

DECEMBER 28, 2025 | FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

MOTHER of GOD FAMILY OF PARISHES

You shall call his name

Jesus,

for he will save his people
from their sins.

— Matthew 1:21

**Rooted in sacramental life, we strive
to be a vibrant, active, and welcoming
Catholic community. We encourage all
to give glory and praise to God through
knowing and sharing God's love in our
homes, in our communities,
and throughout the world.**

MGPARISH.ORG

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 MOTHER OF GOD FAMILY OF PARISHES

OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

2025 Woodman Drive

Kettering, Ohio 45420

PARISH OFFICE: 937-253-5171

Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

3033 Far Hills Avenue

Kettering, Ohio 45429

PARISH OFFICE: 937-293-1191

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m.-Noon

MGPARISH.ORG

ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO

4500 Ackerman Boulevard

Kettering, Ohio 45429

PARISH OFFICE: 937-434-6081

Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

ADORATION

ST. ALBERT THE GREAT CAMPUS

Fridays: Adoration with Exposition following Noon Mass

Daily: Church Monday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

& Tuesday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.;

Adoration Chapel available 24/7 (call office for code)

ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO CAMPUS

First Fridays: Adoration with Exposition following 8:30 a.m.

Mass, 7:00 p.m. Holy Hour for Vocations

Daily: Eucharistic Chapel open from 5:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

ASCENSION CAMPUS

Adoration before the tabernacle is encouraged before and after daily Mass. Contact the parish office for access to the chapel for Adoration at other times.

SACRAMENTS

BECOMING CATHOLIC

Anyone desiring to inquire about the Catholic faith, or seeking to complete their Sacraments, including children age 7+, should contact Chris Kreger, Director of OCIA, at 937-401-0423 or Joe Ollier, Director of Evangelization at 937-253-5171, or visit mgparish.org/become-catholic

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please notify the Parish Office in case of serious illness or upcoming surgery. Communal anointing services are celebrated three times per year.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Couples should contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance of the marriage date.

INFANT BAPTISM

Parents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Class, preferably before the birth of their child, to have a child under the age of 7 baptized. Classes are held monthly at rotating locations: Monday, January 12, 2026, 7:00 p.m., St. Charles Borromeo, Borromeo Room; Sunday, February 1, 9:30 a.m., Ascension, Parish Office Building; Wednesday, March 10, 6:30 p.m., St. Albert the Great, Spirit Center; For more information, and to RSVP (required), please contact Kristi Gaston, kgaston@mgparish.org for St. Albert, or Joe Ollier, jollier@mgparish.org for Ascension and St. Charles.

RECONCILIATION

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Saturday: 4:00-4:30 p.m.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO

Saturday 3:00-4:30 p.m.

ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

Friday: After Noon Mass

Saturday: 3:15-4:00 p.m.

PARISH OFFICES

CLOSED

Due to New Year's, all Mother of God Family of Parishes Offices will be closed:

• Wednesday, December 31 through Friday, January 2.

Please note the change to our Mass times this week on the Mass Times schedule on page 3.

SOCIAL MEDIA

INSTAGRAM: @mgparish_

FACEBOOK: Mother of God Family of Parishes

YOUTUBE: Mother of God Family of Parishes



SUNDAYS

MOTHER OF GOD FAMILY OF PARISHES

COMMUNIO NIGHTS

GROW IN GOD'S WORD AS A FAMILY, WITH ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSIONS FOR EVERY AGE, INFANT THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND!

4:45-5:30PM

DINNER SERVICE

SAINT CHARLES BORROMEEO CAFETERIA

5:30-6:45PM

BREAK INTO GROUPS

NURSERY SERVICES OFFERED AT THIS TIME

6:45-7:00PM

PRAYER

SAINT CHARLES BORROMEEO CHURCH



featuring:
the
RESCUE
project

Sunday Nights
5:30-7PM
Jan 11-March 22
St. Charles Borromeo
Campus

RSVP

SARAH ARCHULETA
sarchuleta@mgparish.org
937-401-0021

KELLY SUMMERS
ksummers@mgparish.org
937-570-1665



MASS TIMES

AS ASCENSION SA ST. ALBERT SC ST. CHARLES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

9:00 AM AS Intention of the Celebrant

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

8:30 AM SC Maura Homan
Don Homan

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

3:30 PM AS John P. & James A. Hinde
Edward J. Hinde IV
5:30 PM SA Steven Spirk
Jean Spirk

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

10:00 AM SC Carol Weibel
Jan Kowal

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

9:00 AM AS Bob Fecher
Wife

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

4:30 PM SA Janet Ellis
Joy & Glen Whaley
5:00 PM AS S.S. Crucifisso
Giovanni Lamanna
5:00 PM SC Carmen J. Riazz
Chris & Carol Helm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

8:30 AM AS Mother of God Family of Parishes
8:30 AM SA F. S. S. P.
Patricia Mutch
8:30 AM SC St. Charles Borromeo Church
10:30 AM SC Carol Anne Brinkman
Jim & Monica Cengia
11:00 AM AS Donna Edly
Linda Mead
11:00 AM SA St. Albert the Great Church

SPECIAL HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Please join us on Friday, January 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Day Chapel at St. Charles Campus for a special combined Holy Hour for Vocations with members of the Serra Club of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The Serra Club is a worldwide organization that prays for and promotes vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Fr. Jeff will join us and lead this hour of adoration. All are welcome!

PLEASE GO TO
[MGPARISH.ORG/MASS](http://mgparish.org/MASS)
TO SEE THIS WEEK'S PRESIDER
SCHEDULE

IS THIS YOUR TIME TO BECOME CATHOLIC?

Explore a deeper connection with God and discover how faith can enrich your life. Whether you were baptized in another tradition, are curious about Catholicism, or wish to reconnect with your childhood faith, our parish family warmly welcomes you to the OCIA program. Contact Chris Kreger at ckreger@mgparish.org to begin your journey.

PRAYER LIST

Melanie Abfalter, The Bachman Family, Sharon Barcus, Barbara Blackstone, Holly Brown, June Chifala, Florence Cobey, Ron DeChant, Janet Debanto, Darlene Duke, Oscar Flowers, Betty Gaudion, Alec Graham, Barbara Griffin, Carol Harris, Beverly Heithaus, Phil & Pat Herman, Mary Ann Hickey, Larry Hoffman, Kate Kelly, Paul Luersen, Don Paul, Arlene Phillips, Nan Romer, Isobel Ruse, Mary Jane Ryan, Mary Louise Scott, Mary Stuart, Dan Whelan, Angela Woessner, Carol Zimmerman.

Please call the Parish Office to request a name be added to the Prayers for the Sick in the event of acute illness, upcoming surgery/rehabilitation, etc. Names will remain for three weeks at a time unless otherwise requested.

GIVE

Give joyfully, build community. Your generosity powers vibrant parish life and meaningful ways for everyone to grow in faith and fellowship.

For more information about giving, visit mgparish.org/give

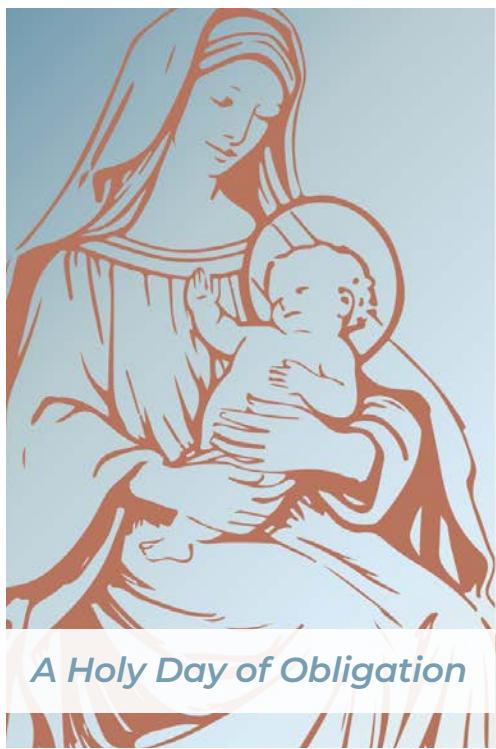
STEWARSHIP

DEC. 21

NUMBERS WERE UNAVAILABLE
AT PRINTING. CHECK NEXT WEEK
FOR UPDATES!

WORSHIP

"Rooted in sacramental life...We encourage all to give glory and praise to God..."



SOLEMNITY of MARY, MOTHER of GOD

Holy Day Masses

12 • 31• 25

ASCENSION **3:30 PM (VIGIL)**
ST. ALBERT **5:30 PM (VIGIL)**

01 • 01 • 26

ST. CHARLES **10 AM**

OUR PATRONAL FEAST DAY AS MOTHER OF GOD FAMILY OF PARISHES

On January 1, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, a holy day that holds special meaning for us this year. As the Mother of God Family of Parishes, this marks our first patronal feast day, a joyful opportunity to gather in prayer and gratitude under the loving patronage of Mary. Placing our parish family beneath her care reminds us that Mary continually leads us to her Son and intercedes for us as we grow together in faith, unity, and mission.

This Solemnity honors one of the Church's most ancient and profound teachings: That Mary is truly the Mother of God because her Son, Jesus Christ, is fully human and fully divine. By celebrating Mary at the very beginning of the new year, the Church invites us to reflect on God's closeness to humanity and on Mary's humble "Yes," through which salvation entered the world. Her trust, obedience, and love model what it means to receive Christ and carry Him into the world.

As we begin a new calendar year—and continue the new chapter as one parish family—we ask Mary, our Mother, to pray for us. May she help us grow in faith, strengthen our bonds with one another, and guide us always toward her Son. We invite you to celebrate this beautiful Solemnity by joining us at Mass and entrusting the year ahead to the maternal care of Mary, Mother of God.

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

Michael & Peggy Newbauer of Kettering
Kurt Middleton of Dayton
Gabrielle Dell of Kettering

PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF...

Deanne (Joseph) Focke. Her Mass of Christian Burial is Saturday, January 3, 10:30 a.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Campus.
Susan Stewart Stute
Geraldine J. Branley
Timothy Thies

Thank you for Christmas Flower Donations!

<i>Clifford & Dan Dickens</i>	<i>Maureen McFadden</i>
<i>Jane Faulk</i>	<i>Anthony Mercuri</i>
<i>Lisa Gemmaka</i>	<i>Ralph & Sara S. Mercuri</i>
<i>Connie Hutzelman</i>	<i>Jeanette Sowers</i>
<i>Dr. Michael Kelly</i>	<i>Elmer Wanke</i>

WELCOME IN BAPTISM

Adia Elise Kelble,
daughter of Adam & Brie Ann (Comer) Kelble.

FAITH FORMATION

“...we strive to be a vibrant, active, and welcoming Catholic community.”



Our final **Weekly Words of Hope** for this Jubilee Year come to us from St. Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897) and sum up our past year beautifully:

To limit your desires and your hopes is to misunderstand God's infinite goodness! We can never have too much confidence in the good God...As we hope in Him so shall we receive.

Happy New Year and have a blessed 2026!

ABOUT “MOTHER OF GOD, IN THE DEPTHS”



CHRISTIAN COSAS, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO CAMPUS

In November 2024, parishioners from Ascension, St. Albert, and St. Charles voted to name our Family of Parishes after Mary, the Mother of God. Around that time, I was also reading several books about Mariology. I was inspired to write

a new hymn about Mary's title as “Mother of God.” I took what I learned about Mary's role in salvation history as the Scriptures present her, and started writing.

I surprised myself with how quickly the hymn took shape! I loosely adapted the refrain from a theologically profound prayer I found in an old book:

“In the depths of darkness, she gave birth to light; in the depths of silence, she brought forth the Word.”

Within a few days, I had an early draft of the verses. Each verse starts with Mary's life and extends as an echo from her example to our human experiences. The first verse focuses on Mary's fiat, or “Yes,” during the Annunciation and our own “Let it be done”; the second verse summarizes her Magnificat and weds her song to our own; the third verse recognizes the Holy Family's flight to Egypt and our solidarity with refugees; the fourth verse reflects on Mary at the crucifixion and our renunciation of violence; and the final verse encapsulates her role as the first disciple, present at Pentecost and in the Early Church, and how we all point to her son as our salvation.

The following month, I presented my work to the Liturgical Composers Forum in St. Louis for an in-person live review. The song was very well received and came out of that crucible with

many peer suggestions that made the piece even stronger. I submitted “Mother of God, in the Depths” to some Catholic music houses, and in June 2025, GIA Publications accepted it for publication.

This January 1, for our feast day at the Mother of God Family of Parishes, it is my hope that this hymn develops into a theme song for us at all three campuses. It is, notably, the first song in our new white hymnal supplements. With Holy Mary, Mother of God, let us all sing Christ to a world hungering and thirsting for justice.

REFRAIN

Mother of God, in the deep, deep darkness, you gave birth to Eternal Light;

Bearer of God, in the deep, deep silence, you brought forth the Incarnate Word.

1. Holy Mary, highly favored! Generations call you blessed. You, the vessel of God's presence, grace us with your holy “Yes.” May we echo your example, trusting in God's faithfulness.

2. Holy Mary, sing with courage: “God has lifted up the low, Sent the rich away with nothing, cast the mighty from their thrones.” May we echo your example making change and justice known.

3. Holy Mary, exiled mother, fleeing Herod's enmity, Found asylum in far Egypt, long from home in Galilee. May we echo your example, standing with the refugee.

4. Holy Mary, filled with sorrow at the cross that Jesus bore, Walk with us, who watch and suffer violence, hate, and acts of war. May we echo your example, pleading, crying out “No more!”

5. Holy Mary, first disciple, filled with Spirit: wind and flame. All the Church will rise in glory, all the heavens will proclaim, Echoing throughout the ages your Son's most exalted name!

ST. ALBERT RENOVATION PLAN APPROVED!

After his visit in November, Archbishop Casey has officially approved the St. Albert Renovation Plan.

Join Us for the Big Reveal
ST. ALBERT CHURCH



BIG REVEAL
JANUARY 15, 2026
7 PM

What You'll Learn:

- The history of the renovation journey
- The approved concept design
- Timeline for completion
- Ways you can participate

WE ARE EXCITED TO SHARE THE FRUITS OF THIS JOURNEY WITH OUR PARISH COMMUNITY.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION CHILDREN

Please keep our First Communicants and all of our Confirmandi in your prayers as they continue their preparation to receive the sacraments.

St. Albert the Great Campus is in great need of Children's Liturgy catechists for the 11:00 a.m. Mass. If you feel called to serve, please contact the Faith Formation Office for more information.



TARA SCHUMAKER

Dir. of Children's Faith Formation
tschumaker@mgparish.org

AMIE HERBERT

Coordinator of Youth Ministry
aherbert@mgparish.org

KELLY SUMMERS

Coordinator of Youth Ministry
ksummers@mgparish.org

IGNITE YOUTH MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 9
“AFTER CHRISTMAS” CHRISTMAS PARTY 6-8PM SPIRIT CENTER AT ST. ALBERT

Keep the holiday cheer alive with our After-Christmas Party—dinner, games, and prizes galore!

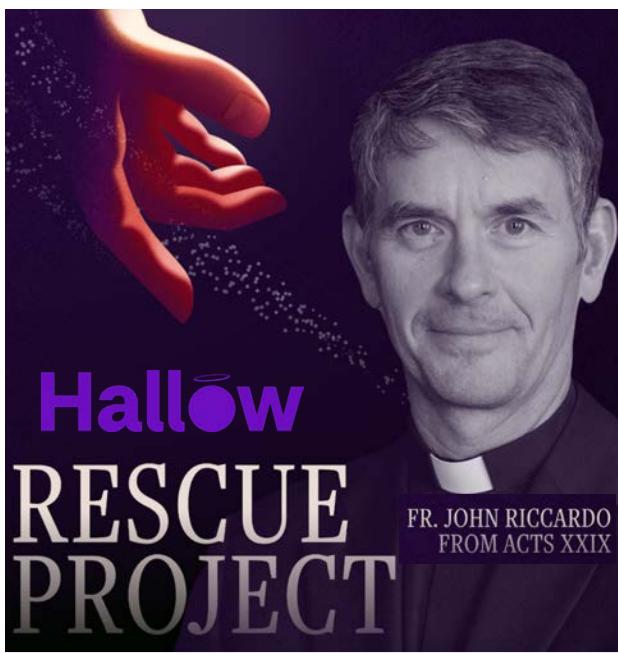
JANUARY 23
SACRAMENTAL PRAYER QUEST 6-8PM NOTRE DAME AT ASCENSION

Embark on a Sacrament Quest—journey through the church, discovering and praying with all 7 sacraments!

FEBRUARY 13
VALENTINE’S DAY PARTY 6-8PM NOTRE DAME AT ASCENSION

Celebrate friendship and fun at our Valentine’s Party—dinner, games, and plenty of laughs!

To RSVP for any or all of these events, use this QR Code:



JOIN US IN A PRAYER CHALLENGE!

JANUARY 4-16

The Mother of God Family of Parishes is journeying together through *Hallow's Rescue Project Prayer Challenge*, exploring how we were born to share the life-changing news of the Gospel!

Already using Hallow?

Simply open the app, tap the Church tab at the bottom of your screen, visit mgparish.org, and join the Rescue Project Challenge.

Need help getting started?

Reach out to parishsupport@hallow.app, or Joe Ollier with questions. We look forward to praying with you!

Join Fr. John Riccardo of ACTS XXIX ministries as he tells the story of salvation like never before. We'll look at how God created the world, why everything is so messed up, what Jesus did about it, and how we can respond. In this series of powerful talks and reflections, Fr. John helps us realize that the Gospel is life-changing news, and we were born to share it!

LOVE IN ACTION

“...through knowing and sharing God’s love...”

MGFP'S MENTAL WELLNESS MINISTRY: COMPLETE THE SURVEY!

The upcoming holidays and long nights can be a stressful time for those with mental illness and their families. To view resources and ideas about self-care, volunteering, taking a break, journaling, saying “No” when things get overwhelming, and more, please visit nami.org and search “holiday self-care” or other topics.

Please join us at the next meeting to start planning events to increase awareness of mental wellness, as well as provide emotional and spiritual support for those with mental health challenges. If you have questions, please email MGFPmentalwellness@gmail.com or Lisa at laverion@catholicaoc.org.

We seek to serve the unique mental wellness needs of our family of parishes. In order to help us focus our efforts, please scan the QR code to complete an anonymous survey online by January 30.



1/22

7 PM

ST. C

Borromeo Rm

CARE OF GOD'S CREATION ECO TIP

Reminder: The next Styrofoam recycling event will be Saturday, January 3, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Activity Center Park, 221 N. Main Street in Centerville.

FEED THE HUNGRY

Casserole pans are available in the Narthex/Gathering Space at each campus at various times each month to provide a meal for our neighbors at the St. Vincent shelters. Instructions are with each pan. Visit mgparish.org/food-collection for more information on what to bring and when!

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Pick up pans: January 3/4
Pans due by: January 24

(Deliver frozen meals either to the Witzman Center or drop off in the parish office by Noon on the due date.)

ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

Pick up pans: TBD
Pans due by: TBD

(Deliver frozen meals to the breezeway entrance between 9:00-10:00 a.m.)

ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO

Pick up pans: January 4
Pans due by: January 11

(Deliver frozen meals to the Hospitality Room, 8:00-10:45 a.m.)

TOILETRY ITEMS NEEDED FOR VETERANS

The Ascension Campus Knights of Columbus Council 14891 has been collecting Trial-Size toiletries (soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, etc.) for several years to support the incoming Dayton VA inpatient Veterans. This program is a vital resource to providing basic hygiene supplies to these local Veterans. Our Council is grateful for the past donations to help support these needy warriors. It is Council 14891's desire to reinstitute this program. Please consider donating to this worthy cause by donating toiletries using the container in the Bride's Room marked "Dayton, VA Veterans Toiletry Donations." Additionally, the VA is always looking for hats, gloves and scarves during the winter months. Thank you again for your support. Please feel free to contact the Program Director, Scott Malott, at kofc14891@gmail.com.

OUR COMMUNITY

...in our homes, in our communities, and throughout the world.



A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Couples...Want to give each other something really special this Christmas? How about a gift filled with romance and excitement? That's just the beginning of what you will receive on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend.

The next Marriage Encounter Weekend experience is March 13-15, and is for those who wish to enrich their marriage and return to that newlywed feeling. Apply today at esharing.org/applyWeekend.php.

For more details or questions, contact Andy and Melanie Reinersman at 859-653-8464, application@esharing.org or visit esharing.org.

3/13/2026

Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center Cincinnati

A poster for the "Seeking Shelter" exhibition. The title "Seeking Shelter" is in large, white, serif letters. Below it, the subtitle "Beyond the Stable" is in a smaller, white, cursive font. To the left is a photograph of a Nativity scene. To the right is a photograph of a person in a shelter. The text "Explore structures providing shelter for the birth of Jesus" is in a small, white, sans-serif font. Below it, the text "After they were turned away from the inn in Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph sought shelter elsewhere. In Nativity sets, different traditions place Jesus' birth in a stable, in a cave or among ruins." is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, it says "FEATURING MIRROR OF HOPE' 25 Years of Visual Storytelling" and "Through richly detailed Old and New Testament scenes, the 12-foot-long, 8-foot-high sculpture 'Mirror of Hope' prompts reflection on the story of human salvation with the Nativity scene at its center." in a white, sans-serif font.

CHRISTMAS CRECHES CELEBRATE THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

The display cases in the Witzman Center at Ascension Campus are filled with creches from Mary Jo Reigel's personal collection. Mary Jo attends St. Henry's Church here in the Dayton area. Her collection is unique and represents many countries and regions. Her creches will be on display until the second week of January. Creches from the Marian Library at the University of Dayton are on exhibit in the Library building on the first and 7th floor. Check the website or call 937-229-4212 (a recording) for the times it is open over this Christmas season.



University of Dayton
Marian Library

NOV. 24, 2025 – JAN. 16, 2026
go.udayton.edu/christmas-exhibit

Impact

Bring faith to life. Find life in faith.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Lk 2: 8-14

What Christmas is all about

"Lights, please." We can picture the scene in our mind's eye: Linus moves to the center of the stage and recites the story from memory, ending simply with "That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown." The passage Linus recounts in "A Charlie Brown Christmas" is from the Gospel of Luke. We hear it each year at Christmas Mass during the night (often, later evening or midnight Mass).

What is Christmas all about?

Christmas is about God's love for us.

Jesus comes to be one with us, embracing humanity as we are. The incarnation shows us that we do not have to hide our thoughts, feelings, questions, and struggles. God is with us in all times and seasons of our lives.

Christmas is about God's mercy. Jesus' very name means "God saves." In Christ, we know that no sin is beyond forgiveness, no action is beyond redemption.



What is Christmas all about for you?

Christmas is about God's compassion.

The birth of Jesus as a baby in Bethlehem shows us the depths of Christ's oneness with the poor and vulnerable. "Bethlehem" means "house of bread." From the very moment of Jesus' birth, we are shown that he is the Bread of Life, for all.

Christmas helps us to take to heart the truth that God's love is real. When we see and experience love, we know God. When our hearts long for peace, kindness and goodwill among people, look to Christ, whose light shines in darkness.

Christmas calls us to be for others.

As people who know God's saving love, how can we not share this love with those who need it? When we care for family, share our time in service, our attention and prayer with the lonely or ill, our

resources with the poor, we are sharing the real meaning of Christmas, no matter the time of year.

Christmas is more than a day or a season.

Christmas is about a way of life. Knowing the depths of God's love for us in this Christmas time, we stretch ourselves to live as Christ's people, every day.

We each have something special to give

Can you imagine the story of the nativity of our Lord without the angels and shepherds, or the magi, or Mary or Joseph? Each had something to give: their presence; their prayers of praise and glory to God; gold, frankincense and myrrh, their yes to God's plan even when they did not fully comprehend what was being asked of them. And we find hope in Christ's love as a result.

The things we do may seem insignificant to us, but the shepherds may have felt the same as they hurried to see the baby in the manger. Yet something is missing without our presence and action, our sharing of our time, talents and resources, our being people of loving care and service to others. The Christmas story would not be the same without the shepherds and angels, magi and saints, and our experience of the Christmas story would not be the same without St. Francis' gift of the nativity scene. Like them, we too have something special to give.



*This article was previously published by Our Sunday Visitor, and is used here with permission.

A new year to live and grow in faith

Most of us will make a New Year's resolution as we begin 2026. Statistics show that most of us will not live out our resolution beyond the first few weeks of the year. We have to ask ourselves if we were if we were reasonable in what we promised to do, or if we were really all that committed to the resolution to start with!

Perhaps this year, our goal should be realistic, have lasting impact on our

"I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day." (Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*, 3)

lives, and the lives of those with whom we interact. Maybe this is the year we should focus on living and growing in faith. Faith is a gift from God, offered to each of us. Faith, too, requires an openness to the One who knows and loves us more than we know ourselves.

Perhaps our resolution this year might be just this simple: let us promise to be open to Jesus. This is a resolution worth keeping!

Impact this month

1. **Be like Mary.** Say yes to God's invitation to bear Christ through your actions. Be attentive to and ponder God's love, shown in the sacraments and in the actions of others.
2. **Be like Joseph.** Trust in God, even when you are uncertain. Be open to surprises. Have faith that God is with you, and always wants what is best for you and for all of humanity.
3. **Be like Jesus.** Be humble and seek God's will. Give yourself for the sake of others. Know that you have a purpose that is deeply connected to God's hopes for the world.



The Most
Holy Family

TheLittleRoseShop.com

COLORING PAGE OF THE WEEK: FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Jesus grew up in a family a lot like ours—one that prayed together, helped one another, and trusted God, even when things were hard. As you color this page, think about the ways your family shows love each day: through kind words, helping hands, forgiveness, and prayer. Ask Jesus, Mary, and Joseph to watch over your family and help your home be a place of love, faith, and joy.

DIVORCECARE

Do you need Christian-based healing from going through separation's or divorce's emotional challenges? This might be a very difficult time for you right now. You should not have to feel isolated or cut off from the Catholic Church. The Winter 13-week support group is here to help you. Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. from January 15-April 16 at St. Francis of Assisi Campus, 6245 Wilmington Pike in Centerville. For more information, contact Marcelle Toma at 937-478-8820 or mtoma@woh.rr.com

MGFP FITNESS OPPORTUNITIES

**1/6, 1/13,
1/20, 1/27**
4:30 PM
ASCENSION
WITZMAN CTR
RM 118

CHAIR ONE FITNESS

No special equipment is required. Just wear some comfy clothes and shoes and come with a mind and body open to having fun and being energized. For any questions, contact Alice Ernst: alice4chaironefitness@gmail.com.

**12/29, 1/5,
1/8**
8:30 AM
ST. CHARLES
BORROMEO
RM

**PIETRA FITNESS
CLASSES**

All classes are gentle-level, just bring a mat and some water! Schedule: Mondays 10-10:45 a.m., Thursdays 8:30-9:15 a.m. Call or text Erin at 937-344-7288 for more information.

REGULAR PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Send any items for publishing consideration to sgreen@mgparish.org, aortiz@mgparish.org, agodby@mgparish.org

BULLETIN – 10 days prior to publication date
FLOCKNOTE/E-NEWS – Thursday at Noon
THE LIGHT – 12th of Nov., Feb., May, Aug.

**MOTHER OF GOD
FAMILY OF PARISHES INFO****PASTOR**

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Deacon Jesse Fanning
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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, & JOSEPH

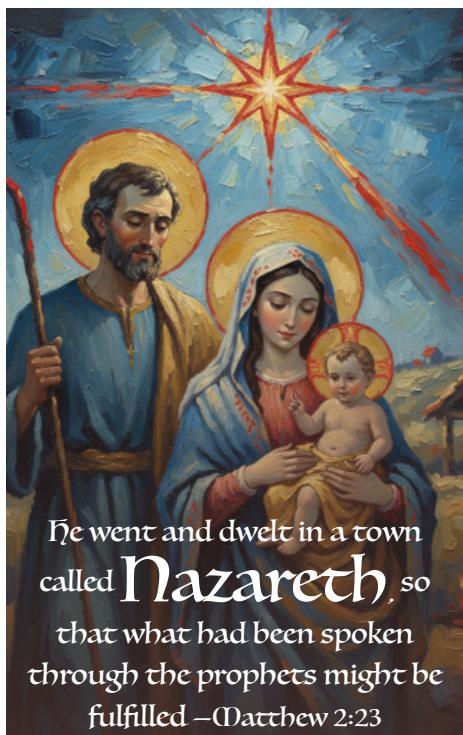
The Scripture readings in this Christmas/Epiphany season offer a series of windows into the mystery of the birth of Jesus, and we see some spectacular sights through these windows!

- Mary, found to be pregnant before her marriage to Joseph.
- Joseph struggling through his confusion to deal with the situation.
- A birth in an unusual place after a long journey with strange visitors attending.
- And today, the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt to escape Herod's lethal jealousy.

The Holy Family reminds us that being family is always an intimate involvement with the divine – it is more challenging than we expect, it is more promising than we could hope for, and we are always in need of outside help.

We all learn the meaning of love in the experience of love within family. We all learn the meaning of faith from the example of faithfulness we see in family life. We all learn the meaning of forgiveness from our experience of being forgiven within the family. We all learn the meaning of gratitude as we experience thankfulness in the family.

– Father Jay



WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

Sunday, December 28, 2025

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
 Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
 Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
 Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
 Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Monday, December 29, 2025

Fifth Day of Christmas
 I John 2:3-11
 Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6
 Luke 2:22-35

Tuesday, December 30, 2025

Sixth Day of Christmas
 I John 2:12-17
 Psalm 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10
 Luke 2:36-40

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

Seventh Day of Christmas
 I John 2:18-21
 Psalm 96:1-2, 11-12, 13
 John 1:1-18

Thursday, January 1, 2026

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
 Numbers 6:22-27
 Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
 Galatians 4:4-7
 Luke 2:16-21

Friday, January 2, 2026

Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church
 I John 2:22-28
 Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab and 3cd-4
 John 1:19-28

Saturday, January 3, 2026

Christmas Weekday
 I John 2:29 – 3:6
 Psalm 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6
 John 1:29-34

Access Daily Readings from the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) online at <https://bible.usccb.org>

ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Saint of the Day: January 2
Patron Saint of Russia

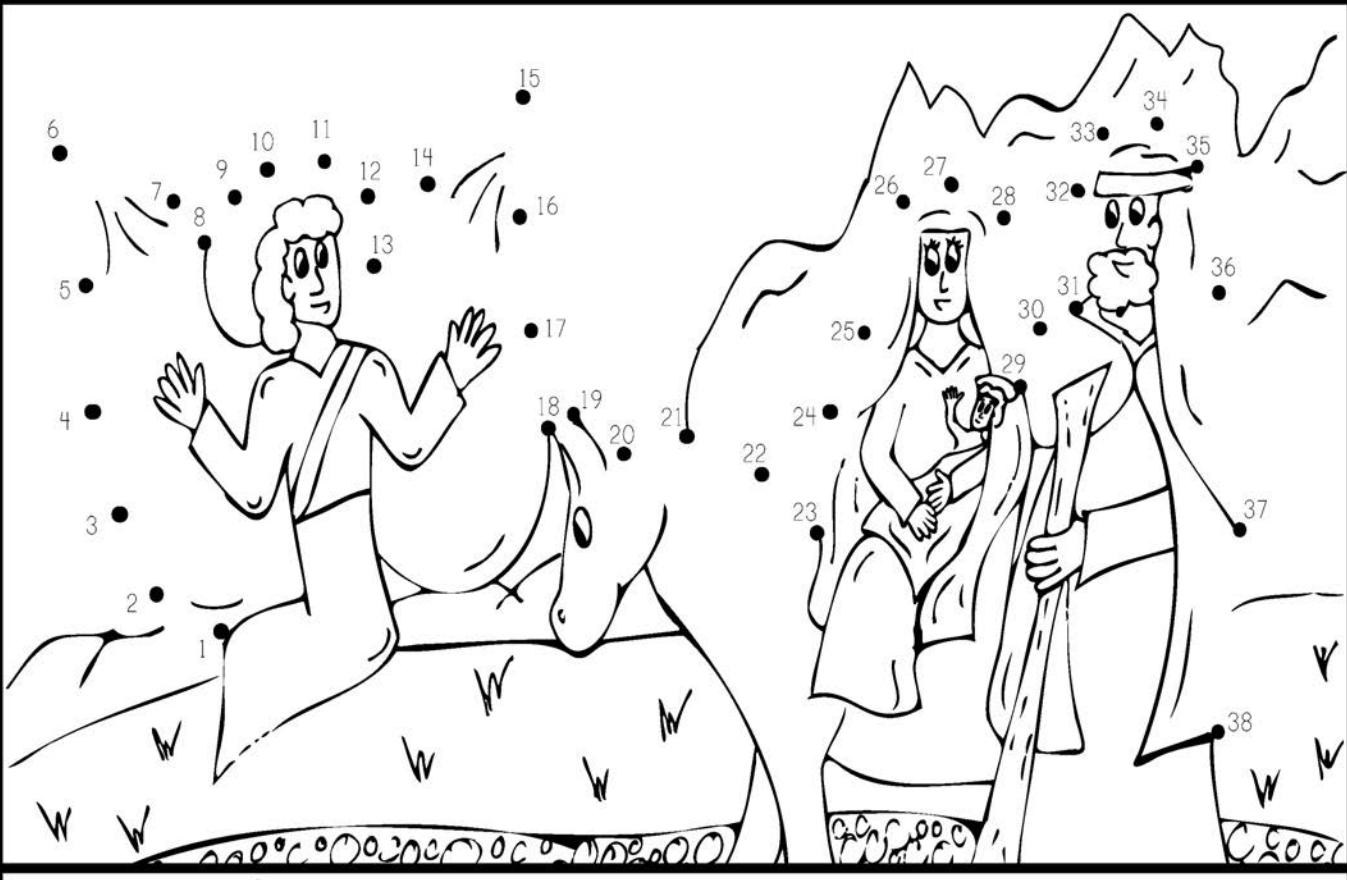
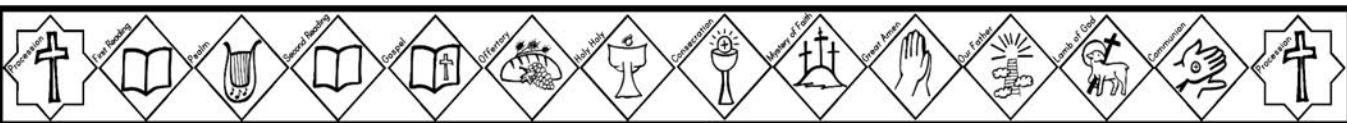
Saint Basil the Great was on his way to becoming a famous teacher when he decided to begin a religious life of gospel poverty. After studying various modes of religious life, he founded what was probably the first monastery in Asia Minor. He is to monks of the East what Saint Benedict is to the West, and Basil's principles influence Eastern monasticism today.

He was ordained a priest, assisted the archbishop of Caesarea—now southeastern Turkey—and ultimately became archbishop himself, in spite of opposition from some of the bishops under him, probably because they foresaw coming reforms.

Arianism, one of the most damaging heresies in the history of the Church which denied the divinity of Christ, was at its height. Emperor Valens persecuted orthodox believers, and put great pressure on Basil to remain silent and admit the heretics to Communion. Basil remained firm, and Valens backed down. But trouble remained. When the great Saint Athanasius died, the mantle of defender of the faith against Arianism fell upon Basil. He strove mightily to unite and rally his fellow Catholics who were crushed by tyranny and torn by internal dissension. He was misunderstood, misrepresented, accused of heresy and ambition. Even appeals to the pope brought no response. "For my sins I seem to be unsuccessful in everything."

Saint Basil the Great was tireless in pastoral care. He preached twice a day to huge crowds, built a hospital that was called a wonder of the world—as a youth he had organized famine relief and worked in a soup kitchen himself—and fought the prostitution business.

Read the full article: "St. Basil the Great" Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars, <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-basil-the-great/> (Accessed November 16, 2025).



An angel visited Joseph in a dream. What was the angel's message today? Where is Joseph taking his family?

Year A: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

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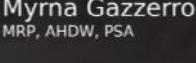
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