

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

A Samaritan Church with a Missionary Heart

2486 West 14th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
(216) 781-5530
(216) 781-1124 Fax

**Solemnity of Mary,
the Holy Mother of God
Sunday, January 1, 2023**

Website: www.StAugustineCleveland.Org

Parish Office Hours:

Monday thru Friday: 9 AM to 4 PM
Saturday: 9 AM to 4 PM
Sunday: 9 AM to 2 PM

Community Cupboard and Closet:

Wednesdays: 5 PM to 7 PM
Saturdays: 11 AM to 2 PM

Mass Schedule:

Monday thru Friday: 5:30 PM
(Civic holidays at 10 AM)

Saturday: 4:15 PM*

Sunday: 8:30 AM* and 11 AM*

*Interpreted for the Deaf

Confession: Saturdays 3:30 PM – 4 PM or by appointment



Staff and Ministry Directory

For all Parish emails, add @StAugustineCleveland.org

Administrator/Chaplain to the Blind: Rev. William O'Donnell, C.P.P.S, *email:* WODonnell

Parochial Vicar/Chaplain to the Deaf: Rev. Ben Jimenez, SJ, *email:* BJimenez

Permanent Deacon: Chris DePenti, *email:* CDePenti@DioceseofCleveland.org

Parish Life Administrator: Bob Duda, *email:* BDuda

Finance Manager: Aldo Fierro, *email:* AFierro

Office Manager: Doris Everetts, *email:* DEveretts

Office Support: Kimberly Ambro, *email:* KAmbro

Director of Rainbow Camp and Volunteers: Jessica Neuhart, *email:* JNeuhart

Religious Education: Kathleen Ulintz, *email:* PSR

Deaf Access Co-Ordinator: Robin McMarlin, *email:* RMcMarlin

Deaf Ministry: *email:* DeafMinistry

Blind Ministry: *email:* BlindMinistry

Mental Health Ministry: *email:* MentalHealth

Outreach Ministry: *email:* Outreach

Augustine Rainbow Camp: *email:* ARC

Signing Choir: *email:* SigningChoir

General Information: *email:* Info

Parish Registration – Welcome new members! Please register by calling the parish office. Parishioners who are moving are asked to contact the office to update their information

Baptism – Baptisms may be scheduled at any time. Please call the parish office to make baptismal arrangements.

Funerals – Please call the parish office to schedule funerals prior to publishing any information.

Matrimony – Call the parish office to meet with a priest. Diocesan regulations require a minimum of 6 months preparation time.

Care of the Sick – Notify the parish office of those who are hospitalized or homebound. Arrangements can be made for pastoral visits, the Sacrament of the Anointing or the Sick. We can also bring Holy Communion to the homebound.



Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

How appropriate that on the first day of every year we honor Mary, the Holy Mother of God, for it was her willing obedience to God's plan that enabled the Incarnation and therefore initiated what in time became Christianity. Today is also the World Day of Peace and so we look to Mary, the Queen of Peace—who bore the Prince of Peace—as our model and inspiration for holding peace in our hearts, our communities, and in our world.



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 31 st - 4:15 PM	† Marge Stark Fr. Ben Jimenez, SJ
Sunday, January 1 st - 8:30 AM	Living and Deceased Members of our Parish Fr. Bill O'Donnell, C.P.P.S
Sunday, January 1 st - 11 AM	† Donnell Treska Williams Fr. Joe McNulty
Monday, January 2 nd - 5:30 PM	† Elvira DeLury <i>Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church</i>
Tuesday, January 3 rd - 5:30 PM	† Larry Gallo <i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>
Wednesday, January 4 th - 5:30 PM	† Catherine Roberts <i>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious</i>
Thursday, January 5 th - 5:30 PM	† Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI <i>St. John Neumann, Bishop</i>
Friday, January 6 th - 5:30 PM	† Betty Terepka <i>St. André Bessette, Religious</i>
Saturday, January 7 th - 4:15 PM	† Sr. Helen Ann Brown Fr. Bill O'Donnell, C.P.P.S
Sunday, January 8 th - 8:30 AM	† Jim & Marge Green Fr. Ben Jimenez, SJ
Sunday, January 8 th - 11 AM	† Bobby Muhaw Fr. Bill O'Donnell, C.P.P.S

The Pope's Intention for January: For Educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34
Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42
Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Jn 1:43-51
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or Lk 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b; Jn 2:1-11
Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Welcome!

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, no matter your personal history, age, income, background, gender, disability, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity or spirituality, or marital situation. No matter your own self-image of holiness or virtue. You are invited, accepted, and respected here at St. Augustine Parish.

*Loving God,
For all who feel on the margins,
but who are at the center of your heart,
we ask you to open our hearts.
Help us to become a church and a nation where:
All lives have dignity,
All people are loved
And all are welcome.*

Amen

Love Without Measure

The Holy Family was a refugee family. There is little doubt about this. We hear in the gospel for the Feast of Holy Family that King Herod was determined to kill the Christ Child. So, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to flee to Egypt with Mary and the child. Joseph does so and remained in Egypt until the death of Herod. This means that the first year of Jesus' life, he was forced to flee his own country because of political oppression. What would have happened if the Holy Family had been turned away from the border in Egypt and sent back to Herod? Would Herod have been successful in his desire to kill Jesus before he could begin his ministry and win our salvation? Of course, we do not know the answer to that question. But we should always be grateful to the Egyptians as we ponder the Christmas story for protecting the Holy Family.

As we celebrate this holy season, I wish I could tell you that there is no longer any need for people to flee their own country. But we all know that is not true, in fact, the plight of refugees is greater than it has been for centuries. In our world today there are nearly 85 million people who have been displaced from their homes because of war or crisis. This is the largest number of displaced persons since the Second World War. Over half of that number of people who are fleeing the war in Ukraine, combat in Syria, southern Sudan and many countries of Central and South America. They like the Holy Family are fleeing political violence in an effort to save themselves and their families.

This harsh and tragic reality brushes up against our lives during the Christmas Season as we seek to be of help to Ukrainian refugees. On Christmas Eve I spoke with an older Ukrainian lady making her way through the snow and blistering cold from our cupboard, closet and Christmas Present Center with bags filled for her family. She recently arrived with children as she left her husband behind to fight. She also told me that the weather was much more difficult at home than in Cleveland. As she walked away she said, "Thank you, Thank you, Thank you."

One might ask and I am sure some are, "Why are you bringing up these horrible statistics to our attention now?" The lights are still on the Christmas trees! The poinsettias have not yet begun to wilt, and you are talking to us about refugees. I am. I am doing so because I want to keep Christ in Christmas. The Christmas Season is more than exchanging gift and gathering with family and friends. If Jesus is the reason for the season, we should know Christ's teachings and follow them. What we discover is that the issue of refugees is very high on Jesus' agenda. In the Great Judgment Scene in Matthew's gospel, Jesus presents us with six issues that will concern him on the Last Day. The first three are these, "I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger, and you welcomed me." Jesus puts out treatment of those who displaced right up there with food and drink. This makes welcoming refugees central to our responsibilities.

Like, many I hope, I was deeply saddened by the political gamesmanship of the Governor of Texas, a Catholic I am told, for delivering hundreds of refugees from Texas to the front door of the home of the Vice President on Christmas Eve. Using refugees as political pawns cries out for justice. We can do so much better, Our faith demands so much better.

This same commitment to welcome the stranger applies to those who we would choose in our time to judge or condemn or push away from our table and hearts due to the newest group or persons we have chosen to reject. I think of the members of the LGBT+ community. How can we be so hostile to these our bothers and sisters and reject those we know so little about. Did you know that the word "homosexual" did not enter European and western vocabulary until the end of the 19th Century. Same sex orientation is a great mystery and has been present from the beginning of recorded history. Why would we not as loving people, as our faith requires, presume goodness instead of condemnation. People for the most part are good and trying to find their way in life.

Have you been around long enough to remember when we condemned divorce and rejected the divorced as a mandate of our faith? When in time of great stress and personal difficulty we should be supportive and caring, we have done the opposite.

The same applied to people of other faith traditions; judgment with such little knowledge. Approaching life as if our way is the only way will create a world isolated and lonely. Christ invites us to open our eyes to the wonders all around us, people on a different road but holy and beautiful nonetheless. The flight of the Holy Family continues in our world today.

Happy New Year!





Holiday Office Hours

The Parish Office will be closed on Sunday, January 1st and Monday, January 2nd. Regular Office hours of 9:00am to 4:00pm will resume on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023.

We wish you a blessed New Year.

Christmas Thank You

We are overwhelmed with gratitude for those who helped make our Advent and Christmas so beautiful. The members of the Signing Choir who spent several months practicing for their "road show" bringing the beauty of song through sign language to several parishes in our diocese - our music and liturgical ministers who added their talents to our worship - those who helped decorate our church - those who have helped those in need during this season through our Community Cupboard and Community Closet- and for those whose "Merry Christmas!" greetings, cookies, and gifts continue to brighten our days.

Christmas Flowers in Church are in memory of



The
Forgotten
Bob Bencic
Phil Ferguson
Rivera Family
Emil Solderitsch
Nathan McNulty
Anderson Family
Kathy and Wally Duda
John and Mary Schepis
Petro and Katarina Duda
Anthony and Marge Zingale
Joan Caraballo, Marjorie Cox
Anna Opatrny, Valerie Arnold
Raymond and Jeanette Rogalski
Pat Hagerich, Barb Presson, Bea Case
Members of Cleveland Catholic Deaf Center
Members of Mary's Rosary Guild of the Deaf



Job Opening

We are accepting applications for a full time Director of Liturgy and Music as defined by the Second Vatican Council. The appropriate candidate will be a trained in Catholic Liturgy and Sacraments, a competent church organist, develops and directs the Church Choir and helps support through music the growth of church ministries to be welcoming and inclusive, a central dimension of our parish mission. Interested applicants should contact Bob Duda at BDuda@staugustinecleveland.org or (216) 781-5530 ext. 31.

Pray the Rosary

We invite you to join us **every weeknight** (Monday thru Friday) at **6 PM** in Church as we pray the rosary. If you are unable to join us in person, we encourage you to join us on livestream



St. Augustine Seniors 50 and over

Due to the Christmas holiday, the St. Augustine Seniors will gather on Thursday, January 5th at 12 Noon in Walsh Hall. New members are always welcome.

2023 Parish Calendars

Our 2023 parish calendars are available at each entrance for you to take for your household.

St. Augustine Buckeye Deaf Seniors

St. Augustine Buckeye Deaf Seniors will gather in the Deaf Center on Tuesday, January 10 at 10 AM for their regular meeting. New members are always welcome.

Sunday Thought

Today we celebrate the Motherhood of Mary, an aspect of the life of Our Lady that many of us can relate to. In today's gospel, shepherds visit Mary and Joseph, and Jesus. The shepherds reveal to the Holy Family the message that Jesus is the Messiah. Mary reflected on this. She has known from the beginning who Jesus is, but now He is a newborn, her own child lying serenely beside her. It could have hit home that she does not really know what "Messiah" means for Him and for their family. She could have immediately started to plan for all eventualities. We all might have done these things. Yet, as Mary reflects, she relies on her heart rather than her mind. She is able to treasure the words of the shepherds. She recognizes that God's plan is a beautiful gift. She looks to the future with peace and confidence despite not knowing all that it holds. She trusts God and recognizes God as the one in control of the future. Contemplating the future can be scary. God has a plan for each of us, but God unfolds it little by little. None of us knows the full picture or implications. Let us pray to have Mary's trust, peace, and confidence as we contemplate the year ahead.

Parish School of Religion



PSR will not meet on January 2nd due to the New Year's holidays. Classes will resume on Monday, January 9th at 5:30 PM.

If you have not yet registered your child for faith formation and sacramental preparation, please visit St. Augustine Parish website at www.StAugustineCleveland.org, email us at PSR@staugustinecleveland.org, or call the parish office at (216) 781-5530 for more information.

Organ Restoration Update



Restoration on our organ continues to progress nicely and is scheduled for a February install. New photos and videos have been posted to the website. You can view the progress at, <https://www.staugustinecleveland.org/organ-restoration>.

With the anticipated completion rapidly approaching, we have posted an organist job on various diocesan sites. For more information, please see the Job Opening announcement in this week's bulletin.

Inspiration for the Week

The shepherds returned to Bethlehem "glorifying and praising God." They were affected deeply by the sight of the infant Messiah and the message of the angels. What would the world look like, if we allowed ourselves to be likewise impacted by the word of God?



Cursillistas will gather for Ultreya on **Saturday, January 14th at 10 AM** in Walsh Hall. Cursillistas are invited to gather, pray, and share personal stories about living a life in God's Grace on the second Saturday of every month.

Mary's "treasures"

An American Mennonite minister, Isaac Villegas, writes in the December issue of The Christian Century of volunteering last year at a migrant shelter in Tijuana, Mexico. One day a woman arrived from the Mayan region of Guatemala. She was pregnant, within weeks of her due date. She came to the shelter asking for a pair of shoes. Together, the woman and Villegas rummaged through the shelter's store of donated clothing. As they poked around, she began to giggle: there was a huge pile of high heels — stilettos and platform shoes. Villegas laughed, too, trying to explain that they were donated by well-meaning Americans who had no idea what it was like to walk through the desert in stilettos. The two eventually found a pair of Nikes that fit her.

Later that evening, Villegas and the other volunteers decided to throw a baby shower for the soon-to-be mom. They sorted through the boxes of clothes, picking out the cutest onesies and baby outfits; they pitched in to purchase a cake and party supplies. The next evening they celebrated the mother-to-be and her child about to be born, Villegas realizes, into a world and society "that couldn't care less about her life or her child's." A week later, back home in the United States, Villegas received a text from a friend at the shelter with pictures of the newborn. Both mother and child were doing well. The folks at the shelter would care for her until she was ready to try to cross the border with her child for a new life in the United States.

For Isaac Villegas, his encounter with the Mayan mother was an experience of the Christmas mystery: "This is the world into which Jesus is born, with Mary and Joseph far away from their home, in a neglected corner of society, left to celebrate with strangers. The shepherds from the fields offer the only gifts they have, words: the words of the angels, the promises of God, news of hope. And 'Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart . . .'" "The Christmas gospel is this," Villegas writes, that despite the bewilderment and exhaustion of our lives, "there is joy, there are celebrations, there are baby showers in shelters and people who look out for each other and strangers who do what they can with what they have. The world is held in God's care, every life held by God."

In the course of this New Year, we will encounter Mary and Joseph and their Child in the poor, the fearful, the broken, the despairing and the hurting we will meet. May we resolve this New Year's Day, a day dedicated to the Mother of God, to speak the word of God's compassion and peace readily and gratefully in the generosity and respect we will be called upon to extend to others. May the "holy families" we meet "treasure" in their hearts whatever we are able to provide to them as we would offer to Mary and her Child.

Church Decorations

The Christmas season will soon come to a close and your help is needed. Following the 11 AM Mass on Sunday, January 8th we will begin taking down the Christmas decorations. Any help that you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Stewardship of Treasure

We are deeply grateful for your generosity in your weekly contribution to St. Augustine Parish. Your kindness and support enable us to provide for the needs of our parish and community. The collection for the weekend of December 25, 2022 was \$2,535.49. Thank you for your generosity.

2023 Mass Book

The 2023 Mass Book is now available for parishioners requesting Mass intention for the year 2023. Mass requests can be made by contacting the parish office or by mail. Please include your name, address and phone number on your request so that we can contact you if any adjustments need to be made.

Say It in Sign

The sign language class for beginners will not meet this week. Classes will resume this Wednesday, January 4 2023 at 4:30 PM in the Deaf Center.



The **St. Augustine Community Cupboard** is open on **Saturdays from 11 AM - 2 PM** and **Wednesdays from 5 PM - 7 PM**. As we continue to serve the needs of our neighbors, we are seeking volunteers to assist in restocking shelves and assisting shoppers on the days we are open. In addition, we are in need of the following items:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Toilet Paper | Canned Meat |
| Paper Towels | Ketchup |
| Laundry Detergent | Mustard |
| Dish Soap | Mayo |
| Coffee | Dog Food |
| Tea | Deodorant (Men and Women) |
| Sugar | Hand Soap (Pump Bottles) |
| Creamer | Body Wash (Men and Women) |
| Flour | Shampoo |
| Kleenex | Boxed Potatoes |

We have also created an **Amazon Wish List** which can be found on our parish website, www.StAugustineCleveland.org.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact the parish office by calling (216) 781-5530.

Time for RCIA Invitations



Just a reminder that RCIA is intended for:

- Unbaptized adults
- Adults who have been baptized into a non-Catholic denomination, Adults who have been baptized but never received first Eucharist or Confirmation

For more information or to give a name, please contact the parish office at (216) 781-5530.

Happy New Year!

The New Year's Eve Mass is an opportunity for us to thank God for the blessings we received in 2022. We usher in the New Year not only watching all the celebrations across the world including the dropping of the ball in Times Square, but also by celebrating the Eucharist in God's house and beginning 2023 with His blessings. Many will make this first day of the New Year a time of reflecting, resolving, and beginning again.

It is only understandable that most New Year's resolutions are about personal health like eating right, losing weight, relaxing more, avoiding smoking, drinking etc. But Christianity reminds us that we are more than our bodies. Jesus says: "Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes" (Luke 12:23). Hence our New Year resolutions should address every aspect of our self - physical, mental, spiritual and emotional. I came across some simple but profound ideas that the International Catholic Stewardship Council published. I wish to share these with you:

Practice gratitude – Cultivating a grateful heart is the hallmark of a Christian steward. Every day, express thankfulness. Seeing the good in your life will allow you to keep your heart compassionate and loving.

Encounter the Lord each day – Find time to be with the Lord each day, whether it be for an hour or ten minutes. Have a conversation with the Lord. Give your joys and worries to Him as well. Allow God's love to transform them.

Be present to others – There is much celebration and mourning, joy and sorrow in peoples' lives. What a blessing it is to be able to share those times and not let others experience them alone. The gift of your presence to others is much more valuable than you realize.

Resist overwork – There is a pressure to produce, meet goals, be successful. But activities that lead us to overwork, constant fatigue and worry do not give glory to God. What God calls us to do, we can do well. Be mindful that life requires balance, down time and letting go of unrealistic goals. Give more – Good stewards realize that everything they have is entrusted to them as gifts to be shared. There is no better place to begin than sharing with the community that gathers around the Lord's table at Mass.

Make a difference in your parish community – Believe it or not, your parish community can use your talents. Offering your talents to your faith community is one of the most effective ways to feel useful and connected to others, and it is a potentially life-changing New Year resolution.

Consider living more simply – We cannot find fulfilment in possessions. They add nothing to our self-worth. Jesus blessed the "poor in spirit" in his Sermon on the Mount; and Saint Francis of Assisi urged us to live with only what was necessary, for that is how we begin to find God.

Don't give up – People give up their New Year resolutions because of perfectionism and unrealistic expectations. So take it slow, be kind to yourself and keep trying. Resist the urge to throw your hands up and quit. You succeed through small, manageable changes over time. May the Blessings of Baby Jesus stay with you for the whole of the new year 2023.

Bob

How can Kyle be so positive?

Kyle Maynard was born with some of the birth defects that every parent fears--stunted arms and legs and misshapen hands and feet. Most people would consider him to be handicapped. But most people don't know Kyle Maynard. This young man, who chooses not to use prosthetic limbs, constantly challenges himself to break physical barriers. He played middle school football alongside much bigger kids. In high school, Kyle began weight training and joined the wrestling team. He and his coach developed moves that made the most of Kyle's physical assets. Kyle advanced so much that he earned the title, Strongest Teen, for his weight-lifting feats.

In fact, Kyle Maynard has such a positive attitude that a juvenile court judge once sentenced a troublesome kid to spend the day with Kyle. The judge wanted the teen to understand that our lives are shaped much more by our attitude than by our circumstances. After spending a day with the troubled teen, Kyle commented, "People think I have a bad life. Look at my life compared to this kid's. I have a beautiful family who loves me. Everybody has struggles. My struggles are just more apparent."

Isn't that amazing? You and I see people every day with perfectly good bodies, healthy in every way, who are mired in unhappiness. And then we run into a Kyle Maynard with his stunted arms and misshapen hands and feet, and he is so positive. How does that happen? Obviously it helps to have people who love you and believe in you.

Catholic Blind Community

Members of the Cleveland Catholic Blind Community will gather on Sunday, January 8, 2023. For more information, please contact the parish office at (216) 781-5530.

Help Wanted

Free training. Convenient hours. No pay- but the benefits are out of this world. One of the reasons we come to Mass is to be united with Christ, and the best way to be one with Him is through Holy Communion. Which we cannot receive without Eucharistic Ministers. In other words.....we need you!! If you are feeling called to join this vital ministry, please contact Bob Duda at (216) 781-5530 or at BDuda@staugustinecleveland.org

Counters Needed

We are looking for individuals willing to assist us in counting our weekly collections on Monday mornings. If you are available for approximately an hour and half one Monday every couple of months, please contact Terry Hogan at the parish office at (216) 781- 5530.

On the Lighter Side

Peter, at a New Year's party, turns to his friend, Ken, and asks for a cigarette. 'I thought you made a New Year's resolution to quit smoking,' Ken responds. 'I'm in the process of quitting,' replies Peter with a grin. 'Right now, I am in the middle of phase one.' 'Phase one?' wonders Ken. 'Yeah,' laughs Peter, 'I've quit buying.' 😊

Community Closet



Our Community Closet allows individuals to come and “shop” for clothing, bedding, and footwear items.

During the winter months there is a higher need for winter coats, boots, hats and gloves

The Community Closet is open on Wednesdays from 5 to 7 PM and on Saturdays from 11 AM to 2 PM.

For more information or to volunteer please contact the Parish Office at (216) 781-5530 or email, outreach@staugustinecleveland.org.

Save the Date *Parish Family Dinner*

Members of our parish family are invited to a post-holiday family celebration on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 in Walsh Hall and the Deaf Center. Appetizers will be served at 5:30 PM followed by dinner. Reservations are requested. Please contact the parish office at (216) 781-5530 to make reservations or for more information.

More Help Wanted

Did you know that the Mass is actually a double communion with Christ? Through the Eucharist, of course, and through the Word. And you can help!!

By proclaiming the scripture readings at Mass, our Lectors make it possible for us all to have a personal encounter with God.

Sound interesting to you? If you are feeling called to join this vital ministry, please contact Bob Duda at (216) 781-5530 or at BDuda@staugustinecleveland.org.



We live stream the Saturday 4:15 PM Mass, the 11 AM Mass on Sunday, and the weekday Rosary on the parish website, Facebook Page, and YouTube Channel. A live audio feed will be available for the Saturday 4:15 PM Mass the 11 AM Sunday Mass, and the praying of

the Rosary. To access the audio feed, please call (216) 270-6331 prior to mass and enter code 2020 when prompted.

Holy Moments A Handbook for the Rest of Your Life

Please find a complimentary copy of Matthew Kelley’s most recent book, Holy Moments, available in the back of the church. A generous individual has provided our church with a copy for you to take home. Feel free to take more than one if you know someone who can benefit from this wonderful gift.

The Best New Year Gifts

- To your friend - loyalty;
- To your enemy - forgiveness;
- To your boss - service;
- To a child - a good example;
- To your parents - gratitude and devotion;
- To your mate - love and faithfulness;
- To all men and women - love;
- To God - your life..

St. John Neumann

Feast Day: January 5th



This American saint was born in Bohemia in 1811. He was looking forward to being ordained in 1835 when the bishop decided there would be no more ordinations. It is difficult for us to imagine now, but Bohemia was overstocked with priests. John wrote to bishops all over Europe but the story was the same everywhere no one wanted any more priests. John was sure he was called to be a priest but all the doors to follow that vocation seemed to close in his

face.

But John didn’t give up. He had learned English by working in a factory with English-speaking workers so he wrote to the bishops in America. Finally, the bishop in New York agreed to ordain him. In order to follow God’s call to the priesthood John would have to leave his home forever and travel across the ocean to a new and rugged land.

In New York, John was one of 36 priests for 200,000 Catholics. John's parish in western New York stretched from Lake Ontario to Pennsylvania. His church had no steeple or floor but that didn't matter because John spent most of his time traveling from village to village, climbing mountains to visit the sick, staying in garrets and taverns to teach, and celebrating the Mass at kitchen tables.

Because of the work and the isolation of his parish, John longed for community and so joined the Redemptorists, a congregation of priests and brothers dedicated to helping the poor and most abandoned.

John was appointed bishop of Philadelphia in 1852. As bishop, he was the first to organize a diocesan Catholic school system. A founder of Catholic education in this country, he increased the number of Catholic schools in his diocese from two to 100.

John never lost his love and concern for the people -- something that may have bothered the elite of Philadelphia. On one visit to a rural parish, the parish priest picked him up in a manure wagon. Seated on a plank stretched over the wagon's contents, John joked, "Have you ever seen such an entourage for a bishop!"

The ability to learn languages that had brought him to America led him to learn Spanish, French, Italian, and Dutch so he could hear confessions in at least six languages. When Irish immigration started, he learned Gaelic so well that one Irish woman remarked, "Isn't it grand that we have an Irish bishop!"

Once on a visit to Germany, he came back to the house he was staying in soaked by rain. When his host suggested he change his shoes, John remarked, "The only way I could change my shoes is by putting the left one on the right foot and the right one on the left foot. This is the only pair I own."

John died on January 5, 1860 at the age of 48.

Grief Support

Catholic Cemeteries Association provides free monthly Grief Support groups in two formats: In-Office (3 PM) and Virtually (5 PM) via Zoom. The next Grief Support sessions are Sunday, Jan. 15th Meetings are open discussion format, surrounding a monthly topic or whatever is in your heart. This month's topic is "Facing the New Year with Hope and Love". We offer a comfortable, private, and safe environment where you are free to explore your grief. Come and be in the presence of those who understand.

We will meet from 3- 4:00 PM in the main office at the following locations:

- Holy Cross Cemetery, 14609 Brookpark Road
- All Saints Cemetery, 480 W.Highland, Northfield
- Saint Joseph Cemetery, 32789 Detroit Rd., Avon

Register for 5-6 PM Virtual Grief Support meeting:
<http://bit.ly/ccavirtualgriefsupportgroup>.

You can join virtually from any WiFi enabled area via computer, laptop, smartphone, or even without WiFi (via audio only) from your phone. If you do not have WiFi or email, please contact Rhonda (number below). Your RSVP for both In-Person and Virtual Grief Support is appreciated but not required to attend.

For more info or if you have questions, please contact Rhonda: 2169304866 or email rabrams@clecem.org

This Week's Events of the Parish

- Monday:** Mass: 5:30 PM (Church)
 Rosary: 6 PM (Church)
 AA Meeting: 7:30 PM (Mylott Hall)
- Tuesday:** AA Meeting: 9:30 AM (Walsh Hall)
 Mass: 5:30 PM (Church)
 Rosary: 6 PM (Church)
 AA Meeting: 7:30 PM (Mylott Hall)
- Wednesday:** LINKS: 3 PM (Walsh Hall)
 Sign Class for Beginners: 4:30 PM (Deaf Center)
 Community Cupboard: 5 PM-7PM
 Community Closet: 5 PM-7 PM
 Mass: 5:30 PM (Church)
 Rosary: 6 PM (Church)
 Signing Hands: 6:30 (Deaf Center)
 AA Meeting: 6 PM (Mylott Hall)
- Thursday:** St. Augustine Seniors: 12 Noon (Walsh)
 Mass: 5:30 PM (Church)
 Rosary: 6 PM (Church)
 Boy Scouts: 6:30 PM (Second Floor)
 AA Meeting: 7 PM (Mylott Hall)
- Friday:** LINKS: 3 PM (Walsh)
 Mass: 5:30 PM (Church)
 AA Meeting: 7:30 PM (Mylott Hall)
- Saturday:** Community Cupboard: 11 AM – 2 PM
 Community Closet: 11 AM – 2 PM
 Mass: 4:15PM (Church)
- Sunday:** Mass: 8:30 AM (Church)
 Mass: 11 AM (Church)

December 31st and January 1st

	Saturday 4:15 PM	Sunday 8:30 AM	Sunday 11 AM
Priest Deacon	Fr. Ben Jimenez, SJ (H)	Fr. Bill O'Donnell, C.PP.S (H) Deacon Chris DePenti	Fr. Joe McNulty (H) Deacon Chris DePenti
Lectors	Ed Zubek	Matthew Cook	Colleen Cassidy Aaron Calton
Extraordinary Ministers of the Blessed Sacrament	Theresa Ortiz Migdalia Santiago-White Helen Bencic	Bob Duda Maria Rivera	Molly Cassidy Kate Slosar Nora Kowalchik

January 7th and 8th

	Saturday 4:15 PM	Sunday 8:30 AM	Sunday 11 AM
Priest Deacon	Fr. Bill O'Donnell, C.PP.S Deacon Chris DePenti (H)	Fr. Ben Jimenez, SJ Deacon Chris DePenti (H)	Fr. Bill O'Donnell, C.PP.S Deacon Chris DePenti (H)
Lectors	Dave Dilyn	Fran DiDonato	Tom Smith Priscilla Treska
Extraordinary Ministers of the Blessed Sacrament	Teresa Yurchisin Bonnie Robertson	Joe Lewandowski David Murray	Bob Cassidy Sr. Regina Fierman, CSA