


*St. Christopher*  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



GLORY  
TO GOD  
IN THE  
HIGHEST  
AND ON  
EARTH  
PEACE TO  
THOSE  
ON WHOM  
HIS FAVOR  
RESTS.

LUKE 2:14

*Merry Christmas*



# PARISH INFORMATION

DECEMBER 25 & 26, 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

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD | FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

## 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 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>
<b>M 12 27</b>	<i>No Mass/Comm. Service</i>	<i>No Mass/Comm. Service</i>
<b>T 12 28</b>	6:30 pm <i>Fr. Smith</i>	8:30 am <i>Fr. John</i>
<b>W 12 29</b>	9 am <i>Fr. Smith</i>	7 pm <i>Fr. John</i>
<b>TH 12 30</b>	6:30 pm <i>Fr. Smith</i>	8:30 am <i>Fr. John</i>
<b>F 12 31</b>	<i>No Mass/Comm. Service</i>	5 pm <i>Fr. Smith</i>
<b>S 1 01</b>	11 am <i>Fr. John</i>	<i>No Mass/Comm. Service</i>
<b>SU 1 02</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>



### MASS INTENTIONS AT ST CHRISTOPHER

<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>
<b>T 12 28</b>	6:30 pm	<i>Sylvester &amp; Colletta Baumgarte</i>
<b>W 12 29</b>	9 am	<i>Michael Roselle</i>
<b>TH 12 30</b>	6:30 pm	<i>Joan Schwab</i>
<b>F 12 31</b>	-----	<i>No Mass/Comm. Service</i>
<b>S 1 01</b>	11 am	<i>World Peace</i>
<b>SU 1 02</b>	9 am	<i>Ed Imwalle</i>
	11 am	<i>Jerry Swigart</i>

### MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEKEND

SAT	SUN	SUN
5pm 204	9am 278	11am 305

### SUNDAY CONTRIBUTIONS

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR		7/1/21 - 6/30/22
SUNDAY'S	ACTUAL	YEARLY GOAL
DATE	GIVING	PER WEEK
December 18, 2021	\$13,697.00	\$25,961.54

<b>Offerings</b>	<b>\$477,653.51</b>
<b>Offerings Goal</b>	<b>\$649,038.54</b>
<b>Difference +/-</b>	<b>-\$171,385.03</b>

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



# GOSPEL MEDITATION

CHRISTMAS DAY | THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

“He so loved us that for our sake He was made man in time, through Whom all times were made; was in the world less in years than His servants, though older than the world itself in His eternity; was made man, Who made man; was created of a mother, whom He created; was carried by hands which He formed; nursed at the breasts which He had filled; cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word without Whom all human eloquence is mute (St. Augustine, Sermon 188).” The miracle of what happens at Christmas is truly an awesome mystery. Revealed in the silent ordinariness of life is God’s intimate love for humanity and all that he made. The Word, existing for all time, comes and dwells among us. God kisses us. We can seek and soar with playful delight as a joy never known before fills our heart.

Joy is best expressed through dance. There is just something truly wonderful about the self-abandon a beautiful melodic dance reveals. If we are able to let go and really be free, it celebrates life in a way few other experiences really can. With the birth of Jesus Christ, God takes the Divine Dance to a deeper and more tangible level. We can now not only see what we believe but believe what we see! This most perfect dance is a call to beauty, innocence, truth, purpose, hope, faith, and love. Today we know, beyond doubt, that we are a necessary part of God’s beautifully choreographed masterpiece of life and not just a random happening without real intent or purpose. We are loved, treasured, and blessed.



Accepting the truth of God’s birth in time we also accept an invitation to dance with God. We can let go of what tethers us to anxious concerns and superficial securities. Throw caution to the wind and go with God. We have been blessed with talents, gifts, and life eternal. Follow the rhythm of the dance with joy and listen to what the Word who became flesh tells us about what the next steps can be. Today, heaven remains the same, but earth has been profoundly changed.

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## REFLECT & RESPOND

### FIRST READING

The prophet Isaiah offered a song of praise in seeing the Lord’s return and the salvation of his people. **How will you celebrate today the birth of the Messiah?**

### SECOND READING

The opening prologue of the Letter to the Hebrews is similar in poetic structure and theology to the prologue of the Gospel of John (today’s Gospel reading). Both texts place heavy emphasis on the divinity of Jesus. **In the birth of Jesus where do you see his divinity present?**

### GOSPEL READING

The opening prologue to the Gospel of John offers a beautiful portrait of Jesus: “And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” **How does the celebration of Christmas help you sense God’s presence in the world?**

## STEWARDSHIP TIES

There is a lot of imagery around Christmas that has to do with adoption — or, more specifically, with a child being loved by another as if they belonged to that person and loved in such a profound way that in time, they do come to belong to that person.

We see this with Joseph and the infant Jesus. Joseph is not Jesus’ biological father. But through a series of actions, and through his faithfulness in small, everyday matters, Joseph becomes the foster father of Jesus.

Perhaps we are parents who have adopted children, or we ourselves were adopted. We have also seen how, through a series of actions of love and sacrifice, someone can become the parent of a person who is not their “blood.” A lot of times these families celebrate the day of the adoption. I’ve heard it called a “gotcha day,” and it’s marked joyously, like a

birthday.

Most of us are not descended from the Israelites, God’s Chosen People. But through a series of extraordinary actions of love and sacrifice, God has made Himself our parent, too. And through our own actions, and through faithfulness in small and everyday matters, we are His children.

But in this family, instead of blood ties, we have stewardship ties. It’s not about who we look like, it’s about how we treat one another. How we take care of one another.

So this Christmas, let’s think about how we will celebrate our adoption. As much as it is Jesus’ birthday, it’s also our “gotcha day” — the day we received the gift of eternal family.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS  
©LPi



*In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.*

*Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.*

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**F**amilies can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

*At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.*

*But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.*

*You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?*

*The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?*

*Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?*

*We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.*

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS  
©LPi

## REFLECT & RESPOND

### FIRST READING

*Hannah, the mother of Samuel, and Samuel's father are portrayed as parents of deep prayer and great faith. **How would you describe the faith of your mother or father?***

### SECOND READING

*John teaches us that if we believe in Jesus and love one another, "we may be called children of God." **How do you show gratitude for being part of this holy family?***

### GOSPEL READING

*Luke is the only Evangelist to preserve a story about Jesus from his youth. In this account, Mary and Joseph are filled with "great anxiety" as they searched for Jesus who they thought was lost. **How do you seek God's help for the anxious moments in your family?***



# CALLINGS

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

## What People Are Saying About CALLINGS:

“ Being part of this experience, I discovered how Jesus touches every one of us. None of our stories are similar, but God does engage us often. I am now more receptive and more aware of the Lord’s presence in my life. - Jim D.

Open your hearts to the love of God which he will give you. He loves you with tenderness. And he will give you not to keep, but to share.  
Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta

St Mother Teresa instructed us to “Find your own Calcutta.” Jesus warns us against letting family become so important that we fail to serve those beyond the family who live along side of us. What can I do to help? What is my gift to offer to others?

## 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.

### 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?



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

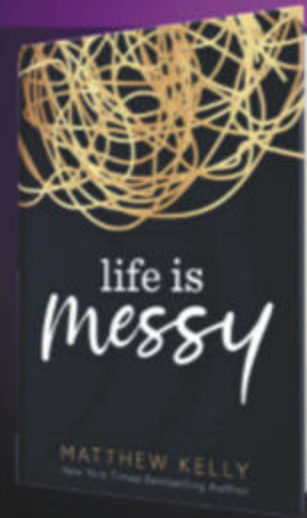
# life is messy

“

“Sometimes life is beautifully rational, at other times it lacks all logic.”

“Everything was fine until it wasn’t. We are never ready for the storms of life. They rarely announce themselves.”

“The greatest threat to your happiness and wholeness is your unrecognized spiritual needs.”



## PLEASE TAKE A BOOK ...

Our Christmas gift to you!

# Merry Christmas





## 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.

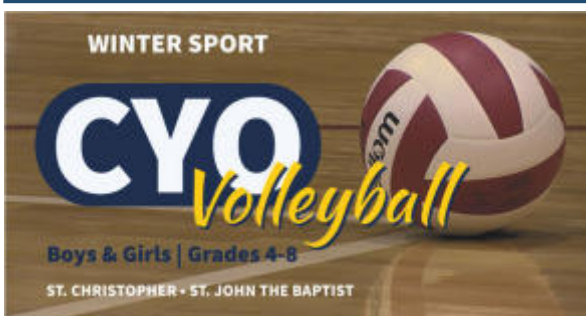
**EVALUATION DAY:** Saturday January 8, 2022

**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)



## RECEIVED INTO THE CHURCH

**CONGRATULATIONS TO JON DUREN** who was received into the Catholic Church at the 11am Mass on December 12 by making a profession of faith and receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

*Welcome, Jon!*



# WEEKLY READINGS & OBSERVANCES

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 25, 2021

- 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
- MON 12/27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist**  
*1 Jn* 1:1-4  
*Ps* 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]  
*Jn* 20:1a, 2-8
- TUE 12/28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**  
*1 Jn* 1:5-2:2  
*Ps* 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]  
*Mt* 2:13-18
- WED 12/29 St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr**  
*1 Jn* 2:3-11  
*Ps* 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]  
*Lk* 2:22-35
- THU 12/30 -----**  
*1 Jn* 2:12-17  
*Ps* 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]  
*Lk* 2:36-40
- FRI 12/31 St. Sylvester I, Pope New Year's Eve**  
*1 Jn* 2:18-21  
*Ps* 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]  
*Jn* 1:1-18
- SAT 1/01 Mary, The Holy Mother of God World Day of Peace & New Year's Day**  
*Nm* 6:22-27  
*Ps* 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]  
*Gal* 4:4-7  
*Lk* 2:16-21
- SUN 1/02 The Epiphany of the Lord Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church**  
*Is* 60:1-6/*Ps* 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/*Eph* 3:2-3a, 5-6/*Mt* 2:1-12

## 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

# Sancta Maria Co.

By Shaina Logan - St. Christopher Parishioner

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)







Synod  
2021  
2023

For a synodal Church  
communion | participation | mission

# We Want You!

The Holy Father, in seeking to hear from all the People of God on how to better bring the Mission of the Church to the world, has announced Synod 2021-2023. To start, he is asking for all dioceses throughout the world to conduct local meetings to discuss this very topic.

Who are the People of God? It is all the baptized. That means not only the lay faithful, those in religious orders, and the clergy. It also means those who are poor, disabled, migrants and immigrants, elderly, young adults, those who no longer practice the faith, women and men. In other words, everyone.

Did you know that when you were baptized you were called to a priestly, prophetic, and kingly mission to bring the good news to all? This duty then does not lie strictly with the clergy. The Holy Spirit dwells within God's people. The Holy Father recognizes that coming together to discuss how to better further the mission of the Church is where the Holy Spirit can work powerfully.

The 10 themes of the Synod that will be discussed:

- **Companions:** In our local Church, who are those who "walk together"?
- **Listening:** How is God speaking to us through voices we sometimes ignore?
- **Speaking Out:** What enables or hinders speaking up courageously, candidly, civilly, and responsibly in our local Church and in society?
- **Celebration:** How do prayer and liturgical celebrations actually inspire and guide our common life and mission in our community?

- **Sharing Responsibility:** As missionary disciples, how is every baptized person called to participate in the mission of the Church?
- **Dialogue:** To what extent do diverse peoples in our community come together for dialogue?
- **Ecumenism:** What relationships does our Church community have with members of other Christian traditions and denominations?
- **Participation:** How does our Church community identify the goals to be pursued, the way to reach them, and the steps to be taken?
- **Discerning:** What methods and processes do we use in decision-making?
- **Forming Ourselves:** How does our church community form people to be more capable of "walking together," listening to one another, participating in mission, and engaging in dialogue?

Learn more at [www.CatholicAOC.org/Synod](http://www.CatholicAOC.org/Synod). Want to participate? On the website you will find an opportunity to sign up for one of our local meetings near you. We hope to see you there! And, if you know someone who has left the faith, please invite them to participate too!

If you do not have access to the internet, please tear off the tab below, drop it in the collection basket, indicate which meeting you would like to attend (from the list on the bottom of this page) and the parish will sign you up. God Bless!

**QUESTIONS:** Please contact St. Christopher liaisons, Amy McEntee (937) 657-5407 or Mark Bade (937) 689-5005

PLEASE FILL OUT, DEATCH, AND PLACE IN COLLECTION BASKET OR TURN IN AT PARISH OFFICE.

*I wish to participate. Please sign me up!*

Synod 2021-2023

## Archdiocesan Meeting Dates & Sites

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Age (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Location you would like to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Deanery	Date	Time	Location	Street	City	Zip
Cathedral Deanery	1/29/2022	9-11 AM	St Francis Xavier	611 Sycamore St	Cincinnati	45202
St Andrew Deanery	1/13/2022	7PM	Good Shepherd	8815 Kemper Rd	Cincinnati	45249
St Francis DeSales Deanery	2/10/2022	7-9PM	Bartlett Center	6616 Beechmont Ave	Cincinnati	45230
St Lawrence Deanery	2/5/2022	9:30-11:30	St John the Baptist Church, Harrison	10010 Carolina Trace Rd	Harrison	45030
St Margaret Mary Deanery	1/15/2022		St Ignatius of Loyola	5222 North Bend Rd	Cincinnati	45247
Dayton Deanery North	1/13/2022	7-9 PM	Reis Conference Center at St Peter	6161 Chamberburg Rd	Huber Heights	45424
Dayton Deanery South	2/10/2022	7-9 PM	St Albert	3033 Far Hills Ave	Kettering	45429
Hamilton Deanery	1/22/2022	10-12 Noon	Queen of Peace	2550 Millville Rd	Hamilton	45013
	1/9/22	2-4 PM	St. Bernadette	1479 Locust Lake Rd	Amelia	45102
	1/16/22	2-4 PM	St Michael	16 North Fourth St	Mt Orab	45167
	1/23/22	2-4 PM	St Mary	212 South High St	Hillsboro	45133
St Martin Deanery	1/18/2022	7-9 PM	St Charles Ctr	2680 US127	Calina	45822
St Marys Deanery	TBD	6-8 PM	St Michael Hall	33 Elm St	Ft Loramie	45845
Sidney Deanery	TBD					
Springfield Deanery	TBD					

# CHILDREN'S LITURGY

GROWING WITH THE GOSPEL | PRESCHOOL - 3RD GRADE

## GOSPEL

### PRE - 1ST

Imagine Jesus goes to your church today. After church, Mary and Joseph find him on the altar telling stories from the Old Testament to the priests and the Sunday School teachers. Mary and Joseph would be amazed. They would want Jesus to come home. Jesus would love his parents so much that he would go home with them. He will stay with them until he grows older, wiser, and stronger.



### 2ND - 3RD

When Jesus traveled to Jerusalem as a 12-year-old young man, he felt completely at home in the Temple. He enjoyed talking to the teachers about his Father in heaven. His questions and his



answers showed how much he loved God.

## PRAYER

### PRE - 1ST

Lord, teach me your Bible stories so that I can teach them to others.

### 2ND - 3RD

Dear God, help me to feel at home in my church like Jesus did.

## MISSION

### PRE - 1ST

I will always let my parents know where I am, so they won't worry.

### 2ND - 3RD

Help visitors to your church feel welcomed. As a family or as a class, make cards for visitors, asking them to come back.

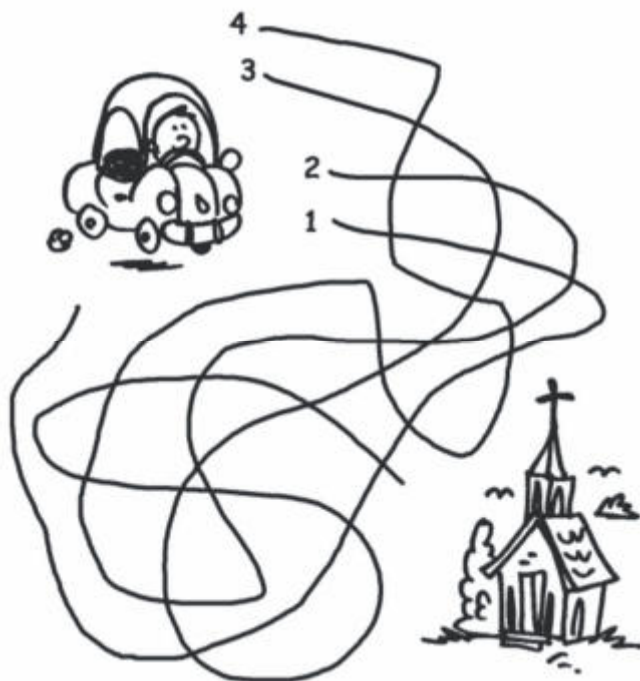
## GROWING WITH THE *Gospel*

CYCLE A

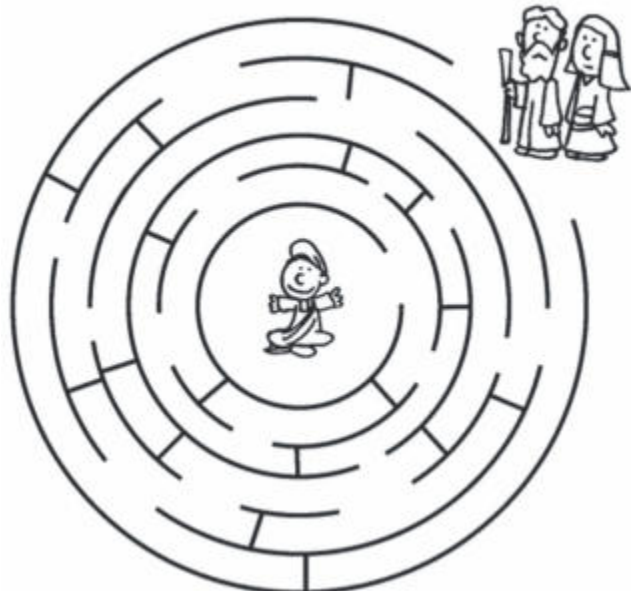
 BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

## PUZZLE

*Find the way that leads to church!*



*Help Mary and Joseph find Jesus.*







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