

**December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION THIS WEEK
THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH!**

To obey (from the Latin ob-audire, to "hear or listen to") in faith is to submit freely to the word that has been heard, because its truth is guaranteed by God, who is Truth itself. Abraham is the model of such obedience offered us by Sacred Scripture. The Virgin Mary is its most perfect embodiment. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #144)

When we think of being obedient to someone our immediate response can be "what?, I have to give up my own freedom to choose and conform my life to someone else's power!" This understanding of obedience can leave a sour taste in our mouth and make us want to run away from what will seem to restrict us. When it comes to our faith, we need to move towards a deeper understanding of obedience. In the second reading for this final Sunday of Advent, St Paul opens his letter to the Romans telling us that, through Christ, we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith (Romans 1:5). God became a human being to make it possible for all human beings to have eternal life and perfect happiness in Him! A life that is being formed in all of us at this very moment and that will come to fulfillment in a new eternal reality when Christ comes again at the end of time. This is the faith we are called to be obedient to. A faith freely given to us by God Himself, in His Son Jesus, and through the working of the Holy Spirit in our families, our community, and our Church. We simply need to listen and submit ourselves to the word that has been heard (CCC, 144), following in the footsteps of Abraham, Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, blessed St Joseph, and all those who have walked in faith before us.

-Fr. David Domanski, OFM Cap.

(Excerpt from an excellent reflection from Father Dave Domanski, OFM Cap. from Fourth Sunday of Advent last year, December 18th, 2022 that I thought worth posting again.)

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?
- ❖ 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

MASS INTENTIONS AND SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

Sun, Dec 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sn 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29 Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38

8:30am – The Homeless and Prisoners

10:30am- Julia Ramos

Mon, Dec 25, The Nativity of The Lord

Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18

Tue, Dec 26, St. Stephen

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3-8, 16-17 Mt 10:17-22

Wed, Dec 27, St. John

1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20:1-8

Thu, Dec 28, The Holy Innocents

1 Jn 1:5—2:2 Ps 124:2-5, 7-8 Mt 2:13-18

Fri, Dec 29, Fifth Day Within the Octave of The Nativity of The Lord

1 Jn 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-3, 5-6 Lk 2:22-35

Sat, Dec 30, Sixth Day Within the Octave of The Nativity of The Lord

1 Jn 2:12-17 Ps 96:7-10 Lk 2:36-40

Sun, Dec 31, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Ps 128:1-5 Col 3:12-21

DIOCESAN CHOIR NEWS:

LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!

EMAIL terriemac@roadrunner.com if you would like to be added to Diocesan choir email list #MusicUnitesUs

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 12-10-2023:

Total Collection	\$3382.97
Vanco On-Line	\$1,092.86
Total	\$4,475.83

New Years Parish Office Hours

The Parish Office will be CLOSED on Thursday and Friday, December 28th and 29th

Except for Scheduled Appointments.

If you have an emergency, please contact Fr. James at the parish 216-391-1655 ext#11

**CHRISTMAS and NEW YEARS
MASS SCHEDULE**

Christmas Eve(Vigil): Sunday, December 24th,

Christmas Carols: 6:30PM

Mass: 7:00PM

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

New Years Mass: Monday, January 1st: 10:00AM

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

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

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

24-Dec	Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord	
Comm	Veronica Safo	Carla Grant
Lector	Tyler Hughley	Chi Chi Onuorah
Server	Sharla Durand	Vanessa Walker
		Sa'Vannah Love
Usher	Theresa Hughley	Michelle Booker
	Lazuras Oranugo	Jeremiah Robinson
		Elinor Williamson
		Erik Smith
31-Dec	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	
Comm	Shirley Tucker	Ellen Connally
Lector	Ellen Connally	Carla Grant
Server	Sharla Durand	Gavin Smedley
		Melvin Onuorah
Usher	Jeremy Mangum	Yvette Andre
	Thomas Stover	Yvonne Griffin
		Sheila Griffin-McCoy

**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. Thank you for your assistance in advance.

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.

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**. 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 1/2 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

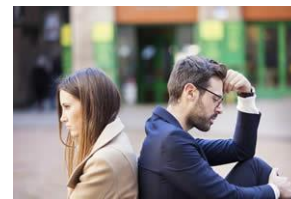
Consider becoming a
Lay Ecclesial Minister

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**



HelpOurMarriage.org
RETRouvaille
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES
Struggling in your Marriage?
The Retrouvaille Program may be for you



This program is for couples with marital problems that want marriage help. Those who are considering marriage separation and those who are already separated or divorced are encouraged to consider the Retrouvaille Program. There is always hope of reviving your relationship.

Some couples come to Retrouvaille during the initial signs of a marriage problem. Other couples are in a state of despair and hopelessness when they attend the program. Many lawyers and judges send couples to Retrouvaille as a prerequisite to filing for a divorce or rendering final decisions. Many marriage counselors and family therapists send their clients to Retrouvaille as a prerequisite to counseling. These professionals know that the tools of communication in marriage taught in the program are often what couples need.

NOTE: The Retrouvaille program is for husbands and wives and is not designed nor intended for couples in a co-habiting relationship.

Retrouvaille of Cleveland Upcoming Weekends

- Jan 26, 2024
- Apr 19, 2024,
- Sep 20, 2024

For Registration information and locations:

CALL: (800) 470-2230

EMAIL: cleveland@helpourmarriage.org

CHURCH CALENDARS

Are available in the Narthex.

Please, one per household so that all may have one. When they run out, they are gone until next year!

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