

St. Susanna Catholic Church

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

REFLECTING WITH THE PAROCHIAL VICAR

DECEMBER 25TH, 2016
CHRISTMAS

AWAY IN A MANGER

When I was little, my cousins and I loved playing with the Nativity set Grandma Roush kept on top of her console television. This was, of course, before you could hang 4K flat screens on the wall and TVs were only slightly smaller than your refrigerator. Regardless, the animal figurines surrounding Mary and Joseph, waiting for the Baby Jesus to appear, were too enticing for our little hands to resist. Without fail, Grandma would catch us then sit us down to explain that the Nativity set was not a toy but a reminder that Jesus was coming at Christmas.

I can't speak for my cousins, but this didn't make a whole lot of sense to me at the time. If there really was a Jesus—who I wasn't entirely sold on until later in life—then hadn't he already come? Grandma would pray to Him but how can you pray to someone who hasn't come yet? Where is Jesus, anyway?



*Away in a manger,
No crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay*

Even though I wasn't sold on Jesus, I was always drawn to Christmas carols. *Away in a Manger* was one of my favorites—along with *Silent Night* and *O Little Town of Bethlehem*—probably because, unlike with most songs, the words to these stuck with me. Plus it offered a simple answer to that deeper question I had asked myself: Where is Jesus? He was in the manger on top of Grandma's TV. Though that satisfied my childlike curiosity, such a childish answer did not suffice as I grew older. Fortunately, the last two stanzas of that same hymn complete the picture.

*Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever
And love me I pray
Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care
And take us to heaven
To live with Thee there*



Jesus, the newborn King, came 2,000 years ago in the town of Bethlehem, born in the flesh to a virgin named Mary. Jesus lived in Galilee, as the carpenter's son, taught in the synagogues with authority, healed the sick, preached the Good News of the Kingdom, and suffered terribly. Jesus our King was crucified. He had come to take our sins upon Himself. The shadow of the Cross falls on the Crib.

Yet we sing with joy every Christmas because we know that this is not the end of the story. Jesus is Risen! He is alive! By the power of the Holy Spirit—breathed through the Church that he founded on the apostles—Jesus makes known his living presence among us. Like Mary, let all disciples ponder the wonder of God's presence in our hearts, for he is there. Like the shepherds, let us share the amazing things we have seen and heard. Jesus desires to be in the hearts of all those who do not yet know Him. Do not leave the Christ-child lying in the manger. Through you the Lord Jesus wants to bless others with tender care until we all go to Heaven to live with Him there. Share with joy the good news of Christmas.

Fr. Eric Roush

MASS INTENTIONS & WEEKEND PRESIDERS

Monday, December 26

NO MASS

Tuesday, December 27

8:15am Jimmy Wessel

Wednesday, December 28

8:15am Larry Mick

Thursday, December 29

8:15am Jay Palicki

Friday, December 30

8:15am Scott Finney

Saturday, December 31

8:15am Mary Rader

5:00pm (Fr. Roush) Joe DePetro

Sunday, January 1

7:30am (Fr. Roush) Paul Plunkett

9:00am (Fr. Roush) Bob Ell

11:15am (Fr. Farrell) Rosie Steele

6:00pm (Fr. Farrell) Anna Semen

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 Sornsen
Liz Vossler
James Wernke
Rachelle Wernke
Ryan Whitaker
Jim Wykoff
Michael Zeller



PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN NEED

Maya Collins
Ron Dearth
James Edmund
Jessica Foster
Dick Gardner
Marilyn Gomez
Scott Greisl
Dianne Kunkle
Ray Meibers
Terry Mitchell
Michael Murphy
Michaela Nowakowski
Gabriel Orick
Alonso Ortiz
Diego Ortiz
Kathy Rohde
Ed Ryan
Doreen Schowalter
Marie Sueberling
Annette Uhrick
Cheri Vome
Mike Webber

IN LOVING MEMORY...

Kristen English
Wife of Jack English

Rosemary Shirk
Mother of Jim Shirk

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.

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).

STEWARDSHIP

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

Today we celebrate the feast of Christmas and hear how the shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in the manger. Then they left glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Your gifts to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul helped those who are poor and suffering to find Emmanuel and they also came to know that "God is with us."

The total for the December 18th, 2016 collection was not available by the printing of this bulletin, it will be published next week.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MAKING AN END-OF-YEAR DONATION TO ST. SUSANNA PARISH?

Thank you for your generosity throughout 2016. Your gifts of time, talent and treasure are a great blessing to the parish. If you would like to make a gift for your end-of-year contribution statement for 2016, please be reminded that:

- **Your gift needs to be received in the Parish Office or postmarked no later than December 31, 2016.** The Parish Office will be open 8:30am to 4:30pm Tuesday, December 27th through Thursday, December 29th. Donations sent through mail should be addressed to St. Susanna Church, 616 Reading Road, Mason, Ohio 45040.
- **Donations may also be remitted through the Online Giving Portal** on the home page of the website and will appear on your 2016 contribution statement if they are made by December 31, 2016.
- Perhaps you would be interested in **making a stock donation to the parish** for this year? Clear and detailed directions for the simple process are provided on the parish website. Choose the About tab, then Stewardship/Giving, followed by Endowments & Securities.



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:

- Toilet Paper
- Feminine Products
- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Mayonnaise
- Salad Dressing

DISCIPLES IN ACTION

THANK YOU FROM THE GIVING TREE TEAM

A HUGE Thank You is extended to all who volunteered and participated in the Giving Tree Ministry. From handing out fliers, making the ornaments, setting up the trees, donating the gifts, collecting the gifts and delivering the gifts to the Schuh Center, St. George Pantry and St. Joseph SVdP Conference in Adams County – each step needed volunteers to make this endeavor successful and YOU came through!!

Over 1,700 gifts were delivered from the St. Susanna Parish Community. A job well done! Again, THANK YOU for reaching out so that others may experience the love of Christ this Christmas. May you feel PEACE and HOPE during this wondrous Christmas Season! A thank you also goes out to McCluskey Chevrolet who donated the use of the "Big Truck" in the parking lot to help deliver the donations.

From Schuh Center, Teresa Bolte wrote:

On December 10th, the Schuh Center hosted Christmas Town in the school cafeteria - words cannot describe the joy that was experienced. This would not be possible without the generosity of those who supported the Giving Tree Ministry.

We were able to invite some new faces this year, especially individuals from Deerfield Commons, the retirement community for those on a fixed income. Moms and Grandmas alike told me the same thing . . . were it not for Christmas Town, there would be nothing to open on Christmas morning.

Each family received a tin/plate of homemade cookies, a Christmas stocking filled with candy, prizes, crayons and a stuffed animal, body wash and their choice of gift wrapped presents or taking the Christmas wrapping paper, of their choice, home with them, along with scotch tape, to wrap the presents themselves. We also had hats, gloves, socks, pajamas for children, and many other items to share as well.

Thank you so much to the many volunteers who were able to help set up for the event. Thank you so much for your many donations that make events like this possible. Thank you so much, God, for giving us life and the ability to love and serve others because of you.

From St. George Food Pantry, Janet Cavanaugh wrote:

It feels like "thank you" is just not enough for all the beautiful, wonderful gifts St. Susanna brought for us to distribute. The excitement just builds among our clients who look to us for some compassion as well as food and physical needs. They love coming here to receive a Christmas gift because it's given with care, first from your parishioners and then by us. Please tell your generous people how much we appreciate the gifts, all so carefully wrapped. You are the BEST.

From St. Joseph SVdP Conference in Adams County, expressed by Margo Rammel, Vincentian:

Through the generosity of the St. Susanna parishioners, many families in Adams County will have Christmas gifts to open this year. Thank you for the many, many gifts that we have been able to hand out through our SVdP Conference. Words cannot express how touched and overwhelmed we are by your bountiful donation. May you and your families experience the love of Christ this Holiday Season. Christmas Blessings to all of you.



**Ozanam Center
for Service Learning**

CONNECT ▪ ENGAGE ▪ GROW

OZANAM RETREAT

Theme: Love of God and Neighbor

Date: February 4, 2017, 8:00am to 4:00pm

Cost: \$35/person (includes lunch at Venice on Vine)

Join fellow parishioners from St. Susanna for a day-long immersion retreat with the Ozanam Center for Service Learning at St. Vincent de Paul's West End Outreach Center, 1125 Bank Street, Cincinnati, OH 45214.

This engaging retreat aims to foster spiritual growth, forge new friendships and deepen understanding of poverty and social justice issues in Cincinnati. In the spirit of Frederic Ozanam, founder of St. Vincent de Paul, participants will see struggling families not as "the poor" but as neighbors with needs and gifts to offer throughout Cincinnati and in our own backyard.



Retreatants will have an opportunity to go on home visits with Vincentians or help in the Choice Food Pantry, enjoy a meal at Venice on Vine and learn about its life changing history, and hear a speaker from Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition. It will be a day of action, reflection and discernment.

For additional information please contact:

Tom Asbury, tasbury1@cinci.rr.com, or

Mary Jo Burns, burnsmj@stsusanna.org or 398-3821 ext. 3120.

To register, visit:

WWW.STSUSANNA.ORG/OZANAM



Women's Association

ST. SUSANNA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Women of St. Susanna, please join us for a meeting of the Women's Association on *Saturday, January 14, 2017 at 9:30am* in the St. Isidore Room. Activities for the new year will be discussed including our Baptismal Bib Service Project and the Women's Day of Prayer. Your thoughts and fresh ideas are needed and your support is invaluable. Please join us. All are welcome.

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 11:45am and Mondays 6:30 to 7:45pm. 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.

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

December 25th & January 1st

No Youth Nights - Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 25th & January 1st

No Youth Nights - Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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



VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Those volunteering with children must attend a Protecting God's Children seminar provided by VIRTUS. *The next open seminar at St. Susanna Parish is Tuesday, January 10, 2017, at 9:30am.* You must register online to attend - visit www.virtus.org to register!

SCHOOL NEWS

- School will resume on Wednesday, January 4, 2017.
- Kindergarten through Grade 8 registration for next school year begins January 17th and runs until Friday, February 17th any school day between 7:00am and 3:00pm. Please bring the original Birth Certificate, a copy of Baptism record, and a copy of immunizations. If there are custody papers involved, please bring them as well. Tuition for the 2017-2018 school year has not been finalized; however, tuition will be comparable to Catholic schools in the surrounding area.
- On Sunday, January 29, 2017, Saint Susanna School will host an Open House from 1:00-3:00pm. Any parents and students, currently not enrolled at Saint Susanna School, are welcome to attend. This will be an informative day for all families interested in attending Saint Susanna School next year or in the year(s) to come. Saint Susanna School Faculty and Staff will be available to speak to any and all interested families. Please encourage your relatives, neighbors or friends to attend. Registration packets will be available at Open House. Please note that our 2nd grade has three homerooms with 26 students. Starting in 3rd grade, we increase our capacity to 28 students per homeroom, thus allowing us to enroll an additional 6 students into our 3rd grade each year.
- Thanks to all Saint Susanna Parishioners for your continued support of our Catholic Elementary School. On behalf of the entire faculty and staff at Saint Susanna School, we wish you A Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

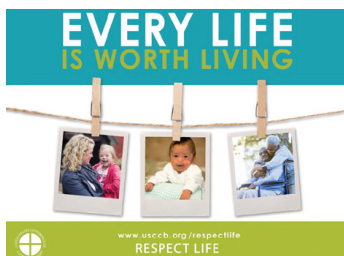


ADULT FAITH FORMATION

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Sunday, January 29th from
2pm-3pm

St. Susanna's Respect Life Ministry invites all parish members to gather for a prayer service in the church. We will pray a special rosary that celebrates the sanctity of life, which is precious from the moment of conception until natural death. Please join us to pray for the unborn, the disabled, the chronically ill, the abandoned, the elderly, the prisoners on death row - ALL life is sacred. For more information, please contact Susan Hack at hacks@stsusanna.org.



CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Our next meeting is December 28th,
from 7:00-8:30pm.

About the Network: For many family members, there comes a time when they must become the primary caretaker of an aging parent or spouse. This life-course change may be minor or become all-consuming.



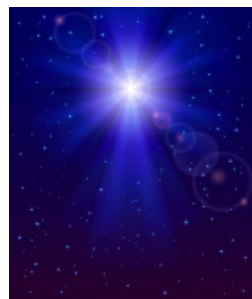
These caregivers need somewhere to turn and since 1996, the Caregiver Assistance Network has been there to help. Through our support groups, caregivers can learn how to take care of their family member and gain valuable resource information they need to care for their loved one.

Caregivers can also learn how to take care of themselves and keep from isolating themselves, burning out or falling ill. As importantly, caregivers can learn how to maintain a loving relationship with their family member.

Support groups are open to anyone. You do not need to call before, just show up! We are there to support you along your caregiving journey.

Call Sharon at 513-509-3278 with questions.

RESPECT LIFE



"What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

- John 1:3-4, NABRE © 2010 CCD.
Used with permission.



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

*Available this Winter
at St. Susanna...*

DISCOVERING CHRIST

Starting January 17th - Tuesday Mornings at 9:15am OR
Starting January 19th - Thursday Evenings at 6:30pm
Location: St. Susanna Room, Cost: \$0



Discovering Christ is a seven-week experience that invites guests to hear the Good News and personally encounter Jesus Christ. It is for anyone and everyone, from the baptized in the pews to the unbaptized person who has never entered a church. Discovering Christ helps participants enter into or renew a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, experience the love of God the Father, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as God's children. It also gives participants the relational support necessary to begin living for Christ within the parish or group that offers the course. Come and be a part of this exciting journey!

To register, visit:

WWW.STSUSANNA.ORG/DISCOVERINGCHRIST

FOLLOWING CHRIST

Starting January 9th - Monday Evenings at 6:45pm OR
Starting January 12th - Thursday Mornings at 9:15am
Location: St. Susanna Room, Cost: \$0



Following Christ is a seven-week journey that explores and encourages Catholic discipleship. This is the second in the series. Following Christ helps those who have completed Discovering Christ to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. This is accomplished through the grace of God by praying together, teaching, and supporting one another in some of the basic disciplines and truths practiced by Christians since the early Church.

****You must complete Discovering Christ prior to registering for Following Christ****

To register, visit:

WWW.STSUSANNA.ORG/FOLLOWINGCHRIST

*More opportunities on
the next pages!*

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

*Available this Winter
at St. Susanna...*

(Continued)

SCAN HERE TO VISIT THE
ADULT FORMATION SECTION
OF THE ST. SUSANNA WEBSITE!



THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Starting January 12th (10 Sessions)

Thursday Mornings at 9:15am

Location: St. Isidore Room, Cost: \$0

Facilitated by Susan Gravely. A 10-week study of John through the lens of several commentaries. Read and discuss with fellow parishioners!

To register, visit:

WWW.STSUSANNA.ORG/THEGOSPELOFJOHN

FOLLOW ME: MEETING JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Starting January 10th (8 Sessions)

Tuesday Evenings at 7:00pm

Location: St. Isidore Room, Cost: \$17

Following Christ takes more than simply believing in Him or doing what He asks of us. Jesus wants you to

be more than just a believer — He wants you to be His disciple and friend. Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John is your guide to a personal encounter with Christ. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus seeks after us. He comes to meet us and beckons us to follow Him. He calls us to be His disciples, to trust Him, to open ourselves to His merciful love, and to love others as He has loved us. Follow Me invites you to experience the joy of a renewed friendship with Christ.

To register, visit:

WWW.STSUSANNA.ORG/FOLLOWME



MOMNIPOTENT

Starting January 11th (8 Sessions)

Wednesday Mornings at 9:30am

Location: St. Susanna Room, Cost: \$25



(By Danielle Bean) Is being a mother what you thought it would be? The exhaustion, monotony, mounting unfinished projects, loss of a sense of self can

lead to disillusionment and “overwhelmedness.” Discuss real issues moms face every day and learn how to find the life God created for you to have with peace, balance & joy!

To register, visit:

WWW.STSUSANNA.ORG/MOMNIPOTENT

THE DIVORCE SURVIVAL GUIDE

Starting January 19th (12 Sessions)

Thursday Evenings at 7:00pm

Location: St. Isidore Room, Cost: \$0



This program covers topics of shock, denial, anger, grief, guilt, forgiveness, money, the courts, the kids, the ex-spouse, annulment, dating, sexuality, spirituality, remarriage or staying single, and much more! Whether you got divorced ten days ago or ten years ago, the program offers valuable insight for everyone.

To register, visit:

WWW.STSUSANNA.ORG/DIVORCESURVIVALGUIDE

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Starting January 11th (9 Sessions)

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00pm

Location: St. Susanna Room,

Cost: \$93



This seminar gives a spiritual outlook on how to handle your finances. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents Biblical practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. Millions of people have learned how to get rid of debt, manage their money, save and invest wisely, and much more!

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. This class can revolutionize your attitude and approach to money and improve your finances, personal and business relationships.

For more information, contact David Hoehn, Financial Peace Facilitator, at dhlearn@cinci.rr.com or call 513-777-8964.

To register, visit:

WWW.STSUSANNA.ORG/FPU

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

BOOK CLUB

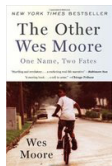
2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00am in the St. Catherine Room
Come one month or all months! Just join in for the conversation & fellowship!

January 11th: *Three Little Words* (by Ashley Rhodes-Courter)



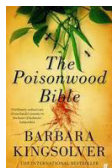
An inspiring true story of the tumultuous nine years Ashley Rhodes-Courter spent in the foster care system, and how she triumphed over painful memories and real-life horrors to ultimately find her own voice.

February 8th: *The Other Wes Moore* (by Wes Moore)



Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? Wes Moore, the author of this fascinating book, sets out to answer this profound question. In alternating narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption, *The Other Wes Moore* tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world.

March 8th: *The Poisonwood Bible* (by Barbara Kingsolver)



The Poisonwood Bible is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it—from garden seeds to Scripture—is calamitously transformed on African soil. What follows is a suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa.

For more information, visit:

WWW.STSUSANNA.ORG/BOOKCLUB



SUNDAY CAFE

Sunday Mornings after 9:00am Mass
Location: St. Susanna Room, Cost: \$0

Sunday Cafe is an opportunity to explore a variety of topics. You can attend 9:00am Mass and join Sunday Cafe or join Sunday Cafe then attend the 11:15am Mass. Coffee and light refreshments are served. All are welcome!

October 30 - December 18: *Priest, Prophet & King*

(by Bishop Barron) Discover Jesus as the Anointed One—the ultimate priest, prophet, and king foreshadowed throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. Using Biblical insights and engaging stories, Bishop Barron affirms that we see Jesus most clearly through the lens of the Old Testament.

January 8 - January 22: *The Francis Effect*

Takes an in-depth look at how the Church is changing under the leadership & vision of Pope Francis. Interviews with prominent Catholics and non-Catholics reveal that Francis is having a profound effect on the world as well.

January 29 - February 26: *The Four Faces of Jesus*

(from the book by Mark Tully) Explores Jesus as the Divine, the Jew, the Rebel & the Sage.

March 5 - April 2: *Woman at the Well and the Love of Christ*

(by Brant Pitre) Focus on the powerful story of Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the Well.

For more information, visit:

WWW.STSUSANNA.ORG/SUNDAYCAFE

SAINTS & GRUB: PADRE PIO

Saturday, January 21st at 6:30pm

Location: St. Susanna Room, Cost: Donations for Food



Based on the historical records and the personal testimony of his fellow friars, this is the amazing true story of the life of the famous stigmatic monk, St. Padre Pio, a contemporary saint who died in 1968. Blessed with incredible spiritual gifts, including healing, bi-location, reading of souls and the stigmatic wounds, Padre Pio was a powerful witness for Christ, and a great spiritual guide to countless souls for over fifty years.

Come see a movie and break bread with fellow parishioners! This event is for adults and families. Pizza will be served!

To register, visit:

WWW.STSUSANNA.ORG/SAINTSANDGRUB

Date Night

DATE NIGHT FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Friday, January 27th at 6:30pm

Location: TBD, Cost: \$35 per couple

Come strengthen your marriage by coming together to enjoy each other's company as well as meet other couples! Each Date Night will have a focus on the blessings couples are to one another and how our faith in Jesus is at the heart! The cost includes dinner and free babysitting if needed.

To register, visit:

WWW.STSUSANNA.ORG/DATENIGHT



December 25, 2016

Christmas (A)

Is 52:7–10

Heb 1:1–6

Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14

God's Family

This isn't a typical Christmas image, but stick with me! There is a renewed interest in genealogy as many seek to understand who and where they came from. These days, websites and genetic services make it easier than ever to track down our ancestry and examine our roots.

In tribal African art, one's ancestors have always been revered. In this piece from the Vatican Museums' missionary collection, we find the figure of a tribal leader, sculpted to resemble the trunk of an olive tree. The tree's veins are smaller individuals, each one united to another, representing the generations that have come before him and formed his bloodline. They are his "tree of life" that reaches back into the soil of history.

Judeo-Christian culture also values ancestors and highlights the roots of Jesus' heritage. The Messiah was to come from the line of David, which reaches back to Abraham, our father in faith. Behind each name there is a story, a family, God's action mingled with the person's hopes and failures. Each life flows and unites into one strong tree. And God watches over each and every one, preparing for the person of his Son. Today we celebrate the culmination of this plan. Jesus Christ,

our Savior, is born today!

For Reflection

Are you letting God work in you and your family so he can continue these blessings?

This protracted lineage invites us to look back and up: back on the events that have filled the tapestry of our personal and family

history and up to see that God has brought us to know him and to accept his salvation. His providence works in and through it all.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Piece: *The Tree of Life*

Artist and date unknown

Location: Vatican Ethnological Museum



*"Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.
Of her was born Jesus who is called the Messiah (Matthew 1:16)."*

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PTO 365 DAY RAFFLE WINNERS



| | | |
|-------|----------------------|-------|
| 12/11 | Pam & Pat McLaughlin | \$100 |
| 12/12 | Amir Saleh | \$40 |
| 12/13 | Melanie Noe | \$40 |
| 12/14 | Maria Nicolls | \$40 |
| 12/15 | Mary Beth Gibbons | \$40 |
| 12/16 | Sara Saleh | \$40 |
| 12/17 | Beth Kozial | \$40 |