



SCIOTO CATHOLIC

Holy Redeemer, St. Mary, St. Monica, & St. Peter
Four Parishes, One Family

PRIESTS

Fr. Joseph Yokum, Pastor

Fr. Christopher Tuttle, Parochial Vicar

DEACONS

Rev. Mr. Terry Acox

Rev. Mr. Jim Sturgeon

Rev. Mr. Chris Varacalli

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday:

4:00pm at St. Monica (Odd Months), at St. Peter (Even Months)

5:30pm at St. Mary (Odd Months), at Holy Redeemer (Even Months)

Sunday:

7:30am at Holy Redeemer

9:00am at St. Peter

10:30am at St. Mary

12:00pm at St. Monica

7:00pm at Holy Redeemer on First Sunday of the Month (Spanish Mass)

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday: 12:00pm at St. Mary

Tuesday: 6:30am at Holy Redeemer, 12:00pm at St. Peter

Wednesday: 10:00am at Holy Redeemer (School Year), 12:00pm at St. Peter,

1:00pm at Hill View Retirement Community

Thursday: 12:00pm at St. Monica

Friday: 12:00pm at St. Mary, 6:00pm at St. Monica

Saturday: 8:30am at Holy Redeemer

CONFESSION

Monday: 12:30pm at St. Mary

Tuesday: 7:00am at Holy Redeemer, 12:30pm at St. Peter

Wednesday: 12:30pm at St. Peter, 1:30pm at Hill View Retirement Community

Thursday: 12:30pm at St. Monica

Friday: 12:30pm at St. Mary, 5:00pm at St. Monica

Saturday: 3:00pm (Odd months at St. Monica, Even months at St. Peter)

4:30pm (Odd months at St. Mary, Even months at Holy Redeemer)

ADORATION

Friday:

12:30-3:00pm at St. Mary

5:00-6:00pm at St. Monica



STAY CONNECTED

www.sciotocatholic.org

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To Receive Text Reminders and
Information About Upcoming Events,
Text sciotocatholic to 84576

SCIOTO CATHOLIC OFFICE

514 Market Street, Portsmouth, Ohio 45662 / (740) 354-4551 / office@sciotocatholic.org

Sacramental Emergency Line ONLY: (740) 981-9555

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 1ST 2019

This Week / Formation & Events

Sunday // December 1

8:30 am Coffee & Conversation	AC Sm Rm
9:00 am NDHS Breakfast with Santa	AC Lg Rm
8:45-10:00 PSR for St. Mary & Holy Redeemer	AC
10:15-11:30 am PSR for St. Peter & St. Monica	SP Hall
11:30 Coffee & Conversation	AC Lg Rm
2:00 pm Ladies Guild Luncheon	SP Hall
4:00 pm 33 Days to Morning Glory	SMC
7:00 pm Christmas Concert Rehearsal	HR

Monday // December 2

All Day NDE Book Fair	AC Lg Rm
12:30 Confessions	SM
5:30 pm Revelation Bible Study	AC Sm Rm
6:30 pm 33 Days to Morning Glory	STMO

Tuesday // December 3

All Day NDE Book Fair	AC Lg Rm
7:00 am Confessions	HR
10:00 am Bible study	SP
12:30 pm Confessions	SP
5:45 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal	SM
6:30 pm RCIA	SP Hall
7:00 pm Men's Schola Rehearsal	SM

Wednesday // December 4

All Day NDE Book Fair	AC Lg Rm
12:00 pm Confessions	SP
1:30 pm Confessions	HV
7:00 pm Holy Hour & Advent Penance service	SP
7:00 pm Youth Choir Rehearsal	SM

Thursday // December 5

All Day NDE Book Fair	AC Lg Rm
12:00 pm Confessions	STMO
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	SM

Friday // December 6

All Day Science Fair	Ac Lg Rm
12:30 pm Confessions	SM
1:00-1:30pm Adoration	SM
1:20 pm Benediction	SM
5:00 pm Confessions & Adoration	STMO

Saturday // December 7

7:00 am That Man Is You	SMC
3:00 pm Confessions	SP
4:30 pm Confessions	HR

Sunday // December 8

8:30 am Portsmouth West Choir	HR
8:45-10:00 PSR for St. Mary & Holy Redeemer	AC
10:15-11:30 am PSR for St. Peter & St. Monica	SP Hall
11:30 Portsmouth West Choir	SM
1:00 pm NDHS & NDE Cheer Clinic	AC Lg Rm
4:00 pm 33 Days to Morning Glory	SMC
5:00 pm Christmas Nativity Pageant/Dinner with Santa	SP

Masses and Intentions

Monday December 2

12:00 † Dick, Sue & Gary Frederick (*Laura Karch*) SM

Tuesday December 3

6:30 † Earl Bauer (*Questel's*) HR
12:00 † Clifford Shoemaker (*Schwamburger's*) SP

Wednesday December 4

10:00 † Earl Bauer (*Brown's*) HR
12:00 † Charles McLaughlin (*Schwamburger's*) SP
1:00 † Jean Glockner (*Steve & Mary Herrmann*) HV

Thursday December 5

12:00 † Scott Warren (*Cecilia Morris*) STMO

Friday December 6

12:00 † John & Mary Ellen Miller (*Miller Family*) SM
6:00 † Elmo Keller (*Nancy Keller*) STMO

Saturday December 7

8:30 † Earl Bauer (*Herb & Joyce Tomashot*) HR
4:00 † Chet & Elizabeth Baker (*Carol Davis*) SP
5:30 † Ed, Pauline & Jinny Fisher & Family (*Gary Fisher*) HR

Sunday December 8

7:30 † Audie Hall (*Absalom Hall*) HR
9:00 † Mary & Frances Albrecht (*Holcomb's*) SP
10:30 † Missa Pro Populo SM
12:00 † Jim Browning (*The Beaumonts*) STMO

Sacramental Information

Baptism: Three months prior to birth, pick up a Baptism Information and Form Packet from either parish office. Parents must attend a Baptism Preparation Class. Email Megan Baum at megebaum@gmail.com or call her at 614-203-9608 to set up a time that works for you. Schedule with Pastor.

Marriage: Contact the Pastor by calling the parish office or emailing fatherjoe@sciotocatholic.org at least 7 months before proposed wedding date to begin preparations. Visit www.sciotocatholic.org for information on all requirements.

Anointing & Visitation of the Sick: Our local hospitals do not inform us if you have been hospitalized. If you would like a priest to visit you (when you are in the hospital, nursing home, or homebound) or for Holy Communion to be brought to you, please contact the parish office.

Funeral: Contact the pastor through the parish office to plan the funeral Mass. It is possible to make pre-arranged Mass plans with the pastor before death. The Parish Music Director is responsible for coordinating the music for all funerals.

Legend

HR = Holy Redeemer
SM = St. Mary of the Annunciation
STMO = St. Monica
SP = St. Peter In Chains
HV = Hillview
AC Lg Rm = Holy Redeemer Activity Center

AC Sm Rm = Holy Redeemer Activity Center
SMC = St. Mary Center
NDE = Notre Dame Elementary
NDHS = Notre Dame High School
NDCC = Notre Dame Community Center
SFC = St. Francis Catholic Outreach Center

SCIOTO CATHOLIC INFORMATION

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Finance Manager, Carolyn Paul 740-354-4551
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Megan Baum 614-203-9608, megan@sciotocatholic.org

Hospitality & Outreach Ministry Coordinator, Theresa Metzler
theresa@sciotocatholic.org

Consortium Director of Sacred Music Jordan Werring,
jordan@sciotocatholic.org

Director of Community Life, Mary Anne Hughes 740-821-6550
hughes1984@yahoo.com

Facilities & Maintenance Supervisor, Chris Ponzio
chris@sciotocatholic.org

Custodial Staff: Ruth Marasek, St. Mary
Brenda Skaggs, St. Peter, Angie Ogg, Holy Redeemer,
Pam Higgins, Holy Redeemer Rectory & St. Monica

SCIOTO CATHOLIC PRAYER REQUESTS

Gus Saltsman, Matt Sullivan, Debbie Sullivan, Barb Sowards, Jill Pick, Sue Huff, Larry Whitt, Baby Kate Amy Schackart, Sue Phillips, Christine Tylka, Norma Bendinelli, Emma McCaul, Ron Miller, Margaret Mohr, Dottie Cochran, Mary Ann Hill, Pauletta Paulin, Louis Kielmar, Justin Cantrell, Layla Cook, Mary Massie, George Lawson, Gabe McCarty, Helen Rawlins, Michael Lawson, Janis Bouts, Ron & Mary Nelson, Roger Otworth, Steve Workman, Lew Labin, Jill Clark-Wills, Mary Kisor, Keith Shonkwiler, Debbie Estep, The Carver Family, Charles & Mary Blevins, Phillip Otworth, Bessie Otworth, Jocelynn Mayhew, Tim Lang, Thomas Lynch, Joseph & Lillian Shaw, Matt Mathias, Michael Miller, Ryan, Robert Riordan, Cody Pollards, Julie Schmidt Barnicle, Judy Rowson, Patty Lawson, Ryder Saltsman, MariGrace Smith, Beatrix Sanford, Ruth Vetter, Helen Stanley, William Questel, Deborah Hughes, Jeffrey & Donna Gill, Lilly & Homer Shaw, Brian Gill, Stephen & Linda Fraley, Kevin Morris, Sarah Green, Alexander Ranieri, Stella Cua, Patricia Klaiber, Paul Rennick, Lou Ann Castle, John Servidea, Eric Fitzer, Ricky Lawson, Connie Bice, Pat McClurg, Cathy Meyers, Ed Mantell, Mandy Weaver, Dr. George White, Baby Holden, Karen Reinhardt, Rosella Simmons, Mark Allard, Josie Bihl, Jack B. Jones, Dave Hartlage, Sue Herrmann, Jeni Cassidy, Logan Pelletrino, Scott Voorhees, Norma Patrick, Tom Kinker, Michelle Bertot, Betty Burton, Katie Schwab, Nancy Webb, The Simon Family, Jon Daniels, Brody Blevins, Mike Trivisonno, Harold Goodwin, Ava Messenger, Melissa Deprema, Sue & Ted Tackett, Robert Nelson, Theresa Stocker, Alice Cole, Alice Scherer, Judy Wear Smith, Carol Kopp Parker, Arlene Shuster, Dr. Jeremiah Martin, David Houser, Atina Earl, John Stuart.

ST. PETER & ST. MONICA LITURGICAL SCHEDULE December 7th December 8th

ST. PETER Saturday, December 7th- 4:00pm

Sacristan: Mark Miller
Lector: Luke Miller
Server: Brooklyn Miller
EM: Mark Miller, Amy Miller
Gift Bearer: Mark Miller, Amy Miller
Usher: Mark Miller, Amy Miller

ST PETER Sunday, December 8th- 9:00am

Sacristan: Suzanne Bowen
Lector: Christopher Seidel, Don Davis
Servers: Addie Graf, Olivia Graf, Jesse Skaggs
EM: Katherine Zamer, Kati Graf, Barbara Boll
Gift Bearer: Steve Allen, Diane Allen
Usher: Steve Allen, Diane Allen
Rosary Leader: Betty Reinhardt
Greeter: Steve Allen, Diane Allen

ST. MONICA Sunday, December 8th- 12:00 pm

Sacristan: Ethan Boerger
Lectors: Margaret Lehman, Matthew Smith
Servers: Maddox Moose, Aria Slone
EM: Mary Daniels, Glenna Todt, Matthew Todt, Mary Sturgeon
Gift Bearer: Kevin Metzler, Theresa Metzler
Usher: Louis Boerger, Dirk Hollar
Rosary leader: Nancy Keller, Jerry Gulley
Greeter: Valerie Gill

HOLY REDEEMER & ST MARY LITURGICAL SCHEDULE December 7th December 8th

HOLY REDEEMER Saturday, December 7th- 5:30pm

Sacristan: Mary Anne Hughes
Lectors: Absalom Hall
Servers: Faith Harting, Issac Kirby, Candice Mills
EM: Tom Mantel(host), Emma lou Jenkins (choir)
Steve McCarthy (chalice 1), **Absalom Hall Swap Requested (chalice 2)**, Ann McCarthy (Chalice 3), Steve Fitzer (Chalice 4)

HOLY REDEEMER Sunday, December 8th- 7:30am

Sacristan: Mo Coburn
Lector: Beth Haney
Servers: Mallory Cassidy, Bryce McGraw, Andy Pierron
EM: John Grimm (host), Kathy Grimm (choir)
Gregory Malone (chalice 1), Sharon Malone (chalice 2)
Counters: Mary Herrmann, Doris Robinson

ST MARY Sunday, December 8th- 10:30 am

Sacristan: Jim Jensen
Lectors: Barbara Glockner, Ellis Holcomb
Servers: Leo Glockner, Charlee Lansing, Evelyn Powell
EM: **Ann Cantrell (host) swap requested** Herman Patrick (choir) Betty Martin (Chalice 1) Michelle Baker (Chalice 2) Randy McGuire (Chalice 3) **Jean McHugh (Chalice 4) swap requested**
Greeters: Amy & Luke McGuire, Joseph McGuire
Counters: Larry Boren, Janet Welty

SCIOTO CATHOLIC INFORMATION

**FOR AS IN ONE BODY WE HAVE MANY PARTS, AND ALL THE PARTS
DO NOT HAVE THE SAME FUNCTION, SO WE, THOUGH MANY, ARE
ONE BODY IN CHRIST AND INDIVIDUALLY PARTS OF ONE ANOTHER.**

Romans 12:4-5

Notre Dame High School
2220 Sunrise Ave.
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662
740-353-2354



Notre Dame Elementary
1401 Gallia St.
Portsmouth, OH 45662
740-353-2354

Notre Dame High School	October 2019
Operating Budgeted Expenses	\$290,474.50
Income	\$123,847.56
Actual Expenses	\$133,175.15

Notre Dame Elementary	October 2019
Operating Budgeted Expenses	\$261,454.25
Income	\$93,121.75
Actual Expenses	\$66,867.56

ST. PETER & ST. MONICA OFFERTORY

ST. PETER CONTRIBUTIONS November 17th 2019

	November 17th	Year to Date
Budgeted Expenses	\$3,676.52	\$73,530.40
Contributions	\$3,042.35	\$87,153.41
	-\$634.17	\$13,623.01

ST. MONICA CONTRIBUTIONS November 17th 2019

	November 17th	Year to Date
Budgeted Expenses	\$1,875.00	\$37,500.00
Contributions	\$1,754.00	\$40,022.39
	-\$121.00	\$2,522.39

ST. PETER/ST. MONICA MEETING SCHEDULE

Knights of Columbus: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7 pm at St. Peter
Prayer & Praise: Mondays, Holy Redeemer, 7:00 pm
Prayer Shawl: Every 1st Tuesday of the month, St Peter at 2:00pm
Raphael's Hands Healing Outreach: Third Tuesday of the month,
 6:30 pm at St. Francis Outreach Center.
 Questions call 740-352-2812

HOLY REDEEMER & ST. MARY OFFERTORY

Fiscal Year – July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

HOLY REDEEMER CONTRIBUTIONS November 17th 2019

	November 17th	Year to Date
Budgeted Expenses	\$5,612.54	\$112,250.80
Contributions	\$4,129.00	\$93,142.55
	-\$1,483.54	\$19,108.25

Building Fund \$30.00 Collection Information

Envelopes	58	\$3,887.00
EFT Payments (Monthly)		\$0
Other		\$242.00
Total (Thank You)		\$4,129.00
Average donation per Env. & EFT's		\$67.02

ST. MARY CONTRIBUTIONS November 17th 2019

	November 17th	Year to Date
Budgeted Expenses	\$6,238.31	\$124,766.19
Contributions	\$4,720.51	\$118,870.68
	-\$517.80	-\$5,895.51

Building Fund \$200.00 Collection Information

Envelopes	79	\$4,157.00
EFT Payments (Monthly)		\$0
Other		\$563.51
Total (Thank You)		\$4,720.51
Average donation per Env. & EFT's		\$52.62

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Battle Over the Bride

Week 10 Love is Unconditional 11/30/19

- Love Has its Own Reward
- Love as a True Good
- The Freedom to Love
- The Challenges of Love
- Money, Health & Interpersonal Issues as Sources of Stress
- Overcoming the Stress of the World
- Love is Unconditional

FRIDAY ADORATION: Due to a continual lack of adorers on Friday afternoons following the Noon Mass at Saint Mary's, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will last for one hour following Mass. Benediction will begin at 1:20pm. Fr. Yokum and Fr. Tuttle will hear confessions during that time of Adoration until the time for Benediction. This will begin the first Friday of Advent, December 6th.

FORMED ORG CODE: 3Q9VR4

DO YOU LIKE CHRISTMAS MUSIC? GET YOUR FREE

GIFT THIS WEEKEND!: Fr. Joe is offering a free gift to all parishioners after Masses this weekend: an album of Advent and Christmas music by The Vigil Project and short reflections for the season by Fr. Dave Pivonka. Be sure to pick up a copy to help you and your family stay rooted in the meaning of these sacred seasons even when it gets busy. *Don't use CDs? No problem – a digital download code is included in the CD package, so you can listen to your album on all your devices.*

ST. PETER'S LADIES GUILD CHRISTMAS DINNER:

Sunday, December 1st at McCormick Hall at 2 PM. Hobby auction to follow meal. All ladies of the parish are invited. Cost is \$8.00 per adult and \$5.00 for children 12 and under. Please bring a craft for the hobby auction. Please call Carol Davis 740-574-6698 or Becky Schwamburger 740-574-6665 to make reservations. Reservation should be made by November 27th. Come join in the fun and fellowship.

ST FRANCES OUTREACH COLLECTION: We will be taking up this collection for St Frances Outreach on the 4th Sunday of the month at St Mary, Holy Redeemer, St. Monica & St. Peter.

COME TO KNOW THE ABUNDANCE OF GOD'S LOVE:

Take time to refresh yourself and reflect on God's divine encounter in your life and in the world. Our annual Men's spiritual retreat January 24-26, 2020, Jesuit Spiritual Center at Milford, Ohio. Transportation can be arranged: Questions—Andy Glockner 740-352-3867 or Steve Fitzer 740-821-4831 or Jesuit Spiritual Center to register 513-248-3500 Ext. 10: www.jesuitspiritualcenter.com.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES STATUE: The sign-up sheet to host the Our Lady of Lourdes Statue for 2019 is in the back of St. Peter. Dec. 15th– Dec. 29th it will be in the home of B.J. & Aldean Gaspers.

HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH CLEANING: There will be an all church cleaning at Holy Redeemer on December 12th at 10:00 am. We need your help!!

Christmas Basket Food Drive

Every year, Catholic Social Services partners with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Columbus to put together food baskets for those who are needy in our area. We need your help in donating the following non-perishable items:

SPAGHETTI SAUCE
SPAGHETTI
CHUNKY SOUP
GREEN BEANS
TOMATO SOUP
FRUIT
CORN
PEAS

TUNA
CHICKEN SOUP
INSTANT RICE
PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY
MAC N CHEESE
RAMEN NOODLES
CORN MUFFIN MIX
BABY FOOD

Items can be taken to the Holy Redeemer Center with a note that says 'Seton Parish Christmas Basket'.

The Year of the Holy Hearts of Jesus & Mary



A Message from Fr. Joe

I am thankful to God because of the many blessings that the parishes are experiencing due to the Year of the Family celebrated last year within our parish consortium. The Year of the Family has helped to orient all of us to putting Jesus and his interests first in our lives. In this next liturgical year beginning December 1st, I am calling for a Year of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary: The Year of the Holy Hearts.

In a desire to return to a greater devotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we are asking their intercession to take over where the Year of the Family left off; that Jesus and Mary take over the interests of our families. Our Lord Himself has promised that He will bless and sanctify those families who Enthroned Him as King. He asked Saint Margaret Mary, to whom He revealed His Sacred Heart, that He be allowed to reign over the homes of the rich and the poor; that He be solemnly received as King and Friend, and that His Sacred Heart be honored and loved. "I will establish peace in their homes, I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life, I will comfort them in all their afflictions, I will bless all their undertakings." Hence we may safely say that this is the means Our Lord Himself has selected to restore His sovereign rights over the family, and through the family, over society itself.

You will notice special programs throughout the year from the All Hearts Afire Parish Renewal Program from the Marians of the Immaculate Conception like Thirty Three Days to Morning Glory, Consoling the Heart of the Jesus, and Wisdom and Works of Mercy. We are also going to place a special emphasis on House Blessings and Enthronements of the Sacred Heart. I look forward to celebrating this year with you and may the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary intercede for you and your families during this Holy Year of Faith.

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,
Fr. Joe

Prayer to the Most Holy Hearts of Jesus and Mary

Most holy Hearts of Jesus and Mary, united in perfect love as you look upon us with mercy and compassion,
we consecrate our hearts, our lives, our families to you.

May our prayers be filled with the needs of others, not just ourselves,
and may we always be close to your Church and the Sacraments.

Bless those who are present, as well as those who are absent, both the living and deceased;
grant us the Christian acceptance of God's will.

Keep our families close to your Hearts; may your special protection be with us always.

Most Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, hear our prayers. Amen.

SCIOTO CATHOLIC

DECEMBER NIGHT OF

Adoration



AND ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

DECEMBER
4

*at St. Peter
in Chains*

FROM
7-8PM

A photograph of two religious statues. On the left is a statue of Jesus with a beard, wearing a brown robe and a white sash, holding a small book. On the right is a statue of the Virgin Mary in a white robe with a blue mantle and a gold crown, holding a small object. Both are on ornate bases.

Sacred Heart of Jesus & Immaculate Heart of Mary Statue Raffle

Cody Metzler will be selling raffle tickets after
the East side Masses and at the Ladies Guild
Christmas Dinner on Dec. 1st.

\$1.00 Ticket – 6 Tickets for \$5.00

He will also sell tickets after the Downtown
Masses on the weekend of December 7th & 8th.
and at the Dinner with Santa on Dec. 8th at St.
Peters. He will be draw the winner at the dinner.
You don't need to be present to win.

Please support Cody's Confirmation project.

A Christmas Nativity Pageant

Presented by St. Monica & St. Peter Churches

**Sunday, December 8th at 5:00pm
at St. Peter in Chains**

Followed by
Dinner with Santa

Practices will be at St. Peter at the following times:
Saturday, December 7th at 10:00am / Sunday, December 8th at 10:00am

Costumes will be handed out during practices. Please bring your child
dressed in costume and ready to perform by 4:30pm at St. Peter on the 8th.

CELEBRATION FOR THE FEAST OF *Our Lady of Guadalupe*



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

All Events at St. Mary

Join our parish communities as we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. There will a play about the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe that will begin at 6:00pm, bi-lingual Mass at 7:00pm, and a potluck dinner in the St. Mary Center following the Mass. Bring your friends and family to celebrate our Blessed Mother!

THE VIGIL PROJECT

A FREE CD + DIGITAL DOWNLOAD

THE VIGIL PROJECT



MUSIC AND REFLECTIONS FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

1. In Need of a Savior
2. ** Waiting **
3. Human and Divine
4. Prepare Him Room
5. To Save Us All
6. ** Metanoia **
7. Manna
8. What Child is This
9. Oh Mother
10. ** What You've Seen **
11. Starlight
12. You Gave Us Your Love
13. Savior of the World
14. ** By the Power of the Holy Spirit **
15. Away in a Manger
16. Hark the Herald Angels Sing
17. Silent Night

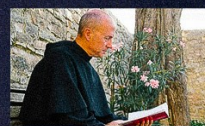
Recorded at Papercastle Records in Nashville, Tennessee | paperclastlerecords.com
Album Art by Mallory Hurley | sacredartandwellness.com

ACCESS YOUR FREE
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PLUS A FREE GIFT FROM OUR TEAM!

MUSIC BY THE VIGIL PROJECT



REFLECTIONS BY FR. DAVE PIVONKA, TOR



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GET YOUR COPY AFTER MASS THIS WEEKEND!

MUSIC & REFLECTIONS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

THE
VIGIL
PROJECT

THE MINISTRY OF
THE WILD GOOSE



THEVIGILPROJECT.COM

THEWILDGOOSEISLOOSE.COM

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)

"It is impossible to find a saint who did not take the 'two P's' seriously: prayer and penance." ~SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER

Monday, December 2 ~ 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! 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, one 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 3 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent
Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

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: 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, one 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 4 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: Matthew 15:29-37 At that time: Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, went up on the mountain, and sat down there. Great crowds came to him, having with them the lame, the blind, the deformed, the mute, and many others. They placed them at his feet, and he cured them. The crowds were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the deformed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind able to see, and they glorified the God of Israel. Jesus summoned his disciples and said, "My heart is moved with pity for the crowd, for they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, for fear they may collapse on the way." The disciples said to him, "Where could we ever get enough bread in this deserted place to satisfy such a crowd?" Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" "Seven," they replied, "and a few fish." He ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, gave thanks, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied. They picked up the fragments left over—seven baskets full.

Meditation: 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. In 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 cares. 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? And do you long with expectant hope for the coming of his kingdom in all its fullness?

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, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: If we open our eyes to look around us, one cannot help but have our hearts touched at what we see – so many people in need. When we see people in need, do we react as Jesus did – do we share in Jesus' thoughts: "My heart is moved with pity." Though we do not have the capacities of Jesus to perform miracles as He did, we do, in fact, have the capacity to perform "miracles" of a sort by sharing what we have with those in need – especially those who are without such basics as adequate food, clothing and shelter. Those who do not have transportation to get to the grocery store, the drug store, to a place to shop for various needs – especially the elderly. There are so many things we can do to carry on the mission of Jesus Christ by helping those in need. Ask yourself: when you see people in need, is your heart moved with pity? Moved with pity to help them in one way or another? To share what you have been blessed with? In this season of preparation and of giving may your heart be open to help others; in doing so, you are conforming your heart with that of Christ.

Thursday, December 5 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent

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: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come to our help with mighty strength, that what our sins impede the grace of your mercy may hasten. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one 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?

**Friday, December 6 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent
Saint Nicholas, Bishop**

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. 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: We humbly implore your mercy, Lord: protect us in all dangers through the prayers of the Bishop Saint Nicholas, that the way of salvation may lie open before us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: What is the 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 Catholic Culture;
some meditations inspired by Biblical Meditations for Advent and Christmas by Carroll Stuhlmueller, CP.
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A Prayer for 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!" ~ *Fr. Henri Nouwen*



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CHRISTMAS DAY

MIDNIGHT AT ST. MARY

MIDNIGHT AT ST. PETER

9:00AM AT HOLY REDEEMER

9:00AM AT ST. PETER

