

# St. John the Baptist



## Catholic Parish

5361 Dry Ridge Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45252

### MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:30 pm

Sunday 8:30 am & 11:00 am

Weekday & Holyday - See Bulletin

### PARISH OFFICE

Rev. Timothy S. Kallaher, Pastor

Deacon Ken Schnur, Pastoral Associate

Deacon Vincent Lutz

Amanda Weickert, Director of Religious Education

Donna Sunderhaus, Business Manager

Douglas Schmutte, Pastoral Associate for

Music/Liturgy

Rod Dunlap, Director of Youth Ministry

Tom Cunningham, Plant Manager/Maintenance

Supervisor

Terri Reder, Parish Office Manager

Michelle Zerhusen, Administrative Assistant

### PASTORAL COUNCIL

Al Grote, *Chairperson*, 245-9943

Ryan Vitolo, *Vice-Chairperson*, 519-1518

Valerie Nimeskern, *Secretary*, 288-3254

David Eby, *Member at Large*, 385-7675

Steve Bismeyer, *Member at Large*, 923-2633

Gene Culman, *Member at Large*, 385-6669

Shannon Meyer, *Member at Large*, 385-6970

John Stehlin, *Member at Large*, 476-9665

Kevin Wood, *Member at Large*, 885-9860

Heather Smith, *Development Commission Rep.*, 923-2893

Betty Dirr, *Faith Formation Comm. Rep.*, 385-3954

Sharon Bachman, *Finance Commission Rep.*, 385-8267

Patti Rice, *Worship Commission Rep.*, 385-5410

Larry Weinheimer, *Communications Comm. Rep.*, 652-2563

**RECONCILIATION:** Saturday at 2:30 p.m. & Seasonal Service

**MARRIAGE:** Call the Parish Office at least 6 months prior to your wedding.

**BAPTISMS:** Call the Parish Office

**ANointing of the Sick/Communion:** Call Parish Office

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS.** Please contact the Parish Office

**CURRENT PARISHIONERS:** Moving? New email?

Contact the Parish Office.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL** - 513-301-6881

## PRIEST'S MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday, December 14

8:30 AM Dorothy Schultz/*Carolyn & Denny*

### Tuesday, December 15

8:30 AM Priest Intention

### Wednesday, December 16

8:30 AM Kristy Haffner/*Mom & Dad*

### Thursday, December 17

8:30 AM Kathryn Nieder/*Rick & Ginger Heider*

### Friday, December 18

8:30 AM Dave Schieber/*Sue & Bill Hines*

### Saturday, December 19

4:30 PM Peters Family/*Dale & Marlene*

### Sunday, December 20

8:30 AM Leroy Geisler/*Family*

11:00 AM For the Parish

## STEWARDSHIP

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

*"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God."* (Philippians 4:6-7)

St. Paul reminds us that our God is an abundant God, the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. When we trust that God will take care of us, it is easier for us to share what we have been given.

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## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

**Monday, December 14**

Mass, 8:30 AM, Chapel

Monday Martha's Group, 9:30 AM

Adoration, 9:15 AM, Chapel

Pastoral Council, 6:00 AM, PO CR

Rosary, 7:00 PM, Chapel

Pastoral Council/Commissions Mtgs, 7:00, Church

**Tuesday, December 15**

Mass, 8:30 AM, Northgate Atria

Pastoral Area Reconciliation Service, 7:00, SJN

Young Adult Group, 7:00 PM, POMR#2

School's Christmas Music Program, 7:00 PM,  
Church

**Wednesday, December 16**

Mass, 8:30 AM, Chapel

**Thursday, December 17**

Mass, 8:30 AM, Church

Joseph's Group, 9:00 AM, POMR #2

Shopping Cent\$, 9:00 AM, POMR #1

Thursday's Martha's Group, 3:30 PM

**Friday, December 18**

Mass, 8:30, Chapel

School's Kindergarden Pageant 8:30 AM, Church

**Saturday, December 19**

Reconciliation, 2:30 PM, Reconciliation Chapel

Mass, 4:30 PM

**Sunday, December 20**

Mass, 8:30 AM

SREP, 9:45 AM, Chapel

Mass, 11:00 AM

## PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

**Readings for December 20, 2015****Fourth Sunday of Advent****Micah: 5:1-4**

A child will be born out of Bethlehem Ephrathah, who will establish a kingdom of peace to the ends of the earth.

**Hebrews 10:5-10**

Christ abolishes the ritual sacrifices of the law by offering his own body.

**Luke 1:39-45**

Mary sets out as quickly as possible to visit her cousin Elizabeth. When she greets Elizabeth the child in Elizabeth's womb leaps for joy.

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS

**Saturday, December 19, 4:30 PM Mass**

**Servers:** A. Toelke, H. Murphy, L. Smith

**Lectors:** Steve Bissmeyer, JoEllen Sunderhaus

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Frank Sunderhaus, Kathy Wood, Nancy Schuster, Patrick Bissmeyer, Mary Ann Lennon, Tom Sunderhaus

**Sunday, December 20, 8:30 AM Mass**

**Servers:** E. Keil, G. Vidourek, S. Keil

**Lectors:** Matthew Fay, Bob Richter

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Debbie Schneider, Grace Severt, Lynn Kist, Bill Kist, Erin Siemer, Sophie Betsch

**Sunday, December 20, 11:00 AM Mass**

**Servers:** A. Dorsch, L. Dorsch, F. Haun

**Lectors:** Matt Molony, Jack Hart

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Mike Burke, Cathy Mersch, Jorge Naciff, David Benkert, Abigail Kreimer, Sam Kreimer, Hailey Tensing, Joyce Behrmann, Michael Langenbrunner, Caroline Middendorf

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There is still great need for volunteer leaders and helpers for the children's liturgy during our weekend Masses. The requirement is for one Mass per month and can be for the Mass you normally attend. In addition, substitutes are needed to fill in occasionally. **Please** contact Deacon Ken at 385-8010 for more information or to sign-up.

**Parish Library Spot**

Lights for a Waiting World – Celebrating Advent with the Saints by Silas S. Henderson is formatted differently than the book reviewed last week. In this book the reflections and prayers are inspired by the passages of scripture read during Mass each day of Advent. A saint, whose life embodies a virtue expressed in the scripture passage, is recounted. It is hoped is that this combination of ideas will serve to stimulate our advent prayer. **CHECK IT OUT!**

**\*Advent Programs\***

**Please note that all Pastoral Area Advent Prayer Services are being held on the Tuesdays of Advent this year.**

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCE

ARE YOU AWARE  
BY DONNA SUNDERHAUS

DECEMBER 6, 2015 COLLECTION REPORT

Adult Collection <i>(includes Electronic Donations)</i>	\$	18,594.00
Children Collection	\$	4.75
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	160.00
Debt Reduction	\$	600.00
All Saints	\$	25.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	117.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	230.00
Campaign for Human Dev.	\$	20.00
Christmas	\$	135.00
Religious Retirement	\$	50.00
<b>This Year to Date</b>	\$	307,443.28
<b>Last Year to Date</b>	\$	303,358.09
<b>Comparison to Last Year</b>	\$	4,085.19
Adult Envelopes		303
Children Envelopes		5
Electronic Donators		69
Thank You!		

**ARE YOU AWARE** I will only be doing one more Are You Aware as my last day is December 23? How fun has this column has been for me. All the info finding, all the good and bad that needed to be reported, all the funny I HAVE LEARNED and all the neat things that go on here that most people are not aware of. It is with regret that I will no longer be sharing this with you but Terri is going to continue the column. I will call her if I hear anything that I think needs to be told.

**ARE YOU AWARE** that our Financial Review Findings report from a few weeks ago came in? Here is a short synopsis of what the 9 page document;

- ◆ Dedicated clergy, staff and volunteers
- ◆ Monthly bank recs are done in a timely manner
- ◆ Payroll is reviewed and approved by Father and adequately supported by time sheets and salary schedules
- ◆ 401 (k) employee deferrals and employer contributions were processed timely
- ◆ Collections, tuition and other receipts were adequately supported by offertory count sheets, gift analysis reports, and/or supporting schedules
- ◆ Accounting records are meticulously maintained
- ◆ Financial Statements are published timely and reviewed at finance council meetings.

**Retirement Fund for Religious**

Aging religious need your help. In the United States today, there are more than 33,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. These religious worked tirelessly in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies, usually for little to no pay. As a result, many religious communities lack adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

It was stated that this was one of the best he had seen as far as record keeping because we could put our hands on everything they needed. Glad that is over!!!!!!

**ARE YOU AWARE** that we have been told that some parishioners are complaining because our door is locked between the Gathering Space and our office building? They do not feel that is very welcoming. The reason the door is locked is because we have had numerous thefts. When we had a staff member's purse stolen; the decision was made. We are truly sorry if you feel we are not doing the right thing but we as a team feel it is necessary. If you need to use the copier or need something else from our building; just find a staff member as we all have keys. Please try to understand.

**I HAVE LEARNED** always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

**FAIR TRADE PRODUCT SALE**

Fair trade coffee, tea, cocoa, olive oil, and other goodies will be available in the Parish Library Room located off the Gathering Space after Masses the weekend of December 19 & 20. Not only does your purchase support the Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade Program, the goodies make great gifts!! Thank You!





MUSICIAN'S NOTES

By DOUG SCHMUTTE



**R**EJOICE!! If there is one word which describes our celebration of the Third Sunday of Advent, it would be exactly that, REJOICE. The Third Sunday of Advent is called *GAUDETE SUNDAY*. What exactly does that mean? Well, the term is taken from the introit for the day which comes from Philippians 4: 4 – 5: *Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.*

The opening prayer (collect) continues to echo this theme: “O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord’s Nativity, enable us we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad REJOICING.”

Also, today we sang the hymn probably most associated with the season of Advent – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” which concludes each verse with the words “REJOICE! REJOICE! Emmanuel shall come to you O Israel.

I found the following reflection on “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” on the internet: This ancient hymn originated in part from the “O Antiphons.” On each day of the week leading up to Christmas, one verse would be chanted, each including an Old Testament name for the coming Messiah. When we sing each verse of this hymn, we acknowledge Christ as the fulfillment of these Old Testament prophecies.



We sing this hymn in an already-but not yet-Kingdom of God. Christ’s first coming gives us a reason to REJOICE again and again, yet we know that all is not well with the world. So, along with our REJOICING, we plead using the words of this hymn that Christ will come again to perfectly fulfill the promise that all darkness will be turned to light.

So, as we get closer and closer to the celebration of the Lord’s Nativity (only 12 days away), let us REJOICE today, knowing that “*the Lord is near.*”

Have a great week.

Week by Week Through the Year of Mercy

**P**ope Francis chose to inaugurate the *Jubilee Year of Mercy* last Tuesday because December 8 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of Vatican II. That council, Pope Francis reminds us, inaugurated a new phase in the Church’s history. The Spirit called the Church to tear down the walls that for far too long had made it a fortress, and to proclaim the gospel in a new, more accessible way. Pope Francis quotes Saint John XXIII in declaring the Church’s preference for “the medicine of mercy,” and Blessed Paul VI in proposing the Good Samaritan as our model for discipleship (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 4). Pope Francis adds that God’s mercy is “the beating heart of the

Gospel,” and that mercy “m u s t penetrate the heart and mind” of every disciple (*MV*, 12).

Three times today’s Gospel asks, “What should I do?” Pope Francis would say: Imitate Jesus, who came not wielding the fiery judgment that John the Baptist had threatened, but instead imparting healing, compassion, forgiveness—mercy!



—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

## The JOY of the GOSPEL

**“The Gospel, radiant with the glory of Christ’s cross, constantly invites us to rejoice.** A few examples will suffice. “Rejoice!” is the angel’s greeting to Mary (Lk 1:28). Mary’s visit to Elizabeth makes John leap for joy in his mother’s womb (cf. Lk 1:41). In her song of praise, Mary proclaims: “My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour” (Lk 1:47). When Jesus begins his ministry, John cries out: “For this reason, my joy has been fulfilled” (Jn 3:29). Jesus himself “rejoiced in the Holy Spirit” (Lk 10:21). **His message brings us joy: “I have said these things to you, so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete” (Jn 15:11). Our Christian joy drinks of the wellspring of his brimming heart.** He promises his disciples: “You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy” (Jn 16:20). He then goes on to say: “But I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you” (Jn 16:22). The disciples “rejoiced” (Jn 20:20) at the sight of the risen Christ. In the Acts of the Apostles we read that the first Christians “ate their food with glad and generous hearts” (2:46). Wherever the disciples went, “there was great joy” (8:8); even amid persecution they continued to be “filled with joy” (13:52). The newly baptized eunuch “went on his way rejoicing” (8:39), while Paul’s jailer “and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God” (16:34).

Why should we not also enter into this great stream of joy?”



*this is paragraph 5 of Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation “Evangelii Gaudium.” Vatican Translation. Emphases my own.*

to LOVE as  
GOD LOVES

*By Amanda Weickert*

This week we celebrate two of my favorite feasts of the liturgical year. This past Tuesday was the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, which this year also marked the beginning of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

I love this feast which not only celebrates Mary’s freedom from original sin but also reminds us of the extraordinary measures God is pleased to take for our salvation. In the readings for this feast Mary’s obedience and humility are contrasted with Eve’s disobedience and arrogance. We, like both of these women, have the opportunity and freedom to listen to God and obey him. God’s gifts to us, like his gifts to Mary, are immeasurable. Also like Mary we too must listen to the word of God and allow it to transform our desires and actions.

Additionally, this third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday. As Pope Francis reminds us in *The Joy of the Gospel* Christ’s coming and his message are a constant invitation to rejoice. The Church emphasizes this joyful aspect of our expectant waiting through this celebration.

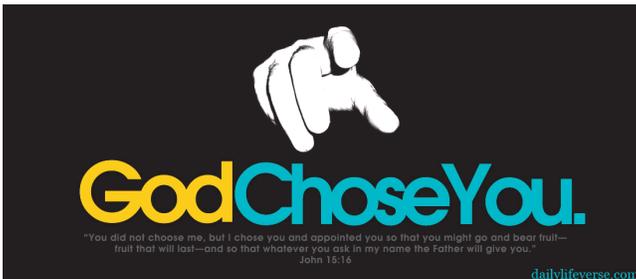
The gospel story is such a source of joy for us as the Church due to its transformative power. Through the Gospels Christ not only demonstrates the radically trusting way in which we are to live our lives as Christians but also challenges us to live these radically renewed lives with joy!

**Lord Jesus Christ, bearer of our salvation, grace us with the capacity to recognize and rejoice in your presence in our lives in times of sorrow and gladness. Help us to radiate your joyful presence to all God’s children throughout this Advent Season that we, like Mary, may bear you into the world. Amen.**



### *High School Ministry*

It is still not too late to join the a new High School ministry program here called CHOSEN. The youth get to know one another better, as well as begin to pray and think about some difficult life questions. Please continue to pray for our high school youth as they begin this journey of drawing closer to Christ and learning more about themselves. We will meet again Sunday, December 20 at 7pm in the Youth Ministry room.



### *Junior High School Ministry*

Just a reminder to all our Eighth Grade students that the next Confirmation Prep meeting will be held on Thursday, January 14 at 7:00 PM in the Gathering Space. We continue to ask all our parishioners to pray for these students as they prepare for this Sacrament.

### *Young Adult Ministry*

This past Tuesday, our young adults gathered for an evening of Gospel reflection, awesome conversation, and fellowship afterwards. If you are interested in joining our Young Adult Group here at St. John's, please contact Rod Dunlap at [rdunlap@stjohnsdr.org](mailto:rdunlap@stjohnsdr.org).



## SCHOOL NEWS

### Science Fair 2016 Judges Still Needed!

St. John the Baptist School's Junior High Science Fair will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2016. Many science fair judges are still needed to judge the students' projects. If you are interested in judging our Science Fair and are available during the day on Thursday, February 4, 2016 contact Mrs. Smith at 699-6960 ext. 231 or at [chsmith@stjohnsdrschoool.org](mailto:chsmith@stjohnsdrschoool.org).

## SHOPPING CENTS

Are you still shopping for Christmas gifts? Use gift cards to make purchases or give as gifts. We can save you time when making your gift card purchases too:

- Call your order in on the hotline (699-6960 ext. 240) by Wednesday night and we will have it ready for pickup before/after weekend Masses. Cash or check payment only.
- Sign up for ShopWithScrip and PrestoPay to order eCards or reload current cards (limited retailers). ShopWithScrip has a mobile website so you can manage your eCards and Reloads and redeem them right from your Apple or Android device!

If you would like more information please contact Linda Threm at [lthrem01@gmail.com](mailto:lthrem01@gmail.com) or download the information from our school website [www.stjohnsdrschoool.org](http://www.stjohnsdrschoool.org) - go to the Parent Info tab and under Shopping Cent\$ we can find the current order form and how to get signed up for ShopWithScrip.

Last day for special orders is Sunday, December 20 and will be ready for pick up on Wednesday, December 23. Please call the hotline if by Sunday 6:00 PM with any large or special orders.

We are still in desperate need of two volunteers for the 4:30 mass shift on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month and one volunteer for the 4:30 mass on the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month (only happens about 4 time per year). This position involves the sale of gift certificates in the Bell Tower 30 minutes prior to Mass and approximately for 30 minutes after Mass has ended. If we don't get volunteers we will not be able to sell gift cards during these weekends. If you attend 4:30 mass – even if it is occasionally – please consider joining the program and leave a message on the Shopping Cent\$ hotline (699-6960 ext. 240). It's a great way to get involved and get to know other parishioners.

### Forester's Christmas Party

The Forester's Annual Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 19 in the Cafeteria. The festivities will begin at 7:00 PM with Santa arriving at 8:00 PM. There will be a movie, crafts as well as pizza, popcorn and hot chocolate. Please remember to bring toys and personal hygiene products for our collection to St. Joe's Orphanage. Should you have any questions, please contact Carmen Schultz at 513-310-8172.

### "Year of Mercy" — Day of Prayer

January 16, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Located at Schott Pavilion in the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford

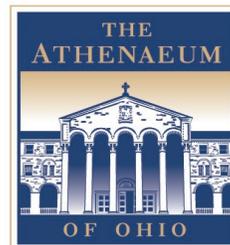
Cost: \$35

Presenter: Al Cucchetti

Our Day of Prayer will celebrate the New Year which Pope Francis has called the "Year of Mercy." Our day will begin with coffee, fruit juice and pastries, short presentations with time for quiet reflection, journaling, faith sharing and include lunch. Learning how to experience God's mercy in our everyday lives and sharing that mercy with others will be our focus. All are welcome to come and keep this "Year of Mercy." To register, please call 248-3500.

### Missionary Discipleship.

It sounds intimidating, but active and informed discipleship is our vocation as Catholic Christians. The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program can help you discern and develop gifts for ministry, grow in faith and gain the theological knowledge you need



to evangelize and serve others effectively. Courses in scripture, doctrine, morality, evangelization and liturgy fit into a busy adult schedule with evening and Saturday sessions. Classes forming now for Spring semester and interviews are ongoing for full admission to Graduate and Non-Degreed programs. Locations include the main campus in Cincinnati and satellite locations in Montfort Heights and Dayton. Call 419-305-5486 or 513-231-1200 for information or to schedule an appointment. The LPMP is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and is celebrating 40 years of service in 2015-16.

## Are you going to have a Blue Christmas?

Do you feel alone in this season when everyone and everything seems bent on "being happy" and "celebrating"? Do you hurt and can't get into the festivities? At such times we need to make the space and take the time to acknowledge our sadness and concern.

We need to know that we are not alone. For these reasons, we invite you to a **special service** which, through prayer, Scripture and music, acknowledges that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle—a time to move from feeling **blue** to experiencing the **wonder** and **hope** of Christmas.



## Blue Christmas

Sunday, December 20 6:00 p.m.

St. John the Baptist

# Advent 2015

## St. John the Baptist's Church

### What's Happening This Week



**Monday, December 14:**

**9:15 a.m.—8:00 p.m. Exposition**

**7:00 p.m. — Rosary**

**Tuesday, December 15:**

**6:00 Simple Supper—St. John Nuemann**

**7:00 Reconciliation Service - St. John**

**Neumann**

**Saturday, December 19:**

**2:30 p.m. Reconciliation—Reconciliation**

**Chapel**

**Sunday, December 20:**

**6:00 p.m. Blue Christmas**

## Reflection on This Sunday's Opening Prayer

### Collect:

**O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son...**

### Reflection:

This prayer is in a fifth-sixth century collection of prayers. It recalls our waiting for a birthday celebration that looks beyond to the Three Days of Passion, Death, and Resurrection. We are still waiting on this Third Sunday. But for what? This prayer reminds us that we are not awaiting the birth of Christ. That has already happened. We are, however, awaiting the coming feast day – the annual celebration that once again recalls the impact of Jesus Christ, no longer a babe, who is our great salvation. With every babe, we see and hope for great things to come. In waiting for the feast day of this One, who is God-with-us, we look to the salvation already won for us. This birth leads to Passion and Death. And to new life. So too for us: birth to death; then death to new life.

### Prayer:

You are no longer a babe, O Lord, but our risen Savior. Help shape our lives and deaths to be like yours, that one day we may share the lasting joy of new life with you for ever.

—Eliot Kapitan

Director for Worship and the Catechumenate  
Diocese of Springfield in Illinois



**Are you interested in  
movies, books, audios with  
a Catholic content?  
Have you been looking in vain?**

**Well, we have the answer for you!**

We are pleased to announce the release of

**F O R M E D**

Formed is a collection of Catholic content: full-length movies, instruction pieces (about marriage, family, Church, maturing, etc.), audios, and books from Lighthouse. The list of programs is large and it is continually growing.

*There is something for everyone in the house!*

"This is not only an excellent source of entertainment, but valuable and useful information as well" — Deacon Ken Schnur

Best of all, FORMED is

**FREE**

Thanks to the Archdiocese and the parish, there are no fees to join or to watch or read. Simply click and you have a full library at your finger tips.

How do I sign up?

- 1) Go to Formed.org
- 2) Find "Does your parish already have FORMED?"
- 3) Enter the access code for St. John's: ZCME4D. This will take you to the page to set up your profile. Enter the information and password and you are set to go!

**Any Questions: Contact Deacon Ken at 385-8010**