guest and honor you as our head. We pray..." All respond: "Stay with us, Lord." "Lord Jesus Christ, you taught your followers to build their houses upon solid rock: grant that the members of this family may live their lives in firm allegiance to your teachings. We pray..." "Lord Jesus Christ, the three kings presented their gifts to you in praise and adoration: grant that those living in this house may use their talents and abilities to your greater glory. We pray..."

Then the head of household prays: "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 inhabit it. Fill them with the light of Christ, that their concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord." All respond: "Amen."

God bless you – Fr. Kawalec

TIDBITS FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE

Hi Folks,

Remember how I was telling you about my family Christmas? (in case you missed the last 2 bulletins, you can read it on the website) So, anyway, I started home with my treasured Christmas gifts

all packed neatly away in the stocking that Granny had made.

While cutting through the field by Arlington Rd., I came across a chipmunk who was weeping. "What's happened to make you so sad?" I asked. "I have four new babies and a fox has dug up our nest. Now I am worried that my babies will freeze to death," she sobbed. Remembering my new warm mittens, I pulled them out and said, "Here, take these mittens and put one of your babies in each of them. That should keep them warm until you can make a new home." Mama chipmunk joyfully took the mittens and snuggled up her babies.

I journeyed on and soon met up with a squirrel who was working vigorously to store up some acorns for winter. He kept putting them in one knot hole of the tree and they kept falling out of another. "I am getting SO frustrated!" he exclaimed. "You need to plug the bottom hole," I replied. "Here is a button you can use." Taking my gift from Cousin Shorty, the squirrel covered the knot hole, and his acorns piled up inside the tree. As I passed through a farm on Killian Rd., a hungry cat started to

chase me. I ran as fast as I could, but he was gaining on me; so, I grabbed the piece of goat cheese from Cousin Cletus and flung it at the cat. He stopped long enough to eat it and I was able to get away. Whew! I had to stop at Pressler Rd. to catch my breath.

Soon a grumpy old opossum waddled up and asked, "What are you doing with that funny looking stocking?" I explained about my family Christmas party, and he said that he had never heard of Christmas before. So, I proceeded to tell him all about the wondrous story about baby Jesus. "Look, here is a nativity set that shows you how it looked," I added. He was so excited that I decided to give him the creche as his very first Christmas present.

I finally made it home safely to Nativity and collapsed on my bed. Then I realized that all I had left of my wonderful presents was the empty stocking. I had given away all my treasures, and no one even said, "Thank you". I was too weary to do much more than to hang it on my wall and fall asleep....to be continued...

So long for now from Chatter, your friendly church mo



ATTENTION @NEO.RR.COM EMAIL USERS

Recent Monday reminder emails to this domain have all been bounced back as undeliverable. Please contact your provider to continue to receive group emails from nativity of the lord.org

Epiphany

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

In the spirit of the Magi, please put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child.

Wedding Feast & Epiphany

How are the feasts of the baptism of Jesus and the account of the wedding feast of Cana related to the Epiphany celebration?

The Epiphany season focuses on revealing Jesus to the world. Following the Christmas celebration, the liturgical year lays out a series of manifestation points in which Jesus is made publicly known. From its very beginning, the Christian community highlighted three events in the life of Jesus. These are the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord and the wedding feast at Cana.

The Epiphany discloses Jesus to the world of the Gentiles, represented by the magi from the East. The accounts of Jesus' baptism reveal his identity and mission, along with exposing him to those to whom he was sent to minister. The miracle of turning water to

> wine at the wedding feast of Cana, unique to John's Gospel, is the first public sign that Jesus performs, thus manifesting his public identity and his powers.

> Today in the Roman Church, these are usually celebrated on three successive Sundays: Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord which is usually the next Sunday, and the wedding feast of Cana, which is proclaimed on the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time in lectionary year C.

> These feasts connect around the concept of epiphany, public manifestation of Jesus to the world. They help us get to know more intimately who Jesus is and what he is about. Spend some time delving more deeply into your understanding of who Jesus Continue cultivate these "epiphany" moments in life. **©LPi**



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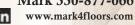
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