SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

# CHRISTMAS

## ST. CATHARINE CHURCH

"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. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."





# 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 worshiping 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.

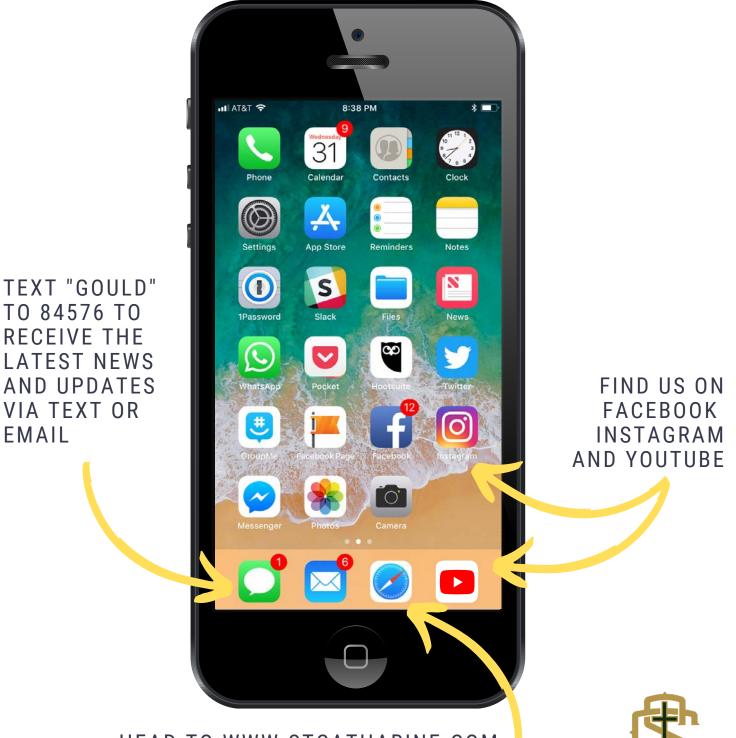
Parish Registration is not a passive process. You may be surprised to learn that if you were married here, if your child attends St. Catharine School, or if you grew up at St. Catharine, for example, you are not automatically registered once you become an adult.

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.

# CONNECT TO EVERYTHING GOD HAS FOR YOUR LIFE AT ST. CATHARINE ONLINE

BUT PLEASE, NOT DURING MASS 😁



HEAD TO WWW.STCATHARINE.COM TO FIND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

EMAIL



# DINNER THEME: TASTEAND SEETHE GOODNESS OFTHELORD. PS. 34

## THE CHRISTINA ANN ALLWEIN CATHOLIC RETREAT FUND DINNER

MISSION: PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUTH TO EXPERIENCE CHRIST FULLY ALIVE

WHAT: A NIGHT OF FOOD, REFLECTION, AND SPIRITUAL DEPTH DATE: SUNDAY, JANUARY 15th, 2023 LOCATION: ST. CATHARINES PARISH HALL 500 S. GOULD RD. COLUMBUS, OHIO 43209 TIME: APPETIZERS @ 6:00pm **PRICING:** \$100 PER PERSON \$1,000 PER TABLE SPONSOR RESERVE YOUR TICKETS OR MAKE A ONE TIME GIFT TO THE CAACRF AT: <u>stcatharine.com/allwein-dinner</u>

SCAN TO REGISTER:





Womb to Tomb Ministry Invites You To a



# SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

2:00pm-4:00pm Pam O'Neil's Home

Please pray for this courageous mother who has chosen life!

Unable to attend? Just scan the QR code to purchase something off the Baby Registry or visit www.stcatharine.com/baby-shower

SCAN ME

Questions? pjhoneil@gmail.com



Understand Your Catholic Faith with *The Catechism in a Year* Podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz!

Starting January 1, 2023



By listening to this podcast, Catholics will:

- Read the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in 365 days
- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
- Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded

**Get the FREE Reading Plan!** Scan this QR code with your phone to learn more and get your free reading plan!

www.ascensionpress.com/ciy









Community of Giving

# Blood Drive St. Catharine Church

Tuesday, January 12th 12:00pm - 6:00pm

St. Catharine Parish Center

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Sponsor Code: StCatharine

All presenting donors will be entered to WIN a \$150 Gift Certificate to the new Polaris Trampoline Park!

Give anytime in January and automatically be entered for a chance to win an exciting trip for you and a guest to Super Bowl LVII in Phoenix! Includes travel, hotel, \$500 gift card, pre-game activities and more! Terms apply; visit RedcrossBlood.org/superbowl

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App © The American National Red Cross | 161501 The St. Catharine of Siena Parish Knights of Columbus Council 11354 Present



**MEN AND WOMEN INVITED!** (12 and Older, Please.)

#### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2023 St. Catharine Parish Center © Doors Open at 1:00pm TICKETS S100 EACH ONUTSICE S100 EACH ONUTSICE S100 EACH OUTSICE S100 EACH OUTSIC

\$100 TICKET PROVIDES:

Steak Dinner (Served From 1:00pm Until 3:30pm)

> Sandwiches at Game Time

Snacks Throughout the Day

Beer and Soft Drinks Provided

l Square on Main Board (Pays every score for the first 15 scores) OTHER ACTIVITIES:

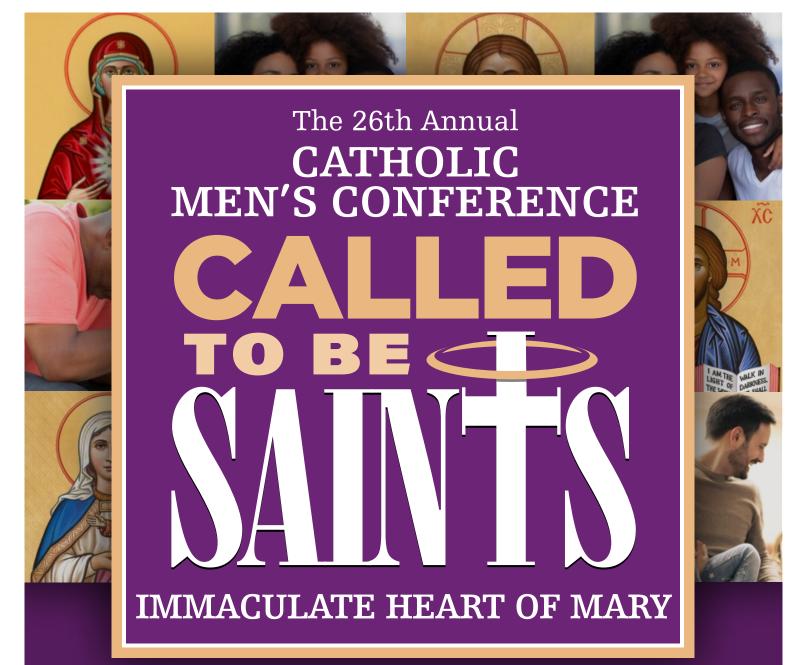
> 50/50 Raffle (Halftime Draw)

Card Games (Poker, Euchre, Etc.) Texas Hold 'Em Tourney Starts at 2:30pm

Door Prizes Hourly (2, 3, 4 and 5pm ) Must be present to win.

> Side Boards Available (\$5, \$10, \$20) Fellowship and Much More!

For More Information or to Purchase Tickets, Contact Aaron Heil: heil22@sbcglobal.net



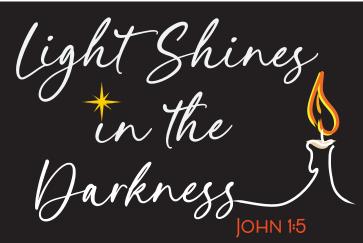
# + Saturday | Feb 25, 2023+ Kasich Hall | Ohio Expo Ctr

FOLLOW:



www. CatholicMensMinistry.com







February 18, 2023 • 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM • Ohio Expo Center

## **REGISTER TODAY!**

www.columbuscatholicwomen.com

\* Featured Speakers: >



Danielle Bean



Fr. Michael Denk



Fr. Rob Galea



Paula Umana



Mass Celebrant: Bishop Earl Fernandes



Music By: Hannah Schaefer



Emcee: Debbie Georgianni



## In Memory Of

The Agriesti & The Stegmann Families Had & Eleanor Albright Bob Babbitt Bud Babbitt Edward Babbitt Margaret Babbitt Donna Joy Babbitt Earl, MaryJo, John & Letitia Bayly Elaine Best Dennis R. Blank Mario & June Bonaventura Dr. Boyd Bowden Michelle Bravard Lola Brunetto Julie Brunetto-Frantz The Brunetto Family The Busak Family Gene & Jean Butler The Lawrence I. Callahan Family Toni Cardi George N. Corey Rose Corev Jimmy Corrova Betta Dav Tammy DeFalco Andy & Connie Deibel Denis E. Delaney Concetta and Thomas Diamond Eugene Dietz The Dunstan & Machock Families Lincoln, Francis, Simeon, and Gerard Duraney Phyllis Durgham The Easly & Stanton Families Edward "Mike" Eberle **Gladys** Echols The Farias Family Kim F. Ferris John & Mary Fleming John J. Freeman Mary Agriesti Gall Brian F. Gilchrist Michael E. Gilchrist Rev. Joseph W. Goetz Frederick and Marjorie Graessle Cecil & Antoinette Grilli Marlene Grondalski Joseph Groom Joseph P. Groom, Sr. Henry & Jeannette Gruesen Jeannette and Henry Gruesen Jack Gulick Jeanne Gulick

# **Christmas Flowers**

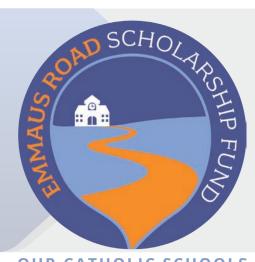
William and Helen Haag Sr. Corinne Halsema, OSF Stan Harris Soapie Haves John W Hayes Lynn Stoughton Henderson Helen & Charles Horn Margaret Hueckel Edward J Hueckel Carol Ann Hughes James Boyce Hughes, Jr. Barbara Hysell Ben & Margaret Janvary Cecilia Javier Dumont L., Julia B., and Philip V. D. Jones Richard Joseph Jack Knauer Rosemary Kochensparger John Kochensparger The John A. Kohar Family Dan Kozelek Maggie Kozelek Randall & Frances Krieger Richard & Ruth Lannan Jane Lannan Sr. Marita Lannan Nve Larrimer Sara Larrimer Larry, Organ Transplant Donor Richard Mackessy Kathleen Mackessy Richard Mackessy Kathleen Mackessy Kathleen MacKinnon William Sr. & William Jr. Manierre The Marko Family Mary McGinty Mark Meanev Evaughn Michael David Miesse Marcene Miller Thomas O. Moore Bob Morotta Richard H. and Hermine P. Muellerleile Kathy Wintering Nagy Joyce Niedermier Father Glenn O'Connor Andrew, Mary Jane & Rachael Pallay Kevin Pearson Andy Pearson Norman & Wanda Peters Emma P. Petrosky Stanley L., Sr. & Stanley L., III Petrosky Margaret Bayly Petrosky Carla Plageman The Plageman & Haag Families John F. and Mary E. Polesnak Quinn Quigley Eileen Rausch Freddie Rausch Carma Jean Rausch Bill Rausch George Rushman Sr. Francis Santana

Tony Shannon Nancy Slagle Donald "Don" Smith Edward J. Stange Jr. Fr. Howard Sturek, OFM Harold Summers Anthony and Katherine Tatman The Terrazas Family Pat & Sharon Thomas Joseph & Margaret Troyan Bob Vanhoff Lou & Vivian Vesco Patrick & Martha Walsh Mike Weber The Wilcox & Weber Families Garth L. Wilkes Bridget Williams Harold and Billie Williams Pete & Mary Worley Bill Wymer Jay Yano Daryl Yates J. Douglas Yeager Anne Marie Yeager Shirley Zirwas The Zitello Family

## In Honor of

Jean Babbitt Kayleigh Dietz Max Dietz Susan Dietz Barbara Dietz Devon Duska, 1st grade teacher Bill and Rita Hueckel Margaret Meaney Ken and Eloise Salisbury Ginna Springer, 2nd grade teacher Hope Stebelton, K teacher Principal Mark Watts





OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

# <complex-block>

# Help Make an Authentically Catholic Education Accessible and Affordable for All

Did you know that, in late 2021, the Ohio Legislature passed a law creating a <u>tax credit</u> for qualified donations to scholarship granting organizations certified by the Ohio Attorney General?

The Diocese of Columbus considers affordable access to a Catholic education a philanthropic priority so, in December 2021, the Diocesan Education Corporation *(dba Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund)* officially was formed and certified as the *first* Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) in the state.

# How Does It Work?



Donors who make a gift to the Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund receive a **dollar-for-dollar reduction** of their Ohio tax liability upon filing next year (equal to the amount of the gift up to \$750 or \$1,500 if married and filing jointly).



**Anyone can make a gift!** Parents, grandparents, alumni, friends – anyone with a heart for making Catholic education accessible and affordable for all. Only Ohio residents will receive the tax credit, but out-of-state residents have the potential to realize a Federal tax savings for their contribution.



*No gift is too large or too small*, but the Ohio tax credit is limited to \$750 for an individual and \$1,500 if married and filing jointly

*Your gift can be directed to St. Catharine or* you can make a gift to the general (unrestricted) fund to help the greatest number of students in the diocese, starting with low-income families

Learn more about the fund or make a gift at www.emmausroadscholarship.org





197 E. Gay Street, Columbus, OH 43215



# Turn Your Taxes into Scholarships for Catholic Education

with the Emmans Road Scholarship Fund

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

*It's true!* Thanks to a state law passed in 2021, Ohio taxpayers now are eligible to receive a tax credit for qualified donations to our scholarship granting organization (SGO), the **Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund**! Donors receive a dollar-for-dollar credit (not deduction) on their Ohio income tax liability of up to \$750 or \$1,500 if married, filing jointly.

*Why?* The Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund was established to help make an authentic Catholic education affordable and accessible for all families in our Catholic Diocese of Columbus.



The law effectively gives you the power to direct your tax dollars to support Our Catholic Schools' efforts to lead children to an encounter with Jesus Christ and change lives.

It's a win-win for all involved if you pay taxes to the State of Ohio – and you probably do!

## Can this Tax Credit Benefit You?

Every person's situation is unique but, if your year-over-year tax circumstances haven't changed significantly, you may be eligible to receive the tax credit by making a contribution to the Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund. The easiest place to start is by reviewing your most recent Ohio Income Tax Return. Then, follow these three, easy steps.

Pull your prior year return	SSN 2021 Ohio IT 1040 Individual Income Tax Return	21000202 Sequence No. 2
The form you'll need to review is <b>Ohio IT 1040</b> .	7a. Amount from line 7 on page 1	
	8a. Nonbusiness income tax liability on line 7a (see instructions for tax tables)8i	
	8b. Business income tax liability – Ohio Schedule IT BUS, line 14 (include schedule)	
	8c. Income tax liability before credits (line 8a plus line 8b)	
2 Review line 8c on page 2	9. Ohio nonzelusdable credits - Ohio Schedule of Credits, line 38 (include schedule)	
	10. Tax liability after nonrefundable credits (line 8c minus line 9; if negative, enter zero)	
This is your total in some tay	11. Interest penalty on underpayment of estimated tax (Include Ohio IT/SD 2210)	
his is your total income tax	12. Unpaid use tax (see instructions)	2
ability <i>before credits,</i> or what the	13. Total Ohio tax liability before withholding or estimated payments (add lines 10, 11 and 12)	
state says you owe as a taxpayer.	14. Ohio income tax withheld – Schedule of Ohio Withholding, part A, line 1 (include schedule and income statements)	
	15. Estimated and extension payments (from Ohio IT 1040ES and IT 40P), and credit carryforward from just Rear's return	5.
3 Is line 10 greater than \$0.00?	16.Refundable credits – Ohio Schedule of Credits, line 44 (include schedule)	3.
	17. Amended return only – amount previously paid with original and/or amended return	
foo you can raduce this liability on a	18. Total Ohio tax payments (add lines 14, 15, 16 and 17)	8
f so, you can reduce this liability on a	19. Amended return only - overpayment previously requested on original and/or amended return	
lollar-for-dollar basis with a gift to the		
Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund, up to	If line 20 is MORE THAN line 13, skip to line 24. OTHERWISE, continue to line 21.	
\$750 or \$1,500 if married and filing	21. Tax due (line 13 minus line 20). If line 20 is negative, ignore the "-" and add line 20 to line 13	
ointly.	*This graphic is for informational purposes only and is not intended to advice. Please consult your tax advisor to confirm your eligibility before	

# PLEASE PATRONIZE THE ADVERTISERS WHO MAKE OUR BULLETIN POSSIBLE AT NO COST TO THE PARISH.

Please patronize our advertisers ... To place an ad, call 614-777-8700





# Take your next steps.

For a complete listing of ministries, sacraments, and next steps please visit www.stcatharine.com

#### Reap the Most Tax Benefit While Supporting St. Catharine

Maximize your giving dollars before the ball drops on New Year's Eve by using funds in your retirement account to support St. Catharine. The IRA Charitable Rollover allows donors who are 70.5 years or older to transfer up to \$100,000 from a traditional or Roth IRA to a qualified charity like The Catholic Foundation. In doing so, donors keep their IRA distribution from impacting their gross income and possibly avoid being bumped into a higher tax bracket. The IRA charitable rollover can also count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD), which starts at age 72. All transfers must be made directly from an IRA custodian to The Catholic Foundation by December 15th to qualify as a 2022 rollover and be excluded from the donor's taxable income. If you would like to support St. Catharine through an IRA, please contact Christy Steffy at 614-443-8893 or csteffy@catholic-foundation.org

#### Baptism

Baptism is necessary for salvation, and the basis of the whole Christian life. If you are interested in baptizing your child, or being baptized yourself, please complete the inquiry form at <u>www.stcatharine.com/baptism</u> Baptisms at St. Catharine typically take place on Sunday following the 11:00 am Mass.

#### **Becoming Catholic and Confirmation for Adults**

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic? Or do you have questions about how someone becomes Catholic or gets Confirmed as an adult? Contact Mike Denz, and he will answer any questions you have to help you take your next step: <u>mike@stcatharine.com</u>

#### Children's and Family Ministry

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** // CGS registration is now open for parish children in Pre-K through 1st Grade. Wednesday is full, but we still have room in our Sunday session. Interested in donating to the atrium? Visit www.stcatharine.com/cgs to see our wishlist or to register for 2022-2023. Interested in assisting? Reach out to Rachel Green • <a href="mailto:rgeen2@cdeducation.org">rgeen2@cdeducation.org</a>

Little Saints // 1st Tuesdays at 9:00am in the Lower Level during the School Year. A time of music, activities, and prayer for mothers and their little ones. No sign up. Just show up. Begins September 13th, 2022! Questions? Heidi Thompson • <u>heidithompson522@gmail.com</u>

## Confirmation for 8th Grade Students

Every baptized person not yet confirmed should receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Baptism, the Eucharist, and Confirmation together constitute the sacraments of Christian initiation, and reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. Confirmation for 8th grade students typically takes place in the late Spring at St. Catharine. Questions? Toni Carmon • toni@stcatharine.com or www.stcatharine.com/ confirmation

## **Eucharistic Adoration Chapel**

Everyone is invited to spend time with Jesus at our Adoration Chapel. Committed Adorers commit to adoring Jesus for a specific hour once a week at the same time. These Adorers enable us to have Eucharistic Adoration for any and all persons wanting to make a shorter visit to be with Jesus. To make a commitment visit <u>www.stcatharine.com/adoration</u>

**Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023** we will be extending Adoration until 12am Midnight Sunday through Friday. To enhance safety, security, and peace of mind, each hour between 9:00pm and 12:00am will have at least one Knight of Columbus present.

Questions? Brendan O'Rourke • brendan@stcatharine.com

## First Communion and First Confession for 2nd Grade

The forgiveness of sins committed after Baptism is conferred by a particular sacrament called the sacrament of Confession or Reconciliation, and the Eucharist is rightly called "the source and summit of the Christian life." First Confession for 2nd grade students typically takes place in the late Winter, and First Communion in the late Spring. Questions? toni@stcatharine.com or www.stcatharine.com/first-confession-communion

#### Men's Ministry

**That Man is You!** // TMIY begins Saturday, September 10th and runs through April. Saturdays 7:00am-8:30am in the Parish Center. TMIY addresses the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern culture, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers. Breakfast served. No sign up. Just show up. Questions? Paul Wills • <u>pkawills7@gmail.com</u>

Knights of Columbus // K of C Council #11354 plays a special role in our parish, and our community. We might be best known for our Lenten Fish Frys (the best in town!) and other meal events, but as a STAR COUNCIL, we are bunch of spirit-filled, busy men whose efforts have made us a part of the fabric of the parish ministry. Questions or do you want to join? Grand Knight, John Page • john@pagetechltd.com or www.koc11354.org

Men's Rosary // Last Wednesdays of the Month at 7:30am in Church

### Women's Ministry

Holy After Hour // Don't limit Holy to an Hour. Happiness and holiness go hand in hand, and as a community of women at St. Catharine, we want to dive into both, together! Join us on Third Thursdays at 8:00pm after ADORE (7pm-8pm) for friendship, conversation, drinks, and a short reflection. No sign up. Just show up. Questions? Amber DeMatte • <u>amber.dematte@gmail.com</u>

Women at the Well // Women at the Well is for all women ages 18 and older who are looking for an opportunity to start, deepen, or renew their relationship with Jesus. We will connect with Jesus and other women in the parish through coffee, prayer, and small groups. There is no sign up. Simply come as you are. Join us on First Saturdays from 6:30am-8:00am in the Parish Center. Questions? Elyse Salisbury • ehueckel@gmail.com

### Youth Ministry

**High School Youth Group** (9th-12th) will meet every Sunday from 6pm-8pm beginning on Sunday, September 11th. **Middle School Youth Group** (6th-8th) will meet on 1st and 3rd Wednesday from

6pm-8pm beginning on Wednesday, September 7th.

You can reach our new Full Time Youth Minister, Christiana Lee, at <u>christiana@stcatharine.com</u>

## The Next Two Weeks...

Week of December 25th	Week of January 1st		
The Octave of Christmas	Christmas Season		
Saturday, December 24th:The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)	Sunday, January 1st: The Octave Day of Christmas		
4:00pm Holy Mass (Elizabeth Roderick Hauss)	Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God		
6:30pm Holy Mass (Gregory Kasson)	8:30am Holy Mass (Tom Easly)		
12:00am Midnight Mass (The Sinclair & Vautour Families)	11:00am Holy Mass (People of the Parish)		
Sunday December 25th, The Nativity of the Lavel (Christman)	5:00pm Holy Mass (Gregory Kasson)		
Sunday, December 25th: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)11:00amHoly Mass (People of the Parish)	Monday, January 2nd		
*No 8:30am or 5:00pm Mass on Christmas Day	Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors		
	Church Office Closed		
Monday, December 26th	8:00am Holy Mass (Richard Lumpe)		
Feast of Saint Stephen, first martyr			
Church Office Closed	Tuesday, January 3rd		
8:00am Holy Mass (Steve Rager)	Christmas Weekday		
	7:00pm Holy Mass (Bob Babbitt)		
Tuesday, December 27th	7:30pm Confessions		
Feast of Saint John, Apostle and evangelist	Mada and an Income Ath		
7:00pmHoly Mass (Irene Farley)7:30pmConfessions	Wednesday, January 4th Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious		
7.50pm Comessions	School Resumes		
Wednesday, December 28th	7:30am Men's Rosary		
Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs	8:00am Holy Mass (Judy Davidson)		
7:30am Men's Rosary	8:00am Catechesis of Good Shepherd		
8:00am Holy Mass (Bud Babbitt)	9:00am School Mass (Richard Lumpe)		
	6:00pm Middle School Youth Group		
Thursday, December 29th			
The Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas	Thursday, January 5th		
8:00am Holy Mass (Betty Baker)	Memorial of Saint John Neumann, Bishop		
7:00pm ADORE Night (Confession & Adoration)	8:00am Holy Mass (Kathleen MacKinnon)		
	7:00pm ADORE Night (Confession & Adoration)		
Friday, December 30th	8:00pm Womb to Tomb Pro-Life Meeting		
Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph   8:00am Holy Mass (Bill Kegelmeyer)   Friday, January 6th			
	Christmas Weekday		
Saturday, December 31st	8:00am Holy Mass (John Knauer)		
The Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas			
8:30am Holy Mass (Dennis Blank)	Saturday, January 7th		
9:00am Confessions	Christmas Weekday		
	6:30am Women at the Well		
Give Online Now	8:30am Holy Mass (Mary and Walter Plank)		
	9:00am Confessions		
To quickly give online, simply scan this QR Code.	Euchemistic Adamstics Change		
This will take you to our secure online giving platform at	Eucharistic Adoration Chapel		
	Sunday - Friday 6:00am - 9:00pm		
OSV. Thank you for your generosity!	Saturday 6:00am - 4:00pm		
	Confeesion Times		
「「「「「「「」」」	Confession Times		
	Tuesday 7:30pm		
Offering (Sunday, December 18th)	Thursday 7:00pm (ADORE Night)		
Data not available at press time	Saturday 9:00am		

www.stcatharine.com info@stcatharine.com Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube

## 614-231-4509 500 S Gould Rd Columbus, OH 43209

# WELCOMING CHILDREN AT ST. CATHARINE

## TO THE PARENTS OF OUR YOUNG CHILDREN, MAY WE SUGGEST ...

**RELAX!** God put the wiggle in children, so don't feel that you must suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

Sit towards the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what is going on. You can also quietly explain the parts of Holy Mass.

Sing the hymns (yes dads, you too), pray the prayers, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to step out during Mass, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home here! Thank you for making the effort to be here, and never stop coming to Mass.

## TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH

The presence of children is a gift to the Church and they are a reminder that our congregation is growing. Any noise that our children may make during Mass is pleasing to God's ears!

Please warmly welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.