

Hi Everyone,

Here are the monthly statistics for the Fr. Hilbert Ozanam Center for the month of November, 2014:

Food Pantry

Total number of people served was 1794
Total number of households served was 532
Total number of children served was 794
Total number of seniors served was 144

Clothing Bank

Total number of families served was 386
Articles of clothing given away: 3368
Winter coats given away: 301

Furniture Bank

Number of clients served: 41
Couches given away: 14
Armchairs given away: 11
Mattresses/box springs: 18
Dressers given away: 4
Misc. given away: 22

At our food pantry November was a very busy month, even busier than October, which was the busiest this year. So far this fall we have given away 574 winter coats. At the furniture bank, this month was the busiest this year. We believe it is because we have more people making home visits to confirm the furniture needs of our clients.

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.

Kindergarten Expo

Immaculate Heart of Mary School invites 4 and 5 year old children to it's "Kindergarten Expo" Tuesday, December 9 from 6-7:30pm. Pre-schoolers and their parents will be welcomed by student ambassadors at 2859 Lillis Dr., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Light snacks will be provided, with hands-on activities, guided school tours and Kindergarten visitation.

**Prayer On The Solemnity
of The Immaculate Conception of
the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Father,

The image of the Virgin is found in your Church.
Mary had a faith that your Spirit prepared and a
love that never knew sin,
for you kept her sinless from the first moment of
her conception.

Trace in our actions the lines of her love,
in our hearts her readiness of faith.

Prepare once again a world for your Son who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
forever and ever.

Amen.

"Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers" Revised Ed., 2008, pg. 14

Fair Trade Christmas Bazaar

The Fair Trade Christmas Bazaar at St. Mary Parish (340 N. Main St., Hudson, OH 44236) will be held Saturday, December 13 and Sunday, December 14 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Numerous vendors will offer products from around the world that would make wonderful gifts for Christmas this year. For more information, call 330-650-3740.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Members of the Saint Anthony and Blessed Trinity Music Ministry will present "The First Noel - Celebrating the Birth of a King", held on Sunday, December 14th at 3:00pm at Blessed Trinity Parish (300 East Tallmadge Avenue). All are invited to come to this free concert and reflect on the true meaning of this holiday season.

C-YA

Coalition with Young Adults (C-YA) is a Growing Catholic Network for People in their 20's and 30's across Northeast Ohio. Connect with young adult ministries and groups in the greater Cleveland and Akron areas! Find Catholic young adult events/activities! Receive daily posts that inspire and motivate! To learn more, visit www.cyacleveland.com or email coalitionyoungadults@gmail.com.

YCN

"Your Community News" is where residents of Township and Peninsula have shared information for over 25 years. Visit www.ycn-online.net.

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

Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday

Third Sunday of Advent

Bambinelli Sunday

The Third Sunday of Advent is not only Gaudete Sunday, when we light the rose-colored or pink candle on the Advent wreath, but also, in recent years, it has become known by some as Bambinelli Sunday. Why? The Pope will bless the Baby Jesus figurines brought by the children of Rome for their nativity scenes at home. It was celebrated by Saint John Paul II when he was the bishop of Rome. Parishes around the world now invite the people to make a connection with the nativity set at home and the local church where they worship each weekend.

More than mere decoration, the Christmas Creche was created by Saint Francis of Assisi to make the Christmas celebration what it is supposed to be, a religious event. It is a reminder to keep Christ in Christmas, and that Jesus Christ and His birth in Bethlehem is the heart and focus celebration.

We will be celebrating Bambinelli Sunday this year at Mother of Sorrows. At all the Masses on the weekend of December 13 and 14, we will be having the blessing of the Baby Jesus figurines. Each household is asked to bring the infant Jesus figurine from their Nativity set(s) to one of Masses that weekend. Nothing further is required of you, other than holding the figurine(s) when the blessing takes place.

When the infant Jesus figurines are blessed at church and brought into our homes, it will be a reminder that we should welcome Jesus into our hearts and into our world. In the Gospel according to St. Luke we hear proclaimed "...and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in place where travelers lodge" (Luke 2:7). How will we welcome Jesus and of course Mary and Joseph this Christmas?

When the Third Sunday of Advent is celebrated Christmas is only 11 days away. It is time to reflect on how we have been making use of Advent. How ready are now to welcome and receive Jesus than were on the First Sunday of Advent? There are many ways Jesus comes. In prayer, in the Scriptures, at Mass and the Sacraments are some of the ways He may have offered to come to us. Perhaps we recognized Jesus trying to come to us in the people we encounter daily. We must not fail to recognize Jesus in the least among us. We will do this by blessing the Infant Jesus figurine(s), more importantly we will do this by listening attentively to the Scriptures, praying, our acts of kindness (especially to least among us), coming to Mass, receiving the Sacraments (particularly, the Sacrament of Reconciliation where we can more room in our heart for Jesus and each other). So not only bring your Infant Jesus figurine(s) next weekend, December 13 and 14 to the Mass you attend, but heart ready welcome Jesus in the many ways He comes. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.