



*St. Christopher*  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BELIEVED  
THAT WHAT WAS SPOKEN TO YOU BY THE LORD  
WOULD BE FULFILLED.”

—LUKE 1:45

# PARISH INFORMATION

DECEMBER 19, 2021

## St. Christopher CATHOLIC CHURCH



### Welcome to St. Christopher Parish

#### PRAYING FOR HEALING & UNITY

United in Spirit | Sharing our gifts | Revealing Christ by our love

In our Catholic tradition, St. Christopher represents a Christ-bearer, one who carries Christ. Our community strives to bring this image to life as we unite to share Jesus' Good News and love our neighbor. Whether you are a first-time or returning visitor, we are glad you are here! If you are called to join us, online registration is available through our website home page. If you prefer to register in person, please contact the Parish Office or stop by during business hours. Together as the Body of Christ we will celebrate God's presence among us with hope and joy.

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them. - Matthew 18:20

**435 E. NATIONAL ROAD | VANDALIA, OH 45377 | 937.898.3542**  
**scpchurch.org** | Parish Office Hours: Mon.- Fri. 10:00am - 3:30pm

#### PARISH STAFF

**Fr. John Tonkin** Pastor  
jtonkin@scpchurch.org  
ext. 103

**Fr. Andrew Smith** Parochial Vicar  
asmith@stjohntippcity.org  
937.667.3419

**Charles Wright** Deacon  
cwright@stjohntippcity.org  
937.667.3419 | 937.890.2366

**Bonnie Prine Allen** Admin. Assistant  
bprine@scpchurch.org  
ext. 101

**Andrea Parker** Pastoral Associate  
aparker@scpchurch.org  
ext. 109

**Tim Francis** Business Manager  
tfrancis@scpchurch.org  
ext. 108

**Elise Sas** GIFT | DRE | VIRTUS  
esas@scpchurch.org  
ext. 105

**Elena Pope** YM | Bulletin | Comm.  
epope@scpchurch.org  
ext. 104

**Kelly Schmitmeyer** Dir. Worship & Music  
kschmitmeyer@scpchurch.org  
937.538.1762

#### ST. CHRISTOPHER CENTER FOR CHILDREN

AGE 3—PRE-K | CHILD CARE

401 E. National Rd.  
Vandalia, Ohio 45377

w: [scpCHILDCARE.org](http://scpCHILDCARE.org)

Administrator  
Judy Shoup 937.890.5805

#### ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

K-8TH GRADE

405 E. National Rd.  
Vandalia, Ohio 45377

w: [scpSCHOOL.org](http://scpSCHOOL.org)

School Principal  
Tim O'Loughlin 937.898.5104  
Cafeteria 937.898.6203

#### ST. CHRISTOPHER CCD

G.I.F.T. GRADES 1-12

435 E. National Rd.  
Vandalia, Ohio 45377

w: [scpCHURCH.org](http://scpCHURCH.org)

Dir. Of Religious Ed  
Elise Sas 937.898.3542, ext. 105

#### SACRAMENTS

##### BAPTISM

Class on 2nd Tuesday, 7pm  
Pre-registration required; contact the parish office. **Baptism is at 12:15 p.m. on the first and third Sundays.**

##### RCIA (Catholic Faith Initiation)

Andrea Parker, 937.898.3542 ext. 109

##### RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 4:15pm-4:45pm

##### MATRIMONY

Arrangements are to be made no less than six months in advance. More Info: Call Bonnie Allen 937.898.3542 ext. 101

##### CONFIRMATION (Grade 10)

Elise Sas, 937.898.3542 ext. 105  
Confirmation for Adults, call Andrea Parker 937.898.3542 ext. 109

#### PASTORAL REGION #3

In Dayton Deanery with

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**  
753 S. Hyatt St., Tipp City, OH  
937.667.3419

Pastor, Fr. John Tonkin  
Weekday: T/TH: 8:30a | W: 7p  
Weekend: SA: 5p | SU: 8a, 10:30a.

# WELCOME TO ST. CHRISTOPHER PARISH

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# Christmas

## Season Mass Schedule

<i>Christmas</i>	<i>Holy Family</i>	<i>Mother of God</i>	<i>Epiphany</i>
<b>December 24</b>	<b>December 26</b>	<b>January 1</b>	<b>January 2</b>
5pm & 11pm	9am & 11am	11am	9am & 11am
<b>December 25</b>			
9am			

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will not be a 5pm Mass at St. Christopher on Saturday, December 25th nor January 1st. See the schedule above for the Mass times on those dates. Also, on Friday, December 31st, Mass will not be held at St. Christopher, there will be a 5pm Mass at St. John the Baptist in Tipp City.

### MASS & PRESIDER SCHEDULE

	St. Christopher		St. John the Baptist	
<b>S 12 18</b>	5 pm	<i>Fr. Smith</i>	5 pm	<i>Fr. John</i>
<b>SU 12 19</b>	9 am	<i>Fr. Smith</i>	8 am	<i>Fr. John</i>
	11 am	<i>Fr. Smith</i>	10:30 am	<i>Fr. John</i>
<b>M 12 20</b>	<i>No Mass/Comm. Service</i>		<i>No Mass/Comm. Service</i>	
<b>T 12 21</b>	6:30 pm	<i>Fr. John</i>	8:30 am	<i>Fr. Smith</i>
<b>W 12 22</b>	9 am	<i>Fr. John</i>	7 pm	<i>Fr. Smith</i>
<b>TH 12 23</b>	6:30 pm	<i>Fr. John</i>	8:30 am	<i>Fr. Smith</i>
<b>F 12 24</b>	5 pm	<i>Fr. Smith</i>	5 pm	<i>Fr. John</i>
	11 pm	<i>Fr. John</i>	10 pm	<i>Fr. Smith</i>
<b>S 12 25</b>	9 am	<i>Fr. John</i>	10:30 am	<i>Fr. Smith</i>
<b>SU 12 26</b>	9 am	<i>Fr. John</i>	8 am	<i>Fr. Smith</i>
	11 am	<i>Fr. John</i>	10:30 am	<i>Fr. Smith</i>



### MASS INTENTIONS AT ST CHRISTOPHER

<b>S 12 11</b>	5 pm	<i>Richard &amp; Jay Osterholt</i>
<b>SU 12 12</b>	9 am	<i>Gene Monnin Family</i>
	11 am	<i>St Christopher Parish</i>
<b>T 12 21</b>	6:30 pm	<i>Henrietta Simon-Brookey</i>
<b>W 12 22</b>	9 am	<i>Jim Geise</i>
<b>TH 12 23</b>	6:30 pm	<i>Eugene Crompton</i>
<b>F 12 24</b>	5 pm	<i>St Christopher Parish</i>
	11 pm	<i>St Christopher Parish</i>
<b>S 12 25</b>	9 am	<i>St Christopher Parish</i>
<b>SU 12 26</b>	9 am	<i>St Christopher Parish</i>
	11 am	<i>Bob Chiles &amp; Laura Lyday</i>

### MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEKEND

SAT	SUN	SUN
5pm	9am	11am
225	313	278

### SUNDAY CONTRIBUTIONS

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR		
SUNDAY'S	ACTUAL	7/1/21 - 6/30/22
DATE	GIVING	YEARLY GOAL
December 12, 2021	\$22,700.00	\$25,961.54

Offerings **\$463,956.51**  
 Offerings Goal **\$623,077.00**  
 Difference +/- **-\$159,120.49**

For Online Giving, please visit:  
**scpchurch.org**  
 Thank you for your generosity!

# GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

St. Augustine tells us that a “Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps.” As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life’s necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world’s ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn’t God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world’s ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come



into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God’s vessel so that God’s greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God’s fix for the world’s difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do

is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God’s instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

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## REFLECT & RESPOND

### FIRST READING

Micah prophesied a Messiah (“ruler”) would come through the line of David (“Bethlehem-Ephrathah”) and bring peace and harmony. ***In what ways does the upcoming birth of Christ bring you comfort?***

### SECOND READING

As the season of Advent draws to a close, the author of Hebrews reminds us that as disciples of Christ, we must strive to do God’s will above all else. ***How do you stay focused on such an important task?***

### GOSPEL READING

Luke is the only Evangelist to record the story of Mary visiting Elizabeth and only a portion of their conversation was preserved. ***What else do you imagine they talked about?***

## BABY JESUS' WISH LIST

Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

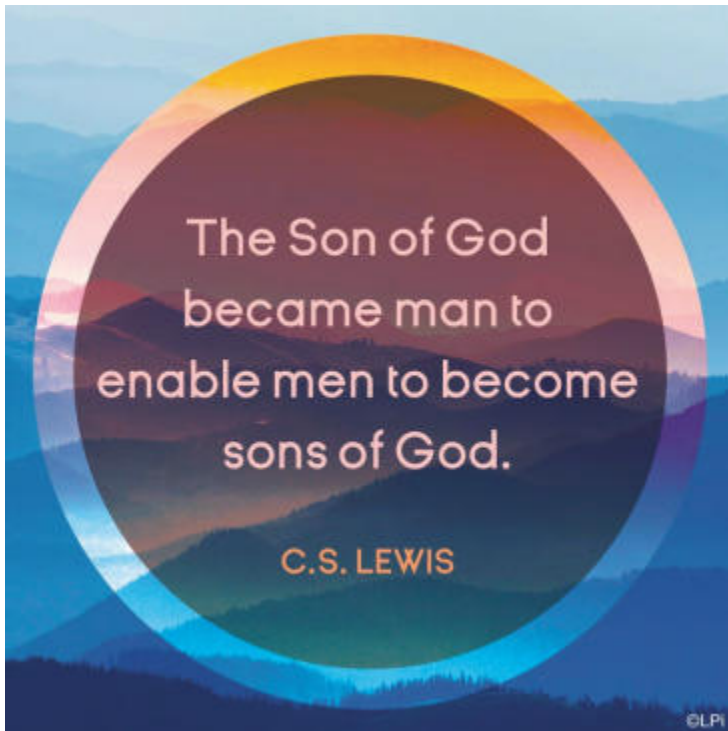
If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what

God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



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## CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

### WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THE ADVENT WREATH?

Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreaths adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn't falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God's love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we're roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ's coming at Christmas.

©LPi



# CALLINGS

Be heard. Be Valued. Be Empowered. Be Transformed.

***I have told you this so that you might have peace in me.***

*John 16:33*

***To be called from your current situation involves moving out of your comfort zones—  
an ending leading to a new beginning; a leap of faith to a new situation.  
Can you identify with this in your life?***

## What People Are Saying About CALLINGS:

“

*By participating in this group I have come to appreciate myself.*

*-Mary Margaret*

## CALLINGS BOOK STUDY ~ NOW OPEN!

Go to the **CALLINGS** webpage or scan the QR Code below.

OR

Contact **Andrea Parker** at the Parish Office at 937.898.3532 x109 or [aparker@scpchurch.org](mailto:aparker@scpchurch.org).



**Scan QR**  
code to visit the  
**CALLINGS**  
webpage:  
[scpchurch.org/  
callings](http://scpchurch.org/callings)

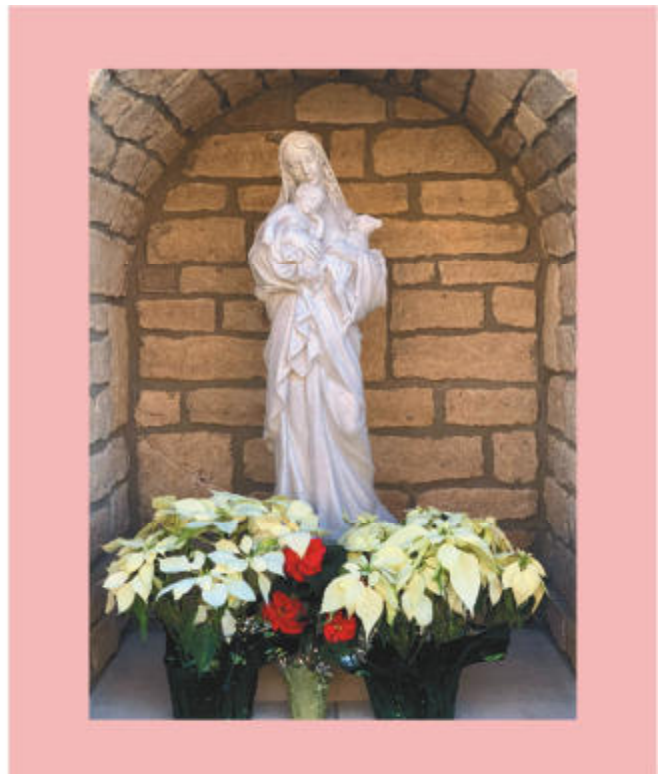
Check out our **CALLINGS** webpage for more information such as:

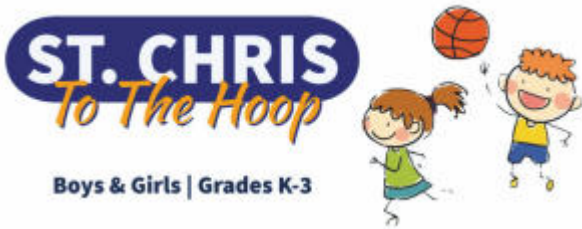
- What is CALLINGS?
- Why should I participate in CALLINGS?
- Book Study Frequently Asked Questions
- How can I volunteer to help?

*Mary*  
Our Wellspring of Peace



*Thank you to the many who celebrated and prayed with us during the dedication ceremony and blessing of our Marian Grotto last Sunday! What beautiful weather we were certainly blessed with to honor Our Lady on the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Again, many thanks go out to all who have donated and contributed to the addition of this beautiful sacred space on our parish campus.*





## TO THE HOOP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

**WHO:** All Boys & Girls in grades K thru 3rd from St. Christopher and St. John the Baptist parish (this includes youth from both parishes, GIFT/Religious Education, and/or the school). All boys and girls in 3rd grade who play CYO are welcomed to participate in this program.

**COST:** \$10 for the season and includes a shirt

**WHERE:** All events for this program will be held in school gym.

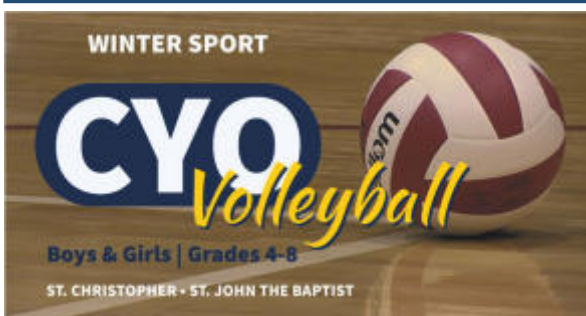
**EVALUATION DAY: Saturday January 8, 2022**

**Arrive 15 minutes early.** Girls K/1 from 11am to 11:30am, Boys K/1 from 11:30am to 12noon, Girls 2/3 from 12noon to 12:30pm, Boys 2/3 from 12:30pm to 1pm.

### REGISTER:

[school.stchristopheronline.com/boosters](http://school.stchristopheronline.com/boosters)

**QUESTIONS:** Please reach out to **Bob Grimberg** (937-667-6951), **Jon Duren** (937-689-5529), or **Rick Zink** (898-9053).



## VOLLEYBALL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN UNTIL DECEMBER 26TH AT MIDNIGHT

**WHO:** All Boys & Girls in grades 4 thru 8 from St. Christopher and St. John the Baptist parish (this includes youth from both parishes, GIFT/Religious Education, and/or the school).

**COST:** \$75 includes a T-shirt

**REGISTRATION CLOSES:** Dec. 26th at midnight

### REGISTER:

[school.stchristopheronline.com/boosters](http://school.stchristopheronline.com/boosters)

**QUESTIONS:** Please email **Brian Frey** at [frey.brian13@gmail.com](mailto:frey.brian13@gmail.com)

## PARISH SPOTLIGHT

### Volunteers

### Needed

**A MASS COORDINATOR** is needed for the 5pm Saturday Mass. It would be once a month and 1 extra Saturday a year. Some duties are arriving early, unlocking/locking doors, setting up for Mass and making sure the Lay Ministers have arrived. Training is provided. **Please contact Bonnie at [bprine@scpchurch.org](mailto:bprine@scpchurch.org) or 937-898-3542 x101.**

**SVDP LUNCH MINISTRY** St. Chris is starting a new 6 month commitment to making 500+ lunches for St. Vincent De Paul beginning in January. By signing up, your family commits to making and donating 10 sack lunches a month between January and June. Donors drop the lunches off at St. Chris for delivery on designated Sunday mornings. This is a great way to include young children in outreach. **If you want to join the Lunch Ministry Team please email Elise ([esas@scpchurch.org](mailto:esas@scpchurch.org)) by January 1. See website for more info: <https://church.stchristopheronline.com/bag-lunch-project>**

**SVDP DINING HALL SERVERS** are immediately needed to help serve meals to homeless families in the Dayton community at the St. Vincent DePaul Apple Street facility. Commitment would be **every 2nd Sunday of the month from 4:30pm to 7pm. GREAT opportunity for any teen (16+) or any adult with a desire to serve God's people!** Interested or have questions, please contact Dave Weeks at 937-581-0627 or email [djweeks1957@gmail.com](mailto:djweeks1957@gmail.com)



## BAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT

Gather your family of all ages for this simple at home Christmas activity. The activity includes baking cookies and playing a little dice game to help get the conversation going about the joys and meaning of Christmas. Instructional cards are available at in the gathering space. Look for the Baking Spirits Bright basket!

# WEEKLY READINGS & OBSERVANCES

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19, 2021

- SUN 12/19** *4th Sunday of Advent*  
*Mi 5:1-4a*  
*Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]*  
*Heb 10:5-10*  
*Lk 1:39-45*
- MON 12/20** -----  
*Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38*
- TUE 12/21** **St. Peter Canisius**, *Priest and Doctor of the Church*  
*Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45*
- WED 12/22** -----  
*1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56*
- THU 12/23** **St. John of Kanty**, *Priest*  
*Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66*
- FRI 12/24** **Christmas Eve**  
**Morning:** *2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79*
- SAT 12/25** **The Nativity of the Lord**  
**Vigil:** *Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25*  
**Night:** *Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14*  
**Dawn:** *Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20*  
**Day:** *Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14*
- SUN 12/26** **The Holy Family**  
*Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or*  
*1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52*

## PARISH ADULT MINISTRIES

### CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS

Court St. Christopher #2748

To Join Contact: Peggy Rosales, prosales128@hotmail.com

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Fr. Aufderheide Council 12912

Contact to join: Joel Maurer, joel\_maurer@protonmail.com

### MEN OF ST. JOSEPH'S

Every Sat. 8:30–10am | Panera Bread - Miller Ln. | Fellowship and prayer. More Info: Randy Weddle 937-898-6775

### CHARISMATIC PRAYER

All are welcome | Prayer, Praise & Worship, DATES: Nov 15, Nov. 22, & Dec 13 in the church choir room | More Info: Anne Heywood aheywood@woh.rr.com

### WOMEN'S PRAYER

Twice a month on Tuesdays 7:30-9pm in the church | More Info: Marilyn Updyke 937-470-7259 or mmupdyke@att.net

### ROSARY

Every Monday 7–7:30 pm | Church | More Info: Lucy Geise 937-898-6803 or ljgeise@yahoo.com

After most Wed. & Fri. Masses 9:30–10am | Church

After every 5th weekend of the Month Masses | Chapel

### BEREAVEMENT

Bringing comfort through service to those grieving a loss | More Info: Ellen Lang 937-898-2351 or ellen@af-ses.com

### RESPECT LIFE

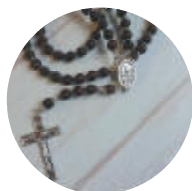
Fellowship, prayer, and community efforts to end abortion and promote respect of life in all it's stages. More Info: Steve Wirick 937-414-9827 or stchrisforlife@outlook.com

### PRAYER CHAIN

Submit your prayer request online via the parish website or contact Donna Kitta: (937) 454-0481



Looking for a unique, last minute Christmas gift? Looking for the perfect gift for a loved one preparing to celebrate an upcoming Sacrament?



Shop the beautiful variety of handcrafted rosaries and jewelry made by our talented parishioner, Shaina Logan.

Shop Etsy

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/SanctaMariaCo>

or Email

[shaina.logan@gmail.com](mailto:shaina.logan@gmail.com)







## CINCINNATI MEN'S CONFERENCE

There is no better Christmas gift for the men in your life than tickets to this!



Raymond Arroyo  
EWTN News Anchor

Sat. April 2nd, 2022  
Fifth Third Arena



CincinnatiMensConference.com

**\*LADIES**, this is the perfect Christmas gift for the men in your life. No gift is more important than spiritual motivation.



Jim Caviezel  
Actor (Passion of the Christ)



Coach Luke Fickell  
(Invited Speaker)

### 2022 CINCINNATI MEN'S CONFERENCE

Actor Jim Caviezel (Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*) and Raymond Arroyo (EWTN/ FOX News) are coming to Cincinnati April 2, 2022 to speak at the Cincinnati Men's Conference. **LADIES**, there is no better or more meaningful Christmas gift this year than to buy tickets to this conference for the men in your life. Don't know what to get Dad or your significant other for Christmas?! We just solved it. Go to [www.CincinnatiMensConference.com](http://www.CincinnatiMensConference.com) to get tickets. Give the gift of spiritual uplift this Christmas season, your men will thank you!

**PROMO VIDEO** <https://youtu.be/3aYNmRyYeMI>

### SHOP WITH SCRIP THIS CHRISTMAS!

Find holiday gifts for everyone on your list while raising money for our parish. Whether you buy gift cards as presents or use them to buy gifts, your order immediately raises money for our parish. Share the giftspiration with others - the more people that order, the truly merrier!



#### Limited-time \$5 and \$10 gift cards

The perfect small gifts for teachers, friends, bus drivers, mail carriers, and more.



#### Your gift cards can now be delivered to your door

With the mobile app, RaiseRight™, you have the option to get physical gift cards from 250+ brands sent right to your door, or sent right to friends and family as holiday gifts. There are no activation fees.

#### Get started:

1. Enroll in the [RaiseRight](#) mobile app or on [ShopWithScrip.com](#) with our organization's enrollment code: **E26F25AE3L62**
2. Seamlessly check out, receive eGift cards and reloaded funds faster, and get your gift cards delivered by securely paying online with a linked bank account or credit card.

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

753 S. HYATT ST, TIPP CITY | 937- 667-3419 | [STJOHNTIPPITY.ORG](http://STJOHNTIPPITY.ORG)

JAN 10

### HOLY HOUR AND BENEDICTION

7:00pm - 8:00pm | *St. John the Baptist church*  
Come for the whole hour or for part of the hour

DEC 19

### COFFEE WITH CHRIST

9:15am-10:10am | *St. John's Banquet Hall*  
Guest Speaker, coffee, food & fellowship

**MINISTERING TO THOSE WITH DISABILITIES** Noelle Collis DeVito, Associate Dir. of the Office of Persons with Disabilities will talk about this hard topic. One of the biggest reasons this is a hard topic, is that we may be totally unaware that these people even exist in our parish community, or maybe they don't because they don't feel welcome. Come hear how we as everyday pew dwellers can be valuable instruments of hospitality and outreach to a "hidden" portion of our community.

### THE POPE WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Holy Father is asking for many of the baptized as possible to participate in diocesan meetings taking place in Jan and Feb to discuss how we can collectively better advance the message of salvation. Please consider participating in one of our deanery meetings.



**TO LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP:**

[www.catholicaoc.org](http://www.catholicaoc.org)



Scan the QR CODE with your phone camera to learn more about **St. Christopher SCRIP** participation.



**Paper Order Forms** are available in the Gathering Space Information Rack or may be printed from the Parish website.

# CHILDREN'S LITURGY

GROWING WITH THE GOSPEL | PRESCHOOL - 3RD GRADE

## GOSPEL

PRE - 1ST

When Mary visited Elizabeth, they were both waiting for their babies to be born. Elizabeth's baby would grow up to be John the Baptist. Mary's baby would grow up to be Jesus our savior. Mary and Elizabeth were excited to see each other, not only because they loved each other, but also because they both loved God very much. It makes God happy when we love our relatives and friends, just like Mary and Elizabeth did.



2ND - 3RD

Mary couldn't wait to visit her much older cousin, Elizabeth, up in the hills of Judea. Both of them were expecting babies. Each of them knew that the birth of her child was a special event that could only happen because they

trusted God. Your own mother trusted that God would give you life in this world. Both Mary and Elizabeth watched their children grow up to do good things. You can grow up to do good things too, if you trust in God.

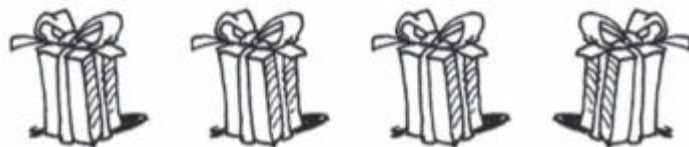
## GROWING WITH THE Gospel

CYCLE A

BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

## PUZZLE

Circle the pictures that are facing the same way. Then color in all the pictures.



## PRAYER

PRE - 1ST

Dear God, help me to love you. Take care of my family, my cousins, and all my relatives at Christmastime and always. Amen.

2ND - 3RD

Dear Jesus, help me to trust you and to remember that you are the reason we celebrate Christmas. Amen.

## MISSION

PRE - 1ST

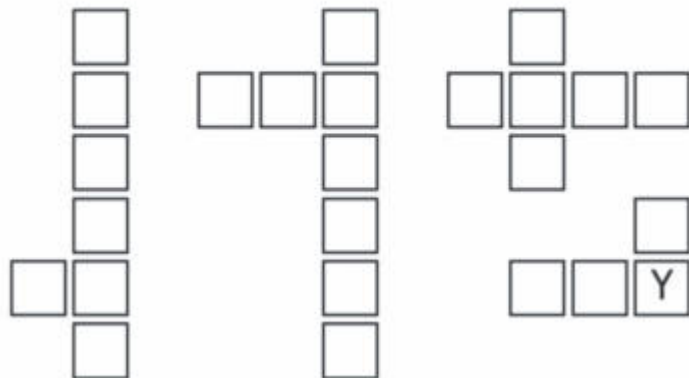
If your relatives come to visit you, welcome them with a cheerful greeting. If you go to visit them during the Christmas season tell them how much God loves them.

2ND - 3RD

You belong to a larger family than just the people in your home. See how many of your relatives you can name before you visit them at Christmas. When you do see them, wish them "Merry Christmas!"

Fit the following words from today's Gospel into the empty squares below.

The infant in my womb leaped for joy.





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