From the Desk of Fr. Mark

Happy Advent,

I hope everyone's Advent season is going well. Along with the usual being behind on Christmas cards and the stress of trying to be two places at once, I am pretty joyful about Christmas this year. I've attended the practice of St. Michael's Religious Education children's Christmas play, and I have been joyful all day. I don't believe the children know how much Christmas spirit is shared by smiling faces and angelic voices. God knew that a child's spirit would lead. If the kingdom of God belongs to the childlike, we have lots of children with deeds to Heaven in our parishes. Thanks to all those involved in the Christmas play this year. We are doing "An Alphabet Christmas" on Sunday night, in the St. Michael's gym. After the children's program, all are invited to walk to church for a Christmas sing along. If that doesn't help get one in the true spirit of Christmas, I don't know what will.

With our theme of lighting the way to the manger, I have noticed so many lights in the midst of the darkness of the world. I have seen many volunteers who have reached out to those in the dark. Besides toys and gifts for young people in this area and in Appalachia, some have reached out to make sure heat is kept on and electric keeps flowing for needy families. There are many behind-the-scenes people who make sure there is warmth in the inn. Maybe that is why I am smiling, also. I get to witness more than Christmas gifts. I get to see Christmas love in many forms. And many times this is done, just like that first Christmas, without fanfare or many people knowing.

Even before Christmas gets here, I would like to thank choirs and decorators, cleaners and planners. So many help in worshiping our loving God. Thanks.

I better get back to being in two places at once and feeling guilty about late Christmas cards. I really want to get back to the joy of this season—the joy of knowing God's love. Thanks to all who show that love in families, our parishes and the world. Have a blessed week. ***Fr. Mark***

Religious Education Christmas Play

This Sunday, December 14, at 6:30 p.m., in St. Michael's Gym, grades 1-5 will present a Christmas play about the real meaning of Christmas. It is called ***Alphabet Christmas*** and everyone is invited. Hot chocolate and food will follow in the gym. Afterwards, we will process over to church for a sing-a-long. It will be a great night and we hope you can join us!

Attention High School Teens... Be a Catholic Mentor

On Sunday, February 8, Sts. Peter and Paul Parishes, in Ottawa, are hosting the **St. George Deanery Junior High Gathering**. The theme is "REFUEL YOUR FAITH." They are looking for High School students to lead workshops. ***Those who register on or before December 29 will get the first choice of workshops, when we gather for the Winter Fun Day.*** Application forms can be found on the parish website or at the Parish Center. ***Please register to be on team by February 1.***

Mass Intentions for the Week

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15
8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16
8:00 AM Loretta Vorst

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17
8:00 AM Harold, Evangeline

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18
7:30 PM Elaine Schimmoeller
Leo & Irene Schnipke
Tom, Rose & Kim Erhart

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19
8:00 AM Steve Schulte

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20
4:30 PM Virgil & Mary Agnes Recker, Emily Kahle
Mary Lou Felkey, Dan Siefker
Hubert & Irma Pohlman, Clete Wehri
L/D Wehri & Schimmoeller Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*
8:00 AM Esther Siefker, Randy Siefker
Deceased of Schnipke and Knott Families
11:00 AM Louis & Molly Osterhage, Don Holtkamp
Rich Vorst, Bill & Alice Kahle
6:00 PM Mass in the Barn

Last Sunday's Collection: $ 10,021.00

Choir Assignments — December 20 & 21

4:30: Renee **8:00:** YA/HS **11:00:** RA

Christmas Mass Offertory Bearers

Would you or your family members like to bring up offertory at any of the Christmas Masses? You don't need to currently be on the offertory schedule...anyone is invited to do this. Call 419-532-3474 this week if you are interested. Masses on Christmas Eve will be at 4:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., and 11:00 p.m. The Mass on Christmas Day will be at 10:30 a.m.

Recent Baptism

SULLIVAN THOMAS RECKER
Son Brandon & Lauren (Verhoff) Recker

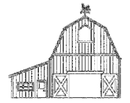
Christ Bearers at Christmas

If you would like your child (age 5 and up) to bring up Baby Jesus at any of the Christmas Masses, please call the Parish Center (532-3474) by Monday, December 15. We will draw a name for each Mass and contact the winners on December 16. **We will be choosing one girl and one boy** for each of the Masses. They will be playing the roles of Mary and Joseph, bringing the Christ Child to the Manger. To go with our theme, "Joseph" will be carrying a lantern to light the way. Christmas Eve Masses are at 4:00, 8:00 & 11:00 p.m. and Christmas Day Mass is at 10:30 a.m.

2015 Offertory Envelopes...

are now in the back of church. They will only be there until December 21, so please pick them up by next Sunday...thanks! If you cannot find a box with your name on it, call the Parish Center (419-532-3474) and we will make sure you get one.

Mass in the Barn—December 21



Next Sunday, at 6:00 p.m., there will be a Mass in the Barn to commemorate Jesus' simple birth in a stable. There is something special about Mass in the barn for me. Some of my favorite memories are tied to my rural roots. At Mass, we remember Jesus' life, which includes his humble birth. Come join in the simplicity of Christmas, with Mass in the Barn, at Mark and Marlene Kahle's farm (15711 Rd 18). All are invited.

Attention Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors

Make sure to check the current schedule online or in church for your assignments. Thanks for all you do for the parish!

Advent/Christmas Lanterns Deadline is Sunday, December 14

Order forms and **photos** can be found online at stmichaelskalida.org, under "Recent Bulletins."

Christmas Flower Intentions

Deadline is this Sunday, December 14.

"Restless Heart" Movie

World Youth Day 2016 pilgrims are sponsoring the Movie "Restless Heart," The Life of St. Augustine. Showing EXCLUSIVELY at OGHS Auditorium, on December 31, at 7:30 p.m. There will be a New Year's Eve Party with pizza, following the movie. Celebrate with your family & friends. Movie Tickets are $5 and being sold after Mass at the church exits. Or call 532-2565 for information.

C.R.H.P. Women's Retreat

There will be a women's retreat February 7-8, 2015, called C.R.H.P. (Christ Renews His Parish). C.R.H.P. is a spiritual weekend, designed to help you grow in your faith with God and to form new friendships with your fellow parishioners. This is for women of all ages, and it is a very moving and rewarding weekend. There will be limited openings, so if you want to reserve a spot, or just want more information, call Joan Vennekotter (Kevin) at 419-596-4809 or Abbie Dickman (Rodney) at 419-532-2285.

December Church Basement Rental Opening

Saturday, December 27, 2014 is now available.

Area Penance Services

Sunday, December 14: 7:00 p.m., at Leipsic
Monday, December 15: 4:00 & 7:00 p.m., at Ottawa
Thursday, December 18: 7:00 p.m., at Columbus Grove

Christmas Tree Gala This Sunday

Meadows of Kalida will be hosting their annual Christmas Tree Gala on December 14, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. This will include Santa, food, kids' game, and musical entertainment, all while the auction is going on. The Meadows has over 100 decorations, including trees, wreaths, table top decorations, and more. The silent auction has already begun and will end at 4:00 p.m., on December 14. Please stop out and see the wonderful Christmas decorations that people have donated. All proceeds will be given to CAP (Cancer Assistance Program) for people of Putnam County.

Students Planning Mass This Week...

are Annette Schroeder's 4A class on Wednesday, December 17 and Judy Birkemeier's 7A class on Friday, December 19.

High School CCD

Our next class is January 7, 2015.

High School Winter Fun Day—December 29

We will be bowling at Liberty Lanes, in Leipsic, from Noon-2:00 p.m. Cost is $10. ***Register by December 20, for a chance to win 4 dozen buckeye candy treats.*** After bowling, the party will continue at St. Nicholas Parish Center, in Miller City, from 2:15 to 6:00 p.m. We will also spend this time planning and working on the Junior High Gathering and the Senior Citizen Prom details! Registration forms can be found at stmichaelskalida.org, under the Youth Group Tab.

Daily Bread Soup Kitchen Volunteers Needed on December 31, 8:45 am–1:30 pm

Adults, contact Mary Siefker (419-796-0180). Youth registration forms are online and at the Parish Center. Please register by December 28.

Youth Group Meeting

Sunday, December 14, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. We will be working on Mass in the Barn and the Senior Citizen Prom

Sophomore Retreat

January 18-19, 2015, at Maria Stein. Registration forms were sent out this week and are due December 30.

Parents & Grandparents of H.S. Juniors & Seniors and College Freshman

Did you ever think about giving the gift of "A an encounter with Christ—Risen and ALIVE Today" as your Christmas gift to those teens in your family? What more should we want for the teens in our lives than a deeper relationship with Christ! Past participants of Teens Encounter Christ (T.E.C.) weekends have said "TEC helped me see my faith in a whole new light." Another commented, "Whether you end up facing a fear, meeting new friends, strengthening your relationship with Christ, opening up about the struggles in your own life, or being inspired by the stories of others, this retreat will change your life—it definitely changed mine." Your gift of $50 could make a difference in their future. To make this a gift to the teen in your life, contact Mary Siefker (419-796-0180) for details! The parish will cover the remainder $70 (if teen is a member of our parish) for this life-giving retreat! It's time to register for your January weekend NOW!

2015 Guys TEC: Jan. 24-26, Feb. 21-23, March 21-23
2015 Girls TEC: Jan. 17-19, Feb. 7-9, Feb 28-Mar 2, Apr. 11-13

National Catholic Youth Conference

Mark your Calendars for November 19-22, 2015, in Indianapolis, Indiana The parish high school teens (current 8th grade through Juniors) will be traveling with the Dioceses of Toledo. College students are able to take part in the college segment of this conference. I will share information with you as it becomes available.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15
ROSARY FOR PEACE: 1:30 p.m.
HOLY NAME MEETING: 8:00 p.m.
HN CHOIR PRACTICE: 8:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17
YAHS CHOIR PRACTICE: 8:00 p.m.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18
ROSARY IN CHURCH: 7:00 p.m.
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19
CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY: 3:00 p.m.

Attention KHS Alumni Cheerleaders

The KHS cheerleaders and coaches would like to invite all Kalida alumni cheerleaders to participate in an alumni game on Friday, January 2. A short cheer will be taught to perform at halftime, and we plan to order t-shirts for the game, as well. If you are interested and can attend, please contact Kaylan Griffith, at ka_griffith@kalida.k12.oh.us or 419-303-1022, by December 22. We're looking forward to a fun night with the alumni of KHS cheerleading!

Looking for a Christmas or Memorial Gift?

Consider the gift of a tree, bench, picnic table or grill for Four Seasons Park, in Kalida. All items will have a plaque indicating who they were purchased for or in memory of. Visit kalidaparks.com or call Dick (419-615-7221) for more information.

Kindergarten Registration

Kalida Elementary is conducting kindergarten registration for the 2015-2016 school year. Registration forms are available in the elementary office. Please return the completed registration form with a certified birth certificate before December 18. Children must be five years old on or before September 30, 2015, in order to register. For additional information, please contact the school office, at 419-532-3845.

Christmas School (Pictured Below)

Seventeen high school teens spent their Saturday working with the forty youth, who took part in a day of celebrating the Advent Season. We are able to donate $153 to the Teddy Bear Fund for the Lima area hospitals! Thanks for your support!

OFFERTORY - December 20 & 21

4:30 PM	Mark & Deb Kahle Family
8:00 AM	Roger & Ruth Kahle Family
11:00 AM	Mike & Annette Gerding Family

USHERS – December 20 & 21

4:30 PM	Team 1
8:00 AM:	Team 2
11:00 AM	Team 3

LECTORS – December 20 & 21

4:30 PM	Erin Knueve, Stacy Knueve
8:00 AM	Mary Plescher, Donna Schnipke
11:00 AM	Mike Kahle, Katia Roehrig

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS - December 20 & 21

4:30: Eric Fischnich, Regina Fischnich, Sean Fischnich, Ruth Foppe, Keith & Ann Rea Fortman, Grace Haselman, Bob & Sue Gerdeman

8:00: Denny & Blyth Turnwald, Dick & Judy Bockrath, Jim Hanneman, Mel Hanneman, Dave & Jane Kahle, Joyce Klausing

Ministers to Homebound: Denny & Blyth Turnwald, Dick & Judy Bockrath

11:00: Phil & Sue Fuerst, Lynda Fortman, Bill Hill, Shane Hill, Mary Lou Hoffman, Sarah Hovest, Mark Kahle, Ryan Kerner

SERVERS

Tues, 12/16	8:00 AM	Megan Schulte Bradley Siefker
Wed, 12/17	8:00 AM	Josh Verhoff Paul von der Embse
Thurs, 12/18	7:30 PM	Trevor Vorst Allison Wurth
Fri, 12/19	8:00 AM	Jack Zeller McKenna Bockrath
Sat, 12/20	4:30 PM	Erica Edwards Bailey Eickholt Ryan Ellerbrock
Sun, 12/21	8:00 AM	Zach Erhart Alec Fortman Kristen Fortman
	11:00 AM	Trent Gerding Adam Goergens Kevin Hamburg

St. Michael Catholic Church, Kalida, Ohio

Served by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood

Sunday, December 14, 2014

Pastor: Fr. Mark Hoying, C.PP.S. Deacon: Bob Klausing 312 N. Broad St., Kalida, OH 45853 419-532-3474