

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 19th

+4th Sunday of Advent

- 4:00 p.m. St. Bernard Mass for
The Esselstein Family from the Family
- 6:00 p.m. St. Rose Mass for William "Bill" Fiore
from Virginia Ellis

Sunday, December 20th

+4th Sunday of Advent

- 7:30 a.m. St. Rose Mass for the Deceased
Members of the Sagan Family
from Idelle Sagan
- 9:00 a.m. Church of the Atonement Mass for Mike
& Tim Goebel from the Family
- 9:00 a.m. St. Patrick Mass for Barbara Gianvito
from Chip and Mary Ryan
- 10:30 a.m. St. Rose Mass for the Deceased
Members of the Lacey &
McMillan Families from the Family

Monday, December 21st

+ St. Peter Canisius

- 8:00 a.m. St. Rose Mass for Mike Snider
from Jim & Lisa Theisen

Tuesday, December 22nd

+ 4th Advent Tuesday

- 8:00 a.m. St. Rose Mass for William &
Dolores Fiore from the Family

Wednesday, December 23rd

+St. John of Kanty

- 8:00 a.m. St. Rose Mass for Sylvester Gordon
from John & Anne Barnett

Thursday, December 24th

+4th Thursday in Advent

- 8:00 a.m. St. Rose Mass for Ralph Moore
from Steve & Susan Hooper

The Nativity of the Lord – Vigil

- 4:00 p.m. **St. Rose** Mass for Louis, Eileen &
Terri Hatem from the Family
- 5:00 p.m. **St. Bernard, Corning** Mass for
Fr. John Metzger from the Parishioners
- 6:00 p.m. **St. Rose** Mass for Ruth Carter,
John R. Sanders and John Sanders
from the Family
- 7:00 p.m. **Church of the Atonement, Crooksville**
Mass for the People of God
- 8:00 p.m. **St. Patrick, Junction City,**
Mass for Fr. John Metzger
from Tony & Deanna Davis
- 12:00 a.m. **St. Rose Mass** for Jackie Ellis
from John and Anne Barnett

Friday, December 25th

The Nativity of the Lord

- 9:00 a.m. **Church of the Atonement, Crooksville,**
Mass for the People of God
- 9:00 a.m. **St. Rose** Mass for William "Bill" Fiore
from Rose, Nick, Joe & Trish Pacino

Saturday, December 26th

+Feast of the Holy Family

- 4:00 p.m. St. Bernard Mass for Larry McDonald
from the Thompsons
- 6:00 p.m. St. Rose Mass for William "Bill" Fiore
from Joe and Roberta McGreevy

Sunday, December 27th

+Feast of the Holy Family

- 7:30 a.m. St. Rose Mass for the Eli and
Mary Studer Family from the Family
- 9:00 a.m. Church of the Atonement Mass for
Patrick Hannum from Tim &
Kathleen Danielson
- 9:00 a.m. St. Patrick Mass for Leon Blosser
from John & Mary Eleanor Schmelzer
- 10:30 a.m. St. Rose Mass for Robert Stalter
from the Stalter Family

POPE FRANCIS:

Motherhood and fatherhood are a gift of God, but to accept the gift, to be astounded by its beauty, and to make it shine in society, this is your task. Each of your children is a unique creature that will never be duplicated in the history of humanity. When one understands this, or that God wanted each one, we are astounded by how great a miracle a child is! A child changes your life! We have all seen – men, women – that when a child arrives, life changes, it is another thing. A son or daughter is a miracle that changes life.

Come, Child Jesus, change our lives!



JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY – December 8, 2015 through November 20, 2016:

In proclaiming a Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Holy Father has exercised the authority given to him by Jesus Christ (Mt.16:19) and opened for us a time of grace. The Year of Mercy is about many things: the tender mercy God shows to all mankind, repentance from sin as our response to God's mercy and the mercy we are called to show to others. At the center of this holy year is our

personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We are called to look honestly at our relationship with the Lord, to turn from the ways that we have preferred our own will to his and to seek reconciliation. This puts the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation at the center of the Year of Mercy. During this holy year each of us is invited to renew or begin a commitment to the regular practice of sacramental confession. It is here that we will hear with our ears and experience in our hearts Jesus' most consoling words. "I absolve you of your sins." Even if it has been a long time since your last Confession, Pope Francis encourages you "...Do not lose another day. Go, the priest will be good...Dear friends, celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation means being enfolded in a warm embrace: it is the embrace of the Father's infinite mercy." A Jubilee Year is about freedom. God wishes to act in our lives this year, setting us free and bringing us peace. Let us spend this year actively seeking ways to allow him to do so. Pope Francis calls this year "a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective and become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives."

THIS WEEK IN THE CONSORTIUM

Sunday, December 20th

10:30 a.m. – Gift Shop, St. Rose
 9:15-10:15 a.m. – CCD, St. Rose in the school
 10:00 a.m. – CCD, Church of the Atonement
 10:00 a.m. – CCD, St. Patrick

Tuesday, December 22nd

Noon to 3:00 p.m. – St. Vincent de Paul Center
 OPEN

Wednesday, December 23rd

5:15 p.m. – Holy Hour/with Penance

Thursday, December 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE
Diocesan Charities Collection
 4:00 p.m. – Mass, St. Rose
 5:00 p.m. – Mass, St. Bernard
 6:00 p.m. – Mass, St. Rose
 7:00 p.m. – Mass, Church of the Atonement
 8:00 p.m. – Mass, St. Patrick
 Midnight Mass – St. Rose

Friday, December 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY
 9:00 a.m. – Mass, Church of the Atonement
 9:00 a.m. – Mass, St. Rose

Saturday, December 26th

4:00 p.m. – Gift Shop, St. Bernard
 5:15 p.m. – Confessions, St. Rose until all are heard

Sunday, December 27th

Feast of the Holy Family
 NO CCD, St. Rose in the school
 NO CCD, Church of the Atonement
 NO CCD, St. Patrick

Tuesday, December 29th

12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., Red Cross Blood Drive

COMING EVENTS:

Sunday January 3rd
NO CCD, Christmas Break

Monday, January 4th

School Resumes

SCHOOL NEWS, FROM MR. MEDAUGH, PRINCIPAL:

St. Rose School website:
www.stroselimaschool.org

ELKS HOOP SHOOT: 12-13-year-old group –
 Thomas Spohn

Since we are in the winter season now, be sure to listen to local radio stations and watch the local TV stations for school closures.

On December 10th, we went caroling with students from Holy Trinity. We sang in Somerset and in New Lexington. We finished the evening off at the PCC with refreshments provided by Ms. Lollo.

That same evening the eighth graders were busy helping Fr. Jim put up Christmas trees in the church. They joined the caroling group when they completed their tasks.

The registration process will be slightly different this year. On January 11, 2016, we will begin advertising the open houses. On February 7th, we will be having an open house, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. that is open to the entire New Lexington community. Registration information will be available during the open house. Official registration will begin on February 16th and end on March 31, 2016. We will have tuition rates available in advance of the registration period. Please note that **March 15th** is the deadline for applying for tuition assistance from the Columbus Diocese. All applications must be submitted and verified online by that date (this is tied in with FACTS). An informational flyer has been sent home with the oldest student in each family.

We will also be developing a tuition assistance application on the local level as well. Keep in mind that ED Choice Expansion Program K-3 as a possibility for financial aid if you are eligible under the Federal Guidelines. I have been speaking to other principals for the past two months about school finances. Some are very aggressive in pursuing unpaid tuition and raising rates for families who do not do their volunteer hours; other are more passive. I am still studying the finances of the school. Until I "get it," I am not going to suggest many changes. Right now I am gathering information from other schools, reading books, and doing some online research. Other schools have been down this road. Some have survived, some have not. Personally, I'd like to come out on the winning side of this issue.

I am also in the beginning phases of working on three scholarships to be awarded to eighth graders at graduation. They don't know it yet, but I will be asking the Educational Commission to help develop the criteria and application process.

Check out www.cdeducation.org/BoscoBash for information about this year's Bosco Bash at St. Cecilia Church in Columbus. This event is for 6th-8th graders.

In the book, *Story of the Storm: Catholic Elementary Schools from the 1960's To The Present,* the "Multiple Whammy" Theory is presented as an explanation to the decline of Catholic Elementary Schools.

The first part of theory is **demographics**. Beginning in the 1950's, affluent Catholic families began to move to the suburbs leaving behind Catholic schools and neighborhoods. The populations that replaced them were neither Catholic nor economically well off.

The problem became more critical as the outlying Catholic schools were overflowing with new students to the point where many had to enroll in public schools because there was no room in the Catholic schools.

The enrollment continued to drop as the Baby Boomers grew older and the number of Baptisms began a steady decline. This limited the pool of potential students.

About this same time, attachment to parish life weakened to the point where, by 1975, only 50% of Catholics attended Mass on a regular basis. It was reported that in 2004, only 29% of Catholics under the age of 45 were making the trip to Mass on a regular basis.

From 1965 to 1975, there was a general decline in Church activities of all kinds. Record numbers of religious and priests petitioned for dispensation from their vows, the number of vocations fell, and the number of marriage annulments skyrocketed.

The 1960's also brought about a change in values and a crisis in confidence in all forms of leadership. As mentioned before, when parishioners decrease their attachment to the Church, they also tend to support the elementary less.

I know these essays paint a gloomy picture. But the fact remains, we are called to be disciples. Which brings me to another book which I have just started, *"Forming Intentional Disciples"* by Sherry A. Weddell. It paints a less gloomy picture and I will be sharing this book with you in the future.

PARISH NEWS:



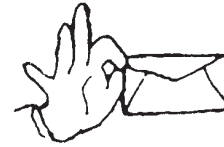
Blue Christmas Worship Service Sunday, December 20th at 4:00 p.m., First Hope UM Church, 102 N. Buckeye Street, Crooksville. This service is offered for anyone who is feeling "a little less than merry" this holiday season. Whatever has you down: death of a loved one, divorce, job loss, financial concerns, let the music and the message help you find hope and maybe a little joy. All are welcome.

AROUND THE DIOCESE AND THE WORLD:



Thank You

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: Religious give thanks.. "We cannot begin to repay all who contribute" writes a Catholic sister, "So we pray to God, who is never outdone in generosity, to reward you." Heartfelt thanks for your donation to last week's collection. May God bless you for your goodness!

**LITURGICAL ASSIGNMENTS:****Church of the Atonement:****December 27, 2015**

LECTOR: Kaye Noce
 EUCHARIST: Barb/George Wilson/
 Joe Woneymaker
 SERVERS: Taylor Smith/Hannah Chaney/
 Josie Perani
 USHERS: Mike Derwacter/John Gorby

St. Bernard:**December 24, 2015**

LECTOR: Emily Walsh
 SERVERS: Hailey, Kaitlyn Walsh/Jace Agriesti
 EUCHARIST: Cindy Dew/Lisa Fulk/Jackie Walsh
 SACRISTAN: Ellen Kader

December 26, 2015

LECTOR: Rita Pompey
 SERVERS: Rusty/Shainna Greenwich/
 Adam McMannis
 EUCHARIST: Russell/Donna Browning/
 Elaine Ferguson
 SACRISTAN: Russell Browning

St. Patrick:**December 24, 2015**

GREETERS: Harold/Judy Kunkler
 LECTORS: Adam Finck/Tony Davis
 EUCHARIST: Ruth/Carl Ed Fondale/
 Dan/Ed Finck/Jennifer Boyden
 SERVERS: Anna Mohler/Jesse/
 Rebecca Kunkler/Grace Baker/
 Alaina Boyden
 USHERS: Jack Finck/Bill Gilligan/Davo/
 Michael Fondale
 GIFTS: Adam/Heidi Finck Family

December 27, 2015

GREETERS: Ruth/Davo/Angie/
 Ethan/Natalie Fondale
 LECTORS: Judy Kunkler/Cindy Aiello
 EUCHARIST: Deanna/Tony Davis/Harold/
 Judy Kunkler/Kelcie Fisher
 SERVERS: Megan/Matthew/Morgan Metzger/
 Derek/Sierra Kunkler
 USHERS: Jack/Adam Finck/Matt Paxton/
 Michael Fondale
 GIFTS: Judd/Becky Baker Family

OFFERTORY INFORMATION:**Church of the Atonement****December 13, 2015**

Needed to pay bills: \$ 1,776.15
 Offertory \$ 1,227.00
 Fuel \$ 8.00
 Immaculate Conception \$ 77.00
 Candles \$ 4.00
 Total \$ 1,316.00
 27 Envelopes
 School Support \$ 13.00
 Religious Retirement \$ 37.00

St. Bernard**December 12, 2015**

Needed to Pay Bills: \$ 1,415.64
 Offertory \$ 1,119.00
 Flowers \$ 130.00
 Immaculate Conception \$ 68.00
 Total \$ 1,317.00
 31 Envelopes
 School Support \$ 40.00
 Retirement for Religious \$ 30.00

St. Patrick**December 13, 2015**

Needed to pay bills \$ 1,773.48
 Offertory \$ 1,279.00
 Immaculate Conception \$ 15.00
 Total \$ 1,294.00
 School Support \$ 20.00
 Retired Religious \$ 292.00
 59 Envelopes

St. Rose Church**December 8, 2015**

Immaculate Conception \$ 752.82

Donations**To St. Rose**

From Ronald and Teresa Stevenson

Donations:**To St. Rose Church**

In Memory of Emma Printz
 From David & Sandy Baker

To St. Rose School

In Memory of Terry Rugg
 From Beth Glass