



*A weekly publication of the
Catholic Diocese of Cleveland*

[Archbishop Hoban Award presented to
Bishop Gries at Deo Gratias Day of
Recognition](#)

“God is good all the time ... and all the time, God is good,” said Auxiliary Bishop emeritus Roger Gries, OSB as he received the Archbishop Edward F. Hoban Award at the annual Deo Gratias Day of Recognition, Dec. 7 at the Center for Pastoral Leadership in Wickliffe.



The event, presented by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland and the Catholic Community Foundation, included Mass in Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd Chapel, remarks by Bishop Edward Malesic and Jim Mullen, president and CEO of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland, and the award presentation.

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[St. John Bosco hosts 40th annual Journey to Bethlehem](#)

It was only the second week of Advent, but St. John Bosco Church in Parma Heights looked a little bit like Christmas on Dec. 6 when Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland's Disability Services & Ministries presented its 40th annual Journey to Bethlehem.



Participants in the ministry, their family, friends, some St. John Bosco parishioners and members of the Carmona Caravan of the Order of Alhambra gathered for Mass, the traditional procession with the Nativity scene figures and lunch.

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[Bishop brings Advent message of hope to Regina Health Center residents](#)

Regina Health Center in Richfield, a ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System, is home to a number of priests and members of religious congregations, including sisters and brothers. Bishop Edward Malesic visited the center on Dec. 5 to spend time with the residents, to celebrate Mass and to enjoy lunch.

He and Father John Chlebo, diocesan delegate for senior priests, met with about 15 retired priests before Mass. It was an opportunity for conversation and to ask the bishop questions.

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[Catholic Charities' St. Augustine Hunger Center expands to strengthen services, remains rooted in Tremont](#)

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland, is announcing the expansion and relocation of the St. Augustine Hunger Center, 1400 Howard Ave., Cleveland, to a larger, fully renovated site at 2345 W. 14th St., one block north of its current home in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood. Officials said the move will keep the hunger center in the neighborhood it has served for more than 50 years and expands its ability to meet rising community needs. In 2024, St. Augustine Hunger Center served a total of 116,022 meals to individuals and families in need in the community



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An advertisement for the James E. Flynn Memorial Scholarship. On the left, a photograph shows two young women in school uniforms (white shirts and blue plaid skirts) with pink backpacks, sitting at a desk and studying. The right side of the ad has a white background with maroon text. At the top, it says "UNLOCK OUR" in small letters, followed by "JAMES E. FLYNN" in large, bold letters, and "MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP" in large, bold letters. Below this, a white button with maroon text says "APPLY TODAY!". At the bottom right is the logo for "UNITY CATHOLIC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION", which includes a stylized 'U' icon and the text "UNITY" in large letters, with "CATHOLIC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION" in smaller letters below it.

[Retirement Fund for Religious
collection helps congregations support
elderly members](#)

The faithful will have an opportunity to help support more than 21,000 elderly members of religious congregations in the Diocese of Cleveland and around the country this weekend – Dec. 13 and 14 – through the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection. The second collection will be taken at all Masses.

Thousands of sisters, brothers and priests from dozens of religious congregations have worked in the Cleveland Diocese since its creation 178 years ago. This includes the Sisters of the Most Holy Trinity, pictured with this story.

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Catholic Charities preparing 12,000 free Christmas meals for those in need

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland, will prepare and deliver 12,000 free Christmas meals to individuals and families across Northeast Ohio on Christmas Day, Dec. 25. As food insecurity continues to rise, the holiday meal program ensures thousands will receive a hot, home-cooked meal and connection to the broader support Catholic Charities offers all year long.



Catholic Charities will provide meals free to the community both on-site at St. Augustine Hunger Center in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood and through free home delivery, thanks to volunteers across Greater Cleveland.

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[Nigerian bishop visits priest from his diocese who ministers in Cleveland](#)

Bishop Christopher Naseri, a Nigerian Catholic prelate who serves as the auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Calabar, Nigeria, visited the Diocese of Cleveland on Dec. 4 to meet with Father Steve Ntui, a priest from his diocese, who is ministering as a chaplain at the Cleveland Clinic.



Bishop Naseri was appointed as the auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Calabar, Nigeria by the late Pope Francis on May 1, 2023.

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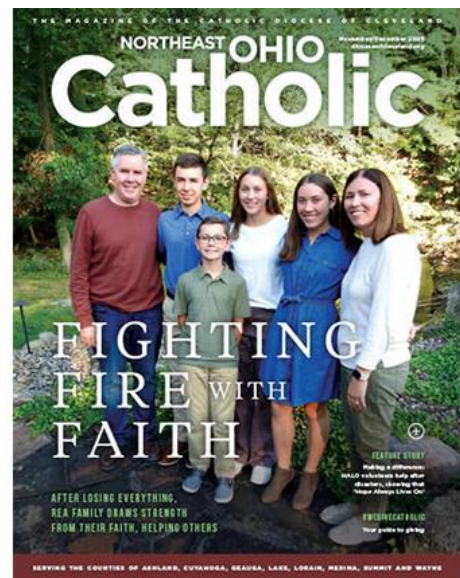
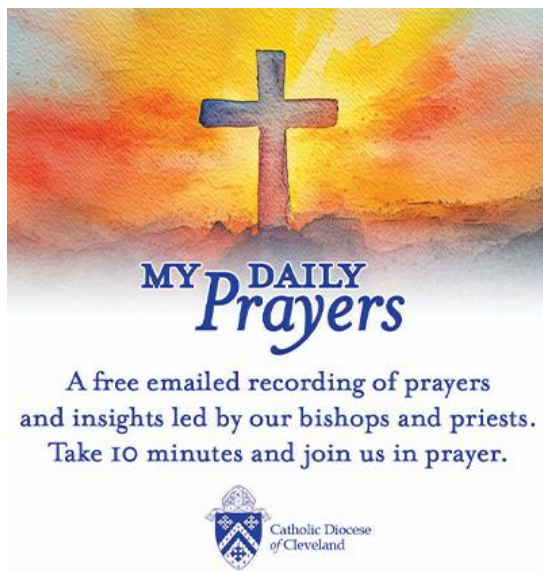
[Scripture reflection: Second Sunday of Advent](#)

In his weekly Scripture reflection, Bishop Edward Malesic writes that John the Baptist is the central figure in the day's Gospel and in next Sunday's Gospel. His austere habits and severe message are intended to get our attention when he tells us, "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand." This is the time to change our ways and get right with God – not later – he warns. Advent has a penitential character and is like a "little Lent," the bishop writes. It's a time to prepare ourselves for Christmas.



Read the entire reflection [here](#).





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My Daily Prayer Sign Up Page.*

Click the cover above to read the latest
edition of Northeast Ohio Catholic

Also, click [here](#) to visit the diocesan website for additional news and information from the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.

And finally...

Did you know that “[My Daily Prayers](#),” which marks its second anniversary this month, is responsible for bringing at least one person back to the Church? Beginning in February 2024, the recordings were shared by a relative with a man (who asked to remain anonymous) who left the faith in the 1980s. “Had these recordings been available to me back in the ‘70s and ‘80s, I may never have left the Catholic Church ... Such fine and meaningful explanations of the Scriptures. Please thank them for me for helping me grow in the depths of my faith,” he wrote. Click [here](#) to access “My Daily Prayers,” including a link to have the content delivered by email to your inbox early each morning. Auxiliary Bishop Michael Woost is leading the prayers this week.

With the Third Sunday of Advent approaching, many parishes in the Diocese of Cleveland, including the [Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist](#), are taking part in the Advent tradition of the Blessing of the Bambinelli. Father Joe Mamich, cathedral pastor and diocesan vicar for clergy and religious, said every year the pope invites children to bring their statues of Baby Jesus (Bambinelli) to be blessed for the Christmas manger. This weekend, Dec. 13-14, those attending Mass at the cathedral are invited to bring their Baby Jesus statues from home when they come to the vigil Mass on Dec. 13 or to Sunday Mass. Following the intercessions, Father Mamich said the priest will invite all interested congregants to come forward with the statues to receive a special blessing for the figures.

Dec. 12 is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which celebrates the Blessed Mother's appearance to Juan Diego, an Aztec peasant, in Mexico in 1531. The Blessed Mother requested a shrine be built in her honor. She left her image imprinted on Juan Diego's tilma (cloak). The feast day is important in the Hispanic community, with many parishes planning special prayers, Masses and other celebrations. In the diocese, eight parishes are planning celebrations.

- [St. Agnes](#), 514 Spring St., Orville, 330-682-2611, 10 a.m. Dec. 12, Las Mananitas (song) and Mass with mariachi
- [La Sagrada Familia](#), 7719 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, 216-631-2888, 7 a.m. Dec. 14, Las Mananitas, noon, Mass celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Michael Woost
- [Our Lady of Lourdes](#), 3395 E. 53rd St., Cleveland, 216-641-2829, 5 a.m. Dec. 12, Las Mananitas, 7 p.m., procession and Mass
- [St. Bernard](#), 44 University St., Akron, 330-243-5161, 11 p.m. Dec. 11, Las Mananitas; 5:30 a.m. Dec. 12, rosary, 6 p.m., Mass, 7-10 p.m. fiesta
- [St. Mary](#), 242 N. State St., Painesville, 440-354-4381, 7 p.m. Dec. 11, procession, dancers, 9 p.m., rosary, 10 p.m. prayer, midnight, Las Mananitas; 7 p.m. Dec. 12, prayer, procession and Mass
- **Holy Angels** [Servants of Mary Center for Peace](#), 6601 Ireland Road, Windsor,

440-272-5380, 11 p.m. Dec. 11, Las Mananitas; 5:30 p.m. Dec. 12, rosary, 6 p.m. Mass/procession, 7-10 p.m., fiesta

- [Sacred Heart Chapel](#), 4301 Pearl St., Lorain, 440-277-7231, Dec. 3-12, novena to Our Lady of Gaudalupe; 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11, rosary; 8 p.m., Mass; 10 p.m., Las Mananitas; 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12, Mass
- [St. Michael the Archangel](#), 3114 Scranton Ave., Cleveland, 216-621-3847, 5:30 a.m. Dec. 12, Las Mananitas, 6 p.m., rosary, 6:30 p.m., Mass, 8 p.m. celebration.



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