

CHRISTMAS

Blessings

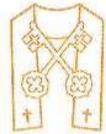


St. Basil the Great

CATHOLIC CHURCH

joyful • merciful • faithful

8700 BRECKSVILLE ROAD, BRECKSVILLE, OHIO 44141



Reconciliation/
Confession

SATURDAYS:
3:30 - 4:30PM
OR BY APPOINTMENT



Mass

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8:00AM
SATURDAY VIGIL: 5:00PM
SUNDAY: 7:30AM, 9:00AM,
11:00AM, 5:00PM



Eucharistic
Adoration

**MONDAYS &
WEDNESDAYS:**
8:30AM - 9:00PM

Parish Directory

PARISH OFFICE: 440-526-1686
CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION:
440-526-3520
ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL: 440-717-0398

Office Hours

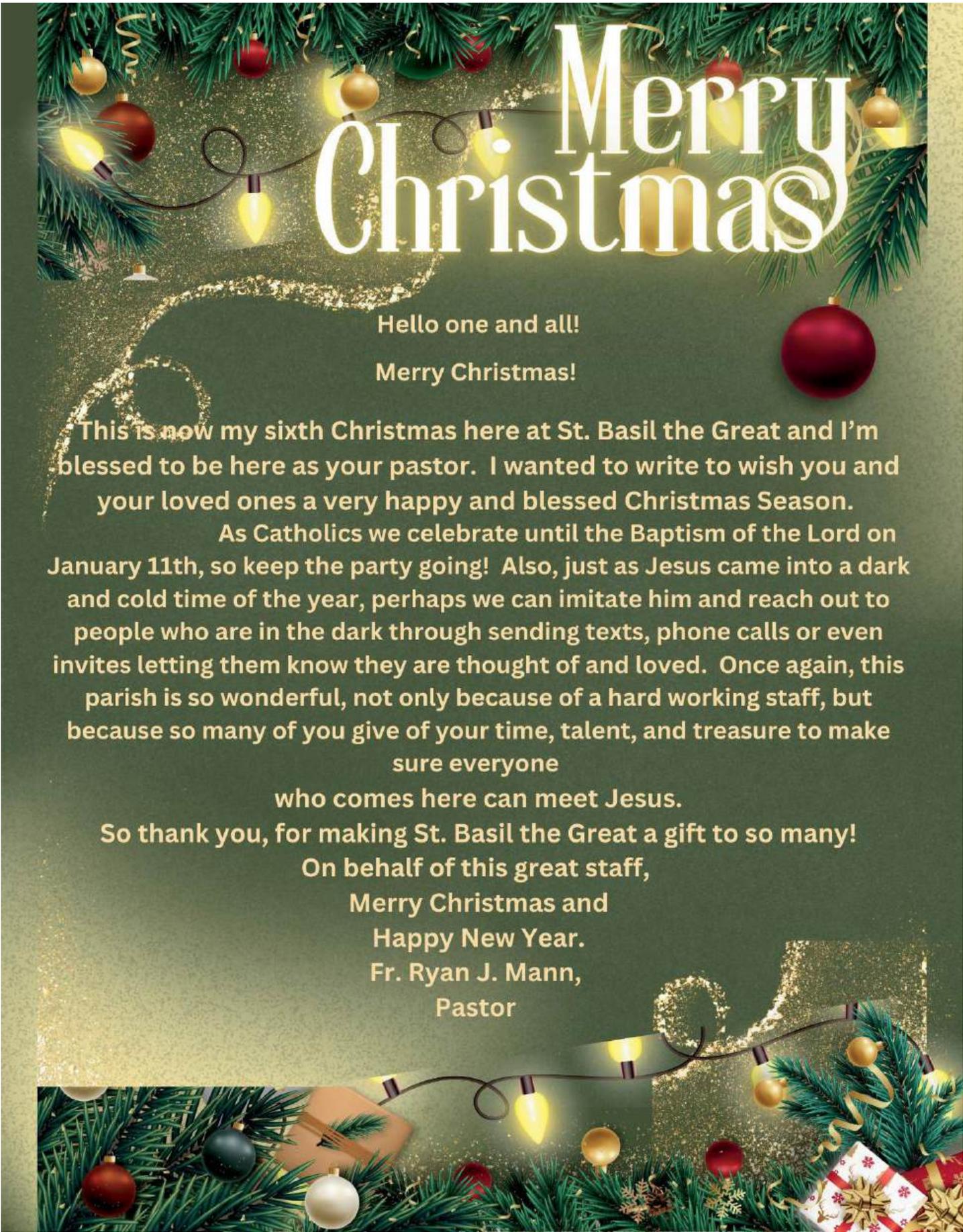
MONDAY-THURSDAY: 8AM - 7PM
FRIDAY: 8AM - 5PM
SATURDAY: 8AM - 12PM
SUNDAY: CLOSED

Stay Connected



@stbasilthegr8

BASILTHEGREAT.ORG



Merry Christmas

Hello one and all!

Merry Christmas!

This is now my sixth Christmas here at St. Basil the Great and I'm blessed to be here as your pastor. I wanted to write to wish you and your loved ones a very happy and blessed Christmas Season.

As Catholics we celebrate until the Baptism of the Lord on January 11th, so keep the party going! Also, just as Jesus came into a dark and cold time of the year, perhaps we can imitate him and reach out to people who are in the dark through sending texts, phone calls or even invites letting them know they are thought of and loved. Once again, this parish is so wonderful, not only because of a hard working staff, but because so many of you give of your time, talent, and treasure to make sure everyone who comes here can meet Jesus.

So thank you, for making St. Basil the Great a gift to so many!

On behalf of this great staff,

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year.

Fr. Ryan J. Mann,
Pastor

Merry Christmas From



"The family is the door by which the Savior of humankind entered the world." -Pope Benedict XVI
From our family to yours, we pray that
you have a very Merry Christmas!

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Ryan J. Mann, Pastor
rmann@basilthegreat.org

Rev. Walter H. Jenne, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Jeffrey S. Liptak, Parochial Vicar
iliptak@basilthegreat.org

Deacon Robert J. Blackburn
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Tommy Dome, Director of Evangelization
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Brian Baum, Maintenance and Grounds Manager
bbaum@basilthegreat.org

Terri Shawhan, Pastoral Assistant - Annulments
tshawhan@basilthegreat.org

Robin Youngs, Parish Life Activities Coordinator
ryoungs@basilthegreat.org

Offertory December 14, 2025

Due to early deadlines from our bulletin publisher these figures were not available. Thank you for understanding.

Thank you for your continued support!



Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



Monday, December 22, 2025

8am Emery & Anna Torok (Family)
6:30pm Advent Evening Prayer/Adoration/Confession

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

8am Savannah Rose Adamczyk
(Charmaine & Chuck Adamczyk)

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 Christmas Eve

4pm Church Parishioners of St. Basil the Great
(Fr. Jeffrey Liptak)

4:15pm FLC Parishioners of St. Basil the Great
(Fr. Ryan Mann)

6pm Church Parishioners of St. Basil the Great
(Fr. Jeffrey Liptak)

12Midnight Church Parishioners of St. Basil the Great
(Fr. Ryan Mann)

Thursday, December 25, 2025 Christmas Day

8am Church Parishioners of St. Basil the Great
(Fr. Jeffrey Liptak)

10am Church Parishioners of St. Basil the Great
(Fr. Ryan Mann)

12Noon Church Parishioners of St. Basil the Great
(Fr. Walter H. Jenne)

Friday, December 26, 2025

8am Noreen Marie Joyce (Charles Beatty)

Saturday, December 27, 2025

5:00pm Michael & Angela Latragna
(Anthony & Theresa Latragna) (Fr. Mann)

Sunday, December 28, 2025

7:30am Jacqueline Skrzypek (Victor Skrzypek)
(Fr. Mann)

9am Kayla Sweeney (Loving Family)
(Fr. Mann)

11am Daniel & Dorothy Boskovitch
(Joseph & Theresa Andrlich) (Fr. Liptak)

5pm Parishioners of St. Basil (Fr. Liptak)

Feast of the Holy Family
December 28, 2025

1st Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

2nd Reading: Colossians 3: 12-21

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23



*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path."*

ST. BASIL THE GREAT PARISH

Advent Evening Prayer

Dec. 22, 2025
6:30-8:00 pm



Evening prayer with
Adoration and Confessions



IRA FINANCIAL PLANNING



Ready to take your 2025 or 2026 required minimum distribution from your IRA? Please consider this:

If you are age 70½ or older, you may donate all or part of your IRA's required minimum distribution (RMD) directly to St. Basil the Great through what the IRS calls a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). When the gift goes straight from your IRA custodian to the church, the amount you donate can count toward your RMD without being included in your taxable income.

This approach is often a win-win:

For you, it may lower your federal taxable income, which can help reduce your overall tax burden and may keep Medicare premiums from increasing.

For your church, it provides vital support to our parish and its ministries and programs.

For your stewardship, it allows you to make a meaningful gift in a tax-efficient way.

If you plan to take advantage of this option, be sure the distribution is sent directly from your IRA to the church.

For guidance, contact your financial advisor or IRA custodian or the parish office at 440-526-1686 and ask for Diane.



Eucharistic



Adoration

*The Chapel
will be closed
Wednesday,
Christmas Eve,
December 24th*

and

*Wednesday,
New Year's Eve,
December 31st*

"O Come Let Us Adore HIM!"

Seeking an annulment?

Terri Shawhan, D. Min., retired from the Diocesan Tribunal where she worked on Declarations of Invalidity of Marriage (annulments). She is available at the parish to work with parishioners who wish to petition for an annulment. Please contact her at the parish office at: 440-526-1686.

This is a FREE service.

There are NO fees charged for annulments.

Save
The Date

St. Basil
Pre-Cana Day
Saturday,
February 7
8:30 am to 6:00 pm
Parish Center

Register online at
basilthegreat.org. or email
ryoungs@basilthegreat.org.



THE MINISTRY OF THE
TRAVELING STATUE OF
OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Have you signed up lately
to have the
Statue of Our Lady of
Fatima in your home?

Please call the rectory at
440-526-1686
if you would like to.

The schedule is for one week.

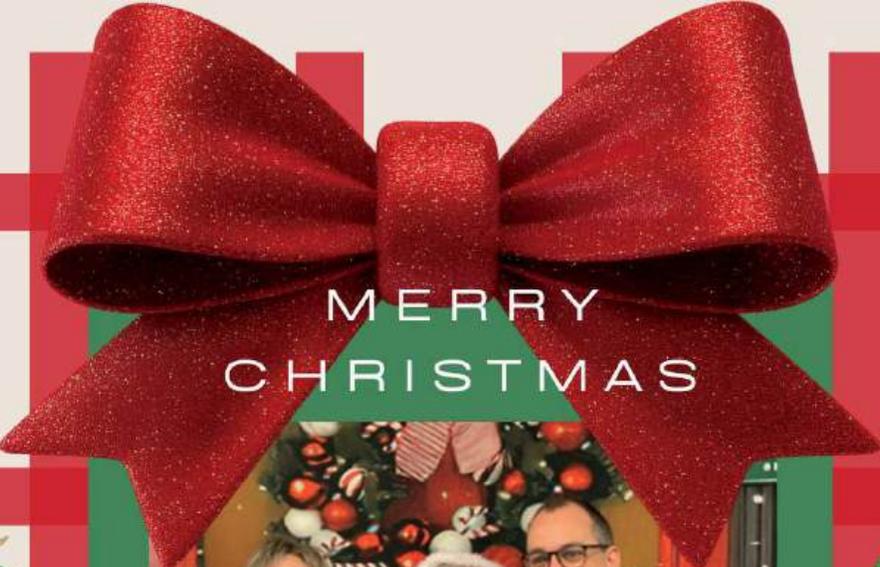
The prayer theme is for Peace, Unity
and Love within each home and within
the parish. In addition, you can add
any intentions and/or petitions you
and your family want to make to our
Lady and receive graces for you and
your family. A beautiful way to start
the New Year!

*Our Lady of the
Rosary,
Pray for Us!*



***Time Change: Sacrament of
Reconciliation/Confession***

***The Saturday afternoon Sacrament of
Reconciliation will now be celebrated
Saturday mornings beginning
January 3, 2026 from 8:30-9:30am
OR BY APPOINTMENT.***

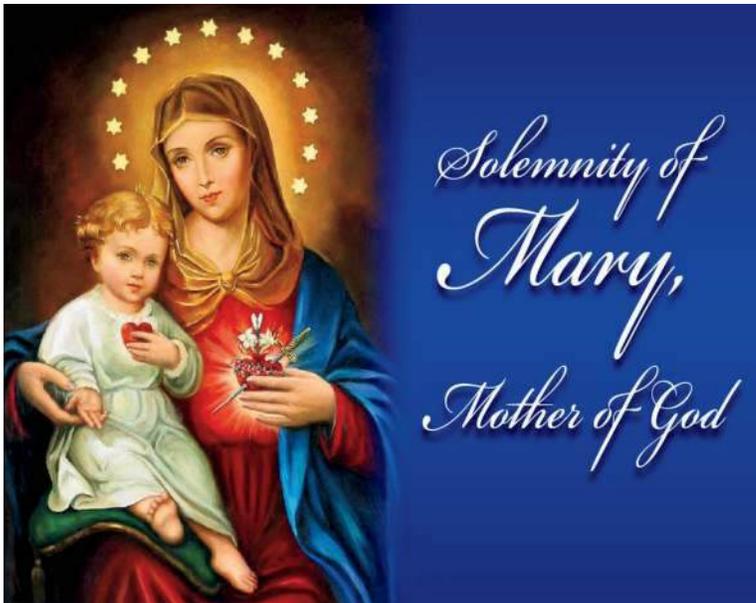


MERRY
CHRISTMAS



ST. BASIL CHRISTMAS
SENIOR LUNCHEON





The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, is a holy day of obligation. Masses will be: Vigil Mass: December 31, 2025- 5pm; Holy Day Masses: January 1, 2026- 9am & 7pm.



The Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, January 1, 2026, our Lady's greatest title. This feast is the Octave Day of Christmas. In the current liturgical Calendar only Christmas and Easter

enjoy the privilege of an octave. ***It is also the World Day of Peace.***

"Mary, the all-holy ever-virgin Mother of God, is the masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullness of time. For the first time in the plan of salvation and because his Spirit had prepared her, the Father found the dwelling place where his Son and his Spirit could dwell among men. In this sense the Church's Tradition has often read the most beautiful texts on wisdom in relation to Mary. Mary is acclaimed and represented in the liturgy as the "Seat of Wisdom."
—Catechism of the Catholic Church 721

A plenary indulgence may be gained by reciting or singing the hymn Veni Creator Spiritus on the first day of the year. This hymn is traditionally sung for beginnings of things, calling on the Holy Spirit before embarking on a new endeavor.



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- ✦ Serving our Community**
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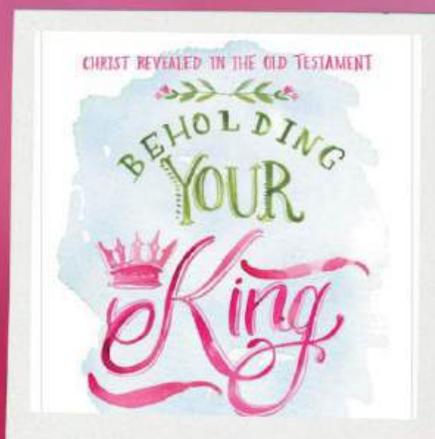


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- Registration is now OPEN! To be included in our book order, you must register by 1/7/26
- Single study (Registration and book): \$35
- Study dates and more information at basilthegreat.org/flourish

Register via QR code
or at basilthegreat.org/flourish



Winter “Warm-Up” for Cleveland Catholic School Children

A collection of new hats & gloves for children in need

When: February 7-8 and February 14-15

Where to drop off hats & gloves: St. Basil Gathering Center bins

Where to drop off checks & gift cards: St. Basil Parish Office

Gift cards: Meijers, Walmart, Amazon or TJMaxx

Checks: Made payable to Christ Child Society of Cleveland

Your generous donation and kindness will help “warm-up” children who are in need during freezing cold, blustery winter months at the schools, including St. Stanislaus, Holy Name, Metro Catholic, St. Francis, St. Aloysius, St. Rocco, and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel! The hats, mittens and gloves will be distributed by St. Basil Social Concerns Commission in collaboration with the Christ Child Society.

For questions, call/text St. Basil Social Concerns member,
Julie Jerdonek 440-525-1606

**Thank you for your
ongoing generosity
and support
with helping
children in need!**

**Sponsored by
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~ Living the Gospel**



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS, REFLECTION, DINNER, DANCING.

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January 24th, 2026
NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

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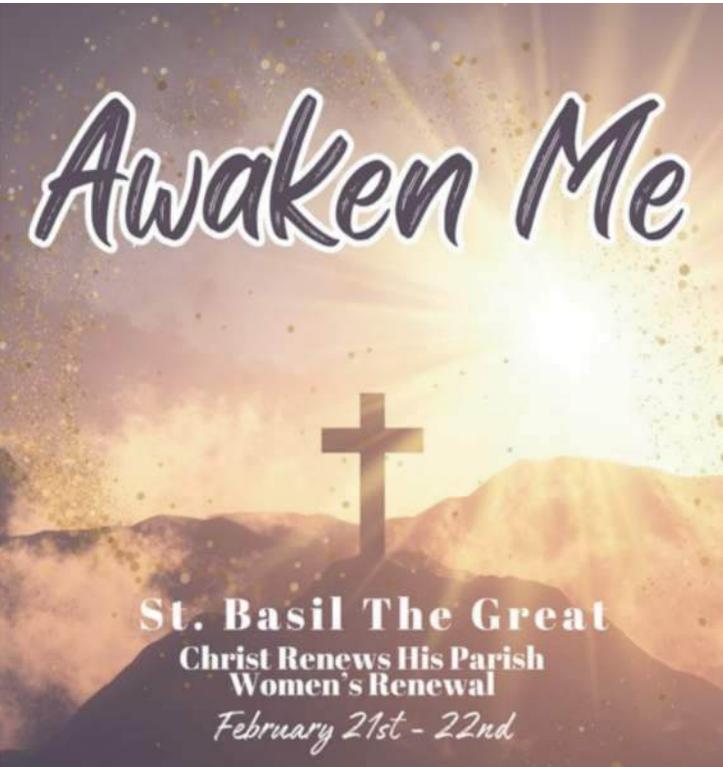


Marriage and Family Ministry
Catholic Diocese of Cleveland

For more information or to register, scan the QR code or visit: dioceseofcleveland.org/events



Awaken Me



St. Basil The Great
Christ Renews His Parish
Women's Renewal
February 21st - 22nd

Sign up by scanning the QR code or by going to: basilthegreat.org/crhp/



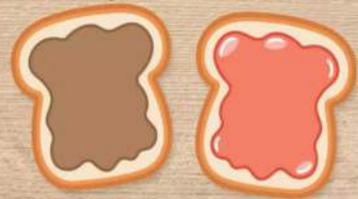

CELEBRATE 2026!

Friday January 9
9:00-10:30 am

Play and Pray is a time for caregivers and tots to play and pray together. All are welcome, invite a friend!

**Note: Play and Pray will be the second Friday of the month due to the Parish Office being closed.*

Join us for **Sandwich Saturday!**
9:00-10:00 am in the Parish Center
Spread the love!



Upcoming Sandwich Saturdays
January 17
February 14

Bring peanut butter and jelly, bread, bag of fruit, sandwich baggies, and a breakfast treat to share. Sandwiches are taken to local shelters to help those in need.

The CHRISTMAS Season:

Christmas is the annual feast commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, a little over 2000 years ago. For Christians, it is not just a single day (Dec. 25), but an extended liturgical season of joy and celebration, involving many different symbols and traditions, special music and activities, which vary significantly among different countries and cultures. Here are a few interesting things to know about Christmas:

When and how long is Christmas?

- Christmas Day, liturgically called "The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord" in the Catholic Church, technically includes both Christmas Eve (Dec. 24, after sunset) and Christmas Day (Dec. 25) itself. For religiously observant Christians, however, Christmas is not just one day, but an entire season, lasting anywhere from 12 days to 40 days in different ecclesial traditions.
- In the modern secular world, Dec. 26 already begins the "after-Christmas" sales, and Christmas decorations are often removed before New Year's Day! The "Christmas Season" (for shopping, decorating, parties, music, etc.) used to begin just after Thanksgiving Day (in the United States), but now seems to begin just after Halloween (Oct. 31), if not before! When people hear about the "Twelve Days of Christmas" (or sing the song by that title), they might think it refers to the last 12 shopping days before Christmas.
- In most Christian traditions, however, the "Christmas Season" properly begins with Christmas Eve (after sunset on Dec. 24), while the "Twelve Days of Christmas" refers to the period from Dec. 25 to Jan. 5.
- In different Churches, the Christmas Season might end on Jan. 6 (the traditional date of the Feast of the Epiphany), or might last until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (usually the Sunday after Epiphany), or might even last all the way to Feb. 2 (the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, 40 days after Dec. 25).

Was Jesus really born on Dec. 25?

- Probably not! We simply do not and cannot know the exact day on which Jesus was actually born.
- However, Jesus' birth has been celebrated on Dec. 25 since the early fourth century, when most of the Roman Empire adopted the Christian religion. It replaced the mid-winter Roman festival of "the birth of the sun god" (*sol invictus*), celebrated just after the winter solstice.
- The fact that we don't know the exact historical day or date of Jesus' birth should not bother anyone, or mean that Dec. 25 is somehow "wrong." In some countries and cultures, even in today's world, the exact day or date of a baby's birth is not remembered or celebrated. When such people move to another culture that places greater importance on the date of people's births, they must choose a date randomly.
- Even when someone's birth date is known, the day on which they celebrate it may be different for various reasons: a family might gather on a nearby weekend rather than on a weekday; an office or community might have a combined monthly birthday party; or a school might have a party in the Spring or Fall for all children whose birthdays actually occur during the summer vacation months).

What does the word "Christmas" mean?

- "Christmas" properly refers to the day when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus, Dec. 25 on most calendars, or to the season (Christmastide or Christmastime) which begins on that day (or the night before).
- In the modern secular world, "Christmas" may also refer non-religiously to Dec. 25, or to the mid-winter legal holiday (in the Northern hemisphere; or a mid-summer holiday below the Equator) observed on that day.
- Etymologically, the word derives from Old English "*Cristes mæsse*" (lit. Christ's festival). It is similar to Dutch *Kerstmis*, but is significantly different in derivation and meaning in many other European languages: German *Weihnachten* ("Blessed Night"), Italian *Natale*, Spanish *Navidad*, French *Noël* (all ultimately derived from Latin *natalis*, "birth"), Scandinavian *jul* (similar to English *yule*).



The CHRISTMAS Season Continued:

What are the liturgical colors for Christmas?

- The official liturgical color of the Christmas Season for most Churches is **white** or **gold**, not green and red, as many people assume.
- Popular culture often associates Christmas with a combination of *greens* and *reds* (such as in Poinsettia plants), in addition to the use of white (snow?) and silver, gold, or other shiny metallic colors (stars? bells? musical instruments?).
- By contrast, *green* is the proper liturgical color for "Ordinary Time," while *red* is used on feasts of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles, or martyrs.

What is a Crèche and where does this tradition come from?

- In the weeks before or during the Christmas season, many people set up a "manger scene" in their churches, homes, or public places, depicting the baby Jesus surrounded by Mary, Joseph, angels and shepherds, sheep and other animals, and possibly also the magi or "wise men."
- The French word *crèche* is similar to German *Krippe* and English "crib", while the word "manger" comes from the French *mangeoire* (derived from *mangier* = "to eat"); these words correspond to Latin *praesēpe* or Greek *phatne* (Luke 2:12), all of which originally referred to a "feeding trough" for animals, but also came to be used for an "infant's bed."
- The Gospel of Luke says, "While they were there [in Bethlehem], the time came for her [Mary] to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. *She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger*, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:6-7)
- The tradition of displaying a crèche did not arise until the mid-12th century; it is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, who wanted to emphasize the poor and humble circumstances in which Jesus was born.
- The use and design of crèches reflects a wide variety of artistic and cultural traditions. Some people set up a simple crèche long before Christmas, add more figures as Christmas approaches, with the baby Jesus not placed in the manger until Christmas Eve, and the wise men not arriving until Jan. 6.
- A church's or family's crèche is usually blessed on Christmas Eve with a simple blessing prayer. For online samples, see [USCCB](#).

What other liturgical celebrations usually occur during the Season of Christmas?

A variety of other feasts and memorials are celebrated during the Christmas Season, some closely related to the biblical accounts of Jesus' birth, others commemorating seemingly unrelated saints, even including some martyrs!

Some of these are celebrated on fixed dates on the calendar, others are always on Sundays, and thus have moveable dates. See my chart of [Moveable Feasts during the Christmas Season— see USCCB](#) for more details on the following:

- **Dec. 26** - The Feast of St. *Stephen*, the first Christian martyr
- **Dec. 27** - The Feast of St. *John*, Apostle and Evangelist
- **Dec. 28** - The Feast of the *Holy Innocents*, martyrs
- **Sunday after Dec. 25** - The Feast of the *Holy Family* of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (transferred to Dec. 30 if the Sunday is Jan. 1)
- **Jan. 1** - The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin *Mary, Mother of God* (always on New Year's Day, the Octave Day of Christmas, which takes precedence over the Feast of the Holy Family)
- **Jan. 6 or the Sunday after Jan. 1** - The Solemnity of the *Epiphany* of the Lord (traditionally Jan. 6; but in some countries, such as the USA, it is now transferred to the first Sunday after New Year's Day)
- **Sunday after Jan. 6** - The Feast of the *Baptism of the Lord* (transferred to Monday, Jan. 8 or 9, if Epiphany is celebrated on Sunday Jan. 7 or 8, respectively, in certain years.—(USCCB))





Protecting God's Children

Catholic Diocese
of Cleveland

The Diocese of Cleveland's
"Protecting God's Children"

program is a continuing effort to instruct and inform everyone about the protection of children from sexual abuse. To report any past or present suspected inappropriate behavior toward children by priests, deacons, religious, lay ecclesial ministers or personnel associated with the Church, immediately inform local authorities about inappropriate behavior. Also, please contact the Diocesan Response Service Office at: 216-334-2999 or via email at: response_services@dioceseofcleveland.org.



Prayer for Spiritual Communion

You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. *Amen*



In Loving Memory



MARY BETH GOODRICH
Mother of William
December 7, 2025



*We remember all of our deceased loved ones.
May they rest in peace.*

*You are always welcome
at St. Basil the Great*



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season of Advent, we are encouraged to make ready our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Yet this preparation requires our willingness to open ourselves up and feel safe doing so. If we cannot do this with God, it is unlikely we will be able to with others. Putting up a wall and not letting anyone trustworthy in may not be readily apparent; perhaps this is because the last time we allowed someone in they hurt us. Unfortunately, the cost of shutting down is significant and often leads to emotional isolation, disconnection, and ultimately loneliness. People we care about can be so near to us in proximity, yet seem so far from knowing who we really are. Joseph had to allow himself to be convinced that it was safe to take Mary and her baby into his home. We need to be like St. Joseph; we need to allow ourselves to be convinced that it is safe to be known and loved by God and others. We can start by first acknowledging – then knocking down - the walls we have erected. Come Emmanuel!

-Nellie K, LISW-S, CCTP-II, IFS, EMDR



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