



I am very grateful to everyone who has made our celebration of Christmas so prayerful and beautiful. Thank you to all those who worked so hard to decorate the church for Christmas, especially Ann Kellish, chair of the Arts and Environment Committee. Such beautiful decoration can only enhance our prayer and worship. I am also grateful to our music department, lead by Eric Pandrea and Amanda Porter, for all the beautiful music, which also enhanced our prayer and worship of God this Christmas. All of our choirs did such an outstanding job. Thanks also, to our ministers of the Eucharist, lectors, ushers, and altar servers. A final note of thanks to Diane Bruce and Amanda Porter for organizing and working with the children for the Children's' Mass at 10 AM, on Christmas Day. May God bless you all and reward you for your generosity and hard work.

I certainly hope that everyone is having a very Holy and Blessed Christmas Season. The celebration of Jesus' birth continues until we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. It is kind of unfortunate that the commercial world is just as quick to stop celebrating Christmas, as it is to prematurely begin celebrating, which is usually before Halloween. I have heard more Christmas music this year, beginning before Thanksgiving, than ever before. Try to find a Christmas song on the radio the day after Christmas. It is not all that easy.

So, let us continue to celebrate the Birth of Jesus, as we should, so that our celebration may be more in line with our Catholic Faith and not just the commercial world. In doing this, we have a better chance of letting the real spirit of Christmas stay in our lives and our hearts throughout the New Year. This is a way we can truly grow in our faith and in our awareness of God's presence every day of our lives.

There are many times when we lament the fact that Christmas comes and goes so quickly and we wish it could be Christmas every day. Well, if we truly realize more and more what Christmas really is, a celebration of God coming to us and staying with us, and then we can have Christmas all year round, because that is what our faith is all about. We believe that God is with us as we celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We believe that Jesus will keep His promise to remain with us until the end of time. We believe that Jesus is with us in the scriptures, which is the Word of God. We believe that Jesus is with us in the Church that He founded. God is with us in so many ways, so let's remember that it really is Christmas every day.

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family. We look to the Holy Family as an example and guide for what it means to be a family; to have Jesus at the center of our homes and families. A family is started when a man and a woman come to live together after they are married and from their committed love, comes the blessing of children.

Let's not so easily be taken in by what our society says is a family. I am not talking about single parent families who became that way because they were given no real choice by a spouse who wanted a divorce. I am talking about single people who have children without wanting to be married. I am talking about same sex unions and bringing children into such a situation that is not a family by God's design.

God designed the family. He created the family. He chose to be born into a family. His design has to be the best plan for us and we should do all in our power to respect His plan. God only does what is best for us, if we would just open our eyes and see that this is so. This can only be done in the context of a faithful and loving relationship with God. This is why we need to pray each day and go to Mass each Sunday. The more time we spend with God, the more we can really know Him and see how good His plan is for all of us.

So, as we celebrate this Feast of the Holy Family, let us pray for the wisdom and grace to model our families after that of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. In this way, our families can and will become holy as well.

I am very grateful to all of you for your prayers, cards, and gifts during this Christmas Season. I cannot tell you how much it means to me that so many of you take the time to send these greetings to me. It tells me that you appreciate my ministry, as your pastor. I assure you that I will continue to do the best that I can to preach the truth to you, the truth that is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to administer the sacraments in a reverent and loving way. Thank you again, for all your kindnesses to me, and all that you do for our parish, especially the poor.

Please don't forget that Thursday is the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, and it is a **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**. Please see the Mass schedule in today's bulletin for the times of the Masses.

May God grant all of you and yours a Happy and Healthy New Year.





**Saturday, December 27, St. John the Apostle**  
 5:00 p.m. .... Will Fisher [Leona Slovkovsky]

**Sunday, December 28, FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
 8:00 a.m. .... Erica Olis [Violet Plummer]  
 9:30 a.m. .... Anthony DiMaggio [June Linson]  
 11:30 a.m. .... For Our Parish

**Monday, December 29, St. Thomas Becket**  
 8:00 a.m. .... William & Ethel O'Connor [Teri Paul]

**Tuesday, December 30**  
 8:00 a.m. .... Ted Fryzlewicz [Ronald & Virginia Mizak]

**Wednesday, December 31, St. Sylvester I**  
 8:00 a.m. .... Communion Service  
 5:00 p.m. .... Catherine Cline, Anniversary [Barb DeCello]  
 11:15 p.m. .... James J. Witschey [Family]

**Thursday, January 1, MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**  
 10:00 a.m. .... Louise Vincent [Guy & Mary Taylor]

**Friday, January 2, First Friday; St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen**  
 8:00 a.m. .... Luz E. Rivera [Ramona Merced]

**Saturday, January 3, First Saturday; Holy Name of Jesus**  
 8:00 a.m. .... Jack Tiffany [Joanne Crowley]  
 5:00 p.m. .... Mary Swartz [Friends & Family]

**Sunday, January 4, EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
 8:00 a.m. .... For Our Parish  
 9:30 a.m. .... Ronald L. Hayden [Evans Family]  
 11:30 a.m. .... Steve Petrinycz [M/M James S. Toth]

**HOLY FAMILY PRAYER**-*"Jesus, Mary, Joseph-help me to speak and act as you did when you lived here on earth: to be a good son or daughter, a loyal and loving parent, and a friend to those in desperate need, especially those who have departed that came before our eyes."*

**Readings for the Week of December 28**

Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35  
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40  
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18  
 Thursday: The Mother of God, Solemnity  
 Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21  
 Friday: Memorial  
 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28  
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34  
 Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

**Feast of the Holy Family**

When his parents saw him (in the temple) they were astonished, and his mother said to him: "You see that your father and I have been searching for you in sorrow." He said to them: "Why did you search for me? Did you not know I had to be in my Father's house?" Lk 2:48, 49

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT --DECEMBER 21**

[\$5% of our collection was given to the St. Vincent de Paul Society].

Offertory.....	\$13,572.00
Support Our School.....	\$668.00
Debt Reduction.....	\$335.00
Christmas Decorations.....	\$135.00
Religious Retirement.....	\$128.00
Christmas.....	\$3,405.00
New Years Day.....	\$112.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$42.00
Number of envelopes used:.....	406

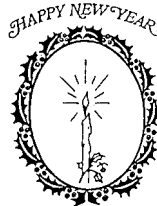
MANY THANKS for your generous offerings.



**DIVORCED, SEPARATED, AND WIDOWED MEN & WOMEN** of all ages are encouraged to attend a weekend designed for those who wish to let go of the painful past and create a more peace-filled future. Presented by people who have "been there" and offer their support. The next BEGINNING EXPERIENCE Weekend will be held on February 13, 14, & 15, at St. Joseph Christian Life Center, Cleveland. Call Joyce, 440-546-9192.

**A RIGHT TO LIFE SIGNATURE AD ON JANUARY 22** in the Akron Beacon Journal, will have volunteers collecting signatures in the back of the church after all Masses, on January 11. The suggested donation is \$5 to help defray the expense of the ad. What better way is there to show that the Supreme Court erred in its 1973 decision?

**AS PART OF A NEW YEARS RESOLUTION, PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US FOR:**



- **FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS** will take place immediately following 8:00 a.m. Mass on January 2. Please take this opportunity to consecrate yourself to the Sacred Heart of Jesus with your parish community!

- **FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY**, immediately following the 8:00 a.m. Mass on January 3. We recite the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary every First Saturday, for the faith raising of our parish.

- **PARISH PRAYER GROUP**  
 The Parish Family Prayer Group will meet Sunday evening, January 4, at 6:15 p.m., in the church, to consecrate their families to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Please join us.



# Liturgical Roles

## MASS SERVERS SCHEDULE

### Week of December 29

- 8:00 a.m. - **Monday - Wednesday**  
- Megan Stafford, Dianna Stafford  
- Paul Davies, Anna Davies
- 8:00 a.m. - **Friday - Saturday**  
- Toni DiPietro, Adam Michney  
- Eddie Duckworth, Nathan Greczanik

### Saturday, January 3

- 5:00 p.m. - Megan Crawford, Meghan Weber  
- Caleb Busson, Joseph Dean

### Sunday, January 4

- 8:00 a.m. - Anna Davies, Paul Davies  
- Sean Leahy, Rochelle Rodrigo
- 9:30 a.m. - Joshua Heskamp, Julie Hricko  
- Colton Hatch, Tom Kaminski
- 11:30 a.m. - Emily Gaborcik, Jason Kelty  
- Eric Knight, Leslie Katzenmeyer

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER SCHEDULE

### Saturday, January 3

- 5:00 p.m. - Dennis Busson, Chris & Tricia Easton  
- Dave & Lucy Meager

*Cup Ministers* - Tom Polomsky, Jay Bajorek, David King  
- Tom & Annette Palecek, Frank Collins

### Sunday, January 4

- 8:00 a.m. - Bob Potts, John Baker, Helen Jeglic  
- Chelsea Goodwin, Irene Lionetti
- 9:30 a.m. - Chuck & Marge Ruhlin, Pat McNeill  
- Chris & Marian Kauffman
- 11:30 a.m. - Jim & Joan Clark, Elaine Daigle  
- Tony & Diane Agnesi

**Alercare** - Gahans

**Liberty Residence** - Smiths

**Magnolia** - Venners

**Sterling Oaks** - Bajorek/Polomsky

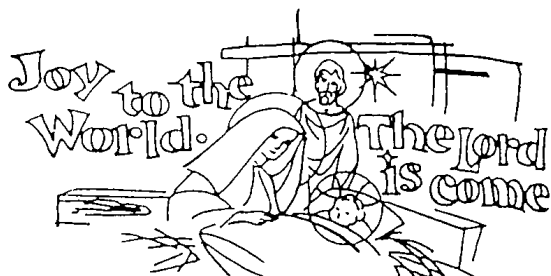
## LECTOR SCHEDULE

### Saturday, January 3

- 5:00 p.m. - Jim Carps, JoAnn Tighe

### Sunday, January 4

- 8:00 a.m. - Lois Potts, Rosa Owens
- 9:30 a.m. - Matt Finneran, Jr., Tom Hegarty
- 11:30 a.m. - Tim Perry, Tim Reed



# Liturgical Roles

## MASS SERVERS SCHEDULE

### Wednesday, December 31-New Years Eve

- 5:00 p.m. - Joe Ozbolt, Vince Pelini  
- Jenna Gahan, Miranda Boland

### Thursday, January 1-NEW YEARS DAY

- 10:00 a.m. - Michael Paridon, Sarah Nelson  
- David Smith, Jr., Dianna Stafford

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER SCHEDULE

### Wednesday, December 31-New Years Eve

- 5:00 p.m. - Sr. Therese Marie, Donna Sponsler  
- Ryan McNeill, Pat McNeill

### Thursday, January 1-NEW YEARS DAY

- 10:00 a.m. - David Smith, Sr., Rosa Owens  
- Dorothy Pape, Tim Perry

## LECTOR SCHEDULE

### Wednesday, December 31, New Years Eve

- 5:00 p.m. - Bob Cotey, Tom Hegarty

### Thursday, January 1, NEW YEARS DAY

- 10:00 a.m. - Gwen Kraeff, Nancy Houck



## MARY'S PRAYER: THE MAGNIFICAT

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
My spirit rejoices in God my Savior  
For he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:

The Almighty has done great things for me,  
And holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,  
He has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
And the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel  
For he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers,  
To Abraham and his children for ever.

Amen.

[Luke 1: 46-55]

Happy New Year!



IN OUR PARISH

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

11:00 a.m. - Confessions until Noon, church

3:30 p.m. - Confessions until 4:30 p.m., church

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

6:15 p.m. - Parish Family Prayer Group, church

6:30 p.m. - Youth Group Christmas Party, rectory

**CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME** *Catholics Returning Home for Christmas* is a program to invite non-practicing Catholics back to the Church. Please ask friends and relatives back home. Classes start January 8, 2004. Please call 330-472-2848.



**HELP THE SACRED HEART BUILDING FUND** by purchasing a cell phone. Parishioner, Jack Yard will donate \$10 for each new Verizon Wireless activation or end of contract renewal done by Jack by 1/23/04. Please call 330-472-9379, and refer to add on the back of bulletin.

**DAILY PRAYER CALENDERS** written by the students of Sacred Heart School are available at the school for \$10.00. Call 330-334-6272!



**THE JESUIT RETREAT HOUSE** in Parma, is providing numerous opportunities for personal retreats. Please visit the web-site: [www.JRH-CLEVELAND.ORG](http://www.JRH-CLEVELAND.ORG)

**PROTECT YOUR HEALTH. PROTECT YOUR LIFE!**

Life Line Screening will be at Sacred Heart Church on Monday, February 9, 2004, to perform ultrasound screenings for stroke, [AAA] abdominal aortic aneurysms, {PAD} peripheral arterial disease, and osteoporosis. You must call to pre-register. Please check your enclosed flyer for more information on this beneficial screening opportunity!



**Life Line Screening**  
Scanning For Life

• **THE YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be



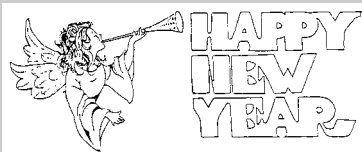
**YOUTH GROUP NEWS**

at the rectory this Sunday, January 4, from 6:30 until...Fr. Joe throws us out. Come hungry! Food will be provided. Please bring a donation of a baby item from the Community Pregnancy

Center needs list. Bring a game if you'd like. Friends are welcome. See you there!

• **THE FIRST YOUTH GROUP MEETING FOR 2004** will be Sunday, January 11, at 7:30 p.m., in the Upper Room. In case of very cold weather, dress warmly since the room takes a while to heat up.

• **MANY THANKS TO JOSH & BETH WATSON** for their inspiring leadership of the youth group for the last 5 years. As they step from active youth leadership to more-than-active – baby-parenting, we ask that God bless them abundantly for all the love that they have given to the young people of our parish. Drop in for music and spam anytime, Josh!



**SACRED HEART OF JESUS PARISH  
NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION**

Come celebrate the incoming New Year with your parish family!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31  
10:15-11:15 p.m. Holy Hour  
11:15 p.m. Mass

RECEPTION FOLLOWING MASS

McMahon Hall  
LIGHT FARE WITH CHAMPAGNE  
Freewill Offering

RSVP

Parish Office, 336-3049 or Palecek's, 334-1916



*"The purpose of Christmas is to bring, not the memory, but the PRESENCE of the Christ Child who was born for you on that wonderful night in Bethlehem, into your life to transform it and to empower it."*

Bishop James W. Montgomery