

**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**

**Nov. 26, 2023**

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**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**SAT. 4:30 p.m. Health & Blessings of Parishioners**  
**SUN. 10:30 a.m. +Ivan & Helen Lambert by Son, Fr. Richard**

**MON. 10:30 a.m. No Liturgy**

**TUE. 10:30 a.m. +Marge Hritz by Margaret Maruschak**

**WED. 10:30 a.m. No Liturgy**

**THU. 10:30 a.m. +Louis & Margaret Wallace by Granddaughter,  
Tiffany & Family**

**FRI. 10:30 am. +John Marshall Baugher by Grandmother, Maureen Newell**



**Dec. 3, 2023**

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**TWENTY-SEVENTH-SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**SAT. 4:30 p.m. +George Hrina by Family**  
**SUN. 10:30 a.m. Health & Blessings of Parishioners**

*Prayer is so simple; it is quietly opening a door and slipping into the very presence of God. There in the stillness to listen to His voice. Perhaps to petition, or only to listen; It matters not. Just to be there in His presence is prayer.*

**CHURCH DONATIONS Nov. 19, 2023**  
**Candles \$ 62.00 Monthly Dues \$7.00**  
**Maintenance \$25.00 Thanksgiving \$100.00**  
**Offertory..... \$970.00**

### **SOCIAL GAMES**

**Games are played every Sunday...Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Games begin at 6:30 p.m. Don't miss out on our Great Prizes!!**

**LAST CALL.....THE ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION to benefit the Byz. Catholic Seminary will be held Dec. 3, 2023. GCU is once again selling Raffle tickets with an ALL CASH PRIZE OF \$2,000.00. Wining number based on PA Lottery evening Pick 3 will be drawn Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023. Tickets are \$10.00 each and must be turned in by Nov. 28th. Call our office if you would like to purchase one. Thank you in advance for supporting our seminary. (Dinner ticket info will be will be forth-coming. TICKETS ARE GOING FAST..DON'T MISS OUT on a chance to win \$2,000.00**

### **G.C.U. SAINT NICHOLAS PARTY**

**All GCU. Members are invited to join in the festivities on Sunday Dec. 10th at 12:00 Noon. A luncheon will be served. Reservations are required by Dec. 1st. by calling the office 330 792-1578.**

### **CHRISTMAS CARDS**

**We still have BEAUTIFUL Christmas Cards of our Church left from last year. We will put them in the vestibule and if you want any please take some. Free will offerings will be accepted.**

### **2024 CALENDARS**

**for the New Year are in the vestibule...Please only take one. We would like to thank Mike Kirila & Tom Kinnick for their continued generosity for sponsoring them. Please remember them in your time of need.**

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## WHAT WILL YOU GIVE?

*The time before Christmas is our getting ready season in view of celebrating God's Gift of His Son for our sake. This is also the season to decide what presents we might exchange with relatives, friends, and others whose goodness has cheered some drab corners of our lives.*

### WHAT WILL YOU GIVE THE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS?

You may not think it needs a gift from you, but it does. Each one of us has a special mission to fulfill during our lifetime. The God who created us is ready, willing, and able to give us, as one Christian leader put it, "a heart that's 25,000 miles in circumference!" He meant a heart that's concerned with the big world out there, not merely with a half-dozen fellow humans right here. Should your gift to the world be attractively packaged in colorful wraps and prettied with ribbons and bows? Think of something more to the point. The gift the world needs most in our present decade of wars and bloodshed, of bombings and killings, of hatred and enmity in every shape and form...is the gift of **RECONCILIATION**. The world is crying out for it. Millions are dying because reconcilers are too few. Reconciliation is first of all a gift for brother to share with brother, sister with sister, neighbor with neighbor, parent with child.

As an ideal prayer of reconciliation, we suggest an Our Father, recited thoughtfully and slowly, each and every day. *Jesus is the Peace and Pardon of God personified!* May we gladden His Heart this December by bringing to the world the gift of **RECONCILIATION** it so desperately needs!

### PREPARING YOURSELVES

For 40 days the church seeks to prepare us for the true meaning of **THE COMING OF THE LORD**. Most of us need time to prepare for special events. It takes time to plan for a trip, a vacation, for entering college, for a baptism or a wedding. We need to anticipate, to prepare for the practical side of it, to think about the meaning of certain special events. With adequate preparation we enjoy these events much more.

### IT IS THE COMING OF THE LORD THAT WE WAIT FOR!

But isn't He among us? Yes! And He comes at all times. But these 40 days focus on the new awareness of His "already - presence." He is among us whom we do not know. Christian prayer at this time is summed up in the final words of the Book of Revelation: Come, Lord Jesus! If we utter this cry for help, this call for **LIGHT** in our world and in our souls, with sincerity and fervor, it becomes a true prayer, a true change of heart, and a growth in our closeness to Him who is among us. The more we pray: Come, Lord Jesus! The more it drives away those thoughts which are blinders to seeing, knowing, experiencing His presence already among us...for He is as close as someone to care for, someone to live for. The Lord in our midst makes Himself known as wanting to be with us...and admittedly, we don't always notice this about the Lord, do we? Nor do we always notice our need for the Lord, for His **LIGHT** to overcome the darkness of our own soul. Hence we pray without ceasing: **COME, LORD JESUS! DO NOT DELAY!**

### 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.

### HOW FAR IS CHRISTMAS?

How far is it to Christmas day?

The journey's just as long as taking time to listen to a joyful angel song. It's just as far as one can go in doing a loving deed that helps someone feel better or that meets their special need. For Christmas is a journey that the heart makes every year. It starts right with your family and those you hold so dear. It travels on to strangers 'round the world to everyone with the message that God loves us and that's why He's sent His son!