

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe
4:00pm SFX Jim Strabley by Bev Strabley

6:00pm SG Living & Deceased of Both Parishes

Sunday, December 13—3rd Sunday Advent
8:30 am SFX Carol Gallina by Bob & Joan Gallina

10:30 am SG Ruth Pilati by Nick & Mandy Hoagland

Monday, December 14—St John of the Cross
8:00am SFX Albert & Jerry Burkhart by Wilma & Family

Tuesday, December 15
9:00am SG Fr. Bernie Krajcovic by Jim Krajcovic & Family

Wednesday, December 16
8:00am SFX John Cinson by the Whittington Family

Thursday, December 17
9:00am SG Marilyn Nehus by Marlene Biggins

Friday, December 18
9:00am SG Communion Service

Saturday, December 19
4:00pm SFX Buzzelli & DiMenna Families by Tony & Son

6:00pm SG Mary Petros by Ben Davis

Sunday, December 20—4th Sunday Advent
8:30 am SFX Living & Deceased of Both Parishes

10:30 am SG Andy Marko by Norma & Family

CHURCH SUPPORT:

May God bless you for your generosity to our parishes on December 5/6, 2015

St. Gabriel: Adult \$2,239; Christmas \$125; Loose \$257; New Hall \$240.76; Capital Improv.\$57; Flowers \$245; Immaculate Conception \$130; Retired Religious \$799; PSR \$25.

RECAP ADULT COLLETION AT ST GABRIEL

5	Envelopes with \$1 to \$5	\$25
18	Envelopes with \$6 to \$10	\$174
23	Envelopes with \$11 to \$20	\$447
14	Envelopes with \$21 to \$30	\$366
9	Envelopes with \$31 to \$50	\$367
7	Envelopes with OVER \$50	\$860
76	Envelopes for St. Gabriel totaling	\$2,239

St. Francis Xavier: Adult \$2,360; Christmas \$545 Loose \$80; New Hall \$1280; Bldg Fund \$329; Flowers \$300; Retired Religious \$12; Immaculate Conception \$30.

RECAP ADULT COLLETION AT ST FRANCIS

5	Envelopes with \$1 to \$5	\$23
15	Envelopes with \$6 to \$10	\$150
21	Envelopes with \$11 to \$20	\$387
22	Envelopes with \$21 to \$30	\$575
10	Envelopes with \$31 to \$50	\$415
9	Envelopes with OVER \$50	\$810
82	Envelopes for St. Francis totaling	\$2,360

Thank you! Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

SICK AND SHUT-INS OF THE PARISH

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

At Home: Gary Kovacik, Mary Ann Campitelli,
Stone Crossing: Vera Kompara
St. Joseph Care Center: Steve Marmo; Fran Montella
Canterbury Villa (Alliance): Janet Boyer

ST. GABRIEL

At Home: Shirley Bonar; Ivette Martinez, Patricia Burman.
Eldercare: Mildred Rennier, Joe Casper (SFX)
Arbors (Great Trail) Nursing : Kenny Ferguson; Richard Lane, Anne Petros.
St. Luke Minerva: Stella Kiko; Mary Wadsworth

Prayer Chain for St. Gabriel and St. Francis:

If you know of someone who is in need of prayer and would like them to be put on the prayer list for **St. Francis**, please call Dolores Hudson at 330-863-0273; To be put on the list for **St. Gabriel**, please call Darlene Mackey at 330-868-6639.

FOR ILL & HOSPITALIZED: Please call Parish Office as soon as one is hospitalized, to request home visits and Holy Communion, from either parish. The Eucharistic Ministers are not to make these arrangements. Whenever one is admitted to an area hospital, or nursing care facility please inform the Admissions Office you are Catholic and your Parish. Due to the Privacy of Information Act, hospitals no longer give out personal information.

Welcome To The Catechumenate:

RCIA During this stage those preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, will strive to become more integrated into the Catholic faith through prayer, study and immersion into the life of the parish. Our Catechumens are:

Deborah Berecek and Douglas Jeffery.

Our Candidates, those who will join us in full communion through the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist include:

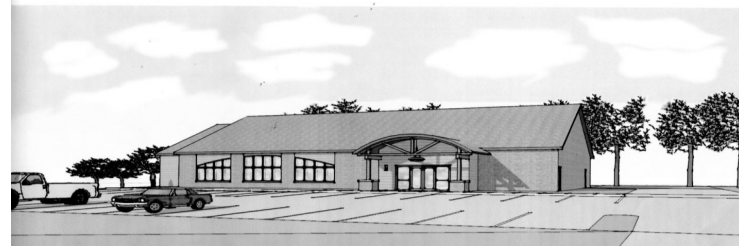
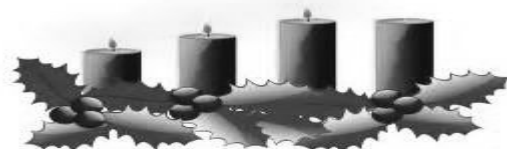
Kevin Booth, Ronnie McClellan,

Zachery Schoeppner, and Rita Woodruff.

Please welcome each of them to our faith community and keep them, along with their sponsors and the RCIA team, in your prayers as we continue on this journey of faith.

PSR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:

Dec 20th the children in our PSR program will enjoy a day of crafts, snacks, and music focused on Advent and St. Nicholas, **Sunday Dec 20th**, during their regular PSR time. We ask that families please bring a plate of cookies or other snacks for the PSR classes to share during their refreshment time that day. They can be dropped off at the table in the educational wing that will be set up. Thank you in advance for your time and talent!



“Come Together, Build Our Future, “Leave a Legacy”

Help keep the momentum growing. Support The Pledge Drive Phase for a New “Parish Hall”.

“Pledge Drive—Target Goal” 94.6% Reached!

Will you help us get to the top?

Offerings as of 12/01/2015:

\$262,902.05 Pledges & Gifts
\$ 38,750.00 Brick and Window sponsorships
\$ 21,000.00 Block sponsorships
\$ 9,958.00 Memorial Donations.
\$332,380.05 [Note: Pledge Goal is \$350,000]



Dear Parishioners, Family Members, Visitors, Friends:

◆ We are anxiously awaiting the drawings from the architect in order to proceed with our plans for a new hall. The old hall has reached a stage of being beyond repair. The parish has decided that a facility is still needed and so we are looking to replace the existing structure. As you are aware whenever doing improvements to your homes, that the process is not always easy. We want to be good stewards and provide for the needs of our parishes for the future. The **Pledge Goal Phase** is only **One source** of funds for our project. **Part Two** is the **Savings** which are already earmarked in our “Building Fund” and, **Part Three** will require a **Bank Loan** to cover unpaid pledges and amount needed to complete our project. **Fund Raisers** will be an essential source of income. This is an exciting time for our parishes. We need ideas and volunteers for fundraising projects. Please prayerfully consider ways in which you may be able to help make this project a reality.

Extra flyers/pledge cards available in the narthex, or by calling Parish Office. Keep those pledges coming!!

CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY DINNER:

The parishioners, families, friends, guests of St. Gabriel and St. Francis Xavier are cordially invited to attend the Christmas/Epiphany Dinner held on **Sunday, January 3, 2016 at St. Francis Xavier Hall, at 1:00 pm.** There will be plenty of good food and fellowship to share, games and prizes for the kids and special door-prizes. Please join us. Meat, table service and beverages will be provided. Just bring a covered dish of you are able, if not, just bring yourself! Use the Sign-Up sheet in the narthex of each church to help us in our preparations. Mark your calendar and plan to come.



Consider a Special Gift to Your Parish at Christmas!

Would you like to make a Special gift to your Parish? Do You Need a Deduction for your 2015 Taxes? Then Make a special gift through the DPSC! **ALL gifts** will be **returned entirely to the parish for our use** and the parish will **not** be assessed on this amount as regular income. This really is the **BEST** way to make a special gift to your parish! Help us in **any way you are able.** No gift refused. Envelopes are available in the narthex, or call the parish office. **God bless you!**

“YEAR OF MERCY” IN OUR PARISHES:

†**ADVENT-TAIZE- EVENING PRAYER, Sunday,**

December 13th, at St. Gabriel, 4:00 PM. This simple prayer service developed by the monks of Taize, France, is a spiritual treat! It is a very calming, relaxing and powerful way of focusing our prayer. First Presbyterian of Minerva will host the service on December 20th, at 4pm.

†**ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE at**

ST. FRANCIS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15th at 7:00 pm. for Area Parishes. At least **8 priests will be available** to assist with confessions. The minimum which a good Catholic should celebrate the Sacrament of Confession is **at last once a year.** Parents are asked to help prepare their children to celebrate this wonderful gift of God’s grace.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

CHRISTMAS EVE, THURS. DEC. 24:

4pm Mass—St Gabriel, Minerva
7pm Mass—St. Francis Xavier, Malvern
10pm Mass—St. Gabriel, Minerva

CHRISTMAS DAY, FRI. DEC 25:

9:30AM Mass—St. Gabriel, Minerva

NEW YEARS MASS SCHEDULE:

(Holy Day of Obligation)

NEW YEARS EVE, THURS. DEC. 31

4pm—St. Francis, Malvern
6pm—St. Gabriel, Minerva

NEW YEARS DAY, FRI. JAN 1, 2016

10:30AM—St. Gabriel, Minerva

CHRISTMAS CHURCH DECORATING

“Art & Environment” is the team which works behind the scenes to transform our Worship environment for the different seasons. We will **decorate our churches for Christmas** after the Sunday masses on **December 20th.** Can you give us a hand? Do you have some good ideas to share? Please Call the Parish Office to let us know that we can count on you to help us. Many hands make light work!

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES NEEDED

We are looking for members of various talents to help envision new ideas and work on our various projects throughout the year. Help is always needed in all of these areas of ministry:

Acolytes/Altar Servers **Lectors**
Art & Environment **Sacristans**
Greeters & Ushers **Lectors**

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Please prayerfully consider joining one of these ministries today!. Contact the Parish Office: 330-868-4498

St. Gabriel K OF C COUNCIL #11380:

"Have Yourself a SCRIP Christmas" Raffle: 1st Prize \$300 worth of SCRIP Cards, 2nd Prize—\$100 worth of SCRIP Cards, 3rd Prize \$100 worth of SCRIP cards, 4th Prize—\$75 worth of SCRIP cards and 5th Prize \$50 worth of SCRIP cards. You have a choice from over 70 SCRIP cards such as Retailers, Restaurants, convenience stores, and Gas Stations. **Drawing** will be held this **Sunday, Dec. 13**. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

PARISH JUSTICE & SOCIAL

CONCERNS COMMITTEE:

This year St. Gabriel/St. Francis will provide Christmas baskets for **50 families** in our area through the Salvation Army. Please bring all your non-perishable and canned good items, including paper products and soap, and place them in the boxes provided in the cloak room area of either church. **These items must be in by December 13th.** It will help the committee greatly if you bring them as soon as possible. There will also be a **"Special Free Will Collection"** to help with the *Baskets* the weekend of **December 12/13**. This money allows us to purchase bread/milk perishable items, and any additional items needed. Cash donations may also be placed in the collection basket in an envelope marked **"Food Baskets."** Checks may be made payable to **"St. Gabriel Church"**. God bless you for your caring.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." (Philippians 4:6-7) St. Paul reminds us that our God is an abundant God, the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. When we trust that God will take care of us, it is easier for us to share what we have been given.

SPARK OHIO: A FREE Kindergarten readiness program for **ALL** 3-4-5 year old children, who live in the Minerva Elementary school area and there are **no income guidelines**. There are fliers in the narthex of St. Gabriel Church. Visit us online at www.sparkohio.org or call 330-868-4011, ext4.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & DECORATIONS

Your weekly envelope packet has an envelope for **"Christmas Flower Donations"**. Please fill out the front of the envelope with the names of the people you would like to have memorialized in the *Flower Insert* of the Christmas Bulletin and return it to the office in the collection basket, or mail. For questions, please call the church office. These donations are due by Sunday, **DECEMBER 20TH**, if you would like them published in the Christmas bulletin. Gifts received after the deadline will be published in later issues of the bulletin.

GIVING TREE AT ST GABRIEL:

The Christmas Giving Tree AT St Gabriel Church has **85 tags this year for children**. (Salvation Army received over 500 requests for children's gifts.) The gifts do not have to be wrapped, but they can be if you'd like. We ask that all gifts have the angel **tags securely attached** and returned to **St. Gabriel by December 20th**. Any questions, please contact Julie Lane at 330-205-4135. Thanks to all the people who have been so generous in the past years. God Bless You!



GIVING TREE AT ST FRANCIS: The giving tree at St. Francis is in the narthex and has the name of children of families registered with the Christian Care Center. **PLEASE, PLEASE, sign your name under the name of the child you choose to take.** These gifts **HAVE TO BE BACK to St. Francis Church by December 20th**. Please put them in the coat room in the church or on the back porch of the Rectory. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.



PARISH SHARE CAMPAIGN. Items needed:

December 19/20 Flour, sugar & shortening

December 26/27 Breakfast bars & cereal

Please place items in shopping cart in St. Gabriel Hallway, and the marked boxes in the St. Francis coatroom

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS NEEDED:

A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex of each church asking for individuals (high school-adult) to volunteer at least one hour to ring bells at the kettles in area locations. This activity supplies the operating budget to assist the needy in our area throughout the year. Please help us!



**Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2015**

With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.

— Isaiah 12:3

ST. GABRIEL

400 West High Street ▪ Minerva, OH 44657

OFFICE ADDRESS: P.O. Box 275 ▪ Minerva, OH 44657

PHONE: 330-868-4498

EMAIL: smstgabriel@frontier.com ▪ **WEBSITE:** stgabriel-stfrancis.org

PASTOR: Fr. Victor Cinson 330-868-4498

SECRETARY: Mrs. Peggy Romine

FAITH FORMATION DIRECTOR: Ms. Linda Shaw

SOCIAL HALL PHONE: St. Gabriel 330-868-4610

St. Francis 330- 863-0760

OFFICE HOURS:

9am – 5pm Monday - Thursday; 9am—2pm Friday

REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4:00pm at St. Francis

6:00pm at St. Gabriel

Sunday: 8:30am at St. Francis

10:30am at St. Gabriel

Weekdays 8:00am Mon. and Wed. at St. Francis

9:00am Tues. and Thurs. at St. Gabriel

9:00am Fri. St. Gabriel Communion Service

[See Weekday Schedule inside for changes & special days.]

Holy Days of Obligation

Vigil (evening before) 7:00pm at St. Francis

Holy Day 9:00am and 7:00 pm at St. Gabriel

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 2:00 – 2:45pm St. Gabriel

3:15 – 3:45pm St. Francis

Other times by request. [Note: Confessions will be cancelled when there is a wedding at either church. Check weekly bulletin.]

BAPTISMS

Parents are to call the Parish Office to arrange for a preparation meeting. The child need not yet be born to make these arrangements.

MARRIAGES

Couples intending to marry **must** consult the pastor personally at least 6 months prior to the desired date. No date will be set until this meeting takes place.

BULLETIN DEADLINE:

All items must be submitted to the Parish Office **in writing** by **12:00 Noon on Tuesday**.

ST. FRANCIS

125 Carrollton Street ▪ Malvern, OH 44644

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

This week, our celebration of Advent makes a transition in ritual and texts. Beginning December 18, the countdown of nine days (a novena) to Christmas sees a heightened sense of expectation, and also a turning from the call of the Baptist in the wilderness to the events leading up to Jesus' birth. In ancient Spain, December 18 was once celebrated as the "Feast of the Expectancy," and customs grew up to heighten readiness in the homes.

Some customs arise from monastic life and practice and spill over into our parish life. Beginning tonight, those who pray Vespers will sing in the opening phrase a beautiful title of Christ. These titles belong to a collection of opening phrases called the "O Antiphons" after the awe-inspired "O" sung on the first note. There's a playful code in the titles: O Wisdom, O Lord, O Flower of Jesse, O Key of David, O Dawn, O Ruler, O Emmanuel. When you take their Latin names—*Sapientia, Adonai, Radix*, and so on—the titles form an acrostic when you read them backwards: "ERO CRAS." In Latin, that is translated as "I will be there tomorrow!" It's as if Christ were answering the prayers of the waiting people in the words of the prayers themselves.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS AVAILABLE: We have a special ecclesiastically approved low-gluten(0.01%) host available for any with glucose intolerance (celiac disease). Please inform the ushers **before** Mass begins. Those receiving this special host should come forward in the line in which the priest is distributing the Eucharist.

VOCATION VIEWS: "What ought we to do?" Let joy and gladness show forth in you. You are called to be the presence of Jesus. (Luke 3:10-18)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: The Office will be closed on **Thurs. Dec. 24 & Fri. Dec. 25, 2015 and Thurs. Dec 30 & January 1**. Please be aware of this if you need to contact us.



The Third Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 13, 2015