

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

"Behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him." Mt 3:16

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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ANGEL
SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Turning taxes into tuition with the Catholic Community Foundation

Help support Saint Rocco Parish School and receive Tax Credit! Although Saint Rocco School accepts the Cleveland Voucher, the cost to offer Catholic education for each student far exceeds what is provided by the Voucher. Your help is always needed and appreciated!
With YOUR support of this Program, Saint Rocco School Students were able to receive $24,000.00 in Tuition Assistance this Fall 2025!

The Angel Scholarship Fund (ASF) is a State of Ohio approved Scholarship Granting Organization. Donors to ASF may be eligible for a 100% tax credit on their State of Ohio income tax return for the year the contribution is made. The maximum credit amount is $750 per individual; married couples that file a joint return can each claim this credit if both spouses make eligible donations ($1,500 total).



EASTER 2026 – INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?
Is Sunday April 5th! If you, a loved one or friend interested in beinng Baptized and become Catholic, Easter is the perfect time! If interested please contact the Parish Office (216-961-8331) to begin the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults). It's simple! Just give us a call!

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2026
Any adult who is a Baptized Catholic, and needs to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, ought to contact the parish office as soon as possible. The sacrament of Confirmation will be administered for candidates from Saint Rocco Parish, on Sunday April 19th at 2pm, at the Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist. For more information, please contact the parish office.

CERNY'S CORNER: SCHOOL NEWS
As the new year begins, there are many things happening here! We just installed cameras throughout the entire Saint Rocco School campus. Every classroom, hallway, cafeteria, gym, and kitchen have security cameras. We are pleased to have this increased layer of safety!
Currently, we have 188 students as we get geared up for re-enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year! We are hopeful we will increase our enrollment! Please help us spread the word about what a safe, nurturing, faith-filled, academic environment we have at Saint Rocco School.

GOD'S LOVE UNITES US
Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God. When we share our talents, and offer them to the praise and glory of God, we grow in holiness and unity.
Parish Offerings:

December 21st

HOPE	$ 290.00
Maintenance	$ 60.00
Collection	$ 5,628.00

December 25th (Christmas)

Collection	$ 25,073.00

**this is a record making Christmas collection for our parish family! Thank you!!!!!!*

December 28th

Retired Religious	$ 70.00
HOPE	$ 77.00
Collection	$ 4,759.00

January 1st (New Year's Day)

Collection	$ 607.00

January 4th (Epiphany)

Maintenance	$ 500.00
HOPE	$ 20.00
Collection	$ 5,890.00

May the Lord reward each of you for your loving support of the parish!

PRE-CANA PREPARATIONS
Any couple preparing for the sacrament of marriage may schedule a Pre-Cana day at the Saint Joseph Retreat Center on State Road, Parma OH, or complete a course On-Line with: THEMARRIAGEGROUP.COM/START.

RELIC OF SAINT CARLO ACUTIS

After several months, Fr. James has been able to acquire for Saint Rocco Parish, a first-class relic of Saint Carlo Acutis: a snip of his hair. Once a reliquary is obtained, this relic will be placed on the back altar in our daily Mass Chapel of Saint Raymond. We are truly blessed to have this relic of the first "Millenial" Saint; may Saint Carlo Acutis pray for us and our youth!





HELP US UPDATE:

If you are seeking a spiritual home, we would be honored to have you join our spiritual family here at St. Rocco! To register or update your registration simply complete the information form below and drop it in the collection basket or mail it to the Parish Office. God bless you!

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY, STATE_____

ZIP-CODE_____

PHONE_____

EMAIL_____

JANUARY: THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

"In the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth"
Phil 2:10

The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, which is celebrated on January 3. Everything about our divine Lord is holy, including His Name. It was the Archangel Gabriel who first spoke the name of Jesus to His mother, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus" (Luke 1:31). The Archangel was only a messenger, so the name of Jesus was given to Him by the Father in Heaven. Saint Peter was one of the first Apostles to speak with authority in the Holy Name of Jesus when he healed a crippled man saying, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk" (Acts 3:6). Saint Paul also exalted the holy name of Jesus when he said, "…at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9–10). Saint Paul preached with power in the name of Jesus so often that even some itinerant Jewish exorcists tried to imitate him by commanding demons, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches" (Acts 19:13). Throughout the history of the Church, Jesus' name has been invoked as an instrument of personal faith in the Son of God, especially to command demons or simply to pray to Jesus in a repetitive and personal way. The liturgical Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus has been celebrated by the Church for many centuries, especially within various religious orders. In the fifteenth century, Saint Bernardine of Siena, a Franciscan friar, went on a preaching mission promoting devotion to the Most Holy Name. He encouraged people to revere Jesus' name by placing the first three Greek letters of His name on their doors: IHS. Today, this Greek monogram of Jesus' name is commonly seen in churches on tabernacles, altars, and in stained glass windows. In the sixteenth century, Saint Ignatius of Loyola had such a strong devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus that he adopted it as his seal as general of his newly founded order of the Jesuits; that monogram remains the Jesuits' official seal today. There is great power in the spoken name of Jesus. Repeating His name prayerfully or speaking it aloud brings Him close and gives you strength, provided you recite His name in faith. The name of Jesus casts out fear, arouses trust, and unites your heart to His. Sadly, the Most Holy Name of Jesus is so holy that the evil one often tempts people to invoke it as a curse when angry, without even considering what they are doing. As we celebrate this month dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, ponder the prayer below that is attributed to Saint Bernardine of Sienna, the Franciscan who spoke so fervently of Jesus' name. Also, take time to close your eyes and prayerfully repeat His name over and over. As you go about your day, anytime you feel anxious or fearful, speak the name of Jesus. Know and believe that the divine name of our Lord brings Him close to you and bestows His grace in abundance.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Brothers & Sisters in the Lord:

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever!

Nearly twenty years ago, the African American poet, Maya Angelou, was offered a guest professorship at Wake Forest University. In the first day of her class, she spent the entire class period learning the student's names by spelling them out and having the students explain their origins. In the second class period, she reviewed the names again and in the third class period, she repeated the process. After the third time around, she asked the class, "Why do you think that I have devoted twenty per cent of valuable class time simply to learn your names?" There was a deafening silence. So Ms. Angelou answered her own question. "Your name is a sign of your dignity. Calling someone by name is recognizing someone, not simply as human, but as a person. You bestow dignity on another person when you call them by name."

Our value, if it is to become real, must be claimed. If our dignity is to have power, we must hear our true name. This is what is happening to Jesus in today's gospel. In biblical terms, the Baptism of the Lord marks the moment in Jesus' life when he recognizes his own dignity. It is the moment in his life when he hears his true name. The baptism of Jesus marks a specific change, a watershed, in Jesus' life. At that moment Jesus realizes that he is more than the son of Mary, more than a faithful Jew, more than a son of the carpenter. He is God's beloved son. This is the name that is given to him from the heavens. Now, of course, Jesus was always God's beloved son. But in his humanity, there was a moment in which he claimed his dignity. This is what we celebrate today on the Baptism of the Lord.

Just as Jesus needed to claim his own dignity, we need to do the same. We are valuable. By faith and Baptism, we have become sons and daughters of God in Christ Jesus. That is who we are, but unless we claim that dignity, it will never have power. Unless we own our true identity, we will never be able to understand who we truly are. If we go through life just doing one thing after the other, it is easy to let the circumstances of life define who we are. We can allow our failures and mistakes to tell us that we are worthless. We can conclude that we are expendable, of little value. But this is not the truth. God has made us and saved us. God has made us God's own. We will only know that identity when we claim our true name.

And the minute we do that, it leads us to mission. The minute we are able to say to ourselves, "I am a beloved son or daughter," in that minute, we have good news. We have good news to spread to the world. Jesus' baptism does not only mark the moment where he claims his true identity and dignity, it is also the beginning of his public ministry. For in Jesus' life, as in ours, when we claim our identity, we become empowered for mission. Dignity leads to service.

(continued on page 6)



Let us remember in our prayers all our parishioners, family & friends who are ill.

NEW YEAR – NEW YOU: A GAME CHANGER!

Take the time to come to our parish weekly day of Eucharistic Adoration. The most Holy Eucharist is exposed in Saint Raymond Chapel every Tuesday from 7am until 6:30pm; Mass, Novena and Benediction begin at 6:30pm. Don't waste your time, your day on trivial stuff: computer, iPhone, movies etc. etc. Sometimes things that can lead us into sin rather than growing in holiness! Invest your time – ten, fifteen minutes, half hour or more…. invest it NOW and experience how time with Jesus is a "game changer" in your life! You'll never know the power from adoration unless you try it! Some things that you can be sure to experience from adoration are: *1. It helps us to avoid sin, 2. It helps us to learn the art of prayer, 3. It improves our reception of the Eucharist, 4. It helps us to avoid mediocrity, 5. Prayer sets our hearts on fire, 6. It helps us to overcome bad habits, 7. It blesses our families, 8. It gives us an interior peace in our soul, 9. It helps towards the salvation of souls, 10. Mary and Jesus rejoice*

Other Potential Benefits of Attending Adoration:

11. Visit with Jesus face to face, 12. A better awareness of God's love, 13. Gain more awareness of the gifts you have been given by the Holy Spirit, 14. Gain knowledge through spiritual reading from the adoration chapel library, 15. Deepen your relationship with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, 16. Experience increased spiritual strength, 17. Feel the growing desire to set aside a special hour to be with Jesus, 18. Receive an increase in charity, love for others, 19. Gain an enhanced understanding of the Catholic faith, 20. A greater insight into your role and purpose in life, 21. Gratitude for the graces given through Adoration, 22. Know the peace and joy of a true and deeper relationship with God, 23. Allows you to explore and discover new depths of spirituality through time spent through the Presence of the most Blessed Sacrament, 24. Enjoy Increased Mass attendance, better preparation for and frequenting of the Sacraments, 25. Reawakens and deepens faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, 26. You are able to help evangelize others when you invite them to visit Jesus to develop a personal relationship with God

"But, unless we have Jesus, we cannot give Him: that is why we need the Eucharist. Spend as much time as possible in front of the Blessed Sacrament and He will fill you with His strength and His power." – St. Teresa of Calcutta.



SANCTUARY CANDLE

Church The candle this week is in memory of **Sister Rita Schipke**

Chapel For Br. Richard Henry, O. de M.

If you are interested in donating the Candle for a week. The donation will be $15.00.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, January 10th: Christmas Weekday
4:00pm **Pro Populo** (*Fr. Chia)*

Sunday, January 11th: The Baptism of The Lord
7:30am † **Diane Lauckhaupt**
† **Jim, Rachel & Lenny Zangardi** (*Fr. Mayer*)
9:30am † **Paul Bertin**
† **Waltraud Alurovic**
† **Egidio Zomparelli**
† **Tommy Wells**
Ken & Jeannie on their 40th Wedding Anniversary (*Fr. Chia*)
12:00pm † **Rose & Peter Maisano** (*Fr. Mayer)*

Monday, January 12th: Weekday
6:45am † **Mary & James Ginley**
6:30pm † **Gino Marino**

Tuesday, January 13th: Saint Hilary
6:45am † **Poor Souls**
6:30pm † **Shively Family**

Wednesday, January 14th: Weekday
6:45am † **Anna Galizio**
6:30pm † **Bernard Denard**

Thursday, January 15th: Weekday
6:45am † **Poor Souls**
6:30pm **Mothers & Fathers** .

Friday, January 16th: Weekday
6:45am † **Nicola Del Paggio**
6:30pm **Mothers & Fathers**

Saturday, January 17th: Papal Approbation of Order of Mercy
6:45am **In Thanksgiving**
4:00pm † **Nicholas Balaban** (*Fr. Chia)*

Sunday, January 18th: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30am † **Vittorio & Maria Carmina & Angela Fazioli**
† **Rosemary Galizio**
† **Anna Galizio** (*Fr. Chia*)
9:30am † **Giuseppe Miranda**
† **Suor Ada Zappa**
† **Santo & Adelina Berardi**
† **Nunzio Marzano** (*Fr. Mayer*)
12:00pm **Pro Populo** (*Fr. Mayer)*

MASS BOOK 2026
The new Mass Book for 2026 is open. First come first serve basis. Only those Mass intentions that have their offering will be recorded in the book. No offering, no guaranteed date or time for your desired intention. Remember, Masses may be offered for the souls of the dead and the living.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES: DID YOU KNOW?
A Special Opportunity for Those 70½ Years Old and Older
You can give any amount (up to a maximum of $108,000) this year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as our parish or Saint Rocco School, the Mercedarian Friars or another ministry in the Diocese without having to pay income taxes on the money. Gifts of any value $108,000 or less are eligible for this benefit and you can feel good knowing that you are making a difference. This popular gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD for short.

Why Consider This Gift?
Your gift will be put to use today, allowing you to see the difference your donation is making.
If you are required to take minimum distributions, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your obligation.
You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
Since the gift doesn't count as income, it can reduce your annual income level. This may help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security that is subject to tax.

For Those 59½ Years Old or Older
If you are at least 59½ years old, you can take a distribution and then make a gift from your IRA without penalty. If you itemize your deductions, you can take a charitable deduction for the amount of your gift.

At Any Age
No matter your age, you can designate our parish, our school, the Mercedarian Friars or another ministry as the beneficiary of all or a percentage of your IRA and it will pass to us tax-free after your lifetime. It's simple, just requiring that you contact your IRA administrator for a change-of-beneficiary form or download a form from your provider's website.

Employer Matching Gifts
Many employers match charitable contributions, effectively doubling or tripling your donation without additional cost to you. Check with your employer for matching programs and submit your donations for matches.

There are a number of ways to make a charitable gift, each with its advantages and features. We recommend that you consult with your advisors to determine which gift arrangement best suits your personal financial situation. Thank you for supporting the ministries of the Church.
To learn more about these opportunities, contact:

Mary Lou Ozimek at 216-696-6525 x4070
ormozimek@catholiccommunity.org and
visit: www.catholiccommunity.org/year-end-giving.

EUCHARISTIC INTENTION
The Bread and Wine this week is in Memory of **Sister Rita Schipke.**
If interested in donating Bread and Wine for a week the

(**continued from page 4**)
So that is who we are. We are God's beloved children. But we need to claim that identity in order to know our dignity, in order to serve. We need to claim that identity regularly. Here's what I need to do. I need to wake up each morning and say, "My name is George and I am a beloved son of God. I am not worthless. I am precious. I am not without purpose. I am called. I am not forgotten. I am loved. God delights in the fact that I have another day to live." That's what I need to do each day, and you need to do the same. You need to wake up each morning and say this is my name and I am a child of God. Once we do that, once we claim that identity, a question follows: Lord, what do you want me to do today? That's the way to begin each morning, claiming your identity and asking God how you are called to serve.

I assure you, if we could begin our day in that way, we would live a radically different life. We would not lead a life of emptiness but of dignity, not a life of aimlessness but of purpose, not a life of confusion but of joy. The difference comes from claiming who we are. The difference comes from hearing our true name.

As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, we will begin this ***Monday and Tuesday (January 12th & 13th) at 3pm*** each day to slowly take down the Christmas decorations in the church. Anyone who is able to help is greatly appreciated! Come to the handicapped entrance to enter. The Manger Scene will remain in church until the conclusion of the 40 days of Christmastide: the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, February 2nd.

With best wishes to each of you for a blessed week! Cheers! ***Fr. James, O.de M.***

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

"Those who believe don't leave. Believe what? Believe that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. This single truth holds the power to change everything." Matthew Kelly

SHARE YOUR FAITH

The weekend of January 24/25th there is the collection for the Church in Latin America. For many in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support for the collection provides leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic Faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit: www.usccb.org/latin-america.

MARDI GRAS SUNDAY

February 15th from 10:am-1:00pm we will have Sausage Sandwiches and Zeppoli for Sale!!! Proceeds will help with the purchase of a much needed new zeppoli fryer for the festival! Spread the word! Yum Yum

SAINT ROCCO PARISH

The Oldest Italian Parish on Cleveland's West Side
3205 Fulton Road Cleveland, Ohio 44109
www.saintroccocleveland.com

Administration:

Rev. Fr. James W. Mayer, O .de M., S.T.L.,	Pastor
Fr. James Chia, O. de M.	Parochial Vicar
Br. Matthew Levis, O. de M.	
Ms. Michelle Buhaley,	Parish Office Manager
Mrs. Renee Cerny	School Principal
Mrs. Beth Armbruster	School Office Manager
Mr. Jim Goebel	Business Manager/Accountant
Mr. Frank Prado	Music Director
Mr. Eric Hodgson	Maintenance Director

Parish Office: (Moltini Center)
Monday—Thursday: 10:00AM — 4:00PM
Phone: 216—961– 8331

Website: https:/saintroccocleveland.com/
Facebook: St. Rocco's Church

Hall Rental: 216-390-0987

School: 216-961-8557

Mass Schedule:
Weekend:
Saturday: 4:00PM Anticipated Mass
Sunday: 7:30AM, 9:30AM & 12:00PM
**Noon Mass each Sunday is Latin/Novus Ordo*

Weekday:
6:45AM (Mon-Sat)

6:30PM (Mon-Fri)
Holy Days of Obligation Consult the Bulletin

Sacraments:
Penance (Confession) - before all Sunday Masses
Monday-Friday 6pm – 6:20pm

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals & Sick Calls please contact the Parish Office to schedule

Devotions

- Monday: Devotions to Saint Rocco and veneration of his relic, 6:30pm Mass/ Relic venerated after all Sunday Masses the Fourth Sunday of each Month
- Tuesday: Eucharistic Adoration 7am to 7pm; 6:30pm Mass, Novena to Our Lady of Mercy
- Wednesday: Devotions to Saint Joseph at 6:30pm Mass
- Thursday: Mercedarian tradition of offering the Mass of Corpus Christi
- Friday: Devotions to St. Padre Pio and veneration of his relic at 6:45am & 6:30pm Masses\
- Saturday: Mercedarian Salve Regina tradition at 4:00pm Mass
- Sunday: Prayer to Saint Raymond Nonnatus before all Masses & veneration of his relic on Second Sunday of each Month

MASS FOR LIFE 2026



Friday, January 23 from 10:00am at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.

Bishop Edward C. Malesic will celebrate Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life. This mass is open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

CUPBOARD OF HOPE

Mary's Cupboard of Hope Food Pantry has been blessed to have the support of our parishioners to help us feed our neighbors in need. Unfortunately, just as we were preparing to distribute over 100 turkeys and food bags for this holiday, both our 20 year old industrial 2 door freezer and 3 door refrigerator broke down. We humbly ask for your donations to replace these vital units so we can continue to serve our parish and neighborhood families. All donations are gratefully appreciated. For more information, please contact Mary at (216)956-7050 or call the parish office at 216-961-8331.

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The Desert Fathers (Part 2) | Littlest Saints

In this special two-part episode, we follow the stories of three famous desert fathers—St. Anthony the Great, St. Macarias, and St. John the Dwarf—as they navigate the perils of the desert in search of its great spiritual riches.

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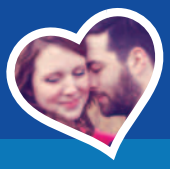
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