

holiday  
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mass schedule

**Sunday, December 28th**

9:00 am *Albina Selva*

11:00 am *Living & Deceased Members  
of the Dooley & Traska Families*

**Monday, December 29th**

*No Morning Mass*

**Tuesday, December 30th**

8:30 am *Relly Hrehorevich*

**Wednesday, December 31st**

4:00 pm *Norbert Nieszczur*

**Thursday, January 1, 2015**

9:00 am *Sick & Needy of SJN*

*St. Vincent DePaul Society*

11:00 am *All Souls*

**Friday, January 2nd**

*No Morning Mass*

**Saturday, January 3rd**

4:00 pm *St. John Nepomucene Parish*

**Sunday, January 4th**

9:00 am *Dale & Theresa Widhalm*

11:00 am *Living & Deceased Members  
of Ceska Sin Karlin*



The rectory office will be closed Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> thru Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. It will re-open on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Sick Calls** – Please call the rectory to arrange for Father Jasany to bring the Sacraments when a member of your family is hospitalized.

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**Weddings** – Parishioners are asked to call the rectory office at least 6 months in advance of the wedding to schedule an appointment with Father Jasany

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**Baptisms** – The 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 12:00 pm. Parents are required to attend Pre-Baptism Class. Arrangements must be made a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the date of baptism. Before parents baptize their child, Diocesan and parish policy requires you to complete a Baptism Preparation Class. **The next class will be on Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at St. Stanislaus Parish at 7 pm.** Reservations are needed; please call 216-341-9091 to make your reservation.

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**Godparent and Sponsor Certificate** – Sponsors for Baptism or Confirmation must be registered and practicing members of the Church, attending weekly and Holy Day Masses for a minimum of 3 months prior to the celebration of the Sacraments for which they have requested the certificate. Please note individuals 18 years of age and older, no longer in school, need to register.

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**Pre-Cana Program** for couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage at the Jesuit Retreat House- **Sunday, January 11, 2015 at 12:30 pm.** This program satisfies the requirement for marriage preparation as stipulated by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. Register at 440-884-9300 or [www.jrhcleve@att.net](mailto:www.jrhcleve@att.net)



Dear Parishioners,

I hope that you and your family had a Merry Christmas. Our

church looked beautiful and our Christmas Masses were wonderful. I am truly grateful to all who contributed their time, talent and treasure to make our Christmas celebration a holy and joyous event. We are truly blessed by all who helped us and by all who came to celebrate with us.

January 1, 2015 is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. It is a Holy Day of Obligation, which means everyone is required to attend Mass. Our Holy Day Schedule includes a 4 pm Vigil Mass on December 31<sup>st</sup> (New Year's Eve), and 9 am and 11 am Masses on January 1<sup>st</sup> (New Year's Day). Coming to Mass is a wonderful way to start the New Year.

I would like to make you aware of a change in your church envelopes that are mailed monthly to your households. Since we have completely paid for our new church roof, we will discontinue the Praise the Roof Envelope as of January 2015. Since we always have need of capital improvements and repairs to our four aging buildings, we will have an Improvement Fund Envelope for those who wish to donate to this cause. Since we are blessed with the happy custom of people making Memorial donations in honor of their loved ones who have died, we will also have a monthly Memorial Offering Envelope that may be used for your convenience to donate a financial gift in loving memory of a loved one who has died.

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all those who have pledged to the Diocesan Rooted in Faith Initiative, who used the Praise the Roof Envelope, who made donations, and who worked on various fundraisers so that we could defray the expense of the new church roof, which was \$88,800.00. That was a major accomplishment!

Your continuous payments on your Rooted in Faith pledges as well as your other means of financial support by using your church envelopes and by participating in various parish fundraisers enable us to have a vibrant parish.

My prayer for the New Year is that we continue to grow in our relationship with Christ and one another. Pope Francis encourages all of us to extend to others the invitation to come to Christ. Please extend this invitation to others to come to our parish liturgies and to participate in our parish events.

Prayers and Best Wishes  
for the New Year,

Father Jasany

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*Stewardship of Treasure*

<i>Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup></i>	<i>\$3774.10</i>
<i>Praise the Roof</i>	<i>122.00</i>

*Our Christmas Day Contributions as well as the other collections such as Christmas Flowers, Little Blue Books, etc. will be in the Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> Bulletin*

*Thank You and God bless you for your continued generosity & support!*



**Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**

**\$1000 Raffle Drawing** after the 11 am Mass. Please remember to have your tickets turned in for today's drawing.  
**St. Vincent DePaul Society Meeting** at 10 am in the rectory

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**Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Rosary before 8 am Mass**

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**Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> First Friday**

Due to weather conditions in January, the Avilas agreed to discontinue the Holy Hour for Vocations in church on the First Fridays in January, February and possibly March.

Please pray as usual but in the warmth of your own home. During these months, the Avila Meditations will be found in Church on the radiator nearest the door where Father enters church the church for Masses.

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**Readings for the Week of December 28<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18

Thursday: Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29--3:6/Jn 1:29-34

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 /Mt 2:1-12

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Sanctuary Guild Volunteers  
December 24<sup>th</sup> thru January 6<sup>th</sup>  
Loretta Delagarza & Gloria Seneff

**Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Epiphany of the Lord**



**EPIPHANY**

Throughout Germany at this time of year, you will find most main doorways inscribed with the following:

20+C+M+B+15.

Children known as Sternsinger (star singers) dress up as the Magi and go door to door, requesting candy for themselves and money for the Church. As they leave, the house is blessed, and the inscription written in chalk. The 20 and 15 refer to the year, the CMB are said to represent either Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar-the Magi-or the Latin Christus Mansionem Benedicat, which means "Christ, bless this home."

Today, we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, in which we remember the adoration of the newborn Christ by three wise men from the East. This should leave no doubt in anyone's mind just how far and wide the promise of a Savior had spread. These representatives of pagan religions from other lands were determined to pay their respects; it was as if they were born to do this-to acknowledge in some way the beginning of the greatest reign of the greatest king of all. The Epiphany is the third manifestation of the mystery of the Incarnation, following the Annunciation and the birth of Christ. Today is truly the beginning of the paschal mystery.



***Wedding Banns***

I Joseph Fortuna  
and Jennifer Jendre

**TAX LETTER** – Parishioners who would like a letter to verify their church contributions for the 2014 tax year as asked to call the rectory at 216-641-8444 or drop a note in the collection basket to the attention of Mrs. Kowalski. A letter will be prepared and mailed to you. Letters will not be sent out until the week of January 12<sup>th</sup>. If you call the rectory after office hours and need to leave a message, please go into voicemail box #10.

**REMINDER CONCERNING 2014**

**CONTRIBUTIONS** – In order for your contributions to be considered for the 2014 Tax Year, they must be received by December 31, 2014. Contributions received on or after January 1, 2015 will be reported as 2015 contributions.

**This complies with IRS requirements.**

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Please remember these individuals, who are called to the priesthood in your daily prayers.

Also, please remember the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Mark, SJSM(Cleveland) in your prayers.

Sunday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> – Bishop A. Edward Pevec

Monday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> – Matthew Jordan  
St. Mary Seminary

Tuesday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> – Andrew Gonzalez  
St. Mary Seminary

Wed., Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> – David Smith  
St. Mary Seminary

Thursday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> – Peter Soo Hyun  
St. Mary Seminary

Friday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jeffrey Barnish  
St. Mary Seminary

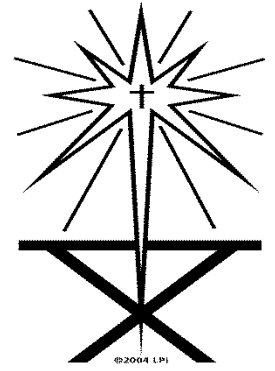
Saturday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Jacob Bearer  
St. Mary Seminary

Sunday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> – Prayers for all Pastors

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May our prayers bring healing, comfort and strength to the sick and their caregivers, remembering especially

John Balciar,  
Carol Bellomy,  
Gwen Beres,  
Mary Ann Betliskey, Bill Bican,  
Millie Bloedorn, Bonnie Branche,  
Bill Connors, Katie Davis, Corrine Dawe,  
Robert Dunning, Jose Dybzinski,  
Kristin Hill, Frances Holecek, Art Madsen,  
Cindi Magyar, Rita Petkoff,  
Larry Pruchnicki, Nancy Recko,  
Brianna Rhine, Elaine Stack,  
Andrew Turowski and Virginia Turowski.



May our Loved Ones who have died, rest in eternal happiness in heaven.

For the safety of the Men and Women serving in the military, especially those from our parish and their families.

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**Stewardship** – When Jesus is presented in the Temple, our Blessed Mother formally offers him to God's service without reservation. It is a service that Simeon prophetically foretells: a service to God that will turn the old laws and cultural norms upside down. Are we destined to hold on to old habits and customs tightly, or like Jesus, are we willing to serve the Lord and proclaim the Gospel in new and creative ways.

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January 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> is New Year's Bonus Week at River Valley Paper. To ring in the New Year we will receive an extra \$5/ton during bonus week. Save your gift-wrap, holiday cards & gift boxes and bring to our bin with all your other paper.

## Karen's Corner

Did you know that one of my favorite readings in the Bible is from the prophet, Jeremiah? “The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ‘Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.’ So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: ‘Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done?’ says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.’” (Jeremiah 18:1-6) I have watched a potter at work, and the imagery is just gorgeous! I am not perfect, I am a sinner! And at this glorious time of the year, when I look back over the past year, I know that the Lord wants more of me, and He wants to shape me to his will, not mine.

When the Lord called Jeremiah, Jeremiah’s response was, “But I am just a boy!” When I was called by God to pastoral ministry, my response was very similar. “Are you kidding, Lord? Me? I don’t think so!” Yet here I am. As a minister in the church, I do my best not to impose my will on people, but with deep prayer and meditation, I go where the Lord leads me. I have changed programs mid-year this year because of a suggestion by a parishioner, and others who agreed! That is fantastic that they trust me enough to ask for a program, and I am grateful to be flexible enough to change things for them! My ministry is not about me, it is about those I serve.

This is going to be a year of Scripture in my column, for those who may not be able to attend the sessions on Wednesday nights. Scripture is probably one of the areas that we Catholics are very weak at, because before Vatican II, we weren’t supposed to read the Bible ourselves. Vatican II changed that, but many people do not read the Scriptures because they do not understand HOW to read them. The genres of poetry, parable, song, myth, allegory and many others are just beautiful if they are read with the understanding of the genre as well as the culture of the time when they were written. The Bible is not a book, but it is a library of 73 books written by men and women of faith. It was never meant to be a science or history book! It is a story of faith and love, and we will travel this journey together throughout the New Year!

Pope Francis said, “For the faith to respond, to avoid being suffocated, it must be constantly nourished by the word of God.” We must read God’s word and immerse ourselves in the stories in order to truly understand what God is asking of us. But we must be careful not to pick and choose verses to “prove a point”. That is NOT the purpose of the Bible. There is religious truth in the Bible, but many of the things that were common at the time of the writings, are no longer considered moral. For example: slavery, women and children as property and animal sacrifice. Using a good commentary and even a Bible dictionary along with Scripture reading will help us all to understand God’s words. Both are available for free in an online format. Come on this journey with me this year!

Merry Christmas!  
See you soon!  
Karen

## Mary, the Holy Mother of God

January 1st is the oldest celebration of Mary in the Catholic Church. The custom of honoring the Virgin on the first day of the New Year originates in the sixth century, when her celebration was tied to the octave day of Christmas, the eighth day after December 25. In doing so, ancient preachers would remind their congregations about the role that Mary played in the history of salvation. Jesus was born of a woman, and so, as Eucharistic Prayer 4 states, "Made incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, he shared our human nature in all things but sin." The human nature of Christ is rooted in his being born like us. As we round out the Christmas celebration with its Octave Day on January 1, we venerate the woman who gave birth to him. There is a dual action in today's Gospel that is sometimes overlooked. The shepherds find the infant in the manger as has been told to them by the angel. And then they go out to tell others about the child. In the meantime, Mary reflects on all these things in her heart. These are the two complementary stances of the Christian: action and reflection. Both are needed for a balanced spiritual life. It is, in effect, putting into practice the two great commandments: love God and love your neighbor. As we begin the New Year, it is customary to make resolutions: to diet, to exercise, to change something in one's life. Like Mary, who reflected on the events surrounding the birth of her child, we take some time to reflect on our own lives: where we have been, and where we are going. The Gospel gives us the opportunity to situate that reflection in a spiritual context. What does the birth of Jesus mean for me spiritually (reflection), and what do I intend to do about that in my daily life (action)?

**2015 Calendars** are located near the entrance doors of our church. We gratefully thank Bican Brothers Funeral Home and Fortuna Funeral Home for their generosity in providing these calendars to our parish annually. God Bless them for their continued generosity.

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### Church Preservation Memorials & Gifts

In Loving Memory of Lillian Vanek  
from Newburgh Hts. Golden Agers

In Loving of Frank P. Matousek  
from Denise Pensyl

In Loving Memory of Florian Posavad  
from Joseph Kocab

A Christmas Gift from  
St. John Altar & Rosary Society

In Loving Memory of Lillian Vanek  
from Joseph Kocab

In Loving Memory of George Smith  
Love, Ronnie & Carol Bellomy

In Loving Memory of Frank Matousek  
from Joseph Kocab

In Loving Memory of  
our Granddaughter, Nikki Kukwa  
Love & Prayers, Mom & Dad Bellomy

In Loving Memory of Mildred Lechko  
from Carol Span

In Loving Memory of  
our Daughter, Cindie Turner  
Loves & Prayers, Mom & Dad Bellomy