

A soft-focus, ethereal background image of a nativity scene. The Virgin Mary and Joseph are silhouetted against a warm, golden light emanating from the infant Jesus in the manger. The scene is set under a simple wooden stable structure. The overall color palette is a mix of deep purples, blues, and warm oranges and yellows, creating a peaceful and spiritual atmosphere.

CHRISTMAS 2023

# PEACE ON EARTH

St. Mary Parish

401 North Street, Chardon, OH 44024  
440-285-7051 [www.stmarychardon.org](http://www.stmarychardon.org)

## PARISH DIRECTORY

<b>PARISH OFFICE</b>	440-285-7051
Fr. Scott Goodfellow, <i>Pastor</i> frscott@stmarychardon.org	ext. 113
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Dc. Tom Peshek, <i>Permanent Deacon</i> tpeshek@stmarychardon.org	ext. 173
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Parish Office, <i>Parish Secretaries</i> office@stmarychardon.org	ext. 110 or 111
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<b>ST. MARY SCHOOL (Preschool, Pre-K, K-8)</b>	440-286-3590
Mrs. Julie Fedak, <i>Principal</i> jfedak@stmaryschoolchardon.org	ext. 101
Mrs. Donna Fabe, <i>School Secretary</i> secretary@stmaryschoolchardon.org	ext. 100
Mrs. Kimberly O'Keeffe, <i>Enrollment Assistant</i> kokeeffe@stmaryschoolchardon.org	ext. 170
Mr. Frank Rihtar, <i>Advancement Director</i> frihtar@stmaryschoolchardon.org	ext. 104
<b>YOUTH FAITH FORMATION</b>	440-286-6531
Mrs. Kara Passow, <i>Director of Faith Formation</i> kpassow@stmarychardon.org	ext. 108
Mrs. Lisa Morgan, <i>PSR Assistant</i> psroffice@stmarychardon.org	ext. 109
Mrs. Sherry Loxterman, <i>High School Youth Minister</i> lifeteen@stmarychardon.org	ext. 107
Mrs. Judi Parker, <i>Arts &amp; Environment, VBS Coordinator</i> jparker@stmarychardon.org	ext. 107
<b>WEBSITE</b>	
www.stmarychardon.org, www.stmaryschoolchardon.org	

## OUTREACH TO THOSE IN NEED

Our Bereavement Ministry offers assistance during your time of grief following the death of a family member. Please call the Parish Office.

Catholic Social Services provides professional counseling for personal or family issues.

*Gauga County:* 440-285-3537; *Lake County:* 440-352-6191

The St. Vincent de Paul Society responds to the needs of the poor through direct aid and advocacy. Please contact the Parish Office.

Pregnant, scared, need help? Call 1-800-395-HELP for 24/7 consultation. Call the Parish Office at 440-285-1873 to entrust your prayer requests to fellow parishioners.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Happy New Year!

May the Lord be with you as we bring 2023 to a grateful conclusion, and begin 2024 with joyful hope. We continue to celebrate our Christmas season this weekend with the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. When we look into our heart, we will find that, like Jesus, we all desire to be part of a holy family.

Because we are created in the image and likeness of God, we all have the innate desire to be accepted, included, and embraced by a family who loves us. God is the Father of our human family who ultimately fulfills these desires for love. God gives us an earthly family to model His familial love to us. Even when the love of our earthly family is lacking or breaks down, God is there to embrace us as His beloved children. As members of His family, God also calls us to love one another with the same love we have received from Him. Our Church is a family uniquely called to live out this model of familial love of God in all our relationships.

We can see this model of familial love enacted in the Holy Family, and in Jesus' mission to include, as part of His family, everyone who desires to live in His Father's house: "Stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother.'" Note that the inclusivity of God's family is predicated upon acceptance of God's will. If we claim to be a member of a family, that means we must accept the rules of God's house: the commandments and Christ's teaching faithfully proclaimed and handed down to us by our family of the Church over thousands of years.

Having a family calls us to love particularly, concretely, and intimately. When he was Archbishop of Krakow, Karol Wojtyla, who would become St. John Paul II, wrote in *Love and Responsibility* about the four ways that love matures. Over the course of many pages, he speaks about love beginning as an *attraction* (*I like this*) and then becoming a *desire* (*I want this*). Love becomes personal as it matures into *good will* (*I want good for you*) and then blossoming into *sacrificial love* (*I want to give my good to/for you*).

Applying this to our family, we know that God calls us to love sacrificially with Christ. We need to commit ourselves to more than simply wishing good for others. We must find within the gift of God to offer ourselves with Jesus for the redemption of our bodies and the salvation of the world. As our Christian love matures, we begin to see our lives and the whole human family in this light of sacrificial love, that God made me to be a gift for all of His children who are my brothers and sisters and mothers. This is my family God entrusted to me. Am I committed to responsibly loving each person as a member of God's holy family?

**New Year's Mass**

Please remember that this year's Masses for the Solemnity of the Holy Mother of God (January 1) is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year since it falls on a Monday. We will have Mass at St. Mary at 9:00 a.m. on New Year's Day for the Solemnity.

I am yours in Christ,  
Fr. Scott Goodfellow

**WEEKLY OFFERTORY DECEMBER 16-17, 2023**

Regular Sunday Collection (RSC)	\$ 15,284.70
(281 givers)	
ACH Weekly (31 givers)	\$ 1,537.00
ACH Monthly (58 givers)	\$ 1,534.80
(\$7,674 divided by 5 Sundays)	
OSV Online Giving (35 givers)	\$ 1,577.70
<b>Total Weekly Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 19,934.20</b>
<b>Weekly Budgeted</b>	<b>\$ 18,500.00</b>

*Designated Collections:*

Saint Vincent de Paul (SUDP)	\$ 96.00
Adopt-A-Student	\$ 120.00

**WEEKLY OFFERTORY DECEMBER 23-24, 2023**

*The offertory for 12/23-12/24 will be published at a later date due to early Christmas bulletin deadlines.*

**MASS INTENTIONS: DECEMBER 30-JANUARY 7****THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH****Saturday, December 30, 2023**

4:30 p.m. Deceased Members of the Haddock Family –  
*Dave & Kim Alic*

**Sunday, December 31, 2023**

8:00 a.m. Deceased Members of the Harcher, Magalenga &  
Bethardy Families – *Al & Diane Harcher*

10:00 a.m. Rose Lazzaro – *Kathy Yates*

12:00 noon For the People of the Parish

**Monday, January 1, 2024**

9:00 a.m. Susan Muzic – *The Parish Office Staff*

**Tuesday, January 2, 2024**

8:30 a.m. Danielle Blaha – *Larry & Karen Blaha*

**Wednesday, January 3, 2024**

12:00 noon Catherine Gagliano – *Laura Fazio, Marlyne Joiner & Janet Perc*

**Thursday, January 4, 2024**

7:30 a.m. Linda Skufca – *Chuck Skufca*

**Friday, January 5, 2024**

7:30 a.m. George & Helen Jenskovich – *Grant & Nancy Winney*

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD****Saturday, January 6, 2024**

4:30 p.m. Paul & Kelly Corrigan & Family –  
*Matt & Leah O'Donnell*

**Sunday, January 7, 2024**

8:00 a.m. Bill & John Waitinas – *Pam Waitinas*

10:00 a.m. Tom Beers – *Marrion Beers*

12:00 noon Patricia Chittock – *Nancy, Patty, Shirley & Jeff Taylor*

**UPCOMING WEEK: DECEMBER 30-JANUARY 7****Saturday, December 30**

7:00 a.m. Men on a Journey Meeting

3:00 p.m. Confessions

**Sunday, December 31**

NO CONFESSIONS AFTER MASSES

**Monday, January 1**

**Parish Office Closed**

9:00 a.m. Mass

**Tuesday, January 2**

6:30 p.m. Life Teen Faith Formation (*Hospitality Room*)

**Wednesday, January 3**

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study

12:30 p.m. Adoration

6:00 p.m. Our Lady of Fatima Holy Hour

6:45 p.m. Benediction

7:00 p.m. Catechism in a Year Meeting

**Saturday, January 6**

3:00 p.m. Confessions

**Sunday, January 7**

*Pastries with Parishioners after 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Masses*

6:00 p.m. PSR Class Grades 6-8

6:00 p.m. Life Teen (*Cafeteria*)

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

Jules Berry

Carol Betori

Addison Boehnlein

Bob Bowyer

John Bowyer

Linda Bowyer

Vikki Carlson

Kevin Chartrand

Robert Choate

Nathan Cole

Phil Conti

Serena Conti

Charles Deck

Afia DiFranco

John Dipre

Karen Doering

Zeke Dornbus

Autumn Edmiston

Albert Finley

Jean Gehring

Heidi Geiser

Don Gentile

John Greaves

Kathy & Anthony Gross

Jerry Heil

Brian Hurless

John Kipp

Tom Kirchner

James Kniskern

Andrew Kochevar

Karen Korycki

Johnny Anton Kusar

Karen Lanstrum

Maggie Wellhouse Lee

Michelle Lupo

Thomas Martin

Janice McGinley

Gail Moriarty

Lucia Opfer

Carolyn Ovarik

Francis Pawlikowski

Jennifer Phipps

Bud Piras

Maggie Polinski

Janet Price

Nora Rodriguez

Mike Saley

Marty Seuffer

Mark Shoag

Lana Shumney

Joey Tromba

Crystol Vecchio

Ned VonLindern

Joe Warren

Lauren Watts

Jace White

Charlette Whiting

Anita Zagar

Marlene Zeigler

**Additions or Deletions –**

**Please contact the Parish Office at 440-285-7051.**

Our Parish Prayer Line receives prayer requests via email each week. To entrust your prayer requests to fellow parishioners, please email [office@stmarychardon.org](mailto:office@stmarychardon.org) or phone the Prayer Line at 440-285-1873. You may also phone the Parish Office directly at 440-285-7051. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to join the Prayer Line as a parishioner who prays for these intentions each week.

### SMS PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



Happy New Year! The school is still quiet since the students return to school January 8th. I am sure they are all enjoying time with their family. If you have a child who is ready for preschool, our registration will begin **Wednesday, January 10th**. A complete registration includes the registration form, registration fee, birth certificate and Baptism certificate. The three classrooms fill up quickly due to our fabulous teachers. If you have any questions, contact Kimberly O'Keeffe at [kokeeffe@stmaryschoolchardon.org](mailto:kokeeffe@stmaryschoolchardon.org) or Donna Fabe at [secretary@stmaryschoolchardon.org](mailto:secretary@stmaryschoolchardon.org).

### USCCB AND DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND STATEMENTS CONCERNING FIDUCIA SUPPLICANS

#### "ON THE PASTORAL MEANING OF BLESSINGS"

"The Declaration issued today by the Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith (DDF) articulated a distinction between liturgical (sacramental) blessings, and pastoral blessings, which may be given to persons who desire God's loving grace in their lives. The Church's teaching on marriage has not changed, and this declaration affirms that, while also making an effort to accompany people through the imparting of pastoral blessings because each of us needs God's healing love and mercy in our lives." (USCCB Statement issued 18 December 2023.)

"The Holy Father, Pope Francis, approved a recent document issued by the Vatican that has made it clear that anyone who has the intention of seeking God's help in living holy lives may request a blessing from the Church. Such people, including those who are in marriages not recognized by the Church and those in same-sex relationships, can be spontaneously blessed by the Church's ministers when they ask for God's strength and help in responding to His will. When people ask for a blessing from the Church, the Holy Father rightfully calls us to see it as a sign that they wish to do God's will and that they, like all of us, need God's help to do it. As the document states explicitly, this in no way changes Church teaching, including that marriage is reserved to one man and one woman." (Diocese of Cleveland Statement issued 18 December 2023.)

### PARISH NEWS

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Please join us from **June 17-21, 2024** for Vacation Bible School. This year's theme is SCUBA: *Dive into Friendship with God!*



### THANK YOU!



Birtheright Geauga is so very grateful for the amazing support we have received from St. Mary's Giving Tree donation! Those items collected will be a blessing to the moms and young families that we serve here at Birtheright. We help more than 100 families each month; this is not only single moms, but also grandparents who are raising their young grandchildren, as well as two parent families that just need some assistance. We are also able to help women who are pregnant, provide them with, not just the tangible needs they have, but to offer support and encouragement to them, letting them know they are not alone. Currently, we provide for over 300 children, from diapers, formula, clothing, books, and so much more. Thank you for being part of that; we couldn't do what we do without the support from our Christian community. Many blessings to you as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus!

### TOYS FOR APPALACHIA

Thank you to all who contributed to our Toys for Appalachia drive. It was a great success. We filled the trailer ALL the way up with no room to spare. We were able to help the more than 80 families that signed up for the Grahn Community Center Christmas giveaway. The people of the Community Center send a million thank-yous. Without our help, there would be no toys for Christmas for many of the children. God Bless you for supporting such an important outreach!



### PASTRIES WITH PARISHIONERS

"Doughnut" what to do after the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses on **Sunday, January 7, 2024**, then come to Pastries with Parishioners. This breakfast is a PERFECT opportunity for getting to know other people within our Church family. We have doughnuts, bagels, fruit, yogurt, coffee, tea, juice, and more! Come join us for awesome fellowship and great conversation. This event will be hosted by the Gady Family. If your ministry or family is interested in hosting this event in the future, you can contact Heather Gady for more information. Call/text 440-487-4108 or [Heathergady@yahoo.com](mailto:Heathergady@yahoo.com).



### OUR LADY OF FATIMA HOLY HOUR & CATECHISM IN A YEAR

All are invited to the Our Lady of Fatima Christmas Holy Hour on **Wednesday, January 3rd** from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Join us for Eucharistic Adoration, the Holy Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Immediately following Holy Hour will be the last Catechism in a Year meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the ABC Room.

### A DIET FOR YOUR MIND

Most of us set our New Year resolutions on the physical and the material... am I wrong?

- I am going to lose 10 pounds.
- I am going to workout three days a week.
- I am going to stick to a budget.

But what about our minds? All of these goals are great and often needed, but they all start in one main place... our mind! Our decisions and thoughts shape the way we live and the actions we take, so this year, let us start there: a resolution to better our minds! Join Nicole Cassidy this January for a spiritual journey together to get our minds in the right place.

- Starts **Wednesday, January 17th, 2024** and runs for five weeks (8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays) via Zoom
- To sign up, email: [mrsmecassidy@gmail.com](mailto:mrsmecassidy@gmail.com)
- \$10.00 fee (material sent weekly)



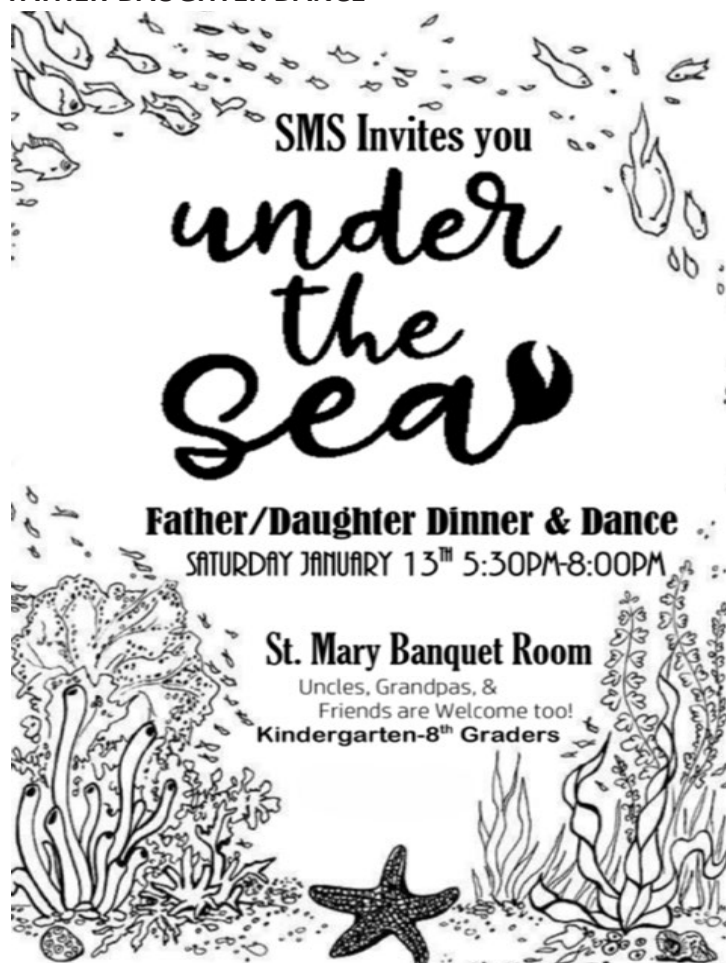
## Nicole Cassidy

Hi y'all! I am just a regular, hard working Mama of 4. I love Jesus and what he has done and continues to do in my life. This study came to me one night during my own devotions so I thought I would take leap and share it with you! I hope you join me this New Year as we learn ways to help ourselves be better people...

### MEN ON A JOURNEY RETREAT

The Church's New Year is here and the calendar New Year is right around the corner. Mark your calendar for our 2024 Men's Retreat – **Be Holy!** – on Saturday **February 10, 2024**. We will start with Mass at 8:00 a.m. and conclude around 2:00 p.m. Breakfast and lunch provided. The retreat is open to all men – adults and teens – and will be held at St. Mary, Chardon. Questions or to register, contact Gary Burling: [garyWburling@gmail.com](mailto:garyWburling@gmail.com). Looking forward to seeing you!

### FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE



Contact the School Office at 440-286-3590 with questions.

### ST. MARY SCHOOL VIKING QUEST 2024



Want to donate a basket for the Chinese Raffle? Or, do you work for a company that would like to sponsor our event? There are many ways to get involved with the Viking Quest and support our school. It's the biggest fundraiser of the year that helps fund upgrades to our school facilities, support our wonderful teachers and provide unique opportunities for the students.

In addition to raising vital funds for our school, the Viking Quest takes a moment to recognize our annual Distinguished Viking, a distinction given to an individual who has devoted their time, talent, and service to our school community. ***This year, we are pleased to recognize and remember our beloved Coach Mare Von Lindern. No one has devoted themselves more to our school and parish community than Coach.***



SCAN ME

There are Viking Quest Sponsorship Forms and Ticket Purchase Forms at the Weekend Desk. Please contact Kelly McCloskey with any questions at [kmccloskey@stmarychardon.org](mailto:kmccloskey@stmarychardon.org). Scan the QR code to purchase tickets online, sponsor the event or donate in honor or memory of a loved one.

**Thank you to our Event Sponsors  
for the Viking Quest 2024!**



## COMMUNITY NEWS



### CCA GRIEF SUPPORT

Catholic Cemeteries Association provides free monthly grief support groups in two formats: In-office (3:00 p.m.) at six Cemetery offices and Virtually (5:00 p.m.) via Zoom. The **January 21st** topic is "Facing the New Year With Hope and Love." We offer a comfortable, private, and safe environment where you are free to explore your grief. Come and be in the presence of those who understand.

3:00 p.m. In-Office Grief Support groups meet in the main office building at each of the following 6 cemetery locations:

- All Saints, Northfield | 480 W. Highland Road
- All Souls, Chardon | 10366 Chardon Road
- Calvary Cleveland | 10000 Miles Avenue
- Holy Cross, Akron | 100 E. Waterloo Road
- Holy Cross, Brook Park | 14609 Brook Park Road
- St. Joseph, Avon | 32789 Detroit Road

5:00 p.m. Virtual Grief Support group meets for an hour via Zoom and follows the same monthly topic discussion as the in-office groups. Sign-up at <https://bit.ly/ccavirtualgriefsupportgroup> to receive login information and to download the handout materials. You can join virtually from any Wi-Fi enabled area via computer, laptop, smartphone, or even without Wi-Fi (via audio only) from your analog phone. If you do not have Wi-Fi or email, please contact Rhonda at 216-930-4866.

*Your RSVP for both In-Person and Virtual Grief Support is appreciated but not required to attend. For more information or if you have questions, please contact Rhonda at 216-930-4866.*

## JANUARY 2023 LITURGICAL CALENDAR

- The **Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.** is celebrated on January 15th. Fr. John Judie from the Archdiocese of Louisville will celebrate the 12:00 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral in observance of the day.
- The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** begins Thursday, January 18th.
- The **Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children** is Monday, January 22. On this anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, *Roe vs. Wade* (1973), **all dioceses of the United States** observe a "day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion."
- The annual diocesan **Mass for Life** will be celebrated Monday, January 22, at the Cathedral at 10:00 a.m.

## PAID SUMMER INTERNSHIP FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS!

The FEST is looking for motivated college interns for a paid internship this summer! If you are an event, marketing, communications, logistics, or theology major and interested in building your resume while getting hands-on, real-life experience creating an event for 40,000 people, apply today. Jillian was a first-year intern this past summer and shared, "Spending my summer helping build The FEST was one of the coolest, most valuable experiences I have ever had. From the amazing team I worked with to the friendships I made along the way with The FEST community, my summer as a FEST intern was an absolute blast and I loved every second of it!" Send your resume to Caitlin at [Caitlin@theFEST.us](mailto:Caitlin@theFEST.us) by **January 15th** to apply!



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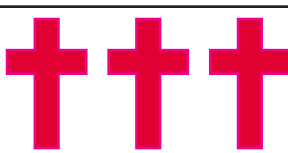
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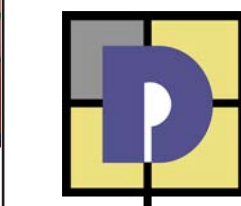
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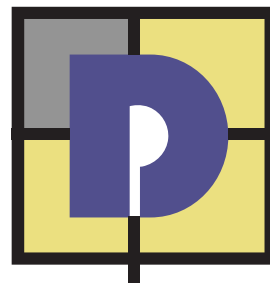


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