

Reading for this Week

Monday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a;/12:1-6a; 10ab/Lk
1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13
Wednesday: Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25
Thursday: Is 54:1-10
Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8
Saturday: Gn 49: 2, 8-10/Mt 1: 1-17
Sunday: 2 Sm 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Rom 16: 25-27:
Lk 1:26-38

You can now find the daily readings on our Parish Website!

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

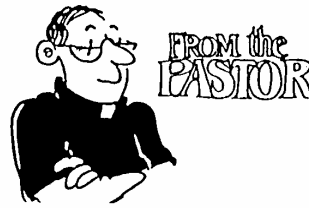
Q What does one need to do to be a "good" member of Blessed John Parish?

A This is a great question. Most churches have members who are not terribly active or invested. To be a good member of this parish, consider the following:

- Really participate at Sunday Mass. Singing helps the community as it also helps each person transcend the mundane.
- Offer some time and energy in any parish project. Read the bulletin or website and see if there is a place for you. Pick at least one place to get connected.
- Form a healthy community here by greeting and welcoming others. Share your name and help others feel at home.
- Continue to grow in faith through Generations of Faith and the various "Going Deeper" sessions.
- Continue to support the parish as we get ready to go "on our own" financially. (The Diocese has been supporting us.)
- Let us know your pastoral needs and don't be afraid to ask for help.

GIVING TREE

This week we conclude the Giving Tree. Thanks to those who took items off the tree to help the eight families we are sponsoring. As we grow and develop as a parish, we very likely will be able to do even more. Knowing that we have helped others also brings a better understanding to our own gift-giving and receiving.



**PASTOR'S NOTE:
Hoping They'll Find Me**

Over the years I have enjoyed Christmas as a time for sending and receiving Christmas cards, especially with friends that I ordinarily don't see. It's our way of keeping up with each other. But I think I am in trouble this year.

When I moved last summer, I thought I would send a cute note to everyone on my list telling them that I was moving and building a new parish from the ground up (and we still don't have the ground). But as one thing led to another, I never sent the note.

Then I decided I would send my Christmas cards very early and include my new address, so my correspondents would know in time to send theirs to my new home. Guess what: I forgot until this week. It's no longer "very early" to send cards.

So now I am hoping that my cards will get forwarded. I trust the people at the last parish to get them to me. I really do want to hear from my out-of-state friends.

But the real task is still in front of me. I better get my Christmas cards in the mail. In past years I have justified my delay by saying that Christmas *begins* on December 25; it doesn't end then. That is just the first day of the Christmas season.

Anyway, staying in touch with old friends, out-of-town friends, and long-lost friends is important...whenever it happens.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT IN ORDINARY TIME



GENERATIONS OF FAITH RESERVATIONS CLOSED

Sixty-one households will be attending Generations of Faith either on Sunday, December 11 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran (582 West of Haskins) or Monday, December 12 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church on Dowling Road. **Remember your cookies.**

If you have not reserved your spot for the January 29 and/or 30th gatherings, we encourage your household to sign up now. This gathering will be on the "healing" mission of the Church. The number of families enrolled in Generations of Faith is growing, so we are considering offering another evening as an option for participation. Watch for more information as soon as it comes available. Generations of Faith is our "intergenerational" Parish Religious Education Process and is open to ALL parishioners of ALL ages! For more information contact Marla Overholt.

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S SONG

For Advent, the children have been learning a little song called Violet in the Snow, as part of the Children's Liturgy of the Word. On Christmas Eve at the **4:30 p.m. liturgy**, and Christmas Day at the **9:30 a.m. liturgy**, any children present who have been attending CLW, will be asked to come forward after Communion to sing this little song as a meditation. This will be a special way for the children of the parish to lead us in sung prayer. (FYI, this meditation will NOT be a part of the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve liturgy.)

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Although it won't be as much as many churches do, we will have some Christmas decorations for our Masses. We can enter the high school on Thursday, December 22, to set up (hour yet to be determined). Everything will have to be taken down right after Mass on Sunday, December 25. If you can help, please let us know. We especially are requesting some help on Sunday. (It appears we will have the use of a nativity set that came from one of the old churches that recently closed.)

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Our Sunday offering last weekend was \$2,070. Thank you. Each person's giving helps us maintain our new parish.

RETIRED RELIGIOUS COLLECTION

Thanks to all who took seriously the request to contribute to the Retired Religious collection. Please remember that these sisters built the church in America by the generous gift of their lives. They educated many of us and often with almost no remuneration. Now is our chance to support them in their retirement. (If you do not have a special "Retired Religious" envelope for your contribution, there are some at the church doors...or any envelope will do. Please mark it "Retired Religious," and drop it in today or next week's collection.) Thank you.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

We are fortunate that we can use Perrysburg High School for all three of our Christmas Masses. If you know someone on the school board or administration, please thank them. On Christmas Eve we will have a Mass at 4:30 with "the child in mind." The 7:00 p.m. Mass will have the solemnity of midnight...without having to stay up that late. On Christmas morning, our Mass will be at the regular 9:30 a.m. time.

INVITE SOMEONE TO OUR HOUSE

There are many, many people without a regular church. Perhaps you know some. Please invite them to our house (our liturgies) for Christmas or any Sunday. There are hand-bills with Mass times near the doors. Please take some and pass them around. Arrange to come with those you invite.

Teens



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Our senior YOUTH GROUP (Grades 9-12th) will go Christmas caroling next Sunday, December 18, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Meet at the home of Hector and Walesca Ramirez, 3301 River's Edge Drive in the River's Edge development, off Ft. Meig's Rd. (south, of Perrysburg High School). We will carol and then come back for hot chocolate. Dress warm.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a great way to prepare for Christmas. Fr. Herb will be assisting at Reconciliation Services at St. Rose, Perrysburg, at 7:00 p.m., Monday, December 12; and at St. Aloysius, Bowling Green, at 7:00 p.m., Monday, December 19.

NURSERY SCHEDULE

We are happy to say that we have 3 households signed up to volunteer in the nursery. We need more! If you would like to help out, please sign up on the form at the front of the Church or contact Alisa Suelzer at alisa.suelzer@owenscorning.com. Thanks.

Roger and Dana Frank	Dec. 11
Dave and Valerie Suelzer	Dec. 18
No nursery	Christmas Mass
Danielle Burkin	Jan. 8

CHEESEBALL ORDERS

Remember your cheese ball orders of a couple of weeks ago? Members of Christ Lutheran Church, Dowling, make these each year as a Christmas project. They will be available for you to pick up at Mass next weekend (Dec 17-18) at the cost of \$5.00 a piece.

AS WE GROW...

Each week we see are seeing more visitors and first-timers. Please remember to greet them, welcome them, and help them feel at home. Don't be afraid to introduce yourself and offer them a nice place to sit. As we get bigger, we don't want to lose our friendly atmosphere. But it takes everyone to maintain it.

CHECK THE PARISH WEBSITE OFTEN

Have you noticed how the parish website, www.blessedjohn.org is being updated all the time? Be sure to check it regularly. And thanks for those who take digital pictures and offer them to Alan, our webmaster. And thanks, Alan.

FIRST TIME HERE?

It is exciting how we have newcomers every single Sunday. So if this is your first time here, welcome. We want to get to know you. Also please take a moment to look at some of the literature at the tables describing our parish, our wonderful Generations of Faith process, and more. Parish Registration forms are available on the tables.



MUSIC GROUP APPRECIATION

Music is a big part of worship. Today we stop for a moment to thank those who have stepped forward since August to be part of our music group. Anyone else out there interested??? If so, please contact Michael Puppas. Talk to him after Mass or email him at mpuppas@blessedjohn.org

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT IN ORDINARY TIME



COOKIES AND COFFEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Most people who have been at Blessed John liturgies since August will attest to the tremendous growth of people attending both Saturday and Sunday liturgies. The Sunday morning coffee and cookie detail, headed by Geri and Karl Neiling, would love to have more households volunteer to provide cookies and help with the pouring of beverages each Sunday. Here is a simple way to “get involved” in the parish and meet some great people. If you haven’t volunteered for a committee yet (and we sure would like to encourage everyone to find a way that they can participate in the life of the parish), please consider helping in this way. The cookies don’t need to be homemade, although we have noticed that those are the ones that disappear first!!! If you can’t provide cookies, consider helping with the pouring of coffee and juice! If you can help, contact Geri Neiling at (419) 878-8308 or neilingk@earthlink.net. Thanks in advance!!



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That families separated by war or natural disaster might be reunited and their isolation replaced by familial love and appreciation. Let us pray to the Lord.

HOSPITALIZED PARISHIONERS

We want to be there for you. Because of HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act), hospitals will not release names of patients without your approval. If you are hospitalized, it is important for you, or a family member, to **call our office** and also to answer, “**Yes**” when you are asked if you want your church to be notified of your admission.

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

We would like to offer a warm welcome to new parishioners: John and Kathryn Cullis and family; and Keith and Julie Snyder.

HAPPENINGS ELSEWHERE

TOLEDO SYMPHONY AT ALL SAINTS

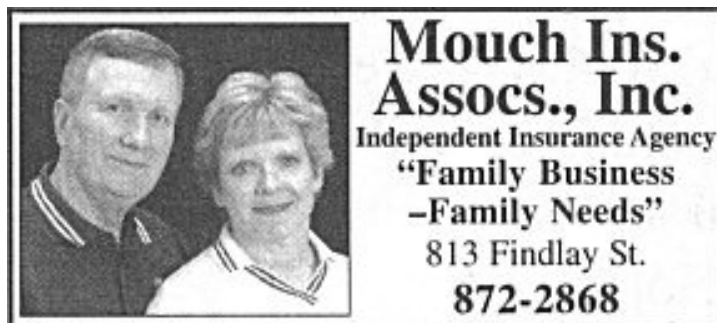
All Saints Catholic Church, 628 Lime City Rd, Rossford, is presenting its annual Toledo Symphony Neighborhood Concert Series at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, December 18, at the church. The theme this year is “An International Musical Tour.” To order tickets or for more information, please call 419-666-1393.

MUSIC AND MEMORIES

Beyond support group from Christ the King, presents “Music and Memories” with Dottie Pienta RN. The group will meet on Tuesday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the parish center meeting room. For more information please contact Terry 419-475-4348.

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