

**ST. MARY'S
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

VERY REV. RICHARD I. LAMBERT

356 S. BelleVista Ave.

Youngstown, Ohio 44509

Rectory 330-799-8163

Social Center 330-792-1578

Dec. 10, 2023

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TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- SAT. 4:30 p.m. + John & Joyce Haydu by Daughter, Nancy
& Grandchildren**
- SUN. 10:30 a.m. Health & Blessings of Parishioners**
- MON. 10:30 a.m. No Liturgy**
- TUE. 10:30 a.m. +Elizabeth Turjanica by Daughter, Maryann**
- WED. 10:30 a.m. +George & Mary Zatchok by Daughter Donna**
- THU. 10:00 a.m. Funeral.. +Andrew Havrilla**
- FRI. 10:30 am. No Liturgy**



SUNDAY OF THE FORFATHERS

Dec. 17, 2023

- SAT. 4:30 p.m. Health & Blessings of Parishioners**
- SUN. 10:30 a.m. +Tom & Marge Hritzo by Children**

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WAITING IN HOPE

We listen to the Prophets announcing the Messiah who comes. We understand the vast need of the world..then and now for a Redeemer and Savior. Seeing the needs within and among us in our world, who can but look forward to God's eternally new gift of Himself to us? This is a time for preparing ourselves to appreciate the awesome gift of God to us in Jesus Christ.

CHURCH DONATIONS Dec. 4 2023
Monthly Dues \$192.00 Candles \$25.00
Christmas \$250.00 Cemetery \$100.00
Christmas Cards \$5.00
Offertory..... \$780.0.00

SOCIAL GAMES

Games are played every Sunday...Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Games begin at 6:30 p.m.

ALSO...WE will have BINGO on SUNDAY..NEW YEARS EVE..
Doors open at 3:00 p.m. and Bingo begins at 5:00 p.m. Pork or Kielbasi Dinners will be available for purchase. We will also be selling deserts. *Plan to Come ring in the New Year with us!!*

VISITS...SHUT-INS

Father & Deacon John will be visiting our Shut-ins Dec. 12th & 13th. If you are not on his regular list of visits please call the office.

GOD GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST

Please remember in your prayers Mr. Andrew Havrilla who passed on to his eternal reward. Divine liturgy with Christian burial Service for the repose of his soul will be held Thursday. Interment being at Calvary. Grant eternal rest O Lord to your servant, Andrew and remember him forever. *Vicnaja Pamjat!*

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Father will hear Confessions Dec. 23rd from 3:15 until 3:45 p.m.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank our decorator, Martha Sklepko for the **BEAUTIFUL** decorating of our Church for the Nativity of our Lord. We are truly indebted for her time and talent that she extends to us each year. God bless her!

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

TWAS TWO WEEKS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Where all through the town, was so much hustling and bustling we could not settle down! There are cards to be written and notes to be sent gifts to be bought, Oh! All our money will be spent. There's the house to be cleaned and that good food to be prepared...cakes and cookies to be baked. Goodness! No time to be spared! Don't forget to go out in the cold and search for a tree, and bring it on home to be trimmed to a tee. O goodness! O gracious! O land sakes alive! If only each day had 48 hours, 'till the 25th will arrive! But despite all of our wishes and all of our hope, would the time go more slowly? The answer is ...Nope! So we keep up the fast pace from one store to another...in and then out, all tied up in the season but not realizing what it's all about. And before we all know it Christmas Day is here. And we try to enjoy it but we're too tired to cheer. Lest another one passes and leaves us behind...Stop! Take a breather take some time to unwind! Say, "Who am I? Where am I? for what do I prepare? What really is Christmas? Am I really aware? Is it tinsel and glitter? Decorated presents under a tree? Or maybe something even more sparkling...How about a new me. Is it laughter and frolicking? Or parties each day? Or maybe something even more enjoyable to live life a new way?

Look away from your problems, fear, loneliness, pain, fretting and fuss. We are loved and can love for**GOD IS WITH US!**

This is more the meaning of Christmas a gift to us from above and when we open that package we must share all that love. We should look to the giver who became human, as we; To show us the way...to become more God-like, as He. Christmas tells us that God's gift of love should be passed around to all of creation, as we prepare our way to Heaven our real destination! Our preparation for Christmas is not for one day, or just for this year but an ongoing thing toward God drawing near!

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the Wise Men. Close the door of hate, and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. May Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven. Amen

THE GLOW OF CHRISTMAS

There's a special glow that Christmas brings, one feels it in their breast. Adults become more child like while children seldom rest. Hear the salvation bells ring, see green holly on the hearth. Dear Mom is baking cookies while dad looks for the tree. Stores all bright and gay, there is music in the air. All this fuss means nothing, *If Jesus isn't there!*

CHRISTMAS SPARKLERS

The spirit of Christmas is peace...the joy of Christmas is God become Man...The beauty of Christmas is the Virgin Mother...The promise of Christmas is life everlasting.

AS WE APPROACH CHRISTMAS

What it means to us depends on what we bring to it; not in gifts and outer display, but in the inner offerings of faith and love that abide in the heart.