

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, January 4—St Elizabeth Ann Seton
8:00am SFX Dick Contini by Doris Eltrich

Tuesday, January 5—St. John Neumann
9:00am SG Bev Filisky by Paul

Wednesday, January 6
8:00am SFX Yola Buzzelli by Gary & Carol Pfau

Thursday, January 7
9:00am SG Lucille Pottmeyer by Family & Friends

Friday, January 8
9am SG Communion Service

Saturday, January 9
4:00pm SFX Living & Deceased of Both Parishes
6:00pm SG Marilyn Zwick by Bob & Charlene Sicker

Sunday, January 10—Baptism of the Lord
8:30 am SFX Richard Wackerly by Jay & Karen Wackerly
10:30 am SG Andy Marko by Bob & Joan Gallina

CHURCH SUPPORT:

May God bless you for your generosity to our parishes on December 26/27 2015

St. Gabriel: Adult \$1,496; Christmas \$3,377; Loose \$342; Capital Improv.\$40; Immaculate Conception \$20; Retired Religious \$20; Solemnity of Mary \$10.

St. Francis Xavier: Adult \$1,678.50; Christmas \$2,387; Loose \$144; Retired Religious \$50; Immaculate Conception \$25; Solemnity of Mary \$20.

LOOKING IN THE RIGHT PLACES

"Appearances can be deceiving," as the saying goes. As we celebrate the *epiphania*, the "appearing" of the eternal Word of God on earth, this is still true.

What rapturous foresight must have filled Isaiah as he wrote the words we hear today. How, for four hundred years, they must have filled the hearts of the people of Israel with hope for the day when God's glory would shine on them. How deceived some must have felt when the glory of God came to them in the lowliest and humblest of human lives.

We have many expectations about how the divine presence will appear among us. But we can also set ourselves up, through these expectations, to miss the divine glory when it truly appears. We get caught up in looking for the star, forgetting that the star is not the divine sign, the babe is. It may take a persistent journey for us to come upon the true appearance of God's glory in our lives: Jesus Christ.

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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; Patricia Burman, Ivette Martinez,
Eldercare: Mildred Rennier, Joe Casper (SFX)
Arbors (Great Trail) Nursing : Richard Lane.
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.

RCIA SESSIONS. The *sessions* resume on *Monday, January 4, 2016* at 7PM in the Annex Rooms. Please continue to keep our Catechumens, Candidates, and team in your prayers as they prepare for the Easter Sacraments of Initiation.



SYMPATHY: St. Francis and St. Gabriel parishioners offer our prayers of sympathy to: † Doris (Fox) Ferguson, Alice (Gary) Moody, Gary and Pam Moody, Kenny and Virgil Ferguson and their families on the death of husband/father/grandfather/brother **Kenny Ferguson**, of St. Gabriel Church who died Dec. 20, 2015.



† Nancy (Petros) Castellucci, Louis, Rosanna and Angie and family on the death of son/brother **Emilio Castellucci** of St. Francis Xavier who died on December 26, 2015.

† To Sr. Janet, Donald, Ronald, and Terry Burkhart and family on the death of their brother **Tom Burkhart** of St. Francis, who died on December 29, 2015.

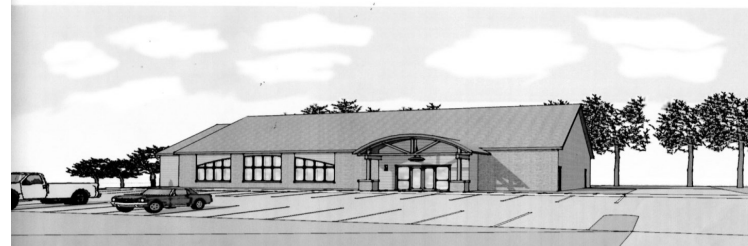
May all of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

PARISH SHARE CAMPAIGN. Items needed:

January 2/3 Canned fruits & Vegetables

January 1/9 Paper products (necessities)

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



“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” **95.4%** Reached!

Will you help us get to the top?

Offerings as of 12/22/2015:

\$263,236.05 Pledges & Gifts

\$ 38,750.00 Brick and Window sponsorships

\$ 21,000.00 Block sponsorships

\$ 10,903.00 Memorial Donations.

\$333,889.05 [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.** **KEEP THE MOMENTUM GROWING!**



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 **this 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 if you are able, if not, just bring yourself! Mark your calendar and plan to start the New Year as a Family of Faith!

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 and seasons for the New Year.

ST FRANCIS CWC: St. Francis CWC will meet on Monday, January 4, with Rosary beginning at 2pm in the church, meeting will be at 2:30pm in the lower level of church. All ladies of the parish are welcome and encouraged to attend.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & DECORATIONS

Additional Memorials:

John & Trudy Keating & Sam & Alma Williams by Jan & John Keating;
Jim & Nancy Mick; Oscar & Betty Karlen by Don & Sally Karlen;
Ruth Pilati by Bill Pilati Family;
Dominic Petros; Larry Petros, Randy Petros and Giovanni Petros by Garry Petros.

[Note: There was a computer error in the earlier printing of the list this year, resulting in the above names being omitted. Thank you for understanding].

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

“...the Gentiles are co-heirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel” (Ephesians 3:6) Today we celebrate that Christ came to all of us, not just the Hebrews. He made us all one body with Him. We were all given different gifts; we all have different yet equally valuable roles to play in the Body of Christ. Ask God how He wants you to use your gifts so that we may all “be one” in this Year of Mercy.

VOCATION VIEWS: The light of Christ shines upon you. How will you share that light with others? Consider the gift of a Church vocation. Also, please keep Brandon Foster and all of our diocesan seminarians in your prayers as they continue their studies. Brandon is returning to the Josephinum Seminary, 7625 North High St., Columbus, OH 43235-1499.



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES NEEDED

Would you like to give of gift of time and talent to your Parish? Please consider volunteering to help with one of the following areas:

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

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

Either at Mass, or to the home bound.

Please prayerfully consider joining one of these ministries today!. Contact Fr. Vic, or leave your name at the Parish Office: 330-868-4498.


ST GRABRIEL CWC MEETING: St. Gabriel CWC will meet on Tuesday, January 5 at 7pm in the annex meeting rooms of St. Gabriel. All women of the parish are welcome and encouraged to attend.

BLOOD DRIVE: The next LifeShare Blood drive will held on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 in the annex meeting rooms of St. Gabriel Church.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING (NFP):

Mercy Medical Center offers Natural Family planning classes for interested couples. The next class series will begin on Sunday, January 10, 2016. All classes are taught by certified teaching couple. The fee for the class series is \$40 per couple which includes all materials and parking is free. This service is offered in cooperation and under the guidance of the Office of Marriage and Family Ministry of the Catholic Diocese of Youngstown. NFP is the knowledge and understanding of natural fertility. It is acceptance and respect for combined fertility as a couple. NFP can be used to achieve or postpone pregnancy without the use of drugs, devices or chemicals to alter the reproductive systems. **To register** go to: cantonmercy.org/family_education. An email address and credit card payment are required. **Or** call Mercy Family Education at 330-489-1329, or 1-800-223-8662.

MOMENTS OF MERCY—January 2016-

When we think about pilgrimages, we probably think about medieval people walking great distances to awe-inspiring churches. Yet, Pope Francis describes what is at the heart of pilgrimage and encourages us to each make one during this Jubilee of Mercy. He writes that "life itself is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a viator, a pilgrim traveling along the road, making his way to the desired destination" (MV, no. 14). Each day, give yourself one small goal of mercy, compassion, and love to journey toward—for example, being kind to a difficult coworker—so that, by those actions, you are able to walk closer to God on the pilgrimage of Christian life.

PROLIFE SIGNATURE AD:

"Carroll County Right to Life group are placing a pro-life signature ad in the local Free Press Standard the week of the anniversary of Roe vs Wade. We would like you to join us in placing your signature in the newspaper stating you also believe in the sanctity of life. We want our community to know we stand and believe that life begins at conception and ends only in a natural death. Will you join us in speaking this truth? Please sign your name on the sheet in the narthex of St. Francis Xavier to participate. There is a \$2 fee per signature to cover the cost of the add. The signature ad will be in the "Free Press" paper on January 20, 2016."



National Migration Week.

January 3-9, 2016 *A Stranger and You Welcomed Me*

In the Gospel of Matthew (25:35) Jesus tells his disciples, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." The call to welcome the stranger plays an important role in the lives of faithful Christians and has a particularly central place for those of us who work in the migration field. The migrant, who moves from one country to another is truly a stranger in the midst. Often unfamiliar with the local tongue of the new country, not to mention its customs, the migrant needs the support of local communities so that she can better adjust to her new surroundings. National Migration Week 2016 picks up on the theme of welcome and, in doing so, calls on each of us to welcome the stranger among us. *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.*



LOVING FATHER,

we pray that you provide your divine protection to all migrants, particularly those who are driven from their homes due to war or violence, who are uprooted due to environmental degradation and climate change, or whose material poverty pushes them to find opportunities elsewhere.

Show us how we might reach out to these vulnerable populations and help them to begin a new life in a new home.

Open our hearts, so that we may provide hospitality for all who come in search of refuge.

Give us the courage to welcome every stranger, as Christ in our midst.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

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

PSR COORDINATOR: 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

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

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

PHONE: 330-868-4498

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

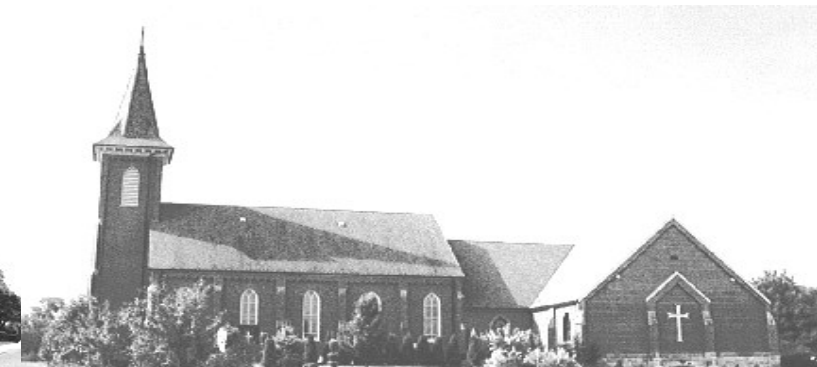
TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Over the next few weeks, if you were to stroll around Prague or Budapest or Kraków, you might see curious graffiti scratched in chalk over some doorways: "20 + C + M + B + 16." The families dwelling behind those doors have celebrated the Epiphany door blessing. They have gathered before the feast-day meal, probably after Mass, and the head of the family has traced the sign of the cross on the piece of chalk. Standing on a ladder, the leader traces the numbers for the new year, and the letters C M B for *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, Latin for "May Christ bless this house." The letters also point to the names that tradition has assigned to the mysterious magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar—although scripture tells us nothing of their number, their country, or their names.

The blessing speaks of journeys ended and journeys begun at the doorway, and prays that all journeys be as satisfying as was the magi's. It prays that the house beyond the door have the quality of love and peace that the magi marveled at when they at last arrived in Bethlehem. In some countries where the Soviet Union tried to impose a harsh atheism, the vigor of this household custom survived all efforts to erase Christian customs. In the years of struggle, the chalked blessings were a pervasive sign of defiance, and now in the light of new freedoms, they are a sign of the resilience of our tradition and the fulfillment of the magi's quest for meaning and peace.

—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.



The Epiphany of the Lord

JANUARY 3, 2016