

**January 6, 2018
The Epiphany of the Lord**

<u>MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK</u>				<u>Weekday Readings</u>
Mon	Jan 7		No Scheduled Mass	1Jn 3: 22-4:6/Mk 4: 12-17, 23-35
Tue	Jan 8	(SN) 8:00am	Rev. Tony Borgia/Exposition Closing 4pm	1Jn 4: 7-10/Mk 6: 34-44
Wed	Jan 9	(HF) 8:00am	Mr & Mrs Roman Schumaker/ Adam Lammers (anniv) Exposition Closing 8pm	1Jn 4: 11-18/Mk 6: 45-52
Thu	Jan 10	(HF) 6:30pm	Rev. Tony Borgia	1Jn 4: 19—5: 4/Lk 4: 14-22
Fri	Jan 11	(SN) 8:00am	Flavia Null	1Jn 5: 5-13/Lk 5: 12-16
Sat	Jan 12	(SN) 4:00pm	Barbara Lammers & Dr. Jerry Lammers	
Sat	Jan 12	(HF) 7:00pm	For the Parish	<u>Sunday Readings</u>
Sun	Jan 13	(HF) 8:30am	John & Rena Kruse	Is 40: 1-5, 9-11/ Ti 2: 11-14; 3: 4-7
Sun	Jan 13	(SN) 10:30am	For the Parish	Lk 3: 15-16, 21-22

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

While the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord may evoke many memories of past Christmas holidays (especially with one more round of gifts after Christmas) in many Catholic households, our observance today offers us the grace of understanding the journey of our earthly pilgrimage. The magi are following a bright light, a star, we are told from the sacred writings, to see the newborn king of the Jews. Along that path, they find themselves confronted with an opposing force (King Herod) who is threatened by the thought of having someone else receiving honor and recognition from foreigners. All of this rings true of the world today.

We are invited to follow the light of Christ in our times. Like the magi, we too may find ourselves stopping and starting our travel through life with confrontations from an opposing force. Sometimes, perhaps, the bright light of Jesus calling us to a stronger level of virtue and holiness is dimmed by worldliness and allurements placed in our hearts by the Evil One. It seems most appropriate that as we have begun another year in human history that this solemn feast of Our Lord's Epiphany is commemorated. New Year's resolutions are intended to put us on a different course in life; to be a little more attentive to the things we know to be lacking in our lives. We resolve to live healthier lives with the intent of embracing, all the more, the blessings and graces God intends for us.

Today's solemnity is one of several "feasts" in the ritual life of Catholic Christians when God's presence or "manifestation" is made know to the world. It is for this reason that we still continue the Christmas season this week after the Epiphany to

prepare our hearts for the culmination of Jesus' incarnation in human history with his baptism at the River Jordan next Sunday. So, while many may choose to take down indoor and outdoor Christmas decorations this weekend (and some already placed in storage), the Church continues its joyful observance of Christmas until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Consider it this way. As we have acknowledged God's incarnation (birth), the role of the Holy Family in God's plan of salvation, the recognition of Jesus as the light of all the nations of the world, his baptism we will celebrate next weekend seals the greatest deal God desired to have with the human race. God is here to stay with us and leads the way by calling us all to the life giving waters of Baptism!

The fortunate reality about the mystery we have just celebrated with the Christmas feasts is just beginning. The bigger and even more powerful mystery of God awaits us in the coming months when the "reason for the season" leads us to an even greater fact in our faith. Stay tuned. It promises to be an awesome event giving us even greater hope! Blessings to you and your families these early days of the New Year.

Monsignor Singler

WEEKLY OFFERINGS	
December 29 & 30 and December 31 & January 1	
St. Nicholas:	Holy Family:
Regular: \$2,856.00	Regular: \$3,004.00
Fuel: 20.00	Fuel: 30.00
Christmas: 487.00	Christmas: 260.00
Holy Day: 1,535.00	Holy Day: 1,214.00
Total: \$4,898.00	Total: \$4,508.00
TOTAL CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS TO DATE	
St. Nicholas \$10,394.00	Holy Family: \$8,781.98
<i>Thank you for your generosity and support of our parishes.</i>	

A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY THANK YOU

St. Nicholas Altar & Rosary Society members wish to express sincere gratitude for the outpouring of love and holiday cheer extended to the two families sponsored for the Advent Giving Tree Campaign during the month of December. The effort was a complete success and the sponsored families were overwhelmed by the kindness of our parishioners and most thankful for the Christmas gifts they received. Many thanks to all who participated in this holiday effort.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION/YOUTH GROUP

All Junior High Christian Formation students meet this Wednesday, January 9. Reminder that there will be a prayer service/gathering including lunch for 8th graders and their sponsors on January 20 at St. Nicholas following Mass. Please let Deb Wehri know how many will be attending by Jan. 16.

Juniors meet today, Sunday, January 6, at St. Nicholas from 8:30-10:15. Seniors meet today, Sunday, January 6, at Holy Family from 9:30-11:15. Freshmen and Sophomores meet next Sunday, January 13.

The Youth Group's annual Soup Supper has been scheduled for January 19, serving from 4:00-6:30pm at the SN Parish Center Hall. There will be six varieties of soup, three varieties of homemade bread, and our generous dessert bar. Please mark your calendars and invite your family and friends. Take out will be available. Cost is by donation which supports Youth Group activities. Submarine sandwich order forms for February 3 are in today's bulletin. Deadline to order is January 22.

Youth Group meeting is next Sunday, January 13 at the SN Parish Center Hall beginning at 6:00pm. All high school youth are welcome! I Am Catholic meets January 27 at the Parish Center at 6:00pm.

A Night of Healing will be held this Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019 from 7:00-8:00pm at St. Jerome Church, Walbridge, OH. Witness of Healing and Adoration with Praise & Worship and teaching from Father Tom Oedy. There will be group prayers for healing and an opportunity for anointing. Father Tom will also be available for reconciliation.

Putnam County Right to Life will meet this Tuesday, January 8, 2019, at 7:30PM in the home of Mary Jane Stechsulte (next to Kalida fire station). All are welcome. Save this date! Rally for Life on Sunday, January 20, 2019, at 2:00 pm in the American Legion Hall in Ottawa, Ohio.

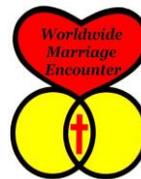
EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION FOR LIFE

Join the parish communities of Holy Family and St. Nicholas for two scheduled events of Eucharistic Exposition in solidarity with those attending the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. Holy Family Church will be the site on Sunday, January 20 for an extended period of Eucharistic Exposition which will begin at the conclusion of the 8:30AM Lord's Day Mass and will conclude with a service of Benediction at 3:00PM. On Tuesday, January 22, the 46th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision to legalize abortion in our country, St. Nicholas Church will be the site for a day long Eucharistic Exposition for Life which will begin at the conclusion of the 8:00AM Daily Mass and conclude with a service of Benediction at 4:00PM. Save these dates and plan to attend either or both of these scheduled events to lend your voice in prayer to God to end all abortions in our country and in the world.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY REPRISE

St. Nicholas Rectory will again be available for an Open House review of holiday decorations next Sunday, January 13, between the hours of 2:00PM and 4:00PM for those who were unable to attend the pre-Christmas Open House on December 16.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter celebrates World Marriage Day, Sunday, February 10, 2019. All encountered couples are invited to attend the celebration



hosted by Sts. Peter & Paul, Parish, Ottawa. Mass will be celebrated at 3:00pm at St. Peter & Paul with a dinner and dance to follow from 4:30-8:00pm at the Ottawa K of C Hall. A collection will be taken during Mass to assist with Marriage Encounter events. Pre-sale tickets are \$30 per couple. For tickets, contact Harold & Mary Jane Kaufman, 419-876-3541 or Jeff & Beth Steffan, 419-615-5258 by January 28, 2019. Anyone wishing to donate a door prize can bring the items the night of the celebration.

CRHP (Christ Renews His Parish) is coming to St. Nicholas and Holy Family Parishes! If you have made a CRHP weekend before and are willing to help, call or text Linda Lammers, 419-615-0989 or Beth Steffan, 419-615-5258.

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK:

THE FARMERS ELEVATOR ASSN: We offer a wide selection of fertilizer, seeds and Hudson Feeds. Call our market tape phone number for the current commodities market. We are located in North Creek and Pleasant Bend.