

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

### *Unwrapping Unexpected Treasures*

Christmas presence, from its outset, was extraordinarily ordinary. God became human in a most surprising way. With human effort, divinity struggled to show us the way to image God. This continues to be true for us today and each day of our lives. With every dawn there is a newness to the night of labor. With every hardship a gift is unveiled.

The truth is that "...the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ" (Titus 2: 11-13).

### *Feast of the Holy Family*

Each time the Feast of the Holy Family rolls around, I am struck by the same thoughts. Holy Family denotes Perfect Family.

Perhaps we can look at the Holy Family from the viewpoint that family wholeness ("holy family-ness") is a matter of "relative-ity." It is a matter of looking at relatedness (relationships) and unveiling their relative-ity to who we are, wherever we are, where we are going, and how we are getting there. How are the people with whom I interact on a daily basis relative to my very being? In what ways do they affect my wholeness? In a word, are we "family" together? As a result of being family, are we growing individually and communally into holiness? These

questions cannot be answered easily or quickly. They demand a second look perhaps many second looks, at ourselves and others.

I would suspect the same sort of push and pull plagued the unique "first family" of Nazareth. Their path of "relative-ity" cannot have been without its moments of dread and items of heated discussion.

Jesus heard the words of God stating, "For the Lord honors a father above his children and confirms a mother's right over her children" (Sirach 3:2), and yet followed his heart, remaining in the temple to do God's work despite the anguish it caused. His was not an act of defiance but of definition. ...Their relatedness both veiled Jesus' presence and also revealed it. Together, they would become whole and holy. Separately, they would continue that growth in wisdom, age, and grace before all humankind.

Their path, as ours, is one clothed in compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. It is a life marked by forgiveness and the love that binds everything together in perfect harmony.

...Like Joseph, Mary and Jesus, we need to "finish everything required by the law of the Lord" (paraphrase of Luke 2:39) and then return to our Galilee, to our own hometown, where we can grow, become strong, be filled with wisdom, and know the favor of God.

excerpts from Awakening to God, The Sunday Readings in Our Lives, Year B, Fran Salone-Pelletier. Twenty-Third Publications

May God richly bless your Christmas Season!! May you come to recognize the gifts God has given you in your families!! Glory to God in the Highest, and Peace to You!

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

### Sunday, December 28

9:00 a.m. Tony Kokal (Greg & Susan Kokal)

11:30 a.m. Michael Birskevich (Family)

### Monday, December 29

8:30 a.m. Jean Kacmar (Mike Kudlovsky)

### Tuesday, December 30

8:30 a.m. Jean Kacmar (Mike Kudlovsky)

### Wednesday, December 31

7:00 p.m. Albert Covelli (Kathy Hammill)

### Thursday, January 1

8:30 a.m. For all U.S. Military Personnel

### Friday, January 2

8:30 a.m. Paul Heltzel (Hazboun Family)

### Saturday, January 3

4:00 p.m. Lawrence & Charlton Travis (James Travis)

### Sunday, January 4

9:00 a.m. Mary Burns (Ken & Rosemary Furniss);  
All Parishioners Living & Deceased

11:30 a.m. William McLain (Volunteers at Signature)

## PARENTING POINTERS

It's the days after Christmas. Perhaps the house is a mess -- but hopefully it's a happy mess. Presumably your child has gotten some nice gifts. Take time to enjoy them together this weekend. Play some games. Rejoice in each other's company. Relax!

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

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

## VOCATIONS

"By faith Abraham obeyed." If you should be called to serve the Lord as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, like Abraham pray for a deep faith and obey Him in love. To find out more about the discernment process, contact Fr. Christopher Luoni at 330.744.8451, or email him at [cluoni@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:cluoni@youngstowndiocese.org).

## BAPTISMAL PREPARATION SESSION

Are you planning to have a child baptized in the next several months? Our next Baptismal Preparation Session will take place on Sunday, January 11, 2015, at 1 p.m. in the parlor. **Please call the parish office to register.**

We ask that all parents attend a baptismal preparation session during the third trimester of pregnancy, and that parents attend a preparation session for each child.

## A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE *by Bud Ozar*

### Feast of the Holy Family -- LK 2:22-40

The Gospel today shows Mary and Joseph weren't "perfect" parents. If you have ever been "amazed" and "astonished" at what came out of your child's mouth, then you are in good company. If there were times you "didn't understand" your children or felt "anxious" about their behavior, so did Mary and Joseph. Parenting is tough, but it is also the stuff of holiness.

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Sunday, December 28**

9:00 a.m. Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - Mass  
 11:30 a.m. Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - Mass

**Monday, December 29**

10:30 a.m. AA Meeting (Providence Center)  
 5:30 p.m. Zumba (Reagan Hall)

**Tuesday, December 30**

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting (Providence Center)

**Wednesday, December 31**

7:00 p.m. Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

**Thursday, January 1 Parish Offices Closed**

8:30 a.m. Mass - Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

**Friday, January 2**

8:30 a.m. First Friday Mass

**Saturday, January 3**

9:00 a.m. AA Meeting (Providence Center)  
 11:00 a.m. AA Meeting (Providence Center)

**Sunday, January 4**

9:00 a.m. Spanish Mass (Providence Center)  
 10:10 a.m. Faith Formation Sessions  
 10:10 a.m. Coffee & Donuts (HFH)  
 6:00 p.m. Planning Group with Fr. McCarthy (HFH)

**R.C.I.A**

**CATECHUMEN & CANDIDATE WELCOME**

We welcomed six new adults and five children into our community who are seeking full communion in the Catholic Faith. The adult Catechumens **Abigail Corley, Darryl Douglas, Bryan Kroll, Betty Strawderman**, and children, **Jacob Conde, Kamora Hays, Nina Paden, Jenia Rameriz, and Selena Rockenfelder**, will be receiving all three initiation sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Our candidates, **Christy Conde and Joe O'Grady**, will be receiving Eucharist and Confirmation.

Since September, all of them have been attending inquiry and formation sessions and are now ready to take the next step of their journey into the Period of Catechumenate. As they walk their journey of faith, we welcome them with open arms and continue to keep them in our prayers. *A prayer card that you can use at home is available in the gathering space.*

Interested in learning more about our Catholic Faith?  
 Contact Deacon Bob with questions!

*Peace on Earth, and Mercy Mild,  
 God & sinners reconciled!*

**Stewardship Thought for the Week**

The story of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple depicts Mary and Joseph following the law of their faith. May we discover in this action, the stewardship of our faith. Like Mary and Joseph, may our stewardship invite us into the house of the Lord and then back out to share what we have received.

**Liturgy Schedule for  
 New Year's Eve, New Year's Day**

*Liturgical Ministers are needed!*

**Wednesday, December 31 --**

7:00 p.m. Mass Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

**Thursday, January 1, 2015**

8:30 a.m. Mass Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

**EVENING PRAYER**

Our parish evening prayer will resume Tuesday, January 6, at 7 p.m. in the chapel. Plan to take part!

*LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE FOR WINTER*

**THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW, PART II**

**The first session is Tuesday, January 6, 2015  
 in the parlor of Blessed Sacrament Church.**

*The session follows our parish Evening Prayer at 7 p.m.  
 (session runs 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.).*

**Fundamental Commitment:**

**Prayer – Presence – Preparation – Participation**

THOSE BEGINNING THE STUDY OF MATTHEW ARE ASKED TO LOOK OVER THE FIRST PART OF THE STUDY BEFORE JANUARY 6. FOR CONTINUING PARTICIPANTS, THERE IS NO ASSIGNMENT BEFORE THE FIRST SESSION.

Sessions meet Tuesdays 1-6-15 thru 2-10-15, 7:30-9pm. Evening Prayer at 7pm really sets the tone! Six sessions total. New to the study, \$20; continuing, \$5. CEU's available thru the diocese. Bring your bible weekly along with your study materials. Register after all of the Masses on the weekends of December 27/28 and January 3/4. You may also register by calling the parish office, or on-line. Materials available when payment is made.

**PARISH OFFICES CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS**

The parish offices will be open Monday, December 29 at 8:30 a.m. Morning Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 a.m. in the chapel.

The parish offices will be closed on **Thursday, January 1, New Year's Day**. Morning Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 a.m. (Vigil Mass takes place Wednesday, 12/31, at 7 p.m.)

**MARRIAGE MOMENTS**

As the year comes to a close, many people review its ups and downs. Share the happiest and saddest time for each of you this past year. Is there anything you want to change to love each other better next year?

**WORD OF LIFE**

"Are we moved by the suffering of those without shelter? Do we seek to alleviate the fear, confusion and panic that women facing unexpected pregnancies may be experiencing? Do our hearts ache for elderly patients in nursing homes who feel abandoned and unwanted, having no one to visit them?"

Our mission is to show each person the love of Christ. As uniquely created individuals, we each have unique gifts which we are called to use to share Christ's love."

*-- Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap., Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, 2014 Respect Life Month Statement*

**SPECIAL MINISTERS' SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, December 27 4:00 pm**

**Readers:** D. Zock, K. Sauer

**S.M.H.C.:** R. Lubert, A. Klotz, P. Mangiarelli, S. Campbell, R. Fenstermaker, J. & L. Sanders

**Servers:** F. Pishotti, G. Pishotti, W. Thompson

**Greeters:** G. Baran, J. Lemaster

**Sunday, December 28 9:00 am**

**Readers:** J. Lyda, J. Hamilton

**S.M.H.C.:** M. & C. Werblan, S. Letson, B. Lyda, R. Malanga, D. & J. Falcione, R. Jones, M. Jones

**Servers:** P. Loges, J. Jones, T. Klaben

**Greeters:** G. & D. Woolensack

**CLOW:** No CLOW today

**11:30 am**

**Readers:** J. Bedich, A. Kelly

**S.M.H.C.:** A. Kemble, M. Pipino, J. Sabat, R. Green, S. & K. Kelly,

M. Schaefer

**Servers:** M. Schaefer, M. Schaefer, N. Muscarella

**Greeters:** B. & B. Ward; K. Kiniklis, B. Shanovich

**CLOW:** No CLOW today

**Saturday, January 3 4:00 pm**

**Readers:** J. Bokone, S. DeLeo

**S.M.H.C.:** S. & J. Delaquilla, D. Bokone, R. Fenstermaker, D. Rossi, T. & A. Hostetler

**Servers:** B. Freeman, L. Wilson, M. Wilson

**Greeters:** C. Myers, P. Bartolo

**Sunday, January 4 9:00 am**

**Readers:** B. Marino, G. Ciuba

**S.M.H.C.:** L. Amadei, C. Nemeth, L. Stirling, R. Green, M. Bugos, J. Gabele, M. Lytle, B. Lyda, G. DiPaolo

**Servers:** A. Lytle, N. Jaros, C. Faulk

**Greeters:** J. Veverka, K. Anerino

**CLOW:** P. Martuccio

**11:30 am**

**Readers:** K. Puharich, B. Antenucci

**S.M.H.C.:** M. Schaefer, P. Orsinelli, C. Hooks, D. Timko, M. Pipino, S. & K. Kelly

**Servers:** M. Schaefer, M. Schaefer, B. Wilson

**Greeters:** D. O'Brien, G. Musumeci; J. DeSalvo, M. Rossi, A. Kemble, L. Spano

**CLOW:** T. Jaros

**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL**

Our Service Person Board now lists loved ones and parishioners who are presently serving our country – anywhere – at home or abroad. Please keep these men and women in prayer. Prayer cards are available at the Service Person Board.

**\*\*REMEMBER OUR RETURNING SERVICE PEOPLE IN PRAYER\*\***

There are many difficulties faced by those returning from war and the services they require are not always readily available. Please pray for our returning veterans and for those who do what they can to support them.

*If you would like to add a loved one to the list of service people to keep in prayer, please contact Pat Campbell in the parish office.*

**Stations of the Cross for Peace**

Join us the first Tuesday of the month – January 6 – to pray the Stations of the Cross for peace. If you'd like to participate, simply meet in the church at noon. This prayer will take less than a half hour and will involve spoken prayer along with simple singing. Here is a way to join with others to give voice to your desire for peace in this complicated world. Questions? Call Pat Campbell at the parish office.

**RELAY FOR LIFE**

Support our parish Relay for Life team with your involvement! Register with Paula in the parish office, or on the American Cancer Society website for RFL-Trumbull/Warren. Let's beat this terrible disease!! Fundraisers currently under way...

- Trumbull New Theatre on January 25, Comedy, 'Dixie Swim Club' is sure to be a blast!! Tickets on sale from any team member, or in the parish office. \$15/person. Doors open at 2pm, feature at 3pm.

**THANK YOU!**

Many thanks to all who helped to make our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day liturgies so beautiful. We are grateful to those who took part in the Christmas Eve Family Choir, and to all parish musicians who continue to serve our parish with their generosity of time and talent.

Thanks to the lectors who offered their services and then took the extra time to be well-prepared for their proclamation of God's word. Thanks to Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers and all of our Hospitality Ministers (including Greeters and Ushers) for rising to the occasion and helping all to feel welcome and to feel part of our Eucharistic assembly.

Thanks to the environment committee and all who helped them adorn the worship space for this beautiful season. Wonderful! Thank you for the hard work – resulting in beautiful surroundings for wonderful celebrations!

Thanks to all!!

*The Worship and Spiritual Growth Commission*

**\*\* Glory to the Newborn King!! \*\***

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER ALL THOSE ON OUR PRAYER CHAIN**

**FEBRUARY 2015 PASTA COOK-OFF BENEFITS AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION**

Volunteers are needed to plan and coordinate the February 22 Pasta Cook-Off and Wine Tasting event! A meeting is scheduled for Monday January 12 at 6:30 pm if you are interested!

**FAITH FORMATION**

**There will be no FFS or CLOW on Sunday, 12/28**

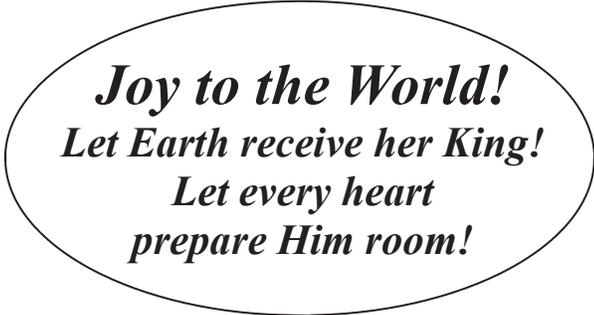
Both activities for our children will resume of January 4!  
 We pray that all of our holy families will have  
 a wonderful holiday!

**TREASURED GIFTS FROM GOD**

**CHILD PROTECTION INSERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

All new volunteers and employees who minister with youth and children are required to participate in "Treasured Gifts from God" Child Protection Inservice.

Please contact Brenda Antenucci in the parish office to register for the January session at our parish, or to learn about other sessions being offered throughout our diocese.



**Youth Ministry / E.P.I.C. Teens  
 IMPORTANT DATES**

**Jan. --** Kairos leaders will meet: dates TBA

*\*please call Brooke with: days off info, and when exams done\**

**Jan 24/25 -- Kairos Retreat** (for those registered)

**Jan 31/Feb 1 -- Souper Bowl of Caring** collections after all Masses, benefits St. Vincent de Paul Society

**Feb 1 -- Pancake Breakfast** to benefit SVdP Society

**Mission Trip for June 29-July 2, 2015**

All 8th-11th graders (incoming 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders for the fall of 2015) interested in a mission trip opportunity next summer, please contact Brooke in the parish office for more details. Plans are being made for an iPlunge experience in Cincinnati, OH, with the Jesuit Spiritual Center (who run our Confirmation retreats) for three nights, four days (from 6am June 29- 8pm July 2, 2015). A \$55 non-refundable deposit is due Feb 15. Fundraising will take place in March/April/May. The total cost of the trip is \$265/person + fuel. Chaperones needed and will drive their own cars (no buses will be used.) Essays and applications will be used to determine who will have a spot held for the trip.

**YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**

**Mahoning Valley Theology on Tap** meets on Wednesday, 1/21, at Avalon Downtown Youngstown. Meet in our parish parking lot by 6:45pm to carpool, program at 7pm. RSVP to Brooke by TU 1/20. Save the dates...always the third Wednesday, 2/18, 3/18, 4/15, and 5/20! Locations change every 3-4 months.

**LITURGY CORNER**

Our "Liturgy Corner" takes a journey through the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*

We are into the season of Christmas Time as we celebrate today's feast – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This season will continue through Sunday, January 11, when we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. We will then return to Ordinary Time – but for only a few weeks. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18!

We return to our trip through the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* with the promise that we will NOT continue to look at each of the 399 paragraphs in such detail! Really!

Today we read three paragraphs that give us the basics of the call to liturgical ministry. Mass is meant to involve all present and all present are called by their baptism to participate "fully, consciously and actively." Some are chosen, or called by God, to be involved in a more specific way, through a particular ministry. Read on! (note: you will see altar servers described in a way that seems to point more to adults than to children, but no specific age group is named.)

*In the absence of an instituted acolyte, there may be deputed lay minister to serve at the altar and assist the Priest and the Deacon; these carry the cross, the candles, the thurible, the bread, the wine, and the water, or who are even deputed to distribute Holy Communion as extraordinary ministers.*

*In the absence of an instituted lector, other lay people may be deputed to proclaim the readings from Sacred Scripture, people who are truly suited to carrying out this function and carefully prepared, so that by their hearing the readings from the sacred texts the faithful may conceive in their hearts a sweet and living affection for Sacred Scripture. It is the psalmist's place to sing the Psalm or other biblical canticle to be found between the readings. To carry out this function correctly, it is necessary for the psalmist to be accomplished in the art of singing Psalms and have a facility in public speaking and elocution.*

Here we read of three specific ministries. Note that the lector has a very specific challenge offered. They are to be "truly suited to carrying out this function and carefully prepared." The "why?" isn't just that they have to know how to read, or even how to read well. They are to proclaim the Sacred Scripture in such a way that "the faithful may conceive in their hearts a sweet and living affection for the Sacred Scripture." Wow!

It is true that, in today's crazy-busy world, we have heard, "Why do I, as a lector (or as any other minister), have to keep attending formation when I've done this for years?" This makes the answer pretty clear! You need to be continually formed – as we all do – so that the tremendous responsibility you bear can be carried out with skill, knowledge and understanding, as well as with a growing and deepening faith. Our cantors bear the same responsibility and are challenged to continuous formation as well as skill development. The challenge is also a gift, as those who grow and deepen their skills in a particular ministry often find that their relationship with Christ is strengthened and their love of this faith community also increases.

Next week, the rest of this section: "Other Functions" of "Particular Ministries."

**KEEP THE KIDS WARM CAMPAIGN**

Catholic Charities will sponsor the annual "Keep the Kids Warm" campaign between the Feasts of the Holy Family and the Baptism of the Lord, Dec 28 and Jan 11.

Keep the Kids Warm is an important annual effort that raises funds to help low-income and working poor families who do not qualify for government assistance; families waiting for PIPP Plus (Percentage of Income Payment Plan) to authorize assistance; and families who HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) benefits have been exhausted.

Last year, Catholic Charities provided utility assistance to 4,883 people. That amount is expected to be higher this year as greater requests come in. Catholic Charities serves all qualifying people in need regardless of their religion.

***Please help us ensure that children stay warm during this cold Ohio winter!***

Donations of support can be sent to Catholic Charities' Keep the Kids Warm, P.O. Box 614, Youngstown, OH 44501. Donations can also be made on Catholic Charities' website at [www.ccdoy.org](http://www.ccdoy.org). One-hundred percent of the funds raised through this special effort are returned to the counties in which they were collected to provide direct assistance to families in need.

Contact Meg Andersen, Director of Social Services at 330.744.8451 ext 328 for more information.

**IN THE COMMUNITY...**

**St. William Parish, Champion**...Liturgy Day, "Liturgical Ministry - With Hearts, Hands and Voices," SAT 1/31, with Mrs. Rita Thiron, Exec Dir Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions as keynoter. The presentation will focus on how liturgical ministry contributes to the unity of the Church and its evangelizing mission. Further details will be available soon!

**St. Columba Cathedral**...(1)**Annual Mass for Life**...Join Bishop Murry to pray for a greater respect for all human life and for an end to abortion, euthanasia, and capital punishment at the annual diocesan Mass for Life, Saturday, Jan 17 at 12pm. Expectant mothers, fathers and families to receive a blessing for their unborn child. Lunch follows. All are welcome! (2)**Holy Hours for Life**...Sunday, Jan 18 after 4pm Mass, concluding with Benediction at 7pm. Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 6 and Men and Women United for Life will provide refreshments. All are welcome! (3)**Annual White Mass**...recognizing the ministry of health professionals, Sunday, Jan 25 at 10:30am. Reception follows. All are welcome! (4)**God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage**...Marriage Prep Retreat Day, Saturday, Jan 31. For engaged couples, those in parish marriage ministry. 744-8451.

**First Friday Club of Greater Youngstown**...Luncheon Speaker Series, TH 1/8 at 11:30am, with Most Reverend George V. Murry, S.J., Bishop of the Diocese of Youngstown, at Antone's Banquet Center, Boardman. RSVP at 330.720.4498 by 12/30. To carpool from our parish at 10:45am, contact Brenda in the parish office!

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Please note! The deadline to submit information, pictures, kudos, etc. for the next parish newsletter is Monday, January 11, 2015. Contact Paula for any details. The newsletter will arrive in homes prior to Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18.

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***PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BULLETIN ADVERTISERS!!***  
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