

### **Winter Coats Needed**

If you have coats that you no longer wear or need, please bring them to Mother of Sorrows Parish and we will pass them along to the Ozanam Center, where they will be given to those in need. We especially need men's, children and larger women's coats. *The center is no longer accepting clothing at this time.* Thank you and may God bless you!

### **Oplatki**

In preparation for Christmas the Christmas wafers known as "Oplatki" have arrived and are available before and after Mass near the Giving Tree. It is part of a wonderful custom where the wafer is shared as a sign of peace among those gathered for the Christmas meal. Jesus is the Bread of Life. Bethlehem means house of bread.

### **An Advent Evening Prayer**

The Gay and Lesbian Family Ministry invites all to an **Advent Evening Prayer on Sunday, December 7, at 4:00pm at St. Bernard Parish in Akron.** A reception will follow. **For more info, call the Parish Life Office at 216-696-6525 or 1-800-869-6525, ext. 3500.**

### **Joy to the World**

**The Daughters of St. Paul Choir** under the direction of **Sr. Bridget Ellis FSP**, known for their fresh arrangements of time-honored classics, presents well-loved carols and holiday favorites that celebrates the glory, wonder and joy of the Christmas season. **Held Friday, December 5 at 7:00pm at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist (1007 Superior Ave., Cleveland.** The concert is **free and open to all.** No tickets or reservations required. **Free secure parking at the Cathedral Plaza Garage – Rockwell Ave. and E. 9<sup>th</sup> St.** For more information, call **216-696-6525 x5510** or email [gheislman@dioceseofcleveland.org](mailto:gheislman@dioceseofcleveland.org).

### **Collecting Coats for the Poor**

You may be eligible to win one grand worth of prizes just by helping someone in need. **From now until December 19, GolfTEC Northeast Ohio is collecting coats for the St. Vincent de Paul Society to distribute to needy individuals and families in the region.** When you drop off your new or clean, gently-used coats at one of six GolfTEC locations in Northeast Ohio, your name will be entered in GolfTEC's drawing to win \$1,000 worth of prizes, which include golf lessons, equipment and apparel. Help fill the GolfTEC Hummer with coats for those less fortunate. Stop by one of GolfTEC's six local stores today and give the gift of warmth this holiday season.

*Please check the vestibule for more information on upcoming events, registration forms, prayer cards, and notices.*



### **Advent Prayer for the First Week of Advent**

*Bestir, O Lord, Thy might, we pray thee and come; that, defended by Thee, we may deserve rescue from approaching dangers brought on by our sins, and being set free by Thee, obtain our salvation. Who livest and reignest, with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end.*

*Amen.*

[www.catholicism.about.com/od/prayers/qt/Adv\\_Wreath\\_W1.htm](http://www.catholicism.about.com/od/prayers/qt/Adv_Wreath_W1.htm)

### **FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

Many parishes are having special celebrations for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Below you will find information concerning some of the activities. Feel free to call the parishes for additional details. Please know that everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

#### **Sacred Heart Chapel**

**4301 Pearl Ave., Lorain, OH – 440-277-7231**

Novena beginning Wednesday, December 3 with Mass at 6pm. Continues through December 12 with Rosary, Benediction etc. Midnight Mass will be celebrated at 11pm on the eve of the Feast, December 11.

#### **La Sagrada Familia**

**7719 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH – 216-631-2888**

There will be a three day celebration with special prayers on December 10, 11, and 12. Then on Sunday, December 14, there will be Mass at 12pm with mariachis.

#### **St. Michael the Archangel Parish**

**3114 Scranton Rd., Cleveland – 216-621-3847**

This celebration will take place on the Feast, December 12, with Rosary at 6pm followed by Mass at 6:30pm and then a mini concert at 8pm.

#### **St. Mary Parish in Painesville**

**242 N. State St., Painesville – 440-354-6200**

This parish will celebrate with las mananitas a las (early morning prayer) at 5am on the Feast, December 12 and then will conclude with evening Mass at 7pm.

### **Advent Prayer Service**

An Advent Prayer Service for the **separated & divorced** will be held **Friday, Dec. 5, 7-8:30pm at St. Joseph Church, 12700 Pearl Rd., Strongsville.** To register, **216-334-2978** or [jschwendeman@ccdocle.org](mailto:jschwendeman@ccdocle.org).

### **Dinner and Silent Auction**

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Tickets are available for the Catholic Commission Dinner, which will be held on **Friday, December 5th**, at **St. Matthew Parish, Fr. Silva Center, 2580 Berne Avenue, Akron, Ohio**. The Catholic Commission hosts the annual event, which includes a 50/50 drawing, silent auction, and the presentation of the Bishop Cosgrove Justice Award. **The 2014 recipient of the Bishop William Cosgrove Award is the *Appalachian Service Project Team* of Doylestown United Methodist Church, Guardian Angels Parish in Copley, and Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in Doylestown.** Also being honored with **Bishop Anthony M. Pilla Leadership Awards** are *Good Neighbors of Tallmadge*; *Justice Akron Ministry* of Archbishop Hoban High School; and the *Labre Program* of Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, Green. Youth Justice Award Recipients include *Te'Anna Hunt* – Junior at Lake Center Christian School; *Joseph Paolucci* – Senior at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School; and *Pádraigín O'Flynn* – Senior at Our Lady of the Elms High School. **\$45 per person. For reservations, [jbadami@clevelandcatholiccharities.org](mailto:jbadami@clevelandcatholiccharities.org) or 330-535-2787. Cash bar opens at 6:00pm; dinner served at 7:00pm by TLC Catering, Inc.**

### **First Friday Club of Greater Akron**

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The First Friday Club of Akron will meet **Friday, December 5** at **Quaker Station, 135 S. Broadway, Akron, 44304**. **John L. Allen, Jr.**, Associate Editor of the Boston Globe and senior Vatican analyst for CNN, will speak on the topic **“The Francis Mission: Inside the Church’s Transformation from Scandal to Hope.”** Luncheon program is **\$15. Doors open at 11:15am; program begins at noon, and ends promptly at 1pm.** Reservations can be made by **sending a check to the First Friday Club of Greater Akron, 795 Russell Ave., Akron, OH 44307, by calling the office at 330-535-7668, or by visiting [www.firstfridayclubofgreaterakron.org](http://www.firstfridayclubofgreaterakron.org)**, no later than the Monday prior to the program.

### **ENGAGED ENCOUNTER**

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**Catholic Engaged Encounter is a comprehensive weekend of marriage preparation held three times a year at the St. Leonard Retreat Center, 4076 Case Road, Avon, Ohio 44011. For questions call Rita & Denny, 440-572-8954. Cost is \$185 per couple. The next weekend will be held on December 5-7, 2014. Visit their website for information and to register – [www.clevelandencounter.com](http://www.clevelandencounter.com).**

### **Retrouvaille Weekend**

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Someone once said “marriages may be made in heaven, but they sure take a lot of work on earth.” Have you become so distracted by outside pressures that you have neglected your spouse? Retrouvaille can help you put your troubled marriage back on track. A **Cleveland Retrouvaille weekend** will be held **January 9-11, 2015. Registration is \$150.** For more info or to register, call **Diane or Al Miskinis** in complete confidence at **330-665-3506** or **(from a 216 or 440 area code), 1-800-470-2230** or visit [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org).

### **Benedictine High School**

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**Entrance Exams at Benedictine High School** will be held **Saturday, December 6, 9am-12pm**, or **Saturday, January 3, 2015, 9am-12pm.** You can also schedule a **day to shadow a current student.** Contact **Mr. Joe Laffey** at **216-421-2080 x356** or [laffey@cbhs.edu](mailto:laffey@cbhs.edu), or visit [www.cbhs.edu](http://www.cbhs.edu). The exam fee is **\$20 payable by cash or check to Benedictine on day of exam.**

### **Education Program**

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Do you know an adult, age 21 and over, with a cognitive disability who is looking to further their education, meet new friends, go on fun field trips and more?! Maybe the Saturday Program is what you are looking for? **For over 25 years, the CAEP has provided educational and social skill building for adults with developmental disabilities.** Participants enhance their skills in math, reading and history. They also work on the computer, make arts & crafts and have fun making friends, watching movies and having holiday parties! Participants also learn about their local community by going on field trips. **Classes meet at OLA/St. Joseph Center (2346 W. 14th St., Cleveland, OH).** Students provide their own transportation. **Tuition is \$88/month with an additional one time material fee of \$60;** Medicaid Waivers are accepted and financial assistance may be available. Call **216-334-2963** or email **Marilyn Scott** at [mjscott@clevelandcatholiccharities.org](mailto:mjscott@clevelandcatholiccharities.org) to set up an appointment to see if it is the right fit for you!

### **St. Michael Catholic Church**

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You are invited to attend the **Fire in the Spirit Prayer Group Annual Mass and Healing Service, Tuesday, December 2** at **St. Michael Catholic Church, 6540 Brecksville Rd., Independence, OH.** Join us at **6:30pm** for **Rosary for Life**, which will be followed by **7pm Mass and Healing Service.** **Fr. Pete Colletti** will be the celebrant and there will be a **reception to follow. All are welcome!**