



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

# Behold

I AM THE HANDMAID  
OF THE LORD.  
MAY IT BE DONE TO ME  
ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD.  
LUKE 1:38

December 10 | Second Sunday of Advent  
**SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

144 North Fifth Street,  
Zanesville, Ohio 43701  
740-453-3301

[www.saintthomaszanesville.org](http://www.saintthomaszanesville.org)

**YOU ARE ALWAYS  
WELCOME HERE**





## PARISH INFORMATION

**Saint Thomas Aquinas Church**  
 144 North Fifth Street  
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 740-453-3301

[www.saintthomaszanesville.org](http://www.saintthomaszanesville.org)

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Reverend Stephen Ondrey,  
 Parochial Vicar

Dcn. Michael Haemmerle,  
 Transitional Deacon

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[curbiel@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:curbiel@columbuscatholic.org)

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 & Youth Ministry**

Rob Rodgers Ext. 125  
[rrodgers@saintthomaszanesville.org](mailto:rrodgers@saintthomaszanesville.org)

**Director of Finance & Facilities**

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[mmorris@saintthomaszanesville.org](mailto:mmorris@saintthomaszanesville.org)

**Administrative Assistant,**

**Director of Cemeteries**

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[kdailey@saintthomaszanesville.org](mailto:kdailey@saintthomaszanesville.org)

**Maintenance**

Steve Harding Ext. 123  
[sharding@saintthomaszanesville.org](mailto:sharding@saintthomaszanesville.org)

**Coordinator of Ministry to the  
 Sick & Homebound**

Sister Maureen Anne Shepard  
[mshepard@saintthomaszanesville.org](mailto:mshepard@saintthomaszanesville.org)

**St. Vincent de Paul Society Helpline:**

Call 740-453-3301 and press 2 at the prompt to leave a message; a volunteer will return your call.

**Emergency Anointing:** In a medical emergency, call the Parish Office and at the prompt, press 1. This automatically routes your call to our Sacramental Emergency Line. For non-emergencies, call the office to schedule an anointing.

**Prayer Line:** Call any one of the following numbers; your request will be passed along to the entire team.

740-453-8397

740-588-0314

740-704-3136

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

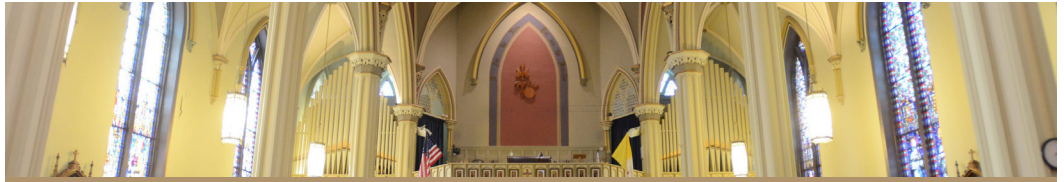
Monday-Thursday:

8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Friday: Closed

Additional hours by appointment

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## WEEKLY CALENDAR

**Sunday, December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent**

**Scripture Readings:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

4:30 p.m. Mass (DY) (Activity Center) for † James & J.J. Labaki

7:45 a.m. Mass (DY) (Activity Center) for † Ralph Dosch

9:15-10:15 a.m. Confessions (Activity Center)

9:30 a.m. CCD (Parish Center)

9:45 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (Activity Center)

11:00 a.m. Mass (DY) (Activity Center) for the People of the Parish

**Monday, December 11**

**Scripture Readings:** Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17-26

**NO MASS**

6:30 p.m. RCIA (St. Nicholas Parish Office)

**Tuesday, December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe**

**Scripture Readings:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jud 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

9:00 a.m. Mass (DY) (Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel) for the Family of Wanda Lynn

**Wednesday, December 13 – St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**

**Scripture Readings:** Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30

9:00 a.m. Mass (DY) (Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel) for † Fred & Mary Ann Baker

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration (Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel)

**Thursday, December 14 – St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

**Scripture Readings:** Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

9:00 a.m. Mass (DY) (Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel) for † Jean Gainer

**Friday, December 15**

**Scripture Readings:** Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19

9:00 a.m. Mass (DY) (Activity Center) for the Living & Deceased Members of the Pilarcik Family

**Saturday, December 16**

**Scripture Readings:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

3:30 p.m. Confessions (Activity Center)

**Sunday, December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent**

**Scripture Readings:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

4:30 p.m. Mass (SO) (Activity Center) for the People of the Parish

7:45 a.m. Mass (SO) (Activity Center) for the Living & Deceased Members of Richard Bowman Family

9:15-10:15 a.m. Confessions (Activity Center)

9:45 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (Activity Center)

11:00 a.m. Mass (SO) (Activity Center) for † Bud Gookins



**THE  
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FOUNDATION**

**SUPPORT ST. THOMAS AND LOWER YOUR TAXES:**

You can use funds in your retirement account to support St. Thomas Aquinas. The Charitable IRA Rollover allows donors who are 70½ years or older to transfer up to \$100,000.00 from a traditional or Roth IRA to a qualified charity like The Catholic Foundation, which manages The

Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish Endowment Fund. An endowment fund is a longer-term, sustained investment designed to provide a perpetual source of income to our parish. Regardless of your age, you can support St. Thomas Aquinas while still qualifying for a tax deduction. Contributions to The Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish Endowment Fund can also be made in the form of cash, appreciated stocks, and other assets. For more information on how you can make a real-world impact on the future of St. Thomas Aquinas and the Catholic faith, please contact Christy Steffy at 614-443-8893, ext. 110 or [csteffy@catholic-foundation.org](mailto:csteffy@catholic-foundation.org).

**CATHOLIC FOUNDATION UPDATE:**

We are pleased to announce that St. Thomas Aquinas Parish has applied for and been awarded grants from the Catholic Foundation. The grants are \$5,000 for the St. Thomas Aquinas Food Pantry and \$5,000.00 for the NET Nights Teen Ministry Program. Thanks to the Catholic Foundation for their help in funding these two very important ministries.

**PENANCE SERVICE CANCELLED:**

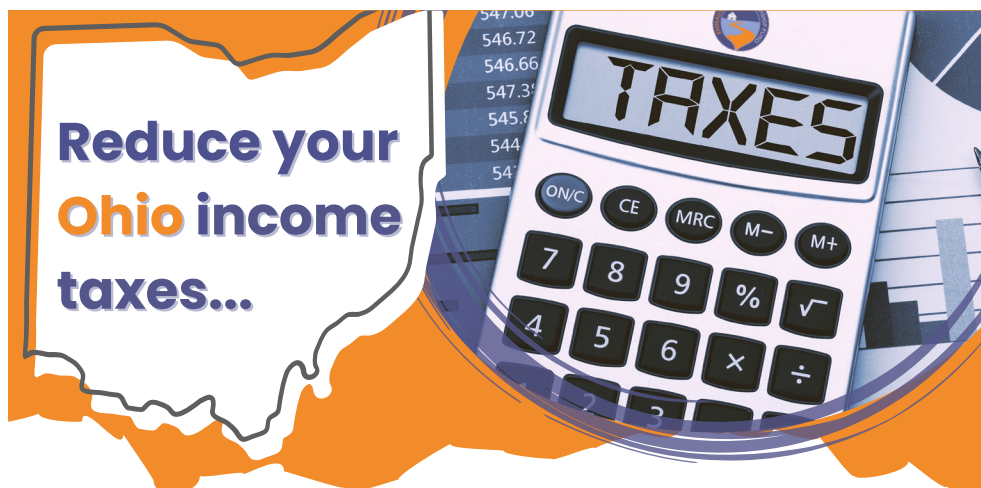
Penance Service scheduled for Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m. has been **CANCELLED**, due to lack of priests. Alternatively, Fr. Dave and Fr. Ondrey will be holding additional Confession times on the following dates: at **St. Thomas**, Sunday, December 10th at 9:15-10:15 a.m. and Sunday, December 17th at 9:15-10:15 a.m.; at **St. Nicholas**, Sunday, December 10th at 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Sunday, December 17th at 9:30-10:30 a.m.

**THERE'S STILL TIME TO GIVE:**

Your gift to the 2023 Appeal is vital to the success of this diocesan wide campaign and can benefit our parish. We are off to a good start toward our parish goal of \$57,761.29. As of December 1, 2023, we have collected \$53,999.50 and pledged \$58,731.29. Thank you to all those families that have made a gift or pledge. If we continue to make our pledge payments, we will be getting a refund back of \$970.00. If you have not yet made your gift to this year's Appeal, please consider doing so in the days ahead. The refund will be applied to our roof project.

**CEMETERY UPDATE:**

Effective January 1st, cemetery pricing will increase. Grave plots and cremation plots will increase from \$700.00 to \$1,000.00 for parishioners and \$1,200.00 for non-parishioners. Please contact the Parish Office for a complete list of prices effective January 1st. To purchase your plot before the price increases, please contact the Parish Office at 740-453-3301 to set up an appointment.



**...and help make an authentic Catholic education affordable and accessible for all!**

**It's true!** As an Ohio taxpayer, when you make a donation to the Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund, you could receive a dollar-for-dollar credit\* against your state income tax liability while creating scholarship dollars for students to attend Our Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Columbus.

Even with the recent expansion to Ohio's EdChoice Scholarship program, financial need still exists for many families. Your gift helps bridge the gap between state scholarships and the cost to educate a child while reducing your Ohio tax burden, making it a win-win for everyone!

- Designate your gift for scholarships at the school(s) of your choosing!
- Nearly \$2 million in scholarships has been raised since December 2021!

\*Ohio tax credit is up to \$750 per person, or \$1,500 if married filing jointly. Based on tax rates posted by the Ohio Department of Taxation, an individual with an annual income of \$40,000 has an average state tax liability of \$750. Consult a tax advisor for guidance on your specific situation. The Diocesan Education Corporation (dba Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund) is a certified scholarship granting organization (SGO) in the state of Ohio.



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**STEWARDSHIP**

(Our fiscal year is  
July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024)

**December 4, 2023**

Mass Collection	\$ 17,673.00
EFT	\$ 0.00
Online/Direct Gifts	\$ 660.00
Total Offertory	\$ 18,333.00
YTD Collected	\$ 213,372.30
YTD Budgeted	\$ 221,153.74
Deficit	-\$ 7,781.44

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS****SOCIAL NIGHTS:**

Knights of Columbus Council 505 is having Social Night every Friday evening. A Euchre Tournament will be played from 7:00-9:00 p.m. There is no entry fee, and the winner wins a \$10.00 gift certificate to the K of C Hall. If you don't play Euchre, no problem; other games can be played based on interest. Or, just come to enjoy the fellowship and a good meal. There are weekly specials from the kitchen.

**NOVEMBER BOOSTER****MANIA WINNERS:**

MARK HILL	\$ 25.00
BONNIE BENDURE	\$ 75.00
JOHN BIEDENBACH	\$ 25.00
DAN BACKUS	\$ 25.00
MARY ANN BUCCI	\$ 25.00
CHERYL POTTMEYER	\$ 25.00
DEREK KUNKLER	\$ 25.00
MIKE BUTCHER	\$ 25.00

**UNDONE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:**

Ladies, do you desire to live in greater freedom? Are you longing for an authentic encounter with your true feminine identity? Join us for the *Undone* Women's Conference where you will experience a weekend of truth, beauty and transformation, as the knots of Eve's disobedience are "undone" through Mary's model of radical receptivity. Bring yourself, your mother, your sister, your adult daughters and friends. This is a weekend you won't want to miss! *Undone: Freedom for the Feminine Heart* will be held at St. Francis de Sales in Newark on January 25, 26 and 27. This event is being offered in person OR virtually via livestream! Register online for either experience at [www.jpilhealingcenter.org](http://www.jpilhealingcenter.org). Scholarships, student and missionary discounts available. Contact Heather Stasel at [hstasel@stfrancisparish.net](mailto:hstasel@stfrancisparish.net) for more information.





### ROOF REPAIR UPDATE

This week's pictures provide a glimpse into the damage that has occurred within the church while being closed for the past 3½ years. As you can see, there has been a considerable degree of degradation to the plaster inside the sanctuary. The plaster will need to be repaired prior to painting and will occur later in the project. An analysis of the roof plaster, however, was very positive. For the most part, the plaster that makes up the gothic ceiling is in very good condition and will require minimal repairs.



### HANDEL'S MESSIAH:

Handel's Messiah will be performed Sunday, December 10, at 6:00 p.m. at Central Trinity United Methodist Church, 62 South 7th Street, Zanesville. There will be live orchestral accompaniment and singers from many religious denominations (including Catholic). The concert is free; a freewill offering will be taken up. It will last approximately 2½ hours. All are welcome!

### CATHOLIC MAN OF THE YEAR:

Nominations are now open for the 2024 Catholic Man of The year. The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club is accepting nominations for the Diocese of Columbus 2024 Catholic Man of the Year. The annual award will be presented by Bishop Earl Fernandes on Friday, February 2, 2024, at the Men's Luncheon held at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus. The Catholic Man of the Year is awarded to one layman who, through his daily actions, words, and prayers, exemplifies the "good and faithful servant." The recipient will have the opportunity to share his personal testimony during the ceremony. Nominations will be accepted through Sunday, December 31, 2023. For details, nomination instructions and the required online nomination form, go to <https://www.catholicmensministry.com/catholicmanoftheyear>. Submit your nomination and let us know why your parishioner, husband, father, son, uncle, brother, or friend is the Catholic Man of the Year!


### URGENT SUPPORT NEEDED


#### IN THE HOLY LAND:

As the war rages on, Pope Francis is reaching out to world leaders calling for a cease fire, entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza and the release of all hostages being held by Hamas. Due to their longstanding presence, Catholic Relief Services has been responding to meet urgent, comprehensive needs, while also monitoring possible extended needs across the region. To support their efforts, pray and consider learning more and donating to CRS at Catholic Relief Services ([crs.org](http://crs.org)). For more information, contact the diocesan Social Concerns Office at [socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org) or call 614-224-2540.


## NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE

JOIN BISHOP FERNANDES AT THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE  
WITH THESE DIOCESE of COLUMBUS EVENTS





## DIOCESE of COLUMBUS



**Thursday, January 18, 2024**  
**at 1:30 p.m.**  
MASS AT THE SAINT JOHN PAUL II  
NATIONAL SHRINE  
WITH BISHOP EARL K. FERNANDES

**Friday, January 19, 2024**  
**from 8:00–9:00 a.m.**  
MASS CLOSING THE  
PRAYER VIGIL FOR THE MARCH  
The Basilica of the National Shrine of the  
Immaculate Conception  
PRINCIPAL CELEBRANT & HOMILIST  
BISHOP EARL K. FERNANDES

**Friday, January 19, 2024**  
**at 12:00 p.m.**  
MEET AT THE MARCH

**Saturday, January 20, 2024**  
**at 10:00 a.m.**  
MASS AT THE  
CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW  
WITH  
BISHOP EARL K. FERNANDES

**SCHOOL GROUPS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND**

**LIFE IS VERY GOOD**  
**7:30 P.M. – 9:45 P.M. | THURSDAY, JANUARY 18**  
Evening of Prayer (Fairfax, VA)

NEXT WEEKEND, DECEMBER 16/17	ALTAR SERVERS	LECTORS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION
<b>Saturday, 4:30 p.m.</b>	Brian Hunt	Dave Chupka	Kim Chupka
<b>Sunday, 7:45 a.m.</b>	Abby/Levi Crum	Andrew Joseph	Mike Ryan
<b>Sunday, 11:00 a.m.</b>	Dalton Frame, Andrew Stark	Sophia Marcum	Rusty Montgomery



# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

(All Masses Celebrated in the Activity Center unless noted below)



### First Sunday of Advent

December 2-3, 2023

4:30 p.m., 7:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

### Second Sunday of Advent

December 9-10, 2023

4:30 p.m., 7:45 a.m. & 11 a.m.

### The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday, December 8, 2023

9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

### Third Sunday of Advent

December 16-17, 2023

4:30 p.m., 7:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Vigil, December 23, 2023

4:30 p.m.

Sunday Morning, December 24

9:30 a.m.

### Vigil of Christmas (Christmas Eve)

Sunday, December 24, 2023

5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.



### The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day

Monday, December 25, 2023

10:00 a.m.



### Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Saturday, December 30, 2023

4:30 p.m.

### Sunday, December 31, 2023

7:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.



### Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

(Mass Celebrated at St. Nicholas Church)

Monday, January 1, 2024

8 a.m.



# ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



### First Sunday of Advent

December 2-3, 2023

5:15 p.m., 8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

### Second Sunday of Advent

December 9-10, 2023

5:15 p.m., 8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

### The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday, December 8, 2023

8:10 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

### Third Sunday of Advent

December 16-17, 2023

5:15 p.m., 8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Vigil, December 23, 2023

5:15 p.m.

Sunday Morning, December 24

9:00 a.m.

### Vigil of Christmas (Christmas Eve)

Sunday, December 24, 2023

5:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.



### The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day

Monday, December 25, 2023

8:00 a.m.



### Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Saturday, December 30, 2023

5:15 p.m.

### Sunday, December 31, 2023

8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.



### Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Monday, January 1, 2024

8 a.m.





*Meditations for Advent*

# HORIZON OF HOPE

The Second  
Sunday

## They Acknowledged Their Sins

Mark 1:1-8

*John the Baptist appears in fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah that a messenger would appear ahead of the Messiah. One of his messages was to acknowledge humanity's sinful nature and encourage repentance. This same call is extended to each of us this Advent.*



CNSphoto, Above: Keith McIntyre / Shutterstock.com

### POINTS TO PONDER

- How can I use this Advent season as a way to grow more deeply in my faith?
- How long has it been since my last confession?
- Am I more caught up in the cultural expression of the “holiday season” than I am of the “holy day season”?

The Jordan River runs through the hot and harsh landscape of the Judean desert. Why would John choose such a distant locale to proclaim the coming of the Messiah? Perhaps it is precisely because the area is so desolate. There, away from all the distractions of everyday life, the people were able to focus on what really mattered and acknowledge their own sinfulness. Stripped of all the comforts of home and family, they could look at their lives and feel the pressing need for salvation.

Similarly, during this Second Week of Advent, we are called away from the lures that the season places before us to consider that God so loves each of us that he was willing to send his only son for our salvation.

***“Advent is here. What a marvelous time in which to renew your desire, your nostalgia, your real longing for Christ to come — for him to come every day to your soul in the Eucharist. The Church encourages us: Ecce veniet! — He is about to arrive!”***

— Saint Josemaría Escrivá



Thinkstock photo





**Be with us,  
Lord, as we  
continue in this  
waiting season  
of Advent.**

*We thank you for the  
many blessings in  
our lives, and with  
anticipation, preparation,  
and hope, we look  
forward to the arrival  
of your son, Jesus,  
the light of the world.*

*Amen.*

## FAMILY FOCUS

# A Taste of the Season



Thinkstock, Top left: Shutterstock.com

Special sweets are a part of many families' Advent preparations. One all-time favorite is the candy cane with its distinctive red and white stripes. As you enjoy the peppermint flavor, explain to your family the meaning behind this sugary treat:

- The white base represents the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus.
- The red stripes indicate the blood shed by Jesus on the cross for our salvation.
- The "J" shape reminds us of the name of Jesus, as well as the staff of the Good Shepherd.



## SIGNS OF THE SEASON

### The Legend of the Poinsettia

The brilliant red leaves of the poinsettia are a common decoration at this time of year. Its association with Christmas began many years ago when the story developed of Pepita, a poor Mexican girl who had no gift for the Christ Child at Christmas. Her cousin Pedro told her that even the most humble gift given in love is a welcomed present. So, Pepita gathered a handful of weeds into a small bouquet. As she laid it at the foot of the crèche, it burst into blooms of red. From that day on, the poinsettia has also been known as the *Flor de Nochebuena*, or Flower of the Holy Night (Christmas Eve).

## HEROES OF HOPE

### SAINT LUCY

Saint Lucy is one of only eight women saints mentioned by name in the Mass. Her name, Lucia, comes from the Latin word for light. Before the reform of the Gregorian calendar in the Middle Ages, her feast fell on the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, and heralded the return of longer, lighter days. Even now, she is associated with light and fire. In the Scandinavian countries, especially Norway and Sweden, on Saint Lucy's feast day, the youngest daughter of the family wears a crown of lighted candles (now often battery powered) and serves special rolls and cookies to her family at dawn. In parts of Italy, her feast is commemorated with homemade pasta and a dessert called *cuccia*, made of wheat berries in hot chocolate. *Saint Lucy, pray for us!*

*Feast Day:  
December 13*



### *Come, O Lord!*

"Attend to the  
sound of my cry,  
/ my king and my  
God! / For to you I  
will pray."  
— Psalm 5:3



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