

DECEMBER 17 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

JOURNEY OF

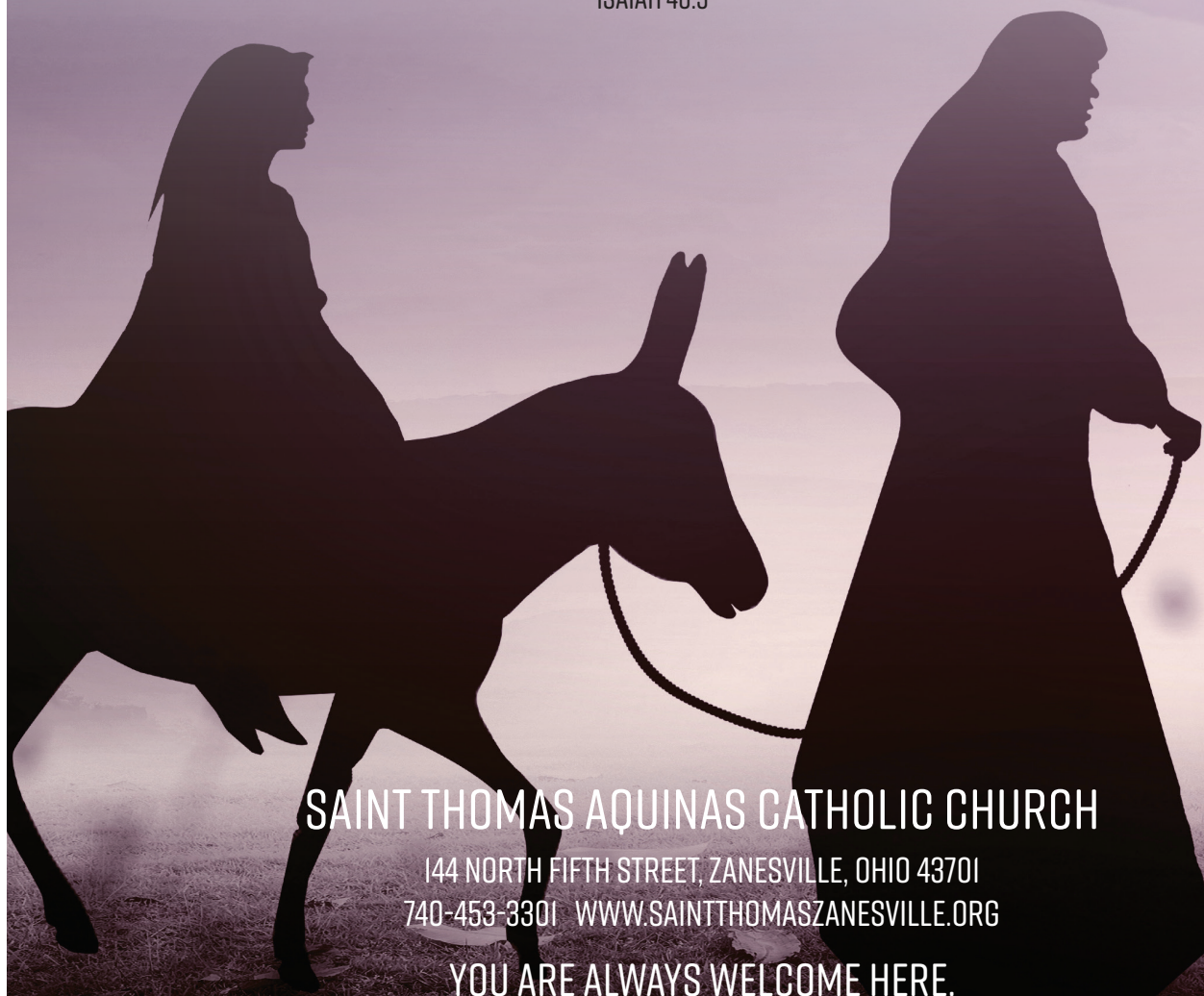
A VOICE PROCLAIMS: IN THE WILDERNESS

# Hope

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD!  
MAKE STRAIGHT IN THE WASTELAND  
A HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD!

ADVENT 2023

ISAIAH 40:3



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**  
**Zanesville, Ohio 43701**  
**740-453-3301**

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

Reverend David J. Young, Pastor

Reverend Stephen Ondrey,  
Parochial Vicar

Dcn. Michael Haemmerle,  
Transitional Deacon

**Organist & Choir Director**

Christopher Urbiel Ext. 122  
[curbiel@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:curbiel@columbuscatholic.org)

**Director of Faith Formation  
& Youth Ministry**

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

**Director of Finance & Facilities**

Michael Morris Ext. 121  
[mmorris@saintthomaszanesville.org](mailto:mmorris@saintthomaszanesville.org)

**Administrative Assistant,**

**Director of Cemeteries**

Keri Dailey Ext. 114  
[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 5 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 4. 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

*This bulletin is furnished to the parish without charge due to the generosity of our advertisers.*

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

**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

**Monday, December 18**

**Scripture Readings:** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

**NO MASS**

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

**Tuesday, December 19**

**Scripture Readings:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

9:00 a.m. Mass (SO) (Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel) for † George Niggemyer

**Wednesday, December 20**

**Scripture Readings:** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

9:00 a.m. Mass (SO) (Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel) for † Cecil Baughman

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

**Thursday, December 21**

**Scripture Readings:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

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

**Friday, December 22**

**Scripture Readings:** 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

9:00 a.m. Mass (SO) (Activity Center) for † Ed Bowman

**Saturday, December 23**

**Scripture Readings:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66

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

4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass (DY) (Activity Center) for † Barbara Kearney-Sheehan

**Sunday, December 24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Scripture Readings:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

9:30 a.m. Morning Mass (DY) (Activity Center) for † Charles & Esther Morris

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass (DY) (Activity Center) for the Family of  
Rob & Bernadette Rodgers

8:30 p.m. Carol Prelude (Activity Center)

9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass During the Night (DY) (Activity Center)  
for the People of the Parish

**OFFERTORY NOTICE:**

Any donation received in the offertory basket or in the Parish Office after Tuesday, December 26th will be credited to 2024.



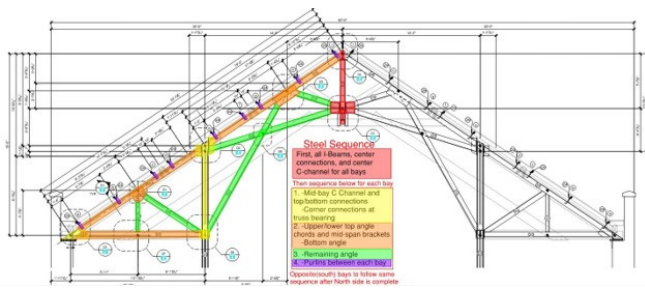
**SUPPORT ST. THOMAS AND LOWER YOUR TAXES:**

You can use funds in your retirement account to support St. Thomas Aquinas. The Charitable IRA Rollover allows donors who are 70 ½ 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 also can 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 has been awarded grants from the Catholic Foundation. The grants are \$5,000.00 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.





### ROOF REPAIR UPDATE

The roof repair solution for St. Thomas Aquinas Church is much more complex than repairing a roof on a structure that has been built in the not-too-distant past. The picture in this week's bulletin is a sample of the detailed structural engineering required to be able to design the components used to replace the current roofing infrastructure. Detailed measurements must be made via laser throughout the attic so that new steel components can be fabricated to very exacting dimensions. Computer Aided Design drawings have been developed for each of the truss systems in the church.



**...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.

197 E. Gay Street, Columbus, OH 43215

<https://emmausroadscholarship.org>



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## STEWARDSHIP

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

December 10, 2023

Mass Collection	\$ 10,557.00
EFT	\$ 5,510.00
Online/Direct Gifts	\$ 0.00
Total Offertory	\$ 16,067.00
YTD Collected	\$ 229,439.30
YTD Budgeted	\$ 230,769.12
Deficit	-\$ 1,329.82

### 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 of those families who have made a gift or pledge. If we continue to make our pledge payments, we will be getting back a refund 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.

### 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.

### FATAL FIRE GO FUND ME:

Last week, a young student from St. Pius X and his grandmother were killed in a housefire in Blacklick. His two sisters (also students) survived. A GoFundMe account has been set up by the parish/school for those who would like to help the family at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-for-the-berry-samba-family>.

## 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.

## 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

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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.

### LITERATURE PROFESSOR OPENING:

The Pontifical College Josephinum Seminary is seeking to hire a full-time Assistant Professor of Literature in the College of Liberal Arts (rank negotiable), beginning in fall 2024. An ideal candidate will possess a completed doctorate (PhD) in literature or an associated area and exhibit a strong commitment to Catholic higher education and to the mission of the Josephinum to form men for the ordained priesthood. Read more about the position and its necessary qualifications at [www.pcj.edu/jobopportunity](http://www.pcj.edu/jobopportunity).

### 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.

### 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 LANDS:

As the war rages on, Pope Francis is reaching out to world leaders calling for a ceasefire, 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.





*Meditations for Advent*

# HORIZON OF HOPE

The Third  
Sunday

## Make Straight the Way of the Lord

*John 1:6-8,19-28*

*When the priests and Levites demanded to know who John was, he didn't answer them in the way they wanted. Instead, he quoted Isaiah, saying that he was "the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord."*

Throughout this Sunday's Gospel, we are reminded that we must be willing to embark on a journey if we want to come to the Faith. God sends John into the desert. The Jews from Jerusalem send priests and Levites to talk to John. The Pharisees send some of their own people to question him. And, finally, John says that the Messiah will be sent after him. Not only that, people had to travel out to the desert if they wanted to experience John's baptism of repentance.

One of the lessons for this Third Week of Advent is that if we want to meet the Lord, we need to be willing to seek him. We must go out into the deserts of our lives with the expectation that we will find Jesus there. However, we must also be willing to "see" him. As John said, "there is one among you whom you do not recognize."

As we begin the final stages of Advent preparation, may we be "witnesses to the light," and may our hearts and minds turn more fully to the coming of the Christ this week.



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***"Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope."***

— Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI), *Seek That Which Is Above*



Agnus Images

### POINTS TO PONDER

- Where am I in my journey of faith this Advent?
- What are some ways that I can express the joy of Gaudete Sunday with my family and friends?
- What is one thing I can commit to praying about this Advent season?

**ADVENT PRAYER*****Come, O Lord!***

“In joy you shall go forth, in peace you shall be brought home.” — Isaiah 55:12

*Lord, lead me and I will follow!*

## Catechism CONNECTION

“At the announcement that she would give birth to ‘the Son of the Most High’ without knowing man, by the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary responded with the obedience of faith, certain that ‘with God nothing will be impossible’: ‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be [done] to me according to your word.’ Thus, giving her consent to God’s word, Mary becomes the mother of Jesus.” — *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 494

**FAMILY FOCUS**

# Advent Around the World

This year, add a little international flavor to your Advent with these family activities from around the world.

**INDIA** Mango leaves are typically used for Advent decorations in India, and instead of decorating pine trees, mango and banana trees are trimmed.

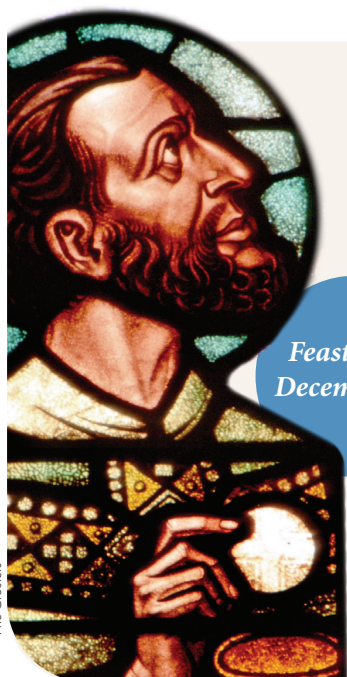


Add a bowl of mangoes and small white lights, which recall the Star of Bethlehem, to your table.

**PHILIPPINES** Advent is marked by attending Mass nine days in a row (called *Simbág Gabi*, “night mass,” or *Misas de Aguinaldo*, “gift Masses”), starting on December 16. If you can’t make it to Mass all nine days, try to attend at least a few days of daily Mass.



**EUROPE** In Alpine countries, children carry a statue of Saint Joseph to a different home each night during Advent. Carry the statue of Joseph from your crèche to each child’s room where it will spend the night and then move on the next day. On Christmas Eve, put Joseph next to Mary in the stable.

**HEROES OF HOPE**

## SAINT PETER CANISIUS

Advent is an ideal time of year to talk about the Faith and invite those who do not believe to consider the mystery of God-made-man in Jesus Christ. It is fitting that we celebrate the feast of Saint Peter Canisius this week, because he was a great evangelist. A Jesuit preacher during the time of the Protestant reformation, he became a major factor in the restoration of the Catholic Church in Germany. Like Pope Francis, he believed in treating those who disagree with the teaching of the Church with kindness and patience. His devotion to Mary was a hallmark of his ministry, and he is credited with adding the words “Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners” to the Hail Mary. *Saint Peter Canisius, pray for us!*

*Feast Day:  
December 21*

## SIGNS OF THE SEASON In the Pink

Deep purple is the liturgical color for Advent — except for the third Sunday, which is Gaudete Sunday. This week the liturgical vestments and the candle in the Advent wreath are a rosy pink to highlight the joy that the Lord’s coming is almost here. The name derives from the Latin words of the Introit to the Mass: “*Gaudete in Domino semper; iterum dico, gaudete*”: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!”



## DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DOES?

The K of C is a Catholic men's organization founded on the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

Zanesville Council 505 is made up of nearly 400 members divided almost equally among St. Nicholas and St. Thomas men. We raise money primarily through membership dues, our annual golf outing and the Cash Bonanza Ticket sales. Since 2012, we have donated:

- \$20,000 in tuition assistance to Bishop Fenwick and Rosecrans,
- \$4,000 to Christmas on the Hill,
- \$8,900 to NAMI and Starlight,
- \$12,580 to Pro-Life Organizations including Muskingum County Right to Life and Heartbeats,
- \$14,900 to St. Nicholas and St. Thomas Churches,
- \$6,000 to Youth Ministries at St. Nicholas and St. Thomas,
- \$5,600 to sponsor Veterans Appreciation Breakfasts, and many more worthy causes.

The Knights Foundation, which is made up of Council 505 members, has the mission: "To provide financial assistance toward tuition and expenses for the benefit of worthy students at Bishop Rosecrans High School and Bishop Fenwick School in Zanesville, Ohio as well as any other worthy local charities that are registered with the State of Ohio and provide us proof that they are exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501 (C) (3)." The Knight's Foundation primarily raises money through the annual Y-City Gun Fest, held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in October. Nearly 100 volunteers make the Gun Fest such a great success. Thanks to all who support us.

Since it's inception in 2012, The Knights Foundation has given **\$649,800** to the Catholic Schools of Zanesville. We have also given:

- \$5,500 each to St. Nicholas and St. Thomas churches,
- \$24,700 to Miracle League,
- \$21,000 to Muskingum Valley Old Timers,
- \$8,800 to TruLight Ministries,
- \$7,000 to Transitions,
- \$2,000 to Christ's Table, and many other charitable organizations.

Our Council Hall, located at 275 Sunrise Center, is a hub of activities including: an Octoberfest Family Picnic, both Kids and Adult Christmas Parties, Thursday night Queen of Hearts Drawing, Friday Night Euchre Tournaments, Karaoke Night, Funeral Luncheons, and more. The Hall is available to rent for reunions, parties, and other events. It is also available free of charge to council members for wakes. We also sponsor the Knights of Columbus Golf League.

**If you would like to join Council 505 (Social memberships for non-Catholics are also encouraged) and would like to learn more contact:**

**Grand Knight, Hugh Maxwell at (740) 319-4764 or Financial Secretary, Tom Baughman at (740) 260-8655.**

# 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)





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