

Liturgy Schedule

Chapel

Tuesday, December 26

8:00am - *No Mass*

Thursday, December 28

8:00am - Andrew Pado - Daughter

Friday, December 29

8:00am - Romeo Curzon - Andrews Family

Church

Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day

8:30am - All Parishioners

11:00am - All Parishioners

Holy Family

Saturday, December 30

3:30pm - *Confessions*

4:30pm - Gertrude D. Eisbrenner - Mary & Michael
Kallio

Sunday, December 31

8:30am - Anne Strasbourger - Andrews Family

11:00am - Dan Bubb - Family

Congratulations to Shane and Brittney Robinson whose daughter *Alli Grace* was baptized last weekend. May she grow as a daughter of God with the support and witness of our parish community.

READING FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27-29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
During the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

January 13 - Night at the Races
February 3 - Spaghetti Dinner
February 14 - Ash Wednesday
February 28 - Diocesan Wide Sacrament of Reconciliation
March 3-6 - Parish Mission
March 25 - Palm Sunday
April 1 - Easter
August 2-4 - Parish Festival

PARISH OFFICE: The Parish Office will be closed from Monday, December 25th through Monday, January 1st.

CHRISTMAS MEAL PRAYER:

Blessed are you Lord God,
who has come to dwell with us.
Hear the prayers of your family
gathered on this Christmas day.
Bless us, this food and our time together.
Strengthened by this food and love
may we strive for what is holy
and grow in charity
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

WELCOME! If you are interested in joining the parish please contact us. You can call the parish office at 440-926-2364 or go to our web site at www.olqpgrafton.org. Registration forms are on our website and by the bulletin board in the Gathering Area. There will be a Welcome Weekend on January 27/28.

KOC MASS: The next Knights of Columbus corporate mass will be on Sunday, December 31st at the 8:30am mass.

Pray for the Sick: *David Blackburn, Betty Kuepfer, Jose' Magiste, Sandy Vasbinder, Leon Denomme, Pam Jenkins, Jim Hempfling, David Myers, Kathy Borowy, Shirley Livchak, Dave Kleinhenz, Jerry Severns, Carol Cordy, Nancy Johnson, Tami Lynsky, Jeanne Kowalski, Dorothy Pondy, George Banjoff, Bille Updegrove, Debbie Hutnyak, Robert Falatic, Bryan Jaram, Linda Bliss, Cindy Kulp, Wendy Osucha, Kathleen Keller, Asher Reynolds, Ronald Seufer, Cheryl Frabotta, Mary Gross, Grace Smith, Aaron Hokes and Jack Knittel.*

Please call the Parish Office 440-926-2364 to have a name of a friend or relative included in this list.

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Pastor's Corner: Have you grown in your awareness of how blessed you are? Last fall I talked about the youth in our faith formation program and their using the book *"Blessed"* and a suggested activity of recalling each day 100 things you are thankful for. On Thanksgiving I spoke of a book, *"365 Thank You Notes"* and the challenge of writing these notes in a year's time. Whether you are successful in either of these activities (I have not been!) I hope that you have been focusing upon the blessings that are showered upon us each day. As we celebrate Christmas we celebrate that God has come to us and dwells among us. On page 71 of *Blessed*

we read:

"Since the beginning, human beings have been trying to figure out the best way to live..... The world was a mess because people were confused about who they were and the purpose of life. They were lost. They needed to be saved from their selfishness and sin. So God sent his Son, Jesus to save them."

What do we need saved from? Yes, God saves us from sin and death, giving us eternal life. But he doesn't just save us at the point of our death, he saves us every day! So what is it that you need saved from today? Is it your selfishness? Do you need to be saved from opening your mouth and saying things that are hurtful? Is judging others or being critical of them something that plagues you and you need to be saved from? Do you need to be more patient? This Christmas we celebrate our belief that God has come to dwell with us and to save us daily. I encourage you to take some time in prayer and with family/friends to reflect upon what it is that God has saved you from, and to be thankful for the blessing of being saved. The Gratitude Board in the Gathering Area is a place to write out your blessing, and so this Christmas write out what you are thankful for being saved from.

Fr John

CHURCH ENVIRONMENT: Decorating for Christmas will take place today Sunday, December 24th after the 9:30am mass. Anyone able to help with decorating is welcome.

OPLATKI: Christmas wafers are available in the Gathering Area (on the counter by the coat room) and at the parish office. The cost is \$1.00 per packet.

CHILDREN/FAMILIES NEEDED to carry the infant Jesus in the opening procession at the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please call the parish office or sign up in the St. Joseph room.

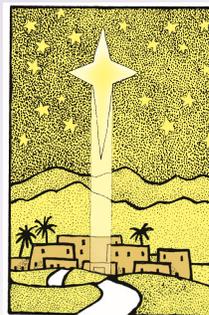
CHRISTMAS READING: Copies of Matthew Kelly's *"Perfectly Yourself"* are available in the Gathering Area. Please take a copy home to read during these cold long nights of winter. And then pass the book along to someone else. Other books by Matthew Kelly as well as other Catholic writers can be obtained at a relatively inexpensive cost (usually just shipping and handling) by going to DynamicCatholic.com.

"... You are enough. You have enough brains, talent, beauty, laughter, soul, ideas, and love to live the incredible life God created you to live. So what are you waiting for? Do something today that announces that a new phase has begun in your life. God and all the angels and saints in heaven are cheering for you." - taken from the book's jacket.

PARISH MISSION: The Parish Mission will be Sunday, March 3rd - Tuesday, March 6th. The mission will be led by Aimee and Greg Wasinski and it will be based on his book *"Unconditionally: Finding Jesus in the Eucharist."* The following is taken from the book jacket:

"With a combination of relevant insights, personal reflection, scripture passages and catechism references, Greg Wasinski offers an inspiring illustration of the ways we are accepted, connected, forgiven, led, loved and redeemed through the Eucharist. In all that He gives us, we are connected to the living God. Let this be the jump start needed to encounter the person of Jesus Christ in new ways while surrendering to the grace poured into you through His body, blood, soul and divinity each time we receive Him at Communion."

LITURGICAL MINISTERS: Are needed for the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary mass, Monday, January 1st at 9:00am. A sign up sheet is available in the St. Joseph's room.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24th

4:30pm

(4:00 pm Children's Choir Program)

10:00pm

(Choral presentation begins at 9:30pm)

Monday, December 25th

8:30am and 11:00am

© J. S. Palish Co., Inc.

Thank you for your generous support of our Parish, and your help with the needs of the community through your ongoing participation in our various ministries.

| | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Goal</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Sunday, Dec. 17: \$ | 12,581.97 | \$ 9,000.00 | \$ 3,581.97 |
| Sunday Y-T-D: \$ | 243,300.05 | \$225,000.00 | \$18,300.05 |
| Religious Retirement: | | \$ 1,075.00 | |

YEAR END GIVING: In this season of giving, consider making a year-end gift to our parish in gratitude for all the blessings you have received in life. As you plan to make the most of your charitable donations in 2017, know that we gratefully accept gifts of cash and appreciated assets such as stocks or bonds. If you are 70 ½ or older, you may be able to reduce your taxable income this year and help us in our ministry with a gift made directly from your IRA to our parish. Talk to your advisors and IRA administrator for more information and to be sure that a gift is made directly from an IRA to a qualified charity such as our parish. Lastly, should this year-end find you creating or updating your estate plan, please consider helping us grow our parish ministry for future generations by including our parish as a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement plan or life insurance policy.

Questions? Contact our parish office at (440) 926-2364 or via email at jandrews@olqpgrafton.org. You are also welcome to contact Mary Lou Ozimek of the Catholic Community Foundation at 216-696-6525 x4070 or via email at mozimek@catholiccommunity.org.

GENTLE WOMAN FELLOWSHIP: Meets on January 5th, 2018 at

Saint Clarence Parish Center,
30106 Lorain Road, North Olmsted, 44070

- 9:30 - Pray the Holy Rosary in the Chapel
- 10:00 - Attend Holy Mass in the Chapel
- 10:45 - Enjoy a **Potluck Luncheon** Followed by a Talk in the Parish Hall

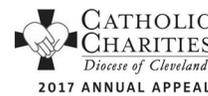
Father Robert Cole who has been ordained for forty-five years will be our celebrant and speaker this month.

Please bring a cold salad, cheese sandwiches, veggies with a dip, fresh fruit or something to share. Dessert will be provided.

ALL WOMEN WELCOME! COME AND BRING A FRIEND! NO RESERVATIONS NEEDED
QUESTIONS? CONTACT MARY HOOVER AT 330.636.1698 OR MARY TSCHANZ AT 440.235.6258.

ADULT CONFIRMATION: For those adults who have never been confirmed there will be a preparation program beginning Thursday, January 18th at 7:00pm in the parish hall and we will meet the third Thursday of February and March (3 sessions). Confirmation will be Monday, April 23rd at 7:00pm.

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church #1285 we read: “For by the Sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit.” It is as if something is missing. The Sacrament of Confirmation completes one’s baptism. If you would like more information please contact Fr. John. Also if you would like to help with the preparation program please contact Fr. John.



Thank you! Catholic Charities is able to provide hope through the support of the faithful throughout our diocese. As of November 30, 2017, 49,536 donors have pledged \$13,005,066. While we have exceeded our goal of \$12M, the needs of the less fortunate continue to grow. We still need your help! Thank you to 157 parishes that have exceeded their goals!

You Did it for Me. 318 parishioners of Our lady Queen of Peace parish have pledged \$57,321 toward our parish goal of \$42,342. From Matthew’s gospel, Jesus tells us “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for the least among us, you did it for me.” Your support of the 2017 Catholic Charities Annual Appeal provides help to the least among us, in the name of Jesus. Contact Karen Joyce at 800-869-6525 ext. 1910 to make a gift by phone or make a secure gift at:

<https://www.CatholicCommunity.org/ccdonate>.

We invite you to view the stories of inspiration and see the faces that you have impacted through your generosity. Please visit:

<https://www.catholiccommunity.org/2017appeal>



SCRIPTURE STUDY: Our new study of “PSALMS” will start on Thursday January, 11th at 7:00pm in Room 2 of the Hall with Chapter Two pgs. 7-19 in the study book and lesson one in the study guide. This study is very closely tied to the mass and our everyday lives. Study books are available in the church office for \$16. Please come and join a great group and enrich your faith. Please Contact Rick Gallaher (440) 458-6335 for questions.

This Week in the Parish:

Sunday, December 24

10:30am - Decorate Church (Church)

Monday, December 25

8:00am - Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

8:00am - Parish Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27

8:00am - Parish Office Closed

7:00pm - RCIA (Parish Hall Rm. 2)

Thursday, December 28

8:00am - Parish Office Closed

Friday, December 29

8:00am - Parish Office Closed

1:30pm - Keystone Pointe

Saturday, December 30

8:00am - Parish Office Closed

NIGHT AT THE RACES (This event replaces the Reverse Raffle):



Come join us on Saturday, January 13th at 5:30pm for this fun filled event.

Tickets for this year's Night at the Races are on sale for \$20 in the Gathering Area after all masses this weekend or at the parish office during the week. Entry to the event, food and refreshments are included in the ticket price. You may also purchase horses for \$15 apiece with the chance of winning \$30 if your horse wins the race. You can also sponsor a race for \$50 and have your ad on the race form for the race you sponsor. You do not need to attend the event to purchase horses or to sponsor a race. We are also asking for donations for our Chinese Raffle. For more information please contact Troy DiFranco at (440) 506-3592.

GOD'S PROMISE: The lengthy passage from Samuel is a wonderful exposition of God's promise to the house of David: that his throne would forever be gloriously occupied by his descendants. Hidden in the mystery of the prophecy is the promise of the Savior, the Messiah, Son of God and Son of David. The prophet Nathan, speaking in God's name, poetically turns around David's plan to build a house for God, and announces God's plan to build a "house," that is, a dynasty for David. From this house of David will come the Messiah, the Christ, not in kingly splendor as David ruled, but as a humble man, destined to rule forever and over all. When God gives a gift, it's amazing what we are given—so different from what we ever could have imagined. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

PARISH INFORMATION

† **Weddings:** Couples need to make arrangements at least six months prior to the wedding date.

† **Baptism:** Baptisms are celebrated at a mutually convenient time. Please call the office to make arrangements.

† **Ministry to the Sick:** Please notify the office for visits to parishioners in the hospital.

† **New parishioners:** Are asked to register as soon as possible at the Parish Office or by phone.

† **Inquiry Classes in the Catholic Religion:** Persons interested in becoming Catholic are asked to contact the Parish Office for information about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, RCIA.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: St. Mary of the Falls, 25615 Bagley Road in Olmsted Falls will hold their annual Parish Christmas Concert at 7PM on Thursday, December 28; concert will feature all music ministry groups including adult choir, youth choir and life teen band with special guests: award-winning pianist, Rixiang Huang and world-renowned guitarist, Neil Zaza. The concert is free; a goodwill offering will be taken. All are welcome! For questions, please contact Music Director, Christina Dupré at 440.465.1195 or christina.dupre37@gmail.com.

TOBOGGANING! Saturday, January 13th at the Strongsville toboggan chutes. We will have pizza after 4:30pm Mass (approx. 5:30) in the church gathering area and leave the church grounds at 6:30pm. Return time approximately 10:00pm. **Cost: \$12.00**, plus some money for snacks. Come dressed for the weather. **YOU MUST BRING WINTER GLOVES OR MITTENS (HEAVY MATERIAL RECOMMENDED)- THEY ARE REQUIRED FOR RIDING.** Friends always welcome! Each person attending must have a permission form signed by parent / guardian, forms can be printed from parish website. Call or text Jen Filipiak if you plan on going so we can be sure to have enough drivers- 440-225-1971.



Father John and the parish staff would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.