



# Akron Clarence Roman Catholic Community

[www.AkronClarenceRCC.org](http://www.AkronClarenceRCC.org)

December 3, 2023 | First Sunday of Advent

Rev. Thomas M. Mahoney, Pastor

Rev. Walter J. Szczesny, Senior Parochial Vicar

Rev. Arthur E. Mattuke, Senior Parochial Vicar

Rev. Joseph N. Franz, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Richard Stachura

Deacon Thomas Friedman

Deacon Ronald Adamczak

Deacon Arthur Sullivan

Deacon Peter Donnelly

## MASS SCHEDULE

### Saturday Evening/Sunday Vigil

4:00 PM St. Teresa & St. Mary's

5:15 PM Our Lady of Peace & Nativity of BVM

### Sunday Morning

7:30 AM St. Mary's

8:00 AM Our Lady of Peace & Nativity of BVM

9:00 AM St. Mary's & St. Teresa

10:00 AM Our Lady of Peace & Nativity of BVM

11:30 AM St. Mary's

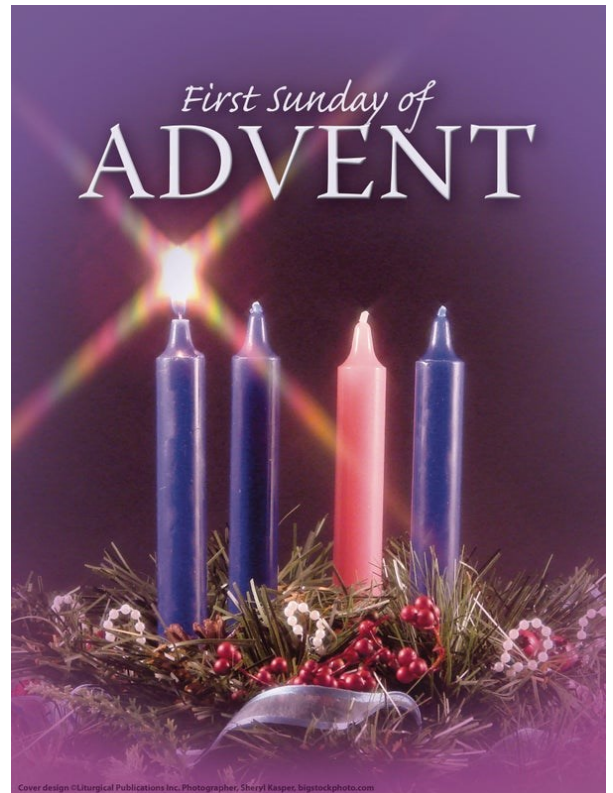
### Weekday Masses

St. Mary's: Monday – Saturday 9:00 AM

Nativity of BVM: Monday, Wednesday – Saturday 8:00 AM.  
Tuesday 9:00 AM

Our Lady of Peace: Monday – Thursday 8:00 AM, Friday  
6:30 AM

St. Teresa: Monday – Tuesday 8:00 AM, Wednesday 5:30  
PM, Thursday – Friday 8:00 AM, Saturday 9:00 AM



MAIN OFFICE 716-688-9380

6919 Transit Road

Swormville, New York 14051

Office hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 AM to  
4:00 PM

St. Teresa of Avila Church: 5771 Buell  
Street, Akron, NY 14001

Our Lady of Peace Church: 10950 Main  
Street, Clarence, NY 14031

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church:  
4375 Harris Hill Road, Williamsville, NY  
14221

St. Mary's Church: 6919 Transit Road  
Swormville, NY 14051

## Mass Intentions **First Sunday of Advent** December 3, 2023

### St. Teresa of Avila Mass Schedule

#### **Saturday, December 2—Vigil**

4:00PM Intentions of Deb.

#### **Sunday, December 3—First Sunday of Advent**

9:00AM Maryanne Snyder by John & Shelia Ernst

#### **Monday, December 4**

8:00AM Margaret Eassa – Birthday Blessings by Mary Olsen

#### **Tuesday, December 5**

8:00AM Geraldine Benker – Birthday Remembrance by the Benker Family

#### **Wednesday, December 6 —St. Nicholas, Bishop**

5:30PM Special Intention by the Flumfeldt Family

#### **Thursday, December 7—St. Ambrose, Bishop**

8:00AM Intentions for Mothers

#### **Friday, December 8—Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Day of Obligation**

8:00AM Intentions for Fathers

#### **Saturday, December 9 - St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin**

9:00AM Intentions for Bob Larouere by the Family

4:00PM Betty Bergman – Birthday Blessings by the Bergman Family.

#### **Sunday, December 10 — Second Sunday of Advent**

9:00AM Irene Swift by Bernadette Connolly

### Our Lady of Peace Mass Schedule

#### **Saturday, December 2—Vigil**

5:15PM Tom McGinley – The Family

#### **Sunday, December 3—First Sunday of Advent**

8:00AM Vincent & James Antonicelli – wife & mother

10:00AM Dick Suchan – The Woody Kids

#### **Monday, December 4— St. John Damascene**

8:00AM Living & Deceased members of Altar & Rosary Society

#### **Tuesday, December 5**

8:00AM Walter & Agnes Maciorowski – son, Norman

#### **Wednesday, December 6—St. Nicholas, Bishop**

8:00AM Tom McGinley – Martin & Bonita Blersch

#### **Thursday, December 7, 2023—St. Ambrose, Bishop**

8:00AM Raymond King – Kay Hilmey

7:00PM John Darlak – The Family

#### **Friday, December 8, 2023—Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Day of Obligation**

6:30AM Vincent D'Angelo – The Family

8:00AM Maureen

12Noon Rita Cisclo – Stephen Cislo

#### **Saturday, December 9- St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin**

5:15PM Living & Deceased members of the Charles Ross Family – Judy Ross

#### **Sunday, December 10—Second Sunday of Advent**

8:00AM Janice Wylde – Mark & Karen Molitor

11:00AM Living & Deceased members of the Holy Name Society

### St. Mary's Swormville Mass Schedule

#### **Saturday, December 2—Vigil**

4:00PM Frank & Eleanor Zeis by the Janson Family.

#### **Sunday, December 3, 2023—First Sunday of Advent**

7:30AM William & Mary Lou Vogel

by Michael & Ellen Urso

9:00AM Rita Braunscheidel by Ed & Nancy Burkard

**And** Robin Penberthy by the O'Malley Family

11:00AM Carmelo Iacono (Anniversary of Death) by family

#### **Monday, December 4, 2023**

9:00AM Robin Penberthy by Dave & Mary Bartlett

**And** Nettie Gaskill by Marcia McCarrell

#### **Tuesday, December 5, 2023**

9:00AM James & Carol McLaughlin

by Marcy & Geoffrey Hertz

#### **Wednesday, December 6, 2023—St. Nicholas, Bishop**

9:00AM John Tocco by the family

#### **Thursday, December 7, 2023—St. Ambrose, Bishop**

9:00AM Gerhard Diegelman by wife & family

5:00PM Joseph Saeli by Jennie Saeli (vigil) (Church)

#### **Friday, December 8, 2023—Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Day of Obligation**

7:00AM Leo Vandervoort from a friend

9:00AM Marlene Pridgeon from husband & daughters

7:00PM Bob Steinberger by Mary (all in Church)

#### **Saturday, December 9**

9:00AM Kathy Metz by Lynn & Barb Owcarz

4:00PM John Fredrick by the DiLiberta Family.

#### **Sunday, December 10— Second Sunday of Advent**

7:30AM Walter Owcarz by the family

9:00AM Barry Smith by Ed & Melissa Gould

**And** Carl A. Albano by the Craven Family

11:00AM Ken Spoth by Duane & Pat Burkard

### Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass Schedule

#### **Saturday, December 2—Vigil**

5:15PM Bea & Andy Hoerner – Meg & Ed Goit

Victor Herrera – Jeff & Connie Silvashy.

#### **Sunday, December 3 —First Sunday of Advent**

8:00AM Manny Columbo - Family

Laura Hammer – Tim & Elaine Hammer

10:00AM Living & Deceased Members of Costanzo Family

Christopher Setlock – Louise & Janet

#### **Monday, December 4--- St. John Damascene**

8:00AM Geraldine Brodowski – The Family

#### **Tuesday, December 5**

9:00AM Lillian Gomiak – Son, Joseph

#### **Wednesday, December 6—St. Nicholas, Bishop**

8:00AM Janice Burke & John Bonafede – The Family

#### **Thursday, December 7—St. Ambrose, Bishop**

8:00AM All Souls – Nativity Parishioners

#### **Friday, December 8—Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holy Day of Obligation**

8:00AM Andy & Bea Hoerner – Meg & Ed Goit

7:00PM All Souls – Nativity Parishioners

#### **Saturday, December 9 - St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin**

8:00AM All Souls – Nativity Parishioners

5:15PM Angelo & Dorothy Trivisono – Carolyn Nenni

Michael Thompson – Julie McCullough

#### **Sunday, December 10—Second Sunday of Advent**

8:00AM William & Frances Cummins – Mary Dowing

Angeline Silvestro – Jack Migliore

10:00AM Lorraine Caserta & Carmela Petruzella –

Ann Marie, Duane, Matthew & Maria Lenhardt

## First Sunday of Advent

### FIRST READING [IS 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7](#)

You, LORD, are our father,  
our redeemer you are named forever.  
Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways,  
and harden our hearts so that we fear you not?  
Return for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your heritage.  
Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
with the mountains quaking before you,  
while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for,  
such as they had not heard of from of old.  
No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you  
doing such deeds for those who wait for him.  
Would that you might meet us doing right,  
that we were mindful of you in our ways!  
Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful;  
all of us have become like unclean people,  
all our good deeds are like polluted rags;  
we have all withered like leaves,  
and our guilt carries us away like the wind.  
There is none who calls upon your name,  
who rouses himself to cling to you;  
for you have hidden your face from us  
and have delivered us up to our guilt.  
Yet, O LORD, you are our father;  
we are the clay and you the potter:  
we are all the work of your hands.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM [PS 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19](#)

**Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face  
and we shall be saved.**

### SECOND READING [1 COR 1:3-9](#)

Brothers and sisters:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
I give thanks to my God always on your account  
for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus,  
that in him you were enriched in every way,  
with all discourse and all knowledge,  
as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you,  
so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift  
as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
He will keep you firm to the end,  
irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
God is faithful,  
and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

### GOSPEL [MK 13:33-37](#)

Jesus said to his disciples:  
"Be watchful! Be alert!  
You do not know when the time will come.  
It is like a man traveling abroad.  
He leaves home and places his servants in charge,  
each with his own work,  
and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch.  
Watch, therefore;  
you do not know when the lord of the house is coming,  
whether in the evening, or at midnight,  
or at cockcrow, or in the morning.  
May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.  
What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

**Dear Parishioners,**

**This weekend, as we begin our new Liturgical Year, we are achieving another milestone in our Family of Parish-  
es, the combining of our bulletins. It will definitely take  
some time for us to get a format that works for all of the  
ministries we have in our Family of Parishes.**

**The goal of this one bulletin, and hopefully the entire  
Road to Renewal, is to continue to celebrate the individu-  
al parish communities while opening new opportunities  
to evangelize the parishioners of our family.**

**There have been bumps along the way and I am sure  
there will be more in the future. However I am also confi-  
dent that these four wonderful, faith filled communities  
can keep what is uniquely special about them individual-  
ly, while helping each other grow in faith, hope, and love.**

**As we begin our Advent journey, there will be many op-  
portunities to share our faith with each other, from 24-  
hour Eucharistic Adoration at St. Teresa's to our Pen-  
ance Service at St. Mary's. The First Sunday of Advent's  
scriptures teach us, "O Lord, you are our father, we are  
the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your  
hands." May the hands of the Lord continue to guide us  
on the Road to Renewal.**

**Mary, Mother of God, pray for us. St. Teresa of Avila,  
pray for us.**

**AMDG,**

**Fr. Tom**





**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **Sunday, December 3** - Religious Ed. Classes, 10:00 - 11:15 am, Gr 7-10
- **Sunday, December 3** - *Christmas Advent-ure* for Grades K-5, Parish Hall, 10:15-11:30
- **Wednesday, December 6** - Mini Advent Retreat, Rectory Meeting Room, 6-7 pm
- **Thursday, December 7** — Women's Study Group meets in the Rectory Meeting Room, 8:30-10 am
- **Friday, December 8** - Salvation Army collection at Pixley's
- **Friday, December 8** - Fully Alive Holy Hour, 7:30 - 8:30 pm
- **Saturday, December 9** - Pro-Life Prayer Group, 9:30 am, in the parking lot near the Blessed Mother Mary statue
- **Weekend of December 9/10** - Collection of non-perishable food items for the Akron-Newstead Food Pantry - Advent Adopt-A-Bag program
- **Sunday, December 10** - Religious Ed. Classes, 10:00 - 11 am Grades K-6, 10:00 - 11:15 am Grades 7-10
- **December 11/12** - 24 Hours of Adoration
- **Saturday, December 16** - Christmas Tree Lighting
- **Weekend of December 16/17** - Congratulations to Sr. Ruth - Everyone welcome in the Parish Hall with refreshments after each Mass



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** - 24 Hours of Adoration - December 11-12, St. Teresa's will have 24 hours of Adoration, as well as confession. The 24 hours of Adoration will begin on Monday, December 11th with morning Mass and will continue thru morning Mass on Tuesday, December 12th.

Confession will be held from 7-8 pm on December 11th. A sign-up sheet for adoration times is on the table in the vestibule or online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054CABA72FA7FD0-46286488-adoration#/>

**Mini Advent Retreat** - St. Teresa of Avila will have an Advent Retreat on Wednesdays after 5:30 Mass, Dec 6th, 13th and 20th, 6-7pm. Each session will average an hour. Everyone is welcome to join us in the Rectory Meeting Room, 5771 Buell St., Akron, NY. For more information, contact Rose Elliott at cluelessMom82@hotmail.com.



St. Teresa's is scheduled to participate in this year's Salvation Army collection at Pixley's. We are asking anyone who is interested in ringing the bell for a half hour during the day on Friday, December 8th, to call the office, 716-542-9103, or sign-up on sheet on the table in the narthex. All of the funds collected are to help those in need in the Akron area.



Thank you to all of the volunteers who cleaned the church - your help is greatly appreciated!



**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Holy Day of Obligation Mass Schedule at St. Teresa of Avila

Thursday, December 7th 5:30 PM  
Friday, December 8th 8 AM & 7:30 PM

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Christmas Advent-ure** - As we begin the beautiful season of Advent, we have a wonderful event planned for the K-5 religious education students and their parents! On Sunday, December 3rd from 10:15-11:30 am in the parish hall, students and their parents will complete various hand-on activities together to prepare for both Advent and Christmas. Some of these include: learning about the season of Advent, fun crafts, writing Christmas cards for the residents at Brothers of Mercy, and enjoying a treat too! \*Please note that this event will take place during your child's regular class time and attendance will be taken. Students must be accompanied by an adult, as this is a family event. We can't wait to see you on December 3rd!

**Join Us in Congratulating Sr. Ruth** on her change of Ministry here at St. Teresa's. In appreciation for her many years of service as the Director of Religious Education guiding the youth of St. Teresa's, everyone is invited to the Parish Hall on December 16 & 17 for refreshments after each Mass.

**Women's Guild Response To Love Center Collection** - Please pick up a bag in the vestibule and fill it with a towel and soap. Deadline for placing under the Christmas Tree in the vestibule is Monday, December 4th.

**Fully Alive Holy Hour/Eucharistic Adoration** - Come and spend an hour with the Lord, with praise, prayer, reflections, and quiet time. During this peaceful hour of Adoration, Friday, December 8, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed beginning at 7:30 p.m. Closing Benediction takes place by 8:30 p.m.



**Poinsettia Sale** - Thru December 3rd with pick up on December 9th and 10th after Masses. Parishioners may order for Pick up or as Memorials. Order forms are available on the St. Teresa's website or on the table in the vestibule.

**BOTTOM LINE:**

From a passenger ship one can see a bearded man on a small island who is shouting and desperately waving his hands. "Who is it?" a passenger asks the captain. "I have no idea. Every year when we pass, he goes mad like that."





# Our Lady of Peace Church

10950 Main St., Clarence, New York 14031

Telephone: 716.759.8554

Fax: 716.759.8537 Web Site: [www.olpclarence.org](http://www.olpclarence.org)

## A Message From Father Walter

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We begin each Liturgical Year with a passage near the end of one of the Synoptic Gospels. Jesus, shortly before his passion, death, and resurrection, speaks to his closest friends regarding the moment of his return. Each Gospel offers Jesus giving subtly different instructions. In Matthew, Jesus urges his followers to "stay awake," in Luke they are to "be vigilant," and in our Gospel for today (from Mark) we are told three times to "watch." As we enter into this Advent Season of preparation and waiting, we might consider how to incorporate the spiritual practice of watching into our lives. In this moment in time, how can we attune our eyes to Jesus' presence in our world and to his eventual return to glory?

Fr. Walt

## Advent Opportunities for Reconciliation

--Confessions will be available on the following  
WEDNESDAYS..... from 4 - 6 PM during Advent:  
DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> & DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>

## Our Lady of Peace Church Christmas Play

Sunday, December 17 at 11:15AM-2PM  
Party immediately following in the Parish Center

Admission: 2 dozen cookies, cupcakes or donut holes.  
*Drinks are provided Crafts~Food~Fun*

## Collection Total

11/26/2023 \$6947.00

## Help Wanted-Handyman

Sidewalk snow removal with snowblower and hall maintenance....clean bathrooms and floors, carryout garbage, table and chair set-up. Flexible hours. Contact 716.759.8554 or [office@olpclarence.org](mailto:office@olpclarence.org) for further information. \$17 an hour

## Altar & Rosary Society

The OLP Altar & Rosary society will again hold its Christmas Cookie Tray Sale on the weekend of Dec. 16 & 17 after all Masses. All cookies are made by the loving hands of our members using treasured family recipes. Large trays (2+ lbs.) are \$25 ; small trays (1+lbs.) are \$15). All Proceeds are used to fund the scholarship for an Our Lady of Peace, 2024 High School Graduate."

## Holy Name Society

The men of the Holy Name Society will be selling Christmas Wreaths and Table Center Pieces after all Masses the weekend of December 10th and 11th in the Parish Center Narthex.

Large (22") Wreaths with bow \$20  
Small (18") Wreaths with bow \$19  
Center Pieces with Candle \$20

There will be a limited number available. You may pre-order.  
by calling Bill 716-759-9605 or Luther 716-200-9188

## MILITARY CHRISTMAS CARD THANKS

Our THANK YOU to the Our Lady of Peace Parishioners who contributed thoughts and wishes to the Military Christmas Card Project. We recently shipped cards to 5 local deployed soldiers in Kuwait, Poland and Qatar. We will also be distributing cards to the Buffalo and Batavia Veteran's Hospitals and the Batavia Veteran's Home. None of this would have been possible without your contributions.

## Giving Tree



The Giving Tree in the Narthex will now be collecting ornaments for St. Johnice and St. Vincent de Paul. Please take one and return with the item. Last day to return gift cards will be Fri. Dec. 15th.

## 2024 Calendars

The 2024 Calendars that have been donated by Shepard Bros. Funeral Home are here. They will be at the church entrances. Thank-you to Shepard Brothers.



# St. Mary's Swormville



**Giving Tree** - Ornaments are still available both online at St. Mary's website through Sign-up Genius and on the Giving Trees in the foyer of the Church. NOTE: Please follow the instructions on the front and back of the ornament and return your unwrapped gift in a holiday bag. Gifts must be returned to the trees **no later than Dec. 3rd.** If

you would like to see the magnitude of the congregation's generosity, return your gifts to **Rooms 110-111 after all Masses the weekend of DECEMBER 2nd & 3rd.** We have committed to delivering a gift to every one of the individuals on the giving tree. Please make sure to return a gift if you take an ornament. Call Joanie Clover @ 716-870-3582 with any questions or if you know of a family or child in need.

**"WARM TREE"** - When all of the ornaments are off our GIVING TREE, it's time to start bringing in hats, mittens, and scarves to place on the tree. These will also be distributed to those in need.



**Christmas Flowers** - This year we again invite parishioners to make a donation toward Christmas Flowers in memory of their loved ones. A list of contributors and honorees will be displayed by the Christmas Flowers.

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF OR IN HONOR (CIRCLE ONE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING THROUGH ANN MARIE ZON'S NICARAGUAN MISSION**—The Nicaraguan Mission provides a wonderful way to support a needy family while giving Christmas gifts to your family/friends.

For a **\$100 donation** you can give a pregnant cow to a needy family. The cow's first calf will be given to another family. The cow will serve the family for seven years providing milk, cheese and calves. For a **\$50 donation** you can give a pig which will birth 6-12 piglets twice a year. Or you can send a child to school for a full year. **\$30 supports** an elementary student, **\$50 a middle-schooler**, and **\$100 a high school student.** A **\$600 donation** will send a student to college for a year. Gift cards will be provided for your recipients. **Send your check made out to NICARAGUAN MISSION, mail to 100 Sundown Trail, Williamsville, NY 14221** For further information call Joe Testa at 688-8357.



ONLINE GIVING

**Convenient Online Giving**  
Scan the QR Code to make a secure online donation to St. Mary's Church, a special collection/event, or St. Mary's Educational Endowment.



The produce on the altars in the church and chapel was donated in loving memory of Arlene Badding by Mike and Anna Badding and Mike and Louise Badding.



**Today is the First Sunday of Advent** - It's not too late to get your Advent wreath or candles. Stop by the Parish Office this week.



**THANKSGIVING—A special thank you** to everyone who donated to the Thanksgiving Food Collection for families in need.

This year there was an exceptional response as cash, gift cards, and food was received. Thanksgiving was celebrated with joy due to your generosity.



**Hope & Healing Connections** (grief support group) Experiencing loss? Death of a spouse, child, or other loved one. Divorce. Miscarriage. Adoption/foster care loss. Monthly support group for anyone experiencing grief. You are welcome to share, or just listen and make

connections. Led by Judy Malinich (parishioner) and Heidi Rotella (licensed therapist). First Mondays of the month. **Next meeting will be December 4, 6-7:30pm, St. Mary's Parish Center, Room 105.**



**FOREVER YOUNG CHRISTMAS PARTY** on **Wednesday, December 13th** at 6:30 pm at Sean Patrick's Restaurant, 3480 Millersport Hwy., Getzville, NY 14068. Dinner choices include Chicken Marsala (\$27), Salmon (\$29) & New York Strip Steak (\$37) and include soup, salad, vegetable, potato, rolls/butter, ice cream and coffee or tea. Price includes gratuity. Cash bar available. If you are interested in attending, please choose dinner(s) & quantity (form

was included in your personal email), mail it along with a check made out to Forever Young to Paul and Carol Weber at 5821 Forest Creek Dr., E. Amherst, NY 14051. RSVP. **Payments are due by December 10th.** Prepaid RSVPs only please! Parishioners 55 and older are welcome to attend.

**GENESIS TO JESUS**

**GOD'S LOVE: UNCONDITIONAL AND EVERLASTING**

**John 13:34** Start your new year off right with the greatest story ever told: the tale of a Father who

always keeps his promises! Despite your faults and shortcomings, God constantly and patiently reaches out with love to keep you in relationship with him. Join us on Thursday mornings (10 AM) or evenings (6:30 PM) to understand his plan for you and your role in it. There are 14 - 90-minute sessions in this study, which will run from January 4 to April 12. A time of prayer, study, fellowship, and faith sharing. Use the address below or scan the QR code to learn more and register.

You are a disciple! Invite family. Bring friends. Make friends.



**Register soon at:**

<https://tinyurl.com/2024Genesis2Jesus>

**Questions:** Dick Marchessault (221-0046 [voice or text]) or the Catholic Education Office (716 688-0599)



## St. Mary's Swormville

### Catholic Education

As we begin the Advent season, here's a chance to test your Advent IQ:

1. Which Gospels **do not** begin with the chapters about the birth of Jesus?
2. What does each of the Advent candles represent?
3. If you have a star to top your Christmas tree, which Gospel are you reflecting? Hint- it's the Gospel with the narrative of the visit of the Magi.
4. If you have an angel to top your Christmas tree, which Gospel are you reflecting? Hint- it's the Gospel with the visit of the Shepherds narrative.
5. On December 8<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the feast of?
6. In **Luke 1:37-38** God's Word shares "for nothing will be impossible for God" Mary's said \_\_\_\_\_
7. When does the Christmas season actually begin?
8. On December 6<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the feast day of which kind and holy Bishop?

- Answers for the above questions will be shared next week



**Faith Challenge:** There are 24 chapters in the Gospel of **Luke**. This Advent season: read 1 chapter each day until Christmas, to draw closer to Jesus.

As you prepare your hearts and homes for Jesus this Advent season, please visit the Family of Parishes Advent season schedule to make this a meaningful Advent for you and your family.

The Catholic Education Team at **St Mary's Church** can be contacted by phone **(716) 688-0599** or email [familyfaith@stmaryswormville.org](mailto:familyfaith@stmaryswormville.org)

*"St. Mary's was exactly what we were looking for - feeling like you're part of a bigger family, understanding the significance of God in our lives and being able to impact the community."*

*-Parents of current SMS students*

Call to schedule an on-school-time tour:  
**(716) 689-8424**



SCAN ME



St. Mary School  
SWORMVILLE



ST. MARY'S  
MONTESSORI

DEDICATED TO THE WHOLE CHILD...  
SERVING THE ENTIRE FAMILY.



# Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Give the gift of warmth by donating new or used coats and jackets, (infant through adult sizes), as well as any outdoor winter gear including hats, scarves, gloves, snowpants and boots!

**December 2 through December 10**

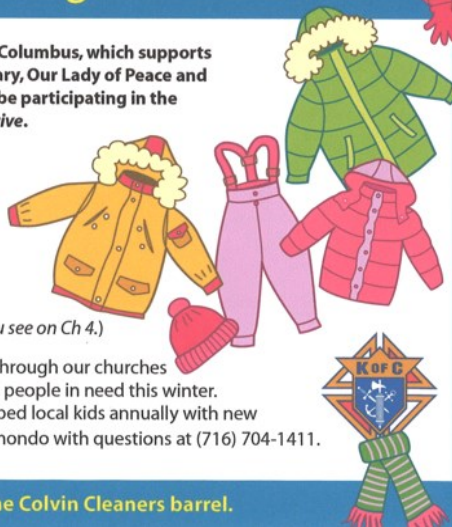
Council 13661 of the Knights of Columbus, which supports Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Peace and St. Teresa of Avila churches, will be participating in the Colvin Cleaners Coats for Kids Drive.



Colvin Cleaners will collect the coats, clean them and distribute to people who need them.

(This is the same program that you see on Ch 4.)

We hope to expand our impact through our churches participation to help many more people in need this winter. In past years the Council has helped local kids annually with new winter apparel. Contact Joe Raimondo with questions at (716) 704-1411.



Please place donations in the Colvin Cleaners barrel.

“Prayer will give you a clean heart, and a clean heart will be able to see God. And if you see God in each other, you will love one another.”

St. Teresa of Calcutta quoted in her book, Love: A Fruit Always in Season

“Be watchful, be alert!” Signs of God’s will for your life are everywhere: in nature, literature, conversations with friends. Most of all in prayer.

Let’s spend a quiet Advent asking Jesus to reveal our life’s vocation to us. If it turns out to be priesthood or religious life, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit [buffalovocations.org](http://buffalovocations.org)

*Small Blessings*

## PURSE PROJECT

**THANK YOU** to the parishioners of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish for your generous donations!

This is an ongoing mission, a donation bin is located in the sacristy all year long for future donations. Susan Riley (716) -400-3145.



**Transfer**  
TO NATIVITY OF MARY SCHOOL  
& RECEIVE A TUITION CREDIT FOR '23-24  
CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE!

WWW.NATIVITYOFMARYSCHOOL.ORG



## Saint Vincent de Paul Giving Tree

**The St. Vincent de Paul Society offers assistance with free food, clothing, gasoline, medicine, rent help, utilities, and transportation to people facing economic or emotional crises. People of all backgrounds and religion can get assistance. Please call 716-633-7441 for more information.**

**The Giving Tree is now in the sanctuary. Please consider participating by selecting a gift card from the tree to help someone in need! Please place the purchased gift cards in the deposit box next to the Giving Tree. The due date is the weekend of December 9th-10th.**

**CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS:** Cardinal O’Hara High School in the Town of Tonawanda will renew one of its longest running traditions with a Greccio reenactment of St. Francis of Assisi’s pageant that depicts the Christmas story. The event takes place in the school courtyard at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 13. O’Hara’s Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Chorus, Song Corps and Dance Ensemble will perform their annual concert of holiday favorites in the Performing Arts Center immediately following the Greccio reenactment. The event is free and open to the public. Prior to Greccio, a spaghetti dinner fundraiser from 4 to 6:15 p.m. will take place in the student dining room. Dinner tickets are \$10 presale, \$12 at door and may be purchased by calling O’Hara at 695-2600, ext. 312.

**Young Adult Professionals Dinner & Discussion "Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?"** Young adults (18-40) are invited to a Dinner & Discussion on Thursday, December 7th at St. Joseph University Parish from 6 - 8 PM. Eileen Warner will lead an engaging conversation on understanding suffering and how to keep a sense of hope. Free dinner provided, please register



# Nativity of Mary School is thankful for our Faculty & Staff

## A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL RICHARD

As the season of gratitude and celebration continues, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our exceptional faculty and staff. These dedicated individuals work tirelessly behind the scenes, going above and beyond their duties to create a nurturing environment for our students.





Prayer List—First Sunday of Advent December 3, 2023

**St. Teresa of Avila**  
5771 Buell St., PO Box 168, Akron, NY 14001  
Phone: 716-542-9103  
stteresasofakron@verizon.net

**Eucharistic Adoration: First Friday, 7:30-8:30 pm**  
**Confession: Saturday 2:30-3:30pm**  
**Also the 1st Saturday of the month 8:15-8:45 am &**  
**Vigil of Holy Days 3:30-4:15 pm**  
**Rosary: First Saturday Prior to 9 am Mass**

**Family Faith Formation 716-542-9103 Ext. 2**  
Margaret Wood

**Parish Council**  
Dick Campbell & Wally Smith

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Please Keep In Your Prayers: Susan Hegetsweiller, Bob Larouere, Linda Chaffee, Richard Jordan, Mary Prentice, Ita Steele, Jim & Joe Vasi, Sterling McCarriagher, Jean Ottney, Shirley Lantz, Rita Whelan, and Laura Gray.

**Our Lady of Peace Church**  
10950 Main Street, Clarence, New York 14031  
Phone: 716.759.8554 ~ Fax: 716.759.8537  
www.olpclarence.org ~ office@olpclarence.org

**Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday's 7AM-6PM**  
Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet 5:30-6PM  
**Confession: Saturday from 3:45-4:45PM**

**Let us pray for the following people on our sick list:**

*Maria A., Mary Celine Aaron, Chuck M., Joan Antonicelli, Eleanore Cammarata, Austin Beatty, Brandon, Jack Blodgett, David Bogden, David Burke, Rosemary Caito, Charisse Callahan, Joan Chatman, Christi Carson, Theresa Chapman, Lauren Conrad, Daniel Cortese, Sharon Covert, Rick Cousineau, Peg Cummings, Jim Cummings, Daryl & Dennis, Donald, Jack, Darlene Feinen, Carol & Ken Fox, Kevin G., Gabe, Gary Grapentrog, Heidi, Ian Harden, George, Mark Hilbert, Jackie, Jackie S., John Kuloszewski, Mark Korpanty, Mary Lidkea, Sister Marcia Klawon O.S.F., Sister Ann Helene Koenig OSF, Steve L., Al Meister, Kathy McHugh, Kevin McNamara, Candace Morse, Pam Murray, Peter Rizzo, Joan O'Brien, Carmine Purdie, P.A.T., Paulette Sadus, Ron Sarafin, Eleanor Smith, Steve, Thomas L., Frank Tobin, Dolores Tobin, Vince, Judy Vogt, Mary Ellen Wagner, Paul Willard, Ron Weiss, Msgr. Wetter and Genevieve Wojcik.*

**St. Mary's Swormville**  
6919 Transit Road, East Amherst, NY 14051  
Phone: 716-688-9380 Fax 716-688-6025  
rectory@stmaryswormville.org

**Eucharistic Adoration: First Friday, 9:30am-noon**  
**Confession: Saturday 2:30-3:30pm**  
Also the 1st Saturday of the month after 9:00am Mass  
**Anointing: Last Saturday of month after 9:00am Mass**  
**Rosary: Mon,-Sat. 8:30am,Wed.7:00pm (Chapel)**

**St. Mary's School Pre K-8 716-689-8424**  
office@stmaryschoolswormville.org  
Tristan D'Angelo principal@stmaryschoolswormville.org

**Family Faith Formation 716-688-0599**  
Christina Egleston familyfaith@stmaryswormville.org

Stephanie States  
communications@stmaryswormville.org

**Please keep in prayer the following on our sick list:**  
Richard Kubiak, Doug Motz, Reid Hausrath, Linda Brown, Rita Man-  
no, Denise Grande, Kathy Venezia-Will, Richard Nella, Tom Archer,  
Kathy Kent, Elizabeth Lafferty, Jessica Bietz, Dr. Bob Derr, Baby Fran-  
co Joseph Licata, Brandon Elie, Andrew Reed, Gene Santercole, Del-  
phine Levesque, Roseanne Hofner, Ashley Meinhold, Kim Fassel, Paul  
Kluczynski, Tess Kuhlmann, Joyce Zoerb, Josephine Castiglia and  
Chester Syput.

**Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
4375 Harris Hill Road, Williamsville, NY 14221  
Phone: 716-632-8838 Fax 716-632-7898  
nativityoffice@nativityharrishill.org

**Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesdays 7:30-8:30**  
with Divine Mercy Chaplet @ 8:00pm  
**Confession: Saturday 3:45-4:45pm**

**Nativity of Mary School Pre K-8 716-633-7441**  
office@nativityofmaryschool.org  
Mrs. Nicole Richard – Principal nrich-  
ard@nativityofmaryschool.org

**Family Faith Formation 716-634-3130**  
Debbie Daigler – Director  
ddaiglernbvm@gmail.com

**Please keep in prayer the people on our sick list:**

Bruce Connolly, Cathy Groat, Michael Hartman.

*All praise and glory is yours, Lord our God, for you have called us to serve you in love. Bless those on our prayer list so they may bear this illness in union with your Son's obedient suffering. Restore them to health, and lead them to glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Effective December 3, 2023 : Prayer names will be posted for one month unless special circumstances exist. For reasons of privacy, only family members will be allowed to request the publication of names for the prayer listing in the bulletin.**