Diocese of Columbus

The Roman Catholic Parish of Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross Church "Growing the Catholic Faith in the Heart of Columbus"



SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

THE MOTHER CHURCH OF THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS 212 East Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 Phone: (614) 224-1295 Fax: (614) 224-1176 www.sjchcc.org www.cathedralmusic.org

ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL AND HOLY CROSS OFFICE HOURS OFFICE IS LOCATED AT THE CATHEDRAL Monday-Thursday – 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Friday – 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Closed Saturday, Sunday & major holidays

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS Tuesday & Thursday – 10:45-11 :45 a.m. Sunday – 9:15-10:00 a.m.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT WITH CONFESSIONS Wednesday: 5:00-6:00 p.m.

CATHEDRAL LITURGY SCHEDULE Sunday – 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 5:15 p.m. Monday-Friday – 12:05 p.m.

Masses on Holy Days of Obligation and Holidays: Will be listed in the bulletin, as they occur

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

THE FIRST CATHOLIC CHURCH IN COLUMBUS 204 South Fifth Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 www.sjchcc.org

LITURGY SCHEDULE: Sunday – 9:00 a.m. Saturday – 11:30 a.m. followed by Adoration and Confessions

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT • DECEMBER 10, 2023

SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS CHURCH

 + Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes Bishop of Columbus
+ Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell Bishop Emeritus of Columbus
+ Most Reverend James A. Griffin Bishop Emeritus of Columbus

Priests

Reverend JCP Sullivan Cathedral Rector **Reverend Michael Hinterschied** Parochial Vicar

HOLY CROSS/CATHEDRAL STAFF Mr. Michael P. Agriesti

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Mr. Michael Pirik

Operations – Holy Cross/St. Joseph Cathedral; mpirik@columbuscatholic.org

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. Contact Cathedral Office, 614-224-1295.

MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION OF POPE FRANCIS: DECEMBER For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 10 Holy Cross Church: 9:00 a.m. Souls of Patrick & John Tuttle

Cathedral:

10:30 a.m.	The People of St. Joseph Cathedral and
	Holy Cross Church
12:30 p.m.	Soul of Katherine Vanderburg
5:15 p.m.	Living & Deceased Members of the
	Lones Family

<u>Cathedral:</u>

Monday, December 11 12:05 p.m. Living & Deceased of the Cullinan Family

Tuesday, December 12 12:05 p.m. Soul of Daniel Saksa

Wednesday, December 13 12:05 p.m. The Intention of the Priest

Thursday, December 14 12:05 p.m. Soul of L. Boucher

Friday, December 15 12:05 p.m. Soul of Jose T. Piscoya

Holy Cross:

Saturday, December 16

11:30 a.m. Living and Deceased Members of the Cullinan Family

WEEKLY READINGS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 ~ Second Sunday of Advent Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8 MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 ~ Saint Damasus I Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26 Tuesday, December 12 ~ Our Lady of Guadalupe Zechariah 2:14-17; Luke 1:26-38 Wednesday, December 13 ~ Saint Lucy Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30 Thursday, December 14 ~ Saint John of the Cross Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15 Friday, December 15 Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 Saturday, December 16 Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

THIS SUNDAY'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ DECEMBER 10				
	9:00 a.m. HCC	10:30 a.m. SJC	12:30 p.m. SJC	5:15 p.m. SJC
Altar Servers	John Feher	Lisa Emrich	Laura Battocletti	Nate Foley
		Bonnie Maupin	Zachary Smith	Trevor Foley
		Fritz Harding	Antonio Tomasi	
		Russ Howard		
Lector – One	Terry Creedon	Sharon Reichard	Donna Lent	Linda Ruth
Lector – Two		Josie Gonot	Lynne Broussard	Ed Huckel
Eucharistic Minister	Claire Miller	Steve Brechter	Bobbie Meyers	
Lead Hospitality	Ann Seren	Steve Horner	David Battocletti	Gordian Igwilo
Hospitality/Ushers	Larry Wagner	Evelina Horner	Kathleen Tourgeman	Robert Schoenfeld
	Peter Garrett	Pam Jurgens	Marilyn Tomasi	JP Pacis
	Cathryn Geppert	Sandy Stover	Lisa /Kevin Ernst	

OUTREACH TO HELPING THE HOMELESS AND NEEDY IN DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS

Twice-Daily Food Distribution at Saint Joseph Cathedral ~ (614) 224-1295

Saint Lawrence Haven, on the grounds of Holy Cross Church ~ Heather Swiger at hswiger@columbuscatholic.org Joint Office for Inner-city Needs (J.O.I.N.) ~ (614) 241-2530

SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL MUSIC

Cathedral Concert Series ~ Lessons and Carols on December 10 at 3:00 p.m. **Office of Compline** ~ 9:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of the Month. The next one is January 7, 2024

OFFICES, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

For Diocesan Offices, please call (614) 228-2457 during regular business hours or visit www.columbuscatholic.org.

LOW-GLUTEN* HOSTS will be served at **All Masses.** Worshippers can receive low-gluten Holy Communion from the center aisle (please identify yourself to the Celebrant.) *Contains less than 0.01% gluten content and meets the standard set by the Holy See and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION For Holy Cross & The Cathedral

Welcome to Saint Joseph Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Diocese of Columbus! We are glad that you are here and invite you to become part of our parish family to be nourished by both Word and Sacrament, and also to become involved in one or more of our parish ministries. To become a registered member, you can pick up a form by the main entrance of our historic church, visit our website, or contact us through the Parish Office. Welcome!

ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

Please Keep These Parishioners in Your Prayers

Tim Acton, John Ankrom, Ed Chong, Barbara Cicua, Christopher Clark, Dorothy Deems, Sherri Dembinski, Larry Edwards, Edith Ingram, Dr. Lianna Goetz, Brittany Grinder, Kim Haring, Ruth Harper, Chris and Anna Katanyuta, Denise Lager, Arthur Maupin, Mary McNellis, Teresa Mallon, Colleen Olson, Kathy Perkins, Marie Naseman, Maria Paras, Linda Pauley, The Pemberton Family, Maribeth Riepenhoff, John Ryan, Susan Bateman Severs, David Simmons, Sarah Stollenwerk, Sandra Valencia, and Dora Zweydorff HOLY CROSS CHURCH + PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our homebound parishioners, and those who are ill: Theresa Elliott,

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (Holy Cross & Cathedral)

Please contact Carol at the Cathedral, 614-224-1295

Peter Garrett's Mother and James Worley.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY (Holy Cross & Cathedral)

Please email Mandy at weddings@saintjosephcathedral.org

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK (Holy Cross & Cathedral)

Those wishing Holy Communion in the Home due to illness, confinement or visits to the hospital or nursing center, please call 614-224-1295.

FUNERAL MINISTRY (Holy Cross & Cathedral)

For parishioners who have died, the family should contact the rector at St. Joseph Cathedral at (614) 224-1295 before meeting with the funeral director.



Dear Friends,

I was recently in Greccio, Italy, where Saint Francis of Assisi created the first living Nativity scene in 1223. This Christmas will celebrate the 800th anniversary of Francis' inspiration to make the Gospel narratives of the Lord's birth literally come alive.

The accounts of the event record that Francis was inspired about two weeks before the celebration of Christmas to invite the local town's people to participate in the unique event.

On Christmas Eve, everything was prepared in a cave for Mass and the Nativity scene just outside the little village of Greccio. The inhabitants came dressed as the people of Bethlehem, with shepherds and innkeeper, children and angels. The families made sure to bring the live animals from their barns and fields, especially the ox and ass, to keep the little baby warm. A small statue of the infant Jesus was placed in a stone manger as the Mass of Christmas began. Saint Francis, who was an ordained deacon, chanted the Gospel of the Nativity, movingly preached about the joy of God coming to earth and taking our human nature unto Himself. Francis' words were so powerful that it seemed as if the

small statue of Jesus, laying in the stone manger, actually came to life.

I would like the Cathedral to have a beautiful Nativity scene that would commemorate, for generations to come, the miracle of Jesus' Nativity in Bethlehem. It seems that this 800th anniversary year of the first creche in Greccio, would be a good time to start. I have inquired at a religious goods store in Rome that specializes in sacred statuary to acquire Nativity figures for the Cathedral. Each figure is carved wood, from northern Italy, painted in oils with full color, and are based on a 47- inch (120 cm) scale. If we act quicky, it may be possible to have statues of the Holy Family and a few sheep in time for Christmas. We would certainly want to add the angel, the ox and ass, shepherds, the wise men, and other figures in time.

The set comprises: Holy Family (3-piece set) @ \$10,700 Sheep (2 models) @ \$1,650 each Gloria Angel @ \$4,700 Ox and Ass (2-piece set) @ \$9,500 Shepherd (3 models) @ \$4,700 each Three Kings (3-piece set) @ \$16,500 Camel @ \$7,500

These prices do not include shipping or possible customs tax on each item. That will be determined when we are able to confirm our order. Please contact me if you are interested in donating figures to the Cathedral.

Thank you for considering such an important gift celebrating the Word made Flesh. Peace and blessing, Father Sullivan



Honor Your Family Members, Friends and Loved Ones this Christmas with Poinsettia Flowers...

Each year the Saint Joseph Cathedral Parish Church is decorated so beautifully for Christmas ~ appropriately so to celebrate the Birth of our Lord, Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

If you would like to have one or more poinsettias placed in the Church "in honor of" or "in memory of" a family member, friend or loved one, please fill out the form below and return it to the parish office **BEFORE NOON on MONDAY, DECEMBER 11th** with a check for \$10.00 made payable to Saint Joseph Cathedral. Poinsettias are \$10.00 for each listing, and will be included in the special Cathedral's bulletin for December 26 (bulletin listing space is limited; editing may be necessary).

Examples. Living and Deceased Members of the Smith and Jones Families In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Smith In Honor of Columbus Police Officers and Firefighters

Thank you for helping to adom our Cathedral Church in this special way, and for remembering those special persons during this joyous time of the year.

PLEASE P	RINT ~ ATTACH CHECK PAYABLE TO SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL
YOUR NAME	PHONE
NUMBER OF FLOWERS	x \$10.00 each: TOTAL AMOUNT \$
IN HONOR OF	
IN MEMORY OF	



During Advent join St. Joseph Cathedral for:

December 10th at 3:00 p.m.- Lessons and Carols - The Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Brass mark the season with their annual presentation of Lessons and Carols. The afternoon will include seasonal choral works as well as familiar carols sung by all.

> December 17, Third Sunday of Advent, Blessing of Straw for the Crib Mass times are 10:30 am, 12:30 pm and 5:15 pm Masses.

Sunday, December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass times are 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. Mass & 6:30 p.m. Mass 11:00 p.m. Cathedral Choir Concert 12:00 Midnight Mass

> December 25 Christmas Day Mass time is 10:00 a.m.

Holy Cross Church

Sunday, December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass time is 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve Mass time is 4:00 p.m.

> Monday, December 25 Mass time is 10:00 a.m.

Advent's Promise of Peace and Forgiveness CARI DONALDSON



"When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves"

-Genesis 3:6-7

The story of the Fall is familiar to all of us: disobedience, blame, exile, death. But before the angel bars our first parents from returning to Eden, before they are sentenced to a life of toil and sweat, let us consider for a moment the full impact of Adam and Eve first recognizing their nakedness before one another.

It was not solely modesty that propelled the couple to clothe themselves with fig leaves. It was equally a sudden, terrible understanding of their vulnerability — the realization that each had the power to take advantage and wound the other. The fig leaves, as flimsy as they were, served as armor as much as clothing.

And so, there in the Garden, with the taste of forbidden fruit still on their lips, Adam and Eve are introduced not only to relationships based on power ("your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you" – Gen 3:16), but also to the inevitable war and strife that follows such a structuring of human interactions.

Yet all was not lost. The Protoevangelium promised a Savior, and thousands of years later, He came. His birth was lauded by angelic beings, who promised that both peace on Earth and goodwill to men would be possible through this tiny baby swaddled in a manger. Prince of Peace, He would be known. His people would be commanded to make straight the paths for Him, to work to align roads that had been made twisted by sin and war and strife.

This second Sunday of Advent, we are exhorted: "Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; *put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God"* -Baruch 5:1-2 Justice and peace shall kiss, the Psalm promises us. And in this second week of Advent, our attention is directed to ways this will happen. God will call all His children to Him, call us from all the corners of the earth. Ways formerly twisted and hard will be made straight and easy. We will be like people dreaming- our mouths will be filled with laughter, and our tongues rejoicing. But what does this look like in our modern world? What does it look like when war and strife cease, ushering in peace, but with justice is also satisfied?

For a contemporary answer, we need to first look back 128 years ago, to a <u>frozen creek bed in South Dakota</u> called Wounded Knee. There, members of the U.S. Calvary disarmed hundreds of Lakota who had been rounded up and brought to the site. The situation quickly spiraled into chaos and death, as perceived resistance on the part of the Lakota resulted in the Calvary opening fire and ultimately killing more than 200 unarmed men, women, and children.

While the 1990 centennial of the massacre was marked by both houses of the US Congress passing a resolution marking "deep regret" over the events, the union of peace and justice seemed far off. How do progeny of such violence, both victim and victimizer, fulfill the prayer of Paul in this week's readings, that we all be:

"pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness" –Phil 1:10

Enter Basil <u>Brave Heart, a Lakota Catholic, and Brad Upton, the great- great- grandson of the man who led the soldiers in the assault on the people at Wounded Knee</u>. Upton first became aware of his ancestor's actions as a child, when a relative showed him pictures of the corpses of slain Lakota, images that seared themselves into Upton's heart. He wondered if such sins of violence may have echoed down through the generations, and been partially responsible for tragedies suffered by people in his family tree.

Through the straightening of very crooked paths, God made it possible for Upton to meet up with Basil Brave Heart, whose own people had suffered at Wounded Knee. Brave Heart had been raised by his grandmother to reject resentment against those who had committed that violence, but rather to seek healing. That is where justice dwells- in the seeking of forgiveness, in healing and the forming of community. The two men met, and Brave Heart led a healing ceremony, a prayer service where justice and peace could meet in Christ.

In Upton's words, the ceremony was "completely transformative...[p]art of my prayer is to return again and again and be accountable to the Lakota Nation and heal with them." Brave Heart described the relationship as "something in sacred motion".

"Something in sacred motion". In these words, we see the true victory that is often hidden behind the Fall. Beyond the disobedience and vulnerability and sin, we see the promise of redemption. Through the lens of Salvation History, we see that God has set something in sacred motion, and that something is the healing of all wounds, if only we will set aside our fig leaf armor and humble ourselves to cooperate with Him.

Advent is the ideal time to work such healing, to allow our hearts to forgive and be forgiven, thus allowing more room for the Divine Infant to be born within us, and within our world.

By Cari Donaldson

Cari Donaldson lives on a New England farm with her high school sweetheart, their six kids, and a menagerie of animals of varying usefulness. She is the author of <u>Pope Awesome and Other Stories</u>, and has a website for her farm, <u>Ghost Fawn</u> <u>Homestead</u>.

The Star of Bethlehem: History or Mystery? DR. DONALD DEMARCO

The German philosopher, Immanuel Kant, remarked that there are two things that thoroughly fascinated him: the moral law within and the starry skies above. Ethics examines the moral law and astronomy studies the skies. Yet the knowledge gained by these two pursuits leaves much to be understood. They begin solidly planted in reason, but soon enter the domain of mystery. How does it come about that order can be inscribed in two such widely disparate areas? Perhaps it is true that God is everywhere. And yet He, Himself, remains a mystery

The most fascinating story concerning the "starry skies" is the account we find in Matthew 1 about the Magi who followed a star that led them to Bethlehem and to the new born babe, the "King of the Jews." Was this story, which has been enjoyed and celebrated for more than 2,000 Christmasses throughout the world, a historical event or is it a mystery that belongs to the world of myth? Has it been in any way corroborated by astronomers who laid their claims on the basis of pure science? And who would these astronomers be?

Friedrich Wieseler, (1811-1892), was a classical archeologist and philologist at the University of Gottingen. He appears to have discovered a reference in Chinese chronological tables that in the year 4 B. C. "a bright star appeared and was visible for quite a long time." The great astronomer, Johannes Kepler (1571-1630) calculated that around 7-6 B. C. (which is the likely time of Christ's birth), there was a conjunction of Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars. He concluded that the planetary conjunction at the time of the Nativity must have been accompanied by a supernova explosion. This is how he explained the appearance of a bright star over Bethlehem in purely astronomical terms.

The Viennese astronomer, Konradin Ferrary d'Occhieppo (1907-2017) has pointed out that Babylonian astronomers could have calculated the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn around 7-6 B. C. in the constellation of Pisces. D'Occhieppo, himself, affirmed that the star of Bethlehem was brought about by the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn. In his words, taken from *Der Stern von Bethlehem*, "Jupiter, the star of the highest Babylonian deity, entered its brightest phase when it rose in the evening alongside Saturn, the cosmic representative of the Jewish people."

The great conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in the constellation of Pisces around 7-9 B. C. is now regarded as a scientific fact. This is history and not mere mystery. The Magi were astronomers and were familiar with the Old Testament. There is good reason to believe that when they observed the dazzling display in the heavens, they had more than an inkling as to its theological meaning. The science of astronomy can go only so far. The story of the Magi, in order to be complete, must include something drawn from theology, tradition, scripture, and human psychology. At any rate, we know enough about the narrative to find the words of St. Matthew entirely credible: "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him'."

The Star of Bethlehem belongs to both history, as astronomers have attested, and to mystery, associated as it is with numerous incidents that neither science nor history can explain. We can set our star atop the Christmas tree and rejoice with the Magi that Christmas is about the birth of a King and recall the gladness the star brought to three wise men: "When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy" (Matthew 2:1).

Photo by Rodion Kutsaiev on Unsplash

Angels for Advent

FR. DWIGHT LONGENECKER

I was traveling in the Holy Land when I met an Englishwoman named Rose who could see angels. She was an ordinary housewife from Liverpool, and I met her when she scurried up to join a Mass I was celebrating at Tabgha on the shore of Lake Galilee. It was while we were having a cup of coffee afterward that Rose's friend said in a confidential whisper, "She can see angels you know..."

Always fascinated by the borderlands of both reality and sanity, I remarked that this was very interesting indeed and proceeded to quiz Rose about her angelic encounters. She cheerfully admitted that the angels were always present, and that from time to time in the most unexpected ways she was able to see them.

"What are they like?" I asked.

Her eyes glistened with emotion and excitement, "Oh, Father, they are so beautiful! I can't describe them to you. They are like beings made of light."

Rose's angelic experience matches up with St Thomas Aquinas' theory that angels are creatures of light, and some speculate that St Thomas discerned that light (or energy) was a constituent stuff of reality—making us admire modern physics for at last catching up with medieval metaphysics.

I realize that there are those who are inclined to doubt the visionaries like Rose. "Seeing angels!" we might scoff, "What next? Glimpses of the tooth fairy?" The cynic might say Rose's visions were all in her imagination. If so, I would remind them of the retort of St Joan of Arc at her trial. When the judges protested that her visions were all in her imagination she said, "Of course they are. How else would God communicate with me?"

From the Garden of Eden to the Gardens of Paradise in Revelation, the holy angels are players in the drama of salvation. They wrestle with patriarchs, appear to prophets and walk with the children of Israel to the Promised Land and through the fiery furnace. Then in the fullness of time it is the angels of Advent who herald the coming of the Son of God, born of a woman.

Messengers of the Spirit to the spirit, the Angel of the Lord appears to Zechariah to announce the birth of his son John the Baptist. Gabriel knocks on Mary's door and awaits her magnificent magnificat. The angel comes to Joseph in a dream reassuring him in marriage then warning him of the threats to the child in his charge. At the Nativity of the Lord the angels cannot restrain their glorious joy and the humble shepherds witness the night sky bursting open with their songs. The angels are also active warning the magi in a dream to return to their country by a different route and thus avoid the dangers of a murderous monarch.

The angels of Advent therefore reveal to us their role in the divine comedy. They are messengers from heaven, but they also lead the humble faithful to adore the child of God who is the child of man. In the Old Testament the angels are given the mysterious name, "The Watchers" and so their gentle help and direction to St Joseph, the shepherds and the magi reveal that they lead and watch over us as guardians and guides.

So I am intrigued and enchanted by the angels of Advent, but I am also encouraged by their presence for another reason. I think we need the angels more than ever because they remind us that our religion is not simply a matter of being nice people and making the world a better place. The problem in our utilitarian and economically efficient age is that we have no vision of the unseen world. We have no time for that which is beyond time. We have no space for that which is extra spatial and therefore extra special. So caught up in the material world we have become embarrassed by the supernatural claims of our religion. We have downplayed the power of the sacraments, poohpoohed the power of answered prayer, neglected the numinous and trashed the transcendent.

In a sincere attempt to make the Catholic faith relevant we have pulled the plug on the power of our religion and turned it into a new religion called MTD: Moralistic, Therapeutic Deism. In other words, we have come to believe that God (if he exists at all) is out there minding his own business and doesn't interfere with our world. In the meantime, Catholicism is all about trying hard to be nicer people and make the world a better place. In our efforts to do good we have forgotten that we are supposed to become Good. In our efforts to make the world a better place we have forgotten that the point of religion is to prepare us for the Best Place.

The angels of Advent pop that balloon. They remind us that there is more in heaven and earth than our philosophies have dreamt of. The angels of Advent come with a message from heaven to earth that the Son of Heaven is coming to earth, and that this very ordinary world in which we live trembles a greater reality and blazes with an unseen light.

The angels of Advent therefore help us to see with eternity eyes. They open our imagination, our mind and our heart and if we are blessed they might also open our physical eyes so that we might even get a glimpse of their reality.... like my friend Rose from Liverpool.

THIS ARTICLE IS MADE AVAILABLE COURTESY OF THE CATHOLIC EXCHANGE



"What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?" ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

"If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself. Order your soul; reduce your wants; live in charity; associate in Christian community; obey the laws; trust in Providence." +SAINT AUGUSTINE

Monday, December 11 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent Saint Damasus I, Pope

Holy Gospel: Luke 5:17-26 One day as Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there, and the power of the Lord was with him for healing. And some men brought on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed; they were trying to bring him in and set him in his presence. But not finding a way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on the stretcher through the tiles into the middle in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "As for you, your sins are forgiven." Then the scribes and Pharisees began to ask themselves, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who but God alone can forgive sins?" Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them in reply, "What are you thinking in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" – he said to the one who was paralyzed, "I say to you, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home." He stood up immediately before them, picked up what he had been lying on, and went home, glorifying God. Then astonishment seized them all and they glorified God, and, struck with awe, they said, "We have seen incredible things today."

Meditation: Jesus' treatment of sinners upset the religious teachers of the day. When the paralyzed man was brought to Jesus because of the faith of his friends, Jesus did the unthinkable. He first forgave the man his sins. The scribes regarded this as blasphemy because they understood that only God had authority to forgive sins and to unbind a man or woman from their burden of guilt. Jesus claimed an authority which only God could rightfully give. Jesus not only proved that his authority came from God, he showed the great power of God's redeeming love and mercy by healing the cripple of his physical ailment. This man had been crippled not only physically, but spiritually as well. Jesus freed him from his burden of guilt and restored his body as well. The Lord is ever ready to bring us healing of body, mind, and soul. His grace brings us freedom from the power of sin and from bondage to harmful desires and addictions. Do you allow anything to keep you from Jesus' healing power?

Prayer: Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may constantly exalt the merits of your Martyrs, whom Pope Saint Damasus so venerated and loved. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Is there anything in your life that keeps you from receiving the blessings of God's kingdom? The prophets foretold that when the Messiah came to usher in God's kingdom the blind would see, the deaf hear, and the lame walk (Isaiah 35:5-6). Jesus not only brought physical healing, but healing of mind, heart, and soul as well. Jesus came to bring us the abundant life of God's kingdom (John 10:10). But that new life and transformation can be stifled by unbelief, indifference, and sinful pride. Sin cripples us far more than any physical ailment can. Sin is the work of the kingdom of darkness and it holds us in eternal bondage. There is only one solution and that is the healing, cleansing power of Jesus' forgiveness. In this Season of Advent, as we prepare our hearts and minds, let us humble ourselves, let us be honest with ourselves, and let us conform ourselves to Christ, who was sent by God to redeem us.

About Saint Damasus: Saint Damasus was Supreme Pontiff from 366 to 384. He was a very learned man, well versed in the Scriptures. He commissioned Saint Jerome to complete the translation of the Bible into the Latin language. Shortly after his reign the 72 books of the Bible, hitherto scattered in different parts of the Orient, were collected into one volume. He defended the rights of the Holy See, and beautified

the Roman resting places of the Christian dead and of the saints. He also confirmed the practice of singing the Psalms day and night in the churches and adding a "Glory Be" at the end of each Psalm.

Tuesday, December 12 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Meditation: How does Mary respond to the word of God delivered by the angel Gabriel? She knows she is hearing something beyond human capability. It will surely take a miracle which surpasses all that God has done previously. Her question, "how shall this be, since I have no husband" is not prompted by doubt or skepticism, but by wonderment! She is a true hearer of the Word and she immediately responds with faith and trust. Mary's prompt response of "yes" to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. Mary is the "mother of God" because God becomes incarnate when he takes on flesh in her womb. When we pray the Nicene Creed we state our confession of faith in this great mystery: "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man". God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willingness, obedience, and heart-felt trust as Mary did. When God commands he also gives the help, strength, and means to respond. We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way. Do you believe in God's promises and do you yield to his grace?

Prayer: O God, Father of mercies, who placed your people under the singular protection of your Son's most holy Mother, grant that all who invoke the Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe, may seek with ever more lively faith the progress of peoples in the ways of justice and of peace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Do you know the favor of the Lord? God lavishes his grace upon all who believe in him. He shows his favor to the lowly, to those who are humble and receptive to his word. We see the unfolding of God's plan of redemption in the events leading up to the Incarnation, the birth of the Messiah. The new era of salvation begins with the conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary. This child to be born is conceived by the gracious action of the Holy Spirit upon Mary, who finds favor with God. As Eve was the mother of all humanity doomed to sin, now Mary becomes the mother of the new Adam who will father a new humanity by his grace (Romans 5:12-21). This child to be conceived in her womb is the fulfillment of all God's promises. He will be "great" and "Son of the Most High" and "King" (Luke 1:32-33), and his name shall be called "Jesus", which means "the Lord saves." "He will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). The promise of an everlasting kingdom to the house of David (Isaiah 9:6-7) is fulfilled in the King to be born in Mary's womb. Let us prepare ourselves in these weeks of Advent to come and adore him.

Web site of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse, Wisconsin including prayer intentions and Mass intentions: http://www.guadalupeshrine.org/

Wednesday, December 13 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus said to the crowds: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

Meditation: The Jewish people used the image of a yoke to express submission to God. They spoke of the yoke of the law, the yoke of the commandments, the yoke of the kingdom, the yoke of God. Jesus says his yoke is "easy." The Greek word for "easy" can also mean "well-fitting." Yokes were tailor-made to fit the oxen well. We are commanded to put on the "sweet yoke of Jesus" and to live the "heavenly way of life and happiness." Oxen were yoked two by two. Jesus invites us to be yoked with him, to unite our lives with him, our wills with his will, our heart with his heart. Jesus also says his "burden is light." There's a story of a man who once met a boy carrying a smaller crippled lad on his back. "That's a heavy load you are carrying there," exclaimed the man. "He ain't heavy; he's my brother!" responded the boy. No burden is too heavy when it's given in love and carried in love. When we yoke our lives with Jesus, he also carries our burdens with us and gives us his strength to follow in his way of love. Do you know the joy of resting in Jesus' presence and walking daily with him along the path he has for you?

Prayer: May the glorious intercession of the Virgin and Martyr Saint Lucy give us new heart, we pray, O Lord, so that we may celebrate her heavenly birthday in this present age and so behold things eternal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: In the Season of Advent we celebrate the coming of the Messianic King who ushers in the reign of God. The prophets foretold that the Messiah would establish God's kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy. Those who put their trust in God and in the coming of his kingdom receive the blessings of that kingdom - peace with God and strength for living his way of love and holiness (ref. Isaiah 40). Jesus fulfills all the Messianic hopes and promises of God's kingdom. That is why he taught his disciples to pray, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (ref. Matthew 6:10). In his kingdom sins are not only forgiven but removed, and eternal life is poured out for all its citizens. This is not a political kingdom, but a spiritual one. The yoke of Christ's kingdom, his kingly rule and way of life, liberates us from the burden of guilt and from the oppression of sin and hurtful desires. Only Jesus can lift the burden of sin and the weight of hopelessness from us. Jesus used the analogy of a yoke to explain how we can exchange the burden of sin and despair for a burden of glory and yoke of freedom from the grip of sin. The yoke which Jesus invites us to embrace is his way of grace and freedom from the power of sin. Do you trust in God's love and submit to his will for your life? If not, why not?

Thursday, December 14 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:11-15 Jesus said to the crowds: "Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent are taking it by force. All the prophets and the law prophesied up to the time of John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah, the one who is to come. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

Meditation: John the Baptist is the last and greatest of the prophets of the old covenant. He fulfilled the essential task of all the prophets: to be fingers pointing to Christ, God's Anointed Son and Messiah. John proclaimed Jesus' mission at the Jordan River when he exclaimed, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (ref. John 1:29). John saw from a distance what Jesus would accomplish through his death on the cross — our redemption from bondage to sin and death and our adoption as sons and daughters of God and citizens of the kingdom of heaven. John the Baptist bridges the Old and New Testaments. He is the last of the Old Testament prophets who point the way to the Messiah. He is the first of the New Testament witnesses and martyrs. He is the herald who prepares the way for Jesus the Messiah. Jesus confirms that John has fulfilled the promise that Elijah would return to herald the coming of the Messiah (Malachi 4:5). Jesus declares that John is nothing less that the great herald whose privilege it was to announce the coming of the Messiah. Jesus equates the coming of his kingdom with violence. John himself suffered violence for announcing that the kingdom of God was near. He was thrown into prison and then beheaded. Since John's martyrdom to the present times the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence and persecution at the hands of violent men. The blood of the martyrs throughout the ages bear witness to this fact. The martyrs witness to the truth - the truth and love of Jesus Christ who shed his blood to redeem us from slavery to sin and Satan and the fear of death. The Lord Jesus gives us the power of his Holy Spirit to overcome fear with faith, despair with hope, and every form of hatred, violence, jealousy, and prejudice with love and charity towards all — even those who seek to destroy and kill.

Prayer: O God, who gave the Priest Saint John of the Cross an outstanding dedication to perfect selfdenial and love of the Cross, grant that, by imitating him closely at all times, we may come to contemplate eternally your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

A Prayer of Saint John of the Cross: O blessed Jesus, give me stillness of soul in You. Let Your mighty calmness reign in me. Rule me, O King of gentleness, King of peace.

Contemplation: God may call some of us to be martyrs for our faith in Christ. But for most of us our call is to be dry martyrs who bear testimony to the joy and truths of the laws of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ in the midst of daily challenges, contradictions, temptations and adversities which come our way as we faithfully follow the Lord Jesus. What attracts others to those who follow the truth of God and his son, Jesus Christ? When they see Christians loving their enemies, being joyful in suffering, patient in adversity, pardoning injuries, and showing comfort and compassion to the hopeless and the helpless. Jesus tells us that we do not need to fear our adversaries. He will give us sufficient grace, strength, and wisdom to face any trial and to answer any challenge to our faith. Are you eager to witness to the joy and freedom of the gospel?

Friday, December 15 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19 Jesus said to the crowds: "To what shall I compare this generation? It is like children who sit in marketplaces and call to one another, 'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance, we sang a dirge but you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they said, 'He is possessed by a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is vindicated by her works."

Meditation: The prophets remind us that God's kingdom is open to those who are teachable and receptive to the word of God. Jesus' parable challenges us to examine whether we are selective to only hear what we want to hear. The children in Jesus' parable react with dismay because they cannot get anyone to join in their musical medley. They complain that if they play their music at weddings, no one will dance or sing; and if they play at funerals, it is the same. This refrain echoes the words of Ecclesiastes 3:4 – "there is a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance." Are you in tune with the message of the kingdom or reign of God? Jesus' message of the kingdom of God is good news and it produces true joy and spiritual freedom for those who will listen; but it is also a warning for those who refuse to listen.

Prayer: Grant that your people, we pray, almighty God, may be ever watchful for the coming of your Only Begotten Son, that, as the author of our salvation himself has taught us, we may hasten, alert and with lighted lamps, to meet him when he comes. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Why did the message of John the Baptist and the message of Jesus meet with deaf ears and with stiff resistance? It was out of jealously and spiritual blindness that the scribes and Pharisees attributed John the Baptist's austerities to the devil and they attributed Jesus' table fellowship as evidence for messianic pretense. They succeeded in frustrating God's plan for their lives because they had closed their hearts to the message of John the Baptist and now to Jesus' message. What can make us spiritually dull and slow to hear God's voice? Like the generation of Jesus time, our age is marked by indifference 'and contempt, especially in regards to the things of heaven. Indifference dulls our ears to God's voice and to the good news of the gospel. Only the humble of heart can find joy and favor in God's grace. Have you come to experience the joy of the Advent season? Do you know the joy of the Gospel? Is your life in tune with Jesus' message of hope, salvation and redemption through him? 'Tis the season to get in tune with what Christ brings to each of us!

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Daily meditations and contemplations adapted from the Irish Jesuits' *Sacred Space* web page and *Biblical Medications for Ordinary Time* by Rev. Carroll Stuhlmueller, C.P.; prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011; information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

frlumpe:2023



~ TAKING PLACE IN THE CATHEDRAL PARISH ~

THIS SUNDAY IS FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY IN THE UNDERCROFT AT 11:30 A.M.: Refreshments will be served between the 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Masses. New Parishioners are cordially invited to attend and meet other parishioners, Priests, Liturgical Ministers, Pastoral Council and visitors. Sandwiches will be made during this time that will benefit the homeless and needy through the Cathedral's "back door ministry." All are invited to help make sandwiches. Volunteers are needed to assist with coffee making and setting up for Fellowship Sundays. Please Contact Ed Hueckel at Emmett2381@yahoo.com.

CLEANING THE CHURCH IN PREPARATION OF CHRISTMAS – It's that time of year when we need a little extra help to prepare the church and make it shine. Sign up sheets are located on the table near the Broad Street entrance. Join us Monday, December 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the Undercroft for pizza, subs, and refreshments. Then up to the church to work some magic and make her shine. Please sign up, this will give us a better count on how much food to order. Thank you all for your help!

BANNS OF MARRIAGE: St. Joseph Cathedral happily announces the coming nuptials of Anne Hurst & Christopher Doubell on December 16, 2023. Please keep them in prayer as they prepare for their wedding.

DEAR PARISHIONERS,

Holiday cheer is in the air and with this cheer comes the spirit of giving. The Cathedral's Giving Tree is now up and adorned with decorations. On the back of each ornament will be a suggestion for a gift card to be purchased for a family in need. If you wish to participate in this tradition, please take an ornament from the Tree, purchase the suggested gift card, place the ornament and gift card in an envelope marked JOIN and place the envelope in the offertory basket. The gift cards will be collected each week and delivered to the Joint Organization of Inner-city Needs (JOIN) who in turn will distribute them to Columbus families in need. In the past, our parishioners have been very generous and JOIN and the Columbus families in need have been very appreciative.

CATHEDRAL CONCERT SERIES: LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. The Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Brass mark the season with their annual presentation of Lessons and Carols. The afternoon will include seasonal choral works as well as familiar carols sung by all.

CATHEDRAL BIBLE STUDY: Cathedral Bible Study meets every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. There is interest in having a daytime Bible Study as well. If you are interested in joining either session, please contact Carol at 614-224-1295 or at cathedral@sjchcc.org.

~ TAKING PLACE AT HOLY CROSS ~

BANNS OF MARRIAGE: Holy Cross Church happily announces the coming nuptials of Grace Hofer & Tyler Campbell on December 30, 2023. Please keep them in prayer as they prepare for their wedding.

IN, AROUND AND NEAR THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

TO MARK THE 800TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CRECHE BY SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI, join and pray with St. Joseph Parish in Plain City on December 17 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Parish Activity Center for the "**God is with Us – Come Let us Adore**" Family Event, featuring a Live Nativity, caroling, food and activities for the children. The PAC address is 670 W. Main Street, Plain City, OH 43064.

ST. CHARLES HOSTING WOMEN'S AUDITIONS FOR "THE LIGHTNING THIEF: THE PERCY JACKSON MUSICAL" PRODUCTION: The St. Charles Preparatory School Drama Department will hold women's auditions for *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* on Wednesday & Thursday, January 3 & 4, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. at the St. Charles Campus Theater, 2010 East Broad Street (You need only attend one of the two days.) Auditions are open to all area high school women in Central Ohio. Production Dates: February 29-March 3, 2024. If you would like additional information, please email Doug Montgomery, at dmontgomery@scprep.org.

MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTLY VOCATION DISCERNMENT GROUP:

There are now seven Melchizedek Project – Priestly Vocation Discernment Groups meeting in our diocese. They are held at: Columbus – OSU Newman Center Our Lady of Peace St. Michael St. Patrick St. Pius X Sunbury – St. John Neumann Lancaster – St. Bernadette

Newark – St. Francis For more information, go to the following website: https://www.vocationscolumbus.org/project



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE COLUMBUS CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, which will be held Saturda

which will be held Saturday, February 17, 2024. Get registered TODAY at www. columbuscatholicwomen. com/ to take advantage of

early bird pricing of \$45.00. Prices will increase on January 1.

YOUR OFFERTORY IS A GIFT TO GOD:

If your Offertory is not made electronically, please use your Parish Offertory envelope to thoughtfully, prayerfully choose your gift. In addition, filling out an envelope or electronic statement helps us keep track of who is actively registered at our parish.

SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL		HOLY CROSS CHURCH	
Updated December 4, 2023		Updated December 4, 2023	
2023 Appeal Report		2023 Appeal Report	
Goal established by the Diocese	\$ 42,645.24	Goal established by the Diocese	\$ 21,018.43
TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE	\$ 55,622.00	Enhanced Goal	\$ 26,018.43
Exceeds Diocesan Goal by	\$ 12,976.76	TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE	\$ 20,900.00
		Diocesan AMOUNT STILL NEEDED	\$ 118.43

Thank you all for your Generosity and may God bless you.				
Percent of Parishioner Participation - 16%				

Offertory for Saint Joseph Cathedral – December 3			
Credit Card /EFT	\$	4,956.67	
Mail-in	\$	732.00	
Collection	\$	2,713.25	
8% Diocese	(\$	672.15)	
TOTAL	\$	7,729.77	
POOR BOX	\$	116.25	

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Your contribution supports the work and operations of Saint Joseph Cathedral, our music and education programs. Please be generous in your support of these important endeavors. Your contribution can be made by sending a text message to 614-721-4184, or by scanning the QR code to the left with your smartphone QR Scanner Application.

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Percent of Parishioner Participation – 18.7% Offertory for Holy Cross – December 3			
Mail in	¢	635.00	

Thank you all for your Generosity and may God bless you.

Mail-in	\$	635.00
Credit Card	\$	15.00
Repair	\$	650.00
Repair Mail-in	\$	22.00
8% Diocese	(\$	212.88)
Net to Parish	\$	2,448.12

Start giving online today!

- 1. Visit our parish website at **www.saintjosephcathedral.org** and click the online giving link.
- 2. Create a secure account.
- 3. Schedule your recurring Sunday Offertory gifts.
- 4. Scroll down the alphabetical listing to **The Appeal** and make your recurring gift.

