



AND THE

# Word

BECAME FLESH AND  
MADE HIS DWELLING  
AMONG US, AND  
WE SAW  
HIS GLORY,

JOHN 1:14

*Christmas 2023*

## **St. Joseph Catholic Church**

140 West Avenue, Plain City, OH 43064  
614-873-8850 [www.stjosephpc.org](http://www.stjosephpc.org)



**MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS**

**Sunday, January 7 – Epiphany of the Lord**  
 IS 60:1-6; PS 72; EPH 3:2-3A, 5-6; MT 2:1-12  
**8:30 am\*:** Catherine Purdin (L. Giardina)  
**11:00 am:** Violet & Samuel Dennis, Jr (S. Dennis III)

**Monday, January 8 – Baptism of the Lord**  
 IS 42:1-4, 6-7; PS 29; MK 1:7-11

**No 5:30 pm Mass**

**Tuesday, January 9**  
 1 SM 1:9-20; 1 SAMUEL 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8ABCD; MK 1:21-28

**No 5:30 pm Mass**

**Wednesday, January 10**  
 1 SM 3:1-10, 19-20; PS 40; MK 1:29-39

**No 5:30 pm Mass**

**Thursday, January 11**  
 1 SM 4:1-11; PS 44; MK 1:40-45

**Friday, January 12**  
 1 SM 8:4-7, 10-22A; PS 89; MK 2:1-12

**No 8:00 am Mass**

**Saturday, January 13**  
 1 SM 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; PS 21; MK 2:13-17

**No 9:00 am Mass**

**4:30 pm\*:** Intention of Gieseck Family (R. & J. Gieseck)

**Sunday, January 14**  
 1 SM 3:3B-10, 19; PS 40; 1 COR 6:13C-15A, 17-20; JN 1:35-42

**8:30 am\*:** MaryEllen Shockey (L. Giardina)

**11:00 am:** Santos Family (J. Parsons)

*\*Denotes Mass at the Church. Please contact the office to offer a Mass for your special intention or the soul of a dearly departed family member or friend. Customary donation is \$10. Online requests can be made at: [stjosephpc.org/mass-intentions](http://stjosephpc.org/mass-intentions)*

**Chili Cook-Off Volunteers Needed**

We are looking for volunteers to help coordinate the parish chili cook-off that we typically hold in late January or February. This is a great event to get families together with a little friendly competition. If you are interested in helping, please call the parish office or email [office@stjosephpc.org](mailto:office@stjosephpc.org).



**NET RETREAT for Religious Education Students**

Our Religious Education team is getting ready for our NET RETREAT for the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. This Retreat will be on Friday, January 19th from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm at the PAC. This is a required attendance for the 6-8 graders.



The Confirmation 8th graders are required to attend on Saturday from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm with Mass included. We need to have our 8th graders read at the Mass. Parents and their families are encouraged to attend the Mass also. Please contact Maria at [ReligiousEd@stjosephpc.org](mailto:ReligiousEd@stjosephpc.org) to sign-up or with questions.

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE**

**JANUARY 13-14**

**Saturday, 4:30 pm at the Church**  
 Ushers: Mike & Terri Schurman  
 Lector: Jamie McFaddin  
 Eucharistic Minister: Ken & Karen Fritz, Diana Rowley



**Sunday, 8:30 am at the Church**  
 Ushers: Carl Haaser & Jeff Pieper  
 Lector: George Hamlin  
 Eucharistic Minister: Karen Wiegandt, Shelley Costello, Tricia Hemker

**Sunday, 11:00 am at the PAC**  
 Ushers: Matt & Wendy Brown  
 Lector: John Ciuca  
 Eucharistic Minister: Cyndi High, Gene & Debbie Duran

**PRAY FOR ALL WHO ARE ILL AND HEALING**

Kelsey Chapman Karen Klump  
 Lou Ciminello Roberta Benner Scott  
 Oralía Duran Bob Timmons  
 Sharon Elias

*Almighty and merciful Father, by the power of your command, drive away from them all forms of sickness and disease. Amen*

**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY**

CPT Denis R. Aurelius USAF  
 SGTFC, Justin Edwards, USA  
 CPT Buck "Indy" Horn, USAF  
 PVT Daniel O'Neill; USA  
 SR Edward Rice, USN  
 MASN Todd Thieken Jr., USN  
 CDR Matt Wood, USN

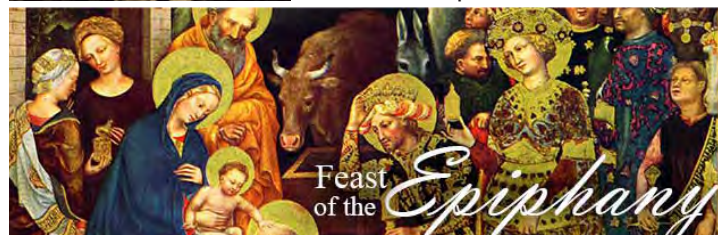
*Lord, please hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless act they perform for us in our time of need. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen*

*God Bless our troops & their families.*

**Consecration to the Holy Family**



Today we conclude the **Consecration to the Holy Family** event with the prayer at the end of mass. The purpose of the event is to choose a way of life for your family and acknowledge that the family is sacred. We ask for the Holy Family's intercession to strengthen our family and our faith. It is our hope that this process may help strengthen our families and revitalize our parishes.





STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Collection for December 25, 2023

Envelopes	\$ 3,565
Loose (Unknown)	\$ 2,456
Diocesan Tax (8%)	\$ (482)
*does not include Online Giving	\$ *5,539



JANUARY

- 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Jr High and Elementary PSR resumes for 2024
- 8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> No Weekday Masses
- 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> No PSR for Martin Luther King Jr Holiday
- 14<sup>th</sup> Youth Group resumes for 2024, 7:00pm at PAC
- 17<sup>th</sup> Walking With Purpose with Confirmation Class from 7:00pm-8:30pm at the PAC
- 19<sup>th</sup> NET Retreat for 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from 4:00pm-7:00pm at the PAC
- 20<sup>th</sup> KoC March for Life at 12 Noon at Church. NET Retreat mandatory for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from 9am-6pm at the PAC, ending with family mass
- 21<sup>st</sup> Second Collection for Propagation of the Faith
- 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> No Weekday Masses
- 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> No Weekday Masses

FEBRUARY

- 2<sup>nd</sup> No Weekday Mass

Jr. High Religious Education Celebrates Christmas

On the morning of December 17, the Junior High Religious Education classes enjoyed breakfast with their classmates and sang Christmas hymns before the 11:00am Sunday Mass. Thank you to their teachers, our music director Greg and all who participated to make the morning successful.



Online Giving

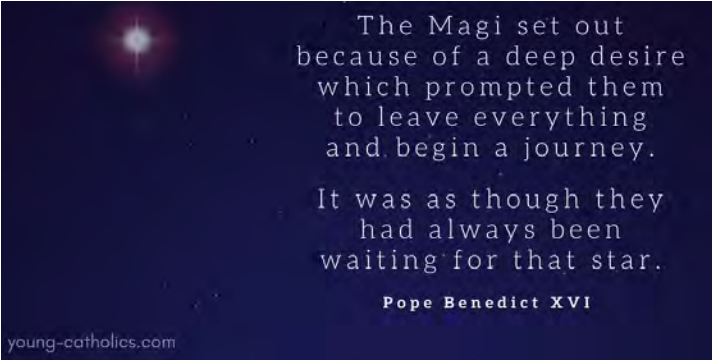


To set-up your account for online giving please scan this QR code with your smart phone or text-to-give at 614-858-8850. You can also visit [stjosephpc.org/giving](http://stjosephpc.org/giving) for more information.

Weekly Bible Reflections

**“They fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” (Matthew 2:11)**

Notice the order of events in the Magi’s visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!



Gifts for Life

During this Christmas Season, St. Joseph Parish in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus Council #12772, continue our tradition of following the Magi and their gifts for the new born King. In many European countries, parishes collect baby items beginning December 26 (Feast of St. Stephen) through February 2 (Candlemas) and leave them at the manger scene.



In keeping with this tradition, we are asking you to take a tote bag we are providing and fill it up with suggested supplies that will be noted on the bag and return it to the manger scenes in the church and the PAC by February 4, 2024. All items collected will go to a local, Catholic new mother’s support organization. This project will also coincide with the Forty Days For Life national campaign. We thank you for your generous hearts and hope it will continue to be a strong addition to our St. Joseph Ministries.



*Thank you for joining us on December 17<sup>th</sup> for the  
"God is with Us - Come Let us Adore" Family event with a Live Nativity*

Thank you to Jill Fesko, Emily Winner, and all those who helped to plan and participate in our event to celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Saint Francis of Assisi's First Nativity scene.



**Support St. Martin de Porres at Richwood Coffee**

St. Martin de Porres has been selected by the Richwood Bank in Plain City as a Coffee Shop beneficiary during the 1st Quarter of 2024! Richwood Bank, at the corner of West Main and Rt. 42, has selected January thru March to help our Parish Ministry by donating 100% of the proceeds directed to the ministry to further its charity work in the community.



Richwood Bank offers full-service banking and has existed in our community for almost 50 years. Its parent bank is in Richwood, OH in northern Union County, and is over 150 years old. It is highly regarded in the banking world, considered to be a very safe and secure bank, offering friendly service and knowledgeable, well-trained staff.

The coffee shops are located on the first floor lobbies of Richwood Bank branches where they offer a full menu of delicious gourmet coffees and hand-made beverages (*think Starbucks*). One does NOT need to be a Richwood customer to enjoy the service. Parking is free. Enjoying a Latte, Frappe, or any Custom-ordered coffee is EASY!

- Visit any Richwood Bank teller window during banking hours.
- Choose the number of cups you wish to purchase.
- Give the teller the name of your charity and pay your donation at the window – *St. Martin de Porres*
- Place your order for a delicious beverage with the Coffee Barrista at the Coffee Shop. Carry your card and use it each visit.
- St. Martin de Porres receives 100% of your donation at the end of the quarter!!

Thank you for your continued support of St. Martin de Porres. Through our generous Parish family, we supply furniture plus hundreds of big and small household items as we help dozens of families make a better life. And please thank Richwood Bank when you visit for delicious coffee, for helping the charities in Plain City via their programs.

Contact Gloria with questions at jimgloryb@gmail.com / 614-600-4504.

**St. Joseph KoC March for Life on Jan. 20**

January 22, 2024 is the 51st anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, with more than 62 million abortions occurring in the USA in that time.



The dignity of life is a foundational belief of the Catholic Church. Our council is sponsoring a Pro-Life March in Plain City at Noon on Saturday, January 20th. The march will be about 1 mile long that will begin/end at the Church parking lot. Plain City Police have approved our plan and will provide street closure and restrict vehicle traffic along march route if needed. We will only walk on sidewalks. The march is open to anyone able to walk 1 mile in the cold for 30 minutes. If interested in participating, contact Mike Balmert at 614-507-2001 and indicate the number attending. I request Brother Knights to assist the march by: marshal, sign distribution, return, refreshments, prayer/song/chant leaders. If there is inclement weather, we will postpone by 1 week, our only backup date. This is an opportunity to put your faith in church teaching into action in the public arena. Prayerfully consider attending this event. God bless you and thanks for your support.

*St Joseph Youth Group*  
**Spring Schedule**

Jan 14 - The Search Begins [Episode 1]  
Jan 21 - The Search Begins [Episode 2]  
Jan 28 - The Search Begins [Episode 3]



**NEWS FROM NEIGHBORING PARISHES AND AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**

Give the gift of time to each other this year. Experience a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones and focus only on each other. Make 2024 the best year of your marriage by applying today! The next weekend is February 9-11 2024 in the Central Ohio area. For more information or to apply, visit our website at [WWMEcolumbus.org](http://WWMEcolumbus.org) or contact Paul & Marilou Clouse at 614-834-6880. Early registration is highly recommended.



**START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT!**

- Give the gift of time to each other this year.
- On a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend, learn to prioritize the important things.
- Make 2024 the best year of your marriage by applying today!
- The next weekend is February 9-11 2024 in the Central Ohio area.
- For more information or to apply, visit our website at [WWMEColumbus.org](http://WWMEColumbus.org) or contact Paul Marilou Clouse at 614-834-6880.
- Early registration is highly recommended

**Undone Women's Conference – January 25-27**

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 – in-person OR by livestream! Register online for either experience at [www.jpilhealingcenter.org](http://www.jpilhealingcenter.org). Scholarships, student and missionary discounts available. Contact Heather Stasel, [hstasel@stfrancisparish.net](mailto:hstasel@stfrancisparish.net) for more information.



**5TH ANNUAL**  
**Guadalupe**  
**YOUTH SUMMIT**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22**  
**8:00AM-2:00PM**

**OHIO EXPO CENTER**  
 717 E 17th Ave, Columbus, OH 43211  
 Register: [tinyurl.com/GYS2024](http://tinyurl.com/GYS2024)

All **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS** of **HISPANIC DESCENT** are welcome

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



Contact the Diocese of Columbus to join Bishop Fernandes: [columbuscatholic.org/evangelization](http://columbuscatholic.org/evangelization)

Learn more: [www.usccb.org/prolife/annual-pro-life-events](http://www.usccb.org/prolife/annual-pro-life-events)

**SCHOOL GROUPS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND**

The Feast of the Epiphany is deeply enriched by the prophetic words of Isaiah in the first reading. Isaiah speaks of a great light that will shine upon Jerusalem, a light that will attract nations and kings. This imagery of light and glory not only embodies the physical manifestation of God's presence but also symbolically represents the dawning of a new era. The passage foreshadows the coming of the Messiah, who will be a light to the nations. The gifts of gold and frankincense, mentioned in the prophecy, interestingly prefigure the gifts that the Magi will offer to Jesus. This connection between the prophecy and the event of the Epiphany bridges the Old Testament expectation with the New Testament fulfillment, indicating the universality of Jesus' mission. This reading sets the stage for understanding the significance of the Epiphany as not just a historical event but a divine appointment that fulfills ancient prophecies.

**Reflection Questions for the Week**

- How does this prophecy deepen your understanding of the universal nature of Jesus' mission?
- In what ways can you see the "light" that Isaiah speaks of in your own life?
- How can you be a part of bringing this light to those around you?



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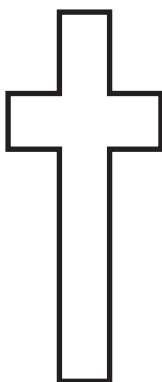
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Outreach Mission Center**

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or [charity@stjosephpc.org](mailto:charity@stjosephpc.org)

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