



December 19, 2021

13623 Rockside Road
Garfield Heights, Ohio

Parish Office:
(216) 662-8685
Fax: (216) 662-1245
website: saintmonicachurch.net
St. Benedict: (216) 662-9380
Early Learning Center
(216) 475-3633
OCFCU (216) 663-6800

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office is open
8:00 am—5:00 pm. Mon.,
Tues. & Thurs & 8:00
am— Noon on Wed. & Fri.

MASSES: 7 days a week
Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m.
and 10:45 a.m.
Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.

Bulletin Announcements due to
sshepka@saintmonicachurch.net
by NOON on Friday

PARISH CLERGY

Rev. Thomas A. Haren, **Pastor**
Rev. Theodore Marszal,
Senior Parochial Vicar
Rev. Thomas G. Montavon,
Retired, in Residence
Stan Drozell, **Deacon**

PASTORAL STAFF

Sister Helene Skrzyniarz
SSJ-TOSF,
Parish Catechetical Leader
srhelene@saintmonicachurch.net
Bob Soeder, **Director of Liturgy and Music**
Stan Jakosh, **Business Mgr**
Susan Shepka, **Office Mgr**

Joseph Ungarsky
Pastoral Council Chairman
Bill Simon
Finance Council Chairman



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: We, the parish of St. Monica, work to create a Christlike family, welcoming all people where one encounters a loving God, by serving the spiritual, educational and social needs of the community.

BAPTISM: Please make arrangements in advance. Baptisms are performed on Sundays, immediately following the 10:45 a.m. Mass. Pre-Baptismal instruction is required for parents. Please call the Parish Office for time of next scheduled class.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): Adults and school-age children seeking full membership in the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist can make an appt. to continue their conversion process by calling the Parish Office.

RECONCILIATION: Opportunities to celebrate God's forgiveness in one's life are available on Saturday afternoons from 3:15-3:45 p.m. Individual appointments with a Priest can be arranged.

MATRIMONY: The Diocese of Cleveland requires a 6-month preparation period for marriage. Call the Parish Office to set your wedding date and plan your celebration.

CONFIRMATION: Any adult or high school student needing Confirmation, please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Celebrated upon request. Call the Parish Office to make arrangements with one of our Priests.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please call the Parish Office to register.

ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC SCHOOL: Provides Catholic education for students K-8. School hrs.: 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. *Before & After Care* available. Mrs. Lisa Oriti, *School Principal*

EUCARIST FOR THE HOMEBOUND: Parish Team and Staff Members visit the homebound on a monthly basis. If you or someone you know is homebound and would like to receive communion, call the Parish Office.



**LITURGY
SCHEDULE**
Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 19**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:00 People of the Parish
10:45 Joseph & Margaret Dubas

Monday, December 20**Late Advent Weekday**

8:00 Ronald Kaminski
6:30 Eucharistic Exposition & Liturgy of the Word Service w/Confessions

Tuesday, December 21**Late Advent Weekday**

8:00 Ramey and Ramatowski Families

Wednesday, December 22**Late Advent Weekday**

8:00 Richard J. Lenczewski
8:30 Confessions

Thursday, December 23**Late Advent Weekday**

8:00 Living & deceased members of Fr. Haren's Family
8:30 Confessions

Friday, December 24 Christmas Eve**Late Advent Weekday**

4:00 Priest Intention
6:00 Priest Intention
Midnight Priest Intention

Saturday, December 25 Christmas**The Nativity of the Lord**

9:00 Priest Intention
10:45 Priest Intention

Sunday, December 26**The Holy Family of Jesus**

9:00 Antonia & August Supan
10:45 Clara Holderman



Please keep in your prayers the following members of our Parish Community:

Michael Walker, Marianne Toma, Denise Vlasek, Joann Reddinger, Gloria Unger, John Jacob, Anthony Lupica, Madison Jacob, Mike Wyrzykowski, Jan Angus, Larry Piechowiak,

Toni Oden, Veronica Mayak, Joan Kaczmarczyk, Carol & Gerald DeLooze, Harrison Justin Shepherd.

The names will remain in the bulletin for two weeks. Please call the parish office if your name or a loved one's name needs to be added to the list. If you have a special intention you would like remembered in prayer, please call Lillian Neptune (216) 662-5464.



Our sincere sympathy and prayers are extended to the families and friends of: **Joseph John Tanski** who was recently buried. May he, and all of our dearly departed, rest in peace.

Pastoral Scene**Family Matters**

I recently celebrated my 22nd anniversary of employment here at St. Monica Parish. As many of you know, I originally planned on being here interim - until a new music director could be hired. Within weeks, the parish endeared itself to me - I wanted to stay and be part of this wonderful family. It was (and still is) the atmosphere of community and family, of gratitude and hospitality, of prayer and support - not just toward me - but toward each other in a way that very few parishes can boast. St. Monica Parish is a very unique place. Sometimes I think we take for granted just how fortunate we all are.

I'm sure that many of us will take some time over this Christmas Season (if we haven't already) to spend with our families. But what kind of time are we truly spending? Is everything just a big rush, or is there truly some quality time being spent? Over the coarse of this coming year, let's challenge ourselves to slow down a little, and really spend some quality time....not just doing things, or watching television together, but really getting to know each other. I think that many will be amazed at how little we know about our closest family members - their likes and dislikes, their views and opinions, their trials and accomplishments. It's sad that our society has become so caught up in day-in-day-out struggles and interests that we overlook one of the most important things in our lives - our families.

On Sunday, December 26th, the Church will be celebrating the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - and so we honor them as the true model of family life. Soon after that, on January 1st, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God - a beautiful example upholding the value and dignity of motherhood in all aspects.

Through these models we see attentiveness, patience, discipline and unconditional love. So how can we begin to more fully implement these virtues in our family lives? One way might be to take some time to pray together. Nothing real formal or extravagant. Maybe it could just be a short prayer together in the morning, asking for God's guidance and protection throughout the day - or maybe a prayer in the evening just to thank God for the gifts and blessings of the day. Another idea might be to gather with your family for just a moment each week at our Holy Family Shrine in the gathering area of the church for a quick prayer before or after Mass.

"The family that prays together, stays together" is an old adage, but it contains a great deal of truth. May all of our families here at St. Monica Parish find peace, joy and comfort during this coming Christmas Season.

Bob Soeder.



Celebrating Christmas Traditions Nine days of Las Posadas

In Mexico, the holiday season picks up momentum with the celebration of Las Posadas from December 16th to Christmas Eve. Traditionally, children perform the 'Posada' processions from house to house in the neighborhood, where their families gather for fiestas.

The Posadas days celebrate the part of the Christmas story where Joseph and Mary looked for a room in an inn but were turned away. For the Posadas, the outside of houses is decorated with evergreens, moss and paper lanterns. Inside, the usual holiday decoration is the nativity scene, El Nacimiento. The nativity scene is the central focus of the celebration and is very realistic.

The creation of the basic landscape of the scene begins with paper painted in earth tones draped over tables, taped onto boxes, crushed and shaped to form a multi-leveled, natural looking terrain. Colored sawdust and a variety of natural mosses may be spread out as ground cover before the addition of strings of Christmas lights and the assorted human and animal figures. The scene will not be completed until Christmas Eve when the newborn Baby Jesus is finally laid in the manger bed.

A Mexican youngster's holiday wish list is directed to ***el Niño Dios*** -- the Holy Child -- instead of Santa Claus for Christmas Eve, and the **Reyes Magos** -- Magi -- for Three Kings Day, which are the gift giving occasions. In some homes, families close their main meal with a cake into which is baked a tiny figure of the Baby Jesus. Whoever gets that piece of cake, is king for a year!

Sr. Helene

Oplatki Christmas Wafers

Oplatki are now available in the Parish Office. Cost is \$1.00 for a pack of 2 wafers. This is a Polish tradition that families of all nationalities enjoy at Christmas time. Be sure to stop by the Parish Office to purchase!



COFFEE & DONUT SOCIAL

Join us for our Coffee & Donut Social this Sunday, December 19 after the 9:00 am Mass. Hosting will be Lectors and members of Pre Cana.



The next Social will be in the new year, January 9th, with Ushers and Tri M hosting.

A New Wish For Christmas

The Christmas Season is one of the special times of the year for most Americans. It has been a time for families to get together and celebrate the Birth of God's Son, Jesus Christ, into our world. As the effects of the pandemic begin to wane, it is time again to come together as a nation to celebrate this wonderful event.

Although we don't know for sure the actual date of Jesus' birth, the Western Churches celebrate His birthday on December 25th each year, while the Eastern Churches celebrate this event on January 7th. No matter which date we use, what is most important is that we are celebrating one of the most important days in history, the day that God the Son entered our world with a human nature.

This year, especially, it is important that we all celebrate Christmas. With the recent division we have been experiencing, this is one event that can reconnect us together as a nation again. The joy we experience at the birth of a child is a wonderful event for our immediate families; but the joy we experience at the Birth of Jesus is a wonderful event for all of our families. Most of us have customs as to how we celebrate this day. Many begin by attending Church the evening before, or on the actual day of Christmas. There is usually a family meal with our relatives. Then there is the sharing of presents with each other. It is a wonderful day to celebrate with our families.

One new wish that I have for Christmas is that we make a special effort to include God in our celebration. The original cause of this day was God's gift to the world – His only begotten Son. God wanted to share Jesus with us. Our job is to share Jesus with our families and friends. This can be done by making sure that we attend our Church services, and that we say a prayer before we eat our Christmas dinners. If we keep Jesus as the center of this day, it will truly be the way that God intended when the Angels announced the birth of the Savior of the World.

God bless all of you this Christmas as we come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Fr. Thomas Haren
St. Monica Church

Join us every Thursday at 6:00 pm in Church as we pray the Rosary. All are invited.



Religion Question of the Week

Where is the city of Bethlehem located?
(Answer on page 4)

Did You Know?

Did you know that there are two campuses for St. Benedict Catholic School: St. Monica Church hosts about 320 students, grades 1 -8; and St. Martin of Tours hosts about 100 students, Day Care, Pre School, and Kindergarten

One Liner

"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has yet to come. We have only today. Let us begin". (St. Mother Theresa of Calcutta)

**MONDAY, December 20**

4:00 p.m. Athletic Practice (g)
 4:15 p.m. Walking Group (J)
 6:30 p.m. Eucharistic Exposition & Liturgy of the word
 w/Confessions (+)
 7:00 p.m. Vera Nova Health (F)

TUESDAY, December 21

4:00 p.m. Athletic Practice (g)
 7:00 p.m. Ward 7 Block Watch Mtg. (AR)

WEDNESDAY, December 22

4:00 p.m. Athletic Practice (g)
 7:00 p.m. G.A. Mtg. (+)

THURSDAY, December 23

4:00 p.m. Athletic Practice (g)
 7:00 p.m. D.H.N. Mtg. (J)

FRIDAY, December 24

Office Closed

SATURDAY, December 25

Office Closed

SUNDAY, December 26

7:00 p.m. A.A. (AR)

Garfield Heights Lights in the Heights

On **Sunday, December 19th**, the Churches of Garfield Heights are sponsoring a special Christmas Pilgrimage at the local Churches. Each participating Church will open their grounds for Christmas presentations from 6:00 -8:00 pm. The Pastoral Council of St. Monica Church is hosting this event for our parish. There will be Christmas music, Santa Claus, and gift bags distributed at our sight. Please drop by in your car to visit the various sights. This is a wonderful way to prepare for the Season of Christmas.

Answer to This Week's Religion Question

Where is Bethlehem located?

Answer

Bethlehem is located about 12 miles southeast of the city of Jerusalem

Sandwich Saturday

Join us for our next Sandwich Saturday on **January 8th**, beginning at **9:00 am** in the lower level of the Parish Office. At this time, Jelly and round plastic tablecloths are needed. Any questions, call the Parish Office, 216-662-8685. We have just completed our 6th year! This has been possible through all the generous donations and help from all who have participated in some way. THANK YOU!

**STEWARDSHIP****December 12, 2021**

Due to an early bulletin deadline, these figures will be published at a later date. Thank you.

A Sister writes, "Our prayers belong most of all to the generous benefactors whose donations have made this financial assistance possible." Thank you for supporting last week's Retirement Fund for Religious collections.

Please continue to mail in your donations, donate online or drop off at the office. You can also drop your donation in the baskets in church. Thank you for your continued support.

Christmas at St. Monica Church

The Christmas Season is approaching rapidly. The Parish Giving Tree, Advent Holy Hours, the Garfield Heights Lights in the Heights event, are just some of the reminders that we are preparing for this wonderful time of the year. There will be several Masses being celebrated on Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. Please make this a special time to grow with your family in the practice of your Catholic Faith. Also, please remember St. Monica Church in your charitable giving. These much-needed funds are very important for the support of our parish. Looking forward to seeing all of you at Christmas.

**Parish Office Hours**

The Parish Office is now open until 5:00 pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. At this time, the office will still close at Noon on Wednesday and Friday.

**The Garfield Heights Ward 7 Block Watch**

The Garfield Heights Ward 7 Block Watch meeting and Christmas party, sponsored by Councilman Tom Vaughn, will take place **Tuesday, December 21st at 7:00 PM in the St. Augustine room of St. Benedict School**. Attendees are asked to bring a gift-wrapped tree ornament and a side dish or goodies to share. All are welcome. For more information, contact Gail at 216-662-9213.



Special Holy Hours in Advent

Recently the American Bishops met in Baltimore, Maryland to discuss the importance of the Eucharist in the lives of Catholics. One of the suggestions was to promote Eucharistic Adoration in our extra-ordinary services that we conduct in our Churches. During pre-covid times we used to have Holy Hours during the Season of Advent. We will continue this practice again this year, but with a special emphasis. Each Holy Hour will be focused on a particular need for our Catholic Church in America. These Holy Hours will be celebrated on Monday evenings, beginning November 29th, through December 20th. They will begin at 6:30 pm in Church:

On December 20th, we will pray the "O Antiphons" commemorating the days of Advent which celebrate the anticipation of the Messiah coming into the world at Christmas.

Besides the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament ,the Sacrament of Penance will also be available on these evenings for those who would like to make this a part of their spiritual preparation for the Feast of Our Lord's Birth. Please make some time in your busy schedules to come to Church this Advent Season. It will add a lot to your enjoyment of the Christmas Season.

God bless you,
Fr. Thomas Haren, Fr. Ted Marszal, Deacon Stan Drozell, Bob Soeder and Sr. Helene

Refresh & Renew! Calling all Women!

Join us in January as we refresh and renew ourselves after the rush of the holiday season. Spiritual, relaxation, and of course, refreshments! More information will be coming!

Keep "Christ" in Christmas!

Annual Peterson Nut Sale!



THANK YOU!

We thank everyone who participated in this sale. Your patience and understanding with the unfortunate glitch has been wonderful. We are proud to say that not one person canceled their order! We are grateful to all! We are happy to report that the proceeds from this sale (and some donations) totaled \$2,618.25. This is an increase of over \$200.00 from last year! Thank you for your support.

Merry Christmas

St. Nicholas Gift Giving 2021

The St. Monica St. Nicholas Christmas Gift Sharing Program will be held again this year. Please return to Church the wrapped gifts with the tags securely attached this weekend, **December 18th & 19th**. **Volunteers** are needed to help sort on Sunday, **December 19th after the 10:45 am Mass**.

The Synod Listening Process

The Synod is an opportunity for people to reflect on faith as part of their life and truly think about its importance. The objective of the Synod is to 'resurrect' the spirit of the Early Church in the living of their faith in discussions that will begin in January. The Synod Listening Process is going on throughout the world-wide Church and what we discuss during the Synod Process will be recorded and sent to Rome.

This Synod process is an opportunity to take people out of the "News of the Church" and bring them into the "Mission of the Church" by discussing strategies to encounter our LORD in Word, Sacrament, and the Community of the Faithful.

Listening sessions will begin in January and be facilitated by Sister Helene. Stay 'tuned' for dates!

December 2021 - Jesuit Retreat Center Programs & Retreats

Jesuit Retreat Center, 5629 State Rd, Parma, OH 44134. <https://www.jesuitretreatcenter.org>

December Morning Prayer for Women. Monday, December 20 from 9:30 - 11:00am. Presented by Sr. Mary Ann Flannery, SC. Women from all walks of life are invited to pray together and learn more about the beauty of prayer. Led by Sr. Mary Ann Flannery, S.C., this prayer group will refresh your spirit and help you find strength in regular prayer habits. Just bring your Bible and come as you are! Price includes coffee and pastry. Registrations are encouraged, but walk-ins welcome! Cost: \$10

Cinema & Conversation: It's a Wonderful Life. Monday, December 20 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm. Join us at Jesuit Retreat Center each month for films that inspire and entertain. After each movie, there will be time for conversation and questions. We continue in December with the 1946 American Christmas classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*. Cost: Free Will Offering

A New Year's Eve Retreat at JRC - "See, I Am Doing A New Thing". Friday, December 31, 5:30pm - Saturday, January 1, 11:30am. Presented by Bill Hobbs. As we turn the page on the calendar to 2022, we take time to pause and reflect on the past year and plan for the year ahead. The evening begins with dinner at 5:30 pm, followed by a reflection and time for quiet prayer. We will gather before midnight for some conversation and to share a toast to the New Year. In the morning, we will conclude with liturgy and brunch. Cost: \$100

CANDLELIGHT LATIN MASS TO HONOR THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The 13th Annual St. John Berchmans Advent Rorate "Candlelight" Latin Low Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated by Rev. Bede Kotlinski, O.S.B. on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 7:00am at Historic St. Stephen Catholic Church 1930 W. 54 St., Cleveland, OH 44102.



Mass will be served by the St. John Berchmans Altar Servers Ministry (SJB), comprised of students from St. Ignatius, Benedictine and other local Catholic high schools.

Music will be directed by Annette Spallone Murphy. Musical prelude will begin at 6:45am.

The Rorate Mass is a beautiful way to celebrate the Advent season. Join us as we prepare for the coming of Our Lord and offer praise to God for the gift of Our Lady! All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2021 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



Eucharistic Adoration
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions
Mondays at 6:30pm - Nov. 29th, Dec. 6th and Dec. 20th

Festival of Praise with Confessions
Monday Dec. 13th - 6:30pm



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday - 3:15pm
Wednesday, Dec. 22nd - 8:30am
Thursday, Dec. 23rd 8:30am



Mass Schedule - Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Tuesday, December 7th - 4:00pm
Wednesday, December 8th - 6:30am, 9:00am and 7:00pm



Mass Schedule - Christmas

Friday, December 24th - 4:00pm, 6:00pm and 12:00Midnight
Saturday, December 25th - 9:00am and 10:45am



Mass Schedule - Feast of the Holy Family
Saturday, December 25th - NO 4:00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday, December 26th - 9:00am and 10:45am



Mass Schedule - Mary the Mother of God (New Years)

Friday, December 31st - 4:00pm (Not Obligatory)
Saturday, January 1st - 9:00am (Not Obligatory)



Mass Schedule - Feast of the Epiphany
Saturday, January 1st - 4:00pm
Sunday, January 2nd - 9:00am and 10:45am

JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAY!

Help us build a Culture of Life while you save 50% on Restaurants (fast food to fancy), Westside Market, Leisure time activities, Golf, retail stores, and much, much more! The Our Town & All-Around book is \$28. There's something for everyone in this book! Call Regina at



“LIGHTS IN THE HEIGHTS”

SUNDAY DECEMBER 19, 2021
6 – 8 P.M.

KICK OFF YOUR CHRISTMAS WEEK WITH A FUN AND SPIRITUAL EVENT HELD BY 5 LUTHERAN CHURCHES ALL IN OUR CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS! THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE WITH OUR NEIGHBORING PARISHES WHILE ALSO ENTERING THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT IN A FUN MANNER!

JOIN US IN THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH AS WE FOCUS ON OUR OUTDOOR NATIVITY SCENE WITH A TEA “LIGHTS” PATHWAY, A LIVE STUDENT CHOIR, A VISIT FROM ST. NICK, AND LEAVE WITH A SWEET TREAT!

STOP BY ONE (OR ALL) OF OUR NEIGHBORING PARISHES TO EXPERIENCE WHAT THEY HAVE TO OFFER!

St. Benedict students bring a canned good for S.V.D.P. and receive a dress down pass!

BRING A CAMERA FOR PICTURES WITH ST. NICK!



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son; and his name will be called Emmanuel"

Entrance Chant:

Maranatha (*Journleysongs* #283)

Maranatha, we long for your peace. Maranatha, we long for your mercy.
Maranatha, we long for your coming, O God.

1. In your image you have fashioned us,
in the garden you made us;
you have given us your breath of life,
voice to praise your name, voice to praise your name.
2. In our weakness we have turned from you,
turned from light to the darkness,
ever longing for salvation,
O Lord of light, O Lord of light.
3. In your love you have sent your Son,
your salvation for ev'ryone;
Word incarnate, God's compassion,
hope for humankind, hope for humankind.
4. We await your day of glory,
Christ Jesus, return for us,
Gentle King, Just Deliverer,
You will bring us home, you will bring us home.

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Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

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Offertory Chant:

Beyond the Moon and Stars

Beyond the moon and stars, as deep as night, so great our hunger, Lord, to see your light.
The sparrow finds her home beneath your wing. So may we come to rest where angels sing.

1. Our eyes have longed to see your loving face,
to live within your courts for all our days.
2. Your roads have led us, Lord, 'cross dessert sand.
We place our hopes and dreams within your hand.
3. Upon our darkness, Lord, a light has shone.
You chose to dwell with us in flesh and bone.
4. With shining star at night, a cloud by day,
you brought us here to see your love's display.
5. When life's great journey ends, and day is done,
then may our eyes behold your Holy One.

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Communion Chant:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (*Journleysongs* #274)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

1. O come, O come Emmanuel
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appears.
2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud, and majesty and awe.
4. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse's stem,
from ev'ry foe deliver them
that trust thy mighty pow'r to save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
5. O come, Thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way the leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
6. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
7. O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all humankind.
Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself, our Prince of Peace

Text: LM with refrain; Latin, 9th cent.; verses 1, 3-6 from *Præteritum Cantionum Catolicarum*, Cologne, 1710; tr. by Hugh N. Bracken 1818-1866; verses 2, 7 tr fr. *The Hymnal 1940*, alt.
Music: Processionale, 13th cent. French; adapt. by Thomas Beinecke, 1811-1890; Chant Mode I. OCP Publications, Portland OR. Reprinted with permission Lic. #RBN2984406.1. All rights reserved.

Sending Forth:

Your Light Will Come, Jerusalem (*Journleysongs* #631)

Your light will come, Jerusalem; for on you will dawn the glory of the Lord,
and all nations will walk in your light, and all nations will walk in your light.

Christ is the light of the world, a light dispelling the darkness.

May we, his body, reflect that holy light.

Text: Refrain based on Isaiah 60:1, 3; Dedication of a Church and an Altar. Copyright © 1978 by ICEL. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
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The Fourth Sunday of Advent - Cycle C

Reading 1 Mi 5:1-4a

Thus says the LORD: You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times.

Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

R- Lord, make us turn to you;

let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken,
from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse your power,
and come to save us. R-

Once again, O LORD of hosts,
look down from heaven, and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand has planted
the son of man whom you yourself made strong. R-

May your help be with the man of your right hand,
with the son of man whom you yourself made strong.
Then we will no more withdraw from you;
give us new life, and we will call upon your name. R-

Reading 2 Heb 10:5-10

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.'"

First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel Lk 1:39-45

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

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GARFIELD HEIGHTS

Holiday Lighting Contest

Participate in this year's annual Holiday Lighting Contest by nominating your favorite residential display.

One winner in each ward and a citywide winner will be chosen.

Nomination Deadline: 4 p.m. December 21, 2021

(Judging will take place Dec. 27 through Dec. 31)

PLEASE SUBMIT NOMINATIONS:

BY MAIL: Garfield Heights Civic Center
5407 Turney Road
Garfield Heights, OH 44125

BY E-MAIL: jduber@garfieldhts.org

Or, fill out the form below and bring to the Civic Center.
A drop box is located in the entranceway.

I would like to nominate the holiday lighting display at

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