

**December 17, 2023  
Third Sunday of Advent**

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION THIS WEEK**

This Sunday we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. "Gaudete" is a Latin word which means "rejoice". To signify this is a time of rejoicing, the priest, concelebrants and deacon have the option of wearing rose colored vestments. We also light the rose candle on the Advent Wreath. Saint Paul in the reading to the Thessalonians today invites us to "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." For some of us, this can be very difficult especially during this time of year if we are grieving the loss of someone we loved, experiencing the loss of work, illness or other painful difficulties. It can be difficult to rejoice when facing imprisonment of sin, bad habits and personal struggles. However, when we recognize the call to pray always, we come to realize the call is actually a reminder to stay in relationship with Jesus, the One who sets us free. The Prophet Isaiah helps us with the prophetic words announcing that the Lord has come and is with us. We can rejoice that the Promised Savior has come and is Emmanuel, "God is with us." He is not distant. He has come to do what? "... to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners..." May this prophetic message, the examples of our ancestors and all the prophets and the words of St. Paul remind us and strengthen our faith that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Living Word, has come, is with us and will come again to welcome us into eternal holiness. REJOICE ALWAYS!

**MASS INTENTIONS AND SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK**

**Sun, Dec 17, Third Sunday of Advent**  
Is 61:1-2, 10-11 Lk 1:46-50, 53-54 1 Thes 5:16-24  
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28  
8:30am – Fr. Dismas Young, dec.  
10:30am – Parents Grieving the Loss of a Child  
**Mon, Dec 18, Advent Weekday**  
Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 Mt 1:18-25  
**Tue, Dec 19, Advent Weekday**  
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25 Ps 71:3-6, 16-17 Lk 1:5-25  
**Wed, Dec 20, Advent Weekday**  
Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Lk 1:26-38  
**Thu, Dec 21, Advent Weekday**  
Sg 2:8-14 Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 Lk 1:39-45  
**Fri, Dec 22, Advent Weekday**  
1 Sm 1:24-28 1 Sm 2:1,4-8 Lk 1:46-56  
**Sat, Dec 23, Advent Weekday**  
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14 Lk 1:57-66  
**Sun, Dec 24, Vigil of The Nativity of The Lord**  
Is 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25  
Mt 1:1-25

**DIOCESAN CHOIR NEWS:**

LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!

EMAIL [terriemac@roadrunner.com](mailto: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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of Each Month  
Church Cleanup Team – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month

**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](mailto: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 12-10-2023:**

Total Collection	\$2319.55
Cash App	\$282.00
Vanco On-Line	\$1,030.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,632.46</b>

**MISSALETTES FOR 2023**

The Missalettes that contain the Sunday readings are in the church pews for your convenience at Mass. Thank you for your cooperation in leaving the booklets in the pews. **If you wish to have your own personal booklet, they are available for \$5.00 each.** To purchase one, you can pick it up in the Sacristy. Use one of the available plain envelopes for your payment, write "Missal" on the envelope and drop in the basket.

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES**

	8:30 AM	10:30 AM
<b>17-Dec</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	
<b>Comm</b>	Sabina Conroy	Brian Upton
<b>Lector</b>	Doreatha Stover	Lorraine McMillian
<b>Server</b>	Jeremy Mangum	Divine Onuorah Eric Smedley
<b>Usher</b>	Karen Larry Lazuras Oranugo	Billy Cardwell Antoinette Smith Linda Weatherspoon Lena Austin
<b>24-Dec</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	
<b>Comm</b>	Veronica Safo	Carla Grant
<b>Lector</b>	Tyler Hughley	Chi Chi Onuorah
<b>Server</b>	Sharla Durand	Vanessa Walker Sa'Vannah Love
<b>Usher</b>	Theresa Hughley Lazuras Oranugo	Michelle Booker Jeremiah Robinson Elinor Williamson Erik Smith

**CHRISTMAS and NEW YEARS MASS SCHEDULE**

(Updated)

**Christmas Eve(Vigil):** Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>,  
**Christmas Carols:** 6:30PM  
**Mass:** 7:00PM  
**Christmas Day Mass:** Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>: 9:00AM  
**New Years Mass:** Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>: 10:00AM

**ATTENTION ALL LECTORS!**

**Your Manuals Are Available!**  
PLEASE pick up your manual in the Sacristy and email Fr. James at [pastor@saolf.org](mailto:pastor@saolf.org) to let him know you got it.  
**Thank you for serving in this holy ministry!!**

**Christmas and New Years Parish Office Hours**

The Parish Office will be CLOSED on Thursday and Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Thursday and Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> **Except for Scheduled Appointments.**  
If you have an emergency, please contact Fr. James at the parish 216-391-1655 ext#11

**PREPARING FOR OUR PARISH CENSUS**

In this coming year, our parish will be conducting a census which will include a special event in May. We will also implement other forms of communication however, in order to reach everyone, we need to start updating our records. Many phone numbers and addresses have changed. To help us in this process, we need your help. If you or someone you know in our parish has changed their phone number or address, please contact the **Parish Secretary, Brittany Taylor**, [btaylor@saolf.org](mailto:btaylor@saolf.org)

**PLEASE CHOOSE WISELY WHO YOU GIVE YOUR INFORMATION TO IN ORDER TO PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY**

**St Agnes-Our Lady of Fatima FISH FRY ANNOUNCEMENT**

We are looking for about **20 committed volunteers** to assist with our fish fry this coming year. Meetings will be planned. If you would like to help, please contact Carla Grant: **216-200-1525** or [cgbible40@gmail.com](mailto:cgbible40@gmail.com). Thank you for your assistance in advance.

**Catholic Charities**



**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.

**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 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm for in-person support** (at 6 locations), and **5:00pm for virtual support**. The topic is **“The Gift of God’s Presence: You Never Walk Alone”**. For details: visit: [www.clecem.org/Information/Bereavement.aspx](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.catholiccommunity.org/ira)

*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 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](mailto:mnowak@dioceseofcleveland.org)



**Christmas Decorating**

We need just a few volunteers to help decorate for Christmas this year. We will decorate on **Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2PM** and **Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10AM**. If you would like to help, please email the parish secretary at [btaylor@saolf.org](mailto:btaylor@saolf.org) or Fr. James at [jwatson@saolf.org](mailto:jwatson@saolf.org)

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

Family, it is that time again to think about preparing our church for the Christmas holidays. GREEN ENVELOPES for flowers are available in the Gallery and Narthex to memorialize Poinsettias in remembrance of our loved ones. Donations are \$15.00 per plant and are requested by Thursday, December 21st. Thank you for your generosity!

**Library Events (Addison Branch)**

Addison Branch 6901 Superior Ave 216-623-6906

**Classic Book Club:**

Read and discuss Animal Farm by George Orwell, a fable telling the story of a group of farm animals who rebel against their human farmer.

**Fridays, December 22nd, 2023 &**

**January 19th, 2024**

**4:00 - 5:00 PM**

**Anime Club:**

Every 3rd Thursday of the Month

**Magnet, Midtown & USEA**

Presents

**Holiday Toy Distribution**

Come and enjoy pizza and cookies, activities for kids, toys for families & also apply to train for manufacturing careers. For more information call 216-543-1222

**December 20, 2023**

**4:00-6:00 PM @**

**Magnet: 1800 E.63<sup>rd</sup> St.**



**Theology on Tap East**

December 20, 7pm - Bar Louie, Lyndhurst

**Brittany and Brian Liberatore**

**“What do we wish we knew about marriage?”**

Cost is \$5 for under 21, \$7 for 21+

To register:

<https://www.osvhub.com/st-clare-church/forms/totcleeast>

**St. Agnes+Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church**

A Ministry of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars  
Visit the Capuchins at [www.capuchin.com](http://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](mailto:parish@saolf.org)

**Website:** [www.saolf.org](http://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](mailto:jwatson@saolf.org)

Rev. Mr. Hardin Martin, Deacon

[deaconmartin@saolf.org](mailto:deaconmartin@saolf.org)

Mr. Aldo Fierro, Parish Business Manager

[AFierro@saolf.org](mailto:AFierro@saolf.org)

Miss Brittany Taylor, Parish Secretary

[btaylor@saolf.org](mailto:btaylor@saolf.org)

Mr. Cary Dabney, Director of Religious Education

[cabney@saolf.org](mailto:cabney@saolf.org)

Mr. Danny McElroy, Director of Music Ministry

[dannymac63@roadrunner.com](mailto: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](http://www.saolf.org) and click on “Make a Gift.” For CashApp users: send to \$saolf