



# Akron Clarence Roman Catholic Community

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

December 10, 2023 | Second 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

11:00 AM St. Mary's

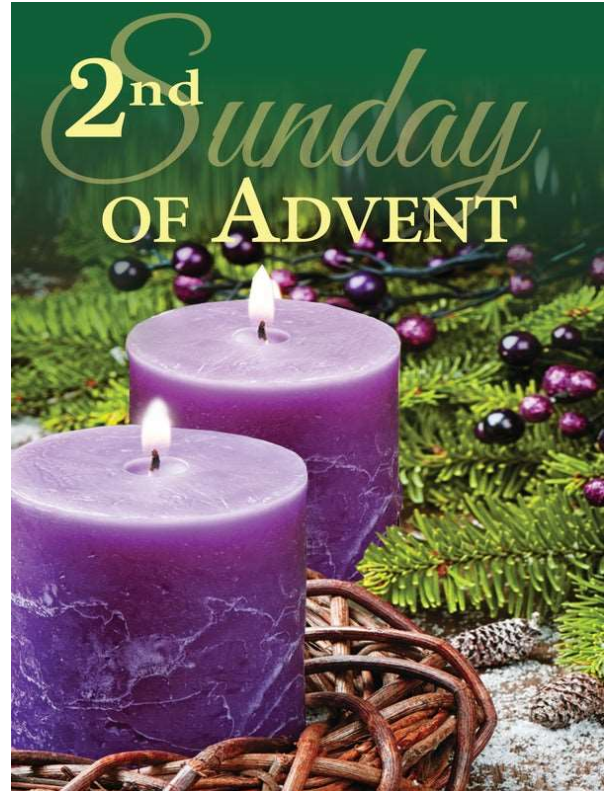
### Weekday Masses

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, NY 14051

Office hours:

Monday – Friday 8:30 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 Rd., Williamsville, NY 14221

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

## Mass Intentions **Second Sunday of Advent** December 10, 2023

### St. Teresa of Avila Mass Schedule

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

4:00 pm Betty Bergman – Birthday Blessings by  
*Bergman Family*

#### **Sunday, December 10**

9:00 am Irene Swift by *Bernadette Connolly*

#### **Monday December 11 - St. Damasus I**

8:00 am Villani Family by *Kaiser Family, Klassy Kars*

#### **Tuesday, December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe**

8:00 am [Intentions for Mothers](#)

#### **Wednesday, December 13 – St. Lucy**

5:30 pm Terri Buekers by *St. Teresa Women's Guild*

#### **Thursday, December 14 – St. John of the Cross**

8:00 am Irene Swift by *Bernadette Connolly*

#### **Friday, December 15**

8:00 am Theresa Mary Dolph by *Jim & MaryAnn  
Schneider*

#### **Saturday, December 16**

9:00 am Intentions for Bob Larouere by *Family*

4:00 pm Michael Raykowski by *Rich Raykowski*

#### **Sunday, December 17**

9:00 am Geraldine Benker by *Estate*

### Our Lady of Peace Mass Schedule

#### **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

10:00AM Living & Deceased members of the  
Holy Name Society

#### **Monday, December 11**

*St. Damasus I, Pope*

8:00AM Richard Anastasi – wife, Joan

#### **Tuesday, December 12**

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

8:00AM Diane Schwach – Lawrence Schwach

#### **Wednesday, December 13**

*St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr*

8:00AM Beloved

#### **Thursday, December 14**

*St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church*

8:00AM Rita Wayman – Gemma Moell

#### **Friday, December 15**

6:30AM Theresa Elko – The Wrazien Family

#### **Saturday, December 16**

5:15PM Mary Cannizzaro – The Family

#### **Sunday, December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent**

8:00AM Virginia Wallrich – Wallrich & Ryan Families

10:00AM Hugo & Rita Gentilcore – Lawrence Schwach

### St. Mary's Swormville Mass Schedule

#### **Saturday, December 9,—Vigil**

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

#### **Monday, December 11—St. Damasus I, pope**

9:00AM Capt. Robert Bager by the family

#### **Tuesday, December 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe**

9:00AM Jamie Badding by the family

**And** Frank T. Brzezinski by Jennifer Bennett

#### **Wednesday, December 13—St. Lucy, virgin and martyr**

9:00AM Marlene Pidgeon by husband & daughters

#### **Thursday, December 14, —St. John of the cross priest and doctor**

9:00AM Lois Owcarz by the family

#### **Friday, December 15,**

9:00AM Gerhard Diegelman by wife & family

#### **Saturday, December 16,**

9:00AM Louise V. Arbegast

by Claude & Jody Imagna & family

4:00PM Dorothy Janis by the Janson Family

**And** Joseph, Elizabeth & Jean Bager  
by the family

#### **Sunday, December 17, —Third Sunday of Advent**

7:30AM George & Clara Siefert by the family

9:00AM Ron & Janet Valtin by the family

11:00AM Genevieve Donatelli by daughter Deanna

### Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass Schedule

#### **Saturday, December 9—Vigil**

5:15PM Angelo & Dorothy Trivisono—Carolyn Nenni

Michael Thompson—Julie McCullough

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

8:00AM William & Frances Cummins—Mary Downing

Angeline Silvestro—Jack Migliore

10:00AM Lorraine Caserta & Carmela Petruzella—

Ann Marie, Duane, Matthew & Maria Lenhardt

#### **Monday, December 11--- St. Damasus I, Pope**

8:00AM Parishioners of Nativity—Fr. Tom Mahoney

#### **Tuesday, December 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe**

9:00AM Marie & Gary Starck—Family

Lawrence Vito—Don & Pat Bogdan

#### **Wednesday, December 13—St. Lucy**

8:00AM Alison Benker—Susan Riley

Paul Parrinello—Rosemarie Parrinello

#### **Thursday, December 14—St. John of the cross**

8:00AM

#### **Friday, December 15—**

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

#### **Saturday, December 16 -**

8:00AM

5:15PM Mary Juliano (Living) – Jeff & Connie Silvasly

Lawrence Vito – Dr. & Mrs. Phillip Culliton

#### **Sunday, December 17—Third Sunday of Advent**

8:00AM LilyAnn LoTempio – Jennifer LoTempio

Jeanne & Robert Hammer—Tim & Elaine

Hammer

10:00AM Darlene Gushue—Sue & Jerry Krug

Susan Caruso—Marie Clark

## Second Sunday of Advent

### FIRST READING [IS 40:1-5, 9-11](#)

Comfort, give comfort to my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her  
that her service is at an end,  
her guilt is expiated;  
indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:  
In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!  
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!  
Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill shall be made low;  
the rugged land shall be made a plain,  
the rough country, a broad valley.  
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together;  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain,  
Zion, herald of glad tidings;  
cry out at the top of your voice,  
Jerusalem, herald of good news!  
Fear not to cry out  
and say to the cities of Judah:  
Here is your God!  
Here comes with power  
the Lord GOD,  
who rules by his strong arm;  
here is his reward with him,  
his recompense before him.  
Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;  
in his arms he gathers the lambs,  
carrying them in his bosom,  
and leading the ewes with care.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM [PS 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14](#)

**Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

### SECOND READING [2 PT 3:8-14](#)

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved,  
that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years  
and a thousand years like one day.  
The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard  
“delay,”  
but he is patient with you,  
not wishing that any should perish  
but that all should come to repentance.  
But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,  
and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar  
and the elements will be dissolved by fire,  
and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.  
Since everything is to be dissolved in this way,  
what sort of persons ought you to be,  
conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion,  
waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God,  
because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames  
and the elements melted by fire.  
But according to his promise  
we await new heavens and a new earth  
in which righteousness dwells.  
Therefore, beloved, since you await these things,  
be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him,  
at peace.

### GOSPEL [MK 1:1-8](#)

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:  
*Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;  
he will prepare your way.*

*A voice of one crying out in the desert:*

*“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.”*

John the Baptist appeared in the desert  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

People of the whole Judean countryside  
and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem

were going out to him

and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River  
as they acknowledged their sins.

John was clothed in camel's hair,  
with a leather belt around his waist.

He fed on locusts and wild honey.

And this is what he proclaimed:

“One mightier than I is coming after me.

I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.

I have baptized you with water;

he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

We like to think we are totally free, but the bitter truth is we simply are not. Or better put, our freedom is limited on every side — by governments, corporate giants, physical and mental frailties, genetic shortcomings, and even the boundaries of time and space, and above all, the burden of our sins and pending deaths. In our day, we are perhaps particularly aware that we are not free to disconnect from the technocratic rulers of the air. If you doubt me, try not paying your internet bill and see what happens. We are not totally free.

It's nothing new, of course. In Jesus' day, everyone felt the crushing weight of the Roman Empire. You can say you're free all you want. But try not paying your taxes to Rome and see what happens.

Once we feel this burden in our own lives — however it comes — we are ready to hear the stunning announcement that commences Mark's gospel, “The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” It's not a simple perfunctory introduction, but a dramatic announcement of new freedom. The word “gospel” was a political, even military, term. It meant: a great victory has been won and a new king is in charge. This Jesus — not the Roman emperor — is God's son, and he has defeated all that crushes human freedom. It's time to follow him and be truly free. This week let's refuse to submit our freedom to false rulers — especially that of sin. And let's rejoice that Christ is coming to make us perfectly free from all our oppressors.

*Father John Muir*

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Weekly Events Calendar  
Posted on the Bulletin  
Board in the vestibule on  
the Website.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**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.

**Living Nativity**

Please come join the children in grades K – 6 as they take part in the 10:15 Mass on December 17th with a Living Nativity. A procession will take place from the school building into the church. As Mass begins, the children will process with Fr. Art, Deacon Ron, and the altar servers.

**Warrior Retreat**

7th - 12th Graders Please join us for a retreat at Camp Asbury, Silver Lake, 5 PM Friday, January 5 - Sunday, January 7, 12 PM. Sign-up by December 18 to reserve your spot via Flock Notes or contact Theresa Zielinski 585-322-3880, theresazielinski8@gmail.com. Presented by Wyoming Association of Catholic Youth.

**Classes for Sunday, December 10 & 17:**

10- 11 am Grades K-6, 10 - 11:15 am Grades 7-10



**24 Hours of Adoration** - December 11th-12th 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 [www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054CABA72FA7FD0-46286488-adoration#/](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054CABA72FA7FD0-46286488-adoration#/)

**Milk & Porridge/ Follow the Children Collection by the Women's Guild**

Thank you to all the parishioners who donated to our recent collection for the little children at the mission in Timau, Kenya. We collected an amazing \$11,217. This money will feed babies & toddlers & help youngsters at St. Elizabeth's Elementary School by providing their tuition, uniforms & 2 meals a day.

**Don't Forget the Oplatki!** At the Christmas Eve meal, each person has an Oplatki wafer. A parent offers a piece of wafer to another exchanging words of bless, of love, perhaps telling what they admire or respect. The ritual continues as each person eats the piece of wafer they have been given and offers their own wafer to others. The wafers are on the altar rail and a donation is suggested

**Retirement Fund for Religious Collection This Weekend -**

Support a lifetime of service. Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need - usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. Please give generously.



**Poinsettia Sale** - Pick up on December 9th and 10th after Masses in the Parish Hall following Mass. Thank you for your support!

**Join Us** for the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday, December 16th immediately following 4:00 Mass.



**BOTTOM LINE:**

A Sunday School teacher had just concluded her lesson and wanted to make sure she had made her point. She said, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?" There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "Sin," he said.



# Our Lady of Peace Church

10950 Main St., Clarence, NY 14031 Telephone: 716.759.8554  
Fax: 716.759.8537 ~ Office@olpclarence.org Web Site ~ www.olpclarence.org

## A Message From Father Walter

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

What we are expecting radically affects how we prepare. A couple expecting a new baby, for example, prepares a Nursery. A family expecting to go on vacation prepares reservations, clothing, the car. A child expecting the first day of school prepares pencils, notebooks, backpack. The preparation matches the expectation. No matter what our preparation, however, the coming of the Lord always exceeds our expectation.

John the Baptist is telling the people that the One who is coming will exceed their expectation. He will be mightier than John because he will Baptize with the Holy Spirit; his coming will initiate unprecedented life-transforming change.

During this Advent are we primarily preparing ourselves for life-transforming change or merely preparing to celebrate a secular Christmas? What are our expectations? How does John the Baptist challenge us with a new set of expectations? Who helps us listen to John and respond? What prepares us to open ourselves to respond more fully to the Spirit with whom we have been baptized? Do our responses show that we know our expectations will be exceeded? What really prepares us for the changes the coming of the Lord will bring into our lives?

Fr. Walt

## Advent Opportunities for Reconciliation

--Confessions will be available here  
at Our Lady of Peace Church on the following  
WEDNESDAYS..... from 4 - 6 PM during Advent:  
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*

## Help Wanted-Custodian

Ensure the cleanliness of buildings. Clean bathrooms and floors, carryout garbage, table and chair set-up. Sidewalk snow removal with snowblower and hall maintenance. 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."

## Giving Tree



There is a box in the narthex if you are interested in dropping off gift cards of any amount for the St. Vincent de Paul or St. Johnice. Last day to return gift cards will be Fri. Dec. 15th.

## Collection Total

11/26/2023 \$8046.00

## 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.

## Coats for Kids Drive - Knights of Columbus

The John Cardinal O'Hara Council 13661 of the Knights of Columbus will be participating in the Colvin Cleaners Coats for Kids Drive. We are asking the parish to participate by donating new or gently used winter coats of all sizes. We will have a donation barrel in the Narthex. Colvin Cleaners will collect the coats, clean them and distribute them, this is the same program that you see on Channel 4. In past years, the council has helped 15 children a year. Contact Mark at 716.491.8469. Please drop off by December 10.



The spirit of giving and helping those in need are intricate parts of our Church community. This was our 26th year of offering the Giving Tree for the many men, women and children in our area that need our prayers and thoughtful assistance.

**We thank all** who so generously donated to this effort. This is truly a blessing to have so many who are willing to share their blessings with so many.

**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.

**Taizé Prayer Service** – Are you thinking about the mountain of holiday preparations ahead of you? Are you wondering how you can put Christ back into Christmas? Our Advent Taizé prayer service might be just what you need to center your mind and heart on the importance of the season. **Please join us on December 14th at 7:00pm in the main church.**

**Taizé prayer** is a meditative form of prayer. Through the repetition of musical phrases over and over, the body and mind slow down enough to be able to listen to the voice of God that is planted deep within you. Taizé prayer is traditionally held in a darkened church lit by candles. One aspect of the prayer involves icons, pictures painted by artists while in prayer, role models of greatness the church has highlighted for centuries. We see icons of Jesus, Mary, the prophets, and the saints displayed during Taizé prayer, but it is important to note that we do not worship these icons. They are merely reminders to us that we can shape our lives to reflect the sacred majesty of God. They speak to us of dying and rising in our daily lives through their living example.

**St. Mary's Christmas Mass Schedule**

**Christmas Eve**

All Masses in the main church unless otherwise noted

4:00pm (chapel)

4:15pm—children's Mass

6:30pm & 10:00pm

**Christmas Day**

9:00 & 11:00am

**Solemnity of Mary, January 1st 9:00am (chapel)**



**ALL YOU CAN EAT** Pancake Breakfast at **A. J. Jurek Legion**, Smith & New Roads, E. Amherst, **Sunday, December 17th**, 8AM-12:00PM. Includes: pancakes, eggs, sausage, beverage. Adults \$10, 12/U \$4, U/5 free.



**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)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Retirement Fund for Religious Collection**—A donor to the Retirement Fund writes, "I still remember the lessons the sisters gave us and how they instilled in us the love of our faith." Show your thanks for the prayerful service of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your gift to the collection helps provide care, medicine, and more. Please be generous. You may place your donation in any collection basket during the month of December.

**GENESIS TO JESUS** You are a disciple! Invite family. Bring friends. Make friends.



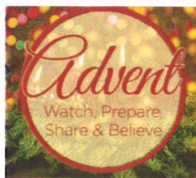
**Register:** <https://tinyurl.com/2024Genesis2Jesus>

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



We invite all women to the **Daughters of Mary Christmas Celebration - Monday, December 18 at 7pm** in Room 110/111. Our theme is "The Transformative Power of Christmas Carols". Come experience an evening of music, food, and friendship. Please bring a snack or dessert to share, along with a religious themed Christmas ornament for a fun ornament swap game. This is a great opportunity to bring a friend to experience the warm fellowship at St. Mary's. Contact Elizabeth Forman at (716) 691-6554 or daughtersofmary815@gmail.com to be added to our email list.

**Daughters of Mary...** A women's ministry to encourage each other in living out our Catholic faith. Dedicated to honoring Mary while growing in our relationship with her Son, Jesus.



**Advent Penance** service is Wednesday, December 13th, at 7pm in the CHAPEL. Please note the change in location. 8 priests will be available.

**Taizé Prayer Service** is December 14th 7pm. (see info opposite column this same page).

**Our annual Christmas tree and manger blessing** is Friday, December 15th at 7pm. All are welcome to join us in around the manger in the church courtyard for this fun evening which includes caroling and hot chocolate!

The **Third Sunday of Advent is Bambinelli Sunday!** Bring Baby Jesus from your manger to Mass on December 16th or 17th for a special blessing.



# TRADITION

*Founded in 1849, we celebrate our strong past as the foundation of our vision for tomorrow. Schedule a tour to see why we're more than just a school.*

716-689-8424 | [stmaryschoolswormville.org](http://stmaryschoolswormville.org)



**SNOW ME THE MONEY!**

**Start the New Year with an Extra \$10,000!**

Raffle tickets were mailed to all St. Mary's parishoners, more are available at the parish office!  
Makes a great stocking stuffer!

**\$10,000 FINAL DRAWING**  
8:30 pm, Fri., 1/19/24

**\$25 per ticket**  
winner need not be present

## Symbols and traditions of Advent

Have you ever wondered why certain things are displayed during Advent? Why certain songs are sung? Where some of the traditions you celebrate come from? When you understand the meaning behind our symbols and rich traditions, they become personal to you in a special way. One example may be the Jesse Tree. It's an old Christmas tradition that first began in medieval times. The earliest known representation of the Jesse Tree can be firmly dated to 1086. This tradition tells the story of Salvation history from creation to the birth of Jesus. Who is Jesse and how is he related to Jesus? Jesse was the son of Obed and the grandson of Ruth and Boaz. Jesse was the Father of the most famous King in Israel – King David.



**Matthew 1:1** "The book of genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham"

**Faith Challenge:** Think about your own family Christmas tree. What traditions do you share decorating your tree? Talk about the ornaments that are from generations past on your tree. As a family, pick a symbol, song or tradition that you would like to learn more about as you prepare for the coming of Christmas.

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

## The answers to last week's Advent IQ:

1. Which Gospels do not begin with the chapters about the birth of Jesus? Mark and John
2. What does each of the Advent candles represent? Hope, Love, Joy and Peace
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. Matthew
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. Luke
5. On December 8<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the feast of? Mary's Immaculate Conception
6. In Luke 1:37-38 God's Word shares "for nothing will be impossible for God" Mary's said, Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your Word."
7. When does the Christmas season actually begin? December 25<sup>th</sup> and lasts for 8 days
8. On December 6<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the feast day of which kind and holy Bishop? St Nicholas

# 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**

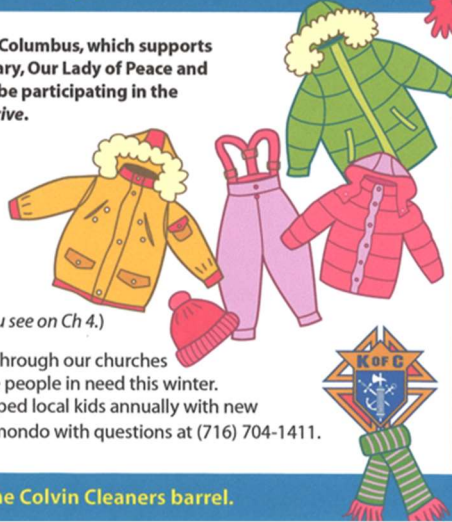
Council 13661 of the Knights of Columbus, which supports Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Peace and St. Teresa of Avila churches, will be participating in the Colvin Cleaners Coats for Kids Drive.



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.

## Knight of Columbus Thoughts

"I simply wish to note that the figure of Mary of Nazareth sheds light on womanhood as such by the very fact that God in the sublime event of the Incarnation of His Son, entrusted Himself to the ministry, the free and active ministry of a woman."

Pope St. John Paul II Redemptoris Mater

## Saint Vincent de Paul Giving Tree

The St. Vincent de Paul Society offers assistance to people of all backgrounds and religion. 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.

Nativity Gift Card order forms are available at all entrances of the Church. The Nativity Gift Card Store is open Tuesdays and Fridays 8:30 – noon in the school office and after both Sunday morning Masses in December. Thank you for helping raise money for the Nativity School through your purchase of gift cards.

We are urged to "prepare the way of the Lord!" God has called some to show others how to prepare through leadership as priests and religious brothers and sisters. If God is calling you to a Church vocation, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit [buffalovocations.org](http://buffalovocations.org)

Our world is filled with so many voices vying for our attention. The season of Advent offers us voices as well. Advent's flow is one of joyful expectation on two counts: the recollection of the coming of Jesus in time and his return at the end. What do these voices say to us? Do we even hear them? What do we do with what we hear? Join us at Our Lady of Pompeii on the evenings of December 11 and 12 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm as we explore the Voices of Advent with our facilitator, Deacon Greg Feary. Our evening promises to be prayerful, personal and practical. Consider joining us.(129 Laverack Ave, Lancaster, NY 14086)

**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





# NATIVITY OF MARY SCHOOL'S OPEN HOUSE



**SUNDAY 1.28.24**

11:00AM - 1:00 PM

**AGE 3 - GRADE 8**

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Prayer List—First Sunday of Advent December 10, 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: Barbara Ford, 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.

Please Also Pray for the Repose of the Soul of: Charles J. Bastian, Sr.

**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](mailto:office@olpclarence.org)

**Eucharistic Adoration: Every Wed. 7AM-6PM**  
**Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet:**  
Every Wed. 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

Kristen Saurer & Melissa Kent  
parishcouncil@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 Manno, Denise Grande, Kathy Venezia-Will, Richard Nella, Tom Archer, Kathy Kent, Elizabeth Lafferty, Jessica Bietz, Dr. Bob Derr, Baby Franco Joseph Licata, Brandon Elie, Andrew Reed, Gene Santercole, Delphine Levesque, Roseanne Hofner, Ashley Meinhold, Kim Fassel, Paul Kluczynski, Tess Kuhlmann, Joyce Zoerb, Josephine Castiglia Hilary Konitsch 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 nrichard@nativityofmaryschool.org

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

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

Bruce Connolly, Cathy Groat, Michael Hartman, Jonathan LaVell.

*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.*

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**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.**