

# Love

**V:** Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.  
**R:** That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.



### 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

### Family Offices



### 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

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**Website:**  
[www.holycrossfop.org](http://www.holycrossfop.org)



**Facebook:**  
[www.facebook.com/holycrossfop](http://www.facebook.com/holycrossfop)



St. Anthony



St. Joseph



St. Mary



St. Paul



St. Peter

**Sunday, December 21, 2025**  
*Fourth 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
<b>Monday, December 22</b> <i>Advent Weekday</i>	Timothy Heitkamp †	FBS	7:15 am (L/S)	Holy Trinity	After Mass
	L/D Bernard Overman Family †	FAW	6:45 pm	St. Peter	5:45 - 6:30 pm
<b>Tuesday, December 23</b> <i>Saint John of Kanty, Priest; opf. mem.</i>	L/D Clete & Lou Ann Knoth †	FEM	7:15 am	St. Mary	After Mass
	Vocations to the Priesthood & Consecrated Life	FJP	6:45 pm	St. Joseph	5:45 - 6:30 pm
<b>Wednesday, December 24</b> <i>Advent Weekday</i>	L/D Jim & Thelma Homan Family †	FAW	7:15 am (L/S)	MHC	After Mass
<b>Wednesday, December 24</b> <i>Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord; Solemnity</i>	Kathryn Lechleiter †	FJP	4:30 pm	Holy Trinity	Before Mass
	Steve Grieshop †	FEM/DDK	4:30 pm (L/S)	MHC	Before Mass
	Raymond J. Wenning †	FLH	11:00 pm	St. Mary	Before Mass
	L/D Rosenbeck & Wenning Families †	FBS	12:00 am (L/S)	Holy Trinity	N/A
<b>Thursday, December 25</b> <i>The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas); Solemnity</i>	Members of Holy Cross Family of Parishes	FAW	12:00 am	MHC	N/A
	Dean Hein †	FJP/DRK	8:00 am	Holy Trinity	N/A
	L/D Urban & Bernice Dirksen Family †	FEM	8:00 am	St. Peter	N/A
	L/D Ermin & Regina Wendel Family †	FAW	9:00 am (L/S)	MHC	N/A
	Dale Kaup †	FBS	9:00 am	St. Anthony	N/A
	L/D Muhlenkamp & Stachler Families †	FJP	10:00 am (L/S)	Holy Trinity	N/A
	L/D John & Esther Hess Family †	FEM	10:00 am	St. Joseph	N/A
	Greg McEldowney †	FBS/DDK	11:00 am	St. Paul	N/A
<b>Friday, December 26</b> <i>Saint Stephen, The First Martyr; Feast</i>	Steve Muhlenkamp †	FBS	7:15 am (L/S)	Holy Trinity	After Mass
	Sherrie Keller †	FEM	Noon (L/S)	MHC	11:30 am - end
<b>Saturday, December 27</b> <i>Saint John, Apostle, Evangelist; Feast</i>	L/D Kahlig & Pohl Families †	FEM	9:00 am	St. Joseph	After Mass
	Rose Ann Post †	FBS	4:00 pm	St. Anthony	3:15 - 3:45 pm
	Carma Diller †	FAW	4:30 pm	Holy Trinity	3:45 - 4:15 pm
	L/D Carroll & Marlene Abels Family †	FJP	4:30 pm (L/S)	MHC	3:45 pm - end
<b>Sunday, December 28</b> <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph; Feast</i>	Gerald Dillhoff †	FJP/DDK	7:00 am	St. Joseph	N/A
	Joann Bergman †	FBS	8:00 am (L/S)	Holy Trinity	7:25 am - end
	Natalie Siegrist †	FEM	9:00 am (L/S)	MHC	8:25 am - end
	Members of Holy Cross Family of Parishes	FAW	10:00 am (L/S)	Holy Trinity	9:25 am - end
	L/D George & Rosa Rammel Family †	FEM	11:00 am	St. Paul	10:25 - 10:45 am
	Steve Muhlenkamp †	FJP	11:00 am	St. Peter	10:25 - 10:45 am
	L/D Heitkamp & Hartings Families †	FBS/DRK	Noon	St. Mary	11:25 - 11:45 am
	Bob Hogan †	FAW	6:00 pm	Holy Trinity	5:15 - 5:45 pm

**MASSSES 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](http://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-qa4zm. 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); Fr. Larry Hemmelgarn (FLH)  
 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](mailto: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 -

**Wednesday, December 24, 7:15 am**

**Server:** Chris Timmerman

**Lector:** Pauline Faller

**Wednesday, December 24, 4:30 pm**

**Servers:** Carson Fullenkamp, Anthony Roessner, Brodie Hart, Paisley Hart, Tucker Huntsman, John Bihn

**Lector:** Pam Hicks

**EMHC:** Brad Evers, Michelle Evers

**Sacristan:** Maggie Hartings

**Ushers:** Mike Laux, Mark Metzger, Matt Whitacre, Jeff Fullenkamp

**Thursday, December 25, 12:00 am**

**Servers:** Grant Pearson, Emma Pearson, Josh Evers, Tony Evers

**Lector:** Carol Jutte

**EMHC:** Amy Klingshirn, Trent Pearson

**Sacristan:** Stacy Pearson

**Ushers:** Steve Wendel, Jeff Wendel, Randy Wuebker, Randy Wendel

**Thursday, December 25, 9:00 am**

**Servers:** Jameson Heitkamp, Riley Heitkamp, Kevin Dues, Will Faller, Lucas Winner, Jackson Barga

**Lector:** Kathy Portz

**EMHC:** Dan Jutte, Grace Jutte, Bill Gaerke

**Sacristan:** Dan & Grace Jutte

**Ushers:** Don Willmann, Paul Alig, Roger Broerman, Joe Dues

**Friday, December 26, 12:00 pm**

**Server:** Xavier Bruns

**Lector:** Diane Siegrist

**Saturday, December 27, 4:30 pm**

**Servers:** Carson Fullenkamp, Rachel Fortkamp, Joseph Fortkamp

**Lector:** Les Wenning

**EMHC:** Kathy Portz, Ted Romer

**Sacristan:** Ted Romer

**Ushers:** Floyd Bergman, Don Lennartz, Ken Romer, Chuck Kaiser

**Sunday, December 28, 9:00 am**

**Servers:** Brodie Hart, Paisley Hart, Grant Pearson, Emma Pearson

**Lector:** Trent Pearson

**EMHC:** Trent Pearson, Robert Metzger

**Sacristan:** Stacy Pearson

**Ushers:** John Faller, Kevin Fortkamp, Joe Grube, Harry Hart

## - St. Joseph -

**Tuesday, December 23, 6:45 pm**

**Servers:** Braxton Schmitz, Hoyt Schmitz

**Lector:** Tim Hart

**Sacristan:** Matt Hess

**Thursday, December 25, 10:00 am**

**Servers:** Tyler Dues, Haley Easton, Joseph Bruns, Henry Bruns

**Lector:** Karen Bertke

**EMHC:** Karen Bertke

**Sacristan:** Kim Pottkotter

**Ushers:** Mel Bertke, Grant Pottkotter

**Saturday, December 27, 9:00 am**

**Servers:** Blaise Bergman

**Lector:** Paige Schulze

**Sunday, December 28, 7:00 am**

**Servers:** Ben Homan, Eric Lamm, Dillan Schulze, Matt Grigsby, Sam Grigsby, Leo Grigsby

**Lector:** Ryan Steinbrunner

**EMHC:** Deacon Dan Kahlig

**Sacristan:** Christa Fullenkamp

**Ushers:** Jerry Sutter, Bryan Pottkotter

## - St. Paul -

**Thursday, December 25, 11:00 am**

**Servers:** Camden LeFevre, Russell Hart, Lauren Hart, Olivia Knapke, Reece LeFevre,

**Lector:** Nikki Hawk

**EMHC:** Rita McEldowney, Deacon Dan Kahlig

**Ushers:** Joe Hawk, Jared Hemmelgarn

**Sunday, December 28, 11:00 am**

**Servers:** Dan Siefing, Nick Siefing,

Landon Sudhoff, Raelyn Sudhoff,

Coralai Sudhoff

**Lector:** Marilyn Fortkamp

**EMHC:** Marilyn Fortkamp, Jackie Evers

**Ushers:** Ross Homan, Jeff Meier

**Rosary:** Mark & Marylene Brunswick

## - St. Peter -

**Monday, December 22, 6:45 pm**

**Server:** Theresa Hipple

**Lector:** Jane Hipple

**Thursday, December 25, 8:00 am**

**Servers:** Garret Diller, Kale Diller, Easton Diller, Tyler Kahlig, Tate Kahlig, Wade Gaerke

**Lector:** Marilyn Pottkotter

**EMHC:** Ben Knapke

**Sacristan:** Marilyn Pottkotter

**Ushers:** Shane Gaerke, Doug Kahlig

**Sunday, December 28, 11:00 am**

**Servers:** Reed Westgerdes, Will Westgerdes, Carter Fortkamp, Brinley Fortkamp,

Addison Fortkamp, Theo Schmitz

**Lector:** Lisa Roessner

**EMHC:** Lisa Roessner

**Sacristan:** Lisa Roessner

**Ushers:** Mike Roessner, Eric Schmitz

## - St. Anthony -

**Thursday, December 25, 9:00 am**

**Servers:** Bryant Evans, Jacob Kahlig,

Mason Alig, Jack Link, Logan Alig

**Lector:** Marty Knapke

**EMHC:** Rodney Homan

**Sacristan:** Janie Timmerman

**Ushers:** Sam Muhlenkamp, Patrick Forsthoefel

**Rosary:** Teri Minnich

**Saturday, December 27, 4:00 pm**

**Servers:** Mason Alig, Lilly Alig, Logan Alig, Wesley Geier

**Lector:** Marty Knapke

**EMHC:** Janie Timmerman

**Sacristan:** Cindy Muhlenkamp

**Ushers:** Corey Sudhoff, Mitch Sudhoff

**Rosary:** Julie Brackman

## - St. Mary -

**Tuesday, December 23, 7:15 am**

**Servers:** Sam Grigsby, Leo Grigsby

**Lector:** Viki Dues

**Wednesday, December 24, 11:00 pm**

**Servers:** Derek Dues, Matthew Uhlenhake,

Austin Uhlenhake, William Moorman,

Trent Dues, Gibson Dues

**Lector:** Stephanie Wendel

**EMHC:** Jay Uhlenhake

**Ushers:** Rick Hemmelgarn, Ben Uhlenhake

**Sunday, December 28, 12:00 pm**

**Servers:** Grace Siefing, Matthew Uhlenhake,

Garrett Uhlenhake, Cole Uhlenhake

**Lector:** Amanda Schoenherr

**EMHC:** Jay Uhlenhake

**Ushers:** Ken Siefing, Craig Hartings

## - Holy Trinity -

**Monday, December 22, 7:15 am**

**Servers:** Mason Evers, Miles Bruns

**Lector:** Rene Klosterman

**Wednesday, December 24, 4:30 pm**

**Servers:** Liam Cowan, Dillan Wenning, Emmit May, Max Ross, David Dues, Owen May

**Lector:** Lauren Baucher

**EMHC:** Michelle Wilker, Dave Bertke, Brenda Schwieterman, Luke Klosterman,

**Thursday, December 25, 12:00 am**

**Servers:** Sam Grigsby, Leo Grigsby,

Archer Bihn, Oliver Link, Jude Link,

Samuel Gerlach, Jack Bettinger

**Lector:** Matt Grigsby

**EMHC:** Stephanie Rutschilling, Denny

Riethman, Chuck Alig, Tony Hart

**Thursday, December 25, 8:00 am**

**Servers:** Lucas Broering, Henry Broering,

Francis Pottkotter, James Pottkotter,

Blake Wenning, Lincoln Homan

**Lector:** Rita Riethman

**EMHC:** Mary Lou Wenning, Tim Wellman,

Deacon Roger Kaiser, Brenda Kaiser,

Dan Tobe

**Thursday, December 25, 10:00 am**

**Servers:** Levi Sutter, John Evers,

Clayton Schoen, Evan Schmitmeyer,

Alex Schwieterman, Mason Evers

**Lector:** Charmaine Bettinger

**EMHC:** Scott Noonan, Bob Rose,

Deb Kaiser, Melissa Bruggeman,

Nick Schmitmeyer

**Friday, December 26, 7:15 am**

**Servers:** Henry Broering, Oliver Link

**Lector:** Rita Riethman

**Saturday, December 27, 4:30 pm**

**Servers:** Lucas Broering, Henry Broering,

Claire Bertke

**Lector:** Jenny Sutton

**EMHC:** Dave Bertke, Tim Berkenstock,

Michelle Wilker

**Sunday, December 28, 8:00 am**

**Servers:** Blake Wenning, Reagan Wenning,

Kendall Wenning

**Lector:** Matt Grigsby

**EMHC:** Herb Hamberg, Betty Hamberg

**Sunday, December 28, 10:00 am**

**Servers:** Miles Bruns, Owen May, Emmit May,

Kelly May

**Lector:** Abbie Homan

**EMHC:** Nick Schmitmeyer, Cindy Schmidt,

Luke Klosterman

**Sunday, December 28, 6:00 pm**

**Servers:** Levi Sutter, Eli Eyink,

Leo Huelskamp

**Lector:** Kim Rose

**EMHC:** Pam Hicks,

Amy Klingshirn





# Message from the Priests

## What Shall I Render

A very merry Christmas to all of you. I'm so happy that we can all be together today to celebrate this great feast of the birth of our Lord! Recently, I came across a poem written by Paul Claudel. It's titled *La Messa là-bas*. Don't worry, I have the English translation for you!

### *The Mass Down There*

*Bread and wine, we know what that stands for!/Not for nothing did you make man capable of dying!/there is in him a voice like death, something in him that makes him tremble and that speaks more loudly than avarice and pleasure:/It is the notion that he is needed, that he is wanted, that there is a use for him after all, and that there is someone who can ask him to offer up the gift of himself!/No son of woman fails to grasp what this means, and it is grand, and it is the very thing, no doubt, for which, long ago, he had to be born!/ If a man thinks he is master of himself, it is because he has never heard the Homeland's fearful call!/All those people, Lord, who withhold their faith from you; what if you were to invite them to give their lives?*

The poem shows us a clear tension that we hold every time we come to Mass. On the one hand, you have the God who gave His all, even His own Son, to save us from our sins. On the other hand, how often have we been to Mass and seen people around us with blank stares, looking at their watches, just waiting for the moment that they can leave? And yet, despite that response, there is still a God who gives His all for you.

It reminds me of a line from the Mass that the priest would pray as he received Holy Communion. Quoting from Psalm 116, he would pray: *What shall I render to the Lord for all He has given to me?/I will lift up the chalice of salvation and call on the name of the Lord...*

We can never repay Christ for all He has given us. And yet the mystery of a Christian's life is that, out of love, he or she should try anyway! That's a good question to ask ourselves at Christmas: what can I give the Lord for all He has given to me? Moreover, what is the gift that the Lord wants from you? I'll tell you.

In short: He just wants you. He wants all of you. He wants your mind to pray to Him; your heart to live your life for Him; your body to worship Him at Mass. He wants your married life by the Sacrament of Matrimony; He wants your children in Holy Baptism; He wants the beginnings of your adult life in Confirmation; He wants the end of your life in Anointing of the Sick. Most of all, He wants your sins...not to throw them back in your face, but to give Him your sins in Confession so that He can take those sins away from you and give you a fresh start.

When we first think of our life in this way, maybe God can sound demanding. There is so much that bids for our attention and time. But if there's one thing I've learned in my life: is that to give our lives to One who gives us His entire self is worth it! God will never be outdone in generosity, the more you give yourself to Him, the more He will give Himself to you! Maybe you need to start small, then start small. But start! And if you've already started, take that next step. Why does a baby learning how to walk fall? Because he didn't take that next step. If we keep making those tiny steps, soon enough, we will see how far God will bring us and we will have the joy of a Father in Heaven cheering us on every step of the way.

From all of us at Holy Cross Family of Parishes, thank you for coming to Mass today. God is here, keep coming back to Him!

Your priests,

Fr. Alexander Witt, and Fr. Barry Stechschulte, Fr. Joseph Pasala, and Fr. Ethan Moore



*"The gift of Himself."*



# Sacramental Information

## In Loving Memory...

Paul A. Lamm  
May 13, 1949 - December 6, 2025  
(St. Joseph)

*I am the resurrection and the life,  
says the Lord whoever believes  
in me will never die.*  
- John 11:26



## 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.

## Newly Baptized

### Holy Trinity

James Alan Wellman  
Child of Ross & Krista

Wells Walter Jutte  
Child of Kent & Morgan

### Mary Help of Christians

Leo Andrew Marchal  
Child of Neal & Andrianna

Heidi Marie Vogel  
Child of Jason & Brittney



## Welcome to the Holy Cross Family!



Please welcome the following individuals who were received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church on December 6<sup>th</sup>: Maddy Henry, Braden McIntire, and Camden Zizelman. Also, congratulations to Katie Brackman, Caden Muhlenkamp, Cienna Muhlenkamp, and Joshua Thoma who received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



**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](mailto:deaconoffice@catholicaoc.org).





# Holy Cross Family of Parishes

**WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY** — In the case of inclement weather, our goal is to have Mass at the location where it is regularly scheduled. If all of our priests are unable to make it to the scheduled location (St. Anthony St. Mary, St. Joseph, St. Peter, or St. Paul), then the Mass will be relocated to either Holy Trinity or Mary Help of Christians. The Mass will also be live streamed from that location as well. In the case of a relocation, notices will be sent out as soon as possible through our Facebook, MyParish App, Website Announcements page, and OneCall system.



*(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: 6:30 - 7:30 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  
 (Please Note: St. Mary & St. Joseph's will not have candle light during the entire duration of the adoration hours above.)



**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

<b>HOLY TRINITY</b>	<b>MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS</b>
<b>Mondays: 6:30-8:30 pm</b>	<b>Tuesdays: 6:30-8:30 pm</b>
January 12, 2026	January 13, 2026
January 19, 2026	January 20, 2026
January 26, 2026	January 27, 2026
February 2, 2026	February 3, 2026
February 9, 2026	February 10, 2026
February 16, 2026	February 17, 2026
February 23, 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.



*Parents of Second Grade Girls*  
**Parents, please sign up your 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.**



*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

Submit your questions for the priests and RSVPs to Sarah @ 419-234-3152 or [kahligss@gmail.com](mailto:kahligss@gmail.com)

**PRIEST ROUNDTABLE**  
**Featuring: Our Holy Cross Family of Parishes Priests!**  
 Friday, January 16, 2026  
 7pm (Social @ 6:30) MHC Undercroft  
**\*Please try to have questions submitted by January 9<sup>th</sup>**



**ADORATION CANCELLATIONS** — Adoration is canceled at Holy Trinity on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>; St. Paul on Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>; St. Anthony on Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>; St. Paul on Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>; and St. Anthony on Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**MASS & CONFESSION CANCELLATIONS** — There will be no Noon Mass at Holy Trinity on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. Also, the regularly scheduled Masses at St. Paul, St. Anthony, and Briarwood on Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> are all canceled. Please see the Christmas schedule for Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Mass times and the Solemnity of Mary schedule for New Years Eve and New Years Day Mass times.

**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 Thursday 6:45 pm and Saturday 4 pm Masses will be held at the St. Anthony school from Sat., Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> through Sat., Mar. 28<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**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.

**ONLINE STORE UPDATE** — Holiday items will still be available For purchase through the New Year. Products can be purchased at [https://designsemb.com/holy\\_cross/shop/home](https://designsemb.com/holy_cross/shop/home) or use the QR Code provided. *Thank you for your continued support!*



**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. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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. 3<sup>rd</sup>!

**WOMEN'S SOCIAL GROUP UPDATE** — 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. **Please note: The Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup> meeting is canceled.**

**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** — Meetings will be held every 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 8 read for the next meeting.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY UPDATE** — Meetings will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month at 1184 Philothea Rd, Ft. Recovery, Ohio, from 7:30 - 8:30 pm starting again in January.

**ADD/UPDATE INFORMATION FOR ONE CALL NOW** — Holy Cross Family Parishioners are able to update their contact information for the One Call Now System via a link on our website, [holycrossfop.org](http://holycrossfop.org). Click on SIGN UP/EDIT ONE CALL on the left side of the screen. You can also add yourself to the groups that receive alerts regarding changes. Also, after signing up text the word "alert" to 22300 to receive text updates. These are very beneficial for CCD, Mass, & Adoration cancellations.

## *Solemnity of Mary The Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)*



— *Mass Times* —

*Wednesday, December 31*

4:30 pm @ Holy Trinity

4:30 pm @ Mary Help of Christians

*Thursday, January 1*

8:00 am @ Holy Trinity

8:00 am @ St. Joseph

9:00 am @ Mary Help of Christians

9:00 am @ St. Anthony

10:00 am @ Holy Trinity

10:00 am @ St. Mary

11:00 am @ St. Paul

11:00 am @ St. Peter

Please note: Adoration is canceled at St. Anthony and St. Paul on Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>.





# *In Loving Memory*

## *Holy Trinity*

Carma Diller  
Joe & Jane Moeder Family  
Francis & Anna Smith  
Ray, Adele & Dick Post  
Louie & Joan Reigelsperger  
Sandy Collett  
Jeffery J. Wenning  
Matthew Schwieterman Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Heitkamp  
Urban & Rosena Buschur  
Clarence Sr. & Alberta Eckstein  
Arnold & Sally Klenke  
Carol E. Knapke  
Vincent Gross  
Francis & Linda Wenning  
John & Mary Ann Wermert  
Gary Swain  
Albert & Pauline Post  
George & Dorie Livingston

## *St. Anthony*

Donald and Marilyn Homan Family  
Heuker & Alig Families  
Muhlenkamp & Brunswick Families  
Bob & Ginny Schaefer  
Bernard, Werner, & Aloys Loshe  
L/D of the Maynor Family  
L/D of the Clark Family  
L/D of the Chambers Family  
L/D of the Enyart Family  
Kathryn Chambers  
Bonnie Bensman  
Cely Beluan  
L/D of the Minnich & Langenkamp Families  
Elmer & Mary Lou Klenke Family  
Lavern & Dorthy Brockman Family  
Henry and Janet Gaerke  
Sudhoff and Weitzel Family  
Cy and Betty Jean Brockman  
Terry Muhlenkamp

## *Mary Help of Christians*

Irene Reinhard  
Earl & Martha Thieman and Les & Millie Huelskamp  
Walter & Mildred Stachler and Adele Keating  
Cy & MaryAnn Fortkamp  
Matt Beyke & Ed & Mary Siegrist  
Catherine Hemmelgarn  
Fred Schmitz  
David Schmitt  
John, Mary Ann & Randy Wendel  
Lennartz & Lefeld Families  
Jerry & Irene Timmerman  
Andrew & Linda Westgerdes  
Paul Staugler  
Larry Day  
Charles J Keller  
Doug & Isaac Randall

## *St. Peter*

Urban & Bernice Dirksen  
Carol E. Knapke  
Cy Brunswick  
Ralph Evers  
Sawyer Overman  
Art & Eileen Boeckman  
Eugene & Dorothy Schoenlein  
Kathy Will  
Julius & Betty Jutte

## *St. Mary*

Ernie Uhlenhake  
Wilma & Sylvester Dues  
Marie Weitzel  
Jason Grieshop  
Floyd & Lois Hemmelgarn  
Joseph & Wilma Barhorst  
Kathy Barhorst  
Anthony & Macy Guggenbiller  
The Schmackers Family  
Kunk & Fiely Families  
Arnold & Ruth Kramer  
Nathan List  
Cletus & Viola Homan  
Laura Behr  
Ronald Spoltman  
Craig Spoltman  
Ken Spoltman  
Kathy Spoltman  
Carl & Bertha Harting  
Carl Fortkamp  
Norman & Merilda Dues  
Bob & Ruth Grieshop  
Dean Grieshop  
Patrice Grieshop  
Jan Dues  
August & Mildred Dues  
Richard Sanning  
Linda Barhorst  
Dale Gruss  
Ruth and Rocky Bernard  
L/D of the Fullenkamp & Wermert Families  
Marvin Uhlenhake  
Alvin & Alice Post  
Gary Uhlenhake  
Gene & Rita Dues  
Roger Siefring  
Eric Siefring  
Gerald Siefring  
Bart Siefring  
Bernard & Pauline Siefring  
Julius & Anna Moeder

## *St. Joseph*

Marian Homan  
John Brown  
Mark Jutte, Arnie & Vi Westgerdes  
Bernard, Mary & Paula Siefring, Onalee Fullenkamp  
Lamm & Kremer Parents

## *St. Paul*

Mark & Greg McEldowney and Ed & Mary Siegrist  
John Will  
Bob, Josh & Eric Fortkamp  
Mark Brackman  
Dan Kaiser  
Paul & Berdella Keller  
Andy Keller  
Donald Muhlenkamp  
Gabriel, Mary-Joseph, Deaven, Zane, Jordan & Jeremiah Weigel  
Joseph Keller  
Hubert Schmitz  
Mark Brackman  
Scott Knapke  
Jeff Knapke  
Joe & Janice Hart  
Clarence & Helen Guggenbiller

## *Holy Trinity*

Fred & Dave Schulze  
Velma Jean Schroer  
Tom & Helen Homan  
Anne Fullmer  
Paul Eifert  
Leon and Laura Buschur  
Ferd and Sally Eifert  
Ryan Homan  
Louis Giere  
Larry Goffena  
Bob and Lucille Heinrichs  
Stacy Heitkamp  
Dave Bruggeman  
Ivo & Dolores Siegrist  
Virgil & Doris Bruggeman  
Alvin May  
Arnold & Ruth Kramer  
Nathan List  
Gary Van Den Bosch  
Paul Lefeld Jr.  
Todd Ashbaugh  
Robert, Agnes and Marvin Lamm  
Paul & Angela Bettinger  
Dean Hein  
Fred & Kay Hein  
Joseph Berger  
Viola Albers  
Sue Schmiesing  
Robert Ebbing  
Bud & Millie Griesdorn  
Lindsey Marie Buening  
Randy Griesdorn  
Greg & Helen Buening  
Ralph Broeker  
Leroy Broeker  
Dennis Broeker  
Mark & Sylvia Wolters  
Evelyn, Vivian, Ivan Bruns  
Gus Bruns  
Cy & Flora Dippold  
John & Barb Moeller  
Bonnie Dippold  
Scott Dippold  
Urban & Bertha Bruns  
Charles & Ruth Geise  
Angie Geise  
Ivo & Esther Goettemoeller  
Doug Goubeaux  
Herbert & Stella Siefring  
Andrew Hoying  
Francis & Joan Pax  
Val & May Huelskamp  
Janice Moeller  
Marjorie Klingshirn  
Robert Klingshirn  
Robert & Margie Klingshirn  
Charlie Keller  
Sara Brackman  
Mike Brackman  
Ott & Rosalyn Muhlenkamp  
Zeno & Juliann Brackman  
Dale Kaup  
Joe and Donna Rose  
Bud Knapke



# 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.

**ANNUAL WINTER DONATION DRIVE** — the Social Action Committee is collecting Chapstick, adult and children coats, hats, gloves/mittens, scarves & socks (new and/or clean gently used) between December 29<sup>th</sup> and January 11<sup>th</sup>. Please put your donation in the marked containers at the entrances of Holy Trinity Church. God bless those who provide warmth and comfort this winter for those in need.



## St. Anthony

### GATHERING FOR FELLOWSHIP

— Every 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!

**BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT** — Volunteers Needed. We need volunteers Mon., Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> – Sat., Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> 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.



## St. Peter

### 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

### 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.



## St. Mary

### PATRIOTIC

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



## St. Joseph

### CLEANING

— (December) \*\*Casi

Grube, Angela Siegrist, Holly Grube, Linda Fullenkamp, Leanne Grube,

Elizabeth Hart, Jean Grube

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

**LADIES SODALITY WINTER PARTY** — All St. Joe ladies are welcome to join us on Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at Sanderell Hall for a meal, games, and entertainment! Doors open at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm. Cost is \$8, please RSVP to Claire at (419) 852-5069 by January 6<sup>th</sup>.



## St. Paul

### ANNUAL DINNER

& MEETING — St.

Paul's Men's Society will have their annual dinner and meeting in the parish hall on

January 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. All men of the parish are invited to enjoy a free meal and drinks, with socializing and card playing after a short meeting. Please sign up on the sheet at the entrance of the church or call Ken at (419) 375-2588.

**BBQ CHICKEN DINNERS** — St. Paul's Men's Society BBQ chicken dinners will be available on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Carry-out only from 11:00 - 12:30 in the parish hall. Cost is \$10.00 each dinner. Envelopes for ordering can be found in all churches in the Ft. Recovery Cluster or call Ken at (419) 375-2588. Orders need to be in by February 8<sup>th</sup>.

*Merry Christmas!*



From our Family of Parishes Staff to all of our Parishioners...  
May You have a truly Blessed and Merry Christmas!

# Religious Education

## Coldwater Religious Ed.

**Contact: Sarah Klosterman**

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

### ATTENTION:

**CCD CANCELLATION POLICY** — If Fort Recovery or Coldwater schools cancel due to weather, all Holy Cross CCD classes are also cancelled. If inclement weather comes in later in the day, parents will be notified via One Call of any class cancellations no later than 4:30 pm on Wednesday evening.

## Fort Recovery Religious Ed.

**Contact: Harlie Metzger**

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

### ATTENTION:

**CCD CANCELLATION POLICY** — If Fort Recovery or Coldwater schools cancel due to weather, all Holy Cross CCD classes are also cancelled. If inclement weather comes in later in the day, parents will be notified via One Call of any class cancellations no later than 4:30 pm on Wednesday evening.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** — Classes are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month.

- Go to **FORMED.org**
- Click "sign up as a parishioner", find our parish, & enter zip code: 45828.
- Make an account by entering your name and email, then you are good to go!

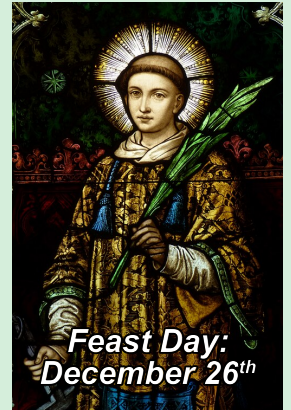
**FORMED**  
THE CATHOLIC FAITH.  
ON DEMAND.

## Saint of the Week - Saint Stephen

"A man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5): thus Luke introduces Stephen, first of seven deacons chosen by the community for its ministry of charity, first to lay down his life in witness to Christ. As the church's first martyr, Stephen's life and death mirror the preaching and passion of Jesus, "the faithful witness" (Greek, martyr) (Revelation 1:5). Like Jesus, Stephen works "great signs and wonders among the people" (Acts 6:8). Like Jesus, when falsely accused, Stephen's face radiates angelic serenity (Acts 6:15), though his tongue, like Jesus', is a two-edged sword. As the dying Jesus forgave his executioners, even making excuses for them, then commended his spirit into his Father's hands (Luke 23:34, 46), so Stephen intercedes for his murderers and begs Jesus to receive his spirit (Acts 7:60, 59). How fruitful both passions! The penitent thief inherits Paradise; Saul, who consented to Stephen's killing, is transformed into the fearless preacher Paul. Thus Stephen challenges us to bear witness not in words only, but by Christ-like forgiveness toward all.

— Peter Scagnelli

- Information obtained from [Diocesan.com](http://Diocesan.com)



**SUNDAY KIDZ**

## 4th Sunday of Advent

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

Birth Child Spirit Angel Dream  
Wife Son Name Fulfill Emmanuel





# Youth Ministry

## Coldwater Youth Group

Contact: Maria Gruss

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 22** — 7:15 - 8:45 pm | Awaken Night @ Fr. Yauss Basement (Ages 12+) "Awaken Hope: Waiting Well in a Restless World"

**CHRISTMAS BREAK** — All youth ministry events will be on a pause during Christmas and New Year's break from December 23<sup>rd</sup> through January 4<sup>th</sup>. Regularly occurring events will begin again on Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>. I hope you all enjoy the break from school and get to spend quality time with your friends and family making joyful memories! May the love of Christ fill your heart this Christmas season! - Maria

**CHRISTMAS PARTY** — January 11<sup>th</sup> 3:15 - 5:45 pm @ Hoy Trinity's Grotto (church basement). All 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome.

## Fort Fiat Youth Group

Contact: Natalie Ashbaugh

nashbaugh.holycrossfop@gmail.com

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**CHRISTMAS BREAK** — All youth events will resume on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

**CHRISTMAS PARTY** — January 11<sup>th</sup> 3:15 - 5:45 pm @ Hoy Trinity's Grotto (church basement). All 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome.

## Coldwater Youth Ministry AWAKEN NIGHT

Encounter His Presence. Awaken Your Soul

Talk - Adoration - Social - Snacks

**Mon. Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

7:15 - 8:45 pm

Fr. Yauss Center (Ages 12+)

Topic: "Awaken Hope: Waiting Well in a Restless World"



### Mark Your Calendar for Future Awaken Nights

Sun. Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>  
Sun. Apr. 19<sup>th</sup>

Sun. Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Sun. May 10<sup>th</sup>

Sun. Mar. 29<sup>th</sup>

FORT FIAT & COLDWATER  
YOUTH GROUP

# CHRISTMAS PARTY

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH  
BASEMENT

January 11<sup>th</sup>

3:15-5:45 PM

HOT CHOCOLATE BAR - PIZZA - GAMES-  
COOKIE DECORATING - MUISC

ALL 6<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WELCOME



Please Consider Donating to Our...

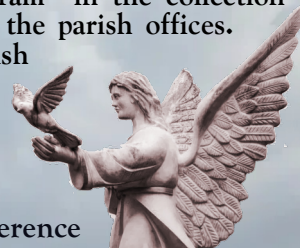
## GUARDIAN ANGEL PROGRAM

Supporting our Youth in...

- **Experiencing**  
Amazing Speakers, Worship, Adoration, Confession, and fellowship with hundreds of other Catholics their age.
- **Encountering Christ**  
In an opportunity to meet Jesus in a unique way.
- **Conversion**  
Changing Lives when meeting Jesus at Conference.
- **Community**  
Connecting with others in the universal church as a family in Christ.

Please place your donation in an envelope marked "Fort Fiat Guardian Angel Program" or "Coldwater Youth Ministry Guardian Angel Program" in the collection basket or drop it off at one of the parish offices. Please contact either parish business manager for other donation options.

Please help financially support sending our youth to the 2026 Steubenville Youth Conference



# Community Interests

**A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR MARRIED COUPLES** — Couples... want to give each other something really special this Christmas? How about a gift filled with Romance and Excitement? That's just the beginning of what you will receive on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Marriage Encounter Weekend experience is Mar. 13 - 15 at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center in Cincinnati, OH. The weekend experience is for those who wish to enrich their marriage and return to that newlywed feeling. Apply today at <https://esharing.org/applyWeekend.php> For more questions or more details contact: Andy and Melanie Reinersman at (859) 653-8464, [application@esharing.org](mailto:application@esharing.org) or visit [esharing.org](http://esharing.org)

**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 6<sup>th</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 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](mailto:hiwilker@mercy.com).

**MERCER COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE ESSAY CONTESTS** — Mercer County Right to Life is excited to sponsor their youth essay contests for the following age groups: 9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> grade and 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The cash prizes for each group are as follows: 2<sup>nd</sup> place will receive 200 dollars and 1<sup>st</sup> place will receive 300 dollars! All participants will receive a \$20 McDonald's gift card. Each educational or persuasive essay is to be 600 - 800 words and to have one of the following topics: 'Why I Am Pro-Life', 'How I Defend My Pro-Life Position', or 'How I Can Assist the Pro-Life Movement'. Essays will be scored equally on four criteria: grammar, facts, creativity, and inspiration. All essays expected to reflect the pro-life convictions held by Mercer County Right to Life. Please include in subject line of the e-mail submission the contestant's name. In the message portion please list the contestant's address, age group essay is to be entered, and school. All high school students who live in or worship in Mercer County are eligible. Essays are to be e-mailed to [prolifegeneration.mercercounty@outlook.com](mailto:prolifegeneration.mercercounty@outlook.com) by January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Good luck!

**THE CATHOLIC ADULT SINGLES CLUB** — This is a Catholic club for adults 21 and older that has social events every weekend and a club meeting once a month. For more information please call (567) 510-8197.

**RETROUVAILLE** — HOPE for couples going through difficult times in their marriages. Retrouvaille is a program of healing and renewal consisting of one weekend and six follow-up sessions over the course of two months. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a weekend on January 9-11, 2026, call 513-486-6222 or visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org)

**CREIGHTON PROVIDERS COURSE** — Do you find yourself longing to uphold the sanctity of life in a more intentional way...to teach the gift of human sexuality through a scriptural lens? Do you want to help women, couples and families discover their capacity for life giving love?...Join our Ohio Valley Fertility Care Practitioner Education Program today! Join the mission of providing authentic women's healthcare! Click the QR code to find out more.



**CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR WITH ARCHBISHOP CASEY** — All are invited to join Archbishop Casey as he celebrates Mass for the Closing of the Jubilee Year on Sunday, Dec. 28, 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains. At the request of the Holy Father, a collection for the poor will be taken.

**FOLLOW AND PRAY WITH ARCHBISHOP CASEY** — Archbishop Casey has launched his own social media accounts! Follow him at: Instagram: @archbishopcasey and Facebook: [facebook.com/archbishopcasey](https://facebook.com/archbishopcasey). By following Archbishop Casey, you can pray with him throughout Advent as he has begun posting daily prayer reflections since Sunday, Nov. 30.

**SAVE THE DATE! CATHOLIC DAY AT GREAT AMERICAN BALLPARK ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2026** — The second annual Catholic Day at Great American Ballpark will be held on Sat., Sept. 5, 2026, (Saturday of Labor Day weekend). The Cincinnati Reds will host the Milwaukee Brewers that evening. More details will be announced soon.

**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.

**RADIO ROSARY** — Radio Rosary prayed on WCSM at 9:30 am every Sunday. The Radio Rosary is sponsored each week by local Catholic organizations and individuals.



Use this QR code to download Sacred Heart Radio's free app to your smartphone or device and hear the most sought-after Catholic speakers and authors any time, any where. No radio required! Your local Catholic media connection, Sacred Heart Radio will help you learn and live your faith every hour of every day.





**SPANISH MASS** — Mass will be held every Sunday at 4 pm, Confessions at 3:30 pm, Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 pm, and the Rosary at 3:15 pm all in Spanish at Our Lady of Guadalupe. Pre-Baptismal classes are the second Sunday of the month from 11 am - 2 pm held in the church basement. Baptisms are the fourth Sunday of the month starting in June during 4 pm Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe. For more information or anyone in need of these opportunities please register with: Dr. Maria Garcia at (937) 281-4525 or Jenny Martinez at ministeriohispano@stisidorefamilia.org.

**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 Sieftring: 419-852-9063.

**MINISTRY TO SURVIVORS OF ABUSE (REPORTING)** — The Archdiocese of Cincinnati regards child abuse in all its forms as gravely sinful and criminal. Anyone who knows of or suspects child abuse by a legitimate member of the clergy or hierarchy, employee, or volunteer of the archdiocese should first report the abuse to the appropriate secular legal authority and then to Ms. Teresa Maley, Coordinator of Ministry to Survivors of Abuse of the Archdiocese, at 513.263.6623 or 1.800.686.2724 ext. 6623.

**CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS & AUXILIARY** — Membership is open to all honorably discharged Catholic veterans and their families (Active, Reserve, National Guard). Wartime service is not required - just 90 days of active-duty service. We advocate for and support all veterans, regardless of faith, through our programs of Catholic Action, Americanism, Youth Activities, and Veteran Welfare. We are proud of our service, and we love our faith! We would like you to join us and continue serving "For God, For Country, For Home." Ohio has 17 Posts, and we are looking to grow our service to veterans, our Church, and our communities in your parish / area. Contact us for more information: Department of Ohio, CWV: 614-221-7601 or ohiocwv@sbcglobal.net

**CATHOLIC IN RECOVERY RETREATS** — These retreats offer hope and healing for individuals and family members impacted by a variety of addictions, compulsions, and unhealthy attachments. Retreat participants are given various opportunities to encounter the Lord and deepen their recovery through various talks, personal testimonies, meetings, prayer & reflection time, engaging the sacraments, & fellowship with others seeking recovery rooted in Catholic spirituality. Info.: <https://catholicinrecovery.com/events>.

## 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

**December 1 - 7, 2025**

#### **Mary Help of Christians**

Offertory.....	\$7,171.00
Immac. Conception.....	\$1,689.00
Youth Group.....	\$ 30.00
Cemetery.....	\$ 5.00
Christmas.....	\$ 800.00
Religious Ed.....	\$ 123.00
Food Pantry.....	\$ 15.00
Respect Life.....	\$ 200.00
Peter's Pence.....	\$ 200.00
Retired Religious.....	\$ 200.00
Human Development...\$	20.00
Allocated loose.....	\$1,183.83
IC loose.....	\$ 552.14

#### **St. Joseph**

Offertory.....	\$ 905.00
Immac. Conception.....	\$ 209.00
Christmas.....	\$ 500.00
Allocated Loose.....	\$ 247.22
IC loose.....	\$ 115.34

#### **St. Paul**

Offertory.....	\$2,185.26
Immac. Conception.....	\$ 410.00
Flowers.....	\$ 100.00
Religious Ed.....	\$ 45.00
Maintenance.....	\$ 100.00
Human Development...\$	10.00
Allocated loose.....	\$ 504.48
IC loose.....	\$ 235.39

#### **St. Peter**

Offertory.....	\$2,140.00
Immac. Conception.....	\$ 463.00
Human Development...\$	35.00
Religious Ed.....	\$ 665.00
Maintenance.....	\$ 935.00
Allocated Loose.....	\$ 399.97
IC loose.....	\$ 186.63

#### **Holy Trinity**

Offertory.....	\$ 6,944.00
Loose.....	\$ 3,491.40
Total.....	\$10,435.40
Candles.....	\$ 340.25
Military.....	\$ 50.00
Immac. Conception.....	\$ 1,930.00
IC Loose.....	\$ 1,591.05

#### **St. Anthony**

Offertory.....	\$ 916.00
Loose.....	\$ 456.00
Total.....	\$ 1,372.00
Human Development...\$	20.00
Candles.....	\$ 51.00
Immac. Conception.....	\$ 240.00
IC Loose.....	\$ 159.37

#### **St. Mary**

Offertory.....	\$ 790.00
Loose.....	\$ 564.00
Total.....	\$ 1,354.00
Immac. Conception.....	\$ 130.00
IC Loose.....	\$ 133.16

*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

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## Administrative Assistants

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## Bereavement Ministry Coordinator

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

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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

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(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

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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

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**Rev. Joseph Pasala, Parochial Vicar:**  
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**Deacon Daniel Kahlig:**  
dkahlig.holycrossfop@gmail.com

**Deacon Roger Kaiser:**  
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## **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.

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## Contact

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



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Catholic Life Every Day

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