

MASS TIMES

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 10:00am,
5:00pm, 9:00pm
Tuesday 5:30pm
Wednesday 12:30pm
Thursday 5:30pm
Friday 12:30pm

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00pm
Tuesday 4:30pm
Wednesday 1:00pm
Thursday 4:30pm
Friday 1:00pm

ADORATION

Will return in January

PARISH OFFICE

Monday to Friday
1:00pm - 5:00pm

FOOD PANTRY

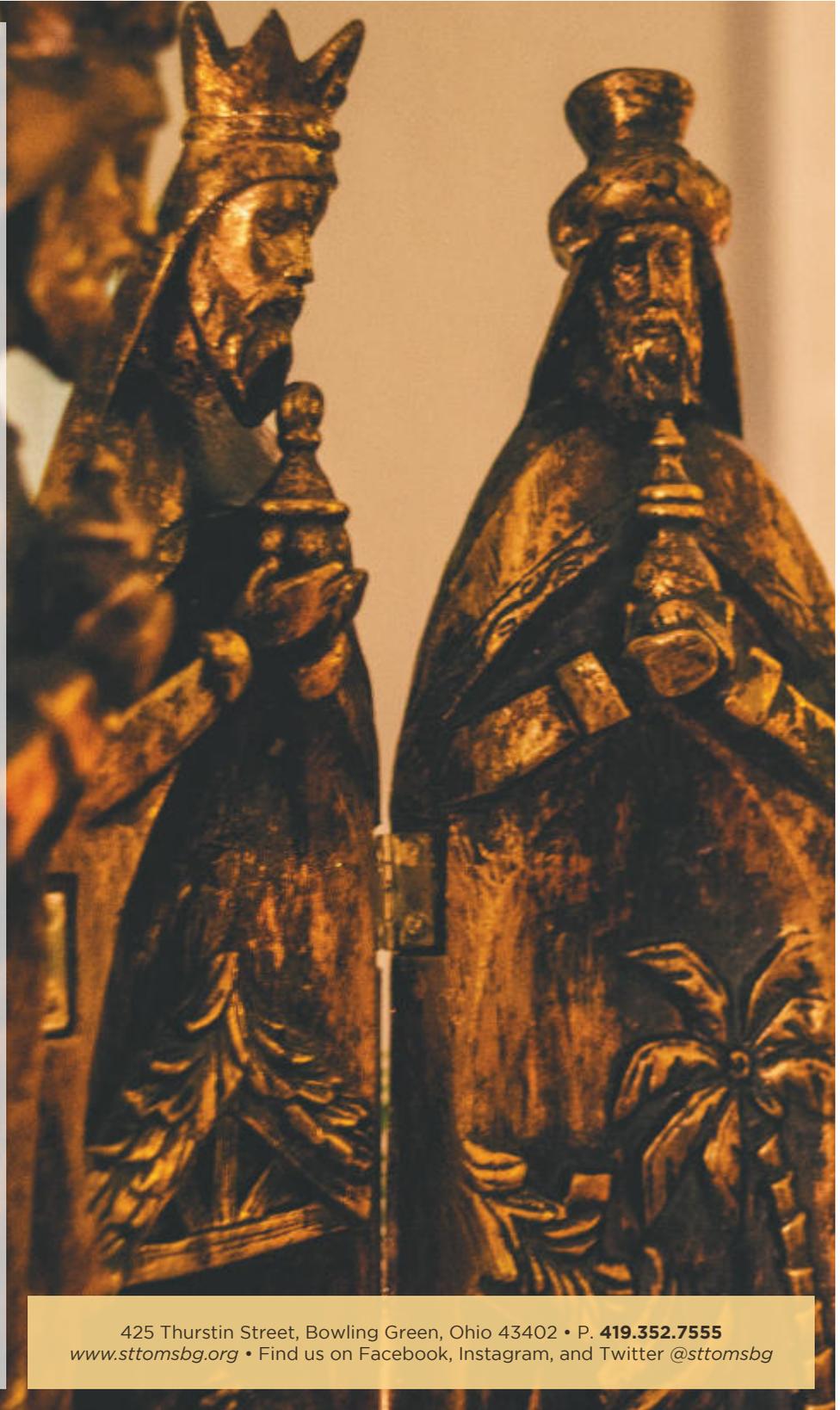
Tuesday, Thursday and
First Saturday
10:00am - 12:00pm

SACRAMENTS

If you're interested in
Baptism, Confirmation,
Anointing of the Sick, or
Holy Matrimony, please
contact Fr. Jeff. Please note
marriage prep must take
place at least six months
before your intended date.

REGISTRATION

Student parishioners and
new members of our
permanent community can
register Online at
sttomsbg.org/register



ENGAGE - A MESSAGE FROM OUR DEACON**WEEKLY CALENDAR****SATURDAY, JANUARY 2**

*Sts. Basil the Great &
Gregory Nazianzen*

4:00pm—Reconciliation

5:00pm—Mass intention pro populo

1 Jn 2:22-28 | Jn 1:19-28

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

Epiphany of the Lord

10:00am—Mass

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

MONDAY, JANUARY 4

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

1 Jn 3:22-4:6 | Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

Saint John Neumann

4:30pm—Reconciliation

5:00pm—Rosary for Life

5:30pm—Mass intention for
Cheryl Carroll (D)

1 Jn 4:7-10 | Mk 6:34-44

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

12:30pm—Mass

1:00pm—Reconciliation

1 Jn 4:11-18 | Mk 6:45-52

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

4:30pm—Reconciliation

5:30pm—Mass

1 Jn 4:19-5:4 | Lk 4:14-22

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

12:30pm—Mass

1:00pm—Reconciliation

1 Jn 5:5-13 | Lk 5:12-16

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

4:00pm—Reconciliation

5:00pm—Mass

1 Jn 5:14-21 | Jn 3:22-30

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

The Baptism of Our Lord

10:00am—Mass intention pro populo

5:00pm—Mass

9:00pm—Mass

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 | Acts 10:34-38

Mk 1:7-11

To schedule a Mass intention for a loved one, please contact the office.

We have finally said goodbye to 2020. It's a new year and an opportunity for a new start. The vaccines have given us hope as the way out of the pandemic, and the sights and sounds of the Christmas Season are in the air. This weekend, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany which, in some countries, is when gifts are exchanged, just as the wise men brought the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to our Savior. Looking to the sky, they observed a star and followed it to find the Christ child.

Last year was not only a year of a pandemic and other strange occurrences, but it also featured two important and rare astronomical events. In March 2020, Comet Neowise was discovered. Astronomers had never seen it before but were able to identify, name, and predict its path. In the summer, it was clearly visible in the western sky from the fields in Bowling Green. Oddly enough, this comet was discovered and first visible two weeks after the lock down began for the Coronavirus. Then, just two weeks ago, we had a very rare conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, almost appearing to be on top of one another. Referred to as the Star of Bethlehem, this celestial oddity was visible for the first time in over 800 years and is thought by many to be the same arrangement of planets that caught the eye of the wise men in this weekend's Gospel story. Even stranger is the fact that the conjunction peaked in its appearance almost exactly two weeks after the approval of the first Coronavirus vaccine. So, the year began with a comet marking the start of a pandemic and ended with the Star of Bethlehem marking the way out of the crisis. Was this a coincidence? We will never know (this side of heaven, anyway)! But what we do know is that God gives us signs every day, as He works in our lives.

Through several years of spiritual direction, I have begun to "notice" like

never before how God is working in my life. Whether it's something someone says, an occurrence in our lives, or just reflecting on a situation that has arisen, God is giving us messages all the time. The question is whether we have our eyes open and are paying attention to those signs. At the time of Jesus's birth, everyone saw the stars in the sky, but only the wise men were looking at them and paying attention to their meaning. More importantly, they also sought spiritual direction. We notice how they didn't try to figure it all out for themselves but, instead, sought out the Jewish leadership—the Church at the time—for answers. In the same way, we come to worship together at Saint Tom's with the same intent—looking for answers and gathering as a community to celebrate the birth of the Word made Flesh at that first Christmas.

I invite you to make two New Year's Resolutions this weekend. First, resolve to keep your Christmas decorations—from the tree to the outside lights—up and shining brightly through the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, next weekend. That feast marks the official ending of the Christmas Season, so let's make the most of it! Second, resolve to find ways to listen to God and how He is working in your life. Maybe you can find a spiritual director or can attend one weekday Mass each week, devote time to reading Scripture or other inspired works, or spend 30 minutes each week before the Blessed Sacrament. God speaks to us every day in a variety of ways, and as Jesus said, "Whoever has ears ought to hear" (Matthew 11:15). Let's be careful not to miss the stars when they appear in our daily lives!

Yours in Christ,
Deacon Dan Brahier

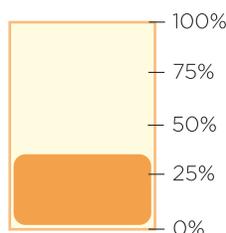
Teacher of children becomes himself a child among children, that he might instruct the unwise.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

EMPOWER OUR PARISH**PARISH WEEKEND COLLECTION**

December Goal = \$20,000.00

Online Donations

December 26/27 **Not available**December 19/20 **Not available**December 12/13 = **\$4,530.25**December 5/6 = **\$2,204.22****ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY**

Our food pantry will be open Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:00am to 12:00 noon, and face masks will be required. Beginning in December our volunteers will also be available the first Saturday of each month from 10:00am to 12:00 noon. This week we are asking for cereal and boxed potatoes.

**PISANELLO'S PIZZA COUPONS**

Looking for an easy night without cooking, while supporting our St. Vincent de Paul food pantry in an ongoing fundraiser? Purchase coupons anytime in our parish office at \$2.50 each for a 7" two-topping personal pizza from Pisanello's located downtown.

PARISH STUDY WITH THE SEARCH

Our parish will be offering a group study based on the Formed series, The Search by Chris Stefanick. Students and community members alike are invited to take part in this series that looks into the heart of Christianity, and what our hearts truly long for in a world of confusion. This seven-week series will include a video presentation, followed by a group discussion. For more information, please contact Alicia at alicia@sttomsgb.org

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

OUR PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Jeffery Walker, STL, fr.jeffwalker@sttomsgb.org

Deacon

Deacon Dan Brahier, PhD, deacondan@sttomsgb.org

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Director of Marketing & Administrative Assistant

Sophia Bauer, sophia@sttomsgb.org

Bookkeeper

Kathy Helm, kathyhelm@sttomsgb.org

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Newman Housing Ministers

Mary Wires

Allison Mancarella, nhminister@sttomsgb.org

Buildings & Grounds Team

Ray Kagy, ray@sttomsgb.orgJohn Souder, john@sttomsgb.org

Sacristan

Kathy Wojciechowski, kathy@sttomsgb.org**CUE FROM THE PEW**

The three wise men walk into a stable and see Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus. Confused, Joseph asks them to kindly move along, seeing his wife had just given birth and needs to rest. The first wise man says, "I have brought gold for the child, a gift fit for a king!" Joseph thanked him but asked that they please leave. Then the second wise man quickly chimes in and says "I have brought frankincense for the child, a gift fit for a high priest!" Again Joseph thanked him but was getting annoyed as they were interrupting a special moment between him and his wife. He then, forcefully, asked them to leave when the third wise man in the back rushes forward and says "But wait there's myrrh!"

PRAYING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

To add intentions to our list, or request an intention for a Mass, please contact the parish office.

Norma Stowe • Eileen Martini • M. Blankenship • Chris Stratton • Brian Shoup • Mary Bobinski • Izac Szymczak • soul of David Kline • Elizabeth Barringer • the family and soul of Sr. Theresa Milne • Cheryl Powell • Georgiana Miller • Carter • Richard Booms • Gary Heba • Allen Heringhaus • Marie Martini • Kate Michelman • Anne Goldstone • Fr. Jason Kahle • David Laughlin • soul of Rosemary Moore • Joyce Hinesman • The family and soul of Cheryl Carroll

EXPLORE OUR COMMUNITY IN FAITH**GIVEMORE**

Scan to give a one-time donation to our Sunday Collection, Maintenance, Mission Support, and Endowment campaign today!

PRAYER FOR THE POOR

God of Justice, open our eyes to see you in the face of the poor. Open our ears to hear you in the cries of the exploited. Open our mouths to defend you in the public squares as well as in private deeds. Remind us that what we do to the least ones, we do to you. Amen.

Prayer taken from Being Neighbor, the Catechism and Social Justice, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, copyright © 1998, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

Every year the team at Americans United for Life ranks all 50 states on how welcoming and protective they are to all human life. For 2021, I couldn't be more proud to announce that Americans United for Life has ranked the great state of Arkansas as the most pro-life state in our union!

2020 saw a real race to the top as communities across the country passed laws that save the lives of preborn children and protect the health of women. Arkansas is number one because of the truly impressive example...in Little Rock.

In 2019, Arkansas passed a whopping 10 pro-life laws and several of these were enjoined. But this summer, after the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in June Medical Services, these laws were allowed to go into effect.

The right to life demands respect and protection, from the very beginning of life when we can only see the dark of our mother's womb, till the end of our life when we may rely the most on those around us for care and support, from beginning to end, no matter what. Arkansas understands that reality.

Congratulations to Arkansas and every state which made a difference this year in the fight for life.

Catherine Glenn Foster

President & CEO of Americans United for Life

POINSETTIA DONATIONS

Thank you to all who donated graciously for our flowers to brighten up the church this Christmas season, especially those who donated in honor or loving memory of someone.

IN HONOR OF

Les Stammen • Carlan & Lois Badenhop • Lt. Col. Andrew Hover for serving our country

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Mary LaMont & Geanette Alesi • Joseph & Irene Martini • Otto & Helen Coppola • Albert Kromer • Terry Dyer • Jerome & Adelaide Block • Bonnie Schuessler • Deceased members of the Winkle & Hipp families • Les Stammen • Carlan & Lois Badenhop • Vi Stammen • Greg Loomis • Edward & Thelma Drouillard • Edwin & Stella Wojciechowski • Lt. Col. Ron Hover • Dick & Mary Lou Marsh • Bob & Betty Stalter • Veronica Marsh • Paul Bechstein • Cameron & Haley Dewar • Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Myers • Mr. & Mrs. Robert Malone • Robert & Phyllis Stierwalt • Bob Goodwin • Mrs. Glavic • Mrs. Olp • Jessica • Richard G. & Suzanne Pelton • Herman L. & Midred Kreais • Kathy Pelton • John & Alice Schmiesing • Robert Lenhart • Clifford & Lillian Hime • Dale & M. Ordean Kuns • Hubert & Phyllis Jackson • Jerry James • Bill Bihn • Pat Kosnikowski • William & Mary Bihn • Josephine Burton • My beloved sister Sally Luxon • Alicia Leow

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**McDonald's**

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THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTION

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What gifts do we bring to Christ? How can we share our gifts with our loved ones this Christmas season?

The Epiphany of the Lord

JANUARY 3, 2021



CNS Photo

"As we begin the New Year, may we discover anew that faith demands worship. If we can fall on our knees before Jesus, we will overcome the temptation to set off on our own path."` (Pope Francis, Jan. 6, 2020)

On this Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, we remember that God came to earth for everyone, every nation, every people.

January is Poverty Awareness Month!

Poverty does not strike all demographics equally. For example, in 2018, 10.6% of men, and 12.9% of women lived in Poverty USA. Along the same lines, the poverty rate for married couples in 2018 was only 4.7% - but the poverty rate for single-parent families with no wife present was 12.7%, and for single-parent families with no husband present was 24.9%.

In 2018, the poverty rate for people living with a disability was 25.7%. That's nearly 4 million people living with a disability—in poverty.

Visit [PovertyUSA](https://www.PovertyUSA.org) for education on economic justice, resources for prayer, and key conduits for action.





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