

**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

Jan. 7, 2024

THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD...SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY Page 312, 316

SAT. 4:30 p.m. +Anthony & Margaret Hanigosky by Susan & Rick Teter

SUN. 10:30 a.m. Health & Blessings of Parishioners

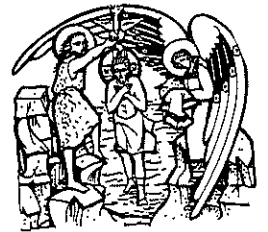
MON. 10:30 a.m. No Liturgy

TUE. 10:30 a.m. +Dr. Kenneth Blissenbach by Family

WED. 10:30 a.m. No Liturgy

THU. 10:30 a.m. +Sister Regina Maria by Sister Mary Theresa

FRI. 10:30 am. No Liturgy



SUNDAY OF ZACCHEUS

Jan. 14, 2024

SAT. 4:30 p.m. Health & Blessings of Parishioners

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SUN. 10:30 a.m. +Olga Hudak by Son, Michael

At Your baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, worship of the Trinity was revealed; for the Father's voice bore witness to you calling You His beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words. O Christ God, You appeared and enlightened the world. Glory to You!

CHURCH DONATIONS Dec. 31, 2023
Christmas \$ 45.00 Maintenance \$65.00
Candles \$12.00 New Years/Theophany \$285.00
In memory George Sheppa \$1,000.00
Offertory..... \$1,485.00

BLESSED WATER

Water is blessed for the Feast of Theophany. If you would like to take some home please bring a small container anytime.

BLESSING OF HOMES

If you would like Father to bless your home please call the office 330 792-1578 to set a time and date.

ALL SOULS.....HRAMOTY

The envelope for All Souls is included in your Jan. Envelopes. If you would like to remember your Loved ones at these liturgies please fill out the envelope (first names only) and drop in the collection basket. First All Souls will be Feb. 3, 2024

ELEVENTH ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

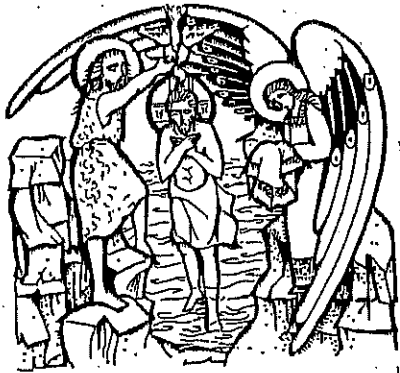
Will be held at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center ,Fremont, Ohio, Feb. 16th thru Feb. 18th. Theme ...**THE BEATITUDES: THE WAY OF LIFE**. If interested the pamphlets are in vestibule and at side entrance. Also you can call 419-332-6522 for more info.

ALL MEN MAY LIVE

Let us all remember when our faith is running low, Christ is more than just a figure wrapped in an ethereal glow...For He came and dwelt among us and He knows our every need and He loves and understands us and forgives each sinful deed. He was crucified and buried and rose again in glory and His promise of salvation makes the wondrous Christmas story an abiding reassurance that the little Christ child's birth was the beautiful beginning of God's plan for Peace on Earth.

THEOPHANY

The Baptism of Our Lord, manifestation of the Holy Trinity... We should place our attention



of the words that God the Father speak about Jesus after His Baptism in the Jordan river: *"This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased."* In those words, we find a revelation of the inner life of God. Especially with the fact that God is one, but that within God are three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We also find in those words a revelation of the attitude of the Father and the Son: they are united in love. The Father declares His love for the Son. Jesus' three years of ministry, that began after this day, are a response of love by Jesus to the love of the Father. Finally, we find a revelation unto ourselves: We must listen to Jesus. Jesus' teaching is that the Kingdom of God is upon us. In that Kingdom

we recognize God as King. God says the same words to us that God said to Jesus: *"You are my beloved child with whom I am well pleased."* It is not because we have done anything to earn the praise or gratitude of God. God is pleased with us because we are God's children, God's creation. God simply loves us, because God is in essence Love. Our lives, like that of Jesus, need to be a response of love. In baptism we celebrated for the first time God's love for us. Our lives need to be "Eucharist"...that is, in praise and thanksgiving for that love.

AS I CLOSE THE DOOR

Dear Lord, as I close the door on the old year, I ponder the things I've done...the things I've said and the joys I've had. I wonder, have I lost or won? I've thought of new friends I have made, and the old ones, staunch and true...the paths of the old year made easier, Lord, because I have walked them with you. I think of all the many times, when my burdens were so heavy to bear, and how my faith slipped away from me. But somehow you were always there. Now, as I open the door to this New Year, and carefully peek inside, I wonder what it holds for me... but I'll throw the door open wide. Whatever it brings to me and mine, I'll meet it with a heart so true...I know that, Lord, what 'er it may be, you'll be there to carry me through.

NEW YEAR CAN BEGIN ANYTIME

One November we ordered a new car, which did not arrive until the new year. As we cleaned out the old car, I muttered, "How did we accumulate so much junk?" We sorted through old maps, dried-up ballpoint pens, outdated addresses and loose coins.

We made unwavering resolutions about keeping this new car clean, orderly and functioning properly. Thinking about resolutions, I sensed a connection between a new car and a new year. The first order of business is to clear out the clutter, discard the useless, remove the dust and dirt. Begin fresh.

A new year can begin anytime in our lives. We can sort through old attitudes, clean our minds of envy, toss out the habits of gossip and carrying grudges. We can resolve to keep our promises and curb our anger.

I stood back and surveyed the fresh, shiny car. Yes, a new year could begin anytime or any place.

MY RESOLUTION

I won't look back; God knows the fruitless effort, I'll leave them all with him who blots the record, and mercifully forgives and then forgets.

I won't look forward; God sees all the future, the road that, short or long, will lead me home, and he will face with me its every trial and bear with me the burdens that may come.

But I'll look up into the face of Jesus, for there my heart can rest, my fears are stilled; and there is joy and love, and light for darkness, and perfect peace, and every hope fulfilled.

When we throw out the Christmas tree we should be especially careful not to throw out the Christmas spirit with it.