

**Mass Intentions**  
FOR THE WEEK



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22 – VIGIL**

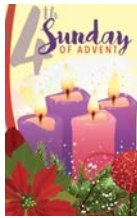
\*4:30PM - Robert M. Neal

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23 –**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

\*9:00AM - Kenneth Bisson, Jr.

11:00AM - People of the Parish



**MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 – LATE ADVENT  
WEEKDAY**

8:15AM -

4:00PM - People of the Parish

12:00AM - Priest's Intention

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25 –  
THE NATIVITY OF  
THE LORD**

9:00AM - Priest's Intention

11:00AM - Priest's Intention



**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26 – ST. STEPHEN**

7:00AM - All Souls' Day Intentions

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27 – ST. JOHN**

7:00AM - Living & Deceased Member of the  
Gadamer Family

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28 – THE HOLY  
INNOCENTS**

7:00AM - Deacon Martin Thiel

8:15AM - Mason Smerdel (Living)

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29 – ST. THOMAS  
BECKET**

8:15AM - December Birthdays

4:30PM - Father's Day Enrollment

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 – THE HOLY  
FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**

9:00AM - People of the Parish

+\*11:00AM - John Polander

+Cup Mass

\*Mass of Remembrance

*Weekly Schedule*

**Monday, December 24**

Rectory Open from 9am-1pm

**Tuesday, December 25**

Rectory Closed

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



**Wednesday, December 26**

Rectory Closed

5:00 PM

Bingo - Gym & Utopia Hall

**Thursday, December 27**

4:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Basketball Practice - Gym

7:00 PM

Cub Scouts - Utopia Hall

7:00 PM

Pro-Life Rosary - Church

**Friday, December 28**

4:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Basketball Practice - Gym

7:00 PM

Praise & Worship - Church

**Saturday, December 29**

**K of C Rosary**

Utopia Rental

**Sunday, December 30**

**K of C Rosary**

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Men's Basketball - Gym

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

CHAIRPERSON: Angela LoBue

SECRETARY: Dawn Thomas

**REGISTRATION**

Persons who live within parish boundaries should be properly registered. This includes all students in high school and college. Register with the priest after Mass. If you move out of the parish, please notify the rectory.

**BAPTISMS**

**Sunday:** 12:30 PM or during any weekend liturgy. Prior to baptism of their first child, parents are required to attend a Pre-Baptism class. Please call the rectory at 216-749-0414 to schedule an interview.

**MARRIAGES**

Should be arranged with a priest by calling the rectory 6 months prior to the wedding date. Individual conferences, plus attendance at a pre-marriage program, are required for proper preparation.

**Financial Blessings**

Collection for December 16th.....\$8,573.06  
Maintenance .....\$1,780.00  
Votives.....\$75.00

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

This fourth week of Advent leads us right into the feast of Christmas. The fourth Sunday of Advent symbolizes peace with the "Angel Candle." This reminds us of the message that the angels brought to the shepherds in the fields of "Peace on earth and Good will towards men and women." It is the Peace of our Heavenly Father that Jesus came to bring. This peace is not the same kind of peace that the world gives but a peace that is eternal.

This is what the Season of Christmas is all about; a time to reflect on the miracle of the "Word becoming man." Jesus left his Heavenly Throne in order to do the Father's will and redeem our sinful flesh. He came to bring an understanding of what salvation and love is all about. This is the message that the angels brought to the shepherds. The shepherds set out to see this miracle of which the angels sang "Glory to God in the highest and peace to people of good will."

Once they saw the child in the manger, it all made sense. They were changed forever because they saw the face of God in a newborn baby. They did not need proof that the baby lying before them was God, they just knew it. God extends this invitation to us as He did the shepherds. Would you like to see the Christ Child? He is everywhere. We can see Him in the poor and outcast. We can see Him in the sick and suffering. We can see Him in the face of children as their eyes light up with awe and wonderment as they discover something new and exciting. We can see God in the parents who hold their first born child for the first time or in the parents who watch their grown-up baby graduate from high school or get married. We can see God in the beauty of all His creation. All we have to do is look.

The shepherds were open to hearing the message of God. Our lives can get so busy that we don't always have the time or the desire to relax and listen to the voice of God. Remember, God goes to those who are willing to listen. As we enter into this Holy Season, please remember that this day is more than just cookies, decorations, presents and big dinners. This day is about God coming to earth. It is about the Son of God taking on our sinful human flesh and making us whole again. This day is about how much God loves us. Now it is our turn to show God how much we love Him in return.

May this Christmas Season not be just a day but a whole lifetime. May the peace and love of God be in your heart every day of the New Year.

Merry Christmas to all!

Peace and Goodness,

*Fr. Bill*

## **SAINT THOMAS MORE**



***Here bring your wounded hearts,  
here tell your anguish;  
Earth has no sorrow  
that Heaven cannot heal.***

"You desire that which exceeds my humble powers, but I trust in the compassion and mercy of the All-powerful God."

*St. Stephen*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Father:** O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Through Christ Thy Blessed Son, our Lord.

**All:** Amen.



## PARISH PRAYER

O God, the Creator and giver of all things, bless this parish. Strengthen our faith; grant us the spirit of sacrifice and service so that, with Your grace, we may provide for the needs of our members, glorify You and sanctify ourselves. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE MONTH - DECEMBER

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

## CHRISTMAS OPLATKI

Packages of oplatki are still available in the sacristy or at the rectory. Freewill donations will be accepted.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

PRAISE & WORSHIP NIGHT - Join us on Friday, December 28th at 7pm in the church for a night of worship and praise of Our Lord. There will be scripture, song & reflection. We will end the evening with a procession and Benediction.

## ANNUAL MEMORIAL CANDLES

In the month of November, we remembered our beloved dead. Why not remember them the whole year round? Memorial Candles for 2019 are now available. The cost is \$200 for the year, \$190 if you return your November candle or \$100 for six months. Forms are available at the rectory.



Please remember Frank Takaacs,  
John Yambor, Margaret Kompier,  
Ann Dloniak, Judith Jadrich and  
Lucy Tankersley in your prayers.  
God grant them eternal rest.



**REMEMBER**  
*in your prayers*

Antonio Musto, Florence Zunt, Ethel Whipkey, Nickola Badza, Carol Loy, Vinny Mercurio, George & Martha Kysil, Raymond Kuhar, Jessica Kuhar, Stephen Kuhar III, Alexis Simecek, Gregory Simecek, Heather Hudak, Mary Misch, John Misch, Grayson Wilmot, John Szill, Melissa Korhely, Sean Szill, Joel Gorski, Nancy Butler, Gail Michal, Ashley Meadows, Alice Gruden, Dave Meredith, James Malames, Greg Jakupcik, Bob Smith, Donald Marks, Mary Ellen Popovich, Melissa Horvath, Juliana Turner, Meg Zalar, Stephanie Ziolkowski, Jean Palumbo, Marlene Sutowski, Ida Jean Hopkins, Joy Turner, Jeremy Cheetham, Pam Turner, Ben Purcell, Margaret Babik, Jean Sunyak, Laura Sampson, Mario Mastroianni, Jr. and Christina E. Janus. Please call the rectory by noon on Monday to add a name to the list. Names will remain on the list for the month.

## Cluster Corner

**MARY QUEEN OF PEACE: 216-749-2323**

**Bingo** - Join us for Bingo on Friday evenings beginning at 6pm in the Parish Center. Doors open at 4:30.

**ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO: 440-884-3030**

**Save the Date** - Join us on Saturday, January 19th at 6pm in Corrigan Gym for the St. Charles Sports Boosters A Night at the Races. Ticket information to come. Various levels of sponsorship are available, please email Linda Boots @Boots@mgfl-law.com.

**ST. LEO THE GREAT: 216-661-1006**

**Bus Trip** - Join us for a trip to Scioto Downs on Wednesday, January 16th. Cost is \$32/person. Casino bonus: \$20 free slot play & 1/2 off at the buffet. Please call Joanne Todd at 440-526-3505 for more information or to book your trip.

## FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC DEVOTION

Every First Friday of the month we have exposition of the Eucharist from 2-7pm ending with Benediction. Call the rectory if you are able to commit to one half hour on **January 4th**.

## 2018 CHRISTMASTIDE SCHEDULE

**Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve**

4:00 PM Afternoon Vigil

11:30 PM Christmas Carols

12:00 Midnight Vigil

**Tuesday, December 25 - Christmas Day**

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

**Monday, December 31- New Year's Eve**

4:30 PM Vigil Mass

**Tuesday, January 1, 2019 – New Year's Day**

**Feast of Mary, Mother of God**

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

## CHRISTMAS RECTORY HOURS

Please note the rectory hours during the holidays:

12/25/18- Closed                      1/1/19- Closed

12/26/18- Closed                      1/2/19- Closed



## ST. THOMAS MORE SCHOOL

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent Children's Prayer:**

Jesus, you came to be light in our darkness.  
Jesus, you came to be peace in our conflicts.  
Jesus, you came to be joy in our sadness,  
And to bring your love in our fears.  
Soon we celebrate your birth.  
Thank you for your saving grace.  
Amen.

**From all of us at St. Thomas More School.....  
Merry Christmas!**

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Thank you for your generosity for our Advent Giving Tree. We collected over 400 gifts to assist dozens of families in the area including 20 students at Metro Catholic School. Your generosity helps make the season a bit more bright!

## TRAVELING MADONNA

This week the statue is at the home of **Anita Dloniak**. Please continue to pray for our host families as they share their home with our Traveling Madonna. Remember to send in any pictures that you take to the rectory.

Please call the rectory to sign-up to host the Traveling Madonna in 2019.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - ROSARY

Members of the Knights of Columbus will lead us in praying the rosary next weekend a half hour before all Masses.

## FIRST FRIDAY LUNCHEON

An inter-parish men's group will meet January 4th for a First Friday luncheon at St. Clarence Church, 30106 Lorain Road, North Olmsted. Registration begins at 11:15am, followed by the luncheon, then an inspirational talk, and concludes with Mass. Cost is \$10. Please call George Perz at 440-937-6606 by Monday, December 31st to make a reservation.

*Marriage  
& Banns*

II - Anne Marie Cappetto (St. Thomas More ) &  
Daniel Kelly

## ST. THOMAS MORE CHRISTMAS CD

Still need a last minute Christmas gift? Please consider buying a Christmas CD from the Music Ministry. Our Christmas Gift is a cd that was made by the Music Ministry in 2015 as a fundraiser for the Pipe Organ Restoration Fund. The cost is \$15 and 100% of the money goes to maintaining our church pipe organ. You can purchase them at the rectory.

## HOLY NAME SOCIETY

The winners for the December 50/50 Drawing were Barb Stanton (\$100) and Vernon Recker (\$50).

Tickets for the January 50/50 Drawing are being sold by Holy Name Members.

Thanks to all the faithful who buy tickets every month.

## *Readings* *Week* of the

### Readings for the Week of December 23, 2018:

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-18 [4]/  
Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45  
Monday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3,  
4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79  
Tuesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27,  
29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-  
25 or 1:18-25  
Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk  
2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14  
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/  
Lk 2:15-20  
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/  
Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14  
Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6  
and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22  
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/  
Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
Friday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8  
[7]/Mt 2:13-18  
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6  
[11a]/Lk 2:22-35  
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9  
-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-  
52

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## WHAT WOULD YOU ASK OUR BISHOP?

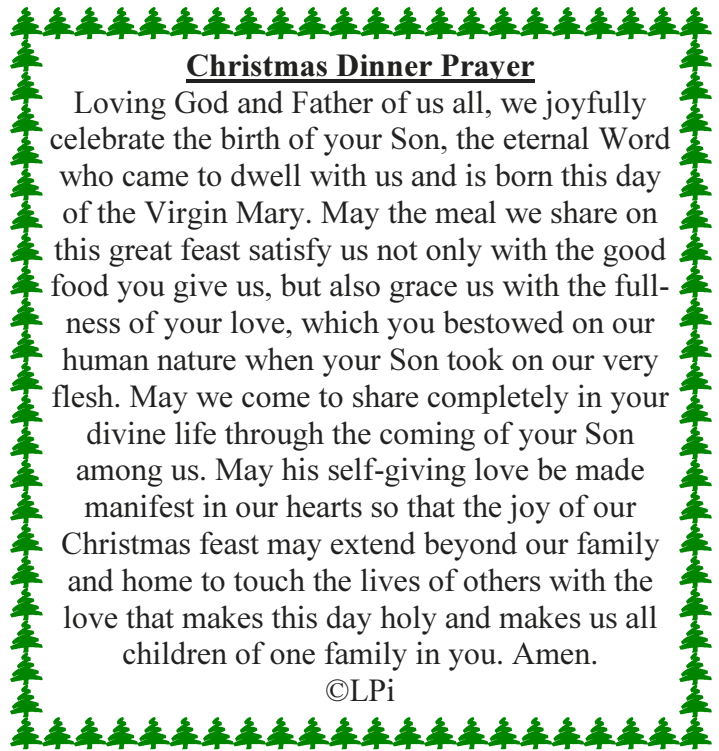
What would you ask Bishop Perez is he was sitting at your kitchen table? To be part of *Table Talk* with Bishop Nelson Perez, submit your questions to [tabletalk@am1260therock.com](mailto:tabletalk@am1260therock.com) by January 1st. The next episode of *Table Talk* on AM 1260 The Rock will air January 17th at 5pm and will be re-broadcast January 19th at 1pm and January 20th at noon. For audio archives of previous episodes, visit [www.am1260therock.com](http://www.am1260therock.com).

## VOCATION DISCERNMENT WEEKENDS

The Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne invite women (ages 19-45) who are discerning a religious vocation to join them for a weekend of sharing in their life of prayer and apostolate. The weekends will be March 8-10, July 26-28 and November 15-17 in Hawthorne, New York. Also, May 24-26 and September 20-22 in Atlanta, Georgia. Reservations are required. For information or reservations please contact: Sister Catherine Marie at 845-745-1319 or [vocationdirector@hawthorne-dominicans.org](mailto:vocationdirector@hawthorne-dominicans.org). Dare to love. Dare to serve ([www.hawthorne-dominicans.org](http://www.hawthorne-dominicans.org)).

## SELF-HELP SUPPORT GROUP/RECOVER INC.

Learn coping tools when feeling depressed, fearful, anxious or angry. St. Charles Borromeo Church Activity Center (5891 Ridge Road, Parma) on Wednesdays at 1:30pm (440-884-5169) or 7:30pm on Thursdays (440-842-0819).



**Christmas Dinner Prayer**

Loving God and Father of us all, we joyfully celebrate the birth of your Son, the eternal Word who came to dwell with us and is born this day of the Virgin Mary. May the meal we share on this great feast satisfy us not only with the good food you give us, but also grace us with the fullness of your love, which you bestowed on our human nature when your Son took on our very flesh. May we come to share completely in your divine life through the coming of your Son among us. May his self-giving love be made manifest in our hearts so that the joy of our Christmas feast may extend beyond our family and home to touch the lives of others with the love that makes this day holy and makes us all children of one family in you. Amen.

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## CATHOLIC RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Catholic Renewal Ministries will host a Charismatic Mass on Friday, January 18th at 7pm at St. Peter Parish, 35777 Center Ridge Road, North Ridgeville. Fr. Bob Franco will be the celebrant. Praise and worship will begin at 7pm and the liturgy will start at 7:30. Healing prayer teams will be available after Mass for individual prayer, and there will also be a social after Mass. For more information, please contact Fr. Franco at 440-327-2201 or CRM at 440-944-9445. Come and bring a friend! This will be a time to truly encounter the Lord.

**ALPINE EUROPE PILGRIMAGE**  
**Featuring the Passion Play of Oberammergau**  
**11 DAYS: SEPTEMBER 21 - OCTOBER 1, 2020**

HEIDELBERG • RHINE VALLEY • LUCERNE • EINSIEDELN  
 NNSBRUCK • SALZBURG • MUNICH • ROTHENBURG • FRANKFURT

co-hosted by  
**FR. BILL BOUHALL**  
 AND  
**FR. JOHN MICELI**

**\$4399 FROM CLEVELAND\***  
\*Air/land tour price is \$3929 plus \$470 gov't taxes/airline surcharges

FOR A MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
 Fr. Bouhall: Tel: (216) 749-0414 // Email: [stmore@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stmore@sbcglobal.net)  
 Fr. Miceli: Tel: (216) 226-7577 // Email: [jmiceli@stmarkcleveland.com](mailto:jmiceli@stmarkcleveland.com)

**DON'T WAIT FOR 2030!! SIGN UP TODAY!!!**

