

CHRISTMAS

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord."



Merry Christmas! May the love of Jesus fill your hearts as we celebrate His birth!

-Fr. Bob, Fr. Brown, Dcn. Reis, and the entire St. Catharine Staff

The Parish Offices close on Christmas Eve and will reopen on Monday, January 5th



The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Wednesday, December 31st
6:00pm Vigil Mass

Thursday, January 1st
8:00am Mass
10:00am Mass

A Holy Day of Obligation

Lord, Hear Our Prayer

"The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects."

If you or a loved one would like to be added to the Prayer Chain please email info@stcatharine.com or call 614-231-4509. Names will remain on the Prayer Chain for 4 months or until they are asked to be removed.

Tish	Joe	Patti	Fermin
Charmonique	Meg	Brooke	Joan
Joan	Dan	Michelle	Mary
Sylvia	Cindy	Molly	Zoritza
Spencer	Vanessa	Annette	Anne
Patti	Barb	Monica	Emy
Katie	Peggy	Tom	Michael

The Light Shines in the Darkness

By Fr. Bob Penhallurick

Dear Parish Family,

As I write this at my desk I am almost dazzled by the deep layers of snow outside my window. In the near distance I can see the now almost empty Christmas tree lot with the trees dusted in snow and the temperatures have dropped below freezing. It's not difficult to think of all of it as magical especially when I am in a warm room with hot coffee on demand, and plenty of cookies.

And it is magical. But not in a *Wizard of Oz* sort of way - with magical creatures and a world somewhere over a rainbow. It is magical because it **the splendor of nature reminds us again that the Lord is in charge and that we are travelers on the Way of the Lord Jesus.** God's creation shouts to us of the way in which the love and mercy of Christ can blanket us with dazzling array as we celebrate Christ's birth.



The Gospel reading for Christmas Day is always John 1:1-18. In these few verses the whole of the Gospel is summed up for us, and that Gospel is of course Jesus himself. These are my favorite verses in Scripture. First because they were some of the first words that I learned in New Testament Greek - they were also part of the blind exam that I took when I finished that course. And second because they show the immense love of God who takes on our human flesh to bring us the salvation that is impossible for us to obtain by ourselves. **God humbles Himself not because He must, but because He wants to.**

In the middle of the darkness that always seems to be about to engulf us the light of Christ shines forth again. **A single shard of unconquerable light breaks into the world, and a Savior is born for us.** He alone redeems us, He alone sanctifies us, and He alone raises us up to be the Children of God. As the gospel reminds us, He gives us power - not magical fantasy but real power - to overcome sin and darkness.

And, having received this gift we are asked to be like John the Baptist - messengers of hope and joy to a world in which both are in short supply. John tells us that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. This is the message of Christmas, this is the joy that wells up in our hearts, this is the hope that we carry with us to our family, neighbors, and friends. May Christ fill our hearts again today and may we carry this Good News into the new year and on to eternity.

God bless and Happy Christmas!

Fr. Bob • Pastor

**January Food Pantry Need
CANNED SOUP**

Please leave donations at wooden boxes near Church entrances.



Welcome to St. Catharine

www.stcatharine.com
info@stcatharine • 614-231-4509

The Parish Offices will close on Christmas Eve and reopen on Monday, January 5th

WELCOME! We're so happy you're here today. God delights in you, and He desires to draw close to you in this Holy Mass. If you're visiting St. Catharine for the first time, thank you for praying with us—we're honored by your presence. Please silence your phones and help us keep a spirit of reverence in the church. **Restrooms can be found in the Undercroft and the Parish Center.** If you need help, just look for someone wearing a green lanyard. We hope you'll join us again soon!

TO THE PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES... Thank you for your courage and love in bringing your children to Mass. Even when it feels chaotic, your efforts matter more than you know. God sees every sacrifice, and your children's presence is a powerful witness of faith.

If your children have some extra wiggles or need to let out a few extra joyful noises, we have a large **Quieting Room in the Church, as well as a video feed in the Parish Hall Gallery** should you need to step out. But please do come back—we want you here!

TO OUR PARISH FAMILY... Children remind us that the Church is alive and growing. Their joyful noises are music to God's ears. Let's welcome them with kindness and support their parents with a smile of encouragement.

Financial Stewardship

Already giving online and still receiving envelopes?
Contact dan@stcatharine.com to save the costs of the mailing.

December 14th, 2025

Weekly Offertory (Envelopes, Loose, Online)	\$15,261
Weekly Budgeted Offertory	\$20,000
Difference	-\$4,739

Year-to-Date (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026)

Weekly Offertory (Envelopes, Loose, Online)	\$435,171
Weekly Budgeted Offertory	\$480,000
Difference	-\$44,829

SCAN TO GIVE



Confession

No Confessions on Dec 24th & 31st
Saturday • 9:00am

By appointment
info@stcatharine.com • 614-231-4509



ADORE Night

No Adore on Dec 24th & 31st

A candle-lit evening of Adoration with Confession, songs of praise & worship, prayers, and devotions.

This Week

Wednesday, December 24th: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve)

4:00pm Holy Mass: Church (Jack & Barbara Murphy) 🕯️
4:00pm Holy Mass: Parish Hall (Elizabeth and Rodrick Hauss)
10:00pm Holy Mass at Night (The Erwin Family) 🕯️

Thursday, December 25th: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

10:00am Holy Mass (Carrie Ghiloni)

Friday, December 26th: Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr

8:00am Holy Mass (Paulette Bennett)

Saturday, December 27th: Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

8:30am Holy Mass (John Prunte)
9:00am Confessions

Sunday, December 28th: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:30am Holy Mass (People of the Parish)
9:30am St. Vincent de Paul
11:00am Holy Mass (Ray Bass)
12:00pm Baptisms
5:00pm Holy Mass (Paulette Bennett) 🕯️

Monday, December 29th: The Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas

8:00am Holy Mass (Joanna Wilkenson)

Tuesday, December 30th: The Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas

8:00am Holy Mass (Donna Hinterschied)

Wednesday, December 31st: The Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas

6:00pm Vigil Mass for Holy Day (Dick Hinterschied & Friends)

Thursday, January 1st: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

8:00am Holy Mass (James Fenstermaker, RIP)
10:00am Holy Mass
11:00am Holy Hour for Vocations

Friday, January 2nd: Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

8:30am Holy Mass (Andrew Palley)

Saturday, January 3rd: Christmas Weekday

8:30am Holy Mass (John E. Prunte)

Sunday, January 4th: The Epiphany of the Lord

8:30am Holy Mass (People of the Parish)
9:30am Baptism Class
11:00am Holy Mass (George Shaker) 🕯️
12:00pm Baptisms
5:00pm Holy Mass (Laura Doland)

Eucharistic Adoration Chapel

The Adoration Chapel will observe the following breaks:

Christmas Break

Weds, Dec 24th-Sun, Dec 28th

New Years Break

Weds, Dec 31st-Sun, Jan 4th





JOIN THE FAMILY!

Are you registered at St. Catharine Church?
What are you waiting for?



A NOTE ON PARISH MEMBERSHIP AND THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING REGISTERED

The word parish comes to us from the Jews and references a particular group of pilgrim people. The Church now uses it to denote a particular church community in a diocese, on pilgrimage to the Heavenly Jerusalem. This local parish community is under the care of a pastor who is under the authority of the local bishop. This provides for the mission of the Church - the care and sanctification of the faithful at the parish church and the church's outreach of evangelization and works of mercy in the local area.

By registering at a parish, you are declaring your desire to be part of a Catholic faith community. If you have recently moved to the area or have been worshipping with us for a while, but haven't registered in the parish, please do so soon. Additionally, sometime after a young adult turns 18 and has stability in this (or another) community, he/she should register in the local parish church.

Parish Registration is not a passive process. You may be surprised to learn that if you were married here, if your child attends St. Catharine School, or if you grew up at St. Catharine, for example, you are not automatically registered once you become an adult.

Why should you register at St. Catharine or another Catholic Parish?

- A sense of belonging and identity in a parish community
- It is a commitment to practice your faith
- Registration enables the parish pastor and staff to get to know you better, to welcome you and to better minister to you. This is especially important during a time of sacramental preparation for a child, a time of engagement toward preparing for matrimony, or a pastoral crisis of an illness or death.
- Registration helps you stay connected with your parish and helps your parish stay connected with you. Providing your contact information is important so that parishes provide you with timely updates via email, direct mail, phone, etc. Once you are registered, please notify the parish office of any changes in address or phone number!
- Accurate Census numbers can help aid local parish care and programs within the diocese.

Download the Parish Registration Form at <https://stcatharine.com/parish-registration> or click the QR Code
Drop the completed form at the Parish Office, in the collection basket at Mass, or email to info@stcatharine.com

Not sure if you are registered? Has your information changed?

Call 614-231-4509 or email info@stcatharine.com

SCAN ME



Reduce your Ohio income taxes...



**...and help make an authentic Catholic education
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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 state funds available for families from Ohio's EdChoice Scholarship program, financial need still exists for many. Your gift helps bridge the gap between those scholarships and the cost to educate a child while reducing your Ohio tax burden, making it a win-win for everyone!

- *Last year, friends of our School gifted **\$162,093** to the Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund, providing vital scholarships for St. Catharine students*
- **100% of the 54 families** who applied for assistance were offered assistance for a total of 93 students
- *Be sure to designate your gift for scholarships to St. Catharine School, Columbus*

*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.

Questions?: emmausroad@stcatharine.com



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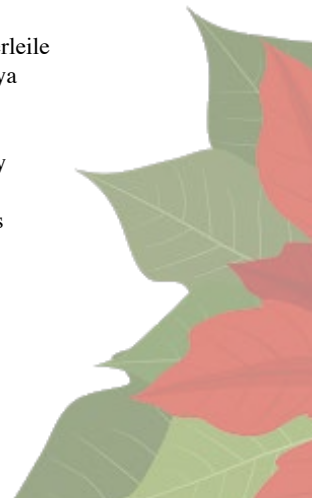
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Infant Baptism

*"See what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God."*

St. Catharine offers a new family-centered Baptism prep program to deepen understanding and connection to Jesus. It includes two sessions held on the 1st Sunday of each month after the 8:30am Mass. **Expectant parents are encouraged to attend even before your little one is born!** Learn more or register at www.stcatharine.com/baptism

Questions? Fr. Brown • frbrown@stcatharine.com



Becoming Catholic

If you think you are ready to begin the process of becoming Catholic, or if you have **any other questions about God and the Church**, just scan the QR code or send us an email.

Questions?

Fr. Brown • frbrown@stcatharine.com



Holy Matrimony

As soon as you have made the decision to marry, and at least six months or more prior to the anticipated wedding date, you should contact the Pastor in order to begin the various steps of the Marriage Preparation Program.

Questions?

Fr. Bob • rpenhall@columbuscatholic.org



Anointing of the Sick

If you or someone you know is in danger of death from sickness or old age and wishes to receive the sacraments, please call 614-673-4355, and ask for a priest to be dispatched to your location.

If you call after hours, please use the same number and follow the prompts to reach a priest.

Staff & Leadership

St. Catharine Church

info@stcatharine.com • 614-231-4509

St. Catharine School

info@stcathschool.com • 614-235-396

St. Catharine Preschool

akurth@cdeducation.org • 614-235-4940

Clergy

Fr. Bob Penhallurick - Pastor

rpenhall@columbuscatholic.org

To schedule a meeting with Fr. Bob • info@stcatharine.com

Fr. Frank Brown - Parochial Vicar

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Deacon Chris Reis - Permanent Deacon

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Kathy Kropp - Safe Environment Coordinator

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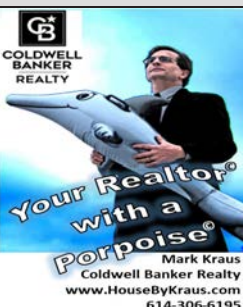
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December 28, 2025

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 | Col 3:12-21 | Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

In his Angelus address on the Feast of the Holy Family in 2001, St. John Paul II shared this with those gathered: “If we aspire to a deeper understanding of Jesus’ life and mission, we must draw close to the mystery of the Holy Family of Nazareth to observe and listen.” Following in the footsteps of the Holy Family in today’s Scripture, we find ourselves in quiet Bethlehem, just after the departure of the Magi. The angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream, this time with a warning: “Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.” They trust in God and their response is immediate. It is easy for us to imagine the Holy Family as different from ourselves — holier and more spiritual. Certainly, that’s true. They were holy but they were also fully human, which means that what they attained is possible for each of us. Let us try to imitate them in this holiness.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

It’s easy to glamorize the life of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus, but in reality, the cross was with them long before the crucifixion. From the moment of the Annunciation, there would be trials, temptations, and sufferings. But each time, they respond with immediate obedience and deep trust. In doing so, they give us all a perfect example of what the Christian life should look like: a life motivated by love and always listening for the voice of God, ready to respond in an instant. As we accompany others on this journey of faith, we also must listen deeply to them in order to help them in discerning the Spirit’s movement in their lives. As we hone the spiritual muscle of attentive listening, we grow in our ability to respond to God and to God’s action in our lives, and to help others do the same.

REFLECT

Most of us will never hear from an angel in the middle of the night telling us to walk hundreds of miles with our baby in tow. But every single one of us will be — has been — called. Let us pray to the Holy Family for an increase in the virtues of obedience and trust, so that we can respond to God’s call in our lives.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

**JOIN US EACH 1ST THURSDAY TO PRAY FOR
AN INCREASE IN PRIESTLY VOCATIONS**

JANUARY 1ST - ST. CATHARINE, BEXLEY

10:00 AM MASS

11:00 AM HOLY HOUR

FEBRUARY 5TH - ST. PETER, COLUMBUS

5:30 PM MASS

6:00 PM HOLY HOUR AND CONFESSIONS

MARCH 5TH - SETON PARISH, PICKERINGTON

8:30AM MASS

9:00 AM HOLY HOUR

APRIL 2ND - HOLY THURSDAY

MAY 7TH - ST. PAUL, WESTERVILLE

5:00 PM – HOLY HOUR

6:15 PM MASS

JUNE 4TH - TBD

JULY 2ND - TBD

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