

Coats Still Needed

The Ozanam Center, run by the St. Vincent DePaul Society, is still in need of coats for the needy. **If you, or someone you know, has a coat they would like to donate (especially men's and children's), please bring it to Mother of Sorrows Parish and your donation will be dropped off at the Ozanam Center.** If you have more than one we would be happy to help you bring them in. **Thank you in advance for your generosity.**

Have An Old Car?

Wondering what to do with that old car? Help a neighbor in need by donating it to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. **Your used car can become food, medicine and rent for the poor in our community.** And when you donate your late model car, truck or boat to SVDP Cleveland, not only will you receive a **tax deduction to the fullest extent of the law**, you will be free from the troubles of insuring, licensing, repairing and selling your vehicle. We will even provide free towing within 24 hours. **To donate, please call 800-322-8284 or visit www.svdpsusa.com.**

Help The Needy in Northeast Ohio

The Cleveland Furniture Bank provides basic home furnishings to people in need who are trying to rebuild their lives. They are in need of couches, chairs, kitchen tables and dressers to provide to over 3000 people referred to them each year. **If you are downsizing, remodeling, redecorating or just have furniture items you no longer need, call 216-459-2265 x101 or visit www.clevelandfurniturebank.org/donate to schedule a pickup of your furniture.** If you have other items such as clothing, household goods, pots and pans, dishes, etc. they will pick those up at the same time. **Mention Mother of Sorrows Parish and they will waive the pickup fee.**

Camp Christopher Winter Family Camp

Take a break this winter and join us at **Camp Christopher** for a fun-filled family camp weekend, **January 15-18, 2016**, where there's something for everyone! Children can enjoy activities with their parents, as well as activities designed just for them. Program options include snowshoeing, sledding, the ropes course (weather permitting), arts & crafts, and more. Alternatively, you may prefer to relax by the blazing fire with a good book! Accommodations are in heated cabins. Cabins are equipped with bunk beds and are of varying sizes. Participants are responsible for bringing their own blankets, pillows, linens, and towels. Enjoy delicious, hearty, and well balanced meals family style in the St. Francis Dining Hall. A one-of-a-kind family get-away where adventures abound and where friendships are made to last a lifetime. **For more information and to register, visit: www.campchris.org or call 1-800-296-2267.**

DSWC

A "Caring and Sharing" session for those struggling with divorce, separation or widowhood will be held **Monday, December 28 from 7:30-9pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary's Convent Building, 1945 Portage Trail, Cuyahoga Falls.** Marlene Maruna, a Licensed Independent Social Worker, will facilitate this session. Open at no charge to people of all faiths. **For more information, call Marlene at 330-607-6284.**

Opportunity for Service

Response 2016, the most comprehensive guide of faith-based service opportunities is now available. Volunteers serve full-time for periods of one week to one year or more across the United States and in more than 100 countries worldwide. Summer and school break opportunities are also available. **Our volunteers are from all walks of life.** Contact Catholic Volunteer Network to receive your free copy/copies of Response 2016 at **800-543-5046** or info@catholicvolunteernetwork.org. You can also visit www.catholicvolunteernetwork.org.

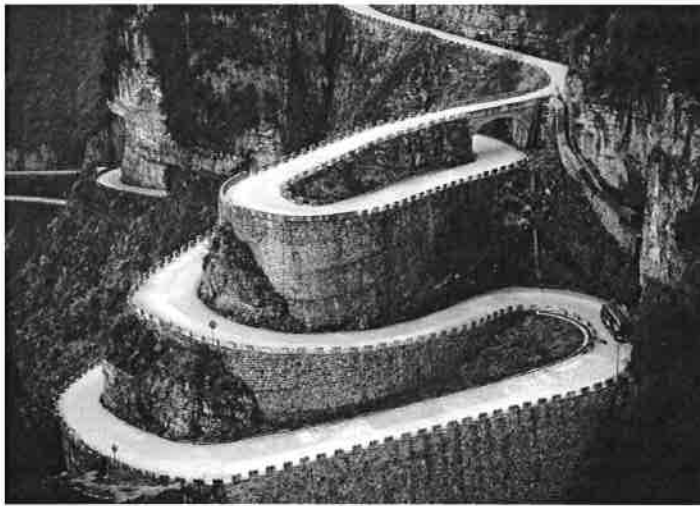
Kindergarten Crusader

Seton Catholic School invites you to be a **Kindergarten Crusader, Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 9-10:30am at Seton Catholic School (6923 Stow Rd., Hudson, OH 44236)!** For children and parents considering Kindergarten for 2016-17 (*Children must be 5 years old before September 30, 2016*). Children will enjoy a morning of fun and crafts while experiencing the adventure of being in a Kindergarten Classroom. Our Kindergarten teachers are looking forward to meeting the future students of the *Class of 2025!* **There are limited spots available so RSVP early!** Parents will tour the campus and have the opportunity to speak with our Principal, Mrs. Alestock, and parents of our current Kindergarten students. We look forward to answering questions and sharing the Seton experience! Complimentary refreshments will be served. **To Register/RSVP for this event, please contact Mrs. Pat Fritz, Director of Admissions at 330-342-4200 x226 or fritzp@setoncatholicschool.org.** You can also visit www.setoncatholicschool.org for more information.

Mass for Life

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has declared **Friday, January 22, 2016, a National Day of Prayer and Penance for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.** All are welcome and encouraged to attend the **Mass for Life on January 22, 2016 at 10:00am at The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist (1007 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44114)** with the Bishop Richard Lennon as celebrant.

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



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2015 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Stay the course

John the Baptist didn't waste any time getting started on his life's work of heralding the coming of the Messiah—while still in the womb, he leapt with joy in the presence of his not-yet-born Lord. Some people are blessed to have callings that are a given, but not everyone figures theirs out right away. It can take a long, frustrating time, full of false starts and failures. Trust that those experiences are useful to learning what your true vocation is. God has a plan for you, always has, even before you were in the womb.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (12)*. "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21
FEAST OF PETER CANISIUS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
Embrace the outsider

To imagine the life of the 16th-century Dutch Jesuit Peter Canisius, who lived during the height of the Reformation, we might look to our present Pope Francis. Like Francis, Peter lived energetically, but also took to heart the Jesuit pattern of study, reflection, and prayer. For example, the easy way to challenge the thinkers of the Reformation would be to vilify them, but that's where daily "reflection and prayer" produce effects. While his fellow Catholics might attack Protestants such as John Calvin, Peter—as Francis might—said that with such an approach "we do not cure patients, we make them incurable." What is your attitude toward outsiders?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45 (197)*. "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb."

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22 ADVENT WEEKDAY
Keep your eyes on the prize

At this moment, we may well be concerned with last-minute shopping and counting the gifts to be given to family and friends. It is so easy and tempting to get distracted, yet in faith we are called to the corporal works of mercy, such as caring for the poor and lowly and feeding the hungry. In this Year of Mercy, generosity born of mercy for all of God's children should help us reset priorities and make good decisions as we edge nearer to this feast of Incarnation. Our joy then on Christmas Day will bear witness to our belief that "it is in giving that we receive."



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

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TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56 (198)*. "My spirit finds joy in God, my savior . . . his mercy is from age to age."

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23 FEAST OF JOHN OF KANTY, PRIEST
A man for this season

It seems a little unfair to John Kanty to give him a memorial two days before Christmas. It would be like a child whose birthday is so close to Christmas there might be fewer presents! For John, however, a day and season of giving would be a further incentive to give away the shirt on his back, literally, since his money and clothing were at the disposal of the poor of Krakow, Poland. Even his intellectual gifts, which were many, were at the disposal of others. He was a man who knew how to effect what so many wish were true: that the Christmas spirit abided year-round.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66 (199)*. "Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths."

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 ADVENT WEEKDAY
Ready or not here God comes

Christmas is near upon us—yet again. With the setting of the sun, the celebrations of the Eve begin. Take a moment, in this Year of Mercy, to remember that God became one with us to show us how to live and to love. Advertising budgets to the contrary, Christmas is not about finding the perfect gift, creating the perfect meal, or sharing the festivities with the perfect family, grateful as we are for all good things in our lives. It is also the season to search for and find the merciful presence of Emmanuel (literally, God-with-us). Take a deep breath and spend a moment in quiet prayer asking for patience and peace in the days to come.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 (200)*. "All this is the work of the kindness of God . . . to guide our feet into the way of peace."

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25
SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)
Be a bearer of Good News

The word *Christmas* comes from the Old English words "Cristes moesse," meaning the "mass or festival of Christ." Christmas is not only a time to celebrate the historical birth of Jesus Christ. It is also a wonderful time to consider the ways that we can continue to be bearers of Christ in the world today. How might you do this through your everyday words and actions? In the coming year, how might you proclaim this Good News of great joy in our world?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (14); Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (16)*. "I proclaim to you Good News of great joy; today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord."

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26 FEAST OF STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR
Profiles in courage

Who's on your personal roster of heroes? Most of us are quick to catalogue figures from the history books: pioneers, leaders, entrepreneurs. Perhaps a few martyrs like Saint Stephen or Oscar Romero, or truth tellers like Nelson Mandela or Cesar Chavez, or often our mothers and fathers. Past heroes aren't enough, however; we too must be counted among the brave. On this second day of Christmas, give the gift of a courageous example, especially to the young, the weak, and those who lack the consolation of faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696)*. "As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'"