

**December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent**

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION THIS WEEK

In today's Gospel, Jesus calls us to be vigilant at all times, that is spiritually awake hoping and anticipating the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus aware that we do not know the time or the hour. The word Advent means "coming", and it reveals what this season of the Church year is really about. The Season of Advent is that time to focus on what is most important in our lives. To live with hope anticipating the Second Coming of Our Lord. It is also a time to remember and celebrate why He came into the world in the first place. To free us from sin, to open the gates of Heaven and to lead us to eternal glory. As we also prepare to celebrate His first coming at Christmas, we prepare ourselves for His Second Coming, through prayer, true contrition for our sins by living penitential lives and by acts of righteousness. May we hasten the return of our Lord by praying like Isaiah did in the First Reading, "Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage."

MASS INTENTIONS AND SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

Sun, Dec 3, First Sunday of Advent

Is 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7 Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 1 Cor 1:3-9 Mk 13:33-37

8:30am – Homeless Children and Teenagers

10:30am – Retired Men and Women in Religious Orders

Mon, Dec 4, Advent Weekday

Is 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-9 Mt 8:5-11

Tue, Dec 5, Advent Weekday

Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Lk 10:21-24

Wed, Dec 6, Advent Weekday

Is 25:6-10 Ps 23:1-6 Mt 15:29-37

Thu, Dec 7, St. Ambrose

Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27 Mt 7:21, 24-27

Fri, Dec 8, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)

Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38

Sat, Dec 9, Advent Weekday

Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Ps 147:1-6 Mt 9:35----10:1, 5, 6-8

Sun, Dec 10, Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11 Ps 85:9-14 2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8

DIOCESAN CHOIR NEWS:
LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!
Rehearsals for MLK & LENTEN REVIVAL
Saturday 12/9 @ Fatima
.. and more in Jan & Feb
—all rehearsals begin 12noon
EMAIL terriemac@roadrunner.com if you would like to be added to Diocesan choir email list #MusicUnitesUS

CHURCH and HALL CLEANUP TEAMS
Beginning in the Month of January 2024
Hall Cleanup Team – 3rd Tuesday of Each Month
Church Cleanup Team – Day and Time to Be Determined

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE 2023

As we prepare to celebrate both the birth of our Savior and the hope of His Second Coming, we consider our neighbors, especially those in need. You will notice that our **Christmas Giving Tree** is up inside the Church close to the baptismal font to remind us of our baptismal call to love our neighbor. Please consider taking a label and purchasing an item. During the offertory, please place your gift at the altar. This year's gifts will be received by the **Fairhill Partners Grandparents program** (Grandparents who are raising their grandchildren). We ask that all gifts be returned by Sunday, December 10th. Thank you for your generosity.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Sacraments and Faith Formation Registration 2023-24:
Please sign your child/teen up for First Communion, Confirmation.
<https://saolf-parish.com/FaithFormation-Registration>
You can also pick up a form at the church entrance or call **Mr. Cary Dabney** at 216-391-1655 ext#14

R.C.I.A. FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN
Are you someone or do you know someone who...
❖ Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
❖ Has a child over the age of seven who has not been baptized?
❖ Is thirsting for God?
We offer an opportunity to come together to learn about the Catholic faith. To get started visit: <https://www.saolf.org/rite-of-christian-initiation-of-adults> or contact our Director of Religious Education, **Mr. Cary Dabney** at 216-391-1655 ext#14


COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
In need of **New Members** to help in the ministerial work of communicating important information to the Parish. Some tasks include: Setting up the Mass Streaming Service; Website updates; Taking video and pictures of parish events and posting them; Updating the bulletin boards, etc... Please contact Fr. James and you will be invited to the next meeting: pastor@saolf.org

YOUR SACRIFICE LAST WEEK
Thank you for your sacrificial gift for our church. Your response to our offertory commitment has been tremendous! Our goal to meet our budget is \$5,400.00. **Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness!**
SUNDAY OFFERINGS 11-5-2023:

Total Collection	\$2703.50
Cash App	\$90.00
Vanco On-Line	\$743.54
Total	\$3,537.04

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES		
	8:30 AM	10:30 AM
3-Dec	First Sunday of Advent	
Comm	Rhonda Cross Mangham	Carla Grant
Lector	Uzuzmaka Oranugo	Betty Washington
Server	Uzuchukku Oranugo	Sa'Vannah Love Vanessa Walker
Usher	Theresa Hughley Karen Larry	Yvette Andre Yvonne Griffin Sheila Griffin-McCoy Lena Austin
10-Dec	Second Sunday of Advent	
Comm	Pam Pendleton	Carol Grant
Lector	Dell Robinson	Tara Young
Server	Jeremy Mangum	Gavin Smedley Melvin Onuorah Michelle Booker
Usher	Lonnie Smith Thomas Stover	Billy Cardwell Elinor Williamson Jeremiah Robinson

Catholic Charities



**A time to heal.
A time to help.**

2023 Catholic Charities Appeal
Just over \$13.5M has been raised as of August 31. Starting September 13, 50,000 households received a letter from Bishop Malesic asking for monetary support of the 2023 Appeal. We are fast approaching our \$14.0M goal and every little bit helps support the 425,000 who rely on the 160 programs throughout the diocese.

NOTE: As of September, **St. Agnes Our Lady of Fatima Parish has raised 54%(\$7,483.96) of our goal of \$13,801.** Reaching our goal helps bring additional funds to our parish enabling us to build the ministries we need in our community.

Please Donate today:
<https://www.catholiccommunity.org/human>
or text CCHUMAN to 41444.

Sunday Van Driver
We are looking for Parish Van Drivers. We are getting calls from people who would like to come to Mass who could use this service. **The Parish Van drivers provide transportation to church members for 10:30am Mass on Sunday morning.** Must possess valid driver's license, be at least 21 years of age with clean driving record and willing to undergo Safe-Environment training. If interested, please contact: Fr. James Watson: jwatson@saolf.org

EUCCHARIST UNDER BOTH SPECIES



Beginning this Sunday, 1st Sunday of Advent (Dec 3, 2023), our parish will return to offering Holy Eucharist under both species, **Body and Blood of Christ** (The Consecrated bread and wine). Cup). Remember, Communion is always "valid under both species". Therefore, if you only receive Jesus under the form of wine or under the form of bread, you're receiving Him in whole.

ATTENTION ALL LECTORS!
Your Manuals Are Available!
PLEASE pick up your manual in the Sacristy and email Fr. James at pastor@saolf.org to let him know you got it.
Thank you for serving in this holy ministry!!

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING
Sign your family up to light the Advent Wreath. **The Signup Sheet is available on the table at the Church entrance.** Thank you for your participation.

PRAY FOR THE SICK+
Ogechi Achunine, Georgia Atkinson, Kalima Assami, Joyce Baker, Bessie Bolles, Gabriel Blair, Joyce Blanton-Smith, Anna Broadhead, Thella Brooks, Christine Byrd, William Byrd, Marcella Caffie, Kathy Clayton, Terrell Cole, Robin Davis, Edna Evans, Richard Gayle, James Nakima, Myron Gholson, Yvonne Griffin, Adriene Hall, JoAnn Hinson, Althea Hite, Ursula Hite, Patricia Heard, Estelle Hodges, Kyllan Hughes, Valada Hutchinson, Andrea Johnson, Joseph Jones, Brianna Jones, Reaber Jones, Craig Kelly, Janie Kincaid, Francesca Lehu, Dolores Malby, Elizabeth Malby, LaVerta Marshall, Bill Miller, David McClain, Chantel McConnell, Chaquita McClinton, Sharon McDuffie, Terri Mohr, Verendez Moore, Lounette Payne, Erma Pollard, Nisha Presley, Sue Scott, Regina Shanklin, Jerry Shelton, Kevin Sipp, Deborah Smedley, Barbara Sudberry, Danita Thomas, Janice Thompson, Hubert Watson, Desiree Webb, Aris White, James Keifer, Kathy Heard, Eboni Edwards, Monique Johnson, Margie Jones, Barbara Marshall Brown, Naomi Matthews, Fay Grady, Tyrone Grady, Rachael Glaster, Jame Hoyle, Judy Guzy, Latina Thomas, Constance Durrah, Mary Roberts, Donald Leftwich, James Jackson, Marcia St. John, Sabrina Wilson, Betty Moore, Ophelia Swain, Evelyn Morson-Eddie, Alonzo Givens, Yvonne Williamson, Regina Woodard, Beverly Greene-Reed, Jahiem Wilson Ali'Bey, Warren Family, William Jackson, Kardier Jackson, Carol Hollinger, Mattie McDonald, Anita Gullett, Natalie Webb, Carson Wetherwax, Gail Xavier, Jaqueline Zeigler, Darlene Harris, Lasonia Sims, Nina Simmons, Bertha McClain Alexander, Loraine Taylor, Danny Couch, Delvonte Grant

FAMILIES:
The Lane Family, The Poteat Family

Grief Support Catholic Cemeteries Association

The Catholic Cemeteries Association offers free, safe, and compassionate monthly Grief Support meetings and Memorial events throughout the year. The next Grief Support meeting is Sunday, December 17th at 3:00pm for in-person support (at 6 locations), and 5:00pm for virtual support and the topic is "The Gift of God's Presence: You Never Walk Alone". For details: visit: www.clecem.org/Information/Bereavement.aspx. For more information or questions, call Rhonda at 216-930-4866.

Planned Giving Year-End Giving

In this season of giving, consider making a year-end gift to our parish in gratitude for all the blessings you have received in life. As you plan to make the most of your charitable donations in 2023, know that we gratefully accept gifts of cash and appreciated assets such as stocks or bonds.

And, if you are 70 ½ or older, you may be able to make a gift of a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA that will help us in our ministry and reduce your taxable income. Talk to your advisors and IRA administrator for more information and to be sure that your IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution gift is made directly from an IRA to a qualified charity such as our parish. Questions? Contact **Aldo Fierro** in our parish office at (216) 391-1655 ext# or via email at afierro@saolf.org. You are also welcome to contact Mary Lou Ozimek of the Catholic Community Foundation at 216-696-6525 x 4070 or visit www.catholiccommunity.org/ira

Holy Family Mission Group Wood Carving Sale

Holy Family Mission Group is a group in mission to help catholic families from Bethlehem by selling their Olive wood carvings in churches.

Catholic families in Bethlehem are going through a very hard economic situation and need your help, so please stop by our display and support the **Holy Family Mission Group** by buying some of our beautiful hand carved olive wood pieces on **Dec 17th** in the Church Narthex. *We do accept cash, credit cards and checks.*

Samer and Ruth Kokaly

Holy family: 608-314-6673 or 810-931-7513

The Retirement Fund for Religious

"The annual appeal for the Retired Fund for Religious will encourage donations on **December 9th and 10th** throughout the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland and throughout the rest of the country. The additional collection will provide much needed support for senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests whose communities lack sufficient retirement funding. For most of their lives, the elder religious worked for little to no pay. There were no 401(k) plans or pensions. Many religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Monetary donations will also assist with medications, nursing care, and so much more. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Friday December 8th, (*Holy Day of Obligation*):

Vigil Mass: Thursday, Dec 7th, **7:00PM**

Morning Mass: Friday, December 8th, **7:30AM**

Christmas Eve (Vigil): Sunday, December 24th, **8:00PM**

Christmas Day: Monday, December 25th, Mass: **9:00AM**

Upcoming Parish Meetings

Spiritual Life and Liturgy Commission– Wednesday, December 6 at 6:45PM: In the St. Augustine Room

Men's Group – Sunday, December 10, after the 10:30AM Mass: Room to be determined.

Church Calendars

Have been ordered and will be available in the Narthex when they arrive. Please only take one per household so that all may have one. When they run out, they are gone until next year!

Black Catholic Ministries

LIVE YOUTH NATIVITY SCENE

St. Aloysius Church, 10932 St. Clair Ave.

December 14, 6-8pm

Come out to St. Aloysius Church to enjoy and engage in the true meaning of Christmas. Hosted and enacted by St. Aloysius Elementary School students, the Live Nativity Scene will also include the Diocesan Youth Praise Dancers from St. Agnes/OLOF, a selection from the St. Mary's Elementary School Gospel Choir, St. Adalbert Altar Servers, and members of Holy Spirit Youth Club. Live animals will be in the stable; the camel's presence will be weather dependent. The guards will accept your donations at the gate.

Consider becoming a Lay Ecclesial Minister

The lay ecclesial minister is a fully initiated member in good standing of the Catholic community who, by baptismal commitment, prayer, discernment, and support of the community, responds to the call of the bishops to share in the mission of the Church.

"The renewal of the Church in America will not be possible without the active presence of the laity. Therefore, they are largely responsible for the future of the Church."

-- Pope John Paul II *Ecclesia in America*

The Diocese of Cleveland has over 300 Certified Lay Ecclesial Ministers who serve across parishes, and diocesan offices in the various roles and ministries: pastoral associate, catechetical leader, campus minister, youth minister, bereavement, prison ministry, retreat houses and through Institutions or programs of social outreach and advocacy. To learn more about becoming a Certified Lay Ecclesial Minister, please contact our office at (440) 943-7670 or email **Michelle Nowak: mnowak@dioceseofcleveland.org**

St. Agnes+Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church

A Ministry of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars
Visit the Capuchins at www.capuchin.com



MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Agnes + Our Lady of Fatima Church is a visionary Catholic Christian Community.

As a diverse parish, we embrace

Africentric worship,

*Christ centered hospitality,
and missionary service.*

*Sustained by the wisdom of our elders
and energized by the spirit of our youth,*

we come together in faith

as a church family

*to give witness to the liberating message
of the Gospel.*



PARISH INFORMATION

Address: 6800 Lexington Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44103

Office: 216-391-1655

FAX: 216-391-7919

Email: parish@saolf.org

Website: www.saolf.org

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9AM-12:30, 1:00PM-3:30PM
Fridays: Closed

Mass Schedule:

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Weekday: As Scheduled

Holyday: 7:15AM (Vigil Mass: 7:00PM)

PARISH STAFF:

Rev. James Watson, OFM Cap. Pastor

jwatson@saolf.org

Rev. Mr. Hardin Martin, Deacon

deaconmartin@saolf.org

Mr. Aldo Fierro, Parish Business Manager

AFierro@saolf.org

Miss Brittany Taylor, Parish Secretary

btaylor@saolf.org

Mr. Cary Dabney, Director of Religious Education

cabney@saolf.org

Mr. Danny McElroy, Director of Music Ministry

dannymac63@roadrunner.com

Mr. Reginald Daniels, Custodian

Fatima Family Center: 6600 Lexington Ave.
LaJean Ray, Director
216-391-0505

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

By appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism for Infants:

Arrangements made in advance with a priest or deacon. Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

Sacrament of Marriage:

Preparations begin with a priest or deacon BEFORE setting a date and six months prior to intended date. Contact the parish to schedule an appointment.

Sacrament of the Sick and Home Visits:

Please contact the parish office.

Parish Registration: Welcome to our parish. To register, please contact the parish office. Or go to <https://saolf-parish.com/New-Registration>

Bulletin Deadline: Tuesdays at 12 noon

Electronic Giving Opportunities:

Go to www.saolf.org and click on "Make a Gift." For CashApp users: send to \$saolf