

Blessings for a Joyous and Merry Christmas!



Saint Joseph Cathedral + 212 East Broad Street + Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 224-1295 + www.saintjosephcathedral.org

SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

212 East Broad Street + Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone (614) 224-1295 + Fax (614) 224-1176
www.saintjosephcathedral.org
www.cathedralmusic.org
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+ **Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, D.D., Ph.D.,**
Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus

+ **Most Reverend James A. Griffin, J.C.L., J.D.,**
Bishop Emeritus of Columbus

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Mrs. Carrie Boor

Wedding Coordinator; carrie.boor@gmail.com

Mr. Michael Berry

Maintenance

Mr. Phil Renico

Maintenance

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS: DECEMBER

The Elderly: That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

SCHEDULING MASS INTENTIONS

One of the greatest acts of charity is to pray for the living and the dead, and the greatest and most powerful prayer we have is the Mass since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus' redemption. Mass stipends (offerings) are \$10.00 each; only one offering per Mass. All Masses are scheduled by calling the Parish Office during regular business hours; intentions will be listed in the Sunday bulletin.

REGULAR SCHEDULE OF MASSES, LITURGIES, SACRAMENTS

Sunday Vigil Mass (Saturday) 5:15 p.m.

Sunday Masses:

8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 5:15 p.m.

Weekday Masses:

Monday through Friday: 7:30 a.m. and 12:05 p.m.; also
Wednesday evening at 5:15 p.m.

Masses on Holy Days of Obligation and on Holidays
are listed well in advance in our bulletin and on our web page.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Wednesday: 5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Thursday: 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: TWO WEEKLY HOLY HOURS

Wednesday, 5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Thursday, 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.;
closed Saturday, Sunday, and on major holidays.

NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

Welcome to Saint Joseph Cathedral! To become a registered member you can pick up a form by the main entrance of our historic church, stop by the Sacristy after Mass, visit our web site, or contact us through the parish office. Welcome!

THE SACRAMENTS

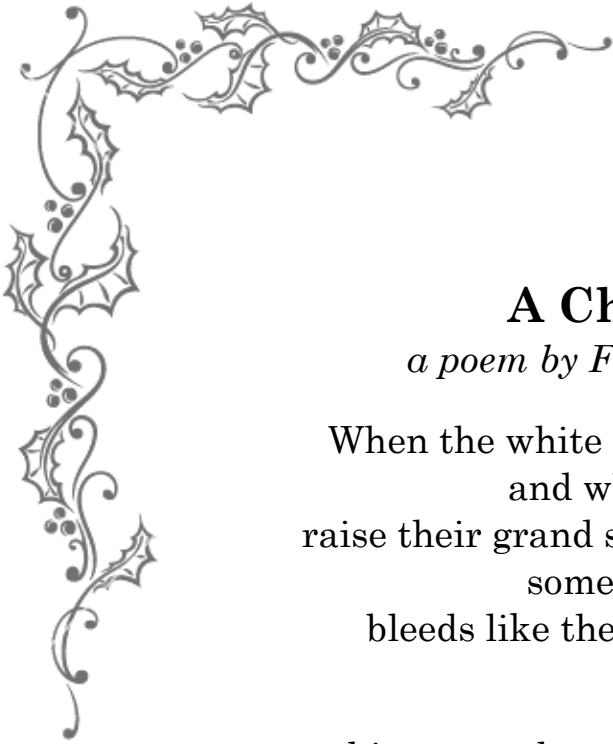
Baptism, Confession, First Communion, Confirmation, Matrimony, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders. Please read the information provided in this bulletin about all seven Sacraments available at Saint Joseph Cathedral, including contact information, necessary preparations, and scheduling.

DAILY FOOD FOR THE POOR DISTRIBUTION AT THE CATHEDRAL

To support us in feeding the poor and needy, donate via the Poor Box in the Cathedral (by the Broad Street doors) or please call the Parish Office at (614) 224-1295.

CATHEDRAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Concert schedule: visit www.cathedralmusic.org



A Christmas Card

a poem by Fr. Thomas Merton, OCSO

When the white stars talk together like sisters
and when the winter hills
raise their grand semblance in the freezing night,
somewhere one window
bleeds like the brown eye of an open force.

Hills, stars,
white stars that stand above the eastern stable.

Look down and offer Him
the dim adoring light of your belief
whose small Heart bleeds with infinite fire.

Shall not this Child
(when we shall hear the bells of His amazing voice)
conquer the winter of our hateful century?

And when His Lady Mother leans upon the crib,
lo, with what rapiers
those two loves fence and flame their brilliancy!

Here in this straw lie planned the fires
that will melt all our sufferings:
He is our Lamb, our holocaust!

And one by one the shepherds, with their snowy feet,
stamp and shake out their hats upon the stable dirt,
and one by one kneel down to look upon their Life.

From the Rector...

AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND REDEEMER, we sing “Hark! the herald angels sing, ‘Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!’ ” For it was the angels who first came to those who were humble and ready to receive and serve the newborn King – Christ the King who was born in poverty, and whose parents, Joseph and Mary, could find no room in the inn; Christ who was born in a manger made for feeding animals. God sent His Son, Jesus, to blaze the path of humbleness, love and peace in this world as the Good Shepherd and King who would lay down His life for our sake and for our salvation. Many ask, on this day in particular, why was it necessary for the Word of God to become flesh? The child Jesus, conceived Mary’s womb, the fulfillment of all God’s promises, was named “Jesus” which means “the Lord saves.” And what would Jesus save us from? Matthew’s Gospel makes this abundantly clear – “He will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). God sent His Son into the world because we needed a Savior who could reconcile us with God. Remember, it was our ancestors in the Old Testament who bore the image of God and yet disregarded God, who gave God inadequate attention, who mistreated each other, who institutionalized injustice, and who (conveniently or otherwise) misunderstood the laws and commands of God. Even though God spoke through the Prophets, our ancestors persisted in living their misguided ways. So Love and Truth personified – the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ – came into the world to save us from our all too human ways, and to follow the divine way – the light of Christ leading us and illuminating a path of salvation in a dark and sinful world. Throughout the ages Christians have professed this salvific truth in the Nicene Creed: “For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.” And so Christ, the light of the world, was among the children of God – His brothers and sisters – teaching right from wrong, teaching how to live one’s life as children of God, and as brothers and sisters in Christ, to simply reflect love of God and love of neighbor in one’s thoughts, words and actions. And yet our ancestors crucified Christ on the cross; Christ undertook this great sacrifice for our sake. Jesus, the eternal Word of Truth, Love and Light, became flesh for us so that He could offer His life as a sacrifice for the sins of the world through the shedding of His blood on the cross! The Word became flesh to show each of us the infinite love and tender mercy of God for us sinners. God raised his Son from the dead, so that we may share in His eternal life. God wants to fill our hearts with true and lasting joy as we show our gratitude for the greatest gift He could possibly give us – His beloved Son. Let us adore Him by embracing the way, the truth and the life of Christ, and “Be doers of the Word, not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22). Folks, the joy of Christmas is not just for one day or one season – it is an eternal joy experienced by those who listen to Him, humble ourselves before Him, embrace Him, and follow Him. May all of us experience this life of true joy, peace, happiness and contentment in Christ beginning today.

From all of us at Saint Joseph Cathedral...Blessings for a Merry Christmas!

- ***SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS...*** Please join me in thanking all who cleaned and decorated our Cathedral church so beautifully for Christmas, our musicians and choir for their added work and preparation, our various ministers, lectors and servers, and all who dedicated their time and God-given talents to making this Christmas a truly joyous day of celebration for you and for everyone joining us at the Cathedral.
- ***SPECIAL PRAYERS THIS CHRISTMAS...*** We sometimes forget that there are many who are away from family and friends during Christmas – our service men and women who may be stationed anywhere around the world or deployed to areas of combat and conflict; our firefighters, EMT’s and police officers who work shifts to keep us safe; hospitals cannot close simply because it is a holiday, and so doctors, nurses and hospital staffs are tending to the medical needs of patients (who also cannot be home at Christmas); there are utility crews making sure that our electricity is generated and maintained sufficiently for our Christmas decorations, natural gas workers making sure our houses are warm and stay that way, water companies make sure that this basic necessity of life is flowing, and phone companies are keeping everything in working order so that people can call and wish others a “Merry Christmas.” Hotel and restaurant staffs are working to keep visitors comfortable and fed during their Christmas visits; transportation workers keep everything moving so that we have what we need in our stores; airport, airline, rail, bus and taxi employees are always on the job, as are newspaper, television and radio staffs. There are many other people doing all kinds of work around the clock who may not be home at Christmas at the time they want, or at all. There are many people in the world separated by war and conflict, refugees who have fled war and terrorism and are striving to find the peace of Christ this Christmas – they especially need our prayers. Bottom line, for one reason or another not all family members and friends can be together at Christmas as we would like and as they certainly would like, and so we pray that wherever they are, whatever they are doing, may they enjoy the blessings that this Christmas Day – the birth of Christ – offers to each and every one of us.

~ Fr. Mike Lumpe



The History of the “Twelve Days of Christmas”

By Fr. Calvin Goodwin, FSSP; courtesy of Catholic Tradition

The song, “The Twelve Days of Christmas” is a popular Old English Christmas carol.

But did you know that from the years 1558 until 1829 Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly?

Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the Church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember. To fit the number scheme, when you reach number 9, representing the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, the originator combined 6 to make 3, taking the 6 fruits that were similar: the fruit in each parenthesis is the that was not named separately. There are actually Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

The “True Love” one hears in the song is not a smitten boy or girlfriend but Jesus Christ, because truly Love was born on Christmas Day. The partridge in the pear tree also represents Him because that bird is willing to sacrifice its life if necessary to protect its young by feigning injury to draw away predators.

According to Ann Ball in her book, *Handbook of Sacramentals*:

- The two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.
- The three French hens stood for the three theological virtues: (1) faith, (2) hope, and (3) love.
- The four calling birds were the four Gospels: (1) Matthew, (2) Mark, (3) Luke, and (4) John.
- The five golden rings represented the first five books of the Old Testament (sometimes referred to as the Pentateuch: (1) Book of Genesis, (2) Book of Exodus, (3) Book of Leviticus, (4) Book of Numbers, (5) Book of Deuteronomy), which describe man's fall into sin and the great love of God in sending a Savior.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation: (1) Light (day)/darkness (night); (2) arrangement of water; (3) dry land, vegetation; (4) sun, moon, stars; (5) fish and birds; (6) male and female, animals.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit----(1) Wisdom, (2) Understanding, (3) Counsel, (4) Fortitude, (5) Knowledge, (6) Piety, (7) Fear of the Lord.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes----Blessed are the (1) poor in spirit, (2) the meek, (3) those who mourn, (4) those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, (5) the merciful, (6) the clean of heart, (7) the peacemakers, (8) those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit----(1) love, (2) joy, (3) peace, (4) patience, (5) kindness, (6) generosity, (7) faithfulness, (8) gentleness, and (9) self-control.
- The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful Apostles: (1) Simon Peter, (2) Andrew, (3) James, (4) John, (5) Philip, (6) Bartholomew, (7) Matthew, (8) Thomas, (9) James, son of Alphaeus, (10) Simon the Zealot, (11) Judas, son of James (Luke 6:14-16). The list does not include the twelfth disciple, Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus to the religious leaders and to the Romans.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in The Apostles' Creed: (1) I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; (2) I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord; (3) I believe in Jesus Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary; (4) I believe that Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; (5) I believe that Jesus descended into hell, and on the third day that He arose again from the dead; (6) I believe that Jesus ascended into Heaven, and now sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; (7) I believe that Jesus shall come to judge the living and the dead; (8) I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of Life, who proceeds from God the Father and God the Son; (9) I believe in the Holy Catholic Church, and in the Communion of Saints; (10) I believe in the forgiveness of sins; (11) I believe in the resurrection of the dead; (12) I believe in life everlasting. Amen.



The poinsettia flowers decorating Saint Joseph Cathedral this Christmas are “in honor of” or “in memory of” the persons whose names follow. Please remember them, and their benefactors, in your prayers.

In Honor of the Trappist Monks at the
Abbey of Gethsemani and Abbey of the Genesee
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Memory of Garrett and Ruth Adema
donated by Mr. Brett Adema

Living and Deceased Members
of the Altman, Gordon and Pally Families
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Memory of Logan Anderson
donated by Mr. and Mrs. Mark DelAguaro

Living and Deceased Members
of the Balzano and Carter Families
donated by Mario and Cyndy Balzano

In Honor of
Marine Sgt. Charles Dallas Bannerman
donated by Florence Taylor Bannerman

Living and Deceased Members
of the Banuelos and Austria Family Clan
donated by JP Pacis

In Memory of Bob Beck
donated by Mr. Frank J. Ruddy

In Memory of Eta Beck
donated by Mr. Frank J. Ruddy

In Memory of Msgr. Thomas M. Bennett
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Memory of the
Bensonhaver and Morrison Families
donated by Crystal Bensonhaver

Living and Deceased Members
of the Blaser Family
donated by Richard and Shirley Lumpe

In Memory of Father Lawrence Boucher
donated by Mr. Jerome R. Milliner

In Memory of Deceased Members
of the Brower and Lindsley Families
donated by Mr. and Mrs. Carl F. Merhar

In Memory of LaVerne E. Bryant
donated by Florence Taylor Bannerman

In Memory of Robert and Rosalie Burchnell
donated by Mr. and Mrs. James M. Kenefick

In Memory of JoAnn Buttler
donated by Jack Buttler

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of the Buttler Family
donated by Jack Buttler

In Memory of Donald Joseph Butts
donated by Mary, Brian and Karen Butts

In Memory of Joseph and Marie Butts
donated by Mary, Brian and Karen Butts

In Memory of Robert Anthony Butts
donated by Mary, Brian and Karen Butts

In Honor of Bishop Frederick Campbell
donated by Mr. Brett Adema

Living and Deceased Members
of the Coffman, Lang and First Families
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Memory of the Cavanaugh, Durant,
Wade and Wilson Families
donated by James and Cora Wade

Living and Deceased Members
of the Chico and Bayang Family Clan
donated by JP Pacis

In Memory of Mr. Douglas Childers
donated by Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Wagner

In Honor of Bishop James A. Griffin
donated by Dr. and Mrs. Stafford

In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Childers
donated by Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Wagner

Living and Deceased Members of the
Christ the King School Class of 1974
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

Living and Deceased Members
of the Corrova Family
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Memory of David B. Crowner
donated by Dale S. Keels

In Memory of William and Helen Davis
donated by the Krisiewicz Family

In Honor of the Staff at Dee Printing
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Memory of Albert and Margaret F. Dolder
donated by William P. Dolder

In Memory of Dr. Frank Dono
donated by Mrs. Marilyn Dono

Living and Deceased Members
of the Enke Family
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Honor of all First Responders
donated by Greg Savoldi

In Memory of Mr. Douglas H. Fischer
donated by Mr. and Mrs. John A. Nadalin

- In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert H. Fischer
donated by Mr. and Mrs. John A. Nadalin
- In Honor of Richard Fitzgerald,
Nicole Simental and Robert Wisniewski
donated by Andrew Wisniewski
- In Memory of Serapia M. Quiterio Foronda
donated by Gloria M. Foronda
- In Honor of Jessica Lynne Friday
donated by Mr. and Mrs. J. Mark Friday
- In Memory of Harold and Betty Gall
donated by Mr. Thomas Gall
- In Memory of T. Reilly Gall
donated by Mr. Thomas Gall
- In Memory of Msgr. F. Thomas Gallen
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe
- Living and Deceased Members
of the Gamboa and Garcia Families
donated by Beatriz Garcia and Pablo Gamboa
- Living and Deceased Members
of the Garavaglia and Mudd Families
donated by Eileen Mudd-Garavaglia
- In Memory of Blanca and Tony Garzon
donated by Mary Tobin
- In Memory of Charles Gaskill
donated by Edward E. Hueckel
- In Memory of the Deceased Members
of the Gibney Family
donated by Paul Gibney
- In Memory of Betty and GG Gille
donated by Drew and Kristen Jack
- In Memory of the Gillilan Family
donated by Joseph T. Gillilan
- In Memory of Edward J. Gorski
donated by Rev. Mr. and Mrs. James J. Gorski
- In Memory of James Scott Grace
donated by Nicholas Zalimeni
- In Memory of Olav and Gudrun Grime
donated by Mr. and Mrs. J. Mark Friday
- In Memory of Thomas Handy
donated by Miss Buffy Jansak
- In Memory of Msgr. James P. Hanley
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe
- In Memory of Mr. James A. Hecht, Organist
donated by Anonymous
- In Memory of Donald, Marge and Clara Henry
donated by Mr. Brett Adema
- In Memory of Paul and Esther Herold
donated by Mr. and Mrs. James M. Kenefick
- In Memory of the Hilinski and Kroskie Families
donated by Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Kroskie
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donated by William P. Dolder
- In Honor of Father Michael Hinterschied
donated by Steve Peishel
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donated by Drew and Kristen Jack
- In Memory of Pam Hollister
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe
- In Memory of Donald and Lena Horton
donated by Margaret K. Horton
- In Memory of Michael Hudson
donated by Bobbie Meyers
- In Memory of
Edward J. and Margaret R. Hueckel
donated by Edward E. Hueckel
- In Memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Obert H. Hundley, Sr.
donated by Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Wagner
- In Memory of Billy and Kathie Hypes
donated by Bobbie Meyers
- Living and Deceased Members of the
Iannarino, Lombardo, Passero,
Mangia, Faiella and Mascari Families
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe
- In Memory of the Deceased Employees
of the Illuminating Company
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe
- In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Inbusch
donated by Ted Inbusch
- In Memory of Mr. Steve Inbusch
donated by Ted Inbusch
- In Memory of Bunny and Art Jack
donated by Drew and Kristen Jack
- In Honor of the James Cancer Center and
Martha Morehouse Oncology and Medical Staffs
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe
- In Memory of the
Deceased Members of the Johnston Family
donated by Deacon Tom and Mary Alice Johnston
- In Honor of the
Living Members of the Johnston Family
donated by Deacon Tom and Mary Alice Johnston
- In Memory of Charles J. and Thomas Jones
donated by Mr. Jerome R. Milliner
- In Memory of Princess Jones
donated by Jerome R. Milliner
- Living and Deceased Members
of the Karshner Family
donated by Mr. and Mrs. William Stover

In Memory of Sophie and Socrates Katerakis
donated by Drew and Kristen Jack

In Memory of May Keane
donated by Patrick N. Mulroy

In Memory of Lauren Marie Kehl
donated by Patricia Kennedy Kehl

In Memory of the Deceased Members
of the Kenefick Family
donated by Mr. and Mrs. James M. Kenefick

In Memory of John Kennedy
donated by Patricia Kennedy Kehl

In Memory of Mary Kennedy
donated by Patricia Kennedy Kehl

In Memory of Dr. and Mrs. Patrick J. Kennedy
donated by Patricia Kennedy Kehl

In Memory of Sue King
donated by Ralph Antolino

In Memory of Andrew Paul Krisiewicz
donated by the Krisiewicz Family

In Memory of Carolyn Kumler
donated by David Simmons

In Memory of John and Dolly Kundrat
donated by Rev. Mr. and Mrs. James J. Gorski

In Memory of Russ Lair
donated by Mr. Brett Adema

In Honor of Msgr. Frank Lane
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Memory of Melissa Lane and Melva Wood
donated by Bobbie Meyers

In Memory of Fran Lavender
donated by Patricia Kennedy Kehl

In Memory of Deacon Jack Layton
donated by Greg Savoldi

Living and Deceased Members
of the Licate Family
donated by Jack Buttler

In Memory of the deceased members of the
Lones, Funk, and Vanderburg Families
donated by Karen Lones

In Honor of Father Michael Lumpe
donated by Dr. and Mrs. Steven Bradley

In Memory of the Deceased Members
of the Lumpe Family
donated by Richard and Shirley Lumpe

John and Lisa Lumpe and Family
donated by Richard and Shirley Lumpe

In Memory of Fr. William D. Lynn, S.J.
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

Living and Deceased Members
of the Mackessy and Day Families
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

Living and Deceased Members
of the MacKinnon and McGovern Families
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Memory of Vilmas and Edith Majtenyi
donated by Mr. and Mrs. Steven I Majtenyi

In Memory of Paulis and Alice Martin
donated by Mary, Brian and Karen Butts

In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Donald McBride
donated by Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Wagner

Living and Deceased Members of the
McClaskey and Sollars Families
donated by Judith and Robert McClaskey

In Memory of the
Deceased Members of the Mercer Family
donated by Deacon Tom and Mary Alice Johnston

In Honor of the
Living Members of the Mercer Family
donated by Deacon Tom and Mary Alice Johnston

Living and Deceased Members
of the Mentel and Rotolo Families
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Memory of the Deceased Members
of the Merhar and Greco Families
donated by Mr. and Mrs. Carl F. Merhar

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donated by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Boor

In Memory of Donna Huffman Miller
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donated by Kathy Martensen

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In Memory of Joseph R. Muir
donated by Edward E. Hueckel

In Memory of Mary Barrow Mulroy
donated by Patrick N. Mulroy

In Memory of Tommy Mulroy
donated by Patrick N. Mulroy

In Memory of Ellen J. Nadalin
donated by Mr. and Mrs. John A. Nadalin

Deceased Employees of Nationwide Insurance
donated by Karen Lones

In Memory of James Neymyer
donated by Edward E. Hueckel

In Honor of Niangoran Family
donated by Mr. and Mrs. Elvis Niangoran

In Memory of Grace Oddi
donated by Mr. Frank J. Ruddy

In Memory of Jess Oddi
donated by Mr. Frank J. Ruddy

In Memory of George Orosz
donated by Noelle Quigley

In Honor of the Franciscan Friars at
Our Lady of Consolation Shrine and Basilica
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

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donated by JP Pacis

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donated by Patricia Kennedy Kehl

In Honor of the Parish and Clergy
donated by Helen Leppla

In Memory of Joan Paules
donated by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Boor

In Memory of Erszie Paull
donated by Noelle Quigley

In Memory of Ralph and Bessie Perry
donated by Miss Patricia A Perry

In Memory of Janice Pfundheller
donated by the Krisiewicz Family

In Memory of Celia Pilcher
donated by Bobbie Meyers

In Memory of Robert and Kathryn Pilcher
donated by Bobbie Meyers

Living and Deceased Members
of the Plank, Kelley and Wirthman Families
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Honor of Police Officers,
Firefighters and All Military
donated by Mario and Cyndy Balzano

In Honor of Police Officers, Firefighters,
and all First Responders
donated by Karen Lones

Living and Deceased Members
of the Polletta and Thomey Families
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Honor of the Priests of the Cathedral
donated by Richard and Shirley Lumpe

Living and Deceased Priests, Deacons
and Religious in the Diocese of Columbus
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

Living and Deceased Members
of the Recchie and Darbee Families
donated by Nancy Recchie

In Memory of Daniel T. Regan
donated by Patricia Kennedy Kehl

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donated by Mr. and Mrs. Dan M. Reichard

In Memory of Garland and Ruby Remondet
donated by Miss Patricia A Perry

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donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Memory of Kathleen and Lee Richards
donated by the Krisiewicz Family

In Memory of Helena Romanuik
donated by Mrs. Ursula Barash

In Memory of Msgr. James L.T. Ruef
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Memory of Nanny and Pop Russell
donated by Mr. Edward J. Russell

Living and Deceased Members
of the Ryan and Ptacin Families
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

Living and Deceased Members of the
Saint Charles Preparatory School Class of 1978
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Honor of Saint Joseph Cathedral Choir
donated by Florence Taylor Bannerman

In Honor of Saint Joseph Cathedral
donated by Mr. Brett Adema

In Honor of the Saint Joseph Cathedral
Clergy, Staff, Volunteers, Ministers,
Parishioners, Choir Members,
Musicians, and Seminarians
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

Living and Deceased Members
of the Sanchez and Mejias Families
donated by Pablo Sanchez

Living and Deceased Members
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donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Memory of Alice and John Schafer
donated by the Krisiewicz Family

In Memory of Ryan Schafer
donated by the Krisiewicz Family

In Memory of Fr. Ronald Schmelzer
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Memory of Fr. Harold Schneider
donated by Fr. Michael Lumpe

In Memory of Msgr. Robert E. Schneider
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Barry and Mary Jo Schreiber and Family
donated by Richard and Shirley Lumpe

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Christmas Season

Making our Hearts a Crib

By Fr. Roger Landry

St. John Vianney always loved the major feasts of our faith, but Christmas in particular filled him with extraordinary joy. In the tiny baby Jesus lying in the manger; the Curé of Ars saw enfolded the amazing extent of God's love and the central lines of his plan to save us. St. John Vianney's amazement at God's presence with us in the world, however, didn't stop there. It grew in three successive stages, corresponding to what he viewed as three different stages of God's humility: first, in the Lord's sharing our human nature; second, in his coming into our world as a little baby; and third, in his being born in abject poverty.

More than becoming man or entering our world as an infant, St. John Vianney was most stupefied at the Lord's mercy in being born in indigence. "Stable, crib, swaddling clothes represent the greatest poverty," he said, "the poverty of dwelling, the poverty of the way of living. The kings and emperors of this world are born in palaces" and yet the Son of God was born in one of the most impoverished manners available. That provoked the patron saint of priests to ask, "Why did he choose poverty?" The answer, he discovered in prayer, was so that Jesus could be even closer to us.

"Poverty is our very existence. How poor and helpless is even the rich man," Vianney preached. "Therefore the Savior wanted to be nearer to the poor man; that is why he appeared upon this earth in the utmost poverty." He used another great image to show us why. "When Cyrus had vanquished the Persians by the sword he possessed dominion over them, but when he wished to win the hearts of the Persians, he clothed himself as a Persian. That is how our Savior wished to win our hearts. He took upon Himself our weakness, our lowliness, our poverty, so as to approach us as nearly as possible as a poor child."

The "great sermon" that Jesus preached in the poor stable and proclaimed from the poor crib was, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). Jesus' voluntary embracing of poverty inaugurates that new kingdom. "Through Him, the Son of God, poverty is no longer despicable, no longer shameful, no longer mean; through Him is poverty ennobled, exalted and sanctified." The poor, coming to kneel at the crib, find the "only thing" that can bring them happiness in their poverty: Christ himself, the Savior, born poor like them. The rich, coming to that same crib, recognize that possessions and money cannot redeem them or make them free; only Christ can.

That's why St. John Vianney encouraged all his listeners to make their hearts into a poor crib so that "we may have a dwelling that we can offer to the divine Savior. He seeks and desires a dwelling of poverty, so that he may return into our hearts." That's the humble path by which the divine Savior will "take possession of us" and fill our hearts with "that message of joy and peace to men of good will upon the earth."

St. John Vianney's heart was always a crib poor in spirit that solicited and treasured the presence of the King of Kings. This Christmas he doubtless intercedes from heaven so that the earthen vessels of our hearts might become just as enriched.

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