



WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

Sacraments | Parish Information | Ministry Leader Day of Formation New Parishioners

SACRAMENTS

INQUIRERS

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) is the process through which persons inquire into and determine if they are called to live out their faith as a member of the Roman Catholic Church. For more information, please contact Brad Romantic at bromanticecotrna.org or 614–855–1400.

BAPTISM

INFANTS & CHILDREN: INFANTS &

CHILDREN AGE 7 AND YOUNGER – the parents make a profession of faith for their child and accept the responsibility of nurturing God's gift of faith in their child as he/she grows. Parents are asked to attend a Parent Preparation Session (preferably during pregnancy) before a date for their child's baptism is scheduled. Sessions are held on the 4th Sunday of each month, in Our Lady of the Resurrection Chapel at 12:30 p.m., lasting 90 minutes.. Register on the parish website or scan the QR code.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION ADAPTED FOR

CHILDREN: AGE 8 AND OLDER: In this Rite, the child speaks a profession of faith appropriate to his/her age. After attending the Parent Session, parents will meet with Peggy Kehres to prepare the child for Baptism in a

manner appropriate for his/her age.

For more information, Contact Mary Koors, 614–855–8861 or marykoorslegmail.com.



EUCHARIST

Weekdays – See next page for Mass times Saturday: 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday, 4:00–4:30 p.m. Individual – anytime by appointment. Advent and Lent communal services.

ANOINTING

Please call the Parish Office to notify us of an illness in the family and especially if someone is confined at home or in the hospital.

MATRIMONY

Please call the parish office for an appointment with Fr. Denis Kigozi.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: Church of the Resurrection Parish is a family of loving, caring and open persons seeking to respond to the call of Jesus in the Catholic Christian tradition. We are a praying community who in every way possible provide for the spiritual and corporal needs of God's people. As members of the Resurrection community, we seek to serve all of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICES

6300 East Dublin-Granville Rd New Albany, OH 43054 614-855-1400 FAX 614-855-0779 Rectory (phone for emergency) 614-855-0476

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:00a.m.-12:00p.m. 1:00p.m.-4:00p.m.

GENERAL INQUIRES

postmaster@cotrna.org

CONNECT ONLINE

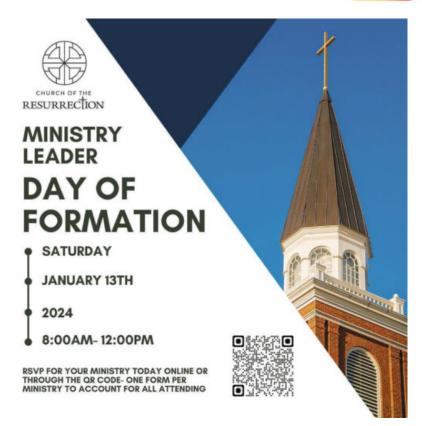
Website: www.cotrna.org Facebook:

www.facebook.comallrwelcom Instagram: www.instagram.com/ cotr_newalbany

Scan the QR codes to the right to get connected.







INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARISHIONER?

Anyone interested in registering with our parish, please scan the QR code below or visit our website: cotrna.org and click on *Get to Know Us/New Member Welcome*. If you don't have access to a computer, but would like to register, please call the church office at 614-855-1400 and ask for Chris Roberts.



THIS WEEK AT CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

SUNDAY: 12/24	MONDAY: 12/25	TUESDAY: 12/26	WEDNESDAY: 12/27
8:15a Rosary in Church 9a Mass	Offices Closed	Offices Closed	9a Mass 9:30a Rosary Group in OLR
11a Mass 12p Art and Environment in Church 4p Christmas Eve Parish Family Mass in Church 7p Christmas Eve Mass in Church 10p Christmas Eve Mass in Church	10a Mass	7p Mass	Chapel

THURSDAY: 12/28	FRIDAY: 12/29	SATURDAY: 12/30	NEXT SUNDAY: 12/31
9a Mass 9:30a Rosary Group in OLR Chapel 1p YAH Executive Committee Meeting in Room 104 3p Rental	9a Mass 9:30a Rosary Group in OLR Chapel 1p Shawl Ministry 5p Music Rehearsal 6p Wedding Rehearsal 7p Rental	1:30p Wedding Ceremony 5p Mass	8:15a Rosary in Church 9a Mass 11a Mass 2:30p Clergy Gathering 11p Adoration in Church

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 9:00am Madeline Peters 11:00am **PARISH** Joe & Dorothy Churilla, Paul & 4:00pm Mary Mecklenborg 7:00pm Rosemary Butzer 10:00pm James Brundrett MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 Fran Weise 10:00am TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26 7:00pm John & Angie Heinmiller WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27 Gayle Kerkman 9:00am



ADULT FAITH FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP

Check out these upcoming events!

YOUNG AT HEART

January 5th-First Friday Breakfast following the 9:00am Mass

Breakfast in the Ministry Center immediately following the 9:00 am Mass. It's potluck so bring 8 servings of your favorite breakfast item to share.



THAT MAN IS YOU- NEXT SESSION STARTS JANUARY 18TH

January 18, 2024– Kickoff for the Spring Session, "The Light of Men"

There is but one source of all light – Jesus! He is the light shattering the darkness of our day. To be in the light is to allow God's light to shine through you and become manifest in abundant virtue. "In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1: 4–5).

Schedule will continue as it was in the Fall-Thursdays at 6:00am and Saturdays at 7:30am in the Ministry Center.

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION MEN'S RETREAT—COME TO THE TABLE

Save the Date-April 19-21, Maria Stein Retreat Center, Cost \$165

Join us this year for our annual men's retreat. This will be a weekend retreat open to all men of the parish. Registration is now open through the QR code. Last year sold out so sign up today!



COLUMBUS CATHOLIC WOMEN AND MEN'S CONFERENCE



ADULT FAITH FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP

Ministry Spotlight | Around the Diocese

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT



Medical Ministry

The Medical Ministry provides us with first responders during mass and other church events. Interested persons with medical training (eg: doctors, nurses, physician assistants, paramedics, etc.) are invited and encouraged to be part of this important ministry. Contact Steve Jewell at sjewellpe@gmail.com for more information.

Usher Ministry

The Usher Ministry seeks to provide a welcoming, comfortable, safe and prayerful experience for Mass-goers. Ushers assist in welcoming & seating people attending Masses and other church events, handle offertory/special collections, direct the flow of people for communion, assist people with finding the restrooms, passing out bulletins, and straightening up church after Mass. We are also responsible for coordinating emergency and safety situations. You must be at least 18 years of age to be an Usher. Contact Steve Jewell at sjewellpe@gmail.com for more information.



Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer which prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer. It is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. It is not meant to replace other forms of prayer, but to add depth of meaning to all prayer. Our group is a member of the Columbus Chapter of Contemplative Outreach. which meets via zoom on Tuesdays at 10:30 am. Contact Carol Lepley at carol.lepley@gmail.com for more information.



The New Albany Food Pantry

The New Albany Food Pantry is located at 79 N. High St. and is right around the corner from COTR. The pantry is open to anyone living in the 43054 zip code or if your child attends Plain Local Schools. We are a shop through pantry and open the 2nd and 4th weeks of each month. We have volunteer opportunities as well as accepting food donations. For more info, please contact Claudette Herbig at herbig0511egmail.com.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Change a life, inspire your own...Become a tutor!

Volunteer tutors are greatly needed for adult ESL, GED, and Basic Education Learners.

Please contact Annette Cohn at (614) 444–7330 x2 or Annette.Cohneoppeace.org for more information on this rewarding opportunity. https://domlearningcenter.org/volunteer. Requirements: 18 or older, High School Diploma or GED, attend our

Requirements: 18 or older, High School Diploma or GED, attend our free training session.

START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT!

Give the gift of time to each other this year. Experience a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones and focus only on each

other. Make 2024 the best year of your marriage by applying today! The next weekend is February 9-11 2024 in the Central Ohio area. For more information or to apply, visit our website at WWMEcolumbus.org or contact Paul & Marilou Clouse at 614-834-6880. Early registration is highly recommended.

Christmas Shop at the Marian Gift Shop

The Marian Gift Shop is located inside St. Paul the Apostle Church in Westerville. Our ministry is to help Catholics to have a place locally to find crucifixes, religious jewelry, rosaries, sacred art, bibles, Catholic Books, devotionals, and inspirational gifts to grow in faith.

YOUTH FAITH LIFE

Youth Programs and Opportunities | Volunteer Information

YOUTH PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Religious Education Department offers a diverse set of programs for children in grades Pre-K through 12! Here are just a few of our youth programs, but be sure to check out our website to learn more about all of our youth programs.

COTR Playgroup

The COTR Playgroup organizes local playground meet ups on the first and third Friday of each month. See link through QR code for dates/locations.



Journey with Jesus

JOURNEY WITH JESUS is our children's Liturgy of the Word program for children 3 years of age through 1st grade. This program is designed to teach the Sunday Mass readings at the child's age level. No registration is needed. Held during the 9am and 11am Sunday masses, the children begin in the church with their family and are sent forth as a group prior to the Liturgy of the Word. They return to the church during the Offertory.

CREED (PreK-5th)

CREED (Church of the Resurrection Elementary Education Days) is our weekly religious education program for children in grades Pre-K through 5. The focus of the CREED program is to assist parents in their role as the primary religious educators of their children by providing religious education and formation classes for children of the parish who attend area public schools.

RISE (6-8th Grade)

RISE is our weekly faith formation program for middle school students. Fostering the faith of young adolescents involves helping them to make connections between the Catholic faith and everyday life. Registration for RISE is on-going via the parish website.

Confirmation (9th)

This is the final sacrament of initiation into the Catholic Church. Through Confirmation, the Holy Spirit gives you an increased ability to practice their Catholic faith in every aspect of their lives and to witness Christ in every situation. Confirmation classes for this year have already started so please check back in the Fall for next year's registration.

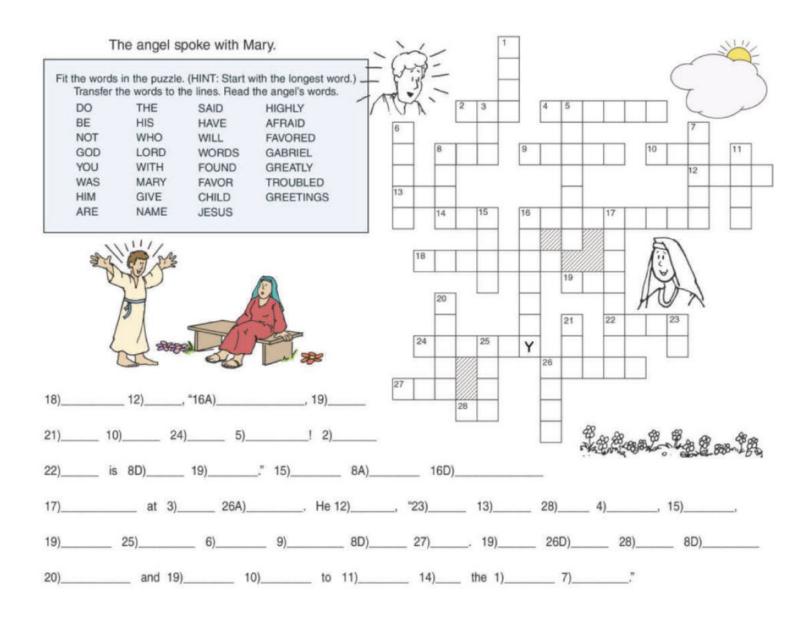
Ignite (Grades 9-12th)

At *Ignite* we explore the Truth of the Gospel and discuss how it applies to our lives. *Ignite* gives you the opportunity to: Ask tough questions; deepen your relationship with Christ; make friends who will encourage you, challenge you, and hold you accountable; become a better, stronger, happier person. It's so much more than a Sunday evening gathering!



YOUTH FAITH LIFE

Kid's Page | Lukas Storyteller





FORMED THE CATHOLIC FAITH.

The True Meaning of Christmas | Lukas Storyteller

Christmas is coming and our friends Peter, Agnes, Paul and Anna expect to receive many gifts. but when they caught in one of their antics. Lukas and Noah will help them understand the true story of Christmas and how the birth of the Son of God should change our hearts.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish. Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



An offering from the PAUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and (gracius press

LITURGICAL LIVING

Connecting to the Faith Throughout Your Week

Mary, Mother of God Novena

Prayed once a day leading up to January 1st for 9 days.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, we thank You for the amazing gift that You have given us in Mary, Your Mother. We ask You today to help us to grow to a deeper love and devotion to Your Blessed Mother in our lives.

Mary, Mother of God, you were chosen by God from all eternity to bear His Son. You willingly accepted your

role in God's plan for our salvation. By becoming the Mother of God, you became our Mother also.

We ask you to look on us with Motherly love and to bring our petitions before the throne of your Son!

God intended for you to assist us all on our path to Heaven. He is pleased when we take you, His Mother, as our own Mother.

Pray for us, that we may grow in holy devotion to you each day. Pray that we may never fail to turn to you in our needs.

Please also pray for (mention your intentions here).

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Read more at: https://

www.praymorenovenas.com/mary-mother-of-

god-novena



NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

Scan the QR code to for the daily readings online or subscribe and get them in your email.

DECEMBER 31ST- FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

1st Reading Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Psalm Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

Colossians 3:12-21 or 2nd Reading

3:12-17

Luke 2:22-40 Gospel







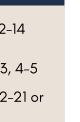
The 12 Days of Christmas

We are excited to announce our series of FORMED Now! Christmas and New Year special episodes. In these episodes, professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School will lead us in reflections throughout the season

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone



An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and Augustical press



LITURGICAL LIVING

Christmas- Arts and Environment

CHRISTMAS – ARTS AND ENVIRONMENT

By Pam Shields

At **Christmas** we celebrate a mystery and joyfully proclaim the "good news of great joy: (for) today a savior is born for us, Christ the Lord." Heaven comes to earth as the Promised Son of God, this King and Savior (Messiah) takes human form ("the Word became flesh"), and is the very incarnation of God's divine love... "Glory to God in the Highest" Luke 2:4. Born in a lowly manger, swaddled in our humanity, this divine Majesty and "Son of the Most High" is enrolled in the community as **Emmanuel, "God with us"** Matt 1:23.



On the holiest of nights, a silent night, a radiant star shines in the sky, and points to the overwhelming love of God... "It is the night of our dear Saviors birth."

Heaven's glory is made manifest as love is born: a newborn king, love's pure light announces the glory of the Lord and our salvation. Wrapped in divine life, the promised Lamb dawns a new kingdom of peace. Through the transformative power of the Word made flesh, we are redeemed by God's holy love, are reborn with Christ, and through his grace, share in his divinity. Jesus' incarnation is a divine invitation to seek him out and to turn and receive him in our hearts so that our lives may radiate the light and peace of the profound love born this day. On this holiest of nights, like the angels, let us give glory and praise for the *gift* of the incarnation, as we joyfully sing, "hark the herald ... Glory to the newborn King!"

For *Christmas*, the sanctuary will be decorated in the colors of gold and white. Gold symbolizes joy, majesty, and a king and white symbolizes peace, hope, perfection, and the *Light*. Father Denis, Father Anish, and the Deacons will don gold and white vestments. Our celebration will begin with a procession of gold and white flags. Draped gold and white fabric and red poinsettias will be displayed on the altar and above the altar garland will drape across the brick columns. Wreaths will be added to the balcony columns and white candles (Christ the *light* of the world) will be displayed in the windows. The gathering space Christmas tree will be fully illuminated with bright light and gold trim, and red poinsettias will adorn the church. In the baptistery niche the three Wise Men continue to follow the star to welcome the Christ child and offer homage when they arrive at the Creche on Epiphany. The *Creche*, one located at the entrance to the church and another on the east wall of the sanctuary, will now display the glorious arrival of heaven's *perfect lamb*, for...*Christ the Savior is born.*"

Take a moment to travel to Bethlehem and visit the Creche. Just as the shepherds witnessed the Beloved, we too can manifest (witness) love by kneeling before the manger in awe and wonder, for today we celebrate the gift of God's presence born among us... "O come, let us adore him!"

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing..." Isaac Watts.

(The *Christmas season* continues with the celebrations: *Holy Family* December 31st, *Solemnity of Mary* January 1st, and the *Epiphany of the Lord* January 7th)

LIVING LITURGICALLY

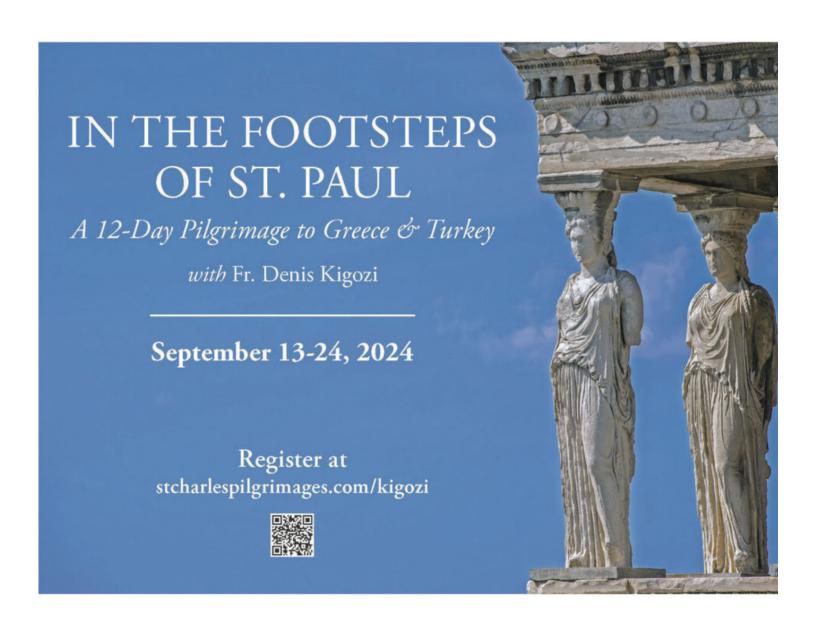
Congrats | Thanks | Greece Pilgrimage

CONGRATS!

Congrats to deacon candidate David Fesenmyer on being installed to the Ministry of Acolyte. We are excited to see him take this next step in his formation to the diaconate!

THANK YOU DEACON JOHN DUPREY!

Great thanks to Deacon John for his many years of service to Church of the Resurrection. Deacon John has decided to focus his ministerial work on assisting at The Villas at St. Teresa, his home. Don't worry though! Deacon John will still be around here and there for different events.



STEWARDSHIP

Care for Creation | Ministry Schedule



WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP RECOMMENDATION

God With Us

In the Encyclical, Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home, Pope Francis reminds us how deeply present God is in our world always, reminding us of His love and commitment.

Worrying about the world's many, serious problems can take away the joy that our Lord intends for us, even during this season. On this, the Pope teaches that we can all cooperate with our Creator for a better world, and that even "simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness" can help heal our hearts and our planet.

The Holy Father encourages us to "come together to take charge of this home which has been entrusted to us, knowing that all the good which exists here will be taken up into the heavenly feast...Let us sing as we go," for "...the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present....he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward." (Laudato Si', para. 230, 244 & 245).

Peace on Earth, and Good Will to all this Christmas Season!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

LITURGICAL	Saturday, Dec. 30th 5:00pm	Sunday, Dec. 31st 9:00am	Sunday, Dec. 31st 11:00am	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION TO SICK & HOMEBOUND: December 24th		
1st Lector	Jane Slanoc	Francie Orthmeyer	Martha Bohman			
2nd Lector	Kim Spiezo	Gary Schwarzmueller	Kathy Woodrum	Avalon	N.A. Care	OTTERBEIN
	Jude Luffler	Luke Baldwin	Camden Clear	Bill Pederson Yvette Pederson	Amy Golian Kathy Hayes	Carrie Dutton Valerie Gillespie
SERVERS	Lincoln Luffler Reid Luffler	Andrew Broering	Noah Clear Seth Nzimiro	Out Home NA	Smith's Mill	Wesley Woods
MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	Marg Barber Barb McMullen Faith Phillips Kim Roberts Jules Rubadue Michael Sosinski Edward Teiga	Terry Eckl Tom Eckl Diane Fleming Jim Flynn Jolynn Franz Peter Golato Jenny Gold	Christopher Sarka Gina Sarka Pam Shields Amy Simpson Anthony Simpson Nadine Spires Max Tomaszewski		Mary Brosseau Karen Kraynack Sue Kraynack Bonnie Nelson Linen box on ben office c up/return betwee 9 (Wednesday due	en
LEAD USHER	Tom Tucker	Steven Jewell	Pat Heinzman	Roberta Franz		
	Suzie Bates Sharon Drum George Butzer Anne Jackson Tom Eckenrode James Knapp Janice Savage Carlene Tucker Larry Savage Stephen Wiley	Dan Nettler	Awaiting January Schedule			
USHERS		Janice Savage Larry Savage	Becky Reed Cathy Tennenbaum	To Be Determined		
				Awaiting January Schedule		
DEAF MINISTRY		Jessica Metzger		To Be Determined		

PARISH FINANCIALS



Thank you for your support and continued generosity!

Please consider using PushPay, our online giving tool used to manage your parish offertory. PushPay is safe, easy, and convenient. You can visit our website, www.cotrna.org, or use the QR code to get started:

For questions, please contact Chris Roberts in the parish office: 614-855-1400.

Actual Budget Variance
November Offertory \$163,852 \$173,802 \$9,950
YTD Offertory \$893,379 \$885,550 \$7,829

Total Offertory Budget for FY 23-24 \$2,322,455 Our fiscal year runs July 1st – June 30th



You have an **amazing gift** and a unique skill set as a nurse! We can't operate summer camp without you!



Volunteer one week or more! Choose Main Campus (Centerburg, Ohio), Great Lakes (Brighton, Michigan), or both! *June 9th - August 9th*

Certifications:

Must be an RN or APN with current license

Must complete background check and Protecting God's Children

Responsibilities:

Assist with camper medication check-in and administration throughout camp session

Assess camper and staff medical concerns (mostly basic first aid)

Be ready to respond in the case of emergency needs



Amenities:

On-site lodging with air conditioning, kitchen access, laundry, and all meals included

Access to high adventure activities, lake, and trails

Beautiful encounters with Jesus through Mass and adoration

How to Apply:

Scan the QR code to find out more on how to apply! Or visit damascus.net/ volunteer-as-a-nurse



PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Intercessory Prayer | Contemplative Moment | Gospel Meditation | Confirmation

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Let us pray... for all who are in the military and for all who are seriously ill, recovering from a serious illness or surgery. If you would like to add the names of family members to the prayer list below, call the Parish Office (614-855-1400) or email bulletinecotrna.org.

To be added to our Parish prayer chain, send requests online to: https://cotrna.org/intercessory-prayer. For more information on the prayer chain, contact: Valerie Coolidge, Prayer Chain Coordinator, by email at: Valerie@wyandottewinery.com.

U.S. ARMY

MAJ Ryan Griffin; SFC Bill Hayes, CPT LCpl Michael McCutcheon; LtCol Rick Lovering; SPC Corey Luffler; PVT Adam P. Kearney; CPT Cody Kehres; SGT Ryan Krysmalski; 1LT Bill Lovering; SFC Craig Markish; 2LT Ross Mitchell; Sat. Paul D. Perez; MAJ Derek Stocker, 2LT Roy Wood, III

U.S. ARMY RESERVE

PFC Jason McDonald

U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

MSG Ryan Pederson; SFC Justin Shuman; SGT Jamie Wasierski

U.S. ARMY NURSE CORPS

CPT Sean Coolidge

U.S. AIR FORCE

Curtis Abbott; MSgt Andrew Clymer; Adam Lewis; TSgt James Mathews; 2d Lt Daniel H. Touzinsky; Maj Matt Tucker

U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD

TSgt Liz Humphrey

U.S. NAVY

CPO Shane M. Cooper; PO3 Daniel Dunlevy; SA Evan Hammond; LCDR Axel Steiner

U.S. MARINE CORPS

Maj. Tom Bertram; GySgt Nicholas Bickel; Capt David Cook; Alan Finn; Capt Joseph Andrew Garcia; SSgt

Scott Kramer;

Matthew Oberdorfer; 1stLt Gabriel

SERIOUSLY ILL OR RECOVERING FROM A SERIOUS ILLNESS OR SUR-**GERY**

OCTOBER

Christina Neal, Hank Sherowski, Arlene Cucculelli, Linda Martens, Claudia Johnson, Barbara Jones, David Hoy, Joseph Allgeier, Pat McCarron, Leon Milnes

NOVEMBER

Emily Scullion, Tom Dardis

DECEMBER

Vijay Gaddam

We are now on a rotating basis of three months for prayers for the seriously ill. If you would like a loved one added back onto the rotation, please email bulletinecotrna.org or call the parish office at (614) 855-1400.

Gospel Meditation

December 24, 2023- 4th Sunday of Advent

Life is troubling. Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don't trust the Lord or just need to toughen up?

I don't think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, "But she was greatly troubled at what was said." An archangel has visited her. An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since. The first point for us: the Lord is with her precisely when she is troubled. Her anxiousness and God's presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trancelike robotic indifference. It's about the presence of divine love. Even in — especially in — troubled circumstances.

Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing, Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord's messenger say to us what he said to Mary, "Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God."

- Father John Muir

Confirmation Candidates

Please add our Confirmation students to your daily prayers. Come Holy Spirit...

Lindsey Whalen Maxim Wheeler Fredi Omebele Brayden Zahuranec Meredith Savarise

Quo Vadis / Small Group Leaders All Confirmandi

Contemplative Moment

A God who became so small (as a baby) could only be mercy and love."

St. Thérèse of Lisieux: "

PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Practicing Catholic | Eucharistic Revival

PRACTICING CATHOLIC- RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

What Is Your Fiat?- By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Are you an anxious people-pleaser prone to overcommitting yourself? Welcome to the club! We have slogans, and for your convenience I've listed them here:

"Sounds great!... No worries!... Absolutely, I can do that, not a problem!"

These are your go-to responses for when someone requests a favor that is a huge inconvenience, but you would rather die than disappoint. It's not exactly disingenuous — it's just a little neurotic. Again, welcome to the club.

You know who doesn't belong to this club? The Blessed Mother. For many reasons, I'm sure, but the biggest one is that she's always completely up-front. Take her response to the Angel Gabriel: "Let it be done."

If there are more powerful words than these, I can't think of them now. And yet, as responses go, this certainly isn't an enthusiastic one. There was never a human creature more willing to obey God than Mary, full of grace, so it makes it all of the more striking that her response to Gabriel is this reserved — and it makes it all the more certain that she means exactly what she says.

Let it be done.

Not: Yes, this is exactly that I asked for!

Not: Nope. This sounds awful. Count me out.

But precisely this: If God is asking, my answer is yes.

The Angel Gabriel visits us all, in a way, at some point or another, bearing news we did not expect. When we can say, in the face of that uncertainty, "Let it be done," we are embracing our calling as disciples. We are becoming like Mary.

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord." — Luke 1:38

The Year of Eucharistic Revival– Draw Closer to the Eucharist

EUCHARISTIC MIRACLE OF BLANOT, FRANCE-1331

"The miracle occurred on Easter Sunday, March 31, 1331, at the first Mass of the day, which was offered by Hugues de la Baume, the vicar of Blanot. One of the last people to receive Communion was a woman named Jacquette, the widow of Regnaut d'Effour. The priest placed the Host on her tongue, turned, and started walking toward the altar. He did not notice that a Particle from the Host fell and landed upon a cloth that covered the woman's hands. Thomas Caillot, who was assisting at the Mass went to the altar and said: 'Father, you must return to the rail because the Body of Our Lord fell from the mouth of this lady onto the cloth.' The priest immediately went to the woman, still kneeling at the railing, but instead of finding the Host on the cloth, he saw a small spot of Blood. When Mass was over, the priest took the cloth into the sacristy and placed the stained area in a basin filled with clear water. After washing the spot and scrubbing it numerous times, he found that it had become darker and larger (reaching about the size and shape of a Host). Moreover, the water in the basin turned Bloody. The priest took a knife and, after washing the cloth, cut from it the piece bearing the Bloody imprint of the Host... This square of cloth was reverently placed in the tabernacle. Every year, on the feast of Corpus Christi, the relic is solemnly exposed in the church of Blanot. An additional note: The Hosts that remained in the ciborium after the distribution of Holy Communion on that Easter Sunday were also returned to the tabernacle, never to be distributed. Hundreds of years later they were found

to have been perfectly preserved."

Read more on this miracle and more at http://www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/mir/a3.html or through the QR code.

PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Take Five for Faith

Sunday, Dec 24, 2023

An embarrassment of riches

Every so many years, we experience this happy collision of observances: the last Sunday of Advent blossoms into Christmas Eve in a single day. Which means next week, the Feast of the Holy Family will roll into the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God by nightfall. It's a mad scramble for presiders, preachers, choirs, and liturgists to keep up with the whole, holy mess of these occasions. Parishioners too will be obliged to untangle the remarkable Mass schedule this landslide of liturgies creates. Consider it a cheerful reminder that liturgy gathers us into mysteries that are not finite but everlasting.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38 (11). "Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."

Monday, Dec 25, 2023

The wonder of it all

In the early church, Christmas was actually not a major feast, but over the centuries it grew in importance, and Saint Francis of Assisi catapulted its popularity in 1223 by creating the first nativity scene in a cave with live animals. Christmas Midnight Mass was celebrated there and it was a huge hit with the whole town. The tradition of the Christmas crèche was born. Francis loved Christmas, considering it the "Feast of Feasts," because God chose to take the humble form of a poor baby. Let the wonder of the Incarnation imbue your day.

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) TODAY'S READINGS: Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 (13); Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (14); Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20 (15); Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (16). "For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and

Tuesday, Dec 26, 2023

For the love of Saint Stephen

On this second day of Christmas, consider words about true love -and Saint Stephen-from Saint Fulgentius, a North African bishop of the sixth century: "Love was Stephen's weapon by which he gained every battle, and so won the crown signified by his name. His love of God kept him from yielding to the ferocious mob; his love for his neighbor made him pray for those who were stoning him." Celebrate the Christmas octave with the same steadfast love the first Christian martyr showed his persecutors.

FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696). "They could not withstand the wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke."

Wednesday, Dec 27, 2023

Through thick and thin

Beloved! That's what we know about today's saint-John the apostle is the "disciple whom Jesus loved." John was the last apostle to leave Jesus at the cross and one of the first to discover his Resurrection on Easter Sunday. He earned the title of evangelist by writing the fourth gospel (likely with help from his

followers). His account of Jesus' life has a more spiritual and mysterious air than those of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. But that doesn't mean he's otherworldly-after all, John is the patron saint of loyalty and friendships. Honor him today by visiting with a friend.

FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697). "What we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us."

Thursday, Dec 28, 2023

Mortal consequences

Amid the Christmas festivities, today the church has a somber reminder of the infants in the vicinity of Bethlehem who were slaughtered by King Herod in his fruitless effort to destroy Jesus. They were "collateral damage" that paved the way for Christianity, a faith that confesses to protecting the most vulnerable. In honor of the Holy Innocents, we might consider the many innocents who die prematurely because of lack of healthcare, pollution that results in disease, and isolation that leads to early death. Strive to be a force for life.

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698). "God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all."

Friday, Dec 29, 2023

The Catholic bucket list

Gift-giving at Christmastime is a common custom. Whether it's at home under a lit tree or at the secret Santa party at work, it's fun to give and receive. "Experience" gifts are becoming more a part of this custom: tickets to see a ballgame, an art class, a hiking trip. Experience gifts can be given any time, and we can even treat ourselves. Since it's the season of Christmas, let's think of Catholic experiences that we'd enjoy and create a kind of "Catholic bucket list." See the pope? Run a food pantry? Visit Assisi? Take a scripture class? Spend the rest of the Christmas season creating your own list.

FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202). "It had been revealed to [Simeon] by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord."

Saturday, Dec 30, 2023

What is the purpose of life?

This age-old question has as many answers as there are questioners. For Catholics though, there is one simple answer: love. But when is love ever simple? Deep love can be complicated and even gut-wrenchingly hard. It can bring pain, longing, disquiet, questioning, loneliness, and sacrifice. Yet, "The pain that comes from deep love makes your love ever more fruitful," writes Henri Nouwen. Love is our purpose, and we join with those celebrating Kwanzaa who are reflecting this day on the principle of Nia, that is,

SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40 (203). "Whoever does the will of God remains forever."

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow-a day at a time

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Evangelization Coordinator, Brad Romantic:

bromanticecotrna.org

Ministry Coordinator, Kathy Maguire: kmaguire@cotrna.org

Director of Music, Thom Wyatt: twyatt@cotrna.org **Music and Administrative Assistant, Abby Porr:**

aporrecotrna.org

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pkehres@cotrna.org

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jchokreff@cotrna.org

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ddixon@cotrna.org

Maintenance Office, Tom Arnett, Steve Weber, Harry

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chipcogswell@aol.com

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Parish Finance Council Chair, Mike Smith: pfc@cotrna.org

Legacy Society

Bob Dawes: 614-855-4307 **Jim Vonau:** 614-744-4102

George Gummer: 614-855-4790



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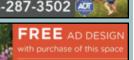






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