

St. John, St. Mary, Visitation Churches

Mass Schedule for December 5th – December 13th

Sat. 5 th 5:00 p.m.	Doug Smith (Visn) (DD)
Sun. 6 th 7:45 a.m.	Brantley Bo Groh & Family (SM) (GV)
Sun. 6 th 9:45 a.m.	Ruth Flieman (SJ) (DD)
Sun. 6 th 11:30 a.m.	Parishioners (Visn) (DD)
Mon. 7 th 9:00 a.m.	Intention of Gleneeda Hoy (Visn)
Tues. 8 th 9:00 a.m.	Tom Hayes (Visn)
Wed. 9 th 12 noon	D. Joan Simon (Visn)
Wed. 9 th 6:00 p.m.	Living & Deceased of the Homan/Steinbrunner Families (Visn)
Thurs. 10 th 9:00 a.m.	Sister Marianna Rumpke (Visn)
Fri. 11 th 9:00 a.m.	Living & Deceased of the Klinke Family (Visn)
Sat. 12 th 5:00 p.m.	Kay Gerstner (Visn) (DD)
Sun. 13 th 7:45 a.m.	Wyatt Clevenger (SM) (DD)
Sun. 13 th 9:45 a.m.	Living & Deceased of the Eales Family (SJ) (GV)
Sun. 13 th 11:30 a.m.	Parishioners (Visn) (DD)

**Confessions Saturday 4:00 – 4:30pm Visitation
Wednesday 5:00-6:00pm Visitation**

We continue the Advent season this week. Cards with our Advent Mass setting are available at the entrances at each parish. Please take one and keep it throughout the season for use during Mass. At Visitation, we will begin each Sunday of Advent with a Wreath Lighting at the beginning of Mass.

Thank you for your continued support of our parishes through your donations.

Offertory November 22, 2020
Visitation \$1221.00 St. John \$350.00
St. Mary \$585.00

We will have a **second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious** on December 12 - 13.

Parish Council Elections this weekend: Both Visitation (two positions) and St. Mary (one position) are holding elections for Parish Council 'at large' positions (three-year terms beginning in January 2021).

December Meetings/Activities

Parish Council meetings

December 7 Visitation 7p.m.
December 14 St. Mary 7:30p.m.
December 21 St. John 7p.m.

Holy Hours

December 10 St. Mary 7 p.m.
December 17 St. John 7 p.m.

St. John news: There will be no St. Ann's Christmas party due to COVID. Watch the pews for information about ordering poinsettias!

Annual Items to Pick Up at/near Church Doors

All parishioners and new members are asked to pick up the following items:

1. **Collection Envelopes** Please fill out an index card including the Box "#number" so that we can have accurate records for tax purposes.
2. **FREE Advent Word Among Us booklets.** Daily readings, daily reflections, and a great way to spend every day of Advent preparing for Christ to come again.
3. **FREE 2021 Calendars** Beautiful images and a calendar connected to our Catholic faith.

NEW BULLETIN DEADLINE for SUBMISSIONS

Want to have something included in the bulletin? You must submit your item at least 2 weeks before the bulletin date, earlier if possible. Items must be submitted **in writing**, preferably by emailing the item to bulletins@preblecountycatholics.org.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thoughts - I look upon this sweet little Child in Bethlehem and hope for Jesus Christ to come again. God became one of us through His Son and fulfilled the plan of redeeming us and saving us from our sins. The wood of the creche becomes a sign of the wood of the Cross. This God-Man has come, is here with us, and will come again in his glory. Will we treat him with gratitude this Advent & Christmas season? Maybe we could take time and stop by a Nativity scene and say "Thank You, Lord Jesus."

Prayer - Oh holy night, on which our Savior was born. Jesus, my Lord, open my heart and mind to enter into the glory of your presence this advent season. Help me to wait with peace, joy, and hope that you are here and one day you will come again. Amen.

Advent Action - Spend 10 minutes singing or listening to a Christmas song about the Nativity scene. Or, spend some quiet moments looking at a Nativity Scene somewhere around town and give thanks to the Lord in your heart. Do something to show him thanks for being one with us.

God Love you,
Fr. David Doseck

The Ultimate Guide to Advent: The 2020 edition of The Ultimate Guide to Advent from The Catholic Telegraph is now available! The guide is free, downloadable and filled with everything from faith traditions to favorite recipes, events for families, movie and music recommendations and more. It's interactive, with links to click, gifts to buy, coloring pages to print and prayers to pray. Please visit thecatholictelegraph.com/advent-guide to get the guide delivered to you free via email.

Farewell! It is with joy and sadness that we wish Marcy, our secretary, farewell. She and her husband are fulfilling their dream of retiring to a warmer climate! We are so grateful for all she did for our region over the last year. She is already greatly missed! We pray God's blessings on Marcy and Bob.

Angels and Crosses: St. Anne's of Visitation is selling angels and crosses for a \$5 donation again this year in memory of your loved ones to put on the Visitation Christmas tree. Mail your request to Visitation or to Alice Rickard (416 Lexington Ave., Eaton, 45320) or drop it in the collection basket at Mass. You can pick up your items in the Visitation hall after Epiphany, January 6. Questions? Call Alice at 937-456-1088. Thank you and God bless!

St. Mary Custodial position: We are in need of a custodian for St. Mary parish in Camden. If you are interested in more information and/or applying for this part-time job, please call Kay Hansen at 937-456-3395. Applications will be accepted through Sunday, December 6.

Thank you, Kroger shoppers! Our first quarterly rebate from the Kroger Community Rewards Program is \$77.94. If you haven't signed up for our rewards program, it's easy to do. Log into your Kroger account - hit Rewards button - type Church of the Visitation or enter code KG262 in search bar - click enroll. This does not affect your fuel points.

FORMED

Daily Reflections and Enrichment for Advent

Sign up at FORMED.org/advent



Beacons of Light: Pastoral Planning for Our Third Century: If you would like to receive monthly updates about Beacons of Light (see insert for information), you can sign up to receive a free monthly newsletter at <https://catholicaoc.org/beacons#newsletter>. The newsletter will contain monthly prayers, reflections and planning process updates beginning January 15.



RADIATE CHRIST

“Radiate Christ. These two words summarize God the Father’s hope for humanity on this earth. The words contain both a reality and a mission: the reality of the person of Jesus Christ as the Savior of all people and the mission of each Christian to participate in the Son’s redemption of the world.”

— Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr

Becoming People Who Radiate Christ

We are people on a journey of faith in relationship with Jesus, called to grow as disciples who are ready to be part of Christ’s mission in the world. We are formed as missionary disciples in many ways, especially through the Eucharist, sacraments, and in the life of our parish communities. If each of us is called to radiate Christ, we must be rooted in a strong, vital parish that forms us as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ at every stage of life and faith.

Announcing **BEACONS of LIGHT**

Beacons of Light is a pastoral planning process through which the parishes of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will come together in new ways, forming communities of faith that are united as members of Christ’s Body, the Church. The beacon shines in the midst of darkness and points the way toward a bright future filled with hope. Over the next few years, Beacons of Light will result in stronger parishes that will form us to live and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in our homes, workplaces and schools, local towns and cities and in the world.

“The whole People of God must urgently embrace the Holy Spirit’s invitation to begin the process of ‘renewing’ the face of the Church.”

— The pastoral conversion of the parish, 10

Through Beacons of Light, parish groupings will be identified and parish leaders will come together to discern the shape of parish life for their grouping. People will be invited to share their hopes and dreams for the future as their parishes are drawn together as a community of faith.

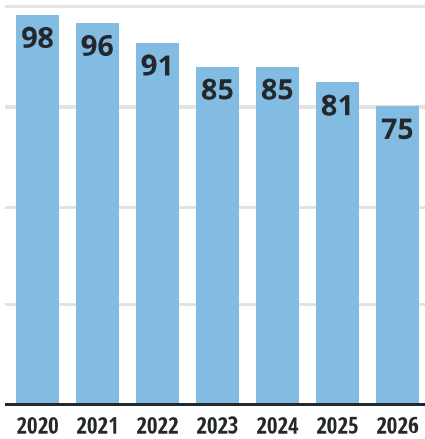
Our Call: Form Parishes as **BEACONS of LIGHT**

People on a journey of missionary discipleship. Priests who have the time to be present, attend to the needs of their people, and lead their parish to fulfill Christ’s great commission. Parishes that are alive in faith, filled with vitality, ready to form people to radiate Christ at home, in their neighborhoods and workplace, towns and cities, and in the world. Pastoral life of this depth requires strategic, pastoral planning for a bright future for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

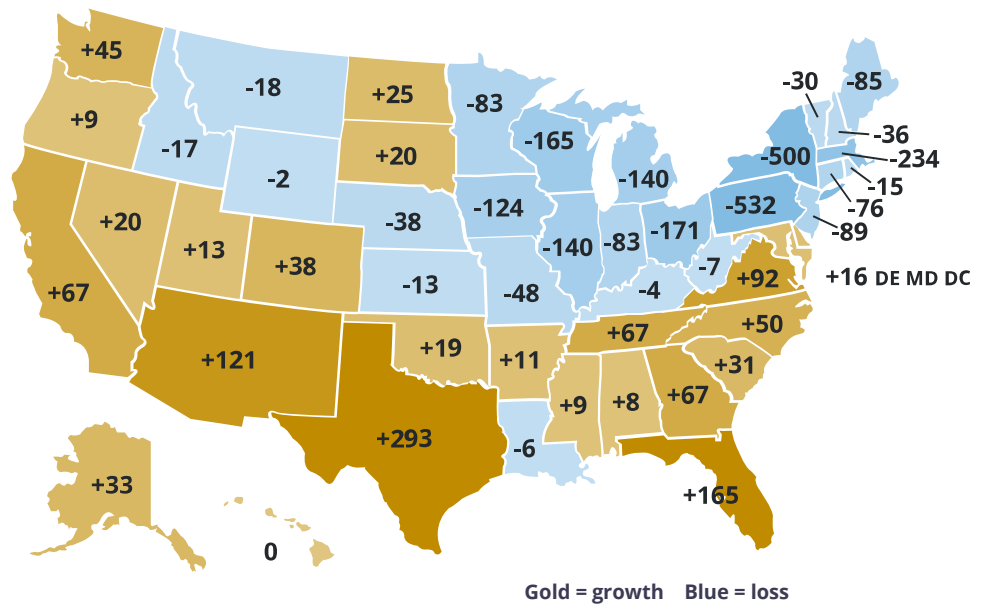
“The parish is a beacon that radiates the light of the faith and thus responds to the deepest and truest desires of the human heart, giving meaning and hope to the lives of individuals and families.”

— Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, December 10, 2006

DIOCESAN PRIESTS AVAILABLE FOR ASSIGNMENT AS PASTORS



NET CHANGE IN CATHOLIC PARISHES BY STATE, 1971 TO 2018



ACTIVE DIOCESAN PRIESTS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

25 of our 149 priests are 70 or older

9 of the 149 priests are 75 or older

19 of our 102 pastors are 70 or older

7 of our 102 pastors are 75 or older

3 ordinations in 2020

8 retirements in 2020

52 possible retirements in 2021-2025

*7 religious order priests serve as pastors in 2020

Why now?

Many factors lead us to recognize an urgent need to organize parish life more effectively for our future. We face the decline of religious practice in the United States and changing demographics in the Midwest. And, while we are blessed with an increased number of men who have been ordained to the priesthood in the past few years or who are currently in seminary formation, we have even more still serving as pastors who are at or beyond retirement age or who will be eligible to retire in the next few years. We must address this situation through thoughtful strategic and pastoral planning in order to form vital parishes that lead us all to embrace Christ and the call to missionary discipleship.¹

BEACONS of LIGHT: From Surviving to Thriving

Beacons of Light will be a unique experience of pastoral planning for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. There are two essential elements of the process, which will take place simultaneously and will lead us to move from maintenance to mission, from surviving to thriving. **Strategic Planning:** involves data gathering, analysis, and the identification of the best possible parish groupings throughout the Archdiocese. **Pastoral Planning:** includes meetings and processes through which parish leaders will discern the shape of parish life for their grouping and create a pastoral plan for the future.

What's Next? Prayer and Planning

We invite you to join us in prayer as we enter into this new phase of pastoral planning. Monthly prayer and reflection resources, as well as updates on the process, will be available at www.catholicaoc.org/beacons.



ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

¹ Map: CARA, <https://nineteensixty-four.blogspot.com/2019/02/where-parish-doors-have-closed-and.html>