



AND THE

Word

BECAME FLESH AND
MADE HIS DWELLING
AMONG US, AND
WE SAW
HIS GLORY,

JOHN 1:14

Christmas 2023

**The Roman Catholic Parish
of St. Joseph Cathedral
& Holy Cross Church**

St. Joseph Cathedral
212 East Broad Street,
Columbus, OH 43215
614-224-1295

Holy Cross Church
204 S. Fifth Street,
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www.sjchcc.org

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

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Cathedral Rector

Reverend Michael Hinterschied
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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 the Cathedral Office at 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

Holy Cross:

Sunday, January 7

9:00 a.m. Intention of the Priest

Cathedral:

Sunday, January 7

10:30 a.m. Souls of Terry and Joanne Shea

12:30 p.m. Soul of Mary DeRubies

5:15 p.m. The People of St. Joseph Cathedral and
Holy Cross Church

Cathedral:

Monday, January 8

12:05 p.m. The Soul of Princess Jones

Tuesday, January 9

12:05 p.m. The Intention of the Priest

Wednesday, January 10

12:00 p.m. Soul of Alberto Rodriguez

Thursday, January 11

12:05 p.m. The Intention of the Priest

Friday, January 12

12:05 p.m. Deborah Sacramo

Holy Cross:

Saturday, January 13

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

WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday, January 7 ~

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Monday, January 8 ~ **The Baptism of the Lord**

Is 55:1-11; Mark 1:7-11

Tuesday, January 9

1 Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday, January 10

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39

Thursday, January 11

1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45

Friday, January 12

1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2:1-12

Saturday January 13 ~ *Saint Hilary*

1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1a; Mark 2:13-17

THIS SUNDAY'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE				
THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD ~ JANUARY 7				
	9:00 a.m. HCC	10:30 a.m. SJC	12:30 p.m. SJC	5:15 p.m. SJC
Altar Servers	John Feher	Jason Yax	Antonio Tomasi	Nate Foley
		Nate Foley	Jim Pierce	JP Pacis
		Trevor Foley		
		Lisa Emrich		
Lector – One	Kelly Wagoner	Josie Gonot	Donna Lent	Linda Ruth
Lector – Two		Thom Gall	Thom Gall	
Eucharistic Minister	Pat Kern Davis Claire Miller	Fritz Harding		
Lead Hospitality	Ann Seren	Steve Horner	Marilyn Tomasi	Robert Schoenfeld
Hospitality/Ushers		Evelina Horner	Ed Hueckel	Gordian Igwilo
		Sandy Stover		

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 ~ UCELLI: THE COLUMBUS CELLO QUARTET, January 14, 2024 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.

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, Jerzy Grelik, 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, Peter Garrett's Mother and James Worley.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

(Holy Cross & Cathedral)

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

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

(Holy Cross & Cathedral)

Please email Mandy at weddings@saintjosephcathedral.org

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 web site, or contact us through the Parish Office. Welcome!

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.

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.

Scripture Speaks: The Epiphany of the Lord

GAYLE SOMERS



In today's Gospel, magi "from the east" ask, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" Just by asking this question, they herald the New Light that has dawned on all men.

Gospel (Read Mt 2:1-12)

Today, St. Matthew tells us that after Jesus' birth, an event loaded with significance for the whole world took place. "Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem," looking for a king who had been recently born, the "king of the Jews." Who were these men, and why did they ask this question?

The "magi" were likely astrologers, considered at that time to be "wise men" because of their lifelong commitment to studying the skies and finding meaning in the cosmos. They probably came from Persia, and they possibly were part of a school of wise men over which the Jewish prophet, Daniel, had been given authority hundreds of years earlier. Daniel, as a young man, had been carried off by the Babylonians into exile, along with all the other Jews. This was the punishment God meted out to Judah for her covenant infidelity in the sixth century B.C. In that strange, pagan land, Daniel resolutely kept the faith of Israel, trusting in God as his only king and refusing to participate in the rampant idolatry. God called Daniel to be His prophet there, and He also gave him an extraordinary gift of interpreting dreams and visions. Daniel interpreted one of King Nebuchadnezzar's dreams that no one else in the realm could understand. In gratitude, the king made Daniel "chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon" (read Dan 2:48). If this school of wise men endured through the centuries (Daniel never returned to Judah), it was still in existence at the time of our story, although Babylon had long ago been conquered by the Persians. The school would likely have preserved a certain Jewish prophecy that would have been well-known to Daniel and of great interest to astrologers. Why?

During the Exodus (about 1500 B.C.), as Israel was making her way back to the Promised Land from bondage in Egypt, one of the kings who felt threatened by their advance commissioned a "seer" to pronounce a curse on the Israelites. Instead, he was moved by God to bless them, and he was given "the vision of the Almighty," as well as this prophecy: "I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not nigh: a star shall come forth out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel" (read Num 24:17). Here we have a Gentile prophet moved by God's Spirit to foretell the rise of a great king in Israel, but "not now." Every Jew knew this prophecy. Every Jew also knew that, of Jacob's twelve sons, the one who would rule with a "scepter" would be Judah: "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs, and to him shall be the obedience of all the peoples" (read Gen 49:10, emphasis added).

We have to wonder if Daniel, the fearless, faithful Jewish prophet and wise man in Babylon, made sure to preserve these prophecies in the school over which he presided, because their fulfillment would affect not only Israel but "all the peoples." If so, hundreds of years after Daniel lived, the magi from the east, upon seeing an unusually bright star in the night sky, knew they needed to make the long trek to Jerusalem. They wanted to pay homage to their newborn king.

See how disturbed Herod was by all this. Surely that is because another part of the prophecy about the rising star was that "Edom will be dispossessed" (Num 24:18). Herod was a non-Jew, an Edomite usurper to the throne in Jerusalem. No wonder he was worried! The wise men of Judah, when consulted by Herod concerning the place of the king's birth, knew where to find him: Bethlehem. This, too, had been prophesied long ago (read Micah 5:2). The magi made their way there, following

the star. It appeared to “stop” over one particular house, so they entered and saw “the Child with Mary, His mother.” They saw the fulfillment of the promise God had made to all people, not just the Jews, in the Garden of Eden. There He promised that “the woman” and her “seed” would take up, definitively, the battle waged against mankind by His enemy, the Serpent. The magi “prostrated themselves and did Him homage.”

Of course, they did!

Possible response: Lord Jesus, the magi brought You wonderful gifts in their adoration for You. What can I give You today that is worthy to do the same?

First Reading (Read Isa 60:1-6)

The prophet, Isaiah, had to preach God’s judgment against Judah for her disobedience to Him, but he also preached great comfort to them as well. Here he speaks of a future glory in Jerusalem: “Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the LORD shines upon you.” We see that the “light” is the LORD Himself, and, to announce its coming, Isaiah says to the city: “Upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears His glory.” Such was the light of the star seen and followed by the magi. Isaiah also foresees a time when “the wealth of the nations shall be brought” to Jerusalem; men from outside Judah shall “come bearing gold and frankincense and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.” Israel’s vocation had always been to serve as a “kingdom of priests” (read Ex 19:6). God chose them for the work of declaring His glory to all the nations on earth. Their constant disobedience prevented them from fulfilling this calling for much of their history, but Isaiah sees a time when Jerusalem “shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow.” Surely this description perfectly fits what must have happened in that house in Bethlehem when the magi, under the star’s great brightness over it, entered and presented their gifts to their infant King. God’s restoration of Jerusalem, promised through Isaiah 700 years earlier, was now being fulfilled.

“Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem. Your light has come.”

Possible response: Lord Jesus, grant me the perseverance of the magi to search out and follow Your light when darkness surrounds me.

Psalm (Read Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13)

The psalmist writes about, prophetically, the consummate King of Israel. King David was the man God chose to establish an enduring throne in Jerusalem. David was “a man after God’s own heart,” but although he led Israel to a kind of golden age in its history, he was only a foreshadowing of the king described in this psalm. This king is one who rules in justice and peace, who rescues the poor and has pity on the lowly. This king will receive tributes from other nations and “all kings shall pay him homage.”

The magi, representing all the nations and kings outside Judah, found this king in Bethlehem. This king would preside over an eternal kingdom “not of this world.” This king rules now over His kingdom, the Church, which includes people from every nation and tongue. Someday, when this king returns, what we say in our responsorial today will find its perfect fulfillment: **“LORD, every nation on earth will adore You.”**

Possible response: The psalm is, itself, a response to our other readings. Read it again prayerfully to make it your own.

Second Reading (Read Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6)

St. Paul speaks of what, in his day, was truly a “mystery” to his people, the Jews. In Israel’s long history, she had been so weak in the face of the temptation to the idolatry practiced by Gentiles that those who desired to remain faithful to God kept strict separation from them. Even though Israel’s vocation had always been to mediate as priests between God and all other peoples, by St. Paul’s day, the Gentiles seemed like their enemies. However, with the coming of Jesus, all that changed. With their true king on His throne, salvation went out to all men everywhere, and St. Paul preached this Good News with gusto: “The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.”

The magi in Bethlehem, as they adored their new king, were the first Gentiles to experience the unfolding of this great mystery, and St. Paul, many years later, became its first great evangelist.

Possible response: Heavenly Father, thank You for Your love for all people everywhere, even those who seem like Your enemies. Help me love them, too.

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On Epiphany, Remember the Evangelization Mandate

BRANDON HARVEY

The Solemnity of the Epiphany marks the occasion of the visit of the Magi to the newborn babe, Jesus Christ.



When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem... And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way. —[Matthew 2:1,9-12](#)

The three Magi were Gentiles from the East following a star in the sky that was foretold in the Old Testament, “A star shall advance from Jacob, and a scepter shall rise from Israel” ([Numbers 24:17](#), see also [Isaiah 60:1-6](#) and [Psalm 72:10](#)). These unique Gentiles were likely interested in astrology as is evident by their awareness and interest in this particular star that made them “overjoyed at seeing” it.

As Gentiles they were able to recognize that Jesus is the Son of God who deserves our worship (see [CCC 528](#)). This is no small accomplishment. It demonstrates their openness to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, which is thus available to people from all nations, and it points toward the call for all nations to enter into the sonship of Christ ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)).

The Church invites us to enter into the Mystery of the Epiphany through the Sacred Liturgy and various devotional practice. Some of these opportunities, as expressed in the [Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy](#), include:

1. The exchange of gifts with others in imitation of the gifts brought by the Magi to Jesus; gift giving during this time should maintain a “Christian character.... free from extravagance, luxury, and waste”.
2. The Blessing of the Home.
3. Inscription above doors by blessed chalk that includes “the year and the initials of the three wise men (C+M+B), which can also be interpreted to mean *Christus mansionem benedicat*.”
4. Collections for charitable or missionary projects.
5. A “sense of solidarity and openness” to “those who come from afar”.
6. Assistance with missionary work.

I would like to draw your attention to the sixth invitation listed here. The document referenced above states that the Epiphany has a “strong missionary character.” The Liturgical Year proposes and re-proposes an ordered life of holiness each year. Every Christian is called to not only support the missionary work of others within the Church, but to play an active part in the evangelization of people and culture ([Evangelii Nuntiandi 70-73](#)). Not only does Saint Paul VI call families to evangelize ([Evangelii Nuntiandi 71](#)), but the Catechism of the Catholic Church lists evangelization as one of the four critical habits for the Christian Home ([CCC 2205](#)).

Therefore, just as Lent is an opportunity to renew our detachment from worldly things and deepen our conversion, the celebration of Epiphany is also a “season” to renew our habits to engage in the sacred task of evangelization within our own region. Each year we may forget this essential component of the Christian life or become lax in this mandate from Christ and His Church, nonetheless, Epiphany is a reminder to take additional steps in the new year to prioritize praying for the faith life of others and inviting them to come to know the fullness of grace and truth that Christ willed to be found in the Catholic Church ([CCC 830](#)).

Hopefully, with a renewed understanding of our call to the work of evangelization, we may begin to hear this mandate repeated at each and every Mass in the *Dismissal Rite* and echoed in the very word “Mass.” At each Mass we are dismissed and sent out on the mission to evangelize. To explain this point, I will close with the wisdom of Benedict XVI.

After the blessing, the deacon or the priest dismisses the people with the words: *Ite, missa est*. These words help us to grasp the relationship between the Mass just celebrated and the mission of Christians in the world. In antiquity, *missa* simply meant “dismissal.” However, in Christian usage it gradually took on a deeper meaning. The word “dismissal” has come to imply a “mission.” These few words succinctly express the missionary nature of the Church.

[-Sacrament of Charity 51](#)



BABY SHOWER FOR JESUS



As we celebrate together the manifestation of the Word Made Flesh in today's Solemnity of the Epiphany, I wish to begin a Baby Shower for Jesus.

I am asking our parishioners to bring a baby item to Mass during the days between the Epiphany of the Lord and February 2, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas). The baby items will be taken to the Women's Care Center to support the young mothers and mothers-to-be as these women Choose Life!

The Women's Care Center is a Catholic outreach to at-risk, pregnant women in need. We can support their ministry by providing them with much-needed baby items to share with the women who participate in their parenting classes. Since 2019, participation has increased by nearly 60%, from 1,907 participants to 3,023 in 2022!

Throughout the traditional 40 days from Christmas to Candlemas, the Crèche scene will remain in the Cathedral. Please bring your new baby items to the Crèche, celebrating the birth of Jesus, and we will make sure your gifts get to the Women's Care Center to give to their participants.

Here are some of the items which are most in need:

Baby soaps/washes, lotions, Aquaphor/Vaseline



Toddler boys' clothes up to 5T (new) *especially sizes 18, 24 and 2T

Toddler girls' clothes up to 5T (new) *especially sizes 2T, 3T, and Baby girl 0-3-month clothing

Formula *especially Enfamil

Baby wipes



Diapers, sizes newborn through 6 *especially 4-6



How Do We Become People of Goodwill?

JEANNIE EWING



“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Luke 2:14).

The older I get, the more I love the genius of the liturgical seasons. Though most of the western world celebrates a new year when the calendar flips from December to January, as Catholics, we began our celebration of the new year when Advent first began shortly after Thanksgiving. I’ve come to realize that Advent is my springboard for interior change. It gives me a jump-start on those secular ideas of resolutions, like losing weight and being a “healthier” version of myself.

Advent necessarily slows me down, so that I might look at myself more honestly and discover what God is asking of me, where He is leading me next. Yes, there is something about starting afresh when January 1st rolls around, but the seed of repentance and resolution has already been planted in me weeks before that date.

One word really struck me as something upon which we can all reflect; it’s a word we often read during the recitation of Luke’s account of the Christmas story, in which the archangel Gabriel announces to the shepherds, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.”

What is that word — goodwill — and how can we strive to become people of goodwill this year? The implication is that people of goodwill are those whom God favors with His peace, that elusive but longed-for peace that surpasses all human understanding.

Let us then work to become both people of goodwill and of peace.

The Connection Between Goodwill and Peace

When I looked up the definition of goodwill, I noticed many synonyms, such as benevolence, compassion, helpfulness, consideration, kindness, goodness, and cooperation. It seems these all describe the theological virtue of charity. A person of goodwill is one who thinks of others before himself, who is willing to cheerfully make sacrifices in order to accommodate someone else's needs.

Father Jacques Philippe defines goodwill slightly differently, though. He wrote in *Searching for and Maintaining Peace* that “a necessary condition for interior peace...is...goodwill...It is the stable and constant disposition of a person who is determined more than anything to love God, who desires sincerely to prefer in all circumstances the will of God to his own...” (p. 16).

True, this is obviously demonstrative of charity, but what does it mean in terms of acquiring interior peace? Father Philippe further explains that a person who is constantly in a state of surrendering his life to God with a cheerful attitude, one who says yes to Him in all circumstances — both good and bad — is a person whose heart will not be filled with the uneasiness or discomfort of “not loving God as much as He invites us to love Him” (p. 17).

Perhaps the unsettling emotions we experience that disrupt our inner peace are, then, associated with our lack of trust in and acquiescence to God's will for our lives.

Doing God's Will and Detachment of Heart

A necessary prerequisite for becoming a person of goodwill, that is, a person of magnanimous charity, is that we detach ourselves from all that is not of God in our lives. We hear this a lot, perhaps in homilies, or we read about it in books, but we aren't exactly sure how to accomplish it in our lives.

I think of how the world tells us to “declutter” this time of year. When we think of starting anew, we think of getting rid of everything that weighs us down: too much “stuff” we've acquired carelessly or thoughtlessly. We experience relief when we organize and purge piles of papers, closets full of clothes, and garages crammed with broken appliances.

Likewise, true spiritual detachment involves the soul relinquishing its selfish desires to find pleasure in this life through bodily comforts or even by becoming spiritually lazy or complacent. A person growing in the virtue of charity is one who puts into action his increasing desire to please God alone. Therefore, his thoughts are fixed on God, as is his heart. He is then motivated by charity to perform deeds of goodwill, such as paying for the groceries of the elderly man in front of him at the store who didn't have enough money or offering his seat on a long bus ride to a pregnant mom with two kids in tow.

Goodwill Alone Suffices for Interior Peace

Finally, Father Philippe wrote that, despite our other shortcomings or faults, if we become a person of goodwill, we will, in fact, acquire inner peace. These are consoling words, at least for someone like me who incessantly focuses on what I have done wrong or incorrectly or insufficiently rather than on God alone.

Seek, above all else, what God is asking of you, dear reader, and you will find that your soul is at rest in Him. Even more, charitable works of mercy (e.g., becoming a person of goodwill) bring immense joy to the soul who is willing to give without complaint or measure or restriction. Both joy and peace are fruits of the Holy Spirit that continually feed our longing to do great things for God and be His agent of encouragement to a desperate and hopeless world.

image: Photo by [Aaron Burden](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“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 January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus.

“The role of faith may be compared to that of the root which fixes the tree to the ground, and by its imperceptible but unceasing work maintains its strength. All the growth of the tree, its whole development, depends on this secret nourishment. Cut the roots and the tree, however splendid and full of life it may be, will perish miserably.”

+BLESSED COLUMBA MARMION, O.S.B.

Monday, January 8 ~ Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:7-11 This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Meditation: The great Benedictine Abbot and spiritual writer, Blessed Dom Columba Marmion, in *Christ in His Mysteries*, wrote in reflecting upon today’s Feast: “And Jesus being baptized, forthwith came out of the water; and lo, the heavens were opened to Him and He saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him. And behold a voice from heaven saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.’ Jesus stoops so low as to mingle with the multitude of sinners, and forthwith the heavens are opened to magnify Him — He acknowledges Himself worthy of the strokes of divine justice, and behold, the Father declares that He takes all His delight in Him. It is at this moment that the mission of Jesus, as One sent by God, is declared authentic. The Father’s testimony accredits, so to speak, His Son before the world, and hence this testimony relates to one of the characters of Christ’s work as regards ourselves. The mission of Jesus has a double aspect: it bears at the same time the character of redemption and of sanctification. It is to redeem souls, and, this done, to infuse life into them. That is the whole work of the Savior.”

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. 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.

Contemplation: Without question, the greatest obstacle to following Christ has been, and continues to be, people’s own preconception and self-will. As Blessed Columba Marmion wrote in *Christ, the Life of the Soul*, such persons “make holiness consist in such or such a conception formed by their own intelligence; attached to those purely human ideas they have formed, they go astray; if they make great strides, it is outside the true way marked out by God; they are victims of those illusions against which St. Paul warned the first Christians. In so grave a matter, in so vital a question, we must look at and weigh things as God looks and weighs them. God judges all things in the light, and His judgment is the test of all truth. ‘We must not judge according to our own liking,’ says St. Francis de Sales, ‘but according to God’s will.’ Divine Wisdom is infinitely above human wisdom; God’s thoughts contain possibilities of fruitfulness such as no created thought possesses. That is why God’s plan is so wise that it cannot fail to reach its end because of any intrinsic insufficiency, but only through our own fault. If we leave the Divine idea full freedom to operate in us, if we adapt ourselves to it with Love and fidelity, it becomes extremely fruitful and may lead us to the most sublime sanctity.” As a new year gets underway, let’s contemplate the meaning of our own Baptism into the mystical body of Christ, and ponder the words of Blessed Columba Marmion on lovingly following Christ, embracing His wisdom, and in doing so enjoy the fruits of a life rooted in Christ.

Tuesday, January 9 ~ First Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21-28 Jesus came to Capernaum with his followers, and on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

Meditation: Ask yourself a couple of very simple questions: Do you believe that God's word has power to change and transform your life? And are you eager to hear and believe the word of God? When Jesus taught he spoke with authority. He spoke the word of God as no one had spoken it before. When the Rabbis taught they supported their statements with quotes from other authorities. The prophets spoke with delegated authority – "Thus says the Lord." When Jesus spoke he needed no authorities to back his statements. He was authority incarnate – the Word of God made flesh. When he spoke, God spoke. When he commanded even the demons obeyed. Do you respond to God's commands as God wants you to?

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, who were pleased to shine forth with new light through the coming of your Only Begotten Son, grant, we pray, that, just as he was pleased to share our bodily form through the childbearing of the Virgin Mary, so we, too, may one day merit to become companions in his kingdom of grace. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Saint Augustine once remarked that the "devils confessed Christ, but lacking charity it availed nothing...They confessed a sort of faith, but without love. Hence they were devils." We must always remember that faith is mighty, but without love faith profits nothing (ref. 1 Corinthians 13). True faith works through love (ref. Galatians 5:6) and abounds in hope (ref. Romans 15:13). That is why faith is both a free gift of God and the free assent of our will to the whole truth that God has revealed. To live, grow, and persevere in the faith to the end, we must nourish it with the word of God. The Lord gives us his Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds that we may grow in his truth and in the knowledge of his great love for each of us. If we approach God's word submissively, with an eagerness to do everything the Lord desires, we are in a much better position to learn what God wants to teach us through his word. Are you eager to be taught by the Lord and, once taught by Christ, to conform your life according to the Word of the Lord?

Wednesday, January 10 ~ First Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:29-39 On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them. When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

Meditation: We all have challenges, but how we deal with them is important. Who do you take your troubles to? A self-help book? An advice web page, blog? A TV talk show host? What about Christ? Jesus' disciples freely brought their troubles to him because they found him ready and able to deal with any difficulty, affliction, or sickness which they encountered. When Simon brought Jesus to his home, his mother-in-law was instantly healed because Jesus heard Simon's prayer. Saint Jerome reflects on this passage: "Can you imagine Jesus standing before your bed and you continue sleeping? It is absurd that you would remain in bed in his presence. Where is Jesus? He is already here offering himself to us. 'In the middle,' he says, 'among you he stands, whom you do not recognize' (ref. John 1:26) 'The kingdom of God is in your midst' (ref. Mark 1:15). Faith beholds Jesus among us. If we are unable to seize his hand, let us prostrate ourselves at his feet. If we are unable to reach his head, let us wash his feet with our tears. Our repentance is the perfume of the Savior. See how costly is the compassion of the Savior."

Prayer: Attend to the pleas of your people with heavenly care, O Lord, we pray, that they may see what must be done and gain strength to do what they have seen. 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 allow Jesus to be first in your life? Do you make the Lord and healer number one in your personal life, family, and community, especially in times of trial, challenge, fears and anxiety? Learn to approach Christ with expectant faith. God's healing power restores us not only to health but to active service and care of others. There is no trouble he does not want to help us with and there is no bondage he can't set us free from.

Thursday, January 11 ~ First Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:40-45 A leper came to him and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched the leper, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. Then he said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

Meditation: No one who sought Jesus out is refused his help. Even the untouchables and the outcasts of Jewish society found help in him. Unlike the people of Jesus' time who fled at the sight of a leper, Jesus touched the leper who approached him and he made him whole and clean. Why was this so remarkable? Lepers were outcasts of society. Their physical condition was terrible as they slowly lost their limbs and withered away. They were not only shunned but regarded as "already dead" even by their relatives.

Prayer: Attend to the pleas of your people with heavenly care, O Lord, we pray, that they may see what must be done and gain strength to do what they have seen. 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: Jewish law forbade anyone from touching or approaching a leper; ritual defilement occurred when contact was made. This leper did something quite remarkable. He approached Jesus confidently and humbly, expecting that Jesus could and would heal him. Normally a leper would be stoned or at least warded off if he tried to come near a rabbi. Jesus not only grants the man his request, but he demonstrates the personal love, compassion, and tenderness of God in his physical touch. The medical knowledge of his day would have regarded such contact as grave risk for incurring infection. Jesus met the man's misery with compassion and tender kindness. He communicated the love and mercy of God in a sign that spoke more eloquently than words. St. Francis of Assisi once said: "Preach the Gospel at all times – if necessary, use words." In other words, our Christ-directed actions speak louder than words in helping others at all times. Talk can be cheap. Do your actions speak louder than your words about how you live your life as a proclaimed disciple of Christ?

Friday, January 12 ~ First Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 2:1-12 When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it became known that he was at home. Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them, not even around the door, and he preached the word to them. They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to him, "Child, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves, "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. Who but God alone can forgive sins?" Jesus immediately knew in his mind what they were thinking to themselves, so he said, "Why are you thinking such things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth" –he said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home." He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

Meditation: Jesus' treatment of sinners upset the religious teachers of the day. When a person with a severe physical handicap 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.

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, who through your Only Begotten Son have made us a new creation for yourself, grant, we pray, that by your grace we may be found in the likeness of him in whom our nature is united to you. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Have you ever experienced the great healing power associated with forgiveness? Remember what we pray for each time we pray the "Lord's Prayer" – "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Before we can fully experience God's love and mercy in forgiving us, we must first extend that same level of love and mercy to those who seek our forgiveness. If we don't we risk placing walls between us and the love and mercy of Christ. The Lord is every ready to bring us healing of body, mind and soul. Do you allow anything to keep you from experiencing the love and mercy and forgiveness of Jesus Christ?

Saturday, January 13 ~ First Week in Ordinary Time **Saint Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

Holy Gospel: Mark 2:13-17 Jesus went out along the sea. All the crowd came to him and he taught them. As he passed by, he saw Levi, son of Alphaeus, sitting at the customs post. Jesus said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed Jesus. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners sat with Jesus and his disciples; for there were many who followed him. Some scribes who were Pharisees saw that Jesus was eating with sinners and tax collectors and said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus heard this and said to them, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Meditation: Many people were drawn to Jesus, including the unwanted and the unlovable, such as the lame, the blind, and the lepers, as well as the homeless such as widows and orphans. But public sinners, like the town prostitutes and corrupt tax collectors, were also drawn to Jesus. In calling Matthew to be one of his disciples, Jesus picked one of the unlikeliest of men – a tax collector who by profession was despised by the people. Why did the religious leaders find fault with Jesus for making friends with sinners and tax collectors like Matthew? The orthodox Jews had a habit of dividing everyone into two groups: those who rigidly kept the law and its minute regulations and those who did not. They latter were treated like second class citizens. The orthodox scrupulously avoided their company, refused to do business with them, refused to give or receive anything from them, refused to intermarry, and avoided any form of entertainment with them, including table fellowship. Jesus' association with the latter, especially with tax collectors and sinners, shocked the sensibilities of these orthodox Jews.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we may rightly understand and truthfully profess the divinity of your Son, which the Bishop Saint Hilary taught with such constancy. 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: When the Pharisees challenged his unorthodox behavior in eating with public sinners, Jesus' defense was quite simple. A doctor doesn't need to visit healthy people; instead he goes to those who are sick. Jesus likewise sought out those in the greatest need. A true physician seeks healing of the whole person – body, mind, and spirit. Jesus came as the divine physician and good shepherd to care for his people and to restore them to wholeness of life. The orthodox were so preoccupied with their own practice of religion that they neglected to help the very people who needed care. Their religion was selfish because they didn't want to have anything to do with people not like themselves. Jesus stated his mission in unequivocal terms: "I came not to call the righteous, but to call sinners. Ironically the orthodox were as needy as those they despised. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (ref. Romans 3:23). The Lord fills us with his grace and mercy. And he wants us, in turn, to seek the good of our neighbors, including the unlikeable and the trouble-maker by showing them the same kindness and mercy which we have received. Do you thank the Lord for the great kindness and mercy he has shown to you?"

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;
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:2024

~ 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 in the Undercroft. New Parishioners are cordially invited to attend and meet other parishioners, Priests, Liturgical Ministers, Pastoral Council and visitors. Everyone is encouraged to come enjoy the refreshments and fellowship. 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.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE: St. Joseph Cathedral happily announces the coming nuptials of Sunny Cox and Kyle Appel on February 3, 2024. Please keep them in prayer as they prepare for their wedding.

CATHEDRAL CONCERT SERIES: January 14, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. Described by WOSU Classical 101 as, "breathing new life into music," UCelli is a quartet of virtuoso cellists whose individual artistry and combined chemistry result in a unique and vibrant concert experience. Each artist is a soloist and chamber musician in her own right, bringing strong musical philosophies and relationships to cello repertoire and pedagogy. Also members of the Columbus Symphony and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, the experiences and collaborations held between these four cellists allow for exciting explorations of new and unconventional intersections between music and life.

CATHEDRAL BIBLE STUDY: Cathedral Bible Study meets every Monday 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@sjhcc.org.

IN, AROUND AND NEAR THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

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



held Saturday, February 17, 2024. Get registered TODAY at www.columbuscatholicwomen.com/.

St. Padre Pio Relic at The Columbus Catholic Women's Conference: Just announced, the glove of St. Padre Pio will be displayed for veneration at the upcoming Columbus Catholic Women's Conference in February.

Scan the QR code to register for the conference.



FATAL FIRE GOFUNDME: A few weeks ago, a young student from St. Pius X and his grandmother were killed in a housefire in Blacklick. His two sisters (also students) survived. A GoFundMe has been set up by the parish/school for those who would like to help the family. Here is the link: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-for-the-berry-samba-family>.

ODU TO HOST ST. THOMAS AQUINAS LECTURE ON JANUARY 25: Ohio Dominican University will host its annual St. Thomas Aquinas Lecture on Thursday, January 25 as theologian and scholar Fr. Justin Brophy, OP, Ph.D. presents "Thomas Aquinas: What is Truth in the Modern World." The free lecture will take place at 11:00 a.m. in the Matesich Theatre, located inside Erskine Hall on ODU's main campus, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus, 43219. Fr. Brophy currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Providence College in Providence, Rhode Island. More information is available at ohiodominican.edu.

J.O.I.N. NEEDS YOUR HELP! JOIN (Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs) is often a "stop-gap" for our brothers and sisters who are doing their best to provide and succeed in life. We all come upon unexpected obstacles. For our neighbors who live paycheck to paycheck that can be something as simple as missing work due to illness or something bigger, like a car repair. Basic supplies like toilet paper, soap, shampoo, conditioner, multi-purpose cleaning solutions, dish soap and laundry soap are items that people request at JOIN daily. Kelsey is a mom that came to JOIN to get assistance with bus passes for a new job she had. When she learned that we also had cleaning supplies and personal care items, especially toilet paper, she was overwhelmed that she could get those items as well. Meeting these most basic needs, when you don't have them, is a relief that is not measurable to a parent. Try to imagine running out of something, with no hope of getting it yourself for another week or so. If you would like to organize a collection or even donate an item or two on your own, it would be a gift to the neighbors we serve at JOIN. Feel free to call, 614-241-2530, or email Lisa Keita at lkeita@columbuscatholic.org, to get further information or just discuss what all JOIN does provide.



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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

Updated December 18, 2023

2023 Appeal Report

Goal established by the Diocese	\$ 42,645.24
TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE	\$ 55,622.00
Exceeds Diocesan Goal by	\$ 12,976.76

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

Offertory for Saint Joseph Cathedral – December 17

Credit Card/EFT	\$ 2,154.00
Mail-in	\$ 300.00
Collection	\$ 2,197.75
8% Diocese	(\$ 372.14)
TOTAL	\$ 4,279.61
Poor Box	\$ 297.00

Due to early Deadline for December 24th bulletin the financials will be in the next available Bulletin

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

Updated December 18, 2023

2023 Appeal Report


Goal established by the Diocese	\$ 21,018.43
Enhanced Goal	\$ 26,018.43
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 – 18.7%

Offertory for Holy Cross – December 17

Offertory	\$ 2,277.00
Mail-in	\$ 343.00
Credit Card	\$ 5.00
Repair	\$ 20.00
8% Diocese	(\$ 211.60)
Net to Parish	\$ 2,433.40

Due to early Deadline for December 24th bulletin the financials will be in the next available Bulletin

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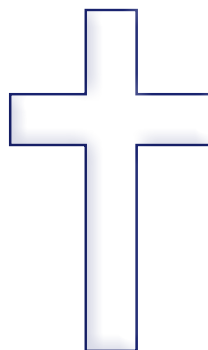
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