

**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. 17, 2023

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SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

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|-------------|-------------------|--|
| SAT. | 4:30 p.m. | Health & Blessings of Parishioners |
| SUN. | 10:30 a.m. | +Tom & Marge Hritz by Children |
| MON. | 10:30 a.m. | +Sharon Knotek by Mike & Mary Novak |
| TUE. | 10:30 a.m. | No Liturgy |
| WED. | 10:30 a.m. | +Martha Ilko by Joseph Kiraly |
| THU. | 10:30 a.m. | No Liturgy |
| FRI. | 10:30 am. | No Liturgy |



SATURDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS

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|-------------|-------------------|--|
| SAT. | 3:15 p.m | Sacrament of Reconciliation until 3:45 p.m. |
| SAT. | 4:30 p.m. | Health & Blessings of MaryAnn Donnelly by Linda Wibly |
| SUN. | 10:30 a.m. | CHRISTMAS EVE
Health & Blessings of Parishioners |

MON. CHRISTMASNATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Dec. 25, 2023

10:30 a.m. Health & Blessings of Parishioners Page 289

By faith, You, O Christ justified the forefathers. Trough them You betrothed yourself to a Church from all nations. The saints rejoice in glory because a glorious offspring has blossomed from their seed: the Mother who bore You without seed. Through their prayers, O Christ our God have mercy on us.

CHURCH DONATIONS Dec. 10, 2023

Candles \$17.00

Christmas \$75.00

Offertory..... \$902.0.00

SOCIAL GAMES

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

PLEASE NOTE : NO BINGO DEC..24TH CHRISTMAS EVE.

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!!*

THANK YOU

We would like to thank our decorator, Martha Sklepko and all who helped her 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 them all.

VISITS...SHUT INS

Father was unable to visit this past week because of his health. He will reschedule the visits in the New Year

GCU CHRISTMAS PARTY

Last weekend The members of GCU attended a Party in our Center and all had a Great Time. Thank you Karen & Dave for planning the Party and all that helped out.

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!

GIVE CHRIST YOUR HEART

The Christmas season is here again. That means that Christ is coming! Throw open the door to your heart. Let Him in; Give Him a warm welcome; Let Him abide with you, forever. "I stand at the door and knock," says Jesus. Of course, He means the door of your heart. If there were no Christ child, there would be no Christmas...none of the joy that has captivated the world for nearly two thousand years, and will continue to hold them captive in ever-increasing numbers till the end of time ...yes, and on into eternity.

Christmas is all around us...yet it is not Christmas until Christ comes in...into *your heart!* The Savior came into the world to seek out your heart. The story is told that when Jesus was a little boy at Nazareth His mother took the greatest care of Him. Every night Our Lady put the Holy Child to bed; she would then place His clean clothes and His spotless sandals beside His cot.

Now one morning she was greatly puzzled at finding His sandals and the hem of His robe dusty and mud-splattered. This happened several times, so the Blessed Mother decided to watch. Next night she saw the Little Lord rise from His bed, put on His clothes, take a candle, and start down the road that ran past their cottage. All night long He walked the highways of the world looking for souls. From house to house He went, from palace to cottage, seeking people's hearts, searching for souls. At dawn, His candle still flickering, He returned wearily to His home and back to bed. His sandals dusty, and His Heart heavy because so many people had forgotten their God. Did He find *your heart?*

Oh yes, Our Lord is seeking the heart of mankind. Seeking your heart. Prepare for His coming this season. Give Him a heart filled with pure love. That is Christmas...*That is the purpose of life!*

A WEEK 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!

**WHAT YOU ARE IS GOD'S GIFT TO YOU;
WHAT YOU MAKE OF YOURSELF IS YOUR GIFT TO GOD.**