

St. Susanna Catholic Parish

a Community of Faith...
a Church in Action!

616 Reading Road
Mason, Ohio 45040

Phone: 513-398-3821

Parish Office: ext. 3100

School Office: ext. 3108

After Hours Emergency: ext. 3200

Fax: 513-398-2254

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday:

8:30am - 4:30pm

1st Sunday of the Month:

8:15am - 12:30pm

Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for all articles for the Sunday bulletin is Friday afternoon, (9) days before the article appears in the bulletin. Please send items, along with the dates they should run, to bulletin@stsusanna.org for submission.

www.stsusanna.org

NOVEMBER 27, 2016
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SURPRISE, SURPRISE, SURPRISE



Just last month if you peered into the night sky on the right night you might have seen the "supermoon." A supermoon is when a full moon coincides with the closest approach the Moon makes to the Earth on its orbit. The most recent supermoon occurred on November 14, the closest to Earth since January 26, 1948. If you want to see the next one, you have to wait until November 25, 2034. That's a long wait, but still not as long as the next time Halley's Comet will come.

When I was eight years old, in 1986, was the last time Halley's Comet passed through our solar system. This extraordinary astronomical event was emphasized by our teacher for two reasons. First, because it would not appear again until the year 2061, when I'd be 83 years old! Second, because we were building models of the solar system at the time and we needed all the encouragement we could get. In fact, this solar system project became my greatest procrastination experience ever.

Some might joke about forgetting an assignment until the night before, but this was no joke. In bed at 8:00pm, my usual bedtime, while drifting to sleep my head popped off the pillow as I remembered that my solar system model was due the next day. I had done absolutely nothing. Running downstairs in a panic I explained the situation to my parents. After a much deserved lecture on responsibility, we all set to work. After a failed attempt to design a scale model on my Lite Brite, tired and increasingly crabby, I went back to bed. To my surprise, when I awoke the next morning there was a box with painted styrofoam balls arranged to resemble the Sun and nine planets (this was before Pluto got demoted). My parents had stayed up until after midnight building a model of the solar system so that I wouldn't fail in school.

How much more will our heavenly Father not fail in providing what is for our spiritual benefit! However, when and how, what we need is given as a surprise. The prophecy we hear in Isaiah, about the expectation of the Messiah who will bring peace to Earth, was written in the 8th century BC. That's 800 years before the coming of Jesus Christ! Now we believe that He will come again though we know not exactly when.

The purpose of the Advent season is to be a reminder or rather a call to deeper participation in this period of hopeful anticipation. As we joyfully await the celebration of the Nativity, and likewise as we hopefully anticipate Jesus Christ coming again in glory, may Paul's exhortation to the Romans stir our hearts too; "the night is advanced; the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and lust, not in rivalry and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ."

Fr. Eric Roush

MASS INTENTIONS & WEEKEND PRESIDERS

Monday, November 28

6:00pm Marge Kroeger

Tuesday, November 29

8:15am Bob Vorhis

Wednesday, November 30

8:15am Mary Louise Welsh

Thursday, December 1

9:00am Earl Powers

Friday, December 2

8:15am Mike Minarik

Saturday, December 3

8:15am Francis Chang

5:00pm (Fr. Farrell) Mike Wendel

Sunday, December 4

7:30am (Fr. Roush)

Roland Peter Richer

9:00am (Fr. Roush)

Rachel Schowalter

(Special Intention)

11:15am (Fr. Farrell) Mary Rader

6:00pm (Fr. Farrell) Jean DeVita

Holy Days of Obligation

6:30am, 8:15am, 7:00pm

Reconciliation

Monday at 6:45pm

Saturday at 9:00am

Eucharistic Exposition

Monday, 6:45 - 9:00pm

First Friday

After 8:15am Mass Friday to beginning

of 8:15am Mass Saturday

Rosary/Devotions

Tuesday through Saturday at 7:30am

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING OVERSEAS!

Mark Anzer
Alex Back
Brandon Florea
Joseph Patrick Fusco
Thomas Prieve
David Rodriguez
Justin Schuh
Christian Sorfnsen
Liz Vossler
James Wernke
Rachelle Wernke
Ryan Whitaker
Jim Wykoff
Michael Zeller



PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN NEED

Maya Collins
Ron Dearth
James Edmund
Dick Gardner
Marilyn Gomez
Scott Greisl
Dianne Kunkle
Ray Meibers
Michael Murphy
Michaela Nowakowski
Gabriel Orick
Alonso Ortiz
Diego Ortiz
Kathy Rohde
Ed Ryan
Doreen Schowalter
Marie Sueberling
Annette Uhrick
Mike Webber
Tara Williams
Jennifer Williamson

Divine Healer, God of Wholeness, we place these parishoners in your hands; we ask for healing, but also for acceptance of their illness and of your holy plan. Help them and us to embrace whatever you have in mind for them. Support them in their anxieties, fears, pains, and the frustrations of their illness. Support them with the strength of the Holy Spirit. We ask this in the name of Jesus, compassionate healer of those in need of health and hope. Amen.

Nursery Available

The nursery is available for 9:00 and 11:15am Masses. It is located in the undercroft. Call ext. 3126 or email nursery@stsusanna.org for details.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

For children in grades K-2, September through May, 9:00 and 11:15am Masses. For details, contact Susan Gravely, ext. 3110 or gravelys@stsusanna.org.

Spanish Mass

A Mass in Spanish will be held at 4:00pm on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of every month. For details, contact Karla Eysoldt, ext. 3202 or keysoldt@catholiccincinnati.org.

Misa en español es el segundo y cuarto domingo del mes a las 4:00pm.

Parish Membership

We joyfully welcome new members of our parish community. Information packets are available at the desk in the Gathering Space.

Please register by calling the Parish Office (513-398-3821), online (www.stsusanna.org), or after Mass on the first Sunday of the month in the Parish Office.

Parish Library

The Library is located in the undercroft of the church. Media can be checked out at any time. Stop by the Parish Office for help.

Prayer Requests

If you have people to be prayed for and would like to have them in the bulletin, please email bulletin@stsusanna.org and we will begin publishing them weekly.

WORSHIP

Our Catholic Faith

Are you interested in learning more about our beautiful Catholic Faith and perhaps becoming Catholic?

Are you an Adult Catholic seeking Confirmation?

Then please contact Susan Gravelly, ext. 3110 or gravelys@stsusanna.org.

Baptism Preparation

Please find more information on our website: www.stsusanna.org/baptism.

Upon your completion of the required forms found on the site, a member of the Parish Staff will contact you.

Marriage Preparation

Please contact the Parish Office no later than six months prior to the date of intended marriage.



ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

You can dedicate the placing of flowers at the altar *in memory of a loved one or to honor a special occasion*. The amount is \$50 to defray the cost of the flowers. To reserve a date, please contact the Parish Office, 398-3821, ext. 3100.

RCIA SPONSORS NEEDED

RCIA sponsors, particularly couples, who might be willing to sponsor a couple coming from another faith tradition into the Catholic Church, are needed. Please contact Susan Gravelly if you might be able to do this (gravelys@stsusanna.org).

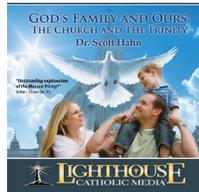


Our quarterly Name Tag Sunday has been very well received. To continue this outreach, we need your help handing out name tags the weekend of December 10th-11th. This is a wonderful opportunity for families. *Sign up on the parish website at www.stsusanna.org/nametagsunday* or contact Susan Hack to be a part of our efforts to build community at St. Susanna.

BEREAVEMENT FOOD MINISTRY

The Bereavement Ministry is in need of volunteers who love to cook a particular food dish or dessert for funeral luncheons held at St. Susanna. You choose the item you like to make and when a request is needed, you make your dish and drop it off. It's as easy as that! If you are not interested in cooking or preparing a dish, we always are in need of help with room set up, serving during the lunch, and clean up after the lunch. No experience is necessary to help in this very worthwhile ministry. For more information or to join our team, contact Barb Mendel at 513-459-8719 or barblovles2stamp@aol.com.

GOD'S FAMILY AND OURS: THE CHURCH AND THE TRINITY



Dr. Scott Hahn uses familiarity with family life to bring us to a deeper understanding of the Holy Trinity, and thereby a better understanding of ourselves and the Church. This presentation effectively illustrates how the "Good News" of salvation is not only being saved from our sins through the Cross of Christ, but an invitation to become and live as adopted sons and daughters of the Triune God.

Lighthouse Catholic Media CDs are in the Gathering Space for \$3.00 each.



After the 9:00am/before the 11:15am Masses in the St. Susanna Room in the Undercroft. All are welcome! No cost and no reservations needed.

October 30th - December 18th: Priest, Prophet & King (by Bishop Barron)

STEWARDSHIP

The total for the November 20, 2016 collection was not available by the printing of this bulletin. It will be published next week with total for this week.

THIS WEEK, FROM THE ST. SUSANNA VICENTIANAS...

There is an Advent spirit in the heart of every human person. It is one of longing, of yearning for a fulfillment that somehow lies beyond ourselves; for we long for the coming of the Lord. Our parish vicentians help our area needy to see that God loves them by providing financial help in their time of need. Through this love we hope their longing for the coming of our Lord is fulfilled.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION



ADVENT DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas," or at least that's the assumption based on that familiar holiday song. But what does that look like at your house? Most of us anticipate the great sales at the mall on the day after Thanksgiving, string lights on the outside of our house, and decorate the inside of our homes. But how exactly are we preparing our hearts for the greatest gift we've ever been given? Through an exploration of the mystery of the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, and the events surrounding the arrival of Jesus, this Advent study offers an opportunity to experience the joy of the true meaning of Christmas.

The groups will meet Tuesdays during Advent (November 29th, December 6th, December 13th, and December 20th) at either 9:30am or 7:00pm.

To register, please visit: www.stsusanna.org/adventgroups.

Questions? Contact Susan Hack at hacks@stsusanna.org.

DATE NIGHT

"What Keeps You Together"
(Holiday Theme)
Friday, December 2nd at
6:30pm in The Meyer Center

Date Night

Come strengthen your marriage by coming together to enjoy each other's company as well as meet other couples! Date night will have a focus on the blessings couples are to one another and how our faith in Jesus is at the heart!

Cost: \$35 per couple - Includes dinner and babysitting if needed. Questions? Contact Susan Hack at hacks@stsusanna.org.

To register, please visit: www.stsusanna.org/datenight.



FINANCIAL PEACE SEMINAR RETURNS TO ST. SUSANNA

St. Susanna's Adult Formation will again be hosting a Financial Peace University (FPU) Seminar that teaches God's ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions, and interactive small group activities, FPU presents proven, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This class will teach you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, save and invest wisely, and be an effective steward of your finances.

Within the first 90 days of taking Financial Peace University, an average family saves \$2,700 and pays off \$5,300! Why don't you join the more than 4.5 million people who have changed their futures with Financial Peace University. You can too! FPU classes will start January 12, 2017 in the St. Susanna Room and meet for approximately an hour and a half each week for nine weeks.

The FPU seminar includes a member workbook, audio CDs and case, online resource tools, budgeting aids and forms, Dave Ramsey's "Complete Guide to Money" book, and much more. For more information, contact David Hoehn, Financial Peace Facilitator at dhlearn@cinci.rr.com or call 513-777-8964.

To register and to purchase materials, please visit: www.stsusanna.org/FPU.



To register online and to purchase materials, please visit: www.stsusanna.org/griefshare.



RESPECT LIFE

"A model of care has been developed specifically for families whose infant is likely to die before or after birth. Often called 'perinatal hospice,' ... [it] provides precious moments together - whether the baby is inside or outside the womb - which can be cherished forever."
- "Supporting Families Who Receive a Prenatal Diagnosis" (www.goo.gl/JqdQJT),
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

When scanned with a smartphone, the QR code will direct to the webpage where the referenced resource is located.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

Early Childhood 2016-2017

Faith formation for 3, 4, preK 5-year-olds and kindergartners meets on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM. For more information, contact Jill Berning, ext 3400 or berningj@stsusanna.org.

Preschool

Weekday Preschool is available for ages 2-5 in the undercroft of church. For more information, contact Joette Ewing, ext. 3131 or ewingj@stsusanna.org.

CFP

Grades 1-8 (2016-2017)

Faith formation for elementary students will be Summer Sessions and Sundays from 10:15 to 11:45 AM and Mondays 6:30 to 7:45 PM. For more information, contact Susan Gravely, ext 3110 or gravelys@stsusanna.org or Traci Raley, ext. 3111 or raleyt@stsusanna.org.

Saint Susanna School

The parish school provides a Catholic education for Grades K-8. For more information, contact the School Office, ext 3108 or cappellap@stsusanna.org.

Faith Alive

Grades 6-8 (2016-2017)

Sundays 4:00pm to 5:45pm in the St. John Bosco Youth Room. For more information, contact Youth Minister Randi Hom, ext 3195 or homr@stsusanna.org.

LIFE

Grades 9-12 (2016-2017)

Sundays at 7:00pm in the St. John Bosco Youth Room. For more information, contact Judie Kuhlman at kuhlmanj@stsusanna.org.

JR. HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY, 6TH-8TH GRADES

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 27th

NO YOUTH NIGHT - Happy Thanksgiving!

December 4th

Crazy Trivia Night

December 11th

Christ is Coming - Our Hope!

For more information, contact Randi Hom, homr@stsusanna.org.



SR. HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY, 9TH-12TH GRADES

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 27th

NO MEETING - Happy Thanksgiving!

December 4th

LIFE Mass - Angels & Ornaments

December 11th

Service: Adopt a Family/Decorate/Caroling

For more information, contact Judie Kuhlman, kuhlmanj@stsusanna.org.



SCHOOL NEWS

- On Wednesday the School Community will attend the 8:15am Mass together.
- This Thursday 7:40-8:10 (cafeteria) will be a deposit day for our School Savings Program at Saint Susanna School. Representatives from Peoples Bank (Mason) will be present on these mornings to make deposits for our students. Should you have any questions, please contact Alison Thompson at 336-8120. If you need a School Savings Program form, please contact the school office.
- Our annual Santa's Secret Shop will be held on Thursday.
- Do you have some Holiday shopping to do? If so, come to Saint Susanna School's Barnes and Noble Book Fair event at the Fields Ertel location (in Waterstone Plaza). Our school will receive up to 20% of total purchase amounts when accompanied by a Saint Susanna School voucher. Vouchers will be sent home via the students, and will be available at the store. Join us this Saturday, December 3rd anytime between 10:00am and 9:00pm.



BOOSTERS NEWS

Seeking candidates for Girls Basketball Coordinator and Girls Cheerleading Coordinator. Please contact Mark Cravens (mcravens@apctowers.com / (859) 916-6161).

DISCIPLES IN ACTION

GIVING TREE GIFTS DUE NEXT WEEKEND DECEMBER 3RD/4TH

The trees for the annual parish Giving Tree ministry are on display in the gathering space and by the elevator. This year three organizations will benefit from the donations:

- the Schuh Center (red ornaments)
- St. George Food Pantry in Clifton (green ornaments)
- St. Vincent DePaul St. Joseph Conference in Adams County (yellow ornaments)



Please stop by the trees to take an ornament... or 2 or 3. Purchase the item or items listed on the ornament. Pay close attention to the ornament if the gift(s) needs to be wrapped or not. Return the gift(s) with the ornament attached to the truck in the parking lot before and after Masses next weekend, December 3rd/4th.

Volunteers are still needed on the weekend of Dec 3rd/4th to collect the gifts. Volunteers are also needed on December 5th to deliver the gifts to St. George Food Pantry.

To volunteer for these opportunities, go to the parish web page: www.stsusanna.org/givingtree. If you have questions, please contact Mary Jo Burns at burnsmj@stsusanna.org or 398-3821, ext. 3120.



BABYSITTERS NEEDED

Babysitters are needed to provide childcare during Adult Faith gatherings. If you are interested, please contact Susan Hack at hacks@stsusanna.org.

CALLING ALL EVERYDAY COOKS - WE NEED YOU!

Please sign up to join the Priest Meal Ministry

Once a month, the members of our group plate up TWO EXTRA plates of whatever we are cooking for our families that night and bring it to the parish office for Fr. Bob and Fr. Eric. Our wonderful priests enjoy having a home-cooked meal two nights a week - thanks to the generosity of the members of our ministry.

If you are able to help out once a month, please contact Maureen Sorce at sorcepm@gmail.com or call (513) 398-5538.



CHRISTMAS STOCKING DONATIONS NEEDED

Each year the Schuh Center hands out Christmas Stockings to its patrons.

Donations that are needed include:

- the actual Christmas stockings
- small item stocking stuffers

Please place donations in the Peace and Justice Kiosk in the Gathering Space of the church. *It is requested that donations be in by December 2nd* so the Christmas stockings can be handed out to those who visit the Schuh Center during the month of December. Thank you in advance for your donations and thoughtfulness in reaching out to others during this Holiday Season.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD A SUCCESS

This year the parish, school students, CFP students and the preschool were able to donate roughly 880 Operation Christmas Child boxes to be delivered to those children who may live in some of the most remote areas of our world. What a beautiful way to share the love of Christ with our fellow brothers and sisters! Thank you to all of those who volunteered to help with this ministry and to those who donated boxes filled with school supplies, toiletry items and fun surprises. Such a simple gesture can have life changing results. Blessings to You!

SCHUH CENTER NEEDS



Food Donations! For those who are struggling financially, purchasing food needed can be very stressful. Many depend upon pantries for food items to get through.

Immediate needs at the Schuh Center are:

- Canned Beef Stew
- Stove Top Stuffing
- Gravy - Canned or Jar
- Manwich

The Schuh Center would love to have any extra Halloween candy - it will be used to put in our Christmas stockings to be handed out to our families in need.



Our Parish COMMUNITY

November 27, 2016

First Sunday of Advent (A)

Is 2:1-5

Rom 13:11-14

Mt 24:37-44

Piece: *Sleeping Servant*
Artist unknown; 1st century AD
Location: Vatican, Santa Rosa



Welcome!

My name is Fr. Mark Haydu, LC, and I am happy to accompany you at Mass over the next three liturgical years. I grew up in Akron, Ohio, and was ordained in 2007 as a priest of the Legionaries of Christ.

As head of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums in Rome, I travel frequently to the United States to promote the collection. Sacred art has always been an essential element of prayer and liturgy, so it is a fitting enhancement to our Sunday celebrations.

Staying awake is a frequent and important Advent theme. Jesus mentions being awake in today's Gospel and again in Matthew 25:13 and 26:38. We are to ready ourselves to encounter him at our personal judgment and again in the Final Judgment. Like a watchman who stands over the city or a guard who protects the entry gate, we are to be vigilant, "For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."

In ancient times, it was common to have a servant posted at the door to

protect you through the night and to watch over the house in your absence. Today's sculpture, which is part of an ancient tombstone, depicts such a servant—albeit one who dozed off.

For Reflection

What can I do to prepare myself and my family for Christ's coming on Christmas, in the Eucharist, and at any other time in our lives?

Begin your Advent preparations by receiving Christ in the Eucharist, "For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed" (Romans 13:11). Jesus is not far away but very near. He enters our hearts in the form of bread and wine. Are you ready, or will he catch you by surprise?

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

"And do this because you know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed" (Romans 13:11).

PARISH STAFF

Contact: 398-3821
 Parish Office, ext 3100
 School Office, ext 3108

Fr. Robert Farrell (*Pastor*) ext 3101, farrellr@stsusanna.org

Fr. Eric Roush (*Parochial Vicar*) ext 3106, roushe@stsusanna.org

Lou Wong (*Deacon*) ext 3137, wongl@stsusanna.org

FORMATION

Jill Berning (*Early Childhood*) ext 3400, berningj@stsusanna.org

Kristen Tell (*Sacraments - 2nd & 8th Grades*) ext 3135, tellk@stsusanna.org

Susan Gravely (*DRE: RCIA & CFP*) ext 3110, gravelys@stsusanna.org

Susan Hack (*DRE School/Adult Formation*) ext 3169, hacks@stsusanna.org

Michele Carle-Bosch (*Adult Formation*) ext 3149, carleboschm@stsusanna.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

Randi Hom (*Junior High Youth*) ext 3195, homr@stsusanna.org

Judie Kuhlman (*High School Youth*) ext 3195, kuhlmanj@stsusanna.org

PEACE & JUSTICE

Mary Jo Burns (*Peace & Justice*) ext 3120, burnsmj@stsusanna.org

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Karla Eysoldt (*Hispanic Ministry*) ext 3202, keysoldt@catholiccincinnati.org

Joette Ewing (*Preschool*) ext 3131, ewingj@stsusanna.org

Megan Sheeran (*Business Manager*) ext 3121, msheeran@stsusanna.org

Kevan Hartman (*Principal*) ext 3109, hartmank@stsusanna.org

Teresa Johns (*Communications Director*) ext 3104, johnst@stsusanna.org

Doug Popp (*Facilities*) ext 3154, poppd@stsusanna.org

Guy Vanasse (*Music & Liturgy*) ext 3105, vanasseg@stsusanna.org

ORGANIZATION

CONTACT

Boosters	Mark Cravens, 770-4278
Caregiver Support Group	Sharon Kipfer, 509-3278
Festival	Parish Office, 398-3821
Finance Commission	Megan Sheeran, 398-3821
Fish Fry	Scott Kososki, 461-9098
Health & Wellness	Laura Barbetta, 847-1849
Knights of Columbus	David Meyer, 262-0287
Men's Prayer Group	Bill Bross, 518-9594
Moms Group	Katie Fortener, (248) 515-8895
Natural Family Planning	Tom & Colleen O'Rourke, 398-3116
Prayer Network	Kathy Mussman, 777-5981
PTO	Libby Groskopf, 398-9735
Risen Life	Roberta Brunck, 777-1476
School Commission	Laura Mueller, 315-7370
Schuh Center	Teresa Bolte, 779-8965
St. Vincent de Paul	John Bennett, 675-3620
Women's Association	Jean Robbins, 236-5436
Young at Heart	Dottie Linton, 754-0114

PTO 365 DAY RAFFLE WINNERS



11/13	Vrsansky Family	\$100
11/14	Schultze Family	\$40
11/15	Jen Nestle	\$40
11/16	Karen Clendenin	\$40
11/17	Pat and Larry Raiff	\$40
11/18	Tai Marrone	\$40
11/19	Bob Pearson	\$40