





“Forgive Me Father, for I Have Sinned ...”

Christmas is really a time all about our Lord wanting to come into our lives most fully. Everything we do as Christians aims at being in communion with our Lord ... hence why we have “Holy Communion” at every Mass. We do this because we are made for God. In other words, without our Lord’s full presence, we always sense an emptiness and restlessness in our hearts. We sense, but to make matters worse, we try to fill this emptiness and calm this restlessness with things that are less than God (e.g. concerns of our self-image, concerns over material things, concerns for being in control, etc.). However, no matter what gains we make in these concerns, they never satisfy our hearts because in the end: we are made for God. The reason Christmas is so joyful is because it’s the answer to our deepest desires since day 1 of our lives.

With that being said, our time now in Advent is about making “room” in our hearts for our Lord. Sin acts as a barrier because it runs counter to the ways of our Lord. Keep in mind that when we sin, it's not simply a one-time act; rather, its an indication of a twisting of our soul. That fact that we sinned indicates that we have become the type of person who is capable and prone to doing that; thus, our soul has become twisted in such a way that I did that. With that twisting, it in turn exacerbates the problem of our empty and restless heart since it creates a barrier between us and our Lord. It's not God abandoning us; but, rather we are pushing our Lord away. Nonetheless, our Lord has given us a way out, a way to experience true lasting joy and peace, a way to be on the path to encounter Him most fully: the sacrament of Confession.

Knowing the extreme importance of this spiritual dynamic, Jesus instituted this wonderful sacrament in John’s Gospel: “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you ... Receive the Holy Spirit; whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained” (JN 20:21-23). Much could be said on the internal logic of this particular form (e.g. confessing to a priest); but, the important thing is to sense the seriousness our Lord sees in this. Our Lord sees our potential and knows what more we could be experiencing ... but He will not force it. With our free will, we need to return to Him.

This Tuesday, December 13, at St. Michael’s Kalida, we will have an area wide penance service. There will be multiple priests, and we will have two opportunities: one at 4:00 p.m. and the other at 7:00 p.m. If you have not made a confession yet this Advent, and even it has been years, I encourage and invite all of us to prayerfully consider this opportunity. In the end, you lose nothing by going to confession, rather you gain the opportunity to experience the essence of the Christmas mystery!

Fr. Nathan

**Eucharistic Adoration-Thursday, December 15**  
8:00 a.m. - 7:15 p.m.

**Christmas Flower Deadline...**  
is THIS Sunday, December 11.

Mass Intentions & Schedule for the Week	
<b><u>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13</u></b>	<i>St. Lucy, virgin</i>
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Martha, Aaron &amp; Loretta Miller</b>
<b><u>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14</u></b>	<i>St. John of the Cross</i>
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Neil Schnipke, Alice Brinkman Paul Hermiller, Charlie Schmitz</b>
<b><u>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15</u></b>	
<b>7:30 PM</b>	<b>Melissa Hoffman, Herk Selhorst, Tom Wannemacher, Leo &amp; Irene Schnipke Gerry Vorst, Kenny Moening, Steve Moening Barb Sehlhorst, Bernie &amp; Helen Sehlhorst Denny Sehlhorst, Jeannie Buchholz</b>
<b><u>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16</u></b>	
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Agnes Schulte, Alex Wehri Dan Schroeder &amp; Family</b>
<b><u>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17</u></b>	
<b>4:30 PM</b>	<b>Rich &amp; Wilma Vorst Family L/D Tom &amp; Marilyn Niese Family Dan Siefker, Hubert &amp; Irma Pohlman L/D Bernard &amp; Mary Jane Aversch Family Bud &amp; Marie Becker, Eileen Decker Ray, Dorothea &amp; Ron Aversch Carolyn Unverferth, Tom Recker Steve Killion, Evangeline, Harold &amp; Chris Potts, John Smith, Adam Kerner</b>
<b><u>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18</u></b>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Monica &amp; George Schmursal Charlie Schmitz, Paul Hermiller Marilyn Hamburg, Dick Langhals Don Holtkamp &amp; Family, Louis Verhoff Lawrence Unverferth Family Cy &amp; Frances Kahle Family</b>
<b>11:00 AM</b>	

**Last Week’s Collection:** \$ 17,455.00

**Choir Assignments - December 17 & 18**

**4:30:** Alissia **8:00:** HN **11:00:** Renee

**Our New Parish Pictorial Book**

Photos will be taken in the church basement January 9 – 21 and Jan. 30 - Feb. 4. Schedule your appointment at:  
[ucdir.com/schedule/login.php](http://ucdir.com/schedule/login.php)

**church code: oh2607 password: photos**

Pick your desired date and time, fill out the necessary information, and then click “schedule appointment”

[You can also call Leslie \(419-532-3474\) and she will be happy to schedule it for you.](#)

**Note: If you need to delete a reservation, also call Leslie, as there is no way to do it yourself.**

**Area Penance Services**

**Kalida: December 13, at 4:00 & 7:00 p.m.**  
Ottawa: December 19, at 4:00 & 7:00 p.m.

**Recent Baptisms**

**COLE JAMES HERMILLER**

Son of Jacob & Kellie (Kaufman) Hermiller

**THEODORE JOHN RECKER**

Son of Neil & Emily (Schnipke) Recker

**GRAHAM GERALD MIKEK**

Son of Trent & Stacie (Heitmeyer) Mikek

**GATLIN RAY POTHAST**

Son of Taylor & Ashley (Heitmeyer) Pothast

**2023 Offertory Envelopes**

The delivery of the 2023 offertory envelopes has been significantly delayed due to a problem with the company’s printing presses. They are working to get us the envelopes by Christmas, but it’s possible it may not happen until after the New Year. Just in case, you may want to keep a couple of the envelopes from the current year to use until they come (as your envelope number is how we enter your donation amount). Thanks.

**Thank You**

Thank you to Fr. Nathan, Deacon Bob, Steve and choir, adult servers and greeters and everyone that made Mom’s mass a special one. Thank you to those who provided deserts and helped out at the luncheon. Finally, thank you to all those who showed us their kindness, love and support. We are very blessed; Mom loved her “home” parish.

*The Family of Martha Berheide*

**Help Needed with Photography Dates**

Volunteers are needed to help sign people in on the pictorial photography days. Sign up sheets are in the back of church. Thanks in advance for your help with this!

**Virtue of the Week is Prayerfulness**

This virtue involves being still and listening. To have a willingness to talk to God as a friend. Ways to practice prayerfulness are to foster a spirit of quietness in body, mind and heart. It helps to create a prayer space in your home and to participate in the sacraments. Saints who practiced prayerfulness were St. Dominic, St. Catherine of Siena and St. Hildegard of Bingen. Our prayer for the week is "Dear Jesus, I desire to have You as my best friend. Give me a desire to spend time with You each day, as I do with my friends. Help me always to put You first in my life, even when I am busy."

**90th Birthday Open House**

We would like to ask you to help celebrate the 90th birthday of Mary Phillips. There will be an open house on December 18, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Kalida Fish & Game. If unable to attend, we are having a card shower. If you would like to send a card, her address is: Mary Phillips; Box 343; Kalida, OH 45853

**Child Care Offered During Penance Service**

St. Michael’s Challenge Club is offering child care for anyone needing it during the Penance Services on December 13, at 4:00 & 7:00 p.m. Kid-friendly snacks and a craft will be provided. They will also be hosting a “baby shower/birthday party” for Jesus with gifts to benefit Heartbeat of Lima at 6:30 p.m. in the church basement. RSVP with the number of children and their ages to Mindy Houck at 419-236-6169 by Monday, December 12. Note: This will be taking place on the classroom side of the church basement, as there is a pre-school children’s program on the kitchen side that evening.

**Engaged Couples Conference**

St. Anthony’s Engaged Couples Conference will be held **Saturday, March 4**, from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Cost of the day is \$40 per couple. Any couples interested, please call the parish office at 419-659-2263. *Payment can be dropped off or mailed to the parish office or can be made the morning of the conference.*

**Christmas Mass Times**

Christmas Eve: 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.  
Christmas Day: 10:30 a.m.

**Note:** If needed, there will be overflow worship area in the church basement at the 4:00 p.m. Mass, where there will be a live feed of the Mass. Those in the basement will need to come up into church to receive Communion. An usher will come down to let you know when it is time.

**Also:** If you had a Mass intention for the 8:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve, please call the Parish Center at 532-3474 to let us know to which Mass you would like to move your intention. Thank you!

**Incense at Christmas Eve Masses**

FYI: incense will be used at the 4:00 & 11:00 p.m. Masses on Christmas Eve. There will be no incense on Christmas Day.

**Students Planning Mass This Week...**

are Mary Grote's first grade class on Wednesday, Dec. 14 and Michele Doecker's grade 6 class on Friday, Dec. 16.

**High School CCD - December 14**

Everyone will have class. The juniors and seniors will be with the Culture Project missionaries for a presentation on Social Media. They will meet in the church basement.

**Crossing Guard Needed**

Our elementary CCD program is in need of a crossing guard for Mondays. Students cross the highway in front of church at 8 a.m. and again at 8:40 a.m. Please contact Connie at 419 -532-3474, Ext. 102.

**Caroling Challenge Club**

On Friday, December 16, the Challenge Club will be Christmas Caroling around Kalida from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. and would love to sing for you! If you are ready to jump into the Christmas Spirit and would appreciate a visit from these beautiful and joy-filled young ladies, please contact Mary Siefker at 419-532-2480 or 419-969-5129.

**Amazon Smile**

We have 150 Amazon users supporting The Kalida Park Foundation through AmazonSmile and we THANK these folks for their ongoing support of Kalida Parks! There are many more folks purchasing items through Amazon who have probably never considered designating a charity, perhaps not knowing this option even exists. If you, or your business, purchases items through Amazon, we encourage you to make those purchases through the AmazonSmile platform and designate THE KALIDA PARK FOUNDATION as your charity. There is no additional charge for Amazon purchases when using AmazonSmile, HOWEVER, Amazon donates ½ of a percent of your total purchase to the charity you select. When signing up on AmazonSmile, BE SURE to follow all the instructions for your device. When signed up properly, you will get a message at check out time that indicates you are supporting The Kalida Park Foundation. If you do not see that message when checking out, then you have not signed up properly. You may also need to periodically register again, so BE SURE to watch for the message at checkout time that you are still signed up to support The Kalida Park Foundation. Thank you for your continued support of Kalida Parks!