

CHRISTMAS 2023

# PEACE ON EARTH



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## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH –

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:00 a.m. **MARGUERITE KOVACH**

by St. Stephen Choir

11:00 a.m. at Mt. Carmel

4:00 p.m. at St. Stephen – PARISHIONERS  
LIVING & DECEASED

4:00 p.m. at Mt. Carmel



## MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH –

## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

9:00 a.m. PARISHIONERS

LIVING &amp; DECEASED

11:00 a.m. at Mt. Carmel



## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

8:30 a.m. **CHARLES WILSON**

by John Wilson &amp; Amanda Wilson

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

8:30 a.m. at Mt. Carmel

## THURSDAY, December 28th

8:30 a.m. **FRANK BURKE – 2nd ANNIVERSARY**

by Ed &amp; Pat Spisak

## FRIDAY, December 29th

8:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help

## SATURDAY, December 30th

4:00 p.m. at Mt. Carmel

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST –

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH

9:00 a.m. **JIM & PATSY SYLVESTER**

by Carol &amp; Pat Sylvester

11:00 a.m. at Mt. Carmel



## MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST –

THE OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD  
THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

10:00 a.m. at Mt. Carmel ONLY

## THEME: GOD IS THE FONT OF ALL BLESSINGS AND SALVATION.

Today's readings make evident the goodness of the Lord, and that He is the source of all blessings. The Lord promises to build a house for David – one that will last forever. And from the lineage of David comes Jesus, God Himself, to dwell among us. He is our shelter, our bodies are His temple, and His kingdom endures forever. We will soon celebrate the feast of His Incarnation and Nativity, while awaiting still, with joyful hope, the time when He will come again.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, David ruminates on building a house for the Lord. However, the Lord reminds David how He has favored him and states that it is God who will build a house for David. In the second reading, Paul gives glory to Christ, acknowledging the prophets and wisdom through the ages that have all participated in this revelation. In the Gospel, the angel Gabriel announces that Mary will conceive a son – the Son of God – and Mary accepts the honor, saying, *may it be done to me according to your word.*

ETERNAL FLAME INTENTIONS  
WEEK OF DECEMBER 24th

**IN MEMORY OF FRANK BURKE** by Family  
**IN MEMORY OF BRIAN MAXIMOVICH** by Lois  
**SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTION**  
**HEALING FOR FRIENDS** by Mary Ann Hudzik



As part of the **PARISH YEAR OF EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL**, St. Stephen will host an hour of Adoration on Thursdays following the 8:30 a.m. Mass until 10:00 a.m. Please join us to honor and glorify God for His most perfect gift to us. The Blessed Sacrament is never to be left alone during this time, so if it is difficult for you to be here for 8:30 a.m. Mass, please consider coming between 9:00-10:00 a.m. for a visit.

NILES CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB  
NITE AT THE RACES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19 at Ciminero's

Doors open 6:30 p.m. – Races begin 7:00 p.m.

Tickets on sale **NOW** after Mass or can be purchased from any club member, the office or online. We hope you will be able to join this evening of fun and help your parish at the same time!



LUCK OF THE IRISH 2024 – MARCH 16th, 2024

**SAVE THE DATE!**

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE – DECEMBER 31ST

Sacristan	STEVE GARCAN
Lector	MARY ANN McMAHON
Eucharistic Minister of Bread	FRANK DILLON
Eucharistic Ministers of Cup	NORA HLAD SHERRIE SYLVESTER
Altar Server	SOPHIA GEARHART
Greeters	HUGH KIELEY CAROL SYLVESTER



## THANK YOU, NILES CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB

Our Niles Catholic Women's Club has presented the parish a very special gift this Christmas, a new outdoor Nativity set! At publication time, logistics were still being worked out as to whether the new set could be set up properly, but we hope to have at least some of the new display ready for Christmas. We are very grateful, also, to a parishioner who wishes to remain anonymous for building the new stable on very short notice! Thank you to all involved for this gift that will be treasured for years to come!

Parish Office  
Closed**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED  
DECEMBER 22nd until JANUARY 2nd.**

**ATTENTION BAKERS:** The Committee has asked that as you bake your Christmas cookies you set aside a few extra dozen for the cookie table at Father's celebration. Cookies can be dropped off at Ciminero's on Saturday morning, January 6.



**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP**

December 17, 2023

Parish Goal: \$4,700 per Sunday

Attendance: 143

Envelopes: 87

SUNDAY ENVELOPES	\$ 5,997.00
MAINTENANCE	\$ 132.00
CEMETERY	\$ 148.00
CHURCH OVERSEAS	\$ 45.00
CHRISTMAS	\$ 600.00
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	\$ 253.00
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	\$ 135.00
SOLEMNITY OF MARY	\$ 30.00
INITIAL OFFERING	\$ 45.00
COMMUNICATION FEE	\$ 40.00
ALL SOULS	\$ 25.00
ALL SAINTS	\$ 25.00



**OUR 2024 CALENDARS HAVE ARRIVED AND ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CHURCH OR RECTORY. WE THANK HOLETON YUHASZ FUNERAL HOME AND SHAKER LAW OFFICE FOR THEIR CONTINUING SPONSORSHIP. PLEASE TAKE ONE PER FAMILY.**

We also have Little Blue Books available by the doors for anyone who would like a copy of this Advent devotional.



**PRAYER LIST** We would like to offer everyone the opportunity to pray for our fellow parishioners and friends who are ill or in need of prayer for any reason. If you would like to add someone to the list, please call the rectory and leave a message and we will add the requested person. Please remember the following in your prayers: **Dorothy Bianco, Don Donnelly, Alida Lendvay, Mary Beth Havasi, Janet Kandrac, Sue Kopetsky, John Wilson, Kathy DeCristofaro, Mitzi Malvasi, Lou Lukz, Jennifer Cable, Michelle Howard, Jo Medovich, Kevin Grafton, Mary Catherine Freel, Kevin Murphy (Father Murphy's brother), Kara Stanford, June Dudinec, Arlene Wilson, Mary Miller, Bob Leonard, Mike Kozak, Bob Adler, Joe Smaltz, Sandy LaMonica, Karen & Richard Slanina & Family, Carri R., Pat Hines, Bill Smith, Debbie Kovell, Lois DiFrancesco, Jeff Burke, Jack DiTunno, Tammy C., Faith Harnack, Paul Lapolla, Jim Orsine, Connie Hake, Michael Edward Thompson, Pat Spisak, Chuck Durig, Tucker Paul Clark, Jim & Jo Villeco, Sr., Jim Nitzsky, Martha Williams, Marie Perfette, Denise Burke, Sue Mollis, Chuck & Bonnie Jorza, Connie Brandt, Rachel Tarr, Steve & Dee Cvengros, Rita Mae Dudasovich, Al Conti, Rosalie McGinnis, Shirley Gustovich, Dick Bedio, Gavin Lingle, Peg McGinnis, Larry Batovsky, Sr., Steven Medovich, Mary Jane Tripodi, Phil C., Cathy Marino, Roberta Williams, Mary Jane Hileman, Todd Beedy, Angela Marzullo, John Daubner, Father Murphy and all those who suffer any illness, especially those who have no one to pray for them.**

**FATHER AGOSTINO'S INSTALLATION**

Please join us on Sunday, January 7 at the 9:00 a.m. Mass as Father Agostino will be officially installed by Bishop Bonnar as Pastor of St. Stephen and Mt. Carmel. He will be installed at Mt. Carmel at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. A combined reception for both parishes will be held at Ciminero's Banquet Hall. See the flyer in today's bulletin. Please return your reservation as soon as possible. **FIRM DEADLINE** for reservations will be **December 27**. There will be **NO** walk-ins permitted that day.

**ST. STEPHEN FEAST DAY BRUNCH**

Sunday, January 14th, 2024 – After 9:00 a.m. Mass at Ciminero's Banquet Centre. All parishioners are invited to attend. Ciminero's

Famous Breakfast Brunch – \$10.00 per person – Parish will cover remaining cost. **Reservation Deadline JANUARY 7th**. Return the form in the collection basket, in the mail, or place in rectory drop box.

**OTHER NEWS**

**NILES COMMUNITY SERVICES FOOD COLLECTION – DECEMBER – Assorted Food**

**COMMUNITY SUPPERS – DECEMBER – OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL, 381 ROBBINS AVENUE.** Suppers are free and open to the public on Thursday from 4:45-5:30 p.m.

**ST. VINCENT de PAUL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is looking for volunteers to assist in all of our various programs such as the Hunger Center, Back2Work Mentoring Program, Care Clothing Room, Special Events and more. If you have a passion for events or fundraising, we have launched a volunteer team that we invite you to join. Contact Laura Bennett at 234-223-2933, ext. 103 or lbennett@svdpneodistrict.org. Contact us today to learn more about these exciting opportunities! [www.SVdPTrumbull.org](http://www.SVdPTrumbull.org)

**ECHO COMMUNICATIONS COLLECTION**

You may ask yourself, "Why should I give to the Communications Collection?" And the answer is simple: Because the Communications Department exists to serve you. Their various programs—*Wineskins* and *The Catholic Echo* podcast,

televised Masses, *The Catholic Echo* magazine and website, diocesan social media and even many of the announcements you see in this bulletin—are geared toward inspiring, informing and engaging you. To support these initiatives (or future ones), please give to the Communications Collection on January 6 and 7. Visit <https://www.doy.org/Communications-collection/> for more information or to give.

**THE NEW CATHOLIC ECHO PODCAST – NEW YEAR/NEW BEGINNINGS December 31, 2023, – Your host Fr. Jim Korda discusses A New Year and new beginnings for 2024 with Bishop David J. Bonnar, and Catholic Echo Editor-in-Chief and Associate Director of Communications, Katie Wagner.** You can listen to the Catholic Echo Podcast at any time on The Catholic Echo website by going to <https://www.catholicecho.org/podcast/> or on Youngstown radio stations WHOT-FM 101, WYFM-FM 102.9, WQXK-FM 105.1, Sundays at 6:30 a.m. The Catholic Echo Podcast is produced by the Communications Department of the Diocese of Youngstown.

**STEWARDSHIP – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**"HAIL, FULL OF GRACE, THE LORD IS WITH YOU!" – LUKE 1:28**

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

**VOCATIONS – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

"Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God." Consider following Christ more closely as a priest or in consecrated life. Talk to your priest or contact Fr. Chad Johnson at

330-744-8451 or [cjohnson@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:cjohnson@youngstowndiocese.org).

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

As you light the fourth Advent candle, may you be filled with a peace that surpasses your circumstances. We can give thanks to the Lord for canceling our fear and hopelessness with the sacrifice of His Son and promise of eternal life when we believe. Let's rejoice this Christmas because we have an eternal hope in Jesus!

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