

Peace

*V. Behold
the handmaid
of the Lord.*

*R. Be it done
unto me according
to Thy word.*

Hail Mary, full of grace.



Holy Trinity

419-678-4802
120 E. Main St.
P.O. Box 107
Coldwater, OH 45828

Mon - Thurs:
8:30 am - 12:30 pm & 1 pm - 5 pm
Fri: 8:30 am - 1 pm

Mary Help of Christians

419-375-4153
403 Sharpsburg Road
Fort Recovery, Ohio 45846

Mon: 9 am - 3 pm
Tues - Thurs: 8 am - 5 pm
Fri: 9 am - 1 pm

What's Inside:

Pg. 2 - Mass, Confession,
Adoration, & Liturgy
Schedules

Pg. 3 - Ministry Schedule

Pg. 4 - Message from the Priests

Pg. 5 - Sacraments

Pg. 6-9 - Holy Cross Family
Information

Pg. 10/11 - Parish Information

Pg. 11 - Religious Education

Pg. 12 - Youth Ministry

Pg. 13 - Community Interests
& Stewardship

Pg. 14 - Contact Information

Family Offices



St. Anthony



St. Joseph



St. Mary



St. Paul



St. Peter



Website:

www.holycrossfop.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/holycrossfop



Sunday, December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent

Mass Cancellations

Currently, we have the means to use One Call Now, our Webpage, and Facebook for Mass Cancellations. If you are not signed up for One Call Now and would like to be, you must request to be added by either calling the Fort Recovery or Coldwater Office.

Liturgy Schedule (Note: This schedule is subject to change per priest availability)

Day	Mass Intention	Priest	Time	Church	Confession
Monday, December 8 <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Solemnity</i>	Jerry & Irene Gaerke †	FJP	6:15 am	Holy Trinity	6:00 am - end
	L/D Lavern & Alfrieda Wolters Family †	FEM	7:00 am (L/S)	MHC	6:30 am - end
	Carl Bettinger †	FAW	12:00 pm (L/S)	Holy Trinity	11:30 am - end
	L/D Lochtefeld & Wenning Families †	FBS	12:00 pm (L/S)	MHC	11:30 am - end
	Luetta Mescher †	FBS	5:30 pm (L/S)	Holy Trinity	5:00 pm - end
	Fred Schmitz †	FEM	5:30 pm (L/S)	MHC	5:00 pm - end
	Mary Jane Braun †	FJP/DRK	7:30 pm (L/S)	Holy Trinity	7:00 pm - end
	Michael Fullenkamp †	FAW/DDK	7:30 pm (L/S)	MHC	7:00 pm - end
Tuesday, December 9 <i>Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin; opt. mem.</i>	L/D Ron & Julie Spoltman Family †	FAW	7:15 am	St. Mary	After Mass
	L/D Norb Vogel Family †	FBS	6:45 pm	St. Joseph	5:45 - 6:30 pm
Wednesday, December 10 <i>Our Lady of Loreto; opt. mem.</i>	Sally Siegrist †	FAW	7:15 am (L/S)	MHC	After Mass
	L/D Lou & Ann Brunswick Family †	FBS	Noon (L/S)	Holy Trinity	11:30 am - end
Thursday, December 11 <i>Saint Damasus I, Pope; opt. mem.</i>	Carl Bettinger †	FAW	7:15 am	St. Paul	After Mass
	Deborah Giere †	FBS	6:45 pm	St. Anthony	5:45 - 6:30 pm
Friday, December 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe; Feast</i>	Nancy Riethman †	FAW	7:15 am (L/S)	Holy Trinity	After Mass
	Paul Hiser †	FBS	Noon (L/S)	MHC	11:30 am - end
Saturday, December 13 <i>Saint Lucy, Virgin Martyr; Memorial</i>	L/D Vincent & Marjorie Schoenherr Family †	FJP	9:00 am	St. Joseph	After Mass
	Virgil Bruggeman †	FBS	4:00 pm	St. Anthony	3:15 - 3:45 pm
	Francis & Joan Pax †	FAW	4:30 pm	Holy Trinity	3:45 - 4:15 pm
	Ralph Evers †	FEM	4:30 pm (L/S)	MHC	3:45 pm - end
Sunday, December 14 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	John Muhlenkamp †	FEM	7:00 am	St. Joseph	N/A
	Ivo Siegrist †	FBS	8:00 am (L/S)	Holy Trinity	7:25 am - end
	L/D Rehmert & Garland Families †	FJP	9:00 am (L/S)	MHC	8:25 am - end
	Nancy Riethman †	FAW	10:00 am (L/S)	Holy Trinity	9:25 am - end
	L/D Charlie & Janie Keller Family †	FJP	11:00 am	St. Paul	10:25 - 10:45 am
	L/D Mark & Irene Hein Family †	FEM/DDK	11:00 am	St. Peter	10:25 - 10:45 am
	Christopher Schwieterman †	FBS	Noon	St. Mary	11:25 - 11:45 am
	Members of Holy Cross Family of Parishes	FAW/DRK	6:00 pm	Holy Trinity	5:15 - 5:45 pm

MASSES ONLINE — Watch Masses at Holy Trinity & Mary Help of Christians online, indicated by (L/S) with the time. Masses are also archived and viewable on a later day and can be accessed on the website: holycrossfop.org (Masses are also streamed to Youtube. For Holy Trinity search: Coldwater Cluster, then click on the logo and subscribe. For Mary Help of Christians search: mhc-qq4zm, then click on the logo and subscribe.)

Reference for Church Abbreviations

SA = St. Anthony HT = Holy Trinity
 SJ = St. Joseph SM = St. Mary
 SPL = St. Paul SPT = St. Peter
 MHC = Mary Help of Christians

Tentatively Scheduled Celebrants listed above:

Fr. Alexander Witt (FAW); Fr. Ethan Moore (FEM);
 Fr. Joseph Pasala (FJP); Fr. Barry Stechschulte (FBS);
 Deacon Dan Kahlig (DDK); Deacon Roger Kaiser (DRK)

Adoration Schedules

Mon., SPT: 5:45 - 6:30 pm Wed., HT: 8 am - 11:45 am
 Tues., SM: 7:45 am - Noon Thurs., SPL: 7:45 am - 5 pm
 Tues., SJ: 8:30 am - 6:30 pm Thurs., SA: 5:45 - 6:30 pm
 Fri., MHC: 8 - 11:45 am

St. Joseph - First Fridays of the Month

8:30 pm Friday - 8:30 am Saturday

Contact Info.: Adoration.nw1@gmail.com

Ministry Schedule

Notice: The below scheduled ministers are responsible for finding a substitute if they are unable to fill the originally assigned position.
- Thank You!

- Mary Help of Christians -

Monday, December 8, 7:00 am

Servers: Carson Fullenkamp, Will Faller, Lucas Winner

Lector: Diane Siegrist

EMHC: Irene Roessner, Jane Weitzel

Sacristan: Amy Schmitz

Ushers: Roger Broerman

Monday, December 8, 12:00 pm

Servers: Xavier Bruns, Joseph Bruns, Henry Bruns

Lector: Julie Schmitz

EMHC: Lois Vogel, Elly Boeckman

Sacristan: Lois Vogel

Ushers: Steve Vogel

Monday, December 8, 5:30 pm

Servers: Grant Pearson, Emma Pearson, Elijah Grieshop, Ezekial Grieshop

Lector: Trent Pearson

EMHC: Trent Pearson, Maggie Hartings

Sacristan: Maggie Hartings

Ushers: Randy Wendel, Jeff Wendel, Randy Wendel, Don Willmann

Monday, December 8, 7:30 pm

Servers: Josh Evers, Tony Evers, Brodie Hart, Jackson Barga

Lector: Pam Hicks

EMHC: Pam Hicks, Deacon Dan Kahlig

Sacristan: Dan & Grace Jutte

Ushers: Steve Wendel, Paul Alig, Kevin Fortkamp, Joe Grube

Wednesday, December 10, 7:15 am

Servers: Joseph Bruns, Henry Bruns

Lector: Elly Boeckman

Friday, December 12, 12:00 pm

Servers: Levi Sutter

Lector: Julie Schmitz

Saturday, December 13, 4:30 pm

Servers: Carson Fullenkamp, Jameson Heitkamp, Riley Heitkamp

Lector: Lisa Romer

EMHC: Ted Romer, Maggie Hartings

Sacristan: Maggie Hartings

Ushers: Floyd Bergman, Don Lennartz, Nick Dues, Jeff Fullenkamp

Sunday, December 14, 9:00 am

Servers: Chase Fiely, Milo Fiely, Blake Homan, Vance Tobe, Gabriel Jutte

Lector: Amy Klingshirn

EMHC: Amy Klingshirn, Sharon Metzger

Sacristan: Sharon Metzger

Ushers: Joe Dues, John Faller, Harry Hart, Chuck Keller

- St. Paul -

Thursday, December 11, 7:15 am

Server: Russell Hart

Sunday, December 14, 11:00 am

Servers: Riley Stammen, Liza Knapke, Kate Knapke, Hailey Grisez, Olivia Grisez

Lector: Diana Siefing

EMHC: Theresa Siefing, Dennis Siefing

Ushers: Matt Reinhard, John Meiring

Rosary: Joe & Kim Knapke

- St. Joseph -

Tuesday, December 9, 6:45 pm

Servers: Coby Schmitz, Hoyt Schmitz

Lector: Paige Schulze

Sacristan: Paige Schulze

Saturday, December 13, 9:00 am

Servers: Levi Sutter

Lector: Ryan Sutter

Sunday, December 14, 7:00 am

Servers: Tyler Dues, Blaise Bergman, Brinley Steinbrunner, Rhea Steinbrunner

Lector: Danielle Pottkotter

EMHC: Danielle Pottkotter

Sacristan: Shel Sutter

Ushers: Jerry Sutter, Ed Dues

- St. Peter -

Monday, December 8, 6:45 pm

(Canceled)

Sunday, December 14, 11:00 am

Servers: Coby Schmitz, Hoyt Schmitz, Braxton Schmitz, Corbyn Schmitz, Logan Gaerke, Gavin Gaerke

Lector: Elaine Post

EMHC: Deacon Dan Kahlig

Sacristan: Lisa Roessner

Ushers: Tom Braun, Kyle Bettinger

- St. Anthony -

Thursday, December 11, 6:45 pm

Server: Volunteer Needed

Lector: Janet Brockman

Sacristan: Janet Brockman

Saturday, December 13, 4:00 pm

Servers: Bryant Evans, Allie Evans, Danielle Evans, Hailey Grey

Lector: Cindy Homan

EMHC: Ellen Sudhoff

Sacristan: Janet Brockman

Ushers: Jeff Sudhoff, Patrick Forshoefel

Rosary: Teri Minnich

- St. Mary -

Tuesday, December 9, 7:15 am

Servers: Sam Grigsby, Leo Grigsby

Lector: Viki Dues

Sunday, December 14, 12:00 pm

Servers: Benjamin Liette, Jay Liette, William Moorman, Henry Uhlenhake

Lector: Vicki Dues

EMHC: Barbara Uhlenhake

Ushers: Rick Uhlenhake, Matt Brockman

- Holy Trinity -

Monday, December 8, 6:15 am

Servers: Carter Heitkamp, Blake Wenning, Oliver Link, Jude Link, Lucas Broering

Lector: Matt Grigsby

EMHC: Jennifer Kremer, Tony Hart, Dan Tobe

Monday, December 8, 12:00 pm

Servers: Sam Grigsby, Leo Grigsby, James Pottkotter, Samuel Gerlach

Lector: Rene Klosterman

EMHC: Cindy Hemmelgarn,

Luke Klosterman, Denny Riethman

Monday, December 8, 5:30 pm

Servers: Liam Cowan, Jack Bettinger, Reagan Wenning, Kendall Wenning,

Claire Bertke, Leo Huelskamp

Lector: Ryan Sutter

EMHC: Carla Kahlig, Mary Lou Wenning, Dave Bertke

Monday, December 8, 7:30 pm

Servers: Levi Sutter, Owen May,

Karsyn Homan, Kratyn Homan,

Clayton Schoen, Dillan Wenning

Lector: Charmaine Bettinger

EMHC: Brenda Kaiser,

Deacon Roger Kaiser, Deb Kaiser

Wednesday, December 10, 12:00 pm

Servers: Samuel Gerlach, Oliver Link, Jude Link

Lector: Rene Klosterman

Friday, December 12, 7:15 am

Servers: Dillan Wenning, Archer Bihn

Lector: Rita Riethman

Saturday, December 13, 4:30 pm

Servers: David Dues, Emma Siefing, Josh Homan

Lector: Yvonne Dues

EMHC: Dave Bertke, Tim Berkenstock, Brenda Schwieterman

Sunday, December 14, 8:00 am

Servers: Dana Knapke, Myra Knapke, Clara Knapke

Lector: Abbie Homan

EMHC: Joe Rose, Linda Brunswick

Sunday, December 14, 10:00 am

Servers: Archer Bihn, Lucas Broering, Mason Evers, John Evers

Lector: Nick Knapke

EMHC: Melissa Bruggeman,

Bob Rose, Nick Schmitmeyer

Sunday, December 14, 6:00 pm

Servers: Levi Sutter,

Clayton Schoen

Lector: Pam Hicks

EMHC: Brenda Kaiser,

Deacon Roger Kaiser



Message from the Priests

New Series

I don't listen to Catholic radio all that much anymore, in part because of podcasts, but also in part because I don't ever seem to be able to pick them up very well in my car. But when I was in high school, I used to listen to Catholic radio all the time. I came across it one day in the car when I was driving home from school. I had asked a question in religion class that day, but unfortunately my school, though Catholic, was not a very faith-filled place. When I asked a question about angels that day, my teacher looked at me as if I was asking about the tooth fairy. I almost walked away from the faith that day, but as I was driving along, turning to random channels, I happened to hear someone mention angels on one of those channels. Immediately, I turned back to that channel and heard a Catholic apologist (one who explains the faith) answer a question about angels that someone had called in about. Even though the question wasn't exactly the question I had asked in class that day, it was close enough that I was hooked. It turns out that radio station broadcasted a show called *Catholic Answers* everyday during my drive home from school. I listened to that show just about every afternoon, and I truly believed it saved my faith. Two things struck me about that "coincidence".

The first is that God seemed to be answering my prayer. My religion teacher had shamed me for asking about angels, but it seemed that God cared enough about me to lead me to that radio show. I felt loved by God in that small action of His and that love helped me to persevere in growing in my faith throughout the rest of high school.

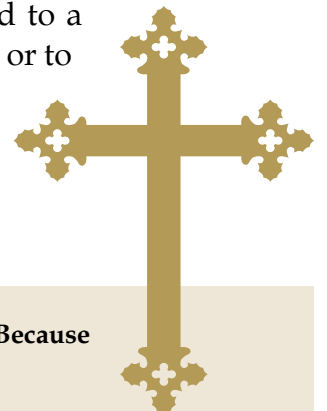
The second thing that struck me was just how deep the faith could get. By the time I was a junior in high school, it seemed like there was nothing new to learn about my faith. It felt like the same lessons that I had heard in 3rd grade were the same lessons I was getting in my high school religion class. I was beginning to think of faith, like so many other men at that age, as something childish. Certainly it didn't have enough depth to satisfy the deep longings of my heart. But it turns out that, if you dive into the faith, rather than watering it down, our faith runs deep. As St. Augustine said at one point, *the Catholic faith is shallow enough that a mouse can swim in it, but deep enough that an elephant could drown in it*.

I still listen to *Catholic Answers*. The idea of the show is that people call in (or email) with questions about the faith and their questions are answered by experts in various fields of Catholic disciplines. Sometimes the apologist is an expert in Sacred Scripture, other times in ethics. Oftentimes, I'm amazed at the breadth that some apologists have such a firm grasp on. These guys are no joke!

Recently, *Catholic Answers* started posting a new series called "I'm Not Catholic Because..." I love this series because so many of those "Frequently Asked Questions" or "Frequent Complaints" that people give are directly addressed by an expert apologist and you get to hear the back and forth between the non-Catholic caller and the Catholic apologist. These episodes are perfect to send to a friend if they ask you a question about the faith that you're not sure how to answer or to just dive deeper into your faith yourself. Some of my favorite ones are linked below. Check them out!

In Jesus, through Mary,

Fr. Witt



I'm Not Catholic
Because of Mary



I'm Not Catholic Because
Women Can't Be Priests



I'm Not Catholic Because
of the Eucharist

Sacramental Information

Newly Baptized

St. Anthony

Stefan Eduardo Alcantar
Child of Oscar and Shawna



Sacrament of Matrimony

The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony involves more than just "booking" a particular date for a wedding. Please keep in mind that church dates are limited. It is highly recommended to book the church when booking your reception hall. Also, since the marriage preparation process usually takes several months to complete, please contact the Family Office at least nine months in advance to start the marriage preparation process.

Marriage Congratulations!

Cobe Wendel & Ashlyn Deeter
Married Saturday, November 22, 2025
(Mary Help of Christians)

Rose Vagedes & Matthew Osterholt
Married Saturday, November 22, 2025
(St. Mary)

*May God always bless you &
may He bestow on you the gifts of a happy marriage.*

The Precepts of the Church

Given to us by the Church, these are the minimum obligations every practicing Catholic is expected to follow.

1. *You shall attend Mass on Sundays & holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.*
2. *You shall confess your sins at least once a year.*
3. *You shall humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter Season.*
4. *You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.*
5. *You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.*
6. *You shall observe the Church's laws regarding marriage.*



VIGIL OF TWO HEARTS

Schedule of Events

St. Joseph

Friday, December 5

7 pm: Rosary & Confessions

8 pm: Holy Mass followed by Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament

8:30 pm - 12 am: Ongoing Eucharistic Adoration throughout the night with private & community prayer

Saturday, December 6

12 am - 8:40 am: Continued Eucharistic Adoration

7:45 am: Rosary

8:45 am: Benediction

9 am: Holy Mass

9:30 am: Confessions



Sign up for an hour of adoration with the provided QR code. (Note: All are welcome, and sign-ups are not necessary to attend.)

Baptismal Sponsors

This is an honor, but so much more. Whether for Baptism or Confirmation, being a sponsor means that you are promising to assist the parents in raising this person in the Catholic Faith. In order to fulfill that responsibility, the sponsor needs to be a practicing Catholic. This means that prayer, scripture, the sacraments and especially Mass are important priorities in his/her life. This also means that a sponsor needs to be a fully initiated Catholic who has received the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation, and, if married, was married in the Catholic Church.

Baptismal Class

Fort Recovery Classes are held on Tuesdays at 7 pm. The next class at Fort Recovery is on January 06, 2026. Please call 419-375-4153 to register. Coldwater Classes are held on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 7 pm. Please call 419-678-4802 to register. The Baptismal Class is required for all first-time parents.

Baptismal Schedule

1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday
12:30 pm - MHC	12:30 pm - St. Peter	12:30 pm - St. Paul	12:30 pm - St. Joseph
1:30 pm - Holy Trinity	1:30 pm - St. Mary	1:30 pm - Holy Trinity	1:30 pm - St. Anthony

Holy Cross Family of Parishes

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS — Bulletin submissions for the December 21st bulletin are due by Wednesday, December 10, 2025. All bulletin submissions for the December 28th bulletin are due by Monday, December 15, 2025. All bulletin submissions for the January 4th bulletin are due by Thursday, December 18, 2025. All are due by the usual 8 am deadline. Please send submissions to bulletin.holycrossfop@gmail.com

CANCELLATIONS — The regularly scheduled Masses, confessions, and adoration at Holy Trinity and St. Peter are canceled on Monday, December 8th for the Immaculate Conception which is a holy day of obligation.

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED — Both parish offices will be closed on Monday, December 8th.

RAFFLE TICKETS — The Guatemala mission committee are selling raffle tickets for 2026 to assist the people of La Labor with their educational and health care needs. Each ticket is \$20.00. The weekly winners are paid \$100 based on the Wednesday night Ohio Lottery drawing, and there is an annual winner of \$1000, \$300 & \$200. If you would like to purchase tickets please put money in the collection with your name, address, and phone number and we will get tickets back to you. Thank you for your assistance in aiding the people of La Labor.

ST. ANTHONY BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE — **Mass Relocation:** The 4 pm Mass will be held at the St. Anthony school from Sat., Jan. 31st through Sat., Mar. 28th while the Sanctuary undergoes painting and new flooring installation. To ensure a safe and beautiful worship space, the church will be closed during this time for painting and scaffolding. **Confession:** Confession will continue to be offered before Mass in the 3rd classroom at the St. Anthony school. **Gratitude & Support:** We appreciate all the support and continue to accept donations! An updated project plan is available at the entrance of the church.

ADVENT SERIES WITH FR. WITT — The remaining meetings will be held on the following Sundays in December: 7th (Mary, Mother of God Immaculate Conception), 14th (Perpetual Virginity), & 21st (Assumption of Mary) at the Fr. Yauss Center after the Holy Trinity 10 am Mass & in Mary Help of Christians Library at 7 pm. All are welcome!

Parents of Second Grade Girls

Parents, please sign up your 2nd grade daughter to carry up baby Jesus for one of the below Christmas Masses.



Carry Up Baby Jesus!

December 24

4:30 pm - Holy Trinity
4:30 pm - MHC
11:00 pm - St. Mary

December 25

8:00 am - St. Peter
9:00 am - St. Anthony
10:00 am - St. Joseph
11:00 am - St. Paul

Call Coldwater or Fort Recovery Parish Office to Sign-Up.

Note: First to sign up will be selected to carry up baby Jesus.

WOMEN'S SOCIAL GROUP — Meetings are the first & third Thursday of each month from 7:30 - 9 pm in the Grotto's St. Isidore room. Meetings are led by Fr. Ethan Moore. We are focusing on "Women in the Word" covering heroic women of the bible. The group is open to all adult women of the Holy Cross Family of Parishes and community.

SERVANTS OF CHRIST — This is a Holy Cross Family of Parishes mens group that meets every first and third Friday of every month at 4:30 am in the Grotto. Men of all ages are welcome to attend any or all meetings. Contact David Bettinger @ 419-852-2582 with any questions.

WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY UPDATE — Meetings will be held every 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 pm. The next meeting will be held at St. Peter Hall. The book "Home" will continue to be discussed. Have week 7 read for the next meeting.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY UPDATE — Meetings will be held at 1184 Philothea Rd, Ft. Recovery, Ohio, from 7:30 - 8:30 pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month during November & December.

MISSION LOTTERY WINNER — (11/5/25) Tyler Dues, Fort Recovery, OH; (11/12/25) Jerry & Lorri Kaup, Fort Recovery, OH; & (11/19/25) Christa Fullenkamp, Fort Recovery, OH — Congratulations!

MASS INTENTIONS REMINDER — Mass Intentions are open for scheduling through December 2026. As a reminder, each individual parishioner at the Coldwater parishes is allowed one Mass Intention and each individual parishioner at the Fort Recovery parishes is allowed two Mass Intentions per calendar year. The suggested donation for a Mass Intention is \$5. Example formats for Mass Intentions are as follows: John Doe; John & Jane Doe; L/D John & Jane Doe Family; L/D Jones & Doe Families, John & Jane Doe Wedding Anniversary.

Submit your questions for the
priests and RSVPs to
Sarah @ 419-234-3152 or
kahligss@gmail.com

*Please try to have questions
submitted by January 9th

PRIEST ROUNDTABLE

Featuring: Our Holy Cross
Family of Parishes Priests!

Friday, January 16, 2026
7pm (Social @ 6:30)
MHC Undercroft

BULLETIN SUBMISSION NOTICE: Submissions must be received by 8:00 am, 10 days prior to the Sunday publication date unless otherwise noted. Please submit info to bulletin.holycrossfop@gmail.com.

FT. RECOVERY ORGANIST NEEDED — Our cluster is looking for an organist to assist with music ministry at weekend Masses once or twice a month. If you or someone you know has experience playing the organ or piano (willing to train on the organ) and would like to serve the church through music, please contact the Fort Recovery office at (419) 375-4153.

2026 MARIAN PILGRIMAGE THROUGH FRANCE — Fr. Witt will be leading a pilgrimage tentatively from Sept. 14 - 24, 2026. More information to come in the near future.

SAVE THE DATE — Hope of the Poor Mission Trip with Holy Cross Family of Parishes is scheduled for June 4 - 9, 2027 in Mexico City. Fr. Witt will be the Chaplain. Cost will be \$850 plus airfare. Please fill out our interest form. *Participants under 18 years old need to have a parent/guardian accompany them on the trip.



RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS — Help our elders in good times and bad. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous during the upcoming December 13th/14th collection weekend.

PRIEST VISITS — Our Priests, as a group or individually, are always happy to come and visit you and your family. There is no expectation for dinner or food. They are happy just to get to know you and be a part of your family life. If interested in scheduling a home visit, please feel free to email them or call either family office anytime.

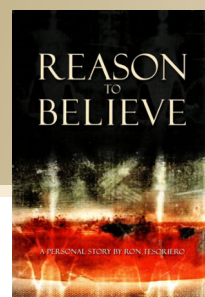
HEARTS ON FIRE: CAMPING WITH CHRIST — Registration is full for this event, but there is a wait list available if you would like to sign up in case those who are already registered are unable to attend. The event will be held at 4171 Burrville Rd., Coldwater, Ohio on Memorial Day weekend, May 22-24, 2026. You must be registered in order to attend. Join the wait list using the QR Code provided.



SAVE THE DATE — You are invited to step away from the busyness of life and take time for you! Join other women from our parish family for an overnight retreat filled with prayer, fellowship, and renewal in God's presence. This overnight retreat is a chance to be still, be refreshed, and to grow in faith with your sisters in Christ. **WELCOME Women's Retreat** for women (21+) will be held on Feb. 7 - 8, 2026 at Holy Trinity. Cost is free. Registration opens Jan. 3rd, 2026.

SAVE THE DATE — **MEN!!!** We are beyond pumped to host the first annual Men's **WELCOME** retreat (formerly known as CRHP) within the Holy Cross Family of Parishes early next year! Mark your calendars for Mar. 7 - 8, 2026! Come attend this retreat to strengthen your relationship with God and gain a strong men's community! This free, overnight retreat is open to all Men 21+ and older and will be held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in the Grotto. All meals will be provided! Only 25 spots will be available. Registration opens Jan. 3rd!

Book of the Month *Reasons to Believe* by Ron Tesoriero



Book Review by: Debbie Bueter

This book opened my eyes to the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist and so much more. So many Catholics do not fully understand the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and I was one of them. This book changed all of that for me.

I always considered myself to be very faith filled and a good Catholic, after reading this book it increased tremendously.

The book is written in a way that is quickly engaging, and the stories just keep the energy going through the last chapter about the Mass.

The author challenged miracles and did not take things at face value. He uses scientific evidence that supports all of this.

I have read this book numerous times and will continue to read it again and again, and I think it increases my faith every time I read it. I have recommended this book to many people and have bought copies for others. There are also many pictures to help explain the different miracles.

*A copy will be available in each of
our Parish Office Libraries.*

*Have a favorite Catholic Book... send the title, author
& a short review to bulletin.holycrossfop@gmail.com.
Your write-up may be featured in an upcoming
"Book of the Month" bulletin feature.*

*Celebrate
the Season!*



New items have been added to our online store!

All proceeds will benefit

*Holy Cross
Family of Parishes.*

Thank you for your Support!



Product options and pricing is available online using the QR code above or https://designsemb.com/holy_cross

*Christmas items will be available for purchase
up until the New Year!*

Christmas & Christmas Eve

December 24 Mass Times

4:30 pm - Holy Trinity
4:30 pm - MHC
11:00 pm - St. Mary

December 25 Mass Times

Midnight - Holy Trinity
Midnight - MHC
8:00 am - Holy Trinity
8:00 am - St. Peter
9:00 am - MHC
9:00 am - St. Anthony
10:00 am - Holy Trinity
10:00 am - St. Joseph
11:00 am - St. Paul

Note: Christmas songs by the choir will be starting @ 11:30 pm before the Midnight Masses

Immaculate Conception

(Holy Day of Obligation observed on Mon. Dec. 8 this Year.)

Monday, December 8

(Mass Times)

Holy Trinity: 6:15 am
MHC: 7:00 am
Holy Trinity: Noon
MHC: Noon
Holy Trinity: 5:30 pm
MHC: 5:30 pm
Holy Trinity: 7:30 pm
MHC: 7:30 pm

Note: There are NO Vigil Masses on Dec. 7th for this Holy Day.



(A Personal Gift to Jesus)...

Candlelit Adoration w/ Christmas Lights

December 23, 2025

St. Mary: 7:45 am - Noon
St. Joseph: 8:30 am - 6:30 pm
Mary Help of Christians: 6 - 8 pm
Holy Trinity: 6:30 - 7:30 pm
St. Anthony: 6:30 - 7:30 pm
St. Paul: 6:30 - 7:30 pm
St. Peter: 6:30 - 7:30 pm



the RESCUE project

The Rescue Project presents the message of the gospel in a unique and compelling way, seeking to explore the following questions that many of us have:

- Why is there something rather than nothing?
- Why is everything so messed up?
- What, if anything, has God done about it?
- How will I respond?

Additional Date: Combined Retreat at Holy Trinity on 2/21/2026

HOLY TRINITY

Mondays: 6:30-8:30 pm

January 12, 2026
January 19, 2026
January 26, 2026
February 2, 2026
February 9, 2026
February 16, 2026
February 23, 2026

MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

Tuesdays: 6:30-8:30 pm

January 13, 2026
January 20, 2026
January 27, 2026
February 3, 2026
February 10, 2026
February 17, 2026
February 24, 2026



The Rescue Project registration is now available on our website at <https://www.holycrossfop.org/events-activities>. There is no cost. Pre-registration allows us to plan for food that will be provided.



My Parish App - Advent Features



Advent 2025

Advent Reflections: Through our partnership with Ave Maria Press, reflections from the book *Let Heaven and Nature Sing: Daily Prayers for Advent and Christmas* will be available!



Higher Ground

Higher Ground - Advent Podcast

The Podcast by Elevated Parish Missions that helps ignite a deeper love for Christ throughout the Advent Season.



Merry Beggars

A Christmas Carol - Audio Drama

Through our partnership with The Merry Beggars, listen to the classic story of Ebenezer Scrooge in an audio Advent calendar! Enjoy 25 10-minute episodes, one for each day of Advent. Brought to life with an award-winning cast, Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol will cheer and inspire you in the classic tale of redemption.



Follow the instructions after downloading the App. Note: To find our parish family allow location services through the App or type in either of our zip codes: 45828 or 45846



MEN INQUIRING ABOUT THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

— Any man who may be discerning a possible vocation to serve the Church as a Permanent Deacon should contact Deacon Mark Machuga, Director of the Office of the Diaconate, to discuss the discernment process, prerequisites, and the formation cycle. Deacon Mark can be reached at 513-263-6641 or deaconoffice@catholicaoc.org.



Please Consider Donating to our Holy Cross Family...

GUARDIAN ANGEL PROGRAM

Dear Parishioners,

Both Coldwater & Ft. Recovery youth group will be implementing the Guardian Angel Program again this year. The Guardian Angel Program is a sponsorship program where parishioners can donate to help offset the cost of different Catholic youth camps. Some examples of these camps include, but are not limited to, Steubenville, CYSC and Catholic Heart Work Camp. Parishioners can donate to the Guardian Angel Program at any time throughout the year by putting their donation in an envelope and writing "Fort Fiat Guardian Angel Program" or "Coldwater Youth Ministry Guardian Angel Program" on the outside of the envelope. These donations can be placed in the collection baskets or dropped off at one of the parish offices anytime. General donations will be split between all teens/students attending Catholic camps. Sponsored donations are when you specify a particular teen/student you'd like to donate to. These donations will go directly to that particular teen/student.

This year our youth are invited to attend the Steubenville Youth Conference. In the past, these weekends have become a life-changing experience for the teens. This conference encourages the continuation of a deep faith rooted in the Eucharist and the understanding that God lives with them. However, the cost continues to grow. This is where the Guardian Angel Program will come into play this year...

The price for each student to attend the Steubenville Youth Conference this year is approximately \$330 - \$450. Each student is responsible for the full amount. This amount covers their registration fee for the weekend, provides meals, and transportation. **We're asking and hoping that generous patrons throughout our family of parishes will consider sponsoring a teen to attend Steubenville and help offset some of this balance.** Your generous donation can remain anonymous or you may sponsor a particular teen, and we will make sure the donation is directed appropriately. Truly, any help that you can give is appreciated! Your past generosity and thoughtfulness has helped numerous teens come home renewed in faith and joy of the Lord. Thank you! We are hoping that, once again, your thoughtfulness and generosity will help us defray some of the costs of this conference. Please prayerfully consider being a part of the Guardian Angel Program here within the Holy Cross Family of Parishes.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Maria Gruss or Natalie Ashbaugh at mgruss.holycrossfop@gmail.com or nashbaugh.holycrossfop@gmail.com... Your generosity is appreciated!

May God continue to bless you and your families.

Maria Gruss & Natalie Ashbaugh

Holy Cross Family of Parishes

Youth Ministry Coordinators



Parish Information



Holy Trinity

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER —

As mentioned in our recent annual business summary, we are

currently budgeting our Parish Permanent Improvement fund (PPI Envelopes and PPI Online giving) to address three major projects within the next 5 years. These include a new roof, new gutters/spouting/downspouts and a complete resurface of the parking lot. Our goal is to set aside \$175,000 each year over the next 4 years (or roughly \$14,500/month). For reference, July PPI was \$4,300, August \$5,100, September \$11,200 and October \$26,300 for an average of \$11,725. We kindly ask you to keep this in mind as you make your weekly/monthly or special donations. The PPI envelopes are a separate donation from the normal weekly contribution envelopes and online giving. Working together, we can continue to keep Holy Trinity's buildings and grounds well maintained and a special place for worship.

ADVENT CANDLES — Advent candles are available at \$5.00 per set in Holy Trinity's sacristy.

ADORERS NEEDED — Enjoy a chance to spend time with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Trinity on Wed., Dec. 17th anywhere from 3 - 9 pm. If interested in filling one of these time slots, please use the QR code or contact Sarah at sklosterman.holycrossfop@gmail.com or (419) 678-4802.



St. Peter

ANGEL TREE PROGRAM —

Drop off your Angel Tree gift in the marked boxes in front of the churches by Dec. 7. If you did

not get a tag and would like to take part in this program, monetary donations are always appreciated. Just put your donation in an envelope marked "Angel Tree" and drop it in the collection. Make checks payable to Mary Help of Christians mentioned "Angel Tree". If you have any questions please call Mary at 419-852-6213. Thank you!

ST. PETER LADIES SODALITY — Monday, December 29th, Doors open at 5:30 pm Supper at 6 pm. All are invited to join for food and fun. Please RSVP to Rachel Rammel by phone or text (419) 852-2004 by December 19th.

ADORERS NEEDED — Enjoy a chance to spend time with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament at St. Peter on Wed., Dec. 17th from 6 - 7:15 pm OR 7:15 - 8:30 pm. If interested in filling one of these time slots, please use the QR code or contact Harlie at hmetzger.holycrossfop@gmail.com or (419) 375-4153.



SNOW REMOVAL COMMITTEES DECEMBER 2025 —

*Bill Bruns, Jack Diller, Ben Knapke, Ryan Sutter, Mark Bruns, Russell Bergman, Dale Brunswick, Wesley Bergman, Roger Schmackers, Guil Bergman, Jim Guggenbiller, Jordan Winner, Tom Braun, Greg Diller, Scott Overman, Tom Kahlig, John Schoenlein, Steve Alig, Nick Boeckman, Ryan Evers, Reese Grieshop, Nick Brockman, Jordan Steinbrunner, Dan Wendel, Trent Kaiser, Dan Post, Kyle Bettinger, Elliott Post, Patrick Klosterman, Truman Klosterman, Ed Meyer. Responsible for church sidewalks. Don't forget that Wednesday evenings is CCD. It is very important to have the snow cleared away as much as possible. THANKS!!!



Mary Help of Christians

ANGEL TREE PROGRAM —

Don't forget to drop off your Angel Tree gift in the marked boxes in front of the

churches by Dec. 7. If you did not get a tag and would like to take part in this program, monetary donations are always appreciated. Just put your donation in an envelope marked "Angel Tree" and drop it in the collection. Make checks payable to Mary Help of Christians mentioned "Angel Tree". If you have any questions please call Mary at 419-852-6213. Thank you for your help with this great Christmas program.

HELP NEEDED — We are looking for someone to launder the altar cloths at Mary Help of Christians. If interested, please call the Fort Recovery Office at (419) 375-4153.

ADVENT PARTY — Mary Help of Christians Ladies Sodality will be having their Advent party on Thursday, December 18th at 6 pm in the Undercroft. Join us for a meal and entertainment, cost is \$10.00. The ladies sewing group will be set up during the party. All Mary Help of Christian ladies are welcome! RSVP to Megan Wendel at (419) 852-5066 by December 13th.

ADORERS NEEDED — Enjoy a chance to spend time with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament at MHC on Wed., Dec. 17th from 6 - 7:15 pm OR 7:15 - 8:30 pm. If interested in filling one of these time slots, please use the QR code or contact Harlie at hmetzger.holycrossfop@gmail.com or (419) 375-4153.



SEWING GROUP — The sewing group WILL NOT meet on December 8 because of the Holy Day. They will meet on December 15 instead in the MHC Undercroft at 9 am. If there is a funeral on Monday, Dec. 15, or if schools are canceled because of ice and snow we will not meet until January. The group would like to thank everyone who donated to them this past year. It is really appreciated.



St. Paul

ST. PAUL GIVING TREE —

Help families who need extra support this Christmas by taking an ornament from the Giving Tree in

the entrance of St. Paul church. Purchase the item listed on the ornament, and return under the tree by Dec. 7. It really helps if the gift is in a box that can be wrapped by Grades 7-12. Thank you for all the generous support in the past. All gifts are greatly appreciated. If you prefer, drop a gift card or cash in the collection in an envelope with St. Paul Giving Tree on the envelope. Gift cards for groceries are always included for the families. If you have extra wrapping paper, please place under the tree as well. Call or text Helen at (419) 852-0763 with any questions.

ADORERS NEEDED — Enjoy a chance to spend time with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament at St. Paul on Wed., Dec. 17th from 6 - 7:15 pm OR 7:15 - 8:30 pm. If interested in filling one of these time slots, please use the QR code or contact Harlie at hmetzger.holycrossfop@gmail.com or (419) 375-4153.



- Go to **FORMED.org**
- Click "sign up as a parishioner", find our parish, & enter zip code: 45828.

FORMED
THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.



St. Joseph

ANGEL TREE PROGRAM

— Don't forget to drop off your Angel Tree gift in the marked boxes in front of the

churches by Dec. 7. If you did not get a tag and would like to take part in this program, monetary donations are always appreciated. Just put your donation in an envelope marked "Angel Tree" and drop it in the collection. Make checks payable to Mary Help of Christians mentioned "Angel Tree". If you have any questions please call Mary at 419-852-6213. Thank you for your help with this great Christmas program.

CLEANING — (December) **Casi Grube, Angela Siegrist, Holly Grube, Linda Fullenkamp, Leanne Grube, Elizabeth Hart, Jean Grube

CHRISTMAS DECORATING — All hands are welcome on Monday, December 22nd @ 6:30 pm to set up Christmas decorations at St. Joseph. Thank you!



St. Mary

PATRIOTIC ROSARY

— Please join us for the patriotic rosary every Tuesday at 7:30 pm at St. Mary Church.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING — The CYO will be Christmas caroling on Wednesday, Dec. 10th from 6:45 to 8 pm. If you or someone you know in the Philothea area would like to be added to our visits, please contact Kim at (937) 638-1380.

ADORERS NEEDED — Enjoy a chance to spend time with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary on Wed., Dec. 17th from 6:45 - 7:15 pm. If interested in filling this time slot, please use the QR code or contact Sarah at sklosterman.holycrossfop@gmail.com or (419) 678-4802



St. Anthony

GATHERING FOR FELLOWSHIP

— Every 2nd Thursday of the month, at 8:00 am, you are invited to join St. Anthony parishioners for 30 minutes of prayer in the church. Then join at the Pub for coffee and some good conversation. Everyone is invited! You are welcome to join in at the church and pub or either of the two. If you have any questions or opinions please call (419) 852-8741. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT — The St. Anthony religion students will present their Christmas Pageant on Wed., Dec. 17th at 6:30 pm in the gym. All are invited to attend! Adoration will be held in the church from 6:30 - 7:30 pm, and everyone is encouraged to stay and take part. After adoration, snacks and drinks will be served in the school hall around 7:30 pm. Come celebrate the Christmas season with our students and parish family!

ADORERS NEEDED — Enjoy a chance to spend time with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament at St. Anthony on Wed., Dec. 17th from 6:30 - 7:45 pm. If interested in filling this time slot, please use the QR code or contact Sarah at sklosterman.holycrossfop@gmail.com or (419) 678-4802.



BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT — Volunteers Needed. We need volunteers Mon., Jan. 26th – Sat., Jan. 31st to assist with: Removing pews, carpet, and etc. Moving statues, vessels, vestments, and other items. Helping set up the school for Mass during the renovation time period.

Religious Education

Coldwater Religious Ed.

Contact: Sarah Klosterman

sklosterman.holycrossfop@gmail.com, 419-678-3328

ATTENTION:

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD — We are in need of parent volunteers to help bring children to and from church during Mass, assist with activities, and ensure all children are safely returned to their parents. To meet Safe Environment guidelines, we must have one adult for every ten children; if we are unable to meet this ratio, we may have to discontinue the program. We would very much like to avoid this, so if you can help even once a month, please sign up using the QR code or contact Sarah Klosterman. Your help makes a big difference!



Fort Recovery Religious Ed.

Contact: Harlie Metzger

hmetzger.holycrossfop@gmail.com, 419-375-4153

ATTENTION:

SUNDAY SCHOOL — Classes are held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

ADVENT



C	L	K	D	L	S	R	L	S	B	V	R	E	F	X	
E	I	K	J	U	V	C	C	X	A	E	U	E	J	V	S
B	F	W	K	T	F	A	B	G	V	L	R	J	O	B	Q
E	P	P	K	I	J	N	V	F	I	X	O	S	E	A	
G	K	M	S	G	A	D	Y	L	O	E	G	I	E	N	Z
O	Y	V	B	A	V	L	K	U	U	V	L	C	P	Q	M
O	J	L	B	B	O	E	E	S	R	E	C	E	H	M	E
D	G	B	I	E	S	E	E	M	A	C	D	F	J	N	R
N	L	A	S	U	R	R	K	R	M	V	T	F	F	O	C
E	U	P	D	L	R	F	S	U	W	A	S	G	C	E	S
W	A	K	U	V	S	I	C	K	L	W	N	F	K	A	A
S	B	J	C	R	E	S	A	M	A	R	Y	U	Y	M	L
A	N	G	E	L	P	N	M	Y	A	V	H	R	E	I	Q
I	L	L	E	Y	L	L	T	B	P	N	F	T	L	L	P
S	N	Q	H	L	Y	F	E	B	X	K	D	P	J	D	L
J	E	S	U	S	I	W	R	E	A	T	H	R	D	R	G



WORDSEARCH

MARY
ANGEL
JESUS
ADVENT
CANDLE

JOSEPH
PURPLE
WREATH
BELIEVE

REJOICE
SAVIOR
EMMANUEL
GOODNEWS
ISRAEL

Youth Ministry

Coldwater Youth Group

Contact: Maria Gruss

mgruss.holycrossfop@gmail.com, 419-678-3328

UPCOMING EVENTS:

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9 — 7 - 8 am | Christ & Coffee @ Rooster Joe (grades 7th - 12th)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15 — 11:18 - 11:45 am | High School Men's & Ladies Lunch @ The Fr. Yauss Basement (grades 9th - 12th)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15 — 3:15 - 4:30 pm | Totus Tuus Crafters! @ The Fr. Yauss Basement (ages 12+)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16 — 7 - 8 am | Christ & Coffee @ Rooster Joe (grades 7th - 12th)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 — 3:15 - 4:30 pm | Children's Adoration & Storytime @ Holy Trinity (grades K - 6th)

LUNCH CANCELED — Monday, December 8th: High School Men's & Ladies Lunch @ The Fr. Yauss is canceled.

Fort Fiat Youth Group

Contact: Natalie Ashbaugh

nashbaugh.holycrossfop@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

TO THE HEIGHTS — Tuesdays 3:30 - 4:30 at MHC (6th - 8th)

LADIES YOUTH GROUP — Tuesdays 7:15 - 8 am at MHC (9th - 12th)

MEN'S YOUTH GROUP — Wednesdays 9 - 10 pm @ MHC (7th - 12th)

BREAKFAST CLUB — Our next Breakfast Club is Friday, December 19th from 7:15 - 8 am @ MHC (6th - 12th)

Totus Tuus Crafters

"Creating with Purpose.
Inspired by Faith."

Every 3rd Monday

3:15 - 4:30 pm

@ The Fr. Yauss Basement

Ages 12+ Welcome!



Please use the QR
code to sign up!



Children's Adoration & Storytime



Every 4th Thursday

| Holy Trinity |

3:15 - 4:30 pm

All ages welcome!

(Geared towards
K - 6 Grade)

Guided holy half hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament followed with snacks, a story, and outdoor games (weather permitting).

Students will be walked over from school.
Grades K-4: meet by the elementary library.
Grades 5-6: meet by the high school office.

Pre-K & below must be accompanied by an adult and can meet us inside the church.

Scan the QR code to sign up your kids!
Contact Maria Gruss with any questions at 419-678-3328.



Saint of the Week - Saint Juan Diego

How well Mary's own words describe Juan Diego: "God has cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly" (Luke 1:52). Through him, for the diverse peoples of the Americas, indigenous and immigrant, the Mother of God became known as their Mother too. Cuauhtlatzin, his given name, means "One Who Speaks Like An Eagle," and Juan Diego faithfully delivered the Virgin's request that a church be built at Tepeyac where she had appeared to him. To the skeptical bishop's request for a sign, Our Lady showed Juan Diego roses blooming through stony ground, despite winter's cold. When he unfolded his tilma to present them to the bishop, imprinted there was Mary's image! Her blue sash and the flower over her womb were traditional Aztec symbols of pregnancy and new life. But her features were those of a mestiza, indicating mixed Aztec-European heritage. Thus to peoples too easily prone to a "clash of cultures," Our Lady of Guadalupe remains the enduring icon of unity-in-diversity, the fruit of our one baptism into Jesus, her Son.



Feast Day:
December 9th

—Peter Scagnelli

- Information obtained from Diocesan.com

Community Interests

NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE — The 36th annual National Night of Prayer for Life will be held at the Spiritual Center chapel, Maria Stein, from 7 - 11 pm, Mon., Dec. 8th, 2025. Four hours of Eucharistic Adoration and prayers of reparation to end abortion will be offered. Each hour will begin with a hymn and prayers including the rosary and the Divine Mercy chaplet and will unite many parishes across the nation for the same intention. It will be opened with exposition by Deacon Greg Bornhorst who will also close with Benediction. All are welcome and may come for all or part of this special night of prayer for the unborn.

AL-ANON & AA MEETINGS — Al-Anon for family/friends of alcoholics, Thursdays, 7:30 - 8:30 pm at Spiritual Center (Montezuma Annex) & Fridays from 7:30 - 8:30 pm in Briarwood's Private Dining Room at 100 Don Desch Dr, Coldwater. AA Meetings on Fridays from 7:30 - 8:30 pm at the Fr. Yauss, Coldwater. Meetings are open, anonymous, & free.

FOOD PANTRIES — Holy Trinity Food Pantry is open Saturdays from 9 - 11 am. Located at 830 W. Main St., Coldwater (Mercer Health West Campus). For information: Rob Fisher (419) 678-3538. The Food Pantry located at the Ft. Recovery Family Office is open by appointment Mon. - Fri. Call the office at 419-375-4153 to schedule a time. Anyone in the county in need is welcome to use the pantries.

CATHOLIC NURSE SOCIETY — We encourage all nurses to join us for fellowship, prayer, and fun conversations that are uniquely about the joys, triumphs, and hardships of being a nurse. Meetings are held at 11 am on the first Saturday of each month, second floor, at the Shrine of the Holy Relics in Maria Stein. We hope you will join us. Contact Janet Munday with any questions, (419) 954-1670 voice/text.

WANTED — Able body workers needed at St. John Bosco School & Training Center in Jamaica for 7 to 10 days; 8 till 6 work day. Temp. 65-85° around Feb. 8, 2026. Need a passport. Need more info, call Dennis Siefring: 419-852-9063.

MEN'S OPEN SPIRITUAL EXERCISES/RETREAT — Friday-Sunday, January 9-10, 2026 at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein (2365 St. Johns Road, Maria Stein, Ohio 45860). Registration starts on Friday, January 9th, 2026 at 6 pm. Welcome at 7:30 pm. Retreat ends Sunday, January 11th, 2026 at 1 pm after Mass and Lunch. There is no meal on Friday night. Cost per participant: \$250 before December 19th and \$275 after that date. This includes single room and bath, all meals and fees. Spiritual Exercises are limited to 25 Participants. This "Spiritual Exercises/Retreat" is silent and is according to the methods and principles of St. Ignatius of Loyola and includes meditations, conferences, Mass, confession, Program of Life, opportunity for confession, spiritual direction and personal prayer. The retreat is preached by a priest of the Legionaries of Christ. Register online at: www.rcohiovalley.org by Friday, December 19th, 2025. For more information regarding the Retreat contact: Jay Brown at E-mail: Jab84@nktelco.net or Phone: (419) 733-5819.

GRIEFSHARE — At Griefshare, you'll find a safe comforting place where you can talk with others about your grief. You will find support, direction and guidance on how to make it through. Join us for a 13 week program, every Tuesday, beginning January 6th through March 31st, 2026 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm at Precious Blood church basement, Chickasaw. To register or for questions, contact Herb Wilker at (419) 953-5398 or email hiwilker@mercy.com.

Stewardship

Did You Know?

EFT Giving

Would you like to simplify your weekly contribution to the church? Our EFT option allows you to make contributions to support our parish ministries without writing checks or worrying about cash donations. EFT allows you to set up automatic contributions and you may change the amount of your gift at any time. EFT stands for "Electronic Funds Transfer". EFT is a fully digital method of withdrawing money from your checking or savings account.

Benefits of EFT include:

- No need to hassle with checks or cash
- Allows you to give even if you are unable to attend your parish services
- Contribution amount is easily adjusted as needed
- No credit card fees assessed to the church

If you would like to sign up, contact Charmaine Bettinger at (419) 678-4802 or cbettinger.holycrossfop@gmail.com.

If you are currently giving through your credit card with online giving and would like to switch to EFT to reduce the credit card fees assessed to the church, please contact Charmaine Bettinger.

Contributions

November 17 - 23, 2025

Mary Help of Christians

Offertory.....	\$4,305.00
Human Development ...	\$1,127.40
Military	\$ 225.00
Religiou Ed	\$ 40.00
Youth Group	\$ 30.00
Allocated Loose	\$ 930.13

St. Joseph

Offertory.....	\$ 885.00
Human Development ...	\$ 207.00
Allocated Loose	\$ 194.24

St. Paul

Offertory.....	\$2,963.10
Human Development ...	\$ 331.00
Maintenance.....	\$ 20.00
Flowers.....	\$ 100.00
Allocated Loose	\$ 396.37

St. Peter

Offertory.....	\$2,092.00
Human Development ...	\$ 641.00
Military	\$ 25.00
Flowers.....	\$ 5.00
Allocated Loose	\$ 314.26

Holy Trinity

Offertory.....	\$5,760.00
Loose.....	\$2,941.00
Total	\$8,701.00
Candles.....	\$ 187.00

St. Anthony

Offertory.....	\$ 660.00
Loose.....	\$ 296.00
Total	\$ 956.00

St. Mary

Offertory.....	\$ 825.00
Loose.....	\$ 638.00
Total	\$1,463.00
Candles.....	\$ 134.75



Thank you for your generosity!

Contact Information

St. Joseph: (Est. 1839) 1689 St. Joe Rd., Ft. Recovery, OH 45846
St. Mary: (Est. 1851) 3821 Philothea Rd., Coldwater OH 45828
St. Anthony: (Est. 1852) 471 St. Anthony Rd., Ft. Recovery, OH 45846
St. Peter: (Est. 1860) 1477 Philothea Rd., Ft. Recovery, OH 45846
Holy Trinity: (Est. 1867) 120 E. Main St., Coldwater OH 45828
St. Paul: (Est. 1868) 517 Meiring Rd., Ft. Recovery, OH 45846
MHC: (Est. 1881) 403 Sharpsburg Rd., Ft. Recovery, OH 45846

Business Managers

Amy Lennartz - (MHC/SJ/SPL/SPT) alennartz.holycrossfop@gmail.com
 Charmaine Bettinger - (HT/SM/SA) cbettinger.holycrossfop@gmail.com

Administrative Assistants

Amy Schmitz - (MHC/SPL) aschmitz.holycrossfop@gmail.com
 Karen Timmerman - (SJ/SPT) ktimmerman.holycrossfop@gmail.com
 Julie Schmitz - (HT/SA/SM) staff.holycrossfop@gmail.com

Director of Communications

Lisa Cowan - bulletin.holycrossfop@gmail.com

CCD Offices

Harlie Metzger - (MHC/SJ/SPL/SPT) hmetzger.holycrossfop@gmail.com
 Sarah Klosterman - (HT/SM/SA) sklosterman.holycrossfop@gmail.com

Youth Ministry

Maria Gruss - (HT/SM/SA) mgruss.holycrossfop@gmail.com
 Natalie Ashbaugh - (MHC/SJ/SPL/SPT) nashbaugh.holycrossfop@gmail.com

Director of Adult Evangelization

Cindy Muhlenkamp - cmuhlenkamp.holycrossfop@gmail.com

OCIA

Cindy Muhlenkamp - (HT/SM/SA) cmuhlenkamp.holycrossfop@gmail.com
 Ginny Fortkamp - (MHC/SJ/SPL/SPT) gfortkamp.holycrossfop@gmail.com

Bereavement Ministry Coordinator

Ginny Fortkamp - gfortkamp.holycrossfop@gmail.com 419-375-4153

Parish Life Coordinator

Cindy Muhlenkamp - (SA) 419-678-4802
 Stephanie Wendel - (SM) 419-733-2930

Maintenance

Ralph Leugers - (SA) 419-942-8365
 Rick Hemmelgarn - (SM) 419-852-8126
 Rob Schmidt - (HT) 419-678-4802

Music

(HT) - Ron Johnson - rjohnson.holycrossfop@gmail.com
 (MHC) - Deanna Knapke, Linda Kahlig, Katie Fortkamp
 (SA) - Julie Brackman - 419-942-1580
 (SJ) - Maria Bergman
 (SM) - Diane Geier - 419-678-4470
 (SPL) - Susan Bertke
 (SPT) - Anna Roessner, Mary Gaerke, Paige Dysert

Hall Rentals

Amy Schmitz - (MHC) 419-375-4153
 Harlie Metzger - (SJ) 567-279-8664
 Jen Thompson - (SPL) 419-852-1093
 Julie Gaerke - (SPT) 419-852-6474
 Julie Schmitz - (HT/SA/SM) 419-678-4802

Safe Environment Coordinator

Kathy Portz - (MHC/SJ/SPL/SPT) kathyporz@gmail.com
 Charmaine Bettinger - (HT/SM/SA) cbettinger.holycrossfop@gmail.com

Family Council Representatives

(HT) - Brooks Topp 419-953-3633 & Tim Wellman 567-644-1739
 (MHC) - Hannah Bihn 419-852-4528 & Tim Hart 567-644-3922
 (SA) - Chuck Post 419-942-1133 & Cindy Homan 419-852-9686
 (SJ) - Grant Pottkotter 419-852-6313 & Aimee Pottkotter 419-852-7637
 (SM) - Adam Liette 419-852-5868 & Amy Welling 419-852-5473
 (SPL) - Mitch Stammen 419-852-3265 & Lindsey Reinhard 419-852-4446
 (SPT) - Isaac Siegrist 419-852-2710 & Trisha Dues 419-733-2434

Call for Prayer

Holy Trinity - 419-678-4084
 Janie Timmerman - (SA) 419-375-2320
 Karla Kunk - (SM) 419-852-2162
 Rita McElDowney - (SPL) 937-621-3126

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Alexander Witt, Pastor:
 fr.witt.aoc@gmail.com

Rev. Ethan Moore, Parochial Vicar:
 frethan.holycrossfop@gmail.com

Rev. Joseph Pasala, Parochial Vicar:
 pasalajoseph7@gmail.com

Rev. Barry Stechschulte, Parochial Vicar:
 fatherbarry10964@gmail.com

Deacon Daniel Kahlig:
 dkahlig.holycrossfop@gmail.com

Deacon Roger Kaiser:
 rkaiser.holycrossfop@gmail.com

COLDWATER KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #1991

Grand Knight — Mike Hoying 937-594-2816

FORT RECOVERY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #3324

Grand Knight — Calvin May 419-852-6973

Deputy Grand Knight — Joe Knapke 419-852-5188

OUR LADY OF FATIMA DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA #810

Regent — Lindsey Reinhard 419-852-4446

Vice Regent — Chrissy Hart 419-852-7743

ST. ANN'S ROSARY ALTAR SODALITY

President — Julie Pleiman 419-953-7116

Vice President — Katie Hamberg 513-614-5117

If interested in joining one of the above organizations, call the number listed.

Special Thanks to our Bulletin Sponsors!

This week we highlight:

<i>A Simple Touch Home Decorating/Decor</i>	<i>Wendel's BBQ</i>
<i>Fort Recovery Insurance Agency</i>	<i>Forsthoeft Trucking LLC</i>
<i>Affolder Equipment Sales Inc.</i>	<i>Lamm's Insurance Inc.</i>
<i>Fortkamp Foam</i>	<i>Brockman-Boeckman Funeral Home</i>

Church Bulletin Advertising

**Attention Business Owners, Professionals,
Self-Employed and Families!**

Bulletin Advertising Opportunities Available!

Sherry Montell representing Diocesan (our Bulletin Publisher) is currently seeking new advertisers and sponsors. Support our parish, while you promote your business digitally and in print. If interested, please contact Sherry directly (feel free to text).

Contact

Sherry Montell
 smontell@diocesan.com
614-301-7444



DIOCESAN
 Catholic Life Every Day

Thanks to you and Diocesan, the bulletin is published weekly at no cost to the parish!

