

# CHRIST OUR SAVIOR PARISH

DECEMBER 7, 2025



## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

250 N. Bridge St., Struthers, OH 44471



## ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

764 Fifth St., Struthers, OH 44471

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

### Daily Mass Schedule

#### Monday

8:30am - Holy Rosary Church

#### Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

8:30am - St. Nicholas Church

#### Friday

8:30am - Christ The Good Shepherd

### Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday | 4pm - St. Nicholas Church

Sunday | 8am - Holy Trinity Church

9:30am - Holy Rosary Church

11am - Christ the Good Shepherd

## St. Nicholas School

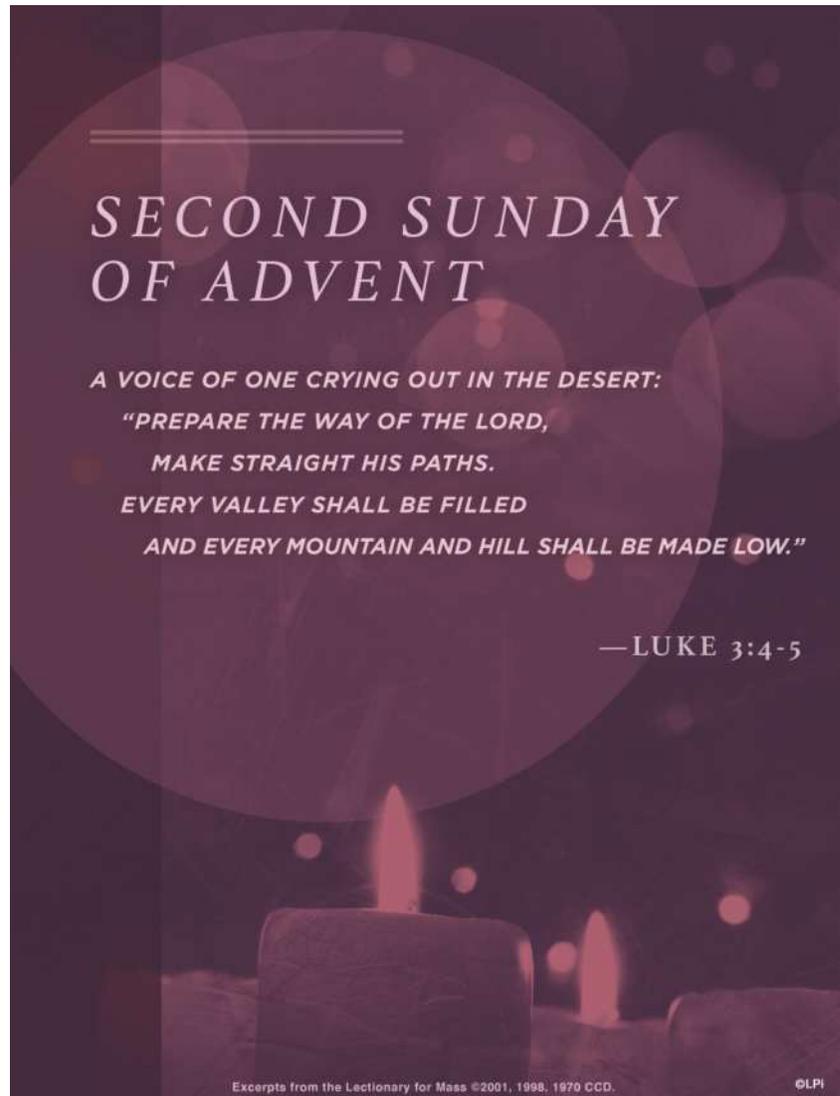
330-755-2128

stnickelem@youngstowndiocese.org

stnicholasschool.com

Katie Harold, Principal

Chrissy Goss, Secretary



## GET IN TOUCH

330-755-9819 (p) | 330-755-9949 (f)  
Emergency | 330-755-9810 Ext. 111  
cosparishstruthers@gmail.com  
www.cosparish.org

### Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday | 8:00am - 4:00pm

**Rev. Thomas Kraszewski**  
Pastor

**Religious Education**  
330-755-6245

## BAPTISM

We baptize the 2nd & 4th Sundays each month. A preparatory class is required. Contact the Parish Office to schedule your baptism and class.

## VISITING OR ANOINTING THE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

Contact Parish Office to make your request

## MATRIMONY

Arrangements need to be made at least 6 months in advance. Contact the Parish Office.

# Mass Intentions

## Saturday, December 6

4:00 pm: St. Nicholas Church:  
Nicholas & Anthony Genova (Ralph Genova Jr)  
Fran Timko (Mr. & Mrs. John Kotch)  
Donald Coppola (Amelia Zaluski)  
Jane Genova (Husband & Sons)  
Mary & Chuck Land (Jerry)  
James & Josephine DeChellis (Family)

## Sunday, December 7

8:00 am: Holy Trinity Church:  
Patsy Frattaroli (Michael Klacik)  
John Seman (Richard Seman)  
9:30am: Holy Rosary Church  
11:00 am: Christ the Good Shepherd

## Monday, December 8

### The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 am: Holy Rosary Church: People of the Parishes  
12:10 pm: Christ the Good Shepherd  
6:00 pm: St. Nicholas Church: People of the Parishes

## Tuesday, December 9

8:30 am: St. Nicholas Church: Viola Mogulich (Family)

## Wednesday, December 10

8:30 am: St. Nicholas Church: John, Eva & David Reves  
(Donna Lynn Reves)

## Thursday, December 11

8:30 am: St. Nicholas Church: John Colista (Family)

## Friday, December 12

8:30 am: Christ The Good Shepherd:

## Saturday, December 13

4:00 pm: St. Nicholas Church:  
John Kosek (Patty & Kenny Kosek)  
John Gerlach (Family)  
Thomas Gregory (Linda Cifalde)  
Joseph D. Smith (KofC Council #4471)  
Mary Ann Sweder (Paulette & Larry Fry)  
Duane Reichard (Friends & Family)

## Sunday, December 14

8:00 am: Holy Trinity Church:  
Eleanor Kozusko (Janice & Bill Norris)  
Edward Walko (Wife & Family)  
9:30am: Holy Rosary Church  
11:00 am: Christ the Good Shepherd



## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### Encourage Deeper Understanding Of Scripture

This week we hear that John the Baptist is out in the wilderness eating “locusts and wild honey” (Mark 1:6). It’s not just a strange historical detail. It’s a symbolic expression of a healthy spiritual diet. The path to Christ includes both the hard and the beautiful, the gritty and the sweet. We have to learn to gulp the locusts and savor the honey.

I remember working with a young couple preparing for marriage. They were sincere, but raw — barely beginning to discover faith. Part of me wanted to rush them ahead, to fill in all the gaps, to bombard them with scripture and church documents. I swallowed that instinct. It was like eating locusts.

But I also recall them light up as they spoke about each other, about their first child, then their second. And they wanted to be close to God. Something innocent and beautiful was unfolding. That was the honey. I knew God was asking me to savor it.

This Advent, maybe we’re each being invited to accept both locusts and honey. Maybe it’s time to stop avoiding the difficult parts of faith — prayer that feels dry, the call to repentance, the patience with the troublesome. It’s time to eat some locusts.

But we also need to notice the small gifts God gives us: a peaceful moment, a good conversation, the joy of serving someone else, new life, good intentions of our friends. That’s the honey. Savor it!

John didn’t avoid either. He took it all in. And so can we. What are your locusts? Your honey? If we let God feed us with both, we’ll be ready — really ready — for the coming of Christ.

— Father John Muir

## Memorial Candles

### for the week of December 14, 2025

Andy, Kathryn, Michael & Eddie Koval (*Andrea High & Family*)  
*St. Nicholas Church*  
Felix & Ann Marie Pizzola (*Family*) *St. Nicholas Church*  
Phillip & Mary Ann Constantino (*Doreen*) *Holy Trinity Church*

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our pastoral councils have been asked to gather and provide their unique perspective and valuable insights for a new diocesan pastoral plan entitled, "Moving Forward Together with Heart and Hope." The diocese has provided some discussion questions on the diocesan pastoral plan. This approach invites us to move from simply maintaining parishes to guiding all of us to regain the zeal of mission. The over-all question is, "How can we, the Diocese of Youngstown, accentuate our strengths and address our challenges to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in renewing our diocese, recapturing the vibrancy of our faith and radiating the Gospel message beyond our walls with renewed enthusiasm?"

We are first asked to consider some facts about the Diocese, which are in 2019 there were 60 active priests, in 2025 there are 45 active priests, in 2019 there were 140,981 Catholics in the diocese, while in 2025 the number is 117,367. The number of parishes in 2019 totaled 87 while 2025 there are 68 parishes, and in 2019 there was one active priest per 2,073 active Catholics, while in 2025 we have one active priest for every 2,608 active Catholics. This first question affords us the vital first step of honesty and parish self-assessment. Having examined our diocesan numbers, key strengths and challenges, what is our current condition? Unless we start honestly looking at the facts, then we cannot move forward.

We are also asked where we think we are currently as a parish and as a diocese? We were provided some areas of strengths and challenges in the Diocese of Youngstown. Some strengths were faith in Jesus Christ truly present in the Eucharist, dedicated clergy, lay ministers and volunteers, a strong academic performance at Catholic Schools, strength of our local Catholic organizations and our caring for the poor and vulnerable. The challenges we face are an increasingly secular and polarized society, a mistrust of the Church due to a lack of transparency, an insufficient number of seminarians to replace clergy retirements, declining Mass attendance and sacramental participation, and the financial challenges of parishes and schools.

We are asked where do we need to go? What are the specific needs of the community, how can we promote spiritual growth and enhance the role of the diocese as a beacon of hope and faith? Some suggestions offered to help discussion are to consider, any pastoral plan needs to reflect the reality of the number of priests. It needs to take a long-term approach, looking down the road for 10-15 years. It needs to include the formation and support of lay ecclesial ministers and utilize more lay people in diocesan offices. It needs to find ways to comfort the faithful whose parishes have merged and are grieving. A plan needs a criteria for building use and a move to establish primary and secondary sites.

The last question is how do we get there? This question focuses on the practical steps necessary to achieve a plan. Changing culture is difficult and requires intentionality. The plan must embrace a spirit of mission, ensuring that all members, clergy, laity and religious are actively involved in the life of the Church. This collaborative approach is essential for nurturing a vibrant community that reflects the diversity of its members and their unique charisms. It can no longer be a matter of survival, but a way to better serve the faith community and advance the mission of the Church.

We have until January 15, 2025 to provide a written response from each parish. Once the information from all the parishes of the diocese is compiled, there will be a gathering with representatives from each parish to develop the new pastoral plan. Would like you to know that our pastoral councils have begun our discussion on these questions and if they get you thinking about them, you can discuss or share with a member of council or with me. It might be something we can consider and bring to prayer during this season of Advent.

Your brother in Christ,  
Fr. Tom

## STEWARDSHIP

*“Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” MATTHEW 3:10*

Do you bear good fruit for Jesus? Do you spend time in prayer or do you waste it with mindless activity? Do you use your talent to help others or are you too busy? Do you use your treasure to support the Church or do you buy more things that go unused. Our time, talent, and treasure are gifts from God. What we do with these gifts is our gift back to Him. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

	<b>Envelopes:</b>	<b>Online:</b>
<b>November 30<sup>th</sup></b>	\$4,875.00	\$895.00
Christmas:	\$125.00	
Christmas Flowers:	\$575.00	
Immaculate Conception:	\$65.00	
Religious Retirement:	\$70.00	
Mass Attendance:	322	

**December Envelopes:** Christmas, Immaculate Conception, Mary Mother of God, St. Vincent de Paul

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

### How Much Is Enough?

I’ve got some great news for some of you: Jesus Christ doesn’t care what name you bear. He doesn’t care where you were born, and he doesn’t care what your family tree looks like. He doesn’t care where you grew up or where you went to school.

I’ve also got some bad news for some of you: See above.

It’s so easy to take our salvation for granted. The mercy of God makes it so. Look at John the Baptist — he was pouring water on everybody who wanted it. Everybody but one group: those who expected it. Those who thought it was a given because of who they were, because of what they were. Those who had no intention of doing the work of repentance.

Sometimes, because God is so faithful, we make the mistake of forgetting that He is also just.

*I am baptized, we think. I made my First Communion, and I was Confirmed. That’s enough.*

*I went to Catholic school. I know all the Ten Commandments and I can tell you anything you want to know about the Popes. That’s enough.*

*I’m on parish council. I put money in the basket, and I volunteer. That’s enough.*

None of it is enough. It would never be enough. And before we look upon the Pharisees and Sadducees with too much judgment, we need to remember: the work of repentance is ongoing. It is a process that we must commit to within ourselves, continuously.

God is the missing element to this equation. He is the one who raises children to Abraham from the stones. If we rely only on our own abilities, our own merits, our own offerings, it will never be enough.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

### Culturally Catholic

Catholic culture is so thick, you could spread it on a scone. Or a baguette. Or a slice of ciabatta bread. Or naan (Wait, do you put butter on naan? I would, because I’m Midwestern, but I sense that this is, perhaps, incorrect).

Okay, maybe my comparison is imperfect, but what I’m saying is this: Catholic culture is delicious, it’s versatile, and it’s nourishing. It’s the same everywhere, even though it also looks and feels totally unique in every place. The Day of the Dead in Mexico, Simbang Gabi in the Philippines, St. Patrick’s Day in Ireland, Meskel in Ethiopia, Semana Santa processions in Spain: these are all touchstones of Catholic culture.

It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But today, when I hear John the Baptist’s words to the Pharisees and the Sadducees, I am reminded that Catholicism is so much more than just cultural expression.

The Pharisees and Sadducees were loyal sons of Abraham and scrupulous observers of the law of Moses. Their culture, you could say, was strong. But John the Baptist is telling them — and he’s telling us — that culture isn’t enough.

Actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

It’s something to remember especially as we approach Christmas, a time when culture and cultural rituals become so (beautifully) prominent. In the cultural practice of Christmas, we are like the Wise Men approaching the manger, bearing our gifts. But how terrible would it have been if the wise men had hurried away, their culture expressed, their ritual complete, and gone back to the world unchanged by the gaze of the Infant?

So be culturally Catholic. Bring these gifts to the Christ Child — but linger there. Reflect. And then when you return to the world, you will bring Catholic culture with you.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Saint Nicholas School News

**Saint Nicholas School registration for the 2026-2027 school year will open up in January.** Come and check out what our school has to offer. EdChoice Scholarship applications open up on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Students who are attending or would be attending an eligible school can apply for the EdChoice Traditional Scholarship. A list of designated schools can be found on the Ohio Department of Education website under EdChoice Scholarships. EdChoice Expansion Full Scholarships are also available to all families who are at or below 450% of the federal poverty level. A decreasing pro-rated amount dependent on the family's economic status over 450% of the poverty level is then available. Call the school office at 330-755-2128 for more information about our school and scholarship information.

**Thank you to all who came out to support the Texas Roadhouse Dine to Donate.** We appreciate your support of Saint Nicholas School.

**Santa's Elves are working this weekend getting ready for Santa's Workshop this week.** Students will be able to shop for their favorite people for Christmas.

**School Mass Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.**  
All are welcome.

**Basketball games this week**  
**Sunday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> Girls 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade 3:00pm**  
**@ Mooney vs. St. Charles**  
**Thursday Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> Boys-7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade 7:30pm**  
**@ JFK vs. St. Charles**  
**Saturday Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> Boys 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade 11:00am**  
**@ St. Christine**

**Saint Nicholas School Mission Statement:** *Saint Nicholas School of Struthers, Ohio in the Diocese of Youngstown, was founded in 1928 and exists to teach the Catholic Faith. Saint Nicholas School provides a learning environment committed to educating the whole child academically, spiritually and emotionally within a diverse environment in accordance with the Gospel values. We promote high standards in behavior and respect in a nurturing atmosphere that encourages success for all students in kindergarten through eighth grade.*

### **Thank You To Last Week's Pirohy Workers**

Mary Helen Accattato, Carrie Antalocy, Virginia Bartos, Marie Belloto, Jackie Blake, Pauline Chrapcynski, Mike Clemente, Karen Ewsichak, Art & Arlene Ginnetti, Dan & Maria Ginnetti, Bob & Chris Granchie, Patti Grieco, Jim Kavaky, Lora Latessa, Michele Liggett, Chris Maker, Paulette Marks, Sue & Tony Martucci, Barb Melchionne, Barb Micco, Mary Narducci, Marty Oravec, Debbie Petrusovich, Cheryl Ranshaw, Joe & Michele Restivo, Diane Rubino, Bop Sepesy, Stephen & Faye Tarajcak, John Toker, Carla Wilaj, Ed Yurcisin, Kathy Zackasee, Linda Zappia, Rich Zebrowski Jr

## Religious Education

EMAIL: gland@youngstowndiocese.org  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FACEBOOK: @COSRelEd

### **CCD**

There will be a **Confirmation Class on December 18, 2025** in the lower hall of St. Nicholas Church. Session 2 make up session starts at 5:30 and session 3 will begin at 6:30 pm

### **Bible Study**

Join us on Thursdays at 6:00pm in the parish office conference room. All are welcome.



The **St. Nicholas Altar & Rosary Society Christmas Party** will be held on **Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** in the St. Nicholas lower Church. Party starts at 4pm with appetizers, dinner at 5pm, and Christmas carols after dinner.

**Chapel Crochet & Knitting Group** - meets the **1<sup>st</sup> Monday** of the month at **6:30 pm** in the **St. Nicholas School library**. All skill levels are welcome. Contact Virginia Bartos at 330-406-0364 for more information.

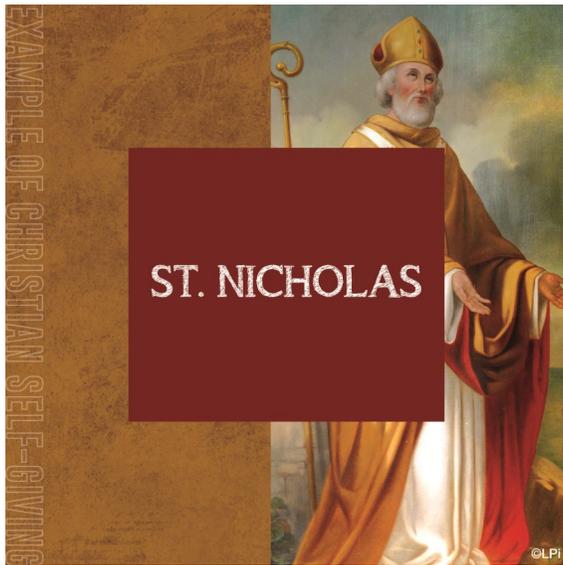
**Quo Vadis AA Meetings** - Meetings are held on **Fridays at 8 pm** in the St. Nicholas Lower Church Hall and are open to anyone seeking recovery from alcohol addiction.

**Knights of Columbus Council #4471** - Meetings are held on the **first and third Monday** evenings of the month beginning at **6:30 pm** in the St. Nicholas Lower Church.

### **VOCATIONS**

"The kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2) John's call to prepare for Christ echoes in every family. In holy matrimony, love and faith creates the foundation where God's kingdom flourishes. Is God calling you to build a holy family? Ask Him to show you His way by praying for your (future) spouse and children.

**CHRISTMAS WAFERS:** The St. Nicholas Altar & Rosary Society will be selling Oplatky after the 4pm Mass on 13. Oplatky is also available at the parish office.



# PRAYER REQUESTS



## OUR SICK

Linda Agnew	Ashley Moody
Catherine Armstrong	Wendy Pakalnis
Marie Belloto	Beth Ferrell Pearce
Marilyn Blissenbach	Sebastian Pieton
Ed Bonilla Jr	Sherry Pieton
Sally Branson	Anthony Pignatelli
Linda Dallevale	Doreen Ponigar
Kathy Dean	Elizabeth Quarm
Blake Doss	Jeanette Rusu
Donny	Robert Skalada
Melissa Ferro	Jack D Slifka
Stan Floryjanski	Sgt. Robert Smith
Heather Hanlon	Goldie Strong
Sarah Hill	Tom Sweder
Chester Leone	Kathy Tomko
Mark Lett	Hannah Tringhese
Shauntelle Lett	Matt Turner
Michael Lombard	Justine Valley
George S Maczko Jr	Janet Will
Ed Mahoney	Blake Wilson
James Marco	Larry Yates
Maria Meadors	David Yost
Joe Mogulich	Richard Zebrowski

## OUR HOMEBOUND

Penny Barone  
Christine Peluso Kinsley

## THOSE IN NURSING HOMES or ASSISTED LIVING

Darlene Fox	Patricia Watt
Norma Higgins	Regina Yurick
John Kotch	Amelia Zaluski
Phyllis Miglarese	Linda Ziars
Marie Phillips	

## Prayer for the Sick

For those in pain and in sorrow, God be their comfort.

For caretakers and medical staff, God give them grace.

Surround those afflicted with Your love, care, and mercy, You who are our healing and hope.

Amen.

## Devotions, Explained!

### St. Nicholas, Explained!

St. Nicholas was a fourth-century Christian bishop who lived in modern-day Turkey. There is minimal historical scholarship dating to the period of his life, but stories and traditions that developed after his death emphasize his profound spirit of generosity, especially towards the poor.

One particularly famous oral tradition tells that St. Nicholas saves three young women from a life of destitution and ruin by secretly giving them a dowry so they could marry. His popularity increased in the centuries following his death, and by the medieval period he was a beloved model of Christian charity invoked in a particular way during the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

On his feast day, Dec. 6, children often wake up to find small gifts or treats in their shoes or Christmas stockings, a tradition which has variations across different ethnic groups. In the United States, St. Nicholas gift-giving practices are especially popular in places where large numbers of German and Dutch immigrants settled.

### Prayer for Advent - Peace

Come, Lord Jesus!

Bring your peace to our world.

Inspire reconciliation, heal divisions, bind wounds, rewrite scripts.

You are the Prince of Peace, bring that light into every space.

Amen.



The Giving Trees are UP! There are still tags available on the trees if you would like to participate. Please choose a tag from one of the trees and return your wrapped gifts, with tags attached, to the St. Nicholas Lower Church by December 13. Thank you!

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #4471**



**Saturday, February 14, 2026**

**Great Hall at St. Nicholas  
764 5th St., Struthers**

**Doors Open 4:45pm  
Dinner 5:00pm**

**\$25 Donation per Ticket  
(Includes Dinner)**

**BYOB**

**First number drawn is \$100.  
Payouts every 10 numbers  
Last 5 balls are eligible for Grand Prize**

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS:**

**Contact any KofC member  
Call Jeff @ 330-519-6822**

**Tickets also available at the parish office**

**All Proceeds benefit the  
COSP Food Pantry**

**Bus Trip To:**

**RIVERS CASINO**



**MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025**

Sponsored By: COSP St. Nicholas Church Altar & Rosary

**COST: \$40.00**

**Coffee & Donut 7:30am**

St. Nicholas Church Basement

**Bus Leaves Church at 8:30am**

Leaves Casino at 4:00pm

Seats assigned when checks are received.  
First paid, first seated.

**CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**

St. Nicholas Altar & Rosary Society  
Mail: c/o Priscilla Carlucci  
169 Harvey St., Struthers, OH 44471

**Please Note:** We need your Name, Address,  
Phone #, Date of Birth & Rivers Card #

**MUST BRING LEGAL PHOTO ID ON TRIP**

**For more information please contact:**

Priscilla 330-755-9966  
Bev Pack 330-727-2244 (c) or 330-755-7274 (H)



# PIROHY

@ Holy Trinity Church



Orders are taken on **Wednesdays 4pm - 6pm**  
and **Thursdays 9am - 11am @ 234-275-8705.**

**Potato** - \$8 per dozen (3 dozen limit)

**Cabbage** - \$10 per dozen (2 dozen limit)

**Lekvar** - \$10 per dozen (no limit)

Cabbage & Lekvar available from November  
20<sup>th</sup> to December 18<sup>th</sup>

Pick-up on **Friday** from **11am - 1pm**



The COSP Food Pantry at St. Nicholas Great Hall will be **OPEN** from **9:00am - 11am** on the following Mondays:

- **December 8**
- **December 22 - Christmas Giveaway**

### Suggested Donations for December:

Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Sweet Potatoes,  
Canned Vegetables, Cookie Mix, Flour, Sugar

Soap, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toilet Paper  
Paper Towels

Baby Food, Formula, Diapers, Baby Wipes

Please drop off donations at the parish office  
or the St. Nicholas lower church.



# BINGO

COSP@ St. Nicholas Great Hall

**Thursdays at 10am**

Bingo Packages

Small: \$30 - Large: \$40

Doors open at 8:30am

Christ Our Savior Parish

## DRIVE THRU DINNER

Sponsored by: COSP Holy Name Society

**Saturday, December 13, 2025**

**4 - 6pm**

(or until sold out)



## MEATBALL SANDWICH

Side of Spaghetti & Bag of Cookies

COSP GREAT HALL ENTRANCE

766 Fifth St., Struthers

**DRIVE-THRU ONLY**

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## Alzheimer's Disease

A Caregiver's Guide with  
Answers to Questions  
and a Path to Spiritual Healing

by Robert H. Needham

An essential resource guide for any family coping with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease or other Dementia conditions.

In an effort to support caregivers, essential information and resources are presented including strategies for avoiding burnout. The spiritual aspects of caregiving are also addressed, which can be helpful when dealing with such a potentially disheartening situation.

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