



# The SHIELD

ADVENT 2018

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Be Bold. Be Holy. ....	1
Pastor's Article .....	2
Reconciliation.....	3
Kids' Corner.....	4
Second Saturday/Giving Tree .....	5
From our Seminarian .....	6
Random Acts of Kindness .....	7
Liturgy Schedule.....	8

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Parish Secretary ..... Kay Asmus

School Principal.... Jennifer Guzman

Associate Principal ..... Kris Witker

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## BE BOLD. BE HOLY.

## BE CHRIST TO OTHERS

By Cathy Burlingame

It's almost Advent. It's time to get busy shopping for the perfect gifts, planning holiday parties, finding just the right outfit to wear! It's time for baking, decorating the tree, wrapping presents, parties and partaking in some Christmas cheer!

Whoa! Slow down a minute.... Advent is about so much more than all those "things" that keep us busy. Advent according to the Oxford dictionary is *1. The arrival of a notable person, thing or event.* Yes...it's about preparing...but not for the holiday party or by finding the perfect gifts. Advent is about preparing our hearts for the arrival of a very notable person – JESUS!

Maybe this year Advent could be a little different. The penitential color of purple is there to remind us to prepare our hearts and lives to celebrate the greatest gift ever given to us...the gift of our savior Jesus Christ, born in the most humble of circumstances so through his humanity we might gain eternal life.

Advent could be "holier" for each of us if we could dedicate a portion of our time to being more Christ-like to others. There are many opportunities to serve others through the Giving Tree, the food pantry or Advent families. But there are other ways like helping your elderly neighbor get their tree ready, or assist them by running errands for them or maybe shoveling their driveway when it snows. Being Christ to others doesn't have to be a big grand gesture. Sometimes it can be a smile or hug, baby-sitting your neighbor's child, letting someone in front of you in line at the store. Being Christ to others could be as simple as taking dinner to a family suffering through a tough time or illness. It could be calling an estranged family member or friend. It could be sending a card or praying for someone. It could look a lot like forgiveness, acceptance and compassion.

Sure, we will decorate, celebrate and probably eat way too much. But we can challenge ourselves to be more aware this Advent; to do more this Advent.

This Advent season is the perfect time to do something BOLD - step out of our comfortable "box" and think about what God would want us to do. This Advent let's all Be Bold. Be Holy. Be Christ to others.

## DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

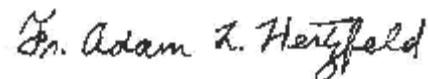
Some situations reveal more than meets the eye. For example, a child comes home from school and finds cookies on the table. The facts are simple: the time of day, the snack set out, the child's hungry stomach. Yet these simple facts point to something greater: a loving parent has set the cookies out for the child to enjoy, and so gratitude arises in the child's heart.

Gratitude in general reveals the existence of a loving God. When we are moved by a beautiful scene, or when an unexpected blessing comes our way, our hearts rise up in thankfulness. This thankfulness would be nonsensical if there was not someone to be grateful toward. No human being is responsible for a glorious sunset, but God is.

Our national celebration of Thanksgiving is inherently a religious holiday. To celebrate it is to admit to the goodness of a God who blesses us and loves us. A great way to begin our celebration that day is by coming to our morning Mass. Please join us at 8:30 AM that day to offer praise and thanks to our Heavenly Father for the many gifts he has placed in our lives.

On a personal level, I am grateful to our volunteers who give up their time to ensure our parish provides a quality Thanksgiving meal to any and all who would like to attend. Please keep in mind that if you find yourself in need of a place to come on that day, our doors are open at lunch time. The meal is held in the school gym.

In Christ,



Fr. Adam Hertzfeld  
Pastor



### LAST MAILED SHIELD

Perhaps you'll want to keep this issue as a souvenir. Why? This is the last issue that will be in paper form. To save the parish hundreds of dollars in postage you will be receiving the next issue of the SHIELD by flocknote. A few paper copies will be available at the welcome table, but we will no longer have a mailing.

Not on FlockNote? You can sign up by giving your email address or cell phone number to the parish office.

### WELCOME - A WEEKEND RETREAT

By Sr. Valerie Schneider

We are considering a weekend retreat here for women in the fall of 2019, as well as one for men at a later time. The program is called Welcome. A team will need to be created soon to have plenty of time to prepare for what can be a spiritually life-changing experience for both team and participants. Don't think you aren't qualified to lead this first retreat until you talk to God about it. You just might hear, "You can do that." Then contact Sister Valerie to learn more.

### ENDOW

By Judy Warntz

Nine women of the parish have completed the study of "Discover Your Dignity - Part 1." The study initiated our discussion of our life's journey from infancy to the fruitfulness of early mid-life and how our journey revealed God's loving guidance. "Interesting and enlightening" are two words which gave this study dimension. It also provided deeper private self-reflection, as we individually realized how closely aligned we are as women living our God-given vocation. We discussed, we learned, we reflected, and we laughed as a special bonding started to take form among this group of nine women. Our journey continues, and we look forward to delving into Part II of Discover Your Dignity in the spring.

## BUT I DON'T WANNA GO TO CONFESSION

By Sr. Valerie Schneider

'Tis the season to go to confession. "But I don't wanna go" you say? Is confession like a root canal? "I'm only doing this because it's absolutely necessary." Do you avoid it because it seems the same-old, same-old? "Every time I say the same stuff." Or are you nervous about the format? "What if I get stuck during the Act of Contrition?" And how about this one? "I never do anything wrong!" Or this one: "Can't I just tell God I'm sorry?" This article might not take away the pre-sacrament jitters, but it may give you some helpful hints.

Act of Contrition? Any sincere words will do, such as "God, I am sorry for my sins. Help me to improve." Or recite the more traditional Act of Contrition; and if you get stuck, just pick up the card that's lying there in the confessional.

Same old sins? Well, who doesn't gossip, lie sometimes, say a few bad words? But why do we do these things? There is a root cause for every sin. Huh? Well, think of having a headache. Your head can hurt for many reasons: allergy, sinus problem, flu, brain tumor. If you only take Tylenol and never determine the real cause, you could be in deep trouble. Now make a typical "grocery list" of the sins you say time after time in the confessional. Then ask "Is there something deeper underneath this?" Maybe there's a common factor, and it's probably something like envy, pride, anger, laziness, greed, or lust. Really? What we do right and what we do

wrong are done for reasons. So let's say I missed Mass three times, stole \$10, used bad language every day, etc. Could the reason be laziness? I didn't want to get out of bed, I didn't want to earn the money, and I'm too lazy to improve my vocabulary. Next time when you go to confession, start out with your major problem: "Father, my main problem is laziness (or pride or greed or whatever)." You'll understand yourself better and have a better chance at your "purpose of amendment."

Is confession necessary? Well, is it necessary to tell your spouse you love him/her? Is it necessary to give your kids Christmas presents? Put confession in the same category.

Can't I just tell God I'm sorry? Well, of course—any time you want. BUT sacraments are community events. Why? Because God became human, and the human Jesus Christ gave us a Church, who are the People of God. We're all in this together! When I'm good, the Church is a bit better. When I'm bad, the Church is a little less up to par. Besides, who's hurt by my sins anyway? If I take your \$5, don't you want it back?

So you never do anything wrong? But what did you omit that you should have done? There are sins of omission, you know. Did you visit the sick, feed the hungry, vote, affirm coworkers, pray with your family, and do all the corporal works of mercy that you memorized in eighth grade? Again, just say, "Father, my main problem is not doing the good I should be doing as a Christian."

So this Advent prepare for Christmas with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Make your list and check it twice. God knows we're all naughty, but Reconciliation makes everything nice.

### ADVENT SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation Schedule

November 28, December 5, 12, 19 - during

*Presence for Christmas* at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, December 21 - 7 - 8 a.m. and

12 noon - 1 p.m.

Sunday, December 23 - one half-hour before all

Sunday Masses

Saturdays, weekly, from 3:45-4:45 p.m.

### DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

By Kevin Foos

In October our handbells once again rang in our church. If you would like to become a member of the handbell choir, we rehearse on Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in the church.

If you are interested in singing with the wonderful St. Joan of Arc Chorale, rehearsals are from 7:15 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. in the church.

If you are interested in one or both of these groups, please contact Kevin Foos at the parish office for more details.

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

By Cathy Burlingame, RCIA Director

With the Rite of Acceptance on November 18 our RCIA members now begin the period of The Catechumenate, which comprises the heart of their formation. The goal of this period is to not only present Catholic teachings but also to develop strong morality and prayer life. It is also the time for the catechumens and candidates to grow in discipleship and desire to grow closer to God through a sacramental life.

As a community we support these catechumens and candidates through our examples of how a Catholic Christian community unites for prayer and service to others. It is the community’s prayer and encouragement that support them as their conversion of heart takes root in their lives.

Please pray for those listed here as they continue on their faith journey. A note to let them know someone is praying for them would be most meaningful

and would serve as a tangible reminder to them of the love and support our community offers them. It could be sent through the parish office.

Catechumen (seeks baptism and full communion in the Catholic the church)

Andrea Snyder

Candidate (already baptized, seeks full communion in the Catholic church)

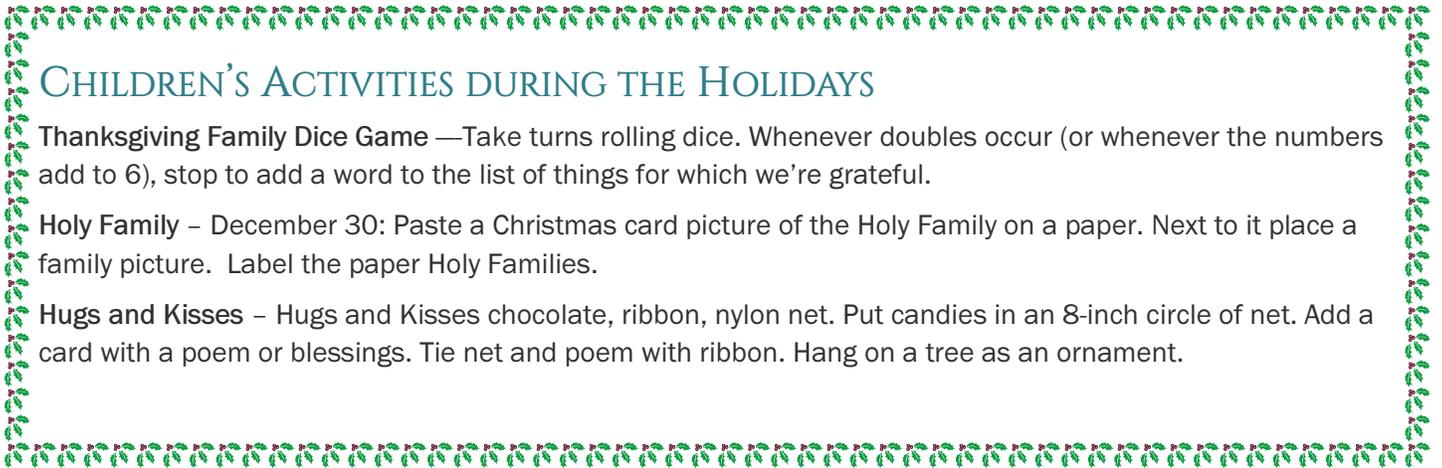
Nate Miller

Jack Trembach

Ernie Messer

Jerod Laver

A special note of invitation: The Easter Vigil is the Mass at which we, the community, will welcome these disciples to our Catholic faith. The evening would be extra special if you were there to witness the beginning of their new sacramental lives. Save the Date: April 20, 2019!



### CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES DURING THE HOLIDAYS

**Thanksgiving Family Dice Game** —Take turns rolling dice. Whenever doubles occur (or whenever the numbers add to 6), stop to add a word to the list of things for which we’re grateful.

**Holy Family** – December 30: Paste a Christmas card picture of the Holy Family on a paper. Next to it place a family picture. Label the paper Holy Families.

**Hugs and Kisses** – Hugs and Kisses chocolate, ribbon, nylon net. Put candies in an 8-inch circle of net. Add a card with a poem or blessings. Tie net and poem with ribbon. Hang on a tree as an ornament.

### HERE COME THE WISE MEN

The wise men were called the MAGI, or great ones. They saw a great STAR in the sky. “Let us FOLLOW the star,” they said. “Then we will see a great KING.” They followed the star. It led them to where JOSEPH and MARY were. It led them to where JESUS was. We don’t know if he was still in the MANGER. The magi brought gifts of frankincense and MYRRH that smelled like pine trees. They brought a gift of GOLD fit for a king. They worshiped Jesus and then traveled home.

Find the upper case letter words in the word search.

K	T	M	Y	R	R	H	Z
I	X	A	J	E	S	U	S
N	C	N	O	Q	F	Q	T
G	K	G	S	X	O	V	A
O	W	E	E	M	L	X	R
C	X	R	P	A	L	C	O
G	B	Z	H	G	O	L	D
M	A	R	Y	I	W	Z	X

## THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Hey, Volunteers! All couple hundred of you! You know who you are. Singers, musicians, hospital ministers, PREP teachers, DOM, K of C, RCIA team, bell ringers, adorers, youth ministers, lecturers, SVDeP, Holy Helpers, those who set up and tear down, those who provide food for funerals and other gatherings, those who take care of church linens, and everyone else who gives time and talent in any other way. On November 17 after the 5:00 Mass, we will gather in the atrium for some wine and cheese. In addition, at each Mass on November 17-18 there will be a special blessing for volunteers. All of you are very appreciated, and our parish could not do without you.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL AND SECOND SATURDAYS

Thank you to those who joined us for our annual Harvest Festival. Although rain canceled the hayride, everything else was under roof. Food was plentiful and smiles in abundance. Have you been participating in our Second Saturday events? On October 13 we enjoyed Sounds and Flavors of Germany with brats, sauerkraut, and German potato salad. Thank you to Jim Peniston, our chef. On November 10 after a simple meal of shredded chicken sandwiches we made ornaments for the Giving Tree. Every month will have a different meal and different activity perhaps with varying appeal to different age groups and appetites. The purpose is to learn more parishioners. So please mix, mingle and enjoy. But our parish is not limited to once a month or to certain organizations. Feel free to take the initiative to gather couples your age, families with children the age of your own, or persons with similar interests for whatever will create community. Euchre anyone? Movie and popcorn? Family Feud? Jeopardy? Check out your great ideas with the parish staff and get the events on the calendar.



## O CHRISTMAS TREE, O GIVING TREE

By Kevin Foos

Our parish is introducing a new tradition for Christmas this year. We would like to have a community Christmas tree in the atrium after the Giving Tree ornaments are all taken by you, our generous parishioners for our area nursing homes. The tree will then become our community Christmas tree. If you would like to have your family represented, please bring in an ornament the weekend of Dec. 15 & 16 or Dec. 22 & 23 and have someone in your family place it on the tree. We are looking forward to this new tradition – seeing how spectacular this tree will look with all the ornaments on it.

We're offering you and your family an amazing, free gift that will make the coming Advent season the best ever! Plan on joining us now for Presence for Christmas- a four week journey into the heart of Christ's Mass, involving inspiring stories, reflection and worship. P4C is taking place at St. Joan of Arc on the four Wednesdays before Christmas, beginning on November 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Presence for Christmas is sponsored by Mass Impact. Contact: [Alive@MassImpact.us](mailto:Alive@MassImpact.us) or (814) 449-8808. Free tickets and a short, inspiring talk by Bishop Daniel J. Thomas are available right now at [PresenceForChristmas.com](http://PresenceForChristmas.com).

Fulton J. Sheen once said there are two kinds of people in the world: those who wake up and say, “Good morning, God!” and those who wake up and say, “Good God, morning!” As morning breaks here at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Cincinnati, the clacking of shoes echoes down the dim hallways. The men shuffle into the chapel, still blinking the sleep out of their eyes. Silent prayers begin to rise—whether of the “Good morning, God” variety or otherwise, I’m not privy to knowing! Suddenly there is movement in the front pew, and a voice splits open the quiet. He chants: “*God, come to my assistance.*” And the rest of us join in chorus: “*Lord, make haste to help me. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.*”

Thus begins another day in the seminary. It has been four years since I arrived and began to structure that prayer into my everyday life. And yet, when I entreat God to “come to my assistance” and “make haste to help me,” I am asking Him to continue doing what he’s been doing all my life.



Many years ago, I walked the halls of Saint Joan of Arc School as a student. Here, the Lord began to “come to my assistance” in a twofold way: through the sacraments and through the prayers I learned at Mass, in the classroom, and at home. Those basic and familiar prayers were seeds, sown into my soul that God eventually watered in wonderful ways. And when I decided to go deeper into my Catholic faith in college, I realized how much the experiences of the sacraments at Joan of Arc had been imprinted in me.

Little did I know where God planned to lead me! I began my college years at Bowling Green State University with the idea of becoming a professional writer. I embarked on my studies as an English major and began to work in the journalism department. But other things started happening too. I started to go to daily Mass and make a holy hour in Adoration once a week. God

began to come to my assistance and make haste to help me in a new kind of way—because I was trying to figure out what to do with the idea of the priesthood, which had started to grow in my mind and in my heart. I continually brought my thoughts and questions before the Blessed Sacrament. One night during the fall of my final year at BG, I walked into the chapel for Adoration. When I walked out, I knew what I had to do. Now, nearly four years after graduation, I’ve never looked back.

Nowadays when I return as a seminarian to Saint Joan of Arc for Christmas and Easter, there is always a sense of homecoming. After all, it was

here that I used to get annoyed as a boy when I couldn’t see what the priest was doing at Mass because of the tall person in the pew front of me. It was here that the words I heard every Sunday in the Nicene Creed began to sink into my little mind, later to resurface in theology classes in seminary. It was here that I started to form an impression of who a priest is. It was here that I took the Confirmation name Paul, who became the first of the saints I came to know and love as an adult.

The Lord comes to our assistance and makes haste to help us through prayer and the sacraments. That is how he calls men to be priests, and how he forms them day after day. Let us pray for Our Lord to nourish Saint Joan of Arc parish with a culture of vocations to the priesthood, religious life, marriage, and diaconate.

Looking forward to seeing you at Mass the next time I’m in town.

In Christ,

Alex Elfreich

Mount St Mary’s Seminary of the West  
Cincinnati, Ohio

## SJA RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS DAY

By Jackie Terrill

At the beginning of the school year, SJA launched the Be Kind First program as an opportunity to enhance the education of our students by teaching and modeling simple acts of kindness. It encourages students to treat others with compassion, dignity, respect and a generous heart.

On October 19, 2018 SJA Principal Jennifer Guzman and Assistant Principal Kris Witker gave the faculty and staff an envelope filled with post it notes, pens, and a little bit of money. They asked them to go out into the community to do just one thing — spread kindness as part of our Be Kind First program in whatever way they chose. So the faculty and staff dreamed big and small and went out in groups of four to every part of the city.



Monica DeDad, SJA librarian and preschool teacher stated, “The day brought me so much joy to talk with members of the community, and have the ability to touch lives in a positive way. To share this experience with my co-workers was so energizing. I continue even after that day to find ways to be kind to my coworkers and parish community. I want to keep passing it on.” It is amazing to see what the SJA faculty and staff completed in just four hours:



service

- Dropped coins in downtown Toledo and gave a homeless man the kindness day shirt
- Put happy notes on all teacher/staff cars in lot at SJA and candy on all teacher desks at SJA
- Visited nursing homes and Sunshine Home Art studio and supported their artwork sale
- Food prep at Cherry Street Mission
- Unloaded trucks at Tent City and passed out hand warmers at Tent City
- Handed out candy, happy notes and hugs at the bus stops
- Wrote thank you notes and chalk messages to local police departments
- Delivered cookies and inspirational posters to teachers at other schools
- Bought coffee for strangers
- Visited veterans at the VA
- Passed out gloves, hats and happy notes in downtown Toledo
- Purchased baby items for Baby University
- Sorted books at Mosaic Mission

- Stopped in two fire stations with flowers and candy to thank them for their



- Purchased crafts and games for Toledo Children’s Hospital
- Donated blankets to the Toledo Area Humane Society
- Returned and organized the grocery carts at Krogers
- Cleaned up trash by the river
- Delivered donuts to local policemen
- Plugged parking meters outside of Family Court
- Put happy notes on cars outside of Family Court and the Breast Care center at Toledo Hospital
- Visited Hospice patients
- Gave snacks/lunch to students at Queen of Apostles
- Gave flowers to a plethora of people
- Flowers and notes to the Home away from Home families at St. Vincent Hospital

## THE SHIELD ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

5856 HEATHERDOWNS BOULEVARD TOLEDO, OH 43614

"IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, HOLD FAITH AS A SHIELD, TO QUENCH ALL  
FLAMING ARROWS OF THE EVIL ONE." - EPHESIANS 6:16

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# ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE

## IMMACULATE

## CONCEPTION

*(Holy Day of  
Obligation)*

**December 7: 5:30 p.m.**

**December 8:**

**8:30 a.m. This Mass  
will use incense.**

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

*(Holy Day of Obligation)*

**December 24: (Parking lot security present)**

**4:00 PM - Doors open at 3:00 PM**

**Full choir, piano, brass quintet, flute, violin & cello**

**This Mass will use incense.** *Mass will be very crowded. There will  
be overflow seating in the narthex and atrium*

**6:30 PM - Mass will be more reflective and peaceful with a  
trio of singers and piano**

**11:00 PM—Full choir, piano, brass quintet, flute, violin &  
cello. This Mass will use incense.**

**December 25:**

**7:30 AM and 9:30 AM - Masses as usual, no incense**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 1 8:30 a.m.**

*(Holy Day of  
Obligation)*

**December 31: 5:30 p.m.**

**January 1: 10:00 a.m.**

**This Mass will use incense.**