



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 199, Ft. Loramie, Ohio 45845
6788 St. Rt. 66, Ft. Loramie (Newport), Ohio

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7, Ft. Loramie, Ohio 45845
33 Elm St., Ft. Loramie, Ohio

Newport - Fort Loramie Pastoral Region

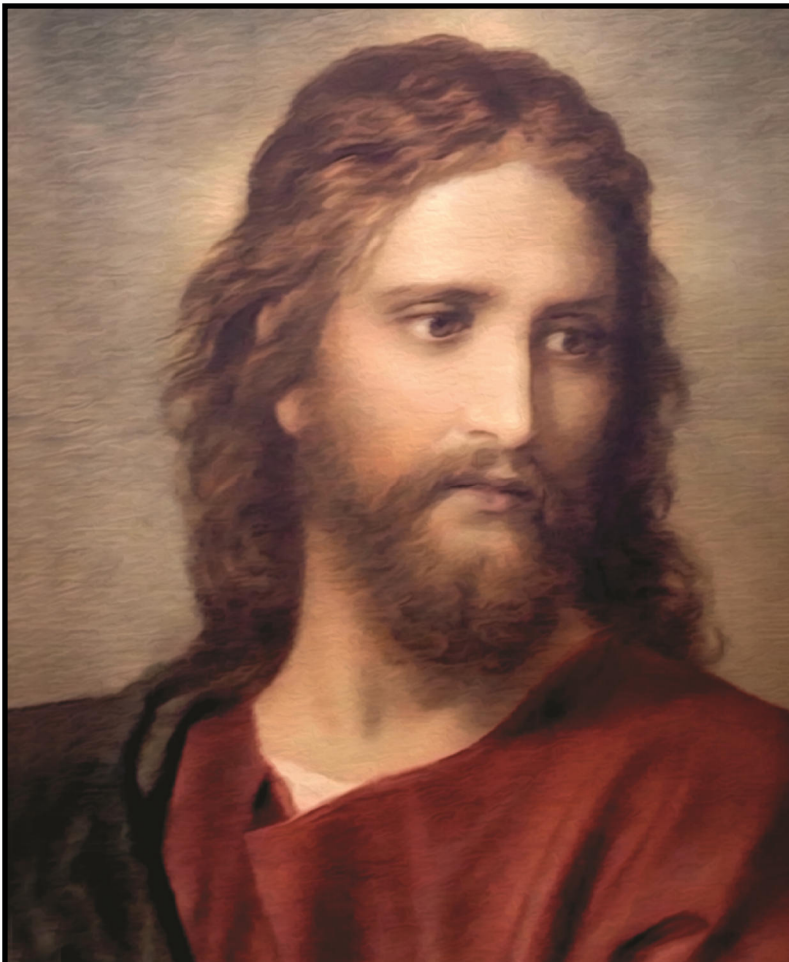
Parish Office Center: Phone 937-295-2891 Fax: 937-295-3349 SM CCD Office: Phone 937-295-2179

Website: www.nflregion.org

OFFICE HOURS: Mon - Thu 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Fri 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Sacramental Information and Parish Staff Directory on Page 5

December 1, 2019



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

— ❧ —
“So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

- Mt 24:44



In Memoriam

**Ruth Ann "Boots" Meyer**

St. Michael Church

Born: July 25, 1929

Died: November 16, 2019

Eternal rest grant unto her, O, Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon

her. May she rest in peace. Amen.



DECEMBER'S HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION

THE FUTURE OF THE VERY YOUNG: That every country takes the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young especially those who are suffering.

www.apostleshipofprayer.org

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Joel Hilgefert & Julie Hoying, both of St. Michael.

BAPTISM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anna Josephine Waterman, daughter of Garret & Stephanie (Lochtefeld) Waterman, Lincoln Louis Kittel, son of Kenneth & Andrea (Householder) Kittel, and Carter Leroy Luthman, son of Nathaniel & Heather (Luebke) Luthman.

NEW PARISHIONERS

St. Michael Parish welcomes Joshua Goubeaux & Marissa Wuebker and their son, Jordan.

Ss. Peter & Paul Parish

Weekly Financial Report - November 17, 2019

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Week (21)</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Offertory:	\$ 3,028.00	\$ 56,189.96
Total Budgeted:	2,800.00	58,800.00
Over/(under) Budget	\$ 228.00	\$ (2,610.04)
Total Other Deposits	\$ 305.00	\$ 37,783.64
Maintenance Income	\$ 80.00	\$ 4,247.19
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Parish Weekly Expenses:	\$ 1,909.49	\$ 77,306.74
Capital Improvements	\$ 0.00	\$ 12,499.00

THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORT OUR PARISH!

SCHEDULE OF MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY	DECEMBER 1	1st Sunday of Advent
SM 8:00a	Living & Dec'd Members of Pastoral Region	
SPP 9:30a	Vernon & Amy Ahrns Anniversary	
SM 11:00a	Lindy Hoying	
MONDAY	DECEMBER 2	Weekday
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 3	St. Francis Xavier
SPP 8:00a	Purgatorian Society	
	Ray & Pauline Holscher, Melvin & Viola Bergman	
SM 6:30p	Purgatorian Mass	
	Dec'd of William Albers Family, Victor Holthaus, Greg, Joann, Fred & Austin Luebke, Lester Barlage, Al & Mary Lou Schulze	
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 4	St. John Damascene
SM 8:25a	John McGee	
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 5	Weekday
SM 8:25a	Ursula Eilerman	
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 6	St. Nicholas
SM 8:25a	Lewis Bertke	
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 7	St. Ambrose
SM 5:00p	Ken & Steve Rose	
SPP 6:30p	Living & Dec'd of LeRoy Ahrns Sr. Family	
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 8	2nd Sunday of Advent
SM 8:00a	Lionel "Barney" Barhorst	
SPP 9:30a	Living & Dec'd Members of Pastoral Region	
SM 11:00a	Pat Pleiman	



HOW TO SCHEDULE A MASS INTENTION

Donations for mass intentions are accepted **up to one year in advance from the current month** by scheduling with your parish secretary. The stipend for a mass intention is \$5.00. The number of intentions that can be scheduled per year is limited.

St. Michael Parish

Weekly Financial Report - November 17, 2019

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Week (21)</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Offertory:	\$ 10,694.00	\$ 220,266.47
Total Budgeted:	10,000.00	210,000.00
Over/(under) Budget	\$ 694.00	\$ 10,266.47
Total Other Deposits	\$ 892.00	\$ 109,215.32
Improvement Fund Income	\$ 970.00	\$ 19,296.25
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Parish Weekly Expenses:	\$ 16,351.07	\$ 331,857.72
Capital Improvements	\$ 0.00	\$ 14,127.19

THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORT OUR PARISH!

St. Michael

Tue. 12/3 6:30p
 Wed. 12/4 8:25a
 Thu. 12/5 8:25a
 Fri. 12/6 8:25a
 Sat. 12/7 5:00p

 Sun. 12/8 8:00a

 Sun. 12/8 11:00a

St. Michael

Sat. 12/7 5:00p
 Sun. 12/8 8:00a
 Children's 8:00a
 Sun. 12/8 11:00a

St. Michael

Sat. 12/7 5:00p
 Sun. 12/8 8:00a
 Children's 8:00a
 Sun. 12/8 11:00a

St. Michael

Sat. 12/7 5:00p

 Sun. 12/8 8:00a

 Sun. 12/8 11:00a

St. Michael

Sat. 12/7 5:00p

 Sun. 12/8 8:00a

 Sun. 12/8 11:00a

St. Michael

Sat. 12/7 5:00p

 Sun. 12/8 8:00a

 Sun. 12/8 11:00a

ALTAR SERVERS

Jace Ruhenkamp, Ava Schafer
 Taylor Schmitmeyer, John Siegel
 Adult Volunteers
 Adult Volunteers
 Skyler Albers, Colleen Borchers, Owen DeLoye
 Will Ruhenkamp, Adam Ballas, Max Cotner
 Nora Beresik, Nick Brandewie, Noah Guillozet

CANTORS

Chip & Amy Noykos
 Frank Turner
 Angie Kitzmiller
 Mixed Choir, Josh Bornhorst

LECTORS

1) Dee Eilerman, 2) Evan Eilerman
 1) Matt Eilerman, 2) Meg Eilerman
 Kay Zumberger
 1) Marsha Hess, 2) Angie Hoelscher

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Jeff & Martha Poeppelman, Hannah Pleiman, Linda Schmiesing, Katie Rethman, Emily Pleiman, K Pleiman Lynn Meyer, Tom Meyer, Jennifer Paulus, Quinn Sholtis, Yvonne Seger, Taylor Ratermann, Jill Poeppelman
 Deacon Paul, Teresa Seger, Alyson Poeppelman, Pam & Sara Meyer, Marilyn Poeppelman, Jo & Hannah Raterman

GREETERS

Mary Ann Schmitmeyer, Chris & Vicki Gasson, Mike & Lisa Pleiman Fam., Jeff & Shelly Albers, Karl & Roberta Raterman
 Jan Stockman, Keith & Amy Bergman Fam., Jerry & Mary Siegrist, Doug & Kristin Heitkamp Fam.
 John & Teresa Puthoff, Dennis & Laura Schmitmeyer, John & Kelly Holthaus Fam.

USHERS

Jerome Barhorst, Elton Gaier, Myron Gaier, Roger Siegel, Jay Barlage, Jim Albers
 Ken Meyer, Ken Subler, Ed Gigandet, Jim Mescher, George Barhorst, Jeff Puthoff
 Lester Schmitmeyer, John Meyer, Derek Langenkamp, Jordan Pleiman, Ken Poeppelman, Mark Poeppelman

St. Michael

Sat. 12/7 5:00p
 Sun. 12/8 8:00a
 Sun. 12/8 11:00a

St. Michael

Sun. 12/8 11:00a

St. Michael

Sat. 12/7 5:00p
 Sun. 12/8 8:00a
 Sun. 12/8 11:00a

MASS COORDINATORS

Karen Zimmerman
 Ed Gigandet
 Teresa Seger

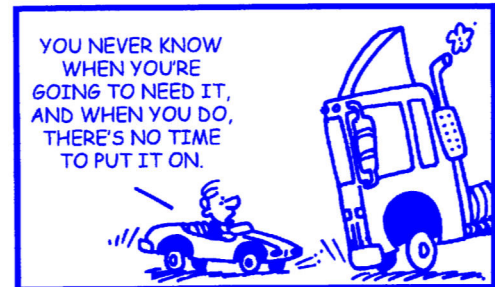
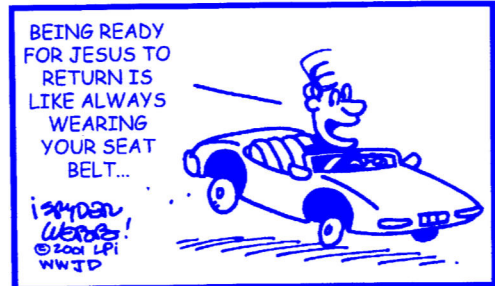
CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Leann Meyer, Lisa Ruhenkamp
 Ally & Abigail Siegel

OFFERTORY FAMILIES

Tony & Janis Winner
 Jerry Winner
 Randy & Cathy Winner

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Ss. Peter and Paul

Tues. 12/3 8:00a
 Sat. 12/7 6:30p
 Sun. 12/8 9:30a

ALTAR SERVERS

Adult Servers
 Josh & Luke Langenkamp, Luke Geise
 Luke & Elijah Beaver,
 Cheyenne Trafzer

Ss. Peter and Paul

Sat. 12/7 6:30p
 Sun. 12/8 9:30a

CANTORS

Kathy Schmitz
 Jeff Replogle

Ss. Peter and Paul

Sat. 12/7 6:30p
 Sun. 12/8 9:30a

LECTORS

Jim Gaerke
 Becky Beaver

Ss. Peter and Paul

Sat. 12/7 6:30p
 Sun. 12/8 9:30a

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Dan Chappie, Linda Byram, Katerri Meyer*
 Laura Ahrns, Aliana Mabelitini*, Rita Bergman, Rachael Rains, Diana Paulus

Ss. Peter and Paul

Sat. 12/7 6:30p
 Sun. 12/8 9:30a

GREETERS

Rich & Mary Berning
 Diana Paulus, Jerri Barlage

Ss. Peter and Paul

Sat. 12/7 6:30p
 Sun. 12/8 9:30a

USHERS

Tim Gariety, Jeff Clark
 Vernon Ahrns, Nick Dues

SUN 1	<p>First Sunday of Advent</p> <p>7:30a Rosary —St. Michael Church</p> <p>8:00a Mass—St. Michael Church</p> <p>9:30a Mass—Ss. Peter & Paul Church</p> <p>11:00a Mass—St. Michael Church</p> <p>6:00p SM Children’s Christmas Pageant St. Michael Church</p>
MON 2	<p>7:00p (until 9:00p) Advent Confessions-SM Church</p>
TUE 3	<p>8:00a Mass—Ss. Peter & Paul Church</p> <p>4:30p (until 5:30p) Advent Confessions-SPP Church</p> <p>6:30p Mass—St. Michael Church</p> <p>7:00p RCIA—Parish Office Center</p>
WED 4	<p>8:25a Mass—St. Michael Church</p> <p>9:00a Adoration (until 9:00p) - St. Michael Church</p> <p>9:00a Senior Exercises—St. Michael Hall</p> <p>12:00p (until 1:00p) Advent Confessions-SM Church</p> <p>6:30p SPP CCD Grades 1-8—SPP Church Basement</p> <p>7:00p Evening Prayer—St. Michael Church</p> <p>7:00p SM CCD Grades 7-12—Ft. Loramie High Sch.</p> <p>7:15p St. Vincent de Paul Meeting</p>
THU 5	<p>8:25a Mass—St. Michael Church</p> <p>9:00a Chair Volleyball—St. Michael Hall</p> <p>9:00a Advent Outreach to the Homebound</p> <p>10:30a Strength & Stretch Exercises—SM Hall</p> <p>3:00p SM Children’s Choir Rehearsal—SM Church</p> <p>5:00p (until 5:30p) Confessions before First Friday St. Michael Church</p> <p>6:00p (until 6:30p) Confessions before First Friday Ss. Peter & Paul Church</p> <p>7:00p Choir Rehearsal—St. Michael Church</p> <p>7:00p Soul Core Workout—St. Mike’s Place</p>
FRI 6	<p>7:00a First Friday Communion Service—SM Church</p> <p>7:00a High School Breakfast Club—St. Mike’s Place</p> <p>8:05a Morning Prayer—St. Michael Church</p> <p>8:25a Mass—St. Michael Church</p> <p>9:00a Communion to the Homebound</p> <p>9:00a Advent Outreach to the Homebound</p> <p>3:20p Rosary for Persecuted Christians -SM Church</p>
SAT 7	<p>8:00a Men’s Fellowship Breakfast—Al’s</p> <p>8:00a Soul Core Workout—St. Mike’s Place</p> <p>9:00a (until 10:00a) Advent Confessions-SM Church</p> <p>4:00p (until 4:30p) Confessions—St. Michael Ch.</p> <p>5:00p Mass—St. Michael Church</p> <p>6:30p Mass—Ss. Peter & Paul Church</p>

Second Sunday of Advent

- 7:30a Rosary —St. Michael Church
- 8:00a Mass with Children’s Liturgy—St. Michael
- 9:30a Mass—Ss. Peter & Paul Church
- 11:00a Mass—St. Michael Church

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EVENT DETAILS www.nflregion.org

**The ADVENT WREATH PRAYER
for the First Sunday of Advent**

We gather around our wreath to begin the celebration of Advent. Let us ask our Father in heaven to fill our hearts with grace.

On the First Sunday of Advent, we light THE CANDLE OF HOPE. We have hope because God is ever faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our HOPE comes from God.

(A reading from the book of Romans) “And again, Isaiah says, ‘The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.’ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:12-13)

Heavenly Father, bless this Advent wreath and bless all of us. Fill us with your Spirit and the spirit of Hope so that we may be strengthened in our daily tasks. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**PREPARING THE WAY:
RECONCILIATION IN ADVENT**

Do not fear. Is 41:10

**NEWPORT-FT. LORAMIE PASTORAL REGION
ADVENT INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION TIMES**

Monday, December 2	7:00p to 9:00p	St. Michael
Tuesday, December 3	4:30p to 5:30p	Ss. Peter & Paul
Wednesday, December 4	12:00p to 1:00p	St. Michael
Thursday, December 5	5:00p to 5:30p	St. Michael
Thursday, December 5	6:00p to 6:30p	Ss. Peter & Paul
Saturday, December 7	9:00a to 10:00a	St. Michael
Monday, December 9	7:30p to 9:00p	St. Michael
Tuesday, December 10	4:30p to 5:30p	Ss. Peter & Paul
Wednesday, December 11	12:00p to 1:00p	St. Michael
Saturday, December 14	9:00a to 10:00a	St. Michael
Monday, December 16	7:00p to 9:00p	St. Michael
Tuesday, December 17	4:30p to 5:30p	Ss. Peter & Paul
Wednesday, December 18	12:00p to 1:00p	St. Michael
Saturday, December 21	9:00a to 10:00a	St. Michael
Monday, December 23	7:00p to 9:00p	St. Michael

**Or by appointment with Fr. Steve: 937 295-2891.
Please cut out and place on the refrigerator!**

Pastoral Region

ADVENT OUTREACH: If you would like to volunteer to bring flowers to the homebound and/or nursing home parishioners on Thursday or Friday, December 5 or 6, please contact Deacon Paul at the POC.

OUR NEXT SENIOR CITIZEN EVENT is going to Do Good Restaurant in Osgood on Monday, December 9. We will leave from the church parking lots at 11:15 am for those who are already registered. This trip is full so no more registrations can be accepted.



GIVING TREE: St. Michael and Ss. Peter & Paul will once again sponsor the Giving Tree to assist those families and agencies needing our help during the holidays. If you are willing to help, simply choose a tag off the tree, buy a gift, attach the tag to the gift and return the gift to the churches NO LATER THAN Sunday, December 15. We are hoping you can help us to make this another successful year of helping others at Christmas!

VLCCF ADULT CATECHIST CERTIFICATION: 16 adults from our sister parish of San Cristobal are enrolled in this program with the University of Dayton. They have begun their next course of studies. If you would like to become a sponsor for Adult Catechist Certification in our sister parish, go to our Pastoral Region website, www.nflregion.org and click "On Line Giving" to become a donor and/or to continue your sponsorship.

EXTRA COPIES OF CYO BASKETBALL SCHEDULES are available at the POC or SM CCD Office for those parishioners interested in having a schedule of games and locations.

St. Michael

SM CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT will be held today, Sunday, December 1 from 6:00-6:30 pm at SM Church. Afterwards refreshments will be served, weather permitting.

SM CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MASS GREETERS ARE NEEDED: If you or your family are interested in greeting at any of the Christmas or New Year's Masses, please contact Diane at the POC to volunteer. SM Christmas Masses are being held as follows: Vigil Masses on Christmas Eve at 3:30 pm and 6:00 pm at SM Church, and 3:30 pm at St. Michael Hall, and Christmas Day Masses at 8:00 am and 11:00 am. The New Year's Masses will be at 5:30 pm on New Year's Eve, and 8:00 am and 11:00 am on New Year's Day.

SM OFFERTORY ENVELOPES for 2020 are available for pick up in the back of church.

Ss. Peter & Paul



DON'T FORGET TO JOIN US today for *Donut Sunday*, held in the church basement immediately following the 9:30 am mass.

SPP CEMETERY GUIDELINES regarding decorations/ plantings: No flowers or plants are allowed on graves from April 1-October 31. The only exceptions shall be two days before and 10 days after the following: Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day and Father's Day. Containers and decorations not removed by that time will be discarded. The only types of floral arrangements permitted at any time are those in permanently mounted urns or those attached to the monument. The planting of trees, shrubs, bushes, flowers etc. is not permitted.

SPP 2020 COLLECTION ENVELOPES

Your new envelopes are ready for pick up. They will be in the church basement. Thank you.



ALTAR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The Christmas Season is arriving and donations are sought to help decorate the altars with flowers. Please use this order form to make your donation towards the purchase of poinsettias for our sanctuaries this year.

In Memory Of:

Your Name _____

How Many: _____ @ \$10 each = _____

Which Parish: St. Michael Ss. Peter & Paul

ENCLOSE CASH OR MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Ss. Peter & Paul Church or to St. Michael Church and put in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" and which parish you are donating to. Thank you!

PASTOR Rev. Steven Shoup 937-295-2891 Ext. 101
steves@nflregion.org

DEACON Dcn. Paul Timmerman 937-295-2891 Ext. 107
pault@nflregion.org

PASTORAL REGION BUSINESS MANAGER
To be hired

OFFICE SUPPORT Secretary / Bookkeeper / Bulletin
Diane Gigandet (St. Michael Parish) 937-295-2891 Ext. 102
dianeg@nflregion.org
Betty Ann Clark (Ss. Peter & Paul Parish) 937-295-2891 Ext. 103
bettyannc@nflregion.org

PASTORAL REGION PASTORAL ASSOCIATE
Rose Meyer 937-295-2891 Ext. 106 rosem@nflregion.org

SPP PASTORAL ASSOCIATE & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Lisa Monnin 937-295-2891 Ext. 111 lisam@nflregion.org

SM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE: 937-295-2179
Deb Ranly CRE SM K-6 Ext. 114 depr@nflregion.org
Wendy Gerstner CRE YM 7-12 Ext. 113 wendyg@nflregion.org
Melissa Hoying Secretary Ext. 112 melissah@nflregion.org

PASTORAL REGION MUSIC DIRECTOR
Amy Noykos 937-295-2891 Ext. 110 amyn@nflregion.org

PASTORAL REGION COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE
Kate Boeke 937 295-2891 Ext. 104 kateb@nflregion.org

SM MAINTENANCE, SEXTON, & SACRISTAN
Ted & Jane Bornhorst tedb@nflregion.org janeb@nflregion.org

SPP MAINTENANCE & GROUNDSKEEPER
Mark Holscher 937-295-2460

SM HALL MANAGERS (HALL PHONE: 937 295-3193)
Nick & Katie Eilerman Scheduling: 937-295-2231

SPP CHURCH BASEMENT MANAGERS
Brian & Stacy Knasel Scheduling: 937-295-3834

NEED HELP? CALL ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: 937-538-8947
Please leave message, your call will be returned within 24 hrs.

Sacrament of Baptism (infants)

First time parents are to attend a pre-baptismal program that is offered quarterly throughout the year. Baptisms may be celebrated during any weekend mass. Outside of mass, baptisms are celebrated at St Michael on the 2nd & 4th Sundays at 12:00p. At Ss. Peter & Paul, baptisms are celebrated on the 3rd Sunday at 10:30a. Schedule with the Parish Office at least two weeks in advance at 295-2891.

Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

Make an appointment with the pastor or deacon at least six months in advance of the anticipated wedding date. The church building is not reserved before this meeting. The preparation program consists of meetings with the pastor, FOCCUS and a Pre-Cana workshop. If either party has previously been married, that marriage must be annulled before setting a date. Call Fr. Steve or Deacon Paul at the Parish Office at 295-2891.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Please notify the Parish Office of hospitalizations or home illnesses. The pastor will visit as soon as possible. In the case of an emergency, call the Parish Office and the Parish House. Call Fr. Steve at (office) 295-2891 or 295-3001 (rectory).

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)

Every Tuesday: 5:00-5:30p at Ss. Peter and Paul Church
Every Saturday: 4:00-4:30p at St. Michael Church
Thursday, only before 1st Friday 5:00-5:30p St. Michael
Thursday, only before 1st Friday 6:00-6:30p Ss. Peter & Paul
Join us for seasonal penance services. By appointment with the pastor is available by calling Fr. Steve at 295-2891.

RCIA: Becoming a Member of the Catholic Church

Non-Catholic adults and teens interested in learning more about the Roman Catholic Church or becoming members of the Church, are invited to participate with The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). RCIA is the process for teens and adults to enter the Church. Call Pastoral Associate Rose Meyer at the Parish Office at 295-2891 for more details.



Place form in the collection or mail to your parish.

Your Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone or Email _____

Ss. Peter & Paul PO Box 199; Ft. Loramie OH 45845

St. Michael PO Box 7; Ft. Loramie, OH 45845

Please contact me/us.

I/We are interested in becoming Catholic.

I/We would like to register with the parish.

I/We have a change of address, email, phone.

I/We are moving out of the parish.

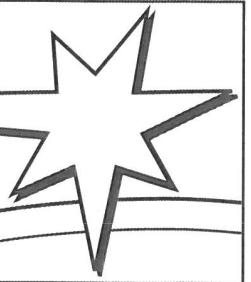
PRAYER LINE - Multiply Your Prayers!

Call or email one of these contacts to be added to your Parish Prayer Line for one month. Your prayer requests are confidential and may or may not include a name.

SS. Peter & Paul E-mail: khoehne@roadrunner.com
937-295-3264 Joan Meyer
937-295-2791 Mary Ann DeLoye

St. Michael E-mail: dmq5gc@nktelco.net
937-492-5620 Cindy Replogle
937-295-2659 Dorothy Quinlin
937-295-3964 Norma Toller
937-295-2384 Mary Hoying
937-295-3207 Karl & Kathy Hilgefert
937-295-3390 Fran Gehret

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

December 2019

Newport - Fort Loramie Pastoral Region

St. Michael and Ss. Peter & Paul Parishes

Have a peaceful Advent

Do you wish for an idyllic family Christmas complete with joyful music, grateful children, and tinsel-covered tree? For many parents, the weeks of Advent before Christmas mean weeks spent shopping, wrapping, and spending, and are wrought with family tensions, obligations, and overly excited children. Try these steps to keep your sanity and your Savior in your family's observance of Advent and Christmas:

Be realistic. It isn't the goal of the season to make everyone happy. If you don't overspend and over extend before Christmas, you'll be in a better frame of mind when it arrives.

Tie gifts with heartstrings. It's okay to give fewer gifts and to keep what you give simple, meaningful, and from

the heart. For example, give a coupon for a household chore to someone who would appreciate an extra hand. Handmade ornaments make meaningful gifts that last.



Soothe the beast. Beautiful music can set a soothing tone for the season. Play your favorite hymns and carols to keep a peaceful tone in your home.

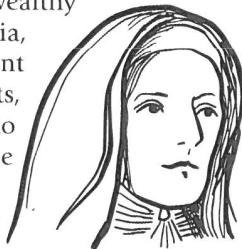
Reach out. Want to help children focus on something other than their gift lists? Do at least one good deed for someone needy.

Seek the eternal. Jesus gives us peace, purpose, and perspective. Spend time with Jesus each day of Advent and Christmas to remember what is most important about Christmas.

Thoughtful Moments

St. Maria di Rosa

Born into a wealthy family in Brescia, Italy, Paula spent her time, talents, and resources to help others. She left school to help her father with the mill.



She helped her brother run a school for deaf and mute girls and cared for those suffering from the cholera epidemic of 1836. She founded the Handmaids of Charity in 1840—a religious order which cared for the sick. Upon entering, she took the name Sr. Maria Crucifixa.

The first Christmas gift

Find something shiny or yellow that reminds you of gold. Use something fragrant (like an air freshener) to represent frankincense. Pour a small amount of oil into a small container to represent myrrh. Put these three gifts in a box, label the present with Jesus' name, and open it first on Christmas Day.

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests" (Luke 2:14).

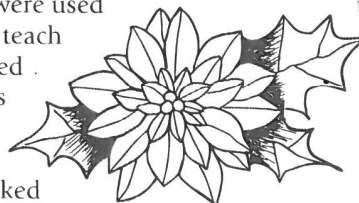


Why Do Catholics Do That?

Originally from Central America, poinsettias were used by early Christians to teach the faith. The bright red leaves recalled Christ's blood which was shed for us, while their arrangement evoked the Star of Bethlehem. In one legend, a poor Mexican

Why do Catholics display poinsettias at Christmas?

girl wanted to give something to the Christ child. Having nothing, she arranged weeds into a bouquet and left them before the manger. They grew beautiful red flowers, showing that she had given the best gift of all: genuine love.



Celebrate a warm and wonderful Christmas

Telling stories, making music, demonstrating gratitude, and sharing our love and faith with one another, are warm and wonderful ways to celebrate the joy of bringing God into the human world each Christmas season. Consider these ideas:

Tell stories. The first and second chapter in Luke's Gospel tell the most remarkable true story of God coming to live among us. Read a little each night together, and try to imagine you were there.

Make music. The word "carol" means an old round dance with singing. Sing your

favorite carols or hymns and create dances to go along with them.

Count blessings. Each day during Advent, find a picture of something for which each person is grateful and put it up in a prominent place in your home. These are visible reminders of God's love.

Make it last. The Catholic Christmas season lasts from the vigil Mass on Christmas Eve until the Baptism of Our Lord on January 12. Leave your tree up the entire time and celebrate with gusto!

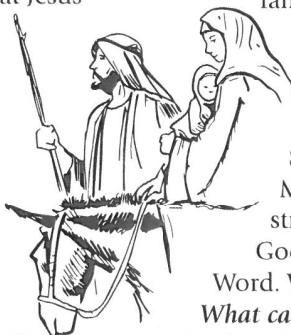


Scripture LESSON

**Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23,
God protects those who trust him.**

Nativity scenes usually show Mary and Joseph calmly kneeling at Jesus' crib surrounded by adoring shepherds and wise men. It's a peaceful scene and probably pretty far from reality.

Mary and Joseph traveled in the last stages of her pregnancy from Nazareth to Bethlehem. On foot or donkey, it was a dirty, exhausting journey. Once there, there was nowhere to stay except a stable with animals because all the good inns were full. After a short time, they had to flee to Egypt with a newborn to escape danger, and stayed



there for several years without family or friends.

The Holy Family had a share of pain and difficulties much like our own experience. Yet Scripture tells us that Mary and Joseph found strength from their faith in God and were guided by his Word. We can do the same.

What can a parent do? Tell your children that Jesus' birth and the Holy Family's escape to Egypt is further proof that God always keeps his promises. When we lean on him, God will always lead us to safety.

Parent TALK

When she was nine years old, Kara asked the question many parents dread. "Is there really a Santa Claus?"

Without hesitation, I told her, "yes."



I grew up in a large family and my parents often lacked money for gifts at Christmas. Yet, thanks to "Santa

Claus," we never went a Christmas without a stocking to open or a gift under the tree.

I admitted that I have never met Santa Claus and I don't know if our gifts were really delivered by a chubby man in a red suit.

Still, I believe he exists in the generosity and kindness of others. Santa provides an opportunity for people to humbly reach out to others in his name. So whether we call this spirit, "Santa" or "St. Nicholas," at the core, it is a love for Christ and the joy of celebrating his birth that brings out the best in people.

Feasts & Celebrations

Dec. 1 – First Sunday in Advent.

During this season, we anticipate Christ's birth and his coming on the last day. Catholics everywhere light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

Dec. 1 – St. Edmund Campion (1581). As a young man, St. Edmund studied theology in France then became a Jesuit missionary. He returned to England to preach but was betrayed and arrested. He was martyred at Tyburn.

Dec. 7 – St. Ambrose (397). St. Ambrose was an effective pastor,

bishop and teacher, and was devoted to care of the poor in Milan. He guarded the Church against the Arians, who denied Jesus' divinity.

Dec. 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531). The Blessed Mother appeared as a Native American maiden to St. Juan Diego. She asked that the bishop of Mexico build a chapel for her, and had him carry roses as a sign. When the roses were emptied from his tilma it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.



Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2019

Newport - Fort Loramie Pastoral Region

St. Michael and Ss. Peter & Paul Parishes

One Minute Meditations

St. Maria di Rosa

Born "Paula" in Brescia, Italy, Maria di Rosa

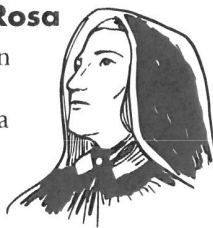
was the daughter of a mill owner and a countess. Coming from a wealthy family didn't spare her from difficulty. She lost her mother when young. At seventeen years old, she left school to work with her father at the mill. During the cholera epidemic of 1836, she cared for the sick. In 1840, she founded the Handmaids of Charity to care for the wounded during the wars.

Agent of change

True conversion is the work of the Holy Spirit. Salvation and faith are gifts from God – gifts that are not ours to give. Yet, believers are called to join with the Holy Spirit to bring others to God. When we have a strong and personal relationship with Jesus, we can be his agents of change.

"Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

(Isaiah 40:5).



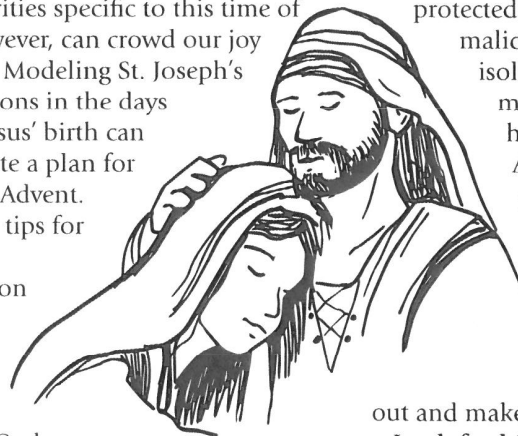
The joyful expectation of Advent

Jesus' birth at Christmas is real and amazing evidence of God's love. The priorities specific to this time of year, however, can crowd our joy and awe. Modeling St. Joseph's preparations in the days before Jesus' birth can help create a plan for our own Advent. Try these tips for joyful expectation of our Savior's birth.

Create silence. God found the quiet he needed in St. Joseph's life to speak and be heard over the noise of the carpenter's shop, the needs of neighbors, the demands of tax collectors. In the silence St. Joseph created just for him, God was able to work miracles.

Keep out the devil. When Joseph found out Mary was pregnant, he protected her from the evil of malicious gossip and isolation. He helped her to make a God-centered home filled with Love. Although the devil is powerful, he cannot go where he is not permitted. When we stay close to the Sacraments and live a God-centered life, we, too, keep the devil out and make room for Love.

Look for him. Can you imagine the joy with which St. Joseph expected Jesus' coming? We celebrate Jesus' arrival in Bethlehem with joy. We can joyfully welcome him into our lives now. And, with joy we can look forward to Christ's coming in glory on the Last Day.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics celebrate Christmas after December 26?

The Catholic Christmas is not just one day but an entire liturgical season. It begins with the vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 12th this year). During the celebration of Christmas,

we rejoice in the realization of God's plan for our salvation. God became man to save us. Thus, the Church makes sure we have enough time — almost a month — to fully celebrate such a joyful, hope-filled, destiny-altering event.



Open your heart to the Christmas promise

This time of year reminds us of our hope for a future of peace. But we cannot achieve this peace on our own. We must open our hearts to the promise of Christmas.

“One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again” (Isaiah 2:4). Violence flourishes if the world accepts it as inevitable. The world can change if the love of the Christmas Child takes root in our hearts. Peace flows from hearts that love.

“The poor will eat their fill; those who seek



the Lord will offer praise” (Psalm 22:27). Peace spreads more easily when all have enough. These days the poor are everywhere and people are struggling to hold onto hope. If we each make our holiday charitable efforts a year-round habit, perhaps the words of the psalmist will come true.

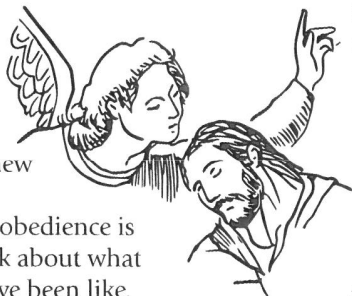
“The virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14). This Christmas we can once again rekindle our own sense of innocence and hope.

from Scripture

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23, Trust God like St. Joseph did

By the time Mary gave birth to Jesus, St. Joseph was used to following orders from God without question. So when the angel appeared to him in his sleep urging him to flee to Egypt, Joseph obeyed immediately. He trusted that God would take care of him and his new family.

Joseph’s unquestioning obedience is remarkable when we think about what the birth of Jesus must have been like. Mary and Joseph had traveled in the last stages of her pregnancy from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Whether on foot or donkey, it was a dirty, exhausting journey.



Once there, there was nowhere to stay except with the animals. After a short time, they fled to Egypt to escape danger, and stayed there for some years without family or friends. Through it all, Joseph trusted God to protect his family.

Being perfect didn’t shield the Holy Family from experiencing pain and difficulty much like we do. Yet Scripture tells us that Mary and Joseph found strength from their faith in God and were guided by his Word. We can do the same.

Q & A Why does the Church year begin in Advent?

The Church has a liturgical year with its own seasons that help us to mark events that are important to Catholics. However, the Church year doesn’t start

on January 1, or even on December 25 — when we celebrate Christ’s birthday. Instead, it begins on the first Sunday of Advent, the season before Christmas.



Advent is the perfect season for new beginnings. It’s a season of preparation: the King of Kings is coming! There are three “arrivals” of Christ to prepare for and celebrate: as an infant at Bethlehem, at Mass in the Eucharist, and as the King of Glory at the end of time.

In order to properly greet such a Guest, the Church sets aside this time for us to purify our hearts and souls. Whether that means being with God in prayer, attending Confession, volunteering in the community or cleaning house, Advent is the time for it. The Church wants us to begin the year well by preparing to welcome the King who comes to “make all things new” (Revelation 21:5).

Feasts & Celebrations

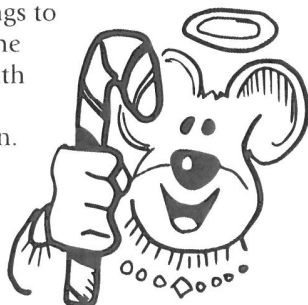
Dec. 1 – First Sunday in Advent. During this season, we anticipate Christ’s coming. Catholics around the world light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

Dec. 9 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception (1854). This feast day commemorates that Mary was conceived in St. Anne’s womb without Original Sin. Attending Mass is a wonderful way to celebrate.

Dec. 9 – St. Juan Diego (1548). St. Juan Diego was visited by the Blessed Mother at Tepeyac Hill in Mexico. She

asked that a chapel be built and sent him to the bishop with roses as a sign. When the roses were emptied from his cloak, it retained the image of Our Lady which can still be seen today.

Dec. 21 – St. Peter Canisius (1597). Born in Holland, he was ordained into the Society of Jesus and worked strenuously through his writings and teachings to safeguard the Catholic faith after the Reformation. His work, *The Catechism*, is still used today.



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