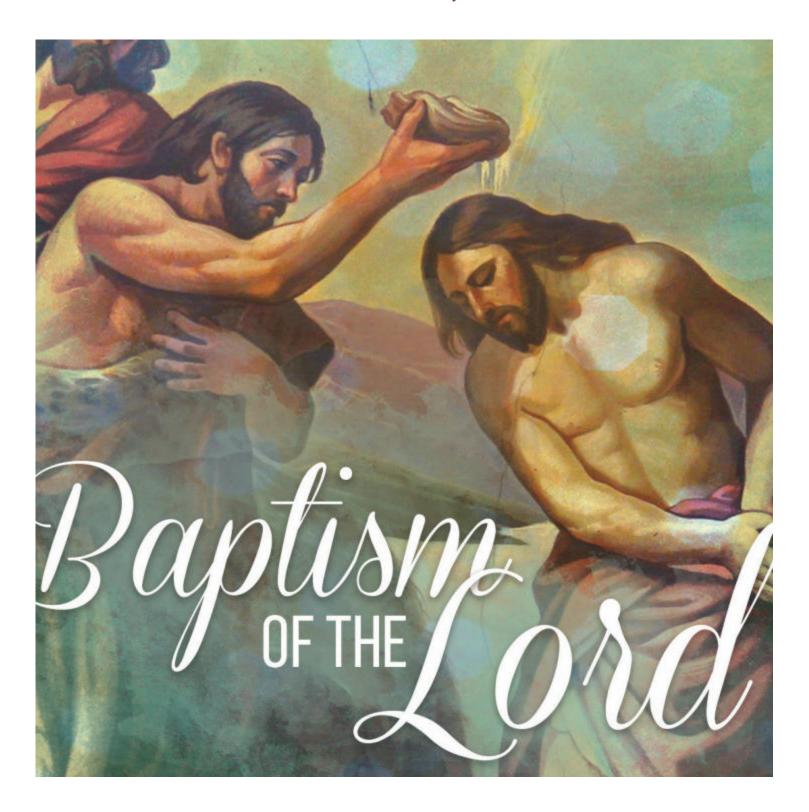
JANUARY 9, 2022



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

Rev. Zachary Kawalec

Pastor - Ext. 1000 father@nativityofthelord.org

Ada Honeck

Parish Catechetical Leader - Ext. 1016 nativitydre@ nativityofthelord.org

Kim Haas

Maintenance Director - Ext. 1005 maintenance@ nativityofthelord.org

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MaryAnn Laston

Secretary - Ext. 1012 secretary@nativityofthelord.org

Karen Treen

Bookkeeper - Ext. 1011 books@nativityofthelord.org

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

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Linda Cuckler 330-571-4382 lcuckler926@gmail.com

Raul Herrera 330-807-0690 raulherrerajr@yahoo.com

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

Sun, Jan. 9 8:30 AM †Pro Populo (For the People) 11:00 AM †Jack Kelly (Stephanie Ferrara)

Mon, Jan. 10 8:00 AM †Basil Feryo

(Barb Bergdorf)

Tu, Jan. 11 No Mass

Wed, Jan. 12 8:00 AM †Deceased Members

of Twigg Family (Family)

Th, Jan. 13 8:00 AM †Ruth McCort (Judith Smeiler)

Fri, Jan. 14 8:00 AM. †Betty Ruip (Tawney Family)

Sat, Jan. 15 4:30 AM †Pat Lutz (Bible Study)

Sun, Jan. 16 8:00 AM †Pro Populo (For the People)

11:00 AM †Dn. Dennis Smith (Ginny & Doug)

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

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)

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

Date 12/26/2021

Christmas \$ 8,384.00

Total Offertory \$ 4,719.75

Maintenance \$ 915.00

St. Vincent de Paul & Poor boxes \$ 225.00

Thank you for your kind and generous support.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 9, 2022

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

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28 Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/

Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45 Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12 Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/

Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday:Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/

1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 09, 2022

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

Thursday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sun: January 9

SVDP Mass & Breakfast 8:30AM (HF)

Mon: January 10

Rosary after 8:00AM Mass (CH)

We Care Noon (V) Scouts 7-8PM (LL)

Tues: January 11

Prayer Shawl 10:00AM (V) Rosary for our Country 4:00PM (CH) Pastoral Council 7:00PM (V)

Wed: January 12

Parish Life Night 6:30-7:30PM (LL)

Thurs: January 13

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

Fri: January 14

Rosary after 8:00AM Mass (CH)

Sat: January 15

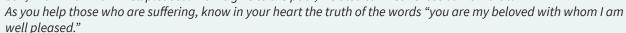
Confessions 3:00-4:00PM (CH)

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

Tues 9AM-8PM Sat Noon-8PM

Baptism of the Lord

After Jesus was baptized, he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and a voice was heard, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." As we give to the poor, we also can hear these same words.





NATIVITY NEWS

ROSARY FOR OUR COUNTRY

Please join us in prayer **Tuesdays** 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

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)

CLUSTER PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will meet at 10 am, on Tuesday, January 11, at Nativity Catholic Church. Please bring your shawls and any work in progress. Also donations to our homeless shelter can be brought at this time. If anyone in the parish knows of someone in need of a prayer shawl or any questions about this ministry, please contact Barb Zimmerman at 330-699-4769 or Louise Golden at 330-571-3384.

BIBLE STUDY ON THE EUCHARIST

Join us as we explore the Old Testament roots and New Testament fulfillment of this mystery.

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

200 CLUB WINNERS FOR DECEMBER, 2021

\$100 Debbie Schweninger

\$50 Harold Grandon

\$25 Regina Lindeman

\$25 Rebecca Milam

PARISH WINTER POLICY

REMINDER: If Springfield Schools are closed due to inclement weather, all morning events at the parish as well as PLN for that evening will be automatically CANCELED. The office will open at 12:00 Noon on that day.

PLEASE watch the local weather for Springfield School Closings!



Congratulations, to Nicholas and Julia Fazio on the Baptism of their daughter Cecilia Elaine (December 28, 2021).

May the Lord bless them and surround them with His love.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CARING AND SHARING

A session for those struggling with divorce, separation or widowhood will be held on Monday, **January 10th** from 7:30-9:00 pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary's Convent Building, 1945 Portage Trail in Cuyahoga Falls. Marlene Maruna, a retired Social Worker, will facilitate this session. This event is open at no charge to people of all faiths. For information call Marlene 330-607-6284.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR A CHILD

St. Mary School Akron provides a quality education for a diverse student population mostly from families below the poverty level. Students face many challenges and benefit from help with homework and basic skills. The St. Mary Enrichment Center needs adults and college and high school students for After School Tutoring on Thursday afternoons from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. beginning **January 13**, 2022. Please email, phone, or text Deb Sesek at debsesek@gmail.com or 234.206.1069.

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, Saturday, January 22, 2022 from 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/

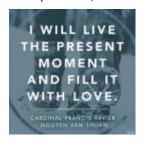
RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

Thank you to everyone who donated in 2021! *But our need is the greatest ever*. Blood shortages mean patients who are seiously injured or surgeries, such as organ transplants, may not be able to get the blood transfusions they need. Our next bloodmobile will be **February 4th**. Please consider help for the less fortunate. Appointments can be made in the blood donor app or by calling 800-733-2767

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION

Free, safe, and compassionate monthly Grief Support meetings in-person in six of our offices and virtually: https://www.clecem.org/Information/Bereavement.aspx.

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



MASS FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIFE FROM CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 8:00 P.M. THIS MASS WILL BE LIVESTREAMED ALL-NIGHT ADORATION FOLLOWING THROUGH SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, ENDING WITH 8:30 A.M. MASS

All-night Adoration will be for the protection of all life in conjunction with a nationwide prayer vigil for life (after the 8:00 p.m. Mass on Friday, January 21 through Saturday, January 22, 8:30 a.m.).

We will have organized prayer as well as quiet time.

We need to cover all 12 hours with at least two people each hour.

Please contact Pam at pikelley8@gmail.com or the parish office at 330.896.2345 if you can commit to an hour.

Queen of Heaven Parish, 1800 Steese Road, Uniontown, OH www.queenofheavenparish.org/pro-life | 330.896.2345



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

TOPICS INCLUDE: 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.



Last Call for ACME Receipts

Acme Cash Back program ended on December 25th (last date for valid receipts). Receipts must be turned in by January 25. Thank you for your support!

GODPARENTS

My best friend is Lutheran and is a good Christian. I would like her to be my child's sponsor, but I'm wondering, does she have to be a practicing Catholic?

The practice of two godparents for an infant's baptism goes back to the time when church law and civil law were one and the same in Europe. If anything did happen to the parents, the custody and well-being of the child became responsibility of the godparents. Adult baptism required that one have a sponsor from the church who would act as a guide or mentor, in bringing the person to faith.

Today, being a godparent has no legal implications. It is a spiritual matter. But at least one of the godparents must be a practicing Catholic. The other is called a Christian witness. This distinction recognizes the difference between faith and religion. A Christian can be a witness because of their relationship to God (faith), but the Catholic is a mentor in the practice of the religion.

In any event, it is vital that parents serious give consideration to the people they choose to be a child's godparents. That choice should be based on practice of faith, solid moral character and ability to give good example. Too often the choice is left to whose turn it is in the family, or to friends that parents wish to honor or acknowledge in some way. Your choice of godparents is the first lesson of faith you teach your child. Make it count! ©LPi



Dear Parish Family,

Some of you may have heard about the universal **Synod: For a Synodal Church** called for by Pope Francis during the years 2021 – 2023. In April 2021, Pope Francis initiated a synodal journey of the whole People of God, beginning in October of 2021 and culminating in October of 2023 in the Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. The entire People of God, in all its diversity, is invited to participate in the upcoming Synod which will focus on the three pillars of a Synodal Church:

- Communion -To gather together as people of one faith
- **Participation** -To engage in dialogue and respectful listening to one another
- Mission -To witness to the Good News of God's love in the world

Through the end of the year, all Catholics will be invited to participate in this process of listening. dreaming. and discerning God's call for the Church amid the present signs of the times. Diocesan discernment will culminate in a "Pre-Synodal Meeting" early next year.

What is Synodality? - It is a call for intentional listening and journeying together through and with the Holy Spirit. In the words of Pope Francis, a synodal Church is a "listening Church knowing that listening is more than feeling. It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. We must all listen to the Holy Spirit, the spirit of Truth to know what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Synodality provides opportunities to listen to the Holy Spirit and the People of God in order to discern together and walk forward on a common path, accompanying each other on the spiritual journey as we live out our missionary call."

Next week, I will provide some more details about our diocesan and parish involvement in this process.

God bless you - Fr. Kawalec

TIDBITS FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE



Hi Folks,

As you may recall, I had an interesting trip home from Granny's after our family Christmas, and by the time I got home, I ended up with only the

empty stocking that Granny made. (prior 3 episodes are available in the bulletins on the website) I woke up the next morning and looked up at the limp stocking hanging on my wall. I felt a bit sad that all of my new treasures were gone. It had been a wonderful party. I remembered how thoughtful each of the gifts were and the excitement I had felt when opening them. Then I remembered how the Mama chipmunk, the squirrel and the opossum eagerly accepted my gifts, but didn't even thank me. Oh well, it was time to go looking for a snack, since I no longer had my bit of goat cheese.

As I scurried upstairs, I saw all the lights on in church, and you people were swarming in. My curiosity made me look inside, and it almost took my breath away. The church still looked beautiful with lights and trees and flowers everywhere!

The music started and hearing you sing gave me such joy. Even though there are many folks who have packed Christmas away, it continues to be celebrated here through Christmastide. I stayed to watch as Mass was celebrated and afterwards when everyone was greeting each other in the narthex. Seeing such joyful spirit, I began to feel my mood brighten. I even found some Cheerios in the star room!

I made myself comfortable in the corner and napped until I heard music starting again. It was time for the 11:00 Mass. Listening to the Bible readings and homily made me start thinking. Maybe the best part of Christmas is not in getting, but in giving. I thought of how excited I was to receive my gifts, but actually felt even better inside when I was able to give them to others in need. Then I thought of all of you and realized how blessed I am here at Nativity to have you gathering here to celebrate God's gift of His Son. You are my gift all year long and will always be here.

So long for now from Chatter, your friendly church mouse

A SUCCESSFUL SEASON OF SHARING THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD WITH VISITORS TO THE BETHLEHEM CAVE AND NATIVITY MUSEUM

Over 300 visitors for guided and self-guided tours during December to the Bethlehem Marketplace.

We could not do it without the help of many volunteers, so *THANK YOU* to Fr. Kawalec, Ada, Kim, Helen, Mary Ann, Dwight, Jim N., Pat, Ed, Donna, Larry, Steve T., Sue, Michele, Philip, Calleigh, Thom, Katie, Adam, Marilyn, Cathy, Jim M., Mike M., Mike R., and Steve C. If you don't know who these wonderful people are, then you should join them next year!

Our parish truly lived its mission to "give birth to Jesus Christ in the hearts of all people..." Unfortunately, we had to turn some people away who wanted guided tours because we didn't have enough trained tour guides. If you are called to share the message of Jesus' birth, training is available and it is a minimal time commitment. For information, contact tours@ nativityofthelord.org.

The Baptism of the Lord

"We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ." — Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a

few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.



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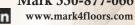
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