

Liturgy Schedule

Chapel

Thursday, January 3

8:00am - Mae Bolte - Daughters

Friday, January 4

8:00am - Ron Van Amburgh - Family

Church

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Monday, December 31

4:30pm - All Parishioners

Tuesday, January 1

9:00am - All Parishioners

Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 5

3:30pm - Confessions

4:30pm - Al DiVencenzo - Mr. & Mrs. Calabrese

Sunday, January 6

8:30am - Cecelia Rozga - Phyllis Rozga

11:00am - Mae Bolte - Daughters

Pray for the Sick: *David Blackburn, Herb Kuepfer, Jose' Magiste, Sandy Vashbinder, Leon Denomme, Pam Jenkins, Jim Hempfling, David Myers, Kathy Borowy, Shirley Livchak, Jerry & Lee Severns, Carol Cordy, Tami Lynsky, Jeanne Kowalski, Dorothy Pondy, Bille Updegrove, Robert Falatic, Al Machovina, Rick Spinks, Jim & Pat Wracker, Clay Cook, Kathy Buckland, Don Gates, Ken Schroeder, Bill Livingston, Gregg & Judy Simmerly, Stan & Angie Debro, Carol Mahier, Kathy O'Reilly, Shayne Reisinger, Jose' Cruze, Marilyn Tipple, Christine Davis, and Russ Cordy*

Please call the Parish Office 440-926-2364, or email us at info@olppgraston.org to have a name of a friend or relative included in this list.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Tuesday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34

Friday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42

Saturday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 1:43-51

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

January 19 - Night at the Races

February 2 - Spaghetti Dinner

March 6 - Ash Wednesday

March 20 - Diocesan Wide Sacrament of Reconciliation

March 24-26 - Parish Mission

April 16 - Palm Sunday

April 23 - Easter

August 1-3 - Parish Festival

WELCOME! If you are interested in joining the parish please contact us. You can call the parish office at 440-926-2364 or go to our web site at www.olppgraston.org. Registration forms are on our website and by the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. There will be a Welcome Weekend on January 26/27

HOUSE BLESSING: There is a tradition on Epiphany and the beginning of a new year to bless your home. Next weekend at Mass there will be a packet available which you can use to bless your home. The blessing is associated with the magi whose names, according to tradition, are Casper, Melchoir, and Balthazar. The numbers of the new year as well as the initials of the magi are written in chalk about the door. (20 + C + M + B + 19). The letters also form an acronym: *Christus mansionem benedicat* (May God bless this house).

PARISH OFFICE: The Parish Office will be closed Monday, December 31st and Tuesday, January 1st.

Sympathy to the families of **Zelma Jean Epp, Debbie Strnad and Dorothy Pondy** who recently died. May they rest in the peace of Christ.





PASTORS CORNER: “And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart” (Luke 2:16-21). This line from the gospel for the holy day on January 1, Mary, Mother of God, gives us a great way to start off the year. Mary treasured all these things, reflecting upon the birth of her son and all that had been said about her child by the shepherds. To take on the attitude of Mary is to treasure all that has happened in our lives and all that will take place in this new year. It is an attitude of gratefulness for the blessings in our lives that comes from pausing to reflect each day on what has taken place. And, yes, that also means seeing how the bad experiences and challenges of life can teach us, and form us, and transform us into the image of Jesus.

Taking time each day for prayer and reflection enables us to put our lives into perspective and to see the wonders that God is working in our midst. As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family this weekend we are called to take time in prayer as well, so that we can make our homes, our heart a place where Jesus dwells.

“To hear and accept God’s call to make a home for Jesus, you must be able to rest in the Lord. You must make time each day for prayer. But you may say to me: Holy Father, I want to pray, but there is so much work to do! I must care for my children; I have chores in the home; I am too tired even to sleep well. This may be true, but if we do not pray, we will not know the most important thing of all: God’s will for us. And for all our activity, our busy-ness, without prayer we will accomplish very little.”

Pope Francis Meeting with Families, Sri Lanka and the Philippines Jan. 16, 2015.

Fr John

HOLY FAMILY: Today is the Feast of the Holy Family. This liturgical feast has been on the Church calendar for about one hundred years, often on different dates. It is a ‘devotional’ or ‘ideal’ feast that was inaugurated by the Holy Family associations. Everything we know about the Holy Family, which is not much, comes from the Gospel we hear today at Mass. It celebrates the unity and love so evident in the family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus.

The following prayer could be used in the home as the family gathers together. It can be prayed by one or by all members in which you could substitute ‘family’ with ‘us’, ie. “to protect and watch over us.”

BLESSING OF FAMILY

We bless your name O Lord,
for sending your own incarnate Son
to become part of a family,
so that, as he lived its life,
he would experience its worries and its joys.

We ask you, Lord,
to protect and watch over this family,
so that in the strength of your grace
its members may enjoy prosperity,
possess the priceless gift of your peace,
and, as the Church alive in the home,
bear witness in this world to your glory.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (January 1st): One of the most outstanding characteristics of Mary is her willingness to know and do God’s will. While we would like to follow her example, we wonder how she was so sure of it. Today’s Gospel gives us a clue. She reflected on the events that happened and were happening. She meditated. In our busy lives today, we often overlook meditation as prayer.

BLESSING OF THE NEW YEAR

God of time and of eternity,
God of every generation,
with Christmas joy we praise you
for the year gone by
and for the year we have begun.

Your Son comes among us,
to bring glad tidings to the poor,
to proclaim a year acceptable in your sight.

Knit us in harmony and love,
we who are flesh of his flesh.
Fill the year with good gifts
for all the world
as we join the angels in proclaiming our praise:
Glory in heaven
and peace on earth,
now and for ever. Amen.

Thank you for your generous support of our Parish, and your help with the needs of the community through your ongoing participation in our various ministries.

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Sunday, Dec 16:	\$ 16,976.95	\$ 9,800.00	\$ 7,176.95
Sunday Y-T-D:	\$239,487.51	\$245,00.00	(\$ 5,512.49)

PLANNED GIVING: In this season of giving, consider making a year-end gift to our parish in gratitude for all the blessings you have received in life. Making a gift of appreciated stock may help you avoid capital gains tax and help our parish at the same time. If you are 70 ½ or older, you may be able to reduce your taxable income this year and help us in our ministry with a gift made directly from your IRA to our parish. Talk to your advisors and IRA administrator for more information and to be sure that a gift is made directly from an IRA to a qualified charity such as our parish. Lastly, should this year-end find you creating or updating your estate plan, please consider helping us grow our parish ministry for future generations by including our parish as a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement plan or life insurance policy. Questions? Contact Jim Andrews in our parish office at (440) 926-2364 or via email at jandrews@olqpgrafton.org. You are also welcome to contact Mary Lou Ozimek of the Catholic Community Foundation at 216-696-6525 x4070 or via email at mozimek@catholiccommunity.org.

NIGHT TO SHINE: February 8th our parish along with over 500 other churches across the nation and world will be hosting a Tim Tebow Night to Shine. This is a prom experience for those with special needs 14 years of age and older. It is a way of letting those with special needs experience the love of God and community. Registrations are now being accepted. For more information and to register go to our web site, www.olqpgrafton.org.

POLISH PASTERKA and THREE KINGS DAY: The traditional Polish Christmas Liturgy (Pasterka) and the feast of the Three Kings will be celebrated on Sunday afternoon, January 6, 2019 at the beautiful, historic church of St. Casimir, 8223 Sowinski Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44103. The celebration will begin at 2:30pm with a prelude of Kolendy (Polish Christmas Carols) followed by the mass at 3:00pm with homily in Polish and English.

Also, prior to the celebration (from 12:30 - 2:30 pm.) a Polish dinner will be available in the church hall. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

For further information, call 440-258-5231

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: In today's Gospel, we hear, "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." (1 JOHN 3:1) During this season of giving, let us as Christian stewards remember the most important gift we have received – being children of God. As God's children, it's important that we express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them!

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION: Speaking on this feast day in 2017, Pope Francis said that like the Holy Family, we must create conditions in our families for the productive growth of children. This feast day celebrates the Holy Family as a model for all Christian families. Thank God for the gifts a family gives us.

SAVE THE DATE - WOMEN OF FAITH will gather on Sunday, January 27th at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall. Our topic will be Seasons of Change. ALL women of the parish are invited to come to a refreshing time together.

DO YOU SUFFER FROM CHRONIC PAIN? Starting January 10th, at 1:30pm in the Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish Hall, the third class Chronic Pain Self Management Program will be offered. This program is an evidence based self management program developed at Stanford University Medical College. The program offers practical strategies and a gentle exercise program that may help you manage your chronic pain. This program is brought to you free of charge through Fairhill Partners, and grants from the federal and state governments. Refreshments will be provided. To enroll in this program, contact Sue Schniegenberg at 440-926-1610. My co-presenter and I look forward to meeting you.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 5, 2019 at 10:30am in the Parish Hall. Anyone is welcomed whether you can knit, crochet, or sew. Join us for fellowship and sharing. Any questions, call Kathy Smeltz at 419-544-2491, Sue Schneiegenberg at 440-926-1610 or Kathy Behlke at 440-935-3344. See everyone Saturday.

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This Week in the Parish:

Monday, December 31

8:00am - Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, January 1

8:00am - Parish Office Closed

Wednesday, January 2

7:00pm - Night to Shine Mtg. (Parish Hall)

Thursday, January 3

7:00pm - Parish Council (Parish Hall Rm. 1)

Friday, January 4

1:30pm - Keystone Pointe

Saturday, January 5

8:00am - Food Pantry (Parish Hall)

10:30am - Prayer Shawl (Parish Hall Rm. 1)

2:00pm - Jr. Choir Practice (Church)

5:30pm - Choir (Church)

Sunday, January 6

8:30am - Parish Nurse (Church)

9:30am - GLFF (Parish Hall)

PARISH INFORMATION

† **Weddings:** Couples need to make arrangements at least six months prior to the wedding date.

† **Baptism:** Baptisms are celebrated at a mutually convenient time. Please call the office to make arrangements.

† **Ministry to the Sick:** Please notify the office for visits to parishioners in the hospital.

† **New parishioners:** Are asked to register as soon as possible at the Parish Office or by phone.

† **Inquiry Classes in the Catholic Religion:** Persons interested in becoming Catholic are asked to contact the Parish Office for information about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, RCIA.



Come join us on Saturday, January 19th at 5:30pm for this fun filled event. Tickets for this year's Night at the Races are on sale for \$20 in the Gathering Area after all masses this weekend or at the parish office during the week. Entry to the event, food and refreshments are included in the ticket price. You may also purchase horses for \$15 apiece with the chance of winning \$30 if your horse wins the race. You can also sponsor a race for \$50 and have your ad on the race form for the race you sponsor. You do not need to attend the event to purchase horses or to sponsor a race. We are also asking for donations for our Chinese Raffle. For more information please contact Troy DiFranco at (440) 506-3592.

As part of Night at the Races, raffle tickets for a **Kalahari** package will be for sale after masses. They are one for \$5 or three for \$10. The raffle will continue at the Night at the Races and be drawn that night. You do not need to attend the Night at the Races to purchase raffle tickets. More details on the package are at the table.

LITURGY/ART & ENVIRONMENT: The next meeting of the Liturgy Committee will be Monday, January 7th at 7:00pm in the hall. We will be evaluating the Advent and Christmas seasons and making plans for Lent which begins March 6th. The Art & Environment Committee will meet at 8:00pm on the same evening.

MARRIED COUPLES: Worn out from the Holidays? Feeling stressed? Are you looking for a way to avoid the winter blahs? Bring some warmth and refreshed intimacy back into your marriage with a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Winter dates: Jan. 19-20 at St. Paschal Baylon in Highland Heights, or Feb. 15-17 at the Hartville Comfort Suites. Info; 330-305-9963 or www.GreatMarriagesOhio.org

SCRIPTURE STUDY - Encounter JESUS by joining the new "Turning Point-Gospel of John", on Thursday January 10th at 7:00pm in room 2 of the hall. Session seven "Lazarus & Sisters" on pages 109-126, will be our next lesson. Our Scripture Study of the Gospel of John (Jesus' presence) has followed through on its promise to allow us to meet Jesus in new ways. Study books are available in the church office for \$13. Contact Rick Gallaher (440) 458-6335 for comments or questions.

HOME IS WHERE THE FAMILY IS

The idea, dream, and reality of family is so strong and durable that we use it to describe all that is best about human gatherings. We speak of the family of nations, of our church and parish families. The greatest compliment we can pay a friend or gracious host is to say that we feel at home with them, we feel part of the family.

Families are the first crucibles in which love is tested and tempered. Jesus himself was one of three people who lived in the shadow of each other. This family, like our own, did not always "get it right," but they always tried to. These three "amateurs" were on holiday, and one of them got lost. Two were worried sick and took great measures to find the third, a boy after all, who was seeking the meaning of his calling. He found his vocation—to do his Father's work—but he also returned home with his parents.