



# 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

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## 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)

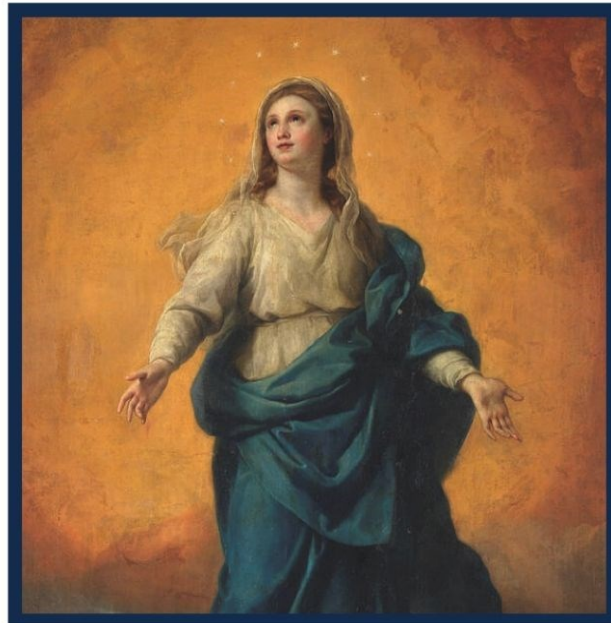
4:30pm (Odd months at St. Mary, Even months at Holy Redeemer)

## ADORATION

### Friday:

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

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



## STAY CONNECTED

[www.sciotocatholic.org](http://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](mailto:office@sciotocatholic.org)

Sacramental Emergency Line ONLY: (740) 981-9555

## 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 8TH 2019

### This Week / Formation & Events

#### 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**

#### Monday// December 9

12:30 Confessions **SM**  
 5:30 pm Revelation Bible Study **AC Sm Rm**  
 6:30 pm 33 Days to Morning Glory **STMO**

#### Tuesday// December 10

7:00 am Confessions **HR**  
 10:00 am Bible study **SP**  
 12:30 pm Confessions **SP**  
 2:30 pm NDHS & NDE Cheer Clinic **AC Lg Rm**  
 5:45 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal **SM**  
 6:30 pm RCIA **SP Hall**  
 7:00 pm Women's Chorus **HR**

#### Wednesday// December 11

12:00 pm Confessions **SP**  
 1:30 pm Confessions **HV**  
 7:00 pm Youth Choir Rehearsal **SM**

#### Thursday // December 12

12:00 pm Confessions **STMO**  
 2:30 pm NDHS & NDE Cheer Clinic **AC Lg Rm**  
 6:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Play **SM**  
 7:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass **SM**  
 8:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Dinner **SMC**

#### Friday// December 13

All Day Seton Parish Christmas Basket **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**  
 6:00 pm Tour of Churches **SM**  
 7:00 pm Christmas Concert **HR**

#### Saturday// December 14

All Day Seton Parish Christmas Basket **AC Lg Rm**  
 7:00 am That Man Is You **SMC**  
 12:00pm Private Rental **SMC**  
 3:00 pm Confessions **SP**  
 4:30 pm Confessions **HR**

#### Sunday // December 15

All Day Seton Parish Christmas Basket **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**  
 4:00 pm 33 Days to Morning Glory **SMC**

### Masses and Intentions

#### Monday December 9 Immaculate Conception Mass

**12:00** † L&D Essman/Jenkins Families (*Essman's*) **SM**

#### Tuesday December 10

**6:30** † Earl Bauer (*Curtis & Sandy DePuy*) **HR**  
**12:00** † David Blankenship & Family (*Mary K. Marshall*) **SP**

#### Wednesday December 11

**10:00** † Dottie & Mark Fleming (*Mary & Steve Herrmann*) **HR**  
**12:00** † Thomas Schwamburger (*Schwamburger's*) **SP**  
**1:00** † Jack Snyder (*Ann Kirby*) **HV**

#### Thursday December 12

**12:00** † John Morris (*Pat Pekar & Wyatt Bates*) **STMO**  
**7:00** † Baisden/Keller Families (*Nancy Keller*) **SM**

#### Friday December 13

**12:00** † John & Pat Reinhardt (*Kathy Schwartz*) **SM**  
**6:00** † L&D Essman/Jenkins (*Essman's*) **STMO**

#### Saturday December 14

**8:30** † Earl Bauer (*Curtis & Sandy DePuy*) **HR**  
**4:00** † Richard & Elizabeth Miller (*Mary K. Marshall*) **SP**  
**5:30** † Ed, Pauline & Jinny Fisher & Family (*Gary Fisher*) **HR**

#### Sunday December 15

**7:30** † D of Barry & Herrmann Families (*Family*) **HR**  
**9:00** † L&D of Guy Givan Family (*Givan Family*) **SP**  
**10:30** † Dorothea Schwamburger (*Nunley Family*) **SM**  
**12:00** † *Missa Pro Populo* **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](mailto: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](mailto:fatherjoe@sciotocatholic.org) at least 7 months before proposed wedding date to begin preparations. Visit [www.sciotocatholic.org](http://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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Paul Baum 614-623-7722, paul@sciotocatholic.org

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Megan Baum 614-203-9608, megan@sciotocatholic.org

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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 Fitzner, 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 14th December 15th

**ST. PETER Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>– 4:00pm**  
Sacristan: Paul Riepenhoff  
Lector: Pam Riepenhoff  
Server: Luke Miller  
EM: Donna Gillispie, Paul Riepenhoff  
Gift Bearer: Paul Riepenhoff, Pam Riepenhoff  
Usher: Paul Riepenhoff, Pam Riepenhoff

**ST PETER Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>– 9:00am**  
Sacristan: Betty Fannin  
Lector: Becky Schwamburger, Wyatt Bates  
Servers: Claire Kaltenbach, Lauren Kaltenbach, Jesse Skaggs  
EM: Monica Acox, Kaye Schwamberger, Mary Jo Pritchard  
Gift Bearer: Dennis Cassidy, John Pendland  
Usher: Dennis Cassidy, John Pendland  
Rosary Leader: Betty Fannin  
Greeter: Dennis Cassidy, John Pendland

**ST. MONICA Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>– 12:00 pm**  
Sacristan: Ethan Boerger  
Lectors: Louis Donini, Matthew Smith  
Servers: Fred Gillenwater, Keegan Hollar  
EM: Kevin rase, Carrie Hollar, Ellen Bell, Rachele Strickland  
Gift Bearer: Jeni Cassidy, Tracy Stiles  
Usher: Dirk Hollar, Joe Mowery  
Rosary leader: Nancy Keller, Jerry Gulley  
Greeter: Valerie Gill

### HOLY REDEEMER & ST MARY LITURGICAL SCHEDULE December 14th December 15th

**HOLY REDEEMER Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>–5:30pm**  
Sacristan: Tracy Hughes  
Lectors: Chuck Burke  
Servers: Mollie Creech, Issac Kirby, Candice Mills  
EM: Mary Saltsman (host), Janie Sand (choir)  
Tom Mantel (chalice 1), Emma Lou Jenkins (chalice 2), Ralph Melcher (Chalice 3), Steve McCarthy (Chalice 4)

**HOLY REDEEMER Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>– 7:30am**  
Sacristan: Gregory Malone  
Lector: Beth Haney  
Servers: Sarah Cassidy, Mallory Cassidy, Bryce McGraw  
EM: Gregory Malone (host), Kathy Grimm (choir)  
Sharon Malone (chalice 1), John Grimm (chalice 2)  
Counters: Barb Clayton, Ann Kirby

**ST MARY Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>– 10:30 am**  
Sacristan: Ruth Marasek  
Lectors: Rick Estep, Susan Frasher  
Servers: Connor Madden, Ruth Marasek, Christopher Piccolo  
EM: Betty Martin (host) Ellis Holcomb (choir)  
Sharon Bender (Chalice 1) Laura Estep (Chalice 2) Lisa Hadsell (Chalice 3) **Ann Cantrell (Chalice 4) swap requested**  
Greeters: Tammie Cole, Barb Maxey, Jim Maxey  
Counters: Pat Donini, Chuck Hartard



## 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 24th 2019

	November 24th	Year to Date
Budgeted Expenses	\$3,676.52	\$77,206.92
Contributions	\$9,342.46	\$96,495.87
	\$5,665.94	\$19,288.94

#### ST. MONICA CONTRIBUTIONS November 24th 2019

	November 24th	Year to Date
Budgeted Expenses	\$1,875.00	\$39,375.00
Contributions	\$2,192.00	\$42,214.39
	\$317.00	\$2,839.39

#### 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 24th 2019

	November 24th	Year to Date
Budgeted Expenses	\$5,612.54	\$117,863.34
Contributions	\$5361.00	\$98,503.55
	<b>-\$251.54</b>	<b>\$19,359.79</b>

#### Building Fund \$140.00 Collection Information

Envelopes	50	\$2,879.00
EFT Payments (Monthly)	16	\$2,205.00
Other		\$277.00
<b>Total (Thank You)</b>		<b>\$5,361.00</b>
<b>Average donation per Env. &amp; EFT's</b>		<b>\$77.03</b>

#### ST. MARY CONTRIBUTIONS November 24th 2019

	November 24th	Year to Date
Budgeted Expenses	\$6,238.31	\$131,004.50
Contributions	\$8,852.23	\$127,722.91
	\$2,613.92	<b>-\$3,281.59</b>

#### Building Fund \$595.00 Collection Information

Envelopes	73	\$3,348.23
EFT Payments (Monthly)	33	\$4,927.00
Other		\$577.00
<b>Total (Thank You)</b>		<b>\$8,852.23</b>
<b>Average donation per Env. &amp; EFT's</b>		<b>\$78.77</b>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### **The Battle Over the Bride** **Session 12 - Love is Eternal 12/14/19**

- The Battle to Love is in Our Hearts
- A Sacrificial Gift of Ourselves for Our Bride
- Love is Everlasting - Love is Eternal
- The Mystery Found in the Nuptial Mass
- The Church as a Symbol of Paradise
- The Marriage Feast of the Lamb
- The Paradise Yet to Come

**RAPHAEL'S HANDS HEALING OUTREACH:** Invites the family and friends of those who are struggling with addiction to an evening of prayer, support, and an opportunity to experience the love and mercy of Christ through the scriptures and the sharing of our stories in a safe and confidential environment under the direction of a priest chaplain. The next meeting will be **December 17, 2019** at St. Francis Outreach Center on Stockham Lane in Portsmouth, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Please use the south facing entrance on the left hand side of the building.

**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.

### **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 Fitzner 740-821-4831 or Jesuit Spiritual Center to register 513-248-3500 Ext. 10: [www.jesuitspiritualcenter.com](http://www.jesuitspiritualcenter.com).

**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!!

**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.

**FORMED ORG CODE:** 3Q9VR4

**THANK YOU:** On behalf of the Vivian Beck family, we would like to take the opportunity to thank those who helped to make her funeral service and mercy meal special for family and friends. We very much appreciate how our preferences were nicely accommodated. May God bless each of you. Regina Keller-daughter.

# CHRISTMAS MASSES

## CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00PM AT ST. MARY  
4:00PM AT ST. MONICA  
6:30PM AT HOLY REDEEMER

## CHRISTMAS DAY

MIDNIGHT AT ST. MARY  
MIDNIGHT AT ST. PETER  
9:00AM AT HOLY REDEEMER  
9:00AM AT ST. PETER



# *From the Pastor's Desk*

In the **Second Sunday of Advent** we hear **Isaiah** write of peace and prosperity that will come when the "root of Jesse" blossoms. "Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them." **Matthew's Gospel** brings us the famous Advent reading of John the Baptist serving as a voice of one crying out in the desert, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

Monday the US celebrates the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** with its own special readings. Thursday the US and many parts of the Americas celebrate the **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**.

We focus on the first readings from the Prophet **Isaiah** this week. With the Babylonian Captivity, the temple was destroyed, the leaders of the people were taken away to Babylon and a remnant was left behind. A life-threatening desert separated the people. In this context, Isaiah proclaims God's vindication of the people in exile. The desert will be reborn. A highway will bring their liberation. And the signs will be that there is healing and peace. "Comfort, give comfort to my people," says the Lord. The valleys will be filled in, the mountains leveled - every obstacle will be overcome - to build a highway for our God to come and save us. The people can hardly believe the good news. They are weak and weary of their captivity. Isaiah proclaims, "They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles' wings." He offers support: "I am the LORD, your God, who grasp your right hand; It is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'" The people have been at a distance from the Lord for some time and were not obeying the commandments. The Lord says, "I, the LORD, your God, teach you what is for your good, and lead you on the way you should go." The final first reading this week is a piece from the book of **Sirach** in which the prophet Elijah is praised. Elijah, who was destined to come again to restore order before the day of the Lord, is seen in the reading from **Matthew's Gospel** to be John the Baptist.

The gospels this week, taken from various evangelists, show Jesus as the fulfillment of the liberation promised. Jesus heals the paralytic. He tends to the lost sheep of his flock. He comforts us who labor and are burdened. Jesus teaches a true wisdom.

Finding intimacy with God in the midst of our busy lives begins with getting in touch with our own desires. Advent is a wonderful time to ask myself, "What am I looking for? What do I desire? What longing can I recognize in my heart?" The answers to those questions will be our best guide for daily prayer. The readings this week offer some possible ways to talk with the Lord about our desires.

We can begin by trying to get in touch with a part of my heart that is divided, perhaps with a desert separating the two parts. For example, is there a disconnect between my primary commitments and the amount of time and attention that I give to them? Is there a distance between who I say I am and who I actually am? Do I experience something missing between what I believe and how I live those beliefs? We all have these contradictions and inconsistencies within us. These are the places into which we can let our Advent desiring grow. This week, we can imagine the prophet saying, "There will be a path between what is separate or divided or at a distance in your life!" or "What is desert, barren, dry and life-less in you will come to life!" We can hear, "You will find freedom and comfort, where you have been finding yourself in a captivity to pattern and routine, where you have felt weak and weary." "Learn from the Lord and learn real wisdom."

When one or more of these desires really strikes a chord in our hearts, Advent begins for us. Each morning this week, we can turn to our God, when we first wake up, while in the shower or getting dressed, and simply ask: "Come, Lord. Come into this place, into this embarrassing place of need in my life." We may be able to be specific and ask, "Please, Lord, come and be with me and bring life and hope into my morning as I face this meeting." As we go to work or do laundry or shop, or head home from work, we might ask even more specifically for the grace to love - to take the liberating journey across the desert and let the Lord bring us home to a place of comfort, healing and peace.

Advent is about our coming to a felt sense of our need for a Savior and letting our Savior into our hearts to save us. Advent comes alive for us as we identify our desires and let them be expressed as longing and expectant hope. Into this space our Lord comes with good news, healing and a peace the world can't give. As we taste our desires and longing grow, we can give thanks each evening before we go to bed, to acknowledge we are being given a great grace of a growing intimacy with our God, right in the midst of our very busy days.

Have a Great Week!

Fr. Joe





# *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.

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## *Scioto Catholic* **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER**

**January 4th, 6:30 PM**  
**In the Holy Redeemer Center**

For those who have served or volunteered in any capacity at Holy Redeemer, St. Mary, St. Monica, or St. Peter in the last year. There will be music , games, door prizes, and lots of fun.

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RSVP on sheets in church or call the office by Thurs. January 2nd

# 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!





SCIOTO CATHOLIC MUSICIANS AND  
CHOIRS PRESENT

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# GRANT US PEACE

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Come experience the Peace of Christ  
through Music and Scripture  
at our annual Christmas Concert.  
This concert is Free and Open to the Public.

There will be an opportunity to donate to  
Scioto Catholic's Music Program following  
the concert.

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HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1325 GALLIA STREET  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH AT 7PM





# HEARTS AFIRE

**33 DAYS TO MORNING GLORY GROUP RETREAT**

*Drawing Closer to Jesus Through His Mother*

**This Advent, join us in reading 33 Days to Morning Glory and come for prayer and discussion at our weekly group gatherings.**

MONDAY GATHERINGS  
AT 6:30PM AT ST. MONICA

November 25th  
December 2nd  
December 9th  
December 16th  
December 23rd  
December 30th

SUNDAY GATHERINGS  
AT 4:00PM AT ST. MARY

November 24th  
December 1st  
December 8th  
December 15th  
December 22nd  
December 29th

To register & order your book, please call the parish office or email Megan Baum at [megan@sciotocatholic.org](mailto:megan@sciotocatholic.org).

# 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)

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***"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."* ~PRAYER OF FATHER THOMAS MERTON, OCSO**

**Monday, December 9 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent  
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America**

***Because this Solemnity falls on a Monday this year, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation.  
However, all are encouraged to attend Mass on this day to give honor to Our Lady.***

**Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38** The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Meditation:** Do you want to live a grace-filled life? The angel Gabriel salutes Mary as "full of grace." To become the mother of the Savior, Mary was enriched by God with gifts to enable her to assume this awesome role. There is a venerable tradition among many Christians, dating back to the early church, for honoring Mary as the spotless virgin who bore the Son of God in her womb. A number of early Church fathers link Mary's obedience to this singular grace of God. One of them Saint Irenaeus, wrote: "Being obedient she became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race. The knot of Eve's disobedience was united by Mary's obedience: what the virgin Eve bound through her disbelief, Mary loosened by her faith."

**Prayer:** O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant, we pray, that, as you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw, so, through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence. 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:** When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they immediately experienced the consequence of their action – separation from the God who loved them. God in his mercy promised them a Redeemer who would pay the price for their sin and the sin of the world. We see the marvelous unfolding of God's plan of redemption in the events leading up to the Incarnation, the birth of the Messiah. Mary's prompt response of "yes" to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willingness, obedience, and heart-felt trust as Mary did. When God commands he also gives the grace, strength, and means to respond. We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way. Do you believe in God's promises and do you yield to his grace?

**Tuesday, December 10 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:12-14** Jesus said to his disciples: "What is your opinion? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray? And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not stray. In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost."



**Meditation:** This parable gives us a glimpse of the heart of a true shepherd, and the joy of a community reunited with its lost members. Shepherds not only had to watch over their sheep by day and by night; they also had to protect them from wolves and lions that preyed upon them, and from dangerous terrain and storms. Shepherds often had large flocks, sometimes numbering in the hundreds or thousands. It was common to inspect and count the sheep at the end of the day. You can imagine the surprise and grief of the shepherd who discovers that one of his sheep is missing! Does he wait until the next day to go looking for it? Or does he ask a neighboring shepherd if he might have seen the stray sheep? No, he goes immediately in search of this lost sheep. Delay for even one night could mean disaster leading to death. Sheep by nature are very social creatures. An isolated sheep can quickly become bewildered, disoriented, and even neurotic. Easy prey for wolves and lions!

**Prayer:** O God, who have shown forth your salvation to all the ends of the earth, grant, we pray, that we may look forward in joy to the glorious Nativity of Christ. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** What was new in Jesus' teaching was the insistence that sinners must be sought out time and time again. How easy to forget and be distracted with other matters while the lost become prey for devouring wolves of the soul. The Apostle Peter reminds us that the "devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour" (ref. 1 Peter 5:8). God does not rejoice in the loss of anyone, but desires that we be saved and restored to friendship with him. That is why the whole community of heaven rejoices when one sinner is found and restored to fellowship with God. God is on a rescue mission today to save us from the destructive forces of sin and evil. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, watches over every step we take. Do you listen to his voice and heed his wise counsel? Do you follow the path he has set for you - a path that leads to life rather than death? Getting back on the path begins with the Sacrament of Reconciliation - don't let anything hold you back from making a good confession!

**Wednesday, December 11 ~ Second Week of Advent  
Saint Damasus I, Pope**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30** Jesus said to the crowds: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

**Meditation:** In this Season of Advent we celebrate the coming of the promised Messiah, our Lord and Savior, our Redeemer. Those who put their trust in God and in the coming of his kingdom receive the blessings of that kingdom - peace with God and strength for living his way of love and holiness (ref. Isaiah 40). Jesus fulfills all the Messianic hopes and promises of God's kingdom. That is why he taught his disciples to pray, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). His is not a political or military kingdom, but a spiritual one. The yoke of Christ's kingdom, his kingly rule and way of life, liberates us from the oppression of sin and death; Jesus lifts the weight of hopelessness from us. Jesus used the analogy of a yoke to explain how we can exchange the burden of sin and despair for a burden of glory and yoke of freedom from the grip of sin. The yoke which Jesus invites us to embrace is his way of grace and freedom from the power of sin. And, thus, in this Season of Advent, we seek the Sacrament of Reconciliation to begin anew the path and life of Christ's freedom, lifting the weight and burden of sin from ourselves, and prepare ourselves to celebrate his birth which set into motion our hope for eternal life with him.

**Prayer:** Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may constantly exalt the merits of your Martyrs, whom Pope Saint Damasus so venerated and loved. 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 invites us to unite our lives with him, our wills with his will, our heart with his heart. Jesus says his "burden is light." Sometimes we all feel weighed down by life's challenges - we feel "burdened." And in those times when we feel weighed down, we should turn to Christ in prayer and take him up on his offer to come to him, and let him help carry the burdens that are weighing us down - problems at home, school, in the workplace; problems, perhaps, in dealing with the economy. No burden is too heavy when it's given in love and carried in love. When we yoke our lives with Jesus, he also carries our burdens with us and gives us his strength to follow in his way of love. Do you know the joy of resting in Jesus' presence and walking daily with him along the path he has for you? If not, today is a wonderful time to begin. Take Jesus up on his invitation: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves."

**Thursday, December 12 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent  
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38** The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob

forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end.” But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?” And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.” Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

**Meditation:** How does Mary respond to the word of God delivered by the angel Gabriel? Does Mary say “Give me a few days to think about this – let me post this on a blog or on Facebook and get some feedback on what people think I should do – let me consult with my attorney and accountant to see what liabilities I may have – let me Tweet, text and e-mail my friends to see what they think I should do.” Does Mary cash in on her situation and sell her story to the news media in order to gain attention and publicity, or seek the limelight by creating a blog or posting her story on YouTube? No! Mary knows she is hearing and experiencing something that is beyond mere human capability. Her question, “how shall this be, since I have no husband” is not prompted by doubt or skepticism, but by wonderment! She is a true hearer of the Word and she immediately responds with faith and trust in God. Mary's prompt response of “yes” to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. Mary is the “mother of God” because God becomes incarnate when he takes on flesh in her womb. When we pray the Nicene Creed we state our confession of faith in this great mystery: “For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man”. God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willingness, obedience, and heart-felt trust as Mary did. When God commands he also gives the help, strength, and means to respond. We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way. Do you believe in God's promises and yield to his grace?

**Prayer:** O God, Father of mercies, who placed your people under the singular protection of your Son's most holy Mother, grant that all who invoke the Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe, may seek with ever more lively faith the progress of peoples in the ways of justice and of peace. 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:** Do you know the favor of the Lord? God lavishes his grace upon all who believe in him. He shows his favor to the lowly, to those who are humble and receptive to his word. We see the unfolding of God's plan of redemption in the events leading up to the Incarnation, the birth of the Messiah. The new era of salvation begins with the conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary. This child to be born is conceived by the gracious action of the Holy Spirit upon Mary, who finds favor with God. As Eve was the mother of all humanity doomed to sin, now Mary becomes the mother of the new Adam who will father a new humanity by his grace (Romans 5:12-21). This child to be conceived in her womb is the fulfillment of all God's promises. He will be “great” and “Son of the Most High” and “King” (Luke 1:32-33), and his name shall be called “Jesus”, which means “the Lord saves”. “He will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). The promise of an everlasting kingdom to the house of David (Isaiah 9:6-7) is fulfilled in the King to be born in Mary's womb. Let us prepare ourselves in these weeks of Advent to come and adore him.

### **Friday, December 13 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19** Jesus said to the crowds: “To what shall I compare this generation? It is like children who sit in marketplaces and call to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, but you did not dance, we sang a dirge but you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they said, ‘He is possessed by a demon.’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said, ‘Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is vindicated by her works.”

**Meditation:** The prophets remind us that God's kingdom is open to those who are teachable and receptive to the word of God. Jesus' parable challenges us to examine whether we are selective in hearing only what we want to hear. The children in Jesus' parable react with dismay because they cannot get anyone to join in their musical medley. They complain that if they play their music at weddings, no one will dance or sing; and if they play at funerals, it is the same. This refrain echoes the words of Ecclesiastes 3:4 – “there is a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance.” Are you in tune with the message of the kingdom or reign of God? Jesus' message of the kingdom of God is good news and it produces true joy and spiritual freedom for those who will listen; but it is also a warning for those who refuse to listen.

**Prayer:** May the glorious intercession of the Virgin and Martyr Saint Lucy give us new heart, we pray, O Lord, so that we may celebrate her heavenly birthday in this present age and so behold things eternal. 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 can make us spiritually dull and slow to hear God's voice? Like the generation of Jesus' time, our age is marked by indifference and contempt, especially in regards to the things of heaven. Indifference dulls our ears to God's voice and to the good news of the gospel. Only the humble of heart can find joy and favor in God's grace.

Have you come to experience the joy of the Advent season? Do you know the joy of the Gospel? Is your life in tune with Jesus' message of hope and salvation? 'Tis the season to get in tune with what Christ brings to each of us!

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;  
prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011;  
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## *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'.