

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

## 'THE LORD IS BORN FOR US,'

we sing in the refrain of the Responsorial Psalm (on Christmas day). The Psalmist imagines the whole earth rejoicing in the light of this cosmic event: the islands, the heavens, and the peoples will proclaim justice and see the Lord's glory.

The Gospel reading for the Mass at Dawn (on Christmas day) follows the shepherds to the stable after they have heard the angels' announcement. Stunned and empowered by what they have heard, the shepherds hurry to discover the reason for the angels' joy. Once they have seen, they become evangelizers; they bear good news (*evangelium*), and all who hear it are "amazed." from *At Home With the Word* 2016

The celebration of the birth of Our Lord each Christmas gives us many reasons to reflect on our faith. Truly this is a time for us all to rejoice, to give thanks to God for this remarkable gift to us! The gift of Jesus -- Savior and King, Holy and Merciful. This infant child the shepherds found with Mary and Joseph, lying in the manger.

Thank you all so much for your Christmas wishes and blessings for the New Year! I pray your Christmas Season continues to be a time of light and great joy. Our Savior has come to us!! We are filled with wonder!!

Many thanks to the staff and the many volunteers who so diligently prepared our worship space for the Christmas Season! A special thanks to all who volunteered to enhance our liturgies, the Liturgical Ministers, Welcome Choir, Environment Committee, Worship & Spiritual Growth Commission, and overseers from the staff who work together with volunteers in praise to Our Lord! Great effort by all! Thank you!!

In a Catholic News Service article by Cindy Wooden dated 12/17/15, **Pope Francis' 2015: Family, Ecology, But Mostly Mercy**, the following thoughts are shared...

Pope Francis' call, building on St. John Paul's, is for those who have experienced Christ's love to throw open the doors of their churches and their hearts to others, welcoming them in with gestures of tenderness.

The pope and synod affirmed repeatedly that God's ideal for the family is based on the marriage of one man and one woman, united for life and open to having children. Without acting as if every form of modern family life was equally valid, but also without "demonizing others," the pope said at the end of the gathering, the synod wanted "to embrace fully and courageously the goodness and mercy of God, who surpasses our human calculations and wants nothing other than that 'all would be saved.'"

..."synodality" -- walking together -- must mark its (the Church's) internal relationships, he said.

"The journey of synodality is the journey that God wants from his church in the third millennium," the pope said Oct. 17. "A synodal church is a listening church, aware that listening is more than hearing. It is a reciprocal listening in which each one has something to learn."

In a synodal church, he insisted, leadership is not about power, but about service. "We must never forget: for the disciples of Jesus -- yesterday, today and forever -- the only authority is the authority of service; the only power is the power of the cross," he said.

And the cross, he said opening the Year of Mercy,

*(Continued on page 2)*

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

## Sunday, December 27

9:00 a.m. Mary Polo (Dan & Bonnie Nagy)

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

## Monday, December 28

No Mass or Communion Service

## Tuesday, December 29

8:30 a.m. Mary Bungo (Harry & Grace Daugherty)

## Wednesday, December 30

8:30 a.m. Bob Pavick (Tom & Karen Lazor)

## Thursday, December 31

7:00 p.m. Fr. E. J. McCarthy (Marty & Nancy Kinnavy)

## Friday, January 1

8:30 a.m. Richard Walsh (George Shoaf, Ruth Crowe)

## Saturday, January 2

4:00 p.m. Tony Kokal (Greg & Susan Kokal & Family)

## Sunday, January 3

9:00 a.m. Bob Pavick (Dan & Mary Lou Lazor)

11:30 a.m. Ronald Fabian (Richard Fabian)

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

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

## IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Paul W. Dinger**, husband of Lillian; and of **Stephen D. Salvato**. May they rest in peace.

## VOCATIONS

The Holy Family is for us the model for all families. Parents are the first teachers of the faith. As parents, have you shown by word and example the way to follow Christ? Have you encouraged your children to consider a vocation to the priesthood or religious life? For more information, call Fr. Christopher Luoni, Vocation Director at (330) 744-8451, or email: [cluoni@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:cluoni@youngstowndiocese.org).

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION SESSION --  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 1 P.M.

If you are expecting a child or if you wish to have a child baptized in the near future, please call the parish office to register for the next baptismal preparation session. *We do not celebrate baptisms during the Lenten Season...please keep this in mind when considering when to have your child baptized.*

**THE WEEK AHEAD****Sunday, December 27**

10:10 a.m. NO FFS

10:10 a.m. NO Coffee &amp; Donuts (HFH)

**Monday, December 28** **Parish Offices Closed**

10:30 a.m. AA Meeting (Providence Center)

**Tuesday, December 29**

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

**Wednesday, December 30**5:00 p.m. Zumba (RH) *\*1st time free!!***Thursday, December 31**

7:00 p.m. Holy Day Mass (Church)

**Friday, January 1** **Parish Offices Closed**

8:30 a.m. Holy Day Mass (Church)

**Saturday, January 2**

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

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

**Sunday, January 3**9:00 a.m. Spanish Mass (Providence Center)  
NO FFS, NO COFFEE & DONUTS**Pastor's Column***continued from p. 1*

is the clearest sign of God's mercy, love and willingness to forgive sinners.

- See more at: [http://www.themessageonline.org/us\\_news/article/id/12794#sthash.XSveGjqt.dpuf](http://www.themessageonline.org/us_news/article/id/12794#sthash.XSveGjqt.dpuf) - See more at: [http://www.themessageonline.org/us\\_news/article/id/12794#sthash.XSveGjqt.dpuf](http://www.themessageonline.org/us_news/article/id/12794#sthash.XSveGjqt.dpuf)

**Scripture Insights**

In John's letter, we Christians are called beloved children of God whom the world cannot recognize since it could not recognize Christ. Like Samuel, set apart for God's service and the child Jesus in today's Gospel, going about his daily life with his parents, we are to stay grounded in our identity, believing in Jesus Christ and loving one another until the future shall be revealed.

- What insights do these readings offer about the role of parents in our relationship with God?
- What are your fears and blessings related to your family?
- How do you understand "the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us?"

**Practice of Faith**

Today's Gospel lets us feel the paralyzing panic that consumes Mary and Joseph (and any parent) who has lost sight of a child. When she and Joseph finally find Jesus in the Temple, Mary speaks of the "great anxiety" all parents sometimes feel about their children.

- ◇ The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops supports parents in their ministry as family caregivers. See suggested resources at [usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/parents-and-parenting](http://usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/parents-and-parenting).
- ◇ January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, as well as the World Day of Peace. Visit [w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/index.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/index.html) to read the Pope's annual New Year's Day Message to the world.
- ◇ Today's Responsorial Psalm tells of the blessings of dwelling in the Lord's house. Consider how your house could become more like God's.

from [At Home With the Word 2016](#)

**PARISH OFFICES CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS**

Parish offices will be closed **Monday, Dec 28**, in observance of the Christmas holiday. Parish offices will also be closed **Friday, Jan 1**, in observance New Year's Day. Mass times for New Year's Day, a holy day of obligation, are Thursday - the Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God - Dec 31 at 7pm, and Friday, Jan 1, the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, at 8:30am.

**MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST**

Men of the parish are welcome to Men's Prayer Breakfast on Monday, January 4, 7am, at Panera Bread.

**Liturgical Ministers Needed***for Upcoming Holy Day:*

January 1, 2016 is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Please sign up to serve as a liturgical ministers either for Thursday, Dec 31, 2015 at 7 p.m. or Friday, Jan 1, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. Your help is needed. **Close out 2015 or begin 2016 with Mass. SIGN UP IN THE GATHERING SPACE.**

**Stations of the Cross for Peace**

Join us the first Tuesday of the month – January 5 – to pray the Stations of the Cross for peace. 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. Call Pat Campbell at the parish office with any questions.

**EVENING PRAYER**

Meet in the chapel at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, for evening prayer. This prayer time with others offers an opportunity to give thanks for the blessings of the day and to ask God for protection in the days ahead. (The prayer takes less than a half an hour.)

**Stewardship Thought for the Week**

*"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are."*

1 Jn 3: 1

During this season of giving, let us remember the most important gift we have received -- being children of God. As God's children, it's important that we express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children and other family members and friends that you love them, frequently.

*"¡Fíjense qué gran amor nos ha dado el Padre, que se nos llame hijos de Dios! ¡Y lo somos!"* (1 Juan 3:1)

Durante esta temporada de dar, recordemos cual es el regalo más importante que hemos recibido - ser hijos de Dios. Como tal, es importante que expresemos nuestro amor por los demás también. Dígale a su pareja, hijos y otros familiares y amigos que los ama, con frecuencia.

**SPECIAL MINISTERS' SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, December 26 4:00 pm**

**Readers:** K. Thompson, K. Sauer  
**S.M.H.C.:** P. Mangiarelli, B. Thompson, R. Green,  
 S. & J. Delaquila, K. Mariani  
**Servers:** M. Wilson, A. Thompson, L. Wilson  
**Greeters:** J. Florio, C. Gilson

**Sunday, December 27 9:00 am**

**Readers:** D. Laux, J. Laux  
**S.M.H.C.:** M. Lazor, S. Letson, L. Stirling, R. Green, M. Jones,  
 R. Jones, J. Gabele  
**Servers:** J. Jones, C. Clark, T. Patchen  
**Greeters:** Goffos Family  
**CLOW:** No CLOW

**11:30 am**

**Readers:** B. Steines, M. Schellhorn  
**S.M.H.C.:** P. Orsinelli, G. Flynn, L. & L. D'Amore, R. Green,  
 J. & D. Sabat  
**Servers:** A. Steines, S. Meola, Q. Meola  
**Greeters:** J. & J. Satterfield; L. Spano, J. DeSalvo  
**CLOW:** No CLOW

**Saturday, January 2 4:00 pm**

**Readers:** M. Shader, J. Weston  
**S.M.H.C.:** D. Bokone, S. Campbell, P. Pawlikowski,  
 S. & J. Delaquila, R. Green, R. Fenstermaker  
**Servers:** R. Loges, J. Loges, P. Loges  
**Greeters:** G. & C. Klingensmith. **Ushers:** P. Chelova,  
 J. Grayson, J. Mock, F. Pishotti, P. Szczyglowski, D. Toboz

**Sunday, January 3 9:00 am**

**Readers:** E. Hlad, R. King  
**S.M.H.C.:** S. & K. Bungo, M. Bugos, K. Clark, T. D'Amico,  
 C. Klaben, M. Klaben  
**Servers:** T. Klaben, J. Birmingham, I. Soplata  
**Greeters:** L. Crank, K. DeCarlo. **Ushers:** M. Gorse,  
 D. Marino, P. Rossi, A. Solich, T. Solich  
**CLOW:** L. Amadei

**11:30 am**

**Readers:** S. McGee, B. Antenucci  
**S.M.H.C.:** A. Shaker, L. & L. D'Amore, P. Orsinelli,  
 S. & K. Kelly, C. Kloboves  
**Servers:** N. McGee, C. DelliQuadri, C. DelliQuadri  
**Greeters:** K. Kiniklis. **Ushers:** T. Belmaggio, A. Kemble,  
 K. Kiniklis  
**CLOW:** K. Sylvester

**GIVE YOURSELF A GIFT THIS YEAR**

**Make Plans to Join Scripture Study on Tuesday Evenings  
 DIVINE MERCY**

God's mercy, in both the Old and New Testaments, is the core of biblical revelation and the expression of God's own heart. God cares deeply about the plight of people and shows deep compassion in their suffering. Again and again, God demonstrates faithful love for the world and calls people to a joyful and abundant life. Our experience of divine mercy encourages and obliges us to become witnesses of mercy ourselves. If God treats us mercifully and forgives us, then we too must forgive and demonstrate works of mercy to one another.

There is a widely-held opinion that the God of the Old Testament is a vengeful and angry God, while the God of the New Testament is a gracious and merciful God. But in reality, both testaments reveal the same God, who is revealed through words and deeds of mercy. This newest addition to the very popular Threshold Bible Study series lessons to help individuals and groups "open the door" to the heart of Scripture.

Join us Jan 5-Feb 9, 2016, as we begin the new year deepening our understanding of God's mercy expressed in Scripture and experienced in our lives! Registration begins 12/27!

**New Ministry Schedule JAN-FEB 2016**

If you have given Pat Campbell or your ministry coordinator your e-mail address, you should have received an e-mail explaining how to register on the Ministry Schedule Pro website.

Those who have let Pat or their ministry coordinator know that they DO NOT have internet access should have received the schedule via US Postal Service.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Pat Campbell at the parish office as soon as possible.

**FIRST FRIDAY CLUB OF GREATER YOUNGSTOWN**

First Friday Luncheon speaker series continues TH Jan. 7, 11:30am, Antone's in Boardman. Sr. Maureen McCarthy, OSU, will speak on the topic of "Spirituality for Active People." \$16/person. **We carpool leaving Blessed Sacrament at 10:45am, and return by 1:45pm. Please RSVP to Brenda by Jan. 4 ( at the latest! ) if you want to attend the luncheon!** *Sr. Maureen has over 35 years in education – teaching at every level from primary grades through graduate level courses. She has presented programs on scripture and spirituality nationally and internationally, served in leadership for the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, held leadership roles in healthcare administration and currently is offering retreats, days of reflection and presentations on spiritual topics. We have heard wonderful things about her presentations! [firstfridayclubof-greateryoungstown.org](http://firstfridayclubof-greateryoungstown.org).*

**NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK -- JANUARY 3-9, 2016** In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus tells his disciples, "I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me." More info/resources at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).

**THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY CONTINUES**

as we get ready to enter the New Year

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops suggests the following as a way to get back to church. You may want to share this with someone you care about.

Welcome. Have you been away from the Church? Are you thinking about coming back? Do you know someone who wants to come home to the Catholic Church, but is struggling with their faith? Maybe you or someone you know has experienced one of these thoughts:

**I grew up Catholic, but for some reason I just sort of stopped going to Church...**  
**I just moved to a new city, I tried going to a couple different parishes, but I never really felt welcomed...**  
**After my marriage ended, I felt uncomfortable around my family, friends and parish...**  
**I just don't understand why the Church teaches what it does! Some teachings seem so outdated...**  
**I tried to contact my parish about getting married but no one got back to me...** *(continued next page)*

**FAITH FORMATION**

**NO FFS ON SUNDAY, DEC 27 & JAN 3!!**

**Great Attendance---those missing 0 or 1 day!!  
First Quarter 2015/16**

Congratulations to Students and Parents for perfect and great attendance (missing only once!) during the first quarter of Faith Formation. Please congratulate the following students and families! Presence and dedication are so important as the children are formed in our Faith!!

<b>PreK</b>	<b>5th</b>
Zarina Candor	Braeden Candor
<b>Kind.</b>	Courtney Clark
Jillian Ricciardi	Robert Gumino
<b>First</b>	Jack Loges
Natalie Bellomo	Madeline Ricciardi
Grayson Dandor	Riley Fabrizio
Fiona Downing	<b>6th</b>
Jane Faulk	Aiden Birmingham
<b>2nd</b>	Nicholas Jaros
Sophia Bellomo	Cassie Myers
Brandon Cash	Zachary Sulc
Riley Cordell	Bayne Wilson
Julie Steinbeck	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Madison Menci
Cooper Downing	Evan Wolf
Frank Gargas	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>
Alex Gumino	Eliana D'Andrea
Luke Lyda	Isabell D'Andrea
<b>4th</b>	Mia D'Andrea
Jocelyn Birmingham	Duncan Harlan
Bryan Stone	Justin Jones
Aidan Thompson	Vincent Marimpietri
	Madison Schaefer

**YOUTH MINISTRY / E.P.I.C. TEENS  
CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES ...**

Our next session will be a morning session at 10am on 1/10/16 (candidates only / no sponsor session.) FFS students will have Confirmation class, not FFS class. We will conclude that session with 11:30 mass and the Rite of Enrollment – all sponsors and family are encouraged to attend the Mass on 1/10/16 in support of the candidates.

Please also save the date for our Pancake Breakfast on Superbowl / Souper Bowl Sunday, Feb. 7.

**KAIROS RETREAT FOR 9-12TH GRADERS ...**

***Please join us for this great retreat experience!***

January 24, 2016, 6-7:30pm

\*Mini Retreat – St. John Paul II, Social Hall, 420 North St. NW, Warren. ^participants & leaders.

February 27-28, 2016

Kairos Overnight Retreat: 9am-5:30pm, Villa Maria Education & Spirituality Center, 2105 Evergreen Rd.

Permission slip and sign up is due BY Jan. 17. \$60 fee is due on Jan 31 for the retreat facilities & deposit, t-shirt, food & activities (or \$55 if you pay by Jan. 17). Blessed Sacrament is offering this discount to Blessed Sacrament teens. (The total cost is \$95.)

\*You do not need to attend the mini retreat in order to come in February, but it is encouraged to meet people and to do retreat activities. Please find the permission slips and flyers in the gathering space. If you have any questions please contact our leaders, Wil Thompson at (330) 240-5403 or Liz McCue at (330) 307-1405.

**2015 EAGLE OF THE CROSS AWARDS**

The Eagle of the Cross is the highest award our diocese gives to high school juniors and seniors that have demonstrated Christian values and leadership at their parish and/or Catholic high school. Recipients are chosen from the WRITTEN NOMINATIONS submitted. Nominations must be received (no facsimiles) at the Diocesan offices **by 3 p.m. on Friday, Feb 19 (Mail it by Wed Feb 17)**. The Eagle of the Cross Awards Mass, Banquet and Ceremony will take place on **Apr 14, 2016**. Forms info: [youngstownoyyam.weebly.com/eagle-of-cross-awards.html](http://youngstownoyyam.weebly.com/eagle-of-cross-awards.html).

**PRAYER OF ST. CLAUDE de la COLOMBIERE, SJ**

*Lord, I am in this world to show Your mercy to others.*

*Other people will glorify You by making visible the power of Your grace by their fidelity and constancy to You.*

*For my part I will glorify You by making known how good You are to sinners, that Your mercy is boundless, and that no sinner no matter how great his offences should have reason to despair of pardon.*

*If I have grievously offended You, My Redeemer,  
Let me not offend You even more by thinking that You are not kind enough to pardon me. Amen*

**Blessed Sacrament Parish Catholic Community Women's Group  
"A Journey of Grace"**

We will meet the first Wednesday of every month at 1:30 pm in Holy Family Hall. We will also have an evening session at 7:00 for those who can't attend during the afternoon. We will view a short retreat video, read scripture, reflect, and end with prayer. ALL WOMEN ages 19-100 are invited!! The first gathering of the Women's Prayer and Reflection group, "A Journey of Grace," will be Wednesday Jan. 6, 1:30 or 7:00 pm !!

*(Continued from page 3)*

**Holy Year of Mercy Continues**

If you have experienced one of these situations or thoughts you are not alone. The Church wants you to know that you are a child of God, called by name, precious in his eyes and loved by him (Is 43:1,4). The Church also wants you to know that you are missed. When one member of the Body of Christ suffers, the entire Body of the Church suffers.

[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) contains resources to help you rediscover the faith and answer questions about the Church and Church teachings. Explore this site and contact your local parish ([www.bspcc.org](http://www.bspcc.org)).

**SUPPORT RELAY FOR LIFE --**

**TRUMBULL NEW THEATRE**

Sunday, January 17 -- 3pm -- \$15, on sale NOW!!

**'ALL I REALLY NEEDED TO KNOW  
I LEARNED IN KINDERGARTEN'**

**PREMIER JEWELRY SET -- Raffle**

**'GIRL'S BEST FRIEND' NECKLACE & EARRINGS --  
An over \$100 value!! Drawing January 17!**

**PLEASE COME!!**

**TEAM MEETING JANUARY 7, 6:30 p.m., Room 103**

## LITURGY CORNER

Our "Liturgy Corner" takes a break from the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* as we take a closer look at the Communion Rite during Mass

We continue with "The Blessed Sacrament and Blessed Sacrament Parish" compiled by Pat Campbell. Today we continue our look at "The Blessed Sacrament and Blessed Sacrament Parish."

We continue to look at the way we share in the Lord's Body and Blood each week. So...

It is clear that the work of celebrating the Eucharistic liturgy well is an ongoing challenge. There is much to look at and think about. There are rubrics to be followed and there is a community to be enriched. We are called to always do what we can to strengthen our relationship with the Lord and with our faith community. The Communion rite is filled with opportunity to deepen our experience of the liturgy.

In reference to the "Gesture of Reverence," the information from the diocese clarifies some questions about this gesture. Bishop Murry made these bulletin inserts available so that all of the diocesan parishes could see what his expectations are for our participation, our posture, our responses and our gestures.

There is certainly some confusion here and most Catholics simply do the best we can. In *Let Us Pray: A Guide to the Rubrics of Sunday Mass*, Paul Turner shares some of the different ways this is treated:

727. The rubric does not explicitly state when the sign of reverence is to be given. Some make it while the person ahead is receiving Communion. Others do so upon arriving at the station. Still others give it while answering "Amen." To assign each element of the ritual its time, the sign of reverence probably belongs when the communicant has reached the station and before the priest or minister says, "The Body of Christ." But the governing principle is to come to Communion reverently, and that allows some variation in external practice.<sup>1</sup>

The explanation of the reverent gesture might surprise us! It is to be a simple a "bow of the head" – let us turn again to Paul Turner:

726. In the United States each person, before receiving Communion, is to bow the head "as a gesture of reverence" (*GIRM* 160). Even right after the Council, each communicant was asked to make some gesture of reverence before receiving Communion, but this rubric was largely ignored. Many people thought that approaching the altar in slow procession and coming to Communion with open hands or open mouths, like beggars, already demonstrated reverence for the sacrament. Some of the faithful did nothing more; others, upon reaching the Communion station, bowed the head, made a profound bow, or even genuflected. Many others made a sign of the cross *after* receiving Communion. To standardize the practice the American bishops called for a bow of the head in the 2002 *GIRM*. The practice still varies. Some communicants make a profound bow. They see the priest and ministers make a profound bow to the altar, so they presume that the gesture of

reverence to the Body and Blood of Christ should be at least the same. However, the rubric is much simpler. It is only a bow of the head, the same bow made when pronouncing the name of Jesus (275a).<sup>2</sup>

The final sentence, "...the same bow made when pronouncing the name of Jesus" is a very simple and straightforward explanation of the gesture. Our information from the diocese does stress that this bow of the head is not a nod, but "an unhurried bow of the head."

To Be Continued...

<sup>1</sup> Turner, *Let Us Pray: A Guide to the Rubrics of Sunday Mass*, 141.

<sup>2</sup> Turner, *Let Us Pray: A Guide to the Rubrics of Sunday Mass*, 140.

## MARRIAGE MOMENTS ...

The feast is over but the visiting and company may continue through the Christmas holidays. Although generally a happy time of family togetherness, Christmas can also be a time when stress causes short tempers. Be mindful and merciful with your beloved these days when you might be together in extremely close quarters.

## PARENTING POINTERS ...

Now that the hubbub of giving and receiving gifts has died down, pause as a family not only to thank each other, but to be thankful that you have the resources to give gifts, and that you have a family to share this time with. Don't let the Christmas season slip slide away without this pause.

## 'KEEP THE KIDS WARM' CAMPAIGN

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Youngstown is calling upon Catholics and others of good will to support a special collection for winter utility assistance for families in need. This campaign will take place between the Feast of the Holy Family 12/27/15 and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord 1/10/16. Donations to support 'Keep the Kids Warm' can be sent to: Catholic Charities, Keep the Kids Warm, P.O. Box 614, Youngstown, OH 44501, or on their website, [ccdo.org](http://ccdo.org). 330.744.8451 or [jlavelle@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:jlavelle@youngstowndiocese.org).

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit articles, kudos, pictures etc. to the parish office for the Lent 2016 Parish Newsletter **by January 15!**

## KEEP THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN PRAYER

We continue to list our loved ones who are serving our country at the present time. Please keep them all in prayer, as we do have some presently outside the United States. Please continue to pray for the safety of all who serve our country! Also remember their loved ones who support them. Please continue to pray for peace!

**Prayer cards are available at the Service Person Board in the gathering space.**

With the news of an increased presence of American service people in Iraq and Afghanistan, many families are concerned about what this may mean for them. With the holidays approaching, let us remain fervent in our prayers for peace!

