

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.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: The Office will be closed on *Thurs. Dec. 24, Fri. Dec. 25, and also on Monday, December 28, 2015.*

The office will also be closed on Thurs. Dec 30 & Friday, January 1. Please be aware of this if you need to contact us.

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

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & DECORATIONS

If you missed the deadline for the flower donations to be printed in the Christmas bulletin, don't despair! You can still send them and in they will be printed in the next bulletin.

Give 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!**



PARISH SHARE CAMPAIGN. Items needed:

December 26/27 Breakfast bars & cereal

January 2/3 Canned fruits & Vegetables

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

SICK AND SHUT-INS OF THE PARISH

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

At Home: Gary Kovacik,

Woodlawn: 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,

Woodlawn: Patricia Burman

Eldercare: Mildred Rennier, Joe Casper (SFX)

Arbors (Great Trail) Nursing : 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.

CHURCH SUPPORT:

May God bless you for your generosity to our parishes on December 19/20, 2015

Thank you! Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

St. Gabriel: Adult \$2,293; Christmas \$160; Loose \$344; Cap. Improv: \$78; Flowers \$75; Immaculate Conception \$82; New Hall \$5,035.

St. Francis: Adult \$2,136; Christmas \$170; New Hall \$75; Retired Religious \$20; Solemnity of Mary \$20; Flowers \$75.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS

Thanks to all who have sent cards, gifts and good wishes for Christmas. Thanks to all who help in any way to make our parishes a "field hospital for sinners" (Pope Francis) in the best understanding of the term. I am happy to celebrate my 12th Christmas and New Year's as Pastor of St. Francis Xavier and St. Gabriel parishes. We have many fond memories of the past and are looking forward to creating new ones for the future. Please say a prayer for me as I remember you in my daily prayers and masses. Best wishes for a Happy New Year. Fr. Vic Cinson.

Merry Christmas



*The parishioners of
St. Gabriel the Archangel, Minerva*

and

St. Francis Xavier, Malvern

We wish you and yours a Merry Christmas

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: <http://mysite.verizon.net/smstgabriel/>

PASTOR: Fr. Victor Cinson 330-868-4498

SECRETARY: Mrs. Peggy Romine

FAITH FORMATION DIRECTOR: Ms. Linda Shaw

Parish School of Religion (PSR) Mrs. Denise Laubacher

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.



ST. FRANCIS

125 Carrollton Street ▪ Malvern, OH 44644

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

PHONE: 330-868-4498

EMAIL: smstgabriel@frontier.com ▪ WEBSITE: <http://mysite.verizon.net/smstgabriel/>

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

This New Year's Eve, at the turning of the year, you may catch a glimpse of the old year, a cartoon figure of a hunched old man with a sickle, Father Time. Where else but in this column could you learn that this is in fact a pope? December 31 was in the old calendar the feast of St. Sylvester. Legend says that Sylvester healed the Emperor Constantine of leprosy, and presided at the liturgy of baptism for the grateful emperor. In 314, he was chosen pope, and it fell to him to organize the peacetime church, free at last from persecution. He founded the Lateran Basilica, the cathedral of the Diocese of Rome.

In northern Europe "Sylvester Night" is a time of great parties with eating, dancing, and singing—recalling perhaps the joy of the church in the fresh air of Sylvester's papacy. In Poland, there was great fear as the year 1000 approached that an immense dragon would devour the earth and set fire to the heavens. The people prayed earnestly to St. Sylvester, trusting that the saint would not permit such suffering on his feast day. They've been celebrating ever since!

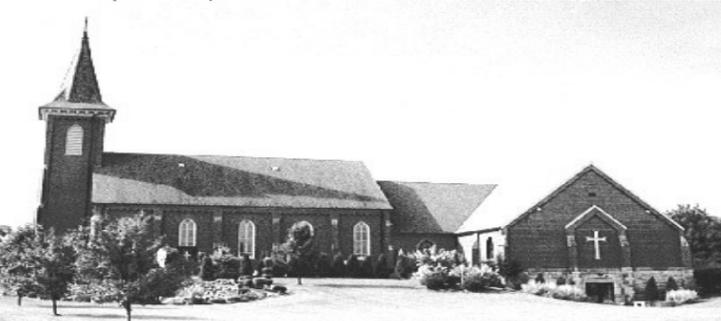
Many New Year's customs have pagan roots, like the British "First Footer" tradition. The idea is that the first person setting foot into your house in the new year determines the luck for the year ahead. The ideal first footer was not a bit like old Pope Sylvester, but rather a tall, dark-haired man carrying the right gift. A handsome first footer meant the year ahead would be pleasant, and if he carried bread or a shovel of coal there would be food and warmth in the future. Who will be your household's first footer?

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

THE NAME FOR GOD

Mother is the name for God on the lips and in the hearts of little children.

—William Makepeace Thackeray



**"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, and Friends: Please help our dream to
become a reality!** As many of you are aware, the original quonset hut hall at St. Francis has served us well for over 65 years and has reached the stage of being beyond repair. As you know when doing improvements to your own homes, the process is not always easy. The parish has decided that a facility is still needed for us in which to gather and celebrate special occasions, provide for wedding receptions, high school graduations, parish functions, and to be of witness and service to the wider community. The only viable solution is to replace the existing structure. For the past 15 years St. Francis and St. Gabriel have been served by one pastor. It makes great sense for our two parishes to work together for our future growth and development. We are anxiously awaiting the drawings from the architect in order to proceed with our plans for a new hall in 2016. The **Pledge Goal Phase** is only **one source** of funding for our project. **Part Two** is the **Savings** which are earmarked in our "Building Fund" and, **Part Three** will require a **Bank Loan** to cover any unpaid pledges and any amount needed to complete our project. Please prayerfully consider ways in which you may be able to help make this project a reality: A Pledge, a One Time Gift, Use of the Monthly Envelope, Volunteering of time and talent with Fund raisers, Gifts in Kind, or a Memorial Gift. **Information sheets and pledge cards available in the narthex of church, or by calling Parish Office.**

plan
pray
give
build

KEEP THE MOMENTUM GROWING!



WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 26

4:00pm SFX John Zwick by Sandy Boldizsar

6:00pm SG Joan Nicolet by Jerry

Sunday, December 27 **The Holy Family**

8:30 am SFX David Casper by Brian & Alese Wise

10:30 am SG Living & Deceased of Both Parishes

Monday, December 28—**The Holy Innocents**

8:00am SFX NO MASS

Tuesday, December 29

9:00am SG Max meindl by Marion

Wednesday, December 30

8:00am SFX Virginia Kintz by Ron & Linda Kintz

Thursday, December 31—**New Years Eve**

4:00pm SFX Jim Strabley

6:00pm SG JoAnne Bennett by Stella Sue Rybka

Friday, January 1, 2016—**New Years Day**

10:30am SG Living & Deceased of Both Parishes

Saturday, January 2

4:00pm SFX John Cinson by COF Men's Club

6:00pm SG Living & Deceased of Both Parishes

Sunday, January 3 **The Epiphany of the Lord**

8:30 am SFX Margarite Thiesen by June Martin

10:30 am SG Roseann Morrison by Frank & Louise Ofer

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT: "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." (1 John 3:1) During this season of giving, let us remember the most important gift we have received – being children of God. As God's children, it's important that we express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children and other family members and friends that you love them, frequently.

RCIA SESSIONS. There will be **no sessions** until Monday, January 4, 2016 for the Christmas season. Please continue to keep our Catechumens, Candidates, and team in your prayers as they prepare for the Easter Sacraments of Initiation.

2016 CHURCH CALENDARS: Home Calendars will available in the narthex of each church this coming week. Thanks to Gotschall - Hutchison Funeral Home for generously sponsoring our 2016 calendars. Take one home as a reminder of the feasts for the New Year.

ADORATION AT ST. FRANCIS Please note, in light of the holiday schedule, there will be **NO Adoration** at St. Francis on Monday, **December 28, 2015.**

Christmas and The Feast of the Holy Family 2015