# HOLY FAMILY PARISH

A Catholic faith community called to serve God and others through Eucharist, prayer, education, and daily living of the Gospel values.

#### PARISH OFFICE: 201 CLARK STREET, MIDDLETOWN, OH 45042 (513) 422-0602 www.holyfamilymiddletown.com

#### WEEKEND MASSES

**ST. JOHN CHURCH** 1405 FIRST AVENUE SATURDAY 4:30 PM SUNDAY 10:30 AM

#### HOLY TRINITY CHURCH 201 CLARK STREET SUNDAY 9:00 AM This Mass Live Streamed

#### ADORATION POSTPONED

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION ST. JOHN CHURCH SATURDAY 3:30 PM

# December 12, 2021

# Third Sunday of Advent

## This Weekend - Retirement Fund for Religious Collection

Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others - educating the young, comforting the sick,



and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, may are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and much more. Thank you for using the special envelope in the December pack and for your kind donation!

## 2022 Calendars

Neighborhood Reps have been delivering calendars for the past several weeks, but if you didn't

get one, the 2022 calendars are available in both churches this weekend.

## **Inclement Weather Cancelations**

In the event of winter weather cancelations, we'll post an update at the parish website



<u>www.holyfamilymiddletown.com</u> and we'll use the One Call Now robocall system to send out alerts. **Please be sure we have your current phone number on file!** 

## RCIA

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** 

December  $12^{th}$  and  $19^{th}$ 

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>

December 12<sup>th</sup> - What is Advent?

11:30 AM St. John Rectory



Why not join in a Communal Advent Penance Service



as part of your preparations for Christmas?



**OUR DOORS ARE OPEN:** No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, no matter what your current family and marital situation, no matter what your age, race, background, personal history, etc., no matter what your own self-image — you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected here at Holy Family Parish. Our doors are open!

#### HOLY FAMILY MASS SCHEDULE

#### Saturday and Sunday - December 11 & 12

4:30 PM Mass SJ Vera Mangus - Anniversary Rem.

9:00 AM Mass HT Maria C. Saraceno

9:00 AM Mass live streamed and available on the website anytime.

10:30 AM Mass SJ Vincent & Anna DiNardo

#### **Tuesday, December 14**

8:15 AM Mass SJ23 Marilyn Ifcic - students / staff only

12:10 PM Mass HT Alberta Laber

#### Wednesday, December 15

12:10 PM Mass HT Cecilia Rossi

#### Thursday, December 16

12:10 PM Mass HT Ron Loop - Birthday Remembrance

Friday, December 17

8:00 AM Mass HT Jim Kramer - Birthday Remembrance

#### Saturday, December 18

4:30 PM Mass SJ William Pence - Anniversary Rem.

#### Sunday, December 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM Mass HT **Richard Clark** 

10:30 AM Mass SJ Deceased Members of the Beiser Family

## Weekly Collections Stewardship

Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> \$42,040

This unusual amount reflects year-end and first-of-the-month donations. Thank you for your generous stewardship!

## MINISTERS NEXT WEEK

Dec 18/19	4:30 PM SAT	9:00 AM SUN	10:30 AM SUN
Eucharistic	Kathi Mangus 1B	Barb VonderHaar 1B	John Lyons 1B
Ministers	Terri Smith 2B	Bernie Driscoll 2B	Sue Mulligan 2B
	Doug Smith 3B	Lee Ann Glick 3B	Christine Whittington 3B
Lector	Todd Moore	Paul Mosko	Melissa Bauer
Greeters	Terri Smith D1	Lee Ann Glick D1	David Schul D1
	Doug Smith D2	Jinnie Raney D2	Ken Allen D2

## Check Out the Holy Family Parish Website!

Read the weekly bulletin and the children's bulletins in full color and explore a variety of links — all at our parish website www.holyfamilymiddletown.com.



## **Daily Scripture Readings**

Mon: Nm 24:2-7,15-17a / Mt 21:23-27 Tues: Zep 3:1-2,9-13 / Mt 21:28-32 Wed: Is 45:6c-8,18,21c-25 / Lk 7:18b-23

Thurs: Is 54:1-10 / Lk 7:24-30 Fri: Gn 49:2,8-10 / Mt 1:1-17 Sat: Jer 23:5-8 / Mt 1:18-25 Sun: Mi 5:1-4a / Heb 10:5-10 / Lk 1:39-45



## Our Prayers & Sympathy are Extended

to the family and friends of Donna Dorenbusch and Kevin Cartwright, who died December 6<sup>th</sup>.

## In Your Prayers Please Remember

Bill Baudendistel at Atrium, Phoebe Pearce at UC West Chester, and Nancy Bruggeman and Ralph Abney in Hospice Care this week.

Going into the Hospital or Hospice Care? Please call or have a family member or friend call us 422-0602 and let us know!

## Health Ministry: Who'd Want to Bring a Baby **Into That Kind of World?**



excerpted from The Little Blue Book - Sunday Dec 5, 2021 In Luke 3:1-6 we read that the Jewish people's beloved homeland was occupied by the pagan Romans in the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar. There was oppression. The holy places had been taken from the people. The procurator was Pontius Pilate, a mean, malicious man. Historians haven't been good to him. And there was Herod, a brutal and ruthless king. The local Jewish leaders were an embarrassment to the people. Annas and Caiaphas were not the most revered high priests. And it was into that world that Jesus was born. A person might say then (as a person might say now): who'd want to bring a baby into that kind of a world? Well, God would...and God did. That's the world into which God brought his son - not the world's safe places. He came where there was oppression, crime, and bad parts of life. And his coming gave and continues to give — new meaning, hope and goodness to the whole world.

## St. Vincent de Paul Society

Thanks to everyone for your continued support and contributions, with which the



SVDP volunteers were able to assist our neighbors in need again this past month. Here is November data: **SVDP Pantry Food Donations** 

53 Households totaling 136 people 43 senior citizens 67 adults 26 children

#### SVDP Help Line Utility Bill Assistance

22 households - Duke 21 households - Water **SVDP Help Line Rent Assistance** 

We have set aside some funds to help the community with rent during this difficult time. 12 - direct pay to landlord

1 - teamed with another agency or parishioner to pay

#### **SVDP Outreach Ministry**

11 home visits to assess needs

15 deliveries of furniture or vouchers for furniture 12 donations of furniture

#### **SVDP Prison Ministry**

This Ministry is suspended due to Covid-19.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY & CONTINUED SUPPORT! 5TH SUNDAY SVDP COLLECTIONS OCCUR FOUR TIMES A YEAR. OUR NEXT ONE IS NEXT MONTH - JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup>!

## Thanks for Partnering With Us!

Our friends at First United Methodist Church have again sent their annual contribution

of **\$675** to St. Vincent de Paul for the Thanksgiving baskets we give to deserving Middletown families. Every year, we really count on



this financial support from our fellow Christians at First United Methodist Church to help us with this good work. Thank you, First United Methodist Church members, for this generous contribution and for all you do for our Middletown Community. Deacon John Lyons - SVDP TREASURER

## The Men's Fellowship Group This Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>



Because Christmas lands on the fourth **Saturday** this year, the Men's Group is meeting on the

first and third Saturdays in December. You're invited to join us this Saturday at 7:00 a.m. in the St. John Rectory!

**Stay In Touch With Your Catholic Faith!** Sacred Heart Radio – 910 AM / 89.5 FM



## **Introductions to Sunday Readings**

by Bishop Ken Untener, in collaboration with Catherine Haven and Fr. Bill Taylor First Reading - Zephaniah 3:14-18



The days of the prophet Zephaniah were bad times for Israel because of their idolatry and unfaithfulness to the law. Zephaniah preached impending judgment, a day of doom. But in the end, he tells them of a day when they will sing for joy, and the Lord will sing joyfully over them.

#### Second Reading - Philippians 4:4-7

Of all the communities Paul founded, the one at Philippi was his favorite. Toward the end of his letter to them, he advises them how to live as they await Christ's return in glory.

#### **Christmas Flower Fund**

If you would like to remember your deceased loved ones by donating to the Christmas Flowe



loved ones by donating to the Christmas Flower Fund, please use the envelope in the December packet and drop it in the collection basket. The list of names will be posted at the front and back of the churches for Christmas. Want to be sure your loved one's name is correctly spelled and included in the list this year? Please print the name and make your donation by <u>NEXT Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup></u>! Thank you!

## Brand New, Cold-Weather, Waterproof, Winter Sleeping Bags A Special Collection for December

SHALOM is again shut down this year



due to the Covid pandemic so we're collecting these special sleeping bags. Please drop your donation at the blue donation bins in the churches or at the parish office. Thank you!

## Pope Francis Wants to Hear from You!

The Holy Father is asking for as many of the baptized as possible to participate in archdiocese-wide meetings taking place in January and February, 2022, to discuss how we can



For a synodal Church

collectively better advance the message of salvation. Please consider participating in one these meetings. To learn more and to sign up, please visit <u>www.catholicaoc.org/synod</u>.

## Holy Family PREP Kids & St. John XXIII School Kids Go the Extra Mile with Giving Tree Gifts!

In addition to the many parishioners who take a Giving Tree Tag and provide Christmas gifts for children in our community, the students of Monday Night PREP (Parish Religious Education Program) and St. John XXIII School have been busy saving, shopping, wrapping, carrying, and sorting carloads of Star tag gifts!

Every year, each **SJ23** homeroom adopts a child, collects money and ideas from the students, and the teachers go out and shop. The students help wrap the gifts and then last Monday loaded them all up to be transported to the St. John Undercroft for sorting. The SJ23 3rd/8th Grade Buddies take it a step further....







They adopted eight needy children and went shopping as a group (*with parents and teachers = 100+*) for Giving Tree presents at Wal-Mart last Friday night. The classes were broken up into groups, each given a list of items and a dollar amount they could spend. It was a great way for the students to actively be charitable - they participated in much more than just donating! After shopping, everyone gathered at El Rancho Grande Restaurant

and dined together. A wonderful time was had by all at this annual 3rd/8th Grade Buddies event!

Last Monday Night PREP 8th graders and their teacher, Brad Egelston, joined this year's Giving Tree Tag Coordinator Dee Dee Mosko and her helpers to sort through all the STAR tag gifts. Hundreds of gifts were grouped by Family, plus the donated Halloween candy was bagged up and added to each Family Bag. Next Monday, the PREP kids will go shopping for gifts that were added at the last

minute and for some extras! Great Job SJ23 & PREP Kids!









## How Much Do YOU Know About the Catholic Faith? SPECIAL ADVENT EDITION!

Find the answers on the last page.

- 1. The church's calendar year begins on
  - (a) payday
  - (b) New Year's Day
  - (c) Easter Sunday
  - (d) the First Sunday of Advent



- 2. The O \_\_\_\_\_\_ are sung during the last week of Advent.
  - (a) Antiphons
  - (b) to Joy
  - (c) Novenas
  - (d) Bible Readings
- 3. The Advent \_\_\_\_\_\_ is a common tradition that helps families prepare for Christ's coming by focusing on the Advent / Christmas symbols.
  - (a) fast
  - (b) calendar
  - (c) manger
  - (d) colored eggs
- 4. Advent is a season of
  - (a) contrition
  - (b) reconciliation
  - (c) preparation
  - (d) shopping
- In the season of Advent, Catholics refrain from saying "Alleluia." True False
- When Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph decorated a Christmas tree. True False
- Advent wreaths have candles on them to symbolize that Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the World.
  - (a) Savior
  - (b) Light
  - (c) Ruler
  - (d) Judge



#### by Dawn Pickerill / Principal

Traditional Values. Exceptional Education.

St. John XXIII Catholic School represents 150 years of Catholic Education dedicated to encouraging and developing well-rounded, self-confident and compassionate children and young adults who lead successful, mindful, service-driven lives. Our school community is the foundation on which our core principles of faith and hard work bind us together as a family.

If you are interested in a Catholic education that provides a challenging, structured and thoughtful learning environment led by highly qualified and experienced teachers, contact Principal Dawn Pickerill 424-1196.

#### Annual Day of Giving

Our Annual Fund Drive kicked off on November 30<sup>th</sup> and to date we have raised \$86,731 which is 39% of our goal. Our goal this year is \$225,000 which is the amount needed to build an outdoor classroom and memorial walk, as well as help cover the gap in the day-to-day operating expenses of the school. The outdoor classroom/memorial walk will be located behind the gym and will be akin to a three-season room which can be used when the weather permits.

#### **Employment Opportunities**

For this year only, the State of Ohio is granting one year substitute licenses and is not requiring a bachelor's degree. If you are interested in obtaining a license and substitute teaching for us, please reach out to me and I will explain the relatively painless process. This is a great way to get involved in the school and get paid to do so. A license costs only \$25 and the sub rate is \$97 per day.

Our preschool program is going to have an opening starting in mid-January. If you or anyone you know is interested in working in preschool, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. The position can be part or full time, depending on the needs of the new hire.

## Baptismal Preparation Class Wednesday, December 29<sup>th</sup>

**7 PM St. John Rectory** If you are expecting



your first baby or want your first child baptized we request that you attend a baptismal preparation class, which is held quarterly throughout the year. Please call the parish office 422-0602 to register.



## Today is *Gaudete Sunday* or *Rejoice Sunday*.



Why? What is all the rejoicing about? More than two hundred years ago a man named Isaac Watts wrote the words to a Christmas carol which, no doubt, you have heard every Christmas since you were born. The first verse reads: Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare him room, And heaven and nature sing.

Do you ever wonder if that is really true? Is there joy in the world because Jesus was born? Yes! There is joy and happiness, celebration and song, excitement and honest-to-goodness merriment. There is hardly a nook or a cranny, hardly a country on the entire earth that doesn't have at least some Christian people who join in celebrating Jesus' birth. Almost as though the Liturgy can't wait to celebrate the presence of the Savior, the Word of God today tells us to rejoice. How can we put that word into practice as we enter this second half of the Advent season?

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## TEXT MESSAGE SCAM Alert!!

We're getting reports from parishioners regarding TEXT MESSAGE scams again.



These scams may be convincing, but be vigilant!

## How can you tell it's a scam?

✓ if it says it's from Fr. Civille and he's asking for a favor

 $\checkmark$  if it asks for money  $\checkmark$  if it asks for gift cards

Simply delete the message and go on with your day!

## **Cincinnati Men's Conference Great Christmas Gift Idea!** 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 your Dad, husband, or significant other for Christmas? We just solved it! Just go to www.CincinnatiMensConference.com to get tickets. Give the gift of spiritual uplift this Christmas — your men will thank you!

## Answers to the Special Advent Faith Quiz

1. (d) Unlike the civil calendar year, the Church begins her liturgical calendar at the beginning of Advent.

2. (a) Sung since the 8th century, the "O Antiphons" proclaim Christ as the fulfillment of people's desire for a Savior. These antiphons form the basis for the Advent hymn, "O Come, O come, Emmanuel."

3. (b) Advent calendars use images of symbols, stories, and traditions of the season to teach about God sending his Son Jesus as our Savior and Redeemer.

4. (c) Each year during Advent, we reflect on the meaning of God choosing to become a human being and dwell with us. The Church teaches that "only when Christ is formed in us will the mystery of Christmas be fulfilled in us" (CCC, n. 526; see also n. 524).

5. (False) Advent is a season of joyful preparation for celebrating the coming of the Savior of the world. Advent is characterized by expectations and hope.

6. (False) The German people in the fifteenth century were the first to bring evergreen trees into their houses as a symbol of the everlasting life Jesus brought to all humankind.

7. (b) Light was a powerful symbol in a world without electricity, especially during winter when there were few daylight hours. Early Christians used light to represent Jesus overcoming the darkness of sin (see John 1:5;8-12). The four candles represent the four weeks of the Advent Season.

# Holy Family Parish

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#### Parish Council Members

Don Accurso	Lois Allen			
Dr. Steph Burk	Evan Dobrozsi			
Jeff Gephart	Dee Golembiewski			
Rick Gregosky	Adam Lewis			
John Lyons	Don McCann			
Matt Mulligan	Ryan Mulligan			
Dawn Pickerill	Maria Rodriguez			
Judy Rogers				
Prayer Chain				
Beth Kast				
Carole Orth				

carole oftin		
Knights of	Columbus	.513-360-4760

Baptism Preparation Class - These classes are held quarterly: March, June, September and December. The actual date, time and location will be announced in the weekly bulletin. Please call the parish office to register.

Baptisms - Please call the parish office to schedule a baptism.

**Becoming a Member of Holy Family Parish** - Fill out a Census Form at the parish office or download it under FORMS at <u>www.holyfamilymiddletown.com</u>. Drop your completed form in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office. **Becoming Catholic** - Please call the parish office to find out more about the RCIA process.

Bulletin Deadline - Submit announcements in hard copy or to monica@holyfamilymiddletown.com by noon Tuesday.

Hospitalization or Death in the Family - Please notify the pastor as soon as possible by calling the parish office.

Marriages - Couples wishing to be married must set the date with the pastor at least six months in advance.

Nursery - Due to the coronavirus, the 10:30 AM Mass Nursery is temporarily closed.

Parish Religious Education Program - Kindergarten through 8th Grade - Mondays 6:30 - 7:30 PM in the St. John Center. Find this year's schedule at <u>www.holyfamilymiddletown.com</u> and contact Dee Golembiewski, DRE, with questions. St. John XXIII Catholic School - Parish school for Preschool - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - <u>www.stjohn23school.org</u>.





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