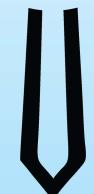


Pastor
Fr. P. Del Staigers
Parachial Vicars

Parochial Vicars
Fr. Ben Lokidiriyo
Fr. Chris Worland



Weekend Associates
Fr. John Bok | Fr. Pat Crone
Fr. Tom DiFolco

Deacons
Steve Brown | R. Dan Murphy
Timothy Schutte







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(513) 831-3353
office@standrew-milford.org

Parish Office Hours Mon - Thurs: 8:00AM - 3:00PM Fri: 8:00AM - 12:00PM Closed for lunch 12:00PM - 1:00PM St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
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(513) 575-0119
parishoffice@setonmilford.org

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office@stveronica.org

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#### **DECEMBER 17, 2023**

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

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#### **PARISH STAFF**

#### **Pastor**

Rev. Del Staigers 513-688-3144 dstaigers @stveronica.org Dean of St. Mary's Deanery

#### **Parish Administrator**

Richard Rollino 513-688-3142 rrollino@stveronica.org

#### **Parochial Vicars**

Fr. Chris Worland 513-831-3353, ext. 102 cworland@standrew-milford.org
Fr. Ben Lokidiriyo 513-831-3353, ext. 111 frben@saseas.org

#### **Weekend Associate**

Rev. Pat Crone

#### Deacon

Deacon R. Dan Murphy dmurphy@stveronica.org

#### **Director of Faith Formation**

Lori Anne Fothergill 513-528-1622, ext. 111 Ifothergill@stveronica.org

#### **Director of Parish Music**

Paul Bresciani 513-528-1622, ext. 107 pbresciani@stveronica.org

#### **Principal**

Stephanie Woodall 513-528-0442 swoodall@stveronica.org

#### **Assistant Principal**

Sherry Dumford School - 513-528-0442 Sdumford@stveronica.org

#### Bookkeeper

Judy Moeller 513-528-1622, ext. 101 jmoeller@stveronica.org

#### **Database Manager**

Carol Glaser 513-528-1622, ext. 102 cglaser@stveronica.org

#### Faith Formation Administrative Asst.

Barb Farwick 513-528-1622, ext. 110 Bfarwick@stveronica.org

#### Parish Administrative Assistant

Jordan McManus 513-528-1622, ext. 0 jmcmanus@stveronca.org

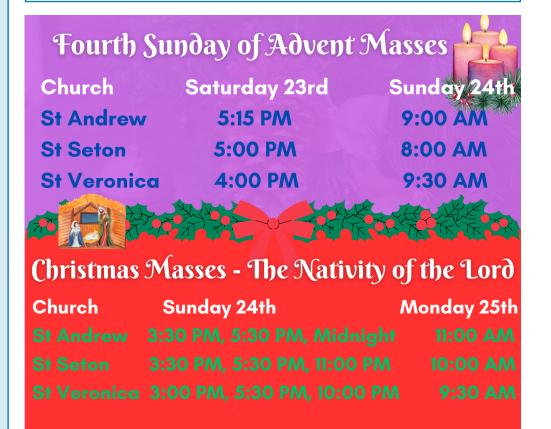


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We are thankful for all the generous gifts that you provide to our parish, but we realize that you cannot be with us every Sunday of the year. Please consider using our secure electronic giving program, Faith Direct. Faith Direct will automatically process any offertory or second collections donation of your choosing. You can enroll online at faith.direct/OH221. Text 513-440-2650 to enroll in Text to Give. Thank you for your continued support of our parish.

#### THE STEWARDSHIP MOMENT:

John the Baptist was making way for Jesus, highlighting the themes of new beginnings and freedom. We must all, especially those facing challenges, see Advent as a time of hopeful preparation for the arrival of Jesus, who brings newness and light into our lives.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 17, 2023

#### FR. DEL... POINTS TO PONDER

As I have mentioned, this year's observance of Advent is the shortest season possible because Christmas falls on a Monday. Inevitably there is also plenty of confusion to go around because the Mass schedule for the weekend is one that we do not face very often.

"Do I have to go to Mass twice next weekend? "Does one Mass for the weekend 'count' for both?" "Can I do a 'two for one' and celebrate Advent and Christmas without going to church twice?" Yes. No. No.

In short, we have a Saturday afternoon and a Sunday morning Mass in each of our churches for the Fourth

Sunday of Advent. Then, for Christmas, we have three Sunday afternoon/evening Masses in each church, as well as one Monday morning Mass in each church for Christmas Morning.

So, we have dropped four Sunday morning Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent in our Family of Parishes. This *does not* mean that the Fourth Sunday of Advent is not important. While recognizing that both the Fourth Sunday of Advent *and* Christmas are Holy Days of Obligation, we are also trying to be realistic. Many people will not attend Mass on both days (this is not permission, but reality), and we only have so many priests, musicians and liturgical ministers. Most parishes throughout the archdiocese have amended the weekend Mass schedules for these same reasons. You'll find a great graphic in this bulletin that makes the schedule clear.

On another note, this weekend's Gospel focuses on those who spent their lives pointing to the Messiah: the prophet Isaiah, Saint Paul, and John the Baptist. Each of these persons give us an example of those who discerned God's call at various stages of Salvation History.

This same history continues on in each of us. We live our lives each day, and we may be the only "Gospel" that people encounter see and hear. Each of us continues to be the voice crying out in the desert, the one anointed by God who has the spirit of the Lord upon us, a people called to pray without ceasing.

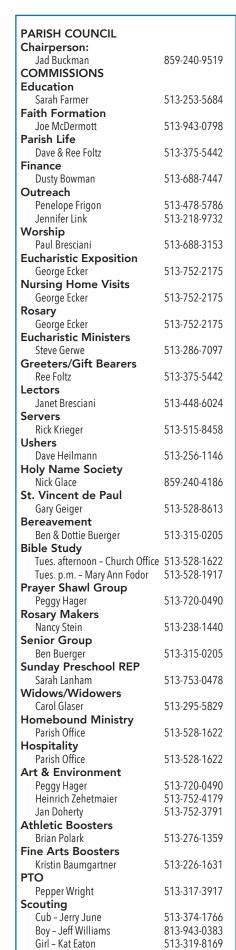
These Advent days in this last week of preparation challenge us to realize the *relationship* we have with Christ so that we can offer the message of Christ's hope in the way that we live.

In speaking about John the Baptist, Pope Francis reminds us:

"Let us learn from the one who was the forerunner of Jesus the ability to bear witness to the Gospel with courage, beyond our own differences, while preserving the harmony and friendship that form the basis of any credible proclamation of the faith."

### 7r. Del Staigers

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK				
DATE		MASS TIME	MASS INTENTION	
Monday, December 18		7:30 a.m.	Prayers for Phao Lo	
Tuesday, December 19		7:30 a.m.	Bill Row	
Wednesday, December 20		7:30 a.m.	Daniel Gates	
Thursday, December 21		12:00 p.m.	Mary Ann Wertz	
Saturday, December 23	Fourth Sunday of Advent	4:00 p.m.	Steve Crooker	
Sunday, December 24	Fourth Sunday of Advent	9:30 a.m.	Richard Hilgendorf	
Sunday, December 24	Christmas	3:00 p.m.	Paul Moore	
Sunday, December 24	Christmas	5:30 p.m.	Brendan Snyder	
Sunday, December 24	Christmas	10:00 p.m.	Richard Hilgendorf	
Monday December 25	Christmas	9:30 a.m.	Mary Krueger	



SAINT VERONICA CHURCH CINCINNATI, OHIO

	ST. VERONICA CHURCH				
START	END	EVENT	SPACE		
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023					
7:30 a.m.	8:15 a.m.	Daily Mass	Chapel		
2:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	SCC – Hendricks	PMC – St. Kateri Room		
5:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	Boys & Girls Basketball	Gymnasium		
5:30 p.m.	6:00 p.m.	Rosary and Miraculous Medal	Chapel		
6:30 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	Finance Commission Meeting	PMC – St. Catherine		
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023					
7:30 a.m.	8:15 a.m.	Daily Mass	Church		
9:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	Piano Tuner	Church		
9:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	Director's Meeting	PMC – St. Catherine		
4:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	Boys & Girl Basketball	Gymnasium		
6:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	Troop 40608 Girl Scout Meeting	PMC – St. Elizabeth/St. Damien		
7:00 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	AA Meeting	PMC – St. Kateri Room		
		WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2023			
7:30 a.m.	8:15 a.m.	Mass	Chapel		
4:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	Boys & Girl Basketball Choir	Gymnasium		
7:00 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Church		
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023					
12:00 p.m.	12:30 p.m.	Thursday Noon Mass	Church		
5:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	Boys & Girls Basketball	Gymnasium		
5:45 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul Monthly Meeting	PMC - St. Martin De Porres		
7:00 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	Scout Troop 135 Committee Meeting (Note 3rd Thursday)	PMC – St. Kateri Room		
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2023					
5:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	Boys & Girls Basketball	Gymnasium		
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2023					
2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	Confession	Chapel		
4:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.	Mass	Church		
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023					
9:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass	Church		
3:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	Children's Christmas Mass	Church		
5:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	Mass	Church		
10:00 p.m.	11:30 p.m.	Evening Christmas Mass	Church		
MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023					
9:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	Christmas Mass	Church		

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 17, 2023

# OH, NOW I GET IT!

By Fr. Jeff Kemper

Have you ever thought at Mass, "What in the world is this reading about?" Each week, you can learn some background to make sense of the Scripture for the next Sunday that may be hard to understand.



#### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16** King David had planned to build a glorious temple for God, but Nathan the prophet receives a message from God that it is not His intention to dwell in a temple. (The Ark of the Covenant, which was seen to be the dwelling place of God, was in a tent.) Nathan reveals this to the King, along with a reminder of all that the Lord has done for Israel and David personally. The Lord promises a "house" for David, which will be his descendants who will rule forever. What God gives to Israel and David is pure gift; nothing earned, nothing merited.

**Rom 16:25-27** These last words of Paul's letter to the Romans (in a rather lengthy sentence, I might add) is a statement of praise to God in which Paul tells the story of salvation in one sentence and an "Amen." **TO HIM WHO CAN STRENGTHEN YOU:** God the Father. **THE MYSTERY:** The hidden plan of God partially revealed by the prophets, but fully revealed in Christ through word and action. **MADE KNOWN TO ALL NATIONS:** This is by the preaching of the apostles.

**Lk 1:26-28 BETROTHED:** In Palestine, the process of marrying involved three steps. The parents of the couple made an agreement for the marriage of their young children. A year before the marriage, an *espousal* (betrothal) took place, which was a binding contract to marry. The actual marriage took place when the husband escorted his wife to his house. **HAIL:** Rejoice. **JESUS:** Means God saves. God names the child; naming was a sign of authority over the person named. **HOW CAN THIS BE...:** Mary does not understand that the conception of her child will be by the power of the Holy Spirit but assumes conception by the natural means. This is not an act of doubting. The news of her relative's pregnancy at an old age is a sign of what God can do. **HANDMAID:** Female servant.

#### **QUESTION OF THE WEEK:**

Mary says "Yes" to God's most beautiful and unexpected surprise. How might you prepare to be open to God's surprising gifts?



Envelopes are available in the Narthex for donations in memory of loved ones who have died or in honor of living members of your friends and family. Please include the name of your loved ones and your name on the envelope (or in your own envelope) with your cash or check made out to St. Veronica. The suggested donation is \$12.00 per honored loved one. Envelopes can be mailed, hand-delivered or put in the collection baskets. A list of names and donors will appear in the bulletin after Christmas.



#### **RETROUVAILLE**

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If you are interested in learning more about Retrouvaille, please visit https://helpourmarriage.org/.

SAINT VERONICA CHURCH CINCINNATI, OHIO

### **Prayer For Those Alone At Holiday Time**

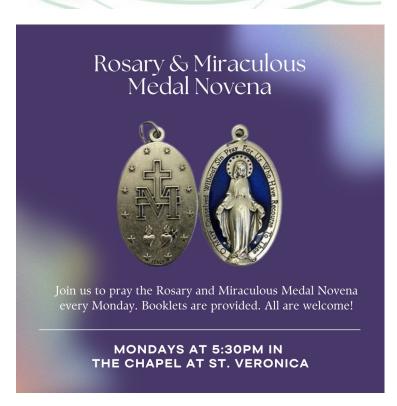
Dear Heavenly Father, the holiday season can be quite a trial and even a deep sadness to many people, especially those that are alone at this time, perhaps having lost a loved one through death or divorce or for some other reason.

Draw very close we pray, to those that are alone and lonely over this holiday time. May they discover closeness in their relationship with You that perhaps they did not enjoy before.

Thank You, that You are a God Who is able to sympathize with all our weaknesses, disappointments and difficulties, knowing that You have walked this earth before us and have been tested in similar ways, so that You understand what it means to be alone and isolated.

Comfort the lonely, console the grieving, support the weak, give grace to the afflicted, and reassure those who have allowed fear to invade their peace, with the certainty that You are their ever present help in time of trouble. This we ask in Jesus' name,

Amen.





The presider schedule for the St. Mary Magdalene Parish Family can be found on the webpage at https://stveronica.org/presiders-celebrants.



#### **CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Sing in the 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Children's Choir – open to grades 2nd and up!

#### Rehearsals:

Tuesday, December 19, 7:30 a.m. in school music room (soloists) Wednesday, December 20, 6:00-6:30 p.m. in church (everyone)

Contact Music Director Paul Bresciani at pbresciani@stveronica. org to participate and for any questions (or if you can't make rehearsal).

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT **DECEMBER 17, 2023** 

#### **SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION**

The Sacrament of Baptism for infants is scheduled on Sundays, either at Mass or at 12:30 p.m. Expectant parents should plan on attending the Baptismal Preparation Program, held six times a year. Call the Parish Office to schedule the Baptism and Preparation

The Sacrament of Baptism for adults and school-age children is usually celebrated at the Easter Vigil, along with the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. Preparation occurs in steps and stages throughout the year. Call Elizabeth Otte at 513-882-6515 for more information.

#### SACRAMENTS OF HEALING

The Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation or Confession) is celebrated each Saturday, 2:30-3:30 p.m., or by appointment with the pastor. Seasonal Penance Services are also celebrated.

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick may be scheduled by calling the pastor before a medical procedure, or in the event of a serious illness, and after all Masses when there are five weekends in the month. When hospitalized, please notify the Parish Office; this is the only way we know if a parishioner has been hospitalized. In case of medical emergency or death, call the Parish Office and follow prompts. **SACRAMENTS OF COMMITMENT** 

The Sacrament of Marriage is scheduled by calling the pastor or deacon to begin the process of marriage preparation at least six months prior to the anticipated wedding date. A date for the wedding is set only after meeting with the pastor or deacon.

Discernment for the Sacrament of Orders (ordination to the Priesthood and Diaconate) is facilitated by contacting the pastor or Vocation Director of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Those interested in pursuing Religious Life may also make these contacts.

#### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

The Religious Education Program (Family of Faith) for children (Age 3 years through 8th Grade) begins each year in September and ends in May. Call Lori Anne Fothergill, Director of Faith Formation, at 513-528-1622, ext. 111, for more information.

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