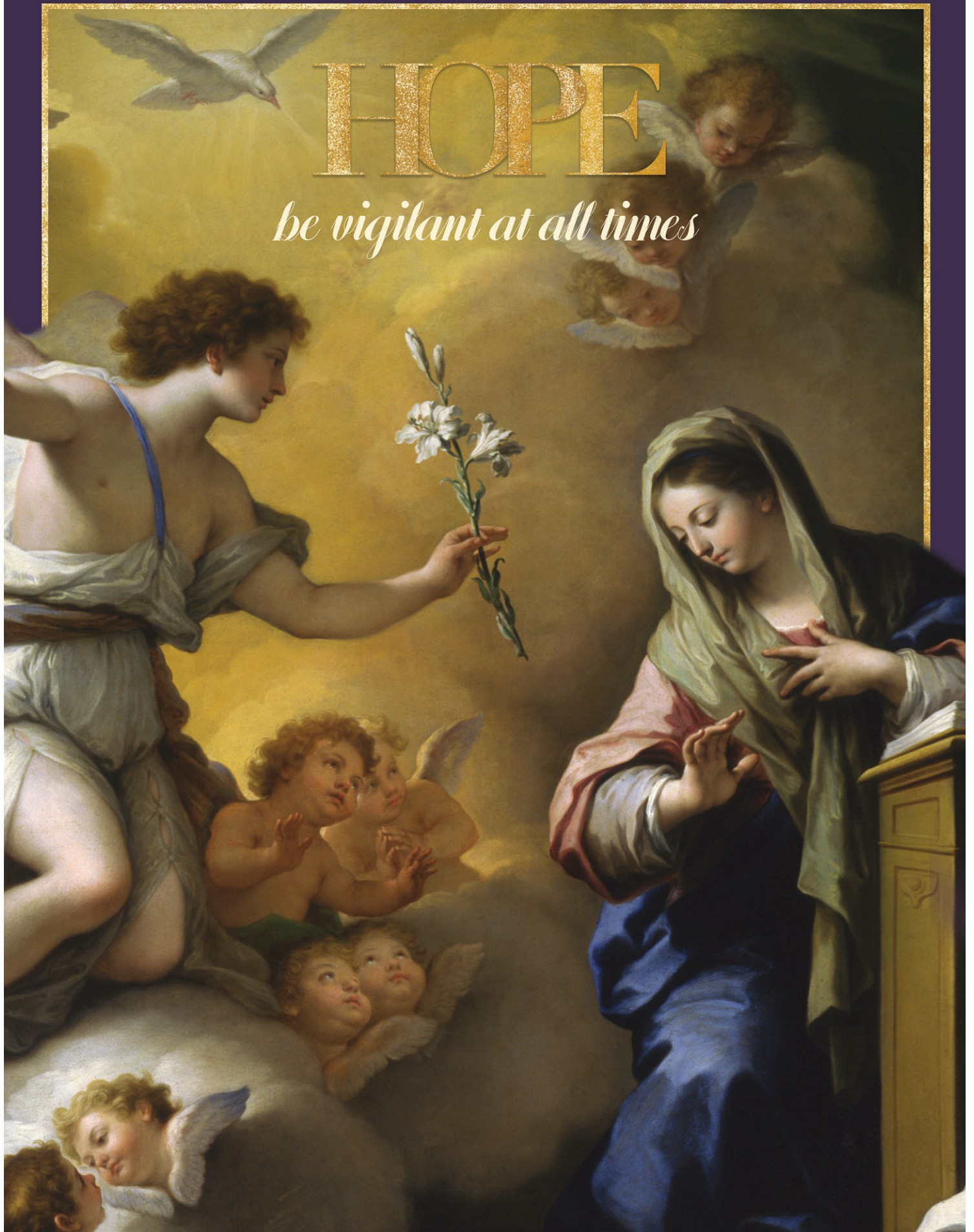


# HOPE

*be vigilant at all times*







## WELCOME TO HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Served by the Mercedarian Friars USA ([www.orderofmercy.org](http://www.orderofmercy.org))PARISH OFFICE, 588 W. Gay Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Open .....Monday – Thursday: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Main No.....614-221-4323 Fax No: 614-221-9818

Web:.....[www.holyfamilycolumbus.org](http://www.holyfamilycolumbus.org)Email.....[office@holyfamilycolumbus.org](mailto:office@holyfamilycolumbus.org)

Facebook.....Holy Family Catholic Church

Flocknote.....[holyfamilycolumbus@flocknote.com](mailto:holyfamilycolumbus@flocknote.com)PERSONNEL STAFF

Father Michael J. Donovan, O. de M...Pastor

Father Daniel Bowen, O. de M.....Vocation Director

Brother Kevin Cush, O. de M.....Seminarian

Secretary.....Mary Gamble

Maintenance.....Tim Kearns

Music Director / Organist.....Shawn Kenney

OCIA (RCIA) Coordinator.....Linda Hamilton

Religious Education.....Sr. Bozena Tyborowska LSIC

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Altar Servers – Br. Kevin Cush, O. de M., Director

Confraternity of Christian Mothers – Rita Martinez, President

Diocesan Center for the Guard of Honor

of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – Rebecca Rector, Zelatrix

Eucharistic Adoration – Sarah Hill, Coordinator

Holy Family Young Adults – Bear Bates, Coordinator

Hospitality – Kathy McKinniss &amp; Linda Hamilton, Coordinators

Knights of Columbus – Br. Kevin Cush, O. de M., Grand Knight

Liturgical Ministry – Linda Hamilton, Coordinator

Mercedarian Lay Third Order – Fr. Michael J. Donovan, O. de M.,  
Spiritual Director

Respect Life – Aurelio &amp; Rosalinda Morales, Coordinators

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Sr. Bozena Tyborowska, Dir.

SOUP KITCHEN – (backyard of Parish Center building)

Donations...Monday – Friday

8:00am – 12noon, preferred (back of building)

12noon – 3:00pm, optional (please call in advance)

Main No.....614-221-4323

Web.....[www.hfsk.org](http://www.hfsk.org)

Email.....Dennis Shope, Director

[soupkitchen@holyfamilycolumbus.org](mailto:soupkitchen@holyfamilycolumbus.org)[maintenance@holyfamilycolumbus.org](mailto:maintenance@holyfamilycolumbus.org)BAPTISM

Call the Parish office to schedule a Baptism. Children over the age of 6 will require some special instruction.

MARRIAGE

Please call the Parish Office at least six months before the wedding.

Diocesan Pre-Cana and Natural Family Planning classes are required and six meetings with the priest.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Call the Parish Office during general office hours. Otherwise, call Parish Office and select “Sacramental Emergency” option.

RECEPTION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Those who desire Holy Communion at home should call the Parish Office.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekdays: 12:15pm

Saturday: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. &amp; 8:00 p.m.

Convent of St. Birgitta – 40 N. Grubb St., Columbus

Weekly: 7:00 a.m. Mon., Tues., Thurs. Friday

4:00 p.m. Wednesday

(Each day is open to the public)

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Weekdays: 11:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION SCHEDULEHoly Family Church

Weekly: 1:00 p.m. Thursday – 12 Noon Friday

First Friday Adoration in Reparation to theSacred Heart – 8:00 p.m. – 8:45 a.m. First Saturday

Please contact Sarah Hill at 740-418-0517 or

[thehills1936@gmail.com](mailto:thehills1936@gmail.com) if you have interest in being scheduled weekly or monthly in either locationConvent of St. Birgitta (CSB)

40 N. Grubb St., Columbus

Weekly: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Tuesday

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Mass Wednesday

4:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. following 4pm Mass

9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Friday

MOST HOLY ROSARY

Weekdays: 11:30 am (Tuesday is Respect Life Rosary)

Chaplet of Divine Mercy follows Rosary

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. before 9:00 a.m. Marian Mass

8:15 a.m. before 9:00 a.m. First Saturday Mass

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. &amp; 4:30 p.m. (before Mass)

Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to be scheduled to lead before 9am Saturday or 9am; 5pm Sunday Mass.

REGULAR DEVOTIONSEach Tuesday following the 12:15 p.m. Mass there are Devotions to **St. Anthony of Padua**.Each Saturday Novena Prayers to **Our Lady of Mercy** following 9:00 a.m. Mass.On First Wednesday of each month a 7:00 p.m. Mass is offered in honor of **Good Saint Joseph**.On First Friday of each month following the 12:15 & 7:00 p.m. Masses there is **Act of Consecration of the Human Race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus**.



## MASS INTENTIONS NOVEMBER 30–DECEMBER 7 2025

<b>Sun Nov 30</b>	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
9:00 AM *	Emma Beasley, by Mary Beasley
11:00 AM	James and Juanita Lisska by Bill & Theresa Warren
5:00 PM	People of the Parish
8:00 PM	Special Intention
<b>Mon Dec 1</b>	<b>Advent Weekday</b>
7:00 AM	CSB—Sheree Dyke, by Nathan Dyke
12:15 PM	Living Members of The Friess Family by Eric & Christy Conklin
<b>Tues Dec 2</b>	<b>Advent Weekday</b>
7:00 AM	CSB—Brandee Derheim by Nathan & Sheree Dyke
12:15 PM	Edward Thomas Ruda, by Patricia Ruda
<b>Wed Dec 3</b>	<b>Saint Francis Xavier, Priest</b>
12:15 PM	Elayna Howton, by Nathan & Sheree Dyke
	<b>GOOD SAINT JOSEPH MASS</b>
7:00 PM	Repose of the Soul of Alma Glass by Catherine Higgins
<b>Thurs Dec 4</b>	<b>ADVENT WEEKDAY</b>
	<b>Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor</b>
7:00 AM	CSB—Jacob Howton by Nathan & Sheree Dyke
12:15 PM	Violet C. Kraus, by Greg & Beth Wolcott
<b>Fri Dec 5</b>	<b>FIRST FRIDAY SACRED HEART MASS</b>
7:00 AM	CSB—Kyle Betz
12:15 PM	Repose of the Soul of Ardie Schirtzinger by Ginny Holmes
7:00 PM	Gabriel Howton, by Nathan & Sheree Dyke
<b>Sat Dec 6</b>	<b>FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS MASS</b>
	<b>Saint Nicholas, Bishop</b>
9:00 AM	Repose of the Soul of Charles McKinniss by Kathy McKinniss
<b>Sun Dec 7</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
9:00 AM *	Brother Cody Evaristo O. de M. by Kathy McKinniss
11:00 AM	For the Unborn and All Priests and Religious by Knights of Columbus #13428
5:00 PM	Repose of the Soul of Joselyn Standly by Paige Cashin
8:00 PM	People of the Parish

\* Incense will be used at this Mass.



## LECTOR SCHEDULE

<b>November 30</b>	9:00 am	Austin Hill
	11:00 am	Paul Roach
	5:00 pm	Susan Lau
<b>December 7</b>	9:00 am	Mary Gamble
	11:00 am	Brett Ballantyne
	5:00 pm	Brian Bishop

## PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY

Airman William Harding Marable, US Air Force  
 Airman Lucas JY Tortora, US Air Force  
 Col. Timothy W. Grady, US Air National Guard  
 Specialist E4 Logan Christ, US Army Active Duty  
 1st Lt. John M. Kennedy, US Army Active Duty  
 1st Lt. Michael V. Dickerson US Army National Guard  
 2nd Lt. Nicholas C. Kennedy US Army National Guard  
 SPC Brian A. Marsh, US Army National Guard  
 SPC Trinity P. Roach, US Army National Guard  
 SPC Zach Sowers, US Army National Guard  
 Active Duty Trey Warner, US Army National Guard  
 Lt. Col. Stephen Hueckel, US Army Reserve  
 SGT Liam A. Smith, US Army Reserve  
 BM2 Joseph Flynn, US Coast Guard  
 Capt. Michael "Mich" Rector, US Marine Corps.  
 LCpl. Brendan Thomas, US Marine Corps.  
 Lt. Michael Bellavia, US Navy  
 Lt. Rockford Bowman, US Navy  
 SCPO Zachery Cook, US Navy  
 Lt. Andrea Rae Kaltenbach, US Navy  
 Active Duty Dan Severance, US Navy

## 2025 Christmas Flower Donations

December OSV envelopes include one for Christmas Flowers to make our Church beautiful in remembrance of someone special in preparation for Day of the Nativity. Plain envelopes marked 'Christmas Flowers' can also be used.

Please make check or money order payable to: Holy Family Church with 'Christmas Flowers' on the notation line. Remember to print a list of who flowers are for, In Honor of or In Memory of.

You can also pay online through OSV. Please notify the Parish Office should you choose this method so names will be received and posted.



**ALL Names must be received BY morning of December 16<sup>th</sup> to be posted in the December 21<sup>st</sup> bulletin issue.**

Please help support our Church and continue to make it as incredibly beautiful as it already is.

†  
JMJ





## A Heartfelt Thank-You to Our Confirmation Families

I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to our Confirmation Students and their Parents who generously offered their service hours during our 'Spirit Day' Church Cleaning. Your joyful willingness to care for the Lord's house was a beautiful witness of faith and love for our Parish Community.

May God reward your kindness and strengthen you as you continue preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Be assured of my prayers for each of you. May the Holy Spirit deepen your desire to serve and guide you ever closer to Christ.

With prayerful appreciation, Sr. Bozena LSIC





## HOLY FAMILY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #13428

We continue to collect aluminum cans for the Seminarians. All proceeds will go to these young men of Christ. Please drop the cans off at the Parish Center.

Upcoming Events

**Sunday, December 7, 2025**—Knights of Columbus Corporal Mass at the 11:00am Mass.

**Sunday, December 14, 2025**—Knights of Columbus monthly Council meeting after the 11am Mass.

If you are interested in becoming a Knight of Columbus, please contact **Jack Gookin at (614) 309-2519**.



## HOLY FAMILY RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY



Our next meeting is **Monday December 1 at 7:00pm** in the Parish Center.

"I am the Immaculate Conception, the Mother of all graces and the Mother of My Beloved Son, Jesus. I want to be known as Mystical Rose. My wish is that every year on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December at noon an "Hour of Grace" will be installed. Many spiritual graces,

and physical blessings will be received by those who pray—undisturbed—during this Hour".

This Year's **The Hour of Grace** will take place on **Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 11:30am—1:30pm** in the Convent of St. Birgitta, 40 N. Grubb Street, one block short of Holy Family Church.

Please arrive by 11:30am so each of us can prepare before The Hour of Grace begins. Feel free to contact **Rosalinda Morales at 614-560-4523** if you have questions. We hope you will join us!

## HIS INCREDIBLE SENIORS EXERCISE PROGRAM

Our upcoming class is **1:30—2:30pm Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>** in the Parish Center, including dress rehearsal for our next performance. We will dance at **JAG on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Next week will be regular class on December 9th and potluck on the 10th. That is it for 2025! Then, we'll stay fit in 2026.

## HOLY FAMILY YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY

**HFYA (18—35)** meets weekly, with a rotation of activities including prayer/spirituality, talk, adoration, and social nights. **Use this QR Code to connect with this group.**

CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS  
& LADIES GUILD

Serving the Women of Holy Family Since 1887

**Prayer for Our Priests**

O Lord, sanctify our Priests in Your truth and love. Fill their hearts with the fire of Your Spirit and grant them steadfast faith. Purify their minds, words, and actions, that they may reflect Your holiness in all things. Strengthen their resolve to live for You alone, and may their ministry lead souls closer to Your heart. Protect them from all evil. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

**IMPORTANT CHANGE:** Our Christmas gathering has been moved to **January 10<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00pm in the Undercroft. Apologies, but just so many wonderful things happening in December. You received an email explaining how to RSVP through a Zeffy QR code or RSVP to [holyfamilyccm@gmail.com](mailto:holyfamilyccm@gmail.com) if you will be joining us. Participation in gift exchange is voluntary. Please limit gift cost to \$20. This is a potluck. So we can put together a varied menu, please include your planned food item in your RSVP.

Please also mark your calendar for our Advent Adoration event scheduled **Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup>** starting with Mass at 9:00am. A light lunch will follow. RSVP and volunteers will be needed. We hope to see a large crowd from our parish and others. We are sponsoring this event which is open to all. Refer to flyer on page 6.

Sister Bozena has asked us to assist with the children's Christmas play and party on **December 14<sup>th</sup>** after 11:00am Mass in the Church. Please consider helping with this beautiful event. We assist with costumes and the party. Please RSVP to [holyfamilyccm@gmail.com](mailto:holyfamilyccm@gmail.com).

Our next Mass and St. Gerard blessing will be on **December 21<sup>st</sup>** at 11:00am. Please join us in front of the Mother Mary's Altar. Spouses, family and friends welcome to join us.

The Mother Love Book can be purchased by contacting [holyfamilyccm@gmail.com](mailto:holyfamilyccm@gmail.com) at our cost of \$20 and will be available at meetings. We have a new supply of sashes thanks to Rebecca Rector. A donation of \$5 to cover cost of supplies and fabric is appreciated.

**Holy Family Confraternity of Christian Mothers Officers**


Rita Martinez, President / Sondra Wright, Vice-President  
Anita Van Order, Treasurer / Kendy Troiano, Secretary  
Father Michael J. Donovan, O. de M. Director



**Congratulations to the family of John Paul Oliger who was welcomed into our faith community through the Sacrament of Baptism.**



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
All CCD Students Eat For Free



Carryout Available      Credit Cards Accepted

**NOVEMBER 30**  
After 11am Mass  
in Church Basement

Adults: \$7  
Children under 12: \$5  
Family of 4 or more: \$20

**St. Gianna Molla Play Group**

Please note: Meeting time has been changed to 10am.

For moms and young children. Meetups will be held the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 10am. Contact **Rebekah Foley** ([bekah.krull@gmail.com](mailto:bekah.krull@gmail.com)) or **Katie Foley** ([katie.frego.95@gmail.com](mailto:katie.frego.95@gmail.com)) with questions or in case of inclement weather.

**12/9—Grange Insurance Audubon Center  
Kid's Area**

**Holy Family Confraternity of Christian Mothers**

584 W. Broad St.  
Columbus, OH 43215

*Cordially invites you to our:*

**ADVENT ADORATION HOUR**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025**

**9:00 AM MASS**

**10:00 – 10:30 AM – GREETINGS AND BREAKFAST**

**10:30 – 11:00 AM – TALK BY DANIEL MARKHAM**  
(AUTHOR OF THE BOOK "52 MASSES")

**ADORATION AT 11:00 AM (ENDING AT NOON)**

**RSVP BY DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> USING THIS QR CODE:**

You can also RSVP to: [holyfamilyccm@gmail.com](mailto:holyfamilyccm@gmail.com).



*There is no cost to attend, but donations are welcome.*

**HOSPITALITY COFFEE & DONUTS** December 7th  
following the 9am & 11am Mass. Join us with family  
and friends and support our Church!

**Rorate Mass**

*A Candlelit Votive Mass  
of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary*

**Wednesdays, December 10th and 17th**  
**Music begins at 6:45 AM**

**Holy Family Church**  
**584 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel!*



# We Pray For Our Faithful Departed

Beatriz Perez Bond  
 Walter Stevens  
 Vasylio Bond  
 Sophie Rys  
 Graham Asher  
 Ursula Asher  
 Dolly Tobon  
 Luis Quintero  
 Gustavo Tobon  
 Margarita Tobon  
 Jose Maria Tobon  
 Juan Jose Tobon  
 Nubia Tobon  
 Beatriz Quintero  
 Maestro Gonzalo Quintero  
 Guillermo Quintero  
 Jerry Beasley  
 Tom Collins  
 Bill & Thelma Collins  
 Dan Hawkins  
 Ben Yoder  
 Tim Dinneen  
 Angela McMillin  
 John Wasko, Sr.  
 Josephine Wasko  
 Steve Kubik  
 Cecilia Kubik  
 John J. Wasko, Jr.  
 Mary E. Kubic Wasko  
 John J. Wasko  
 Ted J. Hardman, Jr.  
 Baby Wasko  
 Kaiden Riesenber  
 Bill & Aletha Myers  
 Dee & Bill Barry  
 Carol & Norm Sellevaag  
 Deceased Members of  
 The Richards Family  
 Deceased Members of  
 The Dillen Family  
 Charles & Rosemarie  
 McKinniss  
 Carl & Helen Mehrle

Mary Catherine Gibbons  
 Margaret Gibbons  
 William Gibbons  
 Rita Wachunas  
 Joseph Wachunas  
 Thomas Feeney  
 Marjorie Feeney  
 Pat Mathers  
 Barbara Parvatikar  
 Gregory Wachunas  
 The Shoults Family  
 The Gamble Family  
 Teresa Lang  
 Charles L. Lang  
 Esther Lang  
 Charles P. Lang  
 Helen Banchy  
 George Banchy  
 Douglas Blake  
 Jeffrey Woods  
 Tracy Thompson  
 The Pieha-Cieliesz Family  
 The William Krochmalski  
 Family  
 Dick Crumley

Amanda Johnson  
 Dorothy Hopper  
 Edith Joslyn  
 The Manzullo Family  
 George Cagnon  
 Bill Ingalls  
 Bill Saville  
 Dolores Butterman  
 Stella Eischen  
 Jan Erling  
 Robert Eischen  
 Victoria Ballantyne  
 Ernest Ballantyne  
 Andrew Bozzarelli  
 Dorothy Glab  
 Anna & Jim Fries  
 Virginia & Bob McPhail  
 Midge McPhail  
 Matthew Victor  
 Maria Schaff  
 Msgr. Leonard Fries  
 Carol Cave  
 Butch McCoy  
 Gene Charney  
 Norma & Geno Deferro

Lucia Reyes Mendez  
 Renaldo Reys Mendez  
 Altagracia Maria Mateo  
 Augusto Mendez  
 Felicia Reyes Mendez  
 Dulce Maria Mendez  
 Marcela Reyes Mendez  
 Pablo Mendina  
 Rapaela Minyetty Feliz  
 Gustano Mendez  
 Lucelegni Ogando Mates  
 Todas las Aninas  
 Marilyn Mateo  
 Teodoro Minyetty (Mervin)  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Allen  
 Carolyn Dolby Climer  
 The Keller Zacks Family  
 The Wentzel Family  
 John E. Barnett  
 John W. Barnett  
 Sherry Simental  
 William & Stella Houghton  
 Michael & Ruth Simental  
 Dawn Houghton  
 Debbie Simental  
 Sharon Stickle  
 Deceased Members of  
 Little Servant Sisters  
 The Lukaszuk Family  
 The Kulesa Family  
 The Kamien Family  
 Daniel Covietz



May the souls  
 of the faithful departed  
 through the Mercy of God  
 rest in peace.



# Lectio Divina

## SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” +Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

*The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception*

***“Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God’s own love and concern.” +SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA (MOTHER TERESA)***

### **Monday, December 1 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 8:5-11** When Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully.” He said to him, “I will come and cure him.” The centurion said in reply, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come here,’ and he comes; and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I say to you, many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the Kingdom of heaven.”

**Meditation:** Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord! As we begin this Season of Advent we want to begin this first Monday of our Advent journey by rallying ourselves to turn to the Lord with great hope. In the midst of many discouraging challenges in our lives – the economy, violence, political in-fighting, problems in our own lives – we desire to spend this day in anticipation of the graces our God desires to give us. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; “One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again.” (Isaiah,2) Let us remember the words in scripture which we state during each Mass before we receive the Eucharist: “Lord, I am not worthy to receive you; but say only the word and my soul will be healed.”

**Prayer:** Keep us alert, we pray, O Lord our God, as we await the advent of Christ your Son, so that when he comes and knocks, he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** The prophet Isaiah foretold a time of restoration for the holy city Jerusalem and for its remnants (ref. Isaiah 4:2-6) and also a time of universal peace when all nations would come to Jerusalem to “the mountain of the Lord and to the house of the God of Jacob” and “beat their swords into plowshares” (Isaiah 2:2-4). Jesus fulfills this prophecy first by restoring both Jew and Gentile to fellowship with God through the victory he won for us on the cross. When he comes again he will fully establish his universal rule of peace and righteousness and unite all things in himself (ref. Ephesians 1:10). His promise extends to all generations who believe in him that we, too, might feast at the heavenly banquet table with the patriarchs of the Old Covenant who believed but did not see the promised Messiah. And so we need to ask ourselves: Do you believe in God’s promises and do you seek his kingdom first in your life? The Season of Advent reminds us that the Lord wants us to actively seek him and the coming of his kingdom in our lives. The Lord will surely reward those who seek his will for their lives. We can approach the Lord Jesus with expectant faith, like the centurion did in today’s gospel reading, knowing that he will show us his mercy, love, compassion, along with guidance and help in our time of need.

### **Tuesday, December 2 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 10:21-24** Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.” Turning to the disciples in private he said, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.”





**Meditation:** What does Jesus' prayer in today's gospel tell us about God and about ourselves? First, it tells us that God is both Father and Lord of earth as well as heaven. He is both Creator and Author of all that he has made, the first origin of everything and transcendent authority, and at the same time, goodness and loving care for all his children. All fatherhood and motherhood are derived from him (ref. Ephesians 3:14-15). Jesus' prayer also contains a warning that pride can keep us from the love and knowledge of God. Pride closes the mind to God's truth and wisdom for our lives. Jesus contrasts pride with child-like simplicity and humility. The simple of heart are like "babes" in the sense that they see purely without pretense and acknowledge their dependence and trust in God who is the source of all wisdom and strength. They seek one thing – the "summum bonum" or "greatest good" which is God himself. Simplicity of heart is wedded with humility, the queen of virtues, because humility inclines the heart towards grace and truth. Just as pride is the root of every sin and evil, so humility is the only soil in which the grace of God can take root. It alone takes the right attitude before God and allows him as God to do all. "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (Prov. 3:34, James 4:6). The grace of Christ-like humility inclines us towards God and disposes us to receive God's wisdom, grace, and help. Nothing can give us greater joy than the knowledge that we are God's beloved and that our names are written in heaven (ref. Luke 10:20).

**Prayer:** Look with favor, Lord God, on our petitions, and in our trials grant us your compassionate help, that, consoled by the presence of your Son, whose coming we now await, we may be tainted no longer by the corruption of former ways. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** Jesus makes a claim which no one would have dared to make – He is the perfect revelation of God. Our knowledge of God is not simply limited to knowing something about God, but we can know God personally. Jesus makes it possible for each of us to personally know God as our Father. To see Jesus is to see what God is like. In Jesus we see the perfect love of God – a God who cares intensely and who yearns over men and women, loving them to the point of laying down his life for them upon the Cross. Do you pray to your Father in heaven with joy and confidence in his love and care for you?

### **Wednesday, December 3 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent**

#### **Saint Francis Xavier**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:18-22** As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.

**Meditation:** Jesus speaks the same message to us today as he did when he walked this earth – we will "catch people" for the kingdom of God if we allow the light of Jesus Christ to shine in and through us. God wants others to see the light of Christ in us in the way we live, speak, and witness the joy of the truth contained in the gospel. Saint Paul the Apostles says, "But thanks be to God, who in Christ Jesus always leads us in triumph, and who through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing" (2 Corinthians 2:15). Do you show others around you the joy of the gospel and do you pray for your neighbors, co-workers, and relatives that they may come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and grow in the knowledge of his love?

**Prayer:** O God, who through the preaching of Saint Francis Xavier won many peoples to yourself, grant that the hearts of the faithful may burn with the same zeal for the faith and that Holy Church may everywhere rejoice in an abundance of offspring. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** What is God calling you to do in your brief earthly life? As God calls you (as he calls each of us) how are you responding? Are you ready to respond? When Jesus began his ministry he went everywhere he could – the streets, towns, hills and lakeside of Galilee – to speak to people about the kingdom of God. He chose as his closest friends and coworkers those who were ready to follow as his disciples and he gave them an unusual mission – "to catch people for the kingdom of God." What kind of disciples did Jesus choose? Ordinary fishermen! In the choice of the first apostles we see a characteristic feature of Jesus' work: he chose ordinary people. They were non-professionals, had no wealth or position of power or fame in society. They were chosen from the common people who did ordinary things, had no special marks of education, and no social advantages. Jesus wanted ordinary people who could take an



assignment and do it extraordinarily well. He chose these individuals, not for what they were, but for what they would be capable of becoming under his direction and power. When the Lord calls us to be his disciples, we must not think we have nothing to offer him in exchange. The Lord takes what ordinary people, like us, can offer and uses it for greatness in his kingdom.

**About Saint Francis Xavier:** The great missionary St. Francis Xavier was from a Basque noble family, like his beloved mentor Saint Ignatius of Loyola. When Francis met Ignatius in Paris he was a proud, autocratic, ambitious man wanting to accomplish great deeds in the world. For three years Ignatius patiently encouraged Francis to look at his life differently. "What profits a man," Ignatius asked Francis, "if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?" Francis joined Peter Faber as the first of Ignatius's companions. Francis Xavier was ordained in 1537. In 1541 King John of Portugal asked Ignatius for priests to send to the missions in India. Despite knowing he would never see his beloved companion again, Ignatius chose Francis Xavier for the mission. Francis left for India, arriving at the city of Goa in 1542. For the next ten years the missionary Francis Xavier traveled from Goa to Cape Comorin in south India, then to the East Indies, Malacca, and the Moluccas, and onward to Japan. It was Francis Xavier's great ambition to get permission to enter China as a missionary. He died in 1552, exhausted from his labors and fasts, on a small island off the coast of China with a single companion at his side. St. Francis Xavier's great ambition was to bring the world to Jesus Christ. Armed only with his breviary and a book of meditations, Francis preached the Gospel to the poor and sick, spending most of his time ministering to their needs. His nights were taken up in prayer. His only attention to his personal needs was to have a pair of boots. He barely ate enough to stay alive. As the missionary Francis Xavier, SJ, moved on, he left behind flourishing churches that were the foundations for the Catholic faith in Asia. (Courtesy of IgnatianSpirituality.com)

## **Thursday, December 4 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent**

### **Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 7:21, 24-27** Jesus said to his disciples: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock. And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined."

**Meditation:** What can satisfy the deepest hunger and longing of the human heart? Isaiah prophesied that God would provide a heavenly banquet for all peoples and would destroy death once and for all (Isaiah 2:6-8). God sent his only son into the world to fulfill that promise. The miracles performed by Jesus are both a sign of God's kingdom and a demonstration of God's power. They also show the magnitude of God's love and mercy. When the disciples were confronted by Jesus with the task of feeding four thousand people many miles away from any source of food, they exclaimed: Where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them? The Israelites were confronted with the same dilemma when they fled Egypt and found themselves in a barren wilderness. Like the miraculous provision of manna in the wilderness, Jesus, himself provides bread in abundance for the hungry crowd who came out into the desert to seek him. The gospel records that all were satisfied and they took up what was leftover.

**Prayer:** Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may be helped by the prayers of the Priest Saint John Damascene, so that the true faith, which he excelled in teaching, may always be our light and our strength. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** In the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes we see a sign and a symbol of what God always does. God knows our needs and he truly cares about us. When God gives, he gives in abundance. The gospel account records that the leftovers from the miraculous meal was more than seven times the amount they began with. Seven is a symbol of completion and wholeness. When God gives, he gives until we are satisfied. When God works for his people he gives abundantly – more than we could deserve and more than we need. He nourishes us with his life-giving word and with the bread of heaven. In the kingdom of heaven God will feast us at his banquet table. Are you satisfied with God's provision for you? In this Season of Advent, do you long with expectant hope for the coming of his kingdom in all its fullness? If not, why not?





## Friday, December 5 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:27-31** As Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying out, "Son of David, have pity on us!" When he entered the house, the blind men approached him and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I can do this?" "Yes, Lord," they said to him. Then he touched their eyes and said, "Let it be done for you according to your faith." And their eyes were opened. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." But they went out and spread word of him through all that land.

**Meditation:** The kind of foundation that each of us builds our lives upon will determine whether we can survive the storms that are sure to come, and come again, and again, as simply part of life. Builders usually lay their foundations when the weather and soil conditions are at their best. It takes foresight to know how a foundation will stand up against adverse conditions. Building a house on a flood plain, such as a dry river-bed, is a sure bet for disaster! Jesus prefaced his story with a warning: We may fool humans with our speech, but God cannot be deceived. He sees the heart as it truly is – with its motives, intentions, desires, and choices (ref. Psalm 139:2). There is only one way in which a person's sincerity can be proved, and that is by one's practice. Fine words can never replace good deeds. Our character is revealed in the choices we make, especially when we are tested. Do you cheat on an exam or on your income taxes, especially when it will cost you? Do you lie, or cover-up, when disclosing the truth will cause you injury or embarrassment? A true person is honest and reliable before God, one's neighbor and oneself. His or her word can be counted on. If you heed God's word and live according to it then you need not fear when storms assail you. God will be your rock and your refuge. Is your life built upon the sure "rock" of Jesus Christ and do you listen to his word as if your life depended on it?

**Prayer:** Stir up your power, we pray, O Lord, and come, that with you to protect us, we may find rescue from the pressing dangers of our sins, and with you to set us free, we may be found worthy of salvation. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** So what is our best security against disaster and destruction? In the ancient world a strong city, an impregnable fortress, and a secure house were built on solid rock because they could withstand the forces of nature and foe alike. Isaiah speaks of God as an "everlasting rock" (ref. Is. 26:4). He is the rock of refuge and deliverance (ref. Psalm 18:2) and the rock in whom there is no wrong (ref. Psalm 92:15). Scripture warns that destruction will surely come to those who place their security in something other than God and his kingdom. Jesus' parables invite us to stake our lives on the coming of his kingdom or face the consequences of being unprepared when the day of testing and destruction will surely come. In this Advent season, we are reminded to place all of our trust in Jesus Christ, the promised Savior, the Son of God who was sent to this world for our redemption.

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;  
prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011;  
information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

frlumpe:2025



### A PRAYER FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus! Come!"

~ Fr. Henri Nouwen



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