

## The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



The RCIA process, designed for those adults who are interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith, meets on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9 PM in the annex at St. Gabriel's. We will take a break for the holidays until January 3, 2018. On the weeks leading up to the first Sunday of Lent, we will reflect specifically on what the church teaches in our Creed and the seven sacraments, focusing especially on the Sacraments of Initiation which we will celebrate at the Easter Vigil: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. For more information about becoming part of this faith journey process, please contact Linda Shaw at the church office at 330-868-4498.

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Children of the parish are somewhat focused on Santa Claus these days, who is keeping an eye on who's naughty and who's nice. Santa Claus, with his heavenly patron Saint Nicholas, has been more or less in charge of gift-giving to American children for a hundred years or so. In other places, perhaps more attentive to our Christian tradition, there are different gift-bearers. In Greece, Saint Basil delivers the presents on his feast day, December 31, and makes sure everyone is sprinkled with holy water. The Baby Jesus is in charge elsewhere, called the *Christkind* in Austria and Belgium, *El Niño Jesús* in Columbia, and *Le Petit Jesus* in France, where he shares his duties with *Père Noël*. In the Czech Republic almost everyone is atheist, but *Ježíšek*, the infant Jesus, brings gifts to one and all. In Poland the "Star Man" is said to bring the gifts, although often he turns out to be the village priest in disguise. Saint Nicholas, not his Americanized cousin, is the giver in Holland, where he wears a bishop's miter, and in Russia, where he wears a bishop's crown. Soviet Russia tried to dethrone Saint Nicholas and promote Grandfather Frost, but no one was much fooled by this attempt to squeeze religion out of Christ's birth. One country has a saintly woman in charge of the gifts, Saint Lucy, honored in Sweden on December 13, when children serve their parents breakfast in bed, and others awake to news that they have been nominated for a Nobel Prize. Some children have a second round of gifts on Epiphany, when the magi assume the gift-giving duties. In general, the gifts of Christmas are simple pleasures, not great heaps of treasures. Once upon a time, a new pair of socks or an orange was enough for us. No matter what gifts we receive, all of them are to point us to the true gift, and the true giver.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**DINNER OUT:** The next Justice and Social Concerns dinner out at the Minerva Senior Center, 1200 Valley St., Minerva is Thursday, January 7 at 5pm. You should arrive at the center no later than 4:45pm. The cost is \$6 and the menu this month will be Baked Chicken, roasted potatoes, tossed salad and Jimmy Carter dessert. Bread and drink are also included. *Everyone from St. Gabriel and St. Francis are invited to attend these dinners. RESERVATIONS A MUST:* Call Norma Marko at 330-868-4502 or the Senior Center at 330-868-6004 **NO LATER** than 5pm the day before the dinner.

## SICK AND SHUT-INS OF THE PARISH

### ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

**Stone Crossing:** Vera Kompara (SFX)

**St. Joseph Care Ctr.:** Fran Montella (SFX), Jerry Nicolet (SG)

**Home:** Denise Laubacher (SG); Ivette Martinez (SG)

**SG at Arbors (Great Trail) Nursing :** Richard Lane ,  
Doris Ferguson, Mary Campbell

**St. Luke Minerva:** James Smith, Josephine Moyseenko

**Carroll Health Care:** Mary Wadsworth (SG)

**The Pines:** Roman Ritterbeck (SG)

**Copeland Oaks:** Jane Collins, 800 S 15th St, Room 8103, Sebring, OH 44672

**Altercare of Louisville:** Rosemarie Scurto (SFX), 7187 Saint Francis Street., Room # 402, Louisville, OH 44641

## STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT: "Hail, full of grace,



*the Lord is with you!" - LUKE 1:28*

Faith is a gift from God. Take time in silence and thank Him for all the gifts He has given you. Try to set aside any anger or resentment you have and really open your heart to receive the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness. We can't give what we don't have.

We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others.

## Parent Sacramental Meeting

The required *Meeting With Parents* of children planning to celebrate the Sacrament of *First Reconciliation* that was originally scheduled for Sunday, December 17 has been rescheduled for **Sunday, January 7 at 9 AM** in the **annex meeting room**. This meeting is required by both Parish and Diocesan policies and is designed to not only inform you as to the ongoing preparation of your children for the reception of the sacrament and your role as your child's primary educators, but also to allow you as parents and adults to reflect on your own understanding and appreciation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please mark your calendar's now and make every effort to join us for this important session.

## OFFICE SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS:

The Church Office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26, for Christmas, so the staff may spend time with family. Merry Christmas.

**MINISTER SCHEDULE:** The new minister schedule will begin February 1, 2018 and go through May. This schedule will include Holy Week and Easter. **PLEASE** send in the dates you are not available **AND** what masses you will are available for Holy Week and Easter. You may drop your requests in the collection basket or return them to the office by January 10th.

## PARISH SHARE CAMPAIGN:

**December 23/24** Soaps & Washing products

**December 30/31** Condiments, Salad Dressings, Etc.

*Merry Christmas*

# ST. GABRIEL

400 West High Street ▪ Minerva, OH 44657

OFFICE ADDRESS: P.O. Box 275 ▪ Minerva, OH 44657

PHONE: 330-868-4498

EMAIL: [smstgabriel@frontier.com](mailto:smstgabriel@frontier.com) ▪ WEBSITE: <http://mysite.verizon.net/srstgabriel/>

PASTOR: Fr. Victor Cinson 330-868-4498

SECRETARY: Mrs. Peggy Romine

FAITH FORMATION/RCIA DIRECTOR: Ms. Linda Shaw

Parish School of Religion (PSR) Mrs. Denise Laubacher

SOCIAL HALL PHONE: St. Gabriel 330-868-4610

St. Francis 330- 863-0760

## OFFICE HOURS:

9am – 5pm Monday - Thursday; 9am—2pm Friday

## REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4:00pm at St. Francis

6:00pm at St. Gabriel

Sunday: 8:30am at St. Francis

10:30am at St. Gabriel

Weekdays 8:00am Mon. and Wed. at St. Francis

9:00am Tues. and Thurs. at St. Gabriel

9:00am Fri. St. Gabriel Communion Service

[See Weekday Schedule inside for changes & special days.]

## Holy Days of Obligation

Vigil (evening before) 7:00pm at St. Francis

Holy Day 9:00am and 7:00 pm at St. Gabriel

## CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 2:00 – 2:45pm St. Gabriel

3:15 – 3:45pm St. Francis

Other times by request. [Note: Confessions will be cancelled when there is a wedding at either church. Check weekly bulletin.]

## BAPTISMS

Parents are to call the Parish Office to arrange for a preparation meeting. The child need not yet be born to make these arrangements.

## MARRIAGES

Couples intending to marry **must** consult the pastor personally at least 6 months prior to the desired date. No date will be set until this meeting takes place.

**VOCATION VIEWS:** Rejoice! A child is born to us.

This Prince of Peace is the great light. Go and share your joy with others. (Isaiah 9:1-6)



# ST. FRANCIS

125 Carrollton Street ▪ Malvern, OH 44644

## CHRISTMAS 2017—NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

One of the images which we find in the Scriptures during Advent is a *doorway*. Isaiah, the Prophets, John the Baptist, Zachariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, to name a few examples, are considered as the *doorway* to Jesus. They open the door so that others may enter. The door allows a person entry, access to something greater. The one whom we see upon entering the door of faith is God's Son, who has become like us in all things but sin, in order to save us from our sins.

In our world today there are many who are denied access. They come to our doorway in the hopes that they might find warmth, shelter, food, care for their weary spirits, and safety from the darkness and forces of evil for themselves and their children. And like Mary and Joseph, who on that first Christmas night came knocking and asking for help, receive the reply, "There is no room at the Inn!"

It is my prayer that during the New Year 2018 each of us might continue to become a *doorway* for others to experience the warmth of Christ in our churches, homes and community. God has blessed us with so many good gifts.

During Advent, and throughout the year, you have opened the door by giving generously of your time, talent and treasure to: the Giving Tree, the Christmas Food Baskets, Coats for Kids, the Salvation Army kettles, the Christian Care Center, and the monthly collections for the needy. Also, as the parishes of St. Francis Xavier and St. Gabriel the Archangel you have been assisting us in preparing to build a new Parish Hall which will benefit both communities. May we continue to become a *doorway* as we welcome new members into the faith, meeting them and bidding them WELCOME! *Merry Christmas!*



**"Come Together, Build Our Future,  
"Leave a Legacy"**

**Support the NEW "St. Francis & St. Gabriel"  
Parish Hall Fund Drive.**

**PHASE II: "GROUND BREAKING" DRIVE**

**Every Day we are getting closer.  
PLEASE HELP US WITH YOUR  
GIFT!**

Help us to keep the momentum growing. We are in the "Ground Breaking" phase of our New Hall plans. To date the *Phase II Drive has raised \$333,112 in new, or additional, gifts and pledges. The extra money needed will help towards the furnishings and equipment for the hall.*

The Bank loan proposals have returned according to the Diocesan Guidelines. The Hall Building Committee has been finalizing the drawings with the architect and as soon as we receive them we will meet with the Diocesan Building Commission to finalize the plans and begin the Bidding Phase. The plan is to determine a "Ground Breaking" date early in 2018, demolish the present structure and begin site preparation. Please pray that all proceeds well for us.

We need the help of *All members of Both parishes, visitors, former parishioners, and the wider local community and Business/Corporate gifts.* A special brochure with a return envelope is available in the narthex of each church, or by calling the Office. Please make checks payable to: "St. Francis Church". Help us to leave a legacy for the future of our parishes! *Thanks. God Bless!*

**Pledge Amounts as of 12/11/2017**

**\$ 643,040.00** Pledges & Gifts (bricks, blocks, windows)

**\$ 142,967.00** Fundraisers/Org. gifts & memorial donations

**\$ 786,007.00 Total of Pledges and Gifts\***

**\$50,000 MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE -  
UPDATE:**

Through the generosity of an Anonymous Donor we can "double our money" for the New St. Gabriel-St. Francis Parish Hall. To date we have received **\$24,020 in new pledges/gifts** which will be MATCHED Dollar-for Dollar for all *New Pledges/Gifts, or additional amounts added to an existing gift, up to \$50,000. WOW! !!* No matter how large or small your gift, it will be **worth twice as much.** What a wonderful way to make the dream of a new Hall for both parishes a reality. All gifts are appreciated.

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: [stgabriel-stfrancis.org](http://stgabriel-stfrancis.org)**

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 23

4:00pm SFX Buzzelli & DiMenna Family by Family

6:00PM SG Andy Marko by Norma & Family

Sunday, December 24—4th Sunday of Advent

8:30am SFX Vi Scurto by Family & Friends

10:30am SG Living and Deceased members of both parishes

**CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24**

4:00 PM SG Special Intention

7:00 PM SFX Special Intention

10:00 PM SG Living and Deceased members of both parishes

**CHRISTMAS DAY, MONDAY DECEMBER 25**

9:30AM SG Special Intention

Tuesday, December 26

9:00am SG NO MASS—NO ADORATION

Wednesday, December 27

8:00am SFX Angie & John Cinson by Patricia Tierney

Thursday, December 28

9:00am SG Joan Nicolet by Jerry

Friday, December 29

9:00am SG Communion Service

Saturday, December 30

4:00pm SFX Albert & Gerald Burkhart

6:00PM SG Living and Deceased members of both parishes

Sunday, December 31

8:30am SFX Jim Strabley by Beverly

10:30am SG Betty DiDente by M/M Bob Mackey

**NEW YEARS DAY, JANUARY 1 2017**

10:30am SG Joe Miller by Terry & Lisa Dunlap



## CHURCH SUPPORT:

*May God bless you for your generosity to  
our parishes on December 17, 2017*

**St. Gabriel:** Adult \$1,689; Loose \$265; Flowers \$160.

**St. Francis Xavier:** Adult \$1,985; Loose \$147; New Hall \$1,566; Flowers \$150.

**PARISH SUPPORT:** *Please make any Checks covering your Regular Church contributions payable to the parish in which you are formally registered.* The exception would be if you are making a *donation* to the New Hall Fund, which should be made *payable to: St. Francis Church.* Thanks.

**VOCATION VIEWS:** Mary was called to be open to the extraordinary. What do you need to say "let it be" in response to God's call to you? Trust that the Lord is with you and will guide you always. (Luke 1:26—38)

**4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 24, 2017**